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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

JANUARY 2000

FEATURING:

*Inventories Are
Revealing*

*A Brief
Overview of Our
Heritage*

*Except Ye
Repent*

*When I've
Lost My Way*





C. H. Overman

A Matter of Time

When we are young time moves slowly; when we grow older time flies. It is indeed a rather strange paradox. The small child anxiously awaits for that special birthday and for the dawn of Christmas day which seem never to arrive. To older folks, on the other hand, birthdays and Christmases become sort of a blur as the years pass. At an early age we all remember the words of the older folks, "Time will fly by as you get older." How true!

The Word reminds us that time is short: "Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth;..." (Psalm 39:5); "...For what is your life? It is even as a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14); "My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered as grass" (Psalm 102:11). God's purpose in time is for His will to be fulfilled in our lives — that we believe in Him and follow Him in true dedication and discipleship.

There is indeed a mystery concerning time. Someone described it as a period between eternities. A more complicated definition is found in *The American Heritage Dictionary*: "A nonspatial continuum in which events occur in apparently irreversible succession from the past through the present to the future." Spatial (also spacial) relates to or involves space: thus, the dictionary definition means that time has nothing to do with space. The fact is, however, that while we live on this earth we do occupy our space — our place as God has so designed. And time will continue until the God of all the universe draws the curtain and declares, "Time shall be no more." His measure of time is not the same as ours. We compute it in centuries, years, months, days, hours, minutes, and seconds. Events are dated by it — birthdays, anniversaries, wars, etc. The Bible states: "...one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2 Peter 3:8).

As civilization has advanced, so has man's capability to account for and more accurately record and measure time. With the exception of the scientifically minded, few of us seriously ponder the technicalities of time; however, we are responsible and accountable for our time on this earth. How we live our lives is what really matters.

A century and millennium has now passed and

we find ourselves adjusting to a new era. No doubt, we will catch ourselves still writing 1999 rather than the year 2000 on our dated materials. By now our concerns about Y2K have eased (at least that's what we hope at the time of this writing). In actuality, we have merely moved into another dated time in history. Many have heralded it as a special time frame, ushering in a period of unparalleled advancements in the field of science, medicine, and technology. Such may prove to be true, but those who were living as the 1800s ended surely predicted the same as they faced a new era. When we think of humankind's achievements during the 1900s, we know they were right.

It's all a matter of time. The reality and truth is that God has given each of us 24 hours a day and 8,760 hours a year. He will allow us to use it in the way we choose, but each of us is accountable for the way we use this most precious gift — time. The following bit of verse reminds us of this truth:

"I have only just a minute.
Only sixty seconds in it,
Forced upon me — can't refuse it,
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it;
But it's up to me to use it,
Give account if I abuse it.
Only just a minute
But eternity is in it."

(Author Unknown)

Each of us has all the time there is — no more, no less. Providence plays no favorites in its distribution; some die young, some die old. It is a resource that no one can monopolize, or claim more than God in His infinite wisdom has allotted.

A line in the Christmas carol, "Deck the Halls," reads: "Fast away the old year passes." The year 2000, as with all others, will soon pass. We do not know what will transpire during these 366 days, but we know the One who does know and our trust is in Him. Let's find the time to do His will — to serve Him. Such is our stewardship as we face the future in trust and faith.

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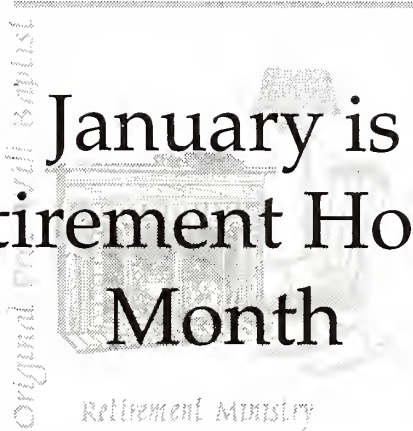
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NEXT MONTH

**January is
Sunday School and
Christian
Education Month**

January is
Retirement Homes
Month



Inventories are Revealing

by C.H. Overman

One of the greatest privileges of life is the opportunity to start anew. Each day, week, and month affords us such an opportunity. It does not mean, however, that we can recall the day and incident wherein we failed. It does mean that we can begin again. This is especially true at the beginning of a new year.

It is always helpful, profitable, and refreshing for one to pause in the midst of life to make a careful study of his position. The traveler will often pause during his journey to ascertain his rate of travel, to see how far he has been, to see how far he has yet to go, and to determine the time of arrival at the destination. The stops are necessary for many reasons, but they must not be too long; they must not hinder the anticipated progress.

It is the practice and policy of many businesses to take inventory at the beginning of a new year. To do so reveals several interesting facts that prove to be profitable for the business. Inventory itself is not an easy task, but it is a necessary one.

An inventory reveals the accomplishments if there have been any. This year's inventory can be compared with last year's, and the years' before. Thus, one may be able to see just how much progress has been made. If the inventory reveals that there has been a lack of progress then correction must be sought.

An inventory reveals the failures and shortcomings. It may be difficult to recognize and accept a failure, but they exist in some measure in each business enterprise. They must be regarded, however, with a constructive outlook.

Each inventory also reveals those items or products that are no longer in demand. In the retail business this is not uncommon. Thus, the retailer must take the loss and then do whatever is necessary to get rid of the stock that has proven to be a liability.

An inventory also reveals the need for growth and expansion. If there

have been failures, one must take them into consideration and thus seek ways to avoid their reoccurrence. If progress has been made, then one may know how to plan for the year ahead. When the assets are tabulated, and if they outweigh the liabilities, then concrete plans can be made.

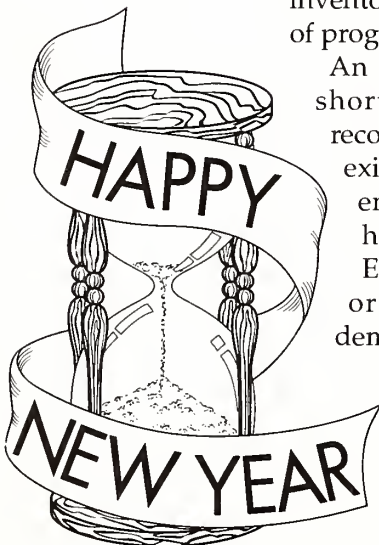
At the beginning of a new year, almost everyone takes his life, as lived during the last year, into consideration. In an effort to improve, New Year's resolutions are made. Each one is made with good intentions, but somehow many are forgotten.

The Christian should take an inventory of his life at every opportunity. He should examine his spiritual growth. To do so would be most revealing, and would result in a concerted effort to be a better Christian. We cannot repeat the past year; we cannot recall a single hour. But we can start anew. We can "lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us." We can get rid of the liabilities in our spiritual lives.

Louisa Fletcher Tarkington, the poet, wrote the following lines:

"I wish that there were some
wonderful place
Called the Land of Beginning Again,
Where all our mistakes and all our
heartaches
And all of our poor selfish grief
Could be dropped, like a shabby old
coat, at the door,
And never put on again."

There is no such place as the Land of Beginning Again, but life does afford us the opportunity to start anew. As we enter into the New Year, may we do so with the determination to make our lives truly count for Christ. An inventory of our lives reveals our need for Christ and His guidance. May we seek it in consecrated living.



Start the New Year of Right!

A Brief Overview of Our Heritage

by Dr. Michael R. Pelt



Original Free Will Baptist trace their origin to the earliest English General Baptists at the beginning of the seventeenth century, who derived their names from their belief that Christ died for all persons, the doctrine of general atonement as opposed to the Calvinist view of an atonement for the “elect” only.

Their first leader, Thomas Helwys, died in an English prison because of his advocacy of religious freedom for all, as opposed to a state church that required submission to its teaching and form of worship. During the revolution against King Charles I in the 1640s and the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell in the 1650s the number of General Baptist churches increased rapidly. In 1660 they presented a confession of faith to King Charles II in which they set forth their doctrines as well as their convictions about religious liberty, hoping to retain such liberty under his rule. This document became known as the Standard Confession and continued to be used for generations.

Because of the severe legal restrictions imposed by the English Parliament on all Dissenters, including Baptists, who desired to worship according to their own beliefs and practices, some General Baptists chose to leave England and settle in the American colonies. In the late seventeenth century a few had begun to settle in Virginia and Carolina. As early as 1702 a group of them living in the Albemarle region of North Carolina wrote to their brethren in England, requesting a minister or books, but only the latter could be supplied. This group was likely holding meetings in private homes and they needed leadership or other helps to guide them. In response to a similar call for help the Kent Association, south of London, sent Robert Norden to Virginia in 1714 and small congregations were gathered in Isle of Wight, Surrey, and Prince George counties. Some members of these congregations later moved to North Carolina where they could enjoy more liberty to worship as they chose.

The first General Baptist to begin preaching and gathering congregations in North Carolina was Paul Palmer, who came from Virginia and was soon afterward married to Johanna Peterson, the widow of a prominent citizen of Chowan Precinct and the stepdaughter of Benjamin Laker. Laker’s family was among those General Baptists who had emigrated from England to Carolina in 1684. Palmer became a General Baptist and was soon proclaimed his

new found faith and is reported to have “settled” the first Baptist church in North Carolina in Chowan Precinct north of Edenton in 1727. A second congregation was formed in neighboring Pasquotank Precinct in the home of William Burges, who became its first pastor. During the next several years Palmer traveled throughout the coastal area of North Carolina, making converts and establishing preaching points where leaders were chosen to become pastors of new congregations. Other men who would join him in this effort were Josiah Hart, William Fulsher, William Surginer, and a number of younger men who were converted and later called into this ministry. By 1755 there were as many as twenty General Baptist churches scattered across the coastal plain. Palmer himself died as early as 1743, followed by William Surginer in 1750. During this time a yearly meeting of these churches was held for the purpose of providing inspiration and mutual support to its ministers and member churches.

In 1754 the Philadelphia Baptist Association (Particular Baptist) sent Rev. John Gano on a mission to the Carolinas. On his return he reported on his encounter with the General Baptists and alleged that many of their ministers and church members were baptized without having had “an experience of grace.” The Philadelphia Association then sent two of their ablest ministers to visit these churches and to conduct examinations of individual members to determine who could give satisfactory evidence that they were among God’s “elect” and therefore eligible for membership in the church. The churches were then reconstituted as Particular Baptist churches with only the “elect” as members. In four churches that were reorganized by the ministers only about five percent of the original members were included. Other churches were soon reorganized in like manner by their pastors who had already embraced the Calvinist doctrines. Only four or five churches and their pastors refused to submit to this procedure and thus remained true

Palmer became a General Baptist and was soon proclaimed his new found faith and is reported to have “settled” the first Baptist church in North Carolina in Chowan Precinct north of Edenton in 1727.

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A Brief Overview of Our Heritage, cont....

to their General Baptist heritage. Among the pastors the names of Joseph Parker, William Parker, William Fulsher, and John Winfield are found in Morgan Edwards' account of these events. For a half century these General Baptist churches made little progress but somehow managed to keep the faith, struggling against poverty, isolation, lack of education, and the disaffection of their Baptist neighbors.

In the early decades of the nineteenth century, these churches began to show evidence of new life with a revision of their articles of faith in 1812 and a steady increase of churches and new members. Their growth was a small part of what is termed the Second Great Awakening in America that occurred during that period. About 1828 they were bold enough to formally adopt the name which their detractors had used to identify them — Free Will Baptists. By 1830 their conference was large enough to divide into two conferences, Bethel and Shiloh. The following year action was taken to organize a conference in South Carolina. Among several active ministers of this period the name of Jesse Heath stands out. His leadership was vital in helping Free Will Baptists to learn about other faith groups beyond North Carolina and inspiring them to carry the gospel to their neighbors.

During the 1830s the influence of Thomas Campbell, who visited North Carolina in 1834 in order to promote his "Restoration Movement," began to have a disruptive impact on some Free Will Baptist pastors and churches, especially in the Bethel Conference. This resulted in the defection of several ministers and the division of a number of churches. Campbell's views were directed against the use of denominational names and the use of creeds and articles of faith on the grounds that the Scriptures alone could unite the churches and restore Christianity to its primitive form. In 1842 a conference embracing Free Will Baptist beliefs and practices and consisting of churches from both Bethel and Shiloh was convened, which became known as the General

Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. Churches of this conference continued to prosper, benefitting greatly from revivals during that period, and thereby passing on their heritage to future generations. This was also a period of increased migration from North Carolina to other states across the South, resulting in the planting of Free Will Baptist churches over a wider area.

As the number of churches increased throughout much of North Carolina, new conferences were formed. The Cape Fear Conference was organized in 1855 with eight churches and seven ministers and the Pee Dee Association in the southern part of the state held its first meeting in 1869. Between 1853 and 1886 the General Conference experienced phenomenal growth with an enrollment of 118 churches in 1886,

In 1842 a conference embracing Free Will Baptist beliefs and practices... was convened, which became known as the General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists.

spread out over an area extending eastward as far as Tyrrell County and westward as far as Wake and Chatham counties. Two of the most outstanding ministers of this period were James Moore and Rufus K. Hearn. Moore was licensed by his local church in 1825 and ordained in 1827; he was a faithful pastor and leader in the conference for 53 years. Hearn was ordained in 1853 and served as clerk of the General Conference for many years and later as an editor of *The Free Will Baptist*, the denominational paper that was first published in 1873. He was also the author of "A History of Free Will Baptists in North Carolina," the first known attempt to write a history of the denomination.

Because of the great distance involved in travel for ministers and delegates to attend the General Conference and the difficulty of accommodating the large crowd, the

conference in session in 1886 agreed to form the Western and Eastern divisions with the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad as the dividing line. As the conferences continued to grow, the Eastern division in 1895 agreed to a further division in order to form the Central and the Eastern conferences. The number of new churches added to all the conferences in the latter half of the nineteenth century exceeded that of any other like period in the history of the denomination. At the end of the nineteenth century there were several conferences but as yet no effective organization to unite them for the purpose of achieving larger goals and the mission of the denomination as a whole. After the failure of the Union Conference organized in 1892, to accomplish that purpose, leaders of the Union Conference in 1912 proposed to form a convention in hopes of including other organized groups of Free Will Baptists located in the southern and western regions of North Carolina.

Ministers and delegates from churches belonging to four conferences met at Bailey, North Carolina in 1913 to adopt the constitution and by-laws of the new Convention and to consider other items of business. One of these was the adoption of an earlier proposal to establish a Free Will Baptist Orphanage. Steps were taken to amend the charter of the Free Will Baptist Publishing Company, which had been established at Ayden, to allow for a wider ownership of that enterprise. There was also a resolution calling on the churches to make gifts to their conferences designated for Ayden Seminary, a school that had opened in 1898. This institution was the first successful attempt to offer an educational program for Free Will Baptists. Following the building program on a new campus in Ayden, it became known as Eureka College in 1925 but was forced to close its doors in 1929 due to financial insolvency.

After an earlier attempt at the turn of the century had failed, the desire to form a General Conference of Free Will Baptists across the South was finally

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A Brief Overview..., cont....

achieved in 1921. This organization met annually until 1938. Meanwhile, in the early 1930s efforts were made to bring together the General Conference in the South and the Cooperative General Association in the Midwest to form a national organization to be known as the National Association of Free Will Baptists, which was achieved in 1935. About two decades later conflicts arose between Original Free Will Baptists in North Carolina and the national body. Representatives of the national body took issue with the Free Will Baptist Press over the publication of literature for the denomination. Some alumni of the National Association's Bible College were antagonistic toward

Mount Olive College, a liberal arts college sponsored by the Convention. Finally, a controversy over church polity arose when a minister refused to accept the discipline of the Western Conference of which he was a member and the National Association sought to intervene on his behalf in the civil case that resulted from this dispute. Serious tensions developed from these issues, resulting in a decision in 1962 by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists to withdraw from the National Association.

During the past century the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists has developed and maintained its own denominational program,

including a publishing foundation, a children's home, a retreat center, a liberal arts college, home and foreign missions, and other ministries. At the beginning of the twenty-first century the Convention, together with its member conferences and local churches, is in the best position ever to carry out the mission and purposes for which it was brought into being. Persons joining any one of the local churches should be better acquainted with the heritage and faith of this denomination so that they can identify with it and participate in its efforts to make Christ known to the world.

"Except Ye Repent..."

Luke 13:5

Frank R. Harrison, Campus Minister, Mount Olive College

That great man of God of an age past, E.M. Bounds, writes these words for us in his classic book *Prayer and Revival*: "Revivals are among the charter rights of the church. They are evidence of its divinity, the tokens of God's presence, the witness of His power. The frequency and power of these extraordinary seasons of grace are the tests and preservers of the vital force in the church. The church that is not visited by these seasons is as sterile in all spiritual products as a desert and cannot meet the designs of God's church. Such churches may have all the show and parade of life, but it is only a painted life... Revivals invigorate and mature by one mighty act the feeble saints; they also cause the advanced ones of God's elect to pass on to sublimer regions of faith and experience. They are fresh baptisms — the more powerful consecration of a waiting, willing, working church to a profounder willingness and mightier ability for a mightier work. These revivals are the pitched battles and the decisive victories for God, when the slain of the Lord are many and His triumphs glorious. Revival seasons are favoring seasons, when the tides of salvation are at their flood, when all the waves and winds move heavenward; jubilee days of emancipation and rapture return. The church needs revivals. It cannot live, it cannot do its work without revivals that will lift it above the

sands of worldliness that shallow the current and impede the sailing" (p. 23–24).

Revival, being among the "charter rights" of the church, one may ask "What exactly is revival from the biblical perspective?" Surely, it must be more than a series of meetings in a local church where a sign may be displayed "Revival in Progress!" It is possible to have a series of evangelistic meetings, which may be very good and fruitful in reaching some lost souls, and produce a deeper commitment for some church members, but not necessarily have a biblical revival. Again consider a statement by E.M. Bounds, *Prayer and Revival*: "So-called revivals that do not spring from the repentance, faith, and prayers of the church may be induced by foreign and outside forces. Many of the religious movements of the day have no foundation in the traveling throes of the church. By outside pressure, the presence of reputation of an evangelist and imported singers and imported songs, an interest is awakened, a passing impression made, but these are quite different from the concern aroused by the presence of God and the mighty power of His almighty Spirit. In the manufactured revival, there is an interest that does not deepen into conviction, that is not subdued into awe, that cannot be



“Except Ye Repent...”, cont....

molded into prayer nor agitated by fears. There is the utter absence of the spirit of prayer, the spirit of repentance has no place, lightness and frivolity reign, tears are strange and unwelcome visitors. The church members, instead of being on their knees in intercession or mingling their wrestling cries with the wrestling penitents or joining in rapturous praise with their rapturous deliverance, are simply spectators of a pleasing entertainment in which they have but a momentary interest. From the spiritual standpoint, the results of such a revival are below zero. A revival needs a burdened church, a burdened pastor, and burdened penitents” (p. 25).

Consider for a moment some definitions as given by some of God’s great servants who understood revival as a gracious move of God upon His people to arouse them from spiritual sleep and complacency:

Charles Finney: “A revival is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God. Revival presupposes that the church is sunk down in a backslidden state and revival consists in the return of the church from her backsliding and reaping the harvest of souls.”

R.A. Torrey: “A revival is a time when God visits His people, and by the power of the Holy Spirit imparts new life to them and through them imparts life to sinners.”

Andrew Murray: “Revival is making alive again those who have been alive but have fallen into what is called a cold, or dead, state. They are Christians and have life, but they need reviving to bring them back to their first love and the healthy growth of the spiritual life to which conversion was meant to be the entrance. A true revival means nothing less than a revolution, casting out the spirit of worldliness and selfishness and making God and His love triumph in the heart and life.”

Stephen Alford: “Revival is the sovereign act of God in which He restores His own backsliding people to repentance, faith, and obedience.”

Truly, revival is always the action of God toward and upon His people as is recorded in Psalm 85:6: “Will you not revive us again, that your people may

rejoice in you?” It is God’s initiative and His sovereign purpose to choose the time and place, and the leaders of true revival.

However, God has also laid out for us those conditions upon which His gracious Spirit will come to bring that spiritual rain for the day and renewal and refreshing that His people may rejoice in Him. It is prayer, confession, and repentance that is always involved in any great move of God. Again and again I go back to God’s Word in 2 Chronicles 7:14: “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

Any great move of God upon His people must always be preceded by a deep repentance and confession. The depth of any great revival movement will be in proportion to the depth of confession, and repentance, and a turning of God in humble obedience. In Luke 13:5, Jesus says to those present on a particular occasion, “I tell you, Nay; but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

The Rev. John Greenfield in his book, *Power from on High*, gives an account of the great Moravian revival that came upon God’s people under the leadership of Count Zinzendorf on August 13, 1727, in Herrnhut, Germany. For days the small congregation met for prayer, pouring out their hearts “in prayer and hymns.” Earnest and spiritual souls among them began to cry mightily unto the Lord, resting upon the promise of Jeremiah: “Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart” (29:12–13). For days they lifted their hearts in prayer, confession, and supplication until God moved in a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Some were so overwhelmed by the power and presence of God, they sank down into the dust before the Lord, engaging in prayer, praise, singing, weeping and supplication until the

early hours of the morning. One eyewitness says: “I cannot ascribe the case of the great awakening at Herrnhut to anything but the wonderful outpouring of the Spirit of God upon the communicant congregation assembled on that occasion. The breezes of the Spirit pervaded at that time equally both on young and old.” Another participant in the specially called communion service on August 13, 1727, noting that human words were inadequate to describe such an outpouring of the Spirit, simply observed that they left the house of God that noon “hardly knowing whether they belonged to earth or had already gone to Heaven” (*Power from on High*, p. 15).

What God has done in regard to the outpouring of His Spirit to revive and renew His people, He can do again. His power, sovereignty, and will for His people has not changed. David B. Long gives us account after account of God’s visitation upon His people in the Old and New Testament in *Revival: A Study in Biblical Patterns*. Regardless of popular conceptions, let us always remember that the beginning point of true reviving must be in the heart and life of the individual child of God who seeks to comply with God’s terms of repentance and confession of sin, and seeking to be obedient to the heavenly calling of Jesus Christ to “Come and Follow Me.”

Let the call go forth with great clarity and urgency: “We need a revival that will bring God back to us and us back to God, which will implant in us the verities of eternity and sign and seal our citizenship to heaven. The old-fashioned revival will do this. It will break the heart in twain and fill it with mourning for sin. It will recreate the heart, wipe away the tears, and fill the mouth with laughter. It will make righteousness as conspicuous, steady, lasting and fragrant as the cedars of Lebanon” (*Prayer and Revival*, p. 127).

May God grant that our hearts and our prayers be untied in confession and true repentance as we seek the Lord our God, who is the true giver of all revivals!

When I've Lost My Way

by Rob Frost

My family knows that I'm always losing things — my car keys, my diary, and even my checkbook! Whenever I cry, "Has anyone seen my...?" my wife replies, "When did you last see it?" I must retrace my steps and go back to when I last saw it.

At times when my mission has been going wrong, when the work has been difficult, the results negligible or when I feel I've failed... I know there's only one way ahead: I must retrace my steps to the One who sent me.

One morning, I walked past Whitby Abbey and down the hundred and ninety-nine steps to the old town below. Everything was still — it was too early for tourists! The narrow streets were empty and deserted save for the clatter of a distant milk truck. I paused to look in the tiny shop windows. I was in no hurry; the morning was mine.

I ambled down the cobbled streets; it felt good to be alive. As I crossed the harbor bridge I paused to look out to sea. In the distance there was a line of small fishing boats chugging out of the morning mist toward me. Seagulls wheeled above them, hoping for a share of the catch. It was a beautiful sight.

It was one of those timeless mornings: no pressure, no rush, no impending deadlines. The air of calm and stillness enveloped me. I was aware that Jesus was with me. I drank in the sights and sounds of that peaceful morning scene, and praised Him for His goodness.

Within a few minutes the boats were moored alongside the quay and the fish market was a hive of activity. A squeaky crane was hauling crates of dripping fish from the decks of the laden boats, and there was a noisy babble of conversation all around.

I saw a larger boat moored beside the quay. As I moved closer I noticed a group of fishermen bending low over their nets. Slowly they dragged the huge trawl-net across the deck. Whenever they found a tear they took some orange twine and repaired it. As I stood and watched, my mind raced back to another group of fishermen by the waterside long ago.



Excerpt from *Living Waters for Your Parched Prayers*, by Rob Frost, Chariot Victor Publishing. Used by permission.

"Peter, do you love me?"

There were a hundred and one things which Jesus could have talked about. There was the work of evangelism, the mission of the church, and the future of the kingdom for a start! But Jesus knew that He only had to get one thing straight.

Love had to be the starting point. Peter had to get this sorted before the breathtaking story of Acts could unfold. If this was right then everything else would fall into place.

But what a question! Hadn't Peter given enough by leaving everything behind to follow Jesus? Hadn't he risked enough by staking his reputation on a wandering teacher? Hadn't he done enough, this Peter the rock, on whom the church would be built?

No. Peter's denial before the cockcrow had to be faced. His unfaithfulness had to be dealt with. All the sacrifices and all the good deeds didn't mean anything unless he could look Jesus in the eye and say, "I love you."

"Peter, do you love Me more than these?"

The boat, the fish, the tackle. The business, the livelihood, the culture of the Galilean fishermen. The camaraderie of the crew, the good times on the lake. The family, the friends, the faithful crew. The safe, ordered life passed on down the generations of Galilean fisherman. Did he really love Jesus more than these?

Peter's love for Jesus couldn't be a divided love. It had to be a love which outweighed every human consideration; a love which Jesus warned might demand the ultimate sacrifice... a love without compromise.

Three times the question came; three times the answer given — without hesitation, confident, assured. And so the work could begin: "Feed My sheep."

This is the love which lies at the heart of the Christian life. Christian lifestyle begins with a self-denial relationship which declares, "Jesus, I love You."

Today, retrace your steps to Jesus. Past all the complex difficulties and dilemmas of your life. Past all the broken promises and ruins of your discipleship. Past all the failures of the years. Go back to Jesus, and tell Him that you love Him.

Camp Vandemere

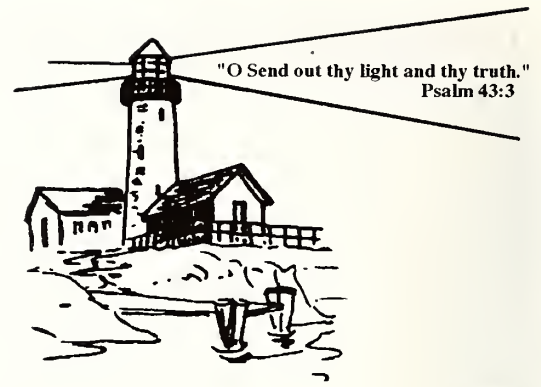
We Came, We Cleaned, We Conquered

by Lisa Caroon

On November 12, 1999, Camp Vandemere became a gathering place for Christian fellowship. As you may know, the camp was severely damaged due to hurricanes Dennis and Floyd. Pianos, ceiling fans, sheet rock, and even the pool were all destroyed.

The clean-up date was set and volunteers from all over Eastern North Carolina came to try and restore some order to what was damaged. One group came from Camp Caroline to help replace the rocks on the bulk head. The dormitories and screened building had to be completely cleaned out and pressure washed. Fallen trees were cut and removed. As we worked together, we became more familiar with each other and our load was lighter.

At lunch time we were served hot dogs and hamburgers. Cakes were donated by different church members. Of course the Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Sumner were there to encourage us. After about six hours of hard labor, we decided that there was a major improvement compared to the day before. There is still much left to be done and another clean-up date will be set. Much was destroyed, but with prayers and God's grace, we conquered a huge task. Our love for the camp will no doubt keep it alive, thus providing a service to campers in the future.

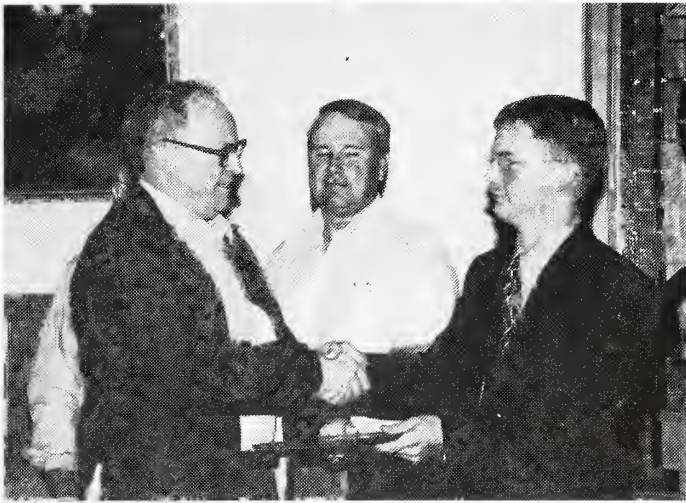


Layman's League

Year 2000 — Dates to Remember

- February 3** Executive and Promotional Board meeting, 7:00 PM, Convention Headquarters, Ayden, NC.
- February 21** Eastern Conference Layman's League: Host, Croatan Church, 12 miles east of New Bern on Hwy 70 at Carolina Blvd., 6:45 meal, business 7:30 PM.
- March 6** Central Conference Layman's League: Host, Aspen Grove Church, Aspen Grove Church Road, Fountain, NC, 6:45 meal, business 7:30 PM.
- March** Ladies Night (to be announced in the next issue)
- May 5** State Layman's League Convention: Host, Fremont Church, 106 West South St., Fremont, NC, 6:45 meal, business 7:30 PM.
- May 15** Eastern Conference Layman's League: Host, Whaley's Chapel Church, Rt. 2, Box 482-A, Richlands, NC, 6:45 meal, business 7:30 PM.
- June 5** Central Conference Layman's League: Host, Tarboro First Church, West Hope Lodge Street, Tarboro, NC, meal 6:45 PM, business 7:30 PM.
- August 21** Eastern Conference Layman's League, at Camp Vandemere, Vandemere, NC, meal 6:45 PM, business 7:30 PM.
- September 4** Central Conference Layman's League: Host, Saint's Delight Church, Ormondsville, NC, meal 6:45 PM, business 7:30 PM.
- November 20** Eastern Conference Layman's League: Host, Wintergreen Church, Wintergreen Road which connects to old Hwy 70 (Cove City), meal 6:45 PM, business 7:30 PM.
- December 4** Central Conference Layman's League: Host, King's Cross Roads Church, 2080 Seven Pines Road, Farmville, NC, 6:45 PM meal, business 7:30 PM.

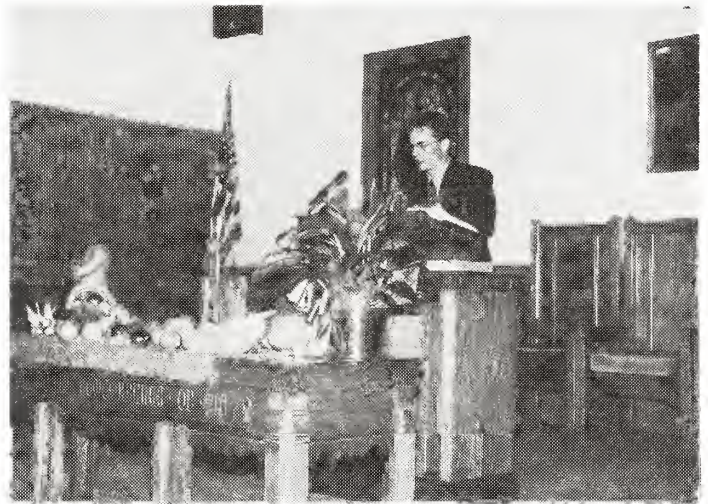
Layman's League



On November 15, the Eastern Conference Layman's League, hosted by New Haven Free Will Baptist Church, Ernul, NC, was proud to see them chartered as a new Layman's League. Russell Tyson, vice president of the State Layman's League presents the Charter to New Haven's Layman's League president, Jonathan Ipock. Assisting with the ceremony was John Mark Windley of Whaleys Chapel Church and Harold Humbles, secretary of the State Convention Layman's League. Twenty members were present in their Layman's League that night and a meal was served that was "fit for a king" (pictured left).



The Executive and Promotional Board met on December 2, 1999 at the VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC. Special guest that night was the Rev. David Hansley, General Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.



Jonathan Ipock, president of the Layman's League at New Haven Free Will Baptist Church, Ernul, NC, delivers the devotion for the Eastern Conference Layman's League. Jonathan, only 20 years old, delivered a message so strong that the whole congregation gave him a round of applause and a big "AMEN." Harold Humbles remarked, "We all could use more of that." After the inspiring message and the laymen's fine music, one could feel the Lord's presence.

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DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

RETIREMENT HOMES

Original Free Will Baptist



Retirement Ministry

January is Retirement Homes Month

What is Retirement Homes Ministry?

- First and foremost it is people!
- People helping people in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!
- People who, because of the status of their retirement, need assistance with their living expenses.

Original Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes offers either residential housing or supplemental housing assistance for Original Free Will Baptists or for persons who have been employed by an Original Free Will Baptist Ministry for a minimum of ten years.

Our *residential housing* is a participatory program. Each client contributes a portion of his/her income and our Ministry provides housing, including basic appliances and yard care.

Our *Supplemental Housing Support Program* is:

- A fixed-amount grant;
- Given for a specific time period;
- May be eligible for renewal;
- Is contingent upon available resources.

Currently, we have seven people participating in our program. Three are in the resident housing program and four in the *Supplemental Housing Support Program*.

Our clients are:

Rose Bowen
403-B North Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-4106
Birthday — April 9

Kaye Jones
403-A North Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-4563
Birthday — November 8

Margaret Brown
Bldg. A-211
742 West Garner Road
Garner, NC 27529
(919) 779-0020
Birthday — August 20

The Reverend Earl Minchew
1703 Peachtree Street
Goldsboro, NC 27530
(919) 735-2402
Birthday — October 14

The Reverend and Mrs. John Owens
3788 Tower Hill Road
Kinston, NC 28501
(252) 527-5578
Birthday: John — January 12, Louise — September 15

The Reverend Robert Sellars
907 Stake Road
Tabor City, NC 28463
(910) 653-2430
Birthday — March 26

January 23, 2000

Retirement Homes Sunday

Please make as generous a contribution as you can, it will help support these people.

Original Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes Ministry
PO Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513-0039

Camp Schedule for 2000

Morning Star

April 28-30, 2000
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
252-524-4677

Minister's Conference

May 22-25, 2000
Doug Skinner
817 Lynn Road
Durham, NC 27703
919-596-2456

June Women's Auxiliary Conference

June 5-10, 2000
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
252-524-4677

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 12-17, 2000
Bryant Hines
PO Box 266
Cove City, NC 28523
252-633-2683

Christian Cadet Conference

June 19-24, 2000
Gary Bailey
112 Crosswinds Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27530
919-735-3916

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)

June 26-July 1, 2000
Janie Sowers
PO Box 824
Middlesex, NC 27557
252-235-7542

Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)

July 3-8, 2000
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513
252-746-7850

General Youth II Conference

July 10-15, 2000
Chris Singleton
PO Box 162
Beulaville, NC 28518
910-298-3520

General Youth I Conference

July 17-22, 2000
Bryant Hines
PO Box 266
Cove City, NC 28523
252-633-2683

Young People's Bible Conference

July 24-29, 2000
James Gurganus
1317 Nine Foot Road
Newport, NC 28570
252-223-5251

August Women's Auxiliary Conf.

July 31-August 5, 2000
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
252-524-4677

Cragmont Club Retreats

Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
828-669-7677

Cragmont Club Retreat I

October 13-15

Cragmont Club Retreat II

October 20-22

Cragmont Club Retreat III

October 30-November 1

Cragmont Christmas

November 30-December 3

Women: We call your attention to the Morning Star weekend retreat and the two week-long conferences scheduled for women. Make plans to attend.

Ministers: Make your plans now to attend the annual Minister's Conference. As was requested, the conference was scheduled for a later date in May than last year.

Youth Director & Ministers: We ask that you place a copy of these dates and conferences on your churches bulletin boards. We want to fill each week to capacity.

The Cragmont Club

The Club was established to help us have a steady cash flow. Each year the club is responsible for approximately \$30,000.00. Much of these funds will arrive on a monthly time schedule. While the club will give you and your immediate family members certain benefits, the greatest benefit you receive is knowing that you are helping to support a ministry of the denomination.

The Plan:

For \$10 per month you and your immediate family may spend a weekend or the equivalent of a weekend at Cragmont at no cost. To join the Club send in your first \$10 earmarked "Club" to Cragmont Assembly, 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711.

The Rules:

- You must be a member for one month before benefits can be used.
- Benefits may not be used during regularly scheduled conferences.
- "Those persons living under your roof" is our definition of immediate family.
- Benefits may not be carried over into another year.
- Meals will not be prepared except by prior arrangement.
- You may use benefits if you are traveling in the area.
- You may use benefits while at Cragmont during a church retreat.



L to R — Donnie Tyndall, Board Vice President; the Rev. Leon Grubbs, Convention President; Elizabeth Brinchek, Board Secretary; Dr. Bobby Taylor, President/CEO; Ann Grubbs, Board Member; the Rev. David Hansley, General Administrator and Phillip Boykin, Board President.



L to R — Frannie Garris, Mildred Turner, and Dr. Burkette Raper, all alumni of the FWB Children's Home.

Free Will Baptist Children's Home Celebrates Accreditation

November 1, 1999, is a day that will become a significant part of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home history. After two intensive years of study and self-evaluation, the Free Will Baptist Children's Home was accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Service for Families and Children (COA). This achievement helps to ensure families and children get quality services. Organizations, which meet these standards, are among the best. Based in New York, the Council accredits approximately 1,000 behavioral healthcare programs and 3,000 social service programs delivered by more than 900 providers in the United States and Canada, promoting "standards, champions quality services for children, youth, and families, and advocates for the value of accreditation." The board of directors and staff of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home are very pleased with this great accomplishment.

On November 20, 1999, the Children's Home celebrated this historical milestone on Friends of Children Day. Approximately 200 guests, alumni, and friends attended, to share and congratulate us on our accomplishment. Entertainment was provided by Covenant.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported and prayed for us over the years. We want you to know how very thankful we are and how lucky we are to have such "Special Friends." Your caring hearts have helped us meet the many physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of our children. God bless each of you!



Friends of Children enjoy food and laughter on their special day.



The inspiring music of Covenant provides entertainment to all of our guests.



Caring For Our Children

Taking time to care for others, creating smiles, delivering gifts, and saying "we are there for you." These words have just described the youth of Friendship FWB Church of Farmville. On November 17 they provided the residents with Thanksgiving baskets containing items collected and bagged (with beautiful drawings) individually by the creative hands of their youth group. Thanks for caring.

The children and staff of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home would like to thank each individual and group that sponsored a child for Christmas, and for the Christmas support to the home. We would also like to thank the following groups and/or businesses that visited, brought gifts, and created laughter and fun for our children. This was truly a "season of joy" for each of us.

Glaxo — Zebulon, NC
 Aeroquip — Middlesex, NC
 BestPak — Raleigh, NC
 New Sandy Hill FWB — Bailey, NC
 Woodmen of the World
 Saint Mary's FWB — Benson, NC
 Stoney Creek FWB — Goldsboro, NC
 Bargain Wholesale — Wilson, NC
 Friendship FWB — Farmville, NC
 Friendship FWB — Middlesex, NC
 Gum Swamp - AFC Youth — Greenville, NC

Items

In Need List:

- Paper Products
- Personal Care Items
- Parament Set
- Teen Bibles and Teen Study Bibles
- Playstations
- Encyclopedias (less than 10 yrs. old)
- Computers for Cottages (est. cost \$5,000)
- Carpet Cleaning Machine
- Cordless Telephones
- Kitchen Accessories for Cottages
- Bicycles
- Irons and Ironing Boards
- Basketballs and Volleyballs
- Pots, Pans, and Dishes (12 or 10 setting)
- Alarm Clocks

Mount Olive College Has A Place for YOU!!!

Mount Olive College has a class, a time, a program, a location for you! Apply now. Classes begin January 11. Call for programs available, times available and places available. If you haven't completed your degree, there are many transfer options. Contact the Admissions Office today at 919-658-2502.

Visitation Day for High School Seniors

Visitation for high school seniors will be Monday, January 17, 9:00 AM. Pastors and Youth Leaders are encouraged to bring high school seniors to Mount Olive College to explore the program in which their students are interested. Contact should be made with Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions at 919-658-2502.

Prayer

Things

January 2000

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
26	27	28	29
2	3 FWB Press Closed FWB Bookstores Open	4	5
9	10	11	12
16	17	18	19
23	24	25	26
30	31		

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS

Concerns _____

Remember _____

THU		FRI		SAT	
	30		31	1	FWB Bookstore Closed <i>Happy New Year</i>
	6		7	8	
	13		14	15	Workshop on Inclusion People with Disabilities Murphy Center Mount Olive College 9:00 AM — 3:30 PM
	20		21	22	
	27		28	29	

Year of Right!

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

Mount Olive College Celebrates Founders Day with Worship Service

Mount Olive College honored 20 employees and celebrated 48 years of providing Christian-based higher education at the College's Annual Founders Day worship service.

Faculty, staff, students, and friends from Free Will Baptist churches filled Rodgers Chapel to hear Dr. Bobby Taylor, president of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, commemorate the College's heritage.

Dr. Taylor stated that the vision of higher education in the OFWB Convention began in the 1800s. "We are gathered here today to celebrate the faith and accomplishments of visionary men and women who saw the need for higher education," Dr. Taylor said.

Dr. Taylor recollected being a student and gathering around a cross that stood on the grounds of what is now Rodgers Chapel. He stated the forefathers and foremothers of the College had a vision that is now a reality.

"A vision assists in dreams coming true. Where there is no vision, there is no challenge. Where there is no challenge, there is no growth. Where there is no growth, there is no life," Dr. Taylor said. "I believe Mount Olive College is a College for tomorrow. May we capture our visions, may we envision our dreams, and may we know that with God, all things are possible."

Also during the service, Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the College, recognized faculty and staff for their continued dedicated efforts to Mount Olive College. He presented each with a gift engraved with the College seal. During the ceremony, Dr. Byrd recognized Dr. and Mrs. W. Burkette Raper

for forty-five years of service to the College.

Maintenance employee, Herman Jones was honored for thirty-five years of service.

Honored for twenty years of service were: Opey D. Jeanes, director of Mount Olive College of Goldsboro; and A. Pepper Worthington.

Honored for fifteen years of service were: Linda S. Greenwood, director of advisement and career development and Sonya F. McCoy, assistant professor of business.

Ten year award recipients were: Julie R. Beck, director of student activities; John E. Bridges, campus mail person; Carolyn M. Champ, maintenance; Carson Lane, maintenance; Kazi M. Rahman, professor of chemistry; Bobby G. Smith, maintenance; Brenda W. Sutton, food services; and Margaret P. Wells, secretary.

Five year faculty and staff members were: Allen M. Cassell, director of athletics; Robert A. Deutsch, professor of business; Rose H. Darden, food services; Vickie L. Stroud, associate director of admissions; T. Gordon Wall, director of food services; and Janice E. Williams, food services.



Dr. and Mrs. W. Burkette Raper was honored for forty-five years of service to the College at the annual Founders Day Service.



Recognized for service to the College were (front row, L to R): Kazi M. Rahman, Carson Lane, Rose Darden, Margaret Wells, Opey Jeanes, and Herman Jones. (middle row, L to R): John Bridges, Carolyn Champ, Allen (Mac) Cassell, Linda Greenwood, Sonya McCoy, Rose Raper, and Dr. J. William Byrd. (back row, L to R): Julie Beck, Vickie Stroud, Robert Deutsch, Janice Williams, Bobby Smith, and Dr. W. Burkette Raper.



The Founders Day platform speakers are pictured (L to R): Dr. Bobby Taylor, the Rev. Tommy Yopp, Mrs. Dianne B. Riley, Dr. J. William Byrd, and the Rev. Harold Swinson.

Packed House Enjoys College's Performance of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir, directed by Dr. Alan Armstrong, presented an audience of over 500 students, faculty, and community members with a superb performance of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. The production was held on Tuesday, November 30 in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center.

Amahl and the Night Visitors is one of the most well known Christmas works in the world. The story is of Three Wise Men and the events that transpire as they spend the evening in a poor widow's home with her crippled son, Amahl. A miracle happens in the home, causing all to know that Jesus Christ truly is the Messiah.

Adorned in brightly colored costumes, the main characters included Bret Smithey, a recent graduate of the National Opera Company, as Balthazar; Dr. Charles Smith, baritone, as Melchior; Jonathan Puckett, tenor, as Kaspar; Nikki McLawhorn, soprano, as Amahl; and Judy Gourly, soprano, as the mother.

Pictured here is the cast of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.



Mount Olive College Celebrates Founders Day with Worship Service, cont.

Also participating in the Founders Day service were: Dianne B. Riley, director of alumni relations; the Rev. Harold Swinson, president of the FWB North Carolina Ministerial Association; and the Mount Olive College Concert Choir, directed by Dr. Alan Armstrong.

Alumni Cross Walk Dedicated During Homecoming Weekend

The Mount Olive College Alumni Cross Walk was recently dedicated during Alumni Homecoming Weekend. A special bell ringing ceremony was held in tribute of the many alumni and Free Will Baptist members who helped finance the project.

"This is a special occasion for this College," Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the College, said at the dedication ceremony. "This (the Alumni Cross Walk) symbolizes what Mount Olive College is, where it has come from and where it will go in the future."

The Alumni Cross Walk, designed by Marcy Byrd, wife of Dr. Byrd, was built to serve as a memorial to the College's founders, and as an inspiration to alumni and current students. Dianne Riley, director of alumni affairs, said alumni gave most of the money for the structure. College employees, churches, businesses, and current students also contributed to the project.

The Cross Walk is located between College Hall and Moyer Library. Bricks from the original campus, located on Breazeale Avenue, form a Celtic cross walkway. Placed in the middle of the cross is a garden house supported by eight columns of the same architectural design as the other buildings on the campus. Located in the center of the garden house is a pedestal containing the cornerstone and bell from the original campus. The columns of the pedestal match the architectural design of the old campus.

Shrubbery and seasonal flowers landscape the open areas of the cross. Plaques and benches are engraved with the names of alumni and other donors who made the construction of the Alumni Cross Walk possible.

"This structure will become a symbol for many generations to come. I believe Mount Olive College is destined to touch many lives," Dr. Byrd said.



Pictured are the individuals who participated in the special bell ringing ceremony held in tribute of the many alumni and Free Will Baptist members who helped finance the Mount Olive College Alumni Cross Walk.

Scott Receives 1999 Distinguished Service Award

Howard Scott, director of the Wayne County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, received the 1999 Mount Olive College Distinguished Service Award at the College's annual alumni weekend activities.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to a Mount Olive College alum for participation and leadership in activities which promotes the advancement of Mount Olive College. The recipient must have distinguished himself/herself through personal or professional accomplishments and have been instrumental in the advancement of Mount Olive College by unselfishly rendering outstanding service by going beyond the call of duty for Mount Olive College and/or the Alumni association.

Scott, a Kenly native, is a 1972 graduate of Lucama High School and a 1974 graduate of Mount Olive College. After graduating from MOC, Scott continued his education at North Carolina State University where he earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural education and his master's degree in adult and community education with a minor in sociology.

He is the son of Mozelle Scott and



Howard Scott, center holding plaque, was recently awarded Mount Olive College's 1999 Distinguished Service Award. Pictured with him are his mother, Mozelle Scott; his wife, Denise Scott; and Keenan Hinnant, member of the Alumni Awards Committee.

the late Hubert Scott. He has been married for 21 years to Denise Ducatte, a 1975 Mount Olive College graduate. Scott is an ordained Free Will Baptist Minister and is a member of Kenly Free Will Baptist Church.

In November of 1986, Scott received the RJR Nabisco Extension Agent Award for Excellence in the area of effective educational programs. In January of this year he received the 1998 Search for Excellence Award in recognition of his professional excellence in the Extension Service. He was particularly touted for his youth and resource development. Under Scott's direction, the 4-H Program in Wayne County has received approximately \$470,000 in grant

support during the past two years.

Scott has served on the Board of Trustees at Mount Olive College since December of 1978. In May of 1998, he delivered the keynote address at the College's 44th Commencement Exercises. In May of this year, Mount Olive College dedicated Room 115 in the Henderson Building to the Hubert and Mozelle Scott Family in honor of the family's support of educational innovation in the form of televised programming via satellite between Mount Olive College and Old Dominion University. The Scott Family has also been very generous in supporting the development of Mount Olive College's Moye Library.

FWB High School Students Attend MOC's Annual Visitation Day

Approximately 69 students attended the Mount Olive College's Annual Visitation Day on November 11. Students toured the campus and spoke to coaches, professors, and current students to find out first-hand information about scholastic and extracurricular opportunities at Mount Olive College. Pictured are FWB high school students and their parents along with a few current FWB students. Front row, left to right: Faye Tripp, of Ormondsville Church; Laurie Evans, freshman, of Kenly Church; and Donna Sowers, of Westside Church in Kinston. Middle row: Ricky Belvin, of Friendly Chapel Church in Greensboro; Bryan Tripp, of Ormondsville Church; Marci Rollins, sophomore, of First Church in Goldsboro; Jessica Paul, of Trinity Church in Pantego; Lynn Paul, of Trinity Church; Melissa Sowers, of Westside Church; and Joy Daughtry, of Westside Church. Back row: Greg Tripp, of Ormondsville Church; Charlotte Belvin, of Friendly Chapel Church; Dale Belvin, of Friendly Chapel Church; Bryan Williamson, of St. Mary's Grove in Benson; Matthew Coats, freshman of Pine Level Church; and the Rev. Jeff Daughtry, of Westside Church.



The Good Shepherd Free Will Baptist Church, Sabinas, Coah. Mexico

by Antonio Escobar

The Bible tells us that we must become as little children (Luke 18:16). The work of the church in Sabinas, in spite of all the efforts of Brother Efrain Aguero, pastor of the church, was facing some problems concerning growth. He had centered his work in visitation and personal evangelism among adults. The results, however, was that the children began to attend rather than their parents. Brother Aguero modified his program in Sunday school to give attention and dedication to teaching the children.

Brother Escobar told him that part of the missionary program of the Short-Term Team through Vacation Bible School, under the direction of Sister Sandra Jones, would take place at the Good Shepherd Free Will Baptist Church. The church increased their emphasis on children in the Sunday school and encouraged them to invite other children.

With the visit and the work of the sisters in North Carolina, the children were greatly blessed and motivated to continue attending church. The joy of one of the little girls caused her mother to attend church regularly and later received the Lord Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. In a very special service by Brother Escobar, she was baptized. All of this work has resulted in the parents beginning to attend church.

The work of the Lord is not in vain. In November we baptized others who trusted the Lord for salvation. Please pray for the growth of the work in Sabinas and Brother Aguero as he works among children and adults.



Worker's Orientation

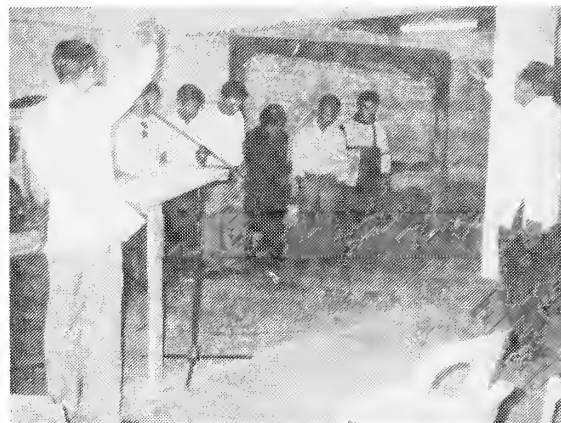
by the Rev. Dario S. Basingil

Last July 29, 1999, after our worker's orientation at Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, the Mission Director conducted a Worker's Orientation in Visayas and Mindanao District together with the vice president of Board of Trustees, the Rev. Pio dela Rosa.

Before we started the Orientation for the worker's, the Rev. Dario Basingil gave the message. The message was taken from the Book of Acts 20:19-24, and emphasized the three things concerning the Life of Apostle: (1) His character, (2) His conviction, (3) His priority.

After devotional the Mission Director presented the important things to know concerning the Free Will Baptist Church Philippines and especially about the District under the Free Will Baptist Church Philippines. Twenty women attended the orientation. Officers were elected from the members.

Please pray for the newly-elected officers of Mindanao and Visayas District to have a commitment to their new work.



The Rev. Zacarias Perocillo, Field Director Free Will Baptist Church lead prayer of installation of the Cebu District Officers.



The Rev. Dario Basingil the Mission Director gives a challenge to the new elected officers of Cebu District.

News Letters From India and Nepal

by Dr. E.M. Lall

It was a pleasure to report to you that our church and the school work sponsored by the Board of Foreign Missions, under the leadership of our Director-Treasurer the Rev. Harold Jones, is gaining momentum and many souls are being saved and added to the Kingdom of God. While other churches are failing, our congregations are rising in evangelization and bringing people in the fold of the Lord Jesus Christ. Eight new converts at Bareilly and twelve in the District of Hardoi were baptized. There are some under



Baptism at Hardoi

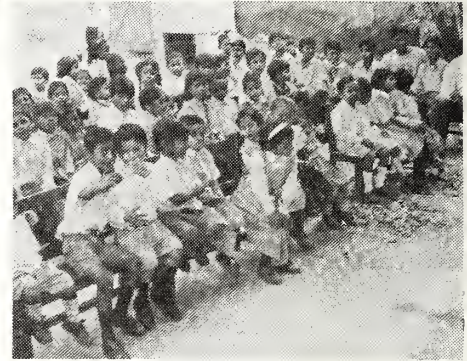
The school work at Nepal is progressing which is the stepping stone of our ministry there. The congregation of Olani, Nepal, has undertaken to build the school building in the land where our prayer hall (built by Board of Foreign Missions) is located. They have already started building the school and requested us to share this project to some extent so that the building is completed.



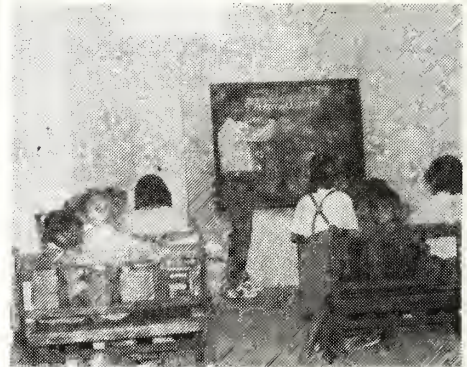
Construction of school building in Olani, Nepal.

We are encouraging our people to undertake the projects in their circuits at their own for furthering institutional work for complete self-support and there may be a possibility that our Board in North Carolina may like to share the work. It is apparent that the church in India and Nepal will grow on sound footing to glorify the Master.

The school at Agra has fetched a good enrollment and the school built there will become a good large educational institution in the remote part of Agra, the city of 'Taj Mahal.



Agra school children.



Rudrapur classroom

In spite of best efforts, the school at Rudrapur could not get the expected enrollment this year and it is hoped that when the quality education is imparted in that school this year there will be many students next year. It was partly due to the laxity of our school principal and the pastor incharge for which they have been duly warned.

Our church celebrated the 53rd Independence Day on August 15, 1999, and a play (Drama) was organized in the church which was witnessed by many.

In the wake of earlier atrocities and vandalism inflicted upon Christian community, a United Christian

cont....



Evangelism — Nepal

counseling and will come to the Lord any time in the near future.

Mass evangelization is continuing in the country of Nepal and it is likely that a considerable number of people will accept the Lord as their personal Saviour after the month of November, 1999.



Some school children at Olani, Nepal

News Letters From India and Nepal, cont.



Independence Day flag raising by Rev. Joseph and Rev. Vijay Dutt



Independence Day drama.

churches for the safeguard of our rights. In that Forum it was decided that all the various churches would help each other to maintain unity. Catholics were the major organization in this dispensation as they have many English Medium Schools. However, contrary to that

our church children which were only five in number were refused admission in Catholic schools. On this attitude our Council of Ministers and Deacons withdrew from the Forum, September 1, 1999.

The torrential rainfall at this time has created havoc in North India. Today's newspaper reports that Rudrapur is full of water. Our minister at Rudrapur phoned me that our church looks like it is in the sea. There is water in the church campus here. The State of Bihar is facing dangerous situation with heavy flood for the last one month.

A wave of excitement is as high as the sky among our people having known of the project of English Medium School at Bareilly approved and undertaken by the Board.

Forum was brought into being, comprising of all denominational

A Special Thanks

Christmas has come and gone, but we will always remember God's gifts of love in Jesus Christ and we will continue to reach out in love and appreciation to those who have touched our lives in a special way.

We praise God for a most successful Open House, held on December 3. We thank all our patrons who visited us on that date.

We wish each of you a blessed and wonderful 2000.

Lexine Davis
Bookstore Coordinator
Free Will Baptist Press Foundation

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Kinston, North Carolina
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New Bern, North Carolina
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Wilson Bible and Bookstore
2800 B-4 Raleigh Road
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Wilson, North Carolina
919-243-4982

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF
MEMBERSHIP HOLDERS
TO BE HELD
February 15, 2000**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting
of the Membership of the Church Finance Association, Inc. will be held as follows:

Place:
Friendship Free Will Baptist Church
Farmville, North Carolina

February 15, 2000 • 10:30 AM

The purpose of this meeting is:

1. To review the financial conditions of the Association and to act on the financial report.
2. The election of one (1) member of the Board of Directors to hold office for a term of five years.
3. The transaction of any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

You are urged to attend the meeting in person. However, membership holders who do not expect to attend are requested to sign, date, and return the proxy. The execution of this proxy will not affect your right to revoke such proxy or to vote in person should you later decide to attend the meeting.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
William D. Thigpen, Secretary

MINISTER'S PROGRAM

The Minister's Program in Partnership with Larry Burkett and
Christian Financial Concepts will present a workshop on

Pastor's Finances

This is a one day conference designed to give pastors and their spouses a better understanding of the biblical principles that apply to personal and church finances. The presenter will be Jack Anderson from Atlanta, Georgia.

Date: February 5, 2000
Time: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Place: The Murphy Center, Mount Olive College

Registration information to be mailed.

People & Events

Happenings Throughout the Denomination



News from Powhatan

submitted by Otto Jones

Youth 2 His Kingdom

The millennium has arrived and life goes on! Free Will Baptists have a work ahead of them this century, just as they did the last. Times may change but people don't and they still need to hear the Word. Elders, teach the youth they are the future church and need your wisdom.

On November 6, the Women's Auxiliary of Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC, held a quarterly breakfast with Brother Bunk Cole bringing the message. The food and fellowship were wonderful and we learned lessons from stories of Mr. Bunk's long association with Powhatan. He said the women had helped hold the church together in bad times and flourish in good times, that as long as we work together, we will continue to go forward.

At the Cape Fear Conference Youth Rally at Robert's Grove that same evening, our youth group had thirty in attendance. Elections were held and "congratulations" to all three candidates from Powhatan as well as to all newly-elected officers. In her speech, teenager Dani Allen gave a significant message — "If you don't *get right*, you're gonna *get left!*" Thank you to Robert's Grove for hosting the rally and for the "lighthouse" program performed. Praise the Lord that the Rev. Billy Nowell could be with us and was doing so well. We were all so excited. The recipients of the banners were not announced at the end of the program. We urge the conference to get the attendance banners back and start back issuing them. Our church members look on the blank wall and ask us what happened.

For Veteran's Day, flags were placed

in the cemetery by the Women's Auxiliary on graves of veterans in honor of their service to our country.

The Pre-Thanksgiving speaker for this year was Mrs. Kay Cole Godwin of Amelia Church, originally from Powhatan. She talked of being thankful she was raised in a Christian home with loving parents. Her own daughter joined her in a song at the conclusion of the program.

On November 20, the cemetery cleanup of the graves of Matthew and Ella Jones began. The youth group decided to do this as a community service project since the couple gave the land for the church. At first, the stones could hardly be seen amidst the growth and briars and downed trees from Fran. By the end of the day, it was a different sight. Clippers, chain saws, and even a back-hoe worked wonders. Several unmarked ancient stones were found that date back to family members born in the 1790s. A special "thank you" to all who brought equipment and came out to help the youth. A special mention should be made of Garld Bass and Paul Otto, grandfather of some of the youth group members, who came and shared their wisdom and sweat as a good example to the young people. At

age 83, Paul Otto was the most "senior" youth and probably worked hardest of all with either one of the two chainsaws he brought.

An annual community Thanksgiving singing was held at Everett Chapel Free Will Baptist Church on November 24 in which Powhatan's adult and youth choirs took part. It was a night of blessings but sadness as well. We had received word that long-suffering member and cancer victim Vicky Bagley was expected to pass on at any time. She made it through that night but left us to be with the Lord on Thanksgiving morning. Remember her family and our church because she will be greatly missed. The state football playoffs were changed from Friday to Saturday night so the Clayton team and coaching staff could be with the family of the senior captain, Chris Bagley, at the funeral home and funeral. The team did not win the game against defending state champions Winston-Salem Carver, but Chris made a touchdown and pointed to heaven as if to say, "This one's for you, Mom!" She was 42 years old and leaves behind her husband, two sons, her parents, a sister and two brothers, as well as many nieces, nephews and in-laws.

Cape Fear District Union Meeting

The Cape Fear District Union Meeting will convene with Tee's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, 6434 Brogden Road, Smithfield, NC, on January 29, 2000, at 10:00 AM. The Rev. Dennis Pollock pastor of Tee's Chapel will bring the morning message. Lunch will be served by the host church following the meeting.

People & Events

Youth Party

submitted by Susan Tyndall

The youth of Smith's New Home Free Will Baptist Church, Deep Run, NC, held a party on Sunday, October 31, as part of their youth meeting. Everyone enjoyed pumpkin-face cheeseburgers, spooky cake and "wormy" punch. Under the leadership of Mrs. B.J. Smith, Youth Director, many of the children came dressed as their favorite Bible character.



L-R, top row: Mrs. B. J. Smith (Lydia), Brandie Tyndall (Mary), Kayla Smith (shepherd), Kristen Turner (angel); second row: Matthew Jones (David), Lauren Smith (Mary), Kimber Tuner (angel); bottom row: Andrew Jones (Angel), Chelsea Turner (angel).

Habitat Certificate Presented

Mrs. Faye McCain, on left, of Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Newport, NC, Habitat for Humanity Committee member, receives a Habitat for Humanity Covenant Church certificate from Mrs. Dottie Lunch (right). The Ladies' Sunday school class sponsored a fundraiser and raised \$400.00 to be contributed by the church to Habitat for Humanity.



CHURCHES & MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist ." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

Plymouth First Free Will Baptist Church, Plymouth, NC, is seeking a pastor. Parsonage available. Contact: Harrison W. Phelps, 252-793-5236.

Antioch Original Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, NC, is seeking a youth director. If interested, please call 919-751-9957. The position will be available beginning in January of 2000.

Union Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Plymouth, NC, is seeking a pastor. Any interested minister may contact Chuck Whitford, chairman of the Board of Deacons, phone 252-793-2900.

The Rev. Ernest Jones is a minister in good standing in the Eastern Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists and he is also a member in good standing of Holly Springs Original Free Will Baptist Church in Newport, NC. He was ordained into the Gospel ministry on October 21, 1999. He is currently available to fill-in on Sundays in the absence of a church's pastor, or for revival services. He may be reached by mail at 235 Tom Mann Road, Newport, NC 28570, or by phone 252-223-2701.

Aspen Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Fountain, NC, has secured the Rev. Frank Cockrell as pastor.

2000 Woman's Auxiliary DEVOTION

Now Available at \$4.95 per copy

Available January 2000

Free Will Baptist Youth Program Books

for Cherubs, AFC, & YFA at \$4.50 per copy

Order from

The Free Will Baptist Press
PO Box 159 • Ayden, NC 28513

CHRISTIAN ART REVIEWS

by Michael G. Warning,

Pastor Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Sea Level, NC



Rev. Michael G. Warning

La Nativité by Albrecht Dürer in *Albrecht Dürer: oeuvre grave*. Paris: musée du Petit Palais, 1996, plate 100, p. 156. Les musée de la Ville de Paris, 4 avril–21 juillet, 1996.

Introduction

Albrecht Dürer, the artist responsible for this beautiful, small engraving, depicts the familiar nativity with the adoration of the shepherds. Dürer represents the foremost illustrator of the sixteenth century. This is a time of the Reformation, of sweeping change in religious theology, but the clarity and the appealing imagery of Dürer make him a graphic genius. He was a developer of what we now take for granted as perspective, meaning objects which are closer are larger and objects in the distance are smaller. He did many series of religious engravings.

Artistic Style

Albrecht Dürer represents the breakthrough which occurred during the 1500s with regard to perspective. Look at the beams which support the structure depicted at the bottom of the image — the development of one and two point perspective. One point perspective shows the objects large in the front gradually receding into the distance until it would seem to disappear at the horizon. Here is this image our horizon is the floor of the stable and we are below it — a little lower than the angels and the shepherds as if we are seeing the event on a stage.

Two point perspective shows the same gradual disappearance of the line but with the line running obliquely from the side, such as the conjunction at the corner of the building. Which is precisely what we are seeing in Dürer's work. In this image the stable is a ruined Renaissance construction. The thatched roof is nearly gone. The arch through which we see distance is broken.

Symbolism

Symbolically the image by Dürer contains the presence of angels — one at the crib above the Christ child and one in the distance with a large scroll making the announcement to the shepherds. Although the image contains all that would be expected for this biblical story, the people are clearly in the costume of the time. The shepherd even carries not only his staff but bagpipes which are associated with the shepherd.

In the sky is a six-pointed star with a great radiance which symbolizes the star that was seen by kings from the east. The star is the symbol where the Christ child lay.

We are given to understand this is night, although almost as radiant as day, because Joseph is holding a lantern with a candle in it to light the scene within the stable.

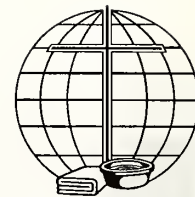
Conclusion

Although Albrecht Dürer did several religious series, this small series, with this picture of the nativity scene, was done for those who could not offer more than a modest price. This engraving is still considered one of Dürer's finest works, because it so clearly tells the Christmas story with so few props.



Convention Update

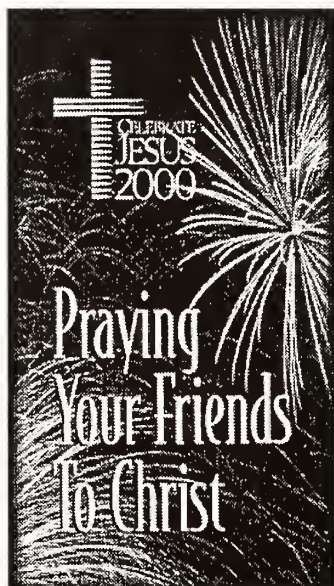
David C. Hansley, General Administrator



Original Free Will Baptist Day of Prayer March 1, 2000 "A Call to The Harvest"

*If my
people...*

*which are called by
my name, shall
humble themselves;
and pray, and seek
my face, and turn from
their wicked ways;
then will I hear from
heaven and will
forgive their sin, and
will heal their land
(2 Chronicles 7:14).*



Kelly Reynolds Assumes Duties



Miss Kelly Reynolds

Miss Kelly Reynolds began her duties as administrative assistant at the Convention of Original Free Will Baptist Headquarters September 20, 1999. Kelly resides in Greenville and is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Royce Reynolds of Columbia, NC. She is a member of Sound Side Original Free Will Baptist Church, where her father is pastor. She has been active in the youth programs of her church and she enjoys playing the piano.

Kelly was previously employed with Centura Bank, Greenville, as Service Associate/Customer Assistant Officer. She also served as Office Assistant/tour guide at East Carolina University Office of Undergraduate Admissions previous to her work with Centura.

Her objective as administrative assistant is: to assist in keeping records up-to-date, provide an organized environment for her employer, supply information to other members of the association through telephone interaction and personal contacts.

Concerning her job, Kelly says; "I am really enjoying my job. I especially like the Christian atmosphere that surrounds me. Also, the fact that I am constantly learning about Original Free Will Baptists has meant a lot to me.

A Workshop on Inclusion of People With Disabilities in Communities of Faith

Saturday, January 15, 2000 • 10:00 – 3:00 • Murphy Center, Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC

SCHEDULE

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is your place of worship open to all people? • Can people who use wheelchairs get into your place of worship? • Are people with visual impairment provided assistance, such as large print or braille materials? • Does your place of worship have an audio system for people who are hard of hearing? • Does your worship community provide an interpreter for people who are deaf? • Are persons with mental retardation involved in all activities of your community of faith, including leadership roles? • Are all people welcomed as a valued member of the community of faith? | <p>9:00 – 10:00</p> <p>9:45 – 10:00</p> <p>10:00 – 10:15</p> <p>10:15 – 10:35</p> <p>10:35 – 11:10</p> <p>11:10 – 11:45</p> <p>11:45 – 12:30</p> <p>12:30 – 1:45</p> <p>1:45 – 2:00</p> <p>2:00 – 2:30</p> <p>2:30 – 2:45</p> <p>2:45 – 3:00</p> <p>3:00 – 3:30</p> | <p>Registration, Coffee, and Danish
Visit Exhibits</p> <p>Musical Welcome</p> <p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Worship through Music</p> <p>Keynote Speaker</p> <p>Participant Questions/Comments</p> <p>Box Lunch</p> <p>Sharing Experiences: Panel of People with Disabilities and Family Members</p> <p>Break, Visit Exhibits</p> <p>Participant Questions/Comments</p> <p>Challenge</p> <p>Closing Worship with Music</p> <p>Visit Exhibits</p> |
|---|---|--|

Do you want to discuss these and other questions with persons with disabilities, their family members, religious and lay leaders, and disability professionals?

Then this workshop is for you!
Keynote Speaker: Ginny Thornburgh

Questions???
Call (252) 746-4963

Registration Information:

Cost: \$15/participant or \$40 for up to 4 participants from the same congregation or organization. A registration form must be completed by each participant. (Scholarships available) The registration fee includes a copy of *That All May Worship* workshop materials and lunch.

Deadline: January 10, 2000

Make check payable to: Breaking BREAD Together

Send Registration Form and Check to:

Breaking BREAD Together
c/o Convention of Original Free Will Baptists
PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 27813

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Title _____

Religious or Agency Affiliation _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Person with a disability
 Family member of a person with a disability
 Religious Leader
 Disability Professional
 Lay Leader
 Other (Please describe): _____

I request the following:
 Interpreter
 Assistive Listening Device
 Large Print Material
 Braille Material

Box Lunch:
 Turkey
 Ham
 Beef
 Vegetarian
 Other _____

I would like to be considered for a scholarship. Please call me.

Convention Update

Ginny Thornburgh

Ginny Thornburgh has spent the past thirty years as an advocate for people with disabilities. She presently serves as Director of the Religion and Disability Program of the National Organization on Disability located in Washington D.C. She co-authored and edited the award winning publication *That All May Worship*, now in its fifth printing, and *From Barriers to Bridges*, a guide to community action, as well as editing *Loving Justice: The ADA and the Religious Community*.

From 1988 to 1989, Ms. Thornburgh served as Coordinator of Programs for Persons with Disabilities at Harvard University where she edited *Resources for Persons with Disabilities*. Prior to that, she was the Washington, D.C. Coordinator for Operation Crossroads Africa, Inc., and earlier taught third grade in Lincoln, Massachusetts.

Ginny Thornburgh is a member of the American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law and the Board Trustees of Princeton Theological Seminary. She majored in Philosophy and Religion at Wheaton College in

Norton, Massachusetts, where she received a four-year scholarship from the Alcoa Foundation. She earned a Masters Degree in Education from Harvard University and has been granted nine honorary degrees and numerous awards for her public service.

Ms. Thornburgh is married to Dick Thornburgh, the former Governor of Pennsylvania, Attorney General of the United States and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Thornburghs have four sons and six grandchildren, all of whom live in Pennsylvania.

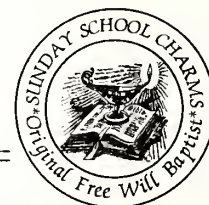
As parents of a son with mental retardation, Ginny and Dick Thornburgh have worked worldwide to maximize opportunities for persons with disabilities in their communities, jobs, schools, and congregations. In 1992, both were featured speakers at the Vatican Conference on Disabilities and at the Eastern European Conference on Disabilities, held in Prague. They have also made two weeklong visits to Korea addressing disability issues.



C A M P A I G N

Sunday School Charms

Hints and Ideas for Sunday School Growth



Sunday School Institute

March 3-4, 2000

Mount Olive College
Mount Olive, North Carolina

Theme: A Call To The Harvest
Sunday School 2000

Dedication Service: Friday night, March 3, 2000 – 7:30 PM
Institute: Saturday, March 4, 2000 — 8:45 AM – 2:00 PM

Workshops and Activities for All Ages

DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Bonnie McCarson. *Touch My Soul*. Mount Olive: Mount Olive College Press. Illustrations by Bonnie Blue Burton. Lee Witte Poetry Contest Winner 1997–1998. \$15.



Dr. Pepper Worthington

Winner (1997–1998), this new book has a power for transforming the empty into the full, the ache into a joy, the pain into a reconciliation.

Introduction

Bonnie McCarson's poetry juxtaposed to Bonnie Blue Burton's illustrations give the reader both linguistic and visual impact, as if to create both a scene and a mood that will touch the soul of a sensitive reader. Published as the Lee Witte Poetry Contest

Places

Bonnie McCarson's favorite places for poetry are the sea, the woods, and the blue skies. In contrast to the "blue sky" made "soft with early/light and cool breezes" in her frustrated, longing head that seeks a "communion that calms" ("I Pray", 25). Nature is rich with the chirps of birds that "sound raucous" to her heart without harmony, without joy in "this early morning/hour" ("Mad Bird", 31).

Off the poet goes to a "silent stream" to grow, become, and bloom into the "I am what I am" ("Retreat Thoughts: Silent Mediation", 33). As a traveler across "a vast desert," she begs the "Mind of the universe" to give her soul a true richness "in oases" ("Prayer #Two Million Five", 41). Likewise, the traveler asks God to be present in the fear after crossing the "river from the/Promised Land" (Stages of Life", 49). As the traveler stands before a "Rugged landscape," the reality of past "Storms and quakes" in a natural world of danger creates the need to reach out to the greenness in nature, to "the foliage" ("Rugged Landscape", 57). The traveler's secret home is the sea where warmth remains inside the soul "Even in winter" ("One Winter Morning", 89).

Feelings

The reader's soul might be touched by the soul of both the poet and artist, for Bonnie Blue Burton's pointalism creates an array of feelings: joy with the fluttering butterfly, dreaming with the gazing faces, loneliness with the bent fingers, manipulation with the puppet clown, emptiness with the broken vessel.

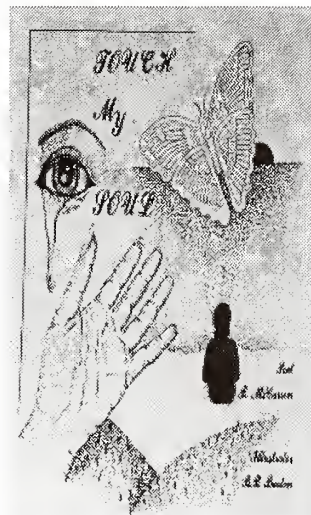
Poem after poem we find language evoking feelings: the desire to shift from pain to joy, the hope that emptiness will pass, the loneliness of friend's death, the grief of a life of bruises, the silence of a poet's disharmony, the imperfections of relationships. Ultimately, the plea of the poet is the find a "baptism" that is soul-deep" ("After Rain", 71). The danger of the feeling of anger appears in the poem "Anger":

Fire consumes,/It licks and leaps/Hisses and
sputters/Crackles and flashes/and burns, burns, burns —
Till all that's left/are ashes.

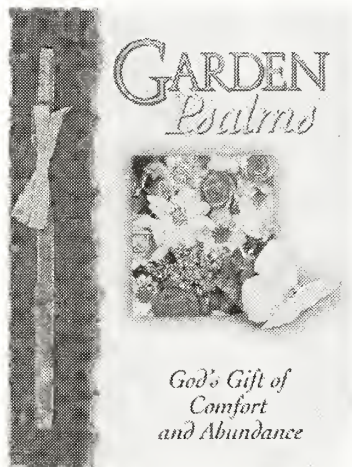
Conclusion

The power of God in touching the soul appears in the poem "Visitations": God rushes by/at the unsuspecting moment/Disturbing the dust of doubt/enough/to draw one from a casual/somnambulance.

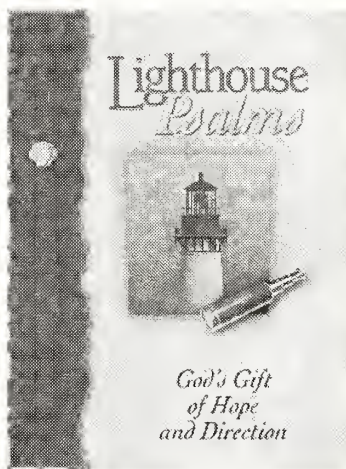
Indeed, the poet seeks to make the choice to wake up, to take life with its dust and debris as a gift. Once this choice has been made, the poet becomes fully awake, capable of forgiveness, desirous of removing masks, and hopeful of writing poetry that touches the soul.



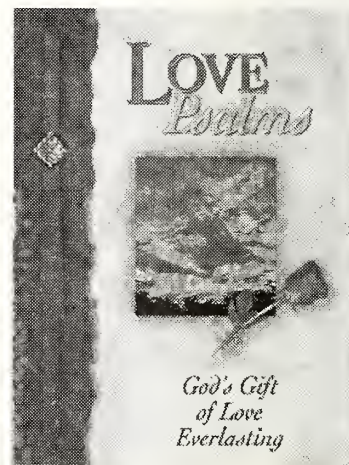
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The Free Will Baptist

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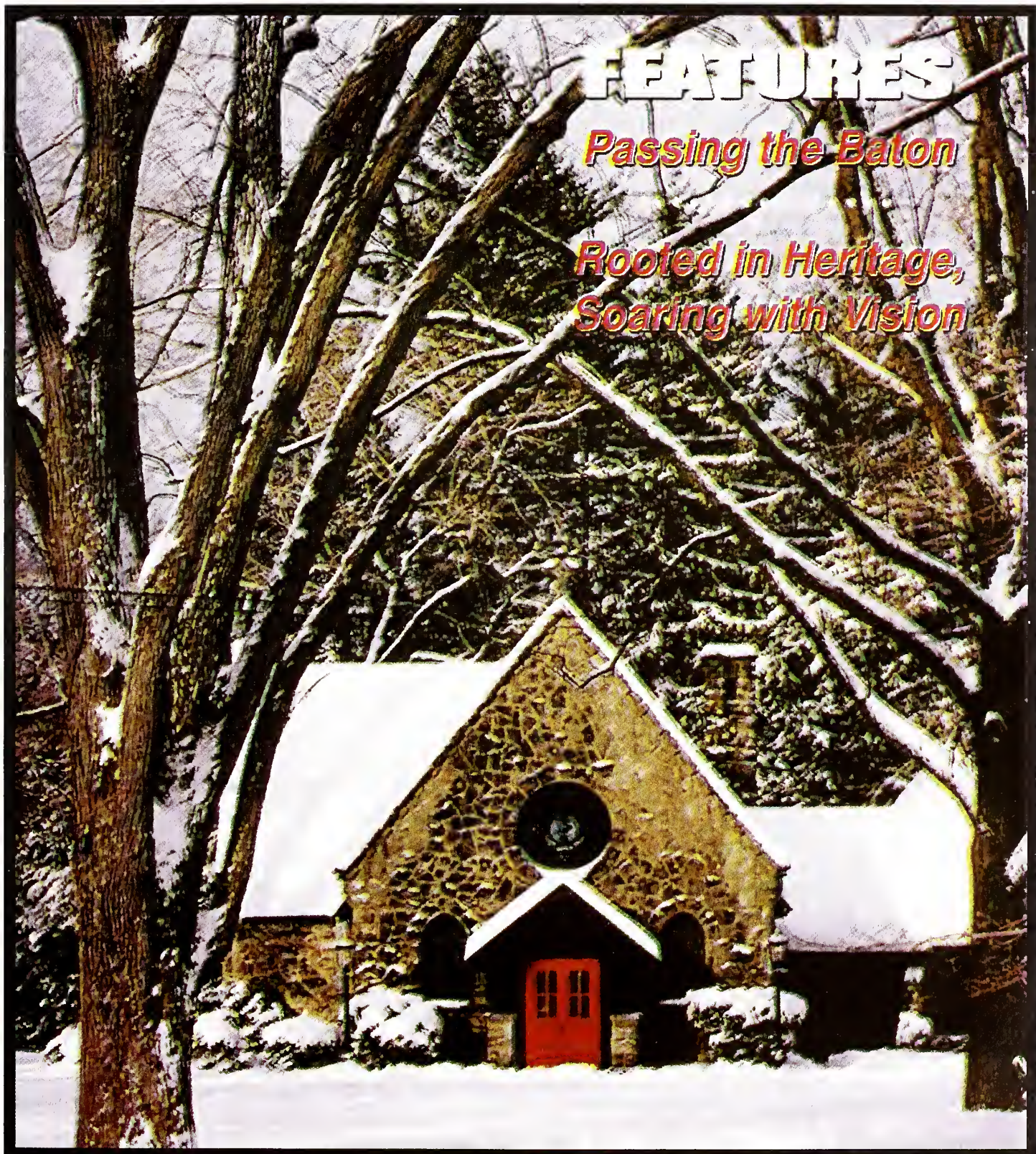


FEBRUARY 2000

FEATURES

Passing the Baton

*Rooted in Heritage,
Soaring with Vision*



The Nostalgia Bug

I'm not sure when it began, but it has been evident for several years. Maybe it hit me after the death of my daddy almost four years ago when he was 95 years old. Within the past couple of years it has grown steadily worse. Maybe that's because of losing a brother, a brother-in-law, and recently a very special first cousin who was one of our Original Free Will Baptist ministers. The caskets of all three bore the United States Flag, evidence of their tour of service in the Armed Forces during World War II. My daddy lived much longer than his close friends and buddies, which he would sometimes mention. I think he often had moments of nostalgia. Like many other human conditions, nostalgia seems to strike the older folks far more frequently than the younger.

Just to be sure about its true meaning, I checked the faithful standby, *The American Heritage College Dictionary*, and found the following definition: "nostalgia: a bittersweet longing for things, persons, or situations of the past." The word "bittersweet" sort of nagged at me and I found it means "a mixture of pain and pleasure, to be bitter and sweet at the same time." The only pain my nostalgia has brought me is the pain of loss — loss of relatives and friends, loss of wonderful events and everyday happenings of the past, the loss of a time when life moved at a slower pace and life was simpler. Those days are gone; they are now a part of history. What we now have are our memories; thus, instead of pain there is the pleasure of the past that gives rise to "the nostalgia bug."

There's an old popular song entitled, "Sentimental Journey." I still delight in its beautiful melody and words as they play in my memory. It begins, "Going to take a sentimental journey, Going to set my heart at ease. Going to take a sentimental journey, to relive old memories." That's what nostalgia is — a sentimental journey, a journey of "susceptibility to tender, romantic, or nostalgic feeling."

We cannot relive the past, and I know that spiritual progress is, in the words of the Apostle Paul, "...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before" and pressing "...toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14). This nostalgia bug, however, is not harmful unless indulged in too often and for too long at the time; therefore, may we indulge ourselves occasionally in these journeys of memory. In doing so, we might touch a hidden chord that has not sounded its beauty for many years.

The truth is that nostalgia and memory cannot be separated. With age comes memories and sentimental feelings. Certain sounds, sights, smells, colors, etc., take us back to the past, a special time in our lives.



C. H. Overman

Nostalgia takes me back to the fields, woods, and buildings where I grew up. In structure, the old country store that was built by my grandfather in the 1920s and operated by my daddy during the first few years of my life, remains basically the same. It served, as did many other country stores, as the hub of the small community. Each evening locals would gather to discuss farming or politics or some community event. They would drink their Pepsis and Cokes and eat their 5¢ bags of peanuts. During the winter months when days were short, they would compete in the game of checkers. Sometimes these games became quite competitive. Each day included a trip to the store, for whatever reason. Those were good days and there was a strong sense of togetherness. Everyone knew everyone else. If not, they could become acquainted at that old country store.

The fields and woods were much larger in those days, specially when you were counting the many rows of cotton or tobacco that had to be plowed or chopped and later harvested. Many of the old buildings are gone, but one still remains — the old "packhouse" that at times housed our harvests of tobacco, cotton (in bales), hay, and grain. With the exception of the metal which covers the exterior, everything is the same — even its smell.

In my nostalgic ramblings, I return to my home church. It has undergone many renovations and improvements. It's much more comfortable now, with air conditioning, comfortable pews, nice restrooms, and many other conveniences and comforts. The things that now tug at me have nothing to do with the modernization of a building; rather, it is the remembrance of those persons who helped me and guided me in the development of my life — my Sunday school teachers, my youth leaders, pastors, and especially my parents.

The early years of my ministry were years of fruitfulness, when decisions were made during revivals and regular church services. Baptisms were more frequent then. Nostalgia brings longings for those days.

During the past few months, I have found nostalgic relief in browsing through antique stores, in seeing, touching, and sometimes bringing home a few things that connect the present with the past. My nostalgia wanderings serve as a reminder of good things and good days; therefore, I plan to continue my reminiscing and sentimental journeys. Somehow, I feel that the Apostle Paul will understand. It is likely he did the same.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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NEXT MONTH

March is
Foreign Missions
Month

February is
Sunday School and
Christian Education
Month

Passing the Baton

Greg Haslam

1 Kings 18:36–39; 19:13b–14; 19–21

Excerpt from Elisha: A Sign & A Wonder by Greg Haslam, ChariotVictor Publishing. Greg Haslam is the pastor of Winchester Family Church in Hampshire, England. Used by permission.

The end is nigh

Is this the terminal generation? To listen to many observers — both secular and Christian — you would think so. They point to the many indicators of upheaval and urgent unrest: the earth’s dwindling material resources, the ecological damage inflicted by man upon his environment, the sheer scale and global repercussions of the concerns reported in daily news. These events and the ferment in the spiritual and ideological perspectives of mankind all seem to confirm our worst suspicions. This widespread accumulation of alarming data seems not only to endorse the sober predictions voiced by Jesus and his apostles (see, for example, Matthew 24 and Revelation 8 and 9), they seem also to confirm what some had most feared — namely, that the church is in retreat, evil has triumphed, the Christian cause is all but lost, and the people of God are becoming an increasingly shrinking minority. The church appears besieged and beleaguered. Her only hope is said to lie in death or translation, resurrection or rapture. It doesn’t really matter which, so long as it is an escape from the mess. That, at any rate, is what many sincerely believe and hope for.

Interestingly, it is also what the Prophet Elijah believed and hoped for. The famous contest on Mount Carmel in which Yahweh’s representative had rallied the forces and faith of his nation in the notable “power encounter” with the demonic fertility gods of Canaan, had ended with the utter supremacy of Yahweh being mounted in vivid and indisputable display. That night,

850 prophets of the discredited god Baal

and his consort Asherah had all been brought to the Kishon Valley and persuaded to give blood in much larger amounts than



those voluntarily donated earlier in the day (see 1 Kings 18:40 and 18:28). Elijah must surely have expected that the repentance of King Ahab, the renunciation of his demonworshipping queen Jezebel, and the renewal of people would all immediately follow. In fact, none of this happened. Instead, the nation just went home and told each other what an exciting day it had been. Ahab went home and told Jezebel what a naughty boy Elijah had been and Jezebel went “ballistic” and after telling her gods what a loyal witch she had been, promptly but a contract out on Elijah’s life.

Disappointment and disillusionment

Elijah could not have been more devastated. Alone, afraid, and disillusioned, he fled to the desert and, almost suicidal with disappointment and self-pity, he gave voice to the same convictions and aspirations of many believers today: “I have had enough, Lord... Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors... I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too” (1 Kings 19:4, 10). It’s the same desire for escape, resurrection, or rapture which marks so many sectors of the church today. This is a self-serving response, unworthy of a man with something more than a contract on his life — Elijah had the call of God on his life. He seemed to have forgotten that. His life was in danger and he thought that all was lost.

But Elijah was wrong. This wasn’t the end, he wasn’t the only one left and God’s cause was by no means lost. Instead, God was at pains to point out that while Elijah’s exhaustion and mood were to some degree understandable, in fact he had no business being where he was. “What are you doing here, Elijah?” (1 Kings 19:9) was not so much an inquiry about his location, as a challenge

cont....

Passing the Baton, cont....

to both his frustration and resignation. God was mildly rebuking his defeatism and despair. The Lord took him to task for the narrowness of his perspective and the smallness of his vision.

Something similar needs to happen to us today. We too need to be told to stop complaining and get on with the work at hand. Immediate escape is not an option. It is better to think long term and to look beyond our own minor (or major) defeats and victories, toward the ongoing and ever expanding triumph of God in history. God buries His workers but His work goes on.

Elijah had to realize that his ministry was only an episode in a very long-running saga. It would be good if we too had the humility to admit the same. We are part of something that has continuity with the past and also perpetuity in the future. It will end in triumph and not tragedy, and it will be God and not Satan who has the last word.

Passing the baton

Since like Elijah we live in a time of transition, it is important that we learn to handle that transition well. You have probably watched television athletic competitions which include relay races. The key to success in such a race frequently lies in the handover of the baton to the team member who is to run the next leg of the race. It is all too easy to fumble or even to drop that baton. This metaphor highlights both the importance of the team effort and also the vital necessity of a properly executed handover if the race is to be won. Elijah nearly flunked on both counts. He forgot he was only a part of the team, and that there were other runners also in the race. (He miscalculated the number of his teammates by 6,999) Worse still, he nearly dropped the baton. God

reminded him that there were other people waiting for their chance to run, and more particularly, that Elijah had a successor waiting a few miles ahead of him round a bend in the track — Elisha. Elijah was to pass on the baton of his witness. His job was to make sure that he made the pass as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

We too live with a legacy of the past, we have a job to do now in the present, and we must also look expectantly to the future. You are to act like Elisha as you grasp the baton handed to you from the past, and as you prepare to hand that same baton to your successors. There are no stars in a relay race, unless it is the whole team of winners, in which case everyone is a star. We may be proud to be in the race at all, but we should be humble about our own particular part within it. Church history didn't begin in 1967 when I was converted, nor will it end at next summer's Bible Week or convention. In the great sweep we call history, God has already determined the glorious outcome. But it is a team effort; it doesn't depend entirely upon you or upon me. We are all to play our part, but it is *only* a part and not the whole.

However, each one of us has something unique to contribute. Elisha, the God-appointed successor of Elijah, did not have the same task or ministry as Elijah. God does something new in each generation. That is why it is not healthy for us to live in the past. We may study history and learn from it, but never live in it. There is no better time for me to be alive than now, and no better place for me to be living than right here, for being alive in this time and this place is God's will for me.

What's in a name?

We see that demonstrated clearly

here with Elijah and Elisha. Elijah's name means "God is Yahweh." He was called to affirm that fact within a climate of relativism ("there is no such thing as absolute truth"), pluralism ("all religious insights are equally valid"), and syncretism ("all roads lead to God, so why not amalgamate their complementary perspectives?"). A time, in other words, not dissimilar to our own. Elijah lived to declare Yahweh is God and that *only* Yahweh is God — not Ahab and his consort Jezebel, not the Canaanite deity Baal and his consort. Asherah — *only* Yahweh is God and both tribal kings and tribal deities are accountable to Him. This is why Elijah's ministry was marked by confrontation and judgement. There were power encounters of devastating effectiveness including blistering drought and rock-splitting storms — all in order to establish the identity of the Being who really ruled the heavens. Was it Baal or was it Yahweh? Elijah lived up to his name. He established the fact that Yahweh is God. A similar calling rests upon God's prophetic people today. We too live in a time of rampant relativism, pluralism, syncretism, lies, and deception. Is nature our god, or is God the God of nature? Is ecological ruin the worst reckoning mankind can face, or is eschatological ruin a far more certain and fearful prospect? God's people are called to an Elijah ministry of prevailing prayer and powerful preaching to unmask mankind's deceptions today.

Yet we are called to demonstrate not only the fact that God *is*, but also the fact that God *saves*. The name Elisha means "God saves." The church's task is not only to show the world who God is (Elijah), but also that God saves (Elisha). This is the baton we must run with in this generation. We need not only the role of Elijah, but also that of Elisha. This being the case, it is time God's Elisha heard God's call. Are you listening?

CONVOCATION ADDRESS

Rooted in Heritage, Soaring with Vision

Hebrews 12:1–3

by Dr. David K. Hines,
Director of Education for Christian Ministries, Mount Olive College

Note: The following has been modified for publication from a public address.

Introduction

Convocation is an important occasion at Mount Olive College. As the official opening of the academic year, it provides a time for reflection and anticipation. For many of you — both students and staff — this is your first convocation. You are probably asking what all this means. Why do we begin the year with a worship service? What separates us from other colleges and universities? What is unique about Mount Olive College? It is my conviction that our uniqueness is found in our Christian heritage and our vision for academic excellence.

Hear the Word of the Lord as found in Hebrews 12:1–3:

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Exposition

Times were changing for the earliest Christians. During the first few years of the Church, Christians were recognized as another sect within Judaism and, therefore, received some measure of legal standing from the Romans. By the 60s and 70s this situation was changing. The Church was being recognized as separate from Judaism. Also, Jews had launched a rebellion against the Romans which led to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. By the 70s and 80s, it wasn't exactly safe to identify oneself as a believer in Christ. The persecution of Christians

became more widespread and intense. Many were tempted to renounce their faith. The Book of Hebrews was written during this time of persecution and crisis. Folks were asking, "What does it mean to be a Christian? Why should I hold to my faith and convictions? Is my faith worth dying for?" I suggest that until you know what you would die for, you really don't have anything of ultimate value to live for. In essence, this Book says, "Christian, don't give up! Never give in!"

The chapter just before this text is commonly regarded as the "Faith Chapter of the Bible." The writer gives us a virtual "Hall of Fame of Faith" — Abraham, Moses, scores of others. These, along with 2000 years of Christian saints, are now part of that "great cloud of witnesses."

Fred Craddock, noting the unique phrasing of the Greek text, says that these witnesses are like the fans at the athletic event — cheering the players on. He states: "God has already approved or confirmed their faithfulness, and they now gather around us for whom the race is not finished" (133).

The REAL confidence for these athletes comes from keeping their eyes on the prize: Jesus, the "pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

What a powerful image: Jesus as the pioneer (trailblazer); this gives us roots. Jesus is also the perfecter — He is still working on us. This gives us our vision.

Mount Olive College family: Are you hearing the Word of God? Might God be saying something to us through this text? I think so. We are a college Rooted in Heritage, but we must be ready to Soar with God's Vision.

I. Rooted in Heritage **Mount Olive College: Know who you are.**

This College was established by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists in 1951. When the resolution was passed to purchase an

cont....

Rooted in Heritage, Soaring with Vision, cont...

abandoned elementary school in Mount Olive, our Convention's Christian Education fund contained \$6.17.

But these were people of vision and courage. They believed in the need for pastors to be equipped for effective leadership and service. They wanted their children to enjoy the benefits of a Christian education.

This idea of a "Christian college" was not just window dressing — not just a couple of Bible classes. This Christian perspective formed the very fabric of the College. This heritage still forms Mount Olive College. We are a ministry of the Original Free Will Baptist Church, and we exist to advance the mission of the Church by equipping men and women to be the people of God. President Emeritus W. Burkette Raper once said: "The day the Original Free Will Baptist Church can achieve its mission without Mount Olive College is the day we cease to have a reason to exist." These are strong words, but they are words which define *who* we are and *why* we exist. We must never take this heritage for granted.

This heritage is being challenged. It's being challenged by *secular values*. A secular system measures persons by their net worth rather than their character. A secular system bows at the altar of pragmatism and worships the questions, "Will it work?" This is an important and needed question. I see nothing wrong with testing an idea by asking, "Will it work?" However, for people of faith, *our* first questions are, "Is this idea Godly? Is it moral? Is it right?"

Our heritage is also being challenged by ignorance of who we are and of our unique mission. I recently encountered a book that deeply troubled me: *The Dying of the Light: the Disengagement of College and Universities from Their Christian Churches* by James Burtchaell. In this almost 900-page historical analysis, Burtchaell tells the story of colleges which began with Christian roots but lost their focus. I noted some common themes emerging as I read: Most of these schools were established for educating the clergy

(like Mount Olive College). Most were heavily dependent on their church for income and students (like Mount Olive College). Most were liberal arts colleges (like Mount Olive College).

Then they began to find other sources of income. Then the place of the Bible was de-emphasized in the curriculum. Religion became window dressing. Then a new and supposedly more inclusive vision was adopted, and the colleges became private versions of state universities.

Mount Olive College: Dare to be Different! Let us boldly affirm our heritage. Let us remember that great cloud of witnesses. Let us embrace the vision of our founders. Look to our pioneer, Jesus, the master teacher. I am convinced that this is the key to our future. Our world does not need another college. If Mount Olive College closed its doors tomorrow, our students could be absorbed by the public university system without causing a significant statistical blurb. Our world *does* need a college with vision and Christian conviction.

We have dared to be different in programming. I endorsed and support this. We are willing to press the envelope and attempt creative and progressive methods of providing educational services. But we can't sacrifice quality or mission!

Take note: according to a March 5, 1999 article in *The Chronicles of Higher Education* (page A42), from 1990 to 1996 enrollments at the ninety-member colleges of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities grew by 24%. During the same period, enrollment at public universities grew 4%; other private colleges grew 5%. Obviously, there are folks who are looking for something different.

Asa Dodge Smith of Dartmouth College stated in 1863: "The College... should be distinctly and eminently Christian. Not in the narrow, sectarian sense — that be far from us — but in the broadest evangelical view...Christianity is the great unity... All things are Christ's; all dominions, dignities, potencies; it is especially meet that we say, to-day, all institutions"

(quoted in Burtchaell, 825).

This heritage will live and shine brightly at Mount Olive College. We are rooted in heritage.

II. Let us Soar with Vision

In our text, struggling Christians were reminded of all the folks in the stands cheering them on. But a successful athlete can't focus on the crowd — She must focus on the goal. He must focus his energy on the objectives. Remember: Jesus is the perfecter of our faith. He is still working on His people, forming and reforming them.

Though skeptics may say, "I have to see it before I will believe it," people of faith have a different attitude: Faith says: "I must believe it before I will see it." I occasionally play a strange game called golf. For me, any shot is successful that is closer to the hole after I hit it. Golf instructors often talk about "visualizing" the shot before you swing. In your mind, picture the kind of shot you want to hit. Focus on that image. Unfortunately, most of us try to focus on trying not to hit a bad shot. This doesn't work. Mount Olive College, let us focus positively on who we can become by God's grace.

Fellow scholars (both students and professors), allow me to share my vision, one I believe we can soar with:

A. Academic Rigor and a Love of Learning

I promise my students that I will do all that I can to stretch you intellectually. I will do everything I can to make you think. I will challenge you to learn to analyze data. I will do all I can to encourage you to learn how to make decisions based upon solid evidence.

I promise to be hard. I promise no free rides in my classes. I promise to grade firmly and fairly. If I can't commit this to you, I am effectively stealing four years from you.

Colleagues: we will not instill high standards in our students unless we model them. We often call ourselves teachers. That vision is too small. We are professors. We are scholars. We love the opportunity that God has given us
cont....

Rooted in Heritage, Soaring with Vision, cont...

to stretch the boundaries of learning and test new ideas.

B. Personal Integrity and Moral Purity

To run a race, you don't want twenty-pound weights on your ankles. You don't want to be tangled by a net. I'm going to state this directly: you cannot achieve without laying aside sin.

Our culture says that one's college years provide time for trying new things. I agree. But I disagree with the kind of things we often try. Drinking ourselves into a stupor — sleeping with anyone that is willing — making destructive and potentially deadly decisions. To achieve the high vision of personal integrity and moral purity, commit yourself to be a person of noble character.

Allow me to define this term: character refers to the way we behave when we think no one is looking. Know who you are, and know the one to whom you belong. I belong to Christ.

C. A Christ Focus

Looking unto Jesus... You will become like the most important thing in your life, your highest value (your God). What is *your* highest value? Are you serving the wrong god? Focus on Christ the creator and re-creator!

Seek the truth. Regardless of the academic discipline—science, philosophy, psychology, literature – seek the truth. For in doing so we seek Him who is the "way, the truth, and the life," Jesus the Christ.

Conclusion

Before assuming my current position as the chair of the Religion Department, I worked as assistant to then President Burkette Raper. A friend once asked me what it was like to work for Dr. Raper. I responded, "I don't work *for* Burkette Raper. My friend looked at me like I was a nut. Then he asked, "What is it like to work for Mount Olive College?" I responded: "I don't work *for* Mount Olive College." At that point, my friend had that puzzled and confused look on his face. Then I said, "Let me explain, I don't work *for* Mount Olive College, I work *at* Mount Olive College. I work

for God."

Who are you working for? Who are you seeking to become? Mount Olive College, our Christian heritage will give us roots. Our vision of academic and personal excellence will enable us to soar.

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CAMP VANDEMERE

Attention Kids!

Win a free week at Camp Vandemere!
If you like to draw, then here's a contest for you!
Camp Vandemere Logo Art Contest

Official Rules

Contest open to kids up to age 18

Logo can be anything that represents the Camp's commitment to God
(Logo can be a lighthouse but is not required to be).

Logo design should be simple enough to be used on letterheads, envelopes, etc.

Submitted logos become property of Camp Vandemere, Inc.

Winning design will be considered for adoption by the Board of Directors as the official Camp Vandemere logo.

The artist of the winning design will receive a scholarship for the camp week of his/her choice
(Activity fee, if any, is not included).

Submit two (2) clean copies of design along with name, age, address, phone number, church, and county on an index card.
You may submit as many designs as you wish in the same envelope as long as you include two (2) clean copies of each design.

Submit designs to:

Jason Modlin

P O Box 35 • Mount Olive, NC 28365

Submission Deadline: April 1, 2000

Any questions? Call Jason at (919) 658-0157 or e-mail at
jmodlin@exchange.moc.edu.

Central Conference Layman's League

The Central Conference Layman's League met on December 6, 1999, at Rose Hill Free Will Baptist Church on County Home Road, Winterville, NC. The wonderful meal and lots of Christmas music, next to a beautifully decorated Christmas tree and Chapel, reminded us of the reason for the season. A splendid devotion was given by Charlie Langley expressing our duties as laymen to reach out to others and draw them to Christ, and the Layman's League is an effective stepping stone to starting such an outreach.

Todd Cochran, accompanied by Rebecca Miller, brought us several songs that were reminders of the season and Christ's Birth, as some seem to forget. "Joy to the World" and "O, Come All Ye Faithful" moved the spirits within (many attending had experienced troublesome times during our recent flood disaster). Some of those experiences were expressed during this meeting through prayer and remembering that with God "All Things are Possible."

Central Conference President, Gary Evans, welcomed the great attendance and thanked Jimmie Tripp, Central Conference secretary-treasurer for the splendid job he is doing and has done throughout all these years, being so devoted to this position.

Gary stated that we had 131 present with 18 churches represented. Several



means of communication with our fellow laymen that have been tried and proven effective were introduced (such as tapes, etc.). Personal testimonials in using them with facts of how they helped their churches get the Word of God out to each and every person, were given.

The "Highest Attendance Plaque" and "The Highest Percentage of Attendance Plaque" were won by Ormondville Free Will Baptist Church, Ormondville, NC, the Rev. Don Ribeiro, pastor. His church has become very active in all areas of ministry and says it's through his whole congregation, including the laymen, deacons, Ladies Auxiliary, youth, church members, his wife and family and in fact, everyone taking part and pulling together has given the church its renewed growth.



Dates to Remember

- February 3 Executive and Promotional Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Convention Headquarters, Ayden, NC.
- February 21 Eastern Conference Layman's League. Host: Croatan Church, 12 miles east of New Bern on Highway 70 at Carolina Blvd., 6:45 PM meal; 7:30 PM business.
- March 6 Central Conference Layman's League. Host: Aspen Grove Church, Aspen Grove Church Road, Fountain, NC. 6:45 PM meal; 7:30 PM business.

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

February is Sunday School Month

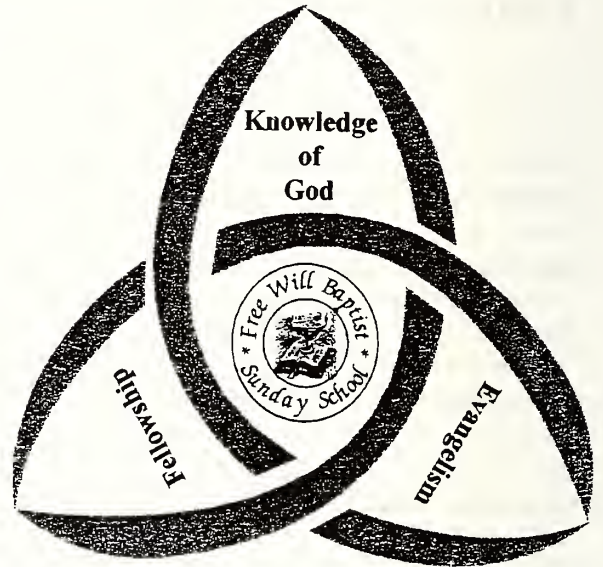
According to Lee J. Gable in *Christian Nurture Through the Church*, Christian nurture is the total effort of the church to help each person to dedicate himself to Christ and to develop the understandings, the attitudes, and the skills that he needs in order to be Christian in his personal life and in his relations with others.

We accomplish this through balancing our emphasis on the study of the Scriptures, fellowship or building relationships and evangelism or the sharing of oneself and the church with others. There are many different approaches/methods that can be used by all organizations in the church to teach and make disciples. The methods are dynamic but the message remains stable.

The Sunday School Board is committed to assisting all Original Free Will Baptist churches in developing the knowledge and skills that will enable them to go, teach, and make disciples in each of our communities.

For further information concerning how the Sunday School Board can assist your church, come by the headquarters or contact:

Mrs. Mary Dudley
OFWB Sunday School Ministry
PO Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513-0039



SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE

March 3-4, 2000

Mount Olive College • Mount Olive, North Carolina

Theme: A Call To The Harvest

Sunday School 2000

DEDICATION SERVICE
Friday Night, March 3, 2000, 7:30 PM

INSTITUTE
Saturday, March 4, 2000, 8:45 AM - 2:00 PM

Workshops and Activities for All Ages

ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL DAY

A Call To The
Harvest

Sunday School
2000

"A little child will lead them."
(See Isaiah 11:6)



SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 27, 2000

CELEBRATE

SEND A SPECIAL
OFFERING TO THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL
MINISTRY



Project Kids Kare

Good Samaritans

submitted by Peggy Buck

Last year the members of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Tarboro were busy preparing shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse to deliver to children in Honduras and other countries overseas. Who would have ever guessed that we would be receiving shoe boxes this year. The youth from the Cape Fear District were our Good Samaritans. When they realized the extent of the damage caused by Hurricane Floyd, they wanted to help. They collected 350 shoe boxes stuffed with goodies, toys, and personal messages for children in the Tarboro area. Each box was unique with its own surprise. The boxes were delivered to Tarboro December 17, by the Rev. Fred Baker, pastor of Robert's Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Dunn, but the mission did not stop there.

On December 18, the youth, and some of their leaders from the Cape Fear District, assisted the youth and members from the First Free Will Baptist Church in Tarboro with distributing the shoe boxes. The Director of Home Missions and Evangelism, the Rev. Al Markuson, and his family, and Dr. Graham Lane were also on hand to sort and distribute the boxes. Dr. Lane blessed the group's efforts with a devotion and prayer. It is amazing what you can stuff into a small box, but oh the thrill and joy that it gave each child as they tore off the top. The boxes brightened the lives of local church members and youth from the community and local schools. Each box was packed with care and designed for a particular age group and sex. A flyer with the plan of salvation and an invitation to the local church was included in each box. Thank you seems inadequate for all the time and energy it took to prepare, deliver, and distribute the boxes. God bless each of you for allowing Him to work through your lives and become our Good Samaritan!



First Free Will Baptist Church, Tarboro, NC Youth Group with Cape Fear Youth Leaders



The Rev. Stanley Buck, First OFWB Church; Dr. A. Graham Lane, Home Missions Project Kids Kare Coordinator; the Rev. Al Markuson, Executive Director Home Missions



From left to right: Karen Honeycutt, Peggy Buck (pastor's wife/youth leader), Dawn Faircloth, and Martha Parsons



Dawn Faircloth, Cape Fear District Youth President; Karen Honeycutt and Martha Parsons, Cape Fear Youth Co-Directors

Disaster Relief

VICTORIOUS

submitted by Peggy Buck

This time in history will be known as “the flood,” caused by Hurricane Floyd. I am not a flood victim who lost a home, but everyone in Floyd’s path has been affected. My attitude toward life has been changed. I have learned that worldly possessions such as homes, businesses, cars, and electrical gadgets are all temporary. In a matter of hours and in disbelief, some of my friends witnessed their homes fill with water and they became refugees searching for a way to escape and seeking a place to stay. I cannot imagine the hard choices they faced. They were leaving things behind that they and their parents had worked a lifetime to obtain. It was a scene you might see in a third world country. People fleeing their homes with only their clothes on their backs and unaware of what the future would hold. I now know that things in life can change in a minute. The verse in 2 Corinthians 4:18, “While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal,” now has a new meaning to me. We cannot count on the things that we own, but we need to put our trust in the Lord.

I also learned the importance of having a church family. In a matter of hours people were reaching out, offering their homes, food, clothing, and their support. God’s wisdom and guidance was sought through prayer and in amazement His people witnessed many miracles. Our small food pantry in the fellowship building grew into a distribution center. God’s blessings multiplied and help came from every direction. People from the neighborhood, our denomination, the state, and even people from other states that we did not know were reaching out and letting God work through them. It became a joke that if you were tired and wanted to quit you better not have me pray because God had a plan and we were His helping hands. Praise God for such a privilege. Now more than ever our church family and denomination have a bond

that draws us closer together.

They say that time has a way of healing all things and memories will fade. But this has been a profound experience and the affects of the flood are found in every corner of our lives, especially the people who lost their worldly possessions. I’ve learned that when you are flat on your face and your world has been turned upside down, you can turn to God. God and His people will not forsake you. While fleeing the flood waters, one of our youth, Rickie Teel, spotted a rainbow peeking through the cloud. He pointed it out and reminded his mom of God’s promise to protect His people. It’s that promise that we cling to today. I cannot begin to tell you the blessings and the love God has showered upon us. There are not enough words to offer as praise for what He has done for us. And as Mrs. Dot, our Sunday school teacher explained, “We are not victims, but are victorious because of God’s love.” “howbeit, our God turned the curse into a blessing” (Nehemiah 13:2).

You may be asking within yourself what you can do? Remember us in your prayers. Pray for God’s wisdom to be sought in every situation. There are so many decisions to be made. Major concerns such as do we allow the government to buy our homes which means losing the land that has been passed down for generations? How do you assure a child that he/she is safe after experiencing a flood? How do you convince a nonbeliever that God is in control and that bad things can happen to people? As you pray, ask for God’s guidance and blessings for each decision that is made and I know God will surely bless!

For more information on how you can help the Hurricane Floyd Flood Victims to rebuild their homes, businesses, and lives, or for information on Home Missions and Evangelism Disaster Relief Program or Project Kids Kare, please contact Home Missions and Evangelism at PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, or phone 252-746-4963.

Christmas Visits

"Thank you for helping to make wishes come true"



The Young Adult Class of First Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, NC, delivered paper products and visited our campus on December 14. Thanks to each member and especially to Randy Faircloth (alumni) for caring.



Employees of Glaxo-Zebulon, NC, prepare to entertain the children with presents, songs, and laughter on December 17.



On December 17, Glaxo employees graced the staff and residents with beautiful music and voices. The children later joined in, especially at the microphones.



Woodmen of the World gathered to make sure the children enjoyed their party. On December 10, the children received food, gifts, and music from the caring hearts of WOW. When they let the children choose their own song and sing, you could see the making of "future stars!"



An extra surprise on December 10 was Santa and family. Woodmen of the World remember it all, especially creating lasting smiles for each child.



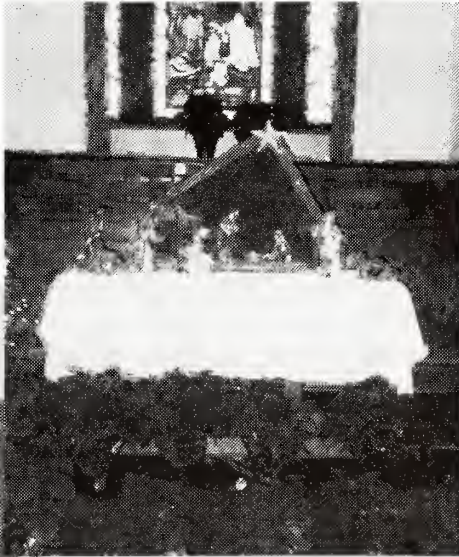
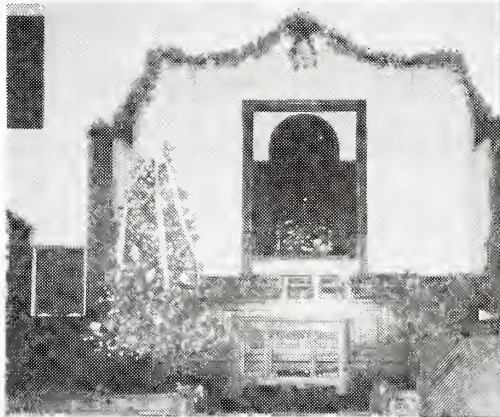
December 12, 1999, is a day that will be captured in the minds of the girls of Genesis House Emergency Shelter. Members of New Sandy Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Bailey, NC, visited and presented gifts to each young lady. You could see and hear the excitement. Thank you for remembering these young ladies with your special visit.

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

Children's Home Life Newsletter	February (1st week)
Campus Chapel Service	March 16, 2000
Children's Home Day	May 14, 2000
Founder's Day 2000	May 27, 2000
Campus Chapel Service	June 8, 2000
54th Annual Homecoming	July 9, 2000
Campus Chapel Service	September 7, 2000
Children's Home Day	November 5, 2000

Hanging of the Greens

December 5, 1999, is a day that will be remembered by the staff and residents of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. This was our first *Hanging of the Greens* service involving the children in song and service. Memorial Chapel was beautifully decorated and the sounds of music and song lingered long after this special event ended. Approximately 150 family, friends, and special guests attended. Following the service, everyone was treated to a reception. A special thanks goes to those who attended and shared in this glorious occasion, but especially thanks to the children.



ITEMS IN NEED LIST:

- Paper Products
- Personal Care Items
- Parament Set
- Playstations
- Playstation Games
- Encyclopedias (less than 10 yrs. old)
- Computers for Cottages (est. cost \$5000)
- Carpet Cleaning Machine
- Cordless Telephones
- Kitchen Accessories for Cottages
- Irons and Ironing Boards
- Basketballs and Volleyballs
- Pots, Pans, and Dishes (12 or 10 settings)
- Alarm Clocks



Because He Cares

Mr. Tim Johnson of Croatan Free Will Baptist Church, New Bern, NC, was determined the children of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home were to receive bicycles before Christmas. *He knew where to get them and he knew where they were going.* On December 17, Tim personally delivered these bicycles. We would like to thank Tim and the Havelock Police Department for caring about "our children."



**Mark Your Calendar
Founder's Day
2000**

**May 27, 2000
12:00 NOON**



**A SPECIAL
THANK YOU
TO
EVERYONE WHO
SUPPORTED OUR
CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN**

FEBRUARY

Prayer

Things

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
30	31	1	2
6	7	8	9
13	14	15 FWB Press Board Meeting	16
20	21 Eastern Conference Layman's League 6:45 PM Meal, 7:30 PM Business Croatan Church New Bern, NC	22	23
27 Sunday School Day	28	29	1

Concerns _____

Remember _____

	THU	FRI	SAT
	3 Layman's League Executive Board Meeting 7:00 PM Convention Headquarters Ayden, NC	4	5
	10	11	12
	17	18	19
	24	25	26
	2	3	4

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

Camp Schedule for 2000

Morning Star

April 28-30, 2000
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
252-524-4677

Minister's Conference

May 22-25, 2000
Doug Skinner
817 Lynn Road
Durham, NC 27703
919-596-2456

June Women's Auxiliary Conference

June 5-10, 2000
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
252-524-4677

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 12-17, 2000
Bryant Hines
PO Box 266
Cove City, NC 28523
252-633-2683

Christian Cadet Conference

June 19-24, 2000
Gary Bailey
112 Crosswinds Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27530
919-735-3916

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)

June 26-July 1, 2000
Janie Sowers
PO Box 824
Middlesex, NC 27557
252-235-2408

Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)

July 3-8, 2000
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513
252-746-7850

General Youth II Conference

July 10-15, 2000
Chris Singleton
PO Box 162
Beulaville, NC 28518
910-298-3520

General Youth I Conference

July 17-22, 2000
Bryant Hines
PO Box 266
Cove City, NC 28523
252-633-2683

Young People's Bible Conference

July 24-29, 2000
James Gurganus
1317 Nine Foot Road
Newport, NC 28570
252-223-5251

August Women's Auxiliary Conf.

July 31-August 5, 2000
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
252-524-4677

Cragmont Club Retreats

Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
828-699-7677

Cragmont Club Retreat I
October 13-15, 2000

Cragmont Club Retreat II
October 20-22, 2000

Cragmont Club Week Day Retreat
October 23-25, 2000

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

MOC Graduates Last Class of the Century

The last class of the 20th century was graduated at Mount Olive College's 47th commencement exercise on Saturday, December 18. Of the 243 candidates who received degrees, 30 were graduates from the Mount Olive traditional program, 48 from the Mount Olive evening college, 45 from the Goldsboro-Seymour Johnson program, 37 from the Triangle program, and 47 from the Wilmington program.



Mount Olive College graduated its last class of the 20th century at the College's 47th commencement exercise.

Lamar J. Brooks, instructor of Religion of Mount Olive College at Wilmington and retired Baptist minister, delivered the commencement worship service speech in Rodgers Chapel. He spoke on the topic of "Crucial Choices." He addressed the three biggest components in life...faith, hope, and love. "I recommend to you that faith in God will be the first and most important part of your life. The second biggest portion should be Christian hope and the third and greatest should be love. These are the crucial choices, and as we make our choices, our choices make us."

cont....

MOC Graduates..., cont....

Eugene Price, editor emeritus of the Goldsboro News-Argus, gave the commencement address in College Hall. Price shared his recollections of Mount Olive College when the institution was just getting its feet off the ground. He remembered touring the original campus on Breazeale Avenue. "Although the facilities themselves were in poor condition," Price noted, "the quality of their faculty and programs has always been of the highest standard." Price recalled Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president emeritus of the College commenting on the subject. Price said Raper told him, "We have made a commitment...if we build a quality academic program the buildings and other material things will come." As he noted, these things have come to life for Mount Olive College. "Mount Olive College is not for everyone, but it is vital to those students, parents, and the rest of us who hold that there is an important place for an institution that emphasizes academic excellence in a wholesome atmosphere, and demands a higher moral conduct from its students and faculty."

Following Price's remarks, President J. William Byrd challenged the graduates, "My charge to you is a simple one: Honor your heritage by passing along to succeeding generations that which you have received with whatever added value you are able to attach. As you leave this place, resolve to make a difference and to honor your heritage. The generations to follow will honor you for your efforts. I wish you well in all that you do. Be constant in purpose, seek God's guidance, and strive to leave the world in better condition than you found it."

Other guest speakers for the event were: Jamie Hanson, President of the Class of 2000; Howard Scott, Chair of the Student Development Committee; and Marvin Waters, President of the Alumni Association. The Mount Olive College Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Alan Armstrong, provided the special music along with the Mount Olive College Instrumental Ensemble under the direction of David Stentz.

Christmas Party for the Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Students and Fellowship of Christian Students



The Rev. and Mrs. Frank Harrison hosted a Christmas party at their home for the Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Students and the Fellowship of Christian Students. Students enjoyed Christmas "goodies" prepared by the Harrisons while they sang Christmas carols and listened to the reading of the Christmas story from the Bible. Pictured are: (front row, l to r): Amy Lanier, Sarecta Church in Duplin County; Erica McCormick, Wayne County; Barbara Harrison, Marci Rollins, First Free Will Baptist Church of Goldsboro; and Julie Beck, director of student activities at MOC. (back row l to r): Kristen Carroll, Wooten's Chapel in Wake County; Scott Satterfield, Lee's Chapel in Harnett County; Rodney Dawson, Wayne County; Mr. Harrison, the Rev. Tommy Yopp, Folkstone Church in Onslow County; Lisa Quintas, Mt. Zion Church in Pamlico County; Sherri Jones, Wayne County; and John Hill, Holly Springs Church in Carteret County.

Upcoming Events

The Ministers Finance Seminar will be held on Saturday, February 5, 2000 at 8:00 AM in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center on the Mount Olive College campus. For more information, contact The Rev. Donald Fader at (252) 523-5800.

The 17th Annual Basketball Church Night will be Saturday, February 5, 2000 in College Hall on the Mount Olive College campus. The ladies' game will begin at 5:30 PM. To reserve tickets, call Matt Green in the Admissions Office at (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

Campus Visitation at Mount Olive College will be Monday, February 21, 2000. Check-in will begin at 9:30 AM in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. All juniors and seniors are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact the Admissions Office at (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

The Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture will be Tuesday, February 22, 2000 in Rodgers Chapel beginning at 9:00 AM. For more information, contact Dr. David Hines at (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

MOC Student Overcomes Cultural Obstacles to Receive Education

After seven years of hard work, perseverance, and struggles, Kou Chang has received his bachelor of arts degree in visual communications from Mount Olive College.

Although Mount Olive College graduated approximately 250 students at the fall commencement ceremonies, Chang's circumstances make him extraordinary. Born in the country of Laos in Southeast Asia, Chang had to overcome cultural and religious differences, as well as a language barrier to obtain his degree. Chang's parents, Larry Chang and Yer Vang, brought their family to America in 1981 to find a life of freedom and opportunity for their children. For the Chang's moving to the United States insinuated a life a security and prosperity. However, the family struggled to support themselves, find a home, and learn a new language. Although the road to freedom was long and painful, they found a way to survive through God.

The uncertainty of the Chang's new life in America was erased when they found solace at the Loa Evangelical Church of Fresno in California. The Lao Evangelical Church was founded for Laotian families who come to the United States. The church currently has approximately 8,000 members and has helped hundreds of families learn English, find employment, and find homes throughout the United States.

The Rev. Tu Moua, pastor of the Fresno church in 1984, wanted to help Kou Chang be the first in his family of ten to receive a college education. Moua, also an alumnus of Mount Olive College, immediately thought of the wonderful opportunities that a private Christian college could offer Chang. After much prayer and discussion, Chang and his parents were in agreement; he would attend Mount Olive College. He was at the beginning of yet another journey in search of a better life and higher education.

Moua and the Rev. David Charles Hansley, general administrator of the Convention of Free Will Baptists, helped Chang plan his move from California to North Carolina upon his admittance into Mount Olive College. Because Chang isn't the average MOC student, his differences presented him with many challenges. He faced and conquered each new obstacle relentlessly.

For the past seven years, Chang has balanced his time among schoolwork, a part-time job, friends, and hobbies, as most college students do, but he has also worked to master the English language and learn the American culture.

Today, Chang is at the end of yet another journey. Through several difficult years and countless hours of study, Chang has completed his college career and finally accomplished one of his life-long dreams of earning his bachelor's degree. In December he walked across the stage at Mount Olive College to receive his diploma and thought, "I finally did it."

Chang doesn't attempt to take credit for this achievement; he attributes his



Pictured (l to r): the Rev. David Charles Hansley, Malee Yang, and Kou

success to many. "I appreciate all of the things everyone has done for me. I would like to especially thank God, the Rev. David C. Hansley, the Rev. Frank Harrison (campus minister), Dianne Riley (director of alumni relations), my parents, and my wife for helping me through these tough years" Chang said. "They have really kept me going."

Chang will soon say goodbye to Mount Olive College and return to California with his wife, Malee Yang and their son. Although he is at the end of this adventure, Chang is yet again at the beginning of a new one. With a new family of his own and dreams of a career in photography or graphic design, he has proven that nothing can stop him from accomplishing his goals.

Free Will Baptists Support 1999 College Dinner Program

by Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support

When the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists brought Mount Olive College into existence in 1951, no one realized the impact this college would have on the Free Will Baptist Church and the people of eastern North Carolina. Today, many of our leaders at all levels in the Free Will Baptist Church received all or part of their college education at Mount Olive. This statement is not made boastfully but in recognition of a service the College should provide and is providing for its founding church. Seventeen out of the twenty-one persons who

cont....

Free Will Baptists Support 1999 College Dinner Program, cont....

served as a county chairperson or co-chairperson for the 1999 Fall Dinners have a direct relationship with the College either as alumnus, parent, or a member of the Board of Trustees.

As the Planning Sessions began in August for the 1999 fall dinners, little did I realize the mighty works that God would show us in just a few short weeks. With two hurricanes resulting in much flooding throughout eastern North Carolina, we saw God working through His people.

As we moved into the fall dinner season, flooding from Hurricane Floyd reached record levels, and it became evident that adjustments must be made. Virtually every county in eastern North Carolina was affected by flooding. Many people had suffered great losses, and some had lost all their material possessions. The hurt and devastation could not be described, and, in the midst of all the chaos, God's people began to respond in a loving and caring manner. As I sought advice from many people at the College, out

of a deep love and concern for our people, I thought we should probably cancel or at least postpone many of the dinners. However, as I began making calls to county chairpersons and pastors to make whatever adjustments were needed, the response was consistently given to continue with our schedule as much as possible. I was overwhelmed at the concern our people showed for one another during this deeply troubling time. Likewise, I was overwhelmed at the response of Free Will Baptists toward the dinner campaign. First, I was reminded that Mount Olive College is God's work among Free Will Baptists and they want to continue this work, even in the midst of great sorrow and difficulties. Second, when we actually began the dinner and contributions were received, it was very moving to see that some of the very people who had suffered great losses were still Bridge Builders (gave \$100 or more at the dinner.)

One dinner, (Lenior County) was

rescheduled, and even though two dinners still have not been held, (Greene and Edgecombe Counties) we have received \$18,553 in dinner contributions from these two counties.

The Pee Dee Association had its first dinner this year and contributed \$12,788! Several of the churches in the Pee Dee Association were affected by the flooding, even Mission Valley Church where the dinner was held had flooding in its fellowship hall, yet they all gave joyfully.

The response of God's people has been a very moving experience for those of us at Mount Olive College. Listed below is a report of the dinner gifts as of January 10, 2000. Even in the midst of severe hardship, Free Will Baptists have shown a love and commitment to continue the work God has given to us. We are encouraged to be diligent in all God has called us to do. We are grateful for each person who joins with us in prayer, moral support and financial support for the ministry of Mount Olive College.

1999 Free Will Baptist Church Dinner Program

County	1998 Bridge Builders	1998 Gift	1999 Bridge Builders	1999 Gift	Amount Over/Under	County Chairman
Beaufort	64	\$13,223	63	\$13,996	\$773	Billy Gurkin
Carteret	80	15,124	80	15,606	482	Sheri S. Noonan Edgar Pake
Craven	83	19,855	80	21,710	1,855	Roy Wetherington
Duplin	71	17,647	70	17,440	(207)	Tommy Benson
Johnston-Wake	230	50,692	211	49,972	(720)	Teresa A. Speer Keenan Hinnant
Jones	28	7,070	24	6,020	(1,050)	Gene Burkett
Lenoir	120	21,512	112	20,902	(610)	Jeff Daughtry
Nash	48	12,468	47	12,050	(418)	John Manning
Onslow-Brunswick	19	3,385	21	3,640	255	Ronnie Parker
Pamlico	62	10,420	52	10,150	(270)	Judy Thaanum
Pee Dee Association	—	—	78	12,788	12,788	Danny McPherson
Pitt	148	32,024	142	29,452	(2,572)	Jane T. Tripp
Sampson, Harnett, Cumberland	201	38,542	195	42,795	4,253	Lee M. Jernigan
Washington, Martin, Tyrrell & Pasquotank	62	18,035	63	18,958	923	David Cahoon
Wayne	243	64,977	227	63,620	(1,357)	Joyce Edmundson
Wilson	217	42,595	209	42,373	(222)	Richard Holmes
Subtotal	1,676	\$367,569	1,674	\$381,472	\$13,903	
Edgecombe	51	7814	1	510	(7,304)	Carroll Bradbury
Greene	134	26,547	74	18,043	(8,504)	Genevieve M. Taylor Randy Beamon
Total	1,861	\$401,930	1,749	\$400,025	(\$1,905)	

Newsletter from India and Nepal

submitted by Dr. E. M. Lall

The present millennium has been a great and glorious one for mankind. The human race has made tremendous progress in technology, great strides in medical science, and giant leaps in space.

