





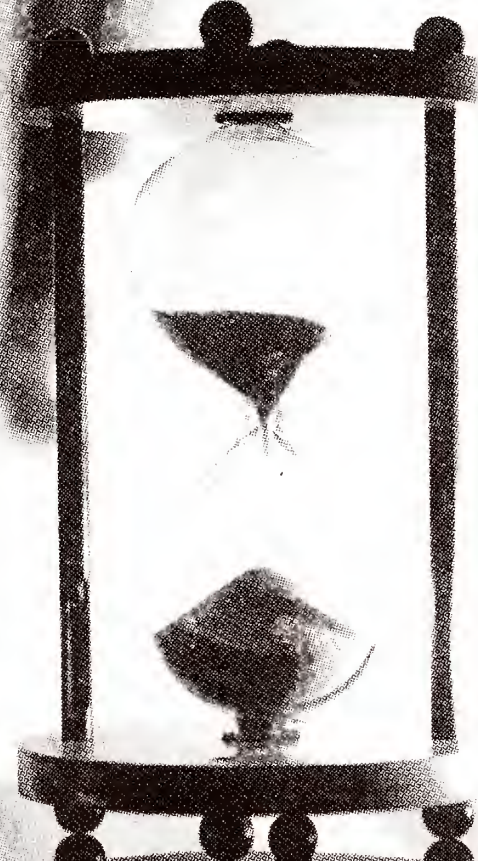
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JANUARY 2008

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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Happy New Years

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

My wife, Carla and I started teaching a Cherub group at our church a couple of months ago. We meet on third and fourth Sundays, but because of the practicing schedule of our youth Christmas play and preparing of Christmas shoe boxes for Home Missions, we have only had a couple of meetings so far. We have planned and prepared, however, for our next meeting which will focus on the Fruit of the Spirit. I'm sure most of us are familiar with the verses from Galatians 5:22-23 which state, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." It seems though that these verses keep lingering on my mind. As Christians this "fruit" should be *growing* in all of us. It should be forming our very spiritual nature. That's what the fruit of the Spirit is supposed to be—our spiritual nature. Verses 24-26 go further, "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, en-



vying one another." It seems more than ever these days that it is a "dog eat dog world"—that there is always someone out there that is jealous of what someone else has or that we want to steal someone else's "thunder," or that we just cannot seem to get along. It seems that these nine traits just do not seem to be growing in us Christians like they should be—in some cases, maybe, they are shrinking. Can non-Christians even tell us apart? Or do we seem like every one else? Once we make a true profession of faith, our spiritual nature should begin to grow daily. How does this growth take place? Involvement in your church and reading and studying your Bible are good ways to promote growth. Involvement in something outside of "yourself" is another way. Let yourself see and become a part of the bigger picture. All the "fruit" should become visible—obvious to other people. It is not just about ourselves. We are to be beacons of Christ's light to the world around us. Let us resolve ourselves to let go of the vanity of "self" and let the Spirit within us really begin to grow. The time is now!

I FOUND "LUCK"

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

In the editorial of last March, I wrote about "Things I've Kept (and plan to keep)." I referred to a place in the mountains of North Carolina called "Luck," stating that someday I would find that place. During the first weekend in November my wife, Ruby, and my older sister, Athalene, spent a few days in the Black Mountain/Asheville area. Both of them realized my driving desire to find "Luck," especially my sister who envisioned a little shopping area with antiques. So, on November 3, we took our trek west of Asheville, traveling as far as Junaluska, turning north on Highway 209, which, by the way, is not a typical tourist's route; but the scenery was beautiful.

A decorative graphic of the word "Reflections" written in a large, bold, serif font. The letters are black with a white, textured or distressed effect, similar to the "Focus" graphic. The word is centered within a thin black rectangular border.

For approximately twenty miles, our anticipation grew. Then, suddenly, without any previous warning (such as, "you are now entering Luck") there it was—a simple, typical mountain country store, sitting peacefully on the right side of Highway 209, in a slight curve, with a nice green sign on the left shoulder of the road with "Luck" proudly printed on it. As the saying goes, our feathers flopped—the store

was closed, and perhaps had been so for several years. My sister is still suffering flashbacks of that event, but she is getting over it. Ruby just took it in stride, chalking it up as just another of my well-intended ventures that flopped. The anticipation of walking in that store and drinking one of those six-ounce Cokes, visiting with the folks that at one time operated the store, would not be realized.

I still have the picture of "Luck," taken from a calendar in Sheila Benson's office which she presented to me in a frame as a Christmas gift; but I also have my own picture—just to prove that I found it. Also, I can reminisce about the days when those old country stores dotted our landscape, when "colas" were packed in ice and "Nabs" were only ten cents.

We moved on from "Luck," taking Route 63 back to the Asheville area. Try it sometime! You'll enjoy the mountain scenery and be glad there is a place known as "Luck" that is still recognized by our state transportation system. I'm glad I found it.

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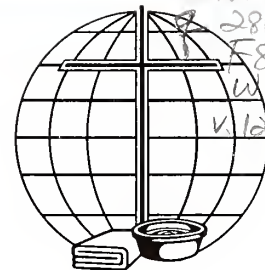
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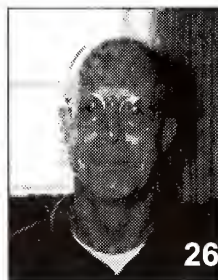
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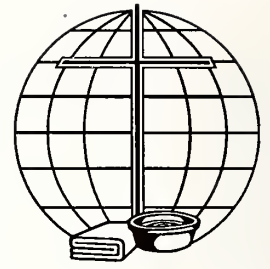
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POWER VERSE

For I know the thoughts I think toward you,
 saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil,
 to give you an expected end
 (Jeremiah 29:11).



Our Spiritual Legacy



by Dr. Michael R. Pelt

Text: Isaiah 51:1–2; Psalm 16:5–6

The prophet tells his listeners to look to the past to find evidence that God will faithfully redeem and restore His people. The psalmist examines what God has provided for him and declares that he has a goodly heritage. As a denomination, if we are to know that we have a spiritual legacy, we must carefully examine our past. To fail to do this would be like being the beneficiary of a will and not even bothering to read that will and act upon it. (A legacy is something received from an ancestor or predecessor.) Today I want to bear witness to several aspects of our spiritual legacy. This year, we as Free Will Baptists are celebrating the 275th anniversary of organized work here in North Carolina. Our focus has been on the beginnings of that work and the role of Paul Palmer as the one who organized a group of believers into a church in Chowan Precinct in 1727. On April 13 of this year we celebrated that event near the site of that first church. It is proper that we should give special recognition to Palmer and to that event as an important milestone in our history. That church was the first Baptist church of any kind in North Carolina and is recognized as such by historians. Palmer and his contemporaries continued to preach the Gospel and to organize other churches. If they had not done so, the General Baptist movement would have died out in this state because that church did not continue for very long. Its members moved on to other locations in eastern North Carolina as part of a larger migration during the colonial period.

In considering our spiritual

heritage or legacy (I use these terms interchangeably), we know that we have an even longer history that goes back almost four hundred years. John Smyth and Thomas Helwys and that congregation separated from the Church of England and later felt compelled to leave England and settle in Holland where they would be free to practice their faith without being persecuted. As heirs of that congregation of English Separatists we share with all true Christians the conviction that God sent His Son into the world to save sinners and that faith in Christ alone is the means by which we are saved. Our acceptance of the Gospel and the saving power of Christ, by which we are brought into the fellowship of the church, is the most basic element of our spiritual legacy. To use the Apostle Paul's words, we thereby become "heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ." We become part of the family of God and there is no greater inheritance in store for anyone than to be an heir of the covenant promises of God. We have the matchless gift of His Spirit, which bears witness with our spirit that we are indeed the children of God. That is a profound legacy the likes of which is not to be seen or experienced in any other way than by faith in Christ.

But there is a great tradition in our denomination that goes back to its beginning in the early 1600s and which we believe is grounded in the practice of the Early Church as recorded in the New Testament. We hold that baptism is for believers, those who have heard the Gospel and have made a personal profession of faith in Christ. This is the

position of all Baptists who reject the practice of infant baptism. After John Smyth baptized members of that congregation in Holland, they became subject to the same criticism which had been heaped upon the Anabaptists in Europe for several decades. They rejected that infamous name as improper because they held that the baptism they had received as infants in their native land was not valid. Later they would adopt immersion as the proper mode of baptism, based on such passages as Romans, chapter 6, in which the Apostle speaks of being buried with Christ and being raised with Christ in the waters of baptism. Again, they were attacked by their opponents who insisted on another mode of baptism that had been sanctioned by the church for centuries.

Another important doctrine that distinguished these General Baptists from other Baptists, as well as from Presbyterians and Congregationalists in England, was their belief that Christ died for all persons and not simply for the elect. They held that anyone who hears the Gospel is capable by grace of responding in repentance and faith. This belief was carefully expounded by a Dutch theologian, Jacob Arminius, who was a contemporary of Smyth and Helwys, both of whom affirmed this same belief in their writings. This belief was clearly stated in the Confession of 1660, prepared by General Baptists just prior to the restoration of the English monarchy and presented to Charles II, the new king. This doctrine of a general atonement was not accepted by Particular Baptists, nor by

(Continued)

Presbyterians and Congregationalists in England at that time, nor was it widely accepted by most Protestants in Colonial America a century later. Calvinism was the reigning theology in both of these contexts. Therefore, General Baptists were up against the views of most dissenting Protestants in England in the mid-1600s on the doctrines of predestination, election, limited atonement, and perseverance of the saints. The same was true of the General Baptists in North Carolina in the mid-1700s when the Particular Baptists of the Philadelphia Association persuaded so many of our ministers and churches to adopt a Calvinist theology. Those few ministers and churches who refused to abandon their spiritual heritage managed to save our denomination from becoming extinct. That remnant of General Baptists were ridiculed as “free-willers” and in a later generation their successors officially adopted the name Free Will Baptist.

We Free Will Baptists are the heirs of Thomas Helwys, who was the first English author to defend the principle of religious liberty in writing. In the same year that Helwys and his little congregation returned to England from Holland, he published a little volume entitled *A Short Declaration of the Mystery of Iniquity* in which he declared his views on religious liberty, the right of an individual to hold any religious opinions without interference from the civil authorities. In England at that time religious freedom was denied to citizens who did not choose to conform to the laws supporting the established church. For this reason Helwys was sent to prison for the rest of his life. Nonetheless, General Baptists were loyal to this principle and in their Confession of 1660 they boldly declared that all people should have “the free liberty of their own consciences in matters of Religion, or Worship, without the least oppression or persecution”

Within a few years the English Parliament passed laws to enforce conformity to the Church of England that General Baptists and other Dissenters could not in good conscience obey. As a result many suffered fines and imprisonment while others chose to make their home in America.

This principle of religious liberty later took room among Baptists and others in America and eventually became a part of our legal tradition as expressed in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: “Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, nor prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” Today our most cherished right in America is the freedom of religion. This is an important part of our spiritual legacy.

Like many other denominations, we believe that local churches should come together in a larger body, an association or conference, and that by virtue of its membership in that body a local church acknowledges and accepts certain statements of faith and practice and principles of church government and therefore governs itself accordingly. When General Baptists were but a single congregation under the leadership of Thomas Helwys, they were guided by a statement entitled “A Declaration of Faith of English People Remaining at Amsterdam in Holland.” Later associations of General Baptists would adopt articles of faith, including the Confession of 1660 which soon became the Standard Confession. This same confession of faith was still used by early General Baptists in North Carolina until 1812 when a revised form of this confession was prepared by James Roach and Jesse Heath and adopted by the conference in that year. That revision in essentially the same form served North Carolina Free Will Baptists for almost a century and a half. It is now included as Appendix B in our *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government of Original Free Will Bap-*

tists (of the English General Baptist Heritage).

The use of any articles of faith was severely tested back in the 1830s when Thomas Campbell, founder of the Disciples Movement, came to eastern North Carolina and convinced some leading ministers and laymen that creeds and articles of faith are but an obstruction to the unity of the church and should therefore be abandoned along with denominational names like Free Will Baptist. Then in 1839 Jeremiah Heath sensed the direction being taken by some conference leaders and he offered a motion that “the ministers of the Bethel Conference confess that they will preach the doctrine and support the principles and practices of the Free Will Baptists.” His motion was defeated. Two years later in 1841 that conference voted to drop the name Free Will Baptist. By 1843 the Bethel Conference was decidedly a Disciples conference, for in that year they passed a resolution declaring that “Division among Christians is a promiscuous evil” and concluded with this statement: “Resolved that this conference consider each church of Christ, composed of Elders, Deacons, and other members, as the highest ecclesiastical tribunal recognized in the New Testament, and therefore disclaims any ecclesiastical or controlling power over the churches of Christ as are willing to unite with us, on the Holy Scriptures, as the Rule of Faith and Discipline.” One would logically describe those churches today as a group of independent churches. We do not recognize independent churches as Original Free Will Baptist churches. We designate to the conference the authority to organize churches and to ordain ministers through their elected officials with acceptance and approval by the conference. Beyond that it is expected that ministers and churches will subscribe to our faith and polity as set forth in *The Articles of Faith and*

(Continued)

Principles of Church Government of Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage).

We believe that members of local churches and the churches themselves should be involved in evangelizing lost people with a view toward forming churches whereby new converts can be nurtured and brought to maturity in Christ. This has been the pattern of General Baptists/Free Will Baptists from their beginnings, both in England and in America. That little congregation that returned to England from Holland in 1612 did so because they felt an obligation to share their faith with friends and family in their native country. Soon there were five churches in the vicinity of London and by 1660 there were scores of churches in several counties in the south of England.

Among those General Baptists who came to Virginia and the Carolinas there were ministers until Robert Norden was sent to Virginia in 1714. He ministered to three congregations in that colony. There was no Baptist minister of any kind in North Carolina until Paul Palmer settled in Perquimans Precinct and later began to preach and organize churches in neighboring precincts, the first one being located in Chowan where he gathered a congregation in 1727. Palmer became an itinerant preacher and many were converted and baptized by him. Soon there were other preachers who joined him in this effort and within 25 years there were as many as twenty churches and branches of these churches scattered across the coastal plain of North Carolina. One of those preachers was Joseph Parker who preached and organized churches in Greene and Lenoir counties.

In the early nineteenth century, men like Jesse Heath and a dozen or more able ministers were engaged in recovering lost ground by promoting revivals among Free Will Baptists and organizing new churches in the 1820s and 1830s. Despite the loss of

some ministers and churches to the Disciples Movement in the 1840s, the denomination showed signs of vitality with the addition of hundreds of members almost every year to the churches during the next half century.

We live in a different environment today and the effort to win people to Christ and to plant new churches presents us with a greater challenge than our forefathers experienced in the nineteenth century. However, the good news of the Gospel is still good news and the need for this generation to hear the Word of the Lord is perhaps more urgent than at any time in our nation's history.

We believe that the churches have a ministry in the world and that we Christians are called to be servants. The fact that we follow Christ's example in washing one another's feet should be more than a symbolic act. It should bear witness to a desire on our part to serve the most basic needs of other human beings, those who are outside the body of Christ as well as those who belong to Christ. As a denomination it seems that we were slow to acknowledge this aspect of our Christian heritage beyond the local church. In fact, we have very little information concerning the ways in which our local churches ministered to people in need in their communities in earlier centuries. It was not until the late nineteenth century that Free Will Baptists began to awaken to the opportunities for witness and service beyond the local church. The first step was taken with the publication of *The Free Will Baptist Advocate* in 1873. Then the General Conference acquired a printing press and began to publish Sunday School literature. Finally a stock company was formed, known as the Free Will Baptist Publishing Company. There soon followed the establishment of the Ayden Seminary in 1898, a church sponsored school offering primary and secondary education with a department of ministerial education. In

1925 Eureka College was opened but was forced to close its doors in 1929 because of inadequate support from the churches.

When this Convention was organized and held its first session in 1913, the proposal to establish an orphanage was on the agenda. The orphanage opened and received its first children in 1920. One by one the rest of our present ministries have been started and developed since the Convention was organized: the Church Finance Association in 1942, Cragmont Assembly in 1945, Mount Olive College in 1951, Home and Foreign Missions and the Minister's Program following our separation from the National Association in 1962, Retirement Homes, and finally the Sunday School Board. All of these activities indicate the importance of our Convention as the organization through which our churches are able to reach out in mission and ministry to the world around us as well as to meet various needs of our membership. As a voluntary organization this Convention depends upon our participation and support for its very existence. It enables us to accomplish a multitude of tasks that are necessary for the well being of the denomination. Its history of less than a hundred years yields abundant evidence of its value to its constituent churches and conferences. But even more important is the fact that in the name of our Lord it provides the organizational channels to minister to the many needs of people in a variety of settings.

As we celebrate this 275th anniversary, let us be grateful for God's guidance through the years and especially for His manifold blessings upon our denomination. If we take the time to examine our past, we begin to recognize what a wonderful legacy we have received from earlier generations of our church. With the psalmist we can truthfully say that we have a goodly heritage, a legacy that we can enrich by our own contribution and pass on to the next generation ▲

Redig the Wells: Free Union OFWB Homecoming



The Rev. C. H. Overman delivered the Homecoming message, "Redig Your Wells."

People from all over Carteret County came to the Free Union Church Homecoming on November 10, 2002. The speaker for the special occasion of worship, fellowship, and gift-giving was the Rev. C. H. Overman.

Special music was provided by Hancock and the Gospel Five. The Rev. Hillary Gaskins was on hand for the morning prayer.

"As we age, the recovery of resources is what we long for," said the Rev. Overman who has been in the Original Free Will Baptist ministry of the Central Conference for fifty years. "As we age, we begin to think of those things that meant so much to us in the past."

The Rev. Overman read Genesis 26:12-20. He stressed how the Philistines envied Abraham and Isaac and tried to defeat them by filling their wells with earth. However, Isaac would dig out the wells again because the resource of water was essential. People would redig their wells because they were in search of water to fulfill the growing threat of thirst. They were looking for a cool, flowing stream of water.

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The Rev. Overman noted that in our spiritual lives we often become clogged up with evils. In our problems we sometimes turn away from the blessings of God.

"Why is it we so soon forget our need for God and the blessings of God? What does it take to fill the houses of worship?" he asked.

"We need to redig the spiritual wells in our lives," he proclaimed. "God is the great I AM. God is the bread of life and God can satisfy the inner thirst and hunger of every soul," he said.

"My grandfather was a Free Will Baptist minister. He was a blacksmith and carpenter too. He used to dig wells for water. The truth is water is the artery of society. The first thing in the old world is to find water. Do you know, we can live longer without food than without water? It is important to live as long as we can, but we want to live for God. We

always will have a need for water, but we also will always have a need for God," he said.

The Rev. Overman suggested tools to redig the clogged wells of our spiritual lives: the tool of remembrance and the tool of working within the vision of the true church for spiritual growth.

"If we are to serve God, we must redig our spiritual wells," he concluded.

The congregation then went into the Fellowship Hall of Free Union and blessed the food and the gifts given as blessings for God.

"Let's count our blessings, but let's redig our wells, too," insisted one Free Will Baptist ▲



The Gospel Five sang Christian music at Free Union Church Homecoming in Sea Level on November 10, 2002.



All the Taylor children of Sea Level join their mother, Almeta, at the November Homecoming.



Pictured at left: Almeta Taylor and her energetic grandchildren enjoy Homecoming on November 10, 2002.



Pictured at right: Brittany (left) and Taylor (right) grandchildren of Almeta Taylor, church mother of Free Union Church in Sea Level.



Original Free Will Baptist



What Is Retirement Homes?

**First and Foremost It is People!
People Helping People in Jesus' Name!**

Please! Help Us Help Others!

There is no easy way to meet the needs of people. Each person must understand that it takes the united effort of all the people. The task of building a Retirement Ministry is certainly one that needs the combined effort of all our people. Your ideas, as well as your praying support, are needed if we are going to understand and meet the needs of our retired/retiring seniors.

There are issues that we do know about and we are working to address them. However, simply knowing the needs does not insure that that knowledge will be translated into action that will benefit our people. We want to come to your church and tell you about our identified needs and how we are trying to help meet those needs. Every phase of ministry is a joint effort with the local church and Retirement Homes Ministry is especially in need of the participation of our individual churches.

Not only does our support come from the local church, we also depend on the local church as an avenue of service to persons. Let us show you some of the ways that we can work with you to minister to our elder generation. Also, let us help you find ways for our elders to continue to serve, for they may have a wealth of time and experience to share.

In addition, help Retirement Homes Ministry find ways that we can contribute to the lives of our seniors to make them more productive and meaningful. 'Tis a time to enjoy the beauty of God's creation and share it with each other.

We help provide for the residential needs of retired Free Will Baptists. We help through housing or supplemental programs. We have various workshops to help you prepare to face the concerns of our aging population.

We offer several opportunities for you to participate in Christian ministry to other people. We have plans that can guide you in your Christian stewardship endeavors. Please, give Retirement Homes the chance to present these needs and opportunities to your church or group!

**Invite Retirement Homes to make a presentation
to your church, auxiliary, Sunday School class or "senior group."**

PO Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-4963
Fax (252) 746-8780
ofwbrethomes@coastalnet.com

Our Clients—Those We Serve



The Reverend
Robert Sellers
907 Stake Road
Tabor City, NC
28463
(910) 653-3803
Birthday
March 26



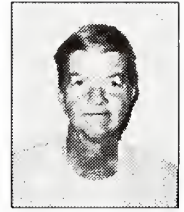
Margaret Brown
Bldg. A-211
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Garner, NC 27529
(919) 779-0020
Birthday
August 20



The Reverend
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27530
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October 14



Louise Owens
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September 15



Kaye Jones
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November 8



Hulon G.
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December 18



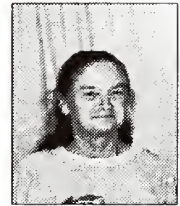
Linda Sasser
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Kinston, NC 28501
Birthday
April 29



Louise Jones
PO Box 867
Grifton, NC 28530
(252) 524-4620
Birthday
January 2

PICTURE
NOT
AVAILABLE
AT THIS
TIME

Geraldine W.
Mangum
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Apt 7-C Briarcliff
Wilson, NC 27893
(252) 237-3170
Birthday
September 7



Betty Campbell
4915 Mount Olive Hwy.
Newtown Grove, NC 28366
(910) 594-1933
Birthday
December 22



The Reverend and Mrs.
Raymond (Rod) Jones
1130 NC 306 Hwy. N.
New Bern, NC 28560
(252) 745-3756
Birthdays
Rod—October 19
Grace—February 24



Dr. and Mrs. Cedric D. Pierce
1281 Rouse Rd.
Greenville, NC 27858
(252) 439-1406
Birthdays
Cedric—September 30
Linda—December 24



William Jeffrey Reason
411 Loop Road
Cove City, NC 28523
(252) 636-2387
Birthdays
Jeffrey—January 19
Jeremy—September 26
Sarah—February 22

Our newest way of helping people!

We provide necessary equipment for people with short-term or long-term physical disabilities. We have hospital beds, wheelchairs, recliner/lift-chairs, walkers, crutches, canes, etc. Contact us to see if we can help meet the need of your situation.



Disability
Equipment
Availability
Program



KENNEDY RECEIVES AWARD AT MOC



Marian Kennedy

Marian E. Kennedy of LaGrange was presented with the alumni hall of fame award at Mount Olive College during homecoming weekend.

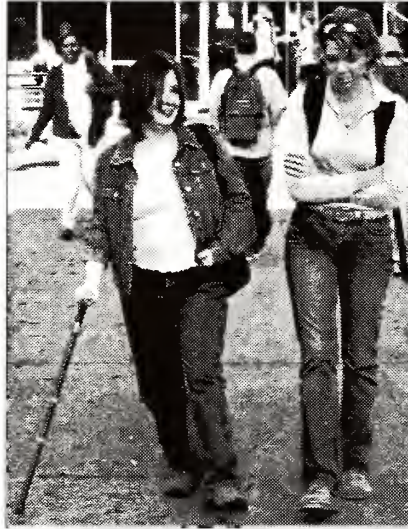
The award is presented for outstanding achievement as a professional educator and bringing honor and respect to the College and the alumni association.

"Of all my teachers, Marian Kennedy has influenced my life the most," states Garrett Southerland an MOC alumnus and presenter of the award. "She opened the door by showing me the potential I had inside. She is not only a good teacher, but a great friend."

Kennedy is a 1980 graduate of North Lenoir High School. She graduated from MOC in 1982 with a degree in music. While attending MOC, Kennedy was a member of the Mount Olive College Singers. She currently teaches music and drama at North Lenoir High School and directs the music at LaGrange Church.

HERRIN OVERCOMES OBSTACLES TO EARN COLLEGE DEGREE

by Erin Pritchard, Student Intern



Sally Herrin of Ayden turned the heads of her family and friends several years ago when she announced her plans of attending college. "Honestly, I don't think my parents ever thought I would earn a college degree," she admits.

Diagnosed with spina bifida when she was born, Herrin has experienced more than a few struggles during her lifetime. Spina bifida is the incomplete formation of the spine and spinal cord. It occurs in almost 1 in 1000 pregnancies and happens 28 days after conception, before most women even know they are pregnant.

Since birth, Herrin has gone through sixteen major surgeries, many of which kept her out of school for a month at a time. "It was difficult missing so much school, but

my teachers were always very helpful during the transition time," says the junior human services counseling major.

Herrin, a 1999 graduate of Greenville Christian Academy, took a year off from school after she graduated. "It was just what I needed," she says. "After the break I was ready to dive into college."

Her mother heard of Mount Olive College from a friend and decided to schedule a visit. "When I saw the campus, I immediately fell in love with it," Herrin states. "Everyone was so friendly and helpful. It was just the environment I had been looking for."

Herrin has come a long way in recent years, mostly because of her experience at Mount Olive College. "When I was in high school, I really felt different from the other students," she says. "At MOC, I'm just like everyone else. I'm not treated any differently than other students."

Herrin admits that she has grown as a person since enrolling at MOC. "Being away from home and having to do things on my own has made me become more independent," she says.

Upon graduation, Herrin is a shining example of what determination and positive thinking can do for a person. "Never say 'I can't do this.' Your problems may be big or small, but you can never set your goals too high," Herrin says. "Always find a way to do what you want to do."

Herrin is the daughter of Jeff and Rita Herrin. She is a member of Ormondsville Church and will graduate in May of 2004. She plans to begin volunteer work at Pitt County Memorial Hospital this year.

Mount Olive College has openings for its Spring 2003 semester. Students interested in transferring should contact Tim Woodard, director of admissions at (919) 658-2502, or email twoodard@moc.edu. All applications for the Spring 2003 semester should be submitted by January 6, 2003.

MOC REACHES MILESTONE WITH DINNERS

When the Church-College dinners began in the fall of 1963, the College received \$52,093 in gifts from seventeen county-wide dinners. This fall, forty years later, the dinners brought in gifts in the amount of one-half million dollars. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support and coordinator of the Church-College dinners says about the dinners, "It is much more than raising one-half million dollars. It is God's people sharing God's work with one another. Those of us at the College work hard, but it is God who makes it all possible."

"We are very thankful for the vision of the leaders of the Free Will Baptist Church who recognized the opportunity that the Church had to help people develop their lives through Christian higher education. Without the Free Will Baptist Church, Mount Olive College would have no reason to exist, and we are grateful for Free Will Baptists who care enough to join us in making this the best college possible to serve our students."

Below is a record of each dinner listed by counties.

Mount Olive College—2002 Free Will Baptist Church Dinner Program

County	2001		2002				Chairman
	Bridge Builders	Gifts	Bridge Builders	Gifts	Goal	Over/Under	
Beaufort	60	\$ 13,410	62	\$ 13,067	\$ 13,800	-\$ 733	Billy Gurkin
Carteret	77	\$ 17,454	73	\$ 17,501	\$ 16,725	\$ 776	Sheri S. Noonan Edgar Pake Jr.
Craven	90	\$ 25,573	86	\$ 25,745	\$ 27,225	-\$ 1,480	Angie W. Piner
Duplin	84	\$ 22,948	78	\$ 21,965	\$ 23,075	-\$1,110	Tommy Benson
Edgecombe	59	\$ 10,104	62	\$ 10,460	\$10,075	\$ 385	Ray Williamson
Greene	159	\$ 38,672	182	\$ 43,425	\$ 38,525	\$ 4,900	Randy Beaman, Genevieve M. Taylor
Johnston-Wake	216	\$ 54,911	217	\$ 54,009	\$ 53,375	\$ 634	Keenan Hinnant, Wanda Jones Blow
Jones	26	\$ 6,445	33	\$ 7,316	\$ 6,525	\$ 791	Gene Burkett
Lenoir	129	\$ 23,690	121	\$ 24,817	\$ 23,950	\$ 867	Cleo S. Hinson
Nash	42	\$ 9,214	48	\$ 9,093	\$ 9,775	-\$ 682	John R. Manning
Onslow-Brunswick	31	\$ 5,015	27	\$ 4,498	\$ 5,550	-\$ 1,052	Ronnie Parker
Pamlico	36	\$ 7,564	38	\$ 6,855	\$ 7,825	-\$ 970	Judy Thaanum Beverly Holton
Pee Dee	72	\$ 14,365	72	\$ 13,710	\$ 14,365	-\$ 655	Danny McPherson
Pitt	185	\$ 39,764	202	\$ 43,226	\$ 38,550	\$ 4,676	Jane T. Tripp
Samp, Harn, Cumb	188	\$ 40,698	180	\$ 44,212	\$ 41,070	\$ 3,142	Lee Morton Jernigan
Wash, Mart, Tyrr, Pasq	71	\$ 26,817	82	\$ 31,605	\$ 23,125	\$ 8,480	Lloyd W. Jones, Jr.
Wayne	240	\$ 73,424	236	\$ 74,519	\$ 72,950	\$ 1,569	Barbara Lancaster
Wilson	228	\$ 52,400	216	\$ 51,825	\$ 49,100	\$ 2,725	Johnny Sullivan
Special			0	\$ 2,152	0	\$ 2,152	
Total	1,993	\$482,468	2,015	\$500,000	\$475,585	\$24,415	

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD THROUGH "HYMN"

by Erin Pritchard, Student Intern



From Left to Right: Marshal Carter, Gabriel Mombrun, James Austin, Tommy Small, Jeremy Owens, Anthony Thorne and a Bogue resident, Tony Dowdy, Jr. Seated: Dr. Armstrong.

contemporary Christian music at concerts throughout the South.

There is a distinct camaraderie between the men, who range from freshmen to seniors. "It is wonderful to know that I have brothers in Christ that I can count on at all times," says Tommy Small, a sophomore church music major from Beaufort. "Whenever I need a lift, it is nice to have them around."

"We really are like brothers," adds Thorne.

The continuous exposure to Christian music and the godly members helps the group to keep their lives in check. "Being in Free Spirit has encouraged my Christian walk more than anything," says Jeremy Owens, a senior church music major from Dudley.

"It helps me to focus on how God has richly blessed my life and allows me to share those blessings with others," adds Small.

For some, singing regularly at churches, meetings, and conventions serves as a fulfillment of a life-long desire. "For me, it has always been a dream to sing in a touring group," says Thorne. Now he helps to minister at approximately twenty churches throughout the academic year.

Although the vocalists have different majors and different backgrounds, their goal to minister through song unites them. "The men in Free Spirit are fine, mature, Christian men with a passion to serve the Lord with their talents," says Dr. Alan Armstrong, professor of music. Armstrong is the founder of the group, and hand picks the members by audition. He is also responsible for choosing the music Free Spirit sings, rehearsing with the group, and running the sound system wherever they sing.

"The group's blend is my chief 'musical' concern," Armstrong says. "I have always been my own sound man so I can blend the voices as perfectly as possible."

Free Spirit travels not only throughout North Carolina, but also beyond its borders. The group has traveled as far south as Florida, and plans to sing in New York City this spring.

Free Spirit is available for concerts on Sunday evenings. Concerts for the fall semester are booked in September, and in December for the spring semester.

Auditions for Free Spirit are held at the beginning of every academic year. Interested students should have a strong commitment to Christ and Christian living and exceptional vocal ability. Membership is open to all majors.

For more information on scheduling or auditions, contact Dr. Armstrong at (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

When asked about the purpose of Free Spirit, Anthony Thorne, a sophomore church music major from Wilson states, "to spread the Word of God and to keep His Word alive in others as well as in us." The other members of the all-male ensemble at Mount Olive College agree, and added "to show God's love" and "to sing for the Lord."

Worshiping, ministering, and being faithful are all part of the "Free Spirit experience" at Mount Olive College. The seven-member group regularly spreads the Gospel and shows the world God's love through

TAYLOR RECEIVES 2002 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Genevieve McLamb Taylor of Snow Hill received the 2002 Distinguished Service Award at Mount Olive College's Annual Alumni Homecoming weekend. The award was presented by Myra Webster of Frankford, Delaware, a former classmate of Taylor's.

The award acknowledges an alumnus who has demonstrated outstanding service, unselfish interest, and loyalty to Mount Olive College and to the Alumni Association.

When Taylor graduated from Smithfield High School in 1955, she was looking for a small Christian college that would provide opportunities for a good education and spiritual development. Her search led her to Mount Allen Junior College (now Mount Olive College) which had just relocated from Cragmont Assembly in Black Mountain to an abandoned elementary school building in Mount Olive.

A member of First Free Will Baptist Church in Smithfield, Taylor was familiar with the College that had been founded by the Free Will Baptist denomination in 1951. Her pastor strongly promoted the institution and she knew the small Christian college was where she wanted to attend.

After graduating from Mount Olive College in 1957, Taylor transferred to Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) where she received her bachelor of arts degree in secondary education. She received her master of education degree from the University of North Carolina in 1961.

"Mount Olive College provided me with a good foundation for further studies. As a result of the high

(Continued)

expectations and quality of work required, I was very well prepared to face the challenges at other institutions. My time at Mount Olive made the transition to a larger school and university much easier," Taylor said.

Now, over forty years later, Taylor is still involved with MOC. She has served as secretary for the alumni board for two years and is currently a member of the senior advisory committee and the communication/award recognition committee. Taylor, a member of Free Union Church in Walstonburg, has also been active with the Greene County Annual Church Dinner Program, where she has served as a local chairperson and as county co-chair. She has been a part of other major milestones for the College, such as in 1986 when she was invited to attend the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Annual Meeting at which the College was named an accredited four-year institution. These College functions have enabled her to remain close to the institution and staff.

Taylor is a testing coordinator for Greene County Schools where she has been employed for thirty-seven years. She and her husband, Daniel, have two sons, Dan and Charles.

CHURCH NIGHT ON THE COURTS

Mount Olive College Church Night is scheduled for February 8, 2003 in College Hall. The Trojan basketball teams will take on rivals from Pfeiffer University. The Lady Trojans will compete at 5:30 P.M. The men will begin play at 7:30 P.M. Tickets are \$1 each; children six and under get in free. The church with the largest number of attendees will be recognized during half time. Please call Tim Woodard at (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854 and make your reservation today.

SULLIVAN SHARES ENTHUSIASM FOR MOC WITH YOUTH AT DANIEL'S CHAPEL

by Erin Pritchard, Student Intern



Back Row: Far Left: The Rev. Jeff Daughtry, Assistant Director of Planned Giving. Far Right: Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions. Front Row: Second from Left: Johnny Sullivan. Pictured are several members of Daniel's Chapel Church.

"Coming to Mount Olive College was one of the greatest decisions I ever made," states Johnny Sullivan, minister of music and youth at Daniel's Chapel Church in Wilson.

Looking back over the last twenty years, Sullivan can clearly see the impact that MOC has had in every aspect of his life. "My experiences taught me how to be responsible, set goals, be a leader, and how to be accountable."

His former pastor, Dr. David Hines, chair of the Religion Department at MOC, had a tremendous role in Sullivan's decision to attend the College. He enrolled in 1981.

While at the College, Sullivan was a member of the MOC Singers as pianist, president of the SGA, and participated in intramural sports. "I attended many of the campus functions and enjoyed every minute of it!" he says.

Sullivan graduated from MOC in 1983 with his associate of science degree in general studies. He went on to Barton College and earned his bachelor of science degree in business management in 1985.

Soon after starting his career at Daniel's Chapel Church in 1996, he decided to pursue his ordination as a minister. He spent the next four years taking religious classes at MOC.