But it has also been the bloodiest century — two World Wars — senseless regional human conflicts that exterminated millions of innocent people, persecution of Christians, and opposition to the Message of Salvation and conversion in this part of the World. Let us hope for the best in the next millennium.

Despite disappointment caused from various sources, the church work continues with great vigor and enthusiasm in both the countries. Our schools are gaining momentum for quality education even though we lack some resources. In a nut shell, there is progress all over in the church sphere and we praise and glorify the Lord for encouraging and strengthening us.

The long pending legal obstruction in building the Musapur elementary school has been settled and the construction of the school is in good

progress. Soon the concrete-linten roof will be laid on the school building.

The local church has given four bicycles to the church workers (1) the



Musapur elementary school.

Rev. Vijay Massey, recently ordained Pastor at Bareilly; (2) Deepak C. Lal, Church Supervisor; (3) Sumit Massey, another church employee; (4) Deacon Joy Ram. We thank the Lord for enabling them to share the need of the church.

The Rev. Y. B. Lal former Minister Incharge of Bareilly Church and Rev. Masih Charan, Pastor of Parsona Church (both retired) are still happy to



The Rev. Vijay Massey, assistant Pastor Bareilly

work for the Lord. They are committed to continue preaching whenever they are needed or they find opportunity.



Retired ministers: right, the Rev. Y. B. Lal and left, the Rev. Masih Charan.

New Outreach at Santol Street Barangay San Jose Puerto Princesa City, Philippines

by Fidel B. Presto

God has given us a wonderful blessing among the children and adults at Barangay San Jose. The students and staff of Palawan Bible College opened a work there in February 1999 in response to God's Commission to go make disciples of all nations. This outreach is the result of the College students fulfilling their C.P.E. (Church Partnership Evangelism).



The Ultimate purpose of Palawan Bible College is to glorify God by helping in the fulfilling of world evangelism. Our Mission Statement for P.B.C. is to impact Biblical education and other significant educational courses of the sciences that are deemed essential to the equipping of Christian servants so that they may be able to teach and train others. The College is committed to training the body, mind and spirit of the servant in the continual development of their spiritual relationship with Christ in order to experience growth and practice quality Christian living.

ANNUAL WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCE

MARCH 19, 2000

Sponsored by the Board of Foreign Missions

COLLEGE HALL, MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

5:00 — 8:00 PM

SPECIAL GUEST: DOUG WHITLEY

Douglas Whitley has a unique ministry that shares the lives of giants of the faith in past generations. For the Mission Conference he will portray two great missionary characters from the past, Hudson Taylor who founded the China Inland Mission by faith and prayer and George Meuller who founded and supported, by faith and prayer, many orphanages across Great Britain.



As "HUDSON TAYLOR"



As "GEORGE MEULLER"

SCHEDULE:

FIRST SESSION — 5:00 PM

LIGHT MEAL — 6:00 PM

FINAL SESSION — 7:00 PM

SPECIAL MUSIC



SERVANT'S HEART

Pleasant Grove, Pikeville, North Carolina



BLAIR MOZINGO

Snow Hill FWB Church, Mount Olive, North Carolina

IMPORTANT NOTICE — RESPONSE NEEDED

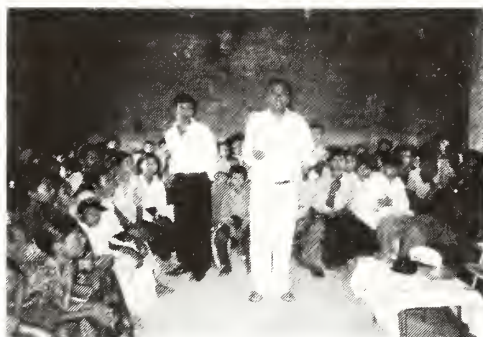
A light meal will be served, at no charge, but in order to prepare a sufficient amount of food we need to know how many from each church will be attending. Please call our office (252) 746-4963 by March 14 and give the church name and the number that will be attending. (If no one is in the office, please leave the information on the answering machine.)

This will be an exciting evening that you will never forget. Please plan to attend. We encourage churches to transfer their Evening Service to College Hall.

Foreign Missions Annual Telethon

Sunday, March 26, 2000

THEME: WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR



LOVING

PRAYING

**TO REACH THE
WORLD WITH THE
GOSPEL?**



WITNESSING

GIVING

THEME VERSE: ECCLESIASTES 12:13

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:

Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

The Telethon and Day of Prayer for Revival and World Missions is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to express our love to God as we accept our responsibility to love, pray, witness, and give for His glory and praise.

GOAL 2000:

A total of \$180,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.
This goal can easily be reached if we fully realize how much Christ loved us and give from a heart of love to reach others.

PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL

Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:30 PM. Dial 252-746-4963.

Your generous gift and call on Telethon Sunday will bear testimony of your love for Christ and others.

A CHEERFUL GIVER BLESSES GOD AND GOD BLESSES IN RETURN.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS

MARCH 26, 2000

True prayer cries daily for revival and sees the world with a broken heart.

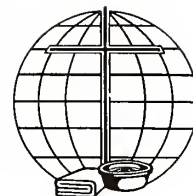
Prayer Goal March 26, 2000:
All churches joining together in united prayer during the Morning Worship Hour in one accord for revival. **LET US PRAY!**



**Board of Foreign Missions
(OFWB INTERNATIONAL)**
Post Office Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513
252-746-4963

People & Events

Happenings Throughout the Denomination



Team Attends Puppetry Festival

Three members of the Rose of Sharon Original Free Will Baptist Church, Bear Grass, NC, Puppet Team recently had the opportunity to attend the Regional Puppetry Festival in Charlotte, NC — October 15, 16, 1999. It was a weekend filled with workshops, performances, competitions, demonstrations and excitement. Training for puppeteers as well as technical seminars for puppet ministry directors and propeteers were available at the festival. Those in attendance are pictured left to right: Puppeteers Megan Cowin, daughter of Ben and Debbie Cowin of Bear Grass and student at Williamston Jr. High School; Chad Rogerson, son of Glenn and Beverly Rogerson of Bear Grass and student at Bear Grass School, as well as Adam Cratt, son of Steve and Maggie Cratt of Robersonville and student at Roanoke High School. Also attended, but not pictured, were Puppet Team Director Johnna Cowin, Youth Director Kenya Williams, and Propeteer Irvin Mizell.



Note of Thanks

I wish to thank all the churches, Sunday schools, and auxiliaries in Georgia and North Carolina for all your cards, letters, and gifts, and especially for your prayers during this past Christmas season, 1999. I love you all, and I pray for you.

Mrs. E. C. Morris
500 Pickwick Trail, #248
Durham, NC 27704

Smyrna Youth Present Christmas Program

Children and the story of Jesus' birth are the making of a real Christmas to the Christian.

Pictured is a scene of the Beginners Sunday School Class Christmas program held at Smyrna Original Free Will Baptist Church (Cape Fear Conference).

Pictured left to right are shepherds Cody Elmore, Nathan Raynor and Joshua Johnson (back to the camera) and Zeb Wade.

Mary was played by Chasitivity Jackson and Joseph by Thomas Stanback.



Watchnight Service

December 31, 1999, was a special night for many people; however, for the church family of Little Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church in Scuffleton (Ayden, NC) that date will always hold a special place in the hearts of those who attended. As many of you know, the church was flooded in September and the church building had not been usable for service since that time. Thanks to the hard work of church members and volunteers, a Watchnight service was held in the fellowship hall.

During the service the movie *Apocalypse* was shown, members partook of the Lord's Supper and participated in the feet washing service, and had fellowship while snacking on food prepared by the ladies of the church. At 11:45 PM, all gathered in the churchyard. Forming a large circle, the group sang "Amazing Grace" and then used the heavens as their altar. At exactly 12:00 midnight, balloons were released with a Bible verse attached to its string.

What a memorable night it turned out to be for all.

Now Showing
Apocalypse

December 31, 1999
9:00 PM to 12:30 AM
Little Creek Fellowship Hall
Communion and Feet Washing
after the movie
Prayer at Midnight

ADMIT ONE

This is the ticket advertising the video

People & Events

News from Powhatan

submitted by Rita Otto Jones

In this month's report from Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC, I want to share a note that is displayed on the door of the Director of Children's Services where I work. It said a lot to me about where priorities belong.

*One hundred years from now,
It will not matter what kind of car I drove,
What kind of house I lived in,
How much money was in my bank account,
Nor what my clothes looked like.
But the world may be a little better because
I was important in the LIFE OF A CHILD.*

The Christmas season at Powhatan included beautiful decorations, a dinner and gifts for our senior citizens, caroling at the Brian Center, a play, a candlelight service and gifts for the youth. The youth group elected new officers and had a pizza party. Many of our members attended a tree lighting service for the "Tree of Hope" which was begun last year by Vicki Bagley. Money raised by the sale of ornaments goes to the American Cancer Society. Our thanks to Pat Penny, Herman and Sue Mitchener/Time Out Day Center, the Town of Clayton, Sue Greene, and all others who helped in any way to carry on the tradition.

The Woman's Auxiliary installed new officers in December and started a new tradition. Three members were honored for life service. Sisters Ollie Brady, Alice Cole, and Margaret Johnson received pins and a big "thank-you" for all they have contributed over the years. Family members were present and the honorees were too surprised to respond except to say thank you. From now on, three ladies will be honored the first Sunday in December for their contributions to the Auxiliary.

Congratulations to Aubrey Bunn who has been elected and installed as our newest deacon at Powhatan. He and his wife, Linda, are active members of the Kemery Ard Sunday School class. He has undergone some surgery recently so please remember him in your prayers.

Several Powhatan members attended the "Celebrate Jesus 2000" event at Mount Olive College on New Year's Eve. It was a great celebration and reminder to take our Christian values into the new year and share them with the world. Most of the group stayed overnight at the "Sleep Inn" and enjoyed snacks, games, and fellowship afterward. As we headed home the next morning in our separate cars, we anticipated when we will soon be riding together after the purchase of a church bus. Thank you to all who have made contributions to turn the dream of having a bus into a reality this coming year.

* * * * *

In Memoriam: Deacon and Trustee Charles Hill of Powhatan passed away on December 7, 1999 following months of declining health and a battle with pneumonia. He was a veteran of the Korean War and a Christian soldier at Powhatan for most of his life. Please remember in your prayers his wife, Christine, son Roger, daughter-in-law Ginger, and grandson Spencer during this time.

A Special Invitation To Attend Revival and Christ in Passover

First Free Will Baptist Church
Tarboro, NC

SPEAKER
Dr. Al Reichman
Chosen People Ministries
Charlotte, North Carolina

DATES
Sunday, February 13, 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM
Monday, February 14 through
Wednesday, February 16
at 7:30 PM

Chosen People Ministries has been bringing the Gospel of Jesus the Messiah to Jewish people for over 100 years. Come explore the Jewish roots of your faith. A love offering for their missionaries will be received. Come and bring a friend!

CHURCHES & MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

Hickory Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Central Conference is seeking a pastor. If interested, please send resume to: Joseph Williams, PO Box 850, Robersonville, NC 27871

Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Ayden, NC, is seeking a full-time youth minister. Contact: Frankie Baggett, 252-746-3534.

**Registration Form
Cragmont Woman's Conference
Morning Star — April 28–30, 2000**

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Church _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: _____
Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:
Teresa M. Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

A balance of \$30.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

**Registration Form
Cragmont Woman's Conference**

**June 5–10
Speaker, TBA**

**July 31–August 5
Speaker, Mary Dudley**

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Church _____

Which Conference Attending: _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: _____
Please list the names of those with whom you wish to room:

If you do not plan to ride the bus, please check here: _____

Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:
Teresa M. Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

A balance of \$125.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

A day trip will be planned with an approximate cost of \$65. There will be afternoon trips into Black Mountain and Asheville (\$5.00 each). Please make your plans now to join us for one or both of these conferences.

Remember: The June Conference wishes to encourage participation of couples and of individual gentlemen, as well as ladies. A limited number of private accommodations for couples are available on a first registered, first served basis.

People & Events

Funeral Service held for Rose G. Bowen

Mrs. Rose G. Bowen, 83, died Tuesday, December 21, 1999. Funeral services were held on December 28, 11:00 AM at Farmer Funeral Home, Ayden, NC. Participating ministers were the Rev. Gary Bailey, pastor of Stoney Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church, and the Rev. David Langley, pastor of Winterville Original Free Will Baptist Church. Graveside services were held at 2:00 PM at Stoney Creek Church, Goldsboro, NC.

Mrs. Bowen was a member of Winterville Free Will Baptist Church, and was formerly of Durham, and the widow of the late Rev. C. F. Bowen.

Surviving: her son, Jeff Bowen of Fisher, Indiana; sister Willie McDade of Durham; three grandchildren.

Visitation was held on Monday, December 27 at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes or to the Foreign Missions Board, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

My Testimony Rose G. Bowen

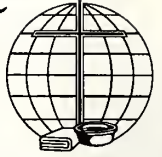
Christ is the only way to heaven. All other paths are detours to doom. I had prayed not to have cancer and God answered with a soft, resounding no! My first devotional during my prayer time on Friday after hearing that I did have cancer had this story in it: A pastor heard that a friend had cancer and went to see him. He told the minister that he was happy and the doctor gave him just two days to live. When asked how he could be so very happy he said, "I've always lived one day at a time, but God has given me two to trust Him." Isn't that good news? Christ delivered me in 1989 because I never took chemotherapy, had a replacement, took a pill or anything else, and it is 1999, and in a few days I will be 83.

When I go I will be ready, and if Christ wants another flower in heaven, I may be an ugly flower but I will be as ready as I have ever been since accepting Christ at nine years of age. If He were to leave me to suffer from dreaded disease, I would suffer willingly if it would bring some soul to Christ, bring our denomination back where it belongs, or bring some backslider back to the fold to work for Him.

May God bless each of you because I love you and want the best for you and our denomination. May God bless all of the pastors that we have and give us more shepherds to guide and lead us is my prayer. May God's will that has been such a strong influence in my life and death be your guide the remainder of your days.

Convention Update

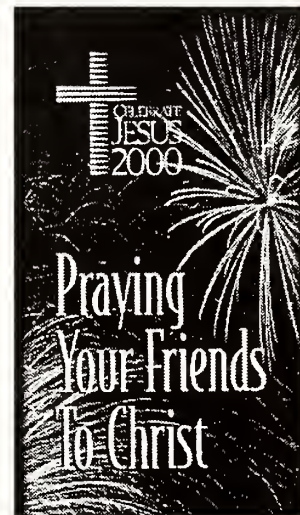
David C. Hansley,
General Administrator



Original Free Will Baptist Day of Prayer March 1, 2000 "A Call to The Harvest"

*If my
people...*

*which are called by
my name, shall
humble themselves;
and pray, and seek
my face, and turn from
their wicked ways;
then will I hear from
heaven and will
forgive their sin, and
will heal their land
(2 Chronicles 7:14).*



CHRISTIAN ART REVIEWS

by Michael G. Warning,

Pastor Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Sea Level, NC



Rev. Michael G. Warning

Quentin Massys, "The Rest on the Flight to Egypt" (Flemish 1465–66). Worcester Art Museum, Massachusetts. Oil on wood panel 32 9/16 by 31 1/8 inches. From *The Bible in Art: The New Testament*. Collected by Richard Mühlberger. New York: Portland House, 1990, p. 43.

INTRODUCTION

Although we tend to think of the birth of Jesus from the pictures of the adoring shepherds with Mary and Joseph, or slightly enlarged by the adoration of the three kings, in truth there is a larger series of images that over centuries has shown the importance of the Scripture and tradition of the birth of Jesus.

An angel appeared unto Joseph and told him of the danger to the child by Herod and Herod was afraid of anyone who might have a legitimate lineage to his throne replacing him. Therefore, in order to escape Herod, the Holy Family leave for Egypt, according to Matthew 2:14–15.

ARTISTIC STYLE

The image focuses upon a rest stop on a mountain road as the family is escaping. Mary in the traditional blue robe, the color of the heavens, looks adoringly at the child as he reaches out his hand to receive fruit from Joseph. Joseph is usually seen as an old man, although he was probably in his twenties, for here he has a cane, is bent over, but is wearing a red robe which is not a sign of age but of power. Here we see a legend that recalls the child desiring fruit. Mary asks to pick the fruit from a tree. Joseph in what may be viewed as anger quips back, "Let the father of the child provide fruit." At that point the tree bends its branches down to accommodate Joseph and he acquiesces. After he has picked the fruit, he offers it to the child.

This sixteenth-century artistic image is filled with a lavish background which includes a village, a castle on the hill, a forest, and to the extreme left a peasant scene of hunters.

SYMBOLISM

In this depiction of the Holy Family, the artist Quentin Massys shows Joseph as a pilgrim. It is interesting, too, to notice Mary and Joseph are both weeping as the child is offered the fruit. Perhaps it is the reference of the fruit offered in the garden and the temptation which led to the fall that makes them cry. The artist places us high in the mountains and separates us by altitude and perspective from the slaughter of the innocent children which is taking place in the village below. The slaughter has been ordered by Herod.

The symbolism is very clear as is the artist's delight with landscape and aerial perspective.

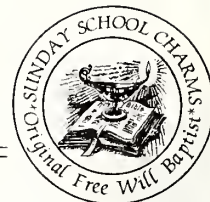
CONCLUSION

The flight to Egypt has become a famous part of the Christmas story but rarely is so much symbolism packed into such a sweeping and detailed landscape. It is important to realize the remembrance of the fall and the very real need for the child to get out of town and escape death at the hands of Herod.



Sunday School Charms

Hints and Ideas for Sunday School Growth



2000 MACEA Convention

On March 23–25, 2000, the Mid-Atlantic Christian Education Association will hold its twenty sixth annual Convention at Ridgecrest Conference Center at Black Mountain, North Carolina. The Mid-Atlantic Christian Education Association (known at MACEA) is a non-denominational association with the purpose of helping Christians be more competent in ministry by preparing themselves to spread the knowledge of Christ through Christian education. During the three-day Convention, over 200 quality workshops will be offered covering many different areas in Christian education related to the theme, *"Building Disciples for the New Millennium."* These workshops cover many different areas from teaching nursery through adults, drama, puppets, music, VBS, children's ministry/worship, church growth, special education. Anyone involved in ministry/Christian education can benefit from attendance.

The keynote speaker this year will be Dr. Harold A. Carter, pastor of New Shiloh Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. He has been in this position for over thirty-five years. He has two earned doctorate degrees from St. Mary's Ecumenical University in Baltimore and Colgate Bexler Hall/Crozer Seminary, Rochester, New York. Both degrees were awarded in 1987. He is the author of *The Prayer Tradition of Black People, Building Disciples in the Local Church* and *America, Where Are You Going?*

The Original Free Will Baptists will be represented this year. Mrs. Mary Dudley will be conducting a workshop entitled, *The Caring Church*, which will be focused on how the church can break the barriers that exist for people of all ages who have disabling conditions. This is a ministry that has needed attention for quite some time now.

The Convention also has a great resource center full of exhibits from many Christian book distributors, publishing houses, musicians, puppeteers, artists, and Christian educators. Many hours can be spent in viewing and locating new information and ideas for your church, Sunday school, youth groups, and adult groups. If you would like more information on the MACEA Convention, please contact Mrs. Mary Dudley, Director of the Sunday School Ministry at 252-746-4963 or 252-568-3311.

Events to Remember

February, 2000	Sunday School Month
February 27, 2000	Sunday School Day (Remember the Sunday School Ministry with a special offering)
March 3, 2000	Dedication Service for the Sunday School Institute at Mount Olive College, 7:30 PM in Rodgers Chapel
March 4, 2000	Annual Sunday School Institute at Mount Olive College, 8:45 AM — 2:00 PM, Workshops begin at 9:40 AM.
March 23–25, 2000	MACEA Convention at Ridgecrest Conference Center, Black Mountain, NC.
July 10–15, 2000	General Youth II Conference at Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain, NC. Chris Singleton, Director.
July 17–22, 2000	General Youth I Conference at Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain, NC. Bryant Hines, Director.



The Mid-Atlantic
Christian Education
Association's

26th Annual Convention

March 23 – 25, 2000



Ridgecrest, North Carolina
17 miles East of Asheville
Old US 70 off I-40, Exit 66

Dr. Harold A. Carter
Keynote speaker

- Over 200 Quality Workshops
- Inspiring General Sessions
- Special Music
- Resource Center Exhibits

Convention begins 4:00 pm Thursday
Concludes 3:30 pm Saturday

Full Convention
Registration: \$32.00 per person

Mid-Atlantic Christian
Education Association
P.O. Box 561375
Charlotte, NC 28256-1375

For information:

Toll Free: (800) 321-7495
E-mail: macea@ctc.net



Convention 2000!
Serving Churches
for Twenty-Six Years

DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Bonnie Blue Burton. *Mother, I Have AIDS*. Mount Olive: Mount Olive College Press. 1998



Dr. Pepper Worthington

Introduction

Bonnie Blue Burton's son Scott died of AIDS, a fact that devastated her existence and sent her searching for solace, comfort, and faith. Finding no books that helped parents of children with AIDS, Bonnie decided she would keep a journal as a testimony of how her faith strengthened her ordeal of losing a son to the fatal virus that has no cure. Her journal is her testimony that God's presence is essential in dealing with a rebellions, unhappy, sick child, for in her unconditional love of her son Scott, she came to know the unconditional love of God. Her choice to turn to God and experience the grace of God's presence became the choice that gives us her journal and her testimony of God's love in the midst of tragedy.

Scott's Announcement of AIDS

On January 1, 1992, Scott Setzer called his mother and announced, "Mother, I have AIDS." Immediately she got into her car and headed to his apartment in Charles, North Carolina, where she found him in the dark, "lying on the couch wrapped in a worn, old comforter" with more than 40 bottles of prescription drugs on his coffee table. She cleaned his apartment, rocked him like a newborn, told him she was there for him, and began her journal.

Lack of a Road Map for Victim and Parent

Scott knew he was under a death sentence, but he could find no literature to serve as a road map to tell him what to expect ahead. There was no road map for his mother either. What does a parent do if a child has AIDS? What can a pastor say to the parent or child? What literature can help at a time like this? Both Scott and his mother discovered to their dismay that the American public has little comfort or direction or clarity about how to live through the death of dying with AIDS. Thus, Bonnie Blue Burton's journal serves as her own pilgrimage and as a road map for others who find silence at the other end of the announcement, "Mother, I Have AIDS."

The first responsibility Scott faced was notifying others, anyone he had encountered sexually for the past 10 years. Then he prepared for his own diagnosis and therapy. Dr. Paul began with the T-cells, usually from a scale of 1,000 to 0. When the T-cells drop to 500 or below, AZT is given, but "complications contracted from outside infections" (10) cause the death. "There is no set pattern for the progression of the disease from becoming HIV positive to having AIDS to dying" (10). Scott's T-cells numbered 30, which "could mean a life expectancy of six months or so" (11). Dr. Paul spoke of an AIDS patient who has lived 14 years, but Scott's T-cells were so low, no more than six months seemed possible.

Past Regrets, Future Denied

Scott guessed he had been HIV positive for 10 years. His life had infected others. Now he set about planting Easter lilies, apologizing for his past. His mother sought help from her pastor who advised her to pray.

Now the world knew of Scott's AIDS. Bonnie Burton let her colleagues, family, and students know. The road map began with public acknowledgment and open discussion. Then she added a prayer partner. Next, she sought to find Scott a "buddy" from the AIDS Task Force. Doug was located and agreed to walk with Scott "the entire way until death" (28). People embraced the pain with the son and the mother. They were not alone. She prayed: "God, thank you for a caring people" (29). She joined a support group.

The great niece, Ann, came to embrace the mother. Scott's girlfriend stays with him. They are not alone. Scott's 6'7" height made his weight loss more dramatic. The bureaucracy of paper work for medications began. The time frame for receiving benefits from agencies is "based on the date of notification" (5). When Scott's health improved from the medications, he began abusing himself again. His mother sought Section 8 housing for him "means that your income, less medical expenses is calculated with a formula to determine the percent of your income for your rent" (35). They got a Section 8 certificate from Wilson's Stream Housing Authority.

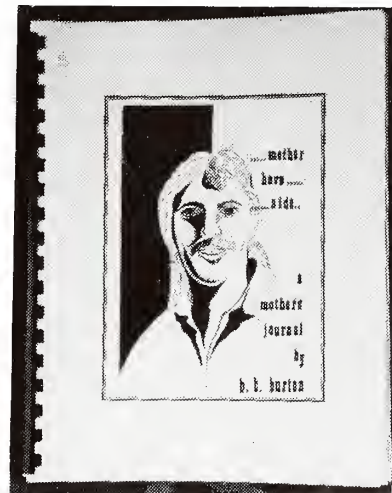
1993-1995

Some books from John Hopkins' AIDS clinic helped through the death sentence. The mother and son spent time together, provided insight just as the networking. Funeral arrangements were discussed. Interior dialoguing occurred. Scott's dwindling weight and rebellious fighting disturbed his mother. By February 25, 1993, Scott was going blind. The pastor was present. Life became a roller coaster ride, but Bonnie Blue Burton prayed: "Until his last breath is breathed, I will beg You to draw him to You, Lord. There can be no true joy in my heart until I know his soul is safe" (62). Scott died December 1, 1995.

Conclusion

Lies, unpaid bills, and other problems appear in the last months as Scott sinks closer to death. But Bonnie Blue Burton's journal provides a testimony of faith through it all. Others may feel they are not alone by being with her and her son.

The Rev. Ray Wells declared the book to be "a valuable resource for a pastor in counseling a family where AIDS has entered."

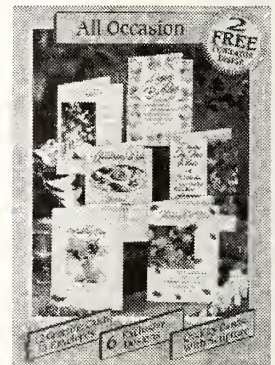
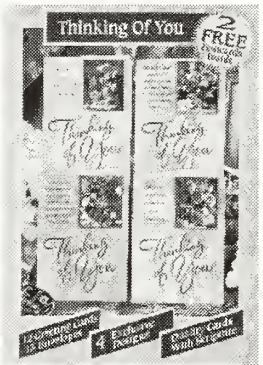
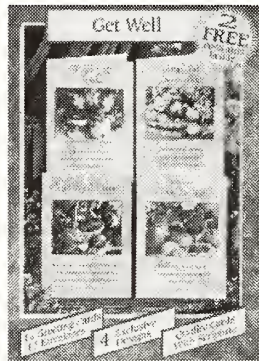
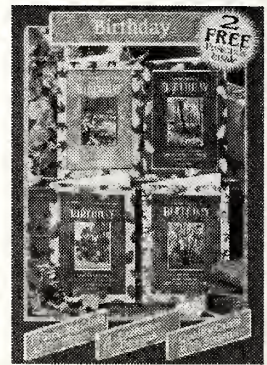


Ongoing Sale

New Year's line of boxed cards are now in!

\$4.50 per box

Buy 10 or more boxes
 and receive a 30% discount.



Available at your local Bible and Bookstore
 Ayden, Kinston, Wilson, and New Bern

The Free Will Baptist

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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST



MARCH 2000

Features:



Secret Closet Praying



Perseverance





C. H. Overman

Plastic Bags, Styrofoam Cups and Other Trash

I've often wondered if our trashy byways are indicative of society's inward spiritual condition. If so, we may be in worse condition than we realize as we view the litter along many of our roadways. No matter how much is said about putting litter where it belongs, there are some who can't break the habit of selfish convenience — tossing it — and letting someone else worry about it. (Road ditches and medians are not really for disposing of trash.)

Those who have visited European countries say their cities and countrysides are much cleaner than America's. Maybe it's because they do not use as many wrappings and containers and they are more concerned about putting trash in its proper place.

On our trip to the Philippines four years ago, we were impressed with the cleanliness of Puerto Princessa City, the capital of Palawan. There was no litter to be seen. Containers were conveniently placed along each sidewalk or pathway. Fines were imposed upon anyone who was caught littering, even to the tossing of a cigarette butt. One of our days was set aside for picnicking on Courie Island. The group of perhaps fifty or more consisted of the leaders, pastors, and members of the Free Will Baptist Church of the Philippines. We made the trip over to the island on bonka boats. The Island reminded me of Gilligan's Island depicted on the popular TV show of some years ago, but somewhat smaller. We were blessed in the beauty that surrounded us — the crystal clear ocean water, the rather large starfish, the white sand along the shores, the palm trees, and especially the fellowship of God's people. Ruby and I and a few others strolled around the Island, beholding its beauty; however, when we began to see plastic bags and styrofoam cups along the shore, we again faced the reality of humankind's lack of devotion to a litter-free surrounding. Someone may have tossed the trash from a passing boat or it was left behind by picnickers.

It is true; when we deface, pollute, and "trash" nature's pristine beauty, by our actions we are declaring: "It's not my problem; let someone else worry about it." Such was the response to some of the middle school students I taught some years ago. On ecological matters they were not too keen, and on occasion they would laugh at the suggestion that if

everyone properly disposed of their trash there would be no littering problems for anyone.

The truth is that we do not live in a theme-park world where there is always someone coming along to sweep up trash. The "home and garden" concept of life is not always a reality. This brings us back to our initial thought: are our trashy byways indicative of society's inward spiritual condition? Of course our subject here is a minor one when compared to the many, many others we read and hear about, especially those offenses against God and His Laws. Yet, each act of defiance, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem, expresses a protest against some ordinance or law. Littering is illegal, but few are caught and fined. The same is true of speeders on the highways and interstates. Immorality is disobedience to the moral laws of God and it is motivated by a measure of defiance which says, "I will please myself; I'm the one who matters most." The serpent (Satan) convinced Eve that she would be "...as gods knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5), if she ate of the forbidden fruit. Both Adam and Eve defied the Law of God and paid the consequences, and so has the entire human race in spiritual death. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). There is a consequence for each selfish, defiant act. Though it may seem small, it is a beginning of a downward trend; however, it can be reversed, for in Christ "we are made alive." Those who care about themselves, others, and their surroundings will strive to conduct themselves in all things "as pleasing to God" in that which may seem insignificant and in that which is obvious. Small infractions add up and are often indicators of a deeper problem. Forms of rebellion fall into this category — rebellion against parent's authority or simply infractions of simple rules and regulations. We are stewards of all that God has given. We can make life more beautiful by being faithful in this stewardship, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem.

Think about it! If the forbidden fruit was really an apple, wonder what Adam and Eve did with the core? At any rate, it was biodegradable, unlike our plastics, Styrofoam, and other things that become our trash.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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Home Missions and
Evangelism Month

March is
Foreign Missions
Month

Features

Secret Closet Praying

Evelyn Christenson

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly (Matthew 6:6).

My old green chair has long since been reupholstered, but years ago, when it was brand new, it became the quiet place to which I would steal very early in the morning to spend time alone with God. It was on my knees at that old chair that I would pour out the inmost groanings of my heart — for only God to hear. Groanings much too personal to be heard by any other. My tears stained its cushion as I knelt interceding for a loved one. It was there I was filled with awe and adoration for Him and all He is — the "...heaven of heavens cannot contain thee..." (1 Kings 8:27).

It was there on my knees with my open Bible that God taught me to wait on Him for every point in a series of messages. It was there with my head buried in my hands that I begged God for wisdom for a certain message that I was to give. Not getting any answers, I reached for the morning newspaper, laid it on the seat of the chair, and read in the headlines that Russia had sent Sputnik I into outer space. Then God said, "It isn't who can *conquer* outer space that counts but He who *created* it and by whom it consists" (see Colossians 1:16-17). I had my message!

Private Prayer — Public Prayer

Do you have a secret place for private prayer, a certain corner, a particular chair, or a room set apart where you can spend time alone with God? A "closet" where you daily *shut the door*

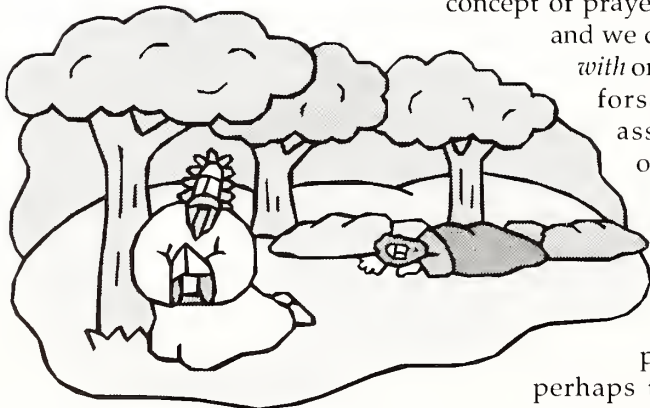
to pray to your Father in secret? The group concept of prayer is important,

and we do need to pray *with* one another, "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" (see

Hebrews 10:25). But the drawing

apart to

pray in secret is perhaps the most vital



type of prayer in which we engage. It is also an indicator of the kind of prayer group participant we really are, for *it is our private praying that determines the quality and validity of our public praying.*

Though we are never to be critical of the prayers of others, we can often recognize in our prayer groups those who have spent time in private closet prayer and the others who have come perhaps to do the only praying that they have done all week. Some struggle and strain to sound pious, but it's obvious that they haven't experienced the deeper dimension of closet prayer.

Have you ever seen a bright blue iceberg? In Alaska I stared in awe at a mountain lake filled with beautiful blue icebergs that had broken off Portage Glacier. Immediately my mind went back to an article in a *Family Tie* magazine that compared our secret praying to an iceberg. The "Absolutely No Boating" sign on the edge of the lake reminded me that eight-ninths of the bulk of an iceberg is below the waterline — out of sight. Only one-ninth is visible above the surface. The next day at our prayer seminar in Anchorage I explained how prayer should be like those icebergs, with about one-ninth showing in our public group praying and eight-ninths out of sight in our secret closets.

Other Closets

I can almost hear you saying, "I can't spend great periods of time in a closet." No, neither can I, but I have found another kind of closet praying. It's just drawing apart to God wherever I am — at the kitchen sink, at a desk, or even in a room filled with people.

"You must have tremendous power of concentration," someone said.

No, I've just learned to draw apart from people to God. Practicing this at a California retreat with 525 people packed in a room that barely held 500, we found, though touching elbows physically, that we could each draw

cont....

apart mentally to God. This too is closet prayer, though it is no substitute for drawing apart to that one spot, at that one time of the day when we really spend time with God and His Word.

One of my very favorite "closets" is my car. As I draw apart, you may be sure I don't take my hands off the wheel, fold them, and kneel. To shut my eyes would be even worse!

One morning as I was getting ready to leave for an all-day prayer seminar fifty miles away, everything went wrong. My husband called from California asking me to find out when he was to meet certain professors at the San Francisco airport and to give the information to his secretary so he could call her after I had gone. I couldn't find the professors, I couldn't find the secretary, after frantically dialing all the possible numbers.

Then my son called from school, "Mom, I forgot all my books; could you bring them over?" I did, and was completely out of time when I left his school, only to run into such a long detour that I could hardly find my way back to the freeway.

As I finally emerged on the right road, I cried to God. "O Lord, take over! Remove from me all this tension and frustration. Flow through me with Your peace and power. Make me what you want me to be by the time I arrive at the prayer seminar." And he did! My car had become my prayer closet.

Even a plane seat can be a prayer closet. For two years I had been praying with a friend about her sister who did not know Christ. Every time my friend wrote to her sister, she'd call asking me to pray for God to work in her heart as she received the letter. One day my plane had a ten minute layover in a Midwestern city with no time to disembark. I looked out over the city and thought, "That's where my friend's sister lives!" Suddenly there descended from God a heavy, overwhelming burden to pray for her. I sat in that plane in the very depths of intercessory prayer. Two days later my elated friend called to say, "I just received a letter from my sis, and she accepted Christ!" When? The exact day God had said in

that plane, "Evelyn pray."

Which Posture?

Just as our momentary closet praying requires no particular place, neither does it require a certain prayer posture. In one of my seminars a man announced to me after the first session that he would not be back. "You're not praying scripturally," he said. When I asked him to please explain, he replied, "You're not 'holding up holy hands.'" He could see only this one position to be used at all times, even though I pointed out to him that there are many postures of prayer mentioned in the Word of God.

When Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, He gave us the example of *kneeling* in prayer. "And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed" (Luke 22:41). At the tomb of Lazarus, while standing, "...Jesus *lifted up his eyes*, and said, Father, I think Thee that Thou hast heard Me" (John 11:41). Paul wrote, "I will therefore that men pray every where, *lifting up holy hands*, without wrath and doubting" (1 Timothy 2:8).

My husband can recall circumstances in which men experienced such grief and anguish that they lay prostrate on the floor of his study. One was a dad who had just learned that his teenage daughter was pregnant out of wedlock. He cast himself to the floor, weeping, and my husband had to take him in his arms and gently lift him up.

King Solomon, in the Old Testament, *prostrated himself before the Lord* when he prayed in the temple. His father, David, communed with God upon his bed (Psalm 4:4). Whatever our posture, wherever the place, the ears of our God are open to our cry (see Psalm 34:15).

Holy Places

God does not dwell in temples made with hands. Even so, some spots have been used as closets for prayer by so many that they seem to be holy places. Have you ever stepped into a room and felt God there? My husband and I were looking over the grounds at a

Midwestern retreat center one fall. We stepped into an old chapel — and I felt God's presence immediately. "Hon, please go on without me for a few minutes," I said. I knelt at that altar — not talking or praying, but just *feeling* God so powerfully there.

Another time I arrived at Bethel Seminary in St. Paul to speak at a women's retreat just as the planning committee stepped out of the Eric Frykenberg Prayer Tower, where they had been praying. Their eyes were wide with wonder and amazement. "We felt Jesus there!"

"Yes," I replied, "that is one of those places where I always feel a particular sense of the presence of Christ." That little circular room has no windows or furniture, but it is filled with the thousands of prayers uttered by students and faculty of that seminary — and His presence!

Christ recognized the need for spending time alone with God. What a tremendous example Christ's prayer life was to His followers and to us. Though the disciples were Jesus' very closest friends, He knew there were times He had to pray in secret to His Heavenly Father. Although Christ taught His disciples the concept of group prayer, He also knew the importance of this private closet praying. Even though He Himself was God incarnate, He thought it necessary to withdraw to a mountain to pray all night before the important task of choosing the Apostles. If He, why not us?

Lord, give me the joy of secret closet praying. Keep my faith to shut the door every day and spend time with You and Your Word in secret. Teach me to draw apart alone with You, no matter where I am or with whom.

Excerpt from *What Happens When Women Pray (Deluxe Edition)* by Evelyn Christenson, published by ChariotVictor Publishing. Since 1968, Evelyn Christenson has lead prayer seminars worldwide. Millions of readers have enjoyed Evelyn's books, which include "*Lord Change Me!*" and *A Journey into Prayer*. Evelyn and her husband, Harold live in St. Paul, Minnesota. Used by permission.

Perseverance

by J. C. Griffin

For many years the Rev. J. C. Griffin wrote the page "Notes and Quotes" in *The Free Will Baptist*. It was my privilege to get to know him when I was editor back in the '60s. In memory and tribute to this great servant of God and soldier of the Cross, we feature his "Notes and Quotes of September 30, 1964.

Perseverance of the saints has been from the beginning of the Original Free Will Baptists a firm faith and a cherished doctrine. It was preached by our forefathers, and is being preached by the true ministers of the Original Free Will Baptists.

Our North Carolina Statement of Faith (1955 Revision) says: "There are strong grounds to hope that the truly regenerate will persevere unto the end, and be saved, through the power of divine grace which is pledged for their support, but their future obedience and final salvation are neither determined nor certain, since through infirmity and manifold temptations they are in danger of falling; and they ought, therefore, to watch and pray lest they make shipwreck of their faith and be lost."

It is written in Romans 8:38-39: "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." "...God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). God says, "...My grace is sufficient for thee:..." (2 Corinthians 12:9). God has done everything possible to keep us right and in the heavenly way, but God does not take away from us the power of thought. He does not make us a machine that cannot be reversed.

Now let us notice some of the Scriptures which tell us of danger. "...The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you" (2 Chronicles 15:2). "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall" (2 Peter 1:10). There must be a danger of

falling because Peter said, "...if you do these things, ye shall never fall."

More Warning

"When the righteous turneth from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, he shall even die thereby" (Ezekiel 33:18).

"If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" (John 15:6).

"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of the spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted" (1 Corinthians 10:1-6). (Be sure to read the rest of the chapter.)

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame" (Hebrews 6:4-6). May we remember that it is dangerous to put Christ "to an open shame."

Let us now consider the continuation of following Jesus or continuing in the faith. Here is Scripture for our meditation: "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the

cont....

Perseverance, cont....

preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister" (Colossians 1:18-23).

May we notice the word *continue*. Continue what? It is plain that Paul is talking about faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us illustrate. A young fellow failed to graduate from high school. Why did he fail? He dropped out. He failed to continue to study. Had he continued and applied himself to study, he would have reached graduation. He failed to persevere. A few days back I, with others, started from my home in Bridgeton to Wilson to attend the State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. Mile after mile we traveled until we reached the place where the Convention convened. It took the last mile to reach the destination. No stopping was sufficient. It took the whole of the whole.

The faith by which we are saved must be kept in order for us to stay saved. We must retain a wholehearted faith in the keeping power of Christ as well as the beginning faith. Salvation is not repeated. It must be continued. Paul said, "I press forward."

Jesus said, "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto

the end, the same shall be saved" (Matthew 24:11-13).

We know of many who have *waxed cold*. We also know that false prophets come to our doors often. We see people who claim to be saved, but they live as the world lives. They belong to the church, but they drink unto drunkenness. They take God's name in vain. They commit adultery. They claim Christ but follow Satan. They are ruled by their flesh. They lie against their fellowman. They slander the name of many good people. Men stay out with other

women while their wives look after the children and wonder where their husbands are. Women run out on their husbands.

I preach against these sins. I preach that without repentance and faith in Christ those who live this way will wake up in hell.

Faith is like fishing. You can throw the line in and sit all day, but unless you bait the hook you won't catch anything. Likewise you must bait your faith with prayer.

CAMP VANDEMERE SCHEDULE FOR 2000

May 13	Clean Up Day
May 26-29	Young People's Mission Retreat 2000 Ray and Ginny Conner, directors 167 Holly Springs Road, Newport, NC 28570. (252) 223-4750
May 29-June 2	Open
June 2-3	Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat
June 5-9	General Youth Camp The Rev. Tom Parrish, director 609 Lee Street, Wadesboro, NC, 28710. (704) 694-9432
June 12-16	General Youth Camp The Rev. Stanley Buck, director 3200 Western Blvd., Tarboro, NC 27886. (252) 823-3964
June 19-23	Woman's Week Mrs. Audrey Quinn, director 461 Wintergreen Road, Cove City, NC 28523. (252) 638-6406
June 26-30	General Youth Camp Mr. Jason Modlin, director 634 Henderson Drive, Mount Olive, NC 28365. (252) 658-7170
July 3-7	Open
July 10-14	Bible Explorers' Week The Rev. Joe Ratcliff, director 6280 US Hwy. 17 N., Vanceboro, NC 28586. (252) 244-0207 (There will be a \$15 activity fee for each child)
July 17-21	General Youth Camp Mrs. Eva Mae Clark, director 465 Half Moon Road, New Bern, NC 28560. (252) 637-5346
July 24-28	General Youth Camp The Rev. Tim Heath, director 601 Turkey Point Road, Sneads Ferry, NC 28460
August 19	All day singing by the river

CAMP VANDEMERE

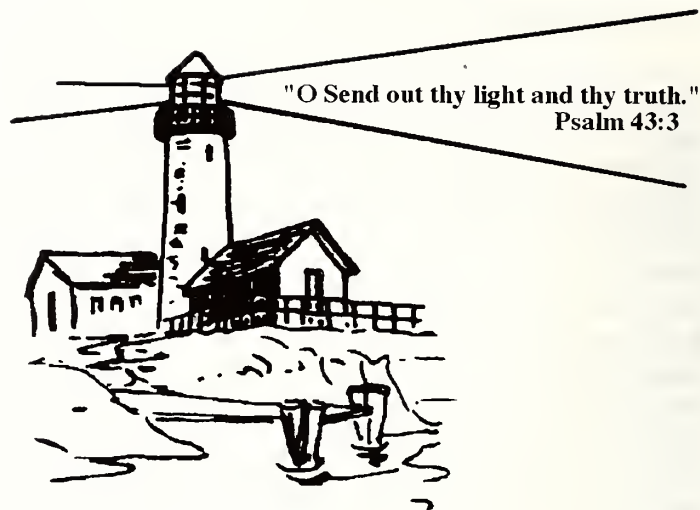
OUR FAMILY ENRICHMENT CENTER

BY OWEN ARTHUR

You have heard the expression, "I see a little light at the end of the tunnel." This is how the Board of Directors feel about the camp. Much has been accomplished and we are beginning to see the camp slowly get ready for the new camping season. There is no question in the board's mind concerning whether or not the camp will be ready for the new season. We are confident that it will be. We are already planning the new season's schedule. Now would be a good time for you to schedule your group's retreat.

Let me update you on the progress that has been made. The windows and doors on all the buildings that were severely damaged have been repaired. This doesn't sound like much unless you have seen the devastation that the water did to them. We are waiting on two doors that will go in the side of the dorm. These had to be ordered and will be arriving in a couple of weeks. The bulk head has been repaired; we only had about twenty feet of it damaged. More fill dirt was hauled in and grass sown on it. It looks very nice.

All the buildings have been cleaned, including disinfecting them as was recommended. Many of the mattresses that were on the bottom bunks, as well as some of the others, had to be discarded. In all, about 65 will need to be replaced. Much work has been done on the grounds and it is looking better. We still have more to be done, such as: removing the roof that had been on the snack building, taking apart some of the pier so the lumber can be reused, picking up and hauling away other debris that has been collected, and putting rock back on the shore line. The fourth room in the family lodge is nearing completion. The sheet rock has been finished, as well as painted, and we are ready to put in the electrical fixtures. We could use some carpet; the size of the piece we need is about 18 x 20. Then we will need the furniture — two double beds and the mattresses, a night stand, a dresser, and a table large enough for six people. The table in the other rooms are plastic, and so are the chairs. We would like to have two sleeper sofas, one for the new room and one for the room that our manager has lived in for the last couple of seasons. It would be wonderful if an auxiliary, layman's league, Sunday school class, or church would take some of these as a project.



The camp appreciates the donations we have received. We solicit your prayers and your continued financial support. We ask that you start making plans now to send us your young people to camp this summer. We encourage you to spend a few days and try your luck at fishing. Our family lodge is available; it was not damaged by the storms. At the present, call Owen Arthur at 252-633-1185 for your reservations. I would like to ask all of you who reserve a certain weekend at the camp to please contact us so we will be sure to reserve your weekend. With the change in personnel little things like this can very easily be overlooked. When Ralph and Janie Sumner were our managers, they were at the camp for several years and they knew who came and went. Please help us with this. We hope by the time you read this article we will have a new manager on staff.

Just recently I met with those from the board who are in charge of getting the camp ready for the new season. As we talked about the many things that must be done, it almost overwhelmed me. Then I began to think about all those young people who came to camp who found Christ as their Saviour and others who had a special experience with the Lord. I thought of all the many retreats, weekend groups, the Layman's League weekend, and those who came and just fished. I remembered why Camp Vandemere was brought into existence. It was to bring honor and glory to the name of our Saviour. It was for Free Will Baptists to have a Spiritual Life Center, a family enrichment center to go to and be lifted up. When I thought of Camp Vandemere in this light, all the things that need to be done didn't seem to bother me. I thought of Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." I am more confident than ever that Camp Vandemere is in God's will and that we will be ready for the new season in just a couple of months.

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

ANNUAL WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCE

MARCH 19, 2000

Sponsored by the Board of Foreign Missions

COLLEGE HALL, MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

5:00 — 8:00 PM

SPECIAL GUEST: DOUG WHITLEY

Douglas Whitley has a unique ministry that shares the lives of giants of the faith in past generations. For the Mission Conference he will portray two great missionary characters from the past, Hudson Taylor who founded the China Inland Mission by faith and prayer and George Mueller who founded and supported, by faith and prayer, many orphanages across Great Britain.



As "HUDSON TAYLOR"



As "GEORGE MUELLER"

SCHEDULE:

FIRST SESSION — 5:00 PM

LIGHT MEAL — 6:00 PM

FINAL SESSION — 7:00 PM

SPECIAL MUSIC



SERVANT'S HEART

Pleasant Grove, Pikeville, North Carolina



BLAIR MOZINGO

Snow Hill FWB Church, Mount Olive, North Carolina

IMPORTANT NOTICE — RESPONSE NEEDED

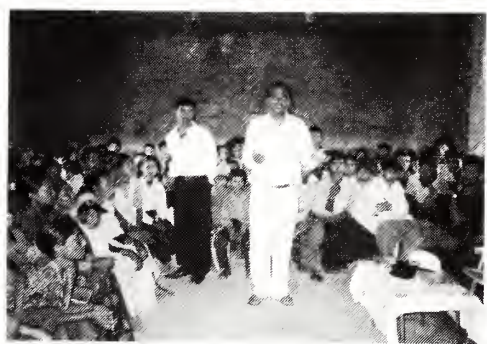
A light meal will be served, at no charge, but in order to prepare a sufficient amount of food we need to know how many from each church will be attending. Please call our office (252) 746-4963 by March 14 and give the church name and the number that will be attending. (If no one is in the office, please leave the information on the answering machine.)

This will be an exciting evening that you will never forget. Please plan to attend. We encourage churches to transfer their Evening Service to College Hall.

Foreign Missions Annual Telethon

Sunday, March 26, 2000

THEME: WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR



LOVING

PRAYING

**TO REACH THE
WORLD WITH THE
GOSPEL?**



WITNESSING

GIVING

THEME VERSE: ECCLESIASTES 12:13

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:
Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

The Telethon and Day of Prayer for Revival and World Missions is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to express our love to God as we accept our responsibility to love, pray, witness, and give for His glory and praise.

GOAL 2000:
A total of \$180,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.
This goal can easily be reached if we fully realize how much Christ loved us and give from a heart of love to reach others.

PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL

Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:30 PM. Dial 252-746-4963.
Your generous gift and call on Telethon Sunday will bear testimony of your love for Christ and others.

**A CHEERFUL GIVER BLESSES GOD AND GOD BLESSES IN RETURN.
DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS
MARCH 26, 2000**

True prayer cries daily for revival and sees the world with a broken heart.

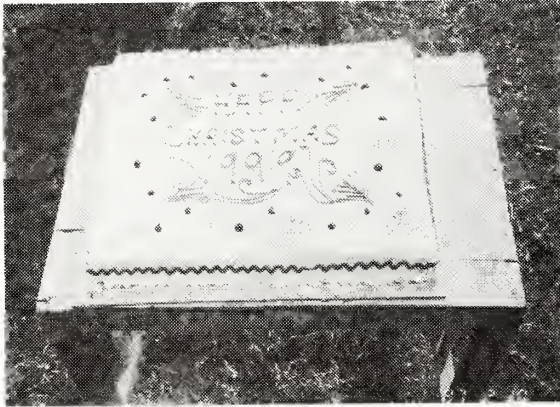
Prayer Goal March 26, 2000:
All churches joining together in united prayer during the Morning Worship Hour in one accord for revival. **LET US PRAY!**



**Board of Foreign Missions
(OFWB INTERNATIONAL)
Post Office Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513
252-746-4963**

News Letter From India and Nepal

submitted by Dr. E.M. Lall



The cake for the Christmas celebration in Bareilly, India.

It is evident that the new millennium has manifold blessings in store for our church denomination in both the countries of India and Nepal in the wake of unimaginable opportunities coming in for the growth of the work. The churches are rapidly progressing and the schools gaining name and fame in quality education. The ministers and deacons are growing spiritually and advancing in the field for saving souls. The persecution of Christians is providing new encouragement, better planning, and the real burden of the Cross envisaging in the hearts of the people.

The Christmas activities were in full bloom in all our churches and the schools. A new dimension of celebra-

tion was marked by the year ending 1999. There was great enthusiasm, joy and happiness with everyone and everywhere.

The highlight of the New Millennium is predicted to have one English Medium School at Bareilly leading to senior level having an enrollment of about five thousand pupils, with the help of our Board of Foreign Missions for which the Stoney Creek Church at Goldsboro is pioneering under the leadership of their pastor.

Opportunity is also developing for a complete cardiac centre to be in the offing by our church at Bareilly. Though our hopes are high, yet it is to be seen whether we can avail such an opportunity! Two Elementary schools having state recognition are likely to be elevated as Junior High Schools.

Our church organization in India is being vastly considered to be a real witnessing and living church and as such many smaller Baptist churches in Northern India are communicating with us to merge in our church organization called "The Free Will Baptists." United Baptist Church and Delhi District Baptist Union Church both in Delhi proper and a part of the churches of Baptist Union of India, which have recently separated themselves from the main organization located at Palwal, Haryana, Patna, Bihar, Idgah, Karolbag, Shahadra in Delhi, Mathura, Baraut, Bhiwani, Haryana and the Steple Home's Hostel for Boys at

Delhi main city are requesting to be under the banner of our church. I am exploring the possibility for their consummation on self support basis.

It was so cold here during this winter immediately after Christmas that life was almost paralysed. I plan to inspect all these churches in the near future when I can freely move from place to place. Our Director-Treasurer, the Rev. Harold Jones, has given me a green signal to examine and report the existing situation to him. If the Lord is willing, these churches will become a part of us, our denomination will prevail in Northern India and the church will grow much larger for the cause of our Lord



Serving the Christmas cake.

Jesus Christ!

At the same time we foresee a great opposition and persecution ahead to the extent of ceasing foreign funds for Christian work as the newspapers report.

We covet prayers that all may come true as a historic movement so that the "Great Commandment" of our Lord be carried out fully.



Dr. Lall and Inez cutting the cake.

Pioneering Pastor Visited and Conducted Revival with P.B.C. Students

by Vergel L. Hervas

On December 23, 1999, the Rev. Fidel B. Presto, Arnold R. Dagot and I, Vergel L. Hervas, left Puerto Princesa to fulfill our Mission plan for Itangil, Dumarán, Palawan. We arrived at Itangil at exactly 12:00 PM of December 24 and directly went to the parsonage of Free Will Baptist Church to meet Pastor Arturo Aspa. We took some rest because we were too tired and after a while we visited every member in their respective homes. The members were happy when they saw their former pastor because they love him so much. He came back, not for something, but to have a Church Revival. Before we slept, we prayed to the Lord for guidance. When the sunshine came it began a new day and so we continue our visitation and Bible study day and night.

On December 26 Itangil Charity Free Will Baptist Church celebrated their Christmas party. The Rev. Fidel B. Presto was the keynote speaker and dedicated four children to the Lord. After that party we decided to go to San Jose, Dumarán, Palawan, to attend their Christmas party because the Rev. Presto was also assigned speaker, but the Lord didn't

allow us to go there that day by not sending any transportation.

On December 27 we decided again to go to San Jose. When we reached San Jose, we were informed by Mrs. S. dela Torre that their Christmas party was postponed because of waiting for us. We started our Christmas celebration at 12:00 PM, followed by children dedication officiated by the Rev. Fidel B. Presto. There were four children brought to the presence of our Almighty God. After the party we went to Lizardo's residence for a night's rest. At exactly 8:04 AM we started to walk way back to Itangil by crossing the high mountain of San Jose and reached Itangil at exactly 12:00 noon. At night, we gathered in the Sonio residence for our home revival that was attended by Moses, Nabartaje, Mayang and Biñas family. God moved in our hearts and it became a blessed night to each of us, especially to each family.

December 29 we went to Tanatanaen to meet Pastor Gamozo for some appointments and returned to Itangil.

December 30 we continued our visitation and Bible study to every house of the members. We didn't feel weary because we were happy ministering to God's people.

On December 31 we visited the members and informed them that we would be having Worship Service for the coming year 2000. We began our Worship Service at 8:00 in the evening lasting up to 11:45 PM. Members were blessed and revived. At 12:00 midnight we had a devotion to praise and thank the Lord for giving



The Rev. Fidel Presto, center with Arnold Dagot and Nergel Hervas

us life and strength for the year 2000.

On January 2 the Church was filled with people. After the service some who had not been baptized asked the Rev. Fidel B. Presto to baptize them. At noon we went to Impatchian Falls, Itangil, Dumarán, Palawan, to baptize the seven candidates with the assistance of Pastor Arturo Aspa, Brother Arnold and I.

We devoted our last night in Itangil to giving thanks to the Lord for what He had done through us and prayed for all members to continue and devote their lives for God's service in all time.

We left Itangil at 3:00 AM on January 3 and reached Puerto Princesa City at 9:00 PM.



Congregation at Charity Free Will Baptist Church at Itangil.



New Ways to Go

by Willem Van der Plas

Varna is one of the three largest cities of Bulgaria. It has an important seaport for container ships and oil tankers as well as a navyport for the national defense. Sometimes NATO vessels are visiting the Bulgarian Navy. The population counts over 350,000 people. Varna is about 30 miles south from Balchik.

Just at the time I went to Holland for



Willem with youth in Varna, Bulgaria.

surgery, Kosta offered his idea to begin a ministry to street children and youth in Varna. The consequences to such a planning are many. While I was in Holland, Kosta gathered all kinds of information about children and youth work. When I returned after the surgery, we began the planning and soon discovered that this work would be considered illegal without official registration via the court.

In February Todor joined Kosta in his ministry to home groups. Todor began a new group in his home and soon he received every evening a large number of people who showed interest in the Gospel of salvation. In a small room 20 to 30 people were gathering to discuss about Allah and God, the Father of Jesus Christ. Quite a number of the Musselman Gypsies found Peace in the Gospel message of salvation from death into life. Before they lived under the pressure of their religious laws and now they find their peace in the Lord. One of his visitors was a friend who

works in the social services of the municipality and he was able to give Todor advice to set up child work in the center of the city. He recommended a trustworthy attorney to present the official requests to the judge.

We were able to rent a garage which was used as a cheese shop. The room needed to be cleaned, painted, and prepared for our purpose.

The first children entered on April 1. They were very happy to receive some slices of bread and something to drink. These children belong to the poorest families in the city. Though we were not yet registered, we received the protection of the social services of the municipality.

In July we received the official approval of the judge and in September the work was officially accepted and registered in the court. This registration can



Outing with workers in Varna.

be used for all children and youth work in Bulgaria. The name they choose is: "New Generation." The goal mentioned on the registration form says: "To lead children and youth into a Better Life."

The responsible members are Kosta and his wife, Christine, Todor and his wife, Zlatka and Tezdjan. We are very thankful for the possibility of this registration and for the fact that this has been accepted by the national Government of Bulgaria.

Cragmont News

2000 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

Morning Star

April 28-30, 2000
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
252-524-4677

Minister's Conference

May 22-25, 2000
Doug Skinner
817 Lynn Road
Durham, NC 27703
919-596-2456

June Women's Auxiliary Conference

June 5-10, 2000
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
252-524-4677

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 12-17, 2000
Bryant Hines
PO Box 266
Cove City, NC 28523
252-633-2683

Christian Cadet Conference

June 19-24, 2000
Gary Bailey
112 Crosswinds Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27530
919-735-3916

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)

June 26-July 1, 2000
Janie Sowers
PO Box 824
Middlesex, NC 27557
252-235-2408

2000 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE, CONT.

Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)

July 3-8, 2000
 Frankie Baggett
 5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
 Ayden, NC 28513
 252-746-7850

General Youth II Conference

July 10-15, 2000
 Chris Singleton
 PO Box 162
 Beulaville, NC 28518
 910-298-3520

General Youth I Conference

July 17-22, 2000
 Bryant Hines
 PO Box 266
 Cove City, NC 28523
 252-633-2683

Young People's Bible Conference

July 24-29, 2000
 James Gurganus
 1317 Nine Foot Road
 Newport, NC 28570
 252-223-5251

August Women's Auxiliary Conf.

July 31-August 5, 2000
 Teresa Ball
 6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
 Grifton, NC 28530
 252-524-4677

Cragmont Club Retreats

Cragmont Assembly
 1233 North Fork Road
 Black Mountain, NC 28711
 828-699-7677

Cragmont Club Retreat I

October 13-15, 2000

Cragmont Club Retreat II

October 20-22, 2000

Cragmont Club Week Day Retreat

October 23-25, 2000

"Unto the Hills"

During the mid 1980s, the youth directors at Daniel's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church scheduled a winter retreat with us at Cragmont. One of the activities planned was a day at Wolf Laurel Ski Resort. At that time in my life, I had never been skiing and could not understand why anyone would want to strap two boards on their feet and go sliding down a mountain slope. However, I went along just to watch. These young people seemed to be having a great time. As I watched I wondered if skiing would be an activity that would encourage the use of our facilities during winter. Certainly it has!

Not only has skiing been good for Cragmont, it has been good for John Williams. As many of you know, I love to ski. When the snow is good and conditions are right, skiing down a mountain is a wonderful experience. The cold ride in the chairlift can provide an astounding view of God's creation. Many times I have been moved to prayer while on that chairlift as I worshipped God in a sanctuary not made with human hands. The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 121 (The Cragmont Psalm): "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."

Looking at the mountains points us upward to the One who created all things. All at once we feel so small in God's creation, yet very important because we, too, were created by this God and set in the midst of this beauty and wonder. Someone once asked, "When you live in the mountains, do you take them for granted seeing them on a daily basis?" My answer is no! Not a day passes that I don't gaze upon them in wonder and awe. It is my hope that everyone, young and old visiting Cragmont, will be pointed to the God who is our Creator and Redeemer.



March



Pray

 Things

SUN	MON	TUE	
27	28	29	1
5	6 Layman's League Central Conference Aspen Grove, Fountain, NC 6:45 meal, 7:30 business	7	8
12	13	14	15
19 Annual World Misson's Conference 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM	20	21	22
26 Foreign Missions Telethon Call between 1:30 PM – 5:30 PM	27	28	29

erns _____

member _____

	THU	FRI	SAT
	2	3	4
	9	10	11 Cape Fear Youth Competition Lois K. Murphy Regional Center 10:00 AM
	16	17	18
	23	24	25 Layman's League Ladies Night Friendship FWB Church Farmville, NC 6:30 PM
	30	31	4

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR



The staff of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home involved in the burial of our "Time Capsule 2000."

Time Capsule 2000

The children and staff of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home had the opportunity to contribute various articles, pictures, papers, poems, magazines, notes, etc. to be placed in our time capsule. A list of employees and children was also enclosed to mark this event.

On Friday, January 7 (9:30 AM), the capsule was buried in the basement of Memorial Chapel. After 25 years, the capsule is to be uncovered and opened. The staff and children are hoping each of us will be able to return to this event in the year 2025.

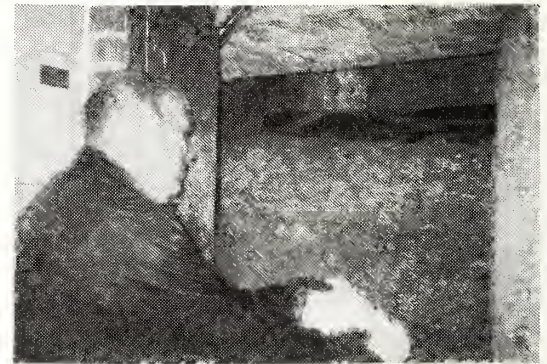
This event was a great beginning for the year 2000 and for our 80th year in child care ministry.



Mr. Don Batchelor, Director of Physical Affairs, begins the process of digging, in preparation for burial of the capsule.



(L to R) Mr. Don Batchelor, Director of Physical Affairs and Mr. Gary Lee, Vice President, prepare the area beneath Memorial Chapel for the time capsule.



Mr. Batchelor completes the final process. The staff and children look forward to meeting in the year 2025 to once again "recall memories."



We would like to thank the Women's Auxiliary of First Free Will Baptist Church of Goldsboro, NC, for their gifts of dishes, kitchen accessories, recreational equipment, and personal care items they graciously delivered January 11. They were given a tour of the cottages and Memorial Chapel along with historical information regarding the Children's Home. Thank you for caring for the children.

ITEMS IN NEED LIST

- Personal Care Items
- Cordless Telephones
- Computers for Cottages (est. cost \$5,000)
- Encyclopedias (CD Rom)
- 4 Playstations
- Playstation Games
- Carpet Cleaning Machine
- Kitchen Accessories
- Irons & Ironing Boards
- Basketballs & Volleyballs
- Pots and Pans
- Dishes for cottages (10 or 12 setting)
- Alarm Clocks
- Golf Cart



Mark Your Calendars
FOUNDER'S DAY

2000

May 27, 2000

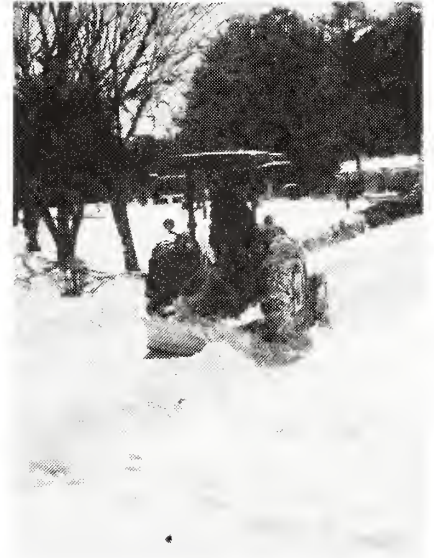
12:00 NOON

Upcoming Campus Events

- Campus Chapel Service March 16, 2000
- Children's Home Day May 14, 2000
- Founder's Day 2000 May 27, 2000
- Campus Chapel Service June 8, 2000
- 54th Annual Homecoming July 9, 2000
- Campus Chapel Service September 7, 2000
- Children's Home Day November 5, 2000



Ever wonder what the Director of Children's Services looks like after a week of manipulating a vehicle on icy roads and trying to satisfy 33 children stuck in their cottages resulting in "cabin fever"?



How many of us can forget January 25, 2000? The biggest snow many of us have ever witnessed! We thought you might enjoy seeing pictures of the accumulation of snow on our Campus. In the left photo, Mr. Don Batchelor and Brownie show you the depth near Whitley Center. The children loved watching the continuous falling of winter, but after 9 days of leisure (7 of them school days) they had seen all they wanted for a while. The children returned to school on February 2, with a two-hour delay.



Some of the residents enjoy a snowball fight while the schools are closed.



24 Churches Attend Church Night

The Admissions Office at Mount Olive College sponsored the seventeenth annual Free Will Baptist Church Night on Saturday, February 5, in College Hall. Over 350 Free Will Baptist members from 24 churches were in attendance.

Free Will Baptist church groups enjoyed the night of fellowship with others in the denomination while cheering for the women's and men's basketball teams. A hospitality room was open with pictures of previous church nights, admissions information, and refreshments. Mrs. Dianne Riley, director of alumni affairs and members of St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church in Craven County, had an alumni table set up with alumni items.

"I was excited to see all the Free Will Baptist churches cheering for our teams at Church Night," said Tim Woodard, director of admissions and member of Rains Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church in Johnston County. "We look forward to seeing all of the churches at our first annual church day baseball game on March 11."

Some of the Churches In Attendance



*Daniel's Chapel Church
Wilson County*



*Sweet Gum Grove Church
Pitt County*



*Memorial Church
Beaufort County*



*Free Will Baptist Children's Home
Wilson County*



*Hugo Church
Lenior County*



*Westside Church
Lenior County*



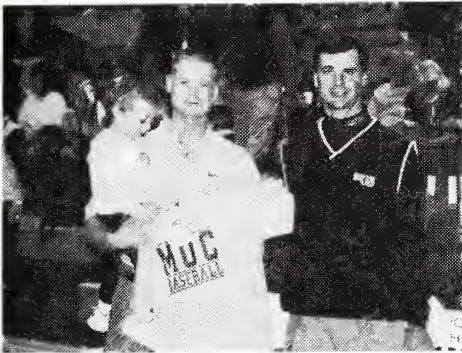
*Holly Springs Church
Johnston County*



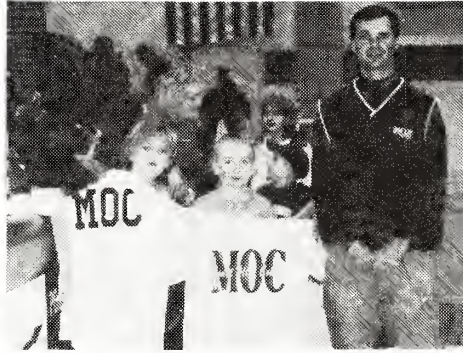
*First Church of Goldsboro
Wayne County*



*Bethel Church
Johnston County*



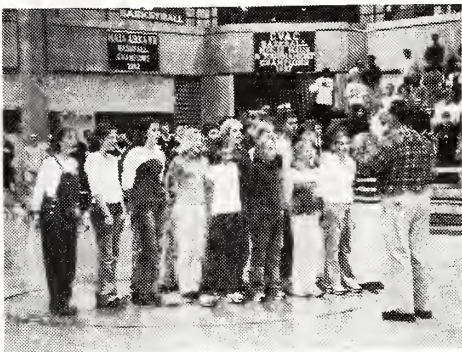
Pictured are Earl Sadler, Jr., of Warden's Grove in Pamlico County and Tim Woodard, director of admissions and member of Rains Crossroads Church in Johnston County. Sadler won the 3-point shooting contest for youth leaders.



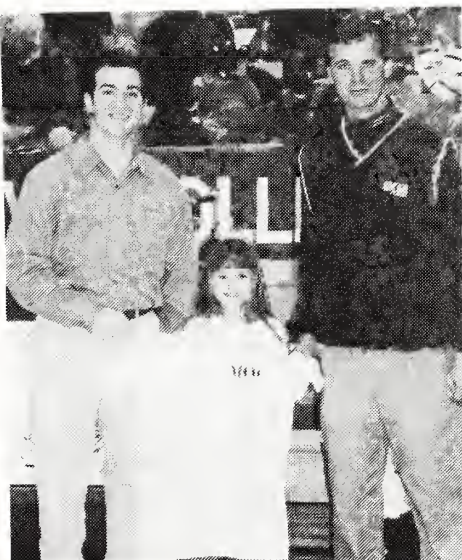
Pictured are the free throw winners for grades K-8, John Dixon of Sweet Gum Grove Church, Pitt County; Ricky Baker of Bethel Church, Johnston County; and Tim Woodard, director of admissions



The church with the most members present was Pine Level Church of Johnston County with 45 members attending. The church was awarded a plaque. Pine Level was followed by Westside Church of Lenoir County with 32 members; and Daniel's Chapel Church of Wilson County with 28 members.



Pictured left, the Young Disciples sang the national anthem before the men's game. The group is directed by the Rev. Donald Coates, pastor of the Pine Level Church in Johnston County.



Pictured is Abbott White, of Hugo Church in Lenoir County; with Matt Green, Assistant Director of Admissions, and Tim Woodard, director of admissions. White won the baseball toss during halftime of the lady's game.

Minister's Program Sponsors Pastor's Finances Conference



The Minister's Program in cooperation with Larry Burkette's organization, Christian Financial Concepts, hosted a Pastor's Conference on the campus of Mount Olive College on February 5, 2000. Some of the pastors in attendance are pictured with the speaker. Left to Right: Donald Fader, Director of Minister's Program, Friendship Church, Jones County; Tommy Yopp, Rock of Zion Church, Pamlico County; Frank Harrison, Campus Minister, Mount Olive College; Joe Ard, Bethlehem Church, Duplin County; Jack Anderson, speaker; Gene Britt, Johnston Union Church, Johnston County; Fred Baker, Robert's Grove Church, Sampson County.

Mount Olive College Appeals SACS Decision

Mount Olive College is a ministry of the Free Will Baptist Church, founded for the purpose of providing a comprehensive program of Christian higher education. The College is dedicated to this purpose whereby men and women can explore God's truth, God's will, and meaning for their lives.

For almost one half century, the College has dedicated itself to the task in which students are not only exposed and invited to learn from the great minds of the past centuries, but also to know that there are ultimate values and morals for life that are derived from the Word with God and from a relationship to God.

With faith in God, hard work, prayer, and dedication of good people, Mount Olive College has grown over the years in its service to students and to the Free Will Baptist Church.

Mount Olive College is currently in the appeals process with the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) concerning its membership in the Commission. The College's membership (accreditation status) was removed at the annual meeting of the Association held in Atlanta in early December 1999. This action was immediately appealed by the College, and the College remains accredited during the appeal process which will be heard during the last week in April. According to Dr. J. William Bryd, President of the College, "The decision by the accrediting agency was due to the fact that the College debt structure did not comply with the committee interpretation of the accreditation guidelines, even though the College has serviced this debt on a short-term basis with no compromise for the past 15 years. However, we were not in a

position to deal with a long-term solution of the indebtedness until recently. We are now prepared to place this indebtedness into a long-term program to be paid out over an extended period."

The Commission of Colleges reached its decision following a December meeting with college personnel at which time a plan for debt restructuring was presented. This plan was developed through a loan arrangement with BB&T that would allow the College to pay off portions of the debt. At that time the paper work finalizing the loan had not been completed. Therefore, the plan for debt restructuring was not accepted by the Commission on

Colleges. These loan arrangements are now complete. The College administration, board of trustees, experienced attorneys, consultants, and others are working aggressively in preparation for the appeal hearing.

Mount Olive College is currently serving approximately two thousand students in the following locations: Mount Olive, Goldsboro, New Bern, Wilmington, and the Research Triangle.

The College is facing one of its greatest challenges and needs the continued prayer support of all Free Will Baptists that it may continue its ministry of Christian higher education and be guided by God's wisdom in this process.

Upcoming Events

The Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Institute. The Dedication Service will be held on Friday, March 3, 2000 at 7:30 PM in Rodgers Chapel. The Institute will be Saturday, March 4, 2000 at 8:30 AM in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center on the Mount Olive College campus. For more information contact Mary Dudley at (252) 746-4963.

The Cape Fear Youth Competition will be Sunday, March 11, 2000 in Lois K. Murphy Regional Center on the Mount Olive College campus. The competition will begin at 10:00 AM. For more information, contact Martha Parsons at (910) 438-9299.

The World Missions Conference will be Sunday, March 19, 2000 in College Hall on the Mount Olive College campus. The conference will begin at 5:00 PM. For more information, contact the Rev. Harold Jones at (252) 746-4963.

The NC Symphony will perform on Wednesday, April 5, 2000 in College Hall on the Mount Olive College campus. The performance will begin at 10:45 AM. For ticket information, contact Judy Haverkamp at (919) 778-3093.

People & Events

Happenings Throughout the Denomination



Mount Zion Church, 100 Years of Ministry

submitted by Rosalene Bass

During a conference held at Free Union Free Will Baptist Church on August 26, 1899, Mount Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church, Momeyer, NC, became a reality. Charter members were: T.H. Matthews, W. J. Batchelor, John E. Matthews, Isley Batchelor, Sallie Matthews, G. A. Batchelor, W. T. Batchelor, Effie Batchelor, Louisa Boone, Tincy Boone, Eller Manning, Zular Matthews, Anner T. Batchelor, Cora L. Matthews, and Martha A. Matthews. Elder T. A. Matthews was elected to serve as the first pastor.

Listed below are the pastors and their years of service:

T. H. Matthews (1899–1910)
B. B. Deans (1910–1911)
G. W. Ferrell (1911–1916)
N. D. Wiggs (1917–1919)
E. C. Morris (1919–1920)
W. E. Anderson (1920–1921)
L. H. Weatherington (1921–1924)
G. W. Ferrell (1924–1926)
R. N. Hinnant (1926–1934)
J. B. Ferrell (1934–1936)
R. N. Hinnant (1936–1941)
L. E. Ballard (1944–1946)
R. B. Spencer (1946–1946)
R. N. Hinnant (1946–1958)
Albert Coats (1958–1962)
R. N. Hinnant (1962–1969)
John Swain (1969–1973)
Roy Clifton (1973–1980)
Richard Boyette (1980–1981)
Ray Everton (1982–1988)
O. B. Jones (1989–1990)
Roy Clifton (1990–1994)
Franklin Baggett (1995–1996)
Leonard Bowers (1997–Present)

Mount Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church, Momeyer, NC, celebrated its 100 years of Christian service on September 26, 1999. This was our regular homecoming Sunday also. Many former members and friends attended.

The theme for the day was "Faith for

the Glory of God." There were several committees who spent hours in preparation for the event. Everyone in the church had a job to do. Kenneth Parker and his decorating committee groomed the grounds and planted yellow mums around the fellowship center and on the steps of the church, decorated the inside of the fellowship center, arranged displays of old photos, records, song books, etc. A beautiful white flower was placed in the vestibule in memory of all deceased members. A large colorful arrangement of flowers in shades of red, yellow, purple, and greenery graced the altar table. Two buggies parked in the yard were symbols of the early days of the church.

Luther Matthews, Jr., and his food committee with the help of all the ladies and guests spread a feast for the noon meal. Donnie Manning and his committee had set up tables under a tent outside to provide a seat for everyone. Ronald Bass and his parking committee had planned well and received the food as we drove by the fellowship center and directed everyone to a parking space.

Mozelle Batchelor and Pastor Bowers had planned and prayed well for the morning service. The worship service began with the chiming of the hour followed by the choir singing "Keep On The Sunny Side of Life." Pastor Bowers prayed the opening prayer and welcomed everyone. Ronald Bass made recognition of church founders. Gary Manning gave history highlights of the church. The congregational hymn of thanksgiving was "Count Your Blessings." Mary Coppedge shared a Bible verse and story with the children in which she stressed the importance of being glad to go to the house of God for worship.

James William Matthews, a former member, shared what Mount Zion

meant to him when he was a boy and grew up in the church. His fondest memory was being saved in Mount Zion when he was about 10 years old. Betsy Coppedge shared a poem she had written which told what the church means to her. The choir special was "Home of the Soul."

The Rev. John Swain, from Booneville, Indiana, brought the morning message. He read a passage from Luke 23 and chose the title "Give me Jesus." In Verse 42 of the Scripture passage, the thief on the cross with Jesus cried, "Lord, remember me." This was a short prayer, but sincere. The Rev. Swain made reference to other short prayers. Once Peter cried, "Lord, save me." A widow in the old Testament said, "Lord, have mercy on me." Rev. Swain recalled a time in his own life when he was in distress, he cried, "Lord help me." Brother Swain asked, "What do you remember about the prayer of the saints who have gone on to heaven?" The dying thief's prayer was simple, short, and personal. He wanted Jesus to remember him and his need. We all want to be remembered. "It is a warm comfortable feeling to be remembered," said Brother Swain. In the midst of His own pain and hurt, Jesus listened to the thief's prayer and said, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." These were words of hope for the thief. That very day he would be with Jesus in heaven. Today we can have the same hope, but only through faith in Jesus as Savior. Jesus is the light of the world and He can give us freedom. Brother Swain closed with this challenge: "Will you take Jesus? He will remember you."

After lunch, we enjoyed a song service by members and former members. Our celebration was a wonderful day of worship and fellowship.

People & Events

Marsh Swamp Auxiliary Installs Officers

submitted by Lottie Boykin

On Sunday night, January 2, 2000, the Woman's Auxiliary of Marsh Swamp Original Free Will Baptist Church, Sims, NC, installed its officers for the year 2000. Sheila Vick served as installing officer. As each officer was addressed Sheila presented a scroll to President Patsy Vick, Vice-President Ruby Jacobs, Secretary Julie Wells, and Treasurer Phyllis Winstead.

After charging each officer, auxiliary members present pledged to love and support them so that much may be accomplished for God's glory during the year 2000.

The February meeting will be held at "Something Different Restaurant" with a Valentine theme.



From left to right: Phyllis Winstead, Julie Wells, Patsy Vick, Ruby Jacobs, Sheila Vick.

Jesse Crisp receives Ministerial License

In a special ceremony Sunday morning, January 16, 2000, the Rev. Owen Arthur, pastor of Memorial Original Free Will Baptist Church, Chocowinity, NC, presented Jesse Crisp his license to preach the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Jesse's father and mother and his entire immediate family were on hand for the occasion. Jesse's wife, Ann Marie and their son Andy, joined him also. Anne Marie is the daughter of Gordon and Ida Marie Edwards, and the granddaughter of the late Rev. E. E. Edwards and his widow Thelma T. Edwards of Chocowinity.

Jesse stated in being presented his license to preach, "I accept this with humbleness and humility, and I pray that I will always remain in the center of God's will as I strive to carry His Word, and win souls for Him...."

Jesse's father, Ottis Crisp, Sr., a retired minister, is pictured here with Jesse and Rev. Arthur.

Benefit and Appreciation Dinner

to be held in honor of

The Rev. James B. Hardee

March 17, 2000

at

Mount Calvary

**Original Free Will Baptist Church
Clarkton, North Carolina**

Sponsored by

Pee Dee Association Union Meeting No. 1

For additional information contact the Rev. Garland Suggs

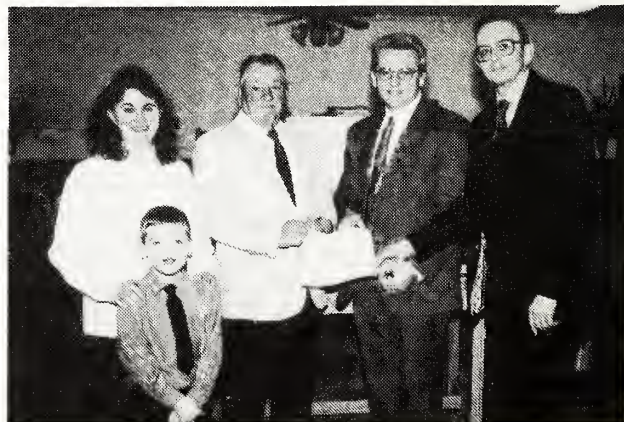
1280 Crusoe Island Road, Whiteville, NC 28472

Phone: 919-642-2278

(Special Offering will be received)

Eastern District Youth Convention

The Eastern District Spring Youth Convention will be Saturday, March 11 at Juniper Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church near Vanceboro, NC. Registration begins at 9:00 AM and the meeting begins at 10:00 AM.



"Religious Emphasis Week" A Memorial Tribute to Four Chaplains

submitted by Harold Humbles

The American Legion, Post 94 and the Legions Ladies' Auxiliary came to Ormondsville Free Will Baptist Church, Ayden, NC, to take part in the traditional observance of "Religious Emphasis Week." Sunday, February 5, 2000, was a memorial tribute to the four heroic armed service chaplains who sacrificed their lives to save others on an American troopship during World War II.

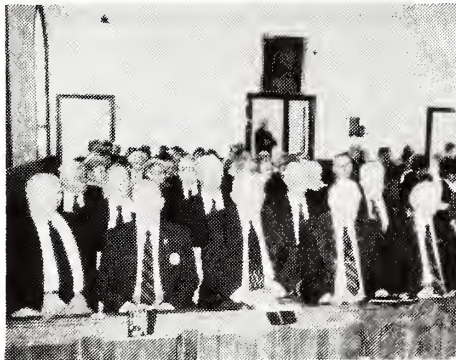
At one o'clock in the morning of February 3, 1943, a torpedo fired from a German submarine tore into the side of the American troopship, USS Dorchester, and exploded in the engine room. Within 30 seconds, 100 men were dead! Within a matter of minutes, the ship had slipped beneath the icy waters of the North Atlantic, carrying with it over half the 1,000 persons on board to a watery grave.

With worry and fear of their destination, these four chaplains had plenty to do aboard a crowded troopship. Many of the men came on deck without lifejackets, not realizing the extent of the damage at that very moment. Then with no more lifejackets available, one of the terrified soldiers cried out, "I don't have a lifejacket and I can't swim!" Quickly, one of the Chaplains took off his own jacket and gave it to the soldier. The other three did the same thing.

As pastor, the Rev. Don Ribeiro told the story, pointing out how many of us have enough love that we would lay down our lives for someone, say in our family — our son, daughter, wife, father, or mother. How about our fellowman as these Chaplains did at that tragic moment? Remember Jesus Christ became our lifejacket when he laid down His life by dying on the Cross for your sins and mine and shed His blood that we all might be saved.

We were reminded how life today, even within our own homes, has become so devalued that our fellowman would come in not only to

rob us, but sometimes take our lives. Some of us today think because we feel that we are a Christian, we have our lifejacket on and never lend a helping hand to help others in time of need. We should live a life as a shining example for others to follow. The weak seem to get trampled beneath our feet. Some feel that because one might be poor, ragged, and hungry puts them in a category that makes us feel we are better than they. Is this what you think looks good in the eyes of God? Surely not, for you are sinning by not lending a helping hand, not leading them to Christ, not handing them your lifejacket as these four Chaplains did, but letting them slip below to this sinful world and never shed a tear for the



Proud are the men of the American Legion, the Legions Ladies' Auxiliary, and Pastor Don Ribeiro to pay tribute to the four Chaplains who gave their lives for their fellowman.



On February 5, 2000, the American Legion, Post 94 assembled at Ormondsville Free Will Baptist Church for a special program to observe "Religious Emphasis Week."

value of the life of your fellowman at a time of desperation. As Pastor Don explained, without Jesus Christ in your life you have no lifejacket. As it is written in John 15:12-13: "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Hearts were touched and a few tears were shed when all joined in the singing of "God Bless the USA." "How proud we are to be an American in a land that makes us free, never forgetting the men who died who gave that right to me. A flag that still stands for freedom and we're so glad to stand up next to you and defend her still today and there ain't no doubt, we love this land" and our greatest wish is, "God Bless the USA."

Let us never forget that the life of freedom we enjoy is a dearly bought gift. That is the basic principle of our religious faith. It is also the basic principle of being an American.

Attention Woman's Auxiliaries

Now is the time for you to collect your per capita dues if you have not already done so. These dues should be collected during the first months of the year in time to be sent to your District Treasurer before, or in time for, your District Convention. The dues are 40¢ per member per year.

Send these dues to your district treasurer. She will keep 20¢ and send 20¢ to your state treasurer. It is necessary that you cooperate in this as these dues provide a part of the funds for the operational expenses of your convention. Thank you for your past support. We know that we can continue to count on you.

Your State Treasurer
Nadine Crocker

People & Events

The Rev. Clyde W. Cox
will be celebrating his 80th birthday
along with his 48th year in the ministry
on Saturday afternoon, March 25, 2000
from two until four o'clock
at Micro Free Will Baptist Church
Micro, North Carolina

The church is located on Hwy 301 North in Micro.

The honor of your presence will be greatly appreciated.

It will be good to see all the many friends
whose lives he has touched through the years.

In Christ's Name

Alma D. Cox

PO Box 240, Micro, NC 27555

No Gifts Please. Birthday Cards are Welcomed

Leaguers to Meet March 18

The Convention of Original Free Will Baptist Leaguers will meet on Saturday, March 18, 2000, at First Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC. Registration will begin at 9:30 AM. All Leaguers are encouraged to join us for our annual convention.

A special program is planned which will include the Sword Drill competition. Remember there are three levels of competition: Junior - age 9-11; Intermediate - ages 12-15; and Adults. Plaques will be awarded to the winners. Youth winners will also win financial assistance for the Cragmont summer camp of their choice.

During our business session, we will discuss expanding the Sword Drill to include a Primary level. Officers will also be elected.

If your church has a League, make plans to join us for this important meeting. If the League is an "unknown" to you, let us have the pleasure of introducing you to this FWB avenue of Christian growth.

If you have questions contact: Becky Jo Sumner, 450 NC 561 E, Ahoskie, NC 27910, or call 252-332-6810

CHURCHES & MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

Hickory Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Central Conference is seeking a pastor. If interested, please send resume to: Joseph Williams, PO Box 850, Robersonville, NC 27871

Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church is currently seeking a new pastor. The church and parsonage are located on Highway 32, 6 miles south of Plymouth, NC. If you are considering relocating to a new area, we would like to talk to you about coming to Union Chapel. Contact Chuck Whitford at 252-793-2900.

Chicken & Pastry Dinner & Gospel Sing

Saturday, March 18

3 PM — 8 PM

(food 3 PM - 7 PM)

at the

South River/Merrimon Fire
Department

\$5.00 per plate

Chicken & Pastry, string beans,
candied yams, bread, dessert,
beverage

3:00 PM Heart's Cry
4:00 PM Guion "Buddy" Hardy
5:00 PM O. C. Davis & Friends
6:00 PM The Garner Family
7:00 PM The Nelsons

Sponsored by Edwards Chapel Free
Will Baptist Church

Renewed Vision Ministries New Address Information

Rev. Everette V. Harper
128 King Eternity Street
Washington, NC 27889
252-940-1679 (Home)

Renewed Vision Ministries, Inc.

PO Box 2045
Washington, NC 27889
252-940-0941 (Office)
252-940-0942 (Fax)

E-mail:

rvministries@gotricounty.com

Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Hosted by
Mount Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church
Vandemere, North Carolina
March 18, 2000

Theme: "Daily Crossbearing"

Scripture: "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

Order of Service

- 9:30 Registration
9:50 Music Medley
10:00 Call to Order
Prayer for Convention
Hymn 188
Welcome
Response
Scripture/Prayer
Special Music
10:20 Presidents' Remarks
Life Award
Business Session
Secretary Report
Annual Report
Recognition of A-1 Auxiliaries
Appointment of Committees
Camp Vandemere Report
Offering
Report of Denominational Ministries
Memorial
11:10 Hymn 331
Worship Service
Hymn 385
12:05 Miscellaneous Business
Treasurer's Report
Committee Report
12:30 Lunch Announcement
Benediction
Fall Convention
Music Director - Lisa Caroon; Pianist - Lori Tilyndall
Ushers:
Judy Thaanum, Lottie Caroon, Beverly Holton, Julia Voliva
- Mount Zion Church
Judith Kennedy, Vice President
Sandy Plains Church
"At The Cross"
Beverly Holton, President
Mount Zion Church
Nora Avery, Vice President
Wintergreen Church
Robyn Quintas
Mount Zion Church
Angie Piner
Juniper Chapel Church
Nina Grace Register
Kinston, First Church
Happy Taylor
Smith's New Home Church
Julia Ann Gaskins
St. Mary's Church
Special Music, Mount Zion Church
Amy Scott, Juniper Chapel Church
"Room at the Cross"
Julia Ann Gaskins
St. Mary's Church
"Near the Cross"
The Rev. Michael Quintas
Mount Zion Church
September 16, 2000

Central Conference Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Marlboro Original Free Will Baptist Church
Farmville, North Carolina
March 25, 2000

Theme: "The Freedom of Forgiveness"

Scripture: "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12).

Order of Service

- 9:00 Registration
9:30 Hymn 499
Devotions
Welcome
Response
President's Greeting
Recognition Time
Business
Report from Church Ministries
10:30 Hymn 56
Offering and Offertory Prayer
Youth Report
10:50 Break
11:00 Business
Special Music
Life Membership
11:50 Chorus 433
Message
Hymn 383
12:30 Blessing and Benediction
Lunch
- "We've a Story to Tell the Nations"
Karen Beaman
Sue Everette
Sarah Dixon
Joan Little
The Rev. David Charles Hansley,
General Administrator
"Love Divine"
May Pittman
Donna Ware and Karen Ribeiro
Kim and Dawn Garner
Jackie Flowers
"God Is so Good"
Cynthia Mills
"More Like Jesus"
Dot Blair
Song Leader: Leah McGlohon

Attention North Carolina Woman's Auxiliaries

The 2000 session of the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention will convene on Thursday, May 11, 2000, at the Free Union Church in the Albermarle District. Each auxiliary should represent with one delegate for each 25 members or fraction thereof, plus a registration fee of \$25.00. In order to save time, we request that you send your registration in advance. This allows the State Treasurer to prepare the cards in advance and saves the delegates the trouble of having to register at the door.

Please mail your fee before April 25, if possible, to the following address: Mrs. Nadine Crocker, 568 House Road, Kenly, NC 27542.

If you cannot possibly attend, please mail your fee anyway, as the convention needs your support. We hope, however, to see you there.

People & Events

Registration Form Cragmont Woman's Conference

Morning Star — April 28–30, 2000

Speaker: Kathy Hayes

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Church _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: _____

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:

Teresa M. Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

A balance of \$30.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

Registration Form Cragmont Woman's Conference

June 5–10
Speaker, Teresa Ball

July 31–August 5
Speaker, Mary Dudley

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Church _____

Which Conference Attending: _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: _____

Please list the names of those with whom you wish to room:

If you do not plan to ride the bus, please check here: _____

Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:

Teresa M. Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

A balance of \$125.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

A day trip will be planned with an approximate cost of \$65. There will be afternoon trips into Black Mountain and Asheville (\$5.00 each). Please make your plans now to join us for one or both of these conferences.

Remember: The June Conference wishes to encourage participation of couples and of individual gentlemen, as well as ladies. A limited number of private accommodations for couples are available on a first registered, first served basis.

CHRISTIAN ART REVIEWS

by Michael G. Warning,

Pastor Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Sea Level, NC



Rev. Michael G. Warning

Source: *Temptation of Christ in the Wilderness* by Flemish Juan Des Flandes (1496–1519). Located in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Wood panel 8 1/4 by 6 1/4 inches. Richard Mühlberger, *The Bible In Art: The New Testament*. New York: Portland House, 1990, pp. 56–57.

Introduction

In the Gospel of Luke we find the source for this sixteenth-century Christian art by Flemish Juan Des Flandes (1496–1519). We read in Luke 4:1–13 the following:

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee,

and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

This passage in Luke is immediately after the baptism of Jesus and the listing of His family lineage. Why does the temptation appear here? This is the beginning of the recognition of Jesus in His ministry as the Christ. How will He act? As the Son of God, will He act in power for Himself or will He deny self and seek to be a servant and savior of the world? It is amazing what is packed into such a small wood panel 8 1/4 by 6 1/4 inches.

Artistic Style

The Christian art is set in what appears to be an uplifted garden leading up to a sheer rock cliff. Showing in the background is a depiction of the temple. The depth in the painting is established artificially by a series of recognizable large objects that establish different points in the picture: the ridge in the background, the small mount, the temple with the town in front, to the left of the cliff, a grove of trees, then a large tree to the right, and finally Jesus and the devil in the foreground.

The color shows a clear loss as we move to the background of the painting which helps us to establish distance with a technique called visual graying. This painting is typical of Flemish painting with the appearance of the figures being detailed and carefully conceived. Flemish painters characteristically paint on small panels with great details, a sense of story, and a central focus. This painting was painted around the time of Columbus discovering America.

Symbolism

The artist on this tiny panel has tried to depict the whole of the account of the temptation. There are three parts to the temptation. Jesus has fasted for 40 days, and the devil tempts Him if He is the Son of God to turn the stone into bread. The stone looks like a loaf of bread, both the one on the ground and the one in the devil's hand. Note also the devil is coming in the robe of a priest as if to symbolize his authority to speak of these things to the Son of God.

The second temptation is Jesus being taken up to a high place and shown the kingdoms of the world which will be given by the devil to Jesus if Jesus recognizes the devil's power. On the left of the painting the devil shows Jesus being offered ownership of the kingdoms of the world.

The third temptation is for Jesus to cast Himself down and show that God can save Him. Jesus is taken to the top of the temple on the right, and He is told to cast Himself down and the angels will protect Him.

Notice that the devil has horns and webbed feet. How many

cont....



CHRISTIAN ART REVIEWS, cont....

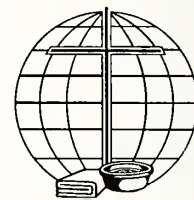
priests do you see walking around with webbed feet like those of a duck? Notice also the hand of Jesus as He offers the sign of peace to the devil, a symbol of His refusal to accept the three temptations in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion

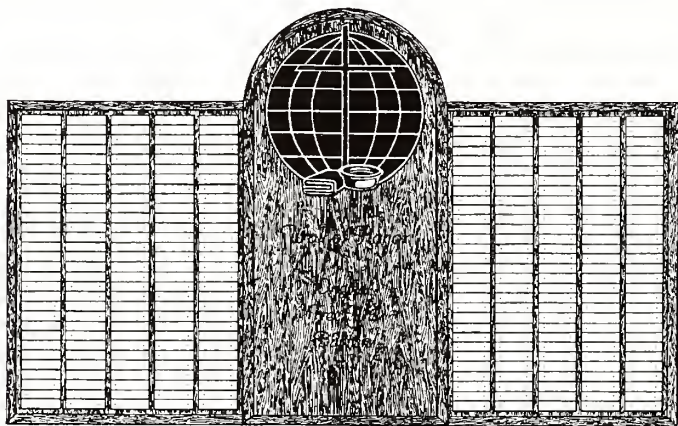
As we enter a new millennium, we need to accept the possibility of vast temptation before us — ones we cannot possibly imagine. One temptation might be to forget the world's need for bread, the hunger of the body which mirrors the hunger of the soul for belief in the eternal presence of God. Another temptation might be for America to see herself as having power over all the kingdoms of the earth — a market-driven power that forgets the Kingdom of God. The temptation of falling for the hype, the falsehoods, and the immediate answers that will lift us up to keep us from falling might be a part of this new millennium. The ultimate fall is the fall of pride and America must guard the sin of pride in believing our nation has it all figured out. Our hunger must be for the eternal presence of God.

Convention Update

David C. Hansley, General Administrator



Wall of Honor for Original Free Will Baptists



A Gift that lives...

The Wall of Honor for Original Free Will Baptists is a gift that lives. The Wall of Honor will remind us of our rich heritage and present joy of serving Christ through the Original Free Will Baptists.

The Wall of Honor is located at the Headquarters of our Denomination.

The Wall of Honor is for any Free Will Baptist (Pastor, Minister, Director, Denominational Leader, Local Church Leader, and all Laity). For someone to be honored there must be a gift of \$500.00 per person or couple being honored. A plaque with the name of the person being honored and the name of the giver will be placed on the Wall of Honor. Also a special presentation of recognition will be made to the person being honored or his/her family.

...and grows

The gifts received from the Wall of Honor will go into the "Wall of Honor Endowment" of the Convention. The Wall of Honor gifts become gifts that help the present, assures the Convention of a ministry in the future, and becomes a lasting tribute to that person honored.

My Gift

Gift is in Memory/Honor (circle one) of:

Name _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Bus. Phone _____

Please send acknowledgement of this gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____

Mail to:

Headquarters of Original FWB Churches
PO Box 39
Ayden, North Carolina 28513

"But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good,..." Romans 2:10.

Convention Update

David C. Hansley, General Administrator



Names on the Wall of Honor

Clarence H. Overman, Sr.
The Rev. Jasper S. Overman
by The Rev. C. H. Overman, Jr.

Mr. Harvey Hinson
Treasurer of
Cape Fear Conference 1940-1997
by Cape Fear Conference

Mrs. Peggy Oakley Hobgood
Aspen Grove Church
by Unity Sunday School Class

The Rev. and Mrs. Frank Flowers
by Mr. and Mrs. J. B. McLawhorn

Mr. Earl H. Holton
by Judy H. Thaanum

Mrs. Ovelma S. Holton
by Judy H. Thaanum

The Rev. Owen Peele
by a friend

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Parrish
by Elwood Lane Church

Mrs. Ruth Moye Taylor
by First Church, Greenville
Woman's Auxiliary

The Rev. and Mrs. Walter Reynolds
by Friendship Church, Farmville, NC

The Rev. David Atkins and wife Janice
by Piedmont Conference

Mr. and Mrs. Carroll L. Sellers
by Elwood Lane Church

The Rev. and Mrs. Fred Rivenbark
by Sherron Acres Church

The Rev. Billy Toler and wife Margie
by Northern Church

Dola Dudley
by Palmer Memorial Church

The Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Sumner
by Camp Vandemere
The Eastern Conference

The Rev. James V. Joyner
by Kenly Church

The Rev. Bruce Jones and Family
by Kings Cross Roads Church

The Rev. and Mrs. Charles Renfrow
by Piney Grove Church

Elbert Moye Prescott
Rhonda Buck Prescott
by their Children and Grandchildren

The Rev. Ray and Julie Wells
by Marsh Swamp Church

Julian Gaskill
by the Rev. Michael Warning and
Dr. Pepper Worthington

The Rev. C. L. Patrick
Clara Smith Patrick
by their Children

Dr. and Mrs. W. B. Raper
by their friends

Dr. and Mrs. Floyd Cherry
by the Western Conference

In Memory and Honor
of Past Moderators
by the Western Conference

In Honor of
The Rev. and Mrs. Claude Garrett, Sr.
by Wayside Tabernacle Church

In Memory of
Mr. and Mrs. H. C. McLamb, Sr.
by the Rev. and Mrs. David C. Hansley
Ms. Cynthia Hansley and Mr. Phil
Hansley

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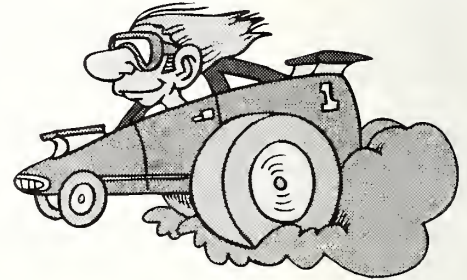
Vacation Bible School 2000

Presentation/Workshop

March 10 — 7:30 PM and March 11 — 10:00 AM

Featuring Standard Publishing

In the Race with Jesus Road Rally 2000



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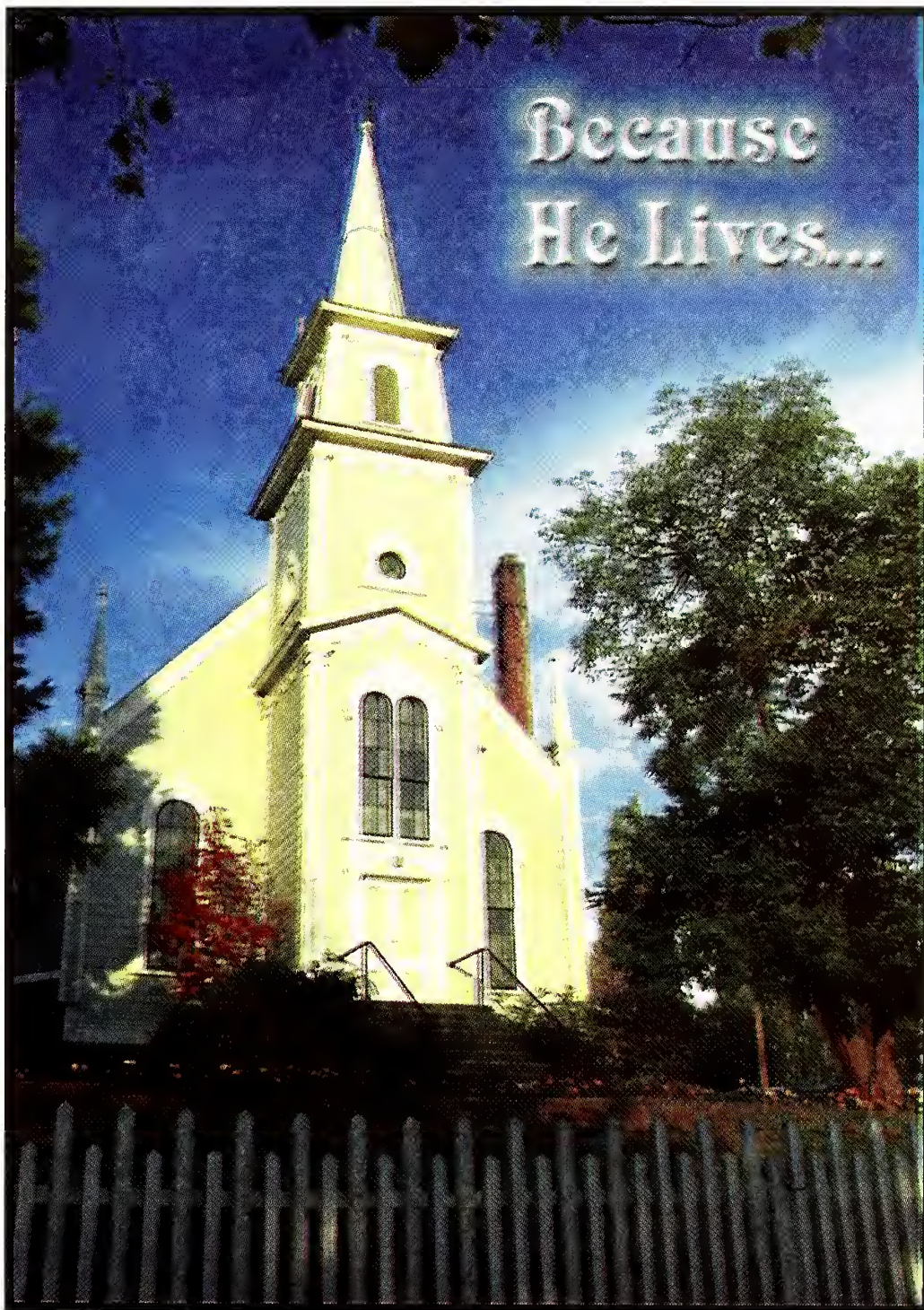
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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST



APRIL 2000



FEATURING:

.....

*What do these
stones mean?*

.....

*The
Twinkle of
an Eye*

.....

*Convention '99
in Retrospect*

.....

*Sunday School
and Powhatan*

.....



C. H. Overman

"When One Member Suffers"

Mount Olive College has been in existence for almost fifty years. For the younger generation, that seems like a long time. To those of us who think of ourselves as senior citizens, fifty years is not such a long time after all. We vividly remember Mount Olive College's small beginning and how over the years it blossomed into a four-year liberal arts Christian college with a beautiful 100-acre campus. With pride we remember the construction of each of its well-designed buildings. With respect and admiration, we speak about the quality and character of those in leadership roles and we praise God for the increasing number of students who come from near and far to receive their education. Original Free Will Baptists have been and will continue to be a vital factor in the future development of Mount Olive College, regardless of the obstacles that now confront it.

Mount Olive College is a ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, one of the ten ministries conceived and birthed by our own denomination. Each one has endured trials and testings, its ups and downs, its lean years and years of plenty. Mount Olive College is no exception, and we have known that indebtedness had been incurred, but somehow we believed that all this was being taken care of. Such was the case regarding the normal operations of the college and in the payment of its loans. It was the short-term notes of friends of the college that SACS frowned upon. Now our college is facing a crisis — will it continue as an accredited liberal arts college, or will the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reject the college's appeal, thus losing its membership in SACS?

It is not our purpose at this point to rehash the circumstances that prompted SACS' decision. Mailings from President William J. Bryd, our Convention president, the Rev. Leon Grubbs, and news releases have at this point in time sought to inform our people, It is now a matter of awaiting the outcome. It is our prayer that SACS will render a favorable response. With continual accreditation, the college can move forward in its mission and purpose without this possible major setback. In the game of

football, a player will sometimes "drop the ball," but the team does not give up. In fact, it may go on to win the game; in the process something has been learned — the lesson of perseverance — pressing on.

Based upon Paul's writing in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, we understand that each part of Christ's body (the Church) has a definite ministry, just as each part of a human body has a definite purpose and function. Each part of the human body functions as one unit; all are necessary. Paul writes: "...there should be no schism (division) in the body; but that...the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it" (1 Corinthians 12:25-26).

Our ministries serve as a major part of the work of our church. Their existence bears evidence to God's blessing and leadership and to the visionary leaders of both the past and the present. When one of them faces difficulties, or suffers, our entire family of believers suffer. What should be our reaction? We do all that is possible to bring relief in the situation. We continue our prayers and support. We encourage those most effected in the hardship; we do not forsake them! This we must do as we await the outcome of this dilemma regarding the college's accreditation. We have come too far to fold, regardless of the ultimate decision. As expressed during the Day of Prayer Service on February 24 at Mount Olive College, "We have come to far to roll over and play dead."

In each and every crisis, there are lessons to be learned, and for the most part we become stronger. Let us remember the truth revealed in Romans 8:28: "...and we know that all things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Thus, as friends and members of God's family rally around this ministry in its time of uncertainty, we claim the promises of His Word and believe "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). Our fervent prayers can bring relief in this time of crisis.

C. H. Overman, Editor
 Robert Hadden, Graphic Arts Manager
 R. Clifford Gray Jr., Executive Director

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

All materials for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor thirty days prior to the publication date of that issue. Items for publication should be addressed to the Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159.

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NEXT MONTH

May is
**Free Will Baptist
 Children's Home
 Month**

April is
**Home Missions and
 Evangelism**

What do these stones mean?

This message was delivered by Dr. De Wayne Eakes as a part of the special service that was held at Mount Olive College on February 24, 2000. Dr. Eakes is pastor of Little Rock Original Free Will Baptist Church, Lucama, NC. He is a former president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptist.

"And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the Lord spake unto Joshua, saying, Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, And command ye them saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night. Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man: And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel: That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers, in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel" (Joshua 4:1-7).

It is an interesting question — what do these stones mean? The crossing of the Jordan, accomplished by the miraculous stopping of the river's flow, is comparable in importance to the Red Sea crossing. The Lord commands Joshua, who in turn, selects 12 men to select 12 stones from the river bed where the priests stood and carry them to the place of the next night's encampment. Why? So these stones could serve as a sign to Israel. When later generations would ask, "What do these stones mean?" the people



would remember the mighty acts of God and tell the story of the crossing of Jordan — as a sign to remind them of who they were and whose they were.

Back to the future — that's what this is all about. Only as we know our history — our past — can we be adequately prepared to claim the future, to move into the future confidently.

Our mission statement reminds us of our roots as a "church-affiliated college." Maybe that phrase is not strong enough. Mount Olive College is not just "church affiliated;" its very reason for being is its roots in the Original Free Will Baptist Church.

Today as we think about renewal, we are thinking about our roots which will inform and direct our future.

I. The Original Free Will Baptist Church labored long and hard to give birth to Mount Olive College and to nurture it to its present status, our current problem with SACS notwithstanding.

- From 1931, with the destruction of Eureka College, until 1945 when the North Carolina State Convention established its Board of Christian Education, until 1951 when the charter was granted to Mount Allen College at Cragmont Assembly with a president/teacher, plus one other teacher and a student body of 10, this vision has been kept alive.
- The Board of Christian Education report to the 1951 Convention voiced a desire for a program "that will adequately meet the present and future needs of our people in general.
- Original Free Will Baptists have always seen the ministry of Christian higher education as a part of the fulfilling of the Great Commission of Matthew 18:19-20.
- The move to Mount Olive and later changing the name of the College were

major moves. The late Rev. David W. Hansley played a major role in getting the old building in Mount Olive ready and securing leadership. In 1954 Brother Hansley asked Dr. Burkette Raper to become president. Dr. Raper stated, "My prayer is that we shall build in this state a college that is both Christian and sound in scholarship. Out of our small beginnings is a vision of an educational institution that will be an honor to our denomination and a credit to the cause of education in general. I solicit your prayers, cooperation, and support."

- Here today we echo that same statement.

II. Our present mission statement "Remembers these stones:"

- "To operate and maintain a private church-affiliated college for the education of men and women that offers programs, including professional studies, that are rooted in the liberal arts tradition and provided in an environment and advancement of Christian ideals in all aspects of life."
- As we face our future crisis, we are hopeful for a positive report on April 28.
- But regardless of that outcome, Mount Olive College will continue; we will go forward and do whatever we have to do to go back to our future.
- You see, Mount Olive College is not just another educational institution of higher learning. It is *the Christian liberal arts College of the Original Free Will Baptists*; it is an essential part of our denomination's fulfilling of our mission. We need to renew our commitment to fulfill that mission as a part of the universal body of Christ.
- We do not need another or a different mission statement. We do need to refocus our attention, energies, and resources on our mission. We need to renew our commitment to fulfill that mission and we need to remind ourselves — our board, our administration, faculty, staff, and student body, as well as ourselves — of "who and whose" we are on an ongoing basis. We need to answer the question, "What do these 'stones' mean?" We need to get "back to the future" as a strong Christian Liberal Arts College. May God help us to renew our commitment to our mission and thus provide a clear vision of how to get there from here!

The Twinkle of an Eye

by Elaine Swinson



In the quietness of the moment, I was able to observe the congregation with a concerned interest to identify missing faces, new visitors, or anything that appeared to be unusual. As I mentally checked off the need to send a card, and make a call, I suddenly became aware of a most unique method of communication taking place between the members of our audience.

A wiggling, whining child was silenced in a moment without a single word being uttered by a mother who squinted her eyes in a "if you don't be quiet and still, I am going to squash you" look. As a young lady entered the room wearing a very short skirt, one very conservative lady sent a message to her close friend next to her which said, "can you believe her mother would let her wear such a thing to church," by opening her eyes wide in disbelief.

Just across the aisle, a young bride whispered "I love you" to her new husband by the gentle fluttering of her eyelashes, never uttering a sound. Passionate dislike for girls in general was loudly spoken by the narrowing of eyes, as a young boy just happened to glance toward a budding group of young ladies. This message definitely was translated as "Ugh, I think I am going to throw up."

The choir director told the pianist to "take a break between the third and fourth stanzas" simply by glancing in the general direction of the piano and lowering her eyelids just the right amount. The pastor blinked his eyes a couple of times toward the Cherub leader giving her the "you can go ahead and get the children ready to sing" sign.

Giggling young girls rolled their eyes around in circles as they spied a cool looking boy visiting in the morning worship service, which emphatically stated that "he was simply to die for." Droplets of moisture sparkled in the eyes of saintly souls touched by the sermon, speaking volumes about their love of God without so much as a whisper.

A wink of the eye seemed to serve universal purposes. A wink from one friend to another definitely said, "hello, how are you." A piece of chewing gum handed to a child, accompanied by a wink, constituted a conspiracy, which revealed a bargain for rewarding good behavior.

And finally the pastor's wife, sent an emphatic message to her husband by opening her eyes really wide and then blinking several times to let him know that "it was 12:00 NOON and time for him to round up his loose thoughts and close the corral doors."

As my eyes curved in a smile, I knew all was well in the quietness of this moment.

Convention '99 in Retrospect

by David C. Hansley, General Administrator



David C. Hansley

There are only three months remaining in our 1999–2000 church year. As a Church/Convention, we committed ourselves to follow the actions taken during our Eighty-Seventh Annual Session, meeting September 14–16, 1999, in College Hall on the campus of Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC. To share the information is to encourage every Original Free Will Baptist to take a closer look at what we are doing or have not done to help our church complete its determined assignments for the Kingdom.



Statistical Information

This statistical information about Original Free Will Baptists covers the church year beginning July 1, 1998 through June 30, 1999 and can be found in the 2000 Yearbook and/or the 1999 Program and Report Book.

- There were 34,475 members reported through the annual church letters for July 1, 1998.
- There were 1,721 members received into our churches during the 1998–99 church year. Of this number, 941 were conversions.
- At the close of the 1998–99 church year our total membership had increased to 34,973, giving us a total increase for the church year of 498.
- Our average morning worship attendance was 19,117, giving an increase over the previous year of 2,964. The average worship attendance in all of our churches was 76.
- There was an increase of 2,912 for Sunday school membership with a total of 18,387. We had an average attendance in our Sunday schools of 14,137.
- There are more than 250 Original Free Will Baptist Churches located within the United States.
- It is worthy of our attention to note that 45 percent of our churches gave a contribution of \$50.00 or less to our Convention ministry during the 1998–99 church year. Thirty-five percent of our churches made absolutely no contribution. That leaves only 20 percent of our churches participating responsibly for this ministry.

Budget for 1999–2000

(this Budget was adopted at our 1999 Convention)

Convention	\$112,408
Cragmont Assembly	\$404,000
Church Finance Association	\$143,000
Children's Home	\$1,429,902
Home Missions & Evangelism	\$263,000
Minister's Program	\$113,000
Retirement Homes Ministry	\$75,290
Sunday School Ministry	\$18,500
Foreign Missions	\$475,591
Free Will Baptist Press	\$1,753,298
Mount Olive College	\$19,722,055
Total	\$24,510,044

*Other

Woman's Auxiliary/Youth	\$70,000
Camp Vandemere	\$80,600
Carolina Bible Institute	\$85,000
Layman's League	\$2,500
Total	\$238,100

The Grand Total for Original Free Will Baptist Ministry is: \$24,748,144

The Credentials Committee

The Credential Committee reported that we had 423 people to pre-register. At the Convention 22 ministers, 24 delegates, and 18 visitors and guests registered. We had a total reported attendance of 487. Remember that we had to cut our Convention to 1/2 day due to Hurricane Floyd.



Receive A Free Copy

To receive a free copy of the 1999 Program and Annual Reports of the 87th Annual Session of our Convention meeting on September 14-16, write or call our Headquarters. PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. (252) 746-4963.

Directory of Ministries

**Free Will Baptist
Children's Home**

PO Box 249, Middlesex, NC 27557
252-235-2161
252-235-2625 — Fax
Email: cc1006@cocentral.com
bobbyfwbch@cocentral.com

Church Finance Association

PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513
252-523-5800
252-523-5803 — Fax

Convention of

Original Free Will Baptist

PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513
252-746-4963
252-746-7993 — Fax

Cragmont Assembly, Inc.

1233 North Fork Rd.
Black Mountain, NC 28711
828-669-7677
828-669-1463 — Fax

Foreign Missions

PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513
252-746-4963
252-746-7993 — Fax

**Free Will Baptist Press
Foundation, Inc.**

PO Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513
252-746-6128
800-849-3927
252-746-9248 — Fax

Home Missions and Evangelism

PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513
252-746-4963
252-746-8913 — Fax

Minister's Program

PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513
252-523-5800
252-523-5803 — Fax

Mount Olive College

634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
919-658-2502
919-658-7180 — Fax

**Free Will Baptist
Retirement Homes**

PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513
252-746-4963
252-746-7993 — Fax

Sunday School Ministries

PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513
252-746-4963
252-746-7993 — Fax

**Some Items Adopted
at our 1999 Convention**

- That the fourth Sunday in August be designated as Heritage Sunday for Original Free Will Baptists.
- That a Commission of 3 persons be appointed to study the possibilities of changing our Convention meeting schedule; such study is to include the consideration of other organizations of our Denomination meeting within the same week; and that this Commission bring its report to the 2000 session.
- That Internet Services for the Convention office be established.
- That the Convention continue to designate May and November as Children's Home months, and recommend our churches observe Children's Home Days on November 7, 1999, and May 14, 2000.
- That the Convention encourage every member to pray faithfully for revival and the fulfillment of

the Great Commission.

- That the months of March and December continue to be designated as "Foreign Missions Months" on our Convention calendar.
- That the Convention continue to designate April and September as Home Missions and Evangelism months and that the fourth Sunday in April be designated as Home Missions and Evangelism Sunday in every Original Free Will Baptist Church.
- That the Convention express its appreciation for the work of Gary Fenton Barefoot on the occasion of his retirement in 1999 from Mount Olive College for many years of outstanding service as Director of Library Services and, in particular, for his oversight of the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection housed in Moyer Library at Mount Olive College.
- That the Convention recommend to each affiliated church that it continue to support Mount Olive College for student scholarships and library development.
- That our churches invite the Executive Director to visit and share the program and needs of Retirement Homes Ministry and its clients.
- That the Convention encourage each church to include the Sunday School Board Ministry and its work in their budgets with at least \$3.00 per average Sunday school attendance.

**Report of "Project Solution
Task Force**

For more than five years the Project Solution Task Force has functioned as a part of the ministry of our denomination. Adopted by the Executive Committee in April of 1994, its accomplishments have been numerous. Its basic purpose was to



examine the work of our denomination, to determine its strengths and weaknesses, and to implement programs and projects that will meet the challenge of church growth.

The first phase of Project Solution, completed in 1996, consisted of a ministry evaluation and church survey. The number one need as revealed in this survey was greater outreach and evangelism; in other words, church growth. Other basic needs were cited; however, the main focus is on outreach or evangelism. The other needs (previously termed weaknesses) are closely related to this basic need. Thus, Project Solution has moved into the solution phase — the challenge of church growth. "Celebrate Jesus 2000" was adopted by the Task Force as the first source of meeting this need.

Since the last meeting of our Convention, Project Solution Task Force has met twice — in March and June. In the March meeting the decision was made to proceed with the writing and publishing of a manual for new members or converts. A committee was chosen to develop this manual which will be entitled, "Welcome to the Royal Family." Plans are to have it completed by the next session of the Convention. A committee was also selected to begin work on a Minister's Manual. In the June meeting, a report of these two committees was received and discussed. Also during this session other ideas and plans relative to outreach and growth were discussed and set in motion.

A new five-year theme was also developed, which will begin in the year 2000. This theme will undergo a final revision by the Task Force as necessary.

At the request of our Convention President and the General Administrator, the Project Solution Task Force will continue to function as a major part of the advancement of His Kingdom under the banner of Original Free Will Baptists.

**Five Year Theme 2000–2005
Responding To God's Call
(Isaiah 6:8)**

Annual Themes

by BEING GOD'S PEOPLE
(Psalm 100:3; 1 Peter 2:9)

by CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE
(Jeremiah 6:16; Psalm 16:6; 103:18)

by EQUIPPING GOD'S CHURCH
(Ephesians 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:17; Matthew 28:20)

by MOTIVATING OUR WORKERS
(James 1:22; Matthew 28:19; Luke 10:2; Joel 3:14)

by REAPING GOD'S HARVEST
(Mark 4:29; Luke 10:2; Proverbs 11:30; John 15:8)



*Sunday School and
Powhatan*

When asked to teach in Sunday school,
I declined with little thought,
But then my conscience said to me,
Have you forgot what Jesus bought?

I thought of Him upon that Cross,
Of that heavenly home He'd made,
And for my reservation there,
The awful price that He had paid.

I remembered church days of my youth,
Of members short in education,
But in that church called Powhatan,
There was no lack of dedication.

The saintly teachers could barely read,
Preparing a lesson was such labor,
But they refused no task in church,
Nor ever failed to help a neighbor.

When shame had overpowered me,
I vowed that I would make it right,
Then I was given a second chance,
And studied and made notes day and night.

But standing at the speaker's stand,
My feeble notes all seemed unreal,
And then a voice inside of me,
Shouted! Just tell them what you feel.

So there before, "The Loyalty class"
I shared my thoughts deep down embodied,
My wife did not appear embarrassed,
And my dear friends smiled and nodded.

There came a feeling of relief,
My torment was no longer driven,
And as the ending bell rang out,
I knew that all had been forgiven.

H. Jack Allen



Camp Vandemere

Our Family Enrichment Center

by the Rev. Mike Scott

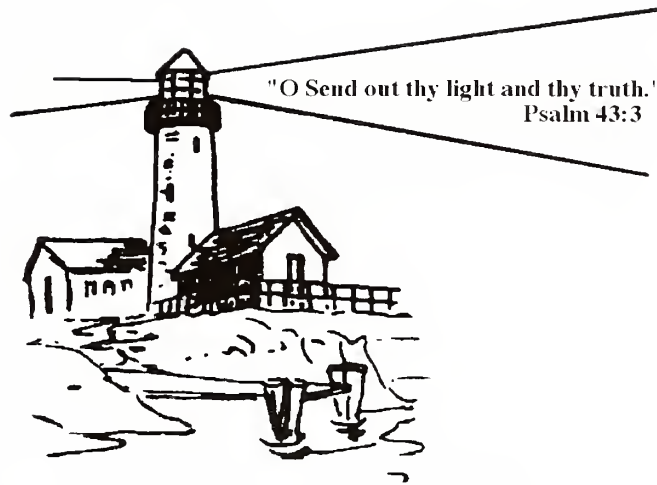
So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work (Nehemiah 4:6).

When the Children of Israel returned to Canaan after seventy years of Babylonian captivity, they found the nation devastated. The land had been ravished, the fields had been demolished, the houses had been gutted and the cities had been destroyed; rubbish and debris were all that was left from the splendor that had been Israel. The wall surrounding the capital city of Jerusalem was completely torn down with not one stone left on another. Upon hearing of the complete and utter destruction of the land, Nehemiah desired to lead the cause to reconstruction by rebuilding the wall around the city. He faced strong opposition from outside forces, but as the above Scripture indicates the wall *was* rebuilt because ...*the people had a mind to work*.

Following last year's hurricanes and the resulting damage to Camp Vandemere, many people felt the same way Nehemiah did when he viewed the damage to Jerusalem. Most of the buildings were damaged by the storms, and some were completely demolished. The swimming pool was destroyed, the docks were totally washed away and left unusable and trash littered the campus. There was no doubt that a major effort would be needed to bring Camp Vandemere back, especially with the 2000 camping season fast approaching.

It is through the efforts of people *who had a mind to work* that the camp has been restored and will be ready for the upcoming camping season. Several workdays have already been initiated with hundreds of man hours being spent in picking up, tearing out, moving around, and cleaning up. A new camp manager has been secured. Mike Williams along with his wife, Linda Williams, and two sons, Eric and Aaron, are on campus and are actively engaged in preparing the camp for its new season.

There is always a danger in listing names, because inevitable there will be someone left off the list, but Camp Vandemere would like to thank the Christian Motorcycle club (president, Eddie Moore) for their surprise visit on February 19 and for the effort they put forth in helping to rebuild the camp. We also thank the many churches, women's auxiliaries and layman's leagues that have sponsored meals and other fundraisers for the camp along with all of those who have shown up on workdays to clean, paint, and pick up. We are sincerely thankful for all of those who *had a mind to work*.



*You are
cordially invited
to the rededication of
Camp Vandemere
Saturday, April 29
3:00 in the afternoon*

*Come and see how God has been
faithful to bless us through
this time of trouble.*

Registration Form Vandemere Women's Conference

June 19-23, 2000

Speaker: Mrs. Jackie Flowers

Mail the registration form along with a \$10.00 deposit to:
Mrs. Audrey Quinn or Mrs. Judith Kennedy
461 Wintergreen Road 933-N NC 41
Cove City, NC 28523 Pink Hill, NC 28572

Balance will be due upon arrival at Camp.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Layman's League

Eastern Conference Layman's League

submitted by Harold Humbles, Secretary

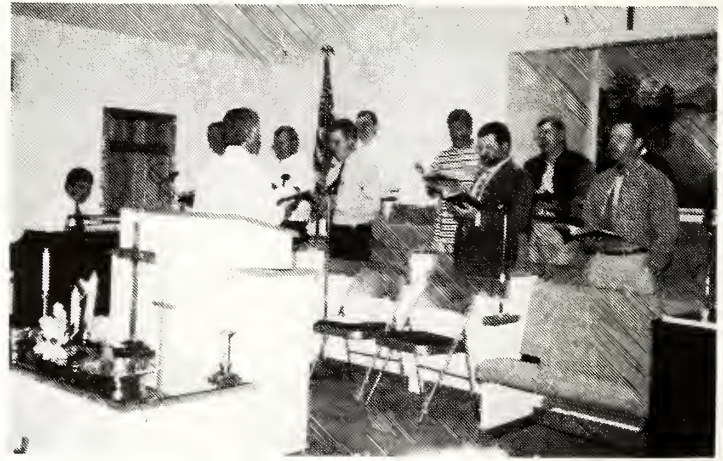
The Eastern Free Will Baptist Conference Layman's League was hosted by Croatan Free Will Baptist Church, New Bern, NC on February 21, 2000.

As Croatan's pastor, the Rev. Doug Reynolds grabbed hold of their piano, snapped his fingers, smiled, and touched the keyboard in a fashion that let us all know he was from Texas as he rounded up the Layman's League for a big Musical Rodeo for Jesus Christ. They always say the way to a man's heart is through his stomach and Croatan Free Will Baptist Church put it on that night along with their ladies, Mrs. Ophelia Davis, Mrs. Ronnie Rhodes, and Veronica Fox as they harmonized beautifully to "Amazing Grace." How sweet was the sound to all of us.

The men of the Layman's League took the center stage as the Holy Spirit began to move within the church. Several songs touched our hearts with hand-clapping music as words fulfilled our spiritual desires with a big applause as the Lord was truly in His house that night.

Robert Ramsey, president of the Eastern Conference Layman's League expressed his thanks to the ministers and all present. He expressed the importance of all of us giving our duties a lot of thought to keep the Lord's Kingdom in order and reminding us to put Him first and foremost in our lives at all times. The needs at Camp Vandemere were discussed and a drive was started to kick off a project for a desperately needed sound system since the previous one was destroyed by the storm. Many spoke out with generous donations and encouraged us all to contact others to send their pledges to: Robert Tripp, 305 Piney Neck Road, Vanceboro, NC 28586. Make checks payable to Camp Vandemere sound system.

An approximate goal was set at \$2500.00. Let's pray that we can have this met and in place for the "Spiritual Life Retreat" on June 2 and 3. May God add His blessings to this project as it is being done for the glorification of His Kingdom. Remember our youth that are brought to Christ each year at the camp. Let's have a crowd and make this the biggest father/son event ever sponsored at Camp Vandemere.