After nearly 15 years of absence, he returned to the campus and saw that the students, faculty, and staff had maintained the same spirit of friendliness he experienced the first time he set foot on the campus. It is good to know that there is a place where people can get a quality education; one that is generated by God's love and where people care about one another" he noted.

Sullivan is excited to see all of the progress that is taking place both academically and physically at Mount Olive College. "It motivates me to share this wonderful institution with others in the church, community, and my two children," he says.

Sullivan has a strong desire for others to have the same experience at MOC that he had. This led him to bring nine teenagers from his church to a recent Visitation Day at the College.

"The youth were excited to see what a day in the life of a college student is all about," says Sullivan. "I believe we have several students who are praying about it and seriously considering attending MOC."

"I have learned so much from Mount Olive College. In return, I have been driven in life to serve Jesus Christ and share with others just how great, mighty, and loving He really is," says Sullivan.

Sullivan is a member of the Wilson County Church Musician's Guild, the Wilson Area Youth Minister's Network, and County Chairman of the Wilson County Dinner for MOC. He also teaches private piano lessons.

He is married to Donna Sullivan, a 1984 graduate of Mount Olive College. They have two children, Matthew, 10, and Morgan, who is 6. They are residents of Sims, North Carolina.

WATKINS RECEIVES 2002 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Hilda Boykin Watkins of Raleigh received the 2002 Distinguished Service Award at Mount Olive College's Annual Alumni Homecoming weekend. The award was presented by Genevieve McLamb Taylor.

"I am pleased and honored to present this award to my friend and former classmate. Hilda Boykin Watkins has distinguished herself through personal and professional accomplishments and has been instrumental in the advancement of Mount Olive College. She is truly deserving of this award," Taylor commented.

Hilda Watkins was first introduced to Mount Olive College in 1955 after graduating from high school. Learning about Mount Olive College from a family friend, she wrote off for more information about the institution that was only an hour from her home. She liked what she read about the private, Christian college and enrolled that fall.

"Being a shy, 17-year-old from a very protective family, I immediately loved MOC," Watkins stated, "I liked the professors, the Christian atmosphere, the social life, and my classes. I especially enjoyed Dr. Burkette Raper's Religion classes. They gave me a new and exciting perspective on religion and my Christian faith which I had not had at church or home," she continued.

Watkins graduated from Mount Olive College in 1957 with her associate's degree. She earned her bachelor's degree in early childhood education and her master's degree in elementary education from East Carolina University. She taught for 30 years in the public school system with twenty-seven of those as a kindergarten teacher. She retired in 1994.

Throughout her life, Hilda Watkins has been active in community, civic, and church activities. She serves in many roles at New Hope Baptist Church including that of deacon and Sunday school class president. She is a member of the National Education Association, the North Carolina Association of Educators, the Wayne County Unit of NCAE, and the Wayne County Resource Specialist Program. She is a member of the Mount Olive College Alumni Association Board and is a volunteer with Hospice of Wake County.

In receiving her honor, Mrs. Watkins stated, "I will always love MOC, the friendships made, the challenges given, and the opportunities taken."

Watkins is married to Kenneth Watkins, owner of 24-Hour Flower, a nationwide company that dispenses flowers in airports and hospitals.

MOC ALUMNI RECOGNIZED FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE



"Alumni Making a Difference" was the theme for Mount Olive College's annual alumni homecoming weekend. In keeping with that theme, the alumni association recognized several people for making a difference in their communities and in the lives of others. Among those honored were Jean F. Ackiss, Spring Hill Church; Melissa McCoy Barnett, Core Creek Church; Nancy Boykin, Marsh Swamp Church; Carlton Bradshaw, originally from Rose Bud Church; James and Kathy Cahoon, Sound Side Church; Alton Cowan, originally from Rose of Sharon Church; Charles Davis, Union Grove Church; Gloria Wallace Edwards, Snow Hill Church; Helen Harwood, Pleasant Plain Church; Keenan Hinnant, Kenly Church; Pam Prescott Ireland, originally from Rock of Zion Church; Ronny Jenkins, originally from St. Mary's Church, Craven County; Marian Kennedy, LaGrange Church; Jennifer Parker, Westside Church; Greg Paul, originally from Sidney Church; Mozella Roughton, Sound Side Church; and Genevieve Taylor, Free Union Church, Greene County.

VISITATION DAY JANUARY 20

Campus Visitation Day is scheduled for Monday, January 20, 2003. High school seniors and their parents are invited to attend this event to learn more about the opportunities at Mount Olive College. Attendants participate in campus tours, meet faculty and other students, as well as discuss scholarships and financial aid opportunities. Potential students can also audition for music scholarships and financial aid opportunities. Potential students can also audition for music scholarships and meet athletic coaches. For details, contact Barbara Kornegay, vice president for enrollment at (919) 658-2502 or email her at bkornegay@moc.edu.

FOUNDERS' LEADERSHIP AWARD PRESENTED



Shakeena Green of Albertson was awarded the Founders' Leadership Award Tuesday at Mount Olive College's Founders Day celebration.

The award is a scholarship sponsored by Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president of Mount Olive College 1954-1995, and his wife, Mrs. Rose M. Raper. The award 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 leadership through dedicated services, leadership, and support for the advancement of the College.

Payable on future educational expenses at Mount Olive College, the \$500 scholarship is presented to a senior who has distinguished himself or herself as an individual of character and initiative and who has demonstrated strong leadership qualities toward making Mount Olive College the institution of Christian higher education envisioned by its founders. The recipient is selected by a committee of faculty, students, and staff representatives.

Green, a junior business management major, is the daughter of Lovely and Ernest Green. She is a graduate of East Duplin High School. Green is a resident director, a member of Phi Beta Lambda, the College Ambassadors, a cheerleader, and serves as the executive cabinet vice-president of the Student Government Association.

"In working with Shakeena, I have been impressed by her dedication and hard work to all of her commitments at Mount Olive College. As a resident director, Shakeena has shown herself to be an excellent role model and leader. Shakeena demonstrates all of the attributes of the Founders' Leadership Award; she is active in many aspects of college life, a responsible and diligent student, and a thoughtful and considerate member of the community. Even more importantly, Shakeena is a pleasure to be around. She possesses a poise and grace that distinguishes her as a student and friend. She is the ideal candidate for any award for leadership," noted Sarah Fried, residence life coordinator.

This year, the award was given in honor of Mrs. Lorelle F. Martin, professor of science emerita. Her scholarship, her ability to inspire students, her extraordinary work ethic, and her commitment to the Christian mission of the College are the hallmarks of her life and work. Mrs. Martin joined Mount Olive College in 1957 and retired in 1987 after serving thirty years as the chair of the science department. The College's biology lab and an annual lecture are named in her honor.

"A master teacher, Lorelle Martin has given to Mount Olive College a living legacy in the lives of all of her students and in the life of this institution," Dr. Raper stated.

Several alumni best summed up Martin's attributes in dedicating the 1962 yearbook in her name: "You have been our counselor and our confidant, and we love you for your warmth, and your radiant personality. You have pioneered at Mount Olive Junior College, striving to achieve for it the very best. You are one of our truest friends and you symbolize to us the finest qualities of your profession."

IN GOOD TIME



In twenty-five years, Mount Olive College alumni will look into the ground for the remnants of the year 2001.

It was a big year for the College, which celebrated its 50th anniversary. On Saturday, November 23, alumni at Homecoming Weekend stashed away a collection of items in a time capsule to reflect on the milestone anniversary.

Dr. W. Burkette Raper is pictured filling in one of the first shovels full of dirt to cover the time capsule.

Mark Your Calendars!

Mount Olive College

Church Night

February 8, 2003

College Hall

Lady Trojans—5:30 P.M.

Men—7:30 P.M.

Tickets—\$1 each

Children Six and Under

Free



JORDAN CHURCH HOLDS BAPTISM

by The Reverend Antonio Escobar

On September 8, 2002, we held a baptism service for the Jordan Church in Piedras Negras, Mexico. This church is pastored by Brother Eliseo Rodriguez Torres. We all went to the creek to hold this special service, where two people took this step in obedience to the Lord. (Rev. Escobar assisted in the service. His wife Maria accompanied him.) After the service we had a time of fellowship, enjoying God's blessings. We ask you to pray for this church that it will continue to grow in the Lord.

THE UPPER ROOM CHURCH HOLDS BAPTISM

by The Reverend Antonio Escobar

The "Aposento Alto" Upper Room Church held a baptism service on August 4. The Rev. Juan Montoya and his wife, Ricarda, pastor this church in Monclova, Mexico. We rejoice and give thanks to the Lord for the four people who were baptized. Please continue to pray for this church and its outreach.



THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY CAMP MORELOS, MEXICO



We are thankful for Camp Morelos where we can have wonderful times of fellowship and celebration of what God is doing.

On September 13, 2002, churches from Piedras Negras, Acuria, Roista, Monclova, and Saltillo attended the 23rd Anniversary of the Peniel Church. We were there for three days. A study about "The Family" was conducted because we believe this must be a priority. On the last day we had Sunday School and a special service that night. There were ninety-three people in attendance. We are planning to have other special programs at Morelos in the near future.

*Don't Forget
Foreign Missions
Telethon
March 23, 2003*

FULFILLMENT

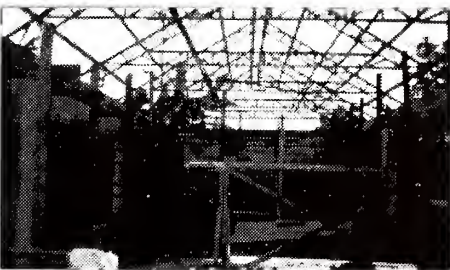
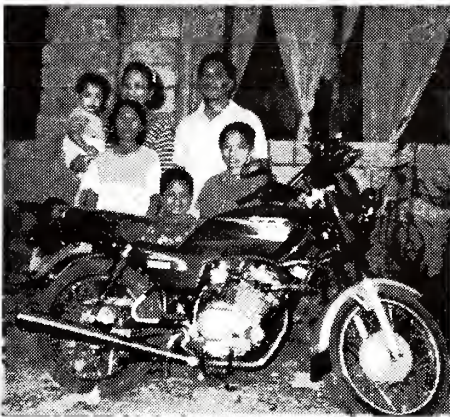
by Pastor Arman R. Manzano

"... What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24). I am so thankful, for God is truly able to supply all our needs according to His will.

After twelve years of praying for a motorcycle, God granted the request for a loan to make this possible. My family and I extend our gratitude to God, and to all our brethren who support this ministry of God here in the Philippines. This motorcycle is a great help in our work for the Lord.

Also, God is gracious to us; He not only sanctifies us, but He satisfies us. The new church building in Canigaran will satisfy our need in terms of a place to worship. It is now under construction. TO GOD BE THE GLORY! As of now the brethren here are excited to see the completion.

Thanks to all donors of this special project. May God bless you more. Praise God! Great is thy faithfulness in fulfilling every promise He makes.



MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

DATE: Sunday, March 16, 2003
EVENT: Annual World Missions Conference
SPEAKERS: Willem and Lydia van der Plas, Missionaries to Eastern Europe
PLACE: College Hall, Mount Olive College
TIME: 5:00–8:00 P.M.
SCHEDULE: First Session—5:00 P.M.
Light Meal—6:00 P.M. (no charge)
Final Session—7:00 P.M.



SPECIAL NOTE:

Willem and Lydia will be in North Carolina for a short time and will only be able to visit a limited number of churches. We, therefore, encourage churches throughout the denomination to call off your evening Worship service on March 16 and attend the Missions Conference. This will be a great way to show your support for these dear missionaries. This will be an exciting time of fellowship, worship, and music. Plan now to attend.

Begin now to pray for the FOREIGN MISSIONS ANNUAL TELETHON

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2003

THEME: "Open Our Eyes That We May See"

THEME VERSE: "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 his harvest" (Luke 10:2).

GOAL: A total of \$170,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

CALL IN YOUR
SPECIAL OFFERING
BETWEEN

1:30 P.M. and 5:30 P.M.



(252) 746-4963



"I WANT MY GIVING TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS"



The weekend following Thanksgiving, Cragmont had a houseful of people. There were folks spending the weekend with family and friends and then there was a small group from New Haven Church. Among our visitors were J.D. and Alice Fleming members of Winterville Church. The Flemings came during this Thanksgiving/Christmas season bearing gifts. They presented Cragmont a gift of \$10,000 for the "New Heights" project. While discussing his gift with me Mr. Fleming stated that he wanted his action to encourage others to do the same. "If I can give this amount I know there are many others who have made a whole lot more money in their lives than I have who could do the same. I want to encourage them to give." The Flemings are no strangers to Cragmont. Mr. J. D. has come on weekend retreats and attended the Ministers' Conference. Miss Alice has attended women's conferences and other retreats. Their daughter Barbara Hines and grandchildren, David Hines

and Alice Carson also have a long and faithful history with Cragmont. We are very grateful to the Flemings for their generous gift. Along with their wish to motivate others to give, we also hope many will be encouraged to help Cragmont attain "New Heights."

2003 CAMP SCHEDULE

Morning Star

April 25-27, 2003
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
(252) 524-4677

Ministerial Association of OFWB

May 19-22, 2003
Bryant Hines
203 Teachey Court
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

June Woman's Auxiliary Conference

June 2-7, 2003
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
(252) 524-4677

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 9-14, 2003
Bryant Hines
203 Teachey Court
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

Christian Cadet Conference

June 16-21, 2003
Wes Boyd
794 Church of God Road
Goldsboro, NC 27534
(919) 736-9436

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)

June 23-28, 2003
Janie Sowers
PO Box 824
Middlesex, NC 27557
(252) 235-2408

Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)

June 30-July 5, 2003
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-7850

General Youth II Conference

July 7-12, 2003
Chris Singleton
PO Box 162
Beulaville, NC 28518
(910) 298-3520

General Youth I Conference

July 14-19, 2003
Bryant Hines
203 Teachey Court
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

Young People's Bible Conference

July 21-26, 2003
Rudy Owens
1515 US 70-A
Selma, NC 27576
(919) 965-2796

August Woman's Auxiliary Conference

July 28-August 2, 2003
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
(252) 524-4677



NEW PICNIC TABLES ARRIVE



Back row (Left to Right): Bobby Johnson, L. C. Honeycutt, Ricky Warren. Seated: Gary Barefoot.

On November 27, 2002, the Free Will Baptist Children's Home received ten new wood picnic tables. Roberts Grove Church with the assistance of the youth of Lee's Chapel Church purchased the building materials for the project. The Midway FFA group, under the supervision of Ricky Warren, provided the labor to build the picnic tables. The new wood tables are an improvement to the center of our campus. The new tables replaced the old rusted metal tables.

Mr. L. C. Honeycutt provided the loading equipment and truck to deliver the tables to the Middlesex campus. He was accompanied by Mr. Gary Barefoot, Bobby Johnson of Roberts Grove Church and Ricky Warren, Youth Pastor of Lee's Chapel Church, member of Robert's Grove Church, and teacher at Midway High School.

We are very appreciative of this collaborative effort to help us improve our campus. The children and staff will enjoy the new addition for many years.

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

Christmas 2002 was a busy time for our children. Many individuals, churches, and businesses provided activities and gifts to the children of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

The children and staff would like to thank each of you for your kindness and thoughtfulness during this busy time of the year. Words cannot express how much we all appreciate the responses to our Christmas Sponsorship and annual Christmas campaigns that were provided for our ministry. May the Lord bless you during the New Year for your dedicated service to his children.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Board of Directors had their regular scheduled Board meeting. After the meeting they gathered with Friends of Children participants and their guests for a wonderful Thanksgiving lunch catered by Wilbur's BBQ, Goldsboro, NC.

DANIEL'S CHAPEL CHOIR



During lunch and the scheduled program guests enjoyed songs of worship and praise rendered by soloists, quartet, and choir of Daniel's Chapel Church directed by the Rev. Johnny Sullivan.

BELINDA BARNHILL ELECTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Belinda was elected at the year's convention to serve on the Board of Directors. She is a member of Core Creek Church, Cove City, NC. She is a registered nurse and is employed with Craven Community College. She is married to Michael Barnhill and they have two children. Michael is pastor of Core Creek Church.

THE REVEREND BUDDY SASSER



The Rev. Buddy Sasser, pastor of Westside Church, Kinston, NC and Vice President of our Convention was the keynote speaker for Friends of Children Day.

KING'S CROSS ROADS CHURCH MAKES PRESENTATION AT FOC DAY



Members of King's Cross Roads attended Friends of Children celebration and presented Dr. Bobby Taylor with two checks. Each year the members have a Fall harvest sale and donate the proceeds to different ministries. This year they chose the Children's Home to be the recipient. They raised \$6,316.35 and combined with donations, they had a total of \$10,890.73. Dr. Taylor expresses his sincere appreciation to the members and their pastor, the Rev. Bruce Jones.

DONALD BATCHELOR

DONNIE TYNDALL



Donnie Tyndall recognized for twelve years of service.



Donald Ray Batchelor honored for twenty-five years of service.

During the program Donnie Tyndall was recognized for his twelve years of service on the Board. Donnie is a member of St. Mary's Church, New Bern, NC. During his service he chaired several committees and the office of Vice President.

This year the Board declared Friends of Children Day in honor of Donald Ray Batchelor, Director of Physical Affairs, for his twenty-five years of dedicated service. Don was honored with a framed declaration and a frame collage representing his years of service.



We want to thank everyone who helped to make our Friends of Children celebration such a wonderful success.



ANNOUNCING

Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent of the Year Awards

The Teacher and Superintendent of the Year Awards make up a program sponsored by the Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry. The awards are funded by Dr. Thomas R. Morris. The purpose of the awards program is to advance, promote, and improve the effectiveness of the Sunday School. By recognizing the most effective Sunday School teacher and superintendent, the funds from the awards would be used to do something extra for Sunday School that would not ordinarily be available. Each award carries with it a \$1000 gift and a plaque. The recipients' names will be added to larger plaques that will hang in Heritage Hall at the Headquarters. The awards will be granted at the annual Sunday School Institute on Saturday, March 1, 2003. The selection of the Teacher of the Year and Superintendent of the Year will be determined by an anonymous committee comprised of pastors, teachers, superintendents, and/or parents of Sunday School students.

There are three suggested categories for the use of the funds by the recipients. They are as follows:

- **Provide overall learning resources for the Sunday School officers and teachers** (establish a library, maps for the classrooms, supplemental teaching aids, study aids for the teachers, audio visual equipment, and other materials that would be necessary to carry on an effective program);
- **Provide individual learning experiences for the recipient** (funds to attend workshops, conferences, seminars that would help that recipient to do a better job);
- **Provide group learning experiences for Sunday School as a whole or a particular class** (retreats, local training programs).

The nominations can be submitted by anyone in the church. However, each nomination must be accompanied by two letters of recommendation, one from the pastor and one from someone in Sunday School leadership or governance. These letters of recommendation should be placed in a sealed envelope with the writer's name written across the seal, since they are considered to be confidential. Nomination forms can be obtained by requesting them from Mrs. Mary Dudley at the Sunday School office or by getting them from the pastor or Sunday School superintendent of the local church. It is suggested that the pastor or superintendent be responsible for returning all the forms including the nomination forms and letters of recommendation. **All forms MUST be submitted by Friday, January 31, 2003 to the Sunday School office at the Headquarters.** The address is as follows:

**Mrs. Mary Dudley, Director
OFWB Sunday School Ministry
PO Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-4963**

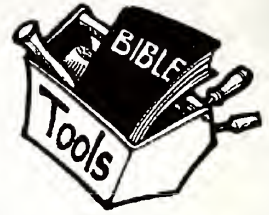
Who can be nominated? Any of the active Sunday School teachers or the superintendent. There are no limits to the number of nominations from any church, but you must remember that the nominations must have two letters of recommendation.

All nominees will be notified by Mrs. Mary Dudley and should be present at the annual Sunday School Institute on Saturday, March 1, 2003, or have someone to represent them. The awards will be granted during the Opening Session of the Institute. All new nominees will be recognized with a certificate. The winners' churches will be recognized with a special certificate.

If you have any questions or desire further information, write or call the Sunday School office at the Headquarters.



SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS



*January 11, 2003 Bethel at Four Oaks
 *January 25, 2003 Davis at Davis
 *February 1, 2003 Pleasant Hill at Pikeville
 *February 8, 2003 Union Chapel at Plymouth
 *February 15, 2003 Whaley's Chapel at Richlands
 *February 22, 2003 Mission Valley at Tabor City
 March 1, 2003 Mount Olive College

*March 8, 2003 Antioch at New Bern
 March 27-29, 2003 MACEA at Providence Place
 *April 5, 2003 Williamston, 1st at Williamston
 *April 12, 2003 Kings Crossroads at Fountain
 *April 26, 2003 Sherron Acres at Durham
 August 15-16, 2003 Coastal MACEA at Riverfront Convention Center

Cape Fear Conference
 Eastern Conference
 Western Conference
 Albemarle Conference
 Eastern Conference
 Pee Dee Association
 Annual Sunday School Institute
 Eastern Conference
 High Point, NC
 Central Conference
 Central Conference
 Western Conference
 New Bern, NC

FIVE HANDLES ... for Getting a Grip on Your Sunday School

Cultivate an Atmosphere of Warmth and Friendliness.

Establish an Appropriate Teaching/Learning Environment.

Make Membership Meaningful.

Create New Classes.

Identify, Enlist, and Train New Sunday School Leaders

Piedmont Conference and Paul Palmer Conference and other groups will be scheduled later.

The time for all the dates marked with an asterick will be Registration at 8:30-9 A.M. with Workshop time set for 9 A.M.-3 P.M. The topic for discussion at each location with an asterick will be *Five Handles for Getting a Grip on Your Sunday School*, by Jerri Herring and Larry Garner. The instructor will be Mary Dudley. The registration fee is \$15 per person or \$60 per church if four or more people attend. We are asking that you pre-register at least one week before each session in order to have enough materials and food. You will receive further information concerning the Annual Institute at Mount Olive College, the MACEA, and Coastal MACEA Conferences as it becomes available. The Sunday School Ministry is attempting to reach as many people and make the learning opportunities as accessible as we can to encourage growth in Christian Education through our Sunday Schools. Regional Training Centers are also in the process of being established. Look to *The Free Will Baptist* and the newsletter, TEACH, for further information.

Please put dates on your calendars and encourage people from your church to attend a session that is nearest to you regardless of the Conference or Association in which your church holds membership. Also, if your church or organization would like to begin long-term training for your Sunday School workers, please contact Mary Dudley at the Headquarters, (252) 746-4963 or at one of the following e-mail addresses: ofwbconvhq@coastalnet.com or greyhorn@eastlink.net

REGISTRATION FORM FOR SPRING 2003 SUNDAY SCHOOL SEMINARS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

CHURCH: _____ CONFERENCE: _____

LOCATION ATTENDING: _____

REGISTRATION INCLUDED: _____ YES _____ NO

Please complete, detach, and return this form to the above address by one week prior to the workshop session you are attending. If needed, you may call Mary Dudley at the Headquarters and let her know if you plan to attend and that you will register upon arrival.

DON'T FORGET!

The Layman's League is raising money to build the new Cragmont Trading Post (Building No. 8) at Cragmont. You can help! Please send your contributions to Cragmont and earmark it for the Cragmont Trading Post (Building No. 8).

The Layman's League is also planning to frame this building. If you would like to help, please contact Elmer Harrell at (252) 747-2894. Your help in any way will be greatly appreciated. May God richly bless you in doing His will.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 9, 2003

Executive Board Meeting
VFW Building
Snow Hill, 7 P.M.

February 13, 2003

Executive Board Meeting
VFW Building
Snow Hill, 7 P.M.

February 17, 2003

Eastern Conference Meeting
Juniper Chapel Church
655 Piney Neck Road
Vanceboro, NC
meal—6:45 P.M.
business—7:30 P.M.

CHURCH FINANCE ASSOCIATION

NOTICE

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

Place: Aspen Grove Church
8861 Aspen Grove Church Rd.
Fountain, NC 27829

Date: February 13, 2003

Time: 10:30 A.M.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

by Wesley Taylor, Manager

Have you made your New Year's Resolution? Many of you have probably chosen the very familiar resolution, "lose weight." This is probably the most popular New Year's Resolution, which 99% of the time is never accomplished. This year change that resolution around and it will be a lot easier to accomplish. For one week or at least a weekend "lose the weight of the world."

"In the beginning God created the heaven and earth." Included in this earth is a beautiful place called Camp Vandemere. Escape the weight of the world for a week or at least a weekend. Camp Vandemere is a place in the country away from the hectic hustle and bustle of the world—a place to swing in the silence overlooking the beautiful water front, walk in the company of a friend, fish with family, and most of all, a place to take in the beauty of the earth that our Lord has created for us to enjoy.

Camp Vandemere is located in Pamlico County. The property is on the water where you can enjoy canoeing, paddle boating, and fishing in the Bay River. On the ground you can enjoy swinging, volleyball, basketball, and swimming.

Camp Vandemere offers a variety of lodging options: dorms with bunks, family lodges that will sleep up to six people, and motor home hookups.

Let this year's New Year's Resolution be an easy and enjoyable one.

For camping reservations, please contact: Wesley Taylor, Office: (252) 745-3171, Cell: (252) 514-3222, Pager: (252) 634-1287.

Happy New Year and God Bless You.

ANNOUNCEMENT

PROJECT SOLUTION

by The Reverend C. H. Overman

Project Solution was approved by the Executive Committee of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists in January of 1994. Its purpose was to examine the work of our denomination in all facets, to determine its strengths and weaknesses, and then to implement programs and projects that would meet the challenge of church growth in all areas. Consequently, a task force was chosen to proceed with the Project. Most of the Project's proposals have been completed and for the past few years the work of the Task Force has been uneventful.

The Task Force met on November 14, 2002, and after a rather lengthy discussion, adopted the following motion:

"Since the primary work and purpose of Project Solution Task Force has been completed, that the Project (Task Force) be dissolved; that the committees on the five-year themes continue their work; that a Board of Publications be appointed by the Convention's Executive Committee to continue the work on the Minister's Manual and other publications as the need arises."

This motion goes to the Executive Committee for their consideration and final decision. Who knows—it may be that a new project will be launched in which we can continue to look for ways to fulfill our mission as Original Free Will Baptists.

PASTOR APPRECIATION

Submitted by Peggy Horrell, member of the Family Life Center Committee and Christian Education Board of Holly Springs Church.



The Holly Springs Church family demonstrated their love and appreciation to Pastor Ray Conner and his family on Sunday, October 27. Following the evening service, the church family presented Pastor Ray with an edible thank you card. He received two cakes, one with "Thank You, Pastor Ray" written in icing, and the other with "We Love You, Pastor Ray." Pastor Ray and his wife, Ginny, are shown with the cakes. Holly Springs is very blessed to have the Rev. Ray Conner. He is a man of vision, compassion, and dedication.

SPECIAL AWARD



Auxiliary members pictured starting on the bottom row are Yvonne Saunders (daughter), Selma Wilkins, Wanda Costner (daughter), Lottie Rueblein, Lula Parker, Jeanette Leffer (president), Maggie King, Lola Yopp, Wanda Pope, Mary Allen, Gail Bostic, Jennifer Marshburn, and June Parker.

On September 8, 2002, Mrs. Selma Wilkins was honored with a special church service, a gold pen, and a lifetime membership award from the Folkstone Church Woman's Auxiliary. She was presented the award by Jeanette Leffer, president of the auxiliary. She has been a member of the Folkstone Church for over seventy years. This award was in honor of her Christian duties in the church and auxiliary. Over the years of service, she held the office of auxiliary secretary and then president. She was program chairman until her diabetes caused blindness. Although she has many health problems, she has kept the faith and been a Christian warrior for her Lord and Savior. She is now confined to a wheelchair but that doesn't keep her from church, and you will never hear her complain. She still remains a strong Christian and attends church regularly unless there is bad weather or she is in the hospital.

Selma was born on May 24, 1916 and came to this area when she was six months old with her parents, Charlie and Ada Duff. She married Jack Wilkins and the two had ten children that were reared up in Folkstone Church. Today at the age of eighty-six, she is still a strong witness, prayer warrior, and an inspiration to our community.

ORMONDSVILLE HONORS DR. DONALD RIBEIRO

Ormondsville Church honored their pastor, the Rev. Dr. Donald Ribeiro on Sunday, October 27, 2002. Joe Smith sang "Thank You" and then Kenneth Bowen surprised Dr. Ribeiro when he announced that the congregation was honoring him in appreciation for all he has done in the past four years.

Mr. Bowen read Romans 10:14-17 and talked about how Dr. Ribeiro has given selflessly of his time, talents, and money. He presented Don and his wife, Karen, a plaque in honor of four years of leadership at Ormondsville Church. He also announced that his Sunday School class donated \$100 to WAGO Christian radio in Don's honor.

The congregation was then given the opportunity to speak in appreciation of their pastor. Many people told of how Don Ribeiro had touched their lives in the past four years.

In addition to the plaque of appreciation, Donald Ribeiro was awarded the Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award for outstanding service and effective leadership as a bi-vocational minister. Dr. Ribeiro was awarded this honor on September 12, 2002.

HAPPY NEW YEAR IN THE LORD!

Submitted by Rita Jones

Powhatan Church in Clayton sends the hope that the New Year brings great blessings. We also send special birthday wishes to our pastor's wife, Mrs. Martha Bogle, on January 21!

The Layman's League of Powhatan sponsored a pancake and sausage supper on November 9 and appreciate the support of the church and community in their fundraiser. The same evening, Carolina Bible Institute held its banquet at Branch Chapel in Kenly. Alan Price (a student) and his wife, Beverly, attended and enjoyed the evening as representatives of Powhatan.



Mary Dudley with members from Covenant, now a church.

The 148th Conference of the Cape Fear District met at Vandora Springs Church on Tuesday, November 12, 2002. Roy Clifton stood in as moderator in the absence of Fred Baker (due to his recent heart attack). Four ministers joined with the Cape Fear from other conferences. Covenant was received as a new member church, moving from its former mission status. In denominational reports, Mary Dudley told of an upcoming workshop on January 11 at Bethel. Bryant Hines reported on a May cook-off he hopes all will take part in. He wanted the youth to work for fundraising for

Cragmont saying the only place success comes before work is in the dictionary! He asked that we remember Grace Barbour of Hopewell in our prayers. Cliff Gray encouraged everyone to get *The Free Will Baptist* magazine.



Wanda Johnson and others during break.

The Rev. Chris Casey brought the morning message. He used text from Genesis saying God said all His works were good and that Enoch "walked with God." All churches have problems, but we must be about our good work. We must strive to daily walk the walk. We begin with a first step and then must surrender all to His will. He said he tired of hearing people say, "I'd help, but I need to have MY time." He says it is all God's time! He challenged us to take the first step to let our WALK reflect God everyday.

Following lunch in the fellowship hall, reports were given by the standing boards, moved on, seconded, carried and made part of the record. Martha Parsons gave a report of the work of the youth and the two mission trips (New York and Washington, DC.) Dr. Raper asked that we give her a standing vote of thanks and applause for her work with our youth over the years. She also reported on the scholarship given to

Abigail Capps of Yelverton Grove this year.

Reports from temporary committees were given with Jesse Fulcher reporting eighty-six people in attendance. Smithfield First Church offered to host next November with perhaps Shady Grove taking the 2004 conference since it is probably the oldest of our churches and it will be our 150th conference. Martha Parsons reminded everyone to support the Cragmont "mule" project for the Youth Convention before the adjournment at 2:45 P.M. In attendance from Powhatan were the Rev. Jim Bogle, the Rev. Swade Benson, Bunk and Alice Cole, Alan and Beverly Price, and Rita Jones.

A Pastor Appreciation Dinner was held following worship services on November 18 in honor of the Rev. Bogle and his wife to celebrate his birthday on November 20. We are blessed to have a good shepherd for our flock and thank Jim and Martha for their leadership and fellowship.

The Woman's Auxiliary hosted the pre-Thanksgiving program on November 20 with Janie Sowers as the guest speaker. Janie described rushing to get to the church after flying back home from Columbia, SC and said it was a coincidence that she had to drive through "Thanksgiving" community on Highway 42 when the theme of her message was thankfulness. She compared us to students in a university setting, saying we were enrolled in the "University of Thanksgiving." She discussed three courses: Gratitude 101, basic thankfulness we should give to God; Gratitude 200, giving thanks to other people; and the third level of the Gratitude courses—giving thanks in bad times and under unpleasant circumstances. It seems against human

(Continued)

nature to be thankful for the bad times. We should first ask ourselves, "Are we walking in God's will or have we strayed and brought this on ourselves?" If we are walking right, then we must consider the bad times as a sort of test that will eventually bring us closer to God. It forces us to "phone home" to our Father; but we don't have to stand in a long line of other students for access to the hall phone—He has unlimited lines for each of His children to reach Him whenever they need Him. Finally, instead of tassels for our graduation, we will earn a Bride's crown as His chosen when He comes again to take His children home. The crown of life will be ours if we fight a good fight and keep the faith. Janie asked that we be passionate about our faith and always have a thankful spirit.

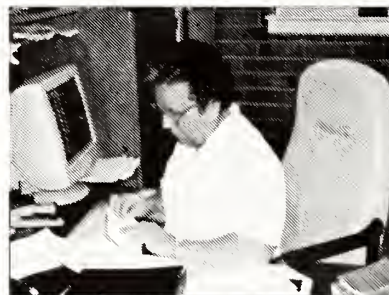
The Community Singing at Everett Chapel hosted Powhatan, Amelia UCC, and Believers Baptist, who joined us for the first time, on November 24. Powhatan was responsible for planning and carrying out the evening, but Everett Chapel's facilities were used since they had more room. The evening featured songs from several groups. Powhatan's teen choir sang "Remember Me," and the Youth handbell choir backed up four teens who gave a special singing performance of "The Old Rugged Cross." The adult choir gave the final song, "My House is Full" acappella. Refreshments followed in the fellowship hall. A special love offering collected during the services raised over \$535 for *Clayton Area Ministries* for their use in the Clayton community. Thank you to all who had a part in the evening of fellowship and thankfulness and especially to the Rev. Lloyd Hargis, Troy Lee, and Everett Chapel for not just being a part of the service but for allowing us to use their church.

EMPLOYEE TO RECEIVE MUCH NEEDED KIDNEY

by Dixie McLawhorn, Editorial Assistant, Free Will Baptist Press



Larry Herbert



Wallie Hargrove

In the March 2001 issue of *The Free Will Baptist*, an article appeared concerning Wallie Hargrove, Accounts Manager at The Free Will Baptist Press. Wallie is in need of a kidney transplant due to focal and segmented glomerulosclerosis, which has led to chronic renal failure.

Wallie's sister was a prime candidate as the kidney donor, and perfect matches were made in every step of the testing up to the last test. A negative result appeared, ruling that kidney out. Disappointed, Wallie informed everyone that she would have to, once again, try to find a donor. People have been so faithful in their prayers for Wallie as she waits for the much needed kidney.

In August of this year, Larry Herbert, a representative from Broadman and Holman, a Christian publishing company, came to the Ayden Bible Bookstore to sit down with Wallie and Sharon Early, the bookstore manager to showcase new products and take an order. After talking with her for only about fifteen minutes, he saw that Wallie's arm was really bruised. He asked her who had she been fighting and she told him that she was on dialysis and would be until she received a kidney. Mr. Herbert said, "I've got two—you can have one of mine."

During casual conversations back in the breakroom, where a wedding shower of sorts was being given for Darren Davenport, Wallie mentioned what had happened. Everyone's mouth dropped open! Either this was a cruel joke or the greatest show of God's love we have ever witnessed. In later conversation with Mr. Herbert, he revealed he has been on the National Bone Marrow Donor List for several years. He told her he would start being tested when he got back home to Charlotte, NC.

Some here at work were somewhat skeptical that anything was going to happen. However, he called Wallie the next week and said that things were looking good. And since that time, he came to Greenville, NC to be tested with a sample of Wallie's blood and have a thorough physical examination to see if there was anything physically wrong with him. If everything went well, the only thing left to do would be schedule a date for the surgery. The blood test was perfect!

However, it was during the physical exam that a cyst was found on Larry's kidney. The doctors who were to perform the surgeries could not come to a positive decision to go ahead with the procedures.

After months of being gleeful at the thought of not having to go through dialysis any more, Wallie was thrown into a dark pit of gloom. Even though the doctor who was to perform her surgery thought that the kidney was usable and even scheduled a time for the transplant, Wallie was heartbroken.

People immediately began to pray. God surely did not allow things to go so well this far for no reason. The following week Wallie was informed that the doctors came to the same conclusion that the kidney would be fine. Her surgery would take place!

On Tuesday, January 14, Wallie and Larry will be having surgery at Pitt County Memorial Hospital—to the glory of God! Please join us all in praying for Wallie, Larry, their spouses, the surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, and caretakers of these two special patients.

We never know how God will use us. He put Larry and Wallie together for a purpose that day in the bookstore. One needs not ask a person if he or she is a Christian. The life one leads announces the fact. Larry Herbert's life has shown us the answer.

SHOEBOXES OF LOVE

Submitted by Dixie McLawhorn

The fellowship hall was full of kids and “kids at heart” at Pleasant Hill Church, Grimesland, NC on Saturday, November 16 as people prepared to become “missionaries” for kids all around the world.

Every table was utilized as people began cutting Christmas wrapping paper, filling shoeboxes, wrapping the boxes, putting rubber bands around them, marking each box label for the age and gender of the child recipient, and stacking the boxes.

We have a “wrapping party” each year to create what we call “Shoeboxes of Love” for Franklin Graham’s “Operation Christmas Child,” a ministry of Samaritan’s Purse. All through the year, people purchase small gift items to fill shoeboxes. We all start with a box or boxes for a particular age and gender. And having much “left over,” we put the excess on tables; then new boxes are made. We always have more boxes than we have people making the boxes. Since we include money to go toward the cost of processing and shipping the boxes, we always “owe” more money. In past years, different groups within the church, such as the woman’s auxiliary and the men’s fellowship have “picked up” the excess amount owed. This year the men’s fellowship contributed to the cause.

What a wonderful time we had putting these small packages together! Everyone enjoyed the unity and fellowship, but the thing mentioned more than anything else was how wonderful people felt knowing that children all over the world this year would see the love of Jesus. To realize that some children have never had a gift like this ministry affords them, made us more thankful for the things that we have (and take for granted).

You know what people say about Free Will Baptists: “we can’t meet unless we eat.” Well, did we ever eat! Kenneth “Tadpole” Sawyer and a good friend, Linwood Coward fried fish, and the Camelot Sunday School Class furnished the fixin’s.

The youth groups, traveling in vans, took all the boxes to the drop off point on Sunday, November 25. All the children enjoyed seeing how the shoeboxes were packed in huge boxes in an assembly line fashion. They were amazed, as were the adults, at the amount of boxes that had been dropped off up to that point (approximately 8,500).

Afterward we piled into the vans and headed to Greenville to eat pizza. A great time was had by all who were involved.

We are so blessed to be citizens of the United States of America! It is a wonderful privilege to be able to give to those who have not been so blessed.

May each person reading this article have a wonderful, loving, and giving New Year!



Left to right: Brenda Van Derven, Scott Haddock, and Sherry Grant work at filling boxes.



Sherry, Scott, and Christopher Grant put the finishing touches on one box while Mary Askew works on another one.



Preparing to serve up the fish. Left to right: Lonnie McLawhorn, Cyrus Taylor (in the back), June Haddock, and Grant Wright.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Submitted by Betty Rollins

Walnut Creek Church, LaGrange, NC, presented its annual "Hanging of the Greens" program on Sunday, December 1 at 6 P.M. before a congregation of approximately 170 people.

The program began with the entrance of the choir by candlelight to the singing of the carol, "I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day." After prayer by our pastor, the Rev. Tony McLamb, a welcome was cordially extended to those present by Taylor Perry.

The meaning of the star was presented and the star lit the sanctuary followed by the lighting of the altar candles by Ray Grady. The significance of the Advent candle was shared by the Rev. McLamb and the choir sang, "Joy to the World." Faye Radford then lit the Advent candle.

Tanya Grady told the meaning and representation of the poinsettia. A tree made up of red and white poinsettias adorned the background of the altar. A Christmas tree, beautifully decorated with various significant ornaments, brightened the left area of the sanctuary as its story was shared with the congregation. The meaning of presents and giving was shared through a solo, "Mary Wrapped A Present," sang by Tim Bradshaw.

The message of the Christmas wreaths was presented. The hanging of the wreaths in the windows of the church was done by Emmitt and Margaret Parrish. The hanging of the larger wreaths on either side of the pulpit was done by Richard and Kay Kearney and Jack Howell.

The lighting of the candles in the windows by Hazel Tinghman and Barbara Tyndall completed decorating of the church.

With decorations now complete, we were prepared for the Christmas story with the reading of Scripture by Glenn Ferguson as the angel Gabriel portrayed by Katie Herring appeared to Mary (Kathryn Sullivan). Debbie Daniels sang "Breath of Heaven" as

Mary humbled herself to God's will. The angel then appeared to Joseph (Jeff Lane) and prepared him to understand God's mission for him.

While the choir sang "Silent Night, Holy Night," three angels, played by Emily Herring, Scarlett Lane, and Sarah Strickland signed the hymn's message. Scripture of the journey to Bethlehem was shared as Mary and Joseph brought forth their firstborn son and laid him in the manger. A lullaby, "Away In A Manger," was softly sung by Katie Strickland while children, Holden Bradshaw and Trey Perry, knelt by His cradle.

Three wise men (Mike Herring, Mike Sullivan, and Carter Whitfield) entered inquiring where the Child should be born and departed, following the star in the east to seek Him. Special music, "What Child Is This?," sung by Tim Bradshaw, conveyed the wonder of the wise men.

Shepherds coming to worship Him were Tyler Boone, Zachery Bradshaw, Benjamin Herring, Travis Lane, Tyler Owens, Mason Sullivan, and Sawyer Thompson. They were joined by three kings (Matt McLamb, D. J. Whitfield, and Elton Whitfield) and a host of angels (Emily Herring, Katie Herring, Scarlett Lane, Tendall Owens, Taylor Perry, Anna Strickland, Katie Strickland, Sarah Strickland, Meghan Thompson,

Pattie Whitfield, and Brittany Young). As all bowed to worship the newborn King, Jack Howell sang "Born To Die." Candles which had been given as the congregation entered were now lit and the congregation joined the host with lifted candles, singing, "O Come All Ye Faithful."

One of the highlights of the service was a special duet by Debbie Daniels and Michelle Stallings singing "From The Cradle To The Cross." During the singing of this song, the scene shifted from the cradle to a cross in the background on which hung Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior of the world, portrayed by Earl McCullen. This awesome finale brought a hush over the congregation as they contemplated the true meaning of Christmas.

At the conclusion of the service, everyone was invited to share in Holy Communion, the partaking of the bread and wine. Following the benediction, refreshments and fellowship were enjoyed in the fellowship building.

Walnut Creek Church is indebted to Gary and Joan Price for organizing and supervising this marvelous program. Through their efforts we had the pleasure and were blessed with sharing the message of God's love and gift to all people.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank each pastor, church, and individual for your prayers during and following my recent heart attacks. You stormed Heaven's throne with your prayers and a loving Heavenly Father heard and graciously answered by touching my body and giving me another chance to worship and serve Him. Praise His Wonderful Name. God has blessed me beyond measure. I feel good and am in no pain. I am back to driving and walking thirty minutes a day. With God's continued blessing, I will be back in the pulpit preaching the first Sunday in December.

Thank you also for the many beautiful and encouraging cards. God is so good and so are His children. Thank you and we love each and everyone.

*Serving the Living Christ,
Fred P. Baker*

Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

by Pepper Worthington

THE LESSON OF EVE'S CHOICE



Introduction

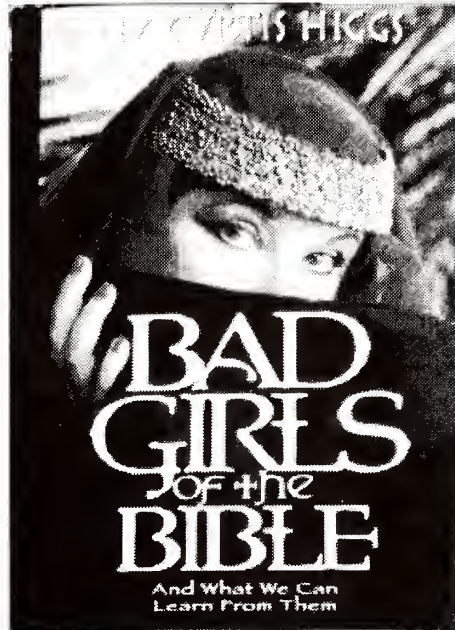
Best-selling author Liz Curtis Higgs creates a modern story to introduce the Biblical narrative of specific bad girls of the Bible who are either *bad to the bone*, *bad for a moment*, or *bad for a season, but not forever* (5). The Biblical account of bad girl Eve is preceded by the story of Evelyn Whitebloom of Savannah, Georgia, the girl whose father loved her, gave her everything, and only asked her not to enter the gazebo hidden in the rich garden of "mulberry trees," "jasmine," "blue hydrangeas," "pink mandevillas," "wisteria," "impatiens" and "live oak trees" (9-15). Can she obey her father?

Evelyn Whitebloom's Bad Choice

The night of Evelyn's debut into Savannah society became the night she listened to the hot voice of Devin, walked to the steps of the forbidden gazebo, invited her fiancé Adam Mann to join her in a forbidden kiss there, and discovered sin, the knowledge of evil, the choice of disobedience, and the agony of separation from her beloved father. Afraid, Adam admits to his beloved Evelyn, "When your father finds us, beloved, there'll be Hell to pay. Are you ready?" (21).

Avoid a Debate With the Voice of Evil

Higgs suggests that a lesson can be learned from the temptation of Eve namely, "refuse to listen" and "refuse



to respond" (37) to the voice of evil. The Reagan drug slogan—"Just Say No"—comes to mind, because there is no debate with evil. When Eve begins a dialogue with the serpent, she opens herself up to temptation, to exaggeration, and to deceiving herself. The shift of forces move from God's voice to "the desires of man" (28). The shift of focus moves from God's benefit to Eve's "perceived" (28) personal benefit. Eve began to have a desire for one forbidden thing, what Higgs calls "an all-consuming, gotta-have-it thing" (29). She should have never allowed the debate to begin.

Avoid the Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Temptations

Eve's choice to eat of the fruit of the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil erased her innocence just as Evelyn's choice to kiss Adam in the forbidden gazebo—a physical temptation that introduced the pull of her physical body away from God. Physical appetite has many dark faces—food, sex, drugs,

PART I:

Liz Curtis Higgs, *Bad Girls of the Bible*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: Waterbrook Press, 1999. 1-40.

ISBN 1-57856-125-6. \$12.95

pornography. Higgs suggests avoiding the first choice to deny the forbidden physical appetite.

Temptation also hooks an "emotional appreciation of beauty" (38), for Evelyn's desire to experience the beauty of the gazebo echoes Eve's desire to experience the beauty the fruit suggested. The serpent's voice of temptation hooks the weak spot.

Temptation also hooks the "spiritual desire to be like God" (38). If God has knowledge of good and evil, why should not humanity? If Evelyn's father knew the mysteries of the gazebo, why shouldn't Evelyn know also?

Avoid the Blame Game

Evelyn blamed Devin; Eve blamed the serpent; Adam blamed Eve. Who is to blame when a bad choice is made? Both Evelyn and Eve share the same problem. Higgs declares: "The problem here involved taking her eyes off what was good and acceptable, and putting them on what she *knew*, absolutely, to be forbidden" (29). Higgs recognizes the modern tendency to play the blame game. She insists: "Shifting blame is practically an American pastime. So whom shall we blame for our proclivity to sin? Our mothers? Our grandmothers? Wanna go all the way back to Eve? Or take a page from Adam's diary and blame God" (38)?

Conclusion

How can anyone avoid the voice of temptation? Higgs makes several specific suggestions—avoid a debate with the voice of evil, avoid the physical, emotional, and spiritual temptations, and avoid the blame game. However, true avoidance, in Higgs' perspective, is strengthened by a "Christ-centered" life rather than a "me-centered" (39) life.

Christian Art Review

by Michael Warning



Introduction

The first Biblical proof account of the Resurrection of Jesus is His appearance to Mary Magdalene at the tomb. The moment we are seeing in this engraving based on a mosaic in the Kariye Museum in Istanbul, Turkey, is that in which Jesus says to Mary Magdalene, "Do not touch me." She is reaching out to touch him. This is important for it speaks of physical

change as a part of the Resurrection experience.

Artistic Style and Symbolism

Artistically we are used to seeing an image of the resurrected Christ in a shining *white* robe. In this art depiction within the Eastern Orthodox tradition, Jesus wears the *black* robe of a priest and there is some soil from the tomb still upon the fabric.

The robe of Mary Magdalene is also black and is largely absent in the mosaic, for there is apparently a considerable amount of damage to the mosaic. This is not surprising in the Eastern Orthodox tradition, because there is a constant religious conceptual battle concerning idolatry and graven images with Islamic believers.

Therefore, in the past several hundred years many sacred images in the Middle East have been damaged, some beyond all repair. We are fortunate to have these early fragments in

the Kariye Museum so we may be blessed by the biblical account of this visual scene.

Conclusion

At the top of the image we see a band of fretwork in an interlocking pattern. This is often referred to as the *Greek key*. It is very fitting in this instance that the Greek key be present here for in a sense this art work itself is a Greek visual key to the biblical account of a resurrection experience, namely, the appearance of the Resurrected Jesus to Mary Magdalene at the tomb.

We cannot reach out and touch Jesus as Mary Magdalene desired to do in a physical sense, but through the scriptural account within the viable living Word that is the Scripture, we may also by faith have the resurrection experience.



"Mary Magdalene Encounters the Resurrected Christ at the Tomb," on a tri-metallic plate with a series of fourteen sunbursts on the outer edge within triangles on a black background. Based on a mosaic from the Kariye Museum in Istanbul, Turkey. From a private collection.

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Due to technical difficulties, we have been without internet service for several months. We are happy to announce that we are now "up and running" again. We apologize for any inconveniences this may have caused. You may now send articles for submission via e-mail to editor@fwbpress.com.

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STONEY CREEK CHURCH, Goldsboro, is searching for candidates for the position of Associate Pastor. Basic responsibilities will be in the area of senior citizens' ministry and pastoral visitation. Currently the church has openings for part time, full time, or interim positions. The church is looking for ordained ministers from within the denomination. Interested persons should send a resume to Gary Bailey, Senior Pastor, Stoney Creek Church, 752 Stoney Creek Church Road, Goldsboro, NC 27534. For more information, call the church office at (919) 735-3916 or e-mail the senior pastor at gbailey@ncrrbiz.com.

*If you have a ministry position you are seeking to fill or if you are a minister that is available for service, contact:
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Happy Valentine's Day

ABOVE AND BEYOND

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

The “love” month is upon us once again. You know, the month that encompasses Valentine’s Day. The day that we are supposed to go above and beyond the call of duty to show the ones we love just how much we love them. Have you ever wondered why we need a special day to do this? It seems that this should come naturally—every day. Sure, we all have our rough days, but I’m sure you get the gist of what I mean.

As Christians, is there really any such thing as “above and beyond the call of duty.” Christians are to “love one another” all the time. Is it not true that excellence in all we do is what God expects of us? Have you ever thought to yourself that if I can just do as little as I can to get finished with something, it would be okay? Are we not cheating God, the government, or possibly even someone else with this mentality.

Think about the big picture. There are many people that will not get anything special this Valentine’s Day—flowers, candy, or even any company from a loved one,

or anyone else for that matter. Try visiting a nursing home, an elderly person, or a shut-in. Carry them a flower. Rake the leaves of a neighbors or elderly persons yard—and don’t charge anything! These things would be great for individuals or youth groups to do. Young and old alike need to experience the joy that can be

had in serving others. Kids need these experiences. So many are growing up learning to be selfish. As parents and as Christians, it is our job to teach our kids to be productive members of society. It seems so much, however that we are actually helping them learn to be wrapped up in “self.” There are those that would

scoff at the idea of helping someone. We’ve got to realize that the mentality of “it’s all about me” or “what’s in it for me” has no place in the life of a Christian and that we must teach that to our kids.

Take a moment to ponder this thought: If we are Christians, did we not accept the call *then* to always go above and beyond?



THINGS I MISS

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

As we move along in life, things change around us. Some are quite noticeable; some are not because the changes are gradual. I miss some things that once were commonplace, a part of my home, family, church, and community.

We lived near several small towns, but the two main ones were Fremont and Kenly. These were the two that we most often visited, for whatever reason. Both of these towns had two railroad tracks. Kenly (in Johnston County) had the most traveled tracks and had the longest trains. I would sometimes spend the weekend with my cousin, Bill, which would allow me the opportunity to observe, with amazement, those powerful steam locomotives often pulling more than one hundred cars. The train’s whistle would pierce the quietness of any small town, with such an eerie sound that even today it remains vivid in our memory. Old folks used to say you could tell when it was going to snow by the sound of the old freight train’s whistle.

The thing I miss most about the modern day train is the caboose. Even today when I have to stop at a crossing for the train to pass, I still look for the caboose. In fact, I wonder if a train is really a train without a caboose. Most of those I saw were painted red. The caboose was occupied by a trainman who, sitting in what is known as a cupola bay, served as a watchman and a signalman. He could sometimes be seen hanging from the handrails at the rear of the caboose, swinging the

signal lantern. The caboose served as his office and home when on duty.

Caboosees have been replaced by devices known as EOTs (end of train devices), a part of our modern-day technology. The demise of the caboose began about twenty years ago, after surviving for more than a century.

As indicated in some of my previous “Reflections,” I also miss the old country stores that once dotted the countryside. Occasionally, we find one along some country road. A stop reveals that some things remain the same. You may find a few old timers sitting around the heater, discussing some local happening, or trying to solve the country’s ills. Pepsi®, Coke®, and Dr. Peppers® are still the favorites, along with a bag of peanuts or a “Nab®.” At one time these stores served a vital need in their small communities. That is where the telephone was located. Also, there were groceries as well as many other items needed to sustain the farm and home. A day was not complete without stopping by the store. In the winter, when the days were shorter and the weather cold, an evening was not complete without a competitive game of “Checkers.” We have lost something in the passing of these old country stores, and nothing of the same quality has replaced them. If you come upon one, stop for a moment, and reminisce along with me. (More in the Next “Reflections.”)



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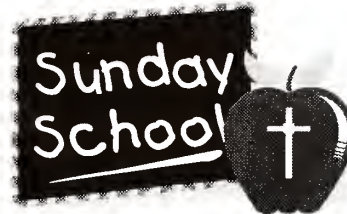
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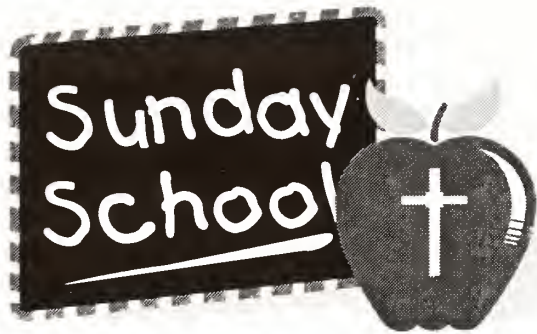
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POWER VERSE

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 (John 15:13-14).



Eight Keys to Motivating Your Sunday School Class to Learn

by Lois Keffer and Dean Stone

Key 1: Make an Emotional Connection

If you want kids to be motivated and eager to learn, you need to make an emotional connection. The part of the brain that governs emotion can either boost learning or shut it down. *Children need good reasons to do what you're asking them to do, a reason that matters to them personally.* It might be pride in an accomplishment, the pleasure of an activity, the satisfaction of completing a challenging task or the excitement of investigating something new. If that emotional, personal connection is missing, kids will not be motivated to learn through the activity you have planned. On the flip side is the power of negative emotion.

Key 2: Remove Fear

Fear or threat turns off the learning switch. Instead, children focus on making it through the painful time—even defending themselves if necessary.

Even church, a place filled with people who love God and want the best for His children, can be a threatening place for children. Josh, whose teacher tells him he was not allowed to fidget with his toy car during Sunday School, felt threatened. Luke, whose body does not allow him to sit still for more than four minutes at a time, feels threatened by teachers who tell him he must sit quietly in the circle for the Bible story.

When the emotional part of the brain feels threatened, the “fight or flight” response takes over. Nothing will make Josh forget about the car that was taken away from him and pay attention to the prayer circle. Nothing can force Luke to learn the details of the Bible story if he is not allowed to move his body around.

Key 3: Challenge

When there is a sense of emotional connection and safety, what the child needs next is challenge. *Human brains are created by God to respond to challenge, especially if there is a reasonable chance of success.* Kids respond to games in the children's ministry classroom because games bring a challenge to succeed. For a child like Luke, a Bible story presented in an active game format will result in more learning than if he is forced to keep himself still. He'll think, “Wow! This is something I can do. I wish the Bible story were like this every week.”

Key 4: Choice

Choice plays a huge role in motivation. *Self-determination is a God-given characteristic of the human race.* Of course, we all need to do what we're told. But from time to time, the opportunity to make a choice encourages children and adults alike to invest themselves in what they have chosen.

Let children choose what character they'll play as they act out the Bible story. Let them choose from art supplies you've set out for a project. Let them choose among life application activities that appeal to different learning styles. You will be amazed at how kids are willing to invest in the choices they make.

Key 5: Emotional Payoff

Emotional connection leads kids to respond to challenge, and challenge is meaningful only if there is a “payoff.” What will the kids get out of it? If they do what you want them to do, what is in it for them? Answering this question leads some teachers to the use of positive reward systems, which can motivate students who have difficulty

(Continued on next page)

motivating themselves. *Positive reward systems provide a reward for good choices the kids make.* If you can say your memory verse, you earn points toward going to camp. If you finish the handout on time, you get to be the assistant teacher for a day. As long as kids clearly understand the expectations, positive reward systems can be simple and effective.

Kids who are internally motivated need fewer rewards. Use external rewards sparsely and wisely. As often as you can, let the reward be the joy of learning something new, the awareness of new growth, and the glow of success in meeting a challenge.

Key 6: Achievable Expectations

Set expectations that are reasonable and achievable for the kids in your class. For instance, do not expect a kindergartner to sit as long as a third grader. Understand and anticipate your kids' attention spans, and gear activities to fit within them.

While reward systems may work to solve short-term problems, real learning happens when the reward comes from within the child—the self-esteem and satisfaction that come with a completed task. That means creating challenges that children can actually master. The “unmotivated” children in your classroom perhaps have had fewer experiences of success in mastering something new. A pattern of failure discourages them from trying. It is so important to give children experiences of success that help them move forward with their God-given drive to learn.

Key 7: Establish Caring Relationships

It is as simple as this: kids who love you want to please you. Experiences of success have as much to do with relationships as with mastering content. When children work hard to understand a new Bible truth and integrate it into their lives, they need to be encouraged and affirmed both by children's ministry leaders at church and by parents at home. *Notice and comment on small steps of progress.* It is easy for little celebrations to be overlooked because, in an adult's eyes, the achievement is not all that significant. Express your sincere love for children in winsome ways. Smile with your

voice and your eyes as well as your mouth. Punctuate your words of encouragement with a caring touch on a child's shoulder or elbow. Ask God to set you aglow with His love.

This relational dimension of teaching matters enormously. Take time to celebrate answered prayer, to shout horray after a Bible review game that shows how much kids have learned, to give a pat on the back to a child who is not having a good day. Warm, positive relationships can provide the emotional connection that starts the learning chain.

Key 8: Anticipation

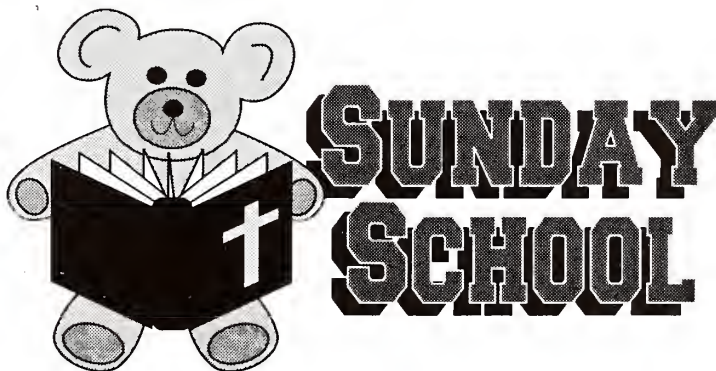
Curiosity. Something out of the ordinary. That millisecond flash when you make eye contact and know you have caught a child's attention. *You can help build the emotional connection needed for learning by creating mystery, excitement and anticipation about what is to come.* You have caught their attention and they are eager to learn.

About the authors:

Lois Keffer is an award-winning author and editor who plans never to grow up! Her best-selling books and lively, energetic workshops have inspired teachers around the world.

Dean Stone is a nationally recognized children's educator, children's ministry specialist, and child advocate.

Excerpts from *Hearts, Brains and Growing Pains*, Cook Communications Ministries. Used by Permission of Cook Communications Ministries.



The Price of Libby's Life

by Elaine Swinson

The advent of Christ's Birth came bursting in our lives with glorious celebrations giving the tender-hearted and caring Christians an opportunity to give an extra portion to the less fortunate in their churches, their communities and their towns. Our Savior surely felt the intense love and warmth of the sacrifices made by His children during this season.

The manger scenes, angel's wings, and costumes are safely tucked away in storage until this magic season visits our lives again this year. The Christmas music is put on the bottom of the stack and the choir begins practice for the Easter season to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. All seems well among the Christian community.

The beautiful decorations, twinkling lights, and Christmas plays passed by Libby and Everett Harper as silently as a cat softly padding his way through a dark night. There were no celebrations and "great joy" was difficult to find. Libby has cancer. It is not the neat little kind that you can go in and extract, take a few treatments and live happily ever after. Instead, it is multiple myeloma, which is cancer of the bone. Christmas celebrations for them were confined to a small antiseptic room in the hospital.

Diagnosed on November 20, 2002, the verdict came at the highest point in their lives. The Rev. Everett Harper and his wife, Libby, had accepted the very challenging role of becoming Pastor/Director of the Sunrise Landing Mission for the Original Free Will Baptists in the Albemarle Conference. Pouring a great amount of time and energy into the endeavor, they were slowly molding their efforts into a promising work for the Lord. Like a butterfly from its sheltering cocoon, a church began to emerge bringing new converts and the soft breath of Christ in the community.

Hope for Libby comes neatly wrapped in a

package called "stem cell transplant" at an exorbitant cost of \$100,000 that must be raised by March of this year. The modern world measures the medical care of its patients according to the parameters of a terrifying word called "insurance." Unfortunately, for Libby and Everett it was during a two-week lapse of insurance from one company to another, that she was given her diagnosis of cancer. The \$25,000 dollars worth of expenses incurred for her treatment in December does not even serve to ice the top layer of the cake.

Libby's family and friends, through their faith in God, have come together in a joint effort to give her the medical attention she must have to overcome this disease. An account has been set up at the First South Bank of Washington, NC in the name of Libby Swain Harper Medical Fund to receive any funds donated toward the offset of her medical bills. On February 22 a BBQ, auction, and bake sale will be held at the First Baptist Church in Washington, as a coordinated effort to establish a portion of the

funds needed for the procedure.

What is the price of Libby's life? According to the words of our Lord, Jesus Christ, life is everything to those who believe on Him and accept Him as their personal Savior. Libby is a child of God and she needs your help. The celebration of Christ's Birth has passed, but the need for giving remains a part of our life every day of the year. Above all things, Everett and Libby need the fervent prayers of every believing Christian in the land that they may accept God's will in their lives.



The Reverend Everett Harper and wife, Libby.

Donations for Libby's medical care may be made to the Libby Swain Harper Medical Fund at the First South Bank of Washington, NC. For additional information, please call Sherrie Swain at (252) 975-2184.



Tips For "Dating" Your Spouse

Lisa Keyes and Debbie Black

Pray for God's Guidance—Do you fall prey to everyone else's idea of what a proper date should be? But how often do you turn your dates over to the One who has the biggest interest in your marriage? Only God can provide the unique date that is custom-made for your marriage. Why don't you ask Him for His involvement in your dates?

Treat Your Spouse As Well As You Treat Your Children—Did you ever believe you would hear someone saying this? But in all honesty, don't we treat our kids better than we treat our spouse? All week long we exhaust ourselves attending to our children, and neglect the very person who helped bring them into our life. Be aware of how you treat your mate during the week. Try giving him or her the same love and respect you lavish on your children. You might find your marriage will be more fun.

Add Some Spontaneity—Many of us have lost the desire to be creative or to be impulsive. Yet it is these moments that can often bring us the greatest joy and longest lasting memories. Sometimes we can laugh over those spontaneous moments for years to come. Think of the fun you will have as you surprise your mate with your wacky idea. It could be just the spark your marriage needs to get the flame roaring again.

About the Authors: Debbie Black is a mother of three who has invested 25 years in her marriage family. Lisa Keyes is President and Co-Founder of the LifeMates Company. She has been married for 16 years.

Excerpted from: *Dates for Mates, Romancing the One You Love*, Cook Communications Ministries, 2001. Used by permission.

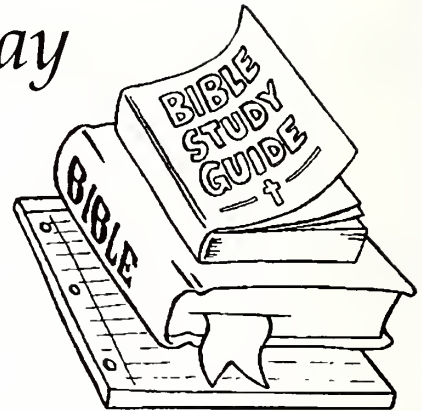




SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Day

Responding to God's Call
by
Equipping God's Church
Through Study



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Sixty-Second Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Institute Saturday, March 1, 2003 "Equipping God's Church Through Study"

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8 A.M.—9 A.M.	Mix, mingle, eat, and view displays
9 A.M.—9:40 A.M.	Opening Assembly, Registration, Directions, and Awards
9:50 A.M.—10:50 A.M.	Workshop Session 1
11 A.M.—12 Noon	Workshop Session 2
12 Noon—1 P.M.	LUNCH, View Displays, and MOC Bookstore Open
1:10 P.M.—2:10 P.M.	Workshop Session 3
2:15 P.M.—3:15 P.M.	Workshop Session 4
3:15 P.M.—3:30 P.M.	Displays remain open for purchase

WORKSHOPS

Teaching and Loving the Pre-School Child—This workshop, led by Mrs. Lynn Pannell, will focus on characteristics of the pre-school child, strategies for teaching and meeting the child's needs.

Using Standard VBS Materials—This workshop, led by Mrs. Lynn Pannell will provide a close look at the overall plan for using the Vacation Bible School materials from Standard Publishing Company for 2003. The theme will be *Treasures of the Nile: On an Expedition to Jesus*.

Teaching and Loving the Elementary Child—This workshop, led by Mrs. Lynn Pannell, will focus on the characteristics, attitudes, and methods for meeting the needs of elementary age children as they participate in Sunday School and other organizations.

Directing a Successful VBS—This workshop, led by Mrs. Lynn Pannell, will focus on practical strategies necessary in implementing a successful VBS from vision to fulfillment.

The Woman's Auxiliary Movement—This workshop, led by Miss Becky Jo Sumner and Mrs. Carolyn Jernigan, will track the Woman's Auxiliary history through its past, present, and discuss future aspirations. Visions of various leaders in the movement will be shared. It could possibly be counted as a study course.

Involving Young Women in Service—This workshop, led by Ms. Cathy Hayes and others, will focus on strategies to interest and involve younger women in the service of the church. This is much needed since the women who have worked so diligently over the years are beginning to age out. There needs to be focus placed on using the ideas to meet the needs of the younger generation.

Disability Awareness—This two part workshop, led by the Rev. Bobby Futrell, will focus on the where and why of a challenged ministry. Also discussed will be the involvement in determining whether or not an organization should involve itself in service to a particular challenged segment of the population. This is extremely important since there is an increasing number of challenged people in our country today.

Disability Audit—This two part workshop, led by the Rev. Bobby Futrell, will focus on how much a challenged ministry costs. There will be focus on what should be considered before the decision is made to offer a ministry to challenged people. Remember, God's House must be a house of prayer for all people.

How to Read and Understand the Bible—This workshop, led by Dr. K. David Hines, will give the participants an introduction to the basic types of literature in the Bible along with resources available to assist lay persons who long to understand more fully God's written Word. Various methods of interpretation will be discussed.

The Bible Comes to Life: Old Testament—This two part workshop, led by Dr. K. David Hines, will give the participants a quick survey of the types of literature and a historical overview of the Old Testament.

Spiritual Formation—This workshop, led by Dr. Tyanna Day, will provide the participants with tools to help class members with spiritual formation rather than just receiving information.

Growing a Sunday School From Internal to External Focus: Report from Whaley's Chapel Concerning the Impact of Long-term Training—This will be a four part focus with various people in the Sunday School emphasizing the impact of study and the aftermath of receiving the Teacher and Superintendent of the Year Awards for 2002.

- **Preparation for Growth**—This workshop, led by the Rev. John Mark Windley, will focus on the reasons for growth as well as practical strategies necessary to “*grow the church.*”
- **Leading the Sunday School**—This workshop, led by Mrs. Wanda Taylor, 2002 Superintendent of the Year, will provide the participants with an understanding of the role of effective leadership in “*growing in the church.*” Also presented will be the ways in which her award is being used to further the cause of Christ in her local church and community.
- **Shake, Rattle, and Roll in Sunday School**—This workshop, led by Walter and Brenda Best, 2002 Teachers of the Year, will focus on the involvement necessary to grow a Sunday School class from the idea to reality and all implications. Also presented will be the ways in which their award is being used to further the cause of Christ in maintaining and growing a class for Young Adults.
- **Impact of Sunday School Growth on Youth Work**—This workshop, led by Victor and Gracie Jones, will focus on how to involve the young people from Sunday School in a ministry of outreach in the community.

Youth in Action—This workshop, led by the Rev. Bryant Hines, will focus on meshing the needs of today’s youth with the message of the Word in ways to involve youth of the church in action in order to “*set them free to serve.*”

Ministry to Teens—This workshop, led by Mrs. Kitty Barnes, will focus on characteristics of teenagers, methods for teaching, and strategies for meeting their ever-increasing needs as we involve them in Christian service.

Beyond the Basics: the AIG Student in Sunday School—This workshop, led by Ms. Suzanne Dixon, will focus on characteristics of the academically and intellectually gifted student and strategies to maintain involvement in Sunday School today—maintaining their interest in a mixed ability group.

Ministry to College and Career Adults—This workshop, led by the Rev. John Robert Harris, will focus on a segment of the church population that has been grossly neglected for years. Come and share the characteristics and needs of this stage in life from a physical, spiritual, social, emotional, and intellectual viewpoint.

Involving Men in Christian Service—This workshop, led by the Rev. David Charles Hansley, will provide strategies necessary for involving all men in the service of the church. The Laymen’s League will be particularly interested in this seminar.

Establishing a Church Library—This workshop, led by Mrs. Patricia Tyson, will provide vital information to be considered when establishing a church library/resource center. The leader will share the process of growth experienced by Marlboro Church in establishing the N. B. and Alice Barrow Library. She will share the future plans for assisting students with school work and connecting with colleges and universities to provide library services for the church as a whole.

Equipping Through Prayer—This workshop, led by the Rev. Rudy Owens, will provide the participants with an understanding of the power of prayer in their study time.

Stress Management—This workshop, led by Mrs. Sandy Grubbs Sasser, will provide the participants with the many causes of stress and the necessary methods to aid in relieving one of those causes.

Reaching Children With Disabilities—This workshop, led by Mrs. Sandra Walston, will provide participants with practical strategies to teach children with many challenging problems. This seminar will be of particular interest to parents and teachers.

Effective Communication Skills—This workshop, led by Mrs. Teresa Gardner, will assist in understanding those methods that are blocks to communication and how to overcome them by using effective means. This would seem to be very important considering the many different methods of communication used by people today.

Money Management for Families—This workshop, led by Mrs. Linda Weathersby, will provide a look at how families can easily find themselves in debt and how to eliminate it. This is extremely important when you consider the ease with which people can obtain credit. This has a profound impact on the church’s finances.

Estate Planning—This workshop, led by the Rev. Jeff Daughtry, will provide information on how to plan one’s estate, no matter the age. Estate planning should begin as soon as one begins to earn money for work. The planning begun in younger years will affect the senior/retirement years.