Men from Croatan Free Will Baptist Church join together for a musical delight at the recent Eastern Conference Layman's League.

Dates to Remember in 2000

- April 6 Executive and Promotional Board meeting — 7:00 PM, VFW Building, Snow Hill.
- May 5 State Layman's League Convention — host, Fremont Free Will Baptist Church, 106 W.S. St., Fremont; 6:45 PM meal; 7:30 PM business.
- May 15 Eastern Conference Layman's League — host, Whaleys Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Route 2, Box 482-A, Richlands, 6:45 PM meal; 7:30 PM business.
- June 1 Executive and Promotional Board meeting, 7:00 PM, VFW Building, Snow Hill
- June 2, 3 "Spiritual Life Retreat" at Camp Vandemere. Come early Friday, fun and fishing, FREE Bar-B-Que supper at 6:00 PM; then Friday night, June 2, CAMP TIME, bring your musical instruments, banjo's, guitars, etc., for our "Sing Along" till bedtime. A good night's sleep at the camp and then Saturday morning, June 3, an all new exciting "Spiritual Life Program" planned with many prizes. Going to be spectacular. A perfect time to invite a friend to your Annual Layman's League outing. Bring your sons, we will have something for them too. Trampoline, swimming pool, slides, a golf putting contest, fishing pier and many other types of outside games to your desire. Devotion time with 3 speakers, you will hate to miss.
- June 5 Central Conference Layman's League — host, Tarboro First Free Will Baptist Church, W. Hope Lodge St., Tarboro; 6:45 PM meal; 7:30 PM business.

*Good Shepherd
Sunday
April 23, 2000*



*Pray
and Give for
Home Missions
and Evangelism*

April is
Home Missions and Evangelism Month



THE CONNECTION

A Call to the Harvest



The opportunities and challenges to impact our communities, our state and our nation with the gospel have never been greater. At this moment, Census 2000 is officially locating and counting every person in America. Surely the Census data will confirm that our nation's population is growing in numbers and diversity. Current information indicates a nation of 260,000,000 plus and a state of over 6.5 million. You may ask the question, "Why is this important to me?"

The Scriptures declare to the church: "Life up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." The Harvest Connection is simple:

- Prayer Connection
- Care Connection
- Share Connection

Praying, Caring, and Sharing must happen daily for us to reach and reap the "Harvest." We must follow the example of Jesus. He was moved with compassion as He saw the multitudes. He came to seek and to save the lost. He instructs us to love God with all our heart, mind, and soul and to love our neighbor as ourselves. As His followers we are instructed to go and we will Touch Lives for a Lifetime.

The Call to the Harvest is extended to every Christian, Sunday school class, youth group, woman's auxiliary, layman's league or men's group, church and conference. The challenge is to reach through *Praying, Caring, and Sharing*, every person or family in our church, community, city, county, and ultimately every state in our nation.

Your ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism is committed to Church Planting, Church Growth and Evangelism projects that will touch our communities here and across America. Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support that will enable us to move forward in this great endeavor.

Al Markuson,
Executive Director

For more information or to have a Home Missions and Evangelism representative come speak to your church, please contact us at PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-4963

GUIDE FOR WEEK OF PRAYER

April 17-23, 2000

Monday — April 17

- Sunrise Landing Mission/Church, Point Harbor, North Carolina
- The Rev. Keith Pelletier, Director/Pastor of Sunrise Landing
- Park Lane Mission/Church, Havelock, North Carolina
- GOOD SHEPHERD Sunday — April 23 — Offering Goal \$80,000

Tuesday — April 18

- Mooresville Mission/Church, Mooresville, North Carolina
- The Rev. Wayne Watson, Director/Pastor of Mooresville
- Board of Directors for Home Missions and Evangelism
- Executive Director and Staff of Home Missions and Evangelism
- GOOD SHEPHERD Sunday — April 23 — Offering Goal \$80,000

Wednesday — April 19

- Lao Evangelical Church of America — (H'mong people — CA, MN, NC, NV, UT, OR)
- The Rev. Tu Moua, President of Lao Evangelical Church
- * H'mong Youth Camp — August 2000
- Dr. A. Graham Lane, Ethnic Missions Coordinator
- GOOD SHEPHERD Sunday — April 23 — Offering Goal \$80,000

Thursday — April 20

- Church Planting
- Covenant Mission/Church, Hope Mills, North Carolina
- Mr. Otis Hamm, Worship Leader of Covenant
- Deaf Missions, Ms. Marin Bandel, Coordinator
- Touching Lives Corps Groups — as they will be doing summer field work
- Executive Director and Staff of Home Missions and Evangelism
- GOOD SHEPHERD Sunday — April 23 — Offering Goal \$80,000

Friday — April 21

- Charity Mission/Church, Whiteville, North Carolina — Focus on community outreach
- The Rev. Freddie Edwards, Director/Pastor of Charity
- OFWB Commission on Scouting
- The Harvest Covenant Program (Helping the small church grow)
- GOOD SHEPHERD Sunday — April 23 — Offering Goal \$80,000

Saturday — April 22

- Cambodian, Thi, Lao Mission/Church, Moreno Valley, California
- The Rev. Kitti Rojratanakiat, Director/Pastor of Cambodian Mission/Church
- Mobil Ministry — The events using our tent this season
- Mission America — Celebrate Jesus 2000 — Lighthouse Movement
- GOOD SHEPHERD Sunday — April 23 — Offering Goal \$80,000

Good Shepherd Sunday — April 23

- Home Missions and Evangelism Sunday for Original Free Will Baptists
- Continued Prayer and Support for:
 - A. New fields and missionaries in North Carolina and across America
 - B. Hispanic Missions, Evangelism and Church Planting
 - C. Disaster Relief Programs, Project Kids Kare and Canning Hunger
 - D. Christian Literature, Scripture Distribution and Jesus Video Projects
- The Ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism
- Original Free Will Baptists as we Expand His Kingdom



Reaching Her Goal

February 22, 2000 will be a day that will stay in the mind of this young lady for a long time. It was this day Jessica Bulleck, above, received a letter from UNC School of Natural Sciences at Asheville congratulating her on her acceptance to attend their school in August. Jessica plans to study atmospheric science and become a meteorologist. We know she will go far. Proud? You bet we are!



Items Delivered

(L to R) Joey Williams — Associate Pastor, Margaret Langley and May Pittman of Greenville First Church stopped by February 28 to deliver items needed for the children. We would like to thank everyone for their time and thank you especially for caring.

Thank You

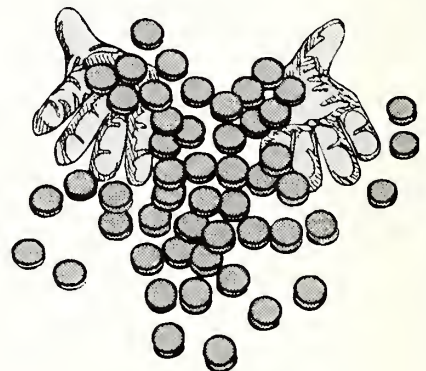
Antioch Church — Women's Auxiliary of Pikeville, NC, for the delivery of four 12 piece place setting of dishes for each cottage on February 26.

Piney Grove Church — Women's Auxiliary of Kenly, NC, for their delivery of ironing boards, ironing board pads, and irons, on February 26.

Upcoming Campus Events

- Children's Home Life Newsletter May (1st week)
- Children's Home Day May 14, 2000
- Founder's Day 2000 May 27, 2000
- Campus Chapel Service June 8, 2000
- 54th Annual Homecoming July 9, 2000
- Campus Chapel Service September 7, 2000
- Children's Home Day November 5, 2000

Remember
 May is
 Children's Home Month



"Change for Children
 2000"

Items in Need List:

- ♥ Paper Products
- ♥ Personal Care Items
- ♥ Playstation Games
- ♥ Encyclopedias (CD Roms)
- ♥ Computers for Cottages (est. cost \$5000)
- ♥ Carpet Cleaning Machine
- ♥ Cordless Telephones
- ♥ 8 Cutting Boards
- ♥ Basketballs and Volleyballs
- ♥ Pots, Pans, and Dishes (12 or 10 setting)
- ♥ 24 Alarm Clocks
- ♥ Golf Cart
- ♥ First Aid Kits
- ♥ Vacuum Cleaner
- ♥ Cameras for Cottages
- ♥ Twin size Sheets
- ♥ Twin size Blankets
- ♥ Dish Towels
- ♥ Dish Cloths
- ♥ Bath Towels
- ♥ Wash Cloths
- ♥ Mixers
- ♥ Pot Holders
- ♥ Serving Bowls
- ♥ Storage Containers
- ♥ Shower Curtains
- ♥ Standard Size Pillows
- ♥ Bath Mats
- ♥ 24 Square Clothes
- ♥ Hampers

*The Board of Directors
Invites You and Your Guest To
Our Founder's Day Luncheon*

*Whitley Center
Saturday, May 27, 2000
12:00 NOON
on the campus of
The Free Will Baptist Children's Home
RSVP by: May 22, 2000*

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____

_____ *I will be able to attend*
_____ *I will not be able to attend*

There will be _____ in my party for lunch.

*Mail to:
Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Inc.
PO Box 249, Middlesex, NC 27557-0249*

Cragmont NEWS

Cragmont Makes Attractive Offer — Free Room & Meals

In conjunction with the Ministerial Association, Cragmont is making a special offer to all ministers who have never attended a Minister's Conference. Here are the conditions:

1. You must have never attended a Cragmont Minister's Conference.
2. You must be an ordained minister.
3. You must register through the Ministerial Association.
4. This offer only covers room and meals at Cragmont.
5. This offer does not cover the expenses of a spouse.
6. This offer does not cover the Ministerial Association dues.
7. This offer is based upon available space.

It is our hope this offer will encourage ministers to become involved in the Ministerial Association and the ministry of Cragmont. On the registration form there will be a check box for you to indicate that you are taking advantage of this offer.

2000 Summer Camp Schedule

Morning Star

April 28-30, 2000
Teresa Ball — 252-524-4677
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

Minister's Conference

May 22-25, 2000
Doug Skinner — 919-596-2456
817 Lynn Road
Durham, NC 27703

June Woman's Auxiliary Conference

June 5-10, 2000
Teresa Ball — 252-524-4677
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 12-17, 2000
Bryant Hines — 252-633-2683
PO Box 266
Cove City, NC 28523

Christian Cadet Conference

June 19-24, 2000
Gary Bailey — 919-735-3916
112 Crosswinds Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27530

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)

June 26-July 1, 2000
Janie Sowers — 252-235-2408
PO Box 824
Middlesex, NC 27557

Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)

July 3-8, 2000
Frankie Baggett — 252-746-7850
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513

General Youth II Conference

July 10-15, 2000
Chris Singleton — 910-298-3520
PO Box 162
Beulaville, NC 28518

General Youth I Conference

July 17-22, 2000
Bryant Hines — 252-633-2683
PO Box 266
Cove City, NC 28523

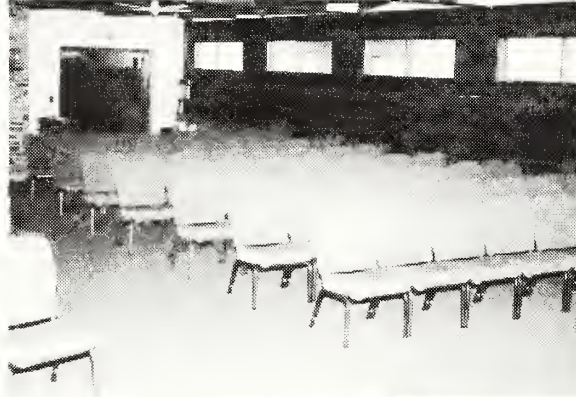
Young People's Bible Conference

July 24-29, 2000
James Gurganus — 252-223-5251
1317 Nine Foot Road
Newport, NC 28570

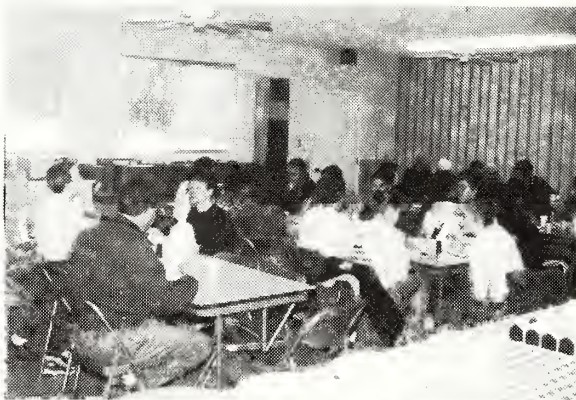
August Woman's Auxiliary Conf.

July 31-August 5, 2000
Teresa Ball — 252-524-4677
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

The New Chapel Chairs Are Here!



Johnston Union Free Will Baptist Church and Daniels Chapel Free Will Baptist Church retreat groups had the first service in the chapel using new chairs. Thank you to all who contributed to the "Chairs for Chapel" fund.



Winter ski retreat groups from Little Rock Free Will Baptist Church and Core Creek Free Will Baptist Church.



Retirement Homes – Now Debt Free!



February 17, 2000, will stand as a historical day for Original Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes. On that day the debt was paid in full. The picture shows the Rev. James Joyner, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Retirement Homes presenting a final payment of \$7,235.55, to the Rev. Donald Fader, Executive Director of Church Finance Association. Mrs. Andrea W. Cox, Administrative Assistant and the Rev. Bruce Dudley, Executive Director of Original Free Will Baptist Retirement Ministry are happy witnesses to the event.

The process of achieving this status was a slow one and the credit should be given to our loving God and our Original Free Will Baptist people.

Further, we are pleased to share with you that we currently have seven people being helped by our program. Also, we have a vacancy for a person in the residency program. The apartment in the Ayden Duplex, formerly occupied by Rose Bowen, is available.

It is a great temptation to “sit-back” and relax since the debt is paid, but, there are still people who need help. Over the next several months, Retirement Homes must reassess the needs of our people in light of our commitment to serve and decide new directions to take in the service of our Lord and our church. Therefore, we earnestly solicit your prayers and support, without which we cannot meet the need of our people or our commitment to our Lord.

For more information or to inform us of the need please contact:

Original Free Will Baptist
Retirement Homes Ministry
PO Box 39
Ayden, North Carolina 28513
Telephone: (252) 746-4963



April

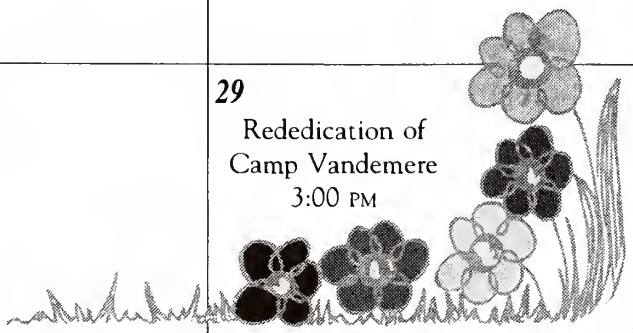
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SUN		MON		TUE	
26		27		28	29
2		3		4	5
9		10		11	12
16	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	17		18	MOC Choir Spring Concert Rodgers Chapel 8:00 PM
23	<i>Easter</i> Home Missions & Evangelism Good Shepherd Sunday	24		25	
	30				26

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Remember _____

THU		FRI		SAT	
	30		31		1
	6 Layman's League Executive and Promotional Board 7:00 PM VFW Building, Snow Hill		7		8
	13 MOC Singers Spring Fling Lois K. Murphy Regional Center 8:00 pm		14		15
	20		21		22
	27 MOC Award Day Rodgers Chapel 11:00 AM		28		29 Rededication of Camp Vandemere 3:00 PM



DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

Free Will Baptist Denomination Shows Support to Mount Olive College at Day of Prayer

Approximately 200 members of the Free Will Baptist denomination joined students, faculty, and staff members of Mount Olive College for a day of prayer on Thursday, February 24 in Rodgers Chapel on the college's campus.

Stating that the students, faculty, staff, and members of the denomination had gathered "for a time of praise, thanksgiving, and petition," Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the college said the gathering indicated the concern the people had for the college "in times of great need."

"This is a time for renewal and rededication to the purpose for which we have been established," Byrd said.

After the college choir (directed by Dr. Alan Armstrong, professor of music) sang *All That Thrills My Soul*, the Rev. Leon Grubbs, president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists and pastor of Hull Road FWB Church in Greene County, began the prayer service by telling the congregation of the importance of repentance during the time of crisis.

"It is absolutely necessary that we begin with repentance if we are going to have any kind of serious prayer in our lives," Grubbs said.

After reading 2 Chronicles 7:11-16 from the Bible, Grubbs compared the situation the Children of Israel had faced to the situation the college is now facing. Grubbs said just as God told the Children of Israel there would come a time they would need to repent and He would hear their prayers, forgive them, and heal their land, Mount Olive College needs to humble themselves before God so He will hear their prayers.

"I'm not saying for a moment that God has done this thing to us," Grubbs said. "But I would suggest that God is trying to get our attention. He is calling

on us to humble ourselves and pray. It is essential that this prayer begin by a recognition of who we are and what we are in the sight of God. It is necessary that we repent."

Preceded by a solo of *The Lord's Prayer* by Irene W e l d o n , a s s o c i a t e professor of music at the college, Dr.

David Hines, chair of the department of religion at the college, read the college's mission statement to the congregation. Hines stated that a brief look at the college's history would assist in bringing the college's mission into focus. He spoke of the college's affiliation with the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists and the manner in which the college fulfills part of the church's mission. Hines said the college must recommit to the vision of the founders of the college as well as the vision of Jesus Christ.

Dr. De Wayne Eakes, member of the college board of trustees and pastor of Little Rock Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson County, stated the college's roots were set in the Original Free Will Baptist denomination, a denomination that was accustomed to crisis. Eakes said the college's roots would direct it's future.

"Regardless of the outcome (SACS' decision on the college's accreditation) ...Mount Olive College will continue because it is not just our college," Eakes said. "We believe we are here because



(Front row, left to right): Dr. David Hines, chair, the department of religion; Dianne Riley, director of alumni relations; Irene Weldon, associate professor of music; and the Rev. Leon Grubbs, president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. (back row, left to right): Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president emeritus; Dr. De Wayne Eakes, member of the board of trustees; the Rev. Earl Glenn, member of the first board of trustees; the Rev. Jeff Daughtry, member of the board of trustees; Dr. Michael R. Pelt, professor emeritus of religion; and Dr. J. William Byrd, president.

God has directed and God has called and God has led us here... We do not need a new mission statement. But we do need to refocus our attention, our energies, our resources on our mission. We do need to renew our commitment to fulfill that mission and we do need to remind ourselves... of who and whose we are...."

The Rev. Jeff Daughtry, member of the college board of trustees and pastor of Westside Free Will Baptist Church in Lenior County, issued a charge to the students, faculty, and staff, the college's president and trustees, and to Original Free Will Baptists and friends of the college. Daughtry reminded each group to stay focused on their involvement with the college.

"Let us unite together. Let us rally around this college together," Daughtry said. "I charge you to...pray. Let us unite our hearts and our minds in prayer...seek God with all your heart and you will find Him. Mount Olive College will celebrate our 50th anniversary next year."

cont....

Greene County Dinner Rescheduled for April

Due to severe flooding in Greene County last fall, the churches in that county were unable to have their annual dinner for Mount Olive College. In early January, however, the college began receiving gifts from the Greene County churches and has now received more than \$22,000 despite the devastating experience these churches encountered. Now, the churches want to have a celebration event which has been planned for Monday, April 10, at 7:00 PM at the Greene County Middle School near Snow Hill. The Mount Olive College Singers, under the direction of Mrs. Irene Patten, will present a musical program. Recognizing the shared vision of the Free Will Baptist Churches to help people develop into what God created them to become, the college will take this opportunity to express its appreciation to the people of Greene County for a vision far beyond themselves. Mrs. Genevieve M. Taylor, and Randy Beaman are co-chairs for the Greene County Dinner. Those who wish to attend this dinner should make reservations through their local church chairperson.

Free Will Baptist Denomination Shows Support... cont....

The college is currently appealing the commission's decision to remove Mount Olive College's accreditation. The reason for the action by SACS deals with the longstanding indebtedness of the college which began in the early 1980s when Mount Olive College made the transition from a two-year to a four-year college.

Others on the program included the Rev. Earl Glenn, member of college's first board of trustees and pastor of Daniels Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson County; Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president emeritus of Mount Olive College; Dianne Riley, director of alumni relations at the college; and Dr. Michael R. Pelt, professor emeritus of religion at Mount Olive College.

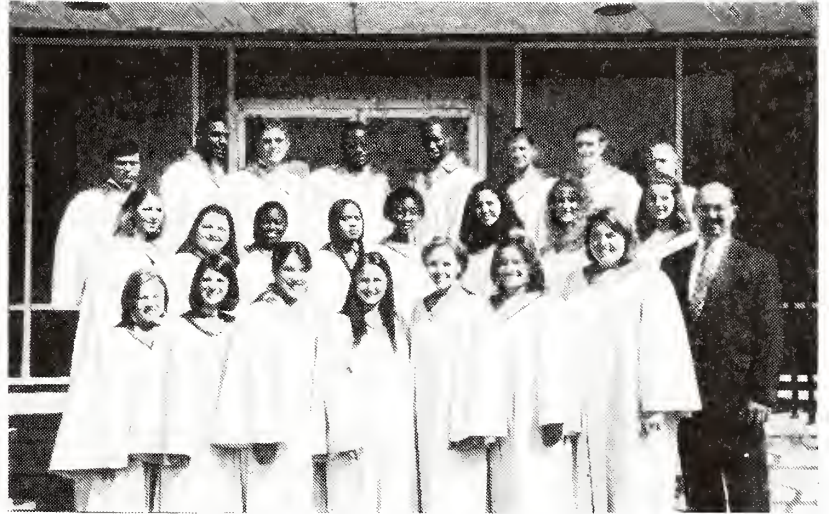
College Concert Choir to Perform "A Messiah for the Millennium" for Spring Concert

The 28-voice Mount Olive College Concert Choir is preparing for its 2000 spring concert. The choir, under the direction of Dr. Alan Armstrong, professor of music at the college, will perform at 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM on Tuesday, April 18, in Rodgers Chapel on the campus of Mount Olive College. The public is invited to attend this free concert.

The title of this year's concert is "A Messiah for the Millennium." The concert will feature the entire third portion of George Frederick Handel's *Messiah* complete with orchestra and soloists.

"I wanted to present this part of the *Messiah* at this time because it is the beginning of a new millennium when we think even more about the return of Christ, and this portion deals with that," Dr. Armstrong said.

Guest soloists include Irene Weldon, associate professor of music at the college, and Bret Smithey, a bass/baritone from Raleigh who is a recent graduate of the National Opera Company. Also among the soloists will be choir members senior Carrie Rose, contralto, and sophomore Johnny Thompson, tenor.



Members of 1999-2000 Concert Choir are: (front row, left to right): Julie Freeman, Craven County; Nikki McLawhoru, Wayne County; Erica McCormick, Wayne County; Angie Bell, Stauley County; Kristin Gibsou, Wayne County; Kristen Carroll, Wooten's Chapel, Johnston County; Carrie Rose, Durham County; Dr. Alan Armstrong, director. (second row): Sheri Jones, Wayne County; Becky Kerns, Friendship FWB, Greene County; Daudiell Peed, Beaufort County; Celeste Lenon, Dale City, Virginia; Angel Bailey, Richmond County; Raegan Armstrong, New Hanover County; Lesli Smith, St. Mary's FWB, Craven County; Stacey Duun, Carteret County. (back row): John Hill, Jr., Holly Springs FWB, Carteret County; Hershel Mack III, Virginia Beach, Virginia; Scott Satterfiled, Lee's Chapel FWB Church, Harnett County; Walter Hardy, Wilson County; Johnny Thompson, Ouslow County; Anthony Beauett, Antioch FWB, Craven County; David Smith, St. Mary's FWB, Craven County; and Brad Piner, Juniper Chapel FWB, Craven County. Not pictured are: Jon Puckett, Virginia Beach, Virginia; Matthew Coates, Pine Level FWB, Johnston County; Mike Kreger, New Castle, Delaware; and Lamekia Jarman, Wayne County.

Mount Olive College Guides Students into the Future

Tracy Wheeler, a senior at Mount Olive College, had no doubt about where she wanted to attend college. A member of First Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson, Tracy's main reason for choosing MOC was the college's denominational affiliation with her church.

"I also like Mount Olive because it was small and close to home so I could visit and spend time with my family when I wanted. It is far enough away that I could live on campus and get the entire college experience," Tracy, the daughter of Ken Wheeler and Sandi Burkes, said.

Tracy knew Mount Olive College was the place for her but deciding on a major wasn't as easy. Psychology was the major she first chose. She then turned her attention to education before finally deciding on human resource development.

"I really love to work with people," Tracy said. "I decided that I would rather work with adults on a professional level rather than children."

The guidance and advice Tracy received in making this difficult decision was a result of Mount Olive College's small college atmosphere and low professor/student ratio. Professors have the opportunity to get to know their students which helps the professors assist the students with school and career choices.

Dr. Carl Broadhurst, assistant professor of business at MOC, helped Tracy to examine her strengths and weaknesses in order to decide which major would best suit her.

This semester Tracy is taking 12 semester hours and working 21 hours a week with BB&T in Wilson as an analyst in the process and performance management department. She received this position as part of the cooperative education program at the college. In this program, students receive class credit for working part or



The guidance and advice Tracy Wheeler of First Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson received in deciding on a major was a result of Mount Olive College's small college atmosphere and low professor/student ratio.

full-time in a job related to their college major. After Tracy receives her degree, her position at BB&T will become full-time.

Aside from being an honor scholarship student and marshal, Tracy has also participated in many extracurricular activities during her four years at the college. She has been involved with the College Ambassadors, the Concert Choir, the Student Government Association, the Student Judicial Board, Fellowship of Christian Students, and Alpha Chi, the National College Honor Society. Last year Tracy was president of the Fellowship of Christian Students and treasurer for the Student Government Association and this year she is vice president of the student government association.

"I have learned a lot at MOC about life," Tracy said. "I've learned how to relate to all types of people and manage my time. I also have a broader understanding and a deeper respect of the functions and beliefs of the denomination."

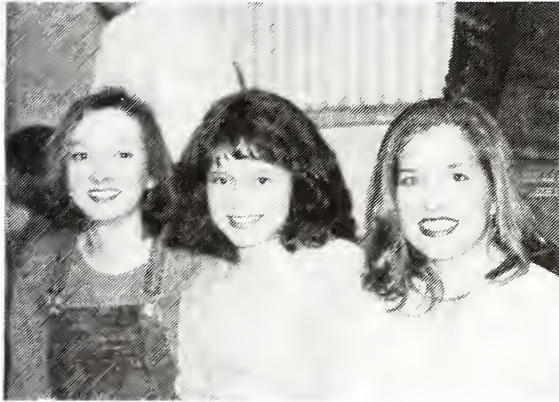
Singers to Hold Spring Fling on April 13

The Mount Olive College Singers will perform their 27th Annual Spring Fling Concert at 8:00 PM on Thursday, April 13, in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center on the campus of Mount Olive College. This year's theme is "City Rhythm." The singers will perform selections they learned while in New York for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. This event is sure to bring a large crowd, so make plans now to attend!



Members of the 1999-2000 Mount Olive College Singers are front row (left to right): Lisa Nadeau, Woodbridge, Virginia; Garrett Southerland, Westside FWB Church in Lenior County; Sharon Zirkle, Woodbridge, Virginia; and Courtney Pollard, Suffolk, Virginia; (second row): Lee Buck, First FWB of Tarboro in Edgecombe County; Leslie Ingram, Johnston County; Kaisy Wilkerson, Melbourne, Florida; Steve Hamilton, Onslow County; (back row): Lori French, Suffolk, Virginia; Jason Cox, Wayne County; Jack Booth, Carteret County; Jeffry Sparrow, Wayne County; and Jamie Britt, Wayne County.

Freshman Shares Feelings



Mount Olive College freshman Laurie Evans spoke with fellow Free Will Baptists at the FWB Church Night basketball games about her experience thus far at the college. From left to right: Amy Daughtry, Westside FWB Church in Lenior County; Laurie Evans, Kenly FWB Church, Johnston County; and Melissa Creech, Branch Chapel FWB Church, Johnston County. Both Amy and Melissa have been accepted for the 2000 fall semester.

MOC Alumni



The Hospitality Room was open at the FWB Church Night basketball game for FWB members to enjoy. Pictured here are some MOC alumni with Dianne Riley '67, director of alumni relations; and Tim Woodard '87, director of admissions. Left to right: Dianne Riley; Maurice Hill, Westside FWB Church, Lenior County; Rebecca Hill '77, Westside FWB Church; the Rev. Jeff Daughtry '78, pastor at Westside FWB Church; Wanda Daughtry '79, Westside FWB Church; Johnny Sullivan '83, minister of music and youth at Daniel's Chapel FWB Church, Wilson County, and Tim Woodard.

Brother and Sister to Attend Mount Olive College in Fall 2000

Having a father that is an MOC alumnus and being raised in a Free Will Baptist Church played a large role in Emily and Jonathan Skinner's decisions to attend Mount Olive College. The brother and sister will both begin classes at the college in August of 2000. Emily, a senior at Cresset Christian Academy in Durham, is a member of the church choir and youth group. Her brother, Jonathan, will be transferring to MOC from North Carolina State University. Jonathan serves as the church's sound technician, youth group president, program chairman, and helps teach the teen Sunday school class. Their father, the Rev. Douglas Skinner '72, is pastor at Sherron Acres Free Will Baptist Church in Durham County.



Emily and Jonathan Skinner recently were accepted at Mount Olive College. The brother and sister will be following the footsteps of their father, who is an MOC alumni. Picture left and right: Tim Woodard, director of admissions at the college; Emily, Jonathan, Virginia, and the Rev. Douglas Skinner, Sherron Acres FWB Church, Durham County; and Dianne Riley, director of alumni relations at the college.

Upcoming Events

The Mount Olive College Singers will perform its annual Spring Fling on Thursday, April 13, 2000 in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center beginning at 8:00 PM. Friends are invited to attend.

The Mount Olive College Choir Spring Concert will be Thursday, April 18, 2000 in Rodgers Chapel. The performance will begin at 8:00 PM and everyone is invited to attend.

Mount Olive College Awards Day will be held on Thursday, April 27, 2000 at 11:00 AM in Rodgers Chapel and friends are invited to attend.

The Free Will Baptist Bible Bowl Competition, sponsored by the Youth Convention of the Original Free Will Baptists, will be Saturday, May 6, 2000. The competition will begin at 8:00 AM in Rodgers Chapel.

Repair Work in Morelos, Mexico

by the Rev. Antonio Escobar

The presence and participation of the men last August in the encampment was a great motivation for them. They saw the needs that presented themselves from day to day: the need for water, the cleaning and repair of the temple and the houses and the reality of the encampment itself. The brothers became aware of these needs and committed themselves to make the repairs and find possible solutions to other problems in the future.

Perhaps the work will be long and tedious, since there is so much to be done. However, it is within our reach since the men are motivated even more each time they work together in one accord. It is a great blessing to many of them to be able to finish some of the work in the village of Morelos. We have made a work plan beginning with the kitchen and the Temple and then the surrounding grounds.

The photographs show the group of men who took part in the work. They worked on the kitchen installing two windows and a door. The windows are new and the door is metal. The inside and outside walls were cement-stucco and painted. All of the materials and work were made possible by the men of the churches, all united to a common end to have a better encampment August 2000.



How Long Will They Have To Wait?

Below is a list of "Build One For Them" projects. Some have been on this list for years. Friends, please consider one of these projects for your church. We do fantastic things for ourselves, fine buildings, fellowship halls, gymnasiums and the list goes on and on. But I believe the greatest blessing comes when we do something for others and we personally receive absolutely no benefit. The spiritual benefits, however, are greater in God's eyes. Please help!

Build One For Them

India	\$18,000	Palia Kalan	church building
	14,900	Bareilly	Convention Center
	7,000	Tilhar	school building
	7,000	Bilsi	school building
	7,000	Khaunsara	school building
Nepal	\$ 2,650	Olani	school building
	4,195	Malakheti	school building
	Mexico	\$ 1,500	Lily of the Valley
2,700		Prince of Peace	lot/church expansion
9,000		STT Project	parsonage
Philippines	\$15,000	Maranatha	church building
	8,500	Arado	church building
	10,000	Brookes Point	church building
	26,500	Roxas	land & church building
	25,000	Tagbilaran	land & church building
	4,000	San Jose	church building
Bulgaria	\$25,000	Varna	land & church building
	34,000	Naga, Cebu	land & church building

Build One For Them Projects are above budget needs.

Short-Term Team 2001

The Short-Term Teams to the Philippines and Mexico are full for the year 2000. Now, however, is the time to begin thinking about 2001. In addition to our regular teams to the Philippines and Mexico in 2001, we will be adding a team to Bulgaria where Willem and Lydia van der Plas are serving. This team will consist of only fifteen members.

The dates for 2001 are:

Philippines — April 21–May 6

(12 member team — 18 years old and up)

Mexico — June 16–26

(30 member team — 13 years old and up)

Mexico — July 14–24

(30 member team — 13 years old and up)

Mexico — August 4–14

(12 member team — 18 years old and up)

Bulgaria — September 22–October 4

(15 member team — 18 years old and up)

After you have prayed and sought the Lord's will about joining a Short-Term Team, please contact the Board of Foreign Missions' office for more information.

Church Anniversary Talibon, Bohol, Philippines

by the Rev. Dario Basingil

The Talibon Free Will Baptist Church, located in the Municipality of Talibon, province of Bohol, held their first church anniversary on October 17, 1999. The theme was "Redeeming the Time," because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:16).

The Rev. Dario Basingil and his wife Susan were invited to attend this service and Rev. Basingil was the guest speaker. His message was taken from Psalm 100:4, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." He stressed that we should thank God for what He has done, what He is doing and what He will do.

Approximately 70 members, not counting the children, are presently meeting on the third floor of the Talibon Pension House.

After the service lunch was shared with all the members. This was a great day of celebration of what God has done, is doing, and will do in Talibon.



This is the congregation of Island Free Will Baptist Outreach in Talibon, Bohol.



Congregation in Talibon, Bohol.

Thanksgiving Service Caroroy Free Will Baptist Church, Philippines

by the Rev. Pio dela Rosa

In November 1999, the Caroroy Free Will Baptist Church celebrated its yearly Thanksgiving Service. Many people attended and brought their individual fruits from their farms. The theme was "Looking Unto Jesus." The Rev. Teddy Martinez was the guest speaker. He spoke about the new millennium and the return of Jesus Christ. The service gave a great challenge to everyone and we departed with a joyful heart.

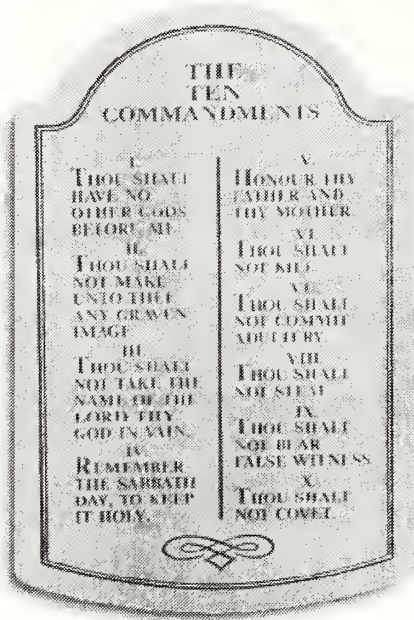


The Rev. Dario Basingil guest speaker.



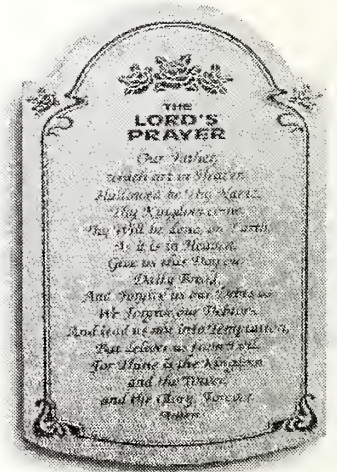
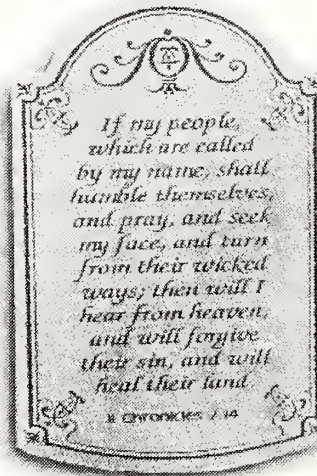
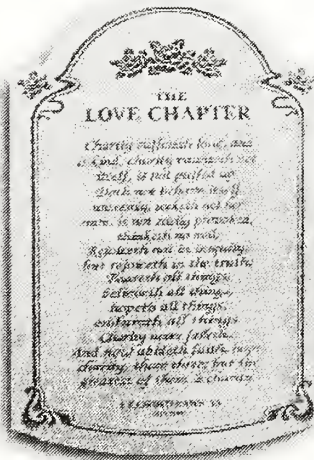
Thanksgiving Services Held

Carved Cherry Tablets



Measuring 16" x 26" this wall hanging is suitable for the home, office, church, or school. Available in either light or dark cherry.

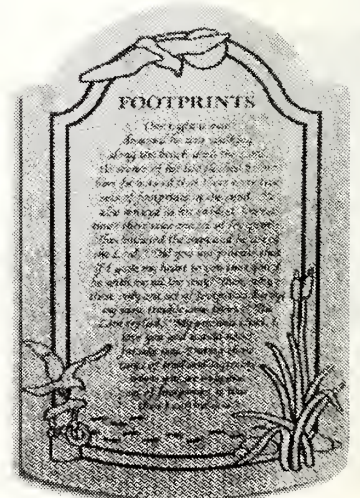
\$130.00



8 Tablets to choose from:

The Ten Commandments, The Lord's Prayer, Footprints, Psalm 23, The Love Chapter, 2 Chronicles 7:14, The Serenity Prayer, and Psalm 37:4-5.

For more information or to place an order call The Free Will Baptist Press at 1-800-849-3927 or visit one of our four local bookstores Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, Wilson



People & Events

Happenings Throughout the Denomination



Powhatan News

submitted by Rita O. Jones

Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC, had a group of 19 in attendance at the Cape Fear District youth rally at Tee's Chapel on February 5. It was good to see three of our youth officers representing our church as district officers. They all did a great job assisting with the program and the "Scripture scramble." The banner for youth runnerup came back with our group. It was nice to make it to the rally since travel had been limited the last half of January because of all the snow. Preparations for the spring youth competitions also suffered a slowdown from which we hope we are able to recover.

Senior citizens were presented with "goodie bags" containing gifts from the Kemery Ard class in bags prepared and hand decorated by the youth. The presentation was made on February 13 during the morning service as a Valentine's Day remembrance.

Congratulations to our two new trustees — J. E. Barbour and Bill Evans. We thank them for being willing to take on the duties of helping handle the business of the church.

Thank you to all who supported the youth in the candy sale to help raise camp funds. Linda Bunn, wife of Deacon Aubrey Bunn, was our top seller.

The Youth group enjoyed a visit to Tippet's Chapel on February 20 to view the video program, "She said yes." It told the story of the young girl murdered in the Columbine shooting who was asked if she believed in God. It was a touching

tribute to the teen who had turned her own life around and was not afraid to die for her faith. The congregation was left with the question — would we be as strong in our faith in the face of death?

Spring Revival is being held at Powhatan the week of April 17–21 with guest speaker, the Rev. Lewis Godwin. We look forward to a blessing and invite all to join us during the week.

In Memoriam:

Member Lillian Nichols Dupree, 89, died Monday, January 24. She is survived by four daughters, one son, a brother and sister, 16 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Please remember the family during this time.

The Rev. W. Atlas Hogg, May 20, 1919 to March 3, 2000. The Rev. Hogg proudly served his country for five years in the South Pacific during World War II, a survivor of four units during the service to his country. Married to his surviving widow Irene Jones Hogg in 1950, he went on to be the Lord's servant as Associate Pastor at Powhatan Church and Pastor of Faith Church for five years. He has been greatly loved and will be dearly missed by family and friends. Rev. Hogg is also survived by his brother, Edward Hogg.

Nova Benson Hogg, 90, died Sunday, March 12. Mrs. Hogg was preceded in death by her husband, Roy and son, Roy B. "Tommy" Hogg. She is survived by three daughters and one son, two sisters, and brother, the Rev. Swade Benson of Clayton; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren.

Baptismal Service at Wildwood

by Douglas Jetter, Church Clerk

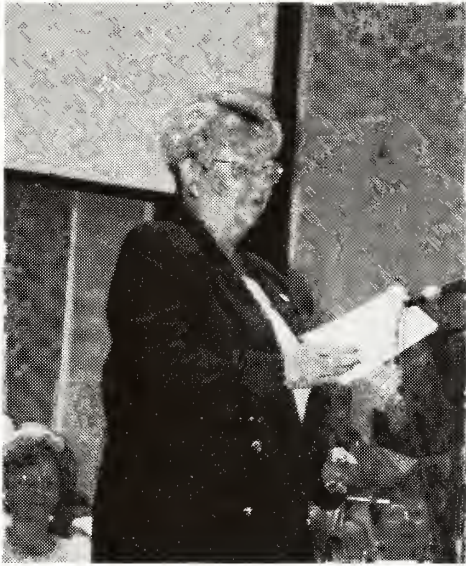
On February 13, 2000 there was a large congregation turnout in addition to many guests at the Wildwood Free Will Baptist Church, Garner, North Carolina.

Pastor Eddie Franks' enlightening sermon was titled "Why was Jesus baptized?" At the close of the sermon fifteen people were baptized by the Rev. Franks and his associate pastor, Doug Sanders.

"Our church is steadily growing in all regards, and has a wonderful active young people's group. God has truly blessed us at Wildwood and to Him be all the glory."

People & Events

Life Membership Award



Linda Davis receiving her Life Membership Certificate and Life Award Pin.

February 27, 2000 was observed as "Woman's Auxiliary Sunday" at First Free Will Baptist Church of Wilson, NC, with the members of the Woman's Auxiliary in charge of the worship services. This has been a tradition for the past thirteen years on the fourth Sunday in February. A special part of the service is the presentation of a Life Membership Award to a deserving member of the Woman's Auxiliary for her commitment and outstanding services. Eunice Boykin, past president of the Woman's Auxiliary and a standing member of the Life Award Committee, made the following presentation to Linda Davis, this year's recipient.

"When the Life Award Committee met, we did not select a woman at random. Nothing was decided hurriedly. After much prayer and discussion we always came back to one person. This person is not a stranger to any of you. Besides her commitment to the Woman's Auxiliary she is committed to her church. Years ago she was on the committee to raise money when we purchased our first church van. She has been director of Children's Church, the director of Vacation Bible School several

times, and has been a youth leader as well as a den mother for Cub Scouts. Most recently she served on the Building Committee helping to choose the furnishings for our new church. Since 1986 she has been active in the Woman's Auxiliary. She has co-chaired projects to help raise money for our church and denominational ministries. She has helped with socials, showers and other activities that the Woman's Auxiliary sponsored.

In 1995 she was elected and installed as president of the Woman's Auxiliary, a position she held for four (4) years. She served with dignity and commitment. She also brought interesting ideas to the Woman's Auxiliary. During her tenure as president the auxiliary retained its A-1 status which we have held since 1986. The auxiliary bought baptismal robes, gave \$1,000 to Cragmont for the After-Jubilee Drive and completed a pledge to Home Missions for Harvest 2000 in the amount of \$800.00. She started an annual prayer breakfast for the auxiliary. She encouraged attendance at the circle and auxiliary meetings as well as encouraging attendance at the District and State Conventions of the Woman's Auxiliary. It is impossible to mention everything she has done. Leading the Woman's Auxiliary while

holding a full-time position as office manager at Eastern Carolina Pediatrics and being a wife, mother, and grandmother is quite an accomplishment.

At the present time she is on the executive committee serving as chairman of the Minister's Program. She has started remembering three (3) widows of ministers who were ordained from First Free Will Baptist Church on birthdays and special occasions. She is co-chairman of her circle. She unselfishly takes time to remember others by sending cards, visiting or making telephone calls especially to seniors who are alone.

Linda Davis is married to Harold Davis. They have two sons, Brian and Greg, a daughter-in-law, Amanda, and a granddaughter, Emily. Linda is the daughter of L. J. and Carlie Moore and the daughter-in-law of Hoover and Mildred Davis. They are all here today and I know they are proud of her."

Husband, Harold David, escorted Linda Davis to the podium to receive her Life Membership Certificate and Life Award Pin. Mrs. Boykin thanked Linda for her leadership and dedication and for being such a thoughtful, special person. Linda received a well-deserved standing ovation from the congregation.

*Cape Fear
Woman's Auxiliary
April 1, 2000
St. Paul
Free Will Baptist Church
Newton Grove,
North Carolina
9:00 AM
Topic:
Experiencing God*

Spring Revival Scheduled

Hillside Original Free Will Baptist Church, Grifton, NC, announces revival services, April 10-12, 2000. Services will begin at 7:30 each evening. The speaker for these services will be the Rev. Leon Grubbs, pastor of Hull Road Original Free Will Baptist Church. The Rev. Eldon Brock is pastor of Hillside.

Western District

Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Little Rock Free Will Baptist Church

Lucama, North Carolina

April 5, 2000

Theme: Jesus, More Than the Baby in the Manger
 Scripture: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel, which translated means, 'God with Us'" (Matthew 1:23).

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Hymn "The Light of the World is Jesus"
 Devotion: Psalm 8:1, 95:6;
 Philippians 2:9
 Welcome Esther Barnes
 President's Remarks Bettie Lynch
- 9:50 Hymn "O How I Love Jesus"
 Convention Offering
 Denominational Ministries
 Youth Report
 Promotion of the Women's Auxiliary Jean Ackiss
- 10:40 Memorial Service Brenda Owens
 Business Session
- 11:00 Break
- 11:20 Hymn "I Love To Tell The Story"
 Lifetime Award
 Special Music Cynthia Winborne
 Convention Message Martha S. Grady
 Benediction and Blessing Dr. De Wayne Eakes
- 12:30 Lunch

Cape Fear Union Meets April 29

Due to inclement weather, the January 29, 2000 Union was canceled. The next Union will be April 29, 2000, at 9:00 AM. The host church will be Tee's Chapel, located 6 1/2 miles east of Smithfield, NC on Brogden Road. The Rev. Dennis Pollard, pastor of Tee's Chapel, will bring the morning message. Immediately following the Union, lunch will be served by the host church.

All Cape Fear Conferences churches and pastors are encouraged to attend.

**CHURCHES &
 MINISTERS AVAILABLE**

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The Rev. Jerry Rowe is available for pastoral work (within reasonable driving distance). He may be contacted at 138 Pearson Circle, Newport, NC 28570, phone 252-393-8890.

Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church is currently seeking a new pastor. The church and parsonage are located on Highway 32, 6 miles south of Plymouth, NC. If you are considering relocating to a new area, we would like to talk to you about coming to Union Chapel. Contact Chuck Whitford at 252-793-2900.

Registration Form

Cragmont Woman's Conference

Morning Star — April 28-30, 2000

Speaker: Kathy Hayes

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____ Church _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: _____
 Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:
 Teresa M. Ball
 6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
 Grifton, NC 28530
 A balance of \$30.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

People & Events

To All Ministers of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

The Executive Committee of the Ministerial Association of Original Free Will Baptists wishes to invite you to attend the Annual Minister's Conference at Cragmont Assembly on May 22-25, 2000. If you plan to attend, please fill in the pre-registration form below. The cost of the pre-registration is \$35.00 per person. This will cover your registration and the cost of a picture for the week. We have planned a very special program this year that includes Dr. William Bennett, so be sure and make every effort to attend.

Make all checks payable to **North Carolina Ministerial Association** and mail your money and form to:

Doug Skinner
817 Lynn Road
Durham, NC 27703

Please return this form by May 12, 2000

Pre-registration for Minister's Conference May 22-25, 2000

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please indicate the building you prefer. Rooms will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis!

_____ Main Building _____ Motel

_____ Floyd House _____ Dorm

_____ I will be staying off campus

Do you have an existing health problem that would prevent you from being on the second floor of the Main Building?

Yes _____ No _____

Please indicate in the space below those with whom you wish to room with if you will be staying in the Main Building or the Motel:

Please Note: All wives who stay on campus will room in the dorm behind the dining hall. _____ Check here if your wife will be staying on campus.

If you are unable to attend our Conference this year and you wish to join our Ministerial Association or renew your membership, please send \$30 membership fees to: Doug Skinner, 817 Lynn Road, Durham, NC 27703.

Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

May 19-21, 2000

Mount Olive College
Theme: **Players For Life**
Schedule of Events

May 19, 2000 — Friday

- 5:00 Registration
7:00 Introduction/Skit by Convention Officers,
Representative's and Stuart Hall
Invocation
Praise and Worship
Announcements
Devotions — Stuart Hall
Talent Exposition — James Cahoon and Brandon
Jenkins
Announcements
Benediction
Dismissal
10:00 Evening Devotions
Cherubs — Gracie Jones — Hart Lounge
AFC — Frankie Baggett — Music Suite
YFA — Stuart Hall — Hennessee Room
Adults — Becky Jo Sumner — Rodgers Chapel
12:00 Good night everyone

May 20, 2000 — Saturday

- 7:30 Breakfast (7:30-8:30)
8:00 Late Registration
9:00 Praise and Worship
Invocation
Devotions — Stuart Hall
Announcements
Business Session
• Minutes
• Treasurer's Report
• Old Business — Presentation of Project
• New Business — Announcements, New Project,
Election of 2000-2001 Representatives
• Skit of Officer's, Representatives & Stuart Hall
• League — Exposition
• Bible Bowl Exposition
Announcements
11:00 Lesson Presentation — Hennessee Room
Public Speaking — Rodgers Chapel
12:30 Lunch (12:30 - 1:30)
1:45 Information Sessions (1:45-2:15)
• Ages 6-11 with Brother Harold Jones and
Brother Al Markuson

cont....

Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, cont....

- Ages 12 up (Young Ladies)
with Woman's Auxiliary Representative
- Ages 12 up (Young Men)
with Elmer Harrell
- 2:20 Praise and Worship
Stuart Hall
- 3:00 Instruction
- 3:10 Fun Time with Western District
- 5:00 Bath Time
- 6:00 Dinner Time — In Murphy Center
Menu — Fried Chicken, creamed potatoes, a
vegetable, roll, and drink
Desserts furnished by Woman's Auxiliary
- 7:45 "Winners Circle"
Skit by Officers, Representative's and Stuart Hall
Installation of Officers and Representative's

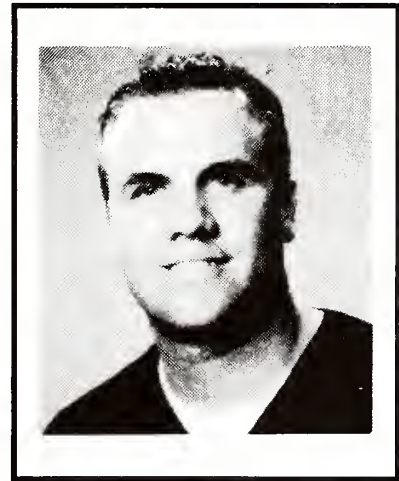
- 10:00 Devotions
 - Cherubs — Gracie Jones — Hart Lounge
 - AFC — Stuart Hall — Music Suite
 - YFA — Frankie Baggett — Hennessee Room
 - Adult — Becky Jo Sumner — Rodgers Chapel

May 21, 2000 — Sunday Morning

- 7:30 Breakfast Murphy Center (7:30–8:30)
- 9:30 Worship Service — Stuart Hall in Rodgers Chapel
- 11:00 Clean Up and Check Out
- 12:00 Lunch available — Murphy Center
- Good bye until 2001



Passion Visionary Leader Communicator



These are the words used by some of the greatest leaders in Christianity today to describe Stuart Hall. Combining a passion for those who need to know Jesus Christ personally and a vision to see students become the leaders God created them to be, Stuart Hall is making a mark in the lives of students across America. Stuart believes strongly in empowering students to reach their friends, and his unique blend of humor and powerful application makes him one of America's best student communicators.

A high school football and basketball standout, Stuart gave his life to Jesus Christ at the age of nineteen after a freshman year at the University of Alabama that saw him injured and unable to play basketball. He transferred to Mobile College and was a member of the GCAC and District 31 championship team that finished 31–3 and ranked 12th in America. During that year, through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Stuart began to speak and minister to middle school and high school students. "God broke my heart for teenagers and gave me an insatiable passion to see them fulfill their purpose in life. That purpose is to know God and to make Him known," he says, "And life is futile until we understand and live in that realization."

In October of 1997, Stuart and his family accepted God's call on their lives to become Director of Student Leadership for Reach Out Youth Solutions. Stuart has quickly become a much sought after camp, conference, and public school assembly communicator, and his focus and passion in these environments is to motivate, challenge, and equip students to become spiritually influential. He believes that depth of character and intimacy with God is the crucial trait for width of personal spiritual influence. He is in the process of authoring several books that will motivate and equip students to become spiritually influential.

People & Events

General Information for Youth Convention 2000

- Complete and return form by May 1, 2000.
- Guests need to bring their own pillows, blankets, linens, bath cloths, towels, soap, casual and dress clothes, beach towel, athletic equipment, money for meals and snacks, Bible, notebooks, and pen or pencil.
- Meals must be purchased on Friday from 5:00 to 9:00 PM and on Saturday from 8:30 to 9:00 AM. All Banquet tickets must be purchased by May 1, 2000. Meals Cost: Breakfast — \$3.00; Lunch — \$5.00; Banquet — \$6.00. Sunday Buffet will be provided for \$5.95 per person.
- Registration fee is \$50.00 per church.
- Send all Registration Forms and Fees to:
Karen Ribeiro
3623 Frog Level Road, Greenville, NC 27834
252-321-8875
- Send all Project Money to:
Martha Parsons
2317 Bayside Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28306-8803
910-438-9299

LODGING

FRIDAY		SATURDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
<i>Males</i>		<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Females</i>	
Leaders	___ x \$8 = ___	Leaders	___ x \$8 = ___	Leaders	___ x \$8 = ___	Leaders	___ x \$8 = ___
Cherubs	___ x \$8 = ___	Cherubs	___ x \$8 = ___	Cherubs	___ x \$8 = ___	Cherubs	___ x \$8 = ___
AFCs	___ x \$8 = ___	AFCs	___ x \$8 = ___	AFCs	___ x \$8 = ___	AFCs	___ x \$8 = ___
YFAs	___ x \$8 = ___	YFAs	___ x \$8 = ___	YFAs	___ x \$8 = ___	YFAs	___ x \$8 = ___

MEALS

Saturday Breakfast	___ x \$3.00 = ___
Saturday Lunch	___ x \$5.00 = ___
Sunday Breakfast	___ x \$3.00 = ___
Banquet Tickets	___ x \$6.00 = ___

Total Lodging	\$ _____
Total Meals	\$ _____
Total Banquet Tickets	\$ _____
Registration	\$ 50.00
Total Amount Enclosed	\$ _____

No Refunds • Make all Checks Payable to: Youth Convention of OFWB

Church: _____ District: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone:(_____) _____ Work Phone: (_____) _____

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CHRISTIAN ART REVIEWS

by Michael G. Warning,

Pastor Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Sea Level, NC



Rev. Michael G. Warning

Source: *The Last Supper* by Master of the Reredos of the Chapel of the Church of S. Francisco Devora (Portuguese 15th century). From Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, Lisbon. In Richard Mühlberger, *The Bible in Art: The New Testament*. New York: Portland House, 1990, p. 115.

Introduction

Although there are hundreds of paintings and images of the Last Supper, each one is unique in its interpretation of the description from the Gospel (John 13:21–26). This interpretation highlights the moment when Jesus says, “One of you shall betray me.” Who is the betrayer? As John asks this, he collapses upon the table. Herein lies the centrality of this 15th century Portuguese interpretation in the Church of S. Francisco Devora.

Artistic Style

The detail we are seeing is the central portion of the painting which focuses upon Jesus and His act of instituting the communion. The cup like the frame of the total painting is gold, gothic, and elaborate. The cup is full and mimics the form of John’s halo with its gold rim. Behind this depiction of Jesus is a detailed gothic tapestry with a floral arabesque design, also utilizing a large amount of gold in its background. The upper room is not a simple rustic scene but resembles a banquet hall in the early time of the Renaissance. The elaborate tiles in the floor (not seen in this detail but in the larger painting) also reflect the 16th century Renaissance style.

Symbolism

The simple robe of Jesus reflects the artist’s desire to show the simplicity of the life of Christ as well as the Renaissance fascination with folded material, as if the life of Christ had many layers. In the right hand of Christ is a piece of bread which He is offering to the one who will betray Him (Judas Iscariot). This is the answer to John’s question, “Who is it?”

In the midst of this Passover meal (Last Supper) Jesus is offering the Bread of Life even to the betrayer. The scene is also foreshadowing Jesus’s own broken body being offered as the Bread of Life to all, even to those who betray Him.

In the left hand of Jesus the sign of the trinity is made with His thumb and His two fingers around the cup. This cup is *full* symbolizing it is about to be offered and there is plenty for everyone.

Also in a pewter basin is the Paschal Lamb hearkening back to references of the lamb slain for the protection of the Israelites during the plagues in Egypt. It is in a shallow pewter basin and there is a ring of lemon on the side, symbolic of the acid or bitterness of bondage in Egypt for the Israelites. It is also the symbol for the Christian of the bitter sorrow of the Crucifixion.

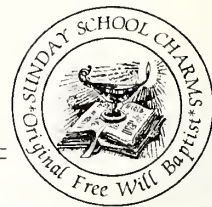
Conclusion

The image portrayed in this communion painting shows not only the typical element of style and expression of its times but it also speaks to our time. For as John collapses upon the table we too collapse in our conception of the world as we realize that our salvation is not something that we can necessarily work out on our own. A loving, willing sacrifice of God in this theology is required. And as the bread is offered to Judas who would betray Christ, the bread is also offered to us even as we have betrayed that which Jesus has instructed us to do. In the communion exists both the sacrifice and the penitent potential or the sacrifice and the redemption. This painting reflects both even in this small portion of the larger work.



Sunday School Charms

Hints and Ideas for Sunday School Growth



Were You There...

...at Rodgers Chapel on Friday night, March 3 for the Sunday School Institute Dedication Service?

If you were, then you participated in the praise service led by the Rev. Craig Simmons, pastor of St. Mary's Church, New Bern, NC. You also witnessed a master teacher at work. He was Dr. Danny McPherson, teacher for the adult Sunday school class at Beaverdam Church with an average membership of 200. Those present prayed for all Free Will Baptists worldwide, all eleven denominational ministries with emphasis on the Sunday School Ministry and its annual Institute. The service was informal and inspirational, leaving the worshippers with a stronger sense of the presence of God in their lives than when they arrived.



Were You There...

...on Saturday morning, March 4 at Mount Olive College for the annual Sunday School Institute?

If you were, you witnessed over 350 people gathering to be a part of 14 workshops/seminars on topics ranging from Ministering to Early Childhood to Ministering to Senior Citizens, from Making Effective Presentations to Introduction to American Sign Language, from Leadership/Ethical Conduct to the Church and the Law. The presenters were extremely knowledgeable in their subject areas. Sixty-three churches were represented in the number with thirty-four churches completing 110 activities during the month of February to promote Sunday School. Whaley's Chapel Church grew gasps when it was announced that they had completed 12 activities. No wonder the Original Free Will Baptist Sunday schools are growing! During the arrival time and lunch time, piano music was beautifully rendered by Mr. Trey Sloan, a student at South Lenior High School and member of Deep Run Church. Furthermore, young ladies from Westside Church and Sarecta Church displayed their talent with song. A group of talented young people from St. Paul, Elizabeth City, performed an uplifting routine choreographed with music and sticks. The spectators were very impressed with the display of talent. Also, Mr. Elwood Hill was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the Sunday School Ministry for his 15 years of service as treasurer of the Board. The Free Will Baptist Press was again represented by bringing a Mini-bookstore to the campus. Mrs. Lexine Davis and Mr. Darren Davenport very capably shared their concern for Christian Education by bringing many goods to enhance the local church efforts.



If you were not present at the Sunday School Institute this year to Celebrate Sunday Schools in the year 2000 as we accept the Call to the Harvest, perhaps you remembered the work of the Sunday Schools in your prayers. As we hear on so many radio and television programs, keep tuned for upcoming events. If the Sunday School Ministry can be of any help to you in your local church, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Mary Dudley at the Original Free Will Baptist Headquarters, (252) 746-4963 or at home (252) 568-3311.

DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Dr. L. C. Turner III. *Dentistry: From Dummy To Genius*. Mount Olive: Mount Olive College Press, 1998. \$9.95.

Introduction

Dr. L. C. Turner III has written a short book loaded with dental questions and answers. This 80-page spread gives a clear overview of dental issues, so that a person might have a more comprehensive understanding about the 32 teeth most have. His categories of discussion move from baby teeth to permanent teeth, from dental exams to tooth decay, from crowns, fillings, and implants to sealants, from TMJ problems to antibiotic prophylaxis. After reading the sharp

questions and succinct answers, readers might move from being downright dummies to what-do-you-know geniuses.

Teeth: Baby, Permanent, Crowns, Implants

Dr. Turner's informative book presents questions all of us have before we go to the dentist. For examples, "Why do I need to get my child's baby teeth filled?" Dr. Turner answers: "Tooth decay can cause a toothache or even an abscessed tooth if it is not restored. A decayed tooth can also cause space loss" (10). An adult may ask: "Why can't I just have my tooth filled instead of having it crowned?" Dr. Turner answers: "A crown is done when the tooth needs the support of the restorative material. It is a long-term solution to the problem" (57).

Discussions on implants as a "relatively new way of replacing missing teeth" (63) are professionally illustrated by graphic artist, Jerry Goff. Dr. Turner describes an implant as "a metal device about the size of an average size capsule (pill) that is either screwed or tapped into the jawbone after a small hole has been drilled in the bone to receive it" (63).

Problems: Decay, TMJ, Sensitivity, Periodontal Disease

Dr. Turner does not hesitate to describe the problems many have which lead them to hasten to their dentist. What is tooth decay anyway? Don't people go to dentists when they hurt from tooth decay? Hopefully. Dr. Turner notes: "Tooth decay occurs when a tooth breaks down or softens as a result of not keeping it as clean as possible" (28). The decay may plow its way through the outer shell and move through the dentin. When it reaches the pulp or the nerve of the tooth, "a major toothache can occur" (28).

A TMJ problem may occur within the temporomandibular joint, with the muscles, or to occlusion. Dr. Turner notes: "The most frequent symptoms of a TMJ problem include jaws that click or pop when opened or when moved from side to side."

Some people suffer from tooth sensitivity. Dr. Turner explains: "If your sensitivity is of one tooth (not generalized), you may be dealing with a fracture, an abscessing tooth, a bite problem, recession or some other problem involving a specific tooth" (30).

Periodontal disease is gum disease, caused by "bacteria that live in the mouth" (33). Other factors may cause the disease such as heredity, "uncontrolled diabetes, leukemia, AIDS, stress, a poor diet, and the use of all kinds of tobacco products" (33).

Cosmetic Dentistry

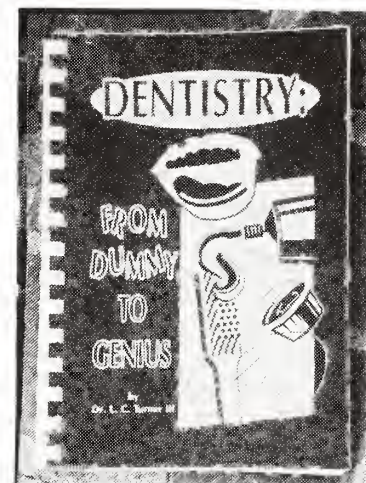
Believe it or not, a dentist can work on your teeth for cosmetic reasons as well as health reasons. Cosmetic reasons? You bet. Dr. Turner tells us about bleaching teeth to make them whiter. Bonding procedures are used to bond tooth-colored materials to teeth which in turn may change "the shape and size and create great smiles" (68).

Conclusion

Other issues in dentistry appear in this little book of knowledge. Children and adults alike will enjoy the bold typed questions and the short, pithy answers. Dr. Turner intends to make his readers transform from know nothings to know-it-alls in 80 pages.

He also intends to stress the necessity of flossing as well as brushing. For him, prevention is the key to good dental health. He declares: "If you brush and floss daily and see your dentist regularly, you will stay out of trouble. Remember: for your general health — walk daily, and for your dental health — floss daily. Walk and floss. Walknflos — a great new word to remember for your total health" (79).

Right on.



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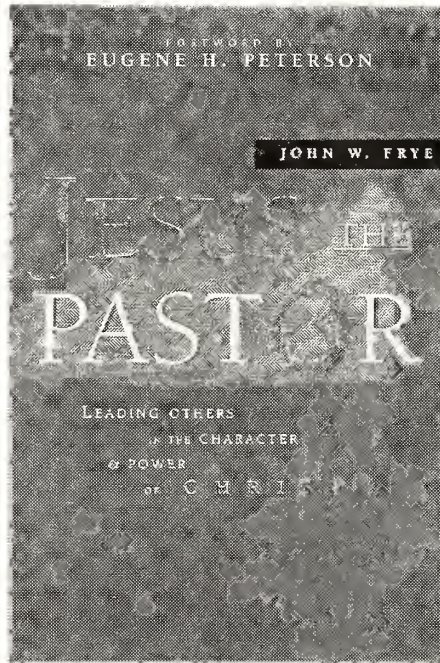
MORE JESUS LESS RELIGION

MOVING FROM RULES TO RELATIONSHIP

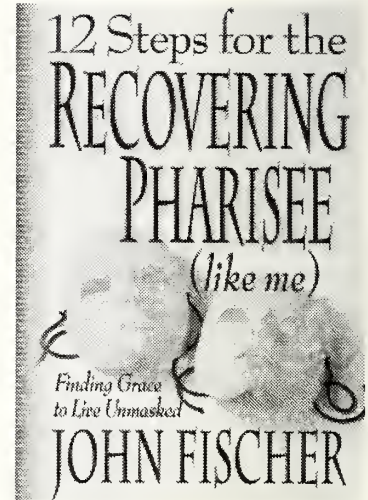
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The Free Will Baptist

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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST



MAY 2000



FEATURING:

.....

*Free Will
Baptists Lose
Prominent
Minister*

.....

Passages

.....

*God Didn't
Ask Me!*

.....

Some Personal Reflections

In January of 1993, the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church presented to me a plaque "in recognition of 40 years of service to the cause of Christ and to the Original Free Will Baptist Church as an ordained minister." Needless to say, I was honored and proud to be so recognized. I cherished the occasion and the thoughtfulness of the church (at that time I was serving as its pastor). I was ordained to the gospel ministry in August of 1952, so within about three months I will complete 48 years of ministry to our Lord and to my denomination.

Late in each one's life the question of "how much longer?" is considered. In secular work, retirement looms after about 30 years of devotion to a job or vocation. One then has the choice of retiring from years of day-by-day routine and refocusing on a part-time job or literally becoming a person of leisure. As a society, however, we have discovered the benefits of remaining active, that few can actually "cut loose" and do nothing; as is said, "Retirement requires some planning." Each person, regardless of age, finds an inner satisfaction in involvement, with the feeling that each day something creative and important awaits. For the retiree, it may be the accomplishment of a long, postponed task. It may be involvement in a favorite hobby, or rendering greater time and service to the work of the church, or hundreds of other things that one has always wanted to do, but never had the time. Thus, with good health, there is no reason to suddenly stop all meaningful activities, fold our hands, and let the rest of the world go by.

In the past few years, I have asked myself, "How much longer?" Frankly, at this point in my life, I do not have the answer, but one day it will come. In February of 1997, I returned to the editorship of the Free Will Baptist Press after an absence of 28 years. It was not what I had planned. It was, I believe, what the Lord wanted of me; it was His will. And so it has been in my life since the last night of 1949 when I fully surrendered my all to Him. Three weeks later I was leaving all things behind to enter my educational journey in preparation for the ministry. Although I completed four years and received my hard-earned degree, I have never completed my education, for there is always something new to study and something new to learn.

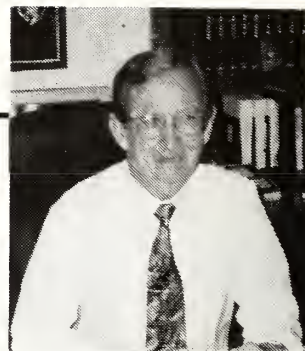
Throughout these 48 years, the Lord has opened

many doors of service — various pastorates, appointment and election to various offices and committees, public school teaching, Convention promotional work, and the editorship of the Free Will Baptist Press. In all major decisions and opportunities, I did not seek them; they were presented to me. I had to decide, under His leadership, what was right for me. The decision has not always come easy. Have I always made the right choice? Have I always acted or reacted properly? Have there been mistakes? Yes indeed to all the above. Since these are my personal reflections, there are some things I would do differently if given the opportunity; however, such is not possible. On the other hand, the vast majority of the events and decisions in my life I would not change if I could because they are as God designed.

Psalm 37:23 states: "The steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord: and he delighteth in his way." We all like to think that our steps — our lives — are in keeping with His will, that where we are serving is exactly where He would have us to serve. Such is my conviction, that this is exactly where I should be. For how long? He knows. Meanwhile, I will relish the inner satisfaction in what I am doing. We realize, however, that all accomplishments are the result of the Lord's leadership and blessings, along with the help of my co-workers, and with the support of Original Free Will Baptists. In spite of our imperfections, He has honored our efforts in many ways.

I have always felt that the ministry of the Free Will Baptist Press to be one of the most important ministries in our denomination. I still believe this. Its long history of service to the Kingdom of God, and especially its service to Free Will Baptists, bears evidence to its importance. I believe, therefore, that it merits the support of all our churches. It is ours. When we turn to the services of the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, we are supporting a ministry within our own family.

In the September '98 editorial, we wrote: "...lives have been touched and changed because of the ministry of the Free Will Baptist Press," thus "...fashioning a denomination, a people who love their Lord and their church."



C. H. Overman

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All materials for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor thirty days prior to the publication date of that issue. Items for publication should be addressed to the Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159.

All subscriptions are payable in advance: one year, \$10.07; two years, \$18.55; four years, \$36.04 (including sales tax for North Carolina residents); residents of other states, \$9.50, \$17.50, and \$34, respectively (plus sales tax where it applies). **Every-Family Plan:** A 25 percent discount given when local churches send *The Free Will Baptist* to the home of every member; names and addresses to be provided by churches. Churches are billed quarterly. **Bundle Plan:** Lots of 25 or more copies of *The Free Will Baptist* are sent to one individual who in turn distributes these. A 50 percent discount is offered under this plan.

Bookstore Hours: Ayden, 9 AM-5 PM, Monday-Saturday; Wilson, 10 AM-6 PM, Monday-Saturday; New Bern and Kinston, 9:30 AM-5 PM, Monday-Saturday.

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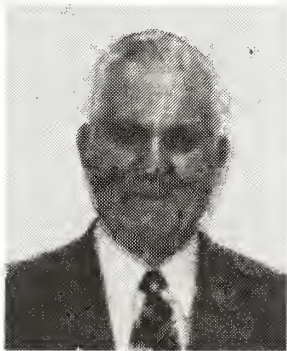
NEXT MONTH

*June is
Cragmont Assembly
Month*

*May is
Free Will Baptist
Children's Home Month*

Free Will Baptists Lose Prominent Minister

A Tribute and Memorial to the Late Rev. James B. "Billy" Hardee



The Late Rev. James
B. "Billy" Hardee

All who knew the Rev. Billy Hardee fully understood the significance of the service that was held on Monday, April 3, 2000, entitled, "A Service in Celebration of the Life of the Rev. James B. 'Billy' Hardee." It was what we commonly call a "funeral service," but it was much more simply because of the caliber of this servant of the Lord who touched the lives of so many during the course of his sojourn on this earth.

The Rev. Billy Hardee was born February 6, 1931. He was married to Miss Nancy Ward on March 30, 1951. Two children were born to this marriage — Devona and Darrell, and five grandchildren.

Billy Hardee gave his life to Jesus Christ in April of 1953 during an old-fashioned tent revival near Camp Lajeune, NC. He joined Cypress Creek Free Will Baptist Church. He was called into the gospel ministry and was licensed as a minister in 1954. Thus began a great life of service for the Lord.

His denominational service was far reaching. Within the bounds of the Pee Dee

Association he served as moderator from 1959 through 1977 and as a member of the Ordaining Council from 1977 until his passing. He had also served as moderator of Union Meeting No. One since 1985.

He willingly devoted much of his time serving on various boards and committees of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, as follows: the Free Will Baptist Children's Home Board for 18 years, and served as chairman for a number of years; the Free Will Baptist Retirement Home Board since 1974, also served as chairman; the Free Will Baptist Press Board of Directors for more than 24 years, having served as President of the Board of Directors and President Emeritus; he was president of the North Carolina Ministerial Association for four years; also, a member of the Board of Directors of Carolina Bible Institute.

Regarding service to his community, he became the Chaplain at Bladen County Hospital in 1980, faithfully serving as long as he was able. He was awarded the Governors Award for Civic Service in September of 1991 by Governor Martin.

The service in celebration of the life of Billy Hardee served as a reminder of the character and personality possessed by this servant of God. The service was held at Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church where he faithfully served for so many years. Participating ministers were Dr. Earl Farthing who worked with the Rev. Hardee in chaplaincy work at the hospital; the Rev. Garland Suggs, pastor of Mount Calvary Church; Dr. David C. Hansley, General Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. Testimony in music was rendered by Mr. Dean Gore and Mrs. Mary Dowless. Each speaker shared insight and instances revealing the impact of the ministry of Mr. Hardee as a pastor, denominational worker, community worker, and one deeply devoted to his family. It was stated that he

cont....

His pastorates included:

- 1955 *In July, he was called as pastor to Mt. Calvary Church subject ordination. This was a part-time position.*
- 1955 *In October, he was ordained at Oak Grove Church.*
- 1956 *He added Pine Level Church and Mission Valley Church on a part-time basis. This gave him three churches to pastor. He spent half of his time at Mt. Calvary and divided the rest of his time between Pine Level and Misison Valley.*
- 1958 *He became the pastor at Oak Grove Church part-time.*
- 1959 *He became the pastor at Little Bethel Church part-time.*
- 1963 *He became the pastor at Mt. Olive Church part-time.*
- 1973 *He went back to Mt. Calvary and served part-time there and at Oak Grove.*
- 1975 *He became the full-time pastor at Oak Grove, serving until his death.*

Passages

Major Transitions of Life

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus
Mount Olive College

*"He [God] has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men,"
(Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV).*

We go through most of our years thinking of life in terms of the future. Although we may have an occasional bumpy ride in our health, experience financial problems, or even go through broken relationships, we feel that in time we will work through these impasses. Our eyes are on the future and we believe that whatever difficulties we face today can be overcome tomorrow.

Passage in Time

At some point, however, it dawns upon us that the time before us is less than the time behind us. We have passed that mystical line that divides the first half of life from the second half. At noon the morning ends and the evening begins. This truth applies not only to timepieces but also to our lives.

The passage comes sooner than we think. If the average life expectancy in the United States is seventy-seven years, then we cross the halfway line when we are less than forty years old. "To live is to grow old," wrote the late Dr. Paul Tournier in his excellent book, *Learn to Grow Old*.

Our culture glorifies youth but tends to stigmatize age. With our emphasis on

education from kindergarten through college, we seek to prepare our children for the passage from childhood to adulthood, but our society does far less to prepare citizens for the equally significant passage of their senior years. Yet, both transitions represent traumatic physical, psychological, social, financial, and spiritual passages in life.

From a *physical point of view*, the child seeks to learn how to take care of himself so that he can become independent of his parents. Developing the ability to feed and dress himself and to go unattended to the bathroom are achievements of great pride for children. For the elderly, retaining this physical independence is as important as it was to attain it in childhood. People can feel dehumanized if their health declines to the point they have to depend upon their children or anyone else to do for them what their parents once did.

Psychologically, the child finds security in his relationship with his mother and father. To become homesick, which is basically caused by separation from one's parents — is a terrible experience. But regardless of our ages, we never outgrow our need for
cont....

A Tribute and Memorial to the Late Rev. James B. "Billy" Hardee, cont....

loved people and happily shared his time with many and nothing pleased him more than cooking and eating with friends. He always had a kind and encouraging word for others. Indeed, Original Free Will Baptists and the community around Elizabethtown have lost a faithful friend. Yet, we know the Rev. James B. "Billy" Hardee has entered into his rest in the presence of the Lord whom he so faithfully served. He was interred at Western Prong Cemetery in Whiteville.

Note:

On March 17, 2000, a Special Recognition Service for Brother Hardee was held at Mount Calvary Free Will Baptist Church. The pastor, the Rev. Garland Suggs, directed the service. Various speakers reflected on the ministry of the Rev. Hardee. A love offering was received in the amount of \$7000.00. After the service a reception was held in the fellowship hall of Mount Calvary Church. This was one of the last services Brother Billy was able to attend before his death.

Passages, cont....

emotional security. Older people seek this security in their spouse and with other adults whom they feel understand and love them. In all of literature, there is no cry more painful than that of the psalmist. "I have no refuge, no one cares for my life" (Psalm 142:4 NIV).

Socially, one of the most devastating experiences a child can have is to feel rejected by his peers. Consider how a boy feels when he is not chosen for the ball team or how a girl feels when she is not invited to a party. In like manner, one of the most painful experiences of older people is the feeling of being excluded and no longer being needed.

Financially, we spend the major part of our lives seeking resources for our livelihood. Since we know that each week or month there will be a pay check, we are not unduly anxious about having the necessities of life. In case of extreme needs or emergencies, there are usually alternatives for earning extra money or borrowing against future income. Older persons have the same need for living expenses, but their sense of financial security turns from what they are earning to their savings. They know that if they spend all the resources they have, there may be no way to replenish them.

Spiritually, the relationship we establish with God in our youth can determine the direction of our lives, including the choice of a vocation, our decision about marriage and the values by which we live. In the autumn years, we have to pull together all the threads of our past and weave them into the garment we will wear for the remainder of life. The task is not easy. Some of the threads may be broken or discolored, and the pattern can neither be bought nor borrowed; it must be our own.

Passage to the Golden Years

And so we come to our senior years and reach the final stage of our journey through life. We come to realize that time is limited, and we begin to view life not from our date of birth but by the years that might yet remain. We come to realize that there may not be enough time left to accomplish all

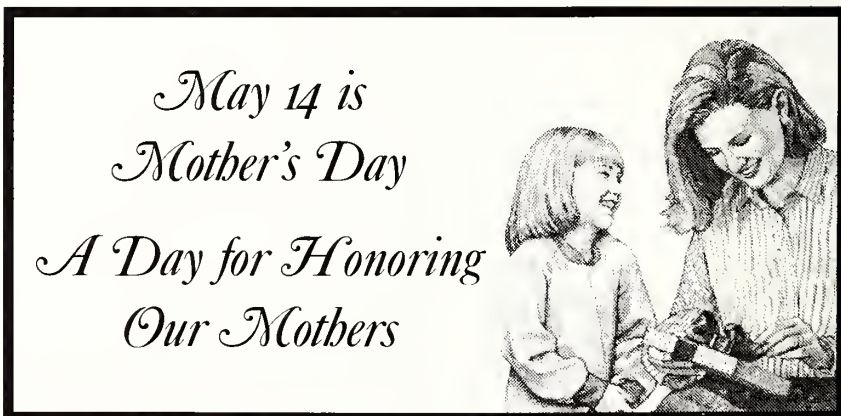
the things to which we have looked forward; therefore, we must give more thought to our priorities. An overview of life tells us that "the future is now," and that whatever we plan to do, now is the time to do it. An old Irish poem speaks clearly to us:

"Love while life shall last,
leave no tender word unspoken;
For the mill will never turn again
with water that has passed."

In our search for the best ways to spend the precious time we have left, time, health, family, and friends become our most valued assets. Meaning, more than the drive to get ahead and achieve man-made standards of success, becomes the standard by which we govern our lives.

The wisdom of the ages teaches us that "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die," (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2 NIV). In between the time of birth and the time of death, there is the ebb and flow of life with its contrasts and conflicts, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows, its victories and its defeats.

But regardless of how turbulent our experiences may be, our faith assures us that God has built order and permanence into our lives. We can look back and see that God has always gone before us; we can look up and know that he is always with us; and we can look ahead and know that, "...Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).



God Didn't Ask Me!

by Elaine Swinson

In my autumn years my extremely busy life leaves very little time for

wandering down the paths of "what might have been." There does, however, occasionally trickle a tiny stream of memory which touches my heart.

I am a pastor's wife, unique only in the fact that my identity is glued somewhere in obscurity. There really is no "me" or "I" in my existence because I belong totally to someone else named Jesus Christ. Twenty years ago "I" was standing at a pinnacle on the maintain of dreamland. "I" was married to a man I loved dearly and our future was full of soft little babies, a perfect home, regular salary increases, retirement, and growing old together. I conceded that there was a possibility of "pebbles" sending small ripples of disappointment here and there, but I was infallible and my armor could withstand those tiny things.

Raised to believe that a woman's place was at home with her children, I was secure in the fact that my college education was merely icing on the cake in case I decided that a career was something to be pursued after the children were grown and gone. God was a part of our lives, but "I" never thought He would interfere with "my" plans for the future. We went to church at all the right times, including Sunday and Wednesday nights. We both were active in leading the youth groups, teaching Sunday school and organizing Bible schools — model Christians, or so we thought!

Right smack in the middle of viewing my world with "rose-colored glasses," God suddenly took my devoted husband out behind the

woodshed and gave him something to think about. Specks of dust began to cover the lens of my "magic glasses" as the man, who was totally committed to be my soul mate for life, began to struggle with the gentle, but firm calling to give his life in service to Jesus Christ. Confused and completely unaware of why "I" seemed to lose first place in my husband's life, the pebbles I thought would come, turned into boulders crashing the waves around me. I seemed to be drowning and there seemed to be no life preserver available anywhere.

Days dragged into weeks and finally into months. You can believe there was no joy in "Mudville," for although I wasn't Casey up at bat, I was losing the ballgame of life to an unknown opponent. I was waiting for the straw to fall which would break the camels back when my young, loving husband made the ultimate decision to put our lives on hold and take up the cross of Jesus. His eyes, which had become clouded with some kind of internal pain, sparkled with joy, as he finally was able to share with me what God had asked him to do.

Both bewildered and relieved, I tried to absorb the impact of this announcement on my agenda. Somewhere from deep within, it suddenly occurred to me that God had not said one word to me about this decision to change the direction of mine and my husband's lives. Didn't He realize that it would affect me more than anyone else! Filled with bitterness for having to make what I considered a supreme sacrifice, I found a baby sitter and a job. This was to make it possible for my husband, whom I now had to share with everyone else, to go to college in order to complete the qualifications for being a Free Will Baptist minister.

Every single day I talked to God and asked Him why I had to give up my perfect life and live in a glass house. I argued with Him and pleaded with Him to carry us back to a time when I was the most important thing to my husband and when he had plenty of time to spend with the children and I. As I struggled along, I had the opportunity of hearing my husband preach one sermon after another. As a matter of fact, I didn't have the opportunity to hear anybody else but him preach for a long time. At first it was difficult for him to find all the right words, but it soon became evident that he truly had a message to tell. It reminded me of a small child learning to crawl, then walk, and finally to run.

My acceptance of God's will in my life did not come overnight. I came to realize that the sermons my husband preached were personal messages sent directly to my heart and soul from God. Slowly, but surely we began to grow a ministry together. You see, I found out that all my good work had been good for nothing, because I was not truly saved. I was just an enthusiastic church member, doing projects that made me feel good. Thank God for being so patient with me.

Each time my husband baptizes a new convert, I would like to think that somehow I have been a small part of making that possible by just being there when I am needed. Lots of times people cannot remember my name so I am introduced simply as the "Preacher's wife." I smile and remember that God not only knows my name, but He has a special place in heaven just for me. Any discomfort I may experience on earth doing His work, pales in comparison to the agony that Jesus Christ suffered for me on Calvary.

God and I occasionally discuss those difficult years. I am so glad that He never gave up on me because I wouldn't know how to be anybody else but the "Preacher's Wife."

Dates to Remember

- May 5** State Layman's League Convention. Host: Fremont Church, 106 W.S. St., Fremont. 6:45 PM meal, 7:30 PM business.
- May 15** Eastern Conference Layman's League. Host: Whaleys Chapel Church, Rt. 2, Box 482-A, Richlands. 6:45 PM meal, 7:30 PM business.
- June 1** Executive and Promotional Board meeting, 7:00 PM. VFW Building, Snow Hill.
- June 2 & 3** "Spiritual Life Retreat" Camp Vandemere. Come early Friday, fun and fishing, free Bar-B-Que supper at 6:00 PM; Friday night, June 2, Camp Time, bring your musical instruments, banjo's guitars, etc. for our "Sing Along" till bedtime. A good night's sleep at the camp, and then Saturday morning, June 3, an all new exciting "Spiritual Life Program" planned with many prizes. Going to be Spectacular. A perfect time to invite a friend to your Annual Layman's League outing. Bring your sons, we will have something for them too. Trampoline, swimming pool, slides, a golf putting contest, fishing pier and many other types of outside games to your desire. Also devotion time with 3 speakers you would hate to miss.
- June 5** Central Conference Layman's League. Host: Tarboro First Church, W. Hope Lodge St., Tarboro. 6:45 PM meal, 7:30 PM business.
- August 3** Executive & Promotional Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. VFW Building, Snow Hill.
- August 21** Eastern Conference Layman's League at Camp Vandemere, Vandemere, NC. 6:45 PM meal, 7:30 PM business.

The Layman's League...

Purpose:

(1) To bring men in the Free Will Baptist denomination together to promote fellowship and sharing; (2) to increase our knowledge and power in Christ Jesus; (3) to reach out and touch others for Christ; (4) to train and enhance our talents for the great calling of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; (5) to strengthen the spiritual fabric among all laymen in our denomination to worship and serve God in unity (1 Corinthians 16:13).

Goal:

To exalt Christ through the agencies which God is His providence has provided for the people making up the Free Will Baptist Church of North Carolina (Matthew 22:37).

Motto:

"World-wide Christian Soldiers marching as to War, with the cross and flag of Jesus going on before, throughout the world."

When you are faced with an emergency — Whom will you call?

Emergency Phone Numbers:

When in sorrow, call **John 14**

When men fail you, call **Psalm 27**

If you want to be fruitful, call **John 15**

When you have sinned, call **Matthew 51**

When you worry, call **Matthew 6:19-24**

When you are in danger, call **Psalm 91**

When God seems far away, call **Psalm 139**

When your Faith needs stirring, call **Hebrews 11**

When you are lonely and fearful, call **Psalm 23**

When you grow bitter and critical, call

1 Corinthians 13

For the secret to happiness, call

Colossians 3:12-17

For the idea of Christianity, call

1 Corinthians 5:15-19

When you feel down and out, call

Romans 8:1-30

When you want peace and rest, call

Matthew 11:25-30

When the world seems bigger than God, call

Psalm 90

When you want Christian assurance, call

Romans 8:1-30

When you leave home for labor or travel, call

Psalm 121

When your prayers grow narrow or selfish, call

Psalm 67

For a great invention/opportunity, call

Isaiah 55

When you want courage for a task, call

Joshua 1

How to get along with fellowman, call

Romans 12

When you think of investments/returns, call

Mark 10

If you are depressed, call **Psalm 27**

If your pocketbook/wallet is empty, call

Psalm 37

If you're loosing confidence in people, call

1 Corinthians 13

If people seem unkind, call **John 15**

If discouraged about your work, call **Psalm 126**

If you find the world growing small, and yourself great, call **Psalm 19**

Emergency numbers may be dialed Direct. No operator assistance is necessary. All lines are open to Heaven 24 hours a day/weekends included!

**Feed your faith,
and doubt will starve to death!**

Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat

Camp Vandemere, NC
June 2-3, 2000

Theme: The Walk of Faith
Hebrews 11:1-6

Hebrews 11:1 — "Now faith is...The evidence of things not seen."

Friday, June 2

6:00 PM Fellowship, Sharing, Prayer Time

Saturday, June 3

9:00-9:30 AM	Fellowship Time
9:30-10:15 AM	Biblical Foundations of Faith Dr. David Hines
10:15-10:45 AM	Recreation and Fellowship
10:45-11:30 AM	The Necessity of Faith Mr. Jonathan Ipock
11:30-1:00 PM	Lunch and Recreation
1:00-1:30 PM	"Obedient Faith" Dr. Don Ribeiro
1:30-2:00 PM	Recreation
2:00-3:00 PM	Prayer and Meditation
3:00 PM	Benediction

Supper on Friday night will be at 6:00 PM at no cost. Following will be a time of worship and fellowship.

All sessions on Saturday will be at Camp Vandemere.

Guest Speakers:

Dr. David Hines is chairperson of the Department of Religion, Mount Olive College.

Mr. Jonathan Ipock is a member of New Haven Free Will Baptist Church, Ernul, North Carolina.

Dr. Don Ribeiro is pastor of Ormondsville Free Will Baptist Church, Route 1, Ayden, North Carolina.

If you plan to stay overnight at Camp Vandemere, bring your sleeping bag and whatever else you will need.

Bring your Bible with you. You will need it for Saturday.

Additional information, please contact:

Mr. Elmer Harrell
502 Southeast 3rd St., Snow Hill, NC 28580
(252) 747-2894

Registration for Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat

Each person planning to attend the retreat is requested to complete and return this form.

Make checks for overnight accommodations payable to the State Layman's League \$5.00.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____


Church _____ Conference _____

(Check appropriate blanks)

_____ I plan to attend the retreat at Camp Vandemere on June 2-3, 2000.

_____ I plan to stay at Camp Vandemere Friday night, June 2, 2000.

Please return this form to:
Mr. Harold Humbles
Route 1, Box 439 • Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-4140



"O Send out thy light and thy truth."
Psalm 43:3

Camp Vandemere Our Family Enrichment Center

by the Rev. Owen Arthur

One of the Bill Gaither's videos is titled "Old Friends." It reminds all of us what "Old Friends" mean to us. Camp Vandemere has a lot of friends and we just want to say "thank you" to our many friends — old and new — who are praying for us and supporting us with their offerings and their hours of physical labor. If it were not for our friends, we would not be able to keep Camp Vandemere.

Allow me to tell you how God has been blessing the camp recently. First, we have a new manager team. They are the Rev. Michael Williams, his wife Lynda, and their two sons. They came from Juniper Chapel Church near Vanceboro. Mike is a licensed minister who is near the completion of the requirements for ordination. They have been working very hard to prepare the camp for the upcoming season. They have done an outstanding job.

The kitchen-dining hall has had a face-lift. The tile has been replaced on the kitchen floor and the walls painted and repaired from the storm damage. The stove has been repaired and is working well. The dining area has been painted — the ceiling, walls, and floor. The big fan at the end of the dining area has also been removed. We have purchased a new refrigerator and a new freezer, new tables, and new chairs. Home Missions donated a piano as well as pulpit furniture. Mt. Zion Church in Vandemere also donated a piano to the camp. The dorms have had much work done to them. We have part of the new mattresses we need, and are waiting on a friend of the camp who hopes to be able to get the rest donated. Also, a new snack building has been built which will include an office for our manager.

A more updated trailer has been installed

which will be the living quarters for Mike and his family. Since Mike and Lynda will be living on campus, the board wanted more suitable living quarters for them.

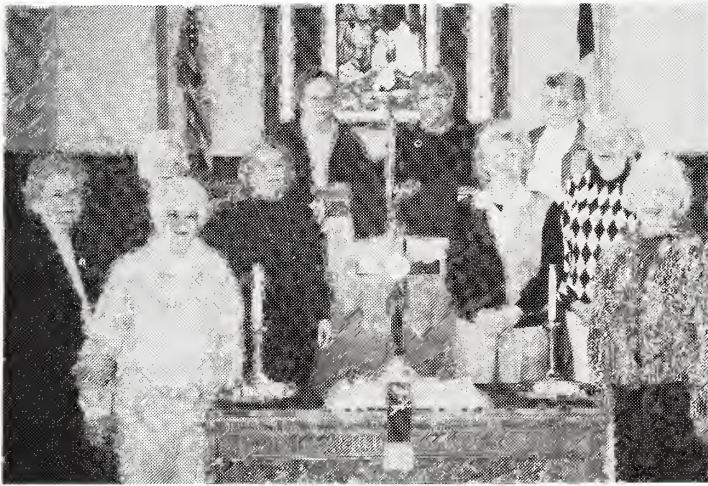
If a group from your church would like to help work on one of the many projects, call Mike. He will be glad to assist you. We have our annual clean-up day set for Saturday, May 13, starting at 9:00 AM. Come and help us wash windows, mow grass, and all the things that will need to be done for our spring cleaning. Please bring rakes, shovels, mowers, wheelbarrows, and plenty of help. Lunch will be furnished by the camp.

Many thanks goes out to Croatan Free Will Baptist Layman's League for coming on Saturday, April 1. They arrived with the backhoe and several men who came to finish tearing down the old trailer. The backhoe and the men proved to be a great blessing to us. They also were able to help us with some other projects.

I would like to say a big thank you for those on the board who have given unselfishly of their time and talents to help get the camp ready for the new camping season. Some of them have put in many hours and have driven many miles at their personal expense.

Our thanks to everyone for all you are doing for the camp. It's friends like you who make all this possible. Continue to pray for us at the camp. Come and visit and encourage the youth to come for a week of camp.

If you would like information about the camp or want to schedule an event, call Mike and Lynda at the camp 252-745-3171. Come visit with us; we have already had some to come to see the progress that was being made.



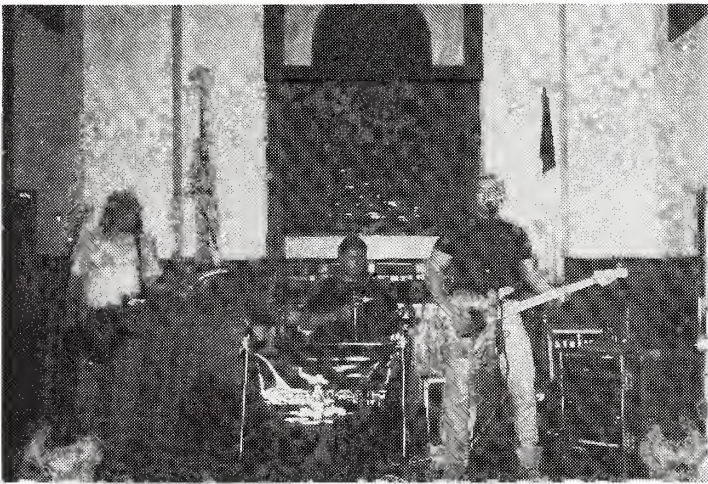
Daniel's Chapel Delivers Parament Set

The Ladies' Auxiliary of Daniels Chapel FWB Church, Wilson, NC, helped us meet some of our needs with the delivery of a parament set for Memorial Chapel, on March 18. They ended their day with a tour of our campus and cottages. Thank you for caring!



Union Chapel Ladies Auxiliary Visits

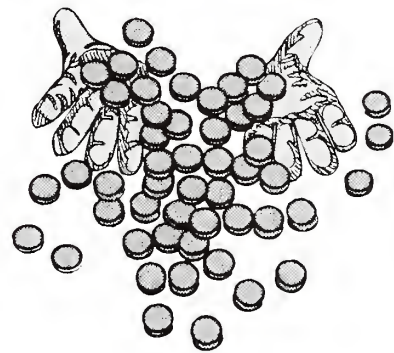
We would like to say thank you to the Ladies Auxiliary of Union Chapel FWB Church of Plymouth for their delivery of paper and paper products for our children on March 23. Each enjoyed touring Rodgers Cottage.



Reaching Out to Our Youth

The evening of March 17 provided inspiration and laughter for the residents of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, thanks to the Straight Up Band of Goldsboro. Their uplifting songs of faith encouraged everyone. Thank you for taking time to share your ministry with us. Thank you for caring for our children! (Pictured left to right: Gary Proctor, Gary Fredrick, and Phillip Jordan.)

*Remember
May is
Children's Home Month*



"Change for Children 2000"

May is Children's Home Month

Items in Need List:

- ♥ Paper Products
- ♥ Personal Care Items
- ♥ Playstation Games
- ♥ Encyclopedias (CD Roms)
- ♥ Computers for Cottages (est. cost \$5000)
- ♥ Carpet Cleaning Machine
- ♥ Cordless Telephones
- ♥ 8 Cutting Boards
- ♥ Basketballs and Volleyballs
- ♥ Pots, Pans, and Dishes (12 or 10 setting)
- ♥ 24 Alarm Clocks
- ♥ Golf Cart
- ♥ First Aid Kits
- ♥ Vacuum Cleaner
- ♥ Cameras for Cottages
- ♥ Twin size Sheets
- ♥ Twin size Blankets
- ♥ Dish Towels
- ♥ Dish Cloths
- ♥ Bath Towels
- ♥ Wash Cloths
- ♥ Mixers
- ♥ Pot Holders
- ♥ Serving Bowls
- ♥ Storage Containers
- ♥ Shower Curtains
- ♥ Standard Size Pillows
- ♥ Bath Mats
- ♥ 24 Square Clothes

Upcoming Campus Events

Children's Home Life Newsletter
May (1st week)

Children's Home Day
May 14, 2000

Founder's Day 2000
May 27, 2000

Last Day of School
May 31, 2000

Campus Chapel Service
June 8, 2000

54th Annual Homecoming
July 9, 2000

Campus Chapel Service
September 7, 2000

Children's Home Day
November 5, 2000

*The Board of Directors
Invites You and Your Guest To
Our Founder's Day Luncheon
Whitley Center
Saturday, May 27, 2000 • 12:00 NOON
on the campus of
The Free Will Baptist Children's Home
RSVP by: May 22, 2000*

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____

_____ I will be able to attend
 _____ I will not be able to attend

There will be _____ in my party for lunch.

Mail to:
 Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Inc., PO Box 249, Middlesex, NC 27557-0249

MOC Senior Discovers God's Plan for Her Life

Becky Craft Kerns, a senior at Mount Olive College, knows that God has blessed her with musical talents. However, it was not until the second semester of the 1999–2000 school year that God revealed to Becky His plans for how she will use her talents.

Planning to graduate in May, Becky was becoming anxious about her future plans. With 13 years of piano experience, she decided to talk to the music teacher at East Duplin Elementary School about possible opportunities for teaching private piano lessons at the school. She discovered the teacher had more students wanting to take private piano lessons than she could handle and they arranged for Becky to begin teaching private piano lessons at the school.

Not long afterwards, Jean Ackiss, director of church support at MOC, told Becky about a music and youth position at Spring Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Wayne County. After interviewing with the pastor, Becky accepted a position at the church.

"I have seen myself mature and grow closer to God since I have been at Mount Olive College. He has made everything fall into place," Becky said. "He has sent me to a wonderful church, and I am really happy working with the people at Spring Hill."

Raised in Friendship Free Will Baptist Church in Greene County, Mount Olive College was always an option for Becky. As friends began making plans to attend larger universities, Becky began thinking of making similar plans. However, God showed Becky that a college with one-on-one teacher/student relationships and a Christian atmosphere was where she needed to be.

"I realized that I didn't have to be

like everyone else," Becky said.

This attitude helped Becky continue to focus on her goals in life when others may have done things differently. Becky lived on campus her freshman year and moved off campus the following year after marrying Gregory Kerns.

"I would not have done it any other way," Becky said. "When I lived in the dorms I learned how to deal with other people. It made me realize I couldn't run home every time I had a problem. My husband has always pushed me to do whatever I wanted to do and has shown me unending support."

Becky plans to graduate in May with a bachelor's of science degree in music. She is a marshal for her class and a member of Alpha Chi Honor Society. She is the recipient of the Mount Olive College Concert Choir Scholarship, the William L. Warren

Music Scholarship, Kathleen B. Warren Music Scholarship, the Honors Scholarship, and the 1998 Outstanding Student of the Year in Music Award. She has also been selected to be in Who's Who Among American College Students. Becky is the daughter of Charles and Cynthia Craft.



Pictured are Becky and Gregory Kerns on the night of Becky's senior voice recital at MOC.

Upcoming Events

The Free Will Baptist Bible Bowl Competition, sponsored by the Youth Convention of the Original Free Will Baptists, will be Saturday, May 6, 2000. The competition will begin at 8:00 AM in Rodgers Chapel.

Mount Olive College's 2000 spring graduation will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2000. The worship service will begin at 10:30 AM in Rodgers Chapel and the commencement ceremony will be in College Hall at 2:00 PM. Friends are invited to attend.

The Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists will be Friday, May 19 through Sunday, May 21, 2000 on the Mount Olive College campus. This year's theme is Players For Life and registration will begin at 5:00 PM on Friday. For more information, please contact Martha Parsons at (910) 438-9299.

Mount Olive College's Summer Session A will begin on Monday, May 22, 2000.

Revival Services at Mount Olive College

by the Rev. Frank Harrison, Campus Minister

"What if God were to send a great revival to Mount Olive and across America?" the Rev. Michael Quintas, pastor of Mount Zion Free Will Baptist Church in Pamlico County, asked as he opened a series of revival services on the campus of Mount Olive College on Tuesday, April 4. Michael and his wife, Robyn, joined in song by the Free Spirit ministry team, led the attendants with choruses of praise. The moving and inspiring service culminated with numerous students responding at the close of the service.

On Tuesday night, Scott Satterfield, a religion major enrolled at the College and youth director at Lee's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, brought an inspiring message entitled, "Joy in the Jailhouse" using Acts 16:16-29, relating how Paul and Silas were victorious even in jail. Scott pointed out that the God we serve is able to deliver us out of circumstances even though we may not see the immediate answer, but prayer and praise can lead to victory when trusting in a faithful Saviour.

The Wednesday night service was led by a southern gospel ministry group, the Second Edition Quartet, of whom three members are currently enrolled at Mount Olive College: Anthony Bennett, John Hill Jr., and Joey Styron. Anthony is a senior human resource development major from Antioch Church in Craven County.



John, a sophomore from Holly Springs Church in Carteret County, is majoring in religion and is the youth director at Union Grove Church in Wayne County. Joey is a junior education major from Carteret County. The group provided a program of gospel music and the sharing of some testimonies by some students. The revival service on Tuesday night was a wonderful spirit-filled program by the Free Spirit group under the direction of Dr. Alan Armstrong, with many students responding to the invitation at the end of the service. The power and presence of the Holy Spirit was evident during the service and long after the end of the service as students continued to be moved in prayer and to join others at the altar.

The Second Edition Quartet from New Bern presented students with an evening of southern gospel music on Wednesday, April 5. Left to right: Anthony Bennett, Joey Styron, Kevin Sasser, and John Hill Jr. Not pictured is Blake Bennett.



Free Spirit, Mount Olive College's Christian ensemble, presented the Gospel to students through contemporary music on Thursday, April 6. Left to right: John Hill Jr., Holly Springs Church, Carteret County; Sheri Jones, Wayne County; Johnny Thompson, Onslow County; Raegan Armstrong, New Hanover County; Brad Piner, Juniper Chapel Church, Craven County; Kristen Carroll, Wooten's Chapel Church, Johnston County; Walter Hardy, Wilson County; Carrie Rose, Durham County; and Hershel Mack, Virginia Beach, VA.

MOC Anticipates 300 Graduates at Spring Commencement

Approximately 300 students will receive degrees at Mount Olive College's Forty-seventh Commencement on Saturday, May 13, 2000.

The Rev. Fred Baker, pastor of Robert's Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Dunn, will be the speaker at the Commencement Worship Service at 10:30 AM in Rodgers Chapel. Graduation exercises will be at 2:00 PM in College Hall. Marvin Waters, the 1999-2000 MOC Alumni President, will be the speaker.

Baker is the 1976 graduate of Mount Olive College where he earned an associate's degree. He earned a bachelor's of science degree from Columbia Bible College. He and his wife Linda have two children, Kimberley and Stephen.

Waters is a 1973 graduate of Mount Olive College where he earned an associate's degree in business. He earned a bachelor's degree from Barton College, a master's in education from East Carolina University, and a juris doctorates from North Carolina Central University School of Law.

Waters is currently an attorney with the North Carolina Department of Commerce. He is married to Peggy Stocks Waters, a teacher with Durham Public Schools. They reside in Durham with their two daughters, Charlotte and Amy.

Family Ties and Personal Goals

brings student back to Mount Olive College after nearly thirty years.

There are many reasons Exum Griffin Jr., decided to enroll in Mount Olive College's management and organizational development (MOD) program for nontraditional students. One is the strong tie his family has with the College. Another reason is because nearly thirty years after his high school graduation, Griffin, who works for a Marine supply company in Richmond, Virginia, still does not have a bachelor's degree.

Griffin's grandfather, Elder J.C. Griffin (1879-1967), was an ordained minister in the Free Will Baptist Denomination for 57 years. He served as pastor of 10 percent of the Free Will Baptist Churches in North Carolina. He also served as moderator of the Eastern and Cape Fear Conferences, and as president of the Free Will Baptist State Convention. He held membership on the board of trustees of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home and on the board of publications and literature of the denomination.

Elder Griffin attended the Free Will Baptist Seminary in Ayden and according to a statement regarding the scholarship fund established at Mount Olive College in memory of Elder Griffin, it was for this reason he strongly supported the denomination's efforts to provide training for pastors and lay leaders of the church.

On Easter Sunday of 1968, the College named the west unit of its women's dormitory complex for Elder Griffin. The College also established the Griffin Scholarship Fund for ministerial students. The Griffin family, which by this time had spread throughout North Carolina and Virginia, attended the dedication of the dorms, thus providing Exum Griffin, Jr. with his first glance at Mount Olive College.

In 1971, after graduation from high school, Griffin began attending Mount Olive College. Looking back on the two years he was at the College, Griffin states that he was not a very serious student. After completing two years at

the College, Griffin attended Appalachian State University and the University of Richmond, but never completed the requirements for a degree.

Although Griffin became successful in the business world without a degree, he continued to feel having a bachelor degree was important.

"My business partner has a degree and I do not," Griffin said. "Receiving my degree will be a personal qualifier."

Being in the MOD program at the College will allow Griffin to take a four-hour class one night a week for 55 weeks. That means, for Griffin, traveling from Virginia to North Carolina once a week. But Griffin said the distance does not bother him and he would like to finish his college degree where it originally began.

"No one in my family has completed a degree at Mount Olive," Griffin said. "I would like to be the first. It's a good school. I've always been impressed



Dianne Riley, director of Alumni relations at the College and member of St. Mary's FWB Church in Craven County, and Exum Griffin, Jr., returning student and grandson of the Rev. J. C. Griffin, enjoys reminiscing in the FWB historical room located in MOC's Moye Library.

with the academic program the College offers its students."

It is certain Griffin's grandfather, who once stated in a letter to Dr. W. Burkette Raper, "...I had rather die in the County Home than for Mount Olive College to suffer..." would be pleased to see his grandson return to complete his education at Mount Olive College.

MOC Mourns a Great Loss

Mount Olive College is grieving the loss of one of its long-time employees, Donald Ray "Toby" Faucette. Toby was a faithful Mount Olive College employee, a dedicated husband and father, and an energetic individual with a zest for life and its simple pleasures.

Toby's loyalty to Mount Olive College began at an early age. During the 1950s, Toby's mother, Ruby Faucette, worked as an assistant dietitian at MOC. As a child, Toby spent many afternoons at the College playing around the water fountain waiting for his mother's workday to come to a close.

As a young adult, Toby earned an associate degree from Mount Olive College in 1971. In March of 1986, he joined the College staff as the superintendent of buildings and grounds. While continuing his career at the College, Toby returned to the classroom and became a part of one of the College's first non-traditional accelerated programs. In 1996, he graduated with a bachelor of science degree in management and organizational development.

As superintendent of buildings and grounds, Toby oversaw the maintenance of the College's facilities, including housekeeping, groundskeeping, and vehicle maintenance and repairs. He also coordinated special events with the office of public affairs. Toby, a very meticulous individual, always wanted things done

cont....

MOC Mourns a Great Loss, cont....

right. He and his staff of 23 people would go the extra mile to make sure even the smallest details were carried out to the letter whether it was for a Free Will Baptist event, a summer camp, or just a routine meeting. He loved his job and took great pride in the appearance of the grounds and the facilities.

Fellow employee, Dr. David Hines said it best when he remarked, "Toby touched the lives of hundreds of people through his work. Students, faculty, staff, all of us work in a better place because of Toby. It was his work, his leadership, and the work of his fine staff that helped to make this a good place to be, a safe place to be, a pleasant place to be. He was more than a co-worker, he was a friend and our Christian brother."

As a friend, fellow employee Gordan Wall notes, "My friendship with Toby grew to be a bond of brotherhood. He was the type of person who helped others before he helped himself. He

gave freely of his time and resources to anyone in need. He was deeply committed to Mount Olive College and to his family and friends."

Toby's nephew and fellow employee, Michael Smith commented, "I believe we had a family like no one else had. As far back as I can remember, we have always gone on vacation together. Whether it was to the mountains or to the beach, we always had a wonderful time together, and hardly a weekend went by that our family was not together just hanging out."

Toby is survived by his wife of 22 years, Jenny Pate Faucette; son, Brandon Kyle Faucette; sister, Shirley Raiford; brother, Phil Faucette; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Ruby and Robert Pate; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Pat and Peter Smith; and three nephews, Eddie Faucette, Tony Faucette, and Michael Smith.



Gordan Wall, director of food services at the College, and Toby at the Christmas Buffet held at the College in December 1999.

Mount Olive College said goodbye to Toby at a memorial service held in his honor on Tuesday, March 21. He will forever be remembered in the hearts and minds of those who know him as a man with a wonderful sense of humor, a man who loved life, and a man who provided outstanding service to Mount Olive College. Toby will be sorely missed!

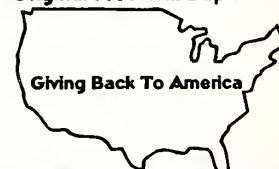
HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

Disaster Relief Ministry Update

In September 1999, Hurricane Floyd impacted our state with severe flooding. Families, individuals, businesses, and churches of every description suffered great loss. Original Free Will Baptist churches and church members joined in their communities with their neighbors to help one another. In addition to this involvement, Original Free Will Baptist Churches, Sunday school classes, groups, families, and individuals gave \$102,788.75, to the Original Free Will Baptist Disaster Relief Fund. A review and disbursement panel distributed the funds to 77 individuals and families, 3 churches, and 2 organizations. Project Kids Kare, a ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism, distributed approximately 500 Kids Kare Boxes to flood damaged areas.

Thank You and May God Bless You is the message in letters received from appreciative flood victims. May we continue to pray, care and share with those that continues in the recovery process.

Original Free Will Baptists



Through A Disaster Relief Ministry

The Youth Connection Challenge 2000

Does your heart beat to reach Every Student, Every School, Every Community with the gospel? We can do it together! Join us as we partner to establish a ministry of evangelism to every middle, junior high, and senior high school in America by year-end 2000. You can:

EVERY
STUDENT

Adopt a School

Accept the challenge to reach a school! Register the name of the middle, junior high, or high school God has called you to pray for and reach out to by going online at www.everyschool.com

EVERY
SCHOOL

Pray Consistently

Join with others in establishing *Lighthouses of Prayer* for every school in your community. Pray for students, educators and schools by name. Check out www.challenge2000.org for details.

EVERY
COMMUNITY

Commit Personally

Support your students, youth leaders, church and community youth ministries in fulfilling the Challenge 2000 Mission.

Prepare your students and youth leaders for their campus outreach by providing each of them with a copy of 1x1x56k — *The Starter Kit for Campus Ministry*.

Go Humbly

Serve your school as a friend and encouragement, being sensitive to work alongside others already in ministry there. It's as easy as Prayer, Care, and Share.



To participate in the Adopt A School Program, contact Home Missions and Evangelism
PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, or Phone 252-746-4963 • Fax 252-746-8913



May



Pray

 Think

SUN

MON

TUE

30	1	2	3
7	8	9	10
14 <i>Children's Home Day</i> <i>Mother's Day</i>	15 Layman's League Eastern Conference Whaleys Chapel Church Richlands, NC 6:45 PM Meal 7:30 PM Business	16	17
21 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <i>Youth Convention</i> <i>Mount Olive College Campus</i> <i>May 19-21</i> </div>	22 Mount Olive College Session A	23	24
28	29 <i>Memorial Day Observed</i>	30 <i>Memorial Day</i>	31

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES

Concerns _____

Remember _____

	THU	FRI	SAT
	4 <i>National Day of Prayer</i>	5 Layman's League State Convention Fremont FWB Church 6:45 PM Meal 7:30 PM Business	6 FWB Bible Bowl Competition Rodgers Chapel Mount Olive College 8:00 AM
	11 NC Woman's Auxiliary Convention Free Union FWB Church Pinetown, NC	12	13 Mount Olive College Spring Graduation
	18	19	20
		<i>Youth Convention — Mount Olive College Campus May 19-21</i>	
	25	26	27 Children's Home Founder's Day
	1	2	3

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

News and Prayer Requests

Philippines: New Ministry

On March 7, 2000, the Board of Foreign Missions met and approved a "Street Children" ministry in Cebu City, Philippines. There are thousands of children who live on the streets of this city of over two million people. They plunder in trash cans and city dumps for food. They beg in the streets, sleep in abandoned buildings, under houses, anywhere that provides a little shelter, but often they just sleep on the sidewalk. Many are malnourished and some have sores on their legs and arms.

We plan to open a home where we can provide them with shelter, food, clothing, medical attention, education, love, and most of all Jesus Christ. This is a large step of faith, but we believe this is God's direction and trust Him for His supply. We believe also that this is just the first of many homes and feeding programs that we will set up. Thank you for joining us in prayer.

India: Persecution

The situation in India is still very tense. Christians are facing persecution and hardship daily. Dr. Lall is under great stress as he tries to guide the church during these difficult times. He recently spend twenty days in bed with a severe case of malaria. This has weakened his body but not his spirit. In the midst of persecution and hardship the church continues to grow at a rapid pace. The enemy can never defeat the true church of Jesus Christ. Please pray daily for the persecuted church in India and other places around the world.

Short-Term Teams

During the months of April, June, July, and August, many of our people from various churches will be traveling to the Philippines and Mexico for ministry. Please pray for team unity, safety in travel, good health and a good relationship with the people in these countries. Pray also for the fulfillment of God's purpose for these teams.

All Fields

Pray for all the people who work in India, Nepal, Bulgaria, Mexico, and the Philippines. They struggle daily with many of the problems that we experience, but often their problems are magnified by their circumstances and the extreme poverty of these countries. Pray that they will be able to stay focused on their ministry to reach the lost with the gospel. Pray for the lost and opportunities to ministry to them.

Board of Foreign Missions

Please pray for the members of this Board: Wayne King, Philip Wood, Calvin Heath, Gary Bailey, Chris Singleton, and Henry Armstrong. They are given the responsibility to make decisions that affect many people and must have God's wisdom and guidance.

This ministry is an extension of your local church. Your prayer and financial support is essential for it to fulfill its purpose.

There Is A Harvest

by the Rev. Pio dela Rosa

Pastor Gordon Mate lives in the small village of Topet Bantulan, Taytay, Palawan. His Biblical education is only in Layman Leadership Training. This was designed by the Mission Department to provide more trained workers to pioneer new churches, as we work toward the goal of indigenization.

On October 15, 1999, I baptized six people in his church, but there are more candidates scheduled to be baptized at a later date.

Please pray for the commitment of this pastor and his ministry.



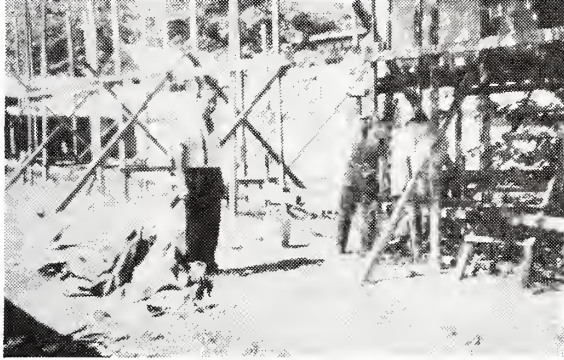
Baptism of Young People in Mangingisda

by the Rev. Pio dela Rosa

In October 1999, several young people decided to be baptized. I thought that they would not have a ministry because of their ages. I thought it would take more years for these young people to be used in the church, but God is using them in the church early. They are in the music ministry and also have a weekly visitation schedule. They have become model young people for the other churches and many of our churches are planning to send their young people to observe. Praise God!



Happenings In The Philippines



The Rev. Zacarias Perocillo, the field director of the Free Will Baptist Church Philippines, watches the carpenters while they work in the new building at Bulacao Pardo, Cebu City. These new buildings are for kindergarten.



Faith Perocillo conducted Theological Education by Extension (TEE) at Naga Cebu, every Sunday afternoon. They had seven students who enrolled. (Pictured left.)



The Rev. Pio dela Rosa, together with the worker's who attend the Mission Conference last October 25-27, 1999, at Puerto Church, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines. (Pictured left.)



Pastor Rodrigo Vallentos conducting Bible Study for the new converts.



Prayer Request

"Let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night..." (Nehemiah 1:6 NIV).

Name: _____ Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: Home _____ Work: _____
 Prayer Request: _____

Mail your request to: Convention of Original Free Will Baptists • PO Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513
 Call in your request: (252) 746-4963 or Fax (252) 746-7993

Personnel Changes



Travis Johnson
Press Operator

New faces and job promotions have made for an exciting new year at the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation in Ayden. Executive Director Clifford Gray welcomes three new staff members and congratulates two Bible and Bookstore employees on recent promotions.

Travis Johnson and Allen Pearson have joined the Printing Department where they work under the supervision of Graphic Arts Manager Robert Hadden. Travis is employed as Press Operator and Allen is the Darkroom Technician. Both young men are 1998 graduates of North Lenior High School in LaGrange. They are both single and live in Hugo.

Carla Combs has recently joined the staff as an Editorial Assistant to the Rev. C. H. Overman, Editor. Carla is a 1994 graduate of East Carolina University and is a feature writer for *The Farmville Enterprise* and *The Wilson Daily Times*. She is married to Jeff Combs and has two sons, Josh and Dusty. They live in Snow Hill and are members of Howell Swamp Church in Walstonburg.

Dixie McLawhorn was hired as a part-time Sales Advisor at the Ayden Bible and Bookstore in September 1999. She recently became a full-time employee. Dixie and her husband Lonnie, have recently returned to Pitt County after living in Mt. Airy, NC for a brief period. They have one son, Bruce. Dixie is a very active member of Pleasant Hill Church in Grimesland where she participates in the choir, youth program, and several committees.

Darren Davenport and Sharon Early are celebrating new job promotions within the Press' Bible and Bookstores.

Darren was named Retail Operational Manager in March 2000, replacing Lexine Davis, who resigned to care for her elderly mother. He is now responsible for the overall operations of all four Bible and Bookstores sites located in Ayden, Wilson, New Bern, and Kinston. Darren graduated from Mount Olive College in 1994 with a degree in Church Ministries. He joined the Free Will Baptist Press in the Computer Graphics Department in 1994. Since then, he has worked in the Receiving Department and as Sales Advisor at the Ayden Bible and Bookstore. He is an active member of the Reedy Branch Church, Winterville, where he serves as treasurer and advisory board member. He is single and lives in Winterville.

When Sharon Early retired from Dupont after 22 years, she decided to embark on a new career. Sharon began working at the Ayden Bible and Bookstore as a part-time Sales Advisor about four years ago. In March 2000, she was promoted to Store Manager. Sharon says that she really enjoys her job and that the best part of her day is meeting new customers and working with a great staff. Sharon is married to James Early and they have two children, Shawn and Shannon. They live in Winterville and attend the Tabernacle House of Prayer in Greenville.



Dixie McLawhorn
Bookstore Sales Advisor



Allen Pearson
Darkroom Technician



Darren Davenport
Bookstore Coordinator



Carla Combs
Editorial Assistant



Sharon Early
Ayden Bookstore Manager

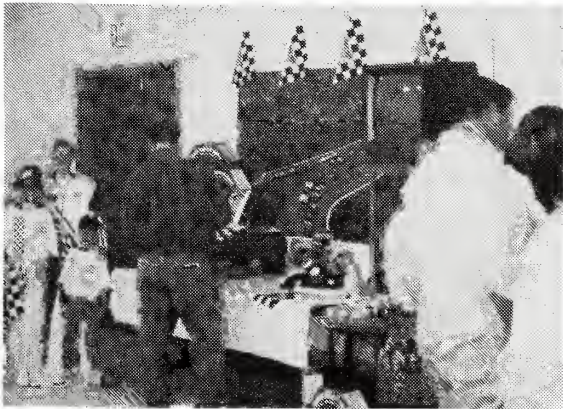
VBS Workshop 2000

A total of 55 churches were represented at the Vacation Bible School Workshop held on March 10, 11, at the Free Will Baptist Press, Ayden, NC. Participants were anxious to learn about Standard Publishing Company's VBS materials for 2000, entitled, "In the Race with Jesus — Road Rally 2000." The workshop was conducted by personnel associated with the Ayden Bible and Bookstore.



Purchases are made and orders placed.

On March 14, the workshop was presented at Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Blandenboro, NC. Five area churches were represented. This is the second year this workshop has been presented at Oak Grove.



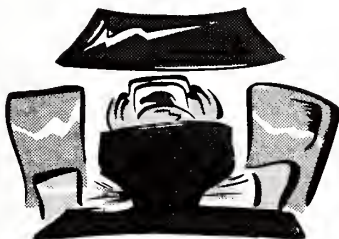
Participants view the VBS materials at Oak Grove Church.




Lexine Davis, Lillian McCurdy, Dixie McLawhorn, Darren Davenport and Sharon Early get prepared to begin "Road Rally 2000."



Workshop participants gathered for first session.





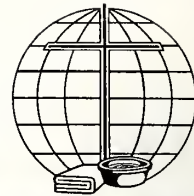
The Annual
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The Annual
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

First Thursday of May
May 4, 2000

People & Events

Happenings Throughout the Denomination

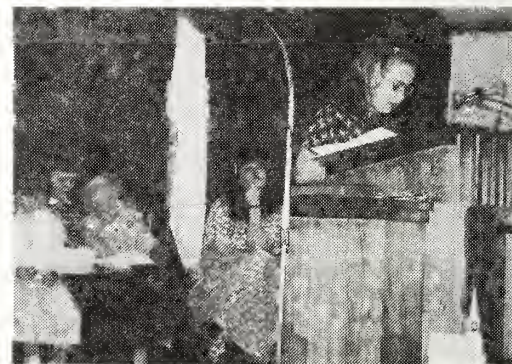


Youth Day at Christ Church

February 20, 2000, was Youth Day at Christ Free Will Baptist Church, Stokesdale, NC. The youth of the church conducted the 11:00 AM worship service and this was a tremendous blessing to all of the congregation.

The service opened with a congregational hymn, followed by Youth Leader, Linda Atkins with a welcome to everyone. Special singing was done by members of the youth group — Hannah Atkins, Jessica Joyce, Ben Atkins, Nancy Hopper, Carson Hopper, Adam Tilley, and Youth Leader, Sheryl Hopper. They were accompanied by Mark Atkins on the guitar. Scriptures from Mark, Psalms, Lamentations, John, and Zachariah were read and expounded upon by individual members of the group. Those too young to read the Scriptures memorized and quoted Bible verses. Testimonies of praise

were also given by several. The altar call invitation was given by Carson Hopper, as the invitation hymn "Are You Ready" was sung by youth members. Carson Hopper led the offertory prayer and benediction and the morning offering was collected by Carson Hopper and Ben Atkins.



*Pictures from
Youth Day at
Christ Free Will Baptist
Church, Stokesdale.*



Little Creek Celebrates Sunday School Month

Little Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church, Ayden, NC, celebrated the culmination of Sunday School Month on Sunday, February 27, 2000. Sunday School Superintendent Donald Stokes, along with his wife Amy, provided many ways to celebrate Sunday school each week throughout the month. They did a fantastic job, especially in the face of Little Creek Church still recovering from the flood.

Donald and Amy Stokes are faithful members of Little Creek Church. They attend many conferences, keep up with the latest news for Sunday school, and stay involved in all church activities. They deserve the utmost appreciation from the Little Creek Church members for their dedication to the church and their support of the cause for Jesus Christ.

Pictured right, Donald and Amy Stokes accept a gift of recognition from the Sunday school for all of their efforts.



Rose of Sharon Honors Former Trio Member

Back in the golden days of yesteryear, when radio was king of the airways, and TV was no more than an idea in some mad scientist's mind, three young Martin County men found themselves riding the wave of popularity as they sang familiar hymns to the beat of music tickled from the ivory keys of an old piano in WRRF studios on the second floor of an old bank in Washington, NC.

"Now let us have a little talk with Jesus. Let us tell him all about our troubles, he will hear our faintest cry, and he will answer by and by. You can hear a little prayer wheel turning and feel a little firewheel burning, and just a little talk with Jesus makes it right." Thus, the Bear Grass Trio, accompanied by Ruth Wobbleton at the piano, opened their fifteen minute program each Sunday afternoon for many years.

Lester Terry, baritone, Leroy Harrison, tenor and Kneezzer Harrison, bass, were a unique group from a rural area, who made gospel music history in the years just after World War II, when the country was adjusting to life filled with many personal conflicts. Their music was salve for the wounded souls of men who had come home with physical as well as emotional scars, and especially for the parents who had lost their sons and daughters in far away lands ravaged by bombs and artillery.

As the years passed and their radio ministry ended, the men continued to sing at local gatherings and for their own enjoyment until one by one, sickness and death robbed the group of their bass and tenor singers. That's when Lester Terry and his sister directed their musical talents specifically to service in their childhood church, Rose of Sharon

Free Will Baptist. Since then, Lester and his wife have traveled the 10 miles from their home on Woodlawn Drive in Williamston to the small church three times each week where he has constantly served as song leader and deacon. He shared his talents with three young men in the church and formed a group informally called, "The old man and his boys." As the years have gone by, the old man is now helped to the podium every now and then by the boys who have themselves become middle aged. Though he can't see the words or read the music, he lets loose a few booming bass notes to the delight of the audience.

Terry recently celebrated his eighty-fourth birthday and was honored by the congregation during the regular morning worship service at Rose of Sharon. He was serenaded by his daughter, Carol Holiday, who sang "Daddy's Hands." The choir did a medley of songs he had sung at the hundreds of funerals in the county. "When time will come for my leaving, when I did you adieu, don't spend your money for flowers, just a rose will do" pealed through the sanctuary and was especially fitting for this meek and humble man who is now feeling the pangs of old age and ill health.

Still, the congregation felt more than a song was necessary to show Terry the depths of their love and caring for the Terry family. A special tribute was given by Rodger Forbes, one of the "boys" as he described a money tree designed by Louvenia Peaks and exhibited at the front of the



Left to right: Carol Holiday, daughter; Lester Terry; Eileen, wife; Patricia Selby, daughter.

church. The entire congregation made their way, one by one, to the front of the church to deposit their gifts of appreciation and to give him a handshake or embrace. Forbes described the tree as a symbol of seed planted by Terry years ago. "One that had been planted in faith, fertilized with love and watered with tears. Now it is bearing fruit."

From the pulpit, Shirley Cratt recalled her own personal memories of the Bear Grass Trio. She also vividly described their popularity to newcomers in the congregation and to those born since the group's heyday. She said emotionally, "They well-represented Martin County and specifically the Bear Grass community."

The birthday celebration continued in the fellowship hall where a covered dish dinner was shared, along with the birthday cake that marked his eighty-fourth year.

Terry, his wife Eileen Bailey Terry, daughters Carol Holiday and Patricia Selby, sons-in-laws Sammy Holiday and Troy Selby, and their children shared in all the festivities.

People & Events

Powhatan Makes it to Final Four!

submitted by Rita O. Jones

The UNC Tarheels were the only ACC team left in the March Madness NCAA basketball tournament for 2000. On the same Sunday they won their trip to the Final Four, so did Powhatan's YFA Bible Bowl Team! As winners in the Cape Fear District, they went on to meet three other district winners at the state level. Congratulations to our team members and to all members of the other teams that competed. Robert's Grove, coached by Larry Faircloth, advanced to represent our district in the AFC level.

The results of the March 11, competition at Mount Olive College listed several first place winners from Powhatan as well. Cherub Spencer Hill won individual talent for his drum performance; Gregory Bass, Hayley Benson, and Katlyn Howell won group talent; AFC Summer Davis won Christian writing; YFA Dani Allen won wearable art; and Roberta Widhalm Public Speaking. There were several second places and third places as well. In all, 25 individual youth members had a part in the overall competition, some in as many as three different categories. Congratulations and thanks to them all. We hope to have a good crowd going to the convention this month and to see all other district churches represented.

March 4 was the date of the Woman's Auxiliary breakfast where the video version of "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Fires" was shown as the program following our meal. Everyone enjoyed the morning fellowship and the video presentation.

On March 18, several of our Woman's Auxiliary members went to a workshop at Robert's Grove. Sandra Peedin, Julie Capps, Ginger Hill, Rita Jones, and Inez West represented Powhatan at the brainstorming meeting for the District. A highlight of the morning was a spontaneous collection taken for the Covenant of the Deaf to help establish and buy books for their new auxiliary. The flood of

good feeling nearly overwhelmed those auxiliary members and it blessed our hearts to be able to help them in getting started.

April 1 was a make-up day for our youth in Johnston County schools. It was also the date of the Cape Fear District Women's Auxiliary spring meeting at St. Paul in Newton Grove. Sandra Peedin, Julie Capps, Wanda Benson, Rita Jones, and Ollie Brady attended and enjoyed the fellowship. Powhatan President Sandra Peedin volunteered to be a delegate at the State Convention on May 11.

That afternoon, we traveled back southeast for the youth rally at Lee's Chapel. The youth enjoyed a pizza party and a program of song and



Some of Powhatan group enjoying the pizza at Lee's Chapel on April 1.

Life Award Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention — March 18, 2000

Until now the Life Award has been presented to a woman who has served as an officer of this Convention. However, in a recent business session, the Executive Committee voted that eligible women should include those who have given outstanding service by serving on committees, on the program, or other significant and meaningful ways. The Life Award today is the first one to be given to a member of our Convention who has not been an elected officer, but has made an cont....



Some of our YFA members who participated in the various competitions.

worship. Scott Satterfield spoke on Christians showing their joy. Two of the Christian writing entrants from March 11, read their papers to the group. Ribbons were presented to the Bible Bowl Teams and beautiful plaques to the two first-place winners. Our own Dani Allen (Cape Fear Vice President) emceed the service in the absence of President Dawn Faircloth. Powhatan had 21 present and brought home the youth banner.

A special mention of Mr. Jack Allen's poem published last month in *The Free Will Baptist* was a lovely poem and it really touched us, especially us "old-timers." Your family will always be a part of Powhatan family, no matter how far you roam. It's true — the more things change, the more they stay the same. Thankfully, some "dedication" you talked about still thrives.



Pictured above is Nettie Jenkins as she received her Life Award from the Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention from Nina Grace Register.

Life Award... cont....

outstanding contribution to the business of our District Convention.

She is the daughter of the late Mary Rosa Miller and Thomas Jenkins and celebrated her birthday on October 28. With one older brother, Ebbie, and one younger brother, Stanley, imagine the "bossing around" she got from her two siblings! But a more closely knit, loving family would be hard to find.

After graduating from Deep Run High School in 1935, she worked with W. T. Grant Stores in downtown Kinston. Her employer promoted her from sales work to office work when the "lady in the office" resigned to start a family. Thus, began the financial career of Nettie Mae Jenkins.

From Grant's office she went to J.C. Penney's downtown store. When Penney moved to Vernon Park Mall, she moved with them. And that is when she began driving. It had been easy to get a ride to work from Rivermont section, but now the distance from home to the Mall was definitely too far to walk. She could no longer depend on riding with other people — so she got a car. Brother Ebbie supervised the driver training. He did a good job. She drives anywhere, takes people with her to church, lunch, visiting or to conventions — in fact, she brought four people with her today, but the car was driven by long-time friend and colleague, Gail Ottinger.

Nettie stayed with J.C. Penney Co. until her retirement a few years ago. While there she joined Kinston Credit Women, now known as Credit Professionals International. The Kinston and Greenville chapters have merged now and are known as the Credit Women of Eastern North Carolina. Nettie has served as president of their organization, and is now the treasurer. And she likes conventions! She has attended many of theirs, the most recent one being in Charlotte. She especially wanted to attend because of Gail Ottinger's retirement. She seldom misses a District or State Woman's Auxiliary Convention, an Eastern Conference, or Convention of Original Free Will Baptists held in September. And she never goes alone.

Nettie has taken a vital part in the First Free Will Baptist Church, it's Woman's Auxiliary, Sunday school, and other work. Her offices have included church treasurer, assistant treasurer, member and chairperson of the Finance Committee and secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary. At the moment, she is secretary of the Sunday school, secretary of Circle 2, secretary-treasurer of the Retired People's Club, and treasurer of the Iley Smith Sunday School class. She also promotes the Mount Olive College Dinners each fall in her church and community.

She has served on the Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention's finance committee, being appointed to help our treasurer, Velma Morris, at almost every Convention since the early '70s. She refuses to sing but is always willing to "pass the plate" and count the money. And she will go to BoJangles at the drop of a hint.

She has remained close to Stanley all this time, and his wife is more like a sister than a sister-in-law. In fact, some people are not sure whether Stanley's sister is Irene or Nettie, they seem so much like one family. This loving family circle embraces Stanley's children, William and Eleanor, with their children and grandchildren and all of the inlaws, making Nettie a single person with a very large family.

It is a happy duty today and a singular privilege to present this year's Life Award to Nettie Jenkins for her outstanding service to this Convention and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mt. Zion

Honors Choir Member

On Tuesday evening, March 14, 2000, the adult choir at Mt. Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church of Momeyer, NC, honored choir member Etta Brown Jones on her eightieth birthday.

Mrs. Jones was surprised as she entered the Fellowship Center to find 40 of her family and fellow choir members there to help her celebrate. Her sister, son-in-law, and a family friend recalled fond memories of Mrs. Brown. They spoke of her as being a loving, helpful Christian to her family and friends, and being such a good cook. Mozelle Batchelor read a poem especially written in honor of Mrs. Jones.

The Rev. Leonard Bowers led a very special prayer followed by everyone singing "Happy Birthday" to Mrs. Jones. Choir members served refreshments to everyone as she proceeded to open her birthday gifts.

Mrs. Jones has been singing in the choir for 50 years.

Mozelle Batchelor read a tribute in her honor.
 Etta, we think you are quite a lady,
 that we would never guess that you are eighty.
 Etta, this gives us a special reason to celebrate —
 so let's get started and not hesitate!
 Most of us can't remember
 when you became a choir member.
 A high school graduate back when
 some students went to school only now and then.
 Your talent for singing, so true —
 the alto note God gave to you.
 Once the secretary in the Ladies' Auxiliary;
 your minutes were always recorded accurately.
 A fine Christian mate you were given;
 but it seemed too soon he was taken to Heaven.
 Blessed with five children for a fine family;
 two girls and boys that numbered three.
 Grandchildren, a family favorite gem —
 you were blessed with thirteen of them.
 When faced with surgery for cancer,
 God provided an answer.
 You experienced radiation treatment in the AM
 and sang in the church choir for revival in the PM.
 Continue singing in the choir;
 we just can't let you retire.
 Now serving as a special companion to one in need
 proves that you enjoy doing a good deed.
 Often you say, "I'll be here if I can."
 "I'll do what I can."
 Etta, God loves,
 Your family loves you.
 And we all love you.
 You are a special lady!

People & Events

League Convention

"Looking Unto Jesus In 2000" was the theme of the Annual Convention of the Original Free Will Baptist Leagues on March 18, 2000 at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Goldsboro. It was a wide-awake day from start to finish as the Goldsboro Church presented a program filled with plenty of sights, sounds, and action.

The program began with a series of monologues about Bible characters who had seen Jesus. The youth choir sang followed by the Goldsboro youth acting out an original skit depicting seeing Jesus today. The Goldsboro Men's Quartet concluded the presentation by singing "We Shall See Jesus."

The Sword Drill provided an exciting and fun-filled competition among league participants. The winners of the Junior division was Rebecca Joyner from Hickory Chapel. Intermediate division: first place - Sarah Jones, Hickory Chapel; second place - Hiliary Williams, Goldsboro Church. Adult division: first place - Sharlene Howell, Goldsboro Church; second place - Margaret Ard, Goldsboro Church.

Next year, new dimensions will be added to the Sword Drill. A new category for primary age children (6-8) will be included in the Scripture Searching and Book Drill sections. Plaques will be presented to all those who place first, second, and third in all age divisions, plus additional awards to the primary, junior, and intermediate age levels.

As the league elected new officers to the convention, they took the opportunity to say good-bye and to honor one of their most dedicated officials. Leah McGlohon, the long-time treasurer and corresponding secretary, has decided to step down from her position. The League recognized McGlohon for serving the Lord for many years with her talents and time in the League. The League feels a sense of loss, but McGlohon has assured members that she will still be available to assist whenever she is needed.

Commitment came to mind as certificates were awarded to the Storytime II, Teenage, and Adult Leagues of Aspen Grove Church and to the Junior League of Goldsboro Church.

The "Singspiration" was music to the ears, as Mitchell Sutton of the Goldsboro League and the Hickory Chapel Youth Choir provided musical selections.

As the sights of the 2000 convention drew to a close, the Leaguers set their eyes on the 2001 convention scheduled for March 19, 2001, at Hickory Chapel. Make plans to join the League for a wonderful time in the Lord!

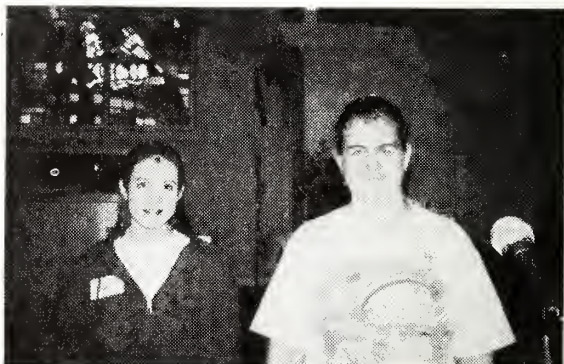
If you have questions about the League please contact: Becky Jo Sumner, 450 NC 561 E, Ahoskie, NC 27910.



"Looking unto Jesus" Leaguers with "2000" glasses.



Adult Sword Drill — Sharlene Howell, left, and Margaret Ard, right.



Intermediate Sword Drill — Sarah Jones, left, and Hiliary Williams, right.



Rebecca Joyner, Junior Sword Drill.



Leah McGlohon honored for her years of service.

Juniper Chapel Charters Layman's League

submitted by Harold Humbles, State Secretary

As the church bell rang at Juniper Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Vanceboro, NC, on March 6, 2000, one could sense the Lord's presence. This was the Sunday the Juniper Chapel Layman's League was chartered by State Layman's League President Elmer Harrell and State Layman's League Secretary Harold Humbles, who covered the promotional part of the ceremony.

As the congregation joined in the singing of "Onward Christian Soldiers," everyone laid aside those things in their lives that would fail to give the Lord His proper place. With the singing of those familiar words "with the cross of Jesus going on before,..." the laymen were reminded of the purpose of the Layman's League, "to promote fellowship and sharing," a closeness that is developed through the Layman's League. We are drawn closer to our Lord and thus we desire to reach out to others.

As President Harrell prepared to present the Charter, the State officers were recognized. Robert Ramsey, president of Juniper Chapel's Layman's League, came forward and was presented the Charter and Plaque which states the Purpose, Goal, and Motto of the Layman's League. Mr. Ramsey is also president of the Eastern Conference Layman's League.

Special thanks is extended to the Rev. Mike Scott, pastor of Juniper Chapel, for the support he gives to the Layman's League. We appreciate the special music presented by the Little Folks at Juniper Chapel.



Juniper Chapel's young folk sing it out at the Layman's League Chartering Ceremony.



State Layman's League President, Elmer Harrell presents a Charter to Juniper Chapel Free Will Baptist Church Layman's League President, Robert Ramsey.

Woman's Auxiliary Aids Camp Vandemere

submitted by Happy Taylor, President, Smith's New Home Auxiliary

After hearing the news of storm damage at Camp Vandemere, the Woman's Auxiliary of Smith's New Home Original Free Will Baptist Church, Eastern Conference, wanted to help. Under the leadership of Amanda Davis, a spaghetti supper was planned. Shown here is Mrs. Davis presenting a check to Camp Vandemere treasurer, Judith Kennedy for \$465.00.



Pictured left: Joyce Davis, Louise Jones, Amanda Davis, Susan Tyndall prepare spaghetti for fund-raising project for Camp Vandemere.



Pictured right: Mrs. Davis presenting a check to Judith Kennedy.

People & Events

North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

Seventy-Third Annual Session

May 11, 2000

Hosted by

Albemarle District Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Free Union Original Free Will Baptist Church

Pinetown, North Carolina

Theme: A Wise Woman's Top Priority

Scripture: Proverbs 2:6 "For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding"

8:30 Registration Joan Little, State Vice President
9:30 Call to Worship New Day Spirituals
Hymn 404 "The Solid Rock"
Call to Order Carolyn Jernigan, Cape Fear
Devotions Sondra Thick, Western
Convention Prayer Ruth Warrick,

Former State Corresponding Secretary

Welcome Becky Jo Sumner, President, Albemarle

Response Jackie Flowers, Central

Announcements Barbara Hardison,

President, Free Union Auxiliary

President's Address Mrs. Jernigan

Business Session

Offering

Offertory Prayer Clara Patrick,

State Benevolence Chairman

Life Membership Award Committee

Wall of Honor Mr. Hansley

10:55 BREAK

11:05 Cragmont Woman's Choir Alma Dale Cox, Western

Auxiliary Hymn "In the Service of the King"

New Day Spirituals

Memorial Service Lewellyn Parker, Albemarle

Introduction of Speaker Virginia Outlaw, Eastern

Song of Worship New Day Spirituals

The Message Barbara Lancaster, Eastern

Hymn 350 "Tis So Sweek to Trust in Jesus"

Denominational Ministries

The Rev. David Charles Hansley, General Administrator
of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

Report of Committees

Installation of Officers Ramona Norman, Central

Hymn 410 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Benediction The Rev. Carlee Stallard, Piedmont

Pianist — Pam Keech

Music Director — Ellaree Radcliff

Ushers — Members from Sidney and Shiloh Auxiliary

Contact People from Free Union FWB Church for State Woman's
Auxiliary Convention:

Lewellyn Parker
1697 Seed Tick Neck Rd.
Pinetown, NC 27865
Phone 252-964-4157

Barbara Hardison
109 Cedar Circle
Washington, NC 27889
Phone 252-975-3544

Sarah Windley
257 Topping Loop Road
Pantego, NC 27860
Phone 252-943-2979

If interested in staying in a home contact:

Lewellyn Parker
1697 Seed Tick Neck Rd.
Pinetown, NC 27865
Phone 252-964-4157

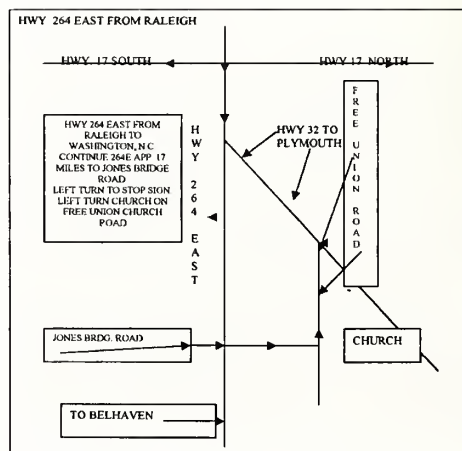
The following motels in Washington, NC have been
recommended by Free Union ladies. The traveling time from
Washington to Free Union Church is about 20 minutes.

Comfort Inn
1636 Carolina Ave.
Washington, NC
252-946-4444

Econo Lodge
Hwy. 17 North
Washington, NC
252-946-7781

Days Inn
916 Carolina Ave.
Washington, NC
252-946-6144

Holiday Inn Express
1031 Carolina Ave.
Washington, NC
252-946-5500



Youth Frontier Conference YFA Week

Cragmont Assembly
June 26–July 1
For those Ages 13 and Up

There will be:

1. Lots of young people!
2. Counselors who care.
3. Bible studies, dorm devotions, vespers.
4. Trips, fun times, "happening" events, and lots of excitement.
5. Music, new friends, and more than we have room to describe!

YFAers will soon be traveling to Cragmont Assembly to attend the 2000 Youth Frontier Conference/YFA Week. YFA Week is unique because it is the only encampment at Cragmont planned for just teenagers. This encampment is a time of fun and fellowship, a time of soul-searching and inspiration. This year's encampment is June 26–July 1.

The 2000 theme is **Created to Worship!** The program will feature concentrated Bible study and an emphasis on discipleship, recreation, missions/evangelism, and much more. The week will be a friendship/discipleship event, with the purpose of beginning or continuing the process of discipleship development in the lives of youth. And, during the week we also plan to spend a day at Carowinds!

To make sure that you are among those who attend YFA Week, mail the application below with a \$70 registration fee. Letters explaining what you need to carry to camp will be sent when your registration fee is received. The total cost of camp is \$220. This cost includes transportation, food, and lodging at Cragmont, daily snacks, a group picture, the trip to Carowinds, activities, and a week of blessings! (Note, lunch on Monday and Saturday, as well as, one meal on the trip day are not included in the cost of camp.) Check should be made payable to Youth Frontier Conference/YFA Week.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Church _____
Birthday _____

Send registration form and fee to:
Janie Sowers
Box 824, Middlesex, NC 27557
(252) 235-2408

Cragmont Woman's Conferences

June 5 – 10 Speaker, Teresa Ball
July 31 – August 5 Speaker, Mary Dudley

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Church _____

Which Conference Attending: _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: _____

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room: _____

If you do not plan to ride the bus, please check here: _____

Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:
Teresa M. Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

A balance of \$125.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

A day trip will be planned with an approximate cost of \$65. There will be afternoon trips into Black Mountain and Asheville (\$5.00 each). Please make your plans now to join us for one or both of these conferences.

Remember: The June Conference wishes to encourage participation of couples and of individual gentlemen, as well as our ladies. A limited number of private accommodations for couples are available on a first registered, first served basis.

AFC Conference at Cragmont Registration Form

July 3–8

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ Age _____
Church _____

Please mail this registration form
along with \$100 deposit to:
AFC Conference

c/o Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road • Ayden, NC 28513
Total cost of Conference will be \$200.00.

People & Events

CHURCHES & MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The Rev. Jerry Rowe is available for pastoral work (within reasonable driving distance). He may be contacted at 138 Pearson Circle, Newport, NC 28570, phone 252-393-8890.

The Rev. James Warren of Kinston, NC, is available at any time to any Free Will Baptist Church that is in need of a pastor. He was ordained September 25, 1972, and for twenty-eight years has been in good standing with the Eastern Conference. He is free to come to any church that needs a full-time or part-time minister. He may be contacted at 649 Poplar Street, Kinston, NC 28504. Phone 252-527-1648.

Sidney Free Will Baptist Church is seeking a pastor. Requirements: Licensed and ordained by a conference in the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. Responsibilities: Provide the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by overseeing, training, and caring for the needs of Sidney Church. Office available June 2000. Salary: Competitive and closely based to Convention guidelines. For more information contact: Edward Clayton, Deacon Board Chairman, 394 S. Savannah Road, Belhaven, NC 27810. Phone 252-964-4752.

*You are cordially invited to attend the
Leadership Endowment
Dinner and Worship Service
honoring
The Rev. Fred A. Rivenbark
and
Mrs. Annie Cottle Rivenbark
Friday, the thirtieth of June
two thousand*

*Dinner to be served at
Seven o'clock in the evening
Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church
Goldsboro, North Carolina
Fellowship Hall*

Program will follow

RSVP required by June fifteenth
(For Dinner only)

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CHRISTIAN ART REVIEWS

by Michael G. Warning,

Pastor Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Sea Level, NC



Rev. Michael G. Warning

Source: Vincent Van Gogh, *The Good Samaritan*. (Dutch 1853–1890). From Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, Otterlo, The Netherlands. Oil on canvas. 29 x 24 inches. In Richard Mühlberger, *The Bible in Art: The New Testament*. New York: Portland House, 1990, p. 89.

Introduction

The Good Samaritan is not a subject that we associate easily with our stereotyped view of the self-mutilating and hopelessly lonely painter, Vincent Van Gogh (1853–1890). Few people know of his early life as a lay minister, for prior to his mid-twenties, he served in Borinage, Belgium. This is a coal-mining district filled with very poor, grimy, and trapped people. Van Gogh and all of his parish needed a good Samaritan.

Artistic Style

The composition of *The Good Samaritan* is characteristic of Van Gogh's last works, for we see the dispersion of yellows almost like seeds of light. Great and wonderful movement seems to be in every part of this painting. The colors of Van Gogh's palette show us what can be done with contrasting color. The pictorial composition is by some thought to be based on the work of other painters, especially that of Delacroix.

In the foreground on a writhing road we see the Samaritan in his bright yellow robe lifting the wounded Jewish stranger onto his mule. Just behind and to the left as we follow down the road to its vanishing point, we first see the empty chest in which the stranger's possessions once were safe but now are stolen. Walking down the road a bit further, we see the rear view of the Levite and further down the road almost as if starting on the downward journey, we see the priest as mentioned in the biblical story Luke 10:25–37.

Almost all of the action is shown to the left of the central figures. On the right side appears to be the rocky cliffs of a mountain pass with flowers growing from the crags. Both the cliffs and the flowers seem to be in movement just as the stream running down the side of the road.

Symbolism

When the lawyer asked Jesus "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan to illustrate his viewpoint. The Samaritan, though religiously and politically an adversary to the Biblical Jew, is a good neighbor to the wounded traveler because he helps him. All others pass by. They have their reasons to neglect the wounded Jew. Religion and politics might have been among these reasons to refuse to help. Another reason for the priest passing by to reject the wounded one is the priest's fear of violation of the Jewish orthodox cleanliness laws, for the priest could not have officiated in the temple in an unclean condition.

The wonderful symbol in this painting is the Samaritan lifting the man up, bringing the man up higher than he had been. The man is to rest now high on a mule. Symbolically, this is what Jesus is asking the lawyer to do — help the wounded or needy beyond one's conception of the law and not for personal benefit. The Levite and the priest reflect the law in the story in a way the lawyer could understand. To be a neighbor is to love beyond the law. Jesus tells the lawyer, "Go thou and do likewise."

Symbolically, the color yellow stands for sunlight, radiance, or a golden aspect beyond price. The deed becomes the true gold. The Samaritan dresses the wounded man in his best royal purple cloak which lifts the wounded man higher, giving him a royal aspect.

Conclusion

We cannot always know another person's needs. No one thought that Van Gogh was so lonely and distressed that he would take his own life soon after painting this painting. If one looks symbolically, the man in the painting who was attacked by robbers can also be seen as a self-portrait of Van Gogh. The priest who walks by may also be a self-portrait because Van Gogh left his ministry. Possibly he found there was always more need than he could ever satisfy. Many more excuses or good reasons exist for not trying to help the wounded. This image and the statement to the lawyer by Jesus, "Go thou and do likewise," was hard for him and for us to ignore.

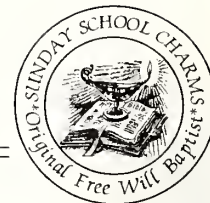
How many wounded have we missed, ignored, or rejected? If the good Samaritan does not come, is suicide the answer as with Van Gogh? Is Van Gogh the good Samaritan, the wounded, and the priest who walked on by, for Van Gogh did kill himself, did he not?

Or, is the good Samaritan also *ultimately* our faith in God? For will God lift the wounded *ultimately* if man continues to walk away? In the story the good Samaritan gives the wounded man money for his immediate needs and a promise to return to pay the innkeeper for other expenses. Is this God's promise to us, for is God not *ultimately* the good Samaritan who receives the wounds and pays the debt?



Sunday School Charms

Hints and Ideas for Sunday School Growth



Resources Available from the Sunday School Ministry

As you will remember from the April issue of *The Free Will Baptist*, you were asked if you were at the annual Sunday School Institute. If you were there, you probably participated in three of the fourteen workshops that were offered that day. If you were not able to attend, you can still receive the benefits of at least eight of the workshops. These workshops were audiotaped and are now available to you and/or your church or organization for a \$3.00 donation per tape to cover the cost of materials and mailing. Please make your choice from the following list of workshops. Those with an * (asterisk) beside the title will indicate that handouts can accompany if you so desire. To receive copies of any or all of the tapes, please send a list of your requests along with the proper donation to the OFWB Sunday School Board at PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. They will be mailed out within 5 working days of the receipt of the request.

Ministering to Early Childhood*

This workshop focuses on characteristics/ideas/tips for working with the young children ages 3-9 in our Sunday schools and other organizations. The workshop was presented by Mrs. Mary Dudley.

Ministering to Teenagers

This workshop focuses on ideas for meeting the needs of the teens ages 14 and up in our churches through Sunday school and youth organizations. The workshop was presented by the Rev. Frankie Baggett.

Using Learning Centers*

This workshop focuses on an innovative approach to teaching/learning in Sunday school classes and its use as an intergenerational tool at times in the work of the church regarding Christian Education. The workshop was presented by Mrs. Mary Dudley.

Learning Through Music*

This workshop focuses on ways to incorporate music in Sunday school classes to enhance learning as well as its use in the worship of the Lord. The workshop was presented by Mrs. Rebecca King.

Parliamentary Procedure

This workshop focuses on rules and procedures to be used in nonlegislative assemblies to assist an assembly in accomplishing the work for which it was designed and to do so in the best possible manner. The workshop was presented by Dr. David Hines.

Understanding the Deaf Community

This workshop focuses on the characteristics of the deaf community and how churches can begin to break the barriers for these people to include them in worship and service. The workshop was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Taylor and their daughter, Mrs. Wendy Philyaw.

Seven Laws of Teaching*

This workshop focuses on the seven laws of effective teaching which are relevant to any age level. The workshop was presented by the Rev. Ray Wells.

Leadership and Ethics*

This workshop focuses on those characteristics necessary for effective leadership. The participants will also be introduced to a Code of Ethics for responsible leadership. The workshop was presented by Dr. De Wayne Eakes.

DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Jonathan Edwards. *Religious Affections: A Christian's Character Before God*. Edited by Dr. James M. Houston. Introduction by Charles Colson. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1996. 206 pages.

Introduction

To read Jonathan Edwards's *Religious Affections: A Christian's Character Before God* (1746) is to search once again for what Editor James M. Houston calls "a reawakening to the spiritual thoughts and meditations of the forgotten centuries" (ix). Determined to make great Christian classics available to modern readers, Dr. Houston has edited four of the writers in the Classics of Faith and Devotion series: Blaise Pascal, William Wilberforce, John Owens, and Jonathan Edwards. Books do have

influence and may even change the life of a reader. Augustine was affected by Athanasius's *Life of Antony*. John Wesley was influenced by William Law's *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*. Others have been inspired by Augustine's *Confessions*, Thomas a Kempis's *Imitation of Christ*, or Jonathan Edwards's *Religious Affections*.

Dr. Houston stresses a goal for the readers of Jonathan Edwards is "not to seek information," but to seek lessons "about living wisely" (xi). What does it take to live wisely? Dr. Houston reminds us of Edwards's emphasis upon "obedience, submission of will, change of heart, and a tender, docile spirit" (xi). We are reminded of what John the Baptist said when he saw Jesus: "He must increase, and I must decrease" (xi).

Life Work of Jonathan Edwards

Born in East Windsor, Connecticut, in 1703, Edwards was the son of a pastor and the grandson of the pastor, Solomon Stoddard. Edwards graduated from Yale College in 1720 and by 1728 was pastor of his grandfather's church at Northampton, Massachusetts. He lasted twenty-two years there, 1728 to 1750. His congregation voted him out because he spoke against what Colson calls the Halfway Covenant ("the covenant gave people church membership and the opportunity to baptize their children even if they had not proclaimed commitment to Christ or willingness to pursue obedience to His commands" xxvi). Editor Houston noted: "In 1750 the majority of his congregation voted him out. (Colson tells us that the "congregation voted 200 to 20 against Edwards" xxvii). At the age of forty-six, Edwards found himself dismissed from his pastorate, with seven dependent children, and no prospects of another suitable position. So for the next six years he ministered at a mission outpost consisting of 12 white and 250 Indian families" (xiv).

Fortune seemed to change when Edwards was invited to become president of Princeton in 1757. Edwards decided to take a smallpox vaccination to help smallpox research. Colson notes: "Due to his frail condition, he had a severe reaction to the inoculation, then contracted the disease; five weeks after assuming the presidency of Princeton, Jonathan Edwards was dead at age 55" (xxvii).

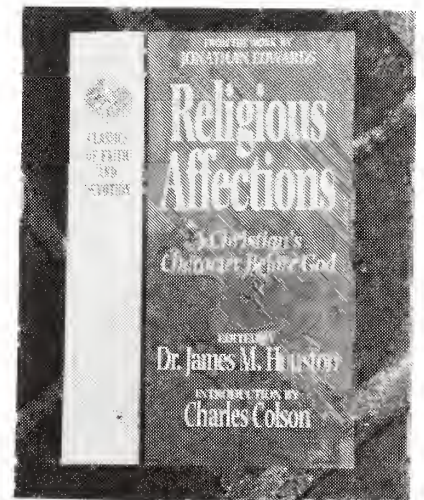
Twelve Signs of Religious Affections from God

Editor Houston clarifies the twelve signs of religious affections springing from an authentic faith in God which Edwards details in his Christian classic. These are the twelve signs as Houston succinctly introduces them to us: (1) "the presence of power of the Holy Spirit alone" (xx), (2) "viewing God as God" (xx), (3) "delight in God's holiness" (xx), (4) the Holy Spirit imparts "spiritual understanding" (xx), (5) "real, historical evidences" (xx), (6) "our sense of personal inadequacy and our deep need of God" (xx), (7) "change of character that results from conversion" (xx), (8) "the meek and gentle spirit" (xx), (9) the person "will be tenderhearted" (xx), (10) a "balance of temperaments and virtues as well as consistency and permanence of character" (xx), (11) "God in His holiness will seem to appear less attainable, yet the ardor to be closer to His and more like Him will grow" (xx), (12) "the reality of Christian experience is seen in the practice of its virtues" (xx).

Edwards Speaks To Us Today

How does the voice of Jonathan Edwards relate to us today? Colson believes Edwards' voice is needed today to combat the underlying nihilism of our culture, that attitude that believes in nothing and consequently seeks only self-gratification.

Nihilism gives birth to narcissism. Colson notes: "Edwards stressed that we need never cultivate true religious affection without a deepened sense of sin. It is the very heart of a Christian conversion to confront one's own sin and to desperately desire deliverance from it. And once we've seen our sin, we can only live in gratitude for God's amazing grace" (xxx). Edwards stressed the practice of works of love, the practice of kindness, the practice of faith, and the practice of experiencing the emphasis upon the Holy Spirit. "It is the Holy Spirit alone who motivates truly, who gives us that vitality that matures into fruitfulness of character, born out of gratefulness to God" (xxxii).



***Religious Affections: A Christian's Character Before God* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON**

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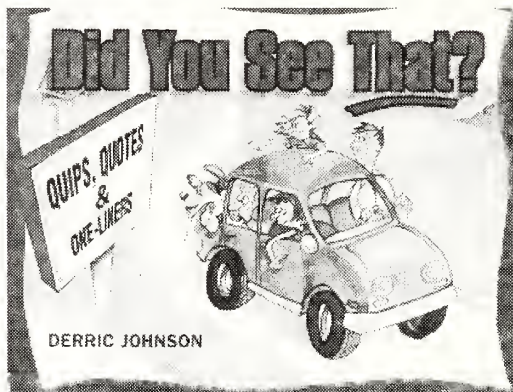


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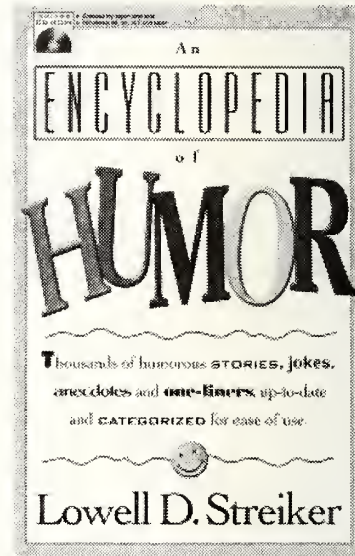
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*Happy
Father's Day*



C. H. Overman

The Value of Waiting

Waiting is a part of life, but sometimes it is most difficult. A child says, "I can't wait until Christmas," or, "I can't wait for my birthday." A fifteen-year-old says, "I can't wait to get my driver's license." The college student says, "I can't wait to graduate so I can get a job and earn my own money." So it goes in each phase of life. There is always that something in life that requires waiting. It is important, therefore, how we handle this matter of waiting, for we do live in an impatient society.

A bumper sticker reads, "Go ahead! I'll see you at the stop light." We rush from one place to another only to wait until the light changes, the service begins, or the bus arrives. Waiting, however, does not have to be a negative experience. It can, indeed, be good and beneficial. What do we do with that time in between the changes and events in our lives?

Sometimes waiting causes us to think — really think — about things that we have not had the time to figure out, or we may remember something long forgotten. While waiting, we may plan a vacation, or arrange a schedule that will allow more time for the family. While waiting we can read something or browse through a magazine, and thus quell our impatience and the waiting will seem shorter. Magazines are found in most waiting rooms for a purpose — to occupy our time. Waiting can also be a time of meditation, or a time for Bible reading, or a time for very private and personal prayer thoughts. One of my favorite classroom posters depicts a fellow sitting with his chin propped on his fist. The caption reads: "Sometimes I sit and think; sometimes I just sit." (There is value in both.)

Waiting Ultimately Brings Results

While in Babylonian captivity, God sought to encourage His people. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31). God, through the prophet, was assuring them that the day of deliverance would come. Then they would "soar" as the eagle; they would be renewed. Thus they waited, and in God's time they were delivered.

The truth (reality) is that we must always wait for the fulfillment of His promises. God called Abram out of Ur of Chaldea, promising to make of him a great

nation; yet, many generations passed before that great nation was established. The covenant God made with Abraham was renewed through Abraham's descendents and each waited upon the Lord, even when the fulfillment of the promise seemed humanly impossible. Noah also accepted and believed the promise of God, but everything was put on hold as he began the building of a giant boat for the preservation of animal life and for the saving of his family. When the rains ceased, Noah waited until the flood waters receded. We admire these great patriarchs of old who waited so patiently upon the Lord.

Just before our Lord's Ascension, He gathered His followers and "...commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but *wait* for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me" (Acts 1:4). Forty days had passed since His Resurrection. For His disciples it had been a time of doubts and frustrations, and now they were almost ready to begin the ministry for which they had been chosen; however, there would be ten more days of waiting before the promised gift of the Holy Spirit would come upon them. They waited and they prayed and they fellowshiped together. Then it happened just as God had promised. The Day of Pentecost was the chosen day. They were transformed into more fit vessels and we read in the Book of Acts how "God wrought special miracles" through them. Suppose they had not waited as Jesus had commanded? Impetuous Simon Peter would not have been prepared to proclaim a powerful message that would result in the salvation of 3,000 souls. What a change in this man who at one time denied knowing the Lord, and later after Christ's Resurrection and appearance to the disciples, said, "...I go fishing..." (John 21:3), and the other disciples joined him. The rest of the story is that they did not keep on fishing. They accepted the words of Jesus and waited in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. They, as with all His faithful followers, did "renew their strength and mount up with wings as eagles."

The words of Psalm 27:14 remind us of the value of waiting: "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

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NEXT MONTH

July is
Christian Education
Month

June is
Cragmont Assembly
Month

Starting Over —

A Family's Encounter with Disaster

by Carla Combs, Editorial Staff Free Will Baptist Press

When Hurricane Floyd rampaged through eastern North Carolina last September, it left behind devastating flood waters and shattered lives. Eight months later, many people are still feeling the effects of what has been considered the worst natural disaster in North Carolina history. Others, however, are now beginning to feel a sense of normalcy return to their lives as they rebuild and start over.

Mary Ann Davenport, an editorial assistant at the Free Will Baptist Press in Ayden, is one such person. The home that she and her husband Roland have lived in for 15 years was completely flooded, leaving them with only a handful of salvageable items.

"At first, I wouldn't talk about it. I felt like that if I didn't talk about it, it wouldn't bother me," Mary Ann said.

She clearly recalls the night Floyd blew through the community of Tick Bite near Grifton where she lived. It was Wednesday, September 15 and by Thursday afternoon water could be seen in her neighbor's yard. The Grifton Volunteer Fire Department and the National Guard were going from house to house advising residents to evacuate. Roland wanted to stay and ride it out but Mary Ann convinced him

that it was best to leave. The Davenport's went to stay in Deep Run with their daughter Hope's fiancé Steven Heath. They decided that was the best place to go.

"We threw a few clothes together because we didn't think we would be gone for more than a couple of days. We left about 4:00 PM to go to Steven's house," she said.

As the Davenport's traveled down the road, they ran into water 4 times. They recall at one point the water was almost 12 inches deep. Two days later, the Davenport's other daughter, Tonia and her husband Howard and son Cody, and Howard's nephew joined them at Steven's home.

"There were eight people staying in a two-bedroom singlewide mobile home for a week and a half," Mary Ann explained.

Mary Ann and Roland stayed another week and a half with her sister, Nell Harrison and her husband Kenneth in Snow Hill until they found a house to rent in Kinston.

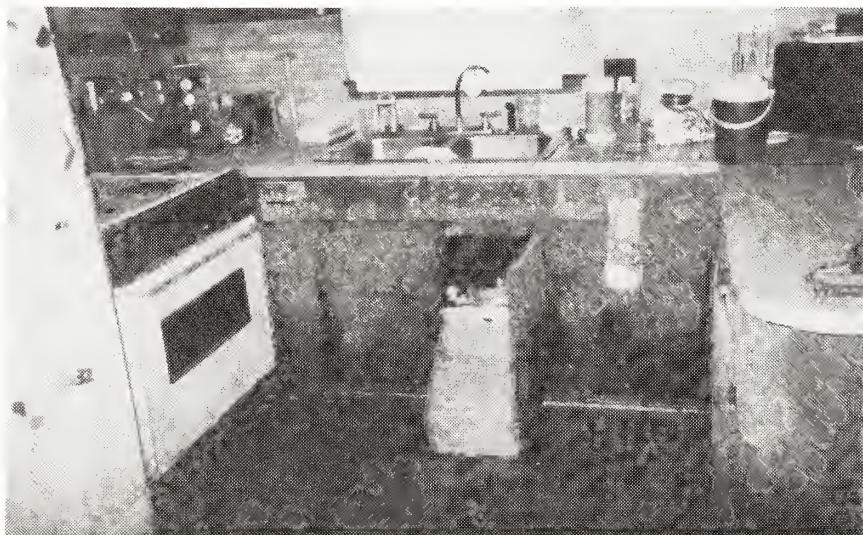
When Mary Ann was able to return to work at the FWB Press, all she really knew about her home was that it was still underwater. One of her co-workers, Ronnie Jones offered to carry Mary Ann to her house by boat but the waters were still too rough for them to get through.

"You could tell that she was affected by everything that happened but she tried to go on as normal," says Sheila Benson, graphic designer at the Press.

"I tried not to talk about it at first. I had to wear the same pair of shoes to work everyday for two months but I realized that I was not alone in this. There are others out there who lost loved ones. We lost a lot but some others lost even more."

The Davenport's couldn't believe their eyes when they were finally able to return to their home in Tick Bite. Four feet of stagnant water had flooded the home for several days leaving behind dangerous mold and bacteria. The furniture was turned over and almost everything they owned was destroyed. The house had a condemned sticker on it.

"We were able to salvage some pictures, the



After being under four feet of water for days, everything was covered with mold, as indicated by the photo of the Davenport's kitchen.

microwave and one TV but that was it. The picnic table outside was turned over, and our grill floated away, and the porch deck was broken."

The staff of the FWB Press pitched in to help the Davenport's during this time. Several men helped with the heavy moving and clearing out of the house while many of the ladies donated items. Donations poured in from the Grifton FWB Church, volunteer agencies, and individuals. Help also came from the department of Home Missions and Evangelism of OFWB, and individuals associated with the OFWB Headquarters.

"There were donations coming in from people I don't even know," Mary Ann said with gratitude.

Mary Ann says she received a "surprise" blessing one day after she left for the day for an appointment with FEMA. Some men from an out-of-town church stopped by the Press and asked about sponsoring a family who was flooded out of their home. They wanted to meet the people in person to make sure their funds were going to be used wisely. The Editor, the Rev. C.H. Overman, told the men about Mary Ann and Roland Davenport. They were given the Davenport's address and number where they could be reached. They brought some supplies for Mary Ann to pick up when she returned to work. The Church continued to provide the Davenport's with support for another month.

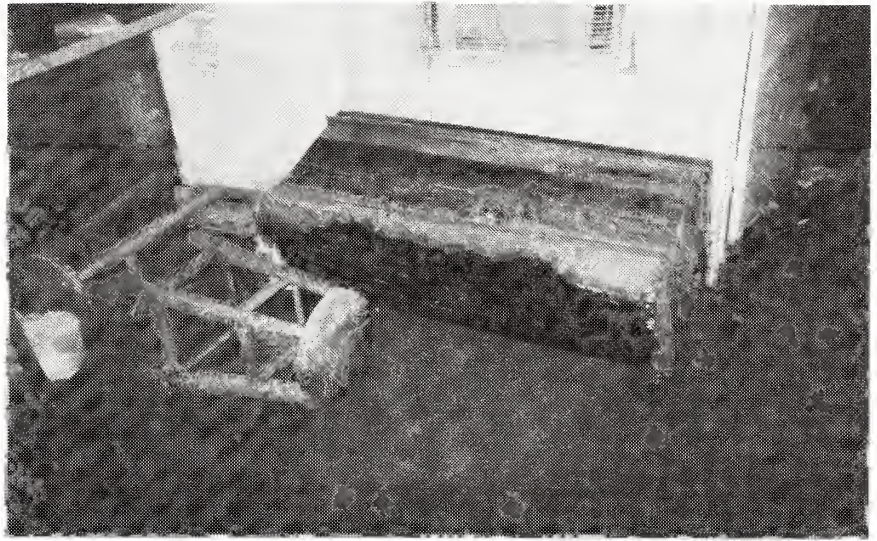
"The flood brought out the very best in people and the very worst in people. There were some folks who would try to take advantage of the situation and the people who were flooded out. But then there were so many who gave donations and tried to help others. Total strangers would come and help. It made you feel like there was still some good in our world," Hope said about her parents' ordeal.

The weeks and months after the flood were hard on Mary Ann but it really took a toll on her husband Roland.

"He was trying to work the night shift at Frigidaire in Kinston and then spend his days standing in long lines trying to get the assistance that we needed. He got really discouraged at times," Mary Ann said.

One bright spot for Roland came in the form of a gift from his employer. Frigidaire in Kinston donated stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, and lawn mowers to every employee that was flooded out of their homes.

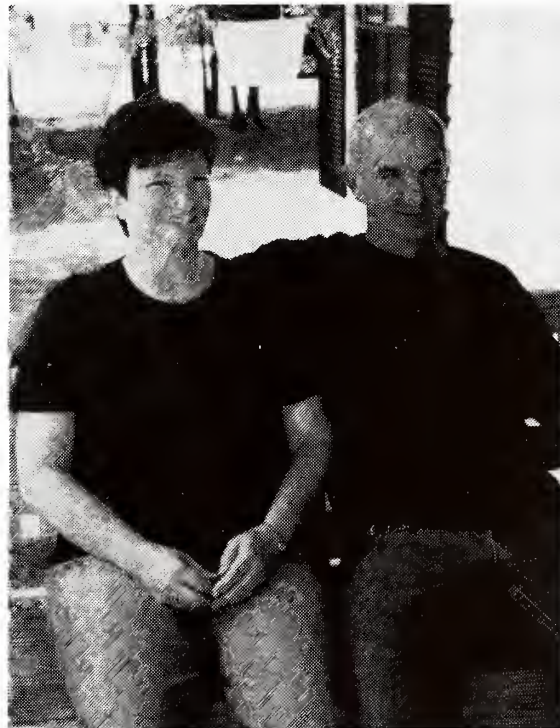
The Davenport's made the decision to not return to their home in Tick Bite and bought a home in Arba, a small community in Greene



The aftermath — everything was topsy-turvy.

County. They have had to buy furniture, clothes, sheets, utensils, and everything else that makes a house a home. They feel like they are just beginning to get their lives back to normal. Their daughter Hope is planning to get married to Steven Heath in October and Mary Ann is busy making plans.

Though the waters have receded, the Davenport's will never forget the "Flood of the Century" or the people who helped them rebuild their lives and start anew.



After months of struggles and uncertainty, Mary Ann and Roland are now beginning to enjoy their new home.

A Father's Day Tribute

The Legacy of The Reverend Herman A. Grubbs, Senior

(December 28, 1922 - March 11, 1974)

by W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus
Mount Olive College

The Founders Leadership Award

Each year my wife and I sponsor a scholarship known as *The Founders Leadership Award* for a student at Mount Olive College who is chosen on the basis of strong and positive campus leadership. The scholarship is given in honor and memory of those who with vision and leadership initiated the founding of Mount Olive College in 1951 and those who in subsequent years have provided extraordinary services, leadership and support for its advancement.

The student recipient is selected from the rising senior class by a committee of faculty, student and staff representatives, while the person in whose honor or memory the award is made is chosen by my wife and me. Our purpose is to encourage among students those qualities of leadership which gave birth to Mount Olive College and to recognize those who have exemplified exceptional commitment to its Christian mission. While persons who provide major financial support merit public appreciation for their generosity, we believe it is also proper to acknowledge those who make special personal

commitments to our work. In this spirit, we chose to make the 2000 award in honor of Mrs. Lillian K. Grubbs.

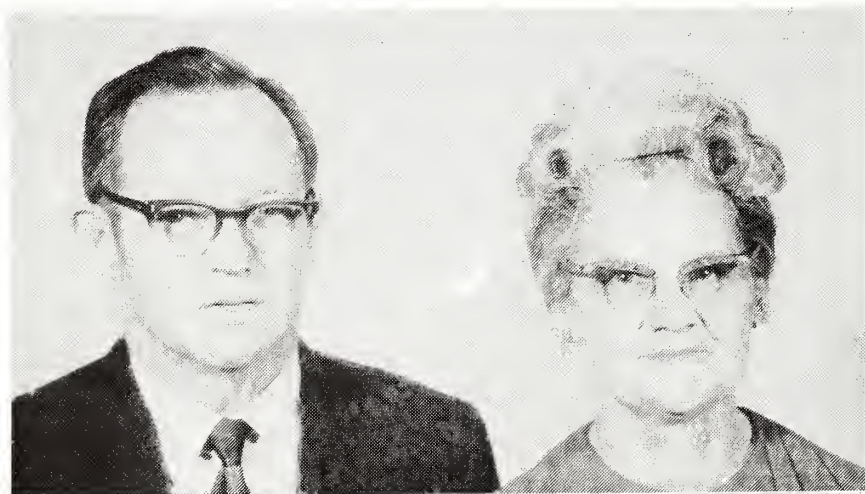
The Legacy of Faith

In 1958, while Mount Olive College was still housed in an old elementary school building in downtown Mount Olive, I went to the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists which met in Miami. Following my report, a thirty-six year old man, who described himself as a minister and a rural mail carrier, talked with me about the college. I do not recall his specific questions, but my discussion with him lingered in my mind.

Not long afterwards, I received a letter postmarked from Perry, Florida. The writer identified himself as Herman A. Grubbs and made reference to our discussion in Miami. He said that if he could get a mail route in the Mount Olive area, he would like to move here. He could better prepare himself for the ministry and provide his children an opportunity to attend a Christian college.

After checking with the Post Office Department and the Rural Carriers Association, we found a carrier who was interested in moving to Florida. And thus it was, on a hot Saturday afternoon in August, 1959, Mr. and Mrs. Grubbs arrived in Mount Olive with their eight children ranging in ages from fifteen to three. They moved into a house that they had never seen before. It had been located for them by the Rev. M. L. Johnson, who was Business Manager-Treasurer of the college. The following day, all ten members of the family were in church on the campus and the next week Mr. Grubbs began his mail route out of Goldsboro. He also enrolled for late afternoon and night classes.

In addition to his work and studies, Mr. Grubbs soon began his pastorate of area part-



Herman and Lillian Grubbs in 1971

time churches, including Long Ridge, Snow Hill, Northeast, Indian Springs and Jackson Heights, all in the Eastern Conference, and Tee's Chapel in the Cape Fear Conference. Following his retirement from the Post Office, the Grubbs family moved to Plymouth where Mr. Grubbs was pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church until his death on March 11, 1974.

A Legacy of Christian Service

All eight children, six sons and two daughters, have attended Mount Olive College, along with three of their spouses and three grandchildren. Also, Mrs. Grubbs herself is a graduate of the College, making a total of sixteen members of the Grubbs family who are alumni.

Five sons are ordained ministers and are currently serving Original Free Will Baptist Churches in North Carolina. The sixth son is a school principal with Duplin County Public Schools. One daughter is a registered nurse and is employed as coordinator of the School Health Program for Wayne County Public Schools, and the other daughter is an adjunct professor with Wayne Community College.

For the past twenty-two years Mrs. Grubbs has been employed with Mount Olive College. She has served as faculty secretary and has worked in various other office positions. Currently, she is semi-retired but continues to serve as secretary to Dr. Pepper Worthington, Editor of the Mount Olive College Press.

Mr. and Mrs. Grubbs were married in December 1942, during World War II. The following two years, 1943-1945, Mr. Grubbs



All eight of Herman and Lillian Grubb's children, six sons and two daughters, have attended Mount Olive College. Lillian Grubbs is pictured with her children. Back row (l-r): Adrain Grubbs, pastor of Deep Run Free Will Baptist Church in Deep Run; Leon Grubbs, pastor of Hull Road Free Will Baptist Church in Snow Hill; Frank Grubbs, Pastor of Selma Free Will Baptist Church in Selma; Paul Grubbs, pastor of St. Paul Free Will Baptist Church in Elizabeth City; Harry Grubbs, pastor of Ayden Free Will Baptist Church in Ayden; and Darrell Grubbs, principal of Rose Hill/Magnolia Elementary School. Front row (l to r): Sandy G. Sasser, adjunct professor at Wayne Community College; Lillian Grubbs, secretary of the Mount Olive College Press; and Muriel G. Overman, Coordinator of the School Heath Program for Wayne County Schools.

served in the United States Army. When the war was over, he returned to high school to earn his diploma.

Together, Herman and Lillian Grubbs have given their family, their country and their church a great legacy — the legacy of faith, a commitment to Christian higher education, a legacy of family values and Christian service. In their own way, they have shown us the meaning of leadership.

Father's Day is

June 18

Remember Your Dad on His Day

H A P P Y D A D ' S D A Y

Strong Families

by David Jackson

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A lot of attention is placed on picking up the pieces when families start to fall apart, when we may not be doing enough to build them strong in the first place. Do we know what qualities to encourage and where to invest our time?

Fortunately, there's been some recent research to help us. Dr. Nick Stinnett of the University of Nebraska has researched over 3,000 strong families and has come up with qualities that characterize them. At the National Leadership Forum on Family Well-Being held in Washington D.C., he and other family experts discussed these findings.

1. Strong families are committed to "family," their family and its members.

There are three aspects of commitment. First, there is the commitment to the institution of marriage and family. The strong family does not consider itself a take-it-or-leave-it arrangement. Dr. Ted Ward of Trinity Divinity Seminary says, "A conservative attitude toward divorce, usually a religious tenet, works toward upholding family commitment."

Second, there is a commitment to one's own family as a unit to be cherished and preserved. Dr. Armand Nicholi of the Harvard Medical School points out that, "The amount of time we spend with our families indicates our degree of commitment."

Finally, there must be a commitment to the individual members of the family.

They must have priority above other humans. That bit of research sounds like the Apostle Paul when he said to Timothy, "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

What are some ways we can enhance this sense of commitment?

- Have a family council meeting every six months to evaluate how things are going and what needs to change.
- Husbands and wives can renew

their marriage vows on their anniversary.

- Trace your family tree, and appreciate your heritage.
- Do a family project where you work together to serve someone else or raise money for a mission project.
- Foster family traditions, especially around holidays.

2. Strong families spend time together.

There is a popular saying that it's not the quantity but the quality of time you spend with a person that is important. However, kids don't always have their problems on your "quality time." Nicholi says, "Time is like oxygen — there's a minimum amount that's necessary for survival. And it takes quantity as well as quality to develop warm and caring relationships."

Unfortunately, parents in our society spend less time with their children than in any other society. One Boston study found that fathers spend an average of only 37 seconds a day with their children.

How can we increase the quantity and quality of time we spend together?

- Have each family member list the four best times you've had together. Then do reruns.
- Have dates with your spouse, but also try having them with each of your children.
- Let children help with household chores by working together with you. Rake the yard together. Cook dinner together. Fold laundry together.
- When you watch TV, do it together, and then talk about it.
- Read good books aloud together.

3. Strong families solve problems in crises.

All families experience crises. It can be a major illness, one of the children getting into trouble or doing poorly at school, the birth of a new baby, or retirement. In strong families, crises are times when the members consciously pull together so that the change won't pull them apart.

Here are some suggestions for handling



crises:

- Support each other by being together and looking for ways to help.
- Allow yourself time to grieve a real loss.
- Ask what helpful resources each family member can contribute and what outside resources are available.
- Commit your family to God's guidance and care. Remember a crisis will not last forever.

4. Strong families are religiously oriented.

Stinnett's research shows that an awareness of God gives a sense of purpose and support. Strong families found their faith helped them to be more patient with each other, more forgiving, quicker to get over anger, more positive, and more supportive in their relationships.

Strong families usually go to church together. They are usually active in the work of their church. Individual family members regularly have a personal time of spiritual meditation and study, and a time of family devotions.

Here are some other ways to foster your family's spiritual orientation.

- Establish traditions that are spiritually based.
- Involve all family members who are old enough in seeking God's will to make important decisions.
- Teach clear and specific guidelines about right and wrong.

Remember, truth is not a smorgasbord of opinion.

5. Remember families practice good communication.

You may think that this characteristic is self-evident. But good communication is not merely a product of strength. It is one of the things that creates strength, and it's not always natural and easy. It must be deliberately practiced.

Dr. Grace Ketterman, the Director of Crittendon Foundation in Kansas City, says, "The destructiveness of negative communication can be just as powerful as

the benefits of positive communication."

If good communication is no accident, what can we do to improve it in our families?

- Set aside 15–30 minutes each day to talk to your spouse. Remember, careful listening is at least half of good communication.
- Take one of your children out to dinner alone just to talk.
- Consider each family member's ideas important. Share your inner self as well as the facts. For instance, "The sun is shining," is a statement of fact. But "I love this sunshine!" reveals something of yourself.
- Take a marriage enrichment course.

State Layman's League Convention Meets

submitted by Harold Humbles, State Secretary

The State Layman's League Convention met on May 5, 2000, at the Fremont Free Will Baptist Church in Fremont, NC. Floyd Newsome captured our attention by singing a song that expresses that God is always there for us in the good times and the bad times. He is always there when we need him if we will only trust in Him. Harold Cunnington and the Rev. Seth Allen provided more fine music. Their selections reminded us of the troublesome times that we face in our world today.

Brother Floyd Newsome gave a splendid devotion on how we need to live more productive lives in order to continue the glorification of God's kingdom. We sometimes are guilty of doing very little when it comes to our Master. We should be eager to walk in his footsteps, live a life that is an example for others, and let him mold us into what he would have us to be. We have a tendency to "fish off one side of the boat." When we take account of our lives, we should pull up our nets and follow Jesus more each day in order to prepare for what he has in store for us.

Our State Layman's League President spoke about Layman's activities and upcoming events. After the business session, our guests were recognized. Dr. Burkette Raper gave an update on activities concerning Mount Olive College. The Rev. Frank Harrison, Chaplain of Mount Olive College, advised us that the Layman's Endowment Fund at the college at the time was \$13,776.00. He thanked us for the prayers for the college. The Rev. David Hansley, General Administrator, gave an update on the progress at Cragmont and reminded us that August is Heritage Month

cont....

State Layman's League Convention Meets

and special recognition is on the last Sunday in August. He was happy to announce that all dates for Cragmont and Camp Vandemere are filled for this year.

Elmer Harrell turned over the election of officers to vice-president Russell Tyson. He presented those who were nominated and opened the floor for any other nominations.

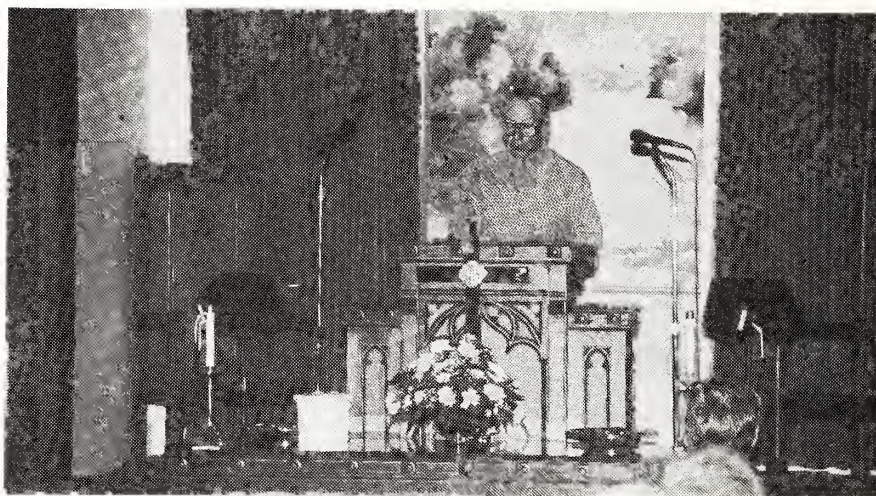
Those elected to office were: Elmer Harrell, president; Russell Tyson, vice-president; Harold Humbles, secretary; and Robert Tripp, treasurer.

Those elected to the Promotional Committee were: Randy Beaman and Harold Humbles; pastoral advisor, the Rev. Mike Scott with the Rev. Jack Wethersby assisting when he is needed.

Several Board members have requested to be replaced. These replacements will be announced at the "Spiritual Life Retreat" at Camp Vandemere and all officers will be recognized and installed into their official positions that weekend.

The Executive Board is preparing a rally for ministers and their men's groups that are not official members of the Layman's League. These churches will be receiving a letter addressed to the pastor as a personal invitation in hopes of having 159 churches represented at the Layman's League each year. This rally of new churches and their mens' groups is being held at Harrell's Chapel Church on Saturday, August 5, 2000, at 11:30 AM. Harrell's Chapel Church is located 2 miles west of Snow Hill, NC, on Highway 58. We felt this to be a central location and time. This is a free bar-b-que luncheon to bring together all these new churches for the first time and hopefully organize us to gather for fellowship more often. For more information on the rally, contact Elmer Harrell at 252-747-2894 or Harold Humbles at 252-746-4140.

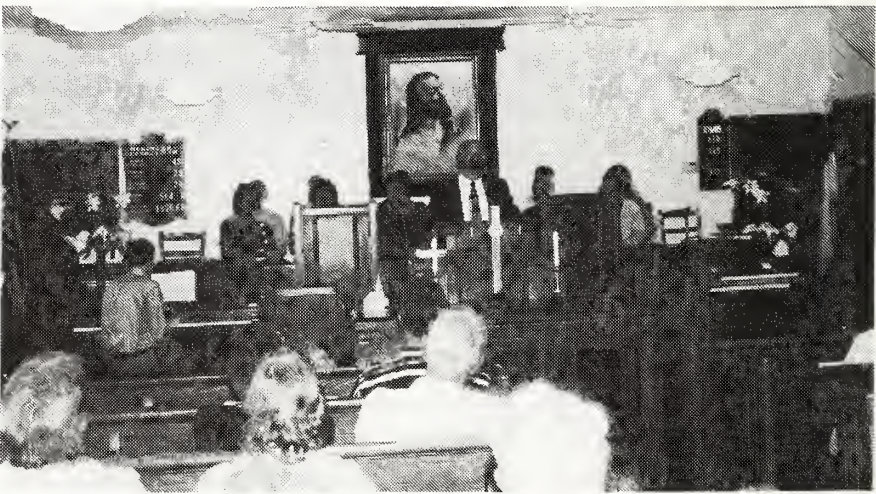
Elmer Harrell presented some general information about our Layman's League. The State Layman's League was first organized in 1982. A Layman's Sponsored Endowment Fund was first set up at Mount Olive College on June 29, 1984. Those who have served as president are: Paul Beaman, 1982-86; Rex Wainright, 1986-88; Donald Marlowe, 1988-90; John Newton, 1990-92; Elmer Harrell, 1992-96; John Newton, 1996-98; and Elmer Harrell, 1998-2000.



Floyd Newsome presented "Fruitful Thoughts" before the State Layman's League Convention, hosted by Fremont Church, May 5, as a reminder that God is still on the throne and still needs fishers of men during these very troublesome times. (Brother Newsom also spoke at the Western Conference Union Meeting on April 29, pertaining to the Layman's League.)



State Layman's League President, Elmer Harrell presents new ideas to bring more Layman together with a rally scheduled for August 5.

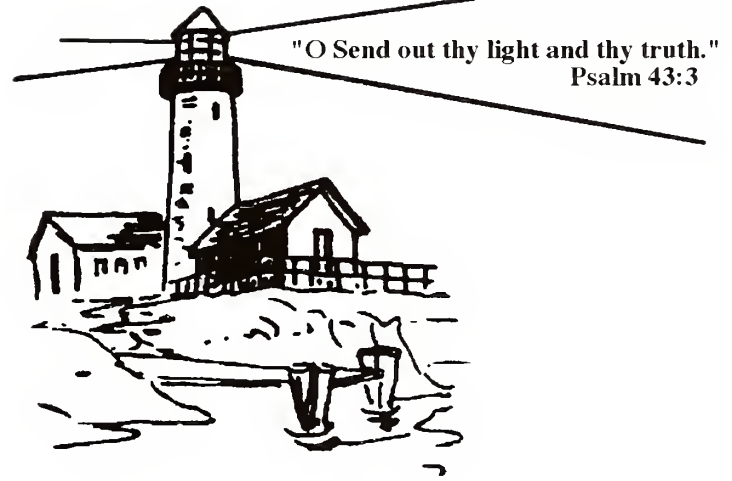


On April 16, Edwards Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, South River, NC, received Layman's League material. President Elmer Harrell and secretary Harold Humbles, along with the eastern president and officers, were on hand to welcome them as they organized the League.

Camp Vandemere

Our Family Enrichment Center

by Owen Arthur



Camping Season

Officially Began May 5...

"To God be the glory-great things he hath done!" Camping season officially began the weekend of May 5 with our first group for a retreat. They were pleased that we have such a fine Christian camp. They experienced a spiritual renewal as well as a good time.

Our rededication and open house held on April 29 was a great success. We had a good turnout and the program was very good. We wish to thank all those who had a part in it: Mt. Zion Church, for furnishing the special music and to Mr. Lee Wilson from Juniper Chapel who began the services with a trumpet special, "Amazing Grace." Most of our board members were present and participated in the ribbon cutting.

There has been a tremendous amount of work done to enable the camp to be ready for this year's camping season. This has been done by board members, friends of the camp, and our manager, the Rev. Mike Williams. For all those who have helped we would like to express our thanks and commend you for a job well done.

Let me encourage you to invite Mike and Lydia to come to your church and tell you about the camp. They are excited about how God is working at the camp and would like to share their excitement with you. They certainly have been a blessing to us. They can be reached by calling the camp at 252-745-3171; this is the same number you need to call when you make your reservations.

Come down and visit with them at the camp. If you haven't been in a long time or have never been before. During one of our work days, we had a couple who came to help that hadn't been to the camp in several years. They were very pleased to see all that has been accomplished. Those who saw all the damage caused by the hurricanes will be very pleased with the repairs as well as those things that have been updated. Plans are for the camp to become a year-round-conference center, where churches and groups can come for spiritual renewal and seminars.

Don't forget that we have rooms to rent in our family lodge. Each of those rooms has two double beds, a sleeper sofa, a microwave, small refrigerator, a small table with chairs, and a private bath. When you step out of your room you can see the beautiful Bay River. We do ask you to bring your own linen, since we don't have the facilities to do any laundry. This is one of the services that we hope to be able to offer in the future. We have camp sites available for those who would like to bring their camper and stay for a few nights.

Mark your calendars for August 19. This is the date for our all day "Singing by the River." This will take place at the camp under the big tent. Bring your family and make plans to spend the whole day with us. As usual we will have hamburgers, hot dogs, and fish plates available. The camp will also have t-shirts and caps for sale. We are considering having other attractions also. There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be received.

The camp would like to say how much we appreciate Mr. Itchy Popkins, of Furniture Fair in Jacksonville, for donating two double size beds, a night stand, and a dresser with mirror to help complete the furnishing of the newest room in the family lodge. If you have a chance, stop in and let him know how much you appreciate his generosity.

Again, we want to say "thank you" for your faithfulness to the camp. Please continue to pray for us, and if you don't have the camp in your church budget, please consider putting us there. Send your young people and consider scheduling a weekend retreat for your church. The camp number is listed above. May the Lord bless and keep you.

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

Cragmont NEWS

**June is the month that has been designated
as Cragmont month by our Convention.**

Below are ways your congregation can help this ministry.

Things you can do...

- Have special Cragmont service one Sunday during the month.
- Take a special offering.
- Have someone or several people give a brief testimony during the worship service. The focus should be on the spiritual experiences while attending a conference or retreat.
- Place Cragmont in your budget.
- Have a religious life retreat for your church at Cragmont. We would be glad to help you in the planning.
- Encourage your youth to attend a summer youth conference this summer.

Prayer Items...

Each Sunday of the month during the worship service have your congregation pray for:

- Cragmont staff, camp directors and counselors.
- That God would grant a revival to those attending our conferences.
- That God would grant safe travel for those attending our conferences.
- That those who do not know Christ would make professions of faith while attending a conference.

Cragmont Is:

"Ministry to the whole person"

For years, three words have described the ministry of Cragmont: "Inspiration, Instruction, Recreation." This is a description of a "whole-person" ministry. In a publication of Christian Camping International USA called "Focus Series" Dr. George "Bud" Williams stated: "A church ministers spiritually, a school educates mentally, the home and peers influence socially, and athletic programs develop physically. Camp powerfully communicates spiritual truths and spurs spiritual growth among campers — in the midst of God's creation." The ministry of Cragmont, when looked at from the perspective of the big picture, ministers to the whole person. Camping and retreat activities are designed to teach spiritual truths. Through recreational activities people are taught how to get along with others and treat them fairly. Even the mind is engaged as one is compelled to face unfamiliar people, a different schedule, and different surroundings. It all happens in the midst of the mountains that God created for our pleasure and study.



The Rev. Everette Harper of Renewed Vision Ministries checks out the new digital piano given by the Women's Auxiliary. Special thanks to those who contributed to this project.

June is Cragmont Assembly Month

2000 Summer Camp Schedule

"...Come, let us go to the mountain of the Lord...He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths..." (Isaiah 2:3 *NIV*).

June Woman's Auxiliary Conference

June 5-10, 2000
Teresa Ball
252-524-4677
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 12-17, 2000
Bryant Hines
252-633-2683
PO Box 266
Cove City, NC 28523

Christian Cadet Conference

June 19-24, 2000
Gary Bailey
919-735-3916
112 Crosswinds Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27530

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)

June 26-July 1, 2000
Janie Sowers
252-235-2408
PO Box 824
Middlesex, NC 27557

Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)

July 3-8, 2000
Frankie Baggett
252-746-7850
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513

General Youth II Conference

July 10-15, 2000
Chris Singleton
910-298-3520
PO Box 162
Beulaville, NC 28518

General Youth I Conference

July 17-22, 2000
Bryant Hines
252-633-2683
PO Box 266
Cove City, NC 28523

Young People's Bible Conference

July 24-29, 2000
James Gurganus
252-223-5251
1317 Nine Foot Road
Newport, NC 28570

August Woman's Auxiliary Conf.

July 31-August 5, 2000
Teresa Ball
252-524-4677
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

Women: We call your attention to the Morning Star weekend retreat and the two week-long conferences scheduled for women. Make plans to attend.

Youth Directors and Ministers: We ask that you place a copy of these dates and conferences on your churches and bulletin boards. We want to fill each week to capacity.



Morning Star Retreat

Cragmont Assembly, Inc.
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(877) 669-7677
(828) 669-1463
E-mail: Cragcom@aol.com

Wonderful Missions Experiences

Short-Term Team Philippines — April 1-16, 2000

by Harold Jones

On April 1, a Short-Term Team with twelve members departed for the Philippines. The mission of this team was to participate in the Graduation Exercises of Palawan Bible College, the Annual Convention of the Free Will Baptist Church, Philippines, work in the Youth Camp, conduct Vacation Bible Schools in various churches and help construct a parsonage at the Puerto Princesa Church. In addition to these activities we attended Church Dedication Services at the Abo-Abo and Puerto Princesa Free Will Baptist Church, and attended the wedding of Arnel and Marvie Cuba.

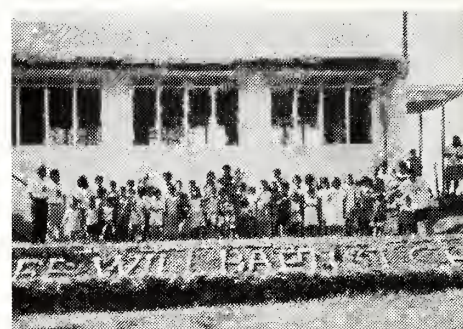
We had a great team and came home with many wonderful memories of our time in the Philippines. (The Team members were: Chris and Vickie Singleton, Beulaville Church; Wayne and Deborah King, Kelly Carlton, Phil Farmer, Wilson, First Church; Linda Jackson, Shady Grove Church; Virginia Joyner and Doris Peele, Kenly Church; Ernest Jones, Holly Springs Church, Newport; Sandra and Harold Jones.)



Wayne and Deborah King with the Rev. and Mrs. Fidel Presto and family, the president and Librarian of P.B.C.



Chris Singleton teaching a lesson on FROG (fully relying on God) at the Youth Convention.



VBS at Mangingisda



VBS at Buncag



Kelly Carlton ministering through puppets.



Wedding Ceremony of Arnel and Marvie Cuba.



Virginia Joyner and Doris Peele making a presentation to the Puerto Princesa FWB Church.



Kelly Carlton and Chris Singleton working hard.



Wayne King and Phil Former passing the cement for the floor of the parsonage.

Kindergarten Exercises

— Philippines

by Vergel

On March 15, 2000, the Rev. Fidel B. Presto and I traveled to Abo-Abo to attend the first commencement exercise of the kindergarten pupils of the Free Will Baptist Church Learning Center. The graduation ceremony was held on March 17 at 3:30 PM, conducted by Rev. Presto. There were eleven candidates for graduation, but one of them was not able to attend.

The next day we left for Apo-Aporawan to attend the first graduation of the Kindergarten Learning Center at Bethany Free Will Baptist Church. We reached there at 3:00 PM and went directly to the house of Pastor Alvin Dagot. The Rev. Presto taught Sunday school and ministered in the morning worship service.

On our way back to Puerto Princesa we stopped in Narra to witness their kindergarten graduation exercises (the Rev. Eddito Maduma is the pastor at Narra).



Abo-Abo Free Will Baptist Church Kindergarten Learning Center graduation.



Abo-Aporawan – Bethany Free Will Baptist Church Kindergarten Learning Center graduation.

Central District Conference

Free Will Baptist Church, Philippines

by Arman R. Manzano

The Central District of the Free Will Baptist Church Philippines held it's Fifth Annual Conference in the Canigaran Free Will Baptist Church February 22–25, 2000. The theme of the Conference was "The Church and Her Pastor." The highlight of this Conference was the three-year plan of the Central District, which established our core objective: vision and mission.

Praise God for providing our basic needs for this even through the local churches of the District and our co-laborers in Christ! Thank God also for our facilitator, Roger Malino who was willing to share his knowledge in the Conference. We count it all a great success!



Central District Conference held at Canigaran Free Will Baptist Church.

Short-Term Team 2001

The Short-Term Teams to the Philippines and Mexico are full for the year 2000. Now, however, is the time to begin thinking about 2001. In addition to our regular teams to the Philippines and Mexico in 2001, we will be adding a team to Bulgaria where Willem and Lydia van der Plas are serving. This team will consist of only twelve members.

The dates for 2001 are:

Philippines — April 21–May 6

(12 member team — 18 years old and up)

Mexico — June 16–26

(30 member team — 13 years old and up)

Mexico — July 14–24

(30 member team — 13 years old and up)

Mexico — August 4–14

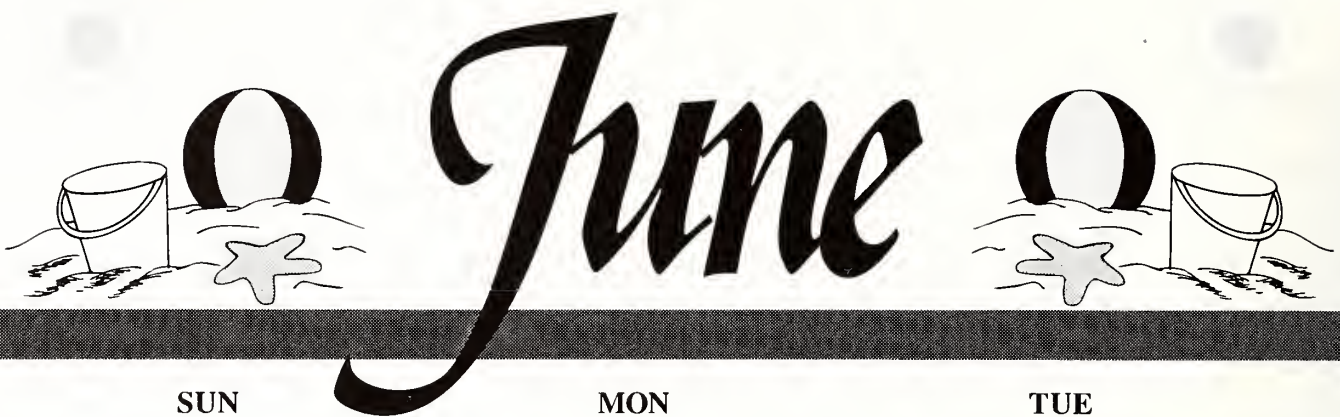
(12 member team — 18 years old and up)

Bulgaria — September 22–October 4

(12 member team — 18 years old and up)

After you have prayed and sought the Lord's will about joining a Short-Term Team, please contact the Board of Foreign Missions' office for more information.

June



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SUN	MON	TUE	
28	29	30	31
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18 Minister's Program Sunday	19	20	21
<i>Father's Day</i>	=====		<i>Ch</i>
25	26	27	28
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Concerns _____

Remember _____

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<i>Auxiliary Conference – June 5-10</i> <hr/> <hr/>			
	15	16	17
<i>Youth Conference – June 12-17</i> <hr/> <hr/>			
	22	23	24
<i>Cadet Conference – June 19-24</i> <hr/> <hr/>			
	29	30	1
<i>Conference (YFA) June 25-July 1</i> <hr/> <hr/>			

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR



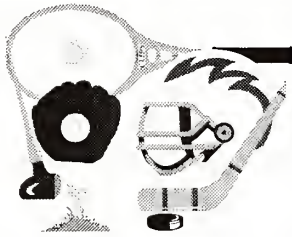
Volunteers Provide

The Lamm's Club of the Wilson County Extension Community Volunteers made sure that our Home received items needed. On April 14, Mrs. Nancy Lamm, (above) delivered paper products, irons, alarm clocks, and calculators. These ladies even provided plastic eggs containing prizes for our children's Easter. Thanks ladies!



Wakefield G.A.'s Visit

On April 15, the Wakefield Baptist G.A.'s of Zebulon visited and toured our campus. These young ladies were determined to show us that even the cool rain could not stop them from showing the residents that they cared.



Summer Program

The Children's Home campus summer recreation program begins June 5 and ends August 4. We have two part-time Barton College students to provide activities and show the children how to participate and have fun. These two students will serve as excellent role models for all of our children. Activities planned are — swimming, bon fires with devotion, volleyball, game competitions, basketball, movies, crafts, library visits, baking contests, bowling, workshops, Teen Summit on drug abuse awareness, tours of Museum of Art, Museum of History, and Museum of Science, Imagination Station, and a talent show. This should be a memorable and busy summer for all of our residents.



(L to R) — Dr. Bobby Taylor, President of the FWB Children's Home and Rev. John Linwood Crocker, Pastor of Bridgeview Worship Center of Emerald Isle, NC.

Showing They Care

On April 20, the Rev. John Linwood Crocker presented the Children's Home with a check for \$825.00 from the members of the Bridgeview Worship Center of Emerald Isle. A special thank you to the members for their determination and prayers.

Items in Need List:

- ♥ Paper Products
- ♥ Personal Care Items
- ♥ Playstation Games
- ♥ Encyclopedias (CD Roms)
- ♥ Computers for Cottages (est. cost \$5000)
- ♥ Carpet Cleaning Machine
- ♥ Cordless Telephones
- ♥ 8 Cutting Boards
- ♥ Basketballs and Volleyballs
- ♥ Pots, Pans, and Dishes (12 or 10 setting)
- ♥ 24 Alarm Clocks
- ♥ Golf Cart
- ♥ First Aid Kits
- ♥ Vacuum Cleaner
- ♥ Cameras for Cottages
- ♥ Appliances
- ♥ Twin size Sheets
- ♥ Twin size Blankets
- ♥ Dish Towels
- ♥ Dish Cloths
- ♥ Bath Towels
- ♥ Wash Cloths
- ♥ Mixers
- ♥ Pot Holders
- ♥ Serving Bowls
- ♥ Storage Containers
- ♥ Shower Curtains
- ♥ Standard Size Pillows
- ♥ Bath Mats
- ♥ 24 Square Clothes Hampers
- ♥ Microwaves
- ♥ Can Openers (electric and manual)

Bleeding Botanical

Bleeding out into the river
 Its particles will so deliver
 Out of the petal it flies
 And oh, a ravishing botanical dies.
 Drenching the green, out it goes
 Bleeding above and out below
 Come back, it's what it needs
 If not I fear for all iniquity
 But it's losing it all in a hemorrhage
 All its strength and all its prestige.
 Takes the time to secure its wounds
 So no longer that botanical is doomed.

*Written by Jessica Bulleck
 Resident of the FWB Children's Home
 Class of '00*

*Mark Your Calendar
 54th Annual
 Alumni Homecoming
 July 9, 2000*

MINISTERS PROGRAM

**June 18, 2000
 is**

Minister's Program Sunday

Please commemorate this day with a gift or remembrance for your pastor.

Your gift to the Minister's Program provides assistance to both retired and active ministers within the Convention.

- *Retirement Benefits
- *Christmas Cheer
- *Hardship Grants
- *Widows and Ministers Fund
- *Seminars for Ministers
- *Tuition Loans

For more information please contact:
 Donald Fader

Post Office Box 39 • Ayden, North Carolina 28513

A Message to Free Will Baptists

from J. William Byrd, President

We are pleased to share with you the information Mount Olive College received on May 4, 2000, from the Appeals Committee of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The College won the appeal and has retained its membership in the Southern Association. In June, the college will have the opportunity to share with the Committee on Criteria and Reports its success in achieving financial stability.

Since last December's action of the Commission on Colleges, all operations of the college have continued with momentum, and our enrollment has remained steady. Now that our accreditation has been upheld, however, we must increase our efforts to strengthen and expand the college. It will require strong commitment from each of us to meet this challenge. The vitality and Christian values that have been the hallmark of this institution in the past will form the foundation for even greater achievement in the future.

Since receiving word in December that the college was removed from membership, the college appealed the decision, and in February, a Day of Prayer was held for the needs of the college. God answered our prayers and immediately upon receiving the decision from the Appeals Committee on May 4, a large number of faculty, staff, administration, and students gathered in Rodgers Chapel for praise and thanksgiving. Again on May 10 the Rev. Frank Harrison, campus minister, led the college family in a service of thanksgiving in Rodgers Chapel.

The Free Will Baptist Church is vital to the mission of Mount Olive College. Working together under God's leadership, we will be a strong institution.

We thank you for your continuing support and, in particular, your prayers which have sustained us throughout the last five months. I know that Mount Olive College can depend on you now as it has in the past as all of us engage in the ministry of Christian higher education.

Four Mount Olive College Students Inducted into English Honor Society

Mount Olive College's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society, recently inducted four new members.

Sigma Tau Delta has chapters in over 400 colleges and universities throughout the United States and abroad. The society honors undergraduates, graduates, and scholars who have demonstrated excellence in linguistic or literary realms of the English languages.

New inductees are: Christy Atkins of Mount Olive; Carrie Brown of Rock Springs Church in Nash County; Andrea Sardina of Goldsboro; and Marci Rollins of First Free Will Baptist Church of Goldsboro in Wayne County.

Both Carrie and Marci are honor students at the college. Carrie is the daughter of Charles and Sandra Brown. She is a junior English major and serves as a resident assistance in the women's dormitory. Marci is the daughter of Nelson and Deborah Rollins. She is a sophomore English communications and religion double major. She serves as the president of the Fellowship of Christian Students and the College Ambassadors. She is a member of the Student Government Association, the Undergraduate Alumni Association, the Free Will Baptist Student Fellowship, the Theological Student Fellowship, and is a writer for the student newspaper, *The Free Thinker*.

Position Available

Mount Olive College is seeking a Vice President for Student Development. Applicants must have M.A. Degree in student development services and experience in the area. Areas of responsibility include overall administration of the student life program, including housing, general student activities, development programs and student government.

Mount Olive College is sponsored by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists and is seeking a person who is committed to the mission of the college in Christian higher education.

Interested persons should contact:

Office of the President
Mount Olive College

634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365

MOC Singers Was a Natural Choice for Lee Honeycutt

With the ability to charm his way into the hearts of any audience as he sings and performs on stage, it was a natural move for Lee Honeycutt, a member of Robert's Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Sampson County, to audition for the MOC Singers and send in his application for admittance to Mount Olive College. That was five years ago, and unlike some Singers who come and go, Lee remained with the Singers for four years.

Those four years provided Lee with memories that he will take with him for a lifetime. Outside of the performance routines and rehearsals, Lee recalls traveling with the Singers all over the east coast, talking and having fun with fellow singers.

"I remember traveling to Wilmington one evening for a performance when the van we were in got a flat tire," Lee said. "We all got out and I helped change the tire in my tux. The amazing thing was that we didn't get dirty and we still made it to the performance on time."

The 1999–2000 academic year was Lee's fifth year at the college. According to Irene Patten, director of the Singers, it was Lee's extreme dedication to the Singers that influenced his decision to remain at the college a fifth year and do his internship then, rather than leave the Singers a year early in order to fulfill internship requirements.

Lee completed his internship at Carver Heights Elementary School in Wayne County this spring and graduated with a bachelor of science degree in recreational leisure studies in May. While at Carver Heights, he taught physical education to kindergarten through fifth grade students, a career he hopes to continue.

In addition to being a member of the Singers, Lee has also been involved with the College Ambassadors, the Free Will Baptist Student Fellowship, the Recreation Majors Club, and the Delta Phi Delta Fraternity. Lee serves as the Director of Recreation for the Town of Calypso. He was recently inducted into the MOC Singers Hall of Fame.



Pictured in the center is Lee Honeycutt with his girlfriend, Julie Sugg. Far left, his sister, Angela Warren and far right, his mother, Dixie Honeycutt.

FWB Churches in Greene County Contribute to Mount Olive College

While most Free Will Baptist churches were able to hold their annual dinners to show support to Mount Olive College in the fall of 1999, Greene County was not, due to their county suffering severe hardship brought by Hurricane Floyd. Despite the number of families who lost everything or almost everything they owned, 230 members dug deep into their pockets to pull out \$26,428 in gifts for the college at their dinner held in May at Greene County Middle School. There were 119 Bridge Builders (persons contributing a gift of \$100 or more).

Genevieve Taylor of Snow Hill and Randy Beaman of Winterville, co-chair; Vernice Jones of Walstonburg; Anna Belle Morris of Snow Hill; and Brenda Shirley of Ayden formed the steering committee for the dinner.

Two churches received special recognition: Free Union FWB Church was recognized for giving the largest contribution at the dinner and for having the most high school students attend the dinner. Ormondsville FWB Church was recognized for giving the most per capita at the dinner.

Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, coordinated the dinner and presided over the program. "Every time you give to Mount Olive College, you are making an investment in the lives of the students that we serve," she said. "We deeply appreciate the gifts your churches gave to us when you have faced needs yourselves this year."

"The Free Will Baptist Bridge Builders are an extremely important part of Mount Olive College. Bridge Builders have the power to build futures for students who attend our institution. We salute and thank these individuals," said Dr. J. William Byrd, President of the college.



Pictured is the Greene County Dinner Steering Committee who helped coordinated plans for the dinner. Left to right: Anna Belle Morris of Harrell's Chapel Church; Donna West of Friendship Church; Brenda Shirley of Ormondsville Church; Genevieve Taylor and Randy Beaman of Free Union Church, co-chairmen.

Outstanding Students



Mount Olive College recently recognized outstanding students at its annual Awards Day held in Rodgers Chapel. Pictured left to right are: Granville Byrd of Lee's Chapel in Sampson County, Who's Who Among American College and Universities; Jody Grubbs of Ayden Free Will Baptist Church in Pitt County, the M.L. Johnson Business Award; Jennifer Parker of Westside Church in Lenior County, Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities; Marci Rollins of First Church of Goldsboro in Wayne County, executive cabinet secretary of the Student Government Association for the 2000-2001 academic year; and Cliff Greenup of Pleasant Grove Church in Wayne County, Citation for Outstanding Student of the Year in Criminal Justice. Back row, left to right: Brad Piner of Juniper Chapel Church

in Craven County, college marshal; David Smith of St. Mary's Church in Craven County, Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities; Michael Barnhill of St. Mary's Church in Craven County, the W. Burkette Raper Ministerial Award; and Ronald Drake Jr. of Wintergreen Church in Craven County, the Free Will Baptist Ministerial Award. Not pictured, but also receiving awards are: Scott Satterfield of Lee's Chapel Church in Harnett County, executive cabinet president of the Student Government Association for the 2000-2001 academic year; Garrett Southerland of Westside Church in Lenior County, college marshal; Becky Kerns of Spring Hill Church in Wayne County and Tracy Wheeler of First Church of Wilson in Wilson County, retiring college marshals and Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities; Anthony B. Bennett of Antioch Church in Craven County, Joshua Kriger of Riverside Church in Johnston County, and Victor Tadeo of Sandy Plain Church in Duplin County, Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities.

Upcoming Events

National Exposure Basketball Camp will be held Sunday, June 18 through Thursday, June 22 at Mount Olive College. Contact Coach Bill Clingan for more information at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3076.

Women's Basketball Team Camp will be Thursday, June 22 through Sunday, June 25 at the college. For more information, contact Coach Marcia Heady at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3999.

The first of two Freshman Advising Days will be Saturday, June 24. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. Incoming freshmen and parents are invited to enjoy a day of information sessions, campus tours, and much more. For more information, contact Linda Greenwood at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3135.

Mount Olive College's Summer Session B will begin on Monday, June 26. For more information contact the Admissions Office at (800) 653-0854.

Bill Clingan's Individual Basketball Camp will be Monday, June 26 through Thursday, June 29 at MOC. Contact Coach Bill Clingan for more information at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3076.

Fastpitch Softball Camp will be held Monday, July 10 through Friday, July 14 at Mount Olive College. For more information, contact Coach Sharon Gregory at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3106.

Touch Lives For A Lifetime

The congregation of Friendly Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church in Greensboro placed money in a large glass jar for seven years. Their purpose was to give the proceeds as a gift to the ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism. General Administrator, the Rev. David C. Hansley, accepted the gift on behalf of Home Missions while in a service at Friendly Chapel. When all the contents of the jar were counted, the total was over \$1000.00. Thank you brethren for making it possible to Touch Lives For A Lifetime and Expand God's Kingdom.



Congregation of Friendly Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, presenting jar of money to General Administrator Rev. David C. Hansley for Home Missions and Evangelism.



The Rev. Rodger Motsinger and his wife, Debra. Friendly Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Greensboro, NC.

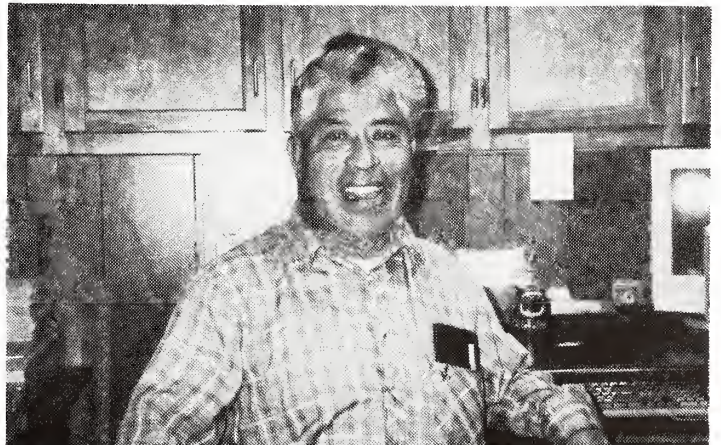
Director/Pastor Training 2000

Home Missionaries and Mission/Church Worship Leaders gathered January 14–16, 2000, at Mount Olive College for an Annual Training Session. Each mission was represented. Intense sessions detailing the many facets of Celebrate 2000, Mission America and the Lighthouse Minister were held. We joined the workshop on disabilities sponsored by the Breaking Bread Project on the campus of Mount Olive College. Our closing worship service challenged each one to have a greater commitment to Pray, Care, and Share with and for each one in our community. Each participant made a commitment to be a Lighthouse and to lead their fellow believers to be a Lighthouse.



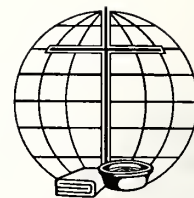
Hispanic Missions

Ministry to the Hispanic community throughout Eastern N.C. has increased in recent months. Kids Kare boxes and a special program was provided in the Chocowinity area. Approximately 60 children, youth, and adults gathered for special singing. Each family received a "Jesus" video in Spanish. Raul Dominguez Cruz, a Mexican Christian Layman has been diligently spreading the gospel with tracts, pamphlets, testaments, and Jesus videos provided by Christians, churches, and Home Missions and Evangelism. He is developing witness teams in Goldsboro, Pink Hill, LaGrange, Fremont, Mt. Olive, and other areas. Several Hispanic individuals have received Christ and are being discipled.



People & Events

Happenings Throughout the Denomination



Congratulations, Graduates!

submitted by Rita O. Jones

Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC, sends "Congratulations" to all graduates in this month's article and especially to our own senior, Christopher Eric Bagley. He was a co-captain of the talented football team at Clayton High School and a captain of our YFA Bible Bowl Team for the past two years. He will be going to NC State University in the fall and our prayers will continue to be with him.

On April 8, the youth group held a "Rock-a-thon" at the entrance of Clayton Food Town, rocking in chairs to gospel music and accepting donations for the Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society. The Women's Auxiliary had a yard sale/bake sale at the corner of the same parking lot. Between both groups, over \$600 was raised to insure a sponsorship for the church.

The Rev. Lewis Godwin joined us for our spring revival through the week of April 17-21. We enjoyed special music each evening, including the harmonica playing of Jonathon Eason who came on Tuesday evening. The Wednesday night service was cancelled so the church family could have visitation with the Blinsons following the passing of Brother Glenn Blinson. The Mt. Zion Choir shared music with us on Thursday evening.



Chris Bagley, Clayton High School senior, Class of 2000.

Our Easter sunrise service was held in the church cemetery followed by breakfast in the fellowship hall. Brother Roger Hill brought the morning message followed by a communion service. An offering of thirty pieces of silver was also taken with the regular morning offering.

On Saturday, April 29, Girl Scout Troop 364 met at the church and planted flowers around the church sign in appreciation for being able to use the fellowship hall for bi-monthly meetings. Pastor Jim Bogle expressed a thank you for the church for the beautification project.

In Memoriam: Joseph B. "Glenn" Brinson, 94, died Tuesday, April 18, 2000. Funeral services were conducted by the Revs. Jim Bogle, Lloyd Hargis, and Billy Nowell - all having been pastors at Powhatan over the years. Mr. Blinson is survived by a daughter, Wilhelmina B. Wall; son, Nelson G. Blinson; sister, Margaret Lee Blinson; brother, J. C. Blinson; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Myrtie Hill Blinson. Please remember the family as they have lost a dear one.

Free Will Baptist Minister and Wife View Airlift

"The US Coast Guard off Cape Lookout has done an expert job with this airlift. Your tax dollars are working for you," reported Captain Peter Bos to the more than 500 people on the *MS Rotterdam VI*. Two Free Will Baptists, Michael Warning, pastor of Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, and Pepper Worthington, book reviewer for the *Free Will Baptist*, were aboard the *Rotterdam* and saw the Elizabeth City helicopter lift both the nurse and medical emergency patient to its cockpit on the afternoon of April 25. Pastor Warning noted, "Holland America Line is a first-rate company in trying to handle medical emergencies. On the *Rotterdam* I've seen two patients taken off the ship in the waters of Midway Atoll and now a patient off the coast of North Carolina near Cape Lookout. Holland America is especially sensitive to elderly, disabled passengers as well as young ones." The medical lift off Cape Lookout took place with 16-foot sea swells and 30-mile winds, according to weather reports.



Attention: Pastors of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

Leadership Endowment Dinner to be held for the Rev. and Mrs. Fred A. Rivenbark

from Ronnie Hobgood, Chairman of Leadership Endowment Dinner, Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists is hosting a Leadership Endowment Dinner honoring the Rev. and Mrs. Fred A. Rivenbark on Friday, June 30, 2000. This endowment event will take place at Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church, 752 Stoney Creek Church Road, Goldsboro, North Carolina. The Dinner will begin at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall.

All Original Free Will Baptists are encouraged to attend. The dinner menu includes Prime Rib, baked potatoes, salad, iced tea/coffee, and dessert. The cost of the dinner is \$20 per person and requires a reservation by June 12, 2000. You, or someone in your church, can collect the reservations and mail them to the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, Box 39, Ayden, North Carolina 28513 or call the Rev. David C. Hansley at 252-746-4963. Please leave a message on the answering machine if no one is in the office.

We are encouraging churches to send a contribution to the Leadership Endowment in honor of the Rev. and Mrs. Fred A. Rivenbark. This is a wonderful way to honor Mr. and Mrs. Rivenbark for their love and service to the Christian ministry of Original Free Will Baptists.

The Leadership Endowment was established by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists to recognize leadership among Original Free Will Baptists and to provide continuing support to the work of the Convention. Support received will be invested and only the earnings of the investment will be used for the work of the Convention. The principle will remain on deposit, thus providing perpetual support for the Convention.

We are also collecting letters to present to the Rev. and Mrs. Rivenbark at the dinner. If you wish to submit a letter to be included in the presentation, please address the letter to the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, Box 39, Ayden, North Carolina 28513. Letters will be opened and placed in a presentation notebook.

Thank you in advance for announcing this information and for any contribution made to the Endowment.

Yes, you can go to Cragmont.

There is a way!

Can't afford the cost of an entire trip or have only partial funds, *The Wayne Vincent Endowment Fund* can help. Ages 8 to 18 can apply. Fill out the following application and return by May 30, 2000 to Ellen Forlines, 2907 Ellsworth Drive, Greenville, NC 27834-4915. Recipients will be notified as soon as possible by the committee.

**Wayne Vincent Endowment Fund
Cragmont Trip Application**

Name _____ Age _____

Parent _____

Relationship _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Church Attending _____

(For the child) Why would you like to go to Cragmont?

(For the parent referring the child) Give a brief statement of need.

Circle the week you would like to attend.

YFA Week — June 26–July 1, 2000 (Ages 13 to 18)

AFC Week — July 3–8, 2000 (Ages 8–13)

Referring Party _____

Phone _____

Trips to Cragmont are sponsored annually by the Christian Fellowship Class of the Winterville Free Will Baptist Church through the Wayne Vincent Endowment Fund.

People & Events

Revival In The Spring Time

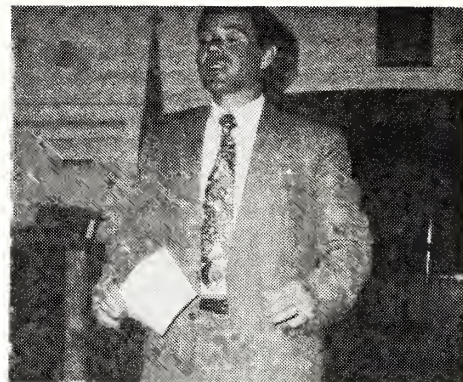
Monday night, full house. Tuesday night, full house. Wednesday night, full house! Thursday night, full house! Friday night, full house! What recent event took place that sustained this type of attendance? Was it a basketball tournament? Was it a hockey game? Was it a concert? No! It was the Spring Youth Revival at Rose of Sharon Original Free Will Baptist Church, Robersonville, NC. Five nights of full house attendance at a revival? Yes, five nights of fully attended, fully attentive, Holy Ghost anointed revival.

Every year we have two revivals scheduled. The main revival is in October, with Homecoming always scheduled on the second Sunday of October. The other revival is more youth-oriented and scheduled early in the spring. Every year the revivals and Homecoming are well attended with good messages, along with an occasional conversion. But you always hear the stories from the older

members of the great spirit-filled revivals of the past. Each year excellent messages are brought by dedicated men, but there always seems to be something missing. The attendance is good, with Wednesday usually being the best night attendance-wise. But were we really being revived or just attending services as we knew we should? Enter the Spring 2000 Youth Revival.

First of all, the format of the service was rewritten. Instead of inviting a speaker and sitting back, a revival team came in. The Praise Team from Ormondsville Original Free Will Baptist Church, led by the Rev. Don Ribeiro, presented the service. They brought adults and youth alike to participate in the service. The team came to support the Rev. Ribeiro and participate in the services. They not only participated, they brought their energy, enthusiasm, and their love for the Lord. The inspired messages delivered by Rev. Ribeiro lifted the hearts and challenged us.

Even more exciting was the attendance and participation by our youth. Each night, the puppeteers brought their own special message. Each night the youth of our church sat on the front rows and listened to the message. Were they really listening? Yes, indeed, they were listening, as they could tell Don each night what he had spoken on the previous nights. The climax of the week



Rev. Don Ribeiro

was when five of our youth and one from Ormondsville accepted Jesus Christ as their saviour.

Suddenly, it seems as if the entire church has awakened and is being renewed! I'm not saying that we aren't or haven't been a strong church, or haven't believed. I'm not saying we haven't had souls saved, when in fact we had nine last year. I now sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in our church in manner I have never seen in my lifetime.

Thanks to the hard work by our Youth Director (Johnna Cowin) and her dedicated team, our youth are being inspired to serve the Lord. They, in turn, are inspiring us with their witnessing to their friends, inviting their friends to come to services with them, and their energy. Let us all remember to "Praise the Lord" for the youth and their leaders. Let's pray for their continued strength, energy, and inspiration to us all in the Springtime of their lives

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams (Acts 2:17).



Children from the Rev. Ribeiro's Church (Ormondsville Original Free Will Baptist Church) and Rose of Sharon Youth as they teamed up for each night's service.

New Night Owls II Youth Group Presents Program

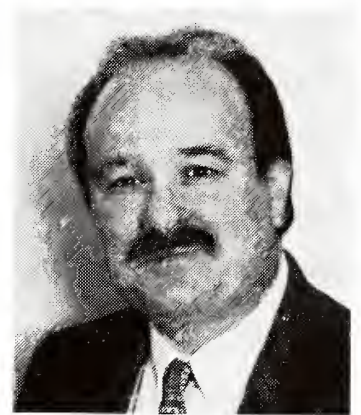
submitted by Carla Combs

The Night Owls II Youth Group at Howell Swamp Original Free Will Baptist Church, Walstonburg, NC, celebrated Youth Sunday, on April 30. The youth, ranging in ages from 2 to 20 years old, conducted the entire morning worship service. The program combined the regular morning schedule of traditional hymns and sermon with Bible book recitations, poems, and a comical, modern day version of the "Prodigal Son." It was standing room only as parents, grandparents, and visitors joined the congregation for this extra special worship service.

This program is the first official project of the newly established Night Owls II Youth Group at Howell Swamp Church. cont....

Abingdon Press Publishes Book by Bass M. Mitchell

Bass M. Mitchell's first book, "In Every Blade of Rustling Grass" has been published by Abingdon Press, of Nashville, Tennessee. The book helps readers become more and more aware of God's presence in each moment of their lives, no matter how insignificant it may seem. The book has thirty-one brief stories and reflections and features some stories set in Eastern North Carolina.



Bass M. Mitchell

Bass was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina and grew up in Bridgeton, North Carolina.

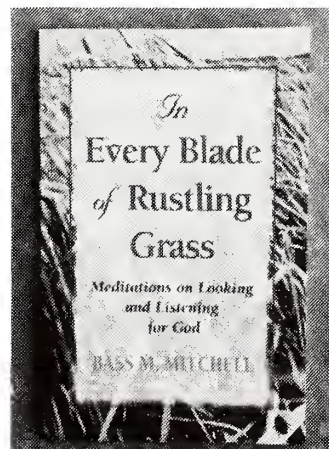
He served several small churches in Eastern North Carolina as a Free Will Baptist minister and was Field Secretary for the Free Will Baptist Sunday School Convention. He wrote some of the Sunday school literature for the teacher's and student's books for the adult quarterly in years past.

"In Every Blade of Rustling Grass" is Bass's first book but not his first published work. He has written hundreds of articles for educational publications (such as "Leader" magazine) and inspirational publications (such as "The Upper Room"). He has also written for "The Abingdon Preaching Annual" and "The Upper Room Disciplines" as well as curriculum materials for the United Methodist Publishing House, such as "Linktionary," and "Faith Link." He wrote the current teacher's materials for the United Methodist adult Sunday school quarterly.

Bass's undergraduate studies were at Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, North Carolina; Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida; and Barton College, Wilson, North Carolina. His graduate studies were at Duke University Divinity School, Durham, North Carolina and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina.

Bass now lives in Bath County, Virginia where he serves as a United Methodist minister and is a freelance writer. His wife is the former Debbie Rackley from Nash County, North Carolina. Bass and Debbie have a son, Michael, a high school senior, and a daughter, Meredith, an eighth grader.

The book can be purchased at one of the Bible and Bookstores owned and operated by the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation.



In Every Blade of Rustling Grass by Bass M. Mitchell

News Night Owls II Youth Group Presents Program, cont....

The group was organized by Pastor Tony Glass and Youth Director Karen Beamon. The children chose to name their youth group after the Howell Swamp Relay for Life Team, the "Night Owls." The Owls will participate in the Greene County Relay for Life on May 19 and 20 in Snow Hill. Several members of the youth group are planning to take part in this event too.

Over the next several months, the Night Owls II are going to be keeping themselves busy with group activities, fundraisers, vacation Bible school, and field trips. The group is open to any young person who wants to fellowship with others in a Christian atmosphere!

Night Owls II

Tyler Jones	Frankie Jones	Josh Combs
Dusty Combs	Wes Sowers	Drew Sowers
Chasity Holloman	Ben Carraway	Krystale Holloman
Graham Anderson	Meredith Anderson	Brittany Horton
Lauren Horton	Sara Beth Carraway	Travis Beamon
Todd Beamon	Krystal Speight	Eddie Brown
Kimberly Sawrey	Charles Stallings	Daniel Stallings
Bailey Holloman	Alana Jones	



The Li'l Night Owls look to Karen Beamon for direction as they get ready to recite a poem.



A modern day "Prodigal Son" provided comic relief with a very serious message.

CHURCHES & MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

Greg Nethercutt was recently licensed to the ministry and is available for supply work. He may be contacted at 5519 Hugo Church Road, Hookerton, NC 28538, or phone 252-524-0276 (after 6:00 PM).

Jerry Allen is in good standing with the Western Conference of Original Free Will Baptists and is available for full-time or part-time pastoral work. His address is 502 E. Second Street, Clayton, NC 27520, phone 910-550-1009.

"This is to state that I am available for pastoral work. I am a licensed minister and a member of Union Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church. I am willing and able to travel anywhere God needs me." John Henry Lane, Sr., 2126 Davis Mill Road, Fremont, NC 27830, phone 919-242-6471.

The First Free Will Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, NC, is seeking a full-time pastor. Any interested person may contact Don Rogers, Phone 252-442-4445.

The Rev. James Warren of Kinston, NC, is available at any time to any Free Will Baptist Church that is in need of a pastor. He was ordained September 25, 1972, and for twenty-eight years has been in good standing with the Eastern Conference. He is free to come to any church that needs a full-time or part-time minister. He may be contacted at 649 Poplar Street, Kinston, NC 28504. Phone 252-527-1648.

Sidney Free Will Baptist Church is seeking a pastor. Requirements: Licensed and ordained by a conference in the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. Responsibilities: Provide the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by overseeing, training, and caring for the needs of Sidney Church. Office available June 2000. Salary: Competitive and closely based to Convention guidelines. For more information contact: Edward Clayton, Deacon Board Chairman, 394 S. Savannah Road, Belhaven, NC 27810. Phone 252-964-4752.

Convention Update

David C. Hansley, General Administrator



August Is...

Heritage Month

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

Purpose:

1. To effectively know where we are going, we must understand from whence we have come.
2. To provide the opportunity for our people to reflect upon the importance of continuing ministry.
3. To show the *connection* between the congregation and the Convention.
4. To remind us all of our privilege and obligation to support the Church that we may continue our heritage.
5. To rekindle/revitalize our commitment of the ministry to the Church.
6. To participate financially in the maintenance of this ministry.

Calendar of Events

Congregation Sunday — August 6

Covenant Sunday — August 13

Mission/Ministry Sunday — August 20

Heritage Sunday — August 27

(Each church will receive a packet of materials with information and ideas for participating in the celebration of Heritage Month)

CHRISTIAN ART REVIEWS

by Michael G. Warning,

Pastor Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Sea Level, NC



Rev. Michael G. Warning

Source: Pierre Puvis De Chavannes, *The Prodigal Son* (French 1824–1896) From Chester Dale Collection. National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Oil on canvas. 41 7/8 x 57 1/4 inches. In Richard Mühlberger, *The Bible in Art: The New Testament*. New York: Portland House, 1990, pp. 92–93.

Introduction

The story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11–32 speaks to the repentant person who like the prodigal son has lost or abandoned the natural moorings of family. This son asked for his inheritance early, received it, and went into a foreign country. This is presented as a parable by Jesus who describes the son's living as riotous. The final reduction of the son's life which causes overwhelming anguish and regret is seen in this 19th-century French painting, *The Prodigal Son*, by Pierre Puvis De Chavannes.

Artistic Style

Art historians give reference to Pierre Puvis De Chavannes as a student of the work of the early muralists such as 16th-century Giotto. Chavannes's style clearly reflects Giotto's influence. Although the painting is an oil painting, the paint is thinly mixed and thinly applied in layers with obvious brush strokes imitating early tempera paintings.

All of the principal figures are outlined with a dark pigment like the early tempera paintings. Shading is minimal; the pallet is very neutral; the mood is somber.

The pose of the prodigal son shows him reduced to a diaper or loin cloth, his body leaning against a rock, his position a very penitent pose with his sad, worn face and hands folded over his heart, unusual indeed in a strong 25-year-old.

The pigs whom he no longer watches ignore him, too. Yet, the pigs seem to be faring much better than the prodigal son. Is this the moment of crisis? Is this when he says to himself — "The servants of my father fare much better than I." He goes home to become a servant to his father.

Symbolism

This parable attributed to Jesus speaks to every person and certainly to every rebellious heart. Until one realizes that the world often cares little for the individual in need, whether the need be physical or spiritual, the importance of the father might not be felt. Earthly fathers, once wealth has been divided among the children, rarely give again. Why? Because the wealth is gone. As the wise J.C. Penney was fond of saying, "You cannot out give God." In fact, he phrased it colloquially as, "God ain't busted yet."

Just because man is busted doesn't mean that the God of all is busted. There is no limit to what can be given, but the prodigal son in this painting hasn't discovered this yet. Here he is in quiet despair. The pigs symbolize the indifference of the world to the prodigal son's despair.

Here the prodigal son is reduced to his body with little clothing, as if his flesh is all he has and his flesh is tired, hungry, and lost. Why is he almost naked? Has he sold his clothing? Is he reduced to the diaper of an infant? What will it take for him to return to humanity rather than of the story. We don't have an answer here. We don't have the return for the bleakness is overpowering in this moment of crisis.

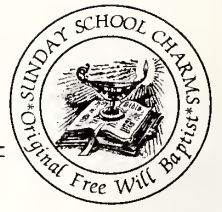
Conclusion

In this scene we can emphasize with the bleakness in the painting. We also know there is need to return to the source, to be nourished, to be spiritually blessed. The moment of crisis is the moment of reduction and nakedness as we — just as the prodigal son — clutch our hands to our heart and wish we could be home again with our father.



Sunday School Charms

Hints and Ideas for Sunday School Growth



Sunday School: Then and Now

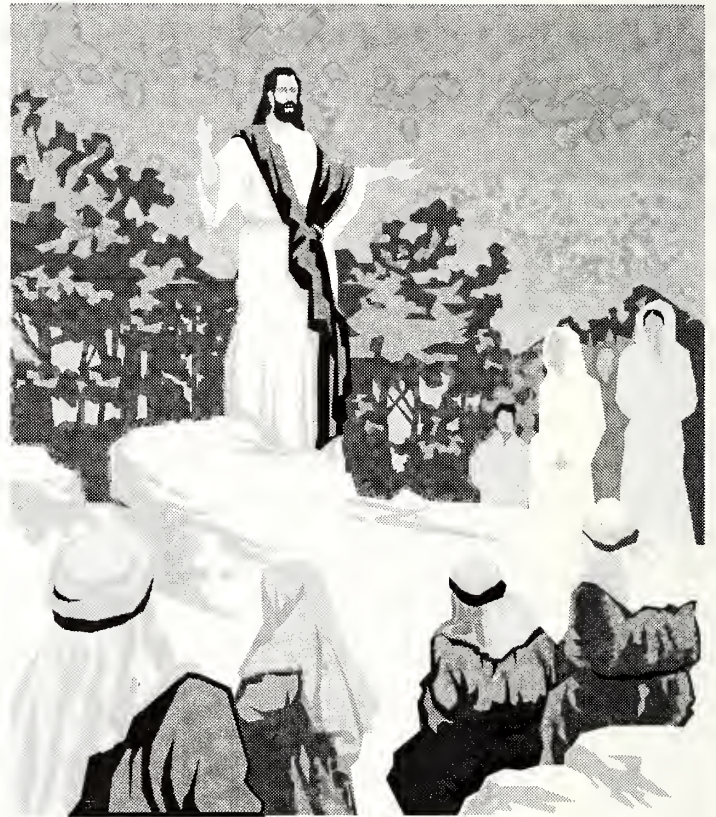
A Historical Sketch

Records indicate that Christian Education has always been an important interest of the Original Free Will Baptist denomination. In 1921, just eight years after the North Carolina State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists was formed, the first State Sunday School Convention was created. From the start, the Sunday School Convention placed a great emphasis on the growth and development of the Christian education work of the denomination. A "bureau of institutes" was planned, which would hold annual training sessions for Christian education workers.

In 1939, four years after the State Convention joined the National Association of Free Will Baptists, there seems to have been a need to revive the statewide work of the Sunday school. The State Convention of Churches authorized the development of a State Sunday School Convention which would serve as an auxiliary of the denomination. For a few years in the 1940s, the president of the Sunday School Convention served on the Executive Committee of the State Convention of Churches. As before, the Sunday School Convention helped make available efficient training for those seeking to educate our people in the local Sunday schools.

The growth and development of the State Sunday School Convention was due to the work of a lot of people. Two men who played a great role in the work of the Convention were the Rev. Raymond Sasser, who served as the first president of the Convention; and the Rev. L. E. Ballard, who served as field secretary for many years. Both of these men gave a large part of their lives to see that the Sunday School Convention had strong roots and a firm foundation upon which to grow.

The work of the Sunday school continued on after the State Convention of Churches left the National Association in the early 1960s. The office of field Secretary was reactivated in 1984 with the Rev. Bass Mitchell serving until late 1990. In 1989, the Sunday School Convention was dissolved and the Sunday



School Board was established as a part of the Convention's work. In 1995, it was reestablished as one of the ten ministries. As long as the church exists, there will be a need for quality Christian education. Today the Sunday School Board stands ready and able to help meet the Christian education needs of our denomination and its churches by providing meaningful workshops, seminars, annual institutes and other services. In 1997, the Sunday School Board employed an Executive Director, Mrs. Mary Dudley, who maintains an office at the Headquarters in Ayden. The director is ready and willing to come to your church to function as a speaker, workshop/seminar leader, or to serve in an advisory capacity as we focus our attention toward the future with our mentor, Jesus Christ.

DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER



Dr. Pepper Worthington

Jonathan Edwards. *Religious Affections: A Christian's Character Before God*. Edited by Dr. James M. Houston. Introduction by Charles Colson. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1996. 206 pages.

Introduction

Perhaps remembered most for his harsh sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" (1741), Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758) deserves to be valued for his intellectual wrestling with issues of freedom and the will, affections and faith, the importance of divine revelation and inner conviction. Known to be a great preacher of the Great Awakening of

1740, Edwards was an earnest Puritan who insisted upon the fruits of faith, the condition of the heart, and the importance of the intellect as an instrument in search of the living truth. Charles W. Colson notes: "Edwards challenged the materialism of his age, insisting that a man's faith was not a matter of convenient church association or socially acceptable religiosity, but a matter of the heart activated by the will" (xxiv).

Education of Jonathan Edwards

Jonathan Edwards was a serious student who began studying Hebrew, Greek, and Latin at the age of five. When he was eleven years old, he wrote what Colson calls "an exhaustive study of flying spiders" (xxv) so that we know he had a "sophisticated knowledge of natural science" (xxv). By age thirteen, Edwards entered Yale University and graduated four years later at seventeen. He continued to study at Yale and to teach. By 1726 he was twenty-three years old and ready to preach at his grandfather Solomon Stoddard's church in Northampton, Massachusetts. When Solomon Stoddard died, Edwards became pastor. He married Sarah Pierrepont in 1727 and they had twelve children.

Colson notes: "Although a frail man plagued by ill health, Edwards spent thirteen hours each day in his office, studying the Scriptures, praying, and counseling his congregation" (xxv). Colson also paints a picture of Edwards in meditation and creation while horseback riding: "Edwards's proved fertile ground for thought. Always prepared, he would take a pen and scraps of paper wherever he went. As he rode, he would jot down thoughts, pinning them to his lapels for transfer to a journal upon his return — thus causing comments that Pastor Edwards could go out for a ride at noon on a warm summer's day and return looking like he had come through a snowstorm, covered with tiny scraps of white paper" (xxv).

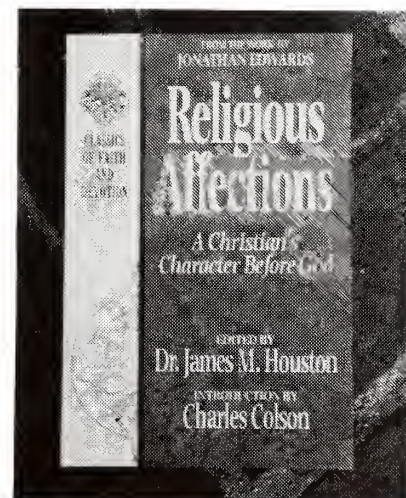
Jonathan Edwards as Theologian

Jonathan Edwards wrote about theological issues in such a penetrating, thoughtful way that he has become one of the greatest Christian writers. Among his most famous Christian classics are these: (1) *Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God* (1734); (2) *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God* (1741); (3) *The Distinguishing Marks of a Work of the Spirit of God* (1741); (4) *Thoughts on the Revival in New England* (1742); (5) *Treatise Concerning the Religious Affections* (1746); (6) *The Freedom of the Will* (1754).

In his Christian classics, Edwards emphasized genuine Christian revival. Editor James M. Houston noted five features of the great awakening within: (1) "Christ is exhorted," (2) "the kingdom of evil is attacked," (3) "the Scriptures are honored," (4) "sound doctrine is promoted," (5) "love for God and man is upheld" (xviii).

Conclusion

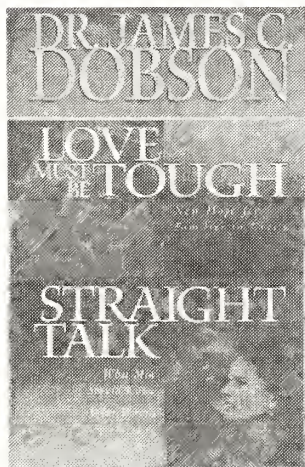
Editor James Houston reminds us of Edwards' insistence upon the effect of the intellect upon the heart. "In today's rationalistic culture, we need to be reminded that thinking can never be a substitute for living. That is thinking at its worst. At its best, thinking is a means of living the truth. The intellect is essentially to be viewed instrumentally, and therefore never as an end in itself. This is a truth that Bernard of Clairvaux, Bonaventura, Pascal, and Kierkegaard have all emphasized" (xviii).



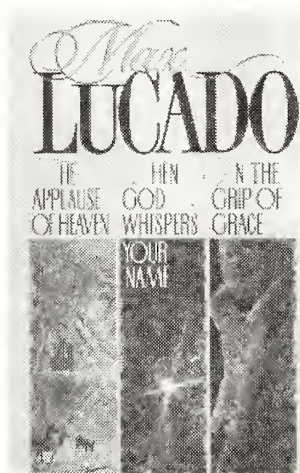
***Religious Affections: A Christian's Character Before God* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON**

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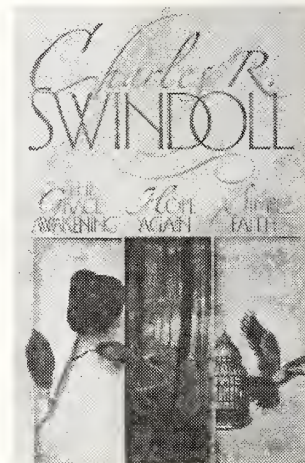
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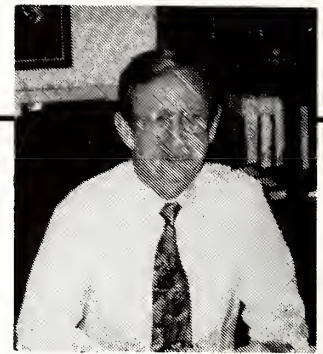
THE FREE WILL BAPTIST



JULY 2000

Let's Celebrate!





C. H. Overman

At Long Last: A Memorial to Our World War II Veterans

We are told that our World War II veterans, now in their seventies and eighties, are dying at the rate of 1,000 each day. In 1945, previous to the War's end, they numbered nearly twelve and a half million. About half of that number are still living: Over one million and two hundred thousand Americans became casualties during the War. Records show that 404,399 died, 670,846 were wounded, and 139,709 became prisoners of war.

This War, considered the greatest and most costly in history, ended on September 2, 1945, almost fifty-five years ago. Yet, no national memorial to the heroes of World War II has been established. There are various other memorials relating to other wars. A tour across our nation, especially the geographical regions of our early history, provides one with many opportunities to learn about our history and the wars we have fought.

Our nation's struggles against tyranny and our desire for freedom have been marked with blood, beginning with Patrick Henry's, "Give me liberty, or give me death." Those who signed the Declaration of Independence, like thousands of others since then, willingly put their lives on the line and paid the supreme sacrifice.

I first heard about a World War II memorial about three years ago. My first thought was, "It's about time." The fact is, however, it is too late for millions of World War II veterans, now deceased, including my brother Quentin, my brother-in-law George, and my cousin Walter. For the remaining World War II veterans, the Memorial will serve as a tribute to their bravery and heroism. It will honor all those who wore a military uniform and it will say to the present generation and those who follow, "Learn about and remember those who sacrificed for the freedom which we still cherish and enjoy."

The Memorial will be located on the National Mall in Washington, DC at the Rainbow Pool site at the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. It will honor all military veterans of the War, the citizens on the home front, the nation at large, and the high moral purpose and idealism that motivated the country's call to arms.

The Memorial is being funded by private contributions, with an estimated cost of \$100 million. Senator Bob Dole is leading the campaign, with Fredrick W. Smith as co-chairman. Any individual can become involved in helping to build the World War II Memorial by becoming a Charter Member of the World War II

Memorial Society, enrolling members of the World War II generation in the Registry of Remembrances, or participating in the Donor Programs. The Memorial address is: National World War II Memorial, 2300 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 501, Arlington, VA 22201; or call 1-800-639-4WW2, or email: custsvc@wwiimemorial.com.

Groundbreaking is projected for Veterans Day 2000. (Note: this information concerning the Memorial has been gleaned from National World Memorial website — www.wwiimemorial.com.)

Vivid Memories

I was eleven years old when America entered the War. I was fifteen when it ended; therefore, I have very vivid memories of those years, and how our family, like all others, was impacted by the War. The younger men "went off to war," bringing day-by-day uncertainties to each family. My lowest time came when my brother boarded the train, along with hundreds of others, for eventual transport overseas. It was on the ride home that it hit me — there was a feeling of loneliness and then sadness and then tears, but my parents didn't see those tears. My parent's low moment came when we received a telegram stating that Quentin was "wounded in action," and for a time that was all we knew. Daddy went into the field to work and there he broke momentarily under the pressure; so did Mother. Then word came that Quentin would be okay. After recovery, he was discharged, receiving a Purple Heart.

Seymour Johnson Air Force Base was only a few miles away. Squadrons of planes would pass overhead, and I could identify each one — the P-38s, the P-51s and the B-25s, etc. In fact, I had pictures of each of them in my room. How well do I remember the rationing coupons. Gasoline was rationed, along with sugar, shoes, tires, and many other items that were important to the war effort. Cars and appliances ceased to be manufactured as the country totally mobilized itself in the production of war material and machinery.

Those days are long passed, but they live on in the memory of those who experienced them. May such days never come again, but may our great country always stand ready to defend the cause of freedom and be willing to turn the tide of aggression.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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NEXT MONTH

*August is
Convention Promotion
Month*

*July is
Christian Education
Month*

We Did Our "Courting" In Church

by Elaine Swinson

At seventeen, my eyes were filled with shimmering stars and my dresser drawer was filled with "rose-colored glasses." I was in love with a sweet, good-looking boy, who met all my requirements for being perfect. Although I was somewhat in awe of his parents, they treated me with a guarded respect. After all, even if I did come from a good family, they had only one son and I was about to take him away.

Most of our courting was centered around church services at Lanier's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, where my future father-in-law was serving his first pastorate. Those were the times of only one car per family and fathers had the first right of refusal. Of course, I wasn't going to pass up a chance to be with my sweetheart, no matter where we went, including going to church. We found out that you can steal kisses, even in a cemetery right beside the church house.

As we were growing up, my own father carried my brothers and I to Sunday school every Sunday morning at a local Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Church right down from our house. We loved sharing the fellowship of all the neighborhood children and in the midst of that wonderful experience, we also learned right from wrong. Our teachers were good, honest men and women who clearly respected God and put the "fear in us" if we did not come to Sunday school and behave like little ladies and gentlemen. However, our education lacked one very important point, which prevented us from accepting Christ as our personal Saviour. We were never taught how to be saved or judge the conditions of our souls. As soon as Sunday school was over, out the door we went, back to our homes and a good hot meal that mama had been preparing while we were gone. All we knew about the real church services was that the people did a lot of loud talking and saying very, very long prayers.

As time passed and I grew older, I even began teaching a Sunday school class myself. I got good grades in school and was not afraid to speak in front of groups, so I met all the qualifications necessary to teach those

precious children about Jesus. In retrospect, I realize that, although I did a pretty good job of continuing the pattern of teaching the Ten Commandments, I cheated them out of the information they needed the most, repeating the cycle as I had been taught. Although I did put special emphasis on the "nail prints" in the hands of Jesus on the Cross of Calvary, I did not understand exactly why He had gone to all that trouble. Bottom line is that I was a very lost "good" person.

Sporting a little diamond on my ring finger covered any disappointment I may have felt when a new pastor came to the church and demanded that certain changes be made. All teachers from that day on were to be saved, baptized church members. No more of just ordinary folk filling those positions. More and more I visited Lanier's Chapel, leaving my childhood church behind. I started attending most Sunday evening services and Wednesday night prayer meetings there. As the weeks passed, a very subtle change made its way into my heart, creeping in so quietly that it was completely hidden from my recognition.

Notice of a week of revival came as a burst of happiness, not because I would get an opportunity to hear God's Word preached, but I would have a whole week of reasons to be with the one I loved so much. I can still remember the anticipation I felt when I got permission from my parents to attend each night. Butterflies fluttered inside me as my heart pounded and my stomach turned somersaults while I sat as close as proper to him on our pew. As he held my hand tightly, we turned our attention to his father who happened to be preaching this particular revival.

About the middle of the week of revival, something happened that I could never adequately explain, even today. As I listened to the message, there came a feeling inside me that made me feel as though I was the only person in the congregation and that the words being spoken were addressed only for me. I knew a change had taken place in my heart, but I did not know what to do about it. My cont....

lessons in Sunday school had not prepared me for this moment. After the service was over, I tried to explain how I felt to my love and much to my relief he seemed to comprehend my symptoms without questions. We met with his father, who gently guided me through the Roman's Road passages of Scripture.

You might think my story was over at this point, but remember I was totally ignorant of what to do next. I had never seen a person go to the altar after accepting Christ into their lives to request baptism or membership with the church. So I waited and waited for someone to make some kind of announcement of the change in my life, but it did not come. Finally, I wrote a letter to my future father-in-law and explained that I was not writing to

him as his son's fiancée, but as someone who needed to understand what I was supposed to do next. Later, my husband told me that his mother had cried "in her corn meal" when the letter was read to her.

The very next Sunday morning I waited in uneasiness all the way to the end of the service to see if his father would give me the magic path to follow. Then it came so simple and so wonderful, "If there is anyone in the congregation who would like to give their lives to Christ and accept Him as their Personal Saviour, please join me at the altar." It was at that moment that I began my life in service to the King.

Of course there is still more to this story, but that will have to wait for another time...

The Legacy of a Christian Mother

by W. Burkette Raper,
Director of Planned Giving, Mount Olive College

It was Mother's Day, 2000, and it was at the church she loved that the children of Bernice Davis Dixon (October 25, 1904 – August 15, 1997) dedicated a lasting memorial to their mother. The memorial is an endowed scholarship in her name designed to foster excellence in Christian higher education at Mount Olive College.

Beginning with the 2000–2001 academic year, the endowment will provide scholarships in the minimum amount of \$1,000.00 to academically talented students who demonstrate personal integrity, moral character, good citizenship, and a sincere commitment to furthering their education. The first award will be for the 2000–2001 year. With plans for the growth of the endowment fund, it is anticipated that in future years there will be an increase in both the amount and number of awards. Preference will be given to students from Carteret County, NC, the home of the Dixon family.

"This permanently endowed fund is a meaningful memorial to a person who sacrificed not only to attain a college education for herself but also for her children," declared Dr. W. Burkette Raper, who spoke at the dedication service.

A Tribute to Bernice Davis Dixon

written by her daughter, Marilyn J. Dixon

*The value of an education as a goal worthy of personal sacrifice
was a centerpiece for her life.*

Young recipients will perhaps ask about the woman whose name this scholarship bears. Thus, I would like to use this opportunity to speak to those future scholarship recipients, to let you know the woman who made your scholarship possible.



Bernice Davis Dixon
(approximate age: 22)

cont....

She was born Bernice Davis to Helen Olivia Willis and Martin Ross Davis on October 25, 1904, in the little fishing community of Davis, North Carolina. Her grandfather, Isaiah Farren Willis, was a man of great faith who was instrumental in establishing the Free Will Baptist Church at Davis. In him and in her parents, she had spiritual models who daily lived faith in such a way that in later years, during the trials of life that she would face, she called on her own strong faith to sustain her in those hard times.

She entered school and excelled in her subjects, particularly Latin. No one in the family had ever attended college, but her two older brothers, Leonard and Elwood, determined that she would have that opportunity. Both sacrificed and regularly sent her a portion of their pay, allowing her to attend East Carolina Teacher's College where she graduated in 1928. She would go on to teach for several years — grades one through eight in a one-room schoolhouse at Salter Path where she met and married my father, Sterling Dixon.