Senior Citizens in Christian Service—This workshop, led by the Rev. Charles Branch, will provide information concerning how the church can offer ministry to senior citizens and how the senior citizens can render service to the church.

Ministry to the Middle Schooler—This workshop, led by the Rev. Frankie Baggett, will provide characteristics of the middle school age young person, methods for teaching them and strategies for involving them in the service of the church.

Why and How of Puppet Ministry—This workshop, led by Mrs. Alison Syverson, will focus on why/if the church should involve itself in a puppet ministry and the implications for teaching Biblical truths using this medium.

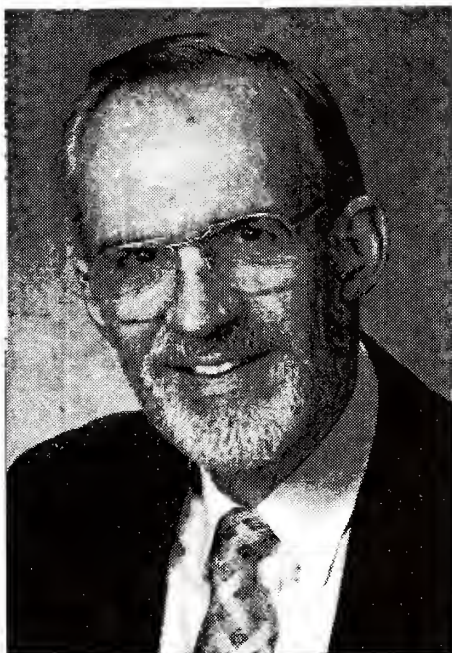
Choosing the Right Puppet—This workshop, led by Mrs. Alison Syverson, will focus on how to choose, purchase and/or make the right puppet for your ministry needs.

Hands-On Activities With Puppets—This two part workshop, led by Mrs. Alison Syverson, will provide hands on practice with puppets of all kinds.

Teaching Handbells to Children—This workshop, led by Ms. Leigh Ann Johnson, will provide valuable information necessary before beginning a handbell choir for children. It will showcase resources used to include children of all ages in the performance of simple handbell presentations.



VIVIAN B. HARRISON MEMORIAL LECTURE TO FEATURE M. ROBERT MULHOLLAND, JR.



There is a deep spiritual hunger among people today. In an effort to help people address this hunger, Dr. M. Robert Mulholland, Jr. will speak at the 2003 Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture at Mount Olive College on February 25, in Rodgers Chapel. Dr. Mulholland will focus his lecture series on Christian spirituality. The first lecture, beginning at 9:30 A.M., will be "The Breadth of the Spiritual Journey: Where Are We Going?" During the 11 A.M. chapel hour, Dr. Mulholland will lead participants in worship. Drawing from Ephesians 1:3-10 and John 17:20-23, Mulholland will challenge his listeners to answer the question, "Do You Know Who You Are?" Participants will have the opportunity to engage Dr. Mulholland in conversation following a luncheon in the Murphy Center. The afternoon lecture will explore the topic, "The Depth of the Spiritual Journey: How We Get There."

A scholar and minister, Dr. M. Robert Mulholland, Jr. has touched the lives of laity and ministers around the world.

Dr. Mulholland is currently the Chief Academic Officer at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. Prior to assuming this position, Mulholland taught at Wesley Theological Seminary, McMurry College, and Asbury Theological Seminary. He has also served in a variety of pastoral positions within the Methodist church.

Mulholland earned his Th.D. in New Testament and Christian Origins from Harvard Divinity School, and his M.Div. at Wesley Theological Seminary, in Washington, D.C. He has completed post-doctoral work at the Divinity School at Duke University and Harvard Institute for Educational Management.

Since 1996, Mount Olive College students have been inspired by M. Robert Mulholland's book, *Invitation to a Journey: A Roadmap for Spiritual Formation*. This book has served as the primary text for the course, "Spiritual Formation." It is also used in the class "Introduction to the Bible." Other books written by Mulholland include *Shaped by the Word: The Power of Scripture in Spiritual Formation, Revelation ... Holy Living in an Unholy World*, and *Journey Through the Bible: Revelation*. In addition to these books, Mulholland has written numerous articles and book reviews in the areas of New Testament and spirituality.

This is a lecture series you will not want to miss. Come to Mount Olive College on Tuesday, February 25, 2003 for a day of enlightenment and spiritual nourishment.

Reservations for the lecture are not necessary; however, luncheon reservations would be most appreciated. The lecture is free. The cost of lunch is \$4.50 per person. Contact Dr. Tyanna Yonkers Day at tday@moc.edu or Dr. K. David Hines at dhines@moc.edu or call (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0984 for more information.

PROGRAMS FOR WORKING ADULTS

by Barbara Kornegay,
Vice President for Enrollment

The Mount Olive Evening College will begin Early Childhood Education (ECE), a two-semester degree completion program for child care workers, on January 20, 2003. The next ECE start date will then be in the fall of 2003. For more information, contact Matt Green at ingreen@moc.edu or call (800) 653-0854. Other programs beginning this spring include:

Mount Olive Evening College

- Management and Organizational Development—February 5
- Heritage (for adults with little or no college experience)—March 13
- Criminal Justice Administration—May 17

Mount Olive College in New Bern, (800) 868-8479, offers the following programs:

- Management and Organizational Development—January 27, March 20, and May 7
- Criminal Justice Administration—February 13
- Heritage Program (for adults with little or no college experience) March 3
- Religion Modular Major—May 16

Mount Olive College at Wilmington, (800) 300-7478, offers:

- Management and Organizational Development—January 14, March 4, and April 30
- Criminal Justice Administration—May 21

Mount Olive College at RTP, (888) 258-5188, offers:

- Criminal Justice Administration—January 14 and March 27
- Heritage Program—January 15, March 10, and April 14
- Management and Organizational Development—January 23 and March 12

Dates are subject to change, so prospective students should use the contact numbers listed above or go to www.moc.edu to review calendars and/or complete a contact form for more information.

MOC OFFERS NEW PROGRAM IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

by Rhonda Jessup, Director of Public Affairs



"It is a fact that the greatest time of learning is before age nine," states Dr. Betty James Slowinski, the newly appointed director of the Early Childhood Education Program at Mount Olive College. "With many working parents, there needs to be the assurance that the educational needs of their children are being met in quality childcare and early learning environments with well trained teachers," she added.

Mount Olive College is meeting this demand by offering a bachelor of science degree completion program in Early Childhood Education (ECE). Students who have completed an associate's degree program, including a strong liberal arts general education component, are encouraged to apply for the program. The curriculum for the 68-week, 39-semester-hour program is offered in modular format to accommodate the busy lifestyles of working adults. Classes meet one night a week for four hours, and students complete out-of-class assignments

and practica. Prospective students are now being interviewed and completing applications for the program start date, scheduled for January 21, 2003, at the Mount Olive location.

"The initial interest in this program suggests that we may want to offer it at our locations in New Bern, Wilmington, and Research Triangle Park in the future," Slowinski said.

The ECE program has been developed to prepare students to work with children from infancy through kindergarten in various learning environments. These include child care centers, and Head Start classes. After the addition of a teaching license, graduates can teach in More At Four classes and public school pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes.

"A strong part of our program will be the practicum work with a hands-on real world approach to learning linked to the curriculum," Slowinski remarked. She added that most courses will require six to eight hours of field experience, including

written reflections to help students think critically and problem solve.

"We have had a great deal of interest from students who are working on or have already completed their associate's degree in early childhood development at the community college level. We want to make their transition into our program as seamless as possible," Slowinski said.

Having twenty years of experience in early childhood education as a teacher, reading specialist, parent involvement coordinator, and university professor, Slowinski is excited about the new program at MOC and its potential for eastern North Carolina.

"Children are our greatest resource and our hope for the future. We need to ensure that young children receive quality education that enables each one to develop intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally. People from Wayne and each of the surrounding counties who have expressed interest in the program are mature individuals with specific goals. They are looking for a learning environment that will challenge and guide them as they acquire the professional skills needed to be more effective early childhood educators. Mount Olive College's Early Childhood Education Program is designed to be comprehensive in scope and of high quality. Eastern N. C.'s children will be well served by those who graduate from the Mount Olive College Early Childhood Education program."

For more information about the Early Childhood Education program at Mount Olive College, contact Dr. Slowinski or Mr. Matt Green at (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

HOW CAN WE BE OF SERVICE?

The Music Department of Mount Olive College is here to serve you, the churches of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. We welcome the opportunity to share with you in areas where we can be of help. Maybe your choir needs refreshing; we would love to provide a Choir Clinic. Perhaps your times of worship have become routine and overly familiar; we could bring a Worship Seminar with hands-on training that gets the whole congregation involved. You may sense a need for broadening the base in your "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" and would benefit from a Festival of Psalms, Hymns, and Choruses. Whatever your need is, we want to help where we can! Just ask! Your need may be for trained leadership in your music and worship ministry.

Again, we would welcome the opportunity to serve. Whether you need immediate training for present leaders, or are looking to the future with your youth, we want to be there for you. We now have in place a course of study to equip music ministers, taught from the perspective of more than thirty-five years of ministry in the church, revival ministry, and foreign missions. Check us out! Talk to us! Let us grow together in service to the Lord and to each other.

For information, please contact Dr. Larry Oldham at Mount Olive College, (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

COMING EVENTS

February 8, Church Night—Mount Olive College Church Night is scheduled for February 8, 2003 in College Hall. The Trojan basketball teams will take on rivals from Pfeiffer University. The Lady Trojans will compete at 5:30 P.M. The men will begin play at 7:30 P.M. Tickets are \$1 each, children six and under get in free. The church with the largest number of attendees will be recognized during half time. Please call Tim Woodard at (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854 and make your reservation.

February 25, Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture—Dr. M. Robert Mulholland, Jr. will speak on Christian Spirituality at the 2003 Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture on February 25 in Rodgers Chapel. The event will begin at 9:30 A.M. The lecture series is free to the public, lunch is \$4.50 per person and reservations are requested.

MOC HOLDS LARGEST FALL GRADUATION

by Rhonda Jessup, Director of Public Affairs



The 49th commencement at Mount Olive College was one of pageantry and grandeur. The candidates, representing 20 states and 14 foreign countries, processed into College Hall, dressed in black with their heads held high, eager to embark on a new phase in their lives.

At 210 candidates, it was the largest fall graduating class in the College's history. Of those graduating 102 were from Mount Olive, 55 from Goldsboro-Seymour Johnson, 49 from Wilmington, 46 from New Bern and 39 from the Research Triangle Park.

The graduates were praised, challenged, and inspired to do their part to make the world a better place by guest speaker Barry Saunders, a columnist with *The News and Observer*. He quoted newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer, "Afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted." "There are too many things wrong with the world, too many injustices, for good people not to do their part to make the world a better place," he added.

Following Saunders address, Amanda Howell of Goldsboro was awarded the Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for Academic Excellence, a \$2,000 cash award given to the baccalaureate graduate who best exemplifies serious academic pursuit and love and breadth of learning. Howell who completed her studies in three and a half years, graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in biology and a minor in mathematics. She plans to become a medical doctor and specialize in oncology.

"Plan to make a difference. The world needs your contribution," stated Dr. J. William Byrd, president in his closing remarks. "Be a person of high values, strong preparation and a commitment to work hard for a better life for all people. And never forget that God loves you," he concluded.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE ACQUIRES PEEBLES BUILDING

by Rhonda Jessup, Director of Public Affairs

Mount Olive College has acquired the Peebles Department Store building, formerly the Belk building on 119 West Main Street in Mount Olive. The property has been made available to the College by Dr. Kenneth W. and Betty S. Wilkins and William S. Wilkins, Sr. and Betty Wilkins through a generous gift/purchase arrangement.

The facility is approximately 20,000 square feet including floor space, offices, and an additional unheated storage building of approximately 1,200 square feet. The parking lot diagonally opposite of the property, along with approximately 20 spaces behind the building are also part of the acquisition as well as a small parcel of land across from the building.

According to Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the College, "The College plans to study the use of the property for several months to determine its highest purpose in promoting the College's interests." He noted that possibilities for the building include housing some of the College's academic programs or even possible sale of the facility.

"Mount Olive College is very grateful to the Wilkins families for their generosity and thoughtfulness in making this property available," Byrd stated. Transfer of the property was made on December 31, 2002.



THE POOR PEOPLE ARE GIVEN TO US

by Kiril Svilenov

My wife, Irina and I, thank you very much for your support to our ministry in Bulgaria. It was last year that we both visited an orphanage for girls. Most of them were left by their parents when they were babies. Some of them were brought to the children's home because their parents could no longer take care of them. It was the plan of Irina to visit this home. We went there for the first time just before Christmas. We took the girls all kinds of little presents like soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and some candies, which they normally do not taste.

Besides these things, we gave them all a children's Bible, which was a little risky, because the director could refuse that gift. However, she was very positive about it. After Irina gave them each a bag with their presents, we took time to talk with the kids. It was precious to them and very joyful for us. When we left the home, the director asked us to return again together.

The girls recognized Irina from the television. She is a musician and plays the electric guitar in a combo, which is weekly on the screen in a quiz-program of the Bulgarian National Television. To them it was exciting to meet a person who appears regularly in television programs. "How could such an important person have concern for them and their education?"

Inspired by their enthusiasm, Irina bought a used electric guitar, which she repaired, polished, and gave new strings. She teaches some of them to play the instrument. The director and the children invite us regularly to be with them and always we can share the love of our Lord Jesus with them. How precious are the smiles of these children and the happiness of those who must live without their parents.

Besides the kids, we were able to give also some moderate Christmas gifts to the poor, lonely, retired people. Each of these men and women have lived their own life and are loaded with memories of the past. We witnessed to all of them the birth of our Savior and Healer. We tried to bring the Light in the darkness of their daily lives. Jesus once said, "The poor will be always with you." We believe that the poor are given to us.

All these people are my patients; they are bound on my heart because they are chronically sick. Most of all they need emotional and spiritual healing. It is a blessing to serve as a medical doctor, but a greater blessing to serve them in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior. We have learned to love you even though we have never met.



Irina explains that these gifts are from people who love the Lord.



Irina teaching the young people how to play the guitar.



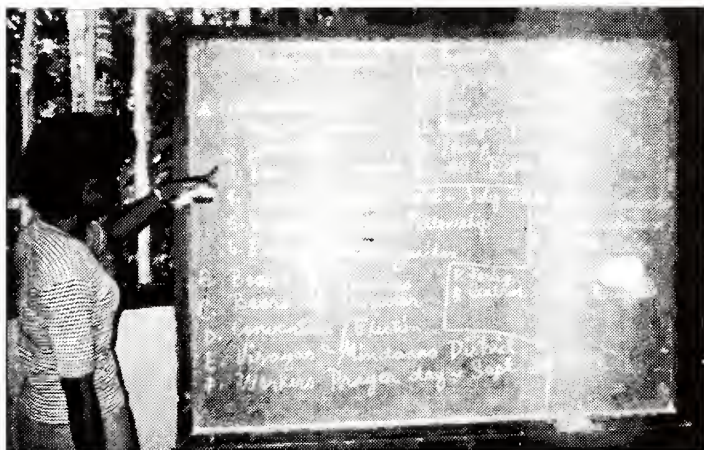
This is a blind woman with heart problems.

PRAYER AND FASTING— PHILIPPINES

by Eva P. Lagrosa

Prayer and fasting are important practices of the Christian. God hears and answers our prayers as we seriously seek Him. In cooperation with the Five Year Plan of the Board of Foreign Missions, we are participating and believe it will greatly help the growth of our churches. This program was started in the Central District last January 2002. The following four churches in Puerto Princesa City join in prayer and fasting every Wednesday: the Puerto Church, Canigaran, Jesus Christ Our Savior Fellowship, and Maranatha Free Will Baptist Churches. The Maranatha FWB Church hosted the prayer time, which began at 9 A.M. and lasted until 3 P.M.

These prayer sessions are a tremendous blessing to the pastors and laypeople who attend.



Prayer requests are listed for prayertime.



Prayer and fasting every Wednesday

MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

- DATE: Sunday, March 16, 2003
- EVENT: Annual World Missions Conference
- SPEAKERS: Willem and Lydia van der Plas, Missionaries to Eastern Europe
- PLACE: College Hall, Mount Olive College
- TIME: 5:00–8:00 P.M.
- SCHEDULE: First Session—5:00 P.M.
Light Meal—6:00 P.M. (no charge)
Final Session—7:00 P.M.



SPECIAL NOTE:

Willem and Lydia will be in North Carolina for a short time and will only be able to visit a limited number of churches. We, therefore, encourage churches throughout the denomination to call off your evening Worship service on March 16 and attend the Missions Conference. This will be a great way to show your support for these dear missionaries. This will be an exciting time of fellowship, worship, and music. Plan now to attend.

Begin now to pray for the FOREIGN MISSIONS ANNUAL TELETHON SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2003

THEME: "Open Our Eyes That We May See"
THEME VERSE: "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd" (Matthew 9:36).

GOAL: A total of \$170,000 in gifts on
Telethon Sunday.
(252) 746-4963

**CALL IN YOUR SPECIAL
OFFERING BETWEEN
1:30 P.M. and 5:30 P.M.**



CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—PHILIPPINES

by Pio dela Rosa

The Free Will Baptist Church of Cagayan de Oro City is increasing its congregation. Pastor Solomon is the one pastoring the church. One of his prayers is that someday all souls will accept Christ as their personal Savior.

Young people, children, and adults give their best to God. It is important in our lives to praise and worship God. It is not enough to receive all the blessings coming from God, but in return we should thank Him.

Young people of the said church commit themselves to serve Him. They show their talents which God has given them. They are happy and their love unites the members and the workers. As Christians we should continue to pray that all our brethren submit their lives to God. Nothing is impossible with God. Thanks for all your prayers.



Young people singing special music.



Pictured at left: Primary class singing and reciting memory verse.



Cagayan de Oro congregation



Cragmont Woman's Conference

Morning Star—April 25–27, 2003



Speakers: Willem and Lydia van der Plas

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Church _____ Phone _____

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 deposit to:

Teresa M. Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

A balance of \$40 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.
Make checks payable to: Cragmont Woman's Conference

Mark your calendar for the weeks of camp: June 2–7 and July 28–August 2



2003 CAMP SCHEDULE

Morning Star

April 25-27, 2003
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
(252) 524-4677

Ministerial Association of OFWB

May 19-22, 2003
Bryant Hines
203 Teachey Court
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

June Woman's Auxiliary Conference

June 2-7, 2003
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
(252) 524-4677

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 9-14, 2003
Bryant Hines
203 Teachey Court
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

Christian Cadet Conference

June 16-21, 2003
Wes Boyd
794 Church of God Road
Goldsboro, NC 27534
(919) 736-9436

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)

June 23-28, 2003
Janie Sowers
PO Box 824
Middlesex, NC 27557
(252) 235-2408

Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)

June 30-July 5, 2003
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-7850

General Youth II Conference

July 7-12, 2003
Chris Singleton
PO Box 162
Beulaville, NC 28518
(910) 298-3520

General Youth I Conference

July 14-19, 2003
Bryant Hines
203 Teachey Court
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

Young People's Bible Conference

July 21-26, 2003
Rudy Owens
1515 US 70-A
Selma, NC 27576
(919) 965-2796

August Woman's Auxiliary Conference

July 28-August 2, 2003
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
(252) 524-4677

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Woman's Auxiliary Conference is in need of volunteer drivers with buses/vans to transport women to the June Woman's Conference. Transportation will be needed to leave on Monday morning, June 2 and return on Saturday, June 7. Trips will be taken on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoon. Please call Teresa Ball at (252) 524-4677 or May Pittman at (252) 756-3517 for further information.

Spring Swing—Mountain Style

May 15–17, 2003

Come as singles or groups

Golf: Two days of golf are planned. Transportation to and from two beautiful mountain courses provided. Arrive at Cragmont Wednesday evening, May 14, play golf Thursday and Friday, depart for home on Saturday, May 18.

Cost: \$175 per person—package includes two rounds of golf (green fees and cart), transportation to and from courses, three breakfasts, two evening meals and three night's lodging.

Register below and return to Bryant Hines at 203 Teachey Court, New Bern, NC 28562. For further information, call Bryant at (252) 637-7171. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required. Balance due upon arrival. We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express, checks, and cash. Make checks payable to Cragmont.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Hurry!! Space is limited.

First Annual Cragmont Cook-off, 2003

What Is The Cook-off? The Cragmont Cook-off is an event designed to raise funds for our New Heights Campaign. Our goal is to bring as many of our Original Free Will Baptist Churches—from every community, every county, every conference—together on the same day in one huge cook-off.

How Does It Work? It's simple. We come together to do something we're all very good at doing—having a dinner! Plan your own menu—barbecue chicken or pork—whatever your speciality. Set your own price, sell your tickets, have your dinner. Proceeds go to the Cragmont/New Heights Campaign. A great day of work and fellowship for the church—a great day of fundraising for Cragmont and our New Heights Campaign.

Our Goal for 2003? We want to see at least twenty-five churches come together to raise \$12,500!

Will Your Church Be One?—Join Us On Friday, May 2, 2003 for the First Annual Cragmont Cook-off!

Yes! Count us as one of your churches in the First Annual Cragmont Cook-off.

Church Name _____

County _____ Conference _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Telephone _____

Please fold, stamp and return to: Cragmont Assembly, Attention: Bryant Hines,
Planning/Marketing Director, 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711. Thank You!

New Year's Update

The Vision Walk 2003 registration form is below. Please move as quickly as possible on this. We must place shirt orders by March 1, and we want our youth to have as long as possible to secure pledges/donations for the walk-a-thon.

Don't forget that the State Youth Convention Project for 2003 is Cragmont—we're looking for at least \$10,000 to buy a Mule for the mountain! Be sure to be a part of the "Feed the Mule" campaign or have a fund-raiser for this project. All of these funds go through the Youth Convention. Remember—May 16–18, 2003 is Convention weekend!

It is definitely NOT too early to begin thinking about summer camp at Cragmont. There are seven great weeks of camping available. Dates and Directors are listed on page 18 of this publication. If you desire more information, call Bryant Hines, (252) 637-7171. Work together and go to camp as a youth group!

Have you considered a New Heights Pledge as a youth group? A \$1,000 pledge is achieved by raising \$200 a year for five years. This can be done with one-time fund-raisers such as car washes, lock-ins, doughnut sales, etc. Or it can also be done by simply receiving an offering once a month totaling at least \$1,700. Not all that difficult huh? Why not give it a try? If most of our youth groups would do a pledge we could raise \$175,000 all by ourselves! Pray about it!

Vision Walk 2003

Saturday, March 22—Mount Olive College

Attention: All FWB Youth and Youth Leaders

It is time to register for Cragmont's Vision Walk 2003! Our first walk-a-thon was a great success. But we are looking to New Heights for 2003! In 2002 we had 242 participants who raised over \$18,000. This year we want over 300 young people to exceed \$25,000!

The date is Saturday, March 22 at Mount Olive College. We will walk from 10 A.M.—4 P.M. There will be plenty of snacks, food, and drink. We will also enjoy a cook-out at 4:30 P.M.

Our mission is still the same—we are raising money for Cragmont's new gym complex. And just as last year, there will be great prizes for those who raise the most money. First prize will again be a \$500 US Savings Bond!

Make as many copies of this form as you need; invite your friends to participate; come as a youth group! As soon as we receive your registration form we will send your sponsorship forms for 2003. Register NOW! Don't Delay! Fill out the form below and mail to Bryant Hines, 203 Teachey Court, New Bern, North Carolina 28562.

Let Me Hear From You SOON!

Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Church _____

Shirt Size (circle one) YOUTH: Large ADULT: Small Medium Large X-Lg XX-Lg

CHURCH FINANCE ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERSHIP HOLDERS TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 11, 2003

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

**Place: Aspen Grove Church
8861 Aspen Grove Church Road**

Date: February 11, 2003

Time: 10:30 A.M.

The purpose of this meeting is:

- (1) To review the financial condition 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 transation 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 provided. 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.

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

CAMP VANDEMERE

ARE YOU FULL?

by Wesley Taylor, Manager

We fill up our vehicles with gas once a week. We fill our stomachs with food every three to four hours. How often do we fill our souls with Jesus?

A lot of times spiritual needs, and they are needs, are put on the back burner, while our worldly wants stay hot and fresh on the front burner. Our vehicles will not run without gas so we stop at gas stations to fill up with gas. Gas stations are lit up with bright lights so we see them from a distance; they provide trashcans for our trash, and windshield cleaner so we can see through our windshield.

Jesus is our soul filling station. He provides comfort to keep us going, a trash can so we can give Him all our sorrows, and hope so we can see through anything.

In Luke 6:25, Jesus says, "Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. ..." So the next time your car is out of gas and needs filling or your stomach is growling and wants food, remember your soul and give it soul food.

IN NEED OF LOVE

by Wesley Taylor, Manager

Camp Vandemere has been blessed with a lot of love and support during the past year. We have been blessed with money, material, and the labor to build a new bathhouse. We have also been blessed to have the money to paint the buildings a new gray color. God has blessed Camp Vandemere in so many ways that they cannot all be mentioned.

Camp Vandemere is still in need of love. To make the camp more beautiful and more efficient to our campers, we are in need of a few materials. If you can help, please contact us by calling Wesley Taylor at (252) 745-3171.

NEEDS LIST

- Four TV/VCR combos for the Family Lodge rooms.
- Twelve rocking chairs for campers to relax and enjoy the beautiful view of God's creation.
- Campers to share God's bounty with us.

THE CHRISTMAS SHOES

by Brenda Smith

On December 15, 2002 at 6:30 p.m. the Youth Department at Spring Hill Church, along with the adults that work with the youth presented *The Christmas Shoes*. We began planning this project at the beginning of September when we were all given our "listening" tapes. Each family had a copy of the complete play that they were instructed to listen to and become familiar with. The first couple of practices were so rough! We practiced in the Fellowship Hall and plotted how we would set up the different sets that we needed to "pull this off."

At the beginning of October, we had planned our sets and began to assemble the furniture, Christmas trees, etc. that we would need to show two homes, an office scene, and a shopping scene. We practiced twice a week and Sheila Herring, director, made sure we stayed focused on the task at hand. We kidded her that she was Mrs. Spielberg!

We had a set of triplets in the play, Megan, Tyler, and Zach Beachem. These three kids had started coming to our church and in the course of practicing the play and talking about the importance of Christ in your life, these three children were saved. This truly was the highlight of the Christmas season for the cast of the play as well as our church. The Rev. Clyde Cox mentioned at their baptism that he was doing something for the first time – baptizing triplets.

As the church filled up with visitors the night of the play, our cast had a few butterflies; however, once the music started, they fell into character and the play was a huge success. The music was lively but meaningful. Our favorite song was "I Believe in Christmas." The words of this song say it all—I believe in Christmas because I believe in Jesus.

Frankie Herring played the lead role of Robert Layton and did a spectacular job. He sang "The Christmas Shoes," which brought tears to the

entire audience. Chris Crocker sang the lead in *I Believe in Christmas* and had everyone thinking he should give up playing the drums and

join the choir.

This project was a major undertaking with our youth department being so small. However, we felt this was a meaningful story and worth the effort it would take. It contrasted the difference between two families. One family (the Andrews) was very middle class and did not enjoy many material benefits. Their mom was very sick and she was trying to make sure that her children had one last special Christmas. The second family (the Laytons) had everything materially but were sorely lacking in spiritual matters. The story concluded with Robert Layton learning from a pair of shoes that material things are not the most important things in life.



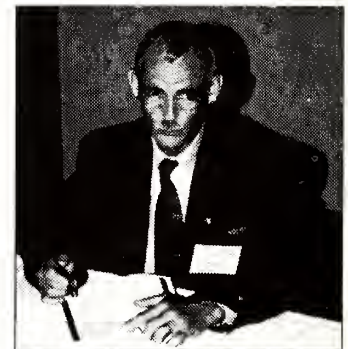
LEAGUE CONVENTION

"My Awesome Friend" will be the theme of the Convention of Free Will Baptist Leagues at Mt. Zion Church in Roper, NC. Join us on Saturday, March 15, 2003 at 9:30 A.M. and enrich your relationship with your "awesome friend," Jesus Christ. Leaguers are looking forward to a wonderful program to be presented by the Union Chapel Church youth. Maybe your young people would be interested in seeing our Sword Drill Competition with an eye on participating in 2004. We extend a special invitation to visitors to share the day and lunch with us.

BOOK RELEASE

The Mount Olive College Press announces its first theological publication, *A Systematic Theology for the Twenty-first Century: From An Armenian Perspective* by Harry Grubbs. The Rev. Harry Grubbs was on hand to autograph his new book at the Ninetieth Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists held at Mount Olive College on September 18, 2002.

The book is available to the public from the Mount Olive College Press, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365.



The Rev. Harry Grubbs signs his new book at the Convention of OFWB at Mount Olive College.

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS CANTATA



The Snow Hill Church choir ushered in the Christmas season with a world premier cantata featuring music from *An Alabama Christmas*.

The cantata was held Dec. 14, 15, and 22 at the church located at 1220 Red Hill Church Road in Duplin County. More than 300 people attended over the three nights.

The idea for the cantata came from Snow Hill Music Director, Gloria Edwards, who wanted to fulfill a wish from her father, also a choir member, to set aside one year to perform a "country" Christmas music special.

"It is a tremendous thrill to be a part of a cantata where the music and narration has never been presented. Our choir stepped up to the challenge of this contemporary Christmas cantata without hesitation and made it uniquely theirs," Edwards said.

The cantata, *A Tender Snow Hill Christmas*, featured the popular "Christmas in Dixie," along with five other songs from the 1985 Alabama Christmas CD.

In addition, Mount Olive College student Sarah Crumpler gave a rousing performance of "My Grownup Christmas List."

The cantata also featured original narration written by Edwards and Sherry Matthews. In addition, one of Snow Hill's oldest members, Mrs. Norma Reardon, shared touching memories of Christmases past at Snow Hill.

"This cantata had many meanings for me, but the theme of peace on earth is probably one of the most important and most timely.

"It (the cantata) received an overwhelming response from our church and the surrounding communities, and Mrs. Norma Reardon's Christmas memories touched many," Edwards said. "We were pleased with the turnout and their reaction, and it is our hope that we touched lives for God with this very special cantata."

SMYRNA CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday School students played dual roles in Smyrna's (Cape Fear Conference) Christmas program held on December 22, 2002.

The Nursery class dressed as Mother Goose characters reciting nursery rhymes changing words to fit "Jesus and His Birthday." They also provided special music using various musical instruments as "Tots Joymakers."

Haley Pearce played Mary in "Mary Had a Little Lamb," Caden Allen was Jack in "Jack Be Loving," Garrett Jackson was Jack in "Jack and Jill," Logan Adams was Humpty in "Humpty Dumpty," Hannah Corbin was "Little Bo Peep," Dylan Hickok was Pat in "Pat-a-Cake," Evan Raynor was Wee Willie, Zeb Wade was Hickory in "Hickory Dickory Dock," Madison Wood was Miss Muffet, Cody Elmore was Tom the Piper's son, and Casey Pearce was Twinkle in "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

Leaders were Diane Lewis, Dianne McConnell, and Helen Smith.

The class joined others in the population of "Stranger in the Manger" under the direction of Carla Allen with Sonja, Rodney, and Amber Wood providing special music.



Left to Right: Logan Adams (Humpty Dumpty), Zeb Wade (Hickory Dickory Dock), Evan Raynor, Wee Willie), and Garrett Jackson (Jack of Jack and Jill).



Zeb Wade and Evan Raynor

THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

by Rita Jones

As Jesus taught in the Gospels and as Paul reported in 1 Corinthians, the greatest quality we can have is love for God and for one another. Remember that fact as merchants bombard you with ideas of Valentine love this month.

The Woman's Auxiliary of Powhatan Church with the assistance of youth Jeff Barton, Nikki Jones, Nicole Lee, Dylan James, Roberta Widhalm, and Youth Co-Director Phillip James decorated the church for the Christmas season on November 29. Bunk and Alice Cole brought live poinsettias for the sanctuary and foyer in memory of past family members. Thank you to all who helped as well as to all those who helped "undecorate" after Christmas to be ready for the New Year.

The early season ice storm caused us to cancel our December 4 services which would have been our Woman's Auxiliary and Layman's League meetings. They were held the following week. The Clayton High School 3-AA Semi-Final Football game was postponed as well from Friday to Saturday, but the Comets lost and came one game short of a trip to Carter Finley stadium and the State Championship Game.

A Christmas banquet that was held in the fellowship hall in honor of the senior citizens was sponsored by the Kemery Ard Sunday School class. Some were unable to attend because of a power outage, but the ones who could attend enjoyed good fellowship.



Cherubs to adults help build and decorate the Christmas float from Powhatan.

The Youth Group spent December 7 decorating a float to be entered in the Clayton Christmas parade on December 14. The life of Christ was portrayed by a manger scene, a Jesus character surrounded by children, three crosses, and an open tomb. The back side of the float was decorated like a shiny, silver present with a red bow and said, "Jesus is the greatest gift!" Thank you to Greg Bass for the use of his trailer, John Cox for the use of his truck, Phillip and Lisa James for the planning and organizing, Aubrey and Linda Bunn for the use of their estate for working on the float and storing it under their shelter, and to everyone who worked on the project. Everett Chapel (Western District) also had a float in the parade with a dove and scenes from foreign countries showing God gave His son for the whole

world to have a way to salvation.

The Willard Benson Class, Kemery Ard Class, and the Youth worked to provide gift bags for residents at Classic Care and Meadowview Rest Homes and the Brian Center for Christmas. The Tree of Hope was celebrated on December 17 in memory of Vicky Bagley who began the tradition several years ago as a fundraiser for Relay for Life. Sandra Peedin and Cathy Lee are chairs for the Powhatan team and planned the event. Clayton News-Star reporter Joan Plotnick wrote a supportive article giving information to the public about the event. Sue Mitchener of Time-Out Fitness and Day Care Center provided an outside area for the tree and candlelight service. Pat Penny and Rainbow Vacuums helped sell ornaments to support the event. Bobby Hardee's Landscaping provided the tree. The Smith Family sang two songs, and the Powhatan Bell Choir performed. Thank you to all in the Clayton Community who helped make the Tree of Hope a success, raising over \$400 for the American Cancer Society.

Phillip James brought the Pre-Christmas message for the Woman's Auxiliary on December 18 with the tree for the Sunday School children after his program. A group of about fifteen youth and adults went caroling at several of our elderly members homes on December 19. A candlelight service was held on the evening of December 22 with Christmas songs, bell performances, and the story of Jesus' Birth. Thank you to all who worked to help make all these events a blessing for everyone involved.



Cathy Lee and Sandra Peedin at the set up of this year's "Tree of Hope" for the American Cancer Society.

NOTICE

Original Free Will Baptists will celebrate the Original Free Will Baptist Day of Prayer in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer on May 1, 2003. More information will follow.

The Reverend Fred Baker
Convention President



These titles can be ordered through the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc. by calling toll free (800) 849-3927 or by visiting one of your local Bible Bookstores (with locations in Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson). These titles receive a 10% discount.



THE CROSS CENTERED LIFE
by C. J. Mahaney,
(Multnomah,
\$9.99, hardcover).

What are you centered on? Sometimes the most important truths are the easiest to forget. It's time to get back to the starting point of the Christian life—the Cross of Christ. Jesus' work on your behalf must be the central motivation for your life and faith—the *main thing*. "Never lay it aside. Never move on," says C. J. Mahaney, who shows you how to center every day around the Cross of Calvary and how to escape the pitfalls of legalism, condemnation, and feelings-driven faith.



HEARING GOD'S VOICE
by Henry and Richard Blackaby,
(Broadman and Holman,
\$17.99, hardcover).

How can you clearly know what God is saying to you?

Based on classic *Experiencing God* principles, *Hearing God's Voice* is for those who are ready to listen. Beloved author Henry Blackaby and his son Richard help those who are listening to discern the voice of God, to identify ways He speaks, and to respond to revelations of His will.

God speaks to individuals in ways that are personal and unique to each person. God will never say anything that contravenes what He has said in the Bible. After you learn to listen to God, hearing from God will be as natural as communicating with a close friend.

Know how God speaks, be equipped to hear God speaking directly to you, and how to respond in obedience to what He says.



MEETING GOD IN BUSYNESS
by Juanita Ryan,
(Intervarsity Press,
\$4.99, softcover).

"How have you been?" a friend asks. "Busy," we say. And it is usually true. We are almost always busy.

As spiritual people we wonder: Does our busyness rob us of time with God? Juanita Ryan, however, helps us ask a new question: How can we meet God in the midst of our active lives? After all, much of what we do is both necessary and pleasing to God. These students offer a fresh perspective on what it means to be aware of God's presence each moment.

The studies and spiritual exercises in this guide introduce six key disciplines—Scripture study, confession, community, silence, obedience, and prayer. Putting them into practice allows us to reorder our world, placing our deepest desire, intimacy with God, in the center of all things. We will discover the peace and joy which come when we are able to practice the presence of God.



WHAT GOOD IS GOD?
by Doug Herman with Donna K. Wallace,
(Baker, \$12.99, softcover).

Have you ever wondered if God is good? Perhaps you're wondering that right now.

One minute you're strolling peacefully down life's path, and the next minute—you're hit suddenly by an illness, a broken relationship, an unexpected tragedy, or an emotional upheaval. In these times, we're often bargained with doubts about God: If you're good, why do I hurt so much? If you're there, why are you silent? If you love, why don't you help me? What *good* are you?

After author Doug Herman buried his wife, baby daughter, and brother all within a few short months, he pounded Heaven with those very questions. The answers—both life empowering and bubbling with hope—are found in *What Good Is God?*

Touching on Doug's experience as well as a wealth of biblical and contemporary stories, this engaging book powerfully testifies that God can see you through your deepest pain. Each page asserts the truth: Even in life's hardest storms, *God is good*.

Whether for yourself or a hurting friend, *What Good Is God?* offers solace during hard times and a message of hope, comfort, and truth for all travelers who find their path dipping into the valley of shadows.



CAN WE DO THAT?
by Andy Stanley and Ed Young,
(Howard, \$16.99, hardcover).

Can we do *that*? Can we do that? Can we do that?

No matter how you ask the question, the answer is the same. *Yes, you can!* You can incorporate innovative strategies into your church ministry—strategies that will affect not only the way you do church but that will dramatically impact the lives of current church members and help you in reaching out to your community.

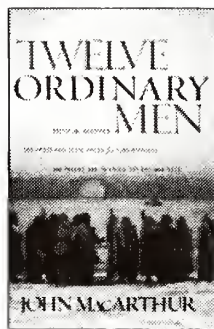
In this refreshingly practical book, Andy Stanley and Ed Young—two of America's most innovative and effective church leaders—deliver twenty-four creative ministry tools that you can adapt and use to help your own church be all God intend it to be. What you learn in the pages of this book will enable you to change the lives of those you serve—*forever*.



THE COLORS OF HIS LOVE
by Dee Brestin and Kathy Troccoli, (W Publishing Group, \$17.99, hardcover).

What are the colors of His love? Can you list all the colors of the rainbow, the hues of the sunset, or the shades of the leaves on an October day? Though we cannot put a boundary around the Lord's creativity, we can tell you through the powerful Word of God how to become a woman who trades in a dull beige countenance for vibrancy, a woman who displays not only the many-splendored colors of His love, but the clear mark of a Christian.

What is the mark of a Christian? The church judges a believer by her doctrine. Jesus says the world will know us by our love. Wouldn't you like to be a woman who loves well and in so doing is transported from a dull, lukewarm existence into a life of radiance? The Apostle John gives four secrets for this transformation in his first letter. Join Dee and Kathy on a journey that explores these secrets which will release you to a life of overcoming love, fullness of joy, and a confidence that you belong to the truth.



TWELVE ORDINARY MEN
by John MacArthur, (W Publishing Group, \$22.99, hardcover).

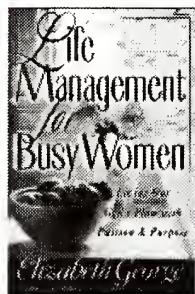
Who were these men? They weren't saints. They weren't scholars. They weren't even religious sages. What is most amazing about the disciples is that Jesus ever selected them at all: among them a handful of common fishermen, a hated tax collector, and an impulsive political zealot.

When you take a fresh look at the disciples, you'll be faced with a stunning fact: The men the Savior chose were ordinary. Hopelessly human. Remarkably unremarkable. But they were available and obedient to the Master's call.

And, under Jesus' teaching and touch, they became a force that forever changed the world.

This book, written by one of today's most trusted Bible teachers, brings you face to face with the disciples as you've never seen them before. You'll walk in their shoes. You'll understand their doubts and hopes. And you'll hear the power of Jesus' words in a whole new way.

The message of *Twelve Ordinary Men* is clear. If Christ can accomplish His purpose through the lives of common men like these, imagine what He has in store for you!



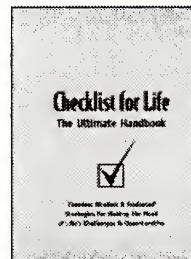
LIFE MANAGEMENT FOR BUSY WOMEN
by Elizabeth George, (Harvest House Publishers, \$10.99, softcover).

Do you feel as though you're forever falling behind in your schedule? Do you long for your life to be simpler and more focused? Are you wondering about your purpose in life—if perhaps you've missed it?

You're not alone—these are the concerns that tug at the hearts of many women today. And author Elizabeth George, a busy woman herself, can identify completely. Through the years, she has looked at God's Word for answers about a woman's priorities and purpose in life, and in this book she shares her discoveries, including: (1) God's guidelines for managing the seven major areas

of your life (your spiritual life, your body, your finances, your friendships, and more); (2) practical disciplines for managing your life more efficiently and effectively; (3) how-to-ideas for improving your schedule and live right away.

As you follow God's plan for making the most of your time, you'll come to know the beauty, simplicity, and power of a life lived according to God's principles and purposes.



CHECKLIST FOR LIFE
(Thomas Nelson Publishers, \$14.99, softcover).

Just around the corner lies your next challenge—and your next opportunity. *Checklist for Life* is the only how-to-guide you need for mastering all the big stuff and remaining sweat-free over the small stuff. What's more, this must-have resource is sized just right for traveling by your side wherever you go. Get prepared ... for a great life!

Check it out!

- What to Do When You're Anxious
- How to Respond When People Are Being Difficult
- What the Best Attitude Toward Work Is
- Where to Find Confidence *Quick*
- How to Forgive Others
- How to Help Someone Who's Hurting
- How to Discover Your Purpose in Life
- Where to Find God When You Need Him the Most
- Plus More than 50 Additional Checklist Topics

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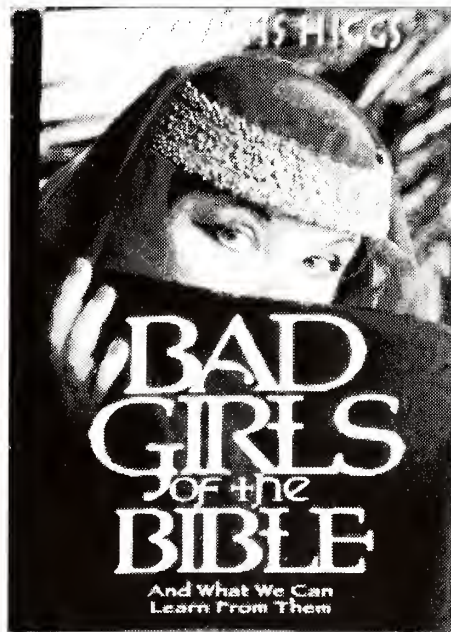
Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

by Pepper Worthington

LOT'S WIFE AND THE LOVE OF HOME, GOODS, AND STUFF

Introduction

Liz Curtis Higgs gives us a modern story of Lottie who loved her lakeside cabin in the expansive landscape of Spirit Lane near Mount St. Helens. This story is a modern tale that gives a reader an account close to modern experience that might explain the dilemma of Lot's wife in the Biblical story in Genesis 19.



Lakeside Cabin At Spirit Lake

Lottie was a woman who sought solitude and solace in the wide expanse of nature and in the exquisite comfort and beauty within her carefully constructed cabin. She adored her "peaceful solace" (59) there.

Lottie loved her *stuff*. She would sit on her cabin's porch and look to Mount St. Helens in the distance. Her possessions were so important that she videotaped them for insurance purposes.

Higgs notes Lottie's obsession with counting her possessions: "She started with big things—couches and chairs, of which she owned eight—then her prized antique oak sideboard, the black deacons bench from back East, the old spinning wheel that had belonged to her grandmother. Her quilts numbered nearly two dozen—twenty-three, in fact—and her handmade baskets totaled twice that. Last year she had gone through the two-story cabin with a video camera, cataloging each item, secretly pleased when her agent cluck-clucked over the additional insurance she had to have to cover her potentially steep losses" (61).

Eruption of Mount St. Helens

In the modern story Higgs creates, Lottie is confronted with two men who have come to get her to leave her cherished cabin. (I thought of the police who came to my house at Atlantic Beach and told me to flee because a hurricane was coming).

Lottie did not want to leave her cabin. She was told, "Ma'am, this is not an optional evacuation" (63). She agreed to leave with her husband and two daughters, but once on the way, she asked them to go on but let her turn back to get her video of the possessions, and she would follow in the Chevy truck which had a full tank of gas. They left.

Lottie sat on her porch, went to sleep and we are left with the newspaper fact: "May 18, 1980, 8:32 A.M. ... a magnitude 5.1 earthquake occurred one mile beneath Mount St. Helens, releasing an avalanche of rock and ice down the north face of the mountain, completely overtaking Spirit Lake. The resulting tsunami swept water as high as 820 feet, followed by a volcanic eruption of pumice and ash covering 230 square miles. The death toll stands at 57" (65).

Part II

Liz Curtis Higgs, *Bad Girls of the Bible*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: Waterbrook Press, 1999. *Pillar of the Community*. pp. 59–83. ISBN 1-57856-125-6. \$12.95

Lot's Wife in Sodom

Two angels came to Sodom to find ten good people for God to save the city. The angels stayed inside Lot's house but the men of Sodom surrounded his house and asked for the two strangers to be brought to them for sexual purposes. Lot offered his two daughters instead, a fact that rightfully sends author Liz Curtis Higgs into a rage: "Oh, Lot. Your shame stinks to high heaven" (70).

Nothing is said about Lot's wife for a long time. The Biblical account in Genesis 19 implies that Lot's wife enjoyed her house, her comfort, and her luxury. Higgs notes of Lot's wife: "His wife tarried too, finding it equally hard to say good-bye to a lifestyle of luxury" (74).

Flee and Don't Look Back

What are Lot, his wife, and his two daughters to flee? Sodom which is about to be destroyed? Their lifestyle which is destructive? Their past choices of self-indulgence?

Why are they told not to look back at their life, their possessions, their stuff? Is the message one which insists that such a life must be left behind and in the flight take God's hand and run to safety?

What Is Temporary, What Is Eternal?

What is it that is temporary? What is eternal? Higgs concludes: "Okay, I admit it. I like stuff. Over the years I've collected several items that have great value to me, mostly because of where they came from, not what they cost. Even those are tarnished junk compared to what we have waiting for us in Heaven. Pray with me to let go of the power that material things hold over our hearts. Pray for a clear vision of the future, when the stuff, like dross, will burn away, and only that which is gold—faith, hope, and love—will remain" (82).

Christian Art Review

by Michael Warning



Introduction

Surrounded by a hand-engraved border producing a round frame, the motifs of which are the rays of the rising sun, this Greek Orthodox iconic art of Jesus from the Kariye Museum in Istanbul, Turkey, records what is thought to be one of the oldest and most representative images of Jesus. The inscriptions *IC* and *XC*, one on the left of the plate and one on the right at about nine o'clock and three o'clock respectively, identify the image as Jesus the Christ, the Son of God.

Artistic Style

Since the image has been carefully screened upon the tri-metallic plate in the upper section, what is thought to be one of the oldest images in Christendom, the artist has sought to reproduce the quality of a mosaic. Looking closely we see the small matrices of the mosaic. This image is surrounded by a copper band which identifies the source of the original mosaic art in the Kariye Museum.

What makes this image Greek Orthodox are the following traits. First, the original image is an elaborate mosaic made of *thousands of stones*. Second, the gaunt image of the Christ face is shown with a *full beard*, an important aspect of a priest in Greek Orthodoxy.

Third, the *robe* with the outer stole and garment is traditionally associated with that of Greek saints and the circular *halo* or *aura* which circles the head of the Christ image is very large and has a *cruciform motif*.

Fourth, the *sign of peace* with Jesus' right hand is a symbolic sign to all believers and a major statement of the gospel of Jesus, namely, "Peace I give you, not as the world knows it..."

Fifth, the *left hand holds a miniature Greek Orthodox Church* or it can be seen as the image of Jesus who is larger than the individual church, for Jesus is the ruler and protector of his church. This church symbolizes the reign of the love of Jesus over all of the churches of Christendom. However, the building is particularly in a Greek Orthodox style which is quite ancient because the pagan buildings were converted into churches.

Symbolism

What is most significant symbolically and historically is that this iconic art is one of the oldest images of Jesus dating back well over a thousand years. Symbolically Jesus becomes the caretaker of the church, Lord of the church.

In the outer border which is the frame are the symbolic representations of the sun and the moon pointing to the concept of light both in the

night sky and in the day sky, symbolically reminding everyone that Jesus is the Light of the world both during the day and during the night.

Conclusion

Original Free Will Baptists sing hymns, such as *Let Others See Jesus In Me, Be Thou My Vision*, and *Holy, Holy, Holy*. These hymns reflect the need for an interior visualization of the Christ principle. It is thought that all people see Jesus differently within their own cultural context.

However, when we see an image that purports to be one of the earliest in history, how are OFWB to feel about this early image? Many of us have been taught as in the old hymn, *Let Others See Jesus In Me*, not to revere an icon. However, we are all curious and wistfully desirous of being in the crowd when Jesus preached so long ago. By looking at this Greek Orthodox icon from Turkey, we may have a document of Jesus, but as OFWB we know that the best and most accurate image is engraved upon the heart and the mind of the believer.



Greek Orthodox Iconic Art of Jesus in the Kariye Museum, Istanbul, Turkey. Reproduced on a tri-metallic engraved plate. From a private collection. Size is ten inches in diameter.



GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTING MATERIAL FOR PRINTING

According to the 1983 charter, the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation exists for the following purpose:

"The purposes for which the corporation is organized are: to write, edit, print, publish and distribute any and all religious and educational literature for the Free Will Baptist denomination, including, but not limited to Sunday School quarterlies, teachers' quarterlies, magazines, religious books, periodicals, newspapers, tracts, leaflets, and posters of the denomination; church programs; schedules, minutes of the church, union, conference or convention meetings; hymnals; and other such religious and educational materials and miscellaneous printing as the Board of Directors shall deem desirable for use by Free Will Baptists or other denominations." (*Restated Charter Articles of Incorporation of Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Incorporated*, Book 22, Page 535).

The Free Will Baptist Press Foundation operates as a ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists as described in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*: "All institutions, auxiliaries and enterprises, born because of a recognized need by the denomination and authorized by the parent body are to adhere to the denominational principles and to be servants of the denomination" (111-112). As such we are bound to uphold the principles established in the *Free Will Baptist Church Covenant* (31-32).

All materials submitted for printing should reflect the general principles given above. Materials in conflict with these principles will be returned to the client who originally submitted the material. Normally, clients may choose to edit the materials to reflect these principles and resubmit them to the Press for reconsideration. In cases where the basic philosophy expressed in the material is in direct conflict with the principles under which the Press operates, the Press may return materials and not consider any future revisions. All materials returned to clients will indicate which situation applies.

These guidelines apply to all material printed by the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation including, but not limited to the following: Free Will Baptist literature and publications, book printing (fiction and nonfiction), advertising, programs, newsletters, and business forms.

The Editor, in consultation with the Executive Director and Board Chair, will make decisions as to whether submitted material is acceptable under the guidelines. Exceptions to these guidelines can be made only with the agreement of the Editor, the Executive Director, and the Board Chair on a case by case basis.

(Note: These guidelines have been adopted by the Board of Directors of the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation.)

To assist clients in determining whether material fits our principles, the Press has established the following specific guidelines.

- 1** All materials should reflect a Christian viewpoint. Materials which by their nature do not contain any religious reference (advertising, business forms, etc.) should not express any philosophy in conflict with a conservative Christian view. Materials should not condone any religious views which conflict directly with *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*.
- 2** All materials should avoid questionable or suggestive language.
- 3** All materials should avoid "all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, the abuse of drugs" (*Articles of Faith* 31). In cases in which alcohol and/or drugs are mentioned, it is vital that the reader understand that such behavior is unacceptable. Under no circumstances can such behavior be portrayed as desirable or acceptable.
- 4** All materials should avoid the approval of any questionable sexual relationship. In cases in which any sexual activity or relationship outside of marriage is mentioned, it is vital that the reader understand that such behavior is unacceptable. Under no circumstances can such behavior be portrayed as desirable or acceptable. Materials should avoid any overly suggestive or descriptive portrayals of sexual tension and/or activity even within the marriage relationship.
- 5** All materials should avoid the approval of New Age philosophy, the occult (including witchcraft, fortune-telling, tarot cards, etc.). In cases in which such ideas are mentioned, it is vital that the reader understand that such philosophies and behaviors are unacceptable.

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AND

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2003 AT 10 A.M.

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from Group Publishing

Son Harvest County Fair: Growing the Fruit of the Spirit
from Gospel Light Publishing

3-2-1 B.I.B.L.E. Academy: Basic Interplanetary Bible Learning Expedition
from Big Idea, the creators of VeggieTales

The Jesus Expedition: Exploring the Miracles of Jesus
from Cook Communications Ministries

*A representative from Standard Publishing will speak on their theme.
The other kits will be available on display for informational/show purposes or for purchase.*

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

THE REV. GREG MILLS
514 Blackjack-Simpson Rd.
Greenville, NC 27858-8725
(252) 752-8861

If you need to get the word out on the change of a mailing or e-mail address or a phone number change, send information to: Editor, The Free Will Baptist, PO Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513. These announcements will run for two consecutive months.

WE'RE BACK

Due to technical difficulties, we have been without internet service for several months. We are happy to announce that we are now "up and running" again. We apologize for any inconveniences this may have caused. You may now send articles for submission via e-mail to editor@fwbpress.com.

A small town newspaper
in Texas advertised, "Read your
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ought to do. Read this paper
to know what they actually do."

CHURCHES & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

THE REVEREND GREG MILLS is available for pulpit supply, interim and revival services. He is an ordained minister in good standing with the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. Rev. Mills can be reached by phone at (252) 752-8861 or by e-mail at pastormills@yahoo.com.

CABIN CHURCH, Beulaville, is seeking a full time pastor. Send resumes to: Clifton King, 882 Bill Sutton Road, Pink Hill, NC 28572.

STONEY CREEK CHURCH, Goldsboro, is searching for candidates for the position of Associate Pastor. Basic responsibilities will be in the area of senior citizens' ministry and pastoral visitation. Currently the church has openings for part time, full time, or interim positions. The church is looking for ordained ministers from within the denomination. Interested persons should send a resume to Gary Bailey, Senior Pastor, Stoney Creek Church, 752 Stoney Creek Church Road, Goldsboro, NC 27534. For more information, call the church office at (919) 735-3916 or e-mail the senior pastor at gbailey@ncrrbiz.com.

*If you have a ministry position you are seeking to fill or if you are a minister that is available for service, contact:
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MARCH 2003

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THE JOY OF VBS

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

The Vacation Bible School season is once again approaching quickly. Are you ready for it? Are you ready for the fast-paced, stressful, blessing-filled week that will be here soon? Will you be putting in the necessary planning time to insure a successful VBS or are you planning to put just enough into it to get by? As I stated in last month's "Focus," we should put our best efforts into everything we do. It is our responsibility to try to do our best with what God calls us to do. No, as far as I know, there are no perfect people out there—that I am aware of, anyway. We do have tendencies to overcommit ourselves and we do get tired. After all, we have other responsibilities like work and family. Do remember, though, that God is not going to call someone to do something that one is incapable of doing. Philippians 4:13 states that "I [We] can do all things through Christ



which strengtheneth me [us]."

Smiles and laughs and serious fun should permeate your days of VBS. This is a time separate and apart from your regular schedule. Because VBS is for a shorter period of time once a year, it becomes an anticipated event that your kids look forward to. Encourage your kids, if their not already, to get excited and to invite some of their friends. VBS can be a wonderful evangelism tool as well as an exciting, spiritually uplifting time—use it well. And, yes, during and by the end of your Vacation Bible Schools you're sure to be exhausted—but remember, anything done for God is not done in vain. Be sure to stop by the Press or one of our bookstores to check out this year's themes. Also, don't forget this year's VBS workshops that will be at the Press on March 7 at 7 P.M. and March 8 at 10 A.M.

THINGS I'M PROBABLY GOING TO MISS

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

As we progress in life (another way of saying "as we grow older"), our senses begin to resist too much change. Reality checks tell us that our ability to keep up is diminishing. The truth may be that we have no desire to, or our energy level will not permit, or both. Perhaps everyone at one time or another has longed for that time and place in life when we can let the rest of the world go by, but for the truly involved and committed person, such is not totally possible.

One of our common senses is that of hearing. Life takes its toll on this ability; it may be simply a dulling of hearing, or the difficulty in accepting new sounds—sounds that are too loud, muddled, twangy, confusing, too technological, etc. This brings me to the matter of music, particularly relating to changes that are taking place in our worship services. Thus, if things continue in the seemingly present direction, I will surely miss some things that at one time worked quite well and brought souls into His Kingdom and spiritual blessings to God's people.

Music plays a vital role in the worship of God. Our hymnals, music sheets, recordings, instruments, and many other resources attest to its importance in our worship. I remember well the choruses I learned at my home church, not only the children's choruses but also those of my teen years. A highlight of my years at Free Will Baptist College was the devotional time just before "lights out" each evening. We would always sing two or three choruses. One of my favorites was, "Thank You, Lord." For more than a year I sang with

Reflections

a quartet, and almost always accompanied by a piano. No one suggested that we sing certain "praise songs." Actually, we considered all of them to be of the praise variety. I can't recall when there was any clapping during the singing, or after. My desire is to hear the music, and especially the words of the song. I'd much rather hear an "amen" or "thank you, Lord," expressed in true praise than the clapping (and sometimes whooping) that we often hear today. After all, the measure of one's spirituality is not based solely on the outward show of emotions; it is based on that which is working within the soul of an individual, which more than likely is fulfilled in stillness and quietness. If one is blessed by another's singing, etc., tell them so. And let us pray that the special music, of whatever form, is being presented for His glory.

Sound systems are found in many of our churches today, making the use of tapes for accompaniment practical. Personally, I still prefer live instrumental accompaniment, music that is not too loud, singers that stick to the musical notes without "sliding" into them or warbling all around them and allows the music to speak for itself, and accompaniment that fits their style.

In seeking to minister to a larger range of people, churches are adapting to present trends, including the ways we worship. We must remember, however, that all worship must be focused on our Lord that we might strengthen His work, bless His people, and seek to win the lost in all we do.

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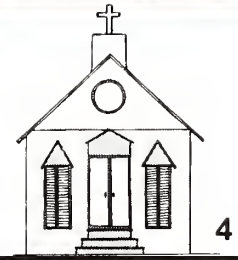
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POWER VERSE

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).

FIRST CHURCH IS NOT CLOSING ITS DOORS!

by Shirleyan Beacham Phelps

Good news travels fast. Bad news travels even faster, and gets more distorted with each re-telling. Plymouth First Church voted in January to go from a full time resident preacher to having an interim minister fill the pulpit. By early February, news was out that the church had already shut its doors.

Over the past few years, the church has experienced dwindling attendance at its Sunday School and morning worship service. The aging congregation has experienced death, relocation to nursing home facilities, and the same lack of interest other congregations have faced.

In the summer of 2001, three deaths in six weeks in the immediate church family touched everyone one way or another: the mother of the church pianist, the wife of the pastor, and the spouse of the church clerk and faithful member. Younger couples went to other churches because there is nothing here for the young people. Sound familiar? Still others left because of different tastes in music and forms of worship.

The church will celebrate its 50th anniversary the first Sunday in May. Dr. Burkette Raper has accepted the call to deliver the anniversary message. Plans are being made to not only mark the golden year of the church founding, an exciting two-month program of revival and rejuvenation is also in the works.

Brian (Buddy) Jones, a Mount Olive College graduate and lifetime member of First Church, is also the youngest member of the Board of Deacons. Despite a busy schedule at work and in planning for his late May marriage to Caroline Hall, Buddy has been contacting folks and asking for ideas that will work to start the church on a progressive path for the next 50 years.

He, too, sees the need to revamp the way the church does things, to find ways to bring in young families and their children, and to minister to the needs of the Washington County community. Like other areas, the county has been experiencing tough times economically.

"Young people are facing difficult times," says Jones. He notes the church needs to provide more than just a two-hour Sunday morning service. We need to reach folks where they are, today—not when they are older.

During the months of May and June, various denominational leaders have been asked to bring messages of hope, renewal, and encouragement to the congregation and to people in the Plymouth area who may be unchurched or find their needs unmet at other churches. Some services will include musical groups who will help the congregation as it worships.

First Church began first as a mid-week prayer service held in individual homes. The late Lloyd Comstock described those services before his death. The prayer service grew into a rented space, then into a dirt-floored building that is the present-day fellowship hall. The church has experienced spurts of growth, followed by splits. It has had its ups and downs. The faithful few and their families are determined that, with God's help, the church will not only survive, it will truly become a beacon in this community, the original home to the Roanoke River Lighthouse. (A replica of that lighthouse is almost complete on the waterfront in Plymouth, to become a tourist attraction and museum.)

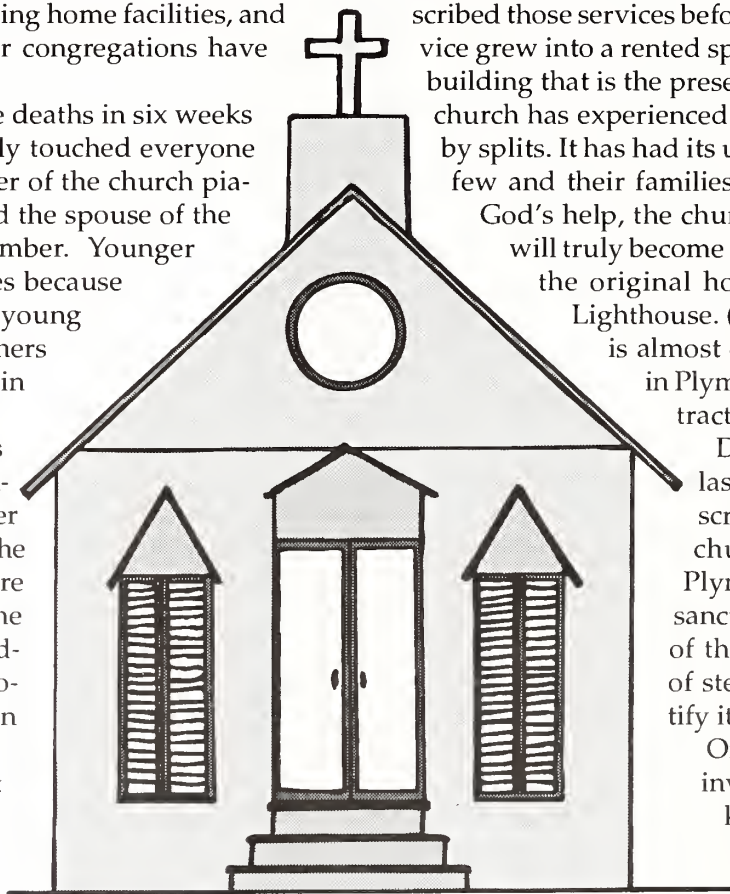
Don Venable, minister for the last two years, laughingly described First Church as: "The church nearest to heaven in Plymouth." That's because the sanctuary is on the second floor of the building and has a flight of steps which helps folks identify its location on US 64 West.

Original Free Will Baptists are invited to help the church rekindle its flame by visiting—by the carload or by the busload. Former ministers and members of the

church are invited to make plans to be on hand for the anniversary on May 4th. They are also asked to send photographs and family information to be included in a 50-year history being compiled by the church clerk.

Want to help spread the good news? First Church has not closed its doors, there are no plans to close the doors. Nothing is impossible, when we put our trust in God. The church needs your prayers, your visits, your spreading the good news, whatever you can do to help.

You can start by contacting Jones at bjones@lainc.com or the church clerk at: shirleyan@clis.com. Other mail should be sent to: Harrison W. Phelps, P. O. Box 982, Plymouth NC 27962-0982. Keep us in your prayers.



ABORTION: THE FACTS AND FUTURE

by Barbara Holt

January 22, 2003, marked the 30th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* decision and a companion case *Doe v. Bolton*. The *Doe v. Bolton* decision said that a woman may have an abortion for "health" reasons at any time during her nine months of pregnancy. "Health," according to *Doe v. Bolton* is defined: "In light of all factors—physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman's age—relevant to the well-being of the patient. All these factors may relate to health." (*Doe v. Bolton*, U.S. Supreme Court, No. 70-40, IV, p. 11, Jan. 1973).

In other words, because of *Doe v. Bolton*: "no significant barriers of any kind whatsoever exist today in the United States for a woman to obtain an abortion for any reason during any stage of her pregnancy ..." (U.S. Senate 1983). In North Carolina, the state can prescribe where and by whom abortions can be done after 20 weeks of pregnancy but not whether a woman can have an abortion.

From 1978–2000, there were over 40 million abortions in the U.S. and over 500 thousand in North Carolina. In addition to these unborn babies' deaths, the tragedy has been magnified because of the consequences of abortion on mothers who have been damaged physically, emotionally and spiritually. The Elliot Institute reports (on their website www.afterabortion.org) that "researchers examined death records linked to Medicaid payments for births and abortions for approximately 173,000 low income California women. Over the eight-year period studied, women who aborted had a 154 percent higher risk of death from suicide, an 82 percent higher risk of death from accidents, and a 44 percent higher risk of death from natural causes." Additionally, for each abortion there is a father, siblings, grandparents, and extended family who suffer in varying degrees from the child's death.

Other sobering statistics, as reported by the Alan Guttmacher Institute (the research arm of Planned Parenthood which is the largest provider of abortions in the U.S.), are: "An estimated 43% of women will have at least one abortion by the time they are 45 years old. Black women are more than three times as likely as white women to have an abortion and Hispanic women are 2 1/2 times as likely. On average, women give three reasons for choosing abortion: 3/4 say that having a baby would interfere with work, school or other

responsibilities; about 2/3 say they cannot afford a child; and 1/2 say they do not want to be a single parent or are having problems with their husband or partner. Fifty-two percent of U.S. women obtaining abortions are younger than 25, women aged 20–24 obtain 33% of all abortions and teenagers obtain 19%."

Is there any cause for hope? Absolutely! In 2000, North Carolina reported the least abortions in a single year (26,944). From 1990 to 2000, there was a 23% decrease in the number of abortions. This was due in large part to the actions of the 1995 N.C. General Assembly which passed "Parental Consent for Abortions" legislation and practically eliminated paying for abortions through the fund established by former Governor Jim Hunt. Nationally, the number of abortions is dropping. According to the Guttmacher Institute, there were 1.31 million abortions in 2000, down from approximately 1.42 million in 1994.

In 2003, the U.S. Congress and the President will work to ban partial-birth abortions and human cloning, as well as to pass other meaningful pro-life legislation. Perhaps their most important activity, with the greatest significance, will be the naming and confirming of pro-life judges to the U. S. Court of Appeals and pro-life justices to the U. S. Supreme Court. Several members of the U. S. Supreme Court appear ready to retire: Chief Justice William Rehnquist (78) and Justices John Paul Stevens (82), and Sandra Day O'Connor (72). Within the next two years, the U. S. Senate (controlled by pro-life Republicans) will be the battleground for the confirmation process which will decide the abortion question for years to come.

Meanwhile, pro-lifers must not grow weary of educating people to value all human life, working to affect public policy so that the government passes laws to reflect pro-life values and encouraging adoption over abortion as the loving option.

(Barbara Holt is President of North Carolina Right to Life, the largest and oldest pro-life organization in North Carolina, State Affiliate of The National Right to Life Committee.)

Reprinted from *The Beacon*, Jan/Feb/March 2003 Issue 30.



FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

by Rev. Pio dela Rosa

When people trust the Lord as their personal Savior and ask for baptism, it is an exciting time in the Church. Seven precious souls accepted Jesus Christ at the Icadambanua Church. This church is located on a beautiful island in Northern Palawan. The building is located on the highest point of the island and has one of the most beautiful views in the world.

I visited the church to conduct the baptism service. We first met in the church building where I explained the importance of baptism; we then went down to the sea for the water baptism.

Please pray for our new brothers and sisters in Christ as they serve the Lord each day.



Rev. Pio dela Rosa explaining the importance of water baptism.



Baptismal service at Icadambanua Church in Taytay, Philippines.

CHILDREN'S HOME TUZLATA, BULGARIA

by Tezdan

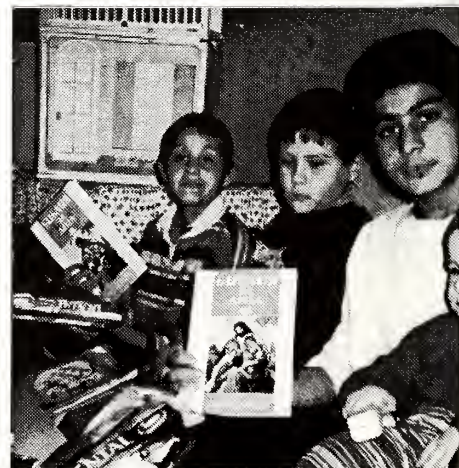
Tuzlata is an area that is under the municipality of Balchik. We tried to have some contacts there in 1985 and 1997, but the director of that time was not much interested in our work with children. The Children's Home is in fact a kind of sanatorium and rehabilitation center for children and youth with motor-nerve problems mostly by cerebral palsy and children who are disabled after accidents. Some children have never been completely healthy; others got their handicaps at later ages. The children are all residents and receive several treatment methods. A famous treatment is the hot mud treatment, but they also have gymnastics and regular physical therapy. They also have their normal school programs.


The government in the past

subsidized the Center; that was in the communist time. Today, the government is not able to provide the needed food, medicine, and fuel for heaters and so on. Their finances are very limited. To give the children a little present at Christmas was totally out of the question.

We visited the Children's Home in December and distributed gifts. Forty children received a Christmas parcel with a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, a copybook and ballpoint pen and two small pieces of chocolate. They also received a children's Bible in their own language. The kids were very happy with these surprises. The children's Bible was the first book the children have ever possessed. Not only were the children interested in these Bibles, but also the helpers and nurses.

The attitude of the direction and the people who work there has changed from very negative to positive. This change of attitude is very important for our work in Bulgaria. Praise be to the Lord, our Savior.





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May See
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ANNUAL WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Sunday, March 16, 2003

College Hall, Mount Olive College

5:00–8:00 P.M.

*Sponsored by the Board of Foreign Missions
OFWB International*

Guests: Willem and Lydia Van der Plas
Missionaries to Eastern Europe

Schedule:

First Session—5:00 P.M.

Light Meal—6:00 P.M.

Final Session—7:00 P.M.

Special Music: Mrs. Lori DuBose
Stoney Creek FWB Church
Goldsboro, NC



Important Notice – Response Needed

SPECIAL NOTE: Willem and Lydia will be in North Carolina for a short time and will only be able to visit a limited number of churches. We, therefore, encourage churches throughout the denomination to call off your evening Worship service on March 16 and attend the Missions Conference. This will be a great way to show your support for these dear missionaries. This will be an exciting time of fellowship, worship, and music. Plan now to attend.

A light meal will be served, at no charge, but in order to prepare the proper amount of food we need to know how many will be attending from each church. Please call our office (252) 746-4963 by **March 12**, 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.)



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MOC IS MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE IT SERVES

by Rhonda Jessup, Director of Public Affairs

"Curriculum, enrollment, locations, service and outreach, graduates, employees, donor support, and budgets have and are expanding, indicating the strength of Mount Olive College as an institution of higher learning," stated Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College.

In December, Mount Olive College graduated 291 students. It was the largest fall graduating class in the College's history. The candidates represented 20 states and 14 foreign countries.

Overall enrollment at the end of the fall term was also a record with 2,344 unduplicated heads, a 20 percent increase from last fall's count of 1,953.