This valuing of education as a goal worthy of personal sacrifice became a centerpiece of my mother's life. When time came in 1951 for my brother to go to the University of North Carolina, she, with the support of my father, maintained a single-minded approach in the face of some opposition from my father's family who could not understand why my brother had to leave his home and a father who needed his help as a commercial fisherman. Always with her eyes on the educational goal for her children, she understood the meaning of "putting first things first."

She and my father were of that generation of Americans committed to seeing that their children would have a better life with more advantages. They believed in their hearts that, in the long haul, a sound

education was the avenue to that better life.

The other significant guiding force of my mother's life was her dedication to family. When my father went into the business of taking fishing parties to Core Banks, Mama was there to do her part, taking weekly trips in the busy fall season to clean the cabins after the fishermen's departure. In my memory, I see her riding in the back of my father's boat as they headed back to Davis after a day at the Banks — gazing out across the sound, the noise of the engine drowning out words. What thoughts went through her mind? Were there dreams from girlhood, never realized, that crept back as she steadied her eyes on the shoreline and home?

Because of my mother's determination, my brother and I have had opportunities to learn and grow that we would not have otherwise. Indeed, we have been to places and done things that perhaps our parents could have never imagined their children doing. Yet any achievement that I have made pales in comparison to what my mother managed with all the challenges that she faced.

Young scholarship recipient, my mother would be proud that she has been able to help you in this way. Her family asks only that you remember the values of her life. If you can adopt some of these guiding principles as your own, you will be well on your way to leading a good life that will do credit to yourself, your family, and your community.

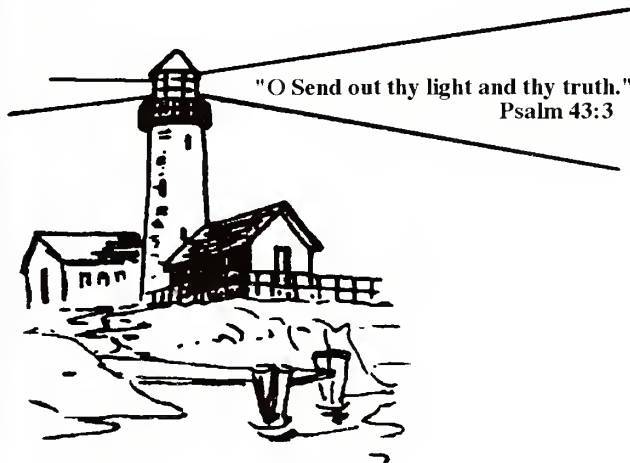
The Bernice Davis Dixon Endowment Scholarship Fund

Mount Olive College



Dr. W. Burkette Raper, (left), is shown presenting a certificate of appreciation to the children of the late Bernice Davis Dixon who have endowed a scholarship fund at Mount Olive College in memory of their mother. Pictured are the children of Mrs. Bernice Dixon, Ms. Marilyn Dixon of Raleigh, NC, and Mr. Sterling Gray Dixon of Wilmington, NC. The presentation was made following the dedication of the Dixon Endowment at Davis Free Will Baptist Church on Mother's Day, May 14, 2000.

Camp Vandemere



"O Send out thy light and thy truth."
Psalm 43:3

4th Annual

"Singing By The River"

Saturday, August 19, 2000
9:30 AM — until

Featuring

**The Smith Family • Second Edition • Servant's Heart
Covenant • The Four in Christ**

Rain or Shine — Under the Big Tent!

Bring a friend! Everyone is welcome!

Old-fashioned Gospel Singing, Food, Fun & Fellowship

Camping Facilities available!

Children's Activities — Swimming, Volleyball, Games, & More

Fish Plates, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and Concessions will be available

Camp Vandemere is a Christian, family-oriented campground owned by the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina. Our mission is to reach people for the Lord. We invite and encourage everyone to visit us! A love offering will be received and all proceeds will benefit the camp.

For more information call (252) 745-3171

Camp Vandemere
215 Third Street
Vandemere, NC 28587

From New Bern/Bridgeton
Take 55 East to Bayboro, then 304 to 307 to Vandemere

Wow!

submitted by
Judy Holton Thaanum and Lynda Fillingame Williams

Wow!!! is the word I would use to describe how I feel about Camp Vandemere. A Scripture comes to mind as I think how we have been blessed by you, our churches, and friends. (Proverbs 28:17)...*Iron sharpeneth iron; so does a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friends.* The Lord is truly blessing our camp through you. God bless each of you for your gifts of labor and financial support, and most certainly for all of your prayers. Your outpouring of love has been unbelievable. May God bless you one hundred fold for your many acts of kindness. Mike and I (Lynda) add to that the very inadequate words of "Thank You."

Our "Camping Season" began May 1, 2000, with the first group arriving May 5. It has been full steam ahead ever since! Praise God for the many life changes we have already seen and for those that are sure to come. May God be glorified through those who have accepted Christ as their Saviour and Lord and others who rededicated their lives. We thank God for using our camp as a tool to move in the lives of people. Our vision is to multiply the use of our camp by our churches and fellow Christian groups for just that purpose.

Now to speak to the parents and grandparents of our children! Of all the places you might offer to take your children for a week of fun this summer, how many will promise to not exclude the opportunity to show and teach your children about the love of God? To our shame, in today's society, probably not very many. It is our goal through the leadership of God's Spirit to accomplish just that at Camp Vandemere. Ask any child who has been to camp this year, especially those who have received Christ, and learned of the great fun and blessings they received there. Maybe your church or child would like to have a week or weekend of camp this summer with us. There are still opportunities available. Please call and inquire about vacant time and spaces.

Mark your calendar for our annual "Singing by the River" on August 19, beginning at 9:00 AM. If you have never attended, you have missed a blessing. Great gospel music, food, and fellowship with other Christians under the big tent just can't be beat unless you add to that the beautiful sight and contentment of the Bay River at "Camp Vandemere." We are looking forward to seeing you on that day. To God be the glory for all He has done!

For more information about our camp, please contact us at anytime at (252) 745-7131 or at our pager number (252) 634-1063. It will be our pleasure to hear from you.

Spiritual Life Retreat



Layman gather in one of the assembly rooms for one of the sessions during the Spiritual Life Retreat.

The annual Spiritual Life Retreat was held on June 2-3, 2000, at Camp Vandemere. The theme was "The Walk of Faith," based on Hebrews 11:1-6. Speakers were Dr. David Hines who spoke on the topic "Biblical Foundations of Faith"; Mr. Jonathan Ipock whose subject was "The Necessity of Faith"; and Dr. Don Ribeiro whose subject was "Obedient Faith."



"Spiritual Life Retreat 2000" turned into a very enjoyable event as golfers whipped together quite a bit of excitement, then added three guest speakers enjoyed by all. Dr. Don Ribeiro shows all how to use early American equipment furnished by our State Secretary, Harold Humbles, from his collectibles.

State Meeting Held



The State Layman's League Meeting was held on May 5, 2000, at Fremont Original Free Will Baptist Church, Fremont, NC. After a delicious meal, the men gathered in the sanctuary for the worship service and the business meeting.



Old friends, Paul Beaman (left), and Donald Marlowe, past presidents of the State Layman's League, have the opportunity to see each other at the State Meeting.

Dates to Remember

- August 3 Executive and Promotional Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, VFW Building, Snow Hill.
- August 19 All Day "Singing by the River" at Camp Vandemere
- August 21 Eastern Conference Layman's League at Camp Vandemere, Vandemere, NC, meal 6:45 PM; business 7:30 PM.
- September 4 Central Conference Layman's League, host, St. Delight Church, Ormondsville, NC, meal 6:45 PM, business 7:30 PM.
- October 5 Executive and Promotional Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC.
- November 20 Eastern Conference Layman's League, host, Wintergreen Church, Cove City, NC, meal 6:45 PM, business 7:30 PM.
- December 4 Central Conference Layman's League, host, King's Cross Road Church, Farmville, NC, meal 6:45 PM, business 7:30 PM.
- December 7 Executive and Promotional Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC.



New State Free Will Baptist Layman's League officers for the year, (left to right) the Rev. Mike Scott, Pastoral Advisor; Harold Humbles, Secretary; Russell Tyson, Vice President; Elmer Harrell, President; Randy Beaman, Promotional Chairman; Robert Tripp, Treasurer; John Newton, member at large. (Photo taken at Camp Vandemere.)

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

MOC Graduates First Class of the New Millennium



Graduates enjoy their last day of being MOC students. Left to right: Becky Kerns, Friendship Church, Greene County; Tracy Wheeler, First Church, Wilson County; Jennifer Parker, Westside Church, Lenoir County; Kenneth Byrd, St. Mary's Grove Church, Johnston County; Lee Honeycutt, Robert's Grove Church, Sampson County; and Anthony Bennett, Antioch Church, Craven County.

Award, which is presented annually to a student in the non-traditional academic program who demonstrates a commitment to life-long learning. Dr. Sarah V. "Dee" Clere, professor of Language and Literature, received the distinguished Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Earlier, the Rev. Fred Baker, pastor of Robert's Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Sampson County, spoke. The Rev. Aubrey Williamson, pastor of St. Mary's Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Johnston County, offered prayer during the commencement worship service in Rodger's Chapel.

Baker urged the graduates to remember three ingredients that would assure an abundant life; the authority found in the Word of God, the security of being loved and accepted by God, and the significance of a life dedicated to making Christ known in the world.

College Hall was filled to capacity as the first class of the new millennium was graduated on Saturday, May 13, 2000. The 304 candidates represented the largest single group ever to be graduated from Mount Olive College.

Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the College, opened the ceremonies and introduced the guest speaker, Marvin Waters. Mr. Waters, president of the MOC Alumni Association and an attorney for the state Department of Commerce, challenged the graduates to reflect and remember, recommit themselves to worthy endeavors, and rediscover the meaning of life.

Special awards were presented to outstanding students and faculty. Shannon Nicole Carter of Goldsboro received the Martin Award, presented to the baccalaureate graduate with the highest academic average. The Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for Academic Excellence was presented to Lorin David Smith of St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church, Craven County, who graduated with a 3.8 grade point average. Mary Frances Uzzell of Goldsboro received the Perret Award, an award given to the rising junior with the highest academic average. Joan Lockhart of Raleigh received the Lora W. and Maurice H. King



(Left to right): Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College; the Rev. Frank Harrison, campus minister; the Rev. Fred Baker, pastor of Robert's Grove Church, Sampson County; Jaime Hanson, president of the senior class; and the Rev. Aubrey Williamson, pastor of St. Mary's Grove Church, Johnston County.



Dr. J. William Byrd and Marvin Waters following the Spring 2000 graduation exercises.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fastpitch Softball Camp will be held Monday, July 10 through Friday, July 14 at Mount Olive College. For more information, contact Coach Sharon Gregory at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3106.

Volleyball Camp will be Monday, July 17 through Friday, July 21 at the College. Contact Coach Sharon Gregory for more information at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3106.

Diamond Star Baseball Camp will be held Sunday, July 23 through Saturday, July 29 at MOC. For more information, contact Coach Carl Lancaster at (919) 658-7669.

Freshman Advising Day is scheduled for Monday, July 24, 2000. For more information contact Linda Greenwood at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3135.

The Seventh Annual
James A. Evans Lecture
Theme: Pastoral Visitation in the 21st Century

Thursday, August 17, 2000
 Lois K. Murphy Regional Center • Mount Olive College

Schedule of Events:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9:00 AM | Registration (\$10.00 per person, includes buffet luncheon) |
| 9:30 AM | Session I: Pastoral Visitation in an Unchurched Culture: Rethinking Pastoral Care:
The Rev. Eddie H. Hammett |
| 10:45 AM | Break |
| 11:00 AM | Session II: Mr. Hammett |
| 12:00 PM | P.T. Lucas Pastor's Award Luncheon (Lois K. Murphy Regional Center)
Some Current Thoughts on Pastoral Visitation and Reaching New Families: Discussion led
by the Rev. Gary M. Bailey |
| 1:30 PM | Session III: Pastoral Visitation for Evangelism: The Rev. Rick Hughes |

For additional information, contact Dr. K. David Hines, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365 (919-658-2502).

Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award to be Selected

In recognition of the outstanding service rendered by many Free Will Baptist pastors, Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington, North Carolina, has established the Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award through Mount Olive College. The purpose of this award is to recognize a Free Will Baptist pastor for extraordinary leadership and service to his church, community and denomination. Emphasis is to be upon pastoral services and may include bi-vocational pastors who serve small churches. The award is to be used by the recipient to strengthen and enrich his pastoral ministry. The recipient is to provide a written report within one year of being recognized of how the funds benefited his pastoral ministry.

The recipient will be selected from those nominated by their churches according to the following criteria:

1. Pastoral Leadership and Service. This category, which will receive the greatest weight in the evaluation, includes effectiveness as a faithful pastor, as a preacher and teacher of God's Word, and as a leader for church growth and development;
2. Denominational Service, including service to our convention, the conference, and to our denominational ministries, and
3. Community Service, including services such as participation in local community ministries and service as a volunteer chaplain.

If you feel that your pastor has excelled in these areas, your church is encouraged to nominate him for this award by completing the following information sheet and attaching a letter of recommendation. Both the information sheet and the letter must be signed by the clerk of your church and the deacon chairman. To be considered for the 2000 award, nominations must be received by July 24. The recipient will be announced at a luncheon during the Pastor's Conference on August 17 at Mount Olive College.

The selection committee for this award will include representatives from the North Carolina Ministerial Association and Mount Olive College. Please address all nominations or questions to: The Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award Selection Committee, Mount Olive College, or call Dr. David Hines at the College (919-658-2502).

Please send the pastor's name, address, telephone number, current pastorate, conference membership, beginning date, and date ordained with a letter of recommendation by July 24 to: Pastor's Award Selection Committee, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. For information, call Dr. David Hines at the College (919-658-2502).

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Vice President for Student Development

Mount Olive College is seeking a Vice President for Student Development. Applicants must have M.A. Degree in student development services and experience in the area. Areas of responsibility include overall administration of the student life program, including housing, general student activities, development programs and student government.

Mount Olive College is sponsored by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists and is seeking a person who is committed to the mission of the College in Christian higher education.

Interested persons should contact:

Office of the President
Mount Olive College
634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365



Secretary in the Office of Planned Giving

Mount Olive College announces a vacancy for secretary in the Office of Planned Giving.

The Office of Planned Giving assists friends and alumni of the College in establishing programs of gift support through charitable trusts, annuities, estate planning, life insurance and major gifts. Emphasis is given to creating endowed funds for the perpetual support of the College.

The duties of the secretary include general office responsibilities with special attention to correspondence, records, and fostering positive relations with donors. The work will require computer competence with proficiency in word processing.

Mount Olive is a four-year college sponsored by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. Applications are sought from professionally qualified persons who evidence a personal commitment to the Christian mission of the College. In addition to a competitive salary, the college provides paid health insurance and a matching formula in a 401K retirement plan.

Written applications will be accepted through July 15, 2000, or thereafter until the position is filled. Reasonable time will be given to the successful applicant to give satisfactory notice to a current employer. Applicants should provide a transcript of college studies, a record of current and previous employment along with a letter addressed to:

Dr. W. Burkette Raper
Director of Planned Giving
Mount Olive College
634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365

Kenny Byrd Graduates from MOC Prepared for the Future

Kenneth (Kenny) Byrd, a member of St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church in Johnston County, did not want to become just another face in the crowd when he graduated from South Johnston High School and left home for college. Growing up in the Free Will Baptist denomination, Kenny was aware of the one-on-one attention Mount Olive College gives its students. After visiting with representatives of the College and learning of the scholarships available, Kenny applied to MOC and began taking classes in the Fall of 1996.

While at the College, Kenny, the son of Kenneth and Priscilla Byrd, has had many opportunities to hold leadership positions. The skills he has learned while in these positions have increased his organization and time management abilities, and has given him the self-assurance needed to compete in the job market.

Kenny has served in the Student Government Association, the Commuters Club, the Pep Club, and helped organize the Delta Phi Delta service fraternity. Aside from holding part-time jobs throughout his four years at Mount Olive College, Kenny has also served as an assistant in the College's Admissions Office. Although he never played golf or participated in cross-country at the high school level, Kenny decided to give both a try at Mount Olive.

"My extracurricular activities have shown me how hard work provides results," Kenny said. "I've improved in many areas and have learned to never give up."

Indeed his hard work and the helpful hints of Dr. Michael Cavanagh, professor of psychology, have paid off. Kenny, who is currently an operations assistant with Southern Bank, will begin work as a sales trainee with Raleigh's Ferguson Enterprises in July. The company is the east coast's top wholesale distributor for plumbing parts. Kenny graduated in May with a bachelor of science degree in business management.



Kenneth (Kenny) Byrd, a member of St. Mary's Church in Johnston County, enjoys a relaxing afternoon playing golf at MOC.



David Smith (left) and David Allen anxiously try on their caps and gowns in the College bookstore with anticipation of their graduation. Smith is a member of St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church, Craven County; and Allen serves as youth minister at Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Wayne County.



The Bennett family visits the College to watch Anthony Bennett (far right) perform in the spring MOC Choir concert before his graduation. (Left to right) Beck Bennett and Patti Bennett, Anthony's parents; Blake Bennett, Anthony's brother; Monique Page, Anthony's fiancée; and Anthony. Anthony and his family are members of Antioch Free Will Baptist Church in Craven County.

Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church Members Discuss Upcoming MOC Freshman Advising Day

Mount Olive College will host a freshman advising day on Monday, July 24. Incoming freshmen will register for fall classes, meet their advisors, and take placement tests. The day will be filled with information sessions, campus tours, and much more. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center.



(Left to right): Tim Woodard, director of admissions, Rains Crossroads Church, Johnston County; Jennifer James, CB Aycock senior, Stoney Creek Church, Wayne County; Marci Rollins, MOC junior and former CB Aycock student, First Church of Goldsboro, Wayne County; and Jessica Murphy, CB Aycock senior, Stoney Creek Church, Wayne County; discuss the upcoming freshman advising day at Mount Olive College. Jennifer and Jessica will begin classes at MOC in the fall.

Mission Fulfilled

by Vergel

Last March 29, 2000 at 7:00 PM, we left Puerto Princesa City to perform a certain task. We went first to Itangil Free Will Baptist Church to inform them that there was no officiating minister from the Free Will Baptist Church, due to some deficiency, for the wedding ceremony.

Then we went to Calaway, Taytay Palawan because the Rev. Jaapal Ontong requested the Rev. Fidel B. Presto to teach Lagoyloy Free Will Baptist Church members on how to make lesson plans for Sunday school. We stayed at Pastor Jonathan Nuena's parsonage. Early in the morning of April 1, we walked to Lagoyloy, Calawag, and spent the whole day in the workshop seminar at the parsonage.

On Sunday morning, we went back again at Lagoyloy because the Rev. Fidel B. Presto was invited by the Rev. Jaapal Ontong to lead the worship service. At noon, the Rev. Fidel B. Presto continued teaching on how to make lesson plans for Calawag Church members.

We left Calawag on April 3, 2000.



Notice • Notice • Notice

Annual Convention Mission Rally
7:30 PM

September 13, 2000
College Hall, Mount Olive College
Board of Foreign Missions
In Charge of Program



Lydia, Tezdjan and Willem

Special guests from Bulgaria are Willem and Lydia van der Plas and Tezdjan Murtazova. This will be a service you will not want to miss. There will be special music and first-hand information about our work in Bulgaria. Tezdjan will be in North Carolina for about three weeks and Willem and Lydia will be here for the months of September and October. This will limit their visits to churches, so we encourage everyone to attend the Rally and show your love and support for our missionaries in Bulgaria.

Remember your special offering for Foreign Missions at the Rally. We need an exceptionally good offering this year to make up for the drop in funding!

SHORT-TERM TEAM OPPORTUNITIES 2001

Now is the time to pray and seek God's will concerning Short-Term Team mission service next year. We need to hear from you by September 30, 2000. This early date is necessary for planning and booking.

TEAM DATES 2001:

Philippines	April 21-May 6	(12 member team — 18 years old and up)
Mexico	June 16-26	(30 member team — 13 years old and up)
	July 14-24	(30 member team — 13 years old and up)
	August 4-14	(12 member team — 18 years old and up)
Bulgaria	September 22-October 4	(12 member team — 18 years old and up)

Ministry opportunities: building project, VBS, skits, puppets, Bible studies, Christian fiesta, camping and many others. A life-changing experience awaits you! Do not miss this great opportunity!

ACT NOW TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THE TEAM.

For more information, contact the Board of Foreign Missions at (252) 746-4963.

Newsletter from India and Nepal

by Dr. E. M. Lall

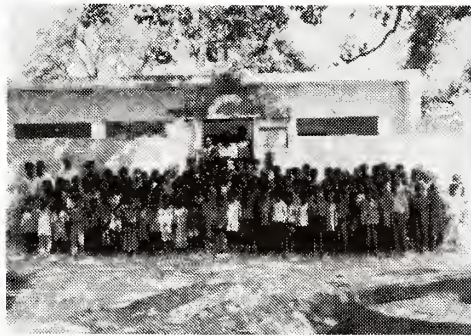
The days and months in the past were not free from turmoil in India. There is fear and insecurity felt all the time from the communal fundamentalists which are segments of the government and, therefore, justice is denied. At times, the machinery of the government also becomes a part of them with a view to gain their favour. This time the persecution came from our own State of Uttar Pradesh. Nevertheless, in the State of such prevailing affairs, we certainly feel the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ and are ready to suffer for His cause.



Village preaching continues in our church goal. Bisalpur's new congregation.

However, in the wake of unprecedented dangers haunting all the time, the work of the church and our mission of schools is on the high-side. The more persecution is launched against us, the more zeal and enthusiasm come from above for the evangelization of the masses! As the photographs will vouch, our ministers in Nepal are alive for the evangelization in the country and are saving souls for His Kingdom. Such is the case in India. Just in the past few months, four new congregations have been established. Three are located in India viz Seolia, Bisalpur, Raniganj and one in Nepal at Rajipur. New people are being baptized and taken into church membership.

The school buildings at Musapur in India have been completed. Our church organization in Moga, Punjab, is constructing a church building for



Musapur school building completed.



Moga Church under construction in State of Punjab.

themselves. I hope to visit with this congregation on my return from the State of Bihar where the work has grown tremendously. A new congregation is emerging faster at Pokhra Hills in Nepal. Our minister-designate is arranging for a mass meeting in June when many souls will be baptized. Our people in the rural areas spare time for church edification. The Rudrapur church congregation celebrated its second anniversary and made a solemn promise that they



Rudrapur Church celebrates second anniversary.

would be a part of our evangelistic mission. A delegation from the church met with me last Sunday and assured me that the church is providing house rent for the pastor from June onward.



Congratulations at Rudapur.

Telethon 2000 Drops Significantly from the Previous Year

Telethon 1999 was	\$181,490.75
Telethon 2000 was	\$150,910.87
Total Drop	\$30,579.88

This is a steep drop in funding at a time when monthly support is also down. If this trend in giving to Foreign Missions does not reverse itself in a few months, the Board will be forced to cut ministry across the board affecting every field. At the present time, we are operating as usual, praying earnestly that the cuts will not be necessary in the months ahead. This is your ministry. Will you pray and seek God's heart and will in this matter? Reaching the world with the gospel is the chief ministry of the Church.

Lighthouse Church

by Royce Reynolds, Pastor

Sound Side Free Will Baptist Church, Columbia, NC, first became involved in the Jesus 2000 and Lighthouse Movement in October 1999 when it was introduced by the pastor. The church immediately accepted the opportunity for a new avenue to witness for Christ in their community. Twenty-one people volunteered to visit with sick and shut-ins and five people volunteered to be a part of a witness team.

With the visitation program in place by early November, the church distributed Lighthouse Lapel Pins to every member of the church and signed up 43 people to become "Lighthouses of Prayer." They all agreed to pray for, care about, and share the message of Christ with those around them. The lapel pins have opened the door with several of our people to discuss Jesus Christ with co-workers and friends.

In November 1999, we began putting out door hangers with the message that Sound Side would surround these homes with prayer. The church made a commitment to reach every home in the country by year's end. Several special requests for prayer for special needs have been received since this part of the work has begun.

In December 1999, the young people designed a float for the Christmas parade featuring a Lighthouse. The float promoted the Jesus 2000 Celebration and the Lighthouse Movement. Many have commented that it was the best float in the parade.

In February 2000, two prayer groups were organized to pray for those who are unsaved. The women's prayer group meets every Monday morning at 8:30AM and the men's group meets on Wednesday night at 7:00 PM. Each person is asked to pray for three people who need the Lord. As an introduction to this prayer movement, several studies on prayer, based on the book *Partnership In Prayer* by John Maxwell, were conducted. The people are prayer partners with me as pastor and this has made a difference in the church.

In March 2000, the church began to distribute the Jesus video to people in the community. Plans were to follow up with each family and ask whether they prayed the prayer of commitment at the end of the video. This opens the door to witness to these families. The church is excited about the video project because anyone can get involved by delivering videos to their neighbors.

The church has scheduled a Jesus 2000 service for each month of the year with guest speakers who are involved in the work of the Original Free Will Baptist Church. Results are evident at Sound Side Church because the church chose to get involved in this outreach program, and we believe God is going to do even more before the end of the year 2000. A special thanks to the Rev. David C. Hansley, General Administrator, and to the Rev. Al Markuson, our Home Missions Director, for promoting this mission work among our churches. Thanks also to Kelly Reynolds for seeing that the church promptly received all the materials needed to get the work done, and thanks to church people for participating by Prayer, Caring, and Sharing in any way needed.

For more information on how to become a Lighthouse Church call or write: Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, (252) 746-4963.



A Scouting Profile

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Since 1910, 100 million Americans have taken that pledge to heart and have joined the Boy Scouts of America. This year, Scouting celebrates its ninetieth anniversary.

Some of America's most distinguished citizens have been Boy Scouts. National heroes such as astronauts Neil Armstrong and Senator John Glenn, baseball legend Hank Aaron, and U.S. Presidents John Kennedy, Jimmy Carter, and Gerald Ford are a few examples. President Ford became an Eagle Scout, the highest honor bestowed on a Scout.

Over the years, this organization has made many innovations to keep abreast of changing times. The Boy Scouts of America strive to develop good traits of character in young people, and encourage them to become physically fit. But above all, it is still fun for young people as it goes about its mission of teaching ethical values and building good citizens from all walks of life and from all races and creeds.

At 90, many of us would be in our twilight years. Fortunately, not the Boy Scouts of America. So we say "happy anniversary" to every Tenderfoot Scout and every Eagle Scout, to the new seven-year-old Tiger Cub, to the Venturers — over half of whom are young women — and to all the others, youth and adult, who have had a part in this American institution.



A Scouting Challenge To Our Church

by the Rev. R. Chip Turner

The intensive care unit (ICU) waiting area was almost empty as I rushed in late one evening. I was responding to a frantic call for help from Ron, one of the boys in our church's Boy Scout troop. As Ron saw me enter, he came over and fell exhausted into my arms. His eyes were filled with tears and his voice quivered as he spoke. Ron's father was near death in a nearby ICU room, just a few feet from where we were standing. Once he calmed himself, he realized that I had brought his friend and fellow Boy Scout, Randy, with me.

Randy was the Scout who first invited Ron to our Scout meeting and who urged him to join the troop. It was also Randy who, after working with me through the God and Life Mentor Program, and realizing his personal need to be involved in outreach, had invited Ron to our church. And it was the two of us who walked the aisle with Ron when he became a part of

our church family. Now he and I stood in the hospital waiting room with Ron.

Several days later, after scores of prayers and hours of lost sleep, we rejoiced with Ron to see his dad moved from ICU to a regular hospital room. The immediate crisis had passed and a grateful son thanked us for all of our ways of expressing concern for him. We, on the other hand, simply felt it was part of being Christian friends.

As I now reflect on that recent incident, I cannot escape the sense of joy I feel for our church's Scouting ministry. Ron is just one of the young men who has been touched by it. Within the past five years, more than 100 Scouts and family members have joined our church—individuals whose first contact was through our Boy Scout troop or our Cub Scout pack. Add to this the testimonies of hundreds of people in other area churches who have also been

positively impacted by our church's Scouting units. Still, there are myriad "Rons" to be reached, and we know many children and youth that enroll in the program will have their first encounter with a church through Scouting.

Given the successful results of the relationship between our church and the Boy Scouts of America for nearly three-quarters of a century, you can easily see why we reject the notion that Scouting has no place in a church. Based on I Corinthians 9:22, we realize this tool of outreach and ministry has an important role to play in our church's efforts to reach the lost and unenlisted. Scouting does not take the place of any other church ministry nor is any other entity seen as taking the place of Scouting. Furthermore, we do not seek to mix programming of the various organizations. Every children's and youth organization

cont....

July

Pray

 Think

SUN		MON		TUE	
25	26	27	28		
2	3	4	5	Independence Day	
9	10	11	12	Fastpitch Softball Camp	
Children's Home 54th Annual Homecoming					
16	17	18	19	Volleyball Camp	
23	24	25	26	Diamond Star Baseball	
	Freshman Advising Day				
30	31				

erns _____

member _____

	THU	FRI	SAT
	29	30	1
	6	7	8
<i>Mount Olive College</i>	_____		15
<i>Olive College</i>	_____		22
<i>Mount Olive College</i>	_____		29 Cape Fear Union Meeting

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

A Scouting Challenge To Our Church, cont. . . .

offered by the denomination is well represented. Interestingly, many of the leaders of these groups are also some of our strongest Scouting ministry volunteers. We all accept a role in seeking to impact children, youth, and families, and we reject an "us-and-them" mentality.

To list all of the reasons why Scouting should be considered as an integral part of a local church's ministry would be virtually impossible. However, consider the following.

Scouting offers more quality time with children and youth than most other church-related organizations.

This is not a criticism of other organizations; it is merely a fact. If a young person attends the weekly Scout meeting, participates in a monthly campout, goes to summer camp, and is involved in the multi-unit events offered throughout the year, he can expect to spend at least 544 hours annually in these activities. Consider the potential for personal ministry by a Christian Scout leader. In contrast, only 85 hours are spent annually in an organizational setting that has a weekly meeting lasting a little more than an hour. Is it any wonder many call Scouting the "sleeping giant of outreach" for local churches?

Scouting appeals to unchurched youth as well as "church" kids.

While most churches offer a meaningful ministry to their children and youth, Scouting helps churches have a broad appeal to those who are generally not reached by other methods. As mentioned earlier, a sizable number of all Scouts have their first encounter with a church through their involvement in the Scouting program. What tremendous potential for outreach and church growth!

Scouting offers lifesaving skills and skills for living.

The various program offerings — Tiger Cubs and Cub Scouting for boys in grades one through five, Boy Scouting for boys in grades six

through 12, and Venturing for boys and girls in high school — are unexcelled in today's world. Among the results are personal preparedness, outdoor skills, vocational training, citizenship education, and character building. When these programs are under the auspices of a local church with caring Christian leaders, the picture is complete. Furthermore, Christian churches should want to stand with the Boy Scouts of America as they face one legal assault after another regarding their commitment to requiring a belief in God for all members and leaders. These legal challenges seek to undermine the moral fiber of our nation.

Scouting offers the church unparalleled training, materials, and facility support.

Training for Scouts and adults is available to everyone involved in Scouting. Program helps are abundant. And the physical facilities such as camps are among the best in the nation.

Scouting helps strengthen families.

The entire Cub Scout program is family oriented. Most of the activities are designed to be conducted with a parent. Other levels of Scouting emphasize the importance of family, too. For instance, effective September 1, 1994, a new requirement for the rank of Eagle Scouts is completion of the Family Life merit badge.

Scouting contributes to personal and church growth by involving more laity.

Church growth expert George Barna asserts that one of the ways to reverse downward trends in church involvement while stimulating church growth is to create service areas that are hands-on and action oriented. Not everyone is gifted to serve in traditional church leadership roles; many of these individuals can be meaningfully involved, instead, in ministry through Scouting, thus using their God-given abilities in His service. Not only is church growth impacted—so is stability. When lay people feel their abilities and interests are really

needed, they have a greater sense of belonging. They are more eager to support their church with time, talent, and treasure. Dare we deprive them of the use of their gifts in God's service or of the joy of giving?

Scouting undergirds religious education through the God and Country religious emblems program.

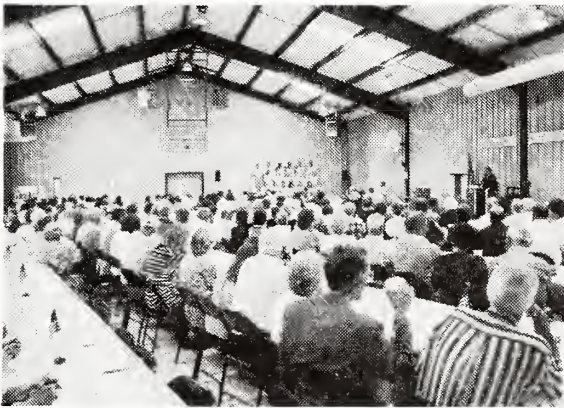
Completing requirements for one or more levels of the God and Country program is a highlight for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Ventures. Consider these results.

- God and Country participants can better understand their personal faith in Jesus Christ. It is not unusual for youth to realize their need for Christ as their Saviour during the study and then make professions of faith. In addition, many young people sense their call to ministry while working on the God and Country program.
- Young people also may better understand their denomination; its basic beliefs, history, and structure; and how to support its worldwide missions strategy through prayer, giving, and going. A thorough review of cooperative work beyond the local church gives the individual an appreciation for the role of various agencies and institutions.
- Participants are taught the importance of personal involvement in outreach and missions at home.
- Completing required projects through the local church helps youth realize the importance of Christian service.

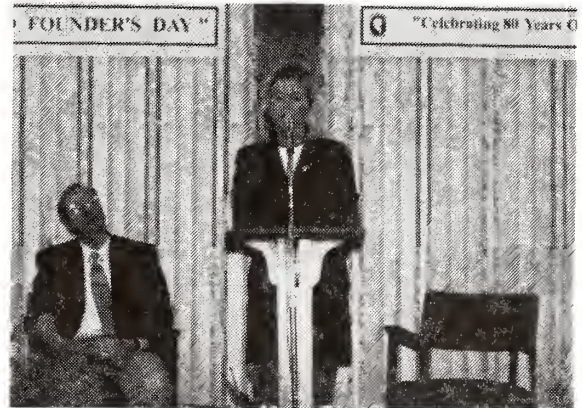
For all of the reasons cited above and many others, churches and Scouting work well together in the molding of today's children and youth. The "Rons" are out there in abundance. As the Apostle Paul exhorts us, we should use all legitimate means to reach everyone with the gospel message!

Founder's Day 2000 — A Big Success

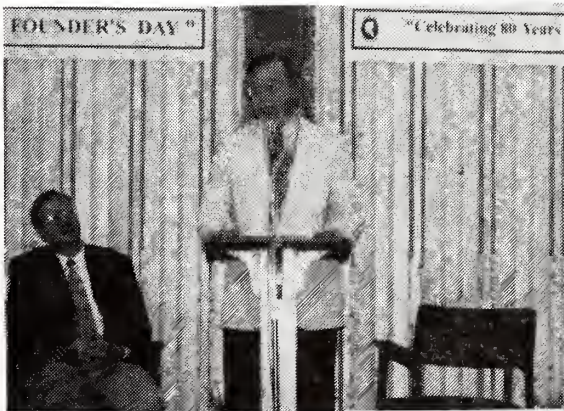
On May 27, 2000, the Free Will Baptist Children's Home celebrated 80 years of service during Founder's Day. Founder's Day began with a lunch of barbecue and chicken catered by Holt's Lake of Smithfield and served in Whitley Center. Approximately 450 individuals attended, giving their support and prayers. Our Founder's Day message was presented by four alumni from the Children's Home — Ms. Judy Warren Aycock, Mr. Phillip R. Mercer, Mrs. Mildred Johnson Turner, and Dr. W. Burkette Raper. Mastor of Ceremonies was Mr. Franklin Vester, of the Children's Home Board of Directors. The Young Disciples of Pine Level Free Will Baptist Church, under the direction of the Rev. Donald Coates, graciously shared their music and faith. Following the program, guests toured the cottages and other buildings on campus. We would like to thank each of you for your dedication, your offerings, and your prayers. Your support and concern helps us to provide children with hope, security, and a strong foundation. Thank you for extending your arms of love to our children.



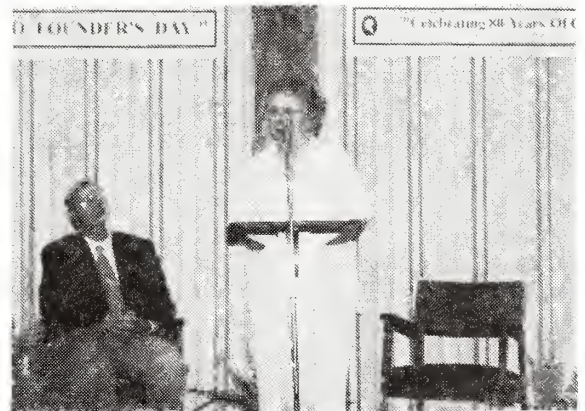
View of Founder's Day May 27, 2000 (pictured left).



Judy Warren Aycock speaks at Founder's Day (pictured right).



Phillip R. Mercer speaks at Founder's Day (pictured left).



Mildred Johnson Turner speaks at Founder's Day (pictured right).



Dr. W. Burkette Raper speaks at Founder's Day (pictured left).



Young Disciples of Pine Level Free Will Baptist Church (pictured right).

A Special Thanks

We would like to thank the following individuals and churches for their donations on Founder's Day:

- Pleasant Hill, Pikeville, NC
- Beulaville Ladies Auxiliary, Beulaville, NC
- Pine Level Ladies Night Circle, Smithfield, NC
- Lee's Chapel, Dunn, NC
- Kenly FWB, Kenly, NC
- Elm Grove, Ayden, NC
- Jimmy and Linda McCoy, Kinston, NC

Upcoming Campus Events

July 9	54th Annual Homecoming
August 5	Cape Fear District Youth Rally
August 26	Western District Youth Rally
September 7	Campus Chapel Service
November 5	Children's Home Day

School Awards Banquet

The Twelfth Annual School Awards Banquet was held on the campus in Heritage Hall on May 19, 2000. This event is a high ranking favorite of the residents. To begin the evening, a "feast" was prepared and served to honor each student. Excitement was building, as the program began with a welcome and opening prayer. Awards were presented by each cottage social worker to the residents who have earned special recognition for school performance. Nineteen awards were given this year in categories such as: Best History Grades, Best Science Grades, Best English Grades, Best Math Grades, Most Studious, Highest GPA, Most Improved School Behavior, Most Improved School Academics, Citizenship, Extra Curricular Achiever, and Most Athletic. After the banquet, many of the residents remarked that next year they were going to win one of those tee shirts and trophies. This attitude will strengthen the residents determination to excel in school next year.

Items in Need List:

- ♥ Paper Products
- ♥ Personal Care Items
- ♥ Playstation Games
- ♥ Encyclopedias (CD Roms)
- ♥ Computers for Cottages (est. cost \$5000)
- ♥ Carpet Cleaning Machine
- ♥ Golf Cart
- ♥ First Aid Kits
- ♥ Appliances
- ♥ Vacuum Cleaner
- ♥ 4 Cameras for Cottage
- ♥ 8 quart, 10 quart, 12 quart stock pots
- ♥ Slotted 1/2 cup serving spoons
- ♥ Smooth 1/2 cup serving spoons
- ♥ Twin size Sheets
- ♥ Twin size Blankets
- ♥ Dish Towels
- ♥ Dish Cloths
- ♥ Bath Towels
- ♥ Wash Cloths
- ♥ Pot Holders
- ♥ Serving Bowls
- ♥ Storage Containers
- ♥ Shower Curtains
- ♥ Standard Size Pillows
- ♥ Bath Mats
- ♥ 24 Square Clothes Hampers
- ♥ Microwaves
- ♥ Can Openers (manual)

Mark Your Calendar
54th Annual Alumni Homecoming
July 9, 2000

The 21st Annual Bill's Barbecue/DSW/Cragmont Golf Tournament

Happy Valley Country Club – August 3-4, 2000

Entry Fees:

Masters, Patrons, Competitors – \$240 per team
Seniors – \$200 per team Ladies – \$140 per team

This tournament has had 5,462 entries in 20 years
an average of 273 per year!

2,112 entries have been recorded in the last 5 years
an average of 422 per year!

This tournament supports the camp life of up to 25 young people at Cragmont in the North Carolina mountains each year by providing discounts for their work in the tournament.

One golfer will have an opportunity to attempt a putt worth \$10,000. If successful \$5,000 will be awarded to the golfer and \$5,000 will be awarded to Cragmont.

The Tournament will conclude with a Bill's Barbecue Pig Pickin' and award presentation scheduled for 7:00 PM on Friday afternoon. Spouses and children of participants are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

POINT SCALE

Player Status	Handicap	Average Score	Points
A	6 or less	79 or less	4
B	7-13	80-87	3
C	14-18	88-94	2
D	19 or more	95 or more	1

Competitors, Patrons, Masters, Seniors and Ladies

- Competitors, Patrons, and Masters (made up of four golfers, male or female or mixed) divisions will be contested on Thursday and Friday with "shotgun" starts at 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM on Thursday, August 3 and 8:30 AM and 1:30 PM on Friday, August 4.
- Competition levels will be determined by The Cragmont point scale.
 - Teams with 4-8 total points will be designated as Competitors and will play from the blue tees.
 - Teams with 9-11 points will be designated as Patrons.
 - Teams with 12 or more points will be designated at Masters.
 - Patrons and Masters will play from the black tees.
- Players age 55 and over will be considered Seniors and will be allowed to play from the blue tees regardless of team designation.
- All Ladies will play from the red tees.
- Seniors will be contested on Thursday morning, August 3 and will be given priority for that tee time; others "may" be allowed to play at that tee time.
- We will once again feature the Ladies' competition but it will be contested during the Thursday afternoon tee time. Others will be allowed to play at that tee time but Ladies' teams will be given priority.

You may register by calling:

Dana or Brian Batchelor 252-291-4497 or Rick Watson 919-284-5355 (home) or 919-284-7004 (work)
or E-mail: www.cragmontgolf@excite.com

People & Events

Happenings Throughout the Denomination



Remember the Revolution on July Fourth

submitted by Rita Otto Jones

Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC, sends a reminder to readers to remember the American Revolution as we celebrate this Fourth of July. Our forefathers made great sacrifices to achieve independence from tyranny, and we should honor their memory. As Christians, we know the feeling of being free to worship and free from the bondage of sin through the sacrifice of Jesus. Praise God, we are free!

The State Woman's Auxiliary conference was visited by Powhatan Auxiliary President Sandra Peedin and secretary Rita Jones on May 11. It was a long drive to Pinetown (just past Washington, NC) but a beautiful day at Free Union Free Will Baptist Church where the meeting was held. There were 129 people present for the morning fellowship. We were told in the devotion to make choices in this mortal life that would insure us an eternal life. Our three auxiliary members who had passed away in 1999 were named during the memorial service. Recipient of the Lifetime Membership Award was Dianne Riley of Mount Olive College, and several students were there to honor her. Thank you to Free Union Church for being the host and for the wonderful lunch that followed in their fellowship hall.

On May 12-13, the Johnston County Relay for Life was held. The ceremony opened with a moment of silence in honor of Sister Vicky Bagley who passed away from cancer last Thanksgiving Day. Thank you to team captain Sue Greene who helped make Powhatan a sponsor again this year and for her hard work in keeping the tradition going.

During our Mother's Day service, flower baskets were presented to three special mothers. Recipients were — for the most senior mother present, Sister

Joyce Blinson; for the youngest mother present, Sister Lisa James; and for the mother having the most children present with her (and her youngest child), Sister Barbara Howell. We were reminded to honor our parents in the morning message.

The Youth Convention at Mount Olive College was attended by 20 or so Powhatan members and we received a true blessing. Our largest group of winners was the state champion YFA Bible Bowl team (9 members) who went undefeated in the district competition on March 26 as well as the state competition on May 6. We had three in our Cherub talent group, an individual who had her AFC Christian writing entry published in the program, and an individual YFA Public Speaker. A letter nominating Sisters Wanda Benson and Rhonda Davis as Youth Directors of the Year sent from our youth officers was published in the program. Five of our six youth officers attended the Convention to learn more about the business of the state youth. We were honored to be a first recipient of the Elizabeth Hansley State Outstanding Youth Group of the Year Award with a silver recognition. We hope this encourages our group to continue to work and grow. We appreciate the gracious hosting for the weekend by Mount Olive College. Congratulations to Powhatan Youth President Roberta Widhalm who will be a State Board of Youth Representative from the Cape Fear District for 2000-2001. Thank you to the adults who went with the group as chaperones and drivers (since we are still looking for our bus to purchase).

Senior Sunday was celebrated on May 28. Chris Bagley was honored with the gift of a Bible. Study it well, Chris — the theme for next year's Bible Bowl is *The Apostles*. Chris received the

"Ray Hardee and Leo Mayo Scholarship" at an awards ceremony on May 26 and graduated from Clayton High at ceremonies held on June 2.

Our youth completed another step in their achievement plan for 2000 on May 30 when they helped in unloading and setting up election equipment for the primary run-off at the East Clayton Precinct for Johnston County. The Chief Judge for the precinct is 72-year old Turner Vinson, Jr. He was especially pleased to have the assistance of the group of youth because the room had not been cleared of exercise equipment when we arrived. Once the teenagers cleared the room, the long boxes were unloaded and the voting booths were assembled. Thanks to Chris Bagley, Roberta Widhalm, Nikki Jones, Crystal Guy, and Hayley Benson for their hard work.

A special "Happy Birthday" in June to Sister Margaret Lee Blinson (82), Inez West (84), and Brother J. C. Blinson (88) who have been faithful members at Powhatan for so many years.

In Memoriam:

Leona Barbour Cook, age 96, a long-time member of Powhatan, passed away on Saturday, June 3. She is survived by son Kenneth, sister Joyce Blinson, eight grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. Please remember her family during this time of loss.

Cape Fear Union Meeting

July 29, 2000

for more details contact
Martha Parsons
910-438-9299

Morning Star — Cragmont Assembly

April 28–30, 2000

by Mamie Dale

On Friday morning, April 28, one hundred twenty-nine ladies, from ages twelve to eighty plus, got up early to start their trip to Cragmont for yet another blessing from God. We did not have a bus for this trip but through those with big hearts and extra seats, transportation was provided.

After loading our vehicles and climbing aboard, we stopped a moment to ask God to take care of those we were leaving at home, to thank Him for this opportunity and pray for a safe trip for all. We each did our own thing on the trip, including fellowship, shopping, and eating, arriving at different times throughout the day.



*Kathy Hayes, Bible Teacher,
Morning Star 2000*

At 8:00 PM, Donna Holland, director, welcomed the group and gave a hint about the things we had to look forward to there. Teresa Ball, registrar, read Psalm 121, reminding us to lift up our eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh our help. After prayer, singing was led by Pam Kennedy, music director, with Virginia Skinner as pianist.

"Who's here and getting acquainted" was led by May Pittman, assistant director and registrar. May gave each person a list of questions that included things such as: Have you kissed your husband today? Do you have a son who plays baseball? Are you wearing a green outfit? Have you bought

anyone a card this month? Do you have a daughter who plays the piano? This created a lot of fun as we greeted old friends and made new ones. Pam led the group in more singing before we had announcements and closing prayer. Registration, refreshments, and more fellowship continued from 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

As we entered the chapel at 8:00 AM on Saturday morning, we were greeted with music from the new piano being played by Virginia Skinner. Sondra Thick led us in a time of devotion with "Courage" as her theme. She used Deuteronomy 31:6 to remind us to be strong and of good courage.

At breakfast we had prayer and gave God thanks for the food we were about to receive. More fellowship was enjoyed as we waited in line to be served and then at the table with those around us. At 9:00 AM we met on the front steps for a group picture.

At 9:15 AM it was time for more blessings as Kathy Hayes, speaker for the day, led us in a wonderful Bible study. "Lord I need a new body — NOW" was her topic, and she chose Romans 6:13 as her Scripture: "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

Using herself as an example, Kathy talked about the time, energy, thought, money, etc., that she uses each day to improve her physical self. These she said, are the things of the world, when what we should think about are the "physical members" that God has given to us and how we are using them.

After the session ended with our spiritual bodies filled to overflowing, we had a prayer, a blessing on the food and fellowship.

Saturday afternoon was free for shopping, to rock on the porch, go sight-seeing or just relax. Supper was at 7:00 PM, and then it was back to the chapel. After a hymn and prayer, Brooke Honeycutt taught our Sunday school lesson "Demonstrate God's Love." Brooke, a teacher by profession, brought along a work sheet for each of us to fill out using our lesson and Scripture, 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:1. Sunday school was concluded with special music and prayer. At 9:15 PM we had vespers led by May Pittman, using 1 Corinthians 12:12.

Sunday morning at 8:00 AM was time for worship. We sang some of our choruses as the call to worship. After the morning prayer and a congregational hymn, we gave our Cragmont offering and thanked God for the bounty with which He had blessed us. Special music was "Jesus Never Fails."

The Rev. John Williams, director of Cragmont Assembly, gave the morning message using Ezekiel 18:30.

After the closing hymn and a prayer by the Rev. John Williams, we were off to share our blessings with those we had left at home. We really enjoyed the new chairs, new carpet in the chapel, and the new piano.

Thank you Lord for so many blessings!



*2000 Morning Star group,
enjoying singing and the new piano.*

People & Events

Life Membership Awarded to Dianne Riley

In 1947, Edith and Treat Brown were a very happy, farming couple that became the parents of Dianne Brown. She had a happy childhood of homemade dresses and natural curly hair. Her bubbly personality was already evident. She attended elementary school and had some great teachers that influenced her to become involved in education. Instilled in her early was faith in God, the love of her church, love of learning and loving all types of people. These traits would become evident in adulthood. With the usual bumps and bruises that accompany childhood, this young lady grew to be a vibrant Christian teenager. She was very active in her high school years and well-liked by teachers and classmates.

She entered Mount Olive Junior College and enjoyed all her classes, faculty members, and extracurricular events. She graduated and transferred to a four-year institution. During this time, she met and fell in love with Dennis Riley. They married and he has been a loving, supportive and wonderful husband. Her Lord's work, the College, her family, and Dennis' parents have been her life.

She is best described by these words by Dr. Raper on January 13, 2000, at the funeral of her mother, Mrs. Edith Hawkins Brown. To me, they are the tribute to a young lady who is being awarded the Life Membership of the North Carolina Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary Convention.

"No one symbolizes Mount Olive College more than Dianne does. Six years after her graduation from Mount Olive, she returned to work in the admissions office where she continued almost a quarter of a century until she graduated again in 1997 — this time to become Director of Alumni Affairs.

"In my opinion, no one in the history of Mount Olive College has touched more lives than has Dianne. Many young people who never dreamed of going to college but who today are in successful careers and professions

throughout the world have made something good out of their lives because they were encouraged and inspired by Dianne.

"I can tell you without reservation that Dianne's hard work, her long hours, her sparks of vitality, and her commitment to the Christian mission of the college have made a significant difference in the kind of educational institution Mount Olive College is today.

"But I can also tell you something else — behind Dianne was her mother and father, and her husband Dennis, who has the patience of Job!

"As a loving mother, Mrs. Edith made Dianne's work her work. The true measure of parents is not how much financial wealth they leave their children, but what kind of standards, what kind of ideas, what kind of values they transmit to them.

"And Dianne, may I say to you that you are your mother's legacy to the world. It is as if her life blossomed through your life. You represent her chief work on earth. And may I say that I believe you not only honor and treasure this legacy but that your greatest joy is in sharing it with all whose lives are touched by you and your work."

Tribute from Marcie Rollins

For the two years that I have been at Mount Olive College, Mrs. Dianne Riley has played many roles in my life. She has been my friend and confidant, my professor, my club advisor, and most of all a Christian role model and advisor when I needed one the most.

Having worked with her freshman



Marcie Rollins, Mount Olive College student; Scott Satterfield, Mount Olive College student; Dianne Riley, Life Membership Recipient; and Carolyn Jernigan, presenting Life Membership Service Award to Dianne.

seminar class this fall, I saw first hand the love and devotion Mrs. Riley has for all students. The class was composed of students from different backgrounds, many who some would say didn't belong in college, but Mrs. Riley never looked at their back records of grades and behavior. She only looked at the student as a creation of God whom she was sent to help. It was a difficult semester for Mrs. Riley since her mother was sick, but nonetheless, she spent countless hours helping students see that they could achieve in life. When one student's family was in desperate need following the flood, I saw Mrs. Riley come to their assistance. When another student was in a car accident that took him out of school for the remaining semester, I saw Mrs. Riley reach out to him to insure he didn't give up on returning to college.

As far as my life is concerned, I would not be the same without Mrs. Riley. Whether I was having problems with dating, friends, classes, or family, Mrs. Riley was always there to listen, even if she didn't really have the time. She has helped me to see God's will for my life on many occasions and has encouraged me to keep going when I didn't think I had the strength to do so.

cont....

Life Membership Awarded to Dianne Riley, cont....

She has helped students organize Sunday evening worship services and make it a point to attend the service each week. This is not something she had to do, but something she chose to do in order to help students. Mrs. Riley truly lives by the slogan she teaches her students in Christian Education Class: "What are we trying to do to people?"

Tribute from Scott Satterfield

I am truly honored to be here on such a special day, a special day in the life of Mrs. Dianne Riley, this tremendous organization of women, Mount Olive College, and our entire denomination. I stand before you today as a witness to the life and work of Mrs. Riley. And also as a representative of not only myself, but the many students who have come before me, those who are with me now, and those in the future who will be touched in a new and different way. They have and will come in contact with not just an admissions counselor, or director of alumni relations, or teacher, but a mentor, a helper, a motivator, a counselor, a friend. She is committed as much as any one person I know to the true mission of our institution, a mission that Mrs. Riley dedicates, not just her work to, but her heart and soul. She is operating as the servant of God, who is here to do exactly what she has been called to do. It is this reason that Mount Olive College operates as it does, because of people like Mrs. Riley. She has what I would call "tenacity" in every sense of the word. She is tenacious about the work she does, about the progression of the college, but most of all about caring for the students on our campus. She calls us her kids. That is an accurate depiction, because most of the time she is like our mom away from home. So as a student, and as a life who has been touched, I would like to just say, "Thank you Dianne Riley. May I add that nothing we can say here today or give you will adequately express how much you mean to us."

Tribute from Mrs. Mamie Dail

When I see Dianne Riley, I look upon someone who has a smile on her face, joy in her heart, love for everyone, enthusiasm for life. Yes, Dianne Riley, you really make a difference in the lives you touch.

Christians, Start Your Engines!

submitted by Carla Combs

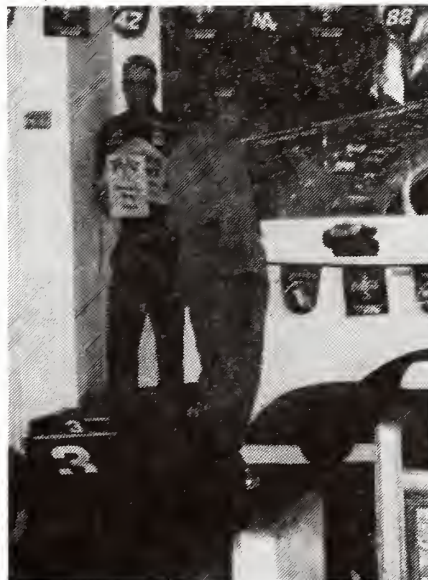
The Road Rally 2000 VBS took off in a blaze of glory at Howell Swamp Free Will Baptist Church in Walstonburg, NC on Sunday, June 11 and concluded on Thursday, June 15.

This year's theme "In the race with Jesus" was evident in the sanctuary where church members turned the small pulpit into a colorful racing pit. Tires, tool boxes, checkered flags, and lifesize cardboard posters of popular Nascar drivers like Jeff Gordan and Kyle Petty holding signs that said "winners with Jesus" set the stage for a special puppet show featuring Otto the race car. Each night Otto would witness to the pit crew and congregation about the importance of following the Master's car and that by following in His light, we will be victorious in our lives.

A total of 82 people attended the first night including over 30 children and teens. Pastor Tony Glass was delighted with the outcome of this year's VBS. He extends his sincerest thanks to all of the teachers, volunteers, and everyone who helped organize the week's events. The Road Rally 2000 was truly a blessing for everyone who participated!



Pastor Tony Glass stands with some of the youth that participated in the Road Rally 2000.

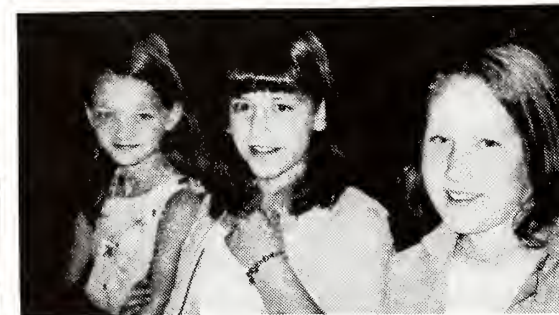
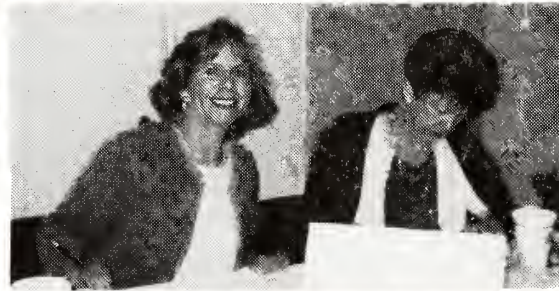


Otto, the race car and Mechanic Mike (Mike Anderson).



Toddlers and teens alike enjoyed the VBS.

Scenes from the State Youth Convention May 19-21, 2000



Annual Minister's Conference

The annual Original Free Will Baptist Minister's Conference was held May 12-15, 2000, at Cragmont Assembly. Registration reached approximately 90. Due to the rain that was falling at the time the picture was taken, some ministers were not present.



CHURCHES & MINISTERS AVAILABLE

Note: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

Greg Nethercutt was recently licensed to the ministry and is available for supply work. He may be contacted at 5519 Hugo Church Road, Hookerton, NC 28538, or phone 252-524-0276 (after 6:00 PM).

The Rev. Jerry Allen is in good standing with the Western Conference of Original Free Will Baptists and is available for full-time or part-time pastoral work. His address is 502 E. Second Street, Clayton, NC 27520, phone 910-550-1009.

"This is to state that I am available for pastoral work. I am a licensed minister and a member of Union Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church. I am willing and able to travel anywhere God needs me." John Henry Lane, Sr., 2126 Davis Mill Road, Fremont, NC 27830, phone 919-242-6471.

The First Free Will Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, NC, is seeking a full-time pastor. Any interested person may contact Don Rogers, Phone 252-442-4445.

The Rev. Ernest Jones is a minister in good standing in the Eastern Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists and he is also a member in good standing of Holly Springs Original Free Will Baptist Church in Newport, NC. He was ordained into the gospel ministry on October 21, 1999. He is currently available to fill-in on Sundays in the absence of a church's pastor, or for revival services. He is also seeking a church to pastor in the Eastern Conference. He may be reached by mail at 235 Tom Mann Road, Newport, NC 28570, or by phone 252-223-2701.

Little Creek Church Plans Special Service

Little Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church, Ayden, NC, announces a special Rededication Service on July 23, 2000, beginning at 3:00 PM. Since the flooding by Hurricane Floyd in September of 1999, the church has undergone a major remodeling program.

Happy
4th of July

Registration Form Cragmont Woman's Conference

July 31–August 5

Speaker, Mary Dudley

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Church _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here _____.

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

If you do not plan to ride the bus, please check here: _____.

Mail registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:

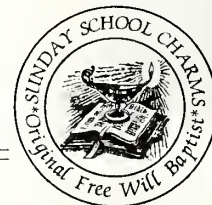
Teresa M. Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

A balance of \$125.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

A day trip is being planned, approximate cost \$65.00, and there will be afternoon trips into Black Mountain and Asheville at \$5.00 each. Please make your plans now to join us.

Sunday School Charms

Hints and Ideas for Sunday School Growth



Qualifications and Responsibilities of Sunday School Teachers and Officers

Compiled by Mary Dudley, Director of the Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry
from the *Sunday School Handbook for Original Free Will Baptists*

By now your church has selected its Sunday school teachers and officers if your church year began on July 1, 2000. Each particular job assignment carries specific qualifications and with it certain responsibilities. In this article, we will address those qualifications and responsibilities that make for effective leaders in Christian education in the church. We trust that the church, as a whole, will pay particular attention to each of these areas and know that without the participants in each Sunday school class these responsibilities are of no value except to the person who carries out of job to which he or she has been elected. If your church year does not begin until January 1, 2001, we encourage you to use these guidelines for choosing dedicated people to lead the educational arm of your church. These choices should be made only after much prayer and consideration.

I. Qualifications

A. Each Sunday School Office shall be:

- a Christian (profess Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord);
- a member of the local church
- a student of the Bible;
- a student of and believer in the Original Free Will Baptist doctrine;
- a respected person in the community;
- a good organizer;
- a hard worker;
- a leader;
- enthusiastic;
- understanding of and committed to the task;
- committed to a sense of calling.

cont....

B. The Superintendent and Assistant

Superintendent:

- should be interested in all phases of the church's ministry — locally and denominationally;
- will devote time each day to reading the Bible and praying;
- should be a fluent speaker;
- should understand human nature and development;
- should be slow to criticize;
- should be quick to encourage through praise;
- be able to delegate;
- should conduct himself or herself in a manner that will inspire confidence and enthusiasm in the Sunday school and its ministry.

C. The Secretary and/or Assistant Secretary:

- shall be able to keep accurate records;
- shall be a hard worker;
- shall be able to prepare accurate correspondence, reports, and other written records.

D. The Treasurer (if one is needed):

- shall be able to keep accurate financial records;
- shall be true to confidentially.

E. The Sunday School Teacher, in addition to the qualifications for the Sunday School officers in general:

- shall have a good education;
- shall know how to be a friend;
- shall have a genuine interest in teaching;
- shall be a true witness for Jesus Christ.

II. Responsibilities

A. The Sunday School Superintendent and/or the Assistant shall:

- lead the Sunday school in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of various educational programs and activities;
- be a member of the Sunday School Council and/or Board of Christian Education;
- participate in training opportunities to keep skills updated;
- encourage outreach/evangelism;
- promote Sunday school;
- encourage periodic training opportunities for all Sunday school staff;
- be a resource person to the Sunday school;
- supervise the education ministries of all departments;

- organize regular workers' planning sessions;
- maintain an inventory of current curriculum materials;
- assist in recruitment of new staff;
- build fellowship and morale among the workers;
- maintain a presence each Sunday morning at the Sunday school hour and the worship hour;
- shall provide learning opportunities focused on learning for all.
- make a report at each general church business meeting of the status of the Sunday school.

B. The Secretary and/or Assistant shall:

- keep accurate records;
- maintain an effective records system;
- prepare written Sunday school reports;
- prepare written correspondence and/or other written materials requested by the Sunday school;
- order Sunday school material requested by the Superintendent.

C. The Treasurer (if needed):

(Since the Sunday school is an extension of the church as an organization, a treasurer may not be needed except to maintain a record of all funds collected during the Sunday school hour. However, if your church still maintains the Sunday school as a separate organization from the church, the treasurer has some specific functions.)

- shall handle all funds;
- maintain accurate financial records of the Sunday school.

D. The Teacher shall:

- be committed to preparation by knowing oneself, knowing one's students, knowing one's purpose, knowing one's subject, knowing one's room and equipment and knowing how to teach;
- be committed to teaching the Word of God by following a specific plan, using effective methods of impression and expression and maintaining classroom control;
- commit to and participate in training to upgrade skills;
- be committed to outreach/evangelism;
- be present and early each Sunday morning;
- maintain an active presence at the Sunday morning worship hour;
- be focused on learning.

CHRISTIAN ART REVIEWS

by Michael G. Warning,
Pastor Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Sea Level, NC



Rev. Michael G. Warning

Source: Tintoretto, *Christ at the Sea of Galilee*. (Italian 1518–1594). From the Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Oil on canvas. 46 x 66 1/4 inches. In Richard Mühlberger, *The Bible in Art: The New Testament*. New York: Portland House, 1990, pp. 82–83.

Introduction

Though Tintoretto (1518–1594) is famous for his scenes of Venice, here in *Christ at the Sea of Galilee*, he is interested in a clear, theatrical moment of Jesus and the disciples in a storm on the Sea of Galilee. The painting in the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. reminds us of the moment when Peter steps out in the faith upon the waves.

Artistic Style

This 16th-century oil painting is not like most in this time frame, because Tintoretto's audience is Venetian. Here we see qualities that we would experience in theatres, carnivals, and masquerades where real drama is enhanced by scenery. The paint is very thin and the highlights are extreme. There is the light of a storm where you have intensities of light and darkness with a compressed and directed light source.

The vanishing point is somewhere beyond the hills surrounding the Sea of Galilee. However, the scene is focused pointedly by the extended hand of Jesus from the left. His flesh-colored cloak is wrapped around his waist revealing his underclothing which is the same color as the sea and skies; therefore, Jesus is as elemental as nature itself.

The waves are well-defined in their darkness and light. The feet of Jesus seem to be resting on light lines like those at the top of the wave. Is Jesus on land or sea? It seems Jesus is making the first step from the land as Peter makes his first step from the boat onto the sea. This is a dramatic moment as if the climax of a play — a fact the Venetians would have understood.

Symbolism

The stormy water of the Sea of Galilee provides a symbolic opportunity. The disciples are terribly afraid of the storm which seems to be in full strength. Even the circle above the rocking ship's sail shows the commotion and severity of the wind, a symbol of life's storms, travails, or dangers. This storm symbolizes an elemental danger, a real threat to life. The calm sea which is friendly to fishermen has for Peter become a test of faith.

Surely Peter had seen a lot of storms as a fisherman. What makes this not just one more storm? Is it that this storm has brought the elemental fear of the soul threatened by annihilation? Will body and soul disappear in the stormy element of life? Can this storm symbolize the overarching storm of man's confrontation with the nothingness of his body and soul before the violence of death, what Dylan Thomas called that dark night of the soul?

Notice some of the figures appear to be skeletons scared to death. One figure is reaching over the boat to test the water with his hand to see if the water is solid enough to stand on. How can the water be solid enough to walk upon? Peter with his arms outstretched, still holding on to the boat, is poised between the known and unknown. The familiar has become strange, but he ventures upon the unknown in faith.

Conclusion

The central message for us is this: Don't be afraid to venture into the stormy unknown where both body and soul seem threatened at their most elemental existence, for Jesus is at the edge of the unknown waiting, protecting, and beckoning. Peter in faith goes to Jesus, because Jesus has called him to come. Jesus also calls us to step out in faith and to draw close to Him in whatever circumstance.

Both body and soul are saved from elemental annihilation, for faith saves the fearful.



Convention Update

David C. Hansley, General Administrator



Nominating Committee Announced

The officers of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists have appointed the Nominating Committee for the 2000 Convention: the Rev. Adrian Grubbs, chairman; the Revs. Hollan Norris, Terry Ellis, Philip Wood, Roy Clifton, William Mobley, and Dr. Howard Starling.

Convention Nomination Procedures

An announcement of vacancies to be filled at the 2000 Convention is being made to the boards and committees of the Convention, churches, ministers, and in the *Free Will Baptist*, inviting recommendations. Recommendations must include the name, church occupation, and a short paragraph describing qualifications and /or gifts the person would bring to the board, committee, or office, and the name of the person or group making the recommendation. Recommendations will be received through July 31, 2000. The Nominating Committee will make its decisions, contact persons to be nominated, and prepare a written report for inclusion in the Convention Report Book. In the event the Nominating Committee decides to nominate someone not recommended by a board or director, the director will be consulted and the decision will be discussed.

Resolution Committee

Please send any proposed Resolutions to: Resolution Committee Convention Headquarters, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

RECOMMENDATION FORM

I (we) would like to recommend _____
for consideration by the Nominating Committee to fill the vacancy:

Please provide the following information of the nominee:

Church Membership _____

Conference _____

Occupation _____

Qualifications and/or gifts this person would bring to the position:

Signature of person or group making the recommendation

Date _____

(Mail form to Nominating Committee, PO Box 39, Ayden NC 28513
Forms should be postmarked no later than July 31, 2000.)

VACANCIES TO BE FILLED AT THE 2000 CONVENTION

OFFICES:

Treasurer/President (2003)
Secretary/Vice President (2001)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Cape Fear Representative (2003)
Central Representative (2003)
Eastern Representative (2003)

CHILDRENS HOME BOARD:

3 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2004

CHURCH FINANCE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2001

CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY STOCK REPRESENTATIVE:

2 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2003

FOREIGN MISSIONS:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2004

FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2001

HOME MISSIONS:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2007

MINISTERS PROGRAM:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2004

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE:

5 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2006

RETIREMENT MINISTRIES:

2 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2005

CONVENTION BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2003

CHAPLAINS COMMISSION:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2005

COMMISSION OF OFWB COLLEGE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2003

HISTORICAL COMMISSION:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2003

LAYMAN'S LEAGUE BOARD:

4 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2003

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD:

3 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2003

The 4th Annual Convention Golf Fellowship

TUESDAY
September 12, 2000

Southern Wayne
Country Club
Mt. Olive, NC

Shotgun Start
at
12:15 PM



4-Man
SUPERBALL

Any Handicap
Combinations

Limited to the
First 22 teams to
Register by
phone or mail

Trophies and prizes for each member of the 1st place team.
Trophies and prizes for each member of the 2nd place team.
Trophies and prizes for closest to the pin and longest drive.

PLUS

**Each player will participate in a test of putting skills
for the opportunity to win \$10,000!**

(\$5,000 each to the winner & the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists)

RED BOMBS — \$5 each (limit 2 per player)

Entry Fee includes 1 MULLIGAN per player; 1 ADDITIONAL Mulligan per player at \$5

IMPORTANT: Participants must be included in one of the following categories:

An Original Free Will Baptist Minister (licensed or ordained) or their spouse

An employee of an Original Free Will Baptist Ministry or their spouse

A member of an Original Free Will Baptist Church or Sunday School

or A sponsor of this Golf Fellowship

Entry Fee: \$40 per player

Please return this registration form,
along with your entry fee only, as soon as possible to:
Buddy Sasser, 2216 Ridge Road, New Bern, NC 28560
Make checks payable to: Covention of Original Free Will Baptists

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Team Members

Please include all team members'
addresses and phone numbers on
another sheet of paper.

Please include team entry fee with your registration if possible. Entry fee included individual/team (circle one)

Will pay at the tournament I wish to be placed on a team Will be a volunteer worker

For phone registration or additional information, please call Buddy at (252) 638-9012.

DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Jonathan Edwards. *Religious Affections: A Christian's Character Before God*. Edited by Dr. James M. Houston. Introduction by Charles Colson. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1996. 206 pages.

The Soul Has Two Faculties

Jonathan Edwards describes the human soul as having two faculties: (1) the faculty of perception and speculation, (2) the faculty of inclination. What does this mean to Edwards?

Edwards links the faculty of perception and speculation to the mind, to thinking, reasoning, and understanding. He writes: "Only the soul has ideas, and so only the soul is pleased or displeased with its ideas. Since only the soul thinks, only the soul loves or hates, rejoices or is grieved at what it thinks" (7).

But what about the faculty of inclination? Edwards calls inclination as "the will" (6). To exercise inclination is to exercise the will. To exercise one's affections is to exercise the will. Edwards writes: "So the will and affections of the soul are not two distinct faculties. The affections are not essentially distinct from the will. They differ only in the liveliness and sensitivity of their exercise, not in their expression" (6). Affection links to the will or inclination, but passion "is under of sudden actions and its effects on the body are more violent" (7) with the mind or perception less in control.

The soul demands both faculties for faith. Edwards notes: "He who has only doctrinal knowledge and theory (faculty of perception and understanding), without affection (faculty of inclination), is never engaged in the goodness of faith" (10).

Affections That Lead To Faith

What are some affections that lead to faith? Edwards notes these: (1) godly fear by perceiving the nature of our own sin in contrast to God's godliness; (2) hope in God, hope in His promise, hope in His mercy; (3) hatred of sin that separates us from God's holiness; (4) desire expressed in human longings, hunger, and thirst for God; (5) joy that brings a rejoicing to the soul; (6) sorrow from a contrite spirit, a broken heart, a sense of sin; (7) gratitude for God's holiness, love, and mercy; (8) compassion or mercy as shown to others; (9) zeal rather than lukewarmness in faith; (10) love as the "fountain from which all that is good proceeds" (14).

The Holy Spirit Makes Us Spiritual

What does it mean to be spiritual? Edwards writes: "In the New Testament, persons or things are termed spiritual in relation to the Spirit of God... Thus Christians are called spiritual persons because they are born of the Spirit and because of the indwelling and holy influences of the Spirit of God in them" (77). What are some traits of a spiritual person? Edwards mentions these: (1) the Holy Spirit influences the heart to make us new creatures in Christ; (2) Christ's Spirit both is *in* the heart and *lives* in the heart; (3) the Holy Spirit functions as a "seed, or spring of life" (79); (4) the inward perception and affection of the Holy Spirit creates "a new way of perceiving, or thinking, and of consciousness" (81); (5) gracious affections grow within because the "influence of the Holy Spirit" (83) emerge in new principles and "a spiritual application of all of the Word of God" (83); (6) grace exists within the soul; "the spirit of the child in its dynamic activity" (86) results; (7) "some holy stamp, some image" is "impressed and left upon the heart by the Spirit, just as a seal makes an imprint upon the wax" (85).

How We Know Affections Are True and Not False

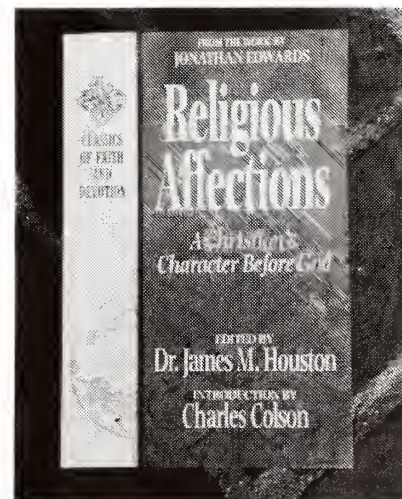
How can we distinguish between a false affection and a true affection? A false affection has certain attributes: (1) a dominance of "self-examination and self-confidence" (63); (2) a dominance of "outward morality and external religion" (64) rather than inner morality; (3) the exercise of faith "without spiritual light" (65); (4) knowledge of the Bible is not enough.

True affections, on the other hand, have certain attributes (1) conversion brings "a change of nature" (141); (2) the heart, will, and nature is turned away from sin "toward a life of holiness" (142); (3) "God's people become like little suns" (143); (4) gentle spirit exists within; (5) traits of kindness, mercy, meekness, and forgiveness emerge; (6) "the spirit of holiness itself" (145); (7) people become as little children, "plain and simple" (146) and "not versed in the arts of fiction and deceit" (146); (8) slow to anger; (9) "opposition is primarily against evil things in a person" (149); (9) true affections "are associated with this spirit of tenderness" (155).

Conclusion

Jonathan Edwards was most interested in defending true affections (what he called gracious affections) that came out of the Great Awakening (1740). Ever ready to muster his intellect and heart to defended the true emotions of Christian faith, he decided to write his book. Ultimately the true of affections emerged in the practice of faith. Edward declares: "Christian practice then is the evidence above all other evidence that confirms and crowns a proof of godliness" (183). He adds: "Holy practice is also the true evidence of a gracious love both to God and men" (184). In short, "true religion is most distinguished in the practical exercise of affection" (185). Why? Edwards explains that "practice is real evidence of gracious desire and longings, of a gracious hope, of doing the will of God in holy love, of Christian fortitude, and of the truth of grace" (184).

***Religious Affections: A Christian's Character Before God* is available
at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON**



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August 2000



C. H. Overman

If It's Crowds We Want...

There are various kinds of crowds. They gather for different purposes and reasons. A crowd may form in protest of something with which they disagree. If such a crowd becomes unruly, it becomes a mob. Crowds of folks attend athletic events. We call them sports fans. They gather in stadiums and arenas in support of their favorite team or athlete. When the event or game is over, they leave as a happy fan or a disappointed fan. Crowds also gather for parades and political rallies, and they gather around famous and important people.

Crowds are impressive, either negatively or positively. An overcrowded bus or plane nearly always has a negative effect; so does a crowded interstate. A crowded mall at Christmastime, however, may be a positive experience as we are "caught up" in the festive season and celebration.

There are times when a crowd hinders. Such was the case when Zacchaeus "...sought to see Jesus...and could not for the press,..." (Luke 19:3). Zacchaeus solved the problems of his stature and the crowd by climbing a tree in order to see Jesus. On another occasion, because of the press (crowd), a man with palsy could not be brought to Jesus for healing other than uncovering the roof where Jesus was and lowering him, bed and all, before Jesus.

Crowds are seldom constant; they dwindle. After Jesus completed what we call "The Sermon on the Mount," "...great crowds followed him" (Matthew 8:1). Later, "...when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, he gave commandment to depart..." (Matthew 8:18). The crowd followed Him over the Sea of Galilee and He miraculously fed them—all 5000—and 12 baskets of food were left over (John 6:12). As Jesus began to speak about the cost of discipleship, however, the crowd grew smaller and smaller and at one point He asked His disciples, "...will ye also go away?" (John 6:67).

To the Christian, there is one place where a large crowd is welcome; "the more, the better" we say. That place is the church, the sanctuary, the place of worship. A church and pastor experience a "good problem" when the church is over-crowded and an enlargement of the sanctuary is needed. Crowds, however, are relative to the setting and situation—the size of the gathering place in reference to the usual number as compared to the increase. For instance, a sanctuary with a seating capacity of 100 will be crowded with 125. A Sunday school class that usually has a dozen in attendance will be crowded with a total of 18 if the room only accommodates 12. In most cases, we rather have the "good problem" of a

crowded gathering place than a large gathering place where the small number is lost.

Large attendance pleases us. Most pastors, who experience attendance and membership growth, cannot really explain it. We know, however, that certain elements are at work—the leaders within the church, the love, prayers, harmony, and unity of the people. Under these positive conditions, God can and does bless His people. The major result of His blessings is the drawing of souls unto Himself through the ministry of His faithful followers. Through Him they become a part of His body, the Church, through a spiritual rebirth. (He must have preeminence.)

If we are only interested in attracting a crowd to make an impression, or for selfish reasons or over zealous ambitions, we can do so, and many gimmicks and tactics may be employed. Appealing to the emotional trend is one of them, and it takes many forms. A true child of God knows where he or she stands spiritually. Raising one's hands, swaying back and forth, jumping up and down, falling on the floor, etc., in a worked-up frenzy, does not necessarily (to put it mildly) indicate the moving of the Spirit of God. After the Prophet Elijah fled from the threats of Queen Jezebel and reached Mount Horeb, God spoke to him in "...a still small voice" (1 Kings 19:12), not in the fire, wind, or earthquake. It is significant that Jesus found it necessary to withdraw from the multitudes, and His disciples, in order to pray and commune with His heavenly Father.

Years ago I read about a church that was offering S&H Green Stamps to those who attended the services. The idea in this case was to get them there. How far do we go in compromising our standards, rules, and beliefs to "get them there?" A Sunday school class that only serves as a support group, where doughnuts and coffee are the only intake, instead of the teachings and truths of the Word of God, is not fulfilling its best purpose. When we lower our expectations, relax our standards, tolerate immorality, fail to teach and preach "thus saith the Lord," what are we really accomplishing? There is indeed a time for every purpose under the sun, and the time for getting down to business for God is long past. Draw the crowd if you can, but do it the right way and with the right motive.

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NEXT MONTH

*September is
Home Missions and
Evangelism Month*

*August is
Convention Promotion
Month*

The Fizzie Principle: One Guideline for Finding God's Will in Your Life

by John MacArthur, Jr.

As believers—people in God's family—if we do not know God's will, what are we? Uninformed? No. Searching? No. We are stupid.

"That's pretty rough," you say. "The Bible doesn't talk like that."

Oh? Try this. "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17). Can you think of another word for unwise? I'll give you a hint; it starts with "s."

OK, maybe stupid is a little stronger, a bit more vivid. But it's certainly the same idea.

Furthermore, the preceding verse tells us we have to get on with it; we don't have much time. We are to be "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (v. 16).

You say, "But I am looking for God's will. Maybe I am stupid, but can I help that?"

Yes, you can help it. If you had no choice but to be stupid about God's will, the Bible would not command you to be "not unwise." The way to be not unwise is covered in the very next verse. "...be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit (v. 18).

First, if you want to know God's will, you must be saved. Second, you must be Spirit-filled. That is the teaching of the Word of God.

Many Christians say, "I don't understand why God hasn't revealed whom I am to marry." Others say, "Why doesn't He show me what job I should take, what business deal I should enter into, what I ought to purchase, whether I ought to move to another home, or what I ought to do about some specific problem? Why doesn't God do something for me and show me His will?" And all the time these people are not even Spirit-filled, which is clearly revealed

as His will. Why should God show a person something if he is not even fulfilling that which God has already clearly stated as His will?

What does it mean to be Spirit filled? Let me give you a short theology lesson. We will call it theology of the Spirit-filled life. When you were saved, the moment you received Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit came to live within you. There is no Christian who does not possess the Holy Spirit. "...if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His" (Romans 8:9 cf. 1 Corinthians 6:19; 12:12-13). Yet it is amazing how many Christians think they do not have the Holy Spirit.

I have sat in church and heard sincere people pray, "O God, send Your Spirit," and have thought to myself, *No, He is here. He is here!* I have heard people pray, "God give me more of Your Spirit," as if He came in doses.

The Holy Spirit is a person; He lives within you. "...know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy ghost?" (1 Corinthians 6:19). So many times we ask for what we already have! We pray for the Holy Spirit, and He is already here.

Have you ever analyzed your prayers? "God, give me more love for so-and-so." The Bible says the "...love of God is shed abroad in our hearts..." (Romans 5:5). You say, "God, I need more grace." God says that the grace He has already given you is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9). You cry, "O Lord, I need more strength." The Bible says you "can do all things through Christ who strengthens you" (Philippians 4:13). "O God, guide me," you say. And He is thinking, "I'm trying. Why don't you follow?" "God, I need power," you cry. In fact, you have had power

since the Holy Spirit came upon you (Acts 1:8).

Complete in Him

When will Christians realize that they have everything? Peter wrote, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness,..." (2 Peter 1:3). You do not lack anything! But so many emaciated Christians go around and say, "Well, I just don't have the power to do this or that."

The Apostle Paul said to the Colossians, "And ye are complete in Him,..." (Colossians 2:10). Complete! What are you looking for? What are you asking for? James told you what to ask for—"wisdom" (James 1:5)—and that is the sense to know what you already have and not ask for it! By the same token, we do not need to ask for the Spirit; He is in us already.

Since we have the Spirit, we also have power, for Jesus said, "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..." (Acts 1:8). The word for power in the Greek is *dunamis*, from which we got our word "dynamite." You are literally walking dynamite.

You may say, "Oh, yeah? I'm not sure; I think I'm a dud. I not only don't explode; I don't even fizzle too loudly."

But you are dynamite. The power is all there. What is so often not there is the release of that power. It is one thing to possess the Spirit; it is something else to be filled with the Spirit.

A Fizzie is a small tablet used to make a soft drink; it's sort of a flavored Alka-Seltzer. Put it in a glass of water and its flavor is released throughout the water. This

cont....

concentrated, compact power pill is no good as long as it sits on the bottom of the glass. It has to release its energy to fill the glass, and then it turns the water into something new. If it is a grape Fizzie, you get a glass of grape drink. The flavor of the tablet determines the flavor of the water.

In a measure, that pictures how the Spirit of God operates in a human life. He is in the Christian all the time as a compact, concentrated, powerful force of divine energy. The question is, has He ever been able to release that power, to fill your life so that you can become what He is? A Christian not yielded to the Spirit does not manifest the Christ-life. The Spirit of God has to permeate a life if that life is to radiate Him. We cannot do anything apart from being filled with the Spirit.

I have a glove. If I say to the glove, "Play the piano," what does the glove do? Nothing. The glove cannot play the piano. But if I put my hand in the glove and play the piano, what happens? Music! If I put my hand in a glove, the glove moves. The glove does not get pious and say, "oh, hand, show me the way to go." It does not say anything; it just goes. Spirit-filled people do not stumble and mumble around trying to find out what God wants. They just go!

People often ask, "How do I know my spiritual gift?" The best way is to live a Spirit-filled life, see what God does through you, look back in retrospect and say, "Oh that's what I do when God has control of me. Apparently, that is my gift." There is no need to get analytical. The whole point is that we need the Spirit of God to be released in our lives. This is simply a matter of decisions. When you get up in the morning, you decide what you are going to wear. Next you decide what you are going to eat for breakfast. And so it goes through the day—one decision after another. The Spirit-filled life is yielding every decision to the control of the Spirit.

Filled With the Word

What is the Spirit-filled life? It is being saturated with the things of Christ, with His Word, His Person. You might say, "Well, you know I'd like that. I'd like to be saturated with Christ. How do I do that? The only way is to study the book that discloses all He is! You say, "I tried reading the Bible, but I didn't get anything."

Let me share how I study the Bible, and how the Bible has come alive to me. I began in 1 John. One day I sat down and read all five chapters straight through. It took me 20 minutes. Reading one book straight through was terrific. (The books of the Bible weren't written as an assortment of good little individual verses. They were written with flow and context).

The next day, I sat down and read 1 John straight through again. The third day, I sat down and read 1 John straight through. The fourth day, straight through again. The fifth day, I sat down and read it again. I did this for 30 days. Do you know what happened at the end of 30 days? I knew what was in 1 John.

Someone says to you, "Where in the Bible does it talk about confessing our sins?" You see a mental image of 1 John, first chapter, right-hand column, half-way down (depending on your Bible). "Where does it say to love not the world?" Second chapter, right-hand column, half-way down. Where does it talk about sin unto death? Chapter 5, last page. You know 1 John!

Next, I went to the Gospel of John. I divided the Gospel of John into three sections of seven chapters each. I read the first seven chapters for 30 days, the next seven for the next 30 days, and the last seven for 30 days. In 90 days, I had read the entire Gospel of John 30 times. Where does it talk about the Good Shepherd? Chapter 10, right-hand column, starts in the middle, goes down, flip the

page, go on down. Where does it talk about the vine and the branches? Chapter 15. Where does it talk about Jesus' friends? Chapter 15, over in the next column and a little farther down. Where does it talk about Jesus' arrest in the garden? John 18. The restoration of Peter? John 21. The woman at the well? John 4.

You might say, "My, are you smart!" No, I am not smart. I read it 30 times. Even I can get it then! Isaiah said to learn "...precept upon precept; line upon line, ... here a little, and there a little" (see Isaiah 28:10-13). Then you have hidden it in your heart. After a while you are no longer a concordance cripple!

Planned Neglect

The more you study the Word of God, the more it saturates you mind and life. Someone is reported to have asked a concert violinist in New York's Carnegie Hall how she became so skilled. She said that it was by "planned neglect." She planned to neglect everything that was not related to her goal.

Some less important things in your life could stand some planned neglect so that you might give yourself to studying the Word of God. Do you know what would happen? The more you would study the Word of God, the more your mind would be saturated with it. It will be no problem then for you to think of Christ. You won't be able to stop thinking of Him.

To be Spirit-filled is to live a Christ-conscious life, and there is no short cut to that. You can't go and get yourself super dedicated to live a Christ-conscious life. The only way you can be saturated with the thoughts of Christ is to saturate yourself with the Book that is all about Him. And this is God's will, that you not only be saved but that you also be Spirit-filled.

(Excerpt from *Found: God's Will* by John MacArthur, Jr., Chariot/Victor Publishing.) David Cook Church Ministries. Used by permission.

Commentary

by the Rev. Gene R. Britt

Isaiah 35:1: *The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.*

One morning while Betty and I were having breakfast, we noticed that our view each day was not very pleasant. Looking out from our kitchen window is the pump house and storage building of the church. And directly in our view was a large stack of bricks, a few scattered weeds and one very under nourished gardenia bush. We decided to do something about this situation. So we went to the nursery and purchased some bedding plants. As my wife supervised from her rocking chair, I began the job of digging and planting the flowers. I guess I thought those little marigolds and salvia would cover and hide that pile of bricks. I even planted a hydrangea bush but those bricks kept shining through.

I suggested that we move the bricks to another location, but Betty felt that was too much work and it was beginning to get very hot and humid. After a few moments of thinking, I decided to use those bricks instead of moving them. I took the bricks from their stack and began placing them one by one around the flowerbed, thus creating a lovely border around the flowerbed. We then added a birdhouse and bird feeders.

I solved the problem of the ugly stack of bricks and the unwanted weeds into something that was not only useful but also more attractive. After several weeks of watering, lots of Miracle-Gro and weeding, we now have a colorful, attractive garden of flowers to view each morning as we have breakfast. Even the gardenia bush has sprouted new leaves and several fragrant white flowers.

As I look each morning at the flowerbed, with several varieties of

birds feeding and the squirrels picking up the seeds off the ground, I am reminded of how God takes us and creates within us a new instrument for His Glory. Many times, we have unsightly and useless things in our lives that seem to clutter our usefulness for the Lord. And instead of casting aside what we think is of no use or value, we need to let the Holy Spirit take control. God can take the ugliest and the most cluttered individual and make that person into something wonderful and beautiful.

David prayed, *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me* (Psalm 51:10). Everyday our Heavenly Father looks down on His creation, so why not let Him change our lifestyle. We need to allow Him to move or alter our way of doing things. We need to give Him the opportunity to recreate a loving attitude within us. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to help us grow and blossom as the rose.

Why not allow His tender love and care mold and make you into something great and magnificent? *...But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create....* (Isaiah 65:18). Our individual lives, our homes, our churches, our communities and our nation would benefit from simply letting God have His way in our lives.

The Rev. Gene Britt joined the Rose of Sharon Original Free Will Baptist Church in April 2000 as pastor. Anyone wishing to contact the Rev. Britt may do so at: Rose of Sharon Church, 8000 Bear Grass Road, Robersonville, NC 27871 or (252) 792-4276.

Layman's League

A Special Tribute

to an

Outstanding Layman

Submitted by Harold Humbles,
State Secretary



A layman deserves special tribute when he puts serving the Master first on his list of priorities. James Beech has been a member of Tarboro First Free Will Baptist Church since 1955. He served 8 3-year terms as deacon. He also served as Assistant Sunday School Superintendent for 6 years, and 12 years as General Superintendent. He has been involved in the Men's Fellowship of his church since 1955. As a member of the Layman's League, he serves on the Evangelistic Committee and has secured gifts and arranged devotions for the inmates of the county jail at Christmas for the past 40 years. He serves as usher and also as a member of the finance committee for the church.

Brother Larry Hathaway, President of the Layman's League and General Sunday school Superintendent of the church, presented Larry with his forty-eighth year perfect attendance Sunday school pin. It is a great honor to recognize our fellow Layman for his outstanding service he is rendering to the Lord and to his church.

OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

submitted by Owen Arthur

It seems like only yesterday that I was writing and saying that Camp Vandemere was ready for a new season of campers. Now, I look at the calendar and realize that the time for our boys and girls at the camp is almost over. My, how time flies when you are having fun! Don't forget that Camp Vandemere is still available for weekends, and during the week for those who do not have school-age children. Our family lodge is a great place for you to spend a few nights. The relaxing atmosphere is good for anyone, and don't forget you can always wet a line if you care to do a little fishing. We have space in the lodge for two or three, or as many as twenty-five to thirty.

There's something new at the camp—we have paddle boats. Each one can accommodate up to four people and they have a canopy to shield you from the sun. Mike and Lynda have tried them and they say it is a lot of fun and doesn't take much energy. Spring Hope Church near New Bern, with the help of some friends, donated the boats. Thank you!

Don't forget our "Singing by the River" that will be taking place on Saturday, August 19. It will start at 9:30 AM and go until. There's no charge for the singing, but we will receive a love offering. Those who will be singing this year will be the Smith Family, Servant's Heart, Second Edition, Covenant, and The Four in Christ. Bring a friend, spend the day with us, and enjoy a good old-fashioned day of Southern Gospel Music. Also, we will have fish plates, hot dogs, hamburgers, and concessions. There are some mobile camping spots, rooms in the family lodge, and some in the dormitory. You will need to make reservations for these since there is limited space available. For more information and reservations, call our manager, Mike Williams, at 252-745-3171. It will be a day of Christian entertainment as well as a good time to relax. As in the past, we will have the big tent from Home Missions and Evangelism so you can be out of the direct sun. As they say on the Price is Right, "Come on Down."

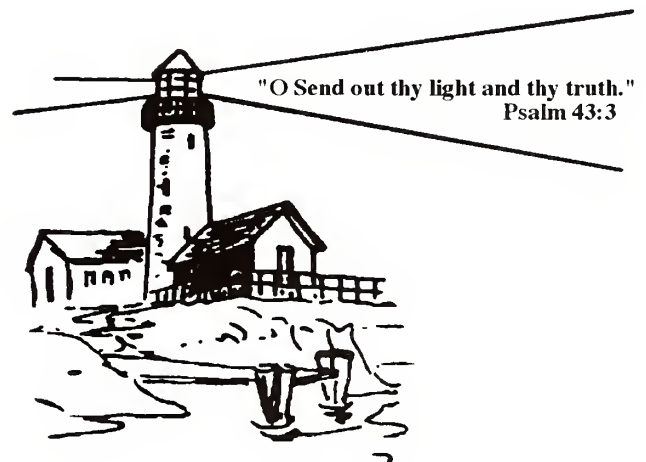
The camp can be used year round. We have heat and A/C in all the buildings. Why not plan a fall or winter retreat at the camp. Bring a church group, Sunday school class, or just get a group together. I heard of a group who came in December. The weather was mild and they had a wonderful time.

For those of you who are sports-minded, let me share some possibilities for you to consider in connection with staying at the camp. There are several golf courses within a few miles of the camp. For those of you who fish, there are the piers at the camp. They have been repaired and are ready for you to try your luck. Also available are all-day fishing trips for those who would like to rent a boat

for the day. Mike has more information on this and he will be glad to tell you about it if you will call. For the hunters there is a lot of good hunting in the area. For those who just like to shoot and not hunt there is a brand new facility called "Feather and Fur Sporting Clay L.L.C." It is located about three miles from the camp. The course offers exciting targets to challenge any shooter, from beginners to the more skilled. They have everything you need from ammunition to gun rental. Many of you like a weekend get away, so why not try one of the above and stay with us at the camp. For the ladies there is historical Tryon Palace in New Bern and also a carriage tour of the town's historical homes, not to mention the antique shops and all the other shops in downtown New Bern. Since we have the new bridge open, it makes traveling to the area much easier.

Mike is living at the camp year round. Anytime you want to come to stay, or visit, he will be there to assist you. He is also available to go to your church and talk to you about the camp. If you would like to call him and set a time, you can reach him at the number given. We would count it an honor to go to your church and tell you how God is using the camp for His honor and glory. This would be a good opportunity for you to ask questions and find out firsthand what Camp Vandemere is all about.

I want to again express the Board's thanks to all who are supporting the camp. We appreciate what you are doing. Continue to pray for us and come visit with us. May God bless you!



MOC Makes Dream Possible for Tadeo Family



Victor Tadeo (seated), Sandy Plain Church, Duplin County, works on his latest project as Larry Lean (left), chair of the department of fine arts, and Michael Salter, professor of art, look on.

College for Victor Tadeo, a member of Sandy Plain Free Will Baptist Church in Duplin County, did not come easy. In fact, very little has come easy for Tadeo and his family since moving to the United States from Veracruz, Mexico in 1991.

Victor's fraternal grandmother and other relatives moved to Chicago in the 1970s. Victor, the oldest of four children, recalls moving to the United States after visiting his grandmother. His father, a cab driver and real estate agent, and his mother, a beautician, realized the economic hardships Mexico was beginning to face and believed life would be better for their family in the United States.

The children enrolled in school and Victor, who should have entered ninth grade in Mexico, was placed in the eighth grade due to his inability to speak English. Fortunately, the school had a bilingual program and within six months, Victor was in the school's English III class.

"They were the only English classes I had," Victor said. "I was the oldest child and it was up to me to learn the language first."

Victor's parents soon decided to move to the warmer, calmer Bible Belt and settled in Duplin County, North Carolina. Not knowing anyone made it difficult for Victor's parents, who could not speak English, to find employment. They shared a house with another immigrant family and decided to turn to God for help, something they had always done when making decisions.

Located across the road from their house was Sandy Plain Church. The church members had a heart for helping the Hispanic community and called a translator to assist in communicating with the family. Victor's father, Juan, was

able to tell the church he needed a job since the farm season was over, and within a few days the church found him a job. The family has attended the church for eight years.

Victor came to a crossroads in his life when he graduated from East Duplin High School in 1996. Not being a United States citizen, Victor could not receive some types of financial assistance. For many, college would have seemed impossible, but for the Tadeo family, a better education was one reason they had moved to the United States. Victor had worked hard to learn English and excel in school, and he could not see himself stopping there. The family knew "somehow God would provide."

The Rev. David Ricks was pastor at Sandy Plain Church at the time. He suggested Victor look into attending Mount Olive College. After meeting with the College's admissions director, Victor realized his prayers had been answered. College was possible.

Victor commuted to Mount Olive College his first two years and was finally able to move on campus his junior year. He decided to major in visual communications and minor in foreign languages. Victor graduated in May. He is currently doing freelance work for wilsonsite.com.

"I know this is an overused cliché," Victor stated. "But this has been the best four years of my life. I have grown spiritually and mentally. I have made many good friends and the professors here are great."

The Seventh Annual

James A. Evans Lecture Theme: Pastoral Visitation in the 21st Century

**Thursday, August 17, 2000
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
Mount Olive College**

The activities will begin at 9 AM with registration. The registration fee is \$10 per person. This fee includes a buffet luncheon and three information sessions. The first session is scheduled to begin at 9:30 AM, the second at 11 AM, and the final session will begin at 1:30 PM. For additional information, contact Dr. K. David Hines at 919-658-2502.

Planning Sessions Scheduled for MOC Dinners

Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, Coordinator for the annual college dinners, has announced that planning sessions for the 1999 college dinners will begin in August. The pastor, local chairperson of each church, and any other interested person is encouraged to attend the planning session in their county. Persons attending the planning session will be given up-to-date information on the college and final plans for the dinners will be made.

Mount Olive College was brought into existence by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists as a means of helping the church extend its ministry through Christian higher education. Through the dinners the unrestricted gift support from Free Will Baptists helps the college expand its services to the church, develop academic programs, and provide scholarships for worthy students.

Below is a schedule of the 18 Planning Sessions to be held in August and early September.



Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, and Mary McQueen, Coordinator for Church Support Services, review plans for the scheduling of the 2000 Fall Dinners.

2000 MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE PLANNING SESSIONS

GREENE COUNTY, Thursday, August 10, 7:30 PM, Hull Road Church near Snow Hill.

BEAUFORT COUNTY, Friday, August 11, 7:30 PM, Free Union Church near Pinetown.

NASH COUNTY, Sunday, August 13, 3:00 PM, Free Union Church near Spring Hope.

LENOIR COUNTY, Monday, August 14, 7:30 PM, First Church of Kinston.

EDGECOMBE COUNTY, Tuesday, August 15, 7:00 PM, Edgewood Church near Macclesfield.

WAYNE COUNTY, Thursday, August 17, 7:30 PM, First Church of Goldsboro.

ONSLJW-BRUNSWICK COUNTIES, Friday, August 18, 7:00 PM, Folkstone Church, Folkstone.

JONES COUNTY, Sunday, August 20, 3:00 PM, Whaley's Chapel Church near Richlands.

DUPLIN COUNTY, Monday, August 21, 7:30 PM, Cabin Church near Beulaville.

WASHINGTON, MARTIN, TYRRELL AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES, Tuesday, August 22, 7:30 PM, Mount Tabor Church Near Creswell.

CRAVEN COUNTY, Thursday, August 24, 7:30 PM, Saint Mary's Church, New Bern.

PEE DEE CONFERENCE, Friday, August 25, 7:30 PM, Beaverdam Church near Chadbourn.

PAMLICO COUNTY, Sunday, August 27, 3:00 PM, Rock of Zion Church, Grantsboro.

PITT COUNTY, Monday, August 28, 7:30 PM, Reedy Branch Church near Winterville.

WILSON COUNTY, Tuesday, August 29, 7:30 PM, Daniel's Chapel Church near Wilson.

SAMPSON, HARNETT, AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES, Thursday, August 31, 7:30 PM, Oak Grove Church near Newton Grove.

CARTERET COUNTY, Friday, September 1, 7:30 PM, Crab Point Church, Morehead City.

JOHNSTON-WAKE COUNTIES, Tuesday, September 5, 7:30 PM, First Church of Smithfield.

MOC Announces Appointment of Assistant Director of Planned Giving



Rev. Jefferson D. Daughtry

The Rev. Jefferson D. Daughtry, pastor of Westside Original Free Will Baptist Church in Kinston, NC, has been appointed Assistant Director of Planned Giving at Mount Olive College. Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the college, announced that Mr. Daughtry would assume his new duties September 1.

A native of Johnston County, Daughtry earned his Associate Degree from Mount Olive College in 1978 and his Baccalaureate Degree from Barton College in 1980. Both degrees were in Business Administration.

Initially, Jeff planned a business career, but after two years with Kmart Corporation, he responded to a call to the Christian ministry. From 1987-1992 he was Director of Church and Public Relations for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home at Middlesex, NC, during which time he furthered his education through workshops and conferences related to gift support for non-profit agencies. He began his pastorate at Westside Church in 1992, and during these eight years, the church has experienced substantial growth in membership, added an associate pastor to its staff and inaugurated a major building program.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Jeff has served as clerk of the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists, president of the North

Carolina Ministerial Association and a member of the Board of Trustees of Mount Olive College.

He is married to the former Wanda Russell, also a graduate of Mount Olive College. The Daughtrys have three children, including a daughter, Joy, who will enter Mount Olive College as a freshman in August.

Daughtry will work as an assistant to Dr. W. Burkette Raper, who has served as Director of Planned Giving since retiring from the Office of President in January 1995.

In commenting upon Mr. Daughtry's appointment, Dr. Raper stated, "I welcome Jeff as an associate in helping to establish a long-range plan of gift support through estate planning, life-income funds, life insurance and special gifts. During the past four years alone, our program of planned giving has been the means for more than \$5 million in gift support and in the years ahead this plan of giving will provide a major opportunity to strengthen the endowment of the college. The endowment is already providing income in excess of \$500,000 annually for scholarships, library resources and general support, but a much larger endowment is needed to assure the continued financial strength of the college."

MOC Receives Positive News

Mount Olive College has maintained its accreditation with the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The notification came in response to the meeting held on June 21, in Savannah, Georgia, in which the college presented its case to the Committee on Criteria and Reports. According to a SACS representative, Mount Olive College "demonstrated good cause" for continuation of its membership. The institution was placed on probation for one year and, as a part of the evaluation process, a special committee appointed by SACs will visit the college within the year to review its financial progress.

"The next year will provide us with opportunities to demonstrate further progress in the growing financial strength of the college," stated Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College.

"All of us at Mount Olive College thank the Free Will Baptist Churches for your faithfulness in praying for the college and encouraging us during this difficult time. We ask for your continued prayers on a daily basis that this college can fulfill its mission and move forward in helping the students we are privileged to serve," he stated.

There Is Still Time to Enroll at MOC

Mount Olive College continues to enroll new freshmen and new transfer students. Scholarships and financial aid are available. New student applications are being accepted now! Call 1-800-653-0854 or e-mail Vicky Stroud at vstroud@exchange.moc.edu for an application and more information.

Freshmen Orientation, which will be held on Sunday, August 20, is a two-day session for first-time students. Activities include introduction to college life and moving into residence halls. Registration verification will follow on Tuesday, August 22. Classes begin Wednesday, August 23.

New Transfer Orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, August 22, beginning at 8:30 AM at which time students will move into residence halls and complete registration verification. For more information, contact Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions, at 1-800-653-0854 or twoodard@exchange.moc.edu.

Continuing students will move into residence halls on Tuesday, August 22, beginning at 8:30 AM. Classes will begin on Wednesday, August 23.

MOC Holds Freshman Advising Day

Eighteen Free Will Baptist students recently attended Freshman Advising Day at Mount Olive College. The College's Freshman Advising Program is designed to assist new freshmen in evaluating their educational plans. Incoming students have the opportunity to learn about academic policies, student services, as well as meet future classmates and tour the campus.

Fall semester at Mount Olive College begins August 23. Freshmen arrive August 20, and returning students come back August 22.

Mount Olive College offers Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Applied Science Degrees, as well as Associate of Arts and Associate of Science Degrees in a variety of majors. The college has a School of Business and six academic departments, including Fine Arts, Language and Literature, Recreation and Leisure Studies, Science, Mathematics, and Social Sciences. For more information about enrollment or financial assistance call (919) 658-2502.



Front Row (L-R): Melissa Creech from Branch Chapel Church in Johnston County; Myra Tadeo from Sandy Plain Church in Duplin County; Jennifer James from Stoney Creek Church in Wayne County; and Melissa Sowers from Westside Church in Lenoir County. Second Row (L-R): Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions; Paige Best from Casey's Chapel Church in Wayne County; Emily Skinner from Sherron Acres Church in Durham County; Dale Belvin from Friendly Chapel Church in Guilford County; Mark Strickland from Snyder Memorial Baptist Church in Cumberland County; Brettany Albertson from Bethlehem Church in Duplin County; and Joy Daughtry from Westside Church in Lenoir County. Third Row (L-R): Shannon Mixon, a current student from First Church in Wilson; Bryan Williamson from Saint Mary's Grove Church in Johnston County; Will Faircloth from Roberts Grove Church in Sampson County; Kevin Parker from Westside Church in Lenoir County; Vernon Herring from White Oak Grove Church in Lenoir County; Ron Rice from Village Baptist Church in Cumberland County; Jessica Murphy from Stoney Creek Church in Wayne County; Courtney Lanier from First Church in Wilson; and Brandon Jenkins a current student from Westside Church in Lenoir County.

Davis Church Members Visit MOC



Members from Davis Original Free Will Baptist Church, Carteret County, visited Mount Olive College recently and toured the campus. Dr. Opey D. Jeanes, Vice President for Special Services, and his wife, Jenny, hosted the group with a picnic at their home prior to the campus tour. The above picture was taken in the garden house of the Alumni Cross Walk. Friends and church groups are welcome to visit the campus at any time. Any group interested in receiving a tour of the campus should contact Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss at 919-658-2502 or jfackiss@exchange.moc.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL SEMESTER CLASSES will begin on Wednesday, August 23. For more information about schedules or how you can register for classes, contact the Admissions Office at (919) 658-2502.

FALL CONVOCATION will be held in Rodgers Chapel on Tuesday, August 29 at 11 AM. The incoming freshman class will be recognized during the services as MOC begins another academic year. For more information, contact the Rev. Frank Harrison at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3082.

MEN'S SOCCER will play its season opener against St. Andrews College on Thursday, August 31 at 2 PM. For more information, contact Benny Benton, director of Sports Information (919) 658-2502 ext. 3079.

WOMEN'S SOCCER will play its first game of the 2000 season on Thursday, August 31 at 2 PM. For more information, contact Benny Benton, director of Sports Information (919) 658-2005 ext. 3079.

THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM will play its first home games on Saturday, September 2 against Limestone College at 11 AM and against Winston-Salem State University at 2 PM. For more information, contact Benny Benton, director of Sports Information (919) 658-2505 ext. 3079.

Notice • Notice • Notice

Annual Convention Mission Rally

7:30 PM

September 13, 2000

College Hall, Mount Olive College



Lydia, Tezdjan and Willem

Special guests from Bulgaria are Willem and Lydia van der Plas and Tezdjan Murtazova. This will be a service you will not want to miss. There will be special music and first-hand information about our work in Bulgaria. Tezdjan will be in North Carolina for about three weeks and Willem and Lydia will be here for the months of September and October. This will limit their visits to churches, so we encourage everyone to attend the Rally and show your love and support for our missionaries in Bulgaria.

Remember your special offering for Foreign Missions at the Rally. We need an exceptionally good offering this year to make up for the drop in funding!

NOTE: Willem and Lydia van der Plas have a few open dates for night services. Contact Harold Jones, Foreign Missions Office at 252-746-4963, if you would like for them to visit your church while they are in North Carolina.

SHORT-TERM TEAM OPPORTUNITIES 2001

Now is the time to pray and seek God's will concerning Short-Term Team mission service next year. We need to hear from you by September 30, 2000. This early date is necessary for planning and booking.

TEAM DATES 2001:

Philippines	April 21–May 6	(12 member team — 18 years old and up)
Mexico	*June 16–24	(30 member team — 13 years old and up)
	*July 14–22	(30 member team — 13 years old and up)
	August 4–14	(12 member team — 18 years old and up)
Bulgaria	September 22–October 4	(12 member team — 18 years old and up)

Ministry opportunities: building project, VBS, skits, puppets, Bible studies, Christian fiesta, camping and many others. A life-changing experience awaits you! Do not miss this great opportunity!

ACT NOW TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THE TEAM.

For more information, contact the Board of Foreign Missions at (252) 746-4963.

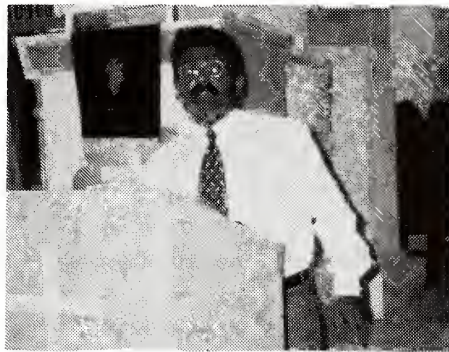
**We are changing the dates for the June and July Short-Term Teams to Mexico for 2001 so those joining the team will only have to take one week off from work. We will not spend a night in San Antonio, but go directly to Mexico on Saturday, attend church services there on Sunday. The team will work from Monday through Friday, return to Piedras Negras on Saturday and return home on Sunday. (The August Team will remain the same.)

Newsletter from India and Nepal

Submitted by Dr. E. M. Lall



Ministerial Council held on June 1, 2000.



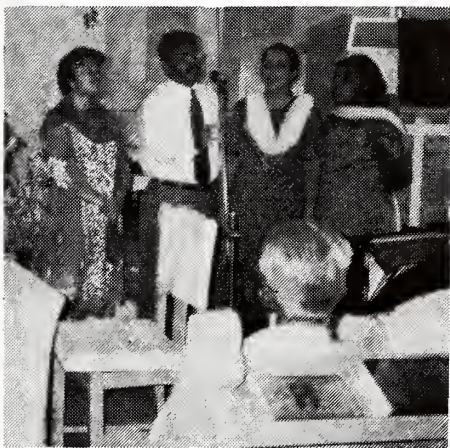
Rev. Anil Lall challenging the ministers.

It was a wonderful time when our ministers and deacons met on June 1, 2000, at Bareilly and resolved to undertake the Evangelistic Campaign again as in previous years from the communalists or the fundamentalists. It is in obedience to God in this excellent task that a great multitude of our Lord's disciples toiled and even spent themselves. We remember them and thank God for the wonderful heritage that we have received from them.

The Rev. Anil Lall, son of Dr. E. M. Lall, challenged the ministers to continue the evangelization in the country believing that the Lord is always with us. Beautiful songs were sung and the Lord was glorified. Meaningful literature, tracts and Gospels bought from the Bible Society were distributed to the ministers who rejoiced and held their enthusiasm on the high side.

By the time this letter is written, reports have been received that literature was snatched from the hands of our people in our city and was burnt before their eyes. The Rev. Vijay Massey of Bareilly reported that they did not confront or say a word to those involved, but prayed for them.

God is calling upon the Original Free Will Baptists to meet the challenge of a new dawn. The thunder of His call in its power and majesty reaches out to us as it did to the prophets of old. What then is our response to the glory of His voice?



Special music during the service.



Minister's program to distribute tracts and gospel literature.

Mission Trip to Mexico

by Ashley Hines

(Daughter of Jimmy and Amy Hines, Winterville FWB Church)

I went to Mexico this past month and it was an experience that has changed my life so that it will never be the same.

When I first got there, I did not know what to expect, but once I got there things were so different! The people there loved and praised the Lord in many different ways. Some of the people hardly had anything, yet some of them were happier than some of us in the U.S. To look at all of the kids that came to the church, you just wanted to take them all home with you.

We had Vacation Bible School in Monclova for three days and kids came from everywhere to learn.

We went to a baptismal service that was held in a river; there were eighteen people baptized. It was unreal to feel the power that you felt while you were there.



Ashley and Amila

We went to an Orphanage in Acuna on Sunday and this one little girl whose name was Amila came up and took me by the hand and led me all through the house and showed me where she slept and ate. I later found out that when she was younger she was abused and would not come close to that many people. We went to the Tabernacle Temple Free Will Baptist Church in Acuna that night and she sat with me and showed me how to play the

Cont....

tambourine. Before the church service was over that night, we all had to stand up in front and they sang a song and all came up to us and hugged and thanked us for everything, and that little girl stayed by me almost the whole night. There is one thing that I will never forget about Mexico, how appreciative the people and children are. They thank you for everything you do, and never complain.

I have learned many things on this trip; the Power of the Lord is everywhere, and people in all lands need to have the chance to learn about the gospel.

I would like to ask everyone to pray for Mexico as they are about to have their elections. If the wrong person gets elected it will be very hard for Christians to go to church, or even get a job. Please do this for them.

To anyone who has not been on a mission Trip, it is the greatest experience you could ever have, to go somewhere and change a person's life by telling them about Jesus. I hope that one day everyone will be able to have that chance.

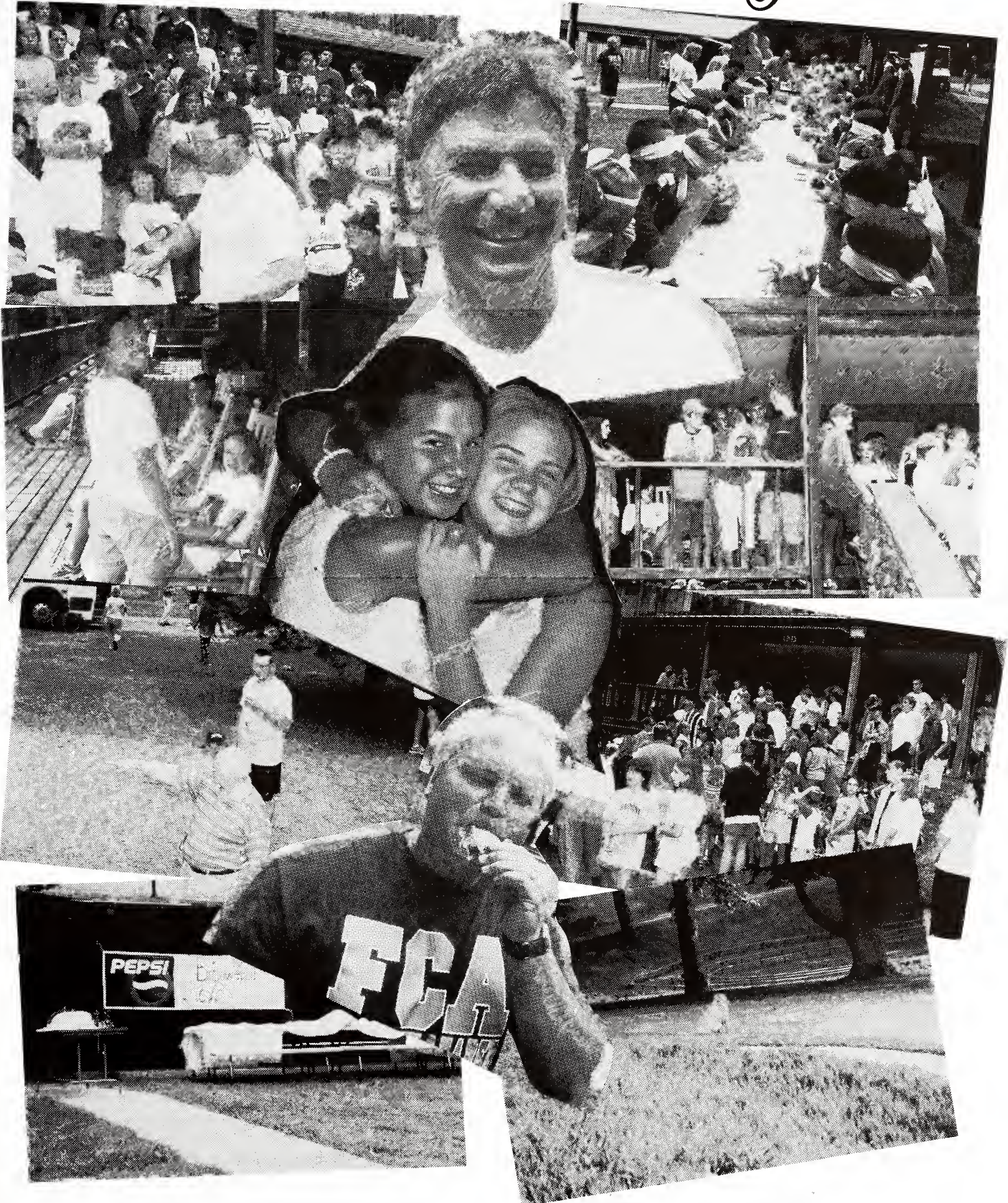


2000 June Women's Conference



*Cragmont Youth Conference
"Empowered"
June 12-17, 2000*

Fun Times at Cragmont



AUGUST

Pray

Thin

SUN	MON	TUE	
30	31	1	2
6	7	8	9
13	14	15 FWB Press Board Meeting	16 <i>Mexico Short-Term Team</i>
20	21 <i>Mexico Short-Term Team</i>	22	23 MOC
27	28	29 MOC Fall Convocation 11:00 AM	30

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRE

cerns _____

remember _____

	THU	FRI	SAT
	3	4	5
	10	11	12 <i>Mexico Short-Term Team</i>
<i>Term Team</i>	17 James A. Evans Lecture Lois K. Murphy Regional Center MOC 9:00 AM	18	19
begin	24	25	26
	31	1	2

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR



(Pictured Above) The Rev. Lewis Forsythe of Stony Hill Free Will Baptist Church.



(Pictured Above) The Rev. and Mrs. Lewis Forsythe, Dr. Bobby Taylor, along with campus residents and staff, form a "Chain of Prayer."

WORSHIP SERVICE

I can't think of a better way to start any day than to begin it with praise, song, and friends. The staff and residents of the Home began Thursday, June 8, just that way with a worship service in Memorial Chapel. Our guest speaker, the Rev. Lewis Forsythe, pastor of Stony Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Middlesex, delivered an inspiring sermon that touched everyone. A special thanks to the Rev. and Mrs. Forsythe for the giving of their time and faith. Thank you for bringing us the "words of truth."



(L to R) Johnnie Davenport, Hazel Lane, Vivian Stephenson, and David Stephenson.



(Back to Front in photo) Mrs. Marjorie Harris and Mrs. Faye Rogers.

DONATIONS

Members of Yelverton Grove Free Will Baptist Church, of Smithfield, visited our campus on July 26th. They brought with them items listed on our "Campus Needs List." These supplies were furnished by the Ladies Auxiliary. We would like to thank each member for their continued support and prayers.

HUGO CHURCH VISITS

We would like to thank the Woman's Auxiliary of Hugo Free Will Baptist Church in Grifton, for their generous donation of items for our residents. To get all of these items delivered, the large van was put to use. Again, thank you for your generosity and especially for your time in seeing that our needs were met.



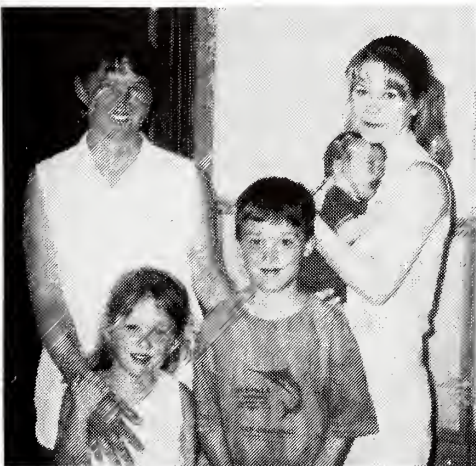
SURPRISE VISITOR

On campus many of our staff love to take an early morning walk. On June 12, an unusual visitor decided to join. The ostrich stayed only a short time before deciding to travel further. We have had many visitors over the years, but this was a first for a visitor of this kind.

CHILDREN'S HOME ACQUIRES WEB SITE

The Development Department of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home has been very busy for many months creating web pages. We are very excited to announce that our web site has been established and all pages can be viewed at: <http://www.fwbchildrenshome.org>.

LaGRANGE FIRST CHURCH



On June 2nd, (*L to R back to front*) Sheila Harrison, Jennifer Williamson (holding Baby Williamson), Morgan Harrison, and Travis Harrison, of LaGrange First Free Will Baptist Church, LaGrange, NC, delivered needed items for our cottages. A special "Thanks" goes to each member for their genuine compassion. Thank you for caring for our children.

Items in Need List:

- ♥ Paper Products
- ♥ Personal Care Items
- ♥ Playstation Games
- ♥ Encyclopedias (CD Roms)
- ♥ Computers for Cottages (est. cost \$5000)
- ♥ Carpet Cleaning Machine
- ♥ Golf Cart
- ♥ First Aid Kits
- ♥ Appliances
- ♥ Vacuum Cleaner
- ♥ 4 Cameras for Cottage
- ♥ 8 quart, 10 quart, 12 quart stock pots
- ♥ Slotted 1/2 cup serving spoons
- ♥ Smooth 1/2 cup serving spoons
- ♥ Blow Dryers
- ♥ Twin size Sheets
- ♥ Twin size Blankets
- ♥ Dish Towels
- ♥ Dish Cloths
- ♥ Bath Towels
- ♥ Wash Cloths
- ♥ Pot Holders
- ♥ Serving Bowls
- ♥ Storage Containers
- ♥ Shower Curtains
- ♥ Standard Size Pillows
- ♥ Bath Mats
- ♥ 24 Square Clothes Hampers
- ♥ Microwaves
- ♥ Can Openers (manual)
- ♥ School Supplies



North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

submitted by Mamie Dail

The seventy-third annual session of the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of the Original Free Will Baptists was held on May 11, 2000, at the Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Pinetown, North Carolina. It was hosted by the Albemarle District Woman's Auxiliary. This year's theme was "A Wise Woman's Top Priority." The theme verse: "...For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding" (Proverbs 2:6).



Barbara Lancaster, Convention Speaker

The call to worship was presented by "New Day Spirituals" of the host church. Mrs. Pam Keech was the pianist for the convention and Mrs. Ellaree Radcliff was the music director. Everyone joined in singing "The Solid Rock."

Carolyn Jernigan, State President, called the meeting to order. She welcomed every one and expressed appreciation to the host church. The devotion was given by Dianne Riley of Mount Olive College. The Scripture was taken from John 20:24-31. Using the story of doubting Thomas, she asked each of us to examine our personal spiritual relationship to God.

In closing, Dianna paid tribute to the late Bertha Griffin, wife of the late Rev. J. C. Griffin, as a wise woman who knew her top priority. Ruth Warrick, past corresponding secretary, gave her personal testimony and the convention prayer.

As President of the Albemarle District, Becky Jo Sumner gave a hearty and peppy welcome to one and all. Jackie Flowers of the Central district gave the response. Barbara Hardison, President of the Free Union Auxiliary, made announcements and gave directions for the noon meal.

In the President's Address, Mrs. Jernigan urged us to be careful about who we let into our homes. She used unsupervised television as an example. Mrs. Jernigan spoke of how much she had enjoyed serving as President of the Woman's Auxiliary Convention and thanked everyone for the unity and cooperation.

The business session was opened by the president. She recognized ministers, delegates, and visitors for a total of one hundred twenty-nine present. The following committees were appointed: *Registration and Credentials*: Joan Little, Cheryl Williams and Madge Van Horn; *Finance*: Nadine Crocker, Estelle Register, Helen Beaman; *Resolutions*: Lew Ellen Parker, Martha Moye, Ann Winborne.

The Convention offering was received with prayer by Clara Patrick, State Benevolence Chairman.

Rev. Leon Grubbs presented Mrs. Clara Patrick a plaque in memory of the Rev. C. L. Patrick and in honor of their years of faithful and dedicated service. A brass plate with their names engraved has been added to the Wall of Honor at the Free Will Baptist Headquarters in Ayden. It was donated by their children.

The Life Membership service award was presented to Dianne Riley, Director of Alumni Relations at Mount Olive College. Scott Satterfield and Marcie Rollins, students of Mrs. Riley spoke about the impact that she has had on their lives.

After a short break, the Cragmont Choir, led by Alma Dale Cox, shared several songs that they enjoyed during Cragmont Woman's Conferences each summer.

For the memorial service, Lew Ellen Parker read Scripture from Job 19:25-27 and 1 Corinthians 15:55. Candles were lit for the seven districts in memory of the deceased members as they were mentioned by those present from the various districts.

Everyone joined together in singing "My Savior's Love."

Virginia Outlaw introduced the speaker, Mrs. Barbara Lancaster, wife of the Rev. Frank Ray Harrison of Mount Olive College. She read from 1 Kings 17:8-16 and spoke on the theme "A Wise Woman's Top Priority." She shared that we must be obedient and trust God that He will do what He says.

The Denominational Ministries were recognized by the Rev. Leon Grubbs, president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The following representatives gave a brief report: Home Missions, Al Markuson; Mount Olive College, Jean Ackiss; Children's Home, Bobby Taylor; Foreign Missions, Harold Jones; Free Will Baptist Press, Cliff Gray.

A report from each of the ministries was included with our bulletins and instructions for the day. The dates for the next convention are September 12-14, 2000.

During the business session, the following reports were given: Finance

cont....

and Treasurer's Report was given by Nadine Crocker. During this year all funds have been received, disbursed and accounted for according to your instructions and those of the Executive Committee. There were 20 Life Awards pins and 21 Woman's Auxiliary pins and 2 Honor Seals given in 1999-2000. Life Awards fees in the amount of \$420 went to Cragmont, and next year these fees will go to Mount Olive College. By motion this report was received as information.

Joan Little gave the Credentials report. There were 13 State Officers, 48 delegates, 9 ministers, and 59 visitors, for a total of 129 in attendance. This report was received as information.

Jean Ackiss gave the Anna Phillips Student Aid Fund Report. All income from investments, including interest from loans, is awarded in scholarships to qualified Free Will Baptist students attending Mount Olive College. The total principle in this fund as of April 30, 2000 is \$51,096.66. Melissa Inacoe of First Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, received a \$2000 scholarship for 1999-2000. By motion this report was accepted.

Youth Report: Martha Parsons reported that the Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists would be held on May 19-21, 2000 at Mount Olive College. The theme is "Player 4 Life," Scripture taken from Romans 6:4. Mr. Stuart Hall, Director of Student Leadership for Reach Out Youth Solutions with Mission America, will be the guest speaker. Mrs. Parsons requested prayer daily for the Youth Convention.

The following Resolutions Committee Report was given by Martha Moye: (1) Be it resolved, this being the first North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists of the new millennium and the Seventy-third Annual session, that we not forget our past, but aim for higher goals in the new year, seeking God's wisdom and knowledge that He will direct our pathway, striving as we the senior women members not be ashamed to speak out, but to encourage our young women and our youth to stand for better morals for our local, state, and national leaders that when

our life's journey is over we can speak as Paul, "I am not ashamed of the gospel."

(2) Be it resolved that our prayer and support go to our newly-installed officers as they endeavor to do the Lord's will in all of our Woman's Auxiliary work.

(3) Be it resolved that we extend our appreciation and love to our host church today, and let's give them a standing ovation and applause for making this day a success in the Lord's work.

Respectfully submitted by Lew Ellen Parker, chairman, Ann Winborne, and Martha Moye, the resolutions were adopted. A rising vote of thanks was given to the Free Union Free Will Baptist Church and the Albemarle Woman's Auxiliary Convention for their gracious hospitality.

The Secretary's Report was given by Sandra Jones. She stated that all seven districts had reported. There were fourteen A-1 Auxiliaries. By motion this report was received as information.

Motion was made by Lew Ellen Parker to approve the minutes of the 1999 Annual Convention, the minutes of the called business sessions of the Executive Committee on May 13, 1999, and the Executive Committee Meeting on June 5, 1999, and January 15, 2000.

The following were elected to serve as State Woman's Auxiliary Officers for the year 2000-2002: President, Joan Little; Christian Education, Dianne Riley; Program-Prayer Chairman,

Becky Jo Sumner; Vice President, Carolyn Jernigan; Mission Chairman, Teresa Grubbs; Benevolence Chairman, Clara Patrick; Recording Secretary, Sandra Jones; Youth Chairman, Martha Parsons; Field Secretary, Jean Ackiss; Recording Secretary-Assistant Trainee, Donna McPherson; Co-Youth Chairman, Tina Mann; Literature Committee Chairman, Hilda Starling; Corresponding Secretary, Mamie Dail; Life Membership, Nadine Crocker; *Devotion* Compiling Editor, Nina Grace Register; Treasurer, Nadine Crocker; Study Course Chairman, Deborah King; *Devotion* Compiling Co-Editor, Happy Taylor.

Standing Committees: Cragmont Stockholders: Cheryl Williams—2000-2003; Christian Education: Dianne Riley—2000-2003.

Installation of Officers was conducted by Ramona Norman. She read from Proverbs 4:7 and Proverbs 3:5-6. She challenged each officer to seek God's wisdom and apply that wisdom to their individual offices.

The incoming President, Joan Little, requested everyone to continually pray for the Woman's Auxiliary throughout the state, on the local, district, and state level.

The meeting was closed with a benediction and blessing for the food. A delicious lunch, served by the host church, was enjoyed by all. After lunch, good-byes were expressed with a spiritual love that everyone had had a great day in the Lord's work.



(L-R): Watching presentation: Becky, Sue, Barbara, Mrs. Patrick, Leon Grubbs

People & Events

Cragmont Woman's Conference

June 5-10, 2000

Monday, June 5, 2000 arrived with cloudy skies and rain. Some probably thought it was dreary. Not so for the ladies who were boarding the bus at 7:15 AM at Carolina East Mall in Greenville. After three more stops (Kinston, Goldsboro and Smithfield), we were on our way to Cragmont.



Alma Dale Cox, Music Leader

After stopping for lunch in Greensboro, we arrived at Cragmont about 3:30 PM. We were thankful for a safe trip.

We had our first Cragmont meal at 6:00 PM. It was delicious as usual.

At 7:15 PM, we met in the chapel. "Victory in Jesus" was our opening hymn. May Pittman, assistant registrar/director, read Psalm 121.

After prayer by Mamie Dail, Donna Holland, director, welcomed the group and had roll call. Five of the seven districts were represented. We had thirty-four ladies from ages 42 to 80. There were three "first-timers."

With Nina Grace Register at the piano and Alma Dale Cox as song leader, we enjoyed singing some of our "Cragmont Choruses."

Frances Phillips, our nurse for the week, had our closing prayer. It was now time for bed and a good night's sleep to get us ready for the busy week ahead.

In the chapel each morning at 7:45, we started our day with a song.



Marcie Oliver, Devotion

Marcie Oliver led our devotion. She had been on a trip to Haiti and observed first hand the conditions of an under-privileged country. Each morning, using Scripture appropriate for the day, she shared her experiences with us. She had visited a school, gone to church and worked in the hospital pharmacy.

Marcie shared some of the handiwork with us. Everything was done by hand, including the wood crafts, tin paintings, straw mats and embroidered napkins. She wore a handmade dress that was really beautiful.

Her thought to remember was: "The people of God hear a voice the world cannot hear, feel a presence the world cannot feel, and enjoy a blessing the unsaved cannot enjoy. They receive an inner strength and peace that the world cannot understand."

Teresa Ball, registrar, was our speaker for the week. "The Book of Praises" was her theme. Psalm 150:6, "Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD," was the theme verse. She referred to various Psalms: Psalm 121 will calm our fears and anxieties; the practice, power and permanency of the blessed man is compared to the woe of the ungodly in Psalm 1; Psalm 8 is a Psalm of praise of creation; Psalm 19 reveals the revelation of God in His creation, in His commandments, and in Christ; Psalm 46 gives us the confidence that we need to face each day; Psalm 32 is a Psalm of

blessing and forgiveness, of instruction and understanding; Psalm 100:1 is a Psalm of thanksgiving and praise.



Teresa Ball, Speaker

On Friday morning, we had a summary of the week and a time for praise and worship. We shared our blessings, not only of the week, but how good God is to us all of the time.

Throughout the week, we enjoyed singing our favorite hymns and choruses before each study session and after supper. We also had special music by May Pittman, Dixie McLawhorn and Shirley Katrobos, Joye Edmundson, John Williams, and Donna Holland.



Donna Holland

The bus took us to Bonworth on Tuesday, the Asheville Mall, Hamricks, and the Farmers Market on Wednesday. Thursday afternoon was the big trip to Cherokee. Friday

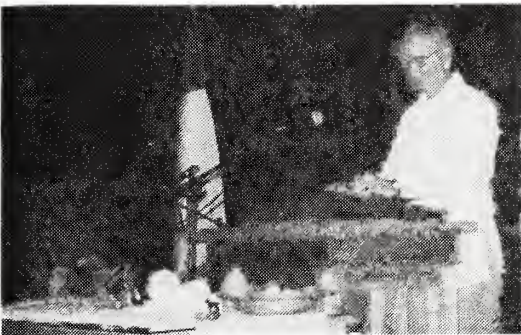
cont....

Cragmont Woman's Conference Cont....

afternoon was a fun time when we enjoyed our local talents.

John Williams, director at Cragmont, had our Thursday night service. He showed us a promotional video of the happenings at Cragmont. He shared the upcoming events with us.

Becky Jo Sumner led us in a most interesting Bible study each night. This year she chose the animals of the Bible to share with us.



Harold Jones, Friday Night Speaker

We always look forward to Friday night when Harold Jones comes and shares the work of Foreign Missions. He shared the Scripture from Genesis 3:9 about the wonders and goodness of our God. He reminded us that God is a missionary God and He expects us to follow Him.

Vespers were led by Mary Boyd. Using Psalm 4, she talked about God being our lifeline.

Mary closed the week with prayer. Saturday morning we had an early devotion and breakfast. Then we boarded our bus to return to those we love at home.

Thanks to the "kitchen crew" for all the good meals; thanks to Phyllis for the good trips; thanks to John and Arlinda for making it all happen.



Nina Grace Register

**Executive Meeting
of the Woman's Auxiliary
June 3, 2000**

The meeting was called to order with a welcome and devotion by Joan Little, State President. Romans 12:21 was her Scripture, "Be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Minutes were read by Sandra Jones and approved by the Committee. Afterwards, reports were given.

Times and places for Fall 2000 meetings were: Albemarle: October 12, 9:30, St. Paul Church; Central: September 23, 9:30, Ormondsville Church; Pee Dee: October 7, 10:00, White Oak Church; Western: October 4, 9:30; Selma Church; Cape Fear: October 7, 9:30, Shady Grove Church; Eastern: September 16, 9:30, Whaley's Chapel Church; Piedmont: October 21, 9:30, East Rockingham Church.

In the business session we discussed some repairs that are needed in the chapel or campus at Mount Olive College. The meeting closed with prayer.

North Carolina Woman's

Auxiliary of Original

Free Will Baptists

75th Annual Convention

May 9, 2002

Rodgers Chapel

Mount Olive College

Hosted by

the

Executive Committee

**ANNUAL LABOR DAY
SALE AND BAZAAR**

Date: Saturday, September 2 and Monday, September 4

Time: Begins at 8:00 AM and ends at 3:00 PM each day

Place: Intersection of Hwy 39 and Hwy 231 (Emit)

(Five miles south of Five-County Mudcat Stadium)

We will have our famous "HOTDOGS" for sale; \$1.50 buys a hotdog and a drink. There will also be lots of homemade pies, cakes, and goodies. An assortment of homemade crafts and canned goods will also be available. Please join us for a day of fun and fellowship.

**SPONSORED BY
FRIENDSHIP FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
WOMAN'S AUXILIARY**

Lee's Chapel Presents Plaque



The Rev. Phillip Boykin presents the Rev. and Mrs. Henry Armstrong with a "Wall of Honor" plaque.

On Sunday night, April 9, 2000, the Rev. and Mrs. Henry Armstrong were honored by Lee's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Dunn, NC, for their faithful years of service to the ministry. The Ladies' Auxiliary initiated the occasion with a proposal to honor the Armstrongs with recognition on the "Wall of Honor" at the Free Will Baptist Headquarters in Ayden. But it was only a short time later that the entire church was involved because of the genuine love and esteem the members of Lee's Chapel feel for their former pastor and his wife.

The Rev. and Mrs. Armstrong came to Lee's Chapel Church on January 31, 1965 and served until 1982. He was the church's first full-time pastor. After the Armstrong's retirement in September, 1991, they returned to the Lee's Chapel Church area and settled in the community once again. They are faithful members of the church which is now pastored by the Rev. Phillip Boykin.

Press Welcomes New Employees

The Free Will Baptist Press is growing again. Four new people join the staff at the Free Will Baptist Press and the Ayden Bible and Bookstore.

Donna Pittman is a part-time sales advisor in the bookstore. She has recently retired from Lenoir Memorial Hospital in Kinston where she worked as a registered nurse for over twenty years. She lives in Hookerton with her husband Mahlon. They have three children, a son-in-law, two daughters-in-law and three grandchildren.

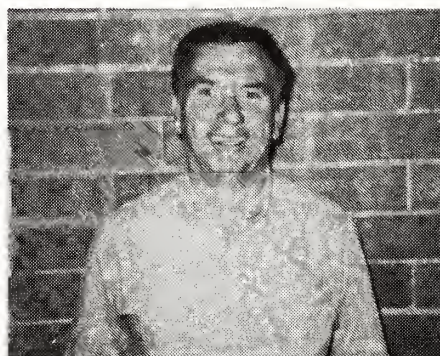
Lindsay Taylor is working part-time in the Receiving Department at the Press. Like Donna, he is a recent retiree who wanted to continue working part-time. He was employed at Dupont for 31 years. He lives in Ayden with his wife Sue and daughter Niki.

Bobbi Gerardot is the most recent person to join the staff. She works full-time in the Graphic Design Department. She is originally from Monroeville, Indiana. She now lives in Goldsboro with her son Cody. She served in the United States Air Force for four years and continues to serve in the Air Force Reserves.

There are two generations of Jones' working in the Press Department. Brandon Jones is working side by side with his father, Ronnie, who has served as Press Operator for 22 years. Brandon has just turned 17 years old, making him the youngest employee at the Press. Brandon attends D. H. Conley High School and will continue working after school in the fall. Ronnie is married to Vicky Jones and they have two more children, Mandy and Jordan. They live in Black Jack.



*"Like father, like son."
Brandon Jones joins his dad,
Ronnie in the Press
Department.*



Lindsay Taylor



*Donna Pittman assists customers at the
Ayden Bible and Bookstore.*

Leadership Endowment Dinner Honors Rivenbarks

Approximately 75 ministers and friends gathered at Stoney Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church fellowship hall, Goldsboro, NC, on June 30, 2000, to honor the Rev. and Mrs. Fred A. Rivenbark for their love and service to the Free Will Baptist denomination and their dedication to the Lord. (Due to illness, Mrs. Rivenbark was unable to attend.)

The Leadership Endowment was established by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists to recognize leadership among Free Will Baptists and to provide continuing support to the work of the Convention.

Several individuals spoke in reference to the Rev. Rivenbark's ministry in various areas. The greatest praises, however, were spoken regarding his pastoral ministry.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal which was prepared and served by the host church.



The ministers who were present.



Rev. Rivenbark with his sister.



Pictured with Brother Rivenbark is his daughter Faye (right), her daughter, Pam, and her two sons.

SHERRON ACRES OBSERVES SUNDAY SCHOOL EMPHASIS WEEKEND

When the first weekend of May rolls around each year at Sherron Acres Free Will Baptist Church, Durham, NC, we know it is time to celebrate Sunday school. For many years that weekend was known as Sunday School Homecoming and it kicked off the beginning of summertime. In recent years, the name was changed to Sunday School Emphasis Weekend to promote fellowship among the classes. A typical weekend begins on Saturday and continues through Sunday afternoon, with lots of fun and blessings.

The weekend of May 6-7, 2000, was delightful. Members met at the church on Saturday afternoon for games and a cakewalk while some of the men grilled hotdogs and hamburgers. After the meal, the adults were too full to move, so the youth went bowling. When we gathered on Sunday morning, all adult classes joined in the sanctuary for the lesson taught by one of our gifted teachers, the Rev. Kenneth Forehand. The morning service was especially uplifting as we worshiped to the music of "Servants Heart" and a message from Mrs. Dianne Riley. Dianne challenged us to think of Sunday school as an "education for faith," which helps the church be the church. After the service, we complied with Free Will Baptist "law" and had a delicious covered-dish lunch prepared by the families of the church. During the afternoon, "Servants Heart" from Pikeville blessed us again with their musical talents and testimony.

The planning committee was comprised of representatives from the teens and adult classes and was chaired by Jean Stott.

People & Events

Cape Fear Youth Rally Hosted by Powhatan

Submitted by Rita O. Jones



Our beginner class as "lions" at VBS.

Over 120 people attended the Youth Rally at Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC, on Saturday, June 3. President Dawn Faircloth congratulated everyone who had a part in the May convention including the district's Outstanding Youth Program Award winners—Robert's Grove and Powhatan. The evening's program consisted of two performances by the new handbell choir from Powhatan and a YFA skit showing how a teen can become trapped by sins.

On Monday morning, June 12, eighteen Powhatan campers left Clayton for a week at Cragmont. Thankfully, all returned safe and excited on Saturday afternoon! New friends were made with the six campers from Wildwood who caught the bus with our group. A special thank you to any Woman's Auxiliary members who sent mail to the young people at camp and to Bryant Hines, Faitha Crowe, and all others who helped out during the camp week.

New appointments for the Sunday school program were announced on June 18. Pray for the teachers and officers to serve with God's wisdom and blessing.

The Layman's League of Powhatan made special presentations during the morning worship service on Father's Day. A miniature lighthouse was presented to each of the following: J. C. Blinston (88) for being the most senior father; Josh Bogle (25) for being the youngest father; and Alan Price for having the most children (4) present with him.

Several Powhatan members attended a Cape Fear Youth Workers' meeting at Ryan's Steakhouse in Smithfield on June 22. Final plans were made for the August Youth Rally to be held at the Children's Home.

Vacation Bible School ran the last week of June. Our address became "2000 Ark Avenue" for the week with an animal story and puppet visit each evening. We had an average of over a hundred present. Seventy-six had perfect attendance. Thank you to Ginger Hill, Kathy Allen, Teresa Barbour, and Sandi Markle for the planning and hard work; also to Barbara Barbour for the music and songs enjoyed each night.

Our condolences to Sister Penny Barbour on the death of her son, John Durwood Barbour, age 55, on June 24.

A Look at the 5th Union Eastern District Youth for Christ Rally

by Lisa Barton

Through the last couple of years, the Youth for Christ Rally has grown smaller in size for numerous reasons, but mostly due to the lack of interest of both youth and adults.

We the officers refuse to give up. We are making a huge effort on our part to give people a reason to be interested. Being an officer myself I have high hopes. I believe that with a little help from the advisory board, and with a whole new set of officers bringing fresh new ideas, and help from God, we have a fighting chance.

Among the Board of Advisors are: Rev. Joe Ratcliff, Rev. Mike Scott, Gail Barton, Cliff Tyson, Kevin Gaskins, Wesley Taylor, and Phyllis Godley. The new officers for the 2000-2002 term are: Lisa Barton, President; Michael Lupton, Vice President; Tiffany Lewis, Secretary; and Stacey Bland, Treasurer.

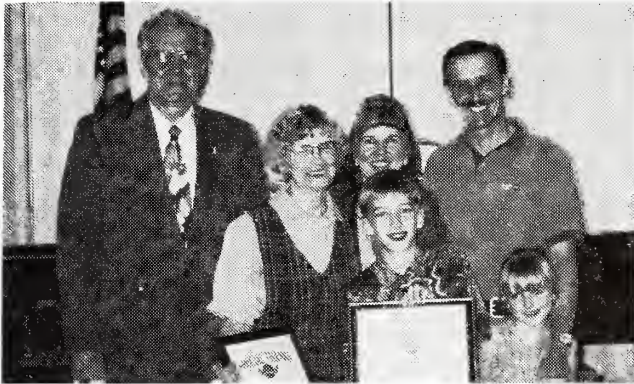
During an advisor meeting we were discussing about what to do for the July meeting. We came up with the idea of having a fun day at Camp Vandemere. Piece by piece, we worked out details to make this day a big event. Plans for the pool, paddle boats, canoes, and volleyball were among the "favorite" list. After the meeting, this event was announced and the officers made phone calls, and sent fliers to all 31 churches on the 5th union's attendance roll.

Finally, July 8 rolled around. It was the day of the big event. There was a total of five churches (Juniper Chapel, Macedonia, Memorial, Mount Zion, and Spring Hope) with 67 people. This is more than usual, and though it doesn't seem like a lot, God has truly begun to bless us.

We began the meeting as usual with prayer, a song, and then a short business session. Spring Hope won the attendance banner with 20 youth. Melissa Warren from Spring Hope won the YFA Bible sword drill banner and Rachel Ratcliff won the AFC Bible sword drill banner. The officers put on a skit for the devotions and then we dismissed in prayer. The churches split up for free time heading off to the piers to fish, canoe, swim, and to ride on the paddleboats. Then, just before we ate, the Chairpersons of the Advisory Board, Gail Barton and the Rev. Joe Ratcliff, decided to start a new tradition of initiating the newly elected officers. It was a unique and interesting way to initiate officers.

Everyone enjoyed the fellowship time. The officers encourage all of the inactive members of the 5th union to participate in the August 12 meeting at Macedonia. This meeting will start at 7 PM.

Renewed Vision Ministries Special Awards



Jacob (Jake) Lee Brickhouse of Sound Side Free Will Baptist Church, Columbia, NC, was the year 2000 winner of the Renewed Vision Ministries, Inc. camping trip to Cragmont. Shown here, along with Jake, is his family and Madge L. Vanhorne who honored him for this award.

Rose Hill Launches Building Project



Groundbreaking services were held on June 11, 2000 at Rose Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Winterville, NC. The church will be adding fourteen Sunday school rooms, enlarging the sanctuary, and renovating several other areas.



Regina Linton, a graduating senior at Columbia High School, Columbia, NC, was awarded the year 2000 scholarship presented by Renewed Vision Ministries, Inc., in the amount of \$500. She plans to attend Beaufort

Community College in Washington, NC beginning this fall. Shown presenting the award is the Rev. Everette Harper, founder and president of Renewed Vision Ministries, Inc.

CHURCHES & MINISTERS AVAILABLE

Note: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The Rev. Ernest Jones is a minister in good standing in the Eastern Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists and he is also a member in good standing of Holly Springs Original Free Will Baptist Church in Newport, NC. He was ordained into the gospel ministry on October 21, 1999. He is currently available to fill-in on Sundays in the absence of a church's pastor or for revival services. He is also seeking a church to pastor in the Eastern Conference. He may be reached by mail at 235 Tom Mann Road, Newport, NC 28570, or by phone 252-223-2701.

POWER SURGE 2000

**Get Plugged In!!!
Acts 1:8a**

**September 16, 2000
Mount Olive College
FREE ADMISSION**

**Inflatable games! Music! Face painting!
Fun for all ages!!! The excitement
begins at 2:00 PM.**

FREE ADMISSION

**CONCERT:
Featuring the "DARINS" will
begin at 7:00 PM**

CONCESSIONS SOLD!!!!

"POWER SURGE 2000" is an event sponsored by the cooperative efforts of the following Free Will Baptist Churches: Black Jack (Pitt Conty), Daniels Chapel (Wilson County), Elm Grove (Pitt County), First Church (Greenville), First Church (Wilson), Saint Mary's (New Bern), Stoney Creek (Goldsboro), Westside (Kinston). (If you are interested in being a part of what we are doing please contact Joey Williams, 252-756-6600.)

Sunday School Charms

Hints and Ideas for Sunday School Growth



Touching Hearts and Changing Lives

Eastern North Carolina
Children's Ministry Training Conference
August 12, 2000
8:00AM-3:00 PM

Conference Location:
Broad Street Christian Church
New Bern, NC

Sponsored by Mid-Atlantic Christian Education Association

2000 TEACHER'S WORKSHOPS

8:55-9:55 AM Workshop 1

1. Little Tykes Learn About a Big God—*Sherli Morgan*
2. Classroom Management—*James Bearden*
3. Effective Children's Ministry—*Richard Noble*
4. Today's Child: It's a Tough World After All—*Ron Richardson*
5. 7 Habits of Highly Effective Bible Teachers—*Keith Kenemer*
6. The Church's Response to Disabled People—*Mary Dudley*

10:10-11:10 AM Workshop 2

7. Teaching Children to Pray—*Mary Dudley*
8. Object Lessons Are Remembered—*Richard Noble*
9. Lesson Preparation for Youth Teachers—*Ron Richardson*
10. Value-Building: Molding Christian Character Through the Sunday School—*John McMurphy*
11. Partnership in Ministry—*Keith Kenemer*

12:30-1:30 PM Workshop 3

12. 11 Things You Gotta Know About Working With Infants—*John McMurphy*
13. All or Nothing—*Sherli Morgan*
14. Utilizing Teens In Ministry—*Richard Noble*
15. Help! Where Are All The Teachers?—*James Bearden*
16. The Importance of Sunday School—*Mary Dudley*

1:45-2:45 PM Workshop 4

17. Preschoolers: Working With the Wiggles—*Sherli Morgan*
18. Lights, Sound, Action!—*James Bearden*
19. Catch'em At The Back Door—*John McMurphy*
20. Departmentalization And Its Leadership—*Keith Kenemer*

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2000

8:00- 8:30 AM	Registration
8:30- 9:10 AM	Welcome and Keynote
8:55- 9:55 AM	Session #1
9:55-10:10 AM	Break
10:10-11:10 AM	Session #2
11:15-12:30 PM	Lunch Break & Exhibits
12:30- 1:30 PM	Session #3
1:30- 1:45 PM	Break
1:45- 2:45 PM	Session #4
2:45 PM	Exhibits open

Registration Form

Name _____

Church _____

Church Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

No child care will be provided at the conference.

Please mail registrations by August 7. Walk-ins are welcome. The workshop fee is \$15.00 (lunch included) before August 7th. After August 7th, the fee is \$20.00.

Please make checks payable to: *Broad Street Christian Church* and mail with registration form to: Angel Lorton, Broad Street Christian Church, 802 Broad Street, New Bern, NC 28560.

Be sure to select your workshop choices below!

8:55 AM (1st Choice) # _____
(2nd Choice) # _____

10:10 AM (1st Choice) # _____
(2nd Choice) # _____

12:30 PM (1st Choice) # _____
(2nd Choice) # _____

1:45 PM (1st Choice) # _____
(2nd Choice) # _____

CEU Credit pending approval by state

CHRISTIAN ART REVIEWS

by Michael G. Warning,

Pastor Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Sea Level, NC



Rev. Michael G. Warning

Source: El Greco, *The Miracle of Christ Healing the Blind* (Spanish 1541–1614). From a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wrightsman, 1978, in Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Oil on canvas. 47 x 57 1/2 inches. In Richard Mühlberger, *The Bible in Art: The New Testament*. New York: Portland House, 1990, p. 97.

Introduction

El Greco's *The Miracle of Christ Healing the Blind* also helps us to see spiritually and increase our perspective. The miracle in the painting as described in John 9 is faithful to the Biblical account. We see Jesus in a crowd, clay in hand made from the earth and His own spittle, applying the clay to the blind man's eyes so that he may see.

Artistic Style

El Greco's style is 16th-century Spanish. He utilizes the techniques of perspective developed during the great Renaissance such as the following: (1) the vanishing point, (2) all things moving toward that vanishing point, (3) a carefully organized composition using multiple figures, (4) the use of vibrant colors in a rich palette, (5) neoclassical poses and buildings of the Renaissance, (6) natural depiction of the body from the Renaissance.

El Greco is also well-known for his attenuated figures and movement such as the swirling clouds in the background which is mimicked in the movements and clothing.

The Biblical account also recounts the testimony of the parents seen in the foreground, their bodies cut off at the waist. They are testifying that their blind child, whom Jesus has healed, was once blind but now can see. And they are amazed.

Note the movement of thought that is portrayed by the pointing of fingers from right to left. The figures are commenting on the fact that here is someone who has committed a sin by doing work on the Sabbath Day—making clay to heal a man.

The figure on the left is pointing to the Eternal Father who should surely punish Jesus for working this Sabbath Day.

Symbolism

The most symbolic gesture is Jesus's touching the blind man's eyes, for here we see a reminder of the first creation when God gave life and sight to man created from clay. Here Jesus recreates sight. Jesus makes it possible for the blind to see as foretold in the Old Testament.

Jesus's robe is royal purple with the blood-red undergarment, prefiguring His sacrifice and the coming of His Kingdom in power and glory when surely all the world will see.

Conclusion

Man was created from clay and will return to clay. The significance of clay in the miracle of healing the blind man points to the futility of ourselves as clay vessels that we are without the touch of Jesus. Only Jesus can transform clay into sight—or our flesh into soul.





Heritage Month

For Original Free Will Baptists

PURPOSE:

1. To effectively know where we are going, we must understand from whence we have come.
2. To provide the opportunity for our people to reflect upon the importance of continuing ministry.
3. To show the *connection* between the congregation and the Convention.
4. To remind us all of our privilege and obligation to support the church that we may continue our heritage.
5. To rekindle/revitalize our commitment of this ministry to the church.
6. To participate financially in the maintenance of this ministry.

Calendar of Events

Congregation Sunday—August 6

Covenant Sunday—August 13

Mission/Ministry Sunday—August 20

Heritage Sunday—August 27

DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

John Gardner. *On Moral Fiction*. New York: Harper-Basic Books, Inc.
214 pages. "Art and Insanity" (176-205).

Introduction

Are artists insane? Is the creation of art an act of madness? What is the energy behind a story? Readers may wonder about the impulse to create, but if the work of art has any value, then that work must reflect a "good sense" of "what is really there" and feel fundamentally "significant" (177).

The Importance of Purpose in Creating

Why does anyone write a story anyway? Why did Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John write? According to John Gardner, a healthy purpose for creating a story is fourfold: (1) to show the healthy and the sane in "human seeing, thinking, and feeling" (180); (2) "to point out what is not healthy; (3) to deal with morality in manners, choices; (4) to make "the good" more "attractive than the filth" (183).

A writer often uses a "fictitious persona" (187) to create not a false voice but a true voice. The persona can create a distance for the writer and allow the writer to make choices in the rhythm of the reality. Writers must "see things, make discoveries," and find the "good" (192). What becomes the best reality in life is "the willingness of consciousness to respond and judge" (192-193).

What the writer seeks is the truth of human experience, the ability to "celebrate and intensify the moment" (191), the energy to struggle against the insanity of the world in a fierce determination "to affirm life and love" (190).

What the writer seeks is the real, the honest, the true though the framework of the art is a delusion. Gardner insists: "The writer who creates, who does not merely spin his wheels producing nothing, understands where he is, where his world is. He does not simplify or evade" (194).

Gardner sees true art not as neurotic insanity but as a "divine madness" which is "shot through with love: love of the good, a love proved not by some airy and abstract highmindedness but by active celebration of whatever good or trace of good can be found by a quick and compassionate eye in this always corrupt and corruptible but god-freighted world" (204-205).

The Holy Spirit Makes Us Spiritual

What does it mean to be spiritual? Edwards writes: "In the New Testament, persons or things are termed spiritual in relation to the Spirit of God... Thus Christians are called spiritual persons because they are born of the Spirit and because of the indwelling and holy influences of the Spirit of God in them" (77). What are some traits of a spiritual person? Edwards mentions these: (1) the Holy Spirit influences the heart to make us new creatures in Christ; (2) Christ's Spirit both is *in* the heart and *lives* in the heart; (3) the Holy Spirit functions as a "seed, or spring of life" (79); (4) the inward perception and affection of the Holy Spirit creates "a new way of perceiving, or thinking, and of consciousness" (81); (5) gracious affections grow within because the "influence of the Holy Spirit" (83) emerge in new principles and "a spiritual application of all of the Word of God" (83); (6) grace exists within the soul; "the spirit of the child in its dynamic activity" (86) results; (7) "some holy stamp, some image" is "impressed and left upon the heart by the Spirit, just as a seal makes an imprint upon the wax" (85).

Art Begins With a Wound

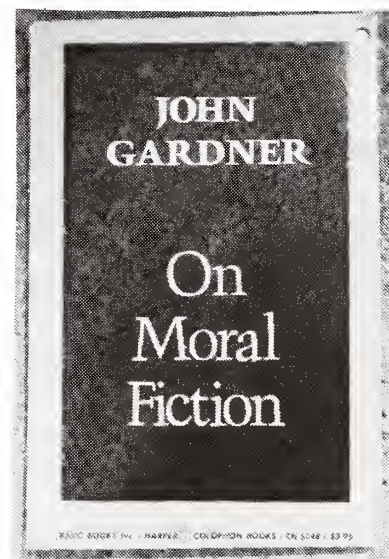
Gardner declares: "Art begins in a wound, an imperfection—a wound inherent in the nature of life itself—and is an attempt either to learn to live with the wound or to heal it. It is the pain of the wound which impels the artist to do his work, and it is the universality of woundedness in the human condition which makes the work of art significant as medicine or distraction" (181).

What might be the wound for a writer? Poe had his demons. King David had his tensions. The wound has many faces: (1) "doubt about one's parentage," (2) "fear that one is a fool or freak," (3) "trauma," (4) "alienation from society" (181), (5) victim of "tyranny and corruption" or "greed and moral indifference" (182), (6) "social displacement," (7) "conflict between the old and the new" (184), (8) "sense of loss" (185), (9) "personal betrayals," (10) reversals with loss of propriety, a marriage, or health (186), (11) failure in developing a strong self (189).

Conclusion

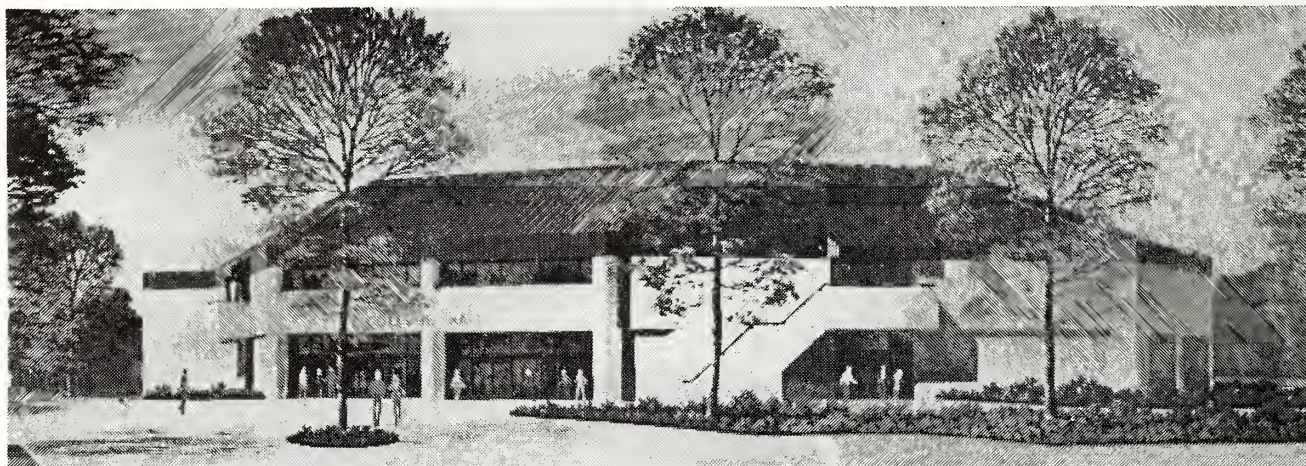
Creativity enables the artist to examine a personal wound, learn to make choices that affirm life, grow in both sensation and consciousness, evolve "a significant coherence in human experience" (177).

The creative act may increase consciousness. Gardner insists: "Consciousness means consciousness of self; it resides in naming one's mental process" (200). The art becomes like Thor's hammer; it smashes, the false in the fight for the kind, the just, the true.



On Moral Fiction is available at your local Bible and Bookstore:
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September 12-14 (Tuesday, September 12—Night of Evangelism)

Theme: "Being God's People"

The Free Will Baptist

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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

SEPTEMBER 2000



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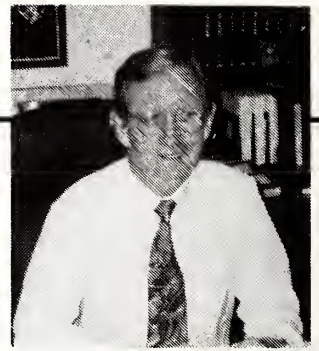
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*Emmaus Day
Fellowship*

.....

**CONVENTION OF
ORIGINAL
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2000**

**2000 - 2005 THEME:
RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL**



C. H. Overman

Are We Preserving Our Heritage?

Within a few days the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists will convene for its 88th Annual Session. The first annual session was held on September 17, 1913, at Bailey, NC. Four conferences were represented—Cape Fear, Central, Eastern, and Western. Twenty-four ordained ministers registered, along with delegates from 64 churches, with a total membership reporting of 7,439. It was known as the North Carolina State Convention of Original Free Will Baptist Churches. "By 1938, according to the report of the field secretary as presented at the session of the Convention, there were nine conferences and one yearly meeting, and 302 churches with 29,548 members. There was a steady increase numerically until 1961,..."—*An Introduction to Original Free Will Baptists* by the Rev. Floyd B. Cherry.

Long before the Convention's organization, there were Free Will Baptists. Conferences and Associations were first organized, allowing for fellowship and uniting for common purposes. Records of early meetings often referred to the desire for unity. Long before the conferences and associations there were those who adhered to the doctrines of Original Free Will Baptists, although they were not known as such.

A heritage is that which has been passed down to us. What we believe, our customs, our practices, and our organizational structure make us what we are. We are, therefore, indebted to those early pioneers of our faith whose visions of service to their Lord has provided us with a heritage—a denomination through which we can and must continue to advance His Kingdom.

When Original Free Will Baptists gather for their designated meetings, there is an embodiment of our heritage. Each Convention is a reminder of who we are, what we represent, and what we aspire to be.

The convening of our Convention is set by its Constitution and Bylaws. Other rules, regulations, and duties pertaining to the operation of our Convention, are also set forth. Over the years, changes have been made in the Constitution and Bylaws. For the most part these changes have been minor, allowing for the addition of a ministry board, or a name or title change, etc. Basically, the original intent has remained the

same. The Preamble presents the underlying purpose: "...to advance, promote, and increase the cause of Jesus Christ,..." This is a part of our heritage. How well are we preserving it?

Coupled with the Convention and its stated purpose, and occupying a more lofty perch, is *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*. The *Articles of Faith* have undergone several revisions over the years, the most recent in 1976. This revision is far more extensive than previous ones; however, it, as well as all others, reaches back to the Declaration of Faith of 1660, drawn up by the Ana-Baptists, as its foundational beginning. Within our present *Articles of Faith*, we are reminded of who we are, and how we are to operate in order to fulfill His divine purpose. This, too, is our heritage. How well are we preserving it? (We will deal with this question more thoroughly in next month's editorial.)

BEGINNING A NEW COLUMN

For some time we have considered beginning a column or page in *The Free Will Baptist*, consisting of questions and answers. We hope to begin this column in the October issue, if there is adequate response by that time.

We are asking our readers (and others) to send us your question(s), which may be related to the work of our denomination, its doctrines and practices, or questions pertaining to the Bible. In each case, we will seek to adequately answer each question. In doing so, we may at times call upon others to help or to provide the answer. The person asking the question will be identified; there will be no anonymity.

For many years, we carried a page devoted to "Bible Questions and Answers, by Dr. Jesse Barrow. Response was good. We are hoping for the same success as we begin "An Open Forum—Your Questions Answered."

Please send your questions to: The Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

All materials for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor thirty days prior to the publication date of that issue. Items for publication should be addressed to the Editor, The Free Will Baptist, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159.

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NEXT MONTH

October is
Minister's Program
Month

September is
Home Missions and
Evangelism Month

EIGHTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists



Program Personalities

Mount Olive College • Mount Olive, North Carolina

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

7:30 Night of Evangelism Free Will Baptist Children's Home

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

MORNING SESSION

8:30 Registration of Ministers, Delegates & Visitors Credentials Committee
 9:00 Convention Called to Order Buddy Sasser, Secretary
 Congregational Singing Music Director
 Scripture and Prayer Mr. Paul Beamon,
 Free Union Church, Walstonburg, NC
 Welcome to Mount Olive Mrs. Jean Ackiss, Director
 Church Gift Support
 9:10 President's Remarks The Rev. Leon Grubbs
 9:20 Executive Committee Report Buddy Sasser, Secretary
 9:30 Financial Report Mrs. Gloria Brown, Treasurer
 9:40 Report of the General Administrator The Rev. David C. Hansley
 Recognition of Conference Moderators, New Churches and Missions
 Recognition of Fraternal Delegates
 10:00 Project Solution Task Force Report The Rev. C. H. Overman
 10:10 Nominating Committee Report The Rev. Adrian Grubbs, Chairman
 Floor Open for Nominations
 10:20 Church Finance Association Report The Rev. Donald Fader
 10:30 Congregational Singing
 Special Music by the Convention Quartet
 10:40 Minister's Program Report The Rev. Donald Fader
 10:50 Children's Home Report Dr. Bobby Taylor
 11:00 Break

Wednesday Morning Worship Service

The Rev. Earl Glenn, Worship Leader

11:15 Prelude Convention Musicians
 Call to Worship Unison
 Invocation Dr. Jerry B. English
 Hymn

Offertory Scripture and Prayer	The Rev. Gary Bailey
Offertory Presentation	Congregation
Introduction of Speaker	The Rev. Earl Glenn
Special Music	Convention Quartet
The Message	Dr. W. Burkette Raper
Invitation to Commitment	
Prayer of Commitment and Benediction	The Rev. Bruce Barrow

12:15 Recess for Lunch

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

1:15	Registration Reopens	
1:30	Congregational Singing	
	Scripture and Prayer	Mr. Royce Pittman, Daniels Chapel Church
1:40	Cragmont Report	The Rev. John Williams
2:00	Free Will Baptist International Report	The Rev. Harold Jones
2:10	Free Will Baptist Press Report	Mr. Cliff Gray
2:20	Home Missions and Evangelism Report	The Rev. Al Markuson
2:30	Break	
2:40	Mount Olive College Report	Dr. J. William Byrd
2:50	Retirement Homes Report	The Rev. Bruce Dudley
3:00	Sunday School Board Report	Mrs. Mary Dudley
3:10	Benediction and Recess	

5:45 Sunday School Board Banquet in Murphy Center
Wednesday Evening Mission Rally—7:30—College Hall

Thursday Morning Worship Service

September 14, 2000

Mrs. Diane Riley, Worship Leader

9:00	Prelude	Convention Musicians
	Invocation	Worship Leader
	Hymn	
	Offertory Scripture and Prayer	The Rev. Harold Swinson
	Offertory Presentation	Congregation
	Introduction of Speaker	The Rev. Jackie Godwin
	Special Music	The Convention Quartet
	The Message	Dr. Danny McPherson Beaverdam Church, Clarendon, NC
	Hymn of Dedication	
	A Time of Prayer for our Country, our Congregations and our Convention	President Leon Grubbs
10:10	Break	
10:20	Congregational Song	
10:25	Chaplain's Commission Report	The Rev. Adrian Grubbs
10:30	Ministerial Association Report	The Rev. Harold Swinson
10:35	Woman's Auxiliary Report	Joan Little, President
10:40	Carolina Bible Institute Report	The Rev. Rudy Owens
10:45	Camp Vandemere Report	The Rev. Owen Arthur
10:50	Historical Commission Report	Dr. Michael Pelt
10:55	League Convention Report	Ms. Becky Jo Sumner
11:00	Layman's League Report	
11:05	Report of the Credentials Committee	
11:10	Break	
11:20	Report of the Resolutions Committee	The Rev. Gary Bailey, Chairman
11:30	Memorial Service	Obituary Committee
11:45	The Convention is Adjourned	

A Time to Rejoice

Little Creek Church Gives Praise and Thanksgiving at Rededication Service

by Carla Combs, Editorial Assistant

"Brothers and Sisters of Little Creek, we have met in this Jones Log Cabin long enough. It's time we built a church here on the banks of Little Contentnea. We have been here many years and Brother Shadrack Mercer has given us the land to build on," so said Joseph Parker in the mid-1700s.

This first church building was used until late 1880-1890, and given to our friends across the road. This present sanctuary was constructed about 1890. It has withstood hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and all kinds of physical abuse. It still stands as a tribute to God and His wonderful Grace and Glory. Please note the hand-hewn casing on the windows. They are original. This sanctuary has three ceilings and two roofs, one having hand-riven shingles underneath the tin.

Enough about the building. At the turn of the twentieth century, Little Creek had a large Sunday school, over 100 in attendance each Sunday. Worship services were only once a month. In 1765, only six Free Will Baptist Churches survived the Kehukee Association's domination in this area. Little Creek was one of the six. We survived the split with the National Association in the '60s. We have survived the economic shift from rural life to the city and suburbs. Our young people have moved to other locations and vocations. But we have survived and will continue to be strong in the faith as an Original Free Will Baptist Church.

Little Creek has always supported the Free Will Baptist Press, the Children's Home, Mount Olive College, Cragmont Assembly, Church Finance Association, Minister's Association, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, and all other worthy causes in our denomination. You are sitting in probably the oldest Original Free Will Baptist Church in existence. The Central Conference would meet here for two days with 200-300 people in attendance. Five or six hogs would be barbecued each day along with all other

kinds of food. And all this was before indoor plumbing.

We sing the Patriotic Song 'I see Lincoln, Custer, Washington, and Perry, Nathan Hale and Colin Kelly too.' I see Parker, Palmer, Barfield, Pittman, Davidson, Spencer, Barrow, Beaman, Burrus, Hansley, Overman, Summer, and many others, and for the last 21 years, Frank Flowers. Also we can add Griffin, Patrick, Cherry, Rice, Pelt, Raper, Evans, Ingram, Bowen, Johnson, and many more saints who have passed this way.

Thank you for being a part of our Celebration of Rededication of Little Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church.

—J. B. McLawhorn, in a summation of the history of Little Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church at the rededication ceremony on July 23, 2000.

"Our hearts rejoice today," the Rev. Frank Flowers prays at the rededication service of the Little Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church in Scuffleton on July 23, 2000. And indeed, hearts rejoiced as echoes of praise and thanksgiving filled the sanctuary.

Little Creek Church fell victim to last year's devastating flood waters brought on by Hurricane Floyd. The century-old building was surrounded by five feet of water on the outside with water levels reaching the window sills. Inside the sanctuary, pews were submersed in three feet of muddy, contaminated creek water. The water receded a few days later, leaving behind an estimated \$100,000 in damages.

But on this Sunday afternoon in July, the focus was not on the flood or the damage it left behind but how the love of Christ and the help of friends has uplifted a minister and his congregation.

"Wow!" said Rev. Flowers, smiling at the congregation. "I am so happy

today. Satan may have brought the storm and its damage but God's will brought good. We owe all the glory to Him. He is still on His throne."

The Rev. Flowers acknowledged two special guests, the Rev. and Mrs. Sam Barnes of Clayton. Rev. Flowers explained how the Barnes personally delivered a love offering to him after the flood to help repair the church. The love offering came from people attending community revivals in Clayton after Hurricane Floyd.

He also recognized the efforts of several college students from John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio and Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. Unfortunately, the students were unable to attend the rededication.

The ceremony lasted for about one hour. It was filled with praise and worship music and the Scripture was read by James Ray McLawhorn. Words of appreciation were delivered by Dr. Charles Russell, Charlie Aman, and Jackie McLawhorn.

Dr. Russell described the flood as a "discouraging time" and thanked everyone who reached out to help Little Creek Church.

"Words can never express the deep appreciation that we feel here today," added Jackie McLawhorn on behalf of the Woman's Auxiliary.

Hagar Jackson sang "Bless This House."

"We chose this song because it describes our feelings today," Jackson told the congregation.

The spirit of the church was illuminated as people responded to an open invitation to stand and say a few words about Little Creek Church.

Susan Bowen, a former member, spoke passionately about Little Creek. She recalled the many acts of kindness that was shown to her family over the years when she

Cont....

attended the church. She said the church saw them through good times and bad times alike.

"You can move away and go to another church but Little Creek never leaves your heart," said Bowen.

The Rev. C. H. Overman commented on how much work was put into restoring Little Creek Church. "I just wanted to say I stopped by several times after the flood and saw the construction and repair work. I am very proud of what you have accomplished."

To everyone's amusement, the Rev. Bruce Barrow recalled the time many years ago when a wood heater caught fire and nearly burned the building down. Others joked that it was his "fiery sermon" that started the blaze.

Before the ceremony ended, Rev. Flowers asked all the ministers to kneel with him at the altar for a dedicatory prayer. Once again, he gave thanks for everyone who had helped Little Creek Church, and most of all, to the One Who saw the church through its darkest hour.



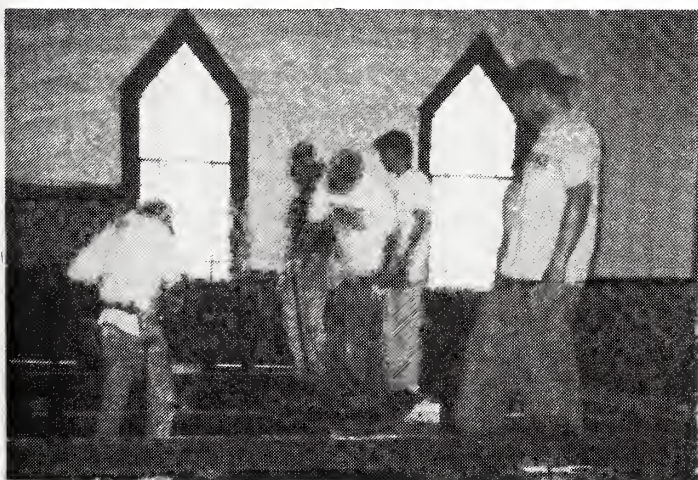
This "Thank You" banner displayed names of churches, organizations, and individuals who helped Little Creek Church after the flood.



The Rev. Frank Flowers has pastored Little Creek Church for 21 years.



The Rev. and Mrs. Sam Barnes (left) traveled from Clayton, NC to attend the rededication ceremony. Standing with them (right) is the Rev. and Mrs. Frank Flowers.



Volunteers spent countless hours ripping out damaged flooring and replacing it. Portions of the walls had to be gutted also. This picture is taken in the sanctuary.



Flood water covers the entire area around Little Creek Church.

Operation Kite String

"Soar With Jesus"

by Elaine Swinson

"High in the sky, shaking their long beautiful tails in the wind, they soared among the clouds."

Brilliant splashes of color cascaded from the ceilings, trailed across the walls, made broad statements from the bulletin boards and filled the classrooms with tinkling sounds of children's laughter. The Free Union Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School was "Soaring with Jesus."

We had a dream of "growing a better Sunday school for Jesus" and put tiny wings on the feet of accomplishing that goal. Any successful battle deserves a great deal of planning to accomplish the greatest results. Meetings were held, leaflets distributed, forms designed, and presentations made to strike a match under the feet of the "skeptical" who raised flags of doubt. As the presence of the Lord permeated the hearts of the teachers, their heads began to nod in agreement to the plan of action. Chins were lifted high, lips curved into smiles, and twinkling sparkles appeared in their eyes reflecting the enthusiasm that began to course through their spirits.

The ultimate goal of "Operation Kite String" was to increase the membership of the Sunday school program at our church, while sharing the message of salvation among the lost. The students were instructed to bring the names and addresses of anybody they knew, who did not attend church and Sunday school, to a special "invitation party." Kite-shaped invitations were decorated with glittering baubles and long metallic tails. Kids of all ages were clamoring over the top of each other, eagerly becoming a part of our promotion.

The simplistic reward point system using increments of 10, 50, or 100 points was replaced with fascinating



All kinds of kites

numbers from 25,000 to 100,000 points for reaching levels of achievement. Each student had the opportunity of earning attendance points for each Sunday, bringing Bibles to class, bringing visitors, having the visitor join the Sunday school program, and participating in the preparation of promotional items. Individual classes had an opportunity to earn special privileges for collecting the most points. We incorporated as a part of our campaign, "kite penny jars" for each classroom to establish a gift of copper coins for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

Special meetings were held either at church or at the homes of the teachers to plan strategies and transform their classrooms into "blue skies filled with coveys of fluttering kites." The entire month of April was dedicated to the campaign, while the excitement level among the children raced to the moon. A special task force was organized to collect all the data for record keeping during the month. Armed with weekly

information, they ensured tabulations were accurately kept for each child and classroom.

After considerable "head scratching" an idea evolved making it possible for the whole church congregation to be incorporated in the grand finale. It is widely known that all "good" Free Will Baptist folks love to eat, no matter what the occasion might be. Therefore, it was agreed that the entire church would be invited to eat lunch in the fellowship hall immediately following the Sunday morning service on the last day of the promotion. As you might guess, this idea met no resistance whatsoever.

To record the moment in history, a group photograph was taken of the Sunday school members present on the final day just before everyone scattered to their classrooms. Everyone thought it was funny to see the "preacher's wife" up on a step ladder holding on with one hand, and taking their picture with the other (without falling), that they

Cont....

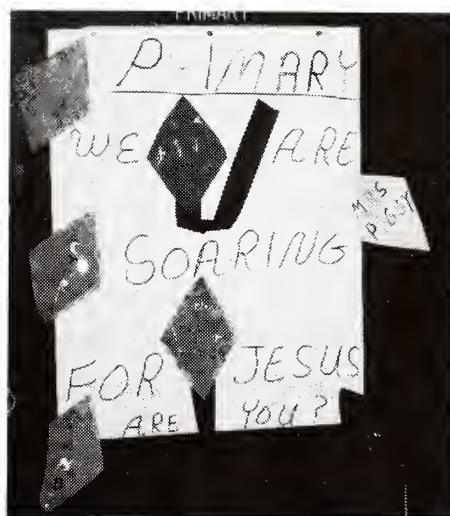
followed their instructions to stand still and smile without hesitation.

Although millions of points were earned and rewards were bestowed, the greatest gift received from "Operation Kite String" was the enthusiasm stirred in the hearts of both the children and the adults in Free Union Church. Through their efforts we "grew a better Sunday school for Jesus" by adding five new members to our rolls.

Millions of dollars and many long, hard hours are spent each year on marketing campaigns all over the world to help companies sell their products and increase their volume of sales. Should we do any less for Jesus? How many hours do you spend each week working on new ways to tell others about the love of Jesus and the plan of salvation He has to offer? Have you increased your "sales and marketing" staff to reach those who are lost in sin? Beautiful magazine ads are created by talented people to entice the world to use certain products or visit certain places. Are those same talented folks working in your churches to create articles, brochures, leaflets, or develop exciting campaigns to fill the pews and introduce the public to the Master? Are you "soaring with Jesus" at your church?



A large number attended the final day activity.



"We Are Soaring for Jesus" Sign



Copper coins (pennies) for the Children's Home

A Spiritual "Workout"

Warren W. Wiersbe

"...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12-13).

"Work out your salvation" does not suggest "Work for your own salvation." To begin with, Paul is writing to people who are already "saints" (1:1), which means they have trusted Christ and have been set apart for Him. The verb *work out* carries the meaning of "work to full completion," such as working out a problem in mathematics. In Paul's day it was also used for "working a mine," that is, getting out of the mine all the valuable ore possible; or "working a field" so as to get the greatest harvest possible. The purpose God wants us to achieve is Christlikeness, "to be conformed to the likeness of his Son" (Romans 8:29). There are problems in life, but God will help us to "work them out." Our lives have tremendous potential, like a mine or a field, and He wants to help us fulfill that potential.

The phrase "work out your own salvation" probably has reference particularly to the special problems in the church at Philippi, but the statement also applies to the individual Christian. We are not to be "cheap imitations" of other people, especially "great Christians." We are to follow only what we see of Christ in their lives!

Excerpt from *Pause For Power* by Warren W. Wiersbe, Chariot Victor Publishing. Used by permission. David C. Cook Church Ministries.

Emmaus Day Fellowship at Free Union Free Will Baptist Church Sea Level, NC

Pepper Worthington

The Rev. Clifton Styron, pastor of Cedar Island Original Free Will Baptist Church, brought his people to Sea Level to celebrate the summer Emmaus Day Fellowship at Free Union Original Free Will Baptist Church. "We give you thanks and praise, Lord, for your mercy and for the solid foundation of Christ. Thank you for this special Sunday. Bless our fellowship together," prayed Rev. Styron.

The Rev. Michael G. Warning, pastor of Free Union Church at Sea Level, explained, "Our Emmaus Day Fellowship is a time when we come together to worship Christ, to break bread together, and to celebrate Christ within us, for we recognize the presence of Christ after his death on the Cross."



Young Brittany Saulmann provided special music at the Emmaus Fellowship Day.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Brittany Saulmann provided music on the electric piano, bringing three songs to the full church, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," "Amazing Grace," and "Shall We Gather at the River." Deanna Taylor followed with "Roses Will Bloom Again." Mrs. Taylor explained the lyrics of the song. "A husband said good-bye to his wife, Rose, a wife of 40 years. He never

dreamed he'd bury her. He laid Rose to rest, looked to Heaven, and tried to believe roses will bloom again. "We must not mourn what might have been but rejoice in the blessings we have," she said. The sound of a baby's rattle filled the silence.

Later Linda and Debbie sang "Flow Through Me Holy Spirit" and "Through It All!"

of Honor to Original Free Will Baptists so that the name will be forever remembered. Julian Gaskill's name is on that Wall of Honor, made possible by your pastor, the Rev. Michael Warning, and his wife, Dr. Pepper Worthington. We present this plaque to you, Julian Wayne, and to you, Pauline. Congratulations," Rev. Hansley announced.



The Rev. David Charles Hansley presents a plaque honoring Julian Gaskill to his wife, Pauline Gaskill, and his son, Julian Wayne Gaskill.

PRESENTATION OF WALL OF HONOR PLAQUE

The Rev. David Charles Hansley, general administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, called Julian Wayne Gaskill and Pauline Gaskill to come forward to accept the plaque honoring Julian Gaskill, father to Julian Wayne and husband to Pauline. "I came to this church one Sunday and I remember Julian Gaskill teaching the lesson. He taught here at Sea Level for at least 20 years. I remember him. Today it is a privilege to share what we have put together at our Free Will Baptist Headquarters. We have a large Wall

SERMON: WHAT KIND OF IMAGE ARE YOU PORTRAYING

"What a privilege to be at Sea Level," began the Rev. David Charles Hansley, guest speaker for the Emmaus Day Fellowship Sunday. "God bless you. I am glad to see Brother Clifton Styron and the Cedar Island folks here. This is mosquito country. When I walked in here, I thought the mosquitoes were using my head for a landing strip," he said with a laugh.

"I want to speak to you about our image. Let me ask you a question. What kind of image are you portraying? The image we portray

real. Years ago I went to Wilmington to fish. I stood on a pier, I don't know how long, but the bait certainly had been on the line a long time. A gentleman came over to me on that pier and asked, 'Are you a preacher?' I said, 'Yes.' The man said, 'I've been watching you for some time. Anybody who could stand there that long, not catch a fish, and not curse, must be a preacher.' Then he said to me, 'See that lady at the end of the pier in the wheelchair. That's my wife. Will you have prayer with her?' I went to the lady in the wheelchair and we had prayer. People gathered from other parts of the pier to join in the prayer.

"Whatever we are, whatever we do, we portray an image. On the road to Emmaus, the two men recognized the stranger as the Lord. What kind of image are you portraying as a people? What kind of image are you portraying in the workplace?" he asked.

"Let us look at Genesis 1:26-27:"
And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

"Man is the image and glory of

God," Paul said. "The gospel of Christ is the light and image of God. Christ Jesus, the Son of God, is the image of an invisible God," he noted.

"Wherever you go, whatever you do, people see you. Can they see Christ? Can you declare without reservation that you are Christ's disciple? What kind of church is Sea Level? What kind of church is Cedar Island? Are you a loving church? Are you a friendly church? Are you a caring church? Are you a church that really understands Jesus Christ?" he asked.

"As we break bread together, here is Jesus again. He is not dead. He is alive. What kind of image are you portraying?"

"There are five things to consider about image," explained Rev. Hansley. "First, we must confess. We are born sinners, but we are saved by the grace of God. We need to confess our sins and to let God know that He is King. This celebration Emmaus Sunday, let us confess and proclaim Christ is King of kings."

"Second, let us commit ourselves like never before. Let us commit ourselves to Christ at work, at play, at whatever we decide to do.

"Third, let us put our lives under God's control. The power is the resurrection within us. Are we controlled by God?"

"Fourth, let us really care about one



Dr. W. Burkette Raper (left) greets Free Will Baptists from Cedar Island and Sea Level.

another. Does the church really care today? If the church were really caring like it ought to be, there would be no use for civic clubs."

"Fifth, choose you this day whom you really serve. Is Jesus your King of kings? Behold, I became a new creature in Jesus. Then I understand as I never understood before," he stressed.

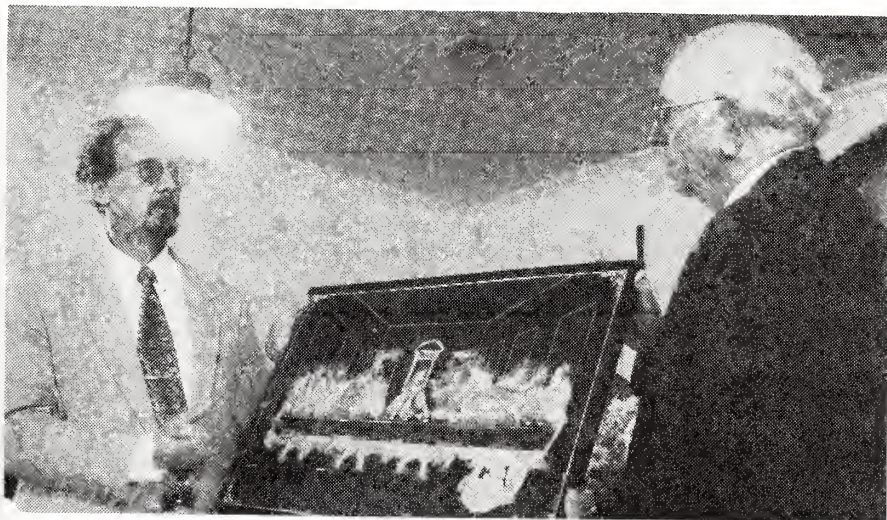
"Behold," he concluded, "the image you are portraying, be it good or be it bad, you have an image."

BENEDICTION

Dr. W. Burkette Raper, Vice President of Planned Giving at Mount Olive College, came forward, spoke of Sea Level as the church where his father's family had roots, acknowledged Tilman Taylor's family and their work with Mount Olive College, blessed the food about to be served in the Fellowship Hall, and thanked God for His abiding love.

EMMAUS FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Lorraine and Duncan Wade prepared the baked chicken, ham, string beans, and vegetables. Cakes of all varieties were on the dessert table. Prizes were drawn and given to everyone. The hope of the Emmaus Fellowship Day came true: Christians broke bread together and Christ was present.



The Rev. Michael Warning (left) presents a gift of a mother-of-pearl rendition of "The Last Supper" to the Rev. David Charles Hansley for the Original Free Will Baptist Headquarters.

Layman's League

An Open Letter to All Original Free Will Baptist Layman

Brothers in Christ:

In order to promote fellowship and unity among the men of our denomination, a free BBQ Luncheon will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2000, at Harrell's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church near Snow Hill, NC, from 11:00-2:00 PM. We ask that you prayerfully consider attending this exciting event.

Of the 252 Free Will Baptist churches in North Carolina, 93 have a men's group known as the Layman's League, which leaves 159 churches with either no gathering of the men for fellowship, or a gathering with some other title:

Men's Fellowship	Faith Partners
Men's Brotherhood	Willing Workers
New Beginning Men's Fellowship	Men's Bible Study
Men's League	The Brotherhood
Man's Prayer Breakfast	Various Other Names

Whatever we call ourselves, we are still the laymen of the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination, and we can all come together for fellowship and for the promotion of the work of the Kingdom of God.

In an effort to bring together the 159 churches without a Layman's League along with those who do, we would like the Minister (as he is the backbone of the church) along with laymen representatives from each of our churches to attend this luncheon at Harrell's Chapel. The church is centrally located two (2) miles west of Snow Hill on HWY 58. In order to know how many to prepare for, we would like to know if your church will participate. Please send your response to either of the following:

Elmer Harrell, State FWB Layman's League President
502 E. Third Street
Snow Hill, NC 28580
Phone: (252) 747-2894

or

Harold Humbles, State FWB Layman's League Secretary
919 Tripp-Grimsley Road
Ayden, NC 28513
Phone: (252) 746-4140

Layman's League promotion luncheon form below. Please complete and return form to one of the addresses above. We hope to hear from you soon, and we trust that we will see you on September 30.

PLEASE RESPOND BY SEPTEMBER 15

Name of Church _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Pastor _____

Number who will be attending _____

See You at the Pole—A Generation Seeking God

WHEN: September 20, 2000, 7 AM

WHERE: Your school flagpole!

WHO: Students!

WHAT DO WE DO: Pray!

On September 20, 2000, at 7 AM (or the time before school your group chooses), gather at your school flagpole to pray. If your school does not have a flagpole, meet with other students and decide on a place to pray. If your group decides to meet at a different time, be certain to publicize it. That's it—whether you pray in one large group, several small groups or both!

See You at the Pole is not a demonstration but an opportunity to pray for your school, teachers, and friends, families, government, and nation, and the world. Ideas from past years—Pray that others may be reached for Christ and stand firm in their faith. Sing choruses. Read Scripture. Give testimonies. Join hands around the flagpole. Pray all together, then in groups of three to five. Pray for people to enter a relationship with Jesus Christ or restore their broken relationship with Him, for Christians to stand strong in their faith, and for God to be glorified!

The theme for this year's *See You at the Pole*, from Psalm 24:3–6, emphasizes the importance of worship and personal holiness in a generation that is seeking God.

See You at the Pole must be led by students! A pre-pole meeting of student leaders is a great idea to decide exactly how the time will be spent. Although students can freely gather for prayer before school, it is recommended that the school administration be notified about SYATP. Then, let your friends know! Create your own promotional materials.

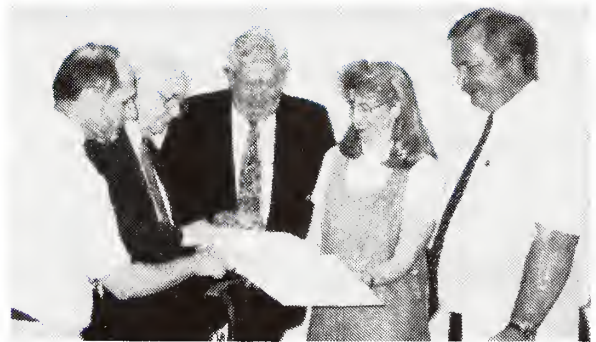
Although *See You at the Pole* is led by students, adults are encouraged to meet at courthouse flagpoles, churches, or other locations off-campus where they can support youth in prayer.

What better place to start impacting our generation than our own campuses early in the school year? Psalm 24 makes clear that genuine prayer and worship must be reflected in lives that are different from the world—choosing a pure and holy lifestyle, not chasing idols (worshipping things of the world).

Let's pray for God's power to reign on our campuses! Let's be determined to live godly lives and anticipate the awesome move of God in our generation!

Breaking Bread Together Receives Braille Bible from the Wilson Regional Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

At a regional seminar "Breaking Bread Together—Enriching Lives Together" on May 19, 2000, in Greenville, NC, *Breaking BREAD Together* received two volumes of the Braille Bible from the Wilson Regional Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Presenting the Bible were Michael Cooke and Stephanie Johnson of the Regional Center. The volumes will be placed in the Regional Lending Library of *Breaking BREAD Together*, which is located in the World Headquarters of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptist in Ayden. *Breaking BREAD Together* is an ecumenical project of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists focusing on inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families in communities of faith. For more information, call (252) 746-4963.



Pictured from left to right are: Keith Letchworth, the Rev. David Hansley, Hulon Whitehead, Stephanie Johnson, and Michael Cooke.

PROJECT KIDS KARE

Many children in America are in need and will be TOUCHED FOR A LIFETIME by *Project Kids Kare*, a ministry to children through The Harvest Connection.

By participating in this unique project, you, your family, church, school, or organization will be helping to reach needy children in America.

As you prepare your boxes with school supplies, toys, and small gifts, you will be sending a message of love and concern. Children who receive your boxes will learn of the wonderful love of Jesus through you.

When a child receives a box, they will also receive literature about the Good News of Jesus Christ.

PRAY...for the child that will receive your gift box. Remember—you are participating in A Child Evangelism Project through *Project Kids Kare*.

PACKING YOUR GIFT BOX:

Box Type: Choose a shoe box, and should you like—wrap it, but be sure to wrap the lid separately. (Wrapping not required)

Filling the Box:

- A. Decide if your gift box will be for a girl or a boy.
- B. Decide the age category
 Small child (2-4)
 Child (5-9)
 Youth (10-14)
- C. Gift Ideas
 - Baby items.
 - Hygiene items: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb, brush, etc.
 - School Supplies: crayons, coloring books, pen, pencils, sharpeners, and writing pads.
 - Toys (Please—no war-related toys).
 - Extra items: T-shirt, socks, sealed hard candies and gum (no other foods and no items that may spoil, break or leak).
 - Bible, Study Bible, Children's Picture Books, or other Bible related booklets.
- D. A Note: You may choose to share a note and a photo of yourself or your family, along with your name and address.

E. **IMPORTANT:** Please enclose \$5 or more in the envelope provided and place inside your gift box for shipping and other costs. (Note: Gifts are tax deductible) *Make checks payable to: THE HARVEST CONNECTION for: Project Kids Kare.*

F. For Shipping: Please place a rubber band around your gift box and lid.

G. For collection or delivery of your Gift Boxes, call (252) 746-8913, or write:

THE HARVEST CONNECTION
 PO BOX 39/811 N. LEE STREET
 AYDEN, NC 28513



THE HARVEST CONNECTION is a ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism of Original Free Will Baptists

FOR MORE INFORMATION or to receive brochures on Project Kids Kare, contact Home Missions and Evangelism at 252-746-4963.



PROJECT KIDS KARE

On December 13, 1999, the Free Will Baptist Home Missions Board displayed their acts of kindness and love when they hosted a Shoe Box Christmas at Chinquapin, NC.

The special event was targeted toward the Hispanic community. As many of you may already know Chinquapin was one of the hardest hit areas with flooding from Hurricane Floyd. A lot of the residents lost their homes, never to be able to return, and some are still in the process of rebuilding. Along with losing a home, a lot of families lost jobs.

Chinquapin has a growing population of Hispanics. They, too, were not exempt from the devastation and heartache associated with the flooding. Since a lot of them depend on agricultural related jobs, they are bearing an economic crises as well.

The event was geared toward sharing the message of God's love and how we should respond to the needs of others. If we are to effectively serve God, we have to put away our selfish desires and act accordingly to the way Jesus did.

A short devotion was led by Danny Brown. A message from the Project Kids Kare coordinator for Home Missions was then given by Mr. Graham Lane. Each child received a shoe box filled with gifts. Parents received the Jesus Video. Refreshments were then enjoyed by all. Throughout the night, Phillip Shufard did an excellent job of interpreting for the Hispanic people.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone who took part in any way to make this event happen; but most of all to thank God, for without Him none of this would have been possible.



Kids Kare boxes ready to go

Project Kids Kare helping H'mong children



UPDATE: Mooresville Work

by Missionary Wayne Watson

Greetings in the name of our wonderful Lord. It is exciting to know and serve Him as your home missionary. Let me share with you how God is blessing His work.

The first Sunday in May we began a new mission cell group. We met at the Wingate Inn conference room. Because of limited parking and having to move items weekly, we prayed for a more suitable location. God heard our prayer and Mr. Carol Neill, owner of Neill's Funeral Home, agreed to let us use the chapel, rent free.

The chapel is located in a residential area of Mooresville. We immediately began to work in the community with visitation teams distributing literature. One of the first families we met committed their lives to the Lord at their home. They came to the service the next Sunday and are now coming faithfully. Two other ladies we met during visitation have been attending regularly.

We are growing as we pray for, care for, and share the gospel with people in our community. Please continue to pray that we would have God's guidance in building His church. We have many opportunities to Touch Lives for a Lifetime.

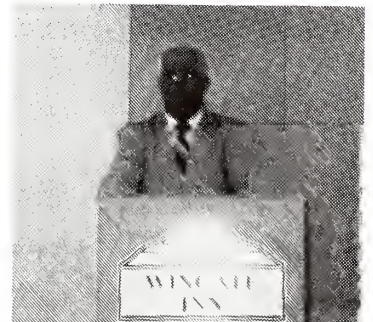
If you or a group from your church or conference would like to help in reaching the Mooresville area house by house, street by street, or block by block, please contact: Home Missions and Evangelism at 252-746-4963.

EXPERIENCE MISSIONS ON THE HOME FRONT



Mooresville Mission Cell May 2000

Home Missionary Wayne Watson Mooresville, NC



Home Missions and Evangelism is People Praying, Caring, and Sharing in



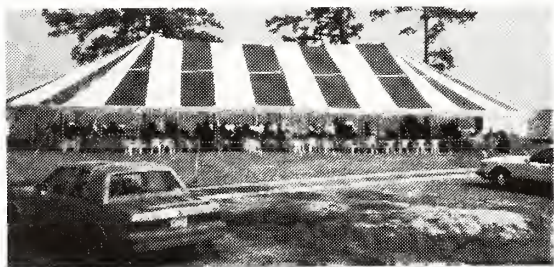
Literature Distribution—Youth involved in Evangelism in their community.



Raul Domiguez Cruz, Mexican layman, coordinates Evangelism Teams to Hispanic community.



People helping people —Hillside OFWB Church, Grifton, NC.



Mobile Ministry—Singing By the River Tent at Camp Vandemere 1999.



Rev. Fred Baker made the Lighthouse that was used at the 1999 Convention as well as Lighthouse workshops.



Home Missions Ministry/Work Team shared the Celebrate Jesus 2000 and Lighthouse Ministry with Lao Evangelical Church leaders in Sacramento, CA.



Supervised Roof Project in Fresno, CA—Left to Right: Ulyssis Mouna, H'mong Contractor and member of Fresno LEC, and Rev. Lewis Forsythe, pastor of Stony Hill FWB Church, member of Home Mission Board.



Covenant Mission Church, Hope Mills, NC, Spring 2000.



Rev. Kitti Rojratanakiat and his wife Betty with Al Markuson at the Cambodian Mission Church in Moreno Valley, CA.



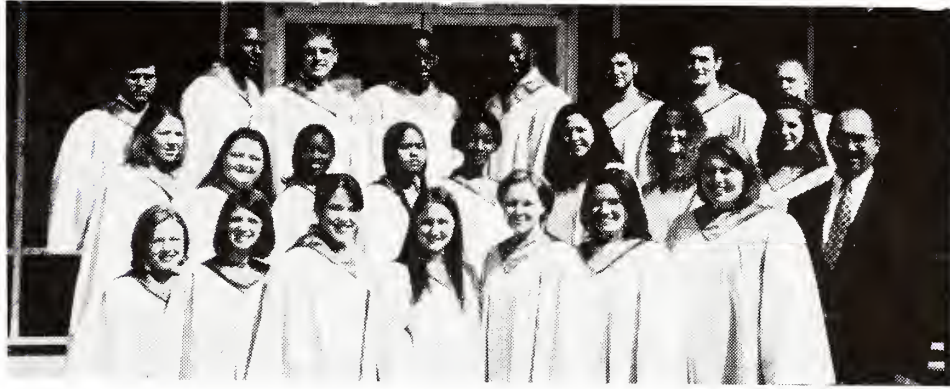
H'mong Youth, California.

Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner

Mount Olive College

Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

Saturday, September 30, 2000 at 6:00 PM



The Mount Olive College Concert Choir

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir and Free Spirit, a vocal ensemble, will provide a thirty-minute program of traditional and contemporary sacred selections. This concert is presented as a gesture of the college's gratitude to Free Will Baptists for their continued support. In seeing these young men and women, we hope that you will better understand the ministry of the college and feel that the college's service to young men and women is worthy of the church's continued support.

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir provides fall and spring concerts. The Concert Choir and Free Spirit ministers to churches in the region as part of their musical ministry. Dr. Alan Armstrong, Professor of Music, is the Choir Director.

While this event honors the 1,824 Bridge Builders from the 1999 church dinners, all friends of the college are invited. Bridge Builders, those who make an unrestricted gift of \$100 or more at their county dinners, have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Mount Olive College.

REPLY FORM

(Please return by Tuesday, September 26, 2000)

_____ Yes, I plan to attend the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, September 30, 2000.

_____ There will be _____ in my party attending.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number (Including Area Code) _____ Church _____

Please mail to: Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365; phone, (919) 658-2502, or 1-800-653-0854

(All Friends of Mount Olive College Are Invited)

SEPTEMBER

Pro
—
—
Th
—
—

SUN	MON	TUE	
27	28	29	30
3	4 Labor Day	5	6
10	11	12 Night of Evangelism Children's Home 7:30 PM <i>Convention of Original Free</i>	13 Sunday S Murph M COLL
17	18	19	20
24	25	26	27

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PR

erns _____

member _____

	THU	FRI	SAT
	31	1	2
	7	8	9
l Banquet :45 PM LY 30 PM aptists — <i>Mount Olive College</i>	14	15	16 Power Surge 2000 Mount Olive College 2:00 PM
	21	22	23
	28	29	30 Layman's League Promotion Lunch Harrell's Chapel, Snow Hill 11:00-2:00 PM

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

Mount Olive College Holds Freshman Advising Days

Mount Olive College recently held a freshman advising day. Incoming freshmen registered for fall classes, met their advisors, and got acquainted with their new Mount Olive College family. Students and parents enjoyed a day of information sessions, campus tours, and much more.



Freshman Advising Days are a good time for incoming students and their parents to visit and become familiar with the college. L to R: Candice Boyles, Horton Road Church, Durham County; LeAnne Markuson, Cross Ridge Church, Cumberland County; Kathy Markuson, Cross Ridge Church, Cumberland County; and Dianne Riley, director of alumni relations at Mount Olive College.

*Friends and Alumni
are invited to
a retirement banquet in
honor of*

*Dr. James A. Coats,
Vice President for
Finance-Treasurer,
for twenty-five years
of service*

to

*Mount Olive College
(1975-2000)*

Friday, October 20, 2000

7:00 PM

*Lois K. Murphy
Regional Center
Mount Olive College*

The cost of the buffet meal
and gift will be \$12.50.
Reservations required by
October 6, 2000.

Contact Lisa Copeland
Mount Olive College
634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-2502 ext. 3144

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Volleyball team will play Barton College on Tuesday, September 5 at 6:30 PM., Lees-McRae College on Friday, September 8 at 7 PM, and Pfeiffer University on Saturday, September 9 at 2 PM in College Hall at Mount Olive. For more information, contact Benny Benton, director of Sports Information, at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3079.

Men's Soccer will play against St. Andrews College on Thursday, September 7 at 4 PM, Pfeiffer University on Monday, September 18 at 4 PM, and Erskine College on Saturday, September 23 at 4 PM on the soccer field at Mount Olive. For more information, contact Benny Benton, director of Sports Information, at (919) 658-2505 ext. 3079.

Women's Soccer will play Converse College on Saturday, September 16 at 4 PM, Pfeiffer University on Monday, September 18 at 2 PM, Erskine College on Saturday, September 23 at 2 PM, and Queens College on Saturday, September 30 at 2 PM on the soccer field at Mount Olive. For more information, contact Benny Benton, director of Sports Information, at (919) 658-2505 ext. 3079.

Mount Olive College's Alumni Relations Needs Your Help!

Dianne Riley, director of alumni relations, needs your help! Addresses of alumni have changed over the years because they have moved, gotten married, or simply because of the emergency response improvements from routes to streets.

Please help our alumni office find the correct addresses of former students. The alumni office is also excited to hear about former students who receive awards and honors and accomplish great things. If you know of alumni who deserve congratulations and recognition, please let the office of alumni relations know! Please send addresses, updates, and/or accomplishments to Dianne B. Riley, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365.

SENIORS

Tim Woodard, director of admissions at Mount Olive College, will be visiting high schools across the state, beginning in September, to share exciting information about what Mount Olive College has to offer. Tim, a 1987 graduate of the college, will be available to answer questions, tell about upcoming visitation days, and provide information about financial aid.

Tim, a member of Rains Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church, Johnston County, invites everyone to come by and visit with him while he is at your high school. For more information or to find out when he will be at your high school, contact Tim Woodard at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3010 or at twoodard@exchange.moc.edu.

Air Force Concert Band to Perform at Mount Olive College

The Air Force Concert Band will perform at Mount Olive College on Sunday, October 15, 2000, at 3 PM in College Hall. Tickets are free and will become available on Monday, September 18, 2000 at the Goldsboro News-Argus or Mount Olive College. For more information, contact Winkie Lee at (919) 778-2211.

****ANNOUNCING****

AN OPEN FORUM (Your Questions Answered)

Beginning in the October issue of *The Free Will Baptist—A Question and Answer Column*.

Send us your questions and we will provide the answers. Questions may pertain to our denominational ministries, doctrines, or questions pertaining to the Bible.

Send questions to
The Editor
The Free Will Baptist
PO Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513

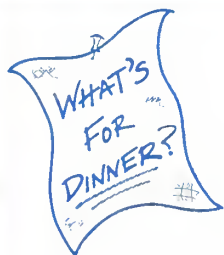
You may now visit us at
our website:
www.fwbpress.com

IMMEDIATE OPENING

Graphic Designer/Typesetter
Preferred Knowledge of
Mac Computer
PageMaker and
Photoshop Software Programs
Job Duties include
layout and design
of publications for printing.

Send resumes or inquiries to:
Cliff Gray, *Executive Director*
PO Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513
or

Phone (252) 746-6128 (ext. 232)



Enjoy Sunday lunch
with your Mount
Olive College family!

Sunday lunch is served from 11:30 AM until 2 PM and is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children 11 years old and under. Everyone is invited!

Annual Convention Mission Rally

7:30 PM

September 13, 2000

College Hall, Mount Olive College



Lydia, Tezdjan and Willem

Special guests from Bulgaria are Willem and Lydia van der Plas and Tezdjan Murtazova. This will be a service you will not want to miss. There will be special music and first-hand information about our work in Bulgaria. Tezdjan will be in North Carolina for about three weeks and Willem and Lydia will be here for the months of September and October. This will limit their visits to churches, so we encourage everyone to attend the Rally and show your love and support for our missionaries in Bulgaria.

Remember your special offering for Foreign Missions at the Rally. We need an exceptionally good offering this year to make up for the drop in funding!

NOTE: Willem and Lydia van der Plas have a few open dates for night services. Contact Harold Jones, Foreign Missions Office at 252-746-4963, if you would like for them to visit your church while they are in North Carolina.

SHORT-TERM TEAM OPPORTUNITIES 2001

Now is the time to pray and seek God's will concerning Short-Term Team mission service next year. We need to hear from you by September 30, 2000. This early date is necessary for planning and booking.

TEAM DATES 2001:

Philippines	April 21-May 6	(12 member team — 18 years old and up)
Mexico	*June 16-24	(30 member team — 13 years old and up)
	*July 14-22	(30 member team — 13 years old and up)
	August 4-12	(12 member team — 18 years old and up)
Bulgaria	September 22-October 4	(12 member team — 18 years old and up)

Ministry opportunities: building project, VBS, skits, puppets, Bible studies, Christian fiesta, camping and many others. A life-changing experience awaits you! Do not miss this great opportunity!

ACT NOW TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THE TEAM.

For more information, contact the Board of Foreign Missions at (252) 746-4963.

**We are changing the dates for the June and July Short-Term Teams to Mexico for 2001 so those joining the team will only have to take one week off from work. We will not spend a night in San Antonio, but go directly to Mexico on Saturday, attend church services there on Sunday. The team will work from Monday through Friday, return to Piedras Negras on Saturday and return home on Sunday. (The August Team will remain the same.)

Ordinations for Nepal and Bihar State in India

by Dr. E. M. Lall

It was a great time, Sunday, July 2, 2000, that our ministers-designate came to Bareilly for ordination from Malakheti (Nepal), Mosaboni circuit Bihar and Jamshedpur City, Bihar. They reached here on June 28, and were accommodated and fed in our office because we lacked the place to accommodate the people. Therefore, our office remained closed for five days, June 29–July 4, 2000.

These ministers were examined by the Board of Ordination. Finding them spiritually and physically fit, we recommend them for ordination. In the midst of the worship service, these three were solemnly ordained, duly assisted by the Rev. A. G. Joseph, pastor of English Service, the Rev. Vijay Massey, pastor in charge, Central Church, and the Rev. Vijay Dutt, our Evangelist. They were presented the Bibles. Our English church congregation gave them some valuable gifts.

The work of our church denomination is largely increasing throughout the length and breadth of India and Nepal. We fervently pray that the doors for Christian evangelism may remain open to further the Kingdom of our Lord.

Orchestra or Concert

The Bareilly local congregation of our church, comprised of Sunday school children, youth and some elderly people, organized a good music program in honor of the guests on Monday, July 3, 2000. Dinner was also arranged.

Mrs. S. Saire had presented a report of the Children's Home at Jamshedpur, which is sponsored by our Board of Foreign Missions. It was good and encouraging. The renovation of Children's Home has already started, though slow owing to the rainy season.

A church building is now needed in the urban model city of Jamshedpur. There is already a good piece of land in the Orphanage campus. An estimate for the construction of a church building is being sent to our Director-Treasurer, the Rev. Harold Jones. Another need prevails for a motorcycle for Mosaboni rural circuit which is vast around forests with black elephants roaming all the time. This quotation is also being sent.



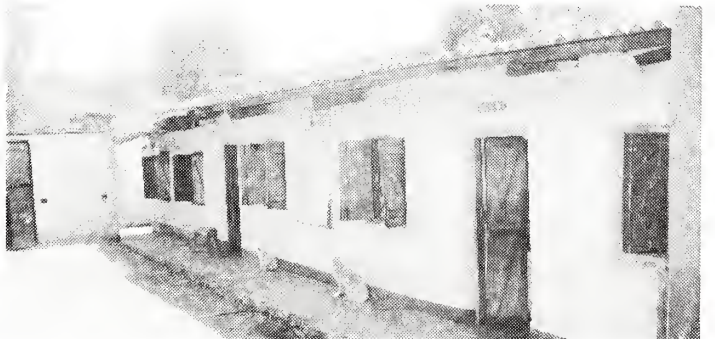
L to R: (1) Rev. Shyam Siuou Kaini, Nepal; (2) Rev. Ruben Das, Bihar; (3) Rev. Deepak Saire, Bihar.



Sunday School children singing during the music program.



Mrs. Saire and family in Bareilly (Dr. E. M. Lall in the center).



Renovation is underway on the orphanage in Jamshedpur.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH TAMBULIG ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, PHILIPPINES

by Pastor and Mrs. Jerry Balambao



*Children's Praise and Worship Service
by Mrs. Helen Balambao.*



Mid -Week Service.



Candidates for Baptism (Young People).



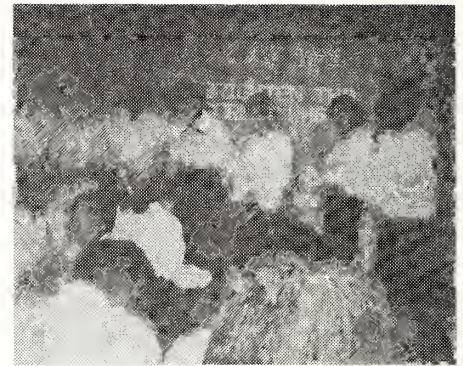
*The last Sunday of each month we have
a family gathering.*



*Former Mayor Ebarle celebrates his
birthday and Pastor Jerry delivered a
message.*



Sunday School Service.



Student's Night installation of officers.



Students listening to the sermon.



*Short-term Bible training on parade
(Student's Day).*



*Ms. Badal feed the children during
Sunday school—Butuan City.*

HOMECOMING 2000 REUNION



Rod and Judy Page of Ayden (shown above with Alumni President Randy Faircloth), purchased our Auction Lighthouse painting, contributing \$300.00 to the Children's Home.



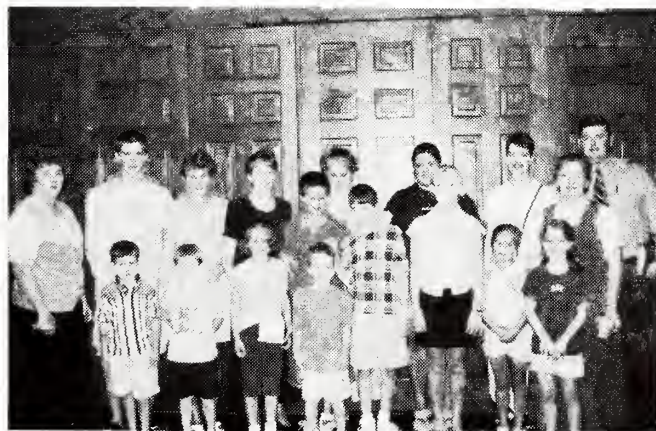
Mr. Billy Hines pausing to reflect on days past.



Dr. Bobby Taylor and alumni share memories from the past.



Alumni that made up the Children's Home Concert Class from years past, joined together to sing again.



The youth group of Friendship Free Will Baptist Church, Farmville, NC, brought donations and toured State Cottage on June 28.



Oak Grove Free Will Baptist of Newton Grove visited the Children's Home on July 30 bringing supplies and smiles. They ended their visit with a tour of Rodgers Cottage. A special thanks to the youth of their Vacation Bible School for their generous donation.



*Mrs. Jean Stringfield
CSW of Rodgers Cottage*

FROM A CHILDREN'S SERVICE WORKER'S VIEW

One of the greatest challenges of working with children is earning their trust and respect. I was truly blessed to have earned both within my first three months on the job. This profession takes commitment, dedication, perseverance, an open mind, and a sense of humor. In working with the children, I concentrate on their attitudes, helping them to find alternative ways to release their anger (writing, drawing, painting, etc.) and developing a line of communication between each resident. This is a day-to-day effort. As a CSW, it is most important that you be attuned to each child, provide a structured and loving environment, and encourage each child daily. Childhood has everything to do with discovery. Each day children make new and important discoveries about themselves and the world. I must make those experiences as enriching as possible. I am a firm believer that your attitude keeps you young. Some of my favorite times are during the Christmas holidays. The children are so excited and I love shopping for them, using the list they have provided. They look forward to that time of year. My other favorite is weekend outings. I especially enjoy participating and hearing the laughter these events create. Any time spent with a child is always rewarding.

When I am not working, I spend my time off at home in Dudley, NC, with my husband James, three daughters, three grandchildren, and my mother. Family is very important to me. I contribute my strength and happiness first to God. My strong faith is the source of my inner peace and strength. Prayer is a constant companion in my life. It keeps me connected to the Creator and in touch with the fact that I am never alone. In working with the children at Free Will Baptist Children's Home, it is my desire that I touch each life in a loving, caring, and positive way.



Members of St. Mary's Free Will Baptist of New Bern visited the residents of the Children's Home on August 4, bringing much needed items for our cottages. These items were collected by the youth of St. Mary's. Thank you for being a part of our Home.

CAMPUS ITEMS IN NEED

- ♥ Paper Products
- ♥ Personal Care Items
- ♥ Encyclopedias (CD Roms)
- ♥ Computers for Cottages
(est. cost \$5000)
- ♥ Carpet Cleaning Machine
- ♥ Golf Cart
- ♥ Appliances
- ♥ Vacuum Cleaner
- ♥ 4 Cameras for Cottage
- ♥ 8 quart, 10 quart, 12 quart
stock pots
- ♥ Slotted 1/2 cup serving
spoons
- ♥ Smooth 1/2 cup serving
spoons
- ♥ Twin size Sheets
- ♥ Twin size Blankets
- ♥ Dish Towels
- ♥ Bath Towels
- ♥ Wash Cloths
- ♥ Pot Holders
- ♥ Serving Bowls
- ♥ Storage Containers
- ♥ Blow Dryers
- ♥ Shower Curtains
- ♥ Standard Size Pillows
- ♥ Bath Mats
- ♥ 24 Square Clothes Hampers
- ♥ School Supplies



Workshop Training for Staff

POSITION AVAILABLE

The Maintenance Department of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home seeks help with general duties. The ideal candidate must have a High School diploma, mechanical skills, valid driver's license, and at least two years working experience. Salary commensurate with experience. Full benefits. Drug test and Criminal check required. Interested candidates should contact the Director of Physical Affairs at 252-235-2161.

**(ADP) KICK-OFF
ADOLESCENT
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM**

On July 31, 2000, the staff and residents celebrated our new Adolescent Development Program with a pig pickin' at Heritage Hall. ADP began August 14. This program involved "hands-on" participation, role playing, and discussion on Aspects of Daily Living, Physical Development, Emotional Well-Being, Relationships, and Maintaining Relationships.



Mr. Gary Lee, Vice President helps to prepare pig.



Dr. Bobby Taylor (left) with residents.

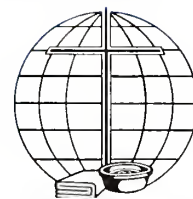
A SPECIAL THANKS

To the
Ladies Auxiliary
of
New Sandy Hill
Free Will Baptist
Bailey, NC
who treated our
residents to homemade
desserts and
"goody bags"
on August 1
in Heritage Hall.

*Thanks
Ladies!*

People & Events

Happenings Throughout the Denomination



CHURCHES & MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

Cabin Original Free Will Baptist Church, Beulaville, NC, (due to the resignation of their present pastor effective mid-October), is seeking a full-time minister. If interested please contact: Nathan Hinkle (after 6:00 PM) 2403 Sarecta Road, Pink Hill, NC, telephone, 910-298-3339.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The Rev. Carol Hansley has a change of address from 1490 Hibbs Road, to 3020 Market Street, Newport, NC 28570-0708, phone, 252-223-0943.

HOPEWELL CHURCH HAS UNIQUE MISSIONS EVENT

Submitted by June H. Wallace, Missions Chairman

As the culmination of a "Build One For Them" project, Hopewell Woman's Auxiliary recently had a unique study course on missions. It was held on a Sunday evening, and Harold Jones, our Director of Foreign Missions, was the guest speaker. He was accompanied to the event by his wife and missions partner, Sandra.

The evening's kick-off was a Filipino supper. Church members had been asked to bring their own plate, cup, and spoon, because those items are in short supply for families in the Philippines. Members lined up for an authentic Filipino meal (planned after conferring with Harold and Sandra and with Fred and Linda Baker, who lived for a number of years in the Philippines.

The menu was Pork and Chicken Adobo (a garlic-y stew) with rice, stir-fried vegetables with Pancit Noodles (obtained from an Asian market in Goldsboro), shrimp egg rolls, and a banana for dessert. We had ice water to drink, but Harold explained to us that ice would not have been

available to most households in the Philippines. Surprisingly, our Johnston County group enjoyed the food even though it was somewhat different.

Following the meal, Harold made a presentation to our group of a framed picture of the church we built in AboAbo. The picture will be displayed in our church library.

Harold then presented an interesting program on our work in the various mission fields, sharing many personal glimpses into the different projects that helped to bring them alive for us back home. After the program, we enjoyed a display table that Sandra set up with artifacts they had brought back to the states from their many trips to the Philippines.

It was an evening meal we will remember, and one that reinforced our interest in and commitment to Missions. We are tentatively planning a cultural immersion in another of our missions fields for next year.



Harold Jones presents picture of church at AboAbo to Hopewell Church. On the left is June Wallace, auxiliary Missions Chairman, and on the right is Helen Floyd, auxiliary President.

EASTERN DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

Whaley's Chapel FWB Church
Richlands, NC

September 16, 2000

Theme:

"Kept By God's Power

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:5

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

- 9:30 Registration
- 10:00 Call to Order, Judith Kennedy, Vice President
Sandy Plains Church
Prayer for Convention
Hymn 30, "All Hail the Power"
Welcome, Wanda Weyant, President, Whaley's Chapel
Response, Lucy Benson, Warsaw Church
Scripture/Prayer, Marlene Andrews, Saints Delight Church
Special Music, Whaley's Chapel Church
- 10:20 President's Remarks,
Angie Piner, Juniper Chapel Church
Business Session
Secretary's Report
Appointment of Committees
Camp Vandemere Report, Julia Ann Gaskins, St. Mary's Church
Offering, Camp Vandemere
Special Music, Whaley's Chapel Church
Report of Denominational Ministries
Memorial Service, Margaret Carol Banks,

cont....

- 11:10 Friendship Church
Hymn 553, "He Hideth My Soul"
Worship Service, Robyn Quintas, Mt. Zion Church
Hymn 176, "Power In The Blood"
- 12:05 Miscellaneous Business
Treasurer's Report
Committee Reports
- 12:30 Lunch Announcement
Benediction, the Rev. John Mark Windley,
Whaley's Chapel Church

Spring Convention, March 17, 2001

Sandy Plains Church

Pianist: Sarah France

Ushers: JoAnn Windley

Celia Weston

Wanda Taylor

Mildred Taylor

CENTRAL DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

Ormondsville OFWB Church
Ayden, NC

September 23, 2000

Theme: "The Overcomer"

Scripture: 1 John 5:5

"Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Hymn, "Lead On, O King Eternal"
Devotion: Evelyn Moore
Welcome: Susan Albritton
Response: Teresa Ball
President's Greetings: Joan Little
Recognition Time
Business
Report from Church Ministries, the Rev. David C. Hansley
- 10:30 Hymn, "O That Will Be Glory"
Offering
Offertory Prayer: Helen Beaman
Youth Report: Karen Ribeiro, Donna Ware
- 10:50 Break
- 11:00 Business
Special Music: Jenny Hobbs
Memorial Service: Lucy Copeland
- 11:50 Chorus: "Majesty"
Message: Jackie Flowers
Hymn, "Victory in Jesus"
Benediction: Helen Edwards
Blessing: Faye Tripp
Pianist: Linda Ramsey
Music Director: Leah McGlohon

WESTERN DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

Selma OFWB Church
Selma, NC

October 4, 2000

Theme: Home Missions

Scripture: Luke 10:2

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into the harvest."

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Hymn, "Jesus Saves"
Devotion: Psalm 96
Welcome: President of host church, Ruth Narron
President's Remarks: Bettie Lynch
- 9:50 Hymn, "Take The Name of Jesus With You"
Convention Offering
Denomination Ministries and Youth Report
Promotion of Woman's Auxiliary, Jean Ackiss
- 10:40 Memorial Service, Joyce Edmundson
- Business Session
- 11:00 Break
- 11:20 Hymn, "Open My Eyes That I Might See"
Home Missions Offering
Special Music
Convention Message, the Rev. Al Markuson
Benediction and Blessing of the Meal, the Rev. Frank Grubbs
- 12:30 Lunch

A MIRACLE IN THE MAKING:

by Lisa Barton

Through God's amazing grace, the Fifth Union Eastern District Youth for Christ Rally had a wonderful service on the evening of August 12, 2000. We began our monthly service at Macedonia Original Free Will Baptist Church. The Rev. Mike Scott gave the opening prayer.

We were very pleased with attendance. It had increased to approximately 60 youth coming from five Original Free Will Baptist Churches—Juniper Chapel, Macedonia, Memorial, Saint's Delight, and Spring Hope. Juniper Chapel won the attendance banner for the evening with 17 youth present. We, the officers, were proud to be a part of such a great turnout!

As we entered the business meeting, we voted to give the evening offering to the annual Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Telethon. Wade Barton from Spring Hope won the AFC Bible Sword Drill while Thomas Godley from Macedonia won the YFA Bible Sword Drill.

After the business meeting, we enjoyed the many talents from the different churches. Macedonia began with their youth choir singing two songs including "I Have Decided." Melissa Godley sang "Amazing Grace." Patricia Ratcliff sang "Joyful, Joyful" and was accompanied on piano by her sister Rachel. Spring Hope followed with their youth group singing two songs and a group of their girls singing "Circle of Friends." An all-boy quartet from Memorial sang two songs. Juniper Chapel presented its new puppet ministry team. It performed songs and skits for the first time that evening. Finally, JT Bulla from Saint's Delight ended the talent session with a beautiful solo "The Anchor Holds."

The service concluded with Jonathan Ipock from New Haven giving us an awesome sermon about the gifts that God gives us.

The next Youth for Christ Rally is scheduled for September 9 at Juniper Chapel. The Rally will begin at 7 PM. Special guests for the evening will be the talented singing group, Third Promise (formerly Echo's of God). The Youth for Christ Rally is open to anyone or any church in the Eastern Conference who wishes to attend. For more information, you may call Gail or Lisa Barton at (252) 672-5697 or the Rev. Mike Scott at (252) 244-2245.

FIRST FWB CHURCH TO CELEBRATE 100th ANNIVERSARY

First Free Will Baptist Church, Kinston, NC, will celebrate its 100th Anniversary at Homecoming Service Sunday, October 1, 2000. Sunday school is at 9:45 AM and a special worship service is at 11:00 AM. There will be a guest speaker and special music that morning. A picnic style lunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for this special day.

Records show that the people were meeting at the Courthouse in 1899. It was 1900 when they obtained property at 600 Chestnut Street for a building. The church joined the Eastern Conference and later was active in the formation of a State Woman's Auxiliary Convention, supported the orphanage at Middlesex (now the Children's Home), and other denominational ministries.

In 1942, the congregation moved to Independence Street, a church originally built by local Presbyterians in 1906 and later remodeled. In that location, the Free Will Baptist congregation held its first Vacation Bible School, sponsored the Woman's Auxiliary, added rooms to the sanctuary, erected an educational building with Sunday school rooms, a kitchen, and fellowship room. It also added a Hammond organ to the sanctuary and purchased and furnished a parsonage (which was later sold).

The church moved to its present location in 1957, a building also erected by local Presbyterians. Additions and improvements here include a baptistry, library, church offices, and air conditioning. It has sponsored Scouting programs and youth meetings, as well as Kindergarten classes. They also built a parsonage on Carey Road which has since been sold.

A Fellowship Hall, in the same architectural style as the church, was erected in 1988 with a paved parking lot. The congregation has since satisfied its debt as well as renovations to the sanctuary. Hurricane Floyd caused flood damage to the basement of the sanctuary, and a new boiler was installed in January 2000. The church also bought new song books for the sanctuary.

The church is located at 314 West Lenoir Avenue in the Mitchelltown Historic District.

A REMINDER

The deadline for submitting articles or news items for publication in "The Free Will Baptist" is the tenth of each month preceding the publication date. (Example: Articles for the October issue must be in by September 10)

POWHATAN CELEBRATES HOMECOMING AND FALL REVIVAL

Submitted by Rita O. Jones

Homecoming will be celebrated on September 17 at Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC. The speaker will be the Rev. John Harris, youth minister at Westside Free Will Baptist Church in Kinston. He received his calling at Powhatan and it will truly be a homecoming for him. Some of our denominational youth may know him from Cragmont, where he has served as a counselor in the summer. The week following will be our annual fall revival with guest speaker, the Rev. Dennis Pollock of Tee's Chapel. Come and join us during the week.

Congratulations to newly elected deacon, Bob Widhalm, who was voted in at the quarterly business meeting on July 12. We ask for your prayers for him and his wife Kay and daughter Roberta as he assumes his new responsibilities in the church. Congratulations also to the other following newly-elected officers: Joyce Carter, Treasurer; Julie Capps, Assistant Treasurer, Teresa Barbour—Finance Committee, Sandra Peedin—Director for the Christmas play.

The Woman's Auxiliary hosted a breakfast on Saturday, July 22 with guest speaker Kathy Hayes of Daniels Chapel, Wilson (Central District), presenting a program afterwards. Our members who attended "Morningstar" weekend at Cragmont had heard her speak and invited her to speak to the group. During a short mid-morning break, the Powhatan bell-choir performed a song for the group. Some of our teenagers were present and Mrs. Hayes knew several of them from her work at Cragmont. She commented on how nice it was that the Powhatan Youth received lots of mail while at summer camp for the week. Thank you to Mrs. Hayes for coming to share with us.

Roger Hill and I attended the Cape Fear Union Meeting at Vandora

Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Garner, on Saturday morning, July 29, and it was truly a blessing. I was overwhelmed by the uplifting sound of an unusual predominantly male congregation as hymns were sung. Roger presented the opening devotions and prayer. Blended Fellowship of Goldsboro joined our Union. The Rev. Lloyd Hargis brought the message on mountains in the Bible, the most important being Mt. Calvary. Thank you to Rev. Hargis who fed us spiritually and to the host church for the delicious meals which followed the benediction in the fellowship hall.

A Youth Revival was held that evening at Powhatan, preceded by a spaghetti supper. Deacon Scott Chestnut brought the message and several of the youth performed individually. Spencer Hill, son of Roger and Ginger Hill, gave an inspiring drum performance.

July 30 was Youth Sunday. Youth members assumed adult leadership roles for the morning services. North Carolina State freshman and 1999 Youth Member of the Year, Chris Bagley, brought the morning message about using your talents for the Lord. Daniel Cole, the 2000 Youth Member of the Year, was announced and recognized during the service. He is a sophomore at Campbell University and has been a life-long youth member at Powhatan. He is always eager to help out where needed and is now interested in the ministry as a career. He is the son of Allan and Beverly Price and grandson of Bunk and Alice Cole. Unfortunately, his grandmother had just been released from the hospital following a hip replacement and other complications and they could not be present for the surprise, but the service was taped so they could view it later.

Congratulations to Daniel on the honor and also to Roberta Widhalm

who was recognized as a State Youth Representative and the Cape Fear Treasurer, also Nikki Jones as the Cape Fear Youth Secretary. Dani Allen, Cape Fear Vice president, could not be present, but was recognized with a small gift as well. We are blessed to have such a wonderful group of talented youth as part of our fellowship.

In Memoriam: Alma Coltrain Jones, 87, passed away on July 14. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Remember her family during this time of loss.

WESTERN DISTRICT STUDY COURSE

*Submitted by Lottie Boykin,
Study Course Chairman*

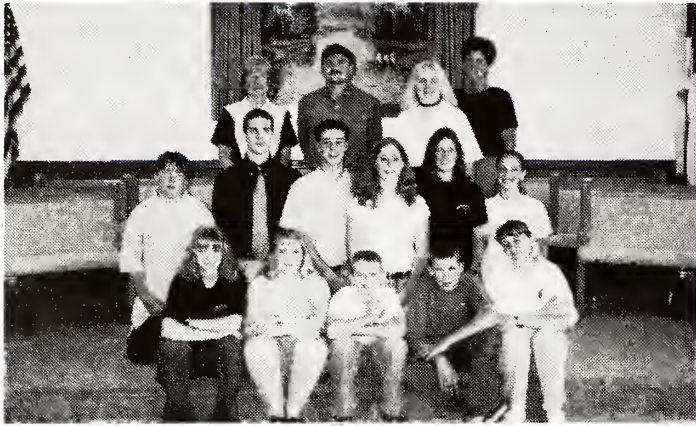
A Western District Study Course on Stewardship from the book, *Who You Are (When No One's Looking)*, will be held September 30 at 9:30 AM at Marsh Swamp Free Will Baptist Church, Sims, NC, presented by Mrs. Cathy Hayes. Cathy is from Daniels Chapel Church and a member of the faculty at James B. Hunt High School.

This will be a great opportunity for auxiliaries to reach their requirements of three study courses for this year. There will be a light lunch served by the host church following the program.

Please plan to attend and respond by September 16 with number attending from your church. You may call 252-237-2455 or write Lottie Boykin, 1702 Woodside Drive, Wilson, NC 27893.

Hope to see you there!!

INTRODUCING "ARISE"



Union Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Plymouth, NC, announces the formation of the youth group "ARISE." Their current program consists of three skits, solos, testimonies, and praise and worship songs. The skits were presented during the Albemarle District Youth Conventions over the past three years, all winning first place honors. Their first presentation outside of Union Chapel took place on June 11 at Shiloh Free Will Baptist Church.

The group would like to emphasize that they are not performers trying to entertain. The entire program is for worship, praise and adoration of the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is the prayer of all involved that everyone will be touched by the message in the program, those on stage, backstage, and those watching.

Because some of the group works, they have picked the second Sunday night of each month as "ARISE" night. If they do not have a booking for a church, they will be practicing and developing new material. If you wish to book the group, or watch a practice session, please contact Chuck Whitford (252-793-2900), or Colleen Harrison (252-793-9752).

Please pray that as they begin this ministry that they may "walk worthy in the sight of God."



RADIO MINISTRY

Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church of Goldsboro broadcasts its 11:00 AM. Worship Service live each Sunday on Radio Station WEQR 102.3 FM. The broadcast covers several counties surrounding Goldsboro. The signal can be picked up from Rocky Mount to Clinton, and from Greenville to Raleigh. The church provides this ministry particularly for shut-ins and those who must miss church due to work or travel.

Stoney Creek Church is located three miles north of Goldsboro in Highway 111 North.

The Church's address is 752 Stoney Creek Church Road, Goldsboro, NC 27534. You can telephone the church at 919-735-3916

Regular Schedule of Activities

Sunday Worship Services—8:45 AM, 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Sunday School—9:45 AM

Tuesday Prayer and Bible Study—10:00 AM

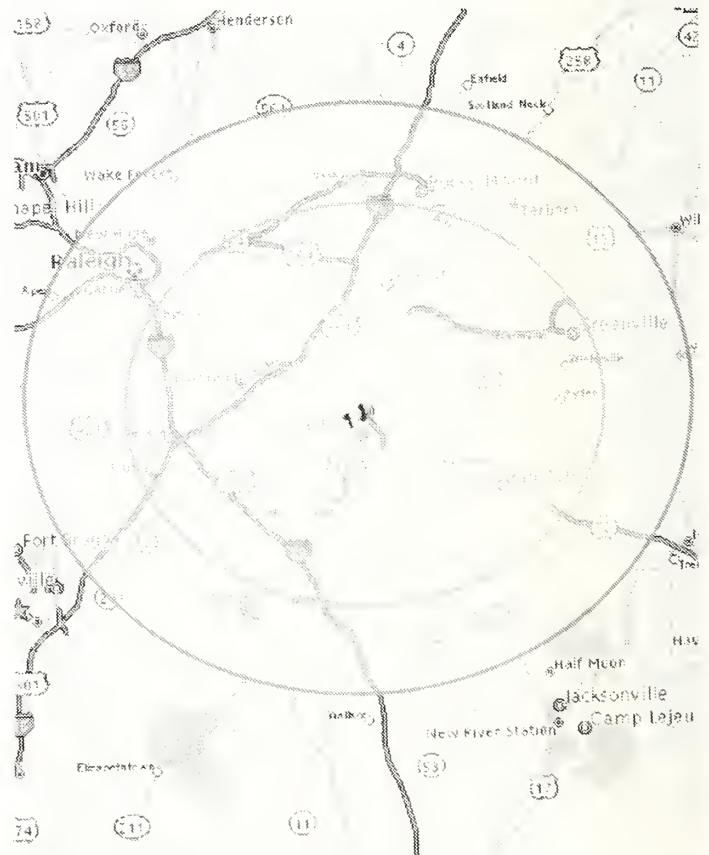
Wednesday night Bible study and

Youth Programs—7:30 PM

Gary M. Bailey, Pastor

Richard A. Glosson, Associate Pastor

R. Wes Boyd, Youth Director



Sunday School Charms

Hints and Ideas for Sunday School Growth



ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP BANQUET

The fall of the year is fast approaching and time for the annual Fall Leadership Banquet for pastors, Sunday School Superintendents and other leaders in Christian education is at hand. The Sunday School Ministry will hold its banquet on Wednesday night, September 13, 2000, at 5:45 PM-7:00 PM. It will be held in the combined President and Hennessee Rooms in Lois K. Murphy Center at Mount Olive College. This will allow ample time for you to attend the banquet and get to the Mission Rally in College Hall at 7:30 PM. The banquet is being held at this time to give those leaders an opportunity to support their Sunday schools at the time of the Convention rather than having an extra meeting. The cost of the meal will be \$10 per person which is payable before or at the banquet. In order to have a fairly accurate count of people for the meal since space will be limited, it would be desirable to send your reservation ahead of time. To make your reservation, please send the fee to Mrs. Mary Dudley, OFWB Sunday School Board, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. Make your checks payable to the **OFWB Sunday School Board**. Please indicate your name and church as well as the number attending the banquet.

Your reservation(s) should be returned to Mrs. Dudley by September 10, 2000. Thanks again for all your support for the work of the Sunday School Ministry. Let's all join together and "rake" in the good ideas from each other. A special program is being planned for the occasion.

CHRISTIAN ART REVIEWS

by Michael G. Warning,

Pastor Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Sea Level, NC



Rev. Michael G. Warning

Source: Christian Andreas Schleisner, *Christ and the Samaritan Woman at the Well*. (Danish 1810–1882). From Valgmenigheds Church, Denmark. In Richard Mühlberger, *The Bible in Art: The New Testament*. New York: Portland House, 1990, p. 79.

Introduction

There is often the feeling that life is too hurried to have a real and thoughtful encounter with Jesus the Christ in our everyday activities. This is precisely where the comfort and blessing of God's power needs to be. In this 19th-century Dutch painting by Christian Andreas Schleisner (1810–1882), we see the encounter with Jesus from the eyes of the Samaritan woman.

Artistic Style

This very romantic painting from the Valgmenigheds Church in Denmark has a clearly organized composition. For example, notice that the eye is immediately drawn to the bright red robe of Jesus, then to the face of Jesus with a misty halo around the top of his head. The position of the head of Jesus lures the eye directly upon the woman standing at the well. Her red sash mimics the red robe of Jesus. She cradles in the crook of her arm a long-necked water jug for she has come all the way from the city which is seen in the background and placed in the notch of the two mountains. She has come to visit Jacob's Well for water.

This painting is of the romantic period in art and has these traits: (1) the scene appears staged and idealized, (2) there is the wonderful, dramatic mist that provides visual graying in the distant scene, (3) the scene appears bigger than life, (4) the romantic style also emphasizes symbolic material in the painting, (5) what is important in romanticism is the positive Biblical story.

Symbolism

The Gospel of John 4:10–14 provides ample sources for symbolism. Here is a Samaritan woman who is talking to a Jew at the well of Jacob, a sacred place to both Jews and Samaritans, a place of meeting, a neutral territory, for all must have water. Everyone must have water to survive regardless of nationality.

The drawing of water from the well was a chore and needed to be done several times a day, certainly at least morning and evening for these were the coolest times of the day in a hot environment. The painting takes place in late morning, an odd time of day. Is she coming late so that no one will be there to see her or criticize her, for her life has not been exemplary.

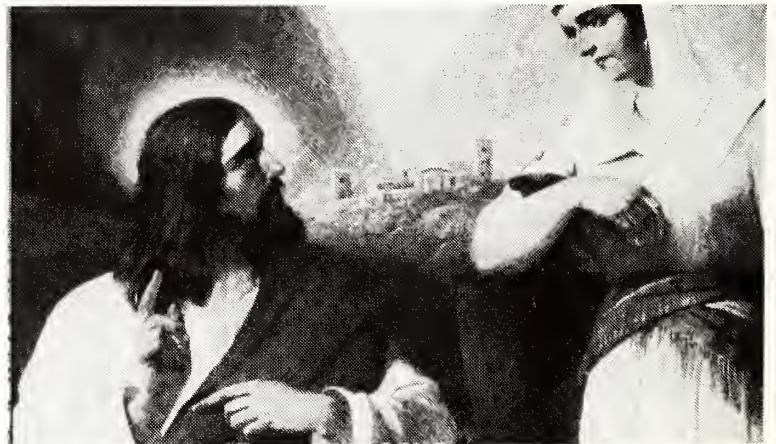
Here she draws water and is asked to give some of it away to a stranger, a Jew no less. He tells her in return He will give to her living water and she will never thirst again.

She shows rapt attention with the gesture of pulling the water jar toward her as Jesus explains to her the significance of living water, pointing to the heart and the interior life with the left hand, and with the right hand pointing to the eternal.

Conclusion

Jesus spoke directly to the Samaritan woman who is an outcast in the community. He speaks to her a cleansing message just as water cleanses.

Three things are accomplished: (1) she is renewed and the first to see Jesus as the Christ figure, (2) she believes and becomes an early missionary, (3) the enmity between race and creed is erased in this encounter where the Divine touches the heart by the power of living water.



DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

John Wesley, *The Nature of Revival*. "From Works to Faith" and "Miracles Begin." Compiled, edited, and abridged by Clare George Weakley, Jr. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1987. 19-30, 75-88.

John Wesley's Personal Experience of Faith As Outward Actions

John Wesley tells us in his writings that he was aware of "outward duties" (19) as a child. He read the Scriptures, said his prayers, and hoped to be saved by his own efforts. By the time he reached Oxford University, he still prayed but did not have "even a notion of inward holiness" (20).

At the age of twenty-two, he read Thomas á Kempis's *Christian Pattern* and later William Law's *Christian Perfection* and *Serious Call*. Wesley writes: "Although I was offended by many parts of both books, they convinced me to the exceeding height, breadth, and depth of the Law of God. His light flowed mightily

upon my soul, making everything appear in a new view" (21).

John Wesley found himself going with William Morgan to the prison, spending time there with the prisoners, praying with them. He also established what critics called "The Holy Club" at Oxford. Students also called his religious group other names: "The Godly Club," "The Enthusiasts," or "The Reforming Club" (25). John Wesley was deeply committed to an outward effort to draw closer to God. He writes: "I aimed at the image of God by doing His Will, not my own. ... All my holiness brought me no comfort or assurance of acceptance with God" (25).

John Wesley's Experience With The Moravians

When John Wesley sailed to America, he found himself on board with a group of Moravians who began to speak to him about the difference of faith from a life of outward works to a life of inner humility. Wesley trusted "in the righteousness of good works" (26) as if to establish his "own righteousness" (26).

Wesley found himself in a struggle. His own nature would not bend to the law. He writes: "I knew the law of God was spiritual. I consented to it. I delighted in it after the inner man. Yet I was carnal and in sin" (26). In short, Wesley "was still under the law, not under grace" (27).

When he returned to London, the Moravian, Peter Bohler, stressed two fruits of the Christian faith: "dominion over sin and a constant peace from a sense of forgiveness" (28).

At a meeting of a society in Aldersgate Street, someone began reading Martin Luther's comments on Romans. Wesley writes: "About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death" (30).

Wesley describes the process of his shift from an outward faith to an inner faith: "I began to pray with all my might for those who had despitefully used me and persecuted me. I then testified openly to all there what I now first felt in my heart. But it was not long before the enemy suggested, 'This cannot be faith; for where is the joy?' Then I was taught that peace and victory over sin are essential to faith in the Captain of our salvation; but as far as the transports of joy usually attending the beginning of it, especially in those who have mourned deeply, God sometimes gives and sometimes withholds them, according to the counsels of His own will" (30).

What was different for Wesley when he shifted from living under the law to living under grace? He notes: "I was striving and fighting with all my might under the law as well as under grace. But then I was sometimes, if not often, conquered. Now I was always the conqueror" (30).

John Wesley and Miracles

John Wesley began preaching all over England. He preached in prisons, at Bristol, at Newgate, to different societies from Baldwin Street to Castle Street. He taught at Weaver's Hall. He preached at a poorhouse.

At Newgate a miracle happened. Protesting prisoners were moved from agony to peace. Wesley writes: "Immediately one, then another, and another sank to the earth. They dropped on every side as if thunderstruck. One cried aloud. We besought God in her behalf and He turned her heaviness into joy. A second being in the same agony, we called upon God for her also. He spoke peace unto her soul" (83).

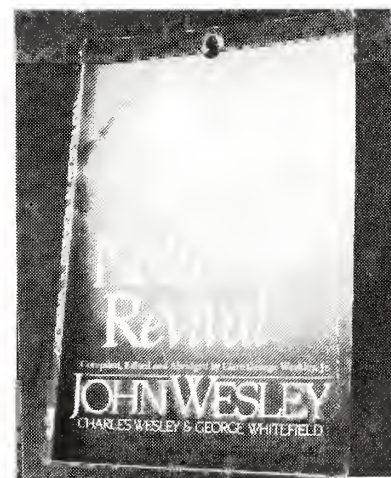
A Quaker questioned the work of the Holy Spirit in some who were moved to great emotion. Wesley writes: "A Quaker who stood by was greatly displeased at the commotion and was biting his lips and scowling angrily. Suddenly he dropped down as if thunderstruck. The agony he was in was terrible to behold. We begged God not to charge him with his folly. God answered and the man soon lifted his head and cried aloud. 'Now I know you are a prophet of the Lord!'" (85)

Conclusion

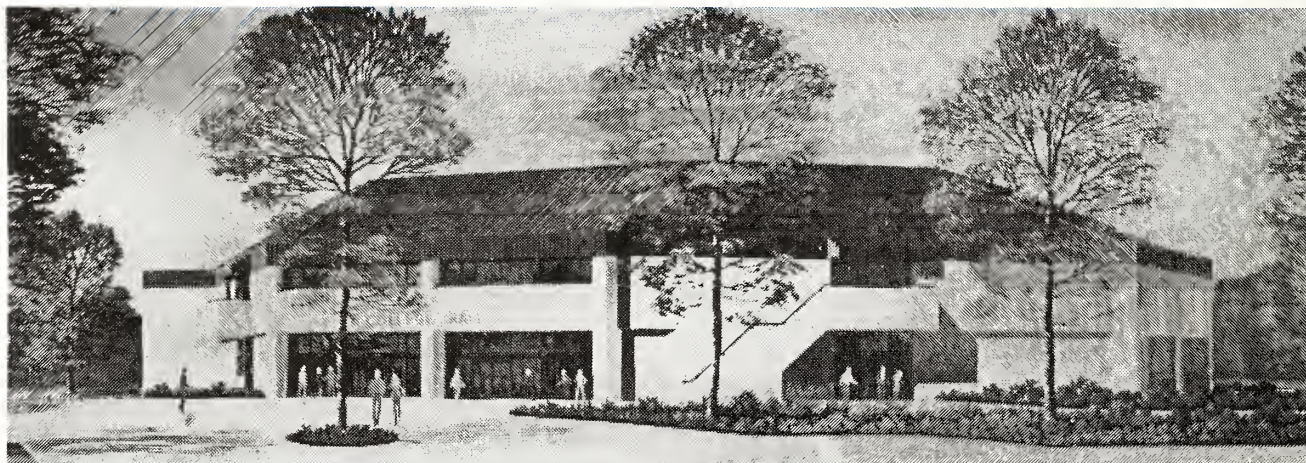
One of the largest congregations, one with "about ten thousand" (88), gathered at Rose Green to hear John Wesley. He reached out to people from all walks of life. He believed God was present, miracles were happening, faith was discovered. Of one occasion at Rose Green, Wesley tells us: "When I preached at Rose Green, God's sending lightning with the rain did not hinder fifteen hundred from staying. In the evening as I was preaching, God spoke to three whose souls were all storm and tempest, and immediately there was a great calm" (87).

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OCTOBER 2000



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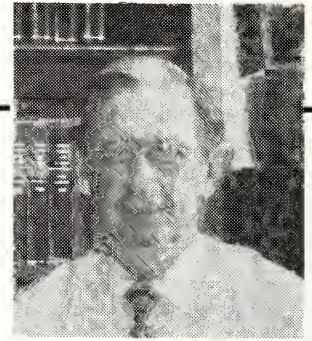
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*Scenes From
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C. H. Overman

Our Heritage: How Important?

We preserve that which is important to us, or that which may be important to someone else. Our nation, for example, has carefully preserved its historical documents. Various archives attest to our interest and concern in such preservation. We preserve family heirlooms and mementos, things that are passed down from generation to generation. (They eventually become antiques and thus more valuable with the passing years.) These are things that we can see and touch, things that remind us of the events and individuals of the past, relatives we did not personally know, but we learned of them through the family connection. These relics of the past bring to remembrance family customs and traditions that bound us together, thus giving each family its own uniqueness.

What about our denominational uniqueness? In last month's editorial we asked, "Are we preserving our heritage?" Surely we are in many ways, such as our doctrines and our basic and traditional practices. It has been said many times, "We have a goodly heritage." With this we agree, but perhaps the most important question pertaining to our heritage is, "How important is the goodly heritage to us?" How far are we willing to go in its preservation? What price are we willing to pay?

Our past as a denomination has been marked with periods of conflict, times when outside forces made inroads in our ranks and each time we have had those leaders who held their ground, defending our customs, practices, traditions, and beliefs of Free Will Baptists. In each case there were losses, but the faithful persevered and a denomination preserved its identity and heritage because there were those who earnestly contended "...for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

Let us again pose the question, "How well are we preserving our heritage?" Probably not as well as we would like to believe, but good enough to maintain, and in some cases expand, our outreach ministries in fulfillment of the command of Christ to go forth with the "good news" and to minister to the needs of others.

In past editorials, we have discussed the trend of the Christian society toward independence, coupled

with weakening denominational loyalty. These trends are becoming more evident within our beloved denomination. Some of the very principles and beliefs that we firmly stood for in the past are eroding. During my Free Will Baptist life, I have thought, taught, and fought for Free Will Baptism. Upon entering the ministry my convictions became more firmly grounded in our church and in our faith; therefore, it is difficult for me to deal with these modern-day trends. I know many of our churches by name, conference, and location. They are of special concern and interest to me. I can't imagine losing any one of them. Are we forgetting the past struggles when the courts of our land ruled that a minority in an Original Free Will Baptist Church that wished to retain their association with our customs, practices, traditions, and beliefs, were recognized as the true Original Free Will Baptist Church. Is anyone willing to stand by and support such a faithful group today if such a need should arise?

A Free Will Baptist is expected to be a Free Will Baptist, lending support and prayer to the work of our denomination. It begins with our Church Covenant: "...we agree to co-operate in the promotion of denominational institutions and enterprises, the support of the work of the local church, and the evangelization of the world." Regarding the "Objects and Duties of the Local Congregation," we read: "It is the duty of each congregation to pay into its treasury sufficient funds to support local church programs and the entire denominational program."—*The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists*.... The truth is that we have made a promise, a covenant. Such is our heritage. To digress from it is to weaken our total structure and the ministries we have called into existence and pledged to support.

Like anything we do, our determination is based on what is important to us. Will it matter ten or twenty or fifty years from now? Service to our Lord, coupled with the avenues of service through our church, will make a difference for all eternity. Are we willing to pay the price to preserve our heritage?

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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*November is
 Children's Home
 Month*

*October is
 Minister's Program
 Month*

Scenes From the Eighty-Eighth Annual Session



of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists



Footprints in the Carpet

In Memory of Jane Jackson Webster

March 9, 1951—June 18, 2000

*by Pamela Swinson Keech
Free Union OFWB Church
Pinetown, NC
Albemarle Conference*

For many years now there has been a poem entitled "Footprints in the Sand." The poem serves to remind us that just when we think our road is the most difficult to travel, God is there to walk with us or carry us along the way. As the person responsible for cleaning our church each week, I have long since realized that as people come and go from our church that they leave their footprints in the carpet much like the footprints in the sand referenced in the popular poem. Each time a person takes a step in our sanctuary there is an imprint left in the carpet marking their steps, whether they lead to a classroom, the choir, the children's pew or to the altar to present a problem to God or to offer their thanksgiving for the many blessings He has bestowed upon them.

In recent years there has been one particular family in our church that has made footprints in the carpet that have become permanent. Not in the sense that they have left stains or some other physical marks there; they have forever left a message of faith for all who enter there to remember and to acknowledge the awesome power of God.

Jane Webster was a long-time member of Free Union Church in Beaufort County. As with many churches, not only were Jane and her husband Tony members, but also her immediate family and extended family. Her children have grown up there, some have married there and now some have brought their new additions to the family there to begin the process of learning of God and

His greatness. Once Jane married into the Webster family she became related by marriage to nearly half of the church's membership. All those who come to visit or to stay for a while at Free Union have come to love Jane and her unending spirit.

About three years ago Jane became ill. It was apparent to all of us who



knew and loved her that something was not right. She never complained. Jane only thought to praise God for all of His blessings in her life, and she greeted each day during the search for the source of her illness as an opportunity to share those blessings with anyone with whom she came into contact. After some time and lots of days full of pain, Jane was diagnosed with cancer. The doctors said from the beginning that the cancer was very advanced and that they didn't know of her chances for a cure, but Jane knew. She knew that all she had to do was bring her cares to the feet of her Father and that He would supply the cure. So, the first

set of footprints was laid in the carpet as Jane and her family made a trip from their pew to the altar to cast their cares upon Him.

Some months passed and Jane once again began to feel that something was wrong with her body. And once again she began trips to the physicians to seek the source of the problem. The story was essentially the same, there was cancer in her body. The footprints in the carpet led to the altar again.

I wish I could say that the phase of treatments that followed this discovery of cancer was the end of this story, but that isn't true. It seems to be the beginning of the story. Jane was required to have most of her intestines removed due to the cancer and was the recipient of a feeding port. She found the power of God and learned to eat small amounts of food, despite the fact that the doctors told her it wasn't possible. She couldn't eat enough to sustain her and she required a special type of formula of nutrients and vitamins, a formula that cost in excess of \$400 per day. Jane's faith did not waiver. She made a path to the altar and her prayers were answered as the Jane Webster Fund was established by the church, and through the donations of those of us who love Jane and her amazing faith, found the ways and means to assure that her need for the special formula was met. Jane once again laid a set of footprints in the carpet as she thanked God for the love of her brothers and sisters in Christ.

The truth is that over the months and years that have followed since that initial diagnosis, Jane had suffered through innumerable treatments and hours upon hours of

Cont....

pain. The one steadfast factor in Jane's story is the trail of footprints in the carpet. Footprints that always led to the altar and there they transformed into the imprints of the knees of her and her family. There, the footprints found the solace of the love of God and His miraculous power to heal.

Several weeks ago Jane and her family made another trip to the altar, leaving footprints that seemed to be a little more firmly planted in the carpet. There, the entire family knelt and prayed, asking God for His blessings and for His peace. Jane had to return to the hospital for another set of scans the following morning. Jane knew the answer even as she came and asked God for His assurance. Those of us in attendance also knew the answer as we shared in the tears shed by her family. We all left footprints in the carpet at the end of service on that Sunday morning as we each extended to Jane and her family our love and appreciation of her life and her example.

The following Saturday night as I vacuumed the carpet in the sanctuary, I remembered that service. I remembered the footprints that had been there the week before when I completed the same task. As I pulled the vacuum cleaner over the aisle

leading from the pew where Jane and her family customarily sat, I remembered the tears that had been shed along the way as they had time and again made their footprints in the carpet. Tears were shed in sorrow at the discovery of yet another attack of that deadly disease on her body and tears were shed in joy each time He answered a prayer.

On June 18, 2000, Sunday school began with a phone call from one of Jane's family members letting us know that she had been taken back to the hospital. Her respiration was very low and she was unresponsive to the treatments that the doctors were administering. Less than 30 minutes later, the final phone call came. Jane had received the answer to her prayers and on this beautiful summer Sunday morning, Jane made her footprints on the pathway to Heaven. As word spread from Sunday school room to Sunday school room, a hush came over those in attendance. The sounds of those shedding tears came as muffled whispers behind the doors of the classrooms. Then, as church began, all those entering left footprints in the carpet. They left footprints that stopped and hesitated as they embraced each other along the way. They left footprints that stopped for a moment beside the altar where Jane

had last knelt and prayed. They stopped and paused as the eyes of those who made those footprints were lowered in prayer and, seemingly stopped to examine the footprints left in the carpet.

Although there has been much traffic in the church since Jane's last attendance there and the vacuum cleaner has passed over that carpet many times, it seems that Jane's footprints in the carpet remain. They will remain there forever as a shining example of God's love. They will remain there forever as we strive to remember that, just as Jane did, we should always remember to praise God for His blessings no matter what new trials we face. Those footprints will remain in the carpet forever because it is impossible to forget Jane Webster and the light of her life, her witness for God.

As Jane looks down on us from Heaven above, we know that she is now making footprints on the streets of gold. She is sharing with God the Father how much she loves Him and appreciates all that He did for her while she walked on Earth. And she is pointing out to God how we are striving to remember that all things are possible in His power if we would but make our way to the altar and leave footprints in the carpet.

The Kite String

by Elaine Swinson

It is a certainty that you cannot fly a kite without the tail or the string. Therefore, I shall begin at the "string" and the "tail" is sure to follow.

An old house temporarily converted to Geiger Free Will Baptist Mission in Jacksonville, North Carolina, marked the spot for the first seed to be sown in the crop of my future. I was seventeen and very much in love with the young man

behind the makeshift pulpit which stood in what must have been the living and dining area of the converted house.