"We are already seeing more traditional applications this year versus last year this time," notes Dr. Barbara Kornegay, vice president for enrollment. "So far we have received about 330 applications, about a 150 percent increase. This is a direct result of greater name recognition and a more aggressive recruiting campaign," she added.

"We have fueled this growth by expanding opportunity for those in need of educational services," stated Dr. Byrd. "Our faculty has responded to the challenge to create new curricula with the addition of new programs of study," he continued.

The Heritage Program, designed for working adults with little or no college education, accounts for 263 new students at the College. The program allows working adults to keep their jobs while continuing their education. Classes meet four hours, one night a week for about 20 months and

provide students with the core courses needed to obtain their college degree.

Also new at Mount Olive College is the Early Childhood Education program which had its first class on January 21. College officials say this program has been developed to prepare students to work with children from infancy through kindergarten (B-K) in various learning environments, including child care centers, and Head Start classes. The curriculum for the 68-week, 39-semester-hour degree completion program is offered in modular format to accommodate the busy lifestyles of working adults.

In meeting the demands of Eastern North Carolina's agriculture community, Mount Olive College has developed a four-year degree program in agribusiness which was launched this spring.

"This new program adds a needed concentration to the offerings of the School of Business," stated Dr. Kathy Best, dean of the School of Business. "Agribusiness is a natural emphasis for a College in the southeastern region of North Carolina. Offering this program of study at Mount Olive College allows individuals to receive a unique education in agribusiness, one initiated in a Christian, liberal-arts environment," she continued.

Another new program on the horizon at Mount Olive College is Management and Information Systems (MIS) expected to be available in the fall of 2003. This degree completion program will assist community college graduates in obtaining their four year degrees in MIS.

Also on the technology front, Dr.

Ellen Jordan, vice president for academic affairs, says Mount Olive College is experiencing a grand swell of students signing up for on-line classes, some of which are professor driven while others require more independent study.

"Since Mount Olive College is geographically distributed throughout North Carolina, on-line courses have become an efficient way that all of our students can take classes," Dr. Jordan commented.

In sports news, Mount Olive College competes in the NCAA at the Division II level in the Carolinas-Virginia Athletics Conference in six men's sports and seven women's sports. Mount Olive College has over 200 students involved in the athletics program which includes men's basketball, baseball, tennis, golf, soccer, and cross-country and women's basketball, softball, tennis, volleyball, soccer, golf, and cross-country. The Mount Olive College Trojans have also recently added a cheerleading squad to its ranks.

Mount Olive College is as affordable as it is diverse. In the latest report from the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, Mount Olive College is listed as the fifth most affordable private college in North Carolina. And, with five locations, Mount Olive College is within fifty miles of half the population of North Carolina.

For more information about academics, athletics, or other opportunities at Mount Olive College call (919) 658-2502 or visit their website at www.moc.edu.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE PLANS SPRING EVENTS

by Rhonda Jessup, Director of Public Affairs

Mount Olive College invites you to participate in this spring's array of activities.

"Whether you are a music lover or a science enthusiast, Mount Olive College has something planned for you," noted Rhonda Jessup, director of public affairs. She added that the events are free and the public is invited. "You can't get a better bargain than that," she continued.

Experience cultures from over 10 countries as Mount Olive College hosts its second annual International Showfest on March 20, from 7:30-9:00 P.M. in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. Representatives from the College's international student body will be on hand to share customs and rituals of their countries as well as to answer questions about religion, politics, and much more. A variety of ethnic foods will also be available for sampling. "This is an event you will not want to miss," boasts Julie Beck, the event coordinator. For more information, contact Julie Beck at (919) 658-2502 Ext. 3084.

Mount Olive College and the *Goldsboro News Argus* will sponsor the U. S. Army Field Band in a performance on April 1, in College Hall. The time will be announced at a later date. The U.S. Army Field Band has been performing for over 50 years throughout the country.

Spring Fling, the annual performance of the Mount Olive College Singers is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on April 3, at the Mount Olive Historic Assembly Hall located at 205 Wooten Street, Mount Olive. The theme for this year's event will be "Musical Kaleidoscope" and will feature a mix of oldies and Broadway tunes, as well as Latin and African American music. For more information, contact Dr. Larry Oldham, director of the Mount Olive College Singers at (919) 658-2502.

On Saturday, April 5, Mount Olive College will open its campus to all Eastern North Carolina businesses for a series of seminars and keynote

addresses by leading CEOs. The program will begin with a continental breakfast at 9:00 A.M. and end with lunch. There will be a variety of seminars conducted by faculty from the College's School of Business and business leaders. The program is part of Mount Olive College Appreciation Day, which will include family activities in the afternoon. Registration for the business session is required. For more information, contact Dalton Proctor at (919) 658-2502.

Project EAST 2003: A Music and Literary Festival featuring writers and musicians of Eastern North Carolina will be held April 9 and 10, beginning each night at 7:30 P.M. in Rodgers Chapel on the campus of Mount Olive College. Dr. Jim Clark, poet, author, and musician, will be the featured guest on April 9. Clark has published two books of poetry, *Dancing on Canaan's Ruins* and *Handiwork*. His stories and poems have appeared in numerous anthologies and in journals and magazines such as the *Georgia Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Southern Poetry Review* among others.

On April 10, John C. "Hound" Brown, a professional musician/singer/songwriter/author will perform songs that he wrote about growing up in Eastern North Carolina. A lover of music, history, and literature, he is a self-described "son of the real Tobacco Road." Raised in Wayne County in the Antioch farming community on Old Patetown Road, Brown's family roots are embedded almost three centuries in what he calls the "sacred ground" of eastern North Carolina. A drummer since the age of three, John has lived in Nashville, TN since 1992, where he has toured, recorded, and written with artists such as John Berry, Billy Dean, and Suzie Bogguss, among others.

Project EAST began in 1990 at Mount Olive College with the aim of identifying and initiating progressive action in eastern North Carolina and increasing awareness about the

traditions, trends, needs, and prospects of the region that the College serves. Project EAST has allowed citizens to gather and reflect on Education and Economics, Achievements of various kinds, and Service and Technology offered and needed to improve the quality of life. For more information, contact Dean Dorothy Whitley, coordinator of the event at (919) 658-2502 Ext. 3026.

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir will present its annual Spring Concert on April 25, at 7:30 P.M. at First Baptist Church, 300 N. Chestnut in Mount Olive. The featured work will be the *Fauré Requiem* complete with orchestra and soloists. Soloists will be Dr. Larry Oldham, baritone, and Ms. Sheri Jones, soprano. Dr. Oldham is assistant professor of music at the College, and Ms. Jones, a senior music major from Seven Springs, is a Charles B. and Margenette A. Hinnant Scholarship recipient. Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924) wrote his famous *Requiem* in 1887. Today it stands as one of the favorite settings of the *Requiem* because of its transcendent beauty. In addition to the *Requiem*, the Concert Choir will also present choral works by Randall Thompson, Robert Shaw, and others. For more information, contact Dr. Alan Armstrong, director of the Mount Olive College Concert Choir at (919) 658-2502.

"This semester will be punctuated with special events that will inspire, entertain and enlighten guests," stated Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the College. "The College's E3 (educational enrichment experiences) series is our way of reaching out to the public for the expansion of spiritual, intellectual, social, and physical development. We hope the community will join us for these exciting and uplifting events," he continued.

For more information about the above events, contact the Office of Public Affairs at Mount Olive College at (919) 658-2502 or at www.moc.edu.

FASTBREAK LEADS WORSHIP SERVICE

by Rhonda Jessup, Director of Public Affairs



Members of Fastbreak, a campus ministry, recently led the Tuesday Chapel service at Mount Olive College. Dale Belvin a religion major and youth minister at Kenly Church, along with Jonathan Skinner, a computer information systems major and member of Sherron Acres Church in Durham, provided contemporary Christian music for the service. Jimmie Fredrick, a December Mount Olive College graduate, delivered the message. Frederick, a native of Faison, attended Hobbton High School. While at Mount Olive College he was active in the College's Concert Choir, Fellowship of Christian Students, and the Art Club.

"The goal of Fastbreak is to provide a relaxed setting for anyone (not just Christians) to learn more about Jesus Christ and the life that Christianity offers," Skinner noted. "As president of the group I can tell you that our mission is to reach out to the students of this campus and show them who Christ is and how He can change their lives just as He has changed our lives," he continued.

Fastbreak, formerly Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS), has meetings that include contemporary praise, worship music, and a speaker who is usually a Mount Olive College student. According to Skinner the name was changed to increase awareness and open the organization to all students. "We felt like the name Fellowship of Christian Students implied you had to be a Christian to come to the meetings which is not true. We welcome anyone," he stated.

Skinner noted that the name Fastbreak comes from one of the most aggressive ways an offense in sports can try to score on the other team. "We as Christians too many times sit back and do not do much to take God to the places where the devil has control. We often sit back and wait for the devil to affect what God has done and react to that when it happens. We are letting Satan fastbreak on us. It is time we, as Christians, aggressively interrupt what the devil is trying to do and take God to those people and places where the devil has control and fastbreak on him," he added.

Skinner feels that by allowing students to lead the worship service, they can better accomplish their goal. "It shows students that there are people their age who love God and live the Christian life. They may sometimes get the impression that Christianity is for older people," Skinner remarked. "I also think that they may pay a little more attention to a student who is speaking in chapel because it is one of their peers who is going through some of the same things they are," he added.

FWB STUDENTS MINISTER IN GEORGIA

by Erin Pritchard



Dianne Riley, director of alumni relations at Mount Olive College recently packed a van with students, guitars, and puppets and headed for Blakely, Georgia, to visit sister Free Will Baptist churches and celebrate the New Year.

Jonathan and Emily Skinner of Durham, Samantha Benson of Newport, and Dale Belvin of Whitsett, joined Riley to assist in a New Year's Eve service at Zion Church. Other churches in the Paul Palmer Conference were invited to attend.

The evening consisted of an update of Mount Olive College, songs, readings, and a performance by "The Real Dills," a puppet troupe. A worship service was held with a

message delivered by Dale Belvin, a religion major and youth minister at Kenly Church. The New Year was welcomed with a time of prayer.

A youth service was held the following day at the home of David and Hallie Still.

The trip was an extension of the religious life program at Mount Olive College. Participants were members of Free Will Baptist Fellowship and "Fastbreak," both Christian organizations on campus.

"This trip gave students the opportunity to use their talents for the Lord," says Riley. "It was also a good way to keep ties with our sister churches in Georgia."



Cragmont Woman's Conference

Morning Star—April 25–27, 2003

Speakers:

Willem and Lydia van der Plas

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Church _____ Phone _____

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 deposit to:
Teresa M. Ball, 6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530

A balance of \$40 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont. Make checks payable to: Cragmont Woman's Conference

Mark your calendar for the weeks of camp: June 2–7 and July 28–August 2

STATE YOUTH PROJECT



Help Cragmont
With a Mule
\$8,000 to \$10,000

Features:

Four wheel drive, Dump bed,
Great for going up the mountain
to work on the trail

Cragmont Assembly

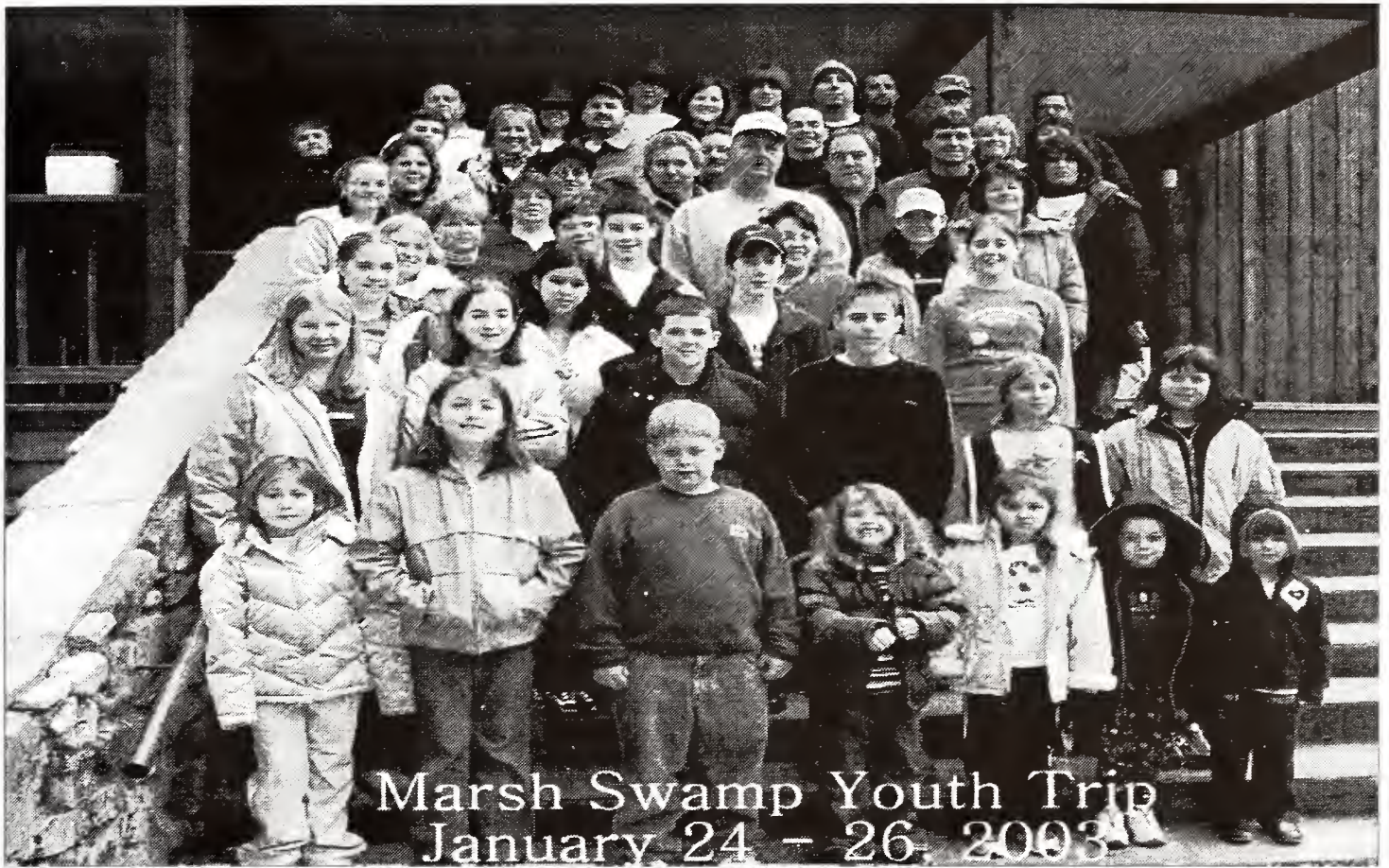
1233 North Fork Road

Black Mountain, NC 28711

Phone: (828) 669-7677

Fax (828) 669-1463

email: cragmont@charter.net



2003 CAMP SCHEDULE

Morning Star

April 25-27, 2003

Teresa Ball

6144 Weyerhaeuser Road

Grifton, NC 28530

(252) 524-4677

Ministerial Association of OFWB

May 19-22, 2003

Bryant Hines

203 Teachey Court

New Bern, NC 28562

(252) 633-2683

June Woman's Auxiliary Conference

June 2-7, 2003

Teresa Ball

6144 Weyerhaeuser Road

Grifton, NC 28530

(252) 524-4677

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 9-14, 2003

Bryant Hines

203 Teachey Court

New Bern, NC 28562

(252) 633-2683

Christian Cadet Conference

June 16-21, 2003

Wes Boyd

794 Church of God Road

Goldsboro, NC 27534

(919) 736-9436

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)

June 23-28, 2003

Janie Sowers

PO Box 824

Middlesex, NC 27557

(252) 235-2408

Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)

June 30-July 5, 2003

Frankie Baggett

5403 Weyerhaeuser Road

Ayden, NC 28513

(252) 746-7850

General Youth II Conference

July 7-12, 2003

Chris Singleton

PO Box 162

Beulaville, NC 28518

(910) 298-3520

General Youth I Conference

July 14-19, 2003

Bryant Hines

203 Teachey Court

New Bern, NC 28562

(252) 633-2683

Young People's Bible Conference

July 21-26, 2003

Rudy Owens

1515 US 70-A

Selma, NC 27576

(919) 965-2796

August Woman's Auxiliary Conference

July 28-August 2, 2003

Teresa Ball

6144 Weyerhaeuser Road

Grifton, NC 28530

(252) 524-4677



MAKING A DIFFERENCE/SHARING THE LIGHT

Matthew 5:16

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

I believe that we can make a difference through the many different programs that Home Missions and Evangelism has to offer. These are just a few of them:

1. Kids Kare
2. Tent Ministry
3. T.L.C.
4. Harvest Connection
5. AIM Program

These are just a few of the many programs that we have to offer, but we must not forget our first goal is to start new missions to help spread the Gospel of Christ. This brings me to my philosophy that, in order for a mission to be successful, all the pieces must come together. As in a puzzle, the pieces must be put in the right places in order for you to complete it.

As we go forward, we must not forget those times that disaster came upon our area such as the flood of 1999, the burning of one of our churches, and most recently the disaster in Kinston at the West Company. These are things that we pray will never happen, but they did and left many lives searching for answers. I believe that we, as Original Free Will Baptists, can make a difference. I remember the story of the Good Samaritan, and that is why in a few days I will be putting together a Steering Committee to focus on going forward with our Disaster Relief Program through Harvest Connection.

I feel that this is a way that we can be the Good Samaritans that God has called us to be. Through this we can make a difference and also share the light in which Jesus speaks of in Matthew 5:16.

From seeing the hurt from people during the flood, the sadness on faces from the loss of their church, and most recently as I stared at the destruction of the West Company in Kinston, it brought unto me words that I cannot express. But I am glad that we as Original Free Will Baptists were able to help the many volunteers and organizations through the use of our tent. I know that helping others is what God would have us to do.

In closing, let me say, pray for us, the Home Missions Board, as we go forward to do that which God has called us to do and pray for all the wonderful ministries of the Original Free Will Baptists.

In His Service,
Dr. James R. Owens

As of December 16, 2002, the Home Missions and Evangelism Board met and voted Dr. James R. Owens as Executive Director and Mrs. Laura A. Monroe as Administrative Assistant. Other changes that were approved were as follows: Chairman, Howard McPherson; Vice-Chairman, Payton Lee; and Secretary, Jacky Raper. We look forward to working together for the glory of God and His Kingdom.

Jacky Raper, Secretary

TRAVELING WITH A PURPOSE



It is a great experience to behold the beauty of this land that God created for our earthly home. Also to travel and relax as we share in a time we call vacation time. But to travel for a mission as reason to help expand God's world, the reward is much greater.

On January 17, 2003, Howard McPherson, Chairman of the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism and A. Graham Lane, assistant to the director of Home Missions and Evangelism and Ethnic Coordinator began a journey with a purpose. James Kee Moua, President of the Lao Evangelical Church requested that we come and help train the ministers and their wives on church growth and also to help the pastor's wives learn to better support their husbands in their ministry. All pastors, ministers, and their wives were requested to attend.

Words cannot express the blessing we shared as we observed the interest and eagerness to learn. The pastors' wives were an important part of this conference as the Lao Church is eager for the wives to serve with more effectiveness to help strengthen their husbands in their service to the Lord and His church. After the class for wives, one wife said, "I did not know that I was so important to my husband and his work."

The pastors ask for more study conferences with more time to study and share together. President James Kee Moua sent his thanks to Home Missions and Evangelism and to all Original Free Will Baptists for their support.

We request that pastors, churches, and individuals continue your support of this great work. It is wonderful to be a part of this wonderful work when we can help train and encourage ministers to better serve the Lord and His people.

This was a trip with a purpose and great was the harvest.

A. Graham Lane
Zang Leng Thao



CHILDREN'S HOME

NOT JUST ANOTHER MONDAY

by Dr. Bobby R. Taylor



Asa Martin, 1920 alumnus and son, Asa Martin, Jr.

On Monday, January 20, 2003, I entered the office and started doing all the normal duties; and it was shaping up to be like most Mondays. Then I received word we had a visitor, Asa Martin, who was an alumnus of

the Home. I headed to the lobby to meet him; and there I had the privilege of meeting Asa Martin, and his son, Asa Martin, Jr. both living near New Bern, NC, and both members of Antioch Church. As we sat and talked the story unfolded. Asa's mother had become ill with influenza when he was six years old, and did not recover. Due to Asa's father's age and health, he could not care for him alone. Asa's father, faced with difficult decisions, made application on February 15, 1920, for his son's admission to the Free Will Baptist Orphanage (name changed to Free Will Baptist Children's Home, 1956). Asa became part of the Children's Home family on June 21, 1920.

Asa talked about being seven years old and coming to the Orphanage (he was the twelfth child to enter the Home), and the twelve years he called the Orphanage "home." He talked about working on the farm and getting up at 4 A.M. to milk the cows. He told me of the positive influence the Home had made in his life. As he looked at pictures of the first main building, he said, "There were only two buildings on the campus, and we all lived together in this one." The first main building was a three-story building with a full basement. Asa lived at the Home until 1932; he was nineteen when he left to continue his life.

So, on this Monday, Asa returned with his son, Asa, Jr. to the place of the childhood he remembers. As this father and son visited the place the father had called "home," Asa Jr., told me his father had passed the positive influence on to him and he had strived to pass it on to his children.

It is the first Monday and might be the only time I have had an alumnus from 1920 to stop in and visit. I want to thank Asa for taking the time to visit and to share the importance the Home has been to him. Asa said, "If his health maintains he plans to attend this year's homecoming, July 13, 2003." I want to say to Asa and Asa Jr., God bless and may the rich joys of your lives continue according to God's richest blessings. I often allude to the fact of our rich heritage, and today our heritage reached back eighty-two years. It was a great Monday!



NEW CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS ESTABLISHED

The Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry is embarking on a new endeavor during 2003. This Christian Education Regional Training Center is one of several that will be established over the denomination during this year in order to meet the Christian Education needs of the churches. The first one has been established at Marlboro Church in Farmville of the Central Conference. These sessions will begin in March, 2003. The second center will be established at Whaley's Chapel at Hargett's Crossroads in the Eastern Conference. Sessions for this center will begin possibly in April, 2003. An offering will be taken at each session to defray the expenses of the workshop leader and materials needed to effectively facilitate the seminars. Please check the church's mail, *The Free Will Baptist*, and the Sunday School newsletter, *TEACH* for further developments. These sessions are open for all pastors, associate pastors, licensed ministers, Sunday School workers, youth workers, and anyone else who is interested in the growth of the Kingdom through Christian Education. We believe if we develop a firm grip on the full implication and outreach of Christian Education, the entire program of the church will be enhanced. If you have questions or would like further information, contact Mrs. Mary Dudley at Headquarters (252) 746-4963 or e-mail at director@fwbsundayschool.org.

ANNOUNCING A REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER

Sponsored by the Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry
Located at Marlboro Church, 8031 US 254 Alt., Farmville, NC

Following are Workshop topics, dates, and times:

Thursday, March 13, 2003, 7:30–9:30 P.M.

Topic: Governing the Sunday School
Duties and Responsibilities of SS Teachers
and Officers

Thursday, October 9, 2003, 7:30–9:30 P.M.

Topic: Responding to God's
Call Through Evangelism

Thursday, April 10, 2003, 7:30–9:30 P.M.

Topic: Keys to Sunday School Growth

Thursday, November 13, 2003, 7:30–9:30 P.M.

Topic: Developmental Characteristics
and Stages of Faith

Thursday, May 8, 2003, 7:30–9:30 P.M.

Topic: Leadership Skills

Thursday, January 8, 2004, 7:30–9:30 P.M.

Topic: Teaching Tips for Each Age Level
(Age levels will be divided
for instruction and interaction)

Thursday, September 11, 2003, 7:30–9:30 P.M.

Topic: What Every Sunday School
Teacher Should Know

An offering will be taken at each session to help with expenses. These sessions can be applied to teacher and superintendent certification for those who are interested.

Call Mary Dudley at the Sunday School office, (252) 746-4963 for further information.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION HOSTED BY SPRING HOPE CHURCH NEW BERN, NC—MARCH 15, 2003

Theme: "I in Christ—Christ in Me!"

Scripture: *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: (Galatians 2:20).*

Order of Service

9:30	Registration	
9:50	Music Medley	
10:00	Call to Order	Angie Piner Juniper Chapel
	Prayer for Convention	
	Worship Chorus	"Christ in Me"
	Welcome	Laura Todd Spring Hope
	Response	Wanda Costner Folkstone Church
	Scripture/Prayer	Courtney Taylor Macedonia
	Special Music	Camp Vandemere Maryanna Adkins Spring Hope
	President's Remarks	
	Business Session	
	Secretary's Report	
	Annual Report	
	Recognition of A-1 Auxiliaries	
	Appointment of Committees	
	Report of Nominating Committee	
	Camp Vandemere Report	Gail Heath Saint's Delight
	Convention Offering for Camp Vandemere	
	Hymn 367	"Would You Live for Jesus"
	Denominational Ministries Report	
	Life Membership Award	Committee
	Special Music	Jodie Randall Spring Hope
	Worship Service	Wesley Taylor Manager, Camp Vandemere
	Hymn 378	"I Surrender All"
	Business Session	
	Youth Report	
	Treasurer's Report	
	Committee Reports	
	Installation of Officers	Judy Thaanum Mount Zion
12:30	Benediction and Blessing	The Rev. Doug Randall Spring Hope
	Music Director	Billy Gaskins
	Pianist	The Rev. Doug Randall
	Ushers	Eva Mae Clark Josephine Ipock Debbie Warren Daphne Taylor

CENTRAL DISTRICT CONVENTION HOSTED BY PLEASANT HILL CHURCH NEAR GREENVILLE—MARCH 22, 2003

9:00	Registration	
	Devotion	Phyllis Loomis
	Installation Service	Jackie Harris
	Message	Cathy Hayes
12:30	Adjourn	
	Lunch	

WESTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION HOSTED BY FRIENDSHIP CHURCH MIDDLESEX, NC—APRIL 2, 2003

Theme: "Here am I, Send Me"

Scripture: *Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:8).*

9:00	Registration	
9:30	Hymn, "Send the Light"	
	Welcome and Prayer	Clentis Capps
	President's Remarks	Joyce Edmondson
	Special Offering for Retirement Homes	
9:50	Special Music	The Hallelujah Girls
	Convention Message	Mrs. Tharen (Happy) Taylor
	Convention Offering	
10:30	Youth Report	
	Hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"	
10:45	Break	
11:10	Memorial Service	
11:20	Life Membership Award	
11:30	Denominational Ministries	
	Business Session	
	Installation of New Officers	Bettie Lynch
	Hymn, "I Surrender All"	
	Benediction and	The Rev. Jacky Raper
	Blessing of the Meal	
12:30	Lunch	

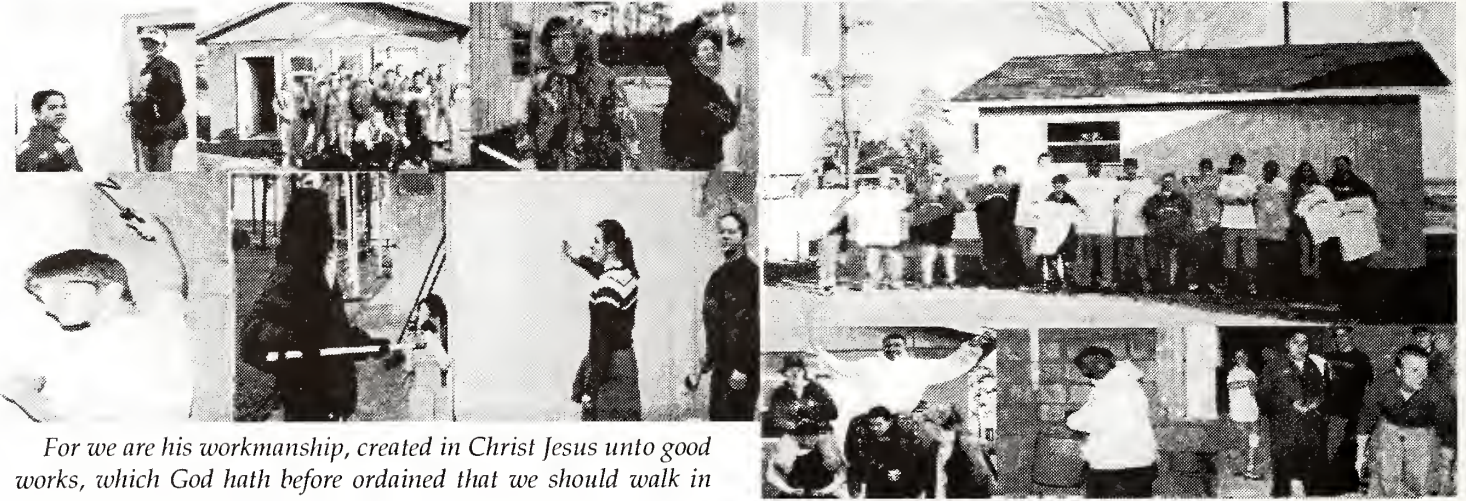
CAPE FEAR CONVENTION HOSTED BY VANDORA SPRINGS CHURCH APRIL 5, 2003

Theme: "Can Jesus Be Seen in Our Lives?"

Scripture: *Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).*

9:00	Registration	
9:30	Hymn, "Let Others See Jesus in You"	
	Welcome	Host Church
	Response	Ginger Hill, Oak Grove Church
	Devotion and Prayer	Lydia van der Plas
	Hymn, "The Light of the World Is Jesus"	
	Offering	
	Dola Dudley Award	
	Business Session	
	Denominational Ministries Reports	
	Memorial Service	Hilda Starling, Smithfield Church
	Hymn, "I Love to Tell the Story"	
	Short Break	
	Installation Service	Linda Jackson, Shady Grove Church
	Special Music	Host Church
	Convention Message	The Rev. Willem van der Plas
	Hymn, "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"	
	Benediction and Blessing on Food	

CAMP VANDEMERE



For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

YOUTH WORK DAY

Camp Vandemere would like to thank all of the young people that participated in the youth work day in February. There were sixteen young people from Cornerstone, Macedonia, and Gethsemane churches that participated.

The young people painted the newly built bathhouse white on the inside and dark gray on the outside. They also painted the canteen and office building light gray. Everyone worked very hard and did an excellent job.

Here are a few words that the young people had to say about the camp.

"It gave me great pleasure to do something generous for the camp that helped me renew my spiritual strength last year at camp."

Robert Holcomb, 15

"Camp Vandemere is a wonderful place to increase your relationship with the Lord."

Nick Dorr, 15

"I enjoyed helping improve Camp Vandemere."

Justin Augustin, 13

"Camp Vandemere is a wonderful place to express yourself spiritually with other Christians."

Chantal Sweeting, 16

"Camp Vandemere is a very fun place and has an excellent atmosphere."

Jecouri Lester, 17

"Even though this was my first time visiting Camp Vandemere I really had a great time helping to improve the camp and I look forward to visiting the camp this summer."

Andrew Arnette, 16

"Camp Vandemere is an excellent place to meet awesome new Christian friends from many different places."

Melissa Godley, 14

SUMMER CAMP

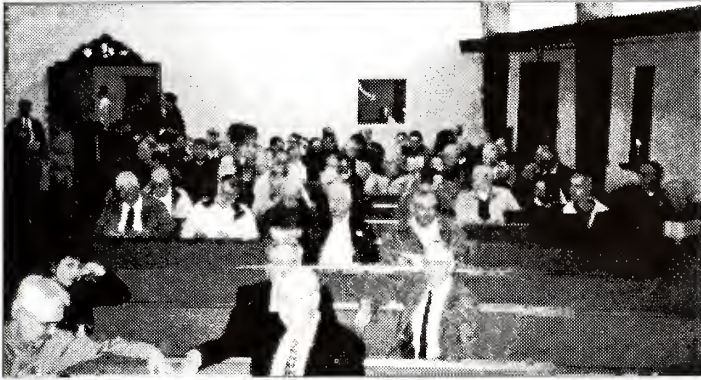
Camp Vandemere is organizing the summer camping schedule. If you or your youth group would like to attend summer camp please contact Wesley Taylor, (252) 745-3171. If anyone would like to direct a week of camp, there are still openings, but please contact Wesley Taylor as soon as possible to schedule.

CAMPING SCHEDULE

June 2-5	Open	July 6-11	Youth Summer Camp
June 6-7	Eastern Conference Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat		The Rev. Joe Ratcliff
June 9-13	Open	July 12	Fifth Union Fun Day
June 16-19	Women's Week	July 13-18	Youth Summer Camp
June 23-26	Open		Mrs. Eva Ma Clark
June 30-July 3	Open	July 21-25	Open

LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

SCENES FROM THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE MEETING FIRST CHURCH, GREENVILLE DECEMBER 2, 2002



CHARTERING EDGEWOOD CHURCH NEAR MACCLESFIELD OCTOBER 27, 2002



CHARTER MEMBERSHIP GRANTED



Pictured (L-R): Russell Tyson, Alton Ausbon, Billy Gurkin holding charter, Larry Bullock, Pastor Burke holding purpose and goals, William Upton, Rodney Clark, Michael Bullock, Jonathan Patterson, Carroll Whitehurst, Jeff Patterson, and Delma Beach.

The men of Piney Grove Church have something to be proud of. The newly formed Layman's League meets all the requirements established by the N.C. State Layman's League Convention. The President, Mr. Tyson and Vice-president, Mr. Weathington visited the church on November 24, 2002 and presented the Layman's League with their Charter Membership. The current Piney Grove officers are: President, Billy Burkin; Secretary, Mike Bullock; and Treasurer, Carroll Whitehurst.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 3, 2003** Central Conference Layman's League
Gum Swamp Church
Meal at 6:45 P.M., Business at 7:30 P.M.
- March 13, 2003** Layman's League Executive Board
VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC
7 P.M.
- March 22, 2003** Cragmont Vision Walk
Mount Olive College
Walk 10 A.M.-4 P.M.
Supper 4:30 P.M. to be prepared by
the Layman's League volunteers
- March 29, 2003** State Layman's League Sing
King's Cross Roads Church
near Farmville, NC
Supper 6-7 P.M.
BBQ and Chicken
\$7 a plate—Proceeds to go to
Cragmont Trading Post Building #8
Entertainment 7-8:30 P.M.
"The Marlboro Boys"

MIRACLES AT BLENDED FELLOWSHIP

by The Reverend Doug Seymour

There are some people in our world today who acknowledge the existence of God but think of Him only as a distant spectator who has no real involvement in the affairs of men. Such persons need not try to peddle their wares to the members of Blended Fellowship. We have seen the specific, intentional intervention of the Father too many times. We have come too far to turn back now! Perhaps some recent examples will encourage you as much as they have encouraged us.

For just over a year, we, along with caring friends from several conferences and even other denominations, have worked almost every other Saturday to clean and repair the wonderful facility with which God has blessed us. Our hearts have been touched over and over again by the generosity of those outside our congregation and by the motivation and sacrifice demonstrated by both the hearing and deaf within our own church family. One of the most exciting accomplishments to date is our nursery. Is it perfect? No. Is the floor or ceiling level? No. Is it a new structure? Hardly. It is one of the rooms in a 100-year-old home place connected to our larger metal structure. However, it is large, clean, and to all of us who put so much work into it, it is absolutely beautiful. Since its completion, many of our people have spent time standing in the doorway just to admire it.

About two months ago, we received a surprise visit from some of our county officials. Although efforts had been made before purchasing the property to prevent any regulatory entanglements, there was some miscommunication between the county and us. No one is really at fault in the matter. Everyone agreed on what had

been said during those early discussions. It was the difference in interpretation of what was said that caused the misunderstanding. The county officials, an architect, an engineer, the Cape Fear Conference Executive Committee, Cape Fear Conference Moderator, the Rev. Roy Clifton, the President of our Convention, the Rev. Fred Baker, the pastor of our mother church, the Rev. Dean Kennedy and members of Blended Fellowship worked together to decide what needed to be done. During the weeks that followed, the likelihood of having to tear down the old home place was mentioned several times, primarily by the architect. Needless to say, our hearts sunk. We prayed and prayed and prayed some more. Finally, we received the final decision from the architect and county officials. The old house, including our nursery, was to stay! As if that were not enough, several costly changes that had been mentioned in the early stages were omitted from the final recommendations! We firmly believe that these occurrences were the direct result of our Heavenly Father working all things to our good and hearing and answering prayer offered in faith for a very specific need.