My sweaty palms and racing heart sought only to remind me that I was still alive in spite of the shawl of fear, which seemed to envelop me. The overpowering congregation of exactly *four grown up people* did absolutely nothing to console me. My legs, too short to reach the floor, were

suspended in mid air, threatening to cut off the circulation.

Taking a deep breath, I focused my attention on the "little voice" of the speaker asking us to stand and sing a favorite hymn, of which thankfully I was familiar. He was exactly 5 feet and 2 inches tall, weighing about 105 pounds soaking wet. I sent him a trembling little smile of reassurance as he made his "solo flight," wanting

Cont....

him to know that if they decided to "eat him for dinner" he would not be alone.

As a brand new convert, I couldn't be sure if he got everything right or not, but his sermon sounded pretty good to me. I kept sneaking a peak at my watch, ready to signal him with my eyes if he got wound up and couldn't find a place to stop. I might have been young in my new relationship with God, but I knew that when you started hearing stomachs growling, it was time for the preacher to hush and sit down.

Finally, it was over and much to my surprise I found that I could actually breathe again. My pride began to sprout as *all four members* of the congregation began to

praise my sweetheart. I should have taken notice, even then, that *after* all the accolades had been given to him, they finally remembered my presence and thanked me for being so sweet and supportive. Since it is a well-known fact that love is completely blind and deaf, I was completely oblivious to the tiny space designated for the preacher's fiancé.

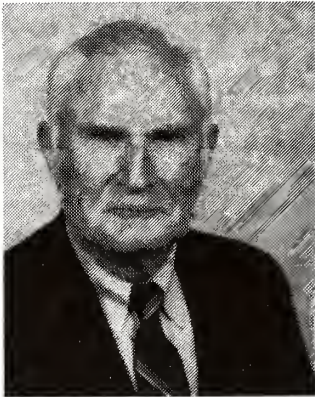
Harold and I went over his sermon a hundred times during the next days, weeks, and months, deciding that it was definitely a keeper. Although he was asked to speak on several occasions as we completed our senior year of high school, we would always look back on the day of his "first" sermon as the most memorable one of all.

Roy Cecil O'Donnell

A man who devoted his life's work to the immortal profession of teaching.

(Born March 5, 1929—Entered into rest August 1, 2000)

by W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus, Mount Olive College



Roy cherished the distinction of being known as a professor. Teaching and research on how to make teaching more effective were the hallmarks of his forty-four year career in education.

The youngest of ten children born to Irma Wilson and Daniel Jefferson O'Donnell, Roy's boyhood years were during the Great

Depression. The small family farm and gristmill in the Shoal Creek Valley of northern Alabama grudgingly yielded a livelihood to the twelve-member family that depended upon it for the bare necessities of life. Roy's parents were people with a strong work ethic and a devout Christian faith which nurtured in their children a bonding relationship that would endure throughout their lives.

Roy's love of learning was kindled early by his only sister, Ruth, who was sixteen when he was born. She taught Roy to read and write before he entered the one-room one-teacher local school. One of his boyhood memories was a visit the County Agent made to the O'Donnell home. As he was leaving, the agent put his hand on Roy's head and said to his father, "Daniel, this boy has a good head on him—be sure you educate him."

Roy's father was a life-long student of the Bible, and Roy wanted to be able to follow his father's example. Following his spiritual conversion at age fifteen, Roy initially considered a career in pastoral ministry. It was with this view in mind that following his graduation from high school, he enrolled in Free Will Baptist Bible College. Ordained in 1953, he served as a student pastor of small churches in Virginia and Alabama. As he continued his education at Auburn

University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science and Master's in Education degrees, Roy came to believe that teaching was his true vocation. He then climaxed his formal education by earning his Ph.D. degree from George Peabody College, now a unit of Vanderbilt University.

Roy's first teaching experience was at Lanette High School in Alabama while he was engaged in graduate study at Auburn. After one year at the secondary level, he began an illustrious career in higher education: teaching first at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee (1956-57); followed by Western Kentucky State College (1959-61); Mount Olive College in North Carolina (1961-64); Research Associate for the Carnegie Foundation at George Peabody College (1964-65); the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (1965-66), Florida State University at Tallahassee (1966-72); and the University of Georgia (1972-94).

The University of Georgia was not only where Roy had his final and longest tenure but where his career came to full fruition. During his twenty-two years with the University, he served fifteen years as head of the Language Education Department. Although he was an effective administrator, his first love was teaching and his relationship with students.

His commitment to the Christian faith as well as to academic excellence was an inspiration to both students and colleagues. His personal experience of God's redeeming grace made it possible for him to always say with the Apostle Paul, "I know in whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

In an autobiographical statement written during his final illness, Roy listed among the high points in his life: his marriage in 1954 to Mary Lou Raper of North Carolina; the birth of their daughter Susan in 1963; the marriage of Susan to David Prifti of Atlanta, Ga., in 1987; and the birth of two grandchildren, Jefferson in 1996 and Caroline in 1997; and the "grace of God" which has sustained him throughout his life.

The Roy C. O'Donnell Collection

Moye Library of Mount Olive College

When Dr. Roy C. O'Donnell of Athens, Georgia died on August 1, 2000, it was as if an encyclopedia of knowledge in language education, the heritage of a noble family and distinctive insights into life and the Christian faith went with him. Already, those of us who knew him best have thought of questions we would like to ask him, or we have faced decisions on which we would like his counsel. Our first response is to feel that the learning and wisdom honed from seventy years of creative experience has been taken from us.

Fortunately, however, Dr. O'Donnell was a man who understood the value and meaning of the written word. From his career as a teacher and writer, he has left us a rich reservoir of his professional and family research, published and unpublished articles, along with Sunday school lessons he taught, and addresses he delivered. In these writings, Dr. O'Donnell has marked well the road he traveled from his boyhood on the family farm of Shoal Creek Valley in northern Alabama to his long-time professorship and Chair of the Language Education Department of the University of Georgia.

These writings are now being assembled for THE ROY C. O'DONNELL COLLECTION in the library of Mount Olive College in North Carolina where he served as chair of the English Department and also as Dean and Acting President during the early 1960s. To preserve these writings and related memorabilia and to make them available to the present and future generations, his family and friends have established "The Roy C. O'Donnell Library Endowed Fund." Those who would like to make memorials may forward their tax-deductible gift to: The O'Donnell Library Fund, Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC 28365.

Camp Vandemere

Resurrection Power

by the Rev. Joe Ratcliff Jr.

Pastor of Macedonia Original Free Will Baptist Church

Director of Bible Explorer's Week

"Resurrection Power." That's about the only way you can describe what has happened over the last year at Camp Vandemere. From the devastation of last September to the restoration of this September, God has done a mighty work with our ministry.

Last year about this time things looked bleak for the Camp. With over \$100,000 in estimated damages, it didn't seem possible to have the Camp up and running by camping season 2000. But God had other plans and He called in the reserves to help bring the camp up to speed. With countless hours of volunteer help and countless selfless donations, and most important, with continued prayer, little by little God brought the Camp back to life.

We faced delays and regulations that in some ways are still plaguing us, but God has and will continue to overcome them all. He has once again demonstrated His "Resurrection Power." God is so good!

When our campers arrived this year, many probably didn't know what to expect. What they found was a better camp than they had experienced last year. New mattresses, new cafeteria equipment, a new canteen, a new pool, better grounds, a new manager's home (complete with a new manager, Mike Williams), and most important a new witness of God's sustaining grace and mercy greeted them as they entered the campus. It was a special time and no doubt every camp began as ours did with a prayer of thanks that God had brought us through the storm and made us better by the trip.

Our camp week, Bible Explorer's Week, had a record attendance this year of 72 campers. The theme was "Kids Under Construction." Following the general order of home construction we taught: proper foundations, following the blueprints, solid floors, straight walls, high ceilings, strong roofs, and proper landscaping. All of these alluded to the proper construction of a child of the King. We were blessed also to have some wonderful chapel services, highlighted by a service from a young man in my church, Wesley Taylor, who challenged the campers about being genuine in their faith. That night one young man in particular came forward and everyone who knew his situation rejoiced with him. A lot of prayers were answered that night. During the week, praise God, three campers accepted Christ as their Saviour, and 11 young people rededicated their lives to Christ. We were thankful, too, that many of our campers' parents attended our chapel services and some of them told us that they had also rededicated their lives to Christ. God really blessed us.

Camp Vandemere

Our staff was great. Tim Brinson, Michele Gaskins, Kim Hunter, Michael McKeel, Wesley Taylor, Cathy Ratcliff, and Martha Whitford all blended their talents together to bring the campers a lot of fun and a lot of good Christian witness. Our campers were super, too! I wish I could list all of them. They listened and participated (for the most part) in all of our lessons, music class, sporting events, fun times, and devotions. And even though it was extremely hot they all stayed cool, enjoying their free time in the pool or on the canoes or paddleboats!

Thanks to all of you who helped to bring about the "resurrection" of this ministry. Without you we could not have had all the blessings we received, or the new brothers and sisters in Christ that we now have through the ministry of Camp Vandemere. Most of all, "Thanks be to God!" For without Him we can do nothing. May His Resurrection power continue in all of our lives and may He continue to bring life-giving power to all who are still in the process of rebuilding from the physical, emotional, mental, financial and, most of all, spiritual storms of this life. God bless.

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

MINISTER'S PROGRAM

**OCTOBER IS
MINISTER'S PROGRAM
MONTH
and
CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY
IS**

October 8, 2000

**Here are some ideas for
you to make this a special day
for your pastor!**

- ✓ Set up a leafless tree and have the members decorate it with small gifts, or envelopes with gift certificates or money.
- ✓ Give your pastor a mini-vacation, a weekend at the coast or in the mountains.
- ✓ Receive a love offering.
- ✓ Make banners of appreciation and display them throughout the church.
- ✓ Invite a guest speaker and give your pastor the day off.
- ✓ Present your pastor with a card signed by as many of the members as possible along with a gift certificate for shoes, a suit, or a restaurant he enjoys.

What is the Minister's Program?

History

The Minister's Program is a ministry of our Convention and is governed by a board of directors elected by the Convention. When the Convention commissioned the Minister's Program during the first part of this century, it was given a mandate to help provide for the needy, retired, and infirmed minister. This was during the time of the depression and the Convention was aware that there was no such thing as a safety net for individuals who lacked the resources to provide for themselves.

The ministers of our Convention missed the safety net by a large margin. The Roosevelt Administration initiated the Social Security Act to help the elderly and poor, but ministers were specifically excluded from the benefits provided under this program. It was not until the 1950s that ministers were even allowed to participate in this government program.

At the beginning, the Program sought to provide a stipend for the retired ministers in the Convention. This was not unlike the Social Security Program which instituted a pay as you go program whereby the present working generation actually provides the benefits for those who are presently retired. The principle difference is that unlike the federal government the Convention does not have the authority to mandate contributions, and due to the lack of voluntary contributions we were unable to provide a meaningful benefit for the many deserving ministers who needed assistance. This caused us to reexamine our effectiveness and how best to provide for the ministers in the Convention.

The Future

At this point it is important to note that providing for a pastor should not be the task of a central board or governing authority. The responsibility of providing for the needs of the pastor rests squarely upon the shoulders of the local church and the Minister's Program has evolved into an extension of the local church into helping them provide what they cannot provide themselves. Providing a top flight retirement program, compensation and tax planning are just a part of what we do.

Cont....

In addition to this, we also provide hardship grants for ministers in need, and through your generosity each Christmas ministers 65 and over receive a \$100 gift from you, the churches of the Convention. Also we have supplemented the retirement benefits of all ministers who retired under the old program, many of whom have outlived their benefits but still receive a monthly gift, again this is because of your faithful support.

In the past the Minister's Program has sponsored a Tax Seminar to assist ministers and churches in adopting strategies to assist the minister in reducing his tax burden. When we started this program, many churches were not complying with basic IRS guidelines in the preparation of W-2s for their ministers. This placed some of our ministers at risk for audits and reviews. We assisted those churches and treasurers by providing information that helped bring them up to date in the simple requirements necessary for tax compliance.

This year the Minister's Program in cooperation with Larry Burkett's organization, Christian Financial Concepts, hosted a Pastor's Conference that focused on personal financial planning, along with information on church administration and the church's financial ministry. This seminar was held on the campus of Mount Olive College in February of this year.

We have tried to educate the church to the unique needs of their pastor so that together they can work out a plan that will be fair and equitable to all those concerned. When a church does not provide adequate compensation how can they expect first rate leadership? We have all heard it said that "God will provide for them" and this is true, but what we sometimes fail to see is that the local church is the conduit of this provision. **If the local church does not provide for their pastor, then who will?**

We have poured money into the buildings and physical facilities, yet we fail to achieve the growth that will assure a healthy church tomorrow. It is time to raise the standard because there is no substitute for quality leadership. When God calls the best and brightest among us to the ministry, we must show that individual that the pastorate is a viable choice in answering that call.

The Minister's Program sounded an alarm in the 1980s that the average age of our ministers was increasing due to the lack of younger men entering the pastoral ministry. This trend has yet to be reversed and we are currently facing an acute shortage of pastors in our conferences.

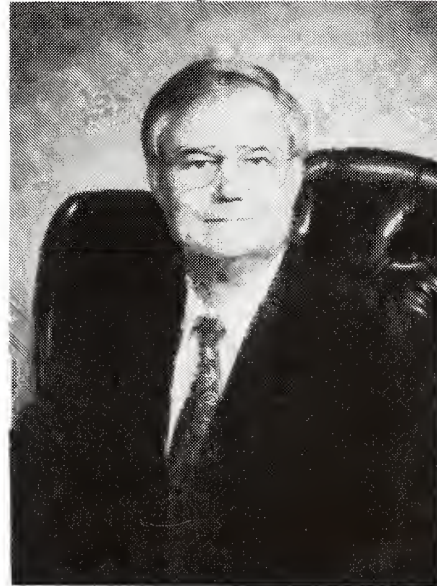
From our early beginnings this Program has evolved over the years as an educational resource helping churches and ministers as they plan together, and we will continue to serve the Convention in this capacity. Your support, through prayers and gifts, to this ministry will allow us to help you and those who God has called to serve.

October is Minister's Program Month and we would like to ask you to receive a special offering for this program and/or include this Program in your annual budget. Please consider the following challenge for your church:

Membership	Gift Challenge
Less than 100	\$150.00
100-149	300.00
150-199	400.00
Over 200	500.00

For more information please contact:
The Rev. Don Fader, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513; (252) 746-4963.

WILLIAMSON NAMED TO COLLEGE'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Bobby R. Williamson, a member of Milbournie Church in Wilson County, has been appointed to the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees.

Bobby R. Williamson has been appointed to the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees. Williamson, a member of Milbournie Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson County, is presently serving on his church's deacon board and is chairman of the church's trustee board and church building committee. He is also serving on the board of directors at Wilson Technical College and First Citizens Bank.

Williamson is president of Williamson Thermo King Dealerships, Inc., chairman of the Southeast Region Thermo King Dealer Advisory Council, and committee chairman on the National North American Dealer Advisory Council. He was named dealer of the year in 1981 and he received the "Governor's award for outstanding volunteer service for service to people with disabilities in our community" and the "Parent of the Year Award" from the Association of Retarded Citizens in 1998.

As a member of the College's Board of Trustees, Williamson is looking forward to meeting the challenges of the 21st century. "Being selected as a member of the board of trustees at Mount Olive College is an honor and a privilege," Williamson said. "The education of our citizenry in an institution founded on Christian principles is of greatest importance. I pledge to Mount Olive College, the students, and the supporters my intent to encourage and support educational opportunities to meet the changing needs of our society."

Williamson and his wife, Myrtle Evans, have two daughters and one granddaughter. They reside in Wilson.

A DAY OF CELEBRATION AND PRAISE



Fall Convocation at Mount Olive College was a day of celebration and praise to God for helping the College in regard to its accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Speakers at the event are pictured (L-R): Dr. Michael Pelt, Dr. Vincent Beach, Dr. J. William Byrd, the Rev. Frank Harrison, Dr. K. David Hines, the Rev. Leon Grubbs, and the Rev. David C. Hansley.

Mount Olive College held its annual Fall Convocation on August 20 in College Hall. The event offered students, faculty, and staff a time to worship and fellowship together at the beginning of a new semester. It was also a day of celebration and praise to God for helping the College in regard to its accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

The service began with a congregational singing of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee." The Rev. Leon Grubbs, president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, delivered a message from the Convention.

"The Original Free Will Baptist Church brought this College into existence 49 years ago and has maintained an inseparable relationship with it since that time," Grubbs said. "We have stood with the College in firm support during this year of difficulty with the SACS issues. We met with the College in February for a service of prayerful intercession on behalf of the College. On behalf of the Convention, we salute the College personnel and others who worked so diligently to prepare and present the appeal to SACS. We give Governor Jim Hunt a great big 'thank you' for appearing before the SACS committee and making a passionate appeal on the College's behalf. When all was said and done, God answered our prayers and, miraculously, the College received a favorable ruling. We join with you today in praising God and thanking Him for the many blessings of grace He has sent our way. And we pray that He will continue to provide His guidance and blessings."

The Rev. Frank R. Harrison began his convocation address by stating, "What a great day! A historic day as we come

together to worship God and praise Him for His guidance and deliverance over these past few months. We praise His wonderful name as we begin this semester of challenge and opportunity and renewal of purpose and vision."

"On February 24, we gathered together to ask for God's grace and mercy in regard to our accreditation with SACS. God heard our prayers and supplications, and He graciously responded to us. We are indeed grateful, and we join our hearts in joy and thanksgiving for His graciousness to us," Harrison continued.

Harrison used Isaiah 51 to explain how God's people have always needed Him and God has always been faithful to answer their prayers. He reminded the congregation of the College's heritage rooted in the Free Will Baptist denomination. He also encouraged students and faculty to remain true to the College's mission.

Dr. Michael R. Pelt, professor of religion emeritus, gave the prayer of dedication and thanksgiving. In his prayer, Dr. Pelt said, "In the life of this College, Lord, we have faced several periods of crisis and in some of them we have been sorely tested. We have been pressed to examine our purposes for being and to seek Your aid in overcoming the difficulties confronting us. Last December, when the commission on colleges withdrew our accreditation, we looked to You to help us respond to this decision that threatened to undermine the future of the College. We assembled ourselves to pray that this decision might be reversed and the College would be able to fulfill the purposes for which it was founded and You heard our prayers. We know that our mission as a College is bound up with Your call for us to serve others in the name of Christ. As we carry on our work here, help us to seek the highest good for those whom we would serve and to do our work as unto Thee. Forgive us when we have failed to be true to the best that Your Word teaches us. Help us to put behind us the misjudgments of the past to seek Your guidance as we plan for the future. Grant wisdom and courage to the board of trustees and the administration in the decisions they must make for the best interests of the College. We pray that You will supply our needs as we continue to press forward in the building of a better College to serve this and future generations of students. As we begin this academic year, grant that it may be a new beginning of our commitment to Christ as Lord of our lives and to the work of His Kingdom on earth."

Others on the program included Dr. David Hines, chair of the department of religion; Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the College; Dr. Vincent W. Beach, vice president of academic affairs; Nikki McLawhorn, junior at the College; Dr. Alan Armstrong, professor of music; and the Rev. David C. Hansley, general administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

FREE WILL BAPTIST STUDENTS GET ACQUAINTED

by Marci Rollins, Student Intern

The Free Will Baptist Student Fellowship got off to a good start with a hot dog cookout at the home of the Rev. and Mrs. Frank Harrison. It was an evening of great food, singing, and fellowship.

"I felt at home with the other Free Will Baptist students," freshman Melissa Sowers of Westside Church in Lenoir County said. "The praise songs we sang after dinner were like the ones we sing at my home church. I felt comfortable and welcomed by the group."

The fellowship also elected officers at the meeting. The officers for the 2000-2001 are: co-presidents Jonathan Skinner of Sherron Acres Church in Durham County and Shannon Mixon of First in Wilson County; vice president, Candace Boyles of Horton Road Church in Durham County; and secretary, Emily Skinner of Sherron Acres Church in Durham County.

FWB STUDENT FELLOWSHIP HOLDS FIRST MEETING



Students in attendance at the cookout at the Rev. Harrison's house were: Dale Belvin, freshman, Friendly Chapel Church, Guilford County; Dianne Riley, director of alumni relations; Joy Daughtry, freshman, Westside Church, Lenoir County; Laurie Evans, sophomore, Kenly Church, Johnston County; Melissa Creech, freshman, Branch Chapel Church, Johnston County; Melissa Sowers, freshman, Westside Church, Lenoir County; and Pam Wood, interim director of library services. Second row: Sonya McCoy, assistant professor of business; Donna Brickhouse, senior, Soundside Church, Tyrrell County; Jessica Murphy, freshman, Stoney Creek Church, Wayne County; Candace Boyles, Freshman, Horton Road Church, Durham County; Emily Skinner, freshman, Sherron Acres Church, Durham County; Marci Rollins, junior, Goldsboro First Church, Wayne County; and the Rev. Frank Harrison, campus minister. Third row: Joey Styron, senior, Carteret County; Brad Piner, junior, Juniper Chapel, Craven County; Bryan Williamson, freshman, St. Mary's Grove Church, Johnston County; and Jonathan Skinner, sophomore, Sherron Acres Church, Durham County. Last row: Garrett Southerland, senior, Westside Church, Lenoir County; John Hill, junior, Holly Springs Church, Carteret County; Kevin Parker, freshman, Westside Church, Lenoir County; and Shannon Mixon, sophomore, Wilson First Church, Wilson.

FREE WILL BAPTIST STUDENT FELLOWSHIP OFFICERS



Pictured left to right are: the Rev. Frank Harrison, adviser for the Free Will Baptist Student Fellowship; Candace Boyles, vice president; Shannon Mixon, co-president; Emily Skinner, secretary; and Jonathan Skinner, co-president.

Upcoming Events

The Air Force Community Concert Band will visit Mount Olive College during its Fall Tour 2000. The concert will be on Sunday, October 15 at 3 PM in College Hall. Tickets are free and are available at the Goldsboro News-Argus and Mount Olive College. For more information, contact Winkie Lee at the Goldsboro News-Argus at (919) 778-2211.

Carolina Brass one of America's finest professional brass ensembles, will perform at Mount Olive College in Rodgers Chapel on Tuesday, October 17, at 7:30 PM. Their programs include many styles of music ranging from Broadway show tunes to Classical and Contemporary. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. For more information, contact Irene Weldon, professor of music, at (919) 658-7166.

Dr. James A. Coats Retirement Dinner will be Friday, October 20 at 7 PM in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center at Mount Olive College. The dinner will honor Dr. Coats for 25 years of service to Mount Olive College. The cost of the buffet meal and gift will be \$12.50 and reservations are required by October 6, 2000. For more information or to make reservations, contact Lisa Copeland, assistant controller, at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3144.

The Holocaust in Story, Verse, and Song is a historical translation, given by Joe Aronson, of the true stories of victims, rescuers, and survivors. The performance will be on Thursday, November 2 at 7:30 PM at Mount Olive College in Rodgers Chapel. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. For more information, contact Irene Weldon, professor of music, at (919) 658-7166.

Crossfire Ministries will play the MOC men's basketball team on Tuesday, November 7 at 7:00 PM in College Hall. Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy Crossfire Ministries' inspiring half-time message about God's promises, His love, and His grace. Admission will be \$1. For more information, contact Tina Parks, secretary for athletics, at Mount Olive College at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3043.

STUDENTS RETURN TO MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE



Freshman Kevin Parker gets some help from his mom and dad, Wilma and Mike Parker, on moving in day. Kevin and his family are members of West Side Free Will Baptist Church in Kinston. Kevin's sister, Jennifer Parker, graduated from MOC in May.

Classes began Wednesday, August 23, on the campus of Mount Olive College with students coming from as far away as Alaska, Argentina, and Germany. Prior to classes beginning, all incoming freshmen participated in a three-day orientation process.

According to Linda Greenwood, director of advisement and career development, "The orientation process gives new freshmen and their parents an opportunity to meet with a faculty advisor, attend sessions on time management and receive tips for college success. In addition students are exposed to a variety of social events that promote new friendships."

Activities during the action-packed orientation event included an 11:00 PM worship service in Rodgers Chapel, a pizza party, a contemporary Christian concert featuring S.E.E.D., and many more artists that sought to introduce the freshman to each other and to Mount Olive College.

Most upperclassmen returned to campus on Tuesday, August 22.

College administrators are expecting fall semester enrollment at MOC in Mount Olive and the College's four other locations to reach more than 1,800 students by Fall semester's end. According to Dr. Barbara Kornegay, vice president for enrollment, an estimated 450 of the students will be traditional. Dr. Kornegay said the most substantial growth will be seen at the College's Research Triangle Park location. In its fourth year of operation, enrollment is expected to reach more than 250 students.

MOC PRESENTS ELDER P. T. LUCAS PASTOR'S AWARDS



Pictured front row L-R: the Rev. John Mark Windley of Whaley's Chapel Church in Jones County and this year's recipient of the Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award for a bio-vocational minister; Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington; and the Rev. Lonnie Grady Tucker of Pleasant Hill Church in Pitt County and this year's recipient of the Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award for a full-time minister. Pictured back row (L-R) are former recipients of the Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award: the Rev. Jefferson Daughtry of West Side Church, Kinston; the Rev. Ray Wells of Marsh Swamp Church, Wilson; and the Rev. Gary Bailey of Stoney Creek Church, Wayne County.

Mount Olive College has hosted a Free Will Baptist Ministries Institute in August for many years. The format of the program was updated in 1994 with the inauguration of the James A. Evans Lecture, sponsored by Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington. In conjunction with the institute, Dr. Morris also sponsors two Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Awards through Mount Olive College.

The purpose of the awards is to recognize one full-time minister and one bi-vocational minister who have each displayed extraordinary leadership and service to their church, community, and denomination. Pastors are nominated by their churches. A committee selects the winners by a standard set of criteria. This year's recipients of the Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Awards are the Rev. John Mark Windley of Whaley's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church in Jones County and the Rev. Lonnie Grady Tucker of Pleasant Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church in Pitt County.

More about John Mark Windley

The Rev. John Mark Windley became pastor of Whaley's Chapel in January of 1997. As a bi-vocational pastor, he is also employed at PSC Phosphate, a career that he has had

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**TWELVE YEARS LATER...
TWO STUDENTS
MAKE THEIR WAY HOME TO MOC**

for more than 20 years. When nominated by his church, one member noted, "The Rev. Windley has the ability to get more things done in one day than one can imagine."

After working a full eight-hour day at PSC Phosphate, Windley leaves work and begins making visits or phone contacts with the sick, bereaved, and those on the church prayer list. He makes himself readily available to his church family by publishing his home, car, and work numbers in the weekly church bulletin. According to his church members he also makes numerous visits to the sick and shut-ins.

"He seems to have endless energy as all this is done between Aurora, where he works; Pinetown, where he lives; and Hargett's Crossroads, where the church is located," one church member noted.

Aside from the contacts Windley makes, he attends numerous church meetings including deacon meetings, finance committee meetings, maintenance committee meetings, Layman's League meetings, etc. He has been instrumental in implementing a tape ministry that presently serves 19 people who are unable to attend services. Windley also has a unique rapport with the church's youth, often bending down on his knees to get on their level.

In addition to his job at PSC Phosphate and his ministry at Whaley's Chapel, Windley is a long-standing member of the Pinetown Volunteer Fire Department and a member of the local Men's Fellowship.

"Rev. Windley pours himself into his work for the Lord. He is much more than a preacher. He skillfully preaches the Word of God, but he is also a teacher, a pastor, a shepherd and a friend," one member concluded.

More about Lonnie Grady Tucker

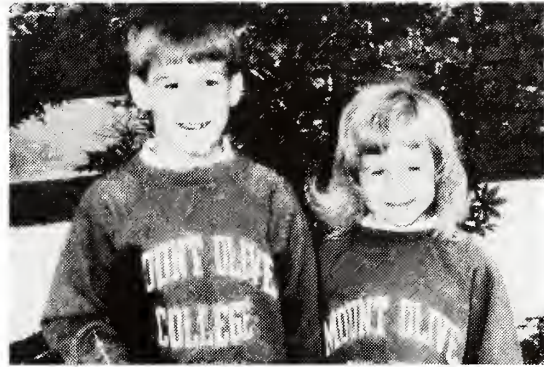
The Rev. Lonnie Grady Tucker became pastor of Pleasant Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church in October of 1996. Since that time, the church's attendance has grown significantly.

"Our church has more active men now than it has had in many years," noted one church member. "Not only is Pastor Tucker interested in souls being saved, but he also has a deep desire for each of us to be more like Jesus today than we have ever been," the member continued.

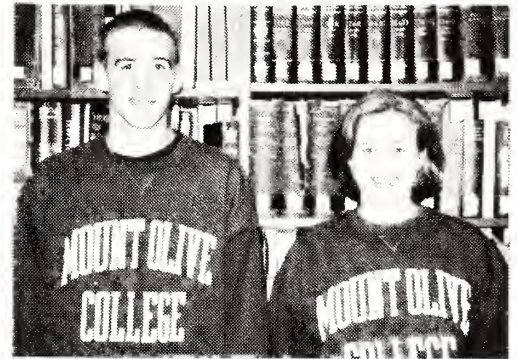
Tucker is actively involved in Wednesday night Bible studies, prayer meetings, and all areas of church service. He has also helped start a men's fellowship group. In addition to his skills in preaching the Word of the Lord, he is also a talented vocalist, often singing solos for various events, as well as singing with the church's quartet.

"Pastor Tucker always has other's interests at heart. His care and concern for the community is an example to us all. There is no doubt he has a deep love for God and all mankind," one church member concluded.

The Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Awards are to be used by each recipient to strengthen and enrich their pastoral ministry.



Jonathan and Emily Skinner at MOC in 1988.



Jonathan and Emily Skinner entering MOC in 2000.

Jonathan and Emily Skinner's first recollection of Mount Olive College dates back to 1988. Jonathan was eight years old. Emily was six. The brother and sister duo, dressed in Mount Olive College sweatshirts, posed for a picture in front of Moye Library on the campus of Mount Olive College. The photo was featured on the cover of a church bulletin used during the annual dinners in 1988. The purpose of the photo was to suggest that students begin thinking of Mount Olive College at an early age. A similar photo was taken of Jonathan and Emily in August 2000, when they entered Mount Olive College as students.

Although the two had been aware of MOC for most of their lives, having been raised in the Free Will Baptist denomination, they had never really considered attending the College. That is, until the winter of 1999, when circumstances seemed to be leading both Jonathan and Emily in MOC's direction.

After high school, Jonathan entered North Carolina State University. At first, he liked the big town atmosphere; it was such a change from the small, private school Jonathan had attended from 8 through 12 grade. However, the longer he

Cont....

remained at NC State, the more evident it became to Jonathan that he performed better in smaller classes where he could take advantage of the one-on-one attention.

"I guess the thing that first made me think about transferring to Mount Olive College was my grades. I was failing a class for the first time and it scared me. I don't learn well in big class situations and most of my classes at NC State had 50 to 100 students. I even had one class with 400 students. The classes that I did best in were the smaller ones. I also realized that I wanted to be somewhere where it was easier to find Christian friends," Jonathan noted.

So in the winter of 1999, Jonathan completed the paperwork so that he could transfer to MOC in the fall of 2000. At the same time, his sister, Emily, was a senior in high school and beginning to make her own college decisions.

"I originally planned to attend East Carolina University and major in child development. However, I knew the kinds of problems Jonathan was facing at a larger institution and he is more of a people person than I am. It was like a light went on all of a sudden and Mount Olive College seemed like the most logical choice for me, too," Emily said.

Emily applied to MOC and everything fell into place. She received several scholarships including the FWB Grant, a Leaders Scholarship, and a MOC Choir scholarship.

In August, both Jonathan and Emily entered MOC. Jonathan transferred as a sophomore majoring in computer information systems. Emily entered as a freshman taking general education courses.

Looking back at that old childhood photo, taken nearly 12 years ago, it seems that it has been God's plan all along for Jonathan and Emily to call Mount Olive College home.

Jonathan and Emily are the son and daughter of Douglas and Virginia Skinner. Douglas is the pastor at Sherron Acres Free Will Baptist in Durham. He graduated from MOC in 1972, when the college was still a two-year institution.



SCHEDULE OF MOC FALL DINNERS

Since 1963 Mount Olive College has held annual dinners in many of the counties of eastern North Carolina where Free Will Baptist Churches are located. Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support and coordinator of the dinners, has announced the following schedule for the eighteen dinners to be held this fall. The dinners provide an opportunity for the College to maintain a close relationship with the Free Will Baptist Church and they also provide the church with an opportunity to invest in the ministry of Christian higher education. Students will provide a musical program at each dinner.

Below is the schedule of the eighteen dinners to be held in October and November. Persons planning to attend the dinner in their area will need to make reservations through their local church chairperson.

2000 MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE DINNERS

JONES COUNTY, Monday, October 2, 7:00 PM, Pilgrim's Home Church, Dover, Gene Burkett, Chair. Goal: \$6,100

ONSLow-BRUNSWICK COUNTIES, Thursday, October 5, 7:00 PM, Folkstone Church, Folkstone, Ronnie Parker, Chair. Goal: \$4,175

LENOIR COUNTY, Saturday, October 7, 7:00 PM, Kinston High School, Kinston, Jeff Daughtry, Chair. Goal: \$23,050

GREENE COUNTY, Monday, October 9, 7:00 PM, Greene County Middle School near Snow Hill, Randy Beaman and Genevieve M. Taylor, Co-Chairs. Goal: \$26,475

EDGEcombe COUNTY, Tuesday, October 10, 7:00 PM, Peace Church, Pinetops, Ray Williamson, Chair. Goal: \$6,225

BEAUFORT COUNTY, Saturday, October 14, 6:30 PM, Southside High School, Chocowinity, Billy Gurkin, Chair. Goal: \$14,325

NASH COUNTY, Tuesday, October 17, 7:00 PM, Whitley Center, Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Middlesex, John R. Manning, Chair. Goal: \$12,725

PAMLICO COUNTY, Saturday, October 21, 6:00 PM, Camp Vandemere, Vandemere, Judy Thaanum and Beverly Holton, Co-Chairs. Goal: \$10,600

WAYNE COUNTY, Tuesday, October 24, 7:00 PM, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Mount Olive College, Joyce Edmundson, Chair. Goal: \$61,950

PEE DEE ASSOCIATION, Monday, October 30, 7:00 PM, Mount Calvary Church between Bladenboro and Whiteville, Danny McPherson, Chair. (Gave approximately \$13,000 at first dinner)

CrAVEN COUNTY, Thursday, November 2, 7:00 PM, West Craven Middle School near New Bern, Roy Wetherington and Neal Cox, Co-Chairs. Goal: \$22,875

DUPLIN COUNTY, Saturday, November 4, 6:00 PM, Mount Olive College, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Tommy Benson, Chair. Goal: \$17,600

JOHNSTON-WAKE COUNTIES, Monday, November 6, 7:00 PM, Everett Chapel Church, Spiritual Life Building, Clayton. Keenan Hinnant and Teresa A. Speer, Co-Chairs. Goal: \$55,775

WASHINGTON, MARTIN, TYRRELL, AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES, Thursday, November 9, 7:30 PM, Union Chapel Church Fellowship Hall, Plymouth, David Cahoon, Chair. Goal: \$18,925

CARTERET COUNTY, Saturday, November 11, 6:00 PM, West Carteret High School, Morehead City, Sheri S. Noonan and Edgar Pake, Jr., Co-Chairs. Goal: \$15,425

WILSON COUNTY, Monday, November 13, 7:00 PM, Beddingfield High School near Wilson, Richard Holmes, Chair. Goal: \$43,475

PITT COUNTY, Tuesday, November 14, 7:00 PM, Pitt Community College, Ed and Joan Warren Building, Coburn Center, Greenville, Jane T. Tripp, Chair. Goal: \$31,850

SAMPSON, HARNETT, AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES, Thursday, November 16, 7:00 PM, Clinton-Sampson Agri-Civic Center, Clinton, Lee Morton Jernigan, Chair. Goal: \$43,050

2000 TOTAL DINNER GOAL: \$427,600

News Letter From India and Nepal

Submitted by Dr. E. M. Lall

EVANGELISM IN JUNE 2000

It is most traditional with the Free Will Baptist Churches in India and Nepal that we undertake mass evangelization in the month of June every year from the very inception of our denominational establishment in 1975. In the wake of large-scale persecution of Christians by the communal and fundamentalist groups, which are segments of the government in power, there was fear of life and property. Yet, we resolved to continue our basic work, believing that the Lord has not given us the spirit of fear but of power and strength, we evangelized in all the circuits and many souls have known the way of salvation of which they had never heard before. Gospel portions and other Christian literature bought from the Bible Society were handed out to those who demanded them with the instructions that they would not destroy. The reports from the ministers who had moved in 392 villages, evangelizing approximately 126,000 non-believers, there was no incident in the rural areas, except Bareilly City where Gospels and Literature were snatched and destroyed before the preachers, but our people did not confront them but kept

quiet.

The corporate world today is talking about servant leadership—a concept based on achieving success through serving others and making them winners. This is exactly what the Lord taught us. "...Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26–28).

The Orissa State Government where we also work has enacted an order under the Orissa Freedom of Religion Act that everyone planning "Conversion" should get police clearance of "No Objection" from the local people 15 days prior to the ceremony of "Conversion." The Orissa State Christians have made a written petition in the Orissa High Court against the Draconian Order, which in effect stops all religious freedom of choice.

We still believe the crux of the matter of 'Conversion' is not at all understood in this part of the World. Conversion is by heart and cannot be stopped by

legislations. However, we continue to encourage our youth in church leadership that our director-treasurer, the Rev. Harold Jones, had envisioned for future leadership in the church, and has managed for two young men to complete their theological education of highest level to lead the church in the future.

The Vacation Bible School

It is the fourth year that we initiated this program in June every year. Our intention in doing this is to nurture our church children and youth in the knowledge of Christian faith which is a history as the gospel does not begin "once upon a time" but starts with a definite *place* "Bethlehem in Judea" and definite *time* "in the days of Herod the King."

It is indeed a basic need and real meaningful. I am really glad that our Board of Foreign Missions has realized it and is supporting the project financially. This comes to us from (Judges 7), which tells about the planning of the leader and the obedience of the follower which believes witnessing boldly of the greatness of God.



VBS in Bareilly, India



Reena Lall Tann giving prizes and certificates to the children.



VBS children having lunch together.



October

Pray

 Thir

SUN	MON	TUE	
1	2	3	4 Albema Free Un Western I Co Selma
8 Minister's Program Month Clergy Appreciation Day	9	10	11
15 Air Force Community Concert Band MOC College Hall 3:00 PM	16	17 Carolina Brass MOC Rodgers Chapel 7:30 PM	18
22	23	24	25
29 Cape Fear Conference Union Meeting Lee's Chapel, Dunn, NC 6:00 PM	30	31	1

Concerns _____

 Remember _____

	THU	FRI	SAT
Conference in town Auxiliary Con a church 9	5 Layman's League Executive and Promotional Board VFW Building, Snow Hill 7:00 PM	6	7 Cape Fear Auxiliary Convention Shady Grove Church Spivey Corner 9:00 AM
	12	13	14
	19	20	21 Eastern District and Sunday School Convention Antioch Church, New Bern 10:00 AM
	26	27	28
	2	3	4

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

WORKERS' MEETING

by the Rev. Dario S. Basingil

On May 29, 2000, we visited the Mindanao District and had a Workers' Meeting held at the Free Will Baptist Church, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte.

Before the meeting started, the Rev. Zacarias Perocillo, the field director, gave a short devotion taken from Psalm 37:1-5. He emphasized three things: Delight in the Lord, trust in the Lord, and commitment to the Lord.

After the devotion we discussed the following agenda; 1. All workers of the Mindanao District. 2. All activities of Free Will Baptist Church Philippines. 3. Work, plan, and goals of the district. 4. Rules and regulation in the district. 5. License and Ordination. 6. Three months classes (TEE).



Workers' Meeting



Sister Jing Jing directed the Sunday school for children. She used the materials from the Short-Term Mission Team.



The Rev. Dario S. Basingil delivered the Word of God for worship service at the Free Will Baptist Church, Iligan City.

DON'T TAKE THE CHILDREN AND TEENS OUT!

by Harold Jones

Many of our churches now have special ministries for the children and teens, and that's a good thing. But I have noticed that on several occasions when I visit churches to present a missions program that the children and teens are taken out of the service. They, therefore, are given no exposure to the work that Free Will Baptists have around the world. This disturbs me, for I know if they do not have exposure to missions at an early age it will be difficult to interest them when they become adults.

Missions should be a part of the lives of all church people, whether young or old. I ask you, "Where will missionaries and funding come from in the future, if they have no knowledge and interest in missions?" So, pastors and youth leaders, when you invite me or any missions' representative to your church, please don't take the children and teens out!

SPECIAL NOTICE

This is the last call to join the Short-Term Team to the Philippines, April 16-May 6, 2001. We have openings for five people to join this team. We need a balance in the team, some to work in construction and others to work with children and adults. The final date to sign up is October 15. Please pray about your involvement in this ministry.

URGENT PRAYER REQUEST

PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR 2001

These projects must be funded or we will have no recourse but to cancel the 2001 Short-Term Team to the Philippines, Mexico, and Bulgaria.

PHILIPPINES:	CHURCH BUILDING	NAGA CITY	\$15,000.00
MEXICO:	CHURCH BUILDING/PARSONAGE	SABINAS	\$22,000.00
BULGARIA:	CHURCH BUILDING	VARNA	\$28,000.00

We need to hear from churches and individuals that will commit to these projects by the following dates:

Deadline for commitment to the Philippine project:	January 2001
Deadline for commitment to the Mexico project:	March 2001
Deadline for commitment to the Bulgarian project:	May 2001

Please join us in prayer for the Short-Term Team Ministry. It has been a blessing to our fields and the lives of our Short-Term Missionaries. It is the desire of the Board of Foreign Missions to continue this ministry, but in order to do so there must be proper project funding each year.

Harold Jones, Director/Treasurer



THE CONNECTION

Responding To God's Call



The opportunities and challenges of Home Front Missions are greater than ever before. God's call to His Church is loud and clear. We must now carefully respond with a full surrender of our all as His people.

America has become many nations under God. The diversity of our population is staggering. With an ever changing and growing nation you may ask the question, "Why Is This Important To Me?"

Home Missions and Evangelism ministry is about being a lighthouse to the multitudes that are in darkness. Hundreds of Jesus videos, New Testaments, Scripture portions, and thousands of gospel tracts have been utilized, along with other resource materials. We have partnered with you to shine as beacons of light to a lost world. Our commitment is to Church Planting, Church Growth and Evangelism projects that will reach as many people as possible. We can partner to reach farther than we have ever been.

The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism has adopted a 25 year plan to expand throughout North Carolina and across America. This program is called the Capital to Capital Campaign (2000-2025).

There is a great Harvest Field in America that needs the Light of Praying, the Light of Caring and the Light of Sharing. For us to make the connection with the people we must follow the example of Jesus and go to people. The call of God is extended to each Christian, Church, Sunday school class, youth group, Woman's Auxiliary, Layman's League, and conference.

You can help Home Missions and Evangelism to Touch Lives for a Lifetime by being a Missions Vision Partner. As an MVP please respond to God's call by selecting a Home Missions project and participate by Praying, Caring, and Sharing that others may come to know and serve Him.

We want to thank you for your faithful support of Home Missions and Evangelism and for the generous offering received at the 2000 Missions Rally. Let's continue to work together to TOUCH LIVES FOR A LIFETIME.

Office of The Governor HURRICANE FLOYD VOLUNTEER SURVEY

A recent letter from Governor James B. Hunt Jr. stated, "I would like to thank you for all you have done, and are continuing to do, to help the victims of Hurricane Floyd in the eastern part of our state. Thousands of fellow North Carolinians have graciously volunteered their time and energy to help bring a degree of normalcy back into the lives of the victims who have suffered from the worst natural disaster to ever occur in our state."

We need for each Original Free Will Baptist Church to complete this survey and return it to our office by November 1, 2000. Your cooperation will enable us to have adequate information to have a special recognition service in early 2001. Please use additional paper if necessary to chronicle your church's involvement in your community following the storm. Be as specific as possible to ensure an accurate and appropriate record can be compiled. Thank You.

Name _____ Phone Number _____

County _____ Organization _____

Total number volunteers _____ Total number volunteer hours _____

Did any out-of-state volunteers help through your organization? If so, what state(s) were they from?

Please share a specific story involving a local volunteer (individual or group—use names, please).

Please share a specific story involving a North Carolina volunteer (individual or group—use names, please).

Please share a specific story involving an out-of-state volunteer (individual or group—use names, please).

Did local people (individuals, businesses, churches, etc.) provide housing accommodations for volunteers? If so, please provide the name(s) and share a story about them.

Please give a brief description of work performed by volunteers associated with your organization/agency.

Has your organization/agency had any type of recognition event for volunteers who helped? If so, briefly explain.

Do you have any additional information you would like to share about volunteers who responded to the needs of victims in your county?

Please return survey to: Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513

CAPE FEAR YOUTH DAY

August 5 was certainly a day of games, food, fun, laughter, and music. With approximately 170 in attendance, the members of the Cape Fear Youth Fellowship provided face painting, basketball, tug-of-war, water balloons, volleyball, water slides and money-in-the-hay for the young, hot dogs, hamburgers and watermelon. They didn't forget to make sure our campus needs were met also by bringing school supplies and personal care items. A special thank you to this group of caring young adults and to their families for helping to provide the path for them to follow.



WESTERN DISTRICT YOUTH RALLY

On the afternoon and evening of August 26, 2000, Whitley Center, on the Children's Home campus, was filled with food, friends, and music as the Youth Group of the Western District showed our residents a night of praise and support for our ministry. Music was provided by "Servant's Heart" of Pleasant Grove of Pikeville and "Set Free" of Goldsboro. Approximately 230 guests attended. The dedication and concern of this young group of individuals was astonishing, many were ready to return again soon. A *very special thanks* goes to Youth Pastor David Allen of Pleasant Grove for his determination, faith, and support. We would like to say another thank you to the members of "Servant's Heart" and "Set Free" for their time and beautiful voices. And last but not least to the families, the churches, and our friends—Thanks Again!



Milbournie FWB Youth



"Set Free"



"Servant's Heart"



Western District



NEW LOCATION FOR GENESIS HOUSE

On August 7, Genesis House, our Emergency Shelter for girls, moved on the campus of the Children's Home into Deans Cottage. The six residents were excited and looking forward to their new location. The former location of Genesis House at Bailey will now become *Shepherd's House*, our long-term group home for boys. Each of us anxiously await its opening in the Fall of 2000.



Westside FWB Woman's Auxiliary of Kinston made sure that the needs of our children were met with their visit on August 15. (L to R) George and Ann Winborne.



On August 21, members of Northeast FWB Church visited and toured our campus, along with delivering much needed items that the Woman's Auxiliary supplied. (L to R) Panis Williams, Sharon Dilley, Rev. Sherman Dilley, and Lorraine Sutton.

CAMPUS ITEMS IN NEED:

- ♥ Paper Products
- ♥ Personal Care Items
- ♥ Encyclopedias (CD Roms)
- ♥ Computers for Cottages (est. cost \$5000)
- ♥ Carpet Cleaning Machine
- ♥ Golf Cart
- ♥ Appliances
- ♥ Vacuum Cleaner
- ♥ 4 Cameras for Cottage
- ♥ 8 quart, 10 quart, 12 quart stock pots
- ♥ Slotted 1/2 cup serving spoons
- ♥ Smooth 1/2 cup serving spoons
- ♥ Hot Flat Irons for Hair
- ♥ Large (Adult) Size Book Bags
- ♥ Electric Pencil Sharpeners
- ♥ Charter Bus to Zoo (approx. \$1500)
- ♥ Twin size Thermal Blankets
- ♥ Dish Towels
- ♥ Bath Towels
- ♥ Wash Cloths
- ♥ Pot Holders
- ♥ Serving Bowls
- ♥ Storage Containers
- ♥ Shower Curtains
- ♥ Standard Size Pillows
- ♥ Bath Mats
- ♥ Can Openers (manual)
- ♥ Centerpieces for Cottage Kitchen Tables
- ♥ Tall Table Lamps
- ♥ Desk Lamps
- ♥ Laundry Supplies
- ♥ Cleaning Supplies
- ♥ Pole Lamps
- ♥ Large Electric Griddles
- ♥ Large Electric Fry Pans
- ♥ Large Crock Pots
- ♥ Large Canister Sets
- ♥ 20 Wooden Porch Rocking Chairs
- ♥ Playstation Games (rated E)
- ♥ 5 Wooden Glider Swings
- ♥ Board Games—(*Bible Bingo, Girl Talk, Operation, Battleship, Who Wants To Be A Millionaire*)
- ♥ Gym Bags

People & Events

Happenings Throughout the Denomination



NITE OWLS II HONOR GRANDPARENTS

by Carla Combs, Editorial Assistant

Grandparents at Howell Swamp Church in Walstonburg took a trip down memory lane when the Nite Owls II Youth Group honored them with a dinner theater on September 10. The youth, with the help of their parents, transformed the church fellowship hall into a nostalgic 1950s-style sodashop complete with checkered tablecloths and pictures of Elvis. The grandparents enjoyed hotdogs and french fries served in paper baskets, Coca Colas, and scoops of ice cream for dessert.

Afterwards, the Nite Owls and several adults entertained their guests with a lip-sync concert. Girls in poodle skirts and guys with slick hair twisted to favorite oldies like "Rock Around the Clock" and "At The Hop." The concert finale featured Pastor Tony Glass, Robert

Carraway, Mike Anderson, and Steve Sowers as the Statler Brothers singing their gospel hit "Feelin' Mighty Fine." Pastor Glass concluded the evening with a special prayer for the Grandparents.

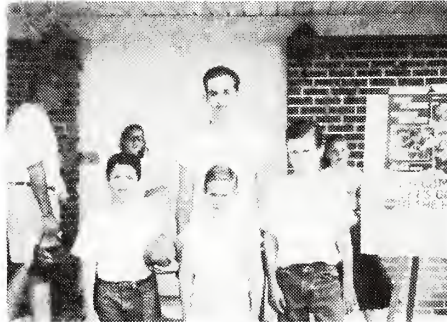
A love offering was taken up for the youth group's next project. The Nite Owls II will fill shoeboxes with toys and supplies to be sent to needy children around the world. The group is working with Randall and Pat Jarman of Snow Hill. Jarman and his wife have a clown ministry, "Jellybean and Blossom." Jarman was a special guest at Howell Swamp Church on August 20. He shared a slide presentation of his mission trip to the Ukraine. He is planning to return to the Ukraine or possibly go to Africa on his next mission trip.



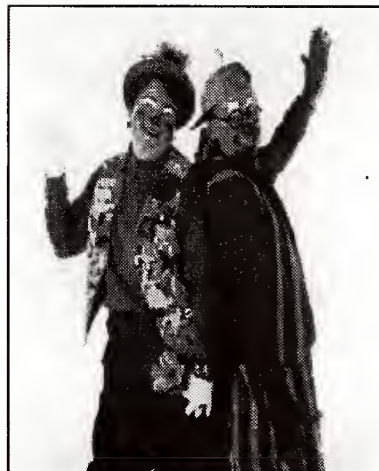
Nite Owl Moms—Several parents dressed up and performed songs along with their children.



Jarman sings a hymn of praise to the congregation of Howell Swamp Church on August 20. He shared a slide presentation of his mission trip to the Ukraine.



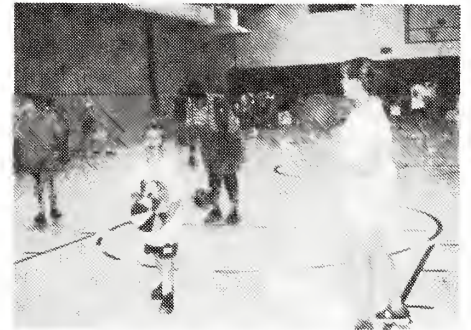
Stepping back in time.



ANOTHER AUTUMN AT POWHATAN

Submitted by Rita O. Jones

Pines of Carolina Girl Scout Troop 364 that meets at Powhatan had three young ladies work as counselors at Camp Mary Atkinson the first week of August. Cadettes Crystal Guy, Nikki Jones, and Roberta Widhalm slept over on the first night and last night of the "day" camp and tried to be good examples to the young Daisy and Brownie scouts. The program aides took a leadership role in assisting with activities for the kindergarten and first grade girls during the week.



Games of basketball went on most of the day on August 5 at the Children's Home. All ages took part in the fun.

Members of Powhatan's youth group and several adults enjoyed the Cape Fear District Field Day at the Children's Home on Saturday, August 5. Games of basketball, tug-of-war, water balloon tossing, volleyball, etc., made for a busy and fun day. Lots of our churches brought donations of items to be used at the Home and everyone enjoyed the cookout.

On August 12, Nelson and Carol Blinson of the Kemery Ard Sunday school class sponsored a fish fry. Other class members brought desserts, and families came so the youngsters as well

Cont....

People & Events

as their parents got a treat of food and fellowship. A special thank you to the Blinsons for the afternoon of fun.

The Woman's Auxiliary sponsored a trip to Camp Vandemere on Saturday, August 19. Many of us had never been to the camp. We enjoyed the singing of all the groups that were there for the *Singing by the River*. Cherub Spencer Hill of Powhatan performed on drums with the *Smith Family* and what a performance he gave! It was a great day, not too hot, and the youth voted to make a visit again soon.

Our youth officers are all busy making plans for the next few months. There were two district meetings held during August that officers Dani Allen, Nikki Jones, and Roberta Widhalm attended. There was also the State Officer's meeting at White Lake that Roberta, our president (district treasurer and Cape Fear State representative), attended on the weekend of August 25-27.

Congratulations to Assistant Youth Leader Wanda Benson and her husband Jeff on the birth of Jeffrey Kyle on August 29—9 lbs., 6 oz. He'll be coming along with sister Hayley to youth meetings pretty soon!

TO OBSERVE HOMECOMING

Pleasant Plain Original Free Will Baptist Church will celebrate Homecoming Day on Sunday, October 8. Services will begin with Sunday school at 10 AM. The Rev. Clifford B. Harwood Jr., pastor, will speak at the worship hour. A picnic lunch will be served. The church is located at 1991 Old Beulah Road, Selma.

FIFTH UNION MEETS

The Fifth Eastern Union Meeting and Sunday School Convention will meet Saturday, October 21, 10 AM at Antioch Free Will Baptist Church, New Bern, NC. The Rev. Gary Watson will bring the morning message. We urge all pastors in the Fifth Eastern District to attend this meeting and to encourage someone from your church to attend as a delegate.

YOUTH SERVICE HELD AT MEMORIAL FWB CHURCH



Youth choir (including the Memorial Heralds): Pictured: Back Row (L to R) Steele Hoffman, Michael Tyson, Michael Lupton; Front Row: (L to R) Marlin Edwards, Andy Crisp, Layla Hoffman, Brittany Fennell. Not pictured: Cody and Eric Boyd, Blake and Miles Lemay, Kelli Linton, Samantha Mobley, Buddy and Lizzie Morrisette

On Sunday, August 27, the youth of Memorial Church in Chocowinity led the evening worship service.

Members of the congregation were welcomed by the worship leader, Warren "Buddy" Morrisette. The invocation was given by Eric Boyd.

The Memorial Heralds Quartet, Steele Hoffman, Michael Travis Lupton, Buddy Morrisette, and Michael Tyson, sang "A Beautiful Life," "Boundless Love," and "Just A Little Talk." They were accompanied by pianist Lexa Upton.

After a congregational hymn, the offertory prayer was given by Michael Tyson and the offering was received by Cody Boyd and Andy Crisp.

Next, the youth sang "Pass It On," "Build My Mansion," and "I'll Fly Away."

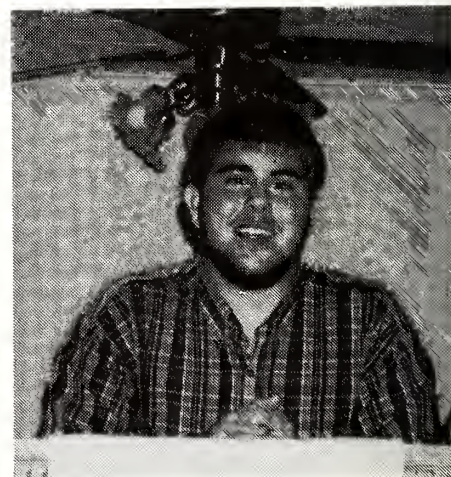
Everyone was then treated to a puppet show explaining baptism. Susan Tyson gave an introduction, and the performance was given by Eric Boyd, Samantha Mobley, and Randy Tyson. Randy and Susan recently began teaching children's church on Sunday mornings.

The sermon was delivered by Michael Lupton, who is Vice-President of the Youth for Christ organization. He

used Luke 16:19-31 as the Scripture text and the message topic was "Don't Let Riches Overcome Your Salvation."

It was a very candid and thought-provoking message that caused all in attendance to reflect on the importance of salvation as well as things in our daily lives that we may be allowing to come before Christ.

There was a wonderful turnout to support our youth for this special service and everyone received a blessing. We are proud of all of them!



Michael Travis Lupton

CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCE

It was another wonderful week at Cragmont. Eighty-two ladies, ages 13 to 86 were there from July 31 through August 5. No one went home disappointed because it was a time to take inventory of our relationship with God.

As we assembled each morning, Jo Ann Parish, our pianist for the week, greeted us with beautiful music. Alma Dale Cox, song leader, started our day with a song of praise. After this, we had our devotion for the day.

Kerri Clayton and her grandmother, Lorraine Garner presented Tuesday morning's devotion as a skit, using Acts 1:8, "Rescue the Power" and Matthew 5:14-18, "Let Your Light Shine," as their Scripture. They used a flashlight filled with comb, nail file, toothbrush, etc. to show that our light had to be filled with the right kind of power to be useful. They filled the flashlight with batteries to show the difference in our lives when we are connected to the right source of power.

On Wednesday morning, they used Genesis 50:20 to remind us that bad things happen to good people. Many times if we follow through a tough situation, we will see some good that comes from it. Kerri used the story of the star fish to illustrate this. When the star fish was torn into three pieces, they each regenerated themselves and became three fish.

On Thursday Jeremiah 9:23-24 was used as the Scripture to ask ourselves if we put a smile on God's face and just how do we see God. Philippians 4:4-9 tells us to "Rejoice in the Lord always."

On Friday morning, Kerri and Lorraine used a scene from "Titanic" to show what it means to have true love and concern for our fellowman. John Hayer, with life preserver in hand, would ask each person if they knew God. If they did not know God, He gave them a life preserver because they needed another chance to have eternal life.

Mary Dudley, director of Sunday School Ministries, was our speaker. She

used BEE-LIEVE-BEE-STRONG as her theme and started each session with a chorus, "God's Word is sweeter than honey in the comb."

On Wednesday, we started our day with "Bee A Builder," using Matthew 7:24-27 as our background. The Bible story of feeding the five thousand in John 6:1-14 was used to show us how to "Bee Fruitful."

"Let the little children come unto me" from Mark 10:13-16 was our Scripture for "Bee Childlike." As we grow in our spiritual life we learn to "Bee a Prayer Warrior." Matthew 7:7-8 reminds us that we have not because we ask not.

The woman caught in adultery in John 8:1-12 is a true example of "Bee Free." When none of those who accused her could throw the first stone, Jesus told her to go and sin no more.

It is an exciting atmosphere that surrounded us as Mary presented "Bee Ready to Celebrate" in the last session. The story of the "Lost Son" in Luke 15:11-32, with our focus on his return, shows us just how happy "Our Father" is when one of His own returns to the fold.

We sang unto the Lord three times a day, before each Bible study and before self study at night. Everyone lifted their voices in love, praise, worship and adoration to God, who really made all of this possible.

On Wednesday morning, John Williams, Director at Cragmont, gave us a report. Second Corinthians 8:1 was the verse he used to share with us about the needs of our churches and our people.

Rev. Philip Wood, Chairman of the Board of Foreign Missions, was our speaker on Thursday night. "To God Be the Glory" was our opening hymn followed with prayer by Eunice Sexton. After solos, "Driving Nails," by Melanie Herring, and "No One Ever Cared for Me" by Philip Wood, he told us about the red, green, and yellow lights in our lives. Using Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20 and Acts 1:4-8, Philip

reminded us that Jesus said, "Go tell my brothers, go help the Lord, go teach, go preach, go baptize and go and take care of the needs of others. "Jesus is Lord of All" was our closing hymn followed with prayer by Jean Ackiss.

Friday afternoon was fun time. It was time for "Bee Fun," talent and "Bee Happy." We had skits, recitations, and singing by those who had talents to share. Some of these were really funny and some very serious, but we enjoyed all of it.

"The Joy of the Lord" was the theme used by Sara Parker for speakers on Friday night. Psalm 118:24 was her Scripture. After a week of rejoicing, she reminded us to take the joy with it and share it wherever we go.

Afternoons were free for us to enjoy as we saw fit. We went to Bon Worth and Black Mountain to shop and eat ice cream on Tuesday. Wednesday was our big trip to Cherokee for the afternoon and to a dinner theater with the Southern Knights as our entertainment. We enjoyed a delicious meal and music. Thursday was time for shopping at the Asheville Mall, Hamricks, and the Farmer's Market. This is always a treat. We met on Saturday morning at 6:45 AM in the chapel to enjoy Jo Ann's music for the last time until we meet again. Alma Cox led us in singing and May Pittman had the devotions. Psalm 16:5-11 was the Scripture used to tell us that God gives us what it takes to do what He asks us to do. We joined hands as we prayed "The Lord's Prayer" together. We sang "Blest Be The Tie That Binds" as we went to enjoy breakfast.

The buses were loaded, and we were on the way home with a song in our hearts and joy in our lives. Thanks to Mary Dudley for sharing the enthusiasm that makes a difference. Thanks to the staff for getting this all together; to John and Arlinda for taking care of our needs, to Phyllis for our trips, and to the kitchen crew for keeping our energy level on "go."

People & Events

YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP St. Mary's FWB Church, New Bern, NC

Submitted by Kelly S. Warrick

Last fall the Active Christian Teens, the Senior High Youth of St. Mary's, decided to put a long-time dream into action. For years some of St. Mary's young people dreamed of sharing God's love through a mission trip. They decided that the year 2000 was the year to pursue their dream.

A.C.T. chose to participate in Group Workcamps' Connecticut River Valley Workcamp located in Springfield, Vermont. Group Workcamps are held all across the nation and is a non-profit division of Group Publishing of Loveland, Colorado. The Kinston area and many flood victims were beneficiaries of a Group Workcamp during a week in early July.



The church, many individuals, and many area businesses supported St. Mary's Youth in fundraisers such as Krispy Kreme doughnut sales, Singing Christmas Cards, and the first annual St. Mary's Bowl for Christ Tournament at The Strike Zone. A.C.T. also prepared themselves by learning job skills through Saturday work projects throughout the year.

After a year of preparation, sixteen teenagers and eight adults departed from New Bern on July 1 and returned on July 9. During the trip to Springfield, Vermont, A.C.T. joined forces with other Christian youth and adults from all over the nation to repair and winterize houses of needy people in the Springfield area. Each morning and afternoon was filled with work, Bible study, and sharing Jesus, while each evening was filled with music, worship, and fun. St. Mary's youth truly had an awesome experience and are now planning Mission Trip 2001 to Maine. The theme for this year's workcamp was *Never Be The Same*. After this wonderful mission experience, St. Mary's youth will *Never Be The Same*.

CHURCHES & MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

Cabin Original Free Will Baptist Church, Beulaville, NC, (due to the resignation of their present pastor effective mid-October), is seeking a full-time minister. If interested please contact: Nathan Hinkle (after 6:00 PM) 2403 Sarecta Road, Pink Hill, NC, telephone, 910-298-3339.

The Rev. Greg Mills, a member in good standing with the Eastern Conference, is available for interim or supply pastoral services, and revival services. His address is 2812 Jefferson Drive, Greenville, NC 27858, phone 252-752-8861.

"I am a licensed Original Free Will Baptist minister. I am available for pulpit supply in the absence of a pastor. My home church is Indian Springs, Seven Springs, NC 28578, phone 919-658-8143 (cell phone 919-273-1081)"—Ed Thornton, 105 Fields Drive, Mount Olive, NC 28365.

BAILEY TO PRESENT STUDY ON PRAYER FOR EASTERN DISTRICT



The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention will sponsor a study course on prayer at Folkstone Free Will Baptist Church at 10 AM, Saturday, November 11, 2000. Dr. Lloyd R. Bailey, Barrow Professor of Religion at Mount Olive College, is the scheduled speaker.

Dr. Bailey chose to do this particular study on Prayer, saying "...a good choice. It is a part of the spiritual life that most of us find difficult, from time to time." He plans to address three of the sub-areas of prayer: (1) prayers in the Bible, especially the Psalms; (2) prayers public and private in the life of the Church; (3) some practical advice on devotional prayer life in the present.

Dr. Bailey assumed the Barrow Chair at Mount Olive in 1999. Courses taught thus far include Introduction to both Old Testament and New Testament, Life and Letters of St. Paul, the Hebrew Prophets, Interpreting the Bible, and has now added Biblical Hebrew. He was Visiting Professor of Religion at Methodist College in Fayetteville and Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at Duke University Divinity School. As a member of the WNC Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, he teaches and preaches about 45 Sundays each year.

His book, *Noah: The Person and the Story in History and Tradition*, won the Choice "Outstanding Academic Book of 1990" award. In 1994 Dr. Bailey appeared in the "Noah and the Flood" segment of *Mysteries of the Bible* on the A & E Channel.

We urge your Auxiliary to take advantage of this study on prayer. Folkstone Church is located 17 miles south of Jacksonville on Hwy 17 at 530 Old Folkstone Road, Holly Ridge, NC.

SMYRNA CHURCH PAYS TRIBUTE TO OUTSTANDING MEMBER

A tribute to Ray G. Smith, Sr., of West Main Street, Benson, who was installed as National Commander of the American Legion on September 7, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was held Sunday, August 20, at Smyrna Original Free Will Baptist Church in the Meadow community.

Participating in the tribute, held during the morning worship service, included the pastor, the Rev. Ronnie Hayes, a fellow deacon Granville Denning who grew up with Smith, deacon board chairman Ricky Raynor, and Smith's national aide, Frank Stencil from Cary.

The pastor and two deacons spoke of Smith's participation as a charter member of the church and his involvement with the Cape Fear Conference.

Stencil was guest speaker, noting Smith's participation as a life-member of Banner Post 109 in Benson. On the state and national level as National

Commander, Smith will lead the world's largest veterans organization with more than 2.8 million members.

"Smith will regularly report to Congress on behalf of the organization and will travel around the world representing the members of the national organization. He was installed on September 7, exactly 45 years after joining the American Legion. He is the second North Carolinian to serve in the position with the other being Judge Henry Stevens of Warsaw who served 1931-1932."

"A few of Smith's responsibilities following his installation will be to report to Washington before Congress, to make a video with Coach K at Duke University for the Children's Miracle Network, and back to Washington to host an Inaugural Ball for the new president.

Family and friends enjoyed lunch in the fellowship hall following the tribute.

CAPE FEAR CONFERENCE UNION MEETING

The Cape Fear Union will convene with Lee's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Dunn, NC, October 29, (Sunday) at 6 PM. The program will be as follows:

Welcome: the Rev. Jesse Fulcher
Hymn: "Victory in Jesus" (Page 473)
Prayer: the Rev. Sam Weeks
Praise and Worship: Doug & Melanie Seymour
Announcements
Offering
Offertory Prayer: the Rev. Billy Nowell
YFA: District 1st Place Winners: Robert's Grove YFA
Hymn: "When We All Get to Heaven" (Page 542)
Mime Team: Lee's Chapel Youth
Introduction of Special Music and Speakers: the Rev. Jesse Fulcher
Special Music: Smith Family from Powhatan Church
Message: the Rev. Charlie Carroll;
Alternate: the Rev. Fred Baker
Invitational Hymn: "Just As I Am"
Benediction: the Rev. Jesse Fulcher



PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY

On Sunday, August 13, 2000, the congregation of Hugo Free Will Baptist Church, Grifton, NC observed their Pastor Appreciation Day by honoring their pastor, the Rev. Edward Thornton, during the morning worship service. During this service, Rev. Thornton was presented a plaque and a check. Two young members read poems to him. The musical part of the service was filled with the singing of his favorite hymns.

Following the morning service, a delicious lunch was served in the church fellowship hall.

We are blessed to have the Rev. and Mrs. Thornton serving our church.

HARVEST DAY AND BAZAAR SALE

DATE: Saturday, November 4, 2000
TIME: 8:00 AM — 6:00 PM
PLACE: Kenly FWB Fellowship Hall

BREAKFAST: 8:00 AM — 9:30 AM
Ham or Sausage Biscuits

LUNCH AND DINNER: 11:00 AM — 6:00 PM
MENU: Turkey w/dressing
with all the trimmings

Lots of pies, cakes and goodies.
All kinds of homemade crafts, quilts,
canned goods will be available.

COME AND JOIN US!

The Ladies' Auxiliary of Kenly OFWB Church

People & Events

REV. CLYDE W. COX SUNDAY AT CASEY'S CHAPEL July 30, 2000



*The Rev. Clyde Cox
and his wife, Alma*

After having served many churches in North Carolina since his ordination in November, 1952, the Rev. Clyde Cox came to serve as our interim pastor at Casey's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC, in November, 1997. He soon became our full-time Pastor. He has been diligent and passionate about his ministry and a great blessing to our church. Besides bringing a wonderful ministry to our church, he also brought to us a great talent in playing and singing and bringing us the gospel in music. Mrs. Alma, his wife, has also been so faithful in giving of herself to God's work in our church, and also by bringing God's message in song. Rev. Cox recently turned 80 and decided to give up his pastorate at Casey's Chapel and slow down a bit.

Needless to say, we regretted to see him go, but realize at his age, he needs

to slow down. We know he will never give up the ministry completely, but he deserves to take life at a slower pace.

His last Sunday at our church was July 30, 2000. The church honored him with a plaque. One of the church members, Mrs. Peggy Casey, honored him and Mrs. Alma with the following poem as a farewell tribute.

*The time has come for us to part
It pains us much to see you go.
You've been so special in our hearts
and we will truly miss you so.*

*You've been our Pastor and our friend
You've led us in the Lord's direction
They say good things must always end
But we'll think of you with much affection.*

*Mrs. Alma, you too, have been so great
To our church you've been so true
With your loving hugs and beautiful voice
We all agree, we'll sure miss you.*

*The love of Christ has joined us
and we are one in heart
So remember, we'll always love you
When the two of you depart.*

*We're not going to say "good-bye" to you
We'll just say a sweet "So-long,"
Hoping you'll come back to see us soon
and sing us a beautiful song.*

CHRIST CHURCH HOMECOMING

Christ Free Will Baptist Church, Stokesdale, NC, celebrated Homecoming August 6, 2000. During the morning worship hour, Brother Wayne Hicks was ordained as a deacon of the church, after having proved himself worthy and acting as a junior deacon for two years. The Rev. Sam Wilson, pastor of Faith Free Will Baptist Church, New London, NC, delivered the message. The church also had the opportunity to recognize other individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the church and the community. Charlie Atkins and Hannah Atkins both received plaques in honor of their excellent fundraising efforts to benefit the needy and Brother Curtis Stevens received a plaque recognizing his many years of commitment and dedication as our chief chef of Brunswick Stew, our biggest annual fundraiser. After service, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal in the Fellowship Hall.



Wayne Hicks ordained as deacon



Charlie Atkins (left) and Hannah Atkins (Right)



Curtis Stevens, "Chief Brunswick Stew Chef"

You Are Invited to Revival 2000

OCTOBER 22—11:00 AM & 7:00 PM

OCTOBER 23—25—7:00 PM



Dr. Bill Bennett, Evangelist

*"For God so loved the world
that He gave His only begotten
Son, that whosoever believeth in
Him should not perish but
have everlasting life."*

John 3:16

FIRST FWB CHURCH

2426 South Charles Boulevard

(Hwy 43 South)

Greenville, NC 27858

Ronnie V. Hobgood, Pastor

Joey Williams, Associate Pastor

252-756-6600

Church Nursery Provided

(Birth—Age 2)

Youth Ministries

(Age 3—grade K)

THE REV. AND MRS. J. B. NARRON: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN THE MINISTRY

Submitted by Barbara B. Arnold



The Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Narron

On Friday evening, September 8, 2000, a host of family, members of the Free Will Baptist Convention, representatives from the United States Air Force, and friends from First Free Will Baptist Church, and other churches where the Rev. and Mrs. Narron served, were on hand for a Golden Anniversary Dinner in honor of his 50 years of service in the ministry. The Fellowship Hall was decorated in harvest gold and the church china was used. Dinner napkins imprinted in gold were placed at each table setting. Fall floral arrangements were used throughout the church including the mantle and head table and gold tapers flanked with ivy and fern were used on each dinner table.

Some 140 in attendance enjoyed a buffet meal for the dinner. Special recognition was given to the beautifully decorated Open Bible Cake with blue and gold flowers and inscribed with the Rev. Narron's favorite verse of Scripture, Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," was displayed on a round table. The Open Bible Cake and several other cakes graciously prepared by some of the ladies of the church were included in the meal.

The Rev. and Mrs. Narron's family includes their son and

daughter-in-law, Mark and Bonnie Narron; daughter and son-in-law, Amy and Frankie Bissette; and daughter and son-in-law, Ruth and Russ Hicks; and granddaughters Susan and Sara Narron and Heather Hicks.

Opening remarks and the invocation were given by the Rev. Ronnie V. Hobgood. Following the dinner, a service of thanksgiving and appreciation was held in the sanctuary honoring the Rev. Narron's years of devoted service to the futherance of the work of our Lord and Saviour that spans half a century.

Guest speakers included long-time friend Dr. Michael Pelt; Chaplain Lt. Colonel F. David Mills, representing the United States Air Force; Stearle G. Pittman, spokesman for the Crusaders Sunday School Class; Jesse Corbett from the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church; Mark Narron who spoke on behalf of the family; and our pastor, the Rev. Ronnie V. Hobgood representing our church family.

Mitzi Hobgood paid tribute to Marie, thanking her for the example she has set as a pastor's wife. Our church family would be remiss if we did not thank Marie for her quick wit and good humor and for the gift of her warm friendship. Her loving devotion and support of J. B. is an inspiration to each of us. She has always been willing to share J. B. whenever a need arose in the church.

Barbara Arnold presented a monogrammed silver serving tray with the inscription, "Reverend and Mrs. J. B. Narron, Honoring His 50 Years in the Ministry, October

13, 1950—2000" from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Greenville, NC." Jean Averette read excerpts from letters and cards addressed to J. B. and Marie being compiled in an album, which is a work in process. When completed, the album will contain photographs from all those in attendance at the dinner, mementos from the dinner as well as all the letters and cards received in honor of the golden anniversary.

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Greenville honored the Narrons with a plaque on the Wall of Honor at the Convention Headquarters in Ayden, a fitting tribute to a very deserving couple. Mr. David D. Barrow, Chairman of our board spoke briefly about the Wall of Honor and introduced the Rev. David C. Hansley who presented the plaque.

Amy Bissette responded for the Narron family, acknowledging the gifts and expressing heartfelt appreciation for this special time of recognition on behalf of her parents. A check from the Narron children in appreciation of the dinner and service was presented by Amy to be added to the First Free Will Baptist Church of Greenville bus fund.

The Rev. Narron graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Atlantic Christian College, Wilson, North Carolina in 1950. He received a Masters of Divinity Degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina, in 1955. Other graduate studies include guidance and counseling at East Carolina College in 1952, and the Citadel in Charleston,

South Carolina in 1976-77. He is a graduate of the Air Force Academic Instructor Course and has participated in numerous educational programs in the Air Force.

Ordained a Free Will Baptist Minister on October 13, 1950, the Rev. Narron has pastored the following churches: First Free Will Baptist Church, Kinston (1950-52); Howell Swamp Free Will Baptist Church, Walstonburg (1953-55); Sweet Gum Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Stokes (1953-57); Rose of Sharon Free Will Baptist Church, Bear Grass (1955-57); and Ayden Free Will Baptist Church, Ayden (1985-91). The Rev. Narron retired from full-time pastoral ministry but continues supplying for other pastors and is active in numerous denominational activities.

Endorsed by the Free Will Baptists, the Rev. Narron served as a Chaplain in the United States Air Force from May 2, 1957 until June 1, 1985. Assignments included Selfridge AFB, Michigan; Samsun and Trabzon, Turkey; Offutt AFB, Nebraska; Hahn AFB, Germany; Whiteman AFB, Missouri; Clark AFB, Republic of the Philippines; Charleston AFB, South Carolina; Griffiss AFB, New York and Seymour-Johnson AFB, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

His service to the Central Conference and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists includes: Treasurer of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists (1987-89); Member of the Commission of Chaplains of the Original Free Will Baptists cont....

People & Events

and presently serving as Chairman (1995–2000); Board member of the Minister's Program of the Original Free Will Baptists and serving as Board Chairman for five years; Member of Board of Ordination of the Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists (1987–1997); Clerk of Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists from 1998–present.

Both the Rev. and Mrs. Narron have been a continued source of support and encouragement to our church family since joining the First Free Will Baptist Church of Greenville on April 12, 1992. J. B. has served as Sunday school teacher, leader of the Primitimers, a member of the Layman's League, a member of the Crusaders Sunday school class and Bible school teacher of the adult class. In addition, he has assisted our pastor with various other church services and visitation.

We have thanked the Lord many times that the Narrons chose to unite with our church and have become such a vital part of our church family. Their willingness to serve our congregation, especially the Crusaders Sunday school class and the Primitimers, as well as other churches is such an inspiration to all of us. J. B. truly has the heart of a pastor and Marie has the heart of a pastor's wife. They have shown us that no matter what our age, we still have something to offer in Christian service. May God continue to bless the Rev. and Mrs. Narron as they serve in future Christian endeavors.

HAPPY HEARTS HONOR TWO MEMBERS



Lottie Boykin, President of the Men's and Women's Sunday school class presents a certificate to Mrs. Thelma Parker.

On August 8, twenty-two members of the Marsh Swamp Church Happy Hearts, Sims, NC, met at Strothers Restaurant in

Wilson for its monthly meeting.

After a delicious buffet, Mrs. Thelma Parker was surprised by the group for her devotion and reliability for over 40 years as secretary of the Adult Men's and Women's Sunday school class. Usually the first one to arrive each Sunday, she sat in her back seat and would quietly do her job of keeping the class records.

Mrs. Parker was presented an attractive framed certificate of appreciation and a beautiful red rose.

EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



The Rev. Allen B. Bryan and his wife, Louise

Family and friends of the Rev. Allen B. Bryan gathered together on July 30, 2000 at Northeast Free Will Baptist Church, Mount Olive, NC, to celebrate his eightieth birthday. Approximately 175 friends and family members attended the birthday celebration given by the Rev. Bryan's children: Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Bryan of Washington, NC; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bryan of Statesville, NC; Mr. and Mrs. Randy Banks of Annapolis, MD; Mr. and Mrs. Al Cochran of Robersonville, NC; and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Bryan of Statesville, NC.

After attending the morning worship service at Northeast Free Will Baptist Church, friends and family were treated to a catered barbecue and chicken meal in the church fellowship hall. While waiting to be served, guests were invited to view the life of Rev. Bryan through pictures displayed in the fellowship hall.

After the meal, Edgar Bryan led the guests in a round of singing *Happy Birthday* and family members served the birthday cake to the guests.

Guests and family members were then invited to share memories of their days with Rev. Bryan. Among those who spoke of their fond memories and gave birthday greetings were the long-time friend, the Rev. N. Bruce Barrow of Snow Hill; Dr. Burkette Raper, former President of Mount Olive College; the

Rev. Sherman Dilly, Pastor of Northeast Free Will Baptist, where Rev. Bryan served as pastor from 1969–1974 and 1985–1992.

Rev. Bryan has been a Free Will Baptist minister for 56 years and has served many churches throughout eastern North Carolina. Many of the churches he served were represented at his birthday party. Among them were Lee's Chapel, Dunn; Robert's Grove, Dunn; Smith's New Home, Deep Run; Northeast, Mount Olive; Oak Grove, Bladenboro; First Church, Kinston; and First Church, Warsaw.

Among other out-of-town guests who shared birthday wishes were: Mr. Marvin Bryan, brother of Rev. Bryan, Naples, FL; Mrs. Ethel Guyton, sister of Rev. Bryan, Bladenboro, and her children; Mr. Gene Reich, stepson of Rev. Bryan,

Goldsboro; Mrs. Gracie Hester, Bladenboro; G. C. Bryan, Bladenboro; Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor, Deep Run; Mr. and Mrs. Guy Bedford, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Bedford and other work associates from the Family Shoe Store in Goldsboro; the Rev. and Mrs. David Hansley, Kinston; the Rev. and Mrs. Michael Pelt, Mount Olive; the Rev. and Mrs. Frank Harrison, Mount Olive; and Mrs. James E. Wooten, Stantonsburg. In addition, six of Rev. Bryan's ten grandchildren and his only great grandchild were in attendance.

Rev. Bryan continues to do interim ministry in surrounding communities and works full-time at The Family Shoe Store in Goldsboro. He and his wife, Louise, continue to live in Goldsboro in their "retirement" years.

YOUTH CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST "SURVIVOR"

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR
THE 2001 YOUTH CONVENTION

Bible Bowl

This year's Bible Bowl is "The Apostles."

2001 Theme

This year's convention theme is "Survivor." The overall Scripture is 1 John 5:5, *KJV*. We will be focusing on surviving in a world where there aren't that many Christians and how to handle everyday struggles with unbelievers. We can use the music CD from the "Survivor" TV show which is now available. The T-shirts will have "SURVIVOR" written in the fish symbol of Jesus.

Public Speaking

This year we have six different references the participant can use in his/her speech. They are: Jesus and His Resurrection (Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20); Jonah and the Whale (Jonah 1:17—2:10); Daniel and the Lion's Den (Daniel 6:16—2:40); David and Goliath (1 Samuel 19:1—20:42); Paul (Acts); and Noah and the Ark (Genesis 6—9). The speech is based on surviving and the way these people survived in their times of trouble.

Lesson Presentation

The participants in lesson presentation will choose their own topic.

Fun Time

The Eastern District volunteered to organize this year's fun time. We are planning on having districts against each other in field day type races and games to see who can survive. There was the suggestion of a shaving cream fight as long as we stay outside. There was also the suggestion of having Leader Games like the Counselor Games at Cragmont. Mrs. Diane said she could probably get a fun machine that spits out money or free trips to Cragmont or MOC shirts. It was suggested that the Woman's Auxiliary handle snacks during fun time instead of dinner.

THEME VERSE: 1 John 5:5

THEMES:

- Jesus and His Resurrection
- Jonah and the Whale
- Daniel and the Lion's Den
- David and Goliath
- Paul and shipwrecks; snake bites; and being in prison
- Noah and the Ark



HOMECOMING
 October 22, 2000
 Friendship Church
 47 Friendship Church Road
 Middlesex, NC 27557
 Pastor—Jacky Raper
 Sunday school begins
 at 9:45 AM

Worship Service at 11:00 AM
 Guest Speaker:
 The Rev. Jefferson D. Daughtry,
 pastor of Westside Church,
 Kinston, North Carolina
 Picnic dinner will be held
 in the Fellowship Building.
 Come join us on this special day of
 praise, worship, and fellowship.

CAPE FEAR AUXILIARY CONVENTION

Hosted by
 Shady Grove FWB Church
 Spivey's Corner, NC
 October 7, 2000

Beginning at 9:00 AM
 There will be a short business session,
 then a workshop on "Developing a
 Servant Leader." There will be a
 breakout session into small groups.
 Information will be provided to take
 back to churches.

LAYMAN'S LEAGUE DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 5, 2000:** Executive and Promotional Board meeting, 7 PM, VFW Building, Snow Hill.

November 20, 2000: Eastern Conference Layman's League, Host, Wintergreen Church, Wintergreen Road, Cove City, 6:45 PM, meal; business, 7:30 PM

December 4, 2000: Central Conference Layman's League, Host; King's Cross Roads Church, 2080 Seven Pines Road, Farmville, 6:45 PM, meal; business, 7:30 PM.

December 7, 2000: Executive and Promotional Board meeting, 7 PM, VFW Building, Snow Hill

Sunday School Charms

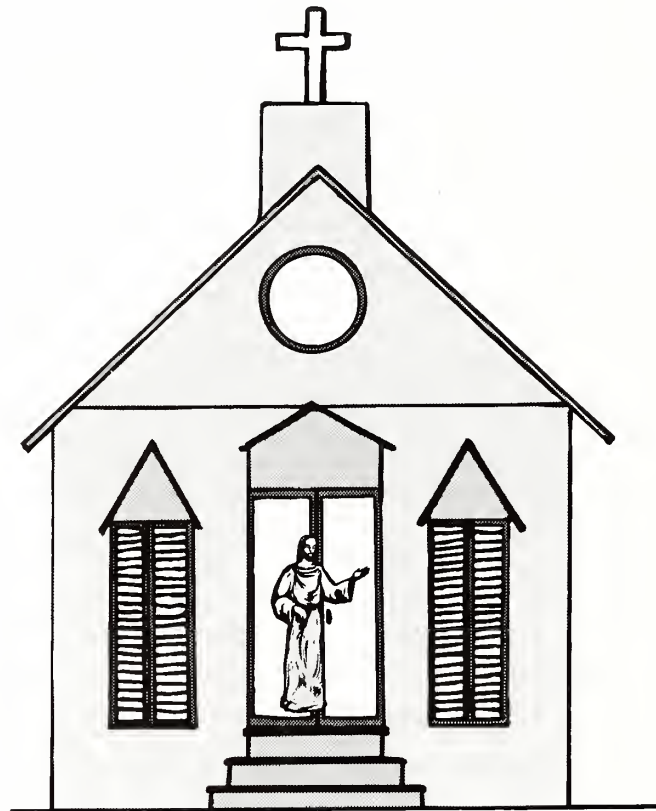
Hints and Ideas for Sunday School Growth



Responding to God's Call by Being God's People

Growing Accessible Congregations

Each of us is just a heartbeat away from a condition that can test our faith in God. As we continue the Christian endeavor in this century, the community of faith must become more aware of its obligation to intentionally include ALL persons and their families in the work of the Lord. The Sunday School Ministry offers a workshop/seminar that will focus on the fundamental understanding of the definitions of various exceptionalities and implications for service of people with conditions that disable the body, mind and/or spirit. The participants will brainstorm and come to grips with ideas that can be taken back to their local church to demonstrate an understanding of their caring for all God's creations. We MUST break the barriers, rejection, exclusion, attitudes and discrimination that exist for the people of all ages with disabling conditions. Let us respond positively to the words from Isaiah 56:7 which state "...for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people."



For further information on how your congregation can become accessible to people of all ages who have disabilities, please contact Mrs. Mary Dudley
Director of the Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry for
workshops and/or seminars.

PO Box 39

Ayden, NC 28513-0039

Phone: (252) 746-4963 or

e-mail: ofwbconvhq@coastalnet.com

DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Thomas Moore. *Soul Mates: Honoring the Mysteries of Love and Relationship*.
New York: HarperCollins. 267 pages. ISBN 0-06-016928-1.



Dr. Pepper Worthington

INTRODUCTION

What does it mean to be a soul mate? Thomas Moore gives us hints of traits that exist between soul mates: (1) ways of relating "soulfully," (2) the experience of "rare and satisfying bonds we feel," (3) a "soulful connection" (ix). Heraclitus reminds us that the "soul is its own source of unfolding" (xiii). For soul mates to get in touch with each other's soul, an exploration of "dreams and fantasies" might help. In short, Moore believes there are "mysterious factors that bring

people together and force them apart" (xiii).

THE TENSION OF ATTACHMENT AND FLIGHT

Each soul has an element of tension: the pull of relationship and the push of flight. Moore uses the mythological story of Apollo's pursuit of Daphne to illustrate his point. Daphne is the daughter of Diana (Artemis in Greek). As such, she prefers to be a virgin, remain aloof and private. When Apollo sees Daphne in the woods, he falls in love with her, wants her, and pursues her. He reminds her that he is after all a god, one who "can speak oracles" (12), can play music, can heal. Daphne is not impressed.

Daphne prefers to be alone. Moore sees her as "the solitary trying to evade the relational" (13). When Apollo almost commands Daphne, she turns into a tree, her branches stretching toward the Heavens. Moore explains the tension of the soul in this myth as an "eternal struggle to reconcile nothing less than Heaven and earth—the upward yearning for simplicity, order, meaning, and freedom, with the downward need for complexity, change, moodiness, rootedness, and attachment" (15).

INTIMACY BETWEEN SOUL MATES

What is intimacy between two people? Is it the ability to reveal the interior life of the soul with another soul? Is it allowing emotions, ideas, fears, hopes, dreams, and fantasies show? Does intimacy with one's own soul open possibilities of intimacy with another soul? Yes to all these questions.

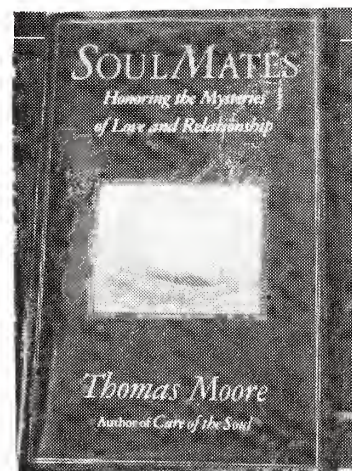
Moore believes people need to be intimate with their own soul before they can be intimate with others. Our souls also have more than one face. In fact, there are many faces to each soul. Moore insists: "Soul is made up of a multitude of sub-personalities. Jung called them the 'little people' of the psyche, complexes that have a consciousness and will of their own. If we take the figures who appear in dreams as representations of these soul-persons, then we see that they, too, enjoy relationships among themselves. The mother of my soul has a relationship to the children of my soul, for instance. A thief figure steals from me and is pursued by the police of my soul" (25).

WAYS INTIMACY MAY BE CULTIVATED BETWEEN SOUL MATES

How can intimacy be cultivated between soul mates? Moore has several suggestions: (1) Write a letter. Allow the letter to engage the soul in serious thought, in humor, in genuine reflections. Be aware of the soul who will read your letter. Insist that the letter be "private, reflective, and internal" (128). (2) Take a walk with a soul mate and allow the conversation to unfold. Do not seek conclusions, applications, or goals. Moore reminds us that "conversation has no bottom line, it doesn't have to arrive anywhere, and more often than not it will lead to even further talk instead of a solution or an answer" (122). (3) Call on the telephone to talk, to build a bond, to develop a closeness. (4) Send a gift, one that speaks particularly to your soul mate.

CONCLUSION

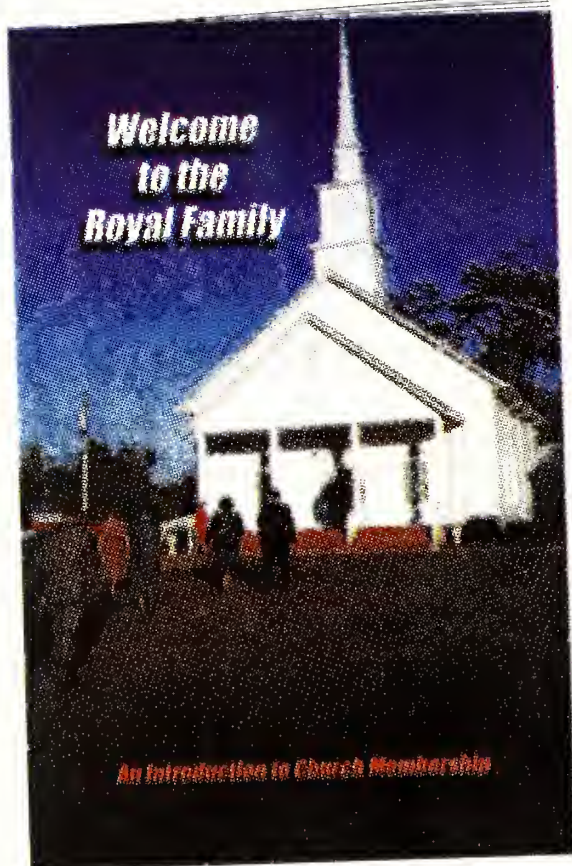
To be a soul mate we have to develop "a poetic approach" to the relationship. Moore links this poetic manner to a metaphor: soul mate as a text. He declares "that a person is a text of sorts, as are his or her stories, theories, ideas, memories, wishes, intentions—anything that a person expresses. Like any rich text, a person has many, many layers of meaning, most of them unknown even to himself" (245). Moore concludes: "The poetics of a relationship are an aspect of its mystery: we never know fully the why's and wherefore's of our thoughts and emotions" (245).



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An Introduction to Church Membership

This book is designed as basic
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in the Christian life and an
introduction to the
Original Free Will Baptist Church.

Written and Prepared by the Literature Committee
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The Free Will Baptist

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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

NOVEMBER 2000

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"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. ...Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name" (Psalm 100: 1,4).



We Strive For Perfection

The word “perfect” is found in various forms in the Bible: perfectly, perfection, perfecting, and perfectness. In all cases it means completion, finished, maturity, or the accomplishment of something of long duration. Never does it refer to sinless perfection. Such is never attained in this life; only in the life to come will it be realized. The truth is, however, that we are to strive for completion, for spiritual maturity, for Christlikeness. After all, He is our example. We are encouraged and urged to possess the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5), to be more like Him, to strive for masteries, to “...press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). The only perfectness and righteousness we can know and experience in this life is found in Him. He alone is our perfect example in all matters of holiness.

We often use the word perfect in reference to something that is flawless, or appears to be; such as, a perfect diamond, a perfect day, a perfect performance, etc. Total perfection is allusive. If an olympic athlete achieves it today, he or she may not achieve it the next day. Yet, there is always the challenge to try harder, to reach the ultimate level of flawlessness.

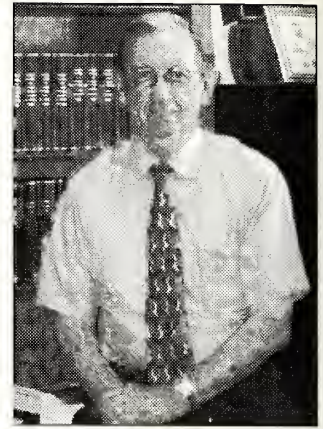
In the Christian life there is that challenge and desire to achieve, to do better today than we did yesterday. Yet, because of human weaknesses and tendencies, we never fully attain. This is true regarding our spiritual struggles as well as our physical and laborious struggles. Great men of faith struggle with their own weaknesses and frailties. As the Apostle Paul wrestled with the sin principle in his own life, he cried out: “O wretched man that I am!...” (Romans 8:24). His heart was truly fixed upon God, but he found that in himself dwelt “...no good thing:...” (Romans 7:18). Only Christ Who dwelt within made Paul’s achievements possible.

If I Were Perfect

As we recognize our own imperfections, we become more dependent on our own perfect, sinless Saviour. By His grace, He honors and blesses the efforts and services of His imperfect people. If He did not, our labor would be in vain.

Imagine how it would be if all things were perfect in each of our lives. If I were perfect, I would not feel any anger, resentment, depression, jealousy, envy, or numerous other detrimental emotions and feelings.

EDITOR'S thoughts...



C. H. Overman

If I were perfect, I would be able to grasp and understand the events and circumstances of my life in the full light of God’s Word which teaches me that “...all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

If I were perfect, I would not stammer and stumble with words and phrases when trying to audibly pray and in the preaching of His Word before a congregation. In short, my sermons would be perfect. Just imagine!

If I were physically perfect, I would have no aches and pains: I would need no medications. I would perhaps grow weary and tired, but it would be a tiredness that would bring perfect rest and peace.

If I were perfect, I would make no mistakes. As editor I would find and correct all the misspelled words and other errors in this and our other printed material. I would need no other proofreaders if I were perfect. But I am not, and no one is.

As believers, we have this consolation—there is a perfect place. God dwells there and His Son awaits us in that perfect place. Meanwhile, we will strive to do better. We will regret each error and oversight and we will pay the price, whether large or small, for each of them until we enter that place He has gone to prepare for us—when this life is complete and perfection is attained.

The New Column

So far the response to the new column, “An Open Forum,” which we announced in the September issue of *The Free Will Baptist* has been nil. Thus, it may be that some of our ideas are not feasible after all. However, we still believe it would serve a noteworthy purpose.

Send us your questions and we will provide the answers. Questions may pertain to our denominational ministries, doctrines, or questions pertaining to the Bible. Send your questions to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513. ❖

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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NEXT MONTH

December is
Foreign Missions
Month



November is
Free Will Baptist
Children's Home
Month

reminiscences:

88th Annual Session of Original Free Will Baptists

by Pepper Worthington
Delegate, Free Union
Free Will Baptist Church,
Sea Level, NC

What is it about the Original Free Will Baptist Convention held in College Hall at Mount Olive College that brings out undercurrent excitement, mission commitment, political strategies, self-awareness, and other awareness? What is it about the Convention that calls forth the leaders to speak to us, to remind us, and to challenge us? Has a Convention ever ushered in a statesman, a man for the hour whose very presence and view of the larger picture of organizational faith hit dead on in judgment, admonishment, and wisdom? Has a Convention ever revealed the passion of a focus? What is it that transforms a Convention from a political maneuvering to a spiritual awakening?

Why do we all get so stirred up about agendas that do not appear on the program but do appear in sudden flashes. What flashes? Those moments occur when leaders make passionate pleas to support their mission and to urge others to join their voices in agreement.

The 88th Annual Session

I must admit that the 88th Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists struck me as more intense this year than ever. Several speakers came to the podium with fire in their eyes, heat in their hands, and wind in their voices. Mrs. Jean Ackiss stepped to the microphone to nominate a trustee for Mount Olive College, her voice clear and persuasive as a hurricane warning from Channel 9. The Rev. Leon Grubbs, president of the Convention, presided with a smooth animation, recognizing all voices from the floor. Bishop Forbes seemed more jolly than ever in his defense of being a little late. But he was fully present with his determined message: "I am going to love the devil out of you." That's *his* line. He has copyright of it.

The Rev. Donald Fader was more alive than usual in his presentation of suggestions for the financial health of both churches and ministers, his voice urging people to deposit money with his program in order to help churches and Free Will Baptists borrow at a lower interest rate than the banks demand. The

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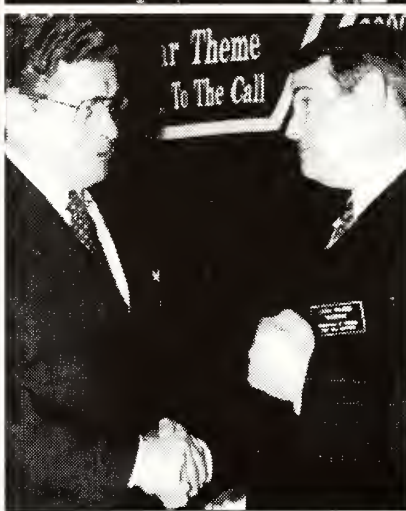


Top: The 88th Convention was well attended.

Left: Willem van der Plas welcomes the opportunity to speak at the Mission Rally.

Right: The Rev. Phil Wood and the Rev. David Charles Hansley have good fellowship at the convention.

Bottom: President Leon Grubbs congratulates Dr. W. Burkette Raper for his inspiring address.



Rev. David Charles Hansley was all over the floor, his energy as electric as bumper cars at the State Fair.

Mr. Cliff Gray came to the podium and spoke with fervor about the importance of the denominational literature and the need for Free Will Baptists to support this denominational literature *written by our own people with our own theological roots* in its formation. To undermine our denominational literature is a form of undermining the ministry of the Free Will Baptist Press, the ministry Mr. Gray serves and supports.

Heat ran through the reports, a heat reminiscent of political campaigns. After all, the year 2000 is an election year and the beliefs, policies, and leadership of a candidate are crucial for victory and survival. Was this vibrancy at this Convention also a reassessment of beliefs for a ministry?

Dr. J. William Byrd's report of Mount Olive College was tinged with a certain sorrow *and* courage, challenge *with* commitment. He was positive in his acknowledgment of the good things the College has done, but he was bold in his admittance of some mistakes. He said, "I cannot tell you every decision I have made has been the right one. I made the decisions the best I knew. Not every action at a moment is a right action. There are some things I would have done differently." Solidly he added, "But I can tell you I have been true to the ideals of the ministry of this College. I have never flagged to do the task that needed to be done. And I have given thanks for the blessings received."

All of these voices from the Rev. Fader to Mr. Gray to Dr. Byrd, had an urgency about them, as if this were a special moment in history, a moment of challenge and consequences. What is done today affects tomorrow. What is not done today affects tomorrow. What are we to do?

The Birth of a Statesman

Who is a statesman? What are the qualities of a statesman? Politicians may be leaders who rise to power but they may never become statesmen. Why not? Politicians may find themselves limited by their own politics. They may have

certain points of view so ingrained and woven into the fabric of their brain tissue that they can't think their way into or out of a moment in time that calls for judgment, admonishment, and wisdom.

For a quietly joyous moment, our denomination had a chance to see Dr. W. Burkette Raper move from Mount Olive College leadership to denominational statesmanship. Everyone present during his morning address on Wednesday, September 13, 2000, had a chance to hear him process a dilemma and work his way through it, leaving the denomination a specific challenge with a course of action.

As a statesman, Dr. Raper used the metaphor of the *railroad system* as a system that started with a mission, namely, to transport people and their goods from one place to another. The mission of the railroad was transportation. The moment the leaders of the railroad forgot this mission, the system became foremost. The structure and format of the railroad system replaced the importance of transportation. What happened? Air travel replaced railroad travel.

Forcefully, Dr. Raper challenged all the ministries of the Original Free Will Baptists to consider a presentation not only of *financial figures* and program successes next year, but also make a presentation of *mission statements* and how they achieved their mission goals. "Every ministry as well as the Convention itself should examine its mission," he challenged. "What we need are audits from each of our ministries. We need to examine how well our ministries are fulfilling their reason for being. Each ministry next year needs to provide a *mission audit*," he challenged robustly.

Dr. Raper made several unique suggestions for each ministry report next year: (1) Provide a clear concise statement of mission. (2) Make a concise list of achievements and results of our work. (3) Reflect upon the mission goals in a five-year context. (4) Present a plan for the future. (5) Provide mission audits in print for our people. (6) Remember that *training* is a form of conditioning people to do what we want them to do and to believe while *education* is a form of teaching people to develop

themselves to be the people God wants them to be. (8) Seek to develop a deeper spiritual life so that spiritual growth and Christian commitment bond in the mission of life. (9) Know that God is the only real security we have.

In the tension of the many voices at this 88th Annual Session, Dr. Raper rose to become a statesman, a leader whose overall view of the people of this denomination reflects his judgment, admonishment, and wisdom. With passion he declared, "We must empty ourselves and commit ourselves to the ultimate power of the universe. Without God, we have nothing. With God, we have everything." His humanity came to the forefront. "I have spoken to you out of the sanctuary of my soul," he concluded.

Foreign Mission Rally

The tone of heightened intensity drifted into the special rally on Wednesday night. The presentations by Lydia and Willem van der Plas were poignant, their voices as persuasive as if they were having an important fireside chat with us. They spoke of the severe poverty in Bulgaria, of people not being able to afford meat or clothes. The people do not go to the huge cathedrals, so these cathedrals remain empty with no chairs. The gypsies of Bulgaria have no indoor plumbing, but they are a people with a cheerful spirit. However, many of the people in Varna are drug addicts. Babies are sometimes given drugs to keep quiet. Lydia and Willem van der Plas gave us more startling facts: (1) The social needs of Bulgaria are so great that the government is fearful of foreign missionaries. Lydia and Willem were sent out of Bulgaria on December 31, 1994. (2) They hoped to return to Bulgaria and did so. (3) Today they invite people to tell them their troubles. (4) They plan to build a three-story building in Varna. (5) The local police still investigate them. Some places in Bulgaria are more free than others. (6) A collection of \$32,308.91 was taken up for Foreign Missions with \$17,011.58 for Home Missions, making a total of \$49,320.49 for the mission ministries.

cont....

Conclusion

The Convention hangs over my head like a siren horn cutting across an urban street. No matter how we find ourselves at this moment in history, the blast of the siren reminds us of emergency needs elsewhere—suffering but a block away, sick hearts trapped in time, joy a reality for some with stench and fear a reality for others. Who are we in this world of fever and fret?

The town of Varna becomes a spot of time, its needs impossible. *But we must try.* The aging Free Will Baptist minister without a retirement home becomes a sick heart. *But we must try.* India's State of Bihar has our Orphanage of 26 children with Dr. Lall loving his people whose needs never end. *But we must try.* The denominational literature as our outreach is facing competition with slick, commercial, big-business publishing houses while our denominational writers seek to keep close to the denomination's roots in the writing of the material. *But we must try.* Our College

is under fire in documentation for accreditation. *But we must try.* We ourselves are aging and face a shrinking of our numbers. *But we must try.*

Some of us are aging and wonder what we have done in our lives anyway. For whom does the bell toll? What has been our mission as individuals, as Free Will Baptists, as workers, as parents, and as Americans?

Are we able to perceive the ever-expanding needs of the world and not despair? Are we able to hope for God's presence until that very hope, as Shelley said, creates from its own hopelessness the thing it contemplates?

Our denominational statesman, Dr. Raper, has spoken to us and challenged us. We have a mission report to prepare. We have a task to answer these questions about our reason to be: (1) When we wake up in the morning, what is our mission for that day? Not only what do we want to accomplish, but for whom, why, and in what spirit shall we move and have our being? (2) Where is the purpose of our life today? Is there a view for five years? (3) If we were to die this

day, do we know why we have lived? (4) Have we loved? (5) Have we made a difference? (6) Is there enough reality in our perception of life to know that the only security in human existence is a tenacious, even if rationally unexplainable, hope in the ultimate presence of God? (7) If all the needs of the people are not met, can we make a little difference with a few? (8) Is there some way to shift from a preoccupation with our heightened, even narrow focus of mission to consider the larger mission? The railroad system (church) is to transport people (from one place in awareness to a spiritual awakening of love). God is the conductor, so God must guide the train (church) or else we shall find ourselves lost on a track of our own making. The end of the track is not money, power, or property, for they disappear in time as our babies do. The end of the track must be the darkness of the grave that leads to the Light of the universe. We move with fear and trembling, for we must hope until *that very hope creates what it believes.* ❖



The One Hundred Third Psalm

BLESS the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits;
3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;
4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;
5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.
6 The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.
7 He made known his ways unto

Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.
8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.
9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.
10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins: nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.
12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.
13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.
14 For he knoweth our frame, he re-

membereth that we are dust.
15 As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.
16 For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.
17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;
18 To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.



Pelt Celebrates 50 Years of Ministry

Dr. Michael Pelt, professor emeritus of religion at Mount Olive College, was honored at a service on Sunday, September 24, celebrating fifty years of ministry. The service was held in Rodgers Chapel on the college campus, followed by a reception in the Hennessee Room in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. The Rev. Frank Harrison, Campus Minister, presided over the service and Dr. David



Hines, chair of the religion department, gave the invocation and welcomed those in attendance. Mrs. Mary Dudley read the Scripture from Ephesians 4:1-16. Mrs. Sharon Pelt Roach sang a solo, which was followed by the Ordination Anniversary Prayer by the Rev. Earl Glenn, pastor of Daniels Chapel Church. Dr. DeWayne Eakes, pastor of Little Rock Church, Lucama, NC, brought a message with the title, "In Pursuit of Excellence."

In order to suggest the scope of Dr. Pelt's ministry, three persons spoke briefly on the fields of service in which Dr. Pelt had been involved. The first was the Rev. Leon Grubbs, pastor of Hull Road Church, who described Dr. Pelt's role as a pastor and churchman, listing the churches he had served as pastor and the offices he had held in the Central conference and in the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. Dr. Burkette Raper spoke of Dr. Pelt as teacher and administrator at Mount Olive College for thirty-seven years. He described Dr. Pelt as "a man of Christian scholarship and humility." He added that choosing Dr. Pelt for a faculty position was one

of the most important decisions he ever made as president of the college. Mr. Gary Barefoot, Director of Library Resources Emeritus, speaking on Dr. Pelt's role as writer and historian, referred to Dr. Pelt's book, *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*, as a work that was based on good scholarship and research.

"...a man of Christian scholarship and humility."

Dr. Pelt was ordained to the ministry by a Council of the Salem Association in west Florida on September 30, 1950. He served part-time churches in southeast Alabama while in his last two years of college at Troy State University in Troy, Alabama. He then served as pastor of a mission church in the vicinity of Miami, Florida, for one year after which he enrolled at Duke Divinity School in Durham in order to continue his preparation for ministry. While a student at Duke he served as pastor at LaGrange, White Oak Grove, and Hull

Road Free Will Baptist churches.

He began his career in Christian higher education at Mount Olive College in 1957. In 1966 he completed a Ph.D. in religion at Duke University and then continued his role as chair of the religion department at Mount Olive. While at Duke he was pastor of St. Paul Church near Newton Grove. He and his family spent a year abroad at Cambridge University in

England in 1973-74 on a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. While there he was able to travel to other parts of Europe and the Middle East.

Dr. Pelt played an active role in the transition of Mount Olive College to senior college status and in helping the college to achieve accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1986. He retired from the college in 1993 at which time the board of trustees conferred on him the title of Professor Emeritus of Religion.

Dr. Pelt was married to Betty Ethridge of Dothan, Alabama on May 31, 1953. They are the parents of four children, have five grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

In his closing remarks during the service, Dr. Pelt thanked Almighty God for calling him into His service and for His providential care throughout his life. He noted that the last fifty years have been an opportunity for spiritual and intellectual growth. He thanked his wife Betty for having supported him in his studies and in his work throughout forty-seven years of marriage. ❖

Saint's Delight Welcomes the Layman's League Of Central Conference

by Harold Humbles,
State Layman's Secretary

Left: Layman Henry Johnson, covering the steeple at St. Delight FWB Church, puts the final touches to the exterior vinyl. I guess when you are working on the Lord's house, the closer your are to Him the better you enjoy it.



The Original Free Will Baptist Central Conference Layman's League met on September 11, at Saint's Delight Church, Ormondsville. Little Creek Church assisted in hosting the meeting. Approximately 170 layman were in attendance. There was a sense of fellowship as the men arrived for the meal and the service that followed. Pastor Jack Weathersby and the Saint's Delight Layman League were excited after months of planning for the meeting and especially with the completion of the new fellowship building. Special thanks go to Little Creek and Saint's Delight and all who helped to carry out this event. The special music, especially the guitar picking, was a blessing to all. Special thanks also to the ladies who helped in the serving of the meal.

The invocation was given by Rex Wainwright. The speaker was Albert

Moore. The Conference issued plaques for highest attendance to Rose Hill Church, and highest percentage attendance plaque went to Rose of Sharon Church. Ministers and ministry representatives were recognized. The Rev. Frank Harrison spoke on behalf of Mount Olive College, stating that we must keep God first in our lives and how important it is to provide the opportunity for Christian education for our youth at a time when so many are lost in sin. He reminded everyone to try prayer as the problem solver.

Saint's Delight Church was founded in 1835. On March 9, 1870, Dr. Lemuel Bowen presented the deed to the church. Sunday school rooms were added in 1960. As indicated in the picture, improvements continue to be made on the church. ❖

Dates To Remember

November 20, 2000: Eastern Conference Layman's League; Host, Wintergreen Church, Wintergreen Road, Cove City, Meal 6:45 PM; Business, 7:30 PM.

December 4, 2000: Central Conference Layman's League; Host, King's Cross Roads Church, 2080 Seven Pines Road, Farmville, Meal 6:45 PM; Business, 7:30 PM.

December 7, 2000: Executive and Promotional Board meeting, 7 PM, VFW Building, Snow Hill.

February 1, 2001: Executive Board and Promotional Board meeting 7 PM VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC.

March 5, 2001: Central Conference Layman's League, Free Union Church Route 2, Walstonburg, NC, Meal 6:45PM, Business 7:30 PM.

April 5, 2001: Executive and Promotional Board Meeting, 7 PM, Walstonburg, NC, Meal 6:45 PM, Business 7:30 PM.

May (Ladies Night) : To be announced.

June 4, 2001: Central Conference Layman's League; Host, Elm Grove Church, Ayden, NC, Meal 6:45 PM, Business 7:30 PM.

Memories Sweep Over Me

by Ray Williamson
Pastor, Edgewood Free Will Baptist Church

Been to Camp Vandemere lately? One of my most enjoyable days recently was when I returned to Camp Vandemere for its annual "Singing by the River." I was spiritually, mentally, and physically refreshed. It was a day that I needed. I not only heard great singing, but I ate some of the best fish I had ever tasted, and I met many dear and wonderful friends again. I thoroughly enjoyed the music, the food, the fellowship, the fresh air, and the beautiful view of Bay River. I left Camp Vandemere that day more thrilled and thankful than ever before for the pure joy of being alive and having Christ as my Saviour!

I spoke of returning to Camp Vandemere. It had been my pleasure to work with "Mr. and Mrs. Camp Vandemere," Ralph and Janie Sumner, in summer youth camps from 1977-86, but it had been several years since I had made the trip back. However, as I walked over the grounds, looked through all the buildings, and stood on the old bulkhead at the river's edge, many special memories began to sweep over me. Not only had I returned to Camp Vandemere, but Camp Vandemere had returned to me.

I could almost see and hear the children running and laughing again, boys chasing girls and, sometimes, girls chasing boys. I remembered the annual "canoe tests" and the alarming cries of jelly fish!" in the river (pre-swimming pool days). Visions of camp fires and stories of the Camp Vandemere "Preacher Creature" came back to me. I, again, felt the serenity of early morning devotions by the old cross. I could see a little boy pushing a new-found girlfriend in the old tree swing, campers lining up in front of the dining hall like "little birds in the wilderness," and then incessantly asking, "how long 'til snack time?" I recalled the rainy days and the futile attempts to convince fifty rambunctious children that they were having as much fun inside with "Plan B" as they would have outside. So many memories...trips to Fort Macon on the old Rock of Zion Church bus, Thursday

night cookouts and talent shows, cold showers, and so much more.

All these camp activities and antics were fun, but what made Camp Vandemere most special was the privilege and joy of seeing young hearts touched by the Spirit of the Lord through the morning Bible studies, our prayer walks, and the evening worship services. Words cannot describe the blessing of standing in the river at twilight baptizing precious children, or returning home after a week at camp and baptizing six of our own Gum Swamp Church youth the next Sunday, including my own daughter, who had given their lives to Christ at Camp Vandemere.

My son, Brad, who is now the pastor of La Grange First Free Will Baptist Church, started with me at Camp Vandemere when he was so little he had to sleep in the same bunk with me. The next year, he slept in the bunk next to me. Each year thereafter, he would move a little farther away until he was at the other end of the dorm. I saw my son grow up a little more each summer at Camp Vandemere.

Please go back to Camp Vandemere if you have not been in a while. I guarantee you will start remembering. Go back, too, to see the wonderful progress that has been made through the diligent efforts, hard work, and generous contributions of a lot of good people, especially since the devastation of Hurricane Floyd last year. Brother Owen Arthur was kind enough to give me the "grand tour" during my day at Camp Vandemere. I was particularly impressed with the "modern" kitchen, the sturdy bunk beds, and the new 4-unit family cottage that sleeps up to 24 people with accommodations as fine as any motel. Just get within three feet of Brother Owen, say the words "Camp Vandemere," and he will enthusiastically tell you all about it!

If you have not been to Camp Vandemere—go! If you have not prayed for Camp Vandemere—pray! If you have not given to Camp Vandemere—give! It is a very special place! ❖



The Bible & Bookstores of Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, & Wilson

Invite you to join us at our annual



Christmas Open House

on
Saturday, December 2, 2000

from

9:00am to 5:00pm

Come and enjoy a warm holiday atmosphere with refreshments and **20% off*** purchases.



Plus

Register, on this day only, to win a Special Edition Family Bible with Thomas Kinkadee Artwork. (a \$54.99 retail value)



* This applies to in-stock items only. Exclusions are robes, hymnals, S.S. literature, and church supplies.



August Providers

We are very proud of the Woman's Auxiliaries of the Free Will Baptist denomination. Each one has helped provide our children with cottage needs.

Thank you to all of these women, for their visits, prayers, love, and determination. ❖



Top Left: Woman's Auxiliary members of Harmony Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, NC, (L to R) Margaret Walston, Dayle O'Ham, and Margaret Letchworth. **Top Right:** Dr. Bobby Taylor on September 7 at evening chapel service. **Center Left:** Members of Soundview Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary, Newport, NC. **Center Right:** (L to R) back—Eunie Perry, Tom Stockdale, Wilbert Blackwell, Jake Young, and Gary Lee, Eaton Aeroquip. **Second From Bottom:** Making sure the children enjoy their meal are the members of Friendship Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary, Middlesex, NC.



Above: Members of Exchange Club of Wilson, NC

Many clubs share their time. For years the members of the Exchange Club of Wilson, NC, have continuously supported the Children's Home with the annual cookout in the middle of our campus. It was enjoyed by everyone. Their dedication is appreciated more than words can express. Thank you for caring.

The Community Involvement Team of the Eaton Aeroquip Corporation, Middlesex, NC, visited on August 1 and provided the children with greatly needed items. Their day concluded with a tour of our campus. On October 11 the children toured the Eaton Aeroquip facilities. A special thank you to Eaton Aeroquip for showing what "community involvement" really means! ❖

CAMPUS ITEMS NEEDED

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Products | <input type="checkbox"/> Smooth 1/2 cup serving spoons | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Wooden Porch Rocking Chairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving Bowls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Care Items | <input type="checkbox"/> Hot Flat Irons for Hair | <input type="checkbox"/> Playstation Games (rated E) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower Curtains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Encyclopedias (CD Rom) | <input type="checkbox"/> Large (Adult) Size Book Bags | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Wooden Glider Swings | <input type="checkbox"/> Standard Size Pillows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computers for Cottages (est. cost \$5000) | <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Pencil Sharpeners | <input type="checkbox"/> Board Games —(Bible Bingo, | <input type="checkbox"/> Bath Mats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpet Cleaning Machine | <input type="checkbox"/> Tall Table Lamp | <input type="checkbox"/> Charter Bus to Zoo (approx. \$1500.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Can Openers (manual) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Cart | <input type="checkbox"/> Desk Lamps | <input type="checkbox"/> Twin size Thermal Blankets | <input type="checkbox"/> Centerpieces for Cottage Kitchen Tables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appliances | <input type="checkbox"/> Large Electric Griddles | <input type="checkbox"/> Pot Holders | <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry Supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum Cleaner | <input type="checkbox"/> Large Electric Fry Pans | | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning Supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 qt., 10 qt., 12 qt. stock pots | <input type="checkbox"/> Large Crock Pots | | <input type="checkbox"/> Pole Lamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slotted 1/2 cup serving spoons | <input type="checkbox"/> Large Canister Sets | | |

“Join Our Family Christmas”

Dear Friends:

Christmas is so very special. A time for friends and family. Children sharing their achievements with grandparents and learning of Christmas past. When the hustle and bustle of shopping and holiday preparation is done, we look forward to those quiet moments of sharing the special joy of our gift-of-family.

Many of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home children can't remember a special year or gift. For them Christmas has been filled with uncertainty, violence and neglect.

Christmas at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home is always a new world for the children we serve. Many of our children have never experienced the

many simple pleasures and joys of a happy Christmas. For many reasons, their holidays lack the luster and brilliance of family gatherings, home-cooked “goodies,” and gifts from the heart.

This holiday season we ask for your help. You can help by contributing \$100 for each child you would like to sponsor. This is a good project for youth groups, Ladies Auxiliaries, Layman Leagues, Sunday school classes, or other church groups. We invite you to make this Christmas special for a child. Simply complete the Sponsorship Reservation form below and return it to us by December 1, 2000. ❖

Churches & Ministers Available

NOTE : This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of “The Free Will Baptist.” (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The **Rev. Greg Mills**, a member in good standing with the Eastern Conference, is available for interim or supply pastoral services, and revival services. His address is 2812 Jefferson Drive, Greenville, NC 27858, phone 252-752-8861.

“I am a licensed Original Free Will Baptist minister. I am available for pulpit supply in the absence of a pastor. My home church is Indian Springs, Seven Springs, NC 28578, phone 919-658-8143 (cell phone 919-273-1081)” —**Ted Thornton**, 105 Fields Drive, Mount Olive, NC 28365

Arapahoe Free Will Baptist Church, Arapahoe, NC due to the resignation of their Pastor, is seeking a full-time minister, effective immediately. If interested, please contact: Lawrence Paul, 145 Hardison Street, Grantsboro, NC 28529, phone 252-745-5206.



Free Will Baptist Children's Home

Sponsorship Reservation Form

FWB

Sponsor: _____

Contact Person: _____

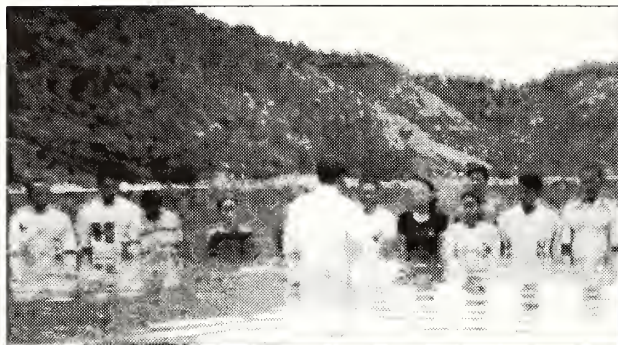
Address: _____

Telephone: () _____

Number of Children We Would like To Sponsor _____

Cut Out and Mail Form To:

Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Inc.
PO Box 249 • Middlesex, NC 27557-0249



First Crusade At Minapla, Philippines

by Rosana R. Briones

The Mission Department, under the supervision of the Rev. Dario S. Basingil and his staff went to Minapla, Taytay, Palawan. We left Puerto Princesa City at 7 PM. Sunday, April 23. The team rode on a passenger jeep, traveling almost six hours from Puerto to Roxas. We arrived at 12 o'clock midnight and slept in the home of the Rev. and Mrs. Teddy Martinez. Early in the morning we prepared ourselves for the rest of the trip. We traveled to Alimanguan, arriving there at noon, we took our lunch at the home of Brother Peter Ramilo. We were very tired because of the long trip and the road is not good for the jeep.

After lunch we rested and talked about our trip. We were reminded of God's goodness and His faithfulness. In order to get to Minapla, we now needed two pump boats to finish our journey. They arrived at 5 PM. We loaded our bags and departed Alimanguan at 7 PM. When we were in the midst of the sea one of our boats had engine trouble. It was very dark; we could not see anything. The operator tried to repair the boat but could not. The operator of the other boat got a rope and tied it to the back of the other boat. We traveled very slowly because of the heavy baggage and the musical instruments. The group arrived at 12 midnight, traveling almost five hours before we reached the place of Pastor Abundio Roxas on the island of Minapla.

Food had been prepared for the team, so after eating we finally got to sleep at 1 AM. Tuesday morning we prepared ourselves for the Crusade. Many of the members live very far from the church and the pastor takes a boat when he visits them. There are two new

graduates who have committed themselves to work there. They are Sister Rowena Nefras and Sister Jerlyn Lizardo. They had visited the members and announced that the Mission Department would be conducting a Crusade. Pastor Roxas had planned to borrow sound equipment, a TV, VHS player and a generator, but when he went to pick it up it had been loaned to someone else. There was a fiesta in another barangay and they had the equipment. We had to change our plans.

We returned to the church and started making preparations for a service. Pastor Roxas had to get the members on his boat. The service started at 7 PM. The Rev. Basingil was the speaker at the service. There were eight people who accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Then Wednesday morning at the Minapla Church, under Pastor Roxas, four children were brought to the Lord. We give God the glory for all He has done in that place. The hardships that we experienced in travel seem so small.

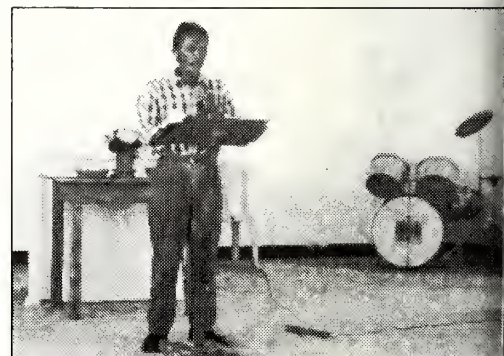
With all the work finished, we had planned to leave Wednesday afternoon about 4 PM., but Pastor Roxas told us if the team left at that time it would be 7 PM. before we would reach Alimanguan. There would be no more transportation from Taytay to Puerto Princesa, so we decided to wait and leave on Thursday morning at 3 AM. It was a long trip from Minapla by boat to Alimanguan, then

Top Left: The Rev. Dario S. Basingil giving instructions to 12 new converts before baptism. **Top Right:** The Rev. Teddy Martinez giving the message before the baptism. **Right:** Service in Minapla Church for the dedication of 3 children.



on to Puerto. By the grace of God and through much prayer, we accomplished the work of the Lord. Please pray for our new workers in the Philippines. ❖

Below Top: Brother "Boy" Mamac's adult Sunday school topic was the Christian Life. **Below Bottom:** Merly Taladro's class uses materials from the Short Term Missionary Team.



Sunday Services

by: Rev. Dario S. Basingil

Last August 6, 2000, my family and I attended Worship Service at Mangangisda Free Will Baptist Church, Barangay Mangangisda, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. The Rev. Dario S. Basingil gave a message during that time. He emphasized the Christian Responsibilities to his church. Three things he stressed about Christian Responsibilities: (1) to work in his church; (2) to care for his church; (3) to protect his church.

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” ❖

Below Top: The Rev. Mark Taladro and his brother, Arturo Taladro, Jr. leading praise and Worship. **Below Bottom:** Merly Taladro, the wife of the Rev. Taladro, and her Sunday school for children. The children reported to the congregation, the story they learned.



Newsletter From India And Nepal

by Dr. E. M. Lall

Ln spite of persecution, hovering upon churches and their ministers, endangering life and property and causing obstruction in the preaching work which is our Constitutional right, the evangelism in our church denomination has not come to a standstill! On the contrary it is growing at a faster rate than in the past. We are still alive to our responsibility of preaching the Word to the unreached. We rely that God has not given us the spirit of fear but of courage and strength.

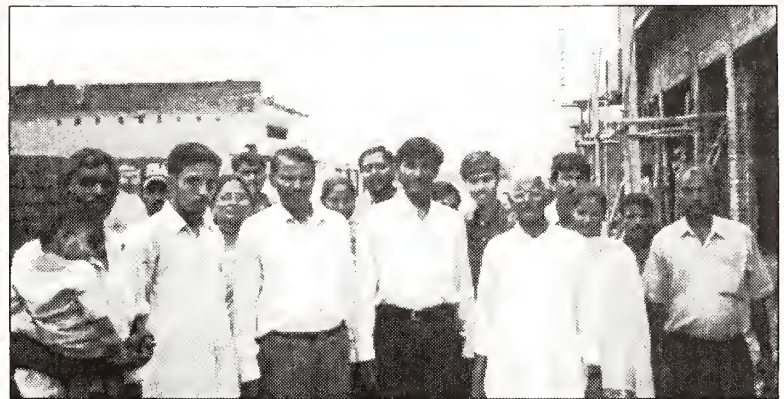
Mass conversion and Baptisms are in the offing as soon as the Court Affidavits of the people concerned are completed. These seekers are very active in the church and have joy in their heart for their Salvation.

A good literate congregation in the Urban City, called the Union Baptists,

have joined with us from 229 kilometers from our church headquarters in Bareilly. I visited with them in order to adopt them into our church organization. They have a good piece of land in their possession for church building. They assured me that they would be able to collect funds for the church erection. They have come with us just for the sake of leadership. I will give them due guidance and watch the progress.

The evangelistic work in Nepal is also in full swing. Even the new converts comprising of young people, including the ladies, are telling people about the Lord Jesus Christ and their Salvation. I am glad that our ministers in Nepal have opened three more centers in the rural areas where there is desperate need for preaching the Gospel. ❖

Right: Women and young people in Nepal are going into villages sharing the Gospel. **Right Bottom Two :** New congregation in Ganganagar, Matwana, India.



November

Prayer C



SUN	MON	TUE	
			1
5	6	7	8
12	13 Joint meeting Conference Moderators and Ordination Boards. Greenville First Church, 9:30 AM	14 Cape Fear Conference,, Shady Grove Church, Dunn,NC	15
19 MOC 2000 Alumni Homecoming	20 Eastern Conference Layman's League, Wintergreen Church, Cove City, NC. Meal, 6:45 PM, Business, 7:30 PM	21 MOC Founders Day, Rodgers Chapel, 11:00 AM. FWB Press Board Meeting, Headquarters, 1:00PM	22
26	27	28	29

Blank lined area for notes.