There are changes that must be made and these changes will cost more than our budget can withstand. However, we have no doubt that the Lord will make a way for us, just as He has done so many times before. Please help us thank Him for protecting our present investment of labor and materials.

Another example of His specific care occurred shortly after receiving the good news about our nursery. Because of the extremely low temperatures of recent weeks, a water pipe froze and burst in our church

office. We entered the building to find several inches of water in the lobby, water going down the hallway toward our nursery, water standing in the sanctuary, and water continuing to gush from the broken pipe. After getting the water cut off, we started to inspect the damage. We soon realized there was none! Although on one shelf water was deep enough to scoop it up with your hand, it stopped a couple of inches away from our medical books that were sitting on that same shelf. The copier, calculator, paper, and other supplies were all dry. The water stopped about halfway down the hallway leading to the nursery. We entered the sanctuary, knowing that the beautiful pews, a gift from a neighboring church, would not fare well with the supports absorbing water. To our amazement and God's glory, the waters had parted! Only a week or two earlier, our message was concerning the crossing of the Red Sea by the Children of Israel. Now, God had given us the perfect visual aid to reinforce the faith of our people! Water had soaked the carpet for 10 feet or so behind the pews and at least the same distance beside the pews, but not one support under any of them had been exposed to the moisture!

God is continuing to bless us as more people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ with forty new converts since we started almost four years ago. Our Sunday morning attendance now sometimes reaches into the 80s. We have recently started a Sunday School and everyone is so excited about it. In the midst of this growth and excitement, it seems that God is reminding us through His mighty power that what He establishes He will defend and what He builds He will protect. He is still involved in the affairs of men!

POWHATAN PLANS FOR THE CAPE FEAR SPRING TALENT CELEBRATION

Preparations have been made, practices scheduled, and registration forms completed so Powhatan's entries in the March 7-8 talent celebration will be ready to show their stuff! We encourage each youth member to find their talent and use it to praise God—from craftiness to singing or presenting lessons. The experience gained as a youth can build a solid foundation for future Sunday School teachers, choir directors, even ministers in our Free Will Baptist denomination.

The Youth Convention Executive Committee met at Mount Olive College on January 11 to finalize plans for the May meeting. Youth leaders, officers, and representatives worked from 9 until noon to carry out the business of planning for the State Youth work. Nikki Jones attended representing Powhatan (Cape Fear District) as the State recording secretary and prepared the minutes of the meeting to be a record of the day's accomplishments.

Also on January 11, three from Powhatan took part in the first Sunday School workshop in 2003 at Bethel in Four Oaks. Phillip James, Kelly Peedin and Rachel Langley attended and came back with a new enthusiasm for teaching.

Congratulations to Keith Boykin who was baptized on Sunday, January 12, following the morning worship service. We are glad to welcome him, his wife, Tracie, and their two children to Powhatan.

At the quarterly business meeting on January 15, Alan Price was renewed for another year as a licensed preacher. Congratulations to Phillip James who was voted in as our newest deacon and to Ann Narron and Cathy Lee who were voted in to direct our Vacation Bible School for 2003. A deacon ordination service was held on January 26 for Phillip and his family. His son, Dylan and Mari Cox sang special music during the morning service, saying we should all "Lean on Him (God)" for strength.

On January 18, the Woman's Auxiliary hosted a chicken pastry supper, collecting donations for their annual projects for 2003. The first quarter's breakfast meeting was held January 25 with speaker Amy Storms (her daughter is a member of Powhatan's Girl Scout Troop 474). She brought her personal testimony to those in attendance of how God can change your plans, describing how her family had been involved in two serious traffic accidents within a year.

The Powhatan Youth Group hopes to take part in the "Vision Walk" scheduled for March 22 at Mount Olive College to raise funds for the expansion at Cragmont.



Karen Honeycutt, Holland White, Nikki Jones, and Martha Parsons on January 11.



President Heather McPherson conducting the Youth Convention meeting with directors, officers, and representatives.

Project money from the Youth Convention is going toward the purchase of a "mule" for Cragmont this year, and that is due from churches in March, as well. Powhatan has over fifteen women signed up to attend *Morning Star* at Cragmont in April and our youth members will be going in June. We hope to see you there!

Congratulations from all of us at Powhatan to senior Holland White of Bethel in Four Oaks (Cape Fear District-Youth song leader and State Representative) who received the Hunter/Strickland Memorial Scholarship to attend Campbell next year. She credits last fall's Youth Convention Mission trip to Washington, D.C. as the deciding factor in her career choice of becoming a missionary doctor. Special thanks again to Scott Lane and Martha Parsons for arranging the service work performed in D.C. through YWAM (Youth With A Mission). We are looking forward to our next mission trip!

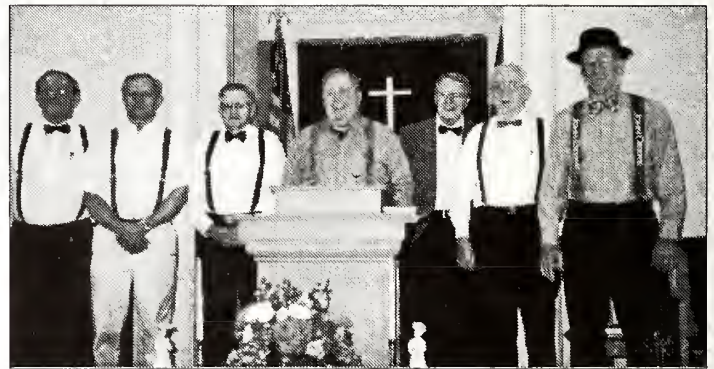
HAT, SUSPENDERS, AND BOWTIE SUNDAY

Walnut Creek Church, always looking for innovative ways to make worship and fellowship enjoyable, came up with the idea to have a Hat, Suspenders, and Bowtie Sunday on January 19, 2003.

The ladies were invited to reminisce to the days when they always wore a hat to church on Sunday. They were asked to look in their closets and storage areas and resurrect those old hats hidden away. The gentlemen were invited to respond with an old bowtie, buried away in the back of a drawer along with probably suspenders. On this Sunday everyone was to boldly respond with their restored treasures. Many ladies found it an occasion to purchase a new hat but some were proudly displaying hats formerly belonging to older members of the church or their relatives. Some hats were forty years old and attractively adorned present day attire. It proved to be a fun time with lots of participation and excitement over their findings. As our superintendent and pastor commented, "It was one of the prettiest congregations they had seen in a long time."

The men were especially handsome in their bowties and suspenders. Some had even dressed to correspond with their wives' attire. Comments were made that they looked as if they were dressed for a wedding (and a few scattered comments were they looked like they were ready for a funeral!) Anyway, we had a sharp looking bunch of men and a most impressive congregation.

Worship should be a time of joy and happiness, and fellowship should be a warm and inviting Christian characteristic. Certainly, Sunday, January 19, at Walnut



Creek Church in LaGrange reflected those attributes. God must have smiled at our efforts to make His House a joyful place to be on that day of worship, filled with wonderful Christian fellowship and love. Thank you, Lord, for indulging Your people.

Beachfest 2003

On Saturday, March 22, at 7 P.M. First Church, Wilson, will be hosting Beachfest 2003 live via satellite. Toby Mac, Third Day, and Mary Mary will be performing. Ron Luce will be the emcee, and Luis Palau will be giving the gospel message and invitation. All youth grades 7-12 are invited to attend. Every youth pastor or director will receive a free Christian "Lifeguard" t-shirt upon arrival. Admission is free. There will be games, food, free stuff, great music and much more. For more information or free tickets. Please contact, Andy Palm at (252) 291-6446 ext. 22 or e-mail at apalm@ffwbcwilson.org. Specific details regarding Beachfest can be found at www.Beachfestusa.org.





**SNOW HILL CHURCH
TO HOLD
EASTER CANTATA**

The Snow Hill Church adult choir will present "The Love of Jesus," an Easter musical on Friday, April 18 at 7:30 P.M. and again during its Easter Sunday morning service, April 20 at 11 A.M. Everyone is invited.

HONORED WITH DEGREE



The Rev. Bob Burke of Piney Grove Church received a Doctor of Ministry Degree on Sunday, December 1, from the Bethel Bible College and Seminary.

The church sanctuary was filled with church members, members of his family, and friends from

other areas he has served were on hand to share in this special day and show their support.

Dr. Bobby Carden, Dr. Farrell Osborne, and Dr. Wayne Hargrove each shared their knowledge and support, and stressed the importance of recognizing a man like Pastor Burke, who has been called to preach without fear.

Dr. Jim Cockran, president and founder of the college presented the degree. Pastor Burke expressed his appreciation and thanks to everyone and was able to enjoy and visit with everyone at the luncheon that followed in the fellowship hall.

WESTERN DISTRICT YOUTH TO MEET

The Western District Youth Convention will be March 8 at Pleasant Hill Church, Pikeville, NC. Dinner will be at 5 P.M. with the Convention following at 6 P.M.

CAPE FEAR CONFERENCE/UNION MEETING

The Cape Fear Conference/Union meeting will convene at Bethel Church on March 15, 2003 at 10 A.M. The church is located on NC Hwy 96, 3 miles east of Four Oaks. Dr. Sam Weeks will deliver the devotions. The host church will provide special music. The morning message will be by the Rev. Emmitt Jones, Host Pastor. All conference churches are encouraged to attend.

"FOUR IN CHRIST" TO PERFORM

Please join us at First Church, Warsaw, NC on Saturday, March 15 at 6 P.M. as we enjoy special singing by the southern gospel group "Four in Christ."

**WORDS OF
INSPIRATION**

LORD, WHY DID YOU GO?

Lord, Why did You go to Calvary and die upon a Cross?
Lord, why did You accept all the pain and suffering there?
Was it because You knew that all mankind was eternally lost and that the guilt of sin was more than they could ever bear?
Lord, why did You go to Calvary and die upon that old rugged tree feeling the pain, the agony, yet You died so willingly?
You could have stayed in Heaven, refusing to come and bear the shame,
yet You looked ahead in centuries and knew that one day I'd call Your name.
Lord, thank You for going to Calvary to die in this sinner's place.
Lord, thank You for accepting the sin, the disgrace and the shame.
Lord, thank You for giving life to me, now one day I will see Your face until that day, Oh Lord, I pray, I will always know Your Name.

HOMECOMING DAY

We celebrated Homecoming at our church today; the children were excited, ready to eat and to play.
The tables were filled with an abundance of food to delight,
sending our taste buds scrambling to savor each bite.

Is Homecoming Day suppose to satisfy our earthly desire
or should it be a rekindling of our deep spiritual fire?
To reignite the passion that we once had for Christ
or do we let the fellowship and food be our only spice?

Shouldn't Christ come first in each thing that we do,
telling and showing others what Christ means to me and you?
Or are we content to just fellowship and to eat,
telling everyone we see, this food is hard to beat?

Maybe Christ will wait until the fellowship has run its way
before He calls us Home to that great Homecoming Day.
Then we can really enjoy the best of Homecoming times.
In fellowship with Christ and enjoying Heaven's chimes.

But until that blessed event comes, may each day be Homecoming Day
as all Christians share with the world Christ's salvation way.
Ready to feed the precious Word of God to our neighbors and friends
and being that true Homecoming witness until the very end.

The following poems were submitted by Jim Howell, First Church, Rocky Mount, NC.

Grace L. Barbour

A Faithful Servant of God

On Saturday morning, January 25, 2003, Mrs. Grace L. Barbour was called home to be with the Lord Whom she had loved, trusted and served her entire life. She had been in declining health for a number of years, but the last months of her life were especially difficult as she was forced to endure endless days of sickness, which resulted in lengthy hospital stays and eventually the necessity of nursing home care. During this time she and her family were comforted by the numerous visits she received from her many friends, her family, her church and her many acquaintances in the Original Free Will Baptist Church. Even though she was unable to respond at times, we are convinced that God allowed her to recognize the compassion, concern, and generosity of those who supported her during her time of affliction.

Mrs. Barbour was born on June 16, 1926 to Ernest and Eva Laughter, and was married to Mr. D. V. Barbour on December 24, 1944. This union produced two children, David Craig and Amy Grace, both of which received Christian principles as they were raised in a godly environment and brought up in the fear and admonition of the Lord. The two greatest tragedies of her life occurred when her beloved husband passed away suddenly at age 55 on May 14, 1980 and when her son also died after a lengthy illness on November 22, 1997. Even though these deaths took their toll, she faced them in the same way she faced every other difficulty that came her way in life, which was through trust and reliance upon the sustaining grace of Almighty God.

Apart from her family, the greatest joy of Mrs. Barbour's life was her work for the Kingdom of God through the Original Free Will Baptist Church. She was a life-long member of the Hopewell OFWB Church in Smithfield, and was faithful to the church through her attendance along with her service through the Woman's Auxiliary

(where she held many offices), through teaching Sunday School, and through a term on the Deacon Board. Her wisdom and integrity allowed her to be a valuable asset to all of these arms of the church, and her spiritual insight afforded her the opportunity to contribute greatly to the building of God's Kingdom.



Mrs. Barbour was also privileged to serve God on the conference level and beyond in that she held offices in both the Cape Fear District Auxiliary and in the State work. On the district she held the offices of President, Vice-President, and Field Secretary and was faithful to discharge her duties with dignity and efficiency. Mrs. Barbour was the 2002 recipient of the Dola Dudley Service Award, which she humbly accepted and cherished. On the denominational level, Mrs. Barbour served the State Woman's Auxiliary through her attendance and through her membership on various boards and committees, but perhaps her greatest contribution was her service of 18 years on the Cragmont Board of Directors. She had a great love for the entire Original Free Will Baptist Denomination and its ministries, but

when it came to Cragmont there was a special affection that she just couldn't hide.

Mrs. Grace L. Barbour was laid to rest on Monday, January 27, in a most fitting service conducted by her pastor, the Rev. Scott Casey, and by the Rev. Jeff Daughtry along with special music by the Rev. and Mrs. Clyde Cox. Her legacy will be one of service and dedication to God through the Original Free Will Baptist Church, and her memory will live on through her family and through her many friends and acquaintances. She is now among the great cloud of witnesses that Paul describes in the Book of Hebrews, and her reward is complete as she sits at the feet of Jesus to give Him endless glory and praise throughout the ages.

YOUTH CONVENTION

*Jesus is the
Only 1*

*Jesus saith unto him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
John 14:6*

Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

May 16–18, 2003
Mount Olive College



2003 Convention Schedule

Friday, May 16

- 5:00–8:00 Registration—College Hall
8:00 Session 1—College Hall
10:00 Devotional Workshops

Saturday, May 17

- 8:00–9:00 Breakfast—Murphy Center
9:00 Late Registration—College Hall
9:30 Session 2—College Hall
10:30 Talent Exposition—College Hall
Lesson Presentation & Public Speaking—College Hall
12:00–1:15 Lunch—Murphy Center
2:00 Awards Presentation—Murphy Center
3:30–5:00 Fun Time
5:00–6:15 Dinner—Murphy Center
7:30 Session 3—College Hall
AVALON in Concert
10:00 Installation Service & Refreshments—Murphy Center

Sunday, May 18

- 7:30–8:30 Breakfast—Murphy Center
9:30 Worship Service—Rodgers Chapel
11:00 Check-out
12:00 Lunch Available—Murphy Center

The Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists would like to invite your church to the 2003 Youth Convention. This year's convention promises to be the best one ever, with a new format, improved praise & worship time, exciting speakers and workshops, along with a dynamic concert by the hottest Contemporary Christian group AVALON.

Included here is all the information necessary for your church to be a part of 2003 Youth Convention.

Upon arrival at the Youth Convention, go to the Registration Table in College Hall to check-in for room assignments and to pick up meal and concert tickets.

Even if your church is not lodging at the college, please check-in at the Registration Table so we can have accurate accounts of churches represented and total attendance.

Registrations are due **May 1, 2003**. Detach the registration form on the next page and send it along with one check that will cover registration fee, lodging, meals, concert tickets, and project money to the address below:

Scott Lane
Assistant Director, Youth Convention of OFWB
1255 NC 581 N.
Pikeville, NC 27863
(919) 736-1423
Email: scottl@icomnet.com
Make check payable to Youth Convention OFWB

Youth Project

The 2003 Youth Project is for Cragmont Assembly. "The Mule Fund" will go toward the purchase of a Mule, which is an All-Terrain-Vehicle that has a dump bed, and will be great for going up the mountain to work on the trail. The goal for "The Mule Fund" is \$10,000. The goal for each church is \$150.00. but any amount given will be greatly appreciated.

Things To Bring

- Bring athletic equipment for fun time (glove, bat, tennis racquet, tennis balls, volleyball, etc.)
- Bring a Bible, notebook, pen or pencil.

T-Shirts

Youth Convention T-Shirts will be on sale throughout the weekend at the convention.

AVALON



TO
PERFORM
AT
YOUTH CONVENTION
of OFWB
MAY 17, 2003

Registration

- Registration for the Convention is \$50 per church and is due by May 1, 2003.
- Any registrations received after May 1 or received at the convention are \$75 per church.

Lodging

- Rooms are assigned in the dorms and apartments of Mount Olive College on a first come, first serve basis.
- Guests need to bring their own pillow, blankets, linens, bath towels, and soap.

REGISTRATION FORM

Friday Night

Males

Leaders ___ x \$8 = ___

Cherubs ___ x \$8 = ___

AFCs ___ x \$8 = ___

YFAs ___ x \$8 = ___

Females

Leaders ___ x \$8 = ___

Cherubs ___ x \$8 = ___

AFCs ___ x \$8 = ___

YFAs ___ x \$8 = ___

Saturday Night

Males

Leaders ___ x \$8 = ___

Cherubs ___ x \$8 = ___

AFCs ___ x \$8 = ___

YFAs ___ x \$8 = ___

Females

Leaders ___ x \$8 = ___

Cherubs ___ x \$8 = ___

AFCs ___ x \$8 = ___

YFAs ___ x \$8 = ___

AVALON Concert

The Youth Convention is excited to announce Avalon in concert on Saturday night of the Convention. Tickets must be purchased in advance. The price of tickets to the concert are \$5 per person for churches that register and attend the weekend Convention.

Concert Tickets _____ x \$5 = _____

Scott Lane
Assistant Director, Youth Convention OFWB
1255 NC 581 N.
Pikeville, NC 27863
(919) 736-1423
Email: scottl@icomnet.com
Make check payable to Youth Convention OFWB



These titles can be ordered through the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc. by calling toll free (800) 849-3927 or by visiting one of your local Bible Bookstores (with locations in Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson).

These titles receive a 10% discount.



MY HEART'S CRY
by Anne
Graham Lotz,
(W Publishing,
\$21.99, hardcover).

Jesus intimately opened His heart to His disciples, revealing Himself in a life-changing way that revolutionized their world. The same intensely personal revelation of Jesus that changed the world two thousand years ago can also change your life today.

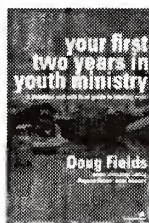
With love and foresight, Jesus poured His life into His disciples preparing them for the trials they would face, the work they would do, and the blessings that would flow to and through them. Those crucial lessons, shared with intensity as the disciples were desperately clinging for more of Jesus at the end of His time on earth, are as important for us today as they were for the disciples so long ago.

In *My Heart's Cry*, gifted Bible teacher and acclaimed revival speaker, Anne Graham Lotz, shows you how saturating your life with more of Jesus can bring you the key to:

- restoring love to your marriage
- finding the antidote to fear
- discovering hope in your grief
- loving others with whom you are totally incompatible
- acquiring the courageous competency to speak out in a doubting world
- making your service to God more fruitful

In this book you'll learn how having more of Jesus in your life leads you into a world of unparalleled privilege: Doors open, angels attend, mountains move, doubts disappear, fears fade.

And the God of the universe bends down to hear what you have to say ... and draws you close to Himself!



YOUR FIRST TWO YEARS IN YOUTH MINISTRY
by Doug Fields,
(Zondervan,
\$14.99, softcover).

Since forever altering the course of the youth ministry world with his best selling, groundbreaking book, *Purpose-Driven Youth Ministry*, Doug Fields' mind—but especially his heart—has been focused on the many unique needs of *new youth workers*.

Doug translated his passion, insight, and vision for his beloved "rookies" into *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry*—hands-down the *most comprehensive companion* to not only surviving, but also *thriving*, during the most crucial phase of youth ministry.

Employing his renowned *wisdom and humor*—as if you and Doug were *chatting over a long, relaxing meal*—the author disarmingly relates stories and principles from his own successes and failures over 20-plus years in youth ministry. In the end, he offers *treasure troves of practical advice*, all in the hope that new youth workers can travel a *smoother path* and achieve *real longevity* in a church culture that all too often *chews them up and spits them out*.

Doug covers all important issues such as:

- Dealing with discouragement
- Establishing a solid spiritual foundation
- Building effective relationships with students
- Resolving conflict
- Ministering to parents and families
- Trailblazing change
- Working with volunteers
- Defining a realistic job description
- and many others!

In addition, a chorus of insightful sidebar voices joins your conversation with Doug, among them ministry

veterans: *Jim Burns, Steve Gerali, Mike Yaconelli, Helen Musick, Chap Clark, Mary Penner, Rick Warren, Jana L. Sundene, Bo Boshers, Duffy Robbins, Tony Campolo, and Richard Ross*, all who've composed extensive, topical essays for each of the dozen chapters.

Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry is a must-have tool for *new youth workers, volunteers, seminary professors and students, senior pastors, elders, church boards*—even veteran youth workers who've been ministering in unstructured environments and are now asking, "What did I miss? What can I still learn?"

The first two years of youth ministry are never easy. But never fear, Doug fervently assures us: "Hang on. Hope's coming!"



THROUGH THE ROCKY ROAD AND INTO THE RAINBOW SHERBET
by Laura Jensen Walker,
(Revell, \$10.99,
softcover).

When the going gets tough, the tough get ice cream.

Whatever life throws her way—from being "dumped" a week before her wedding to breast cancer and menopause—Laura Jensen Walker faces it all with determination, humor, and a big bowl of ice cream.

In *Through the Rocky Road and into the Rainbow Sherbet*, Laura offers her unique take on tough times and stressful days in one funny and flavorful story after another. You'll discover how the bumps in the Rocky Road of life make those creamy and sweet, Rainbow Sherbet days all the more delicious! Walker's delightful insights will leave you wanting a second scoop, as she shares her life—lumps in the ice cream and all—and shows you how God puts the cherry on top, again and again.

Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

by Pepper Worthington

THE DANGER OF JEZEBEL'S DOMINANCE

Introduction

Liz Curtis Higgs' best-selling book has the modern story of Abe Kingsbury and Jasmine echo the Biblical narrative of Ahab and Jezebel. Jezebel is the "bad-to-the-bone woman" whose "pattern of sinning" leads to a "bitter end" (5) because she never sought to change her pattern of choices. Jasmine Kingsbury also faces the complete annihilation of her existence, an echo to Jezebel's fatal fall from the high window of the palace.

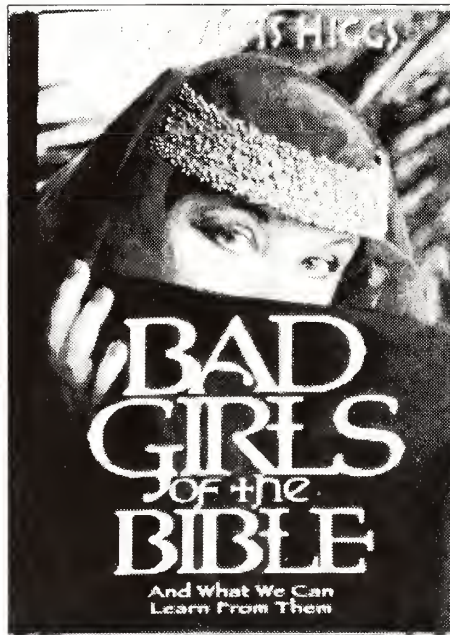
Dominance of Jasmine Kingsbury Over Her Husband Abe

Jasmine Kingsbury discovers that her husband is pouting when he can't get the house next door to his on Dumaine Street in New Orleans. He had offered the owner Nate either money or land exchange for the property, but Nate will not budge. Abe tells his wife Jasmine, "Nate Booth won't sell me his property" (170).

What does Jasmine do? She spins into action, gets the local "parish official who oversees real estate" (171) to forge the deed to Nate Booth's house and garden property, make "perfect duplicates" (172) so she could forge her husband's signature on the deed. Abe gets the land and "blue stucco house" (172) only to discover from a "street preacher" (173) Eddie that Nate killed himself and God will destroy Abe and his queen-of-the-Quarter wife Jasmine. Later Abe is killed "when

Part III:

Liz Curtis Higgs, *Bad Girls of the Bible*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: Waterbrook Press, 1999. pp. 169-188
ISBN 1-57856-125-6. \$12.95



"filled her palace and surrounding worship centers with 450 priests and 400 priestesses of her foreign gods" (177). She then sought to murder the prophets of Israel. Ahab ignored the prophet Elijah and allowed Jezebel to dominate him.

Jezebel's dominance was perhaps rooted in her royal lineage, for she was the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians. She had grown up in a world where the court worshiped Baal and Asherah, "a fertility god and goddess of love" (177)—erotic love, that is.

Jezebel's dominance emerges in her rebuke of Ahab when he pouts after not being able to buy Nathan's vineyard. Jezebel his wife said, "Is this how you act as king over Israel?" (1 Kings 21:7) (NIV). She was not a gentle spirit who sought to increase the strength of her husband. Her dominance led to their deaths.

his carriage ride through the Quarter turned into a deadly encounter with a van load of sightseers" (175). Jasmine too falls from her balcony to her death during a Mardi Gras parade.

Jezebel's Dominance Over Ahab

King Ahab wanted Nabath's "small, verdant vineyard" (179) but could not get him to sell it. Jezebel schemes to wrench the vineyard from Nabath by arranging a betrayal of Nabath at a feast of fasting. This betrayal leads to the stoning-to-death of Nabath.

Jezebel's dominance over Ahab was rooted in her own delight in power. When Elijah warned Ahab that dogs would devour both his blood and his wife Jezebel's blood, Ahab repented for a while. However, Ahab died from an arrow wound and son Ahaziah came to the throne. Worship of Baal continued. Jezebel's dominance continued.

Ahab allowed Jezebel to bring her devotion to Baal into Israel. She

Conclusion

Higgs raises an interesting question regarding the dominance or lust for power of Jezebel: "Why did Ahab allow Jezebel to rule over him?" (188). If Jezebel had been a servant of Jehovah rather than Baal, how would she have been different? Would her faith in the LORD of Israel have made her more submissive, less critical, and free of violence?

Higgs turns to 1 Peter 3:3-4 to stress the better pattern of choice for women who may be tempted to be like jewel-bedecked, dominant Jezebel ... "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight" (NIV).

Christian Art Review

by Michael Warning

Introduction

Every family seeks to reunderstand what has become the family model that of *The Sacred Family*. The important concept of this tile painting is that they are all working together at designated tasks. It has long been known that Joseph by tradition was a carpenter. Thus this is a scene of the family working at a trade.

Artistic Style

The image on the tile has been adapted for use on six tiles, six inches by six inches each. The image of *The Sacred Family* is surrounded by a beautiful stylized floral frame of cobalt blue glaze. This floral design provides not only a frame for the image but also celebrates a flowering of the Gospel prophecy in the life of Jesus.

What Gospel prophecy? A child born of a virgin who claims to be about His Father's business echoes in this image.

The placement of the three figures gives an idea of the emphasis. To the left of center where the eye immediately goes in any visual image is the child Jesus busy at his task. The eye then automatically goes either up or to the right. In both of these locations—up or to the right—the eye is drawn by the line of the saw to Joseph or the line of the spun thread to Mary.

This is clearly a folk painting celebrating the peasant nature of the household of Jesus. The palate of color is limited but is used to full potential to designate the landscape and *The Sacred Family*. Colors are limited to brown, green, yellow, blue, and black.

Why is the background not finished? The artist wanted the eye to

stay in the foreground of the composition.

Symbolism

Symbolically the task and work of the three family members is important. Mary, for example, is using a distaff or an ancient form of drop-spindle which is a common device in the peasant cultures of the Mediterranean and Middle East to this day. Joseph is using a frame saw to cut a beam and this is quite accurate. The artist must have seen these tools.

What do these tools symbolize? The distaff symbolizes the female lineage of the family. In ancient context one would say, "Ah, that is the distaff side of the family." For Joseph we know he is a carpenter by trade. The frame saw and the cutting of the beam symbolize most probably the making of the Cross. The beam that

is being cut would clearly fit through the chiseled opening that the young Jesus is making in the upright post.

The halo around each figure symbolized inherent holiness. The halo around the young Jesus has an additional embellishment like that of the saw.

Conclusion

In this ornament that is often placed outside the front door of a Portuguese house, we see an idealized sacred family. The real importance of the image is its designation of the house as being the *house of a Christian family*. Holiness is contagious. Although this is not a commonplace tradition for Original Free Will Baptists, what is there about our own homes that might designate them as Christian homes?



Source: Tile design of *The Sacred Family at Work* from Lisbon, Portugal. Artist unknown.

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These announcements will run for two consecutive months.
A resubmission will be required to continue.

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Ayden, NC 28513.

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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST



APRIL 2003

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines a foundation as, "the basis on which a thing stands, is founded, or is supported." This can apply to houses, institutions, and even people. Recently, the foundation of my house was completed. My wife and I have been anxiously and nervously awaiting this beginning. The foundation of this house is extremely important in determining how long it will stand up to the test of time. Its strength will help determine how well it stands against all the storms and weathering it will have to endure. People are much the same way. If we don't have a good foundation, how will we stand against all the weathers of life? One can see quite a bit of hardship, pain, and suffering during a lifetime. If we don't have a good, solid foundation—in Jesus Christ—how can we see our way through with our sanity and morals intact? There are different paths that can so easily, and sometimes do, lead us astray. There are however, weapons available to us to help see us through. The Bible, prayer, and faith are very important weapons that can see us through any of life's

battles—if we will use them. The Bible has in it the wisdom, the hope, the security we need to counter the fiery darts Satan sends our way. Prayer strengthens our hope and security and keeps our mind on Jesus; faith binds it all together—for without faith, the rest is no good to us.

The Bible, aside from our own personal or group study, is also taught to us through preaching and Sunday School. Here at the "Press" we have been producing "Free Will Baptist" Sunday School literature for years. Beginning with the fall 2003 quarter our literature will be branded "Foundation Curriculum." This name and logo reflects not only our identity as Original Free Will Baptists but also a portion of our company name, Foundation—and this foundation is Jesus Christ! Look for this logo on our Sunday School curriculum this fall. We feel confident that what we are producing is pleasing in God's sight. We hope you will agree.



"THEY HAVE THEIR REWARD"

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

Some of Jesus' most stern words were spoken to the so-called religious leaders of that day—the scribes and the Pharisees. In Matthew 23, He called them hypocrites and strongly condemned their pretentious practices of claiming to be something they were not.

Much earlier, however, as recorded in Christ's Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:1-8) He cited the ostentation of the Pharisees. Simply expressed, Jesus rejected their religious practices of "putting on a show" to be seen of men. Twice in this passage we find the phrase, "they have their reward." This was spoken in reference to their alms-giving and their praying.

Jesus said, "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen by them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father, which is in heaven" (v. 1). Alms is simply the carrying out of righteous acts, particularly relating to helping the poor. Although such acts were seen by others, that must not be the underlying motive. With the sounding of trumpets, the hypocrites proclaimed their false charity—to be seen of men. Jesus declared, "They have their reward" (v. 2). When the praise and rewards of others becomes the motivating factor, that is the reward. Properly motivated acts of righteousness bring reward from the Father.

Again Jesus said, "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward" (v. 5). God does not reward such pre-

tentious praying. In Verses 6-7, Jesus spoke about praying to God in secret, and He warned against vain repetitions. Prayers must be addressed to God who is unseen. When prayers are directed to men, God does not reward. In praying we are not heard for our "much speaking."

In view of Jesus' teachings in these two important areas, as well as other areas of Christian service and worship, we must ask ourselves, "Why am I doing this and who am I trying to impress, or please?" If we seek the praise of others to the exclusion of glorifying God in our prayers as Jesus taught in the Model Prayer of Matthew 6:9-13; if we sing, preach, teach, give, etc. for the applause of men, we have our reward. And such rewarding soon fades.

It is appropriate at times, however, to compliment others for an act of kindness, a job well done, a beautiful rendition of a favorite song, a well delivered sermon, for devotedness in Christian service, or whatever it may be. Our inward response, even if not verbally expressed, is to give glory to

God, with a deep feeling of gratitude that He has chosen us to be a blessing to others. Thus, we "have our reward in heaven." While we should desire to be used of God, we are not in the entertainment business in spite of the exalted opinion we may have of ourselves. May we serve Him faithfully so that at the end of this earthly sojourn, we will hear those words, "... Well done, thou good and faithful servant: ... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Matthew 25:21).

Reflections

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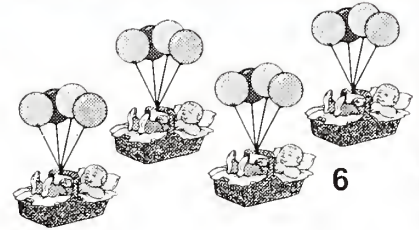
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POWER VERSE

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his
presence with singing . . . For the LORD is good; his
mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth
to all generations (Psalm 100:1-2, 5).

Easter

The Most Important Question in the Life of Jesus—And In Ours

Reflections on the Meaning of Easter

by W. Burkette Raper

Who do men say that I the Son of Man am? ... Who do you say that I am? (Matthew 6:13, 15 NKJV).

Who was Jesus? That was the watershed question Jesus put to His disciples. That is also the watershed question life puts to us. Deciding who Jesus was—and is—is the most decisive question we will ever confront, for our answer will determine the course of our lives. The purpose of this message is to help each of us search out our answer.

The Lenten Season

In the calendar of the church, the six-week period—forty days—before Easter is called Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday and culminates on Easter Sunday. The term comes from an old English word meaning “spring.” For Christians, Lent is a call to spiritual renewal. It is a recall of the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and praying. For His followers, it is a time for self-denial, confession of sins, and repentance.

The expression “repent in dust and ashes” came home to me some years ago when I was in Boston for an education convention. After the meetings one afternoon, I went to a well-known department store to buy a present for my wife. The clerk was exceptionally courteous and helpful in my making a selection. As she handed me my beautifully wrapped present with a smile, I thought to return her kindness by telling her she had a smudge on her forehead. Very gracefully she replied, “Today is Ash Wednesday and I have just returned from Mass.” So much for a young, southern Protestant minister who had much to learn—and still does!

The observance of Lent had its beginning in the early centuries of the Church, but many of the Protestant

reformers threw out traditional practices that were not specifically mentioned in the Bible. They wanted to emphasize that the source of authority was the Bible and not the traditions and councils of the Church. To them, Lent smacked of Catholicism, and for centuries many Protestant churches wanted no part of it.

It was not until I entered college in the mid-1940s that I recall ever having heard of Lent. It was about this period of time that Free Will Baptist churches began to observe a “Week of Prayer,” focused on the final week of Jesus’ ministry. As has often been the case, the Woman’s Auxiliary—the known as the Ladies Aid Society—led the way for the spiritual enrichment of our Church.

In 1947, Mrs. Alice Lupton of St. Mary’s Church in New Bern wrote a little book entitled *Footprints of Jesus in His Last Week*, which was used for many years in “Pre-Easter Week of Prayer” observances. It was a day by day summary in which she traced the steps of Jesus through Holy Week, beginning with His triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, His cleansing of the Temple on Monday, His confrontation with Pharisees and Sadducees on Tuesday, a day at Bethany with His disciples on Wednesday, the institution of the Lord’s Supper on Thursday, His Crucifixion on Friday, and His Resurrection on Sunday.

This emphasis upon the last week of Jesus’ ministry is consistent with the view of the Gospel writers—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—who considered these days so important that they devoted from one-third to one-half of their account of the life of Jesus to His final week. These were the days that changed the world, and from my college days until now I have felt constrained to approach Holy Week with

deep spiritual sensitivity. Some of my most memorable spiritual experiences have been during these days.