Things to Remember _____

THU		FRI		SAT	
	2		3		4
	9 Central Conference Elm Grove Church, Ayden, NC		10 MOC Fall Visitation Registration, 9:30 AM		11
	16		17 MOC 2000 Alumni Homecoming		18
	23		24		25
	30 MOC Concert Choir Concert Rodgers Chapel, 8:00 PM				

Urgent Prayer Request Priority Projects For 2001

These projects must be funded or we will have no recourse but to cancel the 2001 Short-Term Team to the Philippines, Mexico, and Bulgaria.

Philippines: Church Building
Naga City \$15,000.00 *

(*Taken by Tee's Chapel Church, Praise the Lord!)

Mexico: Church Building/Parsonage
Sabinas \$22,000.00

Bulgaria: Church Building
Varna \$28,000.00

We need to hear from churches and individuals that will commit to these projects by the following dates:

Deadline for commitment to the Philippine project: January 2001

Deadline for commitment to the Mexico project: March 2001

Deadline for commitment to the Bulgarian project: May 2001

Please join us in prayer for the Short-Term Team Ministry. It has been a blessing to our fields and the lives of our Short-Term Missionaries. It is the desire of the Board of Foreign Missions to continue this ministry, but in order to do so there must be proper project funding each year. ❖

Harold Jones, *Director/Treasurer*

* Answers for word search found on page 22.

W	A	R	A	I	M	A	T	O	P	O	S	E	M
M	E	D	I	T	E	R	R	A	N	E	A	N	F
D	A	V	I	D	D	X	O	M	Y	R	X	O	N
A	B	S	A	L	O	M	Q	E	F	H	G	L	S
D	E	G	S	D	N	R	O	E	A	F	Y	A	
O	B	I	T	T	I	T	E	N	J	O	A	B	O
N	S	B	R	E	T	K	L	I	U	R	I	A	H
I	E	E	M	E	I	U	T	D	A	Z	B	E	
J	T	O	W	P	S	N	R	E	G	H	U	Q	J
A	A	N	O	L	T	G	I	S	E	P	G	P	W
H	B	Q	P	E	U	S	N	O	M	O	L	O	S
U	R	D	S	E	N	I	T	S	I	L	I	H	P
M	A	O	B	O	H	E	R	A	I	B	A	R	A
A	B	G	J	E	R	O	B	O	A	M	N	I	S

HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

Ethnic Missions, H'mong Youth Camp—California

by Everette V. Harper, Evangelist
Renewed Vision Ministries, Inc.

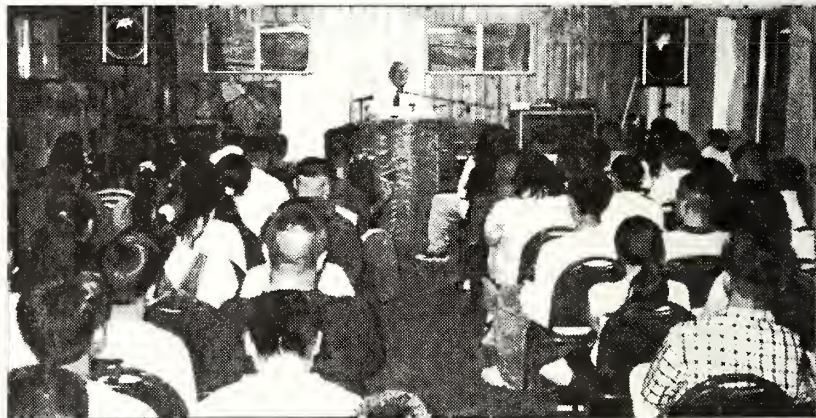
The Original Free Will Baptist Denomination has been working with the H'mong people in California for about 20 years. During these years, there have been untold numbers of our ministers and members of our laity who have sacrificially made trips to minister to these people who are made up of refugees from Laos.

With great anticipation, the Rev. A. Graham Lane and I left the airport in New Bern, NC on August 7, 2000, for a week of working at Heavenly Hills Christian Camp located near Sonora, California. We found a willingness to learn and a genuine desire to know more about the Word of God. Many of these people came from a background of Buddhism but the Lao Evangelical Church doctrine is like that of the Original Free Will Baptists.

The worship services and Bible study began at 9 AM, and lasted until 12:30 PM at which time lunch was served. In the afternoon, there was a time for supervised recreation, a short rest period, and supper was served at 5:30 PM. Bible study resumed at 6:30 PM. During this evening session, I had the pleasure of leading the group in singing and sang to them also. It was a wonderful time in the Lord. Repeatedly, at the conclusion of the services, several young people came forward and asked Jesus to come into their hearts and were saved.

On Thursday evening, the H'mong youth held a concert with music and skits which lasted well after midnight. There was a banquet on Friday evening. The boys and girls dressed really nice and there were flowers for the girls.

Why are we in California? This is what some seem to be asking. The answer is simple. Here is a group of



Top: Candidates for Baptism, Youth Camp 2000. Middle: Dr. Graham Lane's Bible session, Senora, CA. Bottom: The Rev. Everette Harper, Youth Camp 2000

people who were forced from their homeland after the Vietnam conflict and came to America. They needed help and many came together to help them including Original Free Will Baptists. During these 20 years, several church groups have been established among the H'mongs including a headquarters building and church in Fresno, California. There are several H'mong church groups in California. There are also churches in St. Paul Minnesota; Salt Lake City, Utah; Las Vegas, Nevada; western North Carolina, and another was started in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in September of this year.

There was an attendance of 118 young people at the camp this year. On Friday, Brother Graham, myself, and five H'mong pastors had the honor and privilege of baptizing a total of 42 boys and girls who were saved during the week. After the baptism, we went back to the chapel where Communion was

observed. It was impressive to me how important it seems to be for the H'mong people to teach their children the Word of God, how to be saved, the need to follow Christ in water baptism, and the need to share with others.

Some would ask, "Why didn't they stay where they came from and stay out of our country?"

We all need to stop and realize that our ancestors, at some time in history, came to a land that belonged to "someone else." It's not our country. It's just by the grace of God that we are here. Are we not to help our neighbors? Some would say, "They're not my neighbors."

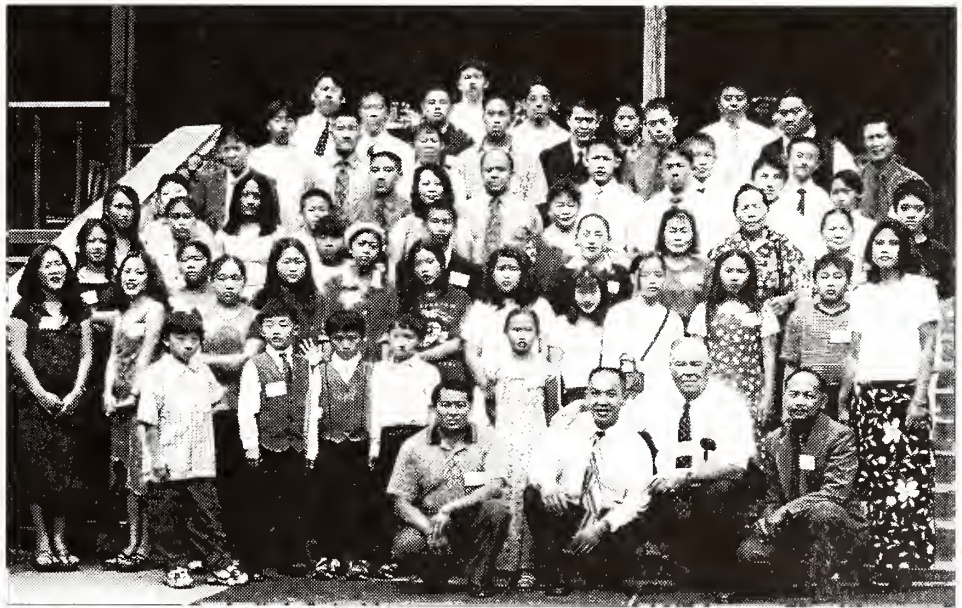
In Matthew 25:34-40, there is an important lesson which concludes by saying "...Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me," (v. 40).

This is the third opportunity I have had to be able to minister to the H'mong people through Home Missions and Evangelism of Original Free Will Baptists. God's Word teaches us that we are to evangelize the whole world, and that certainly includes here in the United States of America.

Let us not ask again "What are we doing in California, anyway." It's just as much a part of the great commission to minister here in this country as it is to minister to people not living in this country. Both are equally important. Thank God for the opportunity to serve and to realize that He is no respecter of persons. He created us all to serve Him. This is what Original Free Will Baptists are doing in California—serving God! ❖



Above: Baptism service with Dr. A. Graham Lane and Dr. Mouanoutoua, Youth Camp 2000, Senora, CA



Above: L. E. C. Conference, Cragmont, July 22, 2000.

A Great Day

by The Rev. Tong Xiong,
Lao Evangelical Church, Albemarle, NC

I had the great opportunity to go to Cragmont, Black Mountain, NC, July 22-23, 2000, to be with the Lao Evangelical Church youth of North Carolina. It was very exciting as this was the first camp in North Carolina and the Lord blessed us with 60 people.

The food was great but different from H'mong. I really liked the worship and sessions as they were well planned and presented.

Dr. Graham Lane and the Rev. Long

Yang were the speakers and they did a great job of teaching God's Word to over 60 youth.

The camp was clean and very peaceful, and the people were very nice. All of the youth enjoyed the weekend camp and services and they want to return again next summer.

I was very glad I was there. I will try to be there again next session and I hope to see everybody again. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ❖

Bridge Builders Honored

Approximately 550 people attended the 2000 Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, September 30, at Mount Olive College. The Dinner is the College's way of thanking contributors from Free Will Baptist churches throughout eastern North Carolina. This year's event was held in honor of 1,824 individuals and church organizations that contributed \$100 or more at the 1999 annual dinner campaign. The church dinner gift support program totaled \$412,685 last year. "The Free Will Baptist Bridge Builders are an extremely important part of Mount Olive College. Bridge Builders have the power to build futures for students who attend our institution. We salute and thank these individuals," commented Dr. J. William Byrd, President of the College.

Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, coordinated the dinner and served as mistress of ceremonies. "This is one of our best events of the year because it gives us a chance to show our appreciation to those special people who provide generous support to the College." "Every gift is an investment in the lives of the students we serve," Mrs. Ackiss remarked.

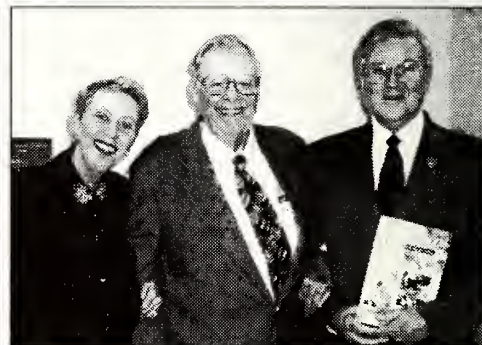
Freshman Melissa Creech, sophomore Shannon Mixon, and senior Clifton Greenup shared their reasons for choosing to attend Mount Olive College. They also spoke on the opportunities provided to them at the College and the positive experiences they have had while in attendance. Creech, Mixon, and Greenup expressed their appreciation to those in attendance for supporting the ministry of Christian higher education.

As a token of appreciation to those individuals who contribute \$100 or more at their dinner, each Bridge Builder will be given a book entitled *The Lighthouse and Other Poems*, written by Hazel W. Phillips, a member of Westside Free Will Baptist Church in Lenoir

County. Everyone in attendance received a copy of *Big Daddy*, written by Dr. Pepper Worthington, editor of the MOC Press. Both books were made possible by the Poole Foundation.

The highlight of the event was a presentation of Christian musical selections made by the Mount Olive College Concert Choir and Free Spirit, under the direction of Dr. Alan Armstrong, professor of music at the College. During the meal, inspirational music was provided by the Rev. Clyde Cox from Micro, North Carolina.

Student ambassadors helped serve the donors. Members of the staff and faculty served as table hosts and hostesses. ❖



19th Century Book Donated to FWB Historical Collection

Victor T. Jones Jr., a member of New Haven Church, has donated a copy of *A Concise History of the Kehukee Baptist Association* (Elder Joseph Biggs, 1834) to the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection located in Mount Olive College's Moyer Library.

Jones, a librarian with the New Bern/Craven County Public Library, discovered the book on a used book dealer's site on the Internet. After receiving more information on the book's condition, he purchased it for \$402 and donated it to the Historical Collection in memory of his mother, Mary Toler Jones.

"Having graduated from MOC in 1989, I knew about the Historical Collection and felt this book would make a nice addition."

The book is currently on display along with several other early 19th Century Free Will Baptist and Free Will Baptist related imprints.

The Free Will Baptist Historical Collection was started in 1954 as a joint venture of Mount Olive College and the Historical Commission of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The entire Free Will Baptist Historical Collection includes over 20,000 items (books, pamphlets,



Victor T. Jones Jr.

clippings, broadsides, tapes, brochures, etc.) and over 60 collections of manuscripts. It is the only collection of its kind in North Carolina. There are three collections in other states that have a concentration of similar materials, but the collection at the College is the only one with a concentration on the Free Will Baptists of the South.

Gary Barefoot, Curator of the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection, said, "The book, presented by Victor Jones, adds a very important volume to our collection of associational materials related to the Free Will Baptist and their early history in North Carolina." ❖

Mount Olive College Campus Visitation

Friday—November 10, 2000-9:30 AM
Registration

Saturday—November 18, 2000-9:30 AM
Registration

- ◆ Participate in Campus tours and conversations with faculty and students.
- ◆ Have lunch and see great entertainment!
- ◆ Scholarship and financial aid information will be provided.
- ◆ Visit the campus bookstore; audition for music scholarships; share your portfolio with art faculty members.

For details contact:

Barbara Kornegay,
Vice President for Enrollment
bkornegay@exchange.moc.edu
or

Call us today at
1-800-653-0854

Visit our web site at
www.mountolivecollege.edu

preparing for the Christian ministry...

Student Theological Fellowship is an organization of students preparing for the Christian ministry and church-related vocations. The main objective of the group is to provide opportunities for personal and religious development, fellowship, and practical experience for members as they pursue academic preparation for their work.

Members of Mount Olive College's Theological Student Fellowship are: front row, left to right: Dr. David Hines, religion department chair; Dr. Tyanna Day, assistant professor of religion; Marci Rollins, junior from First Church in Goldsboro, Wayne County; Hollis

Phelps, sophomore from Columbia, South Carolina; Jessica Smith, sophomore from Sampson County; the Rev. Frank Harrison, campus minister; and Joann Turner, senior, Wayne County. Back row, left to right: John Hill, junior, Holly Springs Church, Carteret County; Kevin Parker, freshman, Westside Church, Lenoir County; Dale Belvin, freshman, Friendly Chapel Church, Guilford County; Scott Satterfield, Lee's Chapel Church, Harnett County; Charles Waters, New Bethlehem Church, Pamlico County; James Weldon, Carteret County; and Kerrie Resler, Wayne County. ❖



M O C Upcoming Events

Crossfire Ministries—will play the MOC men's basketball team on Tuesday, November 7 at 6:00 PM. in College Hall. Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy Crossfire Ministries' inspiring halftime message about God's promises, His love, and His grace. Admission will be \$1. For more information, contact Tina Parks, secretary for athletics, at Mount Olive College at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3043.

Faculty Instrumental Recital—at Mount Olive College will be on Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30 PM. in Rodgers Chapel. Dr. Alan Armstrong and guest musicians Dee Braxton-Pellegrino (violin) and Mark Sillistoe (cello) will present an evening of chamber music. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. For more information, contact Alan Armstrong, professor of music, at (919) 658-7188.

Fall Campus Visitation—at Mount Olive College will be Friday, November 10. Registration will begin at 9:30 AM. in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. For more information, contact Tim Woodard, director of admissions, at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3010.

2000 Alumni Homecoming Weekend—will be Friday, November 17 through

Sunday, November 19 at Mount Olive College. "Old Friends & Good Times" is expected to be one of the most exciting homecoming weekends yet. Events include the 35th annual Pickle Classic, the fourth annual Alumni Golf Tournament, a brunch on Saturday with a devotion by *Free Spirit*, book signings by alumni authors, the Alumni of the Year Awards Banquet with entertainment by the *MOC Singers*, campus open house with art exhibits, concerts, and a silent auction, and reunions for the classes of 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, and 2000. For more information, contact Dianne Riley, director of alumni relations, at (919) 658-2502, ext. 3009.

Founders Day—at Mount Olive College will be Tuesday, November 21, 2000, at 11:00 AM. in Rodgers Chapel. Join Mount Olive College as it celebrates its 49th year in existence. At this annual event Mount Olive College also recognizes its employees for their continued years of service to the College. For more information, contact the Rev. Frank Harrison, campus minister, at (919) 658-2502, ext. 3082.

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir Concert—will be on Thursday,

November 30, 2000, at 8:00 PM. in Rodgers Chapel. The Mount Olive College Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Alan Armstrong, will present its fall concert entitled "It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas." The majority of the program will feature works intended to put the audience in the Christmas mood, including a cappella renditions of well known carols, seasonal favorites, and a "Jingle Bell Travelogue." In addition, the Concert Choir will also present works by Butler, Hayes, Rossini, and others. Admission is free, and the public is invited to attend. For more information, contact Alan Armstrong, professor of music, at (919) 658-7188.

Mount Olive College's Seventh Annual Christmas Buffet—will be on Tuesday, December 12, 2000, at 7:00 PM in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. The evening's program will feature the music of the Mount Olive Community Instrumental Ensemble. Tickets will be \$11.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 12 and under. Reservations are required by December 6, 2000. Seating is limited. For more information, contact Brenda Edwards, administrative secretary, at (919) 658-2502, ext. 3119.

... morning chapel service

Students, faculty, and staff members gathered with members of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists prior to the start of the Convention for the weekly Tuesday morning chapel service in Rodgers Chapel. The Rev. Harold Swinson, executive committee member of the Convention, presented the message and



the Mount Olive College Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Alan Armstrong, presented special music.

Pictured left to right are platform members for the service: the Rev. Frank Harrison, campus minister; Dale Belvin, freshman, Friendly Chapel Free Will

Baptist Church, Guilford County; the Rev. Harold Swinson; the Rev. Leon Grubbs, president of the Convention; and the Rev. David Charles Hansley, general administrator of the Convention. ❖



Above: Black Jack Free Will Baptist Church, October 5-8, 2000

Improvements to the facility 1999

New kitchen walls
 New ceiling fans for the dining room
 New counter and cabinets/dining room
 New outside storage for kitchen
 New gutters/dining and main building
 New landscaping at campfire area
NEW GOLF CART AMEN!!!

Attendance record for 1999 Conferences

Morning Star = 123
 Christian Cadet Conference = 164
 General Youth II = 191
 Minister's Conference = 84
 Youth Frontier YFA = 104
 Young People's Bible = 79

June Women's Conference = 33
 Youth Frontier AFC = 139
 August Women's Conference = 99
 Cragmont Youth Conference = 136
 General Youth I = 200
 46 professions of faith

Improvements to the facility 2000

New carpet in the chapel
 New stacking chairs in the chapel
 Refinished walls in chapel
 New wheel chair and walker
 New air conditioners first floor South
 Color picture capabilities for groups
 Exterior preservative main building.

Attendance record for 2000 Conferences

Morning Star = 120
 Christian Cadet Conference = 154
 General Youth II = 222
 Minister's Conference = 70
 Youth Frontier YFA = 78
 Young People's Bible = 93

June Woman's Conference = 33
 Youth Frontier AFC = 127
 August Women's Conference = 82
 Cragmont Youth Conference = 165
 General Youth I = 204
 New Professions = 48

*"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord...
 He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths"(Isaiah 2:3 NIV)*

Sunday School Charms



Hints and Ideas for Sunday School Growth

Auxiliary Activity for Sunday School Lessons November 2000-Fall Quarter

The Fall Quarter, 2000, of Sunday School lessons following the International Sunday School Lesson Cycle concerns itself with the rulers of Israel.

The first unit was devoted to the study of the Judges of Israel. The second unit of study was devoted to a short study of Saul and David and their relationship. The third unit of

study for November is focused on a study of David and Solomon.

The following activity is designed to provide an at-home fun word search puzzle based on all the lessons in the unit. Locate the following words either up, down, left to right or right to left, or a word within a word.

- Absalom
- Adonijah
- Ammon
- Ammonites
- Arabia
- Babylon
- Bathsheba
- David
- Edom
- Edomites
- God
- Hittite
- Jehoash
- Jeroboam
- Joab
- Judge
- Kings
- Mediterranean
- Mesopotamia
- Pharaoh
- Philistines
- Power
- Rehoboam
- Ruler
- Sheba
- Sin
- Solomon
- Temple
- Uriah
- War

W A R A I M A T O P O S E M
M E D I T E R R A N E A N F
D A V I D D X O M Y R X O H
A B S A L O M Q M F H G L S
D E G S D M N R O E A F Y A
O H I T T I T E N J O A B O
N S B R E T K L I U R I A H
I H E E M E I U T D A Z B E
J T O W P S N R E G H U Q J
A A N O L T G I S E P G P W
H B Q P E U S N O M O L O S
U R D S E N I T S I L I H P
M A O B O H E R A I B A R A
A B G J E R O B O A M N I S

*Answers found on page 16.

Pee Dee Youth Field Day

by Susie Fairfax

Youth groups of the Pee Dee district gathered together Saturday, September 16, for their annual Field Day. More than 75 youth, youth leaders and parents enjoyed a beautiful sunny morning filled with fun and fellowship. Games included volleyball, softball, basketball, tug-of-war, carnival type skill games and a Moon-Walk ride for the little ones.

The fun was followed by a hot dog picnic. Faye Bryant district youth director, welcomed newcomer, Mission Valley Original Free Will Baptist Church youth, to the event.

The next district youth rally will be November 20 at Cypress Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church and is open to all youth groups in the Pee Dee Association who wish to attend. For more information, interested persons may call Faye Bryant at (910) 642-8209 or state youth president, Charles Godwin at (910) 653-4777. Hope to see you there! ❖



Above: Scenes from Pee Dee Youth Field Day.

Christian Chapel Church Youth

The youth at Christian Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Pink Hill, NC, sponsored a pool party for the church on August 11, at Baker's Pool, Kinston. There was a picnic supper and many of the church attended and had a great time.

This was used to kick off a very busy weekend, Bible school on August 12 and youth Sunday on the 13. Colt Page from Staint's Delight in Ormondsville was the guest speaker and he did a great job.

The youth had complete charge of both Sunday school and worship service. ❖

Below: Christian Chapel Bible school.





“Best of the Holy Land Tour” Scheduled



A Special Gift For A Special Couple

Another “Pastor Appreciation Sunday”—another dinner...not this time. The deacons and members of Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville, NC, felt the need to express to the Rev. Grady Tucker and his wife, Barbara, just how special they have become to their congregation.

Not wanting to “surprise” the couple

during morning worship, Deacon Grant Wright waited for the benediction, then asked the other deacons to come forward. In a tearful presentation to Pastor Grady and Barbara, he shared the congregation’s appreciation and support for all their efforts and presented them a grift certificate for a trip and tour of the Holy Land. ❖

Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Newport, NC, is sponsoring a “Best of the Holy Land Tour.” This exciting tour will take place June 4-13, 2001.

The itinerary includes Jerusalem, Bethany, Bethlehem, Jericho, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, Mount Carmel, and more. Tour highlights in Jerusalem are the model of first century Jerusalem, Old Walled City, New City, Mount of Olives and Bethany, Mount Zion, and the Garden Tomb. You will see the birthplace of Jesus; Masad, Herold’s Mountaintop Fortress; Qumran, site of the Dead Sea Scrolls; Jericho, World’s oldest city; a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee; Jordan River baptism; sites of Jesus’ ministry; Beit Shean Roman ruins; Haifa, visit to Mount Carmel, and Caesarea Roman ruins.

The cost of the 10-day trip is \$2,410 (double occupancy, with taxes and airfare subject to change), which includes round-trip air fare from Raleigh, transfers between airport and hotels, taxes and gratuities, seven nights at superior first-class hotels with private baths, full breakfast and dinner daily, and travel by deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach.

Proceeds will go to the Nehemiah Project (Family Life Center).

For more information, please call 1-800-542-0492. ❖

**Holy Land Tour
Registration Form**

Wonderful Trip—Subject to sellout—Get your deposit in, and reserve your space now!!!

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
(as shown on passport)

Address: _____
(mailing address)

(street address for express carrier delivery)

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____

Email Address: _____ Age: _____

Roommate’s Name: _____

Will you be purchasing Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance? If Yes, you **Must** complete TravelSafe forms and provide us with your insurance certificate number when you receive it from the insurance company.

Are you a US citizen? _____ Do you have a passport? _____

(Please provide Accent Travel a photocopy of your passport. Passport must be valid for 6 months after your departure from the Holy Land. US and Canadian citizens do not need visas for tourism to Israel.)

Any medical conditions or special needs or special requests? _____

"Thank you Lord, for Your Blessings on Me"

by Rita O. Jones

Thanksgiving season reminds me of the song that lists things like the roof up above us, a warm place to sleep food on the table, shoes on our feet, and a fine family. Too many people take God's blessings for granted. Sometimes, it takes a tragedy to cause us to realize just how precious everyday blessings should be. Happy Thanksgiving to you all from Powhatan and remember to pause to thank God for your everyday blessings.

September 2 was a blessing for all who attended the Cape Fear District Youth rally at Bethel. We were introduced to the "Tater" family. There was **Dic-tator** who likes to run the church, **Agi-tator** who likes to keep things stirred up; **Spec-tator** who likes to watch but never does anything; **Hesi-tator** who thinks you should pray and discuss and never really get to the work; **Commen-tator** who always comments on every one else's business; and finally; **Sweet-tater** who is the backbone of the church. The youth of Bethel did a great job of showing the different types of people who hold a Church back. Then, they did an interpretation of a song showing we should be united and carry God's Word as our guide.

We celebrated Homecoming at Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC, on September 17, with the Rev. John Robert Harris of Westside. He spoke of enjoying his younger years at Powhatan. He spoke on not letting a fear of failure keep you from trying.

A memorial service sponsored by the Woman's Auxiliary followed the noon meal. Nine members had gone to be with the Lord since last Homecoming. Families and friends remembered them and youth members lit candles for each member. A family member mentioned Brother Glenn Blinson's reply when asked to what he contributed his long life, "I just get up each morning and have an egg and a wheel of sausage."

The Rev. Dennis Pollock of Tee's Chapel joined us for our Fall Revival. His many jokes mingled in to illustrate his biblical points. We enjoyed special singing each night. Some of the themes from the week's messages included

having a pastor that has been on Holy Ground; how people no longer fear God, to never give up (God may not be through with you yet); and that we should keep "putting it on the table" that maybe someone would come and partake with us. On Friday night, Sister Ginger Hill sang a special followed by songs by a new voice at Powhatan, Brother Tim Davis. Refreshments were shared in the fellowship hall following the service. We thank the Rev. Pollock and his church for joining with us for the week.

Saturday, September 30 began with a yard sale by the Woman's Auxiliary. Youth leaders left to attend a breakfast meeting at the Golden Corral in Smithfield to discuss exciting changes in the Cape Fear District programs. The Layman's League ended the day with a pancake and sausage supper.

We urge you to remember all veterans on their special day November 11, and say "Happy Birthday" to a special veteran at Powhatan — our pastor, the Rev. Jim Bogle. Mrs. Martha, his wife, remembers November is also the birthday of the United States Marine Corps!

In Memoriam: *Remember the family of veteran Robert Hatcher, Jr., husband of sister Shirley Hatcher, who went to be with the Lord in September.*



Below: *L to R Hilda Sasser, The Rev. Wayne King, and Eunice Boykin.*



He Died On The Cross

He knew we didn't deserve it
Yet He died on the Cross;
He knew that if He didn't
The whole world was lost.
So for you and me—
Sinners though we be
He marched up to Calvary
And He died on the Cross
For a world of murderers, thieves,
and liars.
His face was pierced by briars
For the race of man;
Nails were driven through His feet
and hands
While the believers cried.
Those opposed stabbed His side
And He died on the Cross.
Though we rejected this gift from above
He showed us His love.
As He died on the Cross
"Father, forgive them for they know not
what they do"
If we really knew we would not have
crucified you.
But still He died on the Cross
He died on the Cross
on the Cross

by Katie Turner, YFA member
Christian Chapel Original Free Will Baptist
Church, Pink Hill, NC ❖

Senior Citizen's Leaders Honored

by Myrtle Lamm

At the last Senior Citizens' Fellowship meeting held recently in the activity building, First Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, NC, two leaders were recognized and honored with beautiful plaques of appreciation.

Mrs. Hilda Sasser was recognized for her service as president of the group for more than 18 years.

Mrs. Eunice Boykin was recognized for serving more than 15 years as secretary-treasurer of the group.

Both ladies are stepping down after many years of faithful and dedicated service. We love and appreciate them and say "Thanks!" for a job well done. ❖

DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER



Dr. Pepper Worthington

What is the simple life? Is it nestled into the Protestant ethic of plain living, high thinking, personal discipline, and virtuous community? According to David E. Shi, Associate Professor of History at Davidson College, the simple life began with the Puritan and Quaker ethic of spiritual living, hard work, and temperate discipline. The ethic reflected an intense skepticism about material wealth, conspicuous consumption, and luxurious habits.

The Simple Life

How does Professor Shi define the simple life? He states that the simple life has a core belief, namely, "that the making of money and the accumulation of things should not be allowed to smother the purity of the soul, the life of the mind, the cohesion of the family, or the good of the commonwealth" (pp. 3-4). As such, the assumption of the simple life is "an approach to living that self-consciously subordinates the material to the ideal" (4).

What is dangerous about having *too* much? Why should one seek only enough and not more and more and more? Wintrop warned the Colonial Puritans that "superfluous wealth too easily led to hardness of heart toward one; fallows and deadness of heart toward God" (4). Ultimately the Puritans and Quakers sought "to elevate American life above the material and the mundane" (6).

Hard Work

John Calvin's emphasis upon work as a Christian duty and as a way to avoid idleness became a part of early American thought. Individual freedom in the marketplace was not the priority; the vision of God in history and the respect for the community dominated the ethic of hard work. Such an attitude was possible because the early colonists

maintained and respected "the rigid social hierarchy of the Old World, with its explicit inequality and privilege" (11). In short, everyone knew "their rank or station" and accepted it (11). Private interests did not come first because the Puritans knew the importance of the good of the community for survival. Whatever salaries or prices were changed "had to be regulated for the good of the commonwealth" (13). The Christian must stress an "ideal of self-conscious material limitation as a standard" (21).

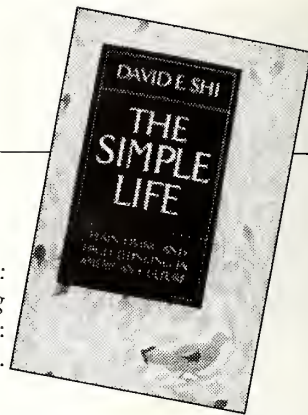
Cotton Mather stressed the Puritan ethic of hard work. He emphasized the value of all working for the benefit of the whole community. Mather insisted: "God hath placed us, as in a common hive. Let there be no drone in the hive; every man is to make some fair way, that the whole hive may be better for him" (20).

Dangers of Materialism

The simple life faces the lure of luxury and material abundance. Puritans believed the growth of materialism caused degeneration. This anti-material stance set up what Erik Erikson called a "guilt culture" (22). Preachers spoke against needless luxury. People were not to value their possession more than they valued God or the community. In 1651, the Massachusetts General Court issued a decree: "No person...whose visible estates shall not exceed the true and indifferent value of 200 pounds shall wear any gold or silver lace, or gold and silver buttons, or any bone lace above 2 shillings per yard, or silk hoods or scarves, upon the penalty of 10 shillings for every such offense" (15).

Why else would it be important for Puritans to reduce their material desires? Would this not give families more time to worship, to participate in

David E. Shi. *The Simple Life: Plain Living and High Thinking In American Culture*. New York: Oxford University Press. 332 pages.



community activities, and to be with their own families?

Necessary Virtues

What are some of the necessary virtues for the simple life? Shi lists them: "industry, frugality, simplicity, enlightened thinking, and public spiritedness" (52). People were expected "to subordinate private interests to the larger public good" (52).

These virtues continue to crisscross the American culture especially in times of crisis in community identity and moral weakness. Threatening the virtues of the simple life were specific factors: (a) the enlargement of personal extravagance, (b) heavy inflation, (c) greed of the ruling classes, (d) poverty of many, (e) excessive consumption, (f) dependence upon imports, (g) more attention to material concerns than to political liberties, (h) growing consolidation of property into a few hands, (i) obsession with profit, (j) existence of profiteering, (k) problem of self-realization face to face with self-resentment.

Conclusion

As the public began to sense the failure of the simple life whose roots lay in the Puritan ethic, leaders turned toward public schools as the government agency for teaching the virtues of a simple life. The society must not be defined by its goods but by its people's commitment to community concerns, to the individual dignity of all its members, and to a material simplicity. If a society allows the simple life to slip away, what follows is a catalog of sins: "disorder, corruption, hypocrisy, war, poverty, technological dependence, environmental degradation, the absence of community, and the loss of self" (251). ♦

Christian Art Review

by Rev. Michael Warning



The concept of the Lamb of God is one that rings throughout the New Testament. In both the Old Testament and

New Testament the blood of the lamb is the sign of salvation. The shepherd in the image is embracing the lamb and is also embracing the sacrifice. From the time of the sojourn in Egypt for Israel, the lamb and the blood of the lamb as a significant as a sacrifice. The blood of the lamb was placed on the lintel and the post of the door as a sign for the Angel of Death to pass by. Here we see the lamb and the Lamb of God (shepherd).

Artistic Style

The image is very Latin American. The artistic style is folkloric, one we associate with rural churches in Latin America. The face is of a youth who could easily be from a Mexican village. His face has the ideals of facial features: (1) enlarged eyes, (2) lightened area around the hair, for light brown rather than black is considered a good feature in Latin America, (3) the halo like the festival tiara is stellar-shaped, for it is the aspect of the Christ child that the place of his birth is shown by a star.

The figures are basically a dark outline which has been filled in with light and shadow to make it round. This is a fundamental folk art technique. Everything is in the foreground of this painting. There is no middle ground, only a foreground which is very immediate to the viewer. Behind these



Source: *The Lamb of God*. Oil painting by an unknown folk artist. Private Collection.

figures is an ultra marine and umber wash which is timeless and placeless.

In the composition the two figures, the lamb and the child, meet at the cross, a deliberate artistic device which leads to a symbolic message.

Symbolism

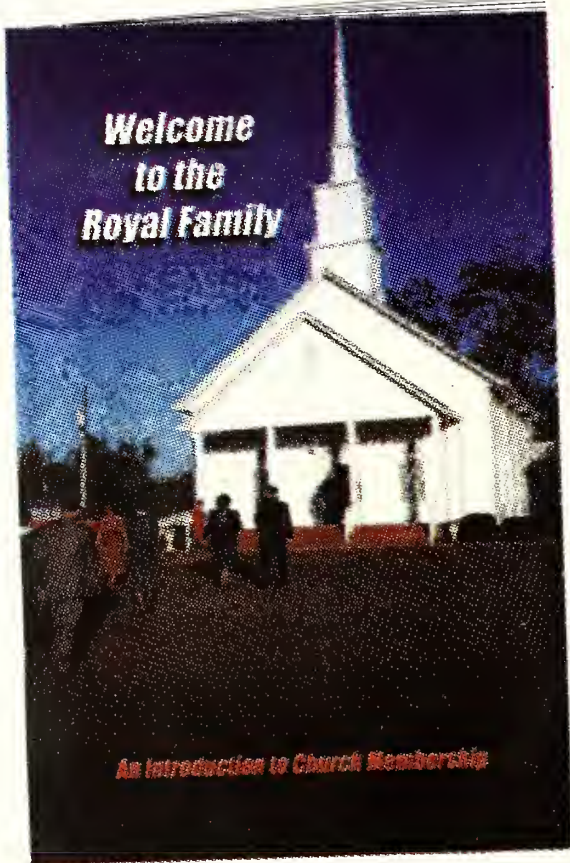
The symbolism is the strength of the painting. The stellar halo, for example, also contains the images of shooting stars symbolizing the great events that will come in the end of time, for the child as a sacrifice is both the beginning and the end in the Christian doctrine. So the halo must symbolize three things: (1) the radiance of his holiness, (2) the star of his birth, and (3) the shooting stars of the end of the age.

Also the cross cuts a diagonal path across the image. One would ordinarily think a shepherd's crook would be the equipment for a shepherd. However,

here the good shepherd carries a cruciform staff. As the cross cuts a diagonal across both figures (the child and the lamb), it unites them. The perfect lamb of the Hebrew sacrifice and the Lamb of God as a sacrifice are symbolically joined by the cross. We are aware of the sacrificial aspect of the clothing worn by the Christ figure. The material is sheep skin and the wool is blood red, also highlighting the blood sacrifice. A banner on the cross announces the Lamb of God.

Conclusion

Often we dismiss Christian art from folk or rural settings. However, Christian symbolism is so well established in the hearts and minds of believers that the painting need only have a few symbols to focus the heart and mind of the believer upon the significance of what Christ has done for all of us who will believe. ❖



Welcome to the Royal Family

An Introduction to Church Membership

This book is designed as basic training in the Christian life and an introduction to the Original Free Will Baptist Church.

Written and Prepared by the Literature Committee of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists' Project Solution Task Force

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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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FEATURING:

*The Christian Meaning
of Christmas*

*Tragedy Increases a
Family's Faith*

*Called of God to do
the Work of God*

*Memories of
Christmases Past*

Another Year Ends

With this issue, Volume 117, Number 12, of *"The Free Will Baptist,"* we come to the close of another year. In the words of Pilate, "What is written, is written," good or bad.

How do we evaluate the past year? With that which can be seen, felt, or compared, evaluation can more easily be made. But such evidences are not as profound when it comes to the printed page.

We hope, and such has been our purpose, that this publication has been a blessing to our people. The published news, we hope, has been helpful in the work and program of our denomination.

The Spirit of Christmas

The clamoring years have come and gone—
Centuries of them have passed the stage of
time and tide.

Some were good years; some were bad—Some
marked by progress, but a few never served
for good.

Death, disease, sorrow, wars, and hatred—All
these have plagued the path that nations
have trod.

Evils have been rampant with passing time—
These have marred other noble and upright
men and causes.

Yet, I have emerged in my own strength—But
not without many a struggle against the
spirits that would destroy.

You see, I am the Spirit of Christmas—The very
heart and purpose of a season filled with joy
and love.

Why have I kept my identity and
distinctiveness— In Blessing the lives of
both the young and old throughout the
pages of time?

My appeal is to the inward part of all men— My
spirit is of God and His Son; I represent all
that is good and holy.

EDITOR'S thoughts...



C. H. Overman

We are thankful for each subscriber. Please let us keep you. We are appreciative for those who take time to write us, or to write *for* us. We urge you to continue, for your response is what we must have.

Forgive our mistakes in these 12 issues, and with the completion of these pages and the beginning of a new volume, we pledge to you our best for 2001. Meanwhile, let us hear from you. ❖

I am Deity robed in human flesh—A Babe lying
in a manger low and shepherds worshipping
'round the stall.

I am the star shining in Eastern skies—Wise Men
following dusty trails to present gifts of
gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

I am a multitude of voices lifted in praise to
God—Singing the praises of heaven in
"Silent Night" and "Joy to the World."

I am the Word of God repeating o'er and o'er—
Christ is born in fulfillment of the prophecy
"a virgin shall be with child."

I am shining lights and glistening tinsel
Mistletoe, holly, and the fragrance of pine
mingled with holiday dinners.

I am the living, pulsating spirit of Christmas—
Bringing joy anew to broken and sad souls
and hearts that need me.

I am the living, pulsating Spirit of Christmas—
I live now during this festive season, but I
will to live each day in each heart.

I am the Spirit of Christmas.

(Reprinted from the December 20, 1967 issue of The Free Will Baptist.)

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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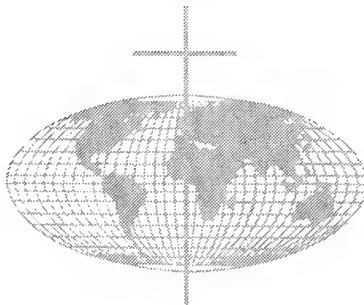
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NEXT MONTH

January is Retirement Homes Month



December is Foreign Missions Month



the Christian Meaning Of Christmas

We call it Christmas—a festival of many moods that has evolved across the centuries in every land and culture where Christianity has gone. It is the day Christians recognize as the birth of Jesus, whom we believe was the Son of God—the Christ.



W. Burkette Raper,
President Emeritus
Mount Olive College

Although there are differences of opinion regarding the exact date of Jesus' birth, the fact of His birth is the foundation for our observance of Christmas. From all historical sources known today, there is no record that Christians began celebrating the birth of Jesus until the third century. The first accepted date was January 6, a date which even to the present is observed by some believers. This January observance is sometimes informally referred to as "Old Christmas."

Overcoming a Pagan World

In the beginning, the Christian faith had to be established in a pagan world that was hostile to the belief that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. The early believers, however, persevered in their faith. Emperor Constantine I embraced Christianity and declared it the official religion of the Roman Empire. Many biblical scholars believe that it was the triumph of Christianity that led to the birth of Jesus being observed on December 25, which was the date of a major pagan festival, *Sol Invictus*. This festival was a celebration of the winter solstice, the period when the sun triumphs over darkness and causes the daylight hours to begin lengthening. Christians saw in Jesus the Light which was overcoming the darkness of a pagan world:

*"But unto you that fear
my name shall the Sun of
righteousness arise with
healing in his wings: . . ."*
(Malachi 4:2).

In celebrating the birth of Jesus on December 25, Christians were declaring the victory of their faith over the pagan religions of the Roman Empire. They were proclaiming that, "In him (Jesus) was life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4). Although the Gospel of John does not

include a nativity scene, as do the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, it makes its own distinctive contribution to the advent of Jesus—that He was the Light of God who came into a dark world. “And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not” (John 1:5). For Christians, celebrating the birth of Jesus has always been an affirmation that he is “...the light of the world” (John 9:5).

*...Christianity has
confronted dangers
which have threatened
its very existence.*

Throughout its history, Christianity has confronted dangers which have threatened its very existence. The pagan world into which Jesus was born worshipped many gods. It was a world that for both religious and political reasons persecuted those who believed that Jesus was the incarnate Son of the one true and supreme God of the universe. The faith of the early Christians cost many of them not only their homes, possessions, and freedom, but even their lives. Nevertheless, in their hostile but open confrontation, Christianity prevailed.

The Threat of A Secular Culture

The danger which confronts Christianity in most parts of the world today, however, is more subtle than was the hostility of the Roman Empire. The major peril to the Christian faith in America in our time is a secular culture. Instead of being hostile to Christianity, the drift of our culture is to just ignore the basic beliefs upon which the Christian faith rests, namely, belief in God and in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. The way we observe Christmas today illustrates how subtle this danger can become.

Across the centuries the celebration of the birth of Jesus has accumulated traditions from many cultures. From England has come the tradition of caroling, mistletoe, and gifts. The legend of St. Nicholas is rooted in a

fourth century bishop of Asia Minor who was considered a patron Saint of children, but in the nineteenth century this legend became linked to the, American concept of Santa Claus, a fat and jolly old man with a white beard dressed in a red suit. The evergreen tree came from a medieval German tradition. The list could go on and on to include Christmas cards, parades, family gatherings, decorating, sporting events, concerts, seasonal music, dramas, special foods, dinners, parties, open house, traveling, shopping, new clothes, visiting friends, gifts to charity, and special services of Christian worship. These traditions, and more—some germane to the birth of Christ and others totally unrelated—make up the festival of Christmas as it is celebrated in America today.

The issue is not that these traditions are inherently wrong or bad. On the contrary, when used properly, perhaps each of them could convey some meaning relative to the birth of Jesus. The subtle danger is that together they can become trappings which obscure the true and essential message of Christmas. Even Christians can become so absorbed and overwhelmed with the activities associated with Christmas that we fail to distinguish between the multiplicity of events and the contribution these events should make to our spiritual life. Furthermore, many of these traditions, by their very nature, can become totally secular without any relevance to the Christian meaning of Christmas.



*The subtle danger is that
together they can become
trappings which obscure
the true and essential
message of Christmas.*

With the rapid secular drift of our society, it is increasingly important that Christians take steps to assure that our celebration of Christmas does not become divorced from the birth of Jesus. With the growing emphasis upon the separation of Church and State, our public schools can no longer teach the Christian meaning of Christmas. The only Christmas symbols that are now permitted on public property are those the courts have declared to be secular. A foreigner, who knows nothing about Christianity would hardly know from our parades, social functions, and commercial activities that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God. The subtle danger is that, in our culture, the Christian meaning of Christmas can get buried under the secular features that have become attached to it.

Preserving the True Meaning of Christmas

There are many agencies in our society, however, that can help preserve and perpetuate the Christian meaning of Christmas: the church and its ministries, Christian schools and colleges, Christian organizations like the Salvation Army, and other operations, including business enterprises, which are owned and managed by Christian people.

As important as the work of agencies and organizations might be, the most effective witness to the Christian meaning of Christmas can be the home and individuals. Through our Christmas greetings, our decorations, our charitable giving, and most of all by the indwelling Spirit of the One whose birthday we celebrate, we each communicate what we believe to be the true meaning of Christmas.

In all that we do at Christmas, our highest priority should be to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, and our highest goal should be to experience the meaning of His coming into our world and into our lives. ❖

Tragedy Increases a Family's Faith

by Carla Combs



The May Family

It's a beautiful afternoon in mid-November as I pull into the driveway of Ervin and Lisa May's home. Their small two-story house that Ervin built with his own bare hands is nestled on a rolling countryside in Greene County just miles outside of the town of Snow Hill, NC. I am greeted by three overly friendly canines as I step out of my car. Lisa and her daughter, four-year-old Lindsey, are standing on the front porch waiting for me.

As I make my way into the doorway of the living room, I see Ervin sitting quietly in a wheelchair in front of what appears to be a hospital bed. He is a handsome man with a warm smile. He says "hi" and begins to chat. Within seconds, I feel at ease, like I've known him my whole life. He begins to share with me the story of the accident that has left him paralyzed from the waist down. As he describes the events of that tragic day, I realize that I am witnessing a miracle and proof that one's faith in God and strength of family can overcome even the most bleak of circumstances.

"I went to work on Friday, June 16, 2000, and I was supposed to get off early, around 11:00 AM, so I could go see my father who was in Pitt County Memorial Hospital because of a heart attack. I called the hospital and Daddy said he was OK and there was no need to come, so I decided to go home and clear some land that we owned," recalls Ervin. He works as a civilian Aircraft Maintenance Supervisor at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro.

It was around 1:30 PM when he started up the bulldozer and headed to some of the acreage that he wanted to clear. After three or so hours on the bulldozer, mechanical problems brought his work to a halt and he decided to cut down a few trees instead.

"I felled two trees and then a third one got stuck on another tree as often happens when cutting trees in a forest. I checked the tree that was holding the other tree up and then checked where I could cut it. I made the notch and then began the second felling cut. Just as the tree started to move I began to move, but at that very moment I felt branches touch the back of my head. I yelled 'no!' and tried to fling the tree off by arching my head rearward. The tree continued

to fall and grabbed my shoulders from behind and bent me over backwards, putting me in the U position. I heard my back snap—then I was on my back and the tree was eight inches above me. I realized immediately that I was paralyzed in my legs."

Ervin cried out for help but no one was around to hear him.

"I realized that nobody could hear me and my side was beginning to swell. I kept thinking that I was bleeding internally and that I could die from that. I asked God to not let me die out here. I didn't want to be found dead in the woods," he said.

Ervin took a minute to regroup his thoughts and try to conserve his energy. Because his spinal cord was severed, he was not in any pain. He would wait for slow moving cars to pass by and then yell for help.

"My only hope would be when my neighbors returned home which finally happened. As soon as I heard a car door open, I yelled for help. I heard my neighbor go into her house and thought I had not been heard. But, several minutes later she returned outside and yelled to me that she had called for help."

That neighbor was Angie Smith. She kept communicating with Ervin though she was having difficulty getting to the exact place where he was lying. She reassured him that help was on the way.

"It is my belief that Ervin was not alone that day. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been an instrument in God's hands. I am indeed thankful for the peace that my belief and faith in God bring to my life. I believe this enabled me to have the mental, emotional, and spiritual clarity needed to assist Ervin that day," Smith wrote in a statement.

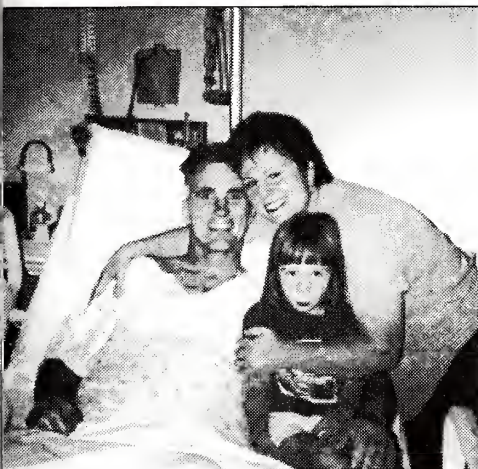
When the emergency services personnel arrived, they decided it would be in

his best interest to airlift him to Pitt Memorial Hospital in Greenville, NC. As the rescuers positioned him on a backboard, Ervin told Pres Pate, another neighbor to arrive at the scene, where to find Lisa.

"Please tell Lisa and Lindsey that I love them," Ervin told Pate.

Lisa has been a life-time member of Harrell's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Snow Hill and that was where she was at the time of the accident. She was decorating the fellowship hall for her brother's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

"Please tell Lisa and Lindsey that I love them"



Lisa and Lindsey rode to the hospital with her dad and sister. Other family members began to arrive at the emergency room as well as Lisa's pastor, the Rev. Chuck Owens. It was midnight before Lisa was allowed into the trauma unit to see Ervin.

Ervin laid in traction until Monday when the doctors operated on him. He is classified as a T-10 Complete, meaning that his spinal cord was completely severed. "Barring a miracle, I'll be paralyzed for the rest of my life," Ervin said seriously.

He remained in the hospital until he was moved to the rehab center on June 26. He remained there until July 21, working with weights to increase his upper body strength, regaining balance, learning to maneuver a wheelchair, and transfer from his chair to his bed. Since his release from rehab, Ervin has been hospitalized twice due to infections and blood clots.

An hour into the interview Lindsey is tired of sharing her Daddy's attention with me. She summons him over to the kitchen table to read a book. He reminds Lindsey to pick up her toys that are lying in the pathway of his wheelchair. He rolls up to the kitchen table much to her delight and they begin reading and giggling. This was my chance to speak with Lisa and what this whole ordeal has been like for her.

"It's only when you get home that reality sets in. There is so much to do and learn. His world is right here," says Lisa, pointing around the living room. "I finally resigned from my job at Greene County Social Services in October so I could help Ervin. I liked my job but my career doesn't come first. Taking care of Ervin and Lindsey is most important to me."

"It's only when you get home that reality sets in. There is so much to do and learn. His world is right here,"

"Lindsey was very emotional after the accident. She was upset with me because I had to spend so much time at the hospital. She is used to me being with her. She would ask questions about whether her Daddy would be able to ride her on his shoulders or chase her up the stairs. We try to let her help her Daddy. She loves to climb in his lap and ride on his wheelchair with him. Once he gets home and settles into his bed, she'll crawl in beside him and they read storybooks together."

The May family has found an ocean of support from family, friends, their church, and community. They have received cards and phone calls from people they barely know. Church members have prayed and offered to stay with them and help. The employees at the Base had a motorcycle fund-raiser for Ervin. A county-wide barbecue fund-raiser generated thousands of dollars to help with additional medical bills that Ervin's insurance did not cover. Part of the money will go to renovate the first floor of their home and make it more

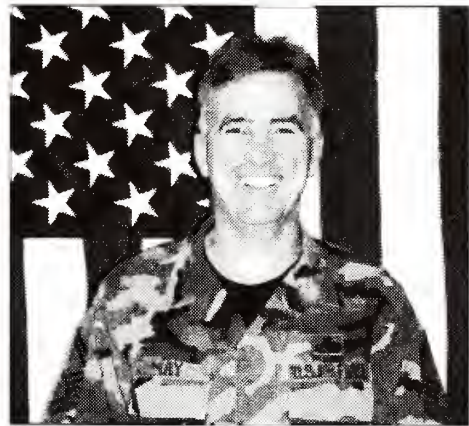
handicap-accessible. This will allow Ervin to gain more independence and reduce the workload for Lisa. They plan to pour cement walkways in the yard to make maneuvering his wheelchair easier.

"I'll probably get choked up," Lisa says, fighting back the tears, "but when I saw all those people at the benefit it was just overwhelming, I just cried. People all over helped—Snow Hill, Walstonburg, Arba."

Looking at the Christmas tree that she has just finished decorating, Lisa focuses on the upcoming holidays. "Christmas will be more emotional this year. It would have been even more emotional if Ervin had died. We're blessed that he is here. My faith is stronger and I pray a lot more. Lindsey and I say our prayers together every night."

Ervin says that his paralysis is not going to slow down his Christmas holidays. He is planning to make visits to Lisa's parents, Linwood and Sudie Radford, and go to his parents' home over the holidays. James and Betsy May added a wheelchair ramp to their home shortly after their son's accident.

Ervin May is very realistic about the obstacles he has to face in his life, but refuses to wallow in self-pity or let his wheelchair define the kind of person he will be.



May served in the U. S. Air Force Reserves before his accident.

"My goal is to make it through this first year. People with this kind of injury can die from blood clots or infections. If I can make it through this first year, I'll take another look. I want to become as independent and do as much for myself as I can. I want to drive my tractor again one day. I say a prayer to God everyday. I thank God that I'm alive." ❖

CALLED OF GOD TO DO THE WORK OF GOD



Speaking to this Convention has special meaning for me. Organized in 1913 the Convention was only fourteen years old when I was born, and it has been my good fortune to know every person who has served as president, except one; every secretary except one; and every treasurer except one. Beginning in 1947, I have attended every annual session, and this year will mark my fifty-fourth consecutive year.

What is even more important to me is how my life has been intimately related to this Convention and to the work of its ministries:

- *Eight years at the Free Will Baptist Orphanage, an experience that became the foundation for all the years that have followed;*
- *One year as Promotional Director of this Convention, an experience that was invaluable for my later work at Mount Olive College; and*
- *Forty-six years at Mount Olive College (40½ years as president and 5 ½ years as Director of Planned Giving).*

This is a total of fifty-five years. That does not leave many years outside of the Convention, and its ministries, does it?

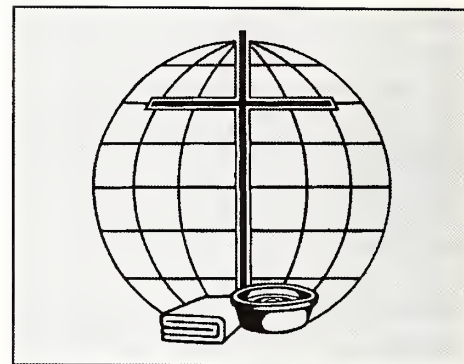
Except for the one-year I served as Promotional Director (1953-54), I have never held an office nor served on a board or standing commission of this Convention. Nevertheless, within the ministries of the Convention is the heart of my life's work—not only the heart of my work, but my heart itself. And so today, I speak to you out of love for what Original Free Will Baptists mean to me and out of gratitude for what they have done for me. As the Apostle Paul said in his letter to the Romans: "I am debtor." Original Free Will Baptists are a *good* and a *noble* people; they are God's people; and they are my spiritual family.

When the president of the Convention spoke to me about the program today, he simply said that the Executive Committee has invited me to bring the message. "Bring the message," Have you ever pondered these words? The president did not say I was invited to preach; he said I was invited to "bring the message," and he gave me no further instructions. Preaching to as diverse an audience as this Convention represents would be a tall order within itself, but to bring a "message" is another story.

All who have given serious thought to the life and work of our church are aware that Original Free Will Baptists stand today at a critical crossroads. We are gathered here with deep concern; about the future of our church; concern about the future of this Convention; and concern about the future of our ministries.

For this Convention, the message today will be the first for a new century, even a new millennium. It will also be the first message in our new five-year theme: "Responding to God's Call." For the year 2000, the theme is: "Responding to God's Call by Being the People of God."

In preparation for this message, I have searched the Scriptures; I have also reviewed the history of Original Free Will Baptists along with our *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government*. I have thought and pondered and tried to feel the heartbeat of a people I love. I have talked with ministers and laypersons about the affairs of our church. I have made notes as I walked and as



Message delivered to the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists September 13, 2000. W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus, Mount Olive College

thoughts came to me during the night. I have tried to listen to my inner soul. And, yes, I have prayed, and I do indeed have a message for you—a message from God. It is located in Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus.

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ" (*Ephesians 4:1-7*).

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ" (*Ephesians 4:11-15*).

In this letter, I believe God is speaking to us today, just as He spoke to His people at Ephesus. Let us hear what He is saying to us individually, what He is saying to our churches, and especially what He is saying to this Convention and its ministries.

I. We Are Called Of God

Our vocation is more than the way we earn our livelihood: our vocation is God's call upon our lives and that call is first to be God's people; and second, it is to do the work of God. I believe God has a purpose—a mission—for every person on earth. Indeed, the very meaning of the word mission is to be sent; and for the Christian, it is to be sent by God to do the work of God.

We might get by doing shoddy work for an employer, but I believe that is a sin to offer God shabby and inferior work, especially in the ministry.

I can think of nothing that would be more pathetic than to go through life without a calling, and I feel sorry for people who have no vision of life beyond what they can do for themselves. Perhaps the most dominant force in my own life, going back to the time I was a teenager working on the farm at the Orphanage, was the belief that God had a plan and a purpose for my life. This purpose is what we mean by a "calling." My understanding of that calling has changed with experience and maturity, but the fact of that calling has never changed. I believe that one of the most important things we can teach our children is that they are on this earth for a purpose, and that this purpose is to be found in their relationship with God. And I believe that one of the greatest contributions that a church-related college can make to its students is to help them understand the meaning of Christian vocation. This is a contribution that a college like Mount Olive can make, but it is a contribution

that a public college cannot make.

Also, notice in God's message to us that we are called to walk worthy of our calling because it is from God. We might get by doing shoddy work for an employer, but I believe that is a sin to offer God shabby and inferior work, especially in the ministry.

In our biblical message for today, there is a listing of ministries to which we are called: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. What are these persons called to do? Their work is "the perfecting of the saints" (the believers), and to build up the Church, which is the Body of Christ on earth. The root of the word translated "perfecting" means to be completely furnished, to prepare, and to make perfect. The concept is to equip. One translation reads: "To prepare God's people for works of service so that the Body of Christ may be built up." In addition, God's message calls us to be completely humble and gentle, and to support one another in love.

Finally, we are called to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." There is only one Holy Spirit who inhabits Christians; and there is only one Lord, and one God, who is the Father of all of us. Here we have God's message to us:

1. We are called of God to be His people and to do His work.
2. Since our calling is from God, we must live and work in a manner that is worthy of our calling by giving to it our highest and our best.
3. We are called to be humble and to support one another in love, as symbolized by the towel and basin on our logo.
4. And since there is only one Holy Spirit, one Lord, and one God who is the Father of us all, we should strive for unity and peace. This is not my message; this is God's message.

II. What Is Our Work?

Having heard God's message, let us ask: What is its relevance to this Convention and to its ministries? We must interpret our mission in terms of our calling; our mission is what God has called us to do. One of the most helpful books I ever read was by Peter

Drucker, entitled *The Effective Executive*.

The underlying concept of the book is a question: What is your work? Not what are your activities, not what are your programs, not what are your methods, not what keeps you busy, but what is your work? What are your activities, your programs, your methods, and your busy life suppose to accomplish?

Drucker uses the example of the American railroads and the airlines. The managers of the railroads, he said, did not understand that their work was to transport people and goods. They acted as if their work was to operate the railroad system. And so, when a new technology for transportation—air flight—burst upon the American scene following World War II, the railroads were left behind. If the manager of the railroads had recognized that their work was the transportation of people and goods, rather than just going through the routine of what they had always done, we might have today The Seaboard Air Lines, The Atlantic Coast Air Lines, The Chesapeake and Ohio Air Lines, and the Western Pacific Air Lines.

It is only after we know what is our work that we can evaluate and improve our performance.

It is only after we know what is our work that we can evaluate and improve our performance.

Now, let us take the concept of work as it is used in industry and apply it to our calling—to our mission as a Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The influence of Peter Drucker on knowing your work has lead business and industrial firms, large and small, to publish "mission statements."

Within the church, mission statements also abound today: local churches have begun to develop mission statements and our ministries

cont....

also have mission statements. This Convention itself has a mission statement: "to advance, promote, and increase the cause of Jesus Christ," (Preamble to Constitution).

Our mission statements should define our work and let all people know what we believe is our reason for being. Our ministries are not ends within themselves— they are the means, the agencies of service, by which this Convention seeks to perform its work and to fulfill its mission. The work of this Convention and its administrative office is not to operate a denominational structure — like the railroads — but to help our churches and our ministries perform the work to which God has called us through Jesus Christ.

For Christian ministries, our mission statement must be defined in terms of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. The word Christian takes its meaning from the word Christ, and apart from Christ, the word Christian loses its meaning. One of our problems is that we may be trying to transmit Christian values without teaching the Christian faith. To characterize something as Christian, whether it is a person, a church, a college, a home for children, or any other entity, we must link it — better yet—root it in Jesus Christ.

If we try to have Christian values without the Christian faith, the values will be like cut flowers — beautiful for a while, but then will wither because they are cut from their roots.

Our values grow out of our faith — what we believe. Calling something Christian is more than taking on the name; it means living a life and performing a work that is rooted in the life of Jesus Christ. As our society becomes more and more secular, and by secular I mean going its own way without reference to God, our church ministries may be tempted to soften the religious tone of their mission statements in order to have greater appeal. I believe this is a mistake. The charity which receives more financial support from the American public than any other is the Salvation Army. No other charity even comes close. Now, consider its mission statement:

"The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination."

The heart of this statement is Jesus Christ. Extending out from Christ, from whom we get the word Christian, are two functions: to preach the gospel, the Good News; and to meet human need. Let us compare the mission statement of the Salvation Army with the mission statement Jesus used for Himself.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19).

I am reminded of a father who took his young son to an exhibit of abstract art. As they stood before the main feature of the exhibit, the father explained to his son that the painting was suppose to be a horse, to which the son replied: "If it is suppose to be a horse, why isn't it a horse?" What the world needs from the church and its ministries today is not some abstract image but for the church to be the church —to be the people of God and to do the work of God. Our calling is from God, and that calling is to fulfill our mission, which is our reason for being.

Why should we not ask each ministry to provide a mission audit at the 2001 Convention...

III. Mission Audits

For some years now, this Convention has required a financial audit from each of its ministries. These audits tell us the financial health of our ministries. But don't we also need an audit on how well our ministries are fulfilling their mission?

Do we not need to know how well they are performing the works which they are sent to do? Raising money is important, but what is more important is that the money is used for the purpose it is given.

We stand now at the beginning of a new century, even a new millennium. How do we know that this Convention and its ministries are doing the work —fulfilling the mission—to which God has called us. Why should we not ask each ministry to provide a mission audit at the 2001 Convention that would include three categories of information:

1. A statement of its mission. What is its work, its reason for being?
2. A concise and concrete list of its achievements and results during the past five years toward fulfilling its mission.
3. A plan of work for the future: what definite and specific plans have been adopted by its board for the next five years.

In addition to its ministries, I am sure the Convention office itself would also provide a mission audit on its work.

As your messenger today, I urge the Executive Committee of this Convention to provide leadership and guidelines for all of our ministries and the Convention office to prepare for our next session a mission audit on their work. In providing leadership for this audit, it might be highly advantageous to have a workshop led by an experienced and knowledgeable resource person. I would also urge you to have these audits printed for distribution to our people. If done properly, I believe these audits can result in a more effective fulfillment of our calling from God and in greater support from those whose gifts made possible our work.

We have now heard God's message to us from His Word in Ephesians. That message has told us that we have a calling from God, and that our calling is our Christian vocation, our work, our mission. It has also told us that our mission is rooted in Jesus Christ; otherwise, it should not be called "Christian."

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IV. Preparing for Our Mission

Once we know our work—the essential thing God has called us to do—the next question is: "How do we equip ourselves to do it?" I believe that God gives to each of us the potential ability to do whatever work to which He calls us:

"But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ" (Ephesians 4:7).



The Latin root for the word "education" means to lead out, and in the Christian context it means to develop what God has given us.

As I reflect over my life of threescore years and ten (plus), and my ministry of more than half a century, I see two primary plans God uses for equipping His people to do His work. One plan is education: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). By education, we mean developing the talents, the abilities, and the mind with which God has endowed us. The Latin root for the word "education" means to lead out, and in the Christian context it means to develop what God has given us.

Although my life's work has been in Christian higher education, and although I have read the Gospels and the New Testament many times, in the preparation of this message I made, what was for me, a startling discovery: Jesus never used the word "train" or "training." In fact, the words "train" or "training" do not appear in the Gospels. And in all of Paul's ministry, as he organized churches throughout the Roman Empire, there is no record that he ever spoke of "training." Instead, the New Testament method for preparing Christian workers was to teach them. The primary focus of Jesus' ministry was on teaching His disciples.

According to the Gospels, he never trained them; He always taught them. Indeed, hear the last word of Jesus as He commissioned His disciples to their work:

"Go ye therefore, and *teach* all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28: 19-20).

There is a world of difference in training and in teaching. In training we condition people to do what they are told to do; sometimes we want to tell them that they must believe what we believe, or else they are wrong. That we call indoctrination. In teaching we are seeking to develop people to be the person God wants them to be rather than the person someone else wants them to be. To be responsible, we must be able to think and to make our own decisions before God. There are no easy techniques, no tricks of the trade, which can equip us in this modern world to effectively do the work of God.

As much as I believe in education, I know that education alone cannot fully equip us to do the work of God. Not even the best of teaching can substitute for spiritual growth and Christian commitment. I believe that the most important way by which we prepare ourselves to do God's work is through the development of our spiritual life; and by spiritual life, I mean a personal and living relationship with God. This relationship can be nurtured by reading the Bible and letting God speak to us through the great souls whose lives are a major part of the biblical record. It is also nurtured by private prayer. An emphasis upon the spiritual life has been one of the cornerstones of Original Free Will Baptist. I was brought up to believe that the strength for Christian living was through a daily reading of the Scriptures and with blocks of unhurried time for meditation and prayer.

I can only tell you that I have found it so; otherwise, I would not be here. I

recall one critical period in my life when I read the entire Book of Ephesians each day for forty consecutive days. And I can assure you that the Bible is an indispensable storehouse of spiritual strength.

Today, I have spoken to you out of the sanctuary of my soul. The most important lesson I have learned in life is that God can be trusted. He is the strength of our lives and He is the only real security we have. The ultimate spiritual experience of our journey on earth is to come to the point where we know that God is all that we have left, and then to know that He is all we need. Without Him we have nothing; but with Him we have everything. Without Him, we cannot do His work; we cannot even do ours. But when we empty ourselves of ourselves, and commit ourselves to Jesus Christ, nothing is impossible. We are called of God to be the people of God, and our mission on earth is to do the work of God. ❖

Come to Bethlehem This Year!

Sixth Annual Bethlehem Walk



Presented by Arapahoe Free Will Baptist Church, Hwy. 306 S. Arapahoe, NC.

December 7, 8, & 9
Continuous Tours.

Beginning at 7:00 PM Each evening:
Last Tour 9:00 PM

Music In The Sanctuary All Evening

Call: 252-745-5206 or
252-249-1630



M emories Of Christmases Past

Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, at Christmastime is a very special place. In 1995, my wife and I spent two days just before Christmas enjoying the sights, smells, and people of this beautifully restored town. Since there was no electricity in the 1700s, the only lighted decorations are candles. No artificial wreaths are allowed. They are handmade from different leaves and fruit. The big event before Christmas is the grand illumination. I would never have believed thousands of people could be in such a joyous spirit. We plan on returning to Williamsburg this year to renew our spirits and our faith in our fellowman.—*Robert Hadden, Graphic Arts Manager at the Free Will Baptist Press.*

When I was in high school, I worked at Worthington's Department Store in Ayden, NC. Different organizations would help needy children at Christmastime. They would bring children into the store and let them pick out what they wanted for Christmas. Most of the children always thought of their parents or other family members rather than themselves. Even today, I can still see those little smiling faces as I think about Christmas.—*Nina Fussell, Shipping Department at the Free Will Baptist Press.*

About ten years ago, all the employees at the Press donated money to help a needy family. Dot Pierce and myself went to the grocery store and purchased groceries and a Bible Story Book from the bookstore. We wrapped the book in really pretty paper. We took it to a family that lived near the Press. When we knocked on the door, a little boy answered and we asked to speak to his mother. We told her about the groceries and she was very appreciative and helped us get them out of the car. The little boy saw a bag of oranges and his eyes just lit up and he said, "Oranges! I really

can't believe we have oranges!" I'll never forget his little face and that was a very happy Christmas memory for me.—*Wallie Hargrove, Accounts Manager at the Free Will Baptist Press*

I was a senior in high school in 1952 when I got saved. It was the fall of the year and football season. Mother asked me what would I like for Christmas that year and to her surprise I said I wanted a Bible. She told me to go to the Ayden Bible and Bookstore (then located on Railroad Street) and pick out one like I wanted. The clerk recommended a Scofield Reference Bible. I used that Bible throughout college and for many years afterwards. I still have it, even though it is old and very worn. My mother was very pleased with my choice that Christmas." *The Rev. Gordan Hart, British Chapel Church.*

Christmas was always a fun time growing up at my house. I'll never forget the day my sister rode her tricycle into the Christmas tree covered with "angel hair." As a result, she became covered with the "biting" fibers. At the table, we always remembered to thank God for helping us to have another good year. Mother and Daddy worked very hard, but they truly wanted us to realize the real meaning of Christmas—*love.*—*Mary Dudley, Sunday School Ministries.*

Growing up, I remember the Christmas all five of us girls wanted a bike. That is all we talked about, dreamed about, day in and out. On Christmas Eve, none of us could sleep, we were so excited. The next morning we all got up at the same time and rushed to the living room and then, oh no!, no bikes. We were so let down. It must have shown on our faces because Daddy told us to get dressed and come back to the living room. When we all returned, and after Daddy shared the story about the Birth of Baby Jesus, he said "follow me!" When we put on our coats and

went outside there they were six brand new bikes, one for each of us girls and one for my younger brother. What a Christmas it was!—*Mary Ann Davenport, Editorial Assistant at the Free Will Baptist Press.*

In 1993 Sandra and I spent Christmas in the Philippines. On Christmas Eve we traveled to Calawag, a small town far from Puerto Princesa City. We spent the night with some friends in their home (a nipa hut). There were 15 people, children and adults, in the house that night. They all slept on the floor, but they gave us their plywood bed. There was no indoor bathroom or electricity.

When Christmas morning arrived, there were no toys for the children or gifts for the adults. Never were there gifts at Christmas, for Christmas was not about things, but Him. We took a bath in the creek and later had a meal of rice, fish, and bananas. Later, we visited homes for Praise and Thanksgiving Service, celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We missed being with our children and families at Christmas that year, but it was one of the most meaningful of our lives.—*The Rev. Harold Jones, Director of Foreign Missions.*

It was a small tin box. I think it was originally yellow. Time and wear had taken their toll. Later, I realized that it was a 3 x 5 card file, but I thought of it as the tin box. It sat in a corner on the kitchen cabinet, except near Christmastime. It was brought out and its recipes provided fruit cake, pecan and sweet potato pies, coconut and pineapple cake, and other goodies. A special treat were the oatmeal cookies, about the size of a half-dollar and browned lightly, which were eaten along with a section of orange or tangerine.

At school or on the radio one heard about Santa and other Christmas things, but I knew: Christmas came in a small tin box.—*Bruce Dudley, Director of Retirement Home Ministries.* ❖

Greetings from Tezdjan

by Tezdjan

At the end of September I returned home from the United States and that was my first intercontinental travel alone. From Raleigh to Amsterdam went perfect, due to the assistance of a fine and helpful American, who took care of me at the Airport in Detroit. The following day I went from Amsterdam to Sofia. When I tried to check in at Sofia for my trip to Varna, I heard that the plane would not leave until the next morning, because of bad weather. Later that night I bought a ticket from another Airline Company, which should fly immediately after the storm. This was much cheaper than to sleep in a hotel.

My family and friends were very happy to meet me at home again. The children and the youth said: "Tezdjan we are relieved that you returned, we thought that you would remain in America."

I truly enjoyed being with you. Thank you for all your kindness and prayers for my ministry. I have been overwhelmed by the prosperity in North Carolina and by the wealth of your Churches. To be honest, it sometimes confused me. Be sure that I am not jealous of the things you possess. We in Bulgaria are blessed that the Lord allows us to struggle, and the trials of life are just what we need in his eyes.

Eighteen new children have come to us to learn to read, to write, and to

speak the Bulgarian language. A few have not yet returned to their classes, but we have again more children than the year before. I am teaching from 8 AM, to 2 PM. After the classes, I relax a little and go for a small brunch. Then



I do all kinds of other jobs: administration, translation, checking the mail, control the shop, receiving people with problems. Many have problems to buy bread and to buy medicaments. I witness to these people and try to make them aware that we are not a social office. In the evenings I prepare my lessons for the next day and I work further on my studies. If you work with Willem, you never will be bored, there is always work to do. In the night I keep my personal devotions and prayer time.

There are two important matters to pray for:

1. The registration of our denomination.
2. The providence for meeting space in the City of Varna.

Varna is the most central city in our area, with a population of 300,000 people. It is 25 miles out of Balchik where we live and work and 60 miles from Targoviste. We need a building there that has a multi function. *We lost members to other denominations because we don't have a proper meeting place to worship and to be taught.* I tell the Lord to remain close to us and to have His will done.

Targoviste is much smaller. There we need a place for our workers and that place can be much cheaper, because land and houses are lower in price than in Varna. I am thankful to the Board of Foreign Missions and to Harold and Sandra for their concern and care. I am proud to be a Free Will Baptist servant to our Precious Lord. All Glory be to Him forever. Yours, Tezdjan.

Note From Foreign Missions Director: Funds are needed for the building in Varna. Many of our people in Bulgaria only make \$15 per month. They cannot afford to build anything. I see churches spend so much on new buildings here—for their personal use. Surely some can give to build this one for them. Cost of Varna church building is \$30,000. ❖

DECEMBER IS FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH

This month is vitally important to the Foreign Missions program. The telethon dropped by \$30,000 and regular giving has been far below our budget during this church year. Unless we have an exceptionally good month in December, we will have a difficult time in meeting the needs of our fields.

I sincerely ask you to join us in prayer concerning this and send a special gift to Foreign Missions during this month to insure the continuation of the work we have in India, Nepal, Mexico, Bulgaria and the Philippines.

Friends, this need is real. Please give to make the Christ of Christmas known to children and adults in other lands. You can give no greater gift than this.

New Parsonage At Gawid, Phillippines

by the Rev. Bernardo M. Borja



Praise the Lord for His untiring flow of blessings to meet all our needs (Philippians 4:19). We are so very grateful for His faithfulness. We thank our beloved brethren who continually sent their financial support to build this parsonage, and especially the Board of Foreign Missions of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, and our Director-Treasurer, the Rev. Harold Jones. Truly God used all of you, even in our deep needs, in our partnership in the work of our Lord and Saviour. Our family transferred to the new parsonage on December 20, 1999. We enjoy living in this comfortable, three bedroom house with a sala (small living room), kitchen, sink, and comfort rooms.

A brief history of the church: The Rev. Bernardo Borja and his six-months pregnant wife, Flora, with their daughter Hannah, who was two at the time, arrived at Gawid on July 16, 1992. They were to open a new work of the Lord for the Free Will Baptist Church and did not have a home of their own or even a rented one. They lived in the house of the elder brother of Flora for five months. By the grace of God, the Rev. Borja tried to build a small nipa hut (house made of split bamboo with a roof made of coconut leaves) for their house while at the same time doing Bible studies and making contacts. Early in December 1992, the family transferred to their new humble home and these light materials lasted for several years.

But now we praise the Lord for the new parsonage and we celebrated our Anniversary Thanksgiving with thirty active members and ten inactive. The Lord has blessed us with three daughter-outreaches and one preaching point, each with approximately fifteen members. Our

new preaching point is at the local High School where we have at least twenty attending regularly. The young people of the outreaches are in charge of their co-students in the Bible studies. I am disciplin them every Wednesday night. We are very busy now in the work of the Lord with the following schedule:

Wednesday night— High School preaching point (20 minutes travel by sea from Gawid).

Saturday all day— New Pangangan Outreach/follow-up and Worship. Children's Bible Stories (1 hour travel by sea from Gawid).

Sunday morning— Gawid Free Will Baptist Church (main church).

Sunday School for adults, young people and children.

Worship Service.

Sunday afternoon— Catalat (Daughter Outreach) Sunday School and Worship Service. (One hour of travel by sea.)

Sunday night— Santa Cruz Outreach Worship Service (20 minutes travel by sea from Catalat Outreach).

We maximize the use of our motorized banca (small boat) that is named "GOOD NEWS." The church gasoline budget increased about 40%. The price of gasoline in the Philippines has increased about 20%, so the budget reached to more than P1,000.00 monthly. The members were challenged in stewardship and gradually are supporting His work. Please pray that God will enable us to cope with the existing crisis in our country. We are facing great challenges, but firmly believe "For with God nothing is impossible" (Luke 1:37). There is an old Chinese proverb that I used to quote, "In every difficulty lies opportunities." God will make a way and bless our ministry. ❖

News From India And Nepal

by Dr. E.M. Lall

There was a blessing in disguise when ten persons accepted the Lord as their personal Saviour and were baptized at Bareilly on August 25, 2000. These people were prepared by the Rev. Vijay Massey, pastor-in-charge, Bareilly, and remained under the training of retired Pastor Rev. Y. B. Lal for forty days. Another group of twelve members are being prepared and educated for baptism. We have always affirmed that conversion is by heart and cannot be stopped by any force of law.

The Rev. Chander Massey of Saidpur and Ahladpur circuits is pioneering the work of the church and has been provided with the new motor bicycle. He is under risk these days. Prayers are solicited for him. Three deacons of Neoria, Rampura Bhoor and Dhaura Tanda circuits have been given the bicycles. Two bicycles have been given to the ministers in Nepal. This aid of one motor bicycle and the five bicycles came in from the Board of Foreign Missions. All are grateful for this help. *The motor cycle was provided by the Reedy Branch youth. The bicycles were given by Mr. and Mrs. Keith Whitley, Rock Springs Church.*

We are thankful to the Board of Foreign Missions for meeting the needs of schools in respect of matting and other furniture like chairs and tables. A huge supply was made as the new session started in July, 2000.

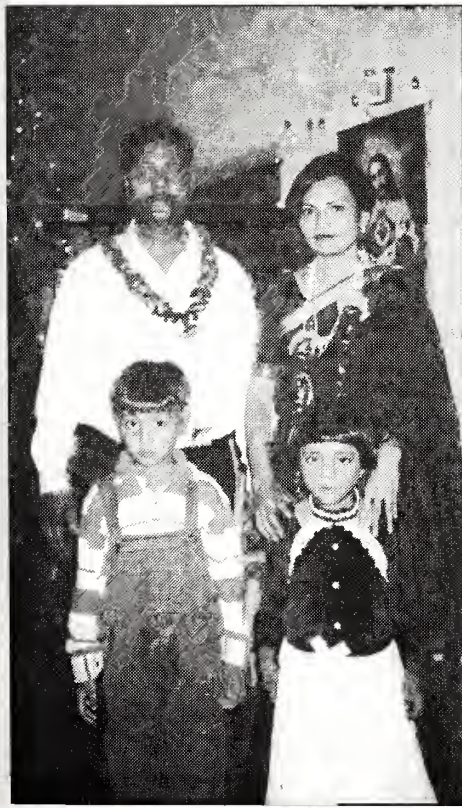
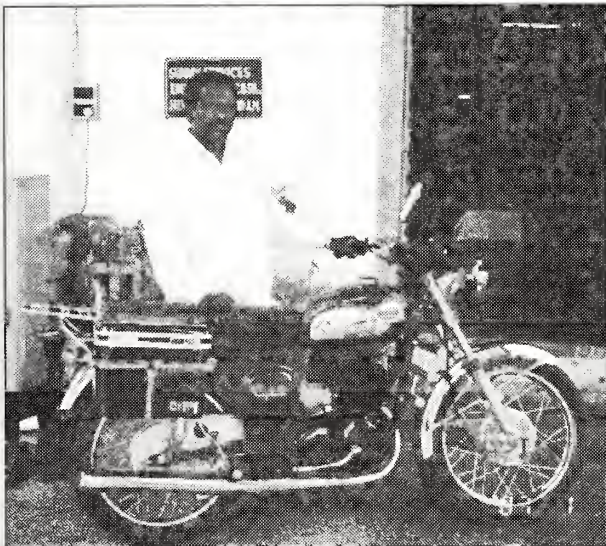
I am glad to report that our Board of Foreign Missions is supporting my youngest son Anup and his wife Anita to undergo Bachelor of theology course at the Allahabad Bible Seminary, Allahabad. They joined there on July 3, 2000, and are doing their best as the report of the principal comes to me.

Efforts are underway for the complete self-support of Rudrapur Church. Rudrapur has been made a District Headquarters and has become an integral part of the new province called Uttranchal.

As regards renovation of Children's Home at Jamshedpur, the same is in progress. ❖



Above Left: Dr. E. M. Lall speaks to the Rudrapur Church. Above: Deacon Sohan Lal and his new bicycle. Center Left: The Rev. Chander Massey of Saidpur Ahladpur, a pioneer minister and the new motor bike.



Above: The Rev. Vijay Massey, pastor-in-charge at Baptising at Bareilly. Left: Anup and Anita Lall with their children. Anup is the youngest son of Dr. E. M. Lall.

JOY December

2000

Prayer

SUN	MON	TUE	
3 Children's Home "Hanging of the Greens" 6:00 PM	4	5	6
10	11	12 Mount Olive College Christmas Buffet, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center 6:00 PM	13
17	18	19	20
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day FWB Press Closed FWB Bookstores Closed FWB Headquarters Closed	26 FWB Press Closed FWB Headquarters closed	27
New Year's Eve 31			

6 _____

Things to Remember _____

THU		FRI		SAT	
		1		2	Christmas Open House Bible and Bookstores, Ayden, Kinston, Wilson, and NewBern, 9 AM – 5 PM
7		8		9	
14		15		16	Mount Olive College Fall Commencement Worship Service Rodger Chapel, 10:30 AM Graduation, College Hall, 2:00 PM
21	Winter Begins	22	FWB Headquarters closed	23	
28		29		30	

ANNUAL
WORLD MISSIONS
CONFERENCE

February 18, 2001,
College Hall
Mount Olive College,
5-8 PM,
Light meal served.

- Special guest,
Dr. William Bennett.
- Special music that will
bless your heart.

PLAN TO ATTEND.
THE SPIRITUAL BLESSING
WILL BE TREMENDOUS.

March 25, 2001
Foreign Missions
Annual Telethon



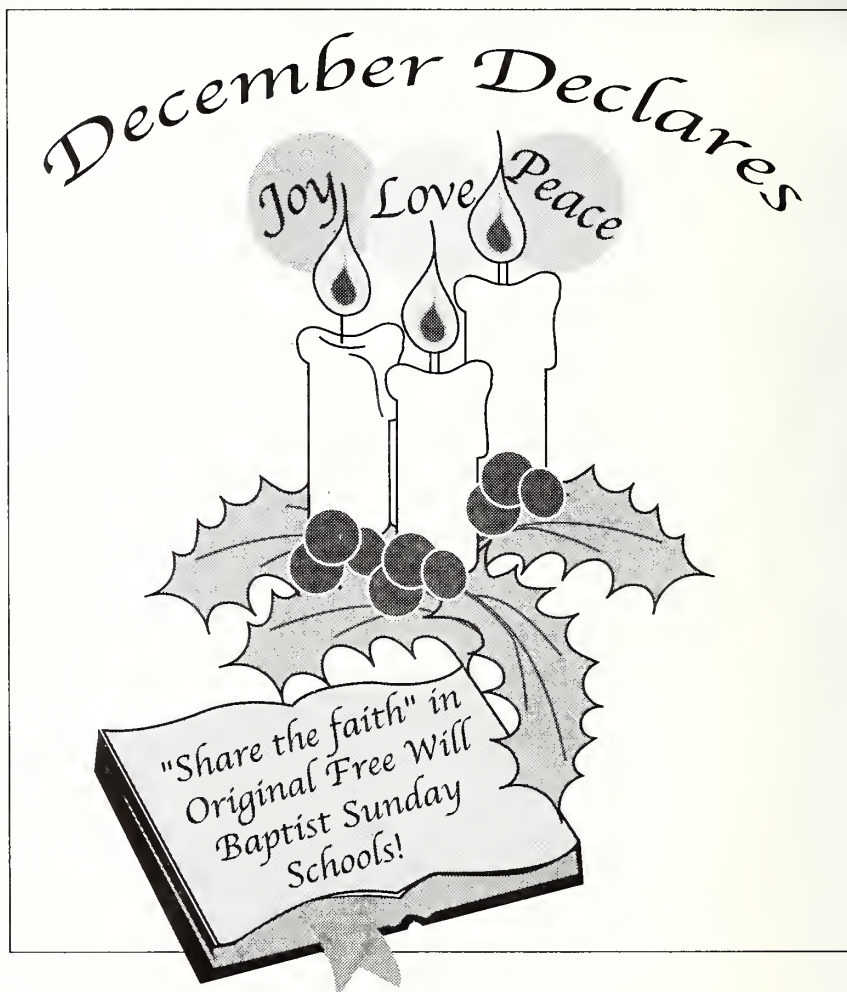
Goal 2001
A total of \$190,000
in gifts on Telethon Sunday

Pray Daily for this Goal

Sunday School Charms



Hints and Ideas for Sunday School Growth



As Director of the Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry, let me take this opportunity to thank all Free Will Baptists for their kind thoughts, understanding, patience and support through prayers, finances and attendance during the past year. The Sunday School Board continues to work diligently to promote "Teaching and Learning for All" through the many activities that have been developed for implementation in our churches. Please check the Free Will Baptist in the next issues for upcoming learning

opportunities. If you or your organization would like to know more about the many opportunities for service, let the director know and she will contact you and work up a time when she can come to share the facets of the Original Free Well Baptist Sunday School Ministry as it attempts to fulfill its mission of service to promote the growth in the Kingdom of God.

Mary Dudley, Director
PO Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513

Operation Christmas Cheer

Have you ever had the occasion to revisit a place that you had not been to in years? Perhaps it involved going to a reunion, or a visit to your old hometown. Thoughts about how things and people have changed race across your mind and you wonder, "Will they remember me?" Do you recall how wonderful it is when someone recognizes you and calls your name? You think to yourself, "they do remember!"

Have you ever thought about the ministers of our Convention and who remembers them? Over time the ministers who have faithfully served the congregations of our Convention have changed pastorates and they are no longer an active part of our church family. While many of these men are still working hard in their capacities as pastors, there are some who, because of advancing years of disability, are unable to attend meetings, Conferences, and Conventions. These are the men who preached the revivals, baptized our children, and performed the marriage ceremonies of our parents. Over the years, we may have lost touch and

there is danger that we may forget them and the important work they have done. In other words, we may not remember them.

Well, the Minister's Program can help you remember those who have served during this special time of year through Operation Christmas Cheer. Very few programs that we have been a part of have been better received than this one. While Christmas is a time of joy for many, there are others who experience the pain of loneliness and loss during this time of the year. You can help!

Each year the Minister's Program sends a greeting to each of our ministers age 65 and up. Along with this greeting is a check in the amount of \$100. The gift does not come from the Minister's Program, but it is sent with a greeting on behalf of all the churches of our Convention. In other words, the gift comes from you!

Do you think **Operation Christmas Cheer** is worthy of you and your church's support? Judging from the response of the ministers who receive these greetings, it is very important to them. Are you doing your part? Each

year we receive numerous cards thanking you, the churches, for making this program possible. One minister writes to thank you by saying "It means so much to be remembered by my denomination" and another says, "This gift will really come in handy and I sure can use it, thank you."

Every church, Sunday school class, Auxiliary, Laymen's League, and youth group can contribute \$100 to help sponsor this program. We hope you will include the Minister's Program in your budget. Some churches are able to do more and we would like to encourage them to this at this special time of year. Each year the Minister's Program steps out in faith to make Christmas Cheer a reality because without your support we could not afford the cost. Thank you in advance for all that you do and may all the blessings of this season be yours.

What Can You Do? To participate please send your gift to:

The Minister's Program
PO Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513 ❖

Camp Vandemere

The Great Light That Shines

by: Michael Williams, Manager, Camp Vandemere

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, (Luke 2: 9-10).

There is still a great light that shines in the hearts of over twenty people this Christmas season, thanks to the salvation experience they had during the seven weeks of camp at Vandemere.

We at Camp Vandemere are pleased that God has allowed us to play a small part in this ministry. It is through the gifts of people that support Camp Vandemere that we can

rejoice in this wonderful thing. We pray that this ministry will continue being used to bring people to the Lord. Just as that great light which shined to guide those seeking the Son of God, we at Camp Vandemere pray that God will continue helping us to shine to bring lost souls to our wonderful Saviour. We need your continuing support in order to see this ministry grow. Please be mindful of us this holiday season in your gift giving.

We would like to also remind you that Camp Vandemere is open year-round. Maybe we can help you in your Christmas parties and plans. I would personally like to say to all the

directors that made Camp Vandemere a success this past year, may God bless you each this holiday season. And from all of us at Camp Vandemere to all who helped make Camp Vandemere a success this past year, God bless and Happy Holidays.

Camp Vandemere Christmas List

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Life Jackets | Basketball Court |
| Picnic Tables | Paddle Boat (1) |
| Pay Off Debt | New Tractor Shed |
| Office Computer | Swing Set |
| & Copier | Water Fountain |
| Volleyball Net | New Lighthouse |
| Pillars of Faith | |
| (swim pool) | |



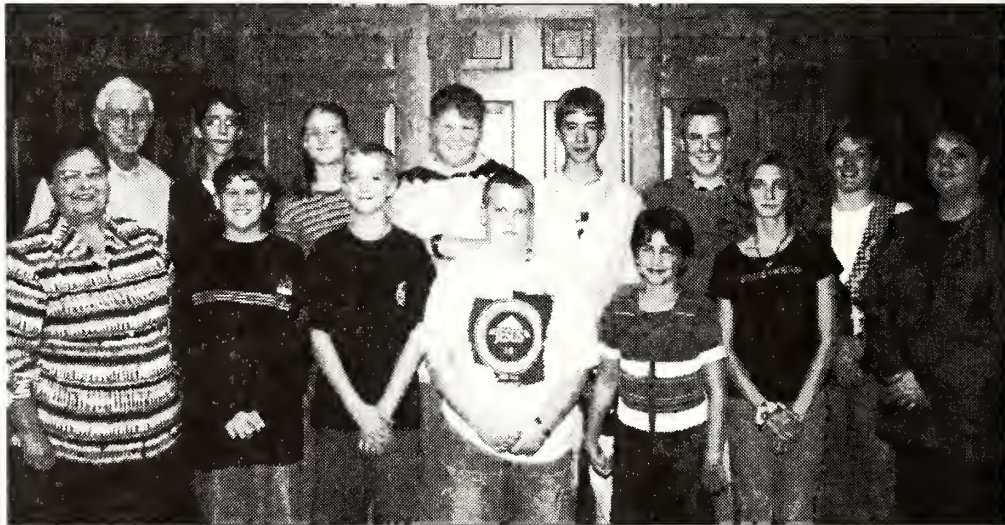


On October 6, Donna Bass (right) of Antioch Woman's Auxiliary, New Bern, NC, delivered to our campus items in need. Thank you for helping us to meet the needs of our children. ❖



The dedication of the members of Woodmen of the World, (above)Lodge #764 of Lucama, is appreciated more than even words can express. On October 10 they provided food and fellowship in Heritage Hall for our residents. Thanks again for always caring! ❖

Some of the members of Rose of Sharon Church, Robersonville NC, (right) visited and toured our campus on September 29 bringing donations to help meet the needs of our children. A special thanks to the youth group for their devoted commitment to our home. ❖



Marlboro Church Woman's Auxiliary (right) had the opportunity to visit our campus on October 3. Each of the members enjoyed touring Central Cottage and presenting "goodie bags" to our residents. The members also delivered much needed commodities for our cottages. Thank you for supporting your ministry. ❖



The Game of Life

Life is said to be a game
Though we've been dealt
a bad hand,
We've remained the same.

Times may be tough
And roads may be rough,
But we've remained sane.

Although we may stumble,
We shall not crumble.
But we shall win this game
without defeat.

*Makeisha W.,
resident of Smith Cottage*

CAMPUS ITEMS NEEDED

- Paper Products
- Personal Care Items
- Encyclopedias (CD Rom)
- Computers for Cottages (est. cost \$5000)
- Carpet Cleaning Machine
- Golf Cart
- Appliances
- Vacuum Cleaner
- 8 qt., 10 qt., 12 qt. stock pots
- Dishwasher Detergent

- Various Types Cleaning Brushes
- Hot Flat Irons for Hair
- Gym Bags
- Electric Pencil Sharpeners
- Tall Table Lamp
- Desk Lamps
- Large Electric Griddles
- Large Electric Fry Pans
- Large Crock Pots
- Large Canister Sets

- 20 Wooden Porch Rocking Chairs
- Playstation Games (rated E)
- 5 Wooden Glider Swings
- Charter Bus to Zoo (approx. \$1500.00)
- Twin size Thermal Blankets
- Board Games (Bible Bingo, Girl Talk, Operation, Battleship)

- Shower Curtains
- Standard Size Pillows
- Bath Mats
- Can Openers (manual)
- Centerpieces for Cottage Kitchen Tables
- Laundry Supplies
- Cleaning Supplies
- Pole Lamps
- 3 ring binders (1"-1 1/2")

"Join Our Family Christmas"

Dear Friends:

Christmas is so very special. A time for friends and family. Children sharing their achievements with grandparents and learning of Christmas past. When the hustle and bustle of shopping and holiday preparation is done, we look forward to those quiet moments of sharing the special joy of our gift-of-family.

Many children of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home can't remember a special year or gift. For them Christmas has been filled with uncertainty, violence, and neglect.

Christmas at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home is always a new world for the children we serve. Many of our children have never experienced the

many simple pleasures and joys of a happy Christmas. For many reasons, their holidays lack the luster and brilliance of family gatherings, home-cooked "goodies," and gifts from the heart.

This holiday season we ask for your help. You can help by contributing \$100 for each child you would like to sponsor. This is a good project for youth groups, Woman's Auxiliaries, Layman's League, Sunday school classes, or other church groups. We invite you to make this Christmas special for a child. Simply complete the Sponsorship Reservation form below and return it to us by December 1, 2000. ❖

Churches & Ministers Available

NOTE : This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

Arapahoe Free Will Baptist Church, Arapahoe, NC due to the resignation of their Pastor, is seeking a full-time minister, effective immediately. If interested, please contact: Lawrence Paul, 145 Hardison Street, Grantsboro, NC 28529, phone 252-745-5206. ❖

FWB



Free Will Baptist Children's Home

Sponsorship Reservation Form

Sponsor: _____

Contact Person: _____

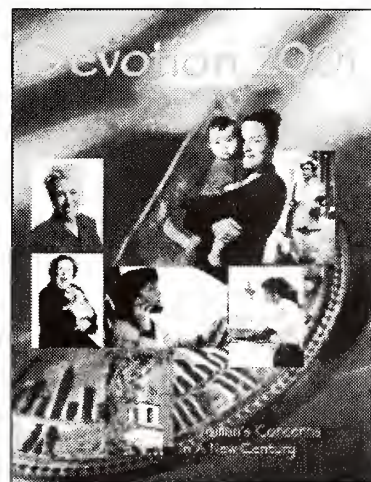
Address: _____

Telephone: () _____

Number of Children We Would Like To Sponsor _____

Cut Out and Mail Form To:

Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Inc.
PO Box 249 • Middlesex, NC 27557-0249



PRICE \$4.95

2001 Woman's Auxiliary Devotion

Now available at your Bible and Book Stores: Ayden, Wilson, Kinston, and New Bern.



Student Government Association student council members for the 2000-2001 academic year are: front row: Jessica Mattocks, commuter representative, Clinton; Melissa Walker, campus activity board chair, Person County; Terrence Eure, junior vice president, Duplin County; JaNae

Joyner, executive cabinet treasurer, Wayne County; and Shakeena Green, freshman secretary, Duplin. Second row: Sharon Zirkle, senior vice president, Wood Bridge, Virginia; Laurie Evans, sophomore secretary, Kenly FWB Church, Johnston County; Carie Mills, senior president, Johnston

County; Marci Rollins, executive cabinet secretary, First FWB Church of Goldsboro, Wayne County; and Christy Atkins, executive cabinet vice president, Wayne County. Back row: Dale Belvin, freshman treasurer, Friendly Chapel FWB Church, Guilford County; Terry Jones, sophomore treasurer, Wayne County; Scott Satterfield, executive cabinet president, Lee's Chapel FWB Church, Harnett County; Bryan Williamson, freshman president, St. Mary's Grove FWB Church, Johnston County; Joey Styron, senior treasurer, Carteret County; and Allecia Rogers, freshman vice president, Wayne County. Not pictured are: Carl Council, commuter representative, Wayne County; Christina Loveall, residence life representative, Nedrow, New York; Dannell Peed, junior president, Beaufort County; Amanda Mills, sophomore president, Johnston County; Stephanie Ehring, sophomore vice president, Centerville, Ohio; and Kristy Phelps, senior secretary, Bertie County. ❖



Willem and Lydia van der Plas, foreign missionaries in Bulgaria, were visitors at a recent chapel service, in which Mr. van der Plas shared with students, faculty, and staff, some of the historical background of Bulgaria and their ministry to the local people of Bulgaria.

Left to right: the Rev. Frank Harrison, campus minister; Sarah Crumpler, Sarecta FWB Church in Duplin County; Willem; Lydia; John Hill, Holly Springs FWB Church in Carteret County; and Dale Belvin, Friendly Chapel FWB Church in Guilford County. ❖



The Rev. Ray Wells, pastor of Marsh Swamp FWB Church in Wilson County, spoke at a chapel service recently. Left is Mr. Wells with Mount Olive College students from Wilson County.

Left to right: Melissa Inscoe and Shannon Mixon of the First FWB Church of Wilson; Mr. Wells; Walter Hardy, Mt. Calvary Holy Church; and Courtney Lanier, First FWB Church in Wilson. ❖

Student Interns with Department of Crime Control

George Eric Jones of New Bern spent his summer interning with the State of North Carolina in the Department of Crime Control. Jones found out about the internship at a career fair held at Mount Olive College, where he is currently pursuing a degree in criminal justice.

A senior at the institution, Jones received a \$30,000 scholarship from the State to attend Mount Olive College. The only stipulation of the scholarship requires Jones to work for four years as a police officer in Craven County upon his graduation, a job that Jones is looking forward to especially after having worked in the area this summer.

"One of the major aims of the Criminal Justice Program at MOC is to improve the professional skills of our students. In our traditional four-year program, students are encouraged to make the most of their internship placements," Eric Ling, Director of the Criminal Justice Program said.



This summer, Ling visited three students in their internship placements...all received excellent evaluations. "Eric's supervisor told me that he has done an outstanding job for the agency, taking on a number of tough professional assignments and completing them to a very high standard. I am very excited that our traditional students, our transfer students, and the professional students in our accelerated program are all contributing in one way or another to improving the criminal justice system in North Carolina," Ling continued.

Jones is the son of George and Betty Jones of New Bern. He has two sisters, Vicki Jones Heath, also a graduate of MOC and Linda Jones Webb. He is a member of Gethsemane Free Will Baptist Church in Craven County, where he has attended for the past five years. Jones is a member of Delta Phi Delta. In his spare time he enjoys playing golf, spending time with his family, and attending Trojan baseball and volleyball games. ❖



Charles "Bear" Waters

Following the Call

At the age of 17, Charles "Bear" Waters was called to the ministry. It was the summer of 1997 and Waters had just attended a very large youth convention called "Acquire the Fire" at New Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church in Pamlico County (Waters' home church). Following the service there was a massive altar call, which Waters notes, was the turning point in his life.

"I felt a lump in my throat and a tug at my heart, and after holding on to the pew for several minutes, I finally rushed forward with tears in my eyes. I hugged

my pastor and kept saying over and over again, 'I am supposed to be a preacher, I am supposed to be a preacher.'"

In the fall of 1998, Waters entered the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he began taking courses in pre-medicine. He had planned to complete his degree at UNC-Chapel Hill and then follow-up with the courses he needed to become a pastor. However, two years into the pre-med program at UNC-Chapel Hill, Waters felt the immediate need to, "do the Lord's work." "I knew Mount Olive College was a natural choice for me," Waters commented.

Waters transferred to MOC in the spring of 2000 as a church ministries major. During the spring semester, he was involved in Fellowship of Christian Students and the Students Theological Society. In May, he also began work as the youth minister at Little Rock Free Will Baptist Church in Lucama—a labor of love.



Mount Olive College
presents

Seventh Annual Christmas Buffet

featuring music by the
*Mount Olive Community
Ensemble*

Buffet to begin at 6:00 PM
Musical performance
to begin at 7:00 PM

Tuesday, December 12, 2000
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

Reservations are required and must be paid by December 6.* *Reservations do not guarantee a private table. Seating is limited to 330. \$11.00 adults, \$6.00 children 12 and under, (prices include beverage and tax). For more information, contact Brenda Edwards at (919) 658-2502.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE Fall 2000

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Sunday, December 16, 2000

- Worship Service, 10:30 AM Rodgers Chapel. The public is invited to attend.
- Graduation, 2:00 PM College Hall. A ticket is required for admission.

For more information, contact David Bourgeois, registrar at Mount Olive College. at (919) 658-2502, ext. 3019

This summer, Waters led the church's youth enrichment program. Every Wednesday he took the youth to a variety of educational and entertainment oriented destinations including the state capital, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Kings Dominion, and many more. These experiences brought him closer to the 50 or so young people he ministers to on a weekly basis during children's church. Waters also conducts the weekly children's sermon, leads the responsive call to worship, sings in the choir, and attends all youth meetings. "I love every minute of it," Waters said.

In addition to his college work and his youth ministry, Waters is also serving as a MOC resident advisor. Waters is the son of Mary Alice and Charles Waters, Sr. He has one sister, Sherry. In his spare time Waters enjoys spending time with the family's 20 or so pet cats and his pet golden retriever, Lucy. He also likes to skydive, an adventure he has only recently come to appreciate. ❖

Lighthouse Church Testimony from Stony Hill Free Will Baptist Church Middlesex, NC

Recently, we became involved with the Celebrate Jesus 2000 and Lighthouse Movement. We have a lighthouse that is being passed from member to member. A different member has it each month. The keeper of the lighthouse is committed to prayer. For the month they have the lighthouse, they are to pray for the church, the lost, the preacher, and our denomination.

On September 10, approximately 46 people turned out at church to deliver about 350 Jesus videos. They left the church at approximately 6:30 to pass them out. By 7:30-7:45, all but one team had returned and were in the Family Life Center eating pizza and drinking soda. Glory to God!

How did that happen? Well, this is how. Our church building is located on the west end of Stony Hill Church Road. Wait, I'm getting ahead of myself. First of all, people in the church pledged to purchase the videos. Some people pledged one and some 15-20. We had approximately 65 Hispanic videos and the rest were in English.

Now, starting on the west end of Stony Hill Church Road, I rode around and counted houses from one end of Stony Hill Church Road to the other. I also counted houses on each road north and south of Stony Hill Church Road, making note of the mobile home parks that may have had as many as 50 homes in one park. Then totaling them all together, I figured we would need 22 teams of two. The Lord sent 46, counting the children, who brought the excitement of doing the whole thing. It was amazing to be a part of it.

It was a total team effort that went off without a hitch except one man, who said a dog bit him and he wanted to know what I was going to do about it. I said, I'll pray for the dog and I really hope he makes it! I had one boy, Brandon, who volunteered to stay behind and pray with me as long as

by The Rev. Lewis Forsythe
Pastor, Stony Hill FWB Church

he could still eat pizza! Praise God, this boy thinks like me! Oh, before I forget, the one team that did not make it back in an hour, consisted of Brother Sam, Brother David, two children, Brother Matthew, and Travis. Brother Sam, bless God, wasn't going to wait for the video to introduce Jesus to folks. He was trying to introduce Him himself.

Now let me answer the question I know my preacher brothers are asking. Yes, we have seen some results in our congregation. But that was really not our motive. I told our folks someday, maybe a thousand years from now in Heaven, you may meet a

brother or sister and you'll ask, "Tell me how you came to Jesus." They might respond, "Well, I went into town one Sunday evening, and when I returned, a bag with popcorn and a video had been hung on my door. It had a letter inside from some church. I threw the letter away, but said, I can eat the popcorn and I'll give the video a look." To which you'll ask, "Where were you living at then?" To which they may say, "In Middlesex, NC, right off Stony Hill Church Road." To which we will all say, "Glory be to God!"

Sample letter from Stony Hill FWB Church included with the Jesus Video

Greetings Friends and Neighbors:

We, the Church of Jesus Christ, and a part of this community, are concerned about the moral decline of our nation. America leads the world in divorce, crime, alcoholism, and murder. Recently, we've witnessed children killing children more times than we care to remember. What's wrong? How did all this come about? How can we turn things around? These are questions most people are asking.

We believe time and history proves that the answer is in the person of Jesus Christ. But don't just take our word for it. View the free video we are enclosing and see for yourself. If you agree, please pass the video on so others can find hope in their lives.

If we can be of any help to you, feel free to call or come visit our church. God bless.

In Christ,

Stony Hill Free Will Baptist Church

For information on the Lighthouse Movement and the Jesus Video Project contact:

Original Free Will Baptist Home Missions and Evangelism

P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513,

by telephone at (252) 746-4963,

or by fax (252) 746-8913.





God Is Changing Neighborhoods

We decided to move from our neighborhood because the atmosphere there was getting pretty bad. The language and disrespect for others' property were getting us to the point where we did not want to go out when the weather was warm or allow our granddaughter, then three years old, to play in the yard.

We could not find another place that we could afford to move to so we decided that, if we had to stay where we were, we would call on God to change our neighborhood. We began praying for five neighbors, five minutes, five times a week for five weeks. We asked God to bless them, and we let them know we were praying for them.

God began to move! Neighbors began to come to me and ask for prayer for specific needs.

One neighbor asked for prayer for cancer that had just been discovered, that neighbor has now been cancer-free for more than a year. Another asked for prayer for a job, and God provided that. I could go on and on.

The Lighthouse concept was introduced in my church, and I became involved. God has completely changed the atmosphere of my neighborhood in a year's time. It could be nothing else but the power of prayer. Now we look forward to spending our evenings in our backyard with our neighbors. We are believing God for salvation for each of them as we continue to pray and share the JESUS Video with each of them. ❖

Personal testimony from Kit Dehne, Portview Christian Center, Grafton, Wisconsin. Reprinted by permission.

BIBLE BOWL 2001 "The Apostles"



- The Calling of the Twelve:** Mark 1: 16-20, Luke 5: 1-11; John 1: 35-42, Mark 2: 13-17; John 1: 43-51
- The Choosing of the Twelve:** Mark 3: 13-19; Luke 6: 12-16
- The Mission to the Apostles:** Matthew 10: 1-42
- The Beatitudes:** Matthew 5: 1-12
- The Calming of the Storm:** Luke 8: 22-25; Matthew 8: 23-27
- Five Thousand Fed:** John 6: 1-14; Luke 9: 10-17
- Jesus and Peter Walking on the Sea:** Matthew 14: 22-33; John 6: 15-21
- Peter's Confession of Faith:** Matthew 16: 13-20; Luke 9: 18-27
- The Transfiguration:** Matthew 17: 1-13; Mark 9: 2-13
- Disciples Questioning Jesus (Lazarus' Death):** John 11: 1-16
- True Discipleship:** Luke 9: 46-50
- The Ambition of James and John:** Matthew 20: 20-28; Mark 10: 35-45
- James and John Rebuked:** Luke 9: 51-56
- The Lord's Prayer taught to the Disciples:** Luke 11: 1-13
- The Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem:** Matthew 21: 1-11; Mark 11: 1-11
- Judas Iscariot betrays Jesus:** Matthew 26: 14-16; Luke 22: 1-6
- The Last Supper:** Matthew 26: 17-31; Mark 14: 12-25; Luke 22: 7-38
- The Washing of the Disciple's Feet:** John 13: 1-20
- Jesus Dismisses Judas:** John 13: 21-30
- Peter's Denial Foretold:** Mark 14: 26-31
- Garden of Gethsemane:** Matthew 26: 36-56; Mark 14: 32-52; John 18: 1-11; Luke 22: 7-38
- Peter's Denial:** Mark 14: 66-72; Luke 22: 54-62; John 18: 12-27
- Judas' Death:** Matthew 27: 1-10
- Jesus Appears to the Disciples:** John 20: 1-10; John 20: 19-31; John 21: 1-24
- The Great Commission:** Matthew 28: 16-20; Mark 16: 14-20
- The Selection of Matthias:** Acts 1: 12-26
- The Day of Pentecost:** Acts 2: 1-13
- Peter's Pentecostal Sermon:** Acts 2: 14-24, 41-42
- A Lame Man Healed:** Acts 3: 1-11
- Peter and John Imprisoned and Peter before the High Priest:** Acts 4: 1-22
- Ananias and Sapphira:** Acts 5: 1-11
- The Gospel Preached in Samaria:** Acts 8: 5-25
- Philip and the Eunuch:** Acts 8: 26-40
- The Healing of Aeneas and Tabitha (Dorcas):** Acts 9: 32-43
- The Vision of Peter:** Acts 10: 9-23
- Peter Meets Cornelius:** Acts 10: 24-33
- Herod Kills James and Imprisons Peter:** Acts 12: 1-4
- An Angel frees Peter from Prison:** Acts 12: 5-19
- The Source of the Revelation:** Revelation 1: 1-20
- John Eats the Book:** Revelation 10: 1-11
- The New Jerusalem:** Revelation 21: 1-8
- The Epilogue by John:** Revelation 22: 6-21

MEMORY VERSES

AFC and YFA		YFA Only
Matthew 5: 16	Acts 1: 20	John 10: 4-5
Matthew 28: 19-20	Acts 4: 12	John 21: 15
Luke 6: 12-13	Acts 5: 29	Acts 2: 1-3
Luke 9: 23	1 John 1: 5	Acts 8: 32,33
John 13: 16	3 John 1: 11	1 John 4: 7-8
	Revelation 1: 8	Revelation 22:8

Young People Revive Youth For Christ Rally

by Carla Combs

Young people in the Fifth Union, Eastern District are trying to revive the Youth For Christ Rally.

According to Lisa Barton, YFC Rally president, the rally was originated years ago through inspiration from Camp Vandemere. It was once a thriving youth ministry but attendance has decreased drastically in recent years.

"Kids are getting so busy with other activities that sometimes they don't have time for God. We want to get young people excited about God again and make church a priority in their lives," explained Barton.

She says that the rally is set for the second Saturday night of each month. Churches take turns hosting the rally and planning the activities. Each program offers an attendance banner, AFC, YFA, and Bible Sword Drill. Some programs offer talent shows or have had special entertainment like guest singers, Third Promise (formally Echoes of God). There was a Fun Day at Camp Vandemere.

Efforts are paying off as five churches have come together and participated in the rally for the past several months. Juniper Chapel, Macedonia, Memorial, Saint's Delight, and Spring Hope Original Free Will



Left to Right: Officers in Youth For Christ Rally are Michael Lupton, vice president, Stacey Bland, treasurer, Lisa Barton, president, and Tiffany Lewis, secretary.

Baptist Churches have taken turns hosting the rally.

"There were about 15 to 20 kids coming to the rally in May 1999. It's now up to about 50 kids, says Barton. "We are hoping that other churches in the Fifth Union will want to join us."

An advisory committee organized by parents guides and advises the young people as they plan each month's program. The committee meets two weeks prior to the rally.

Barton's mother, Gail, is chairperson of the advisory committee. She believes that God is reaching the hearts of the young people who attend the rally.

"We have seen several kids accept Christ. At the meetings, the kids are really digging down into the Bible verses and learning Scripture. The Youth For Christ Rally is an outreach. It's teaching kids to live for Christ. God has a lot to offer us if we just ask Him. We encourage the kids to read

their Bibles, and develop a personal relationship with Christ," Barton said.

Any church in the Fifth Union is welcome to participate and pastors are encouraged to bring their youth groups to the rally. Several holiday activities are scheduled for December including a Christmas play, birthday party for Jesus as well as creating a newsletter and music program. She says that there are several adult advisors who will gladly share information about the Youth For Christ Rally.

"Our ultimate goal is to get as many kids involved in the rally as possible and hope that they will want to accept Christ as their personal Saviour. The youth are the leaders of tomorrow. We need to teach them to set priorities and make God their first one," Gail Barton added.

For more information about the next Youth For Christ Rally, contact Lisa or Gail Barton at (252) 672-5697.



Burress Joins The FWB Press

Carolyn Burress has recently joined the Free Will Baptist Press as a graphic designer in the Graphic Arts Department. Burress was previously employed with Douglas Graphics in Thomasville as a computer artist.

Burress holds degrees from East Carolina University, Lenoir Community College, and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Duke University. In the summer of 1973, Burress had the opportunity to study photography, drawing, and art history at the Sarah Lawrence College campus in LaCoste, France.

She has been very active in nonprofit organizations, special events, and fund-raising projects

including the United Cerebral Palsy Telethon and the North Carolina Federation of Business and Professional Women, Inc.

Burress is currently residing in Pinetops with her mother, Madelyn Burress. Her father is the late Rev. John Hubert Burress, an Original Free Will Baptist minister. He served for many years as a member of the Board of Directors of the Free Will Baptist Press. ❖

A Blessed Christmas to All

by Rita Jones

Happy Birthday to Jesus and best wishes to all during this blessed season from Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC.

October 7 was a busy day for Powhatan. Four officers attended the Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary Fall Meeting at Shady Grove from 9 AM til early afternoon. That evening, a group made the trip to the Youth Rally at Robert's Grove where the Rev. Otis Hamm spoke on why Christians shouldn't celebrate Halloween.

October 14 was our annual "Outreach" to our community. Brochures about our church, our beliefs, and how to receive salvation were passed out along with a half dozen doughnuts (free of charge). Several teams went through several local subdivisions, inviting neighbors to visit with us. Deacon Aubrey Bunn manned a table at the church parking lot and chatted with people who stopped by for a doughnut and some fellowship.

The next Saturday, October 21, members of the Youth group made some visits for the Generation to Generation program. Some homes had been visited by the youth on the outreach, but we are trying to go geographically in the Clayton area as our mornings allow. Response was so wonderful, we ran out of time again before we had visited everyone. More visits are planned with elderly members within the next few weeks.

Two members of the Powhatan Woman's Auxiliary attended a study course by Sister Sandra Ellis at Hopewell on October 26 on Stewardship. Her husband, Terry, is the pastor at a Swansboro church that

has grown from about 8 to 80 members during the six years the couple have been ministering there. The Rev. and Mrs. Ellis grew up in the Powhatan community. Study Course Chairperson June Wallace introduced Sandra and she addressed the group about prioritizing your life and making all the different pieces fit. She used a glove to demonstrate how God can make it all fit perfectly.

A chicken pastry fund-raiser was sponsored by the Powhatan Woman's Auxiliary on October 28 prior to a study course by Sandra Hargis on Missions. The fund-raiser accomplished the goal of supplying funds for next year's benevolence project. Thirty-plus people attended the study course in which Sister Hargis expressed how our hearts should be burdened with those who are lost in this world.

Several members attended the Union Meeting at Lee's Chapel on October 29 where Cherub Spencer Hill again played a couple of songs with the Smith Family. It was great to see the youth from several district churches participating in the evening's events. Blended Fellowship, one of our newest member churches, taught some sign language to the group as they performed.

In Memoriam: Sister Virginia Pounds went to be with the Lord in October following declining health. She is survived by daughter Carolyn Faircloth and son D. E. Pounds as well as several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Remember her family during this time. ❖

THOUGHTS FOR LIVING

by Dr. Thomas Parrish

There is a flurry of activity seeking to minimize prejudice and improve race relations in our society so that people with significant differences can set aside their differences to build better relationships. Much of the gap in race relations in the United States has been bridged over the past four decades, but it took an act of Congress to set a plan of action in place to help diminish the prejudice between the various functions of society. While prejudice will probably never be eliminated, vast improvements in human relations have occurred.

Although society never intended it to happen, there may be a remarkable parallel between human efforts to minimize prejudice and what God did to break down the wall of prejudice between Jews and Gentiles. Just as it took a legislative act of our governing body to institute a plan of action, it took an act of God to institute a plan of unity for the Jews and Gentiles. That act was completed at a place called Calvary where the Son of God broke down the wall to bring salvation to all people who would be willing to receive it. At last, both Jews and Gentiles are adopted into the family of God. We should note that not all people in our society will set aside their prejudice to treat people who are different with a common respect. There are those who choose to believe they are superior to those who are different and refuse to accept them as equals in society. Likewise, there are many who refuse to accept God's plan and still behave toward others with acts of hatred. That is a sad commentary because when one denies God's act of love, one invites eternal disaster. While others spend gross amounts of time and millions of dollars trying to correct racial prejudice, let us consider what God did to bring His creation together and realize that His plan works not only to eliminate prejudice but to bring harmony into the lives of people of all races and nationalities for eternity—
The Advanced Quarterly. ❖



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Above: Robert Hadden

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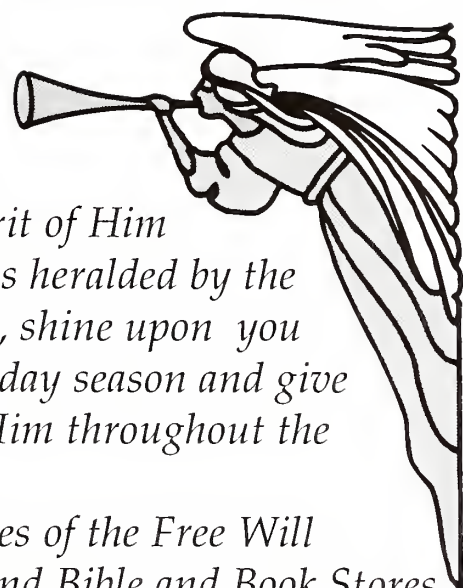
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Seasons Greetings



May the Spirit of Him whose birth was heralded by the Star of the east, shine upon you during the holiday season and give you peace in Him throughout the new year.

The employees of the Free Will Baptist Press and Bible and Book Stores.



Center Left: Darren Davenport, Donna Pittman and Sharon Early. center Right: Left to right, Sheila Benson, Carla Combs, C. H. Overman (sitting), Mary Ann Davenport, and Carolyn Burress.



Above Left to Right: Nina Fussel and Lindsay Taylor. Left: Left to Right: Allen Pearson, Travis Johnson, Top, Ronnie Jones, and Jerry Goff.

Christian Art Review

by Rev. Michael Warning



The concepts of miracles in the early churches of the Americas are widespread.

Europeans desired there to be a sense that God was coming to the new world with them in a very real and mighty way. However, what was the relationship of God to the inhabitants (Indians) who were already living in this new land?

Artistic Style

Since the Christian image originates from a miraculous vision, it is hard for the viewer to be critical of its appearance. Why? The vision is just that: a miraculous appearance of the mother of Jesus to a Native American.

This image has been undoubtedly refined and changed through time from the original vision as it has been interpreted by several artists. However, the importance is that this vision is the central factor which stopped the indiscriminate murder and savage treatment of the Indians in Mexico and South America.

This folk image of Mary retains some of the elements that can be found in early Christian art and later in the major cathedrals of Europe.

One, it is an image of a woman praying. Notice her folded hands like the praying hands by Albrecht Dürer. Two, the presence of God is with her with the radiance of the rays which seem to frame the figure. The rays often appear in major paintings of the life of Jesus.

Source: *Virgin of Guadalupe*. Oil on wood coated with plastic resin. Copy of the ceiling painting in the Church of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Acapulco, Mexico. Artist unknown.

Three, her face has the simple folk elegance of a young Mexican woman. Four, Mary here wears a hand-embroidered blouse and a brooch with a cross as if she has as a young woman of the Mexican peasantry taken her religious faith seriously.

Symbolism

One important symbol is the blue cloak which Mary wears. This cloak is reminiscent of a night sky with stars, symbolizing Mary's desire for heavenly things. Indeed, a cloak is the source of this image. For this image is rooted in a traditional story learned in Mexico. The story goes like this.

Distress was in the heart of a servant of God named Bartholomew las Casas. He was a worker in the church of Spain who found the treatment of the Indians appalling. In a public debate in Spain, he argued that the Indians were not animals to be slaughtered but were human beings to be valued. The basis of that argument is supported by this image, the Virgin of Guadalupe. Here is the legend he told in his debate.

A young Indian went up to a high mountain in Mexico and there had a remarkable experience with God. The sign to the Indian was the appearance of this image of Mary on his coat. This was seen by the church authorities as



a modern miracle, and the authorities reasoned that God would only have appeared in a close way to a human being with a life and a soul. Indians then must be human beings with a soul.

Conclusion

It is easy to see why this image is important in the churches of Mexico. Whether the church is a Baptist church or a cathedral, this often copied Christian image of the young woman of Guadalupe with a cross speaks to the humanity of the Native population.

This legend is not to give validity to one doctrine or another, but serves simply as an important historical record in the life of the Native culture of Mexico, Central, and South America. It is a picture of human longing like the early catacomb paintings of the third century in Rome.

This image is a historical record of a legendary human event in a simple folk painting. With this legend, the recognition of the souls in Indians brought about a Spanish change in church and government policy, and the slaughter of the Indians ceased. The missionary program of the Americas began. ❖



DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Dr. Pepper Worthington

At the age of twenty-one William Wilberforce entered Parliament on October 31, 1780. Senator Mark O. Hatfield notes that he served "in the House of Commons from 1780 to 1825," choosing "to sit with the Tory side of the House, along with his friend, William Pitt, in opposition to the party in power, the Whigs" (xxii). In 1784, Wilberforce experienced his Christian conversion under the influence of Isaac Milnar, a tutor at Queens College who read the classics and the Bible with him.

Senator Hatfield was drawn to study Wilberforce because he sought ways to translate his Christian principles into political policies. Wilberforce stood for the "abolition of the sale of parliamentary seats in 1809" (xxii). He favored Roman Catholic emancipation in Ireland, and the abolition of slavery. He began an intimate group of friends called the Clapham Sect who supported Christian piety and philanthropy. By 1807, the Clapham Society had helped to abolish slave trade, and by 1833, ultimately slavery.

Wilberforce believed in the English constitution, listened to the thoughts of John Newton (who wrote "Amazing Grace"), spoke against the use of force or hostile action as a way to solve political differences, emphasized a modest life, kept a personal journal to evaluate his conduct, and decided to write a book which he titled, *A System of Professed Christians, in the Higher and Middle Classes in this Country, Contrasted with Real Christianity*. Senator Hatfield notes: "By 1826, fifteen editions had been printed in Britain and twenty-five in the United States" (xxi).

Wilberforce and Hatfield

Why is Senator Hatfield drawn to Wilberforce? First, they are both

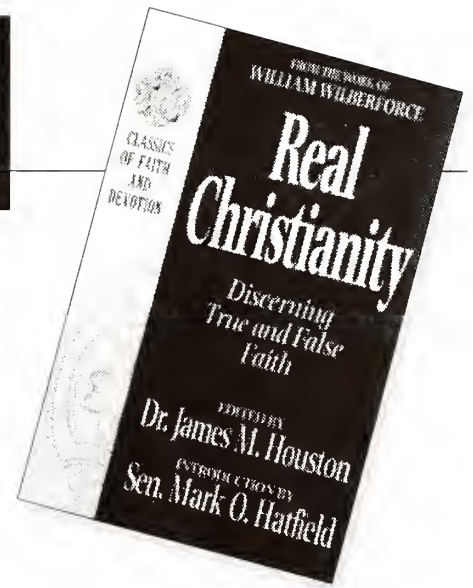
politicians. Both wish for a Christian view of government and have voted in ways that have displeased their constituency. Hatfield notes: "Wilberforce was one of those rare politicians in his day, or any day, who was willing to vote against the prevailing tide in order to follow his conscience and risk defeat by an obdurate constituency" (xxiii). As such, Wilberforce has become a role model for Senator Hatfield. Recognizing that a political life can be a witness in deed, Hatfield declares: "It has become increasingly obvious to me that Christians reaching out in deed as well as word to touch the lives of the poor, the oppressed, the lonely, and the frightened, are the only expression in the flesh of the living Christ that many people are going to know. Wilberforce was certain, as I am, that social progress, if it is to be true, needs a biblical base" (xxiv).

Inadequate View of Christianity

What is Christianity not? Wilberforce has his own view here. He lists numerous conceptions which are false and do not make a Christian: (1) Christianity is not inherited as if being born in a Christian country, of a Christian family, or within a membership of a church makes a Christian. No. (2) The rule for the standard of right and wrong is not based upon the Gospel as it should be, but upon opinions. (3) No reading or studying the Bible takes place. Wilberforce insists: "And why are we to expect knowledge without inquiry, and success without endeavor? Bountiful as is the hand of Providence, it does not bestow its gifts to seduce us into laziness. It bestows gifts to arouse us to exertion" (4).

Inadequate View of Human Nature

What is human nature not? Wilberforce gives us several



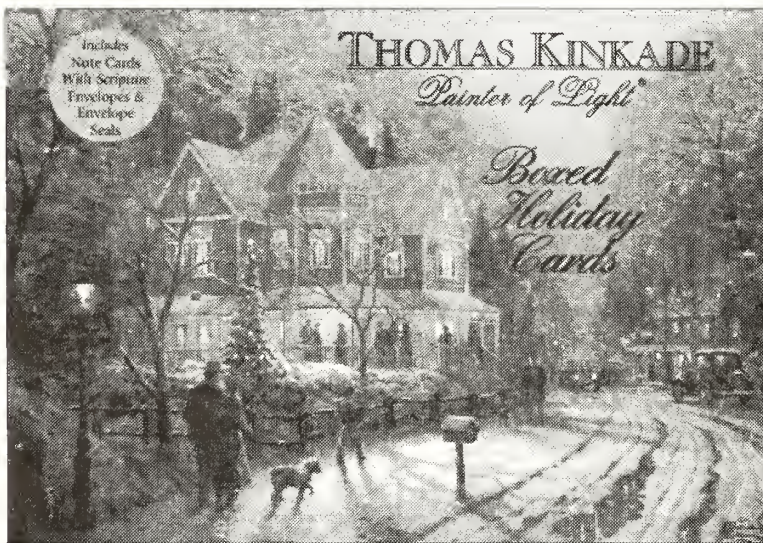
William Wilberforce. *Real Christianity: Discovering True and False Faith*. Classics of Faith and Devotion series. Edited by Dr. James M. Houston. Introduction by Senator Mark O. Hatfield. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1997. 137 pages.

conceptions of human nature which he believes are false, inadequate, and dangerous: (1) Deny the corruption of human nature and see man as capable of responsibility, duty, and kindness. Wilberforce stresses not the strength of human nature but the weakness. He acknowledges the root of sin, the reality that failings point to the evil that is within. Wilberforce proclaims of man: "He is tainted with sin, not slightly and superficially, but radically, and to the very core of his being" (10). Human nature is corrupt. (2) To see human nature as basically good, capable of reason, inventions, understanding. Wilberforce counters: "How do anger, envy, hatred, and revenge spring up in his wretched bosom! How he is a slave to the meanest of his appetites. What fatal propensities does he discover to evil! What inability there is to good!" (11).

Conclusion

Wilberforce was influenced by Philip Doddridge's *Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul* (1745). He sought to write a book which would reflect his emphasis upon real Christianity as lived. The politician Edmund Burke and the agriculturalist Arthur Young were influenced by Wilberforce. A book can change a life. ❖

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