Some Personal Experiences During Holy Week

I was blessed to be on the campus of Duke University during Holy Week for seven years, and I have never forgotten the large wood cross that was erected each year in front of the chapel. As I passed in the shadow of that cross on my way to and from class, the words inscribed on it became permanently etched on my mind and in my heart: “Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?” (Lamentations 1:12 NKJV).

Then, in the chapel I attended my first Good Friday service. It lasted for three hours, from 12 noon until 3 P.M., representing the final hours of Jesus on the Cross. Included in the service were Scriptures, prayers, music, and a meditation upon each of Jesus’ words from the Cross.

His prayer for those who crucified Him: *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do* (Luke 23:34).

His promise to the repentant thief: *Today, you will be with me in paradise* (Luke 23:43 NKJV).

His charge to the Apostle John to care for His mother, *Woman, behold your son ... behold your mother!* (John 19:26–27 NKJV).

His cry of loneliness: *My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?* (Mark 15:34, Matthew 27:46 NKJV).

His cry of physical agony: *I thirst* (John 19:28).

(Continued on next page)

His prayer of commitment: *Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit* (Luke 23:46).

His cry of victory: *It is finished* (John 19:30).

Another Holy Week experience was in 1973 when my wife and I were in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We attended an outdoor service in a garden and were seated facing an open tomb, believed to be the site where the burial and Resurrection of Jesus took place. Christians from around the world were there, and it was a moving experience to join in the familiar hymns, with each singing in his own tongue but all in the same tune. The service concluded with Communion, with people of many nations receiving emblems of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus. We all felt a part of each other, but our unity was not in language, culture, nationality, race or denomination, but in Christ.

Following this service, we went to the Mount of Olives where a Palestinian Christian boy showed us his church, the Chapel of All Nations, and invited us into his modest home to meet his family and to enjoy refreshments. I have often wondered what happened to this boy—did he become a casualty in the conflict of his people with Israel?

While on the Mount of Olives, we saw the large gathering of people in distinctive colors as they re-enacted the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey which represented the common people rather than on a camel, the transportation of the rich. It was a beautiful and inspiring scene to watch the children wave their palm branches and to hear sounds of joy as the procession crossed the Kidron Valley and entered the Holy City.

Good Friday of that week found us in the eternal city of Rome. That evening we went to an outdoor service on the "Stations of the Cross." Each station represented a place where Jesus was carried on the night of His betrayal and arrest, including the palace of Pilate and the other stations on the road to the Cross; the site of His Crucifixion. Thousands of people from many

nations watched as the procession reached the ruins of the Colosseum, where Christians of the first century were fed to lions. With a lighted cross in the background, the Pope spoke in several languages, but the message I remember most was that on the ruins of the Colosseum—the pride of those who tried to stamp out Christianity—the Church was now celebrating the victory of the Christian faith over evil and death. The outcome between Jesus and those who tried to destroy Him hinged on who He was.

A pivotal moment in Jesus' teaching of His disciples took place at Caesarea Philippi when He asked them: "Who do men say that I am ... Who do you say that I am?" Was Jesus only a prophet, even the greatest of the prophets? In the words of Simon Peter He was "The Christ, the Son of the Living God." And on this truth, "this rock," declared Jesus, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell (or death) will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:15–18 paraphrased).

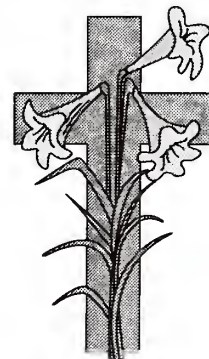
The key question when Jesus stood before the Jewish court on trial for His life had been, "Are you the Christ?" (Luke 22:67 paraphrased). It was because He said He was that the Jewish leaders insisted upon His being put to death. Also, when Jesus stood in the Roman Court, Pilate had wanted to know if He was the Messiah, the one whom he equated with being the "King of the Jews." Poor Pilate, who claimed to have the power to release or send Jesus to His death, did not even have the strength to stand for what he knew was right. Although he represented the might of the Roman Empire, he did not have the might to stand by his own convictions about Jesus. The annual Good Friday services on the ruins of the Colosseum in Rome are a clear declaration of who Jesus was—and is!

Although I have been blessed with many other deeply moving Holy Week experiences, I will mention only one more. In 1962, I was working on a graduate degree in higher education at Florida State University, and for the Easter weekend my wife and I took our children to Saint Augustine, the oldest city in the United States. On Easter morning, we attended the sunrise service at the fort on the Atlantic Ocean

which had been built in 1565 as a defense against enemies that might attack from the sea. As we watched the sun rise above the water that morning, I was overwhelmed with the awareness that there was no power on earth that could hold it back—all the armies, tanks and guns; all the navies, ships and submarines; all the planes on land or in the air; all the power of man and his technology; all these combined could not have restrained the sun one second. We were witnessing the power of God in the physical universe.

In an even greater way, the power of God is manifested in the Resurrection of Jesus—the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God. What is more, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is given to those who believe in Him, so that we are raised from spiritual death. The Apostle Paul expressed this truth in these words: "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better ... his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead ..." (Ephesians 1:17, 19–20 NIV).

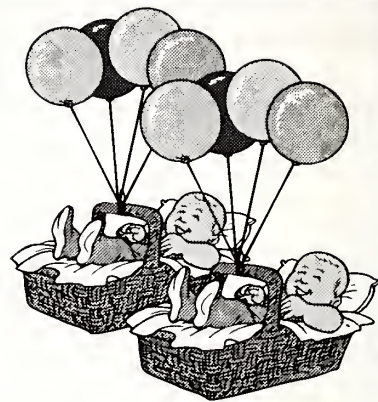
The message of Easter is that we do not have to go through life downcast, depressed, discouraged, and defeated. We do not have to face death with fear. The Ultimate Power of the universe which raised Jesus from the dead is available to us if we believe in Him. Who was Jesus? Let the Roman centurion who supervised His Crucifixion tell us: "Truly, this [man] was the Son of God" (Matthew 27:54). Who was Jesus? It is the most decisive question that will ever confront us, and our life will depend upon our answer.





Blessings by the Basketful

by Elaine Swinson



Thump! Thump! Thump! Thump! Tiny heartbeats resounded in a joyful musical symphony announcing their presence to their awestruck parents, Melanie and Drew Edwards. As they tightly held each other's hands, the doctor pronounced that the long awaited presence of life had exploded into a bucketful of blessings with the signature sounds of not one, but *four* little babies.

Seven years of expectation had crept away in disappointment as Melanie and Drew prayed for a child to complete their hopes and dreams. All of their friends began to proudly send out birth announcements and display pictures of rosy cheeked angels at the drop of a hat. With heavy hearts they pasted on smiles and shared in their joy, attending baby showers and christening ceremonies by the dozen. Sitting alone, with empty arms and unshed tears, they realized that their happiness would never be complete until they had a baby of their own. As children of God, Melanie and Drew realized that only He could supply them the true answer to their prayers. Caring friends and family became members of a praying army, mighty in strength and number. Their prayers began with thanksgiving and ended with a desire for the Lord's will to be accepted with grace and the knowledge that all things are possible with Him.

Happiness, thankfulness, and complete shock were only preliminary reactions to the news that they were going to be the parents of four babies at one time. Questions and concern filled the room as they consulted with

the doctor. Would Melanie, who was only 110 pounds, be able to carry and deliver four healthy babies? Where would they put four babies in a house not built to accommodate that many cribs? How would they be able to afford to feed and clothe four babies? What would they do about their cars that would not even hold four babies?

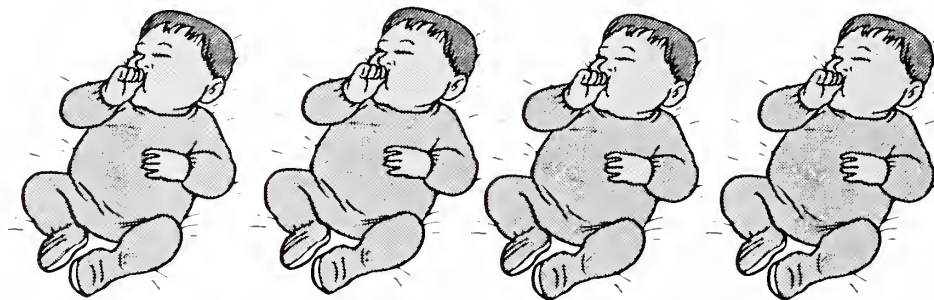
The Reverend Harold and Elaine Swinson, Melanie's parents, are the future grandparents of these four little blessings. After recovering from the initial shock of the announcement, Grandma and Granddaddy have commissioned prayers from everyone they meet. Waitresses, bank tellers, salespeople, and repairmen are only a few of the strangers who have been informed of

the upcoming birth of their grandchildren.

It is the fervent desire of Melanie and Drew that each person reading this article would participate in the joint efforts of their

family and friends to remember them and their babies each day in prayer. As Christians, they believe that all their needs will be met through the loving care of those who share in their joy.

If you would like to correspond with Melanie and Drew, their address and phone number is as follows: Melanie and Drew Edwards, 4814 Dillard Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606, phone (919) 233-4590. Melanie is home bound at present on bed rest, until she will be required to enter Duke Hospital to wait for the birth of the babies that hopefully will occur in April.





MAKING A DIFFERENCE—SHARING THE LIGHT

Matthew 5:16

As I look around at our communities, state, and nation, I believe that opportunities and challenges have never been greater.

The needs of people and our churches have changed. Some of our churches are facing hard times from the lack of people and finances. I would like to let you know that we have programs that may help you and your church. Feel free to call us, and we will be more than glad to talk with you.

It is our goal to start new missions and, even at this time, we are looking at two areas of interest. When a mission becomes a church, not only does the community and its people benefit but also each of our ministries from the support that they will be receiving from the churches.

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 for a lifetime.

Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support that will enable us to *Make a Difference* and *Share the Light* with those that are in need.

May God Bless,
Dr. James R. Owens
Executive Director



Good Shepherd Sunday

April 27, 2003

Pray and Give
for
Home Missions
and Evangelism

GUIDE FOR WEEK OF PRAYER

April 21-27, 2003

Monday, April 21

- Sunrise Landing Mission/Church, Point Harbor, North Carolina
- The Rev. Everette Harper, Director/Pastor of Sunrise Landing
- America, State by State
- GOOD SHEPHERD Sunday, April 27, Offering Goal \$80,000

Tuesday, April 22

- Living Faith Mission/Church, Landis, North Carolina
- The Rev. Wayne Watson, Director/Pastor of Mooresville
- Board of Directors for Home Missions and Evangelism
- Dr. James R. Owens, Executive Director
- GOOD SHEPHERD Sunday, April 27, Offering Goal \$80,000

Wednesday, April 23

- Lao Evangelical Church of America (H'mong people—CA, MN, NC, NV, UT, OR)
- Dr. James Kee Moua, President of Lao Evangelical Church
- H'mong Youth Camps in 2003, California and North Carolina
- Dr. A. Graham Lane, Assistant to the Executive Director
- GOOD SHEPHERD, Sunday, April 27, Offering Goal \$80,000

Thursday, April 24

- Church Planting, Church Growth
- Harvest Connection Programs
- Touching Lives Corps Groups—as they will be doing summer field work
- Laura A. Monroe, Administrative Assistant
- GOOD SHEPHERD, Sunday, April 27, Offering Goal \$80,000

Friday, April 25

- Charity Mission/Church, Whiteville, North Carolina, and Columbus County
- The Rev. Shelton Cribb, Director/Pastor of Charity
- OFWB Commission on Scouting
- The Harvest, Laborers, Revival
- The many Home Missions volunteers
- GOOD SHEPHERD, Sunday, April 27, Offering Goal \$80,000

Saturday, April 26

- Cambodian, Thai, Lao Mission/Church, Moreno Valley, California
- The Rev. Kittu Rojratanakiat, Director/Pastor of Cambodia Mission/Church
- Mobile Ministry—The events using our tent this season and Ministry Teams
- The Rev. Tim Heath—Special Ministries Coordinator volunteer
- GOOD SHEPHERD, Sunday, April 27, Offering goal \$80,000

Good Shepherd Sunday, April 27

- Continued Prayer and Support for:
 - New fields and missionaries in North Carolina and across America
 - Evangelism and Church Planting
 - Disaster Relief Program and Project Kids Kare
 - Christian Literature, Scripture Distribution and Jesus Video Project
- The Ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism
- Original Free Will Baptists as "We Touch Lives For A Lifetime."

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 or
assistant@fwbhommisions.org

H'MONG YOUTH CAMP EXPERIENCE

by A. Graham Lane and Zang Leng Thao



Youth who were baptized at the 2002 Youth Camp.

It has been my pleasure to experience many things in my lifetime, but one in particular that will always stand out is the first week of August each year as God directs the assemblies of many teenagers for the H'Mong Youth Camp at Heavenly Hills Church Youth Camp.

As these teenagers are taught during this week, God greatly blesses everyone who is present. I will never forget the experience that I shared with many others at camp in August 2002. There were 155 youth and a good number of workers and teachers in camp.

Friday of that week is baptism time for those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. As we gathered at the riverbank, there were 55 candidates for baptism—first time converts. It will always be a special day for me to be a part of this great occasion.

The youth camp for the H'Mong in North Carolina is the first week in June. Approximately 125 will attend this camp. Also many return to their churches for baptism.

You and your church can also share in this great endeavor by sponsoring a needy child. Home Missions and Evangelism provides a \$50 scholarship to the youth who could not otherwise attend without a scholarship. Please offer your assistance in this worthy cause. If you send a child, and that child accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, then you have become a Soul Winner.

Again, we ask you to pray with us and provide a scholarship for these needy children that they, like ours, will have the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Will you help?

For further information, please call A. Graham Lane at (252) 637-9638 or the Home Missions office at (252) 746-4963.



CHALLENGE JUNE 30

by Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support

DAY OF SEMINARS AND ENTERTAINMENT PLANNED

Mount Olive College is having one of its most successful years ever. We are serving more students than ever before, and we are improving our academic programs. However, challenges exist like never before. We have worked hard on our financial stability during the last two years, and have made much progress. We are now approaching a benchmark with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), our accrediting agency. Because of our need to demonstrate our financial stability with SACS, we are looking beyond just having a balanced budget—we must have a significant positive fund balance.

We must strengthen our position; however, there are situations that we do not control. Even with increased gift support, two thirds of this year's total support is in restricted funds and not credited to the operating budget. Also, the economy has greatly affected our endowment earnings. A large number of military has been deployed to the Persian Gulf, reducing our enrollment at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and a good source of revenue. Along with these facts, God has placed us in eastern North Carolina where the following information plays a significant role.

- More than 90% of our students come from eastern North Carolina
- More than \$1.8 million is provided in scholarships
- Free Will Baptist Tuition Grants and FWB ministerial grants are more than \$116,000, in addition to the academic and other scholarships these same students receive
- One-third of our traditional student body has an annual family income of \$18,000
- The average family income of our traditional student body is \$38,000

We have evaluated the first six months of operation, and we are putting everything in place that we can to end the year with a positive balance; however, this is a crucial and challenging year for the College. While we still have time in this fiscal year, we are seeking help from our most loyal supporters, Free Will Baptists, the ones to whom God gave a vision and entrusted this ministry of Christian higher education that would serve the Church and eastern North Carolina.

To help assure our financial standing, in the midst of so many uncertainties, we are working with all our constituents to raise \$1 million in operating funds. Through this article and other contacts we are seeking \$100,000 from Free Will Baptists by June 30. To help meet this goal, we ask that each Free Will Baptist Church prayerfully consider sending a special offering to the College prior to June 30 in the amount of \$7 per member. Individual gifts and church gifts should be earmarked: "Challenge June 30," and sent to Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. God has already provided all the resources we need to adequately do the work He has called us to do. We earnestly ask for your prayers that our people will respond as God speaks to their hearts.

Our Convention President, the Rev. Fred Baker, has said, "God has entrusted Mount Olive College to Free Will Baptists and opportunities come with trust. When we support the College, it is more than simply giving a gift. It is an opportunity to make an investment in the future, a big investment and a solid investment in the life of a person."

Mount Olive College has an action packed day planned for Saturday, April 5. The event is being called the Mount Olive College Community Appreciation Day. According to Dalton Proctor, the event coordinator, "The main objective is to open the campus to the people and businesses in Wayne, Duplin, Sampson, and surrounding counties. It is our way of saying 'thank you' for the support that the College has received over the past 50 years."

The kick off for the day's activities will take place at 9:30 A.M. in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center with a keynote address by Lieutenant Governor, Beverly Perdue who will address the economic climate in North Carolina. Following Perdue's remarks, attendees can select to attend one of several seminars in the areas of leadership, human resources, teamwork, etc. Tom Buffkin, president of Franklin Baking Company will address the group at 11 A.M. Mike Turner, vice president of operations support with Sam's Club is scheduled to speak immediately following lunch at 12:20 P.M. Lunch will be provided and will conclude the morning session.

On the athletics front, the Mount Olive College Trojans will face Erskine College for two seven-inning games starting at noon.

Free Spirit, the College's seven member, all male gospel group, will perform at 1:30 P.M. in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center and will start the afternoon of family entertainment and activities. At 2 P.M. there will be a youth talent show. Interested participants are encouraged to pre-register by contacting Jennifer Ricks at (919) 658-2502. A variety of mini sports camps including soccer and basketball

(Continued on next page)

will be offered by MOC coaching professionals. For a complete list of camps and to pre-register to attend, call Darlene Camacho at (919) 658-2502.

Other activities planned for the day include campus tours, an antique car show, an exhibition by Ducks Unlimited, and a lawn and garden show. These activities will take place on the

campus grounds from 2 P.M. until 5 P.M.

At 5:30 P.M. the Mount Olive College Singers will perform in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center.

"Bring your family, bring a friend, bring a business partner, we have something planned for everyone," Proctor stated. "This is the first event

of this kind at Mount Olive College and we are excited to showcase our beautiful campus to the public," he continued.

All activities are free and the public is invited to attend. For more information about Mount Olive College Community Appreciation Day, contact Dalton Proctor at (919) 658-2502.

NEW SUMMER SCHOOL FORMAT ANNOUNCED

by Erin Pritchard

Summer classes at Mount Olive College are taking on a new look this year.

Students can choose from 22 online courses and 5 computer competency courses, in addition to several 2 and 4-hour classroom sessions offered throughout the week. History, criminal justice, English, and accounting are among the available classes.

"Mount Olive College has made the summer classes convenient to the schedules of both traditional and non-traditional students," says Dr. Ellen Jordan, vice president for academic affairs.

Three sessions are being offered during the summer months. The first session begins on May 5 and ends June 8.

The second begins on June 9 and lasts until July 13, and the third session begins on July 14 and ends on August 17.

Seymour Johnson Air Force Base is offering two summer sessions. A "mini-May" session is scheduled from May 5 to May 30. The regular session is from June 2 until July 26.

Traditional students who wish to go home for the summer can continue their studies online. Currently enrolled students, visiting students, and those wanting to get an early start on their college career can enroll in summer courses.

For more information, contact Dr. Jordan at (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

HAS MODERN SCIENCE DISCOVERED GOD?

Mount Olive College announces a lecture on the relationship of science and religion to be held Monday, April 14, at 7 P.M. in Rodgers Chapel. The subject will be: "Has Modern Science Discovered God?" presented by Dr. Michael Corey.

Corey will advance the idea that astronomers and physicists have uncovered reason to wonder if "a supercalculating intellect has been at work in the universe" from its beginnings to the present. He has published widely in the area of the relationship between the physical sciences and religion including several dozen articles on such diverse subjects as "Charles Darwin's Ideas about Evolution," "The Biblical Job and Problem of Evil," and the "Theistic Implications of Modern Cosmology." His most recent work is entitled *The God Hypothesis: Discovering Design in Our "Just Right" Goldilocks Universe*.

Corey holds a Ph.D. in the philosophy of science and religion, another Ph.D. in the psychology of religion, and has studied toward the M.D. degree.

The lecture is made possible by the Barrow Family Endowed Fund for Christian Ministries as a memorial to John Owen Barrow and Ida Harrison Barrow and in honor and in memory of their children.

The public is invited to attend the lecture at no charge.

PHI BETA LAMBDA OFFICERS INSTALLED



Mount Olive College recently installed its newest officers of Phi Beta Lambda at a service in Rodgers Chapel.

Pictured (L-R) back row: Juane Schutte, parliamentarian; Jaime Massengill, secretary; and Greg McDermott, reporter. Front row: Jessica Murphy, president, from Stoney Creek FWB Church in Wayne County; Joy Daughtry, treasurer, from Westside FWB Church in Lenoir County; Rebecca Whitley, historian; and Robin Kornegay, vice president. Eighteen new members were also inducted into the organization.

Phi Beta Lambda (PBL), one of the oldest student organizations at Mount Olive College, is a national association for future business leaders. The association promotes education and unity among members and business majors. It is an integral part of the instructional program and promotes a sense of civic and personal responsibility.

THOMPSON ENJOYS THE MOC EXPERIENCE



"Mount Olive College is striving to make the educational experience pleasant and meaningful for all students, both young and old," states Christy Thompson of Benson.

A senior biology major, Thompson is winding up her days at Mount Olive College, where she is earning her bachelor of applied science degree in biology.

Thompson graduated from South Johnston High School in 1996. After a few years of searching for the "right college," she enrolled in Johnston Community

College and earned her associate of applied science degree in radiological technology. She decided to further her education at Mount Olive College not only because of the small student/faculty ratio, but also because of the financial aid and other scholarships that she would be able to receive.

Thompson works as a radiological and ultrasound technologist at Wayne Radiologists in Goldsboro. Her duties include performing x-rays and ultrasounds, among other tasks.

"It is very difficult to work and be a full-time student, but it is possible," she says. "My mother earned her degree from MOC with two screaming girls. It is just a matter of setting goals and priorities."

Despite her busy schedule, Thompson has found the time to sing in the MOC Concert Choir, participate in Tri-Beta, the biological honor society, and serve actively in her church.

Thompson has attended St. Mary's Grove Church for ten years. She teaches Sunday school and children's church, and

is a member of the Young Women's Circle.

"My church members are unbelievably supportive," she states. "It is great that my church is affiliated with the College, because I am an example of where their financial support is going."

Thompson will graduate in May. After graduation, she plans to continue working at Wayne Radiology and eventually pursue her master's degree. "But I would really like to take a nice vacation," she adds.

"I want to eventually spend time in the classroom. I've watched my mother and other great educators and have seen the difference they have made, and I want to be part of that," she states. "I would like for my degree to place me in a radiology or ultra sound classroom."

But, of course, the vacation comes first.

Thompson is the daughter of Terry and Patsy Thompson of Benson. Her mother graduated from MOC in 1991 with a bachelor of applied science degree in business management.

GOOD TURNOUT FOR CHURCH



Youth from White Oak Grove Church in Lenoir County are shown with their pastor, the Rev. Greg Stancil.



Jim Dilda (left) youth leader from Marsh Swamp Church, and Stephen Hill (right) youth leader at Shady Grove Church are shown receiving MOC T-shirts from Tim Woodard (center) for 3-point shot competition among the churches.

According to Tim Woodard, director of admissions, approximately 43 churches and 600 people attended the annual Church Night at Mount Olive College. Church Night is an annual basketball event held at the College for Free Will Baptist churches and their youth. Pine Level Free Will Baptist Church had 68 people, the largest number in attendance from one church.

"This was the biggest church night we have had yet," Woodard remarked. "Over the past 20 years we have had over 8,000 FWB to attend Church Night representing 600 churches," he continued.

COMING EVENTS

U.S. Army Field Band

Tuesday, April 1 • Time TBA • College Hall
The U.S. Army Field Band, a 54-piece ensemble, has been performing for over 50 years throughout the country. The band performs a variety of music and will have something for everyone.

Spring Fling

Mount Olive College Singers
Thursday, April 3 • 7 P.M.
Mount Olive Historic Assembly Hall • 205 Wooten Street, Mount Olive, NC
The theme for this year's event will be "Musical Kaleidoscope" and will feature a mix of oldies

and Broadway tunes, as well as Latin and African music performed by the famous Mount Olive College Singers, under the direction of Dr. Larry Oldham.

Mount Olive College Appreciation Day

Saturday, April 5 • 9 A.M. • Mount Olive College campus

The morning sessions of the first Mount Olive College Appreciation Day will feature seminars and lectures open to all eastern North Carolina professionals and business leaders. In the afternoon, MOC will host a variety of fun-filled activities for the family including a talent show, children's crafts, antique car show, musical performances, lawn and garden show, and more. Reservations required for morning sessions. Contact Dalton Proctor at (919) 658-2502.

Project EAST: A Music and Literary Festival

featuring writers and musicians of Eastern North Carolina

April 9-10 • 7:30 P.M. • Rodgers Chapel

The event will feature readings and musical performances from local authors and musicians. Among the scheduled guests are Dr. Jim Clark, author of *Dancing on Canaan's Ruins*, and musician Chris Brown. For more information, contact Dorothy Whitley at (919) 658-2502.

Spring Concert

MOC Concert Choir
Friday, April 25 • 7:30 P.M. • First Baptist Church • 300 N. Chestnut, Mount Olive

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir will perform Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* as its feature, which will include orchestral accompaniment and soloists. The choir, under the direction of Dr. Alan Armstrong, will also perform choral works by Randall Thompson, Robert Shaw, and others.



TWO NEW GROUPS OF WOMEN

by Tezdjan

In my study of "Church Doctrine" I learned to know the word "apologetics." I could not imagine that the main part of my new work with the women would involve me in apologetics. They finally came to trust us after ten years of working among them. This is only a beginning; still, a lot of work has to be done. Some of these women come to the meetings with a very reserved attitude. Christ is known as the God of Bulgarians! Every attempt to believe in their God, Jesus Christ, is to pretend to be what you are not—a Bulgarian—though all of us are Bulgarian citizens. In one of the meetings, I noticed that when speaking of Christ some felt unpleasant. I told them that Bulgarians as well as Poles, Greek, even a few Arabs believe in a Lord who was circumcised at the time that he lived on earth. I told them that Jesus perhaps in His appearance looked more like a Gypsy than a European, because He had a darker complexion.

Speaking about doctrines and explaining difficult theology is not attractive to them. What they love to hear are the parables of the lost son, poor Lazarus, and about the rich man who prepared a banquet, about angels and the devil and their activities in our world.

We are thankful to the Lord for everything we are able to do for His name to be praised. We also thank all of you. It is a blessing to know you and that we are able to serve together with you in the power of Christ our Lord.



REVIVAL SERVICES—PHILIPPINES



The Central District Worker's conduct a revival at Puerto Church Puerto-Princessa City, Palawan. Our speaker was the Rev. Andrino Segay. This was a tremendous moment because the workers were happy in serving

Him. Plans of the District were successfully done through the help of our Lord and Savior. Prayer is our weapon in our lives as Christians.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the Short-Term Teams to Mexico this year.

May 27–June 1: A team from the Holly Springs Church, Newport, NC will travel to Camp Morelos in Mexico for a wilderness camp.

June 14–22, June 28–July 6, July 12–20: These teams will work in Saltillo, a larger city approximately six hours from the border. The teams will be involved in DVBS, women's work and construction of a new church building to replace the shell building now used by the Elsiani Church.

August 2–11: This team will participate in the annual camp for our Mexican families at Camp Morelos.

Special Note:

Now is the time to apply for the 2004 Short-Term Teams.

Philippines
April 17–May 2

Mexico
June 12–19
June 26–July 3
July 10–17
August 7–15, Camp Morelos

For more information, contact:
OFWB International
(Foreign Missions)
PO Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-4963



CHILDREN VISIT STONEY CREEK

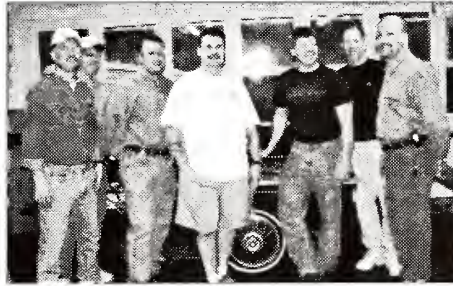
On February 22, 2003, Crusaders for Christ Class of Stoney Creek Church, Goldsboro, NC hosted a dinner and activities for the children. The children arrived at the church in the afternoon and were greeted by the Sunday School class members.

The children were invited to the "Big House" to play games which included pool, video games, table tennis, and time for fellowship and fun.

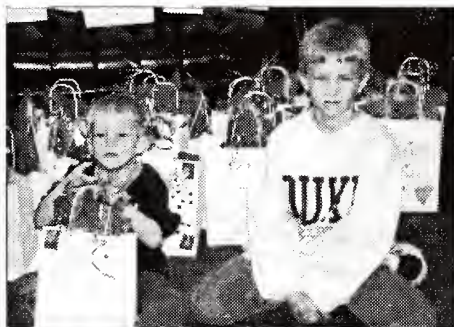
Some children enjoyed playing BINGO where they could win stuffed animals, CDs, disposable cameras, jewelry, and other items our children enjoy having.

The men of the church cooked hotdogs and hamburgers for our group.

We would like to thank the members of Stoney Creek for their hospitality and sharing God's love with our residents. We had a great time and look forward to visiting again.



ROSE OF SHARON AUXILIARY



On February 21, Rose of Sharon delivered goodie bags of snacks and pencils for the children. The bags were decorated by the youth during children's church. The Ladies Auxiliary sponsored the activity. THANK YOU for remembering us.

CHANGE FOR CHILDREN 2003

We began our sixth year of the "Change For Children" campaign. Our previous five years have been a huge success thanks to you and many Free Will Baptists who saved their change for the children. The "Change For Children" campaign has increased awareness of our child-care ministry and generated financial support for crucial months during the summer. This year, we would again like to encourage our churches to begin in the month of May by inviting everyone to save their change. In April, your church will receive information, collection bags, and bulletin inserts.

We request that you:

- Pray for the Children's Home ministry.
- Encourage each family in your church to save their change during Children's Home Month. We will provide change bags for everyone.
- Designate a Sunday in May as Children's Home Sunday.
- Support the Children's Home in this campaign.

This opportunity will:

- Encourage families to work together collecting their change.
- Provide youth and new members the opportunity to learn about the Children's Home.
- Increase awareness of your child-care ministry.
- Increase financial support from churches.

Please keep our ministry in your prayers, as we continue to serve more children and families. The support you give us makes a difference in the lives of children. Thank you for caring and sharing.



MOTEL TO GET A FACE-LIFT

The Cragmont motel will be getting a major face-lift this spring.

This project began last summer when several camp counselors started talking about doing some work on the building. Their idea was that several churches work to raise the money and then teams from these churches come up and actually do the work.

When all the work is finished, there will be new plumbing fixtures, windows, doors, heat and air conditioning units, and new bedding. These new additions will make the building available all year.

A big "Thank You" to these Greene County churches who took on this project: Ormondsville, Friendship, Howell Swamp, Little Creek, Spring Branch, King's Cross Roads, and Free Union.

Youth Frontier Conference AFC Week June 30–July 5, 2003

Come join the excitement of AFC week this year. AFC Conference at Cragmont is for youth ages 8–12. This year our week will be filled with Bible study, games, activities, music, and lots and lots of fun. The cost is \$225 for the week. To make sure you are one of those who attend AFC week, mail your application and a \$100 registration fee as soon as possible. Letters explaining what you need to carry to camp will be sent when your application fee is received.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Age: _____

Church: _____

Please mail this registration form along with a \$100 deposit to:

AFC Conference
c/o Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513

Woman's Conferences

June 2–7

Sheryll Wood, Speaker

July 28–August 2

Carolyn Jernigan, Speaker

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Church: _____

Which Conference Attending: _____

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

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

Mail this registration form along with a \$20 deposit to: Teresa M. Ball, 6144 Weyerhaeuser Rd., Grifton, NC 28530; A balance of \$140 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont. Make checks payable to: Cragmont Woman's Conference.

There will be afternoon trips to Black Mountain and Asheville for \$10 each. A train excursion/dinner outing is planned for Wednesday for \$70. Please check _____ if you plan to go on the train ride so we can make reservations.

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



2003
Sunday School
Superintendent of the Year
Paul Dennis Ford
Little Rock Church
Lucama, North Carolina

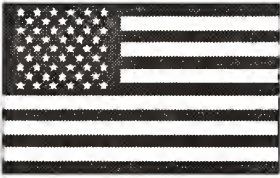


2003
Sunday School
Teacher of the Year
Mary Katherine "Kitty" Barnes
Little Rock Church
Lucama, North Carolina

The 62nd Annual Sunday School Institute was a tremendous success. There were over 425 people who came to catch a glimpse of what is necessary to 'grow the kingdom.' Even though the sky was cloudy outside, the sky inside was beaming with excitement as various certificates and awards were presented. Over 50 gift bags were distributed among those attending. Forty-one workshop times were allotted to cover multitude of topics linked to church growth. The 2004 session will be held at Mount Olive College on Saturday, March 6, 2004. Please mark your calendar!



Pictured above are the nominees for the 2003 Superintendent and Teacher of the Year awards. These participants represent eight churches: Smith's New Home, Powhatan, Rose Hill, Little Rock, Marlboro, Bethel, Whaley's Chapel and First Church, Kinston. Congratulations to each of these participants for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to growing the Kingdom of God through Sunday School.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2003



Prayer Requests From Our Ministries:

Mount Olive College

Pray for these areas:

- Students, that when departing MOC they will have received an excellent academic education and are closer to Jesus Christ;
- Board of Trustees, that they possess Godly wisdom in guiding this College.
- Administration, that they lead us boldly into the future, remembering our past and following our mission;
- Faculty, that they embrace the challenge to be effective Christian educators and mentors and that they integrate their Christian faith in their teaching; and Staff, that their Christian faith be evident in their daily living;
- We also request the Church to pray that God will guide us to bring in the necessary resources to enable the College to adequately fulfill its goals and purpose.

Cragmont Assembly

Pray for:

- the weeks of camp: the counselors, the kids, the staff;
- souls to be led to the Lord;
- the success of our "New Heights" project;
- a large gift to the "New Heights" project.

Praise Item

Several churches in Greene County have come together to raise money for the renovation of the Motel. Forty-five thousand dollars has been raised. The work began on March 17 with teams from these Greene County churches doing the actual work.

Free Will Baptist Press

• Board of Directors, Management, Staff, and Writers ... Pray that all we do to spread the Gospel through the printed page will be done in accordance with God's will.

Church Finance Association

Pray:

- that God will continue to give direction to the Board as they seek to meet the

needs of our local churches and ministries;

- that our churches and ministries will use the resources of the Church Finance Association to help fund their needs and visions;
- that our churches and individuals will be willing to place available funds with Church Finance Association to help sister churches with their needs.

Minister's Program

Pray:

- that our churches will seek to provide our ministers with a fair and living wage so they can serve the church and provide for those they love;
- that our churches will see the need to support through prayers and gifts the work of the Minister's Program;
- that our churches will work with their minister to plan for his future needs so he can retire with the dignity and security due a servant of God.

Home Missions

Pray for:

- new missions points;
- the Disaster Relief Program;
- the Kid's Kare Program and the new Adult Kare Program;
- Board members, Executive Director, and staff.

OFWB International (Foreign Missions)

Pray for:

- the Board as it researches a new field;
- for Willem and Lydia van der Plas as they return to Bulgaria;
- the Short-Term Teams;
- peace and safety in the Philippines, India, Nepal, and around the world;
- churches and individuals to see the Great Commission as God intended—a World Vision;
- our workers and churches around the world that boldly they will proclaim the Gospel;
- children, teens, adults, the homeless, rejected, poor, sick, and persecuted masses around the world.

Sunday School Ministry

Pray:

- that more churches would "catch the vision" for a need to equip the people for service to God;
- that more churches would support the work of the Sunday School Ministry through prayer, presence at training sessions, and finances.

Retirement Homes

Pray for:

- this ministry, its Director, staff, and residents.

Children's Home

Pray for:

- the children, their families, their education, their health, and their happiness;
- the CEO, the administration, and staff.

Denominational Headquarters

Pray for: Convention President, Fred Baker, Administrative Assistant, Andrea Cox, and the Executive Committee. Pray also for a better understanding by our churches and ministers of the importance of the work of this office. Pray for our 2003 Convention, September 16-18.

Suggestions for Prayer Activities:

- Begin your morning with special prayer with your family at breakfast.
- Place the names of the Ministries on a 3x5 card and place it on your work desk. Pray briefly each time you notice the card.
- During lunch, spend at least 15 minutes in prayer for your pastor and church.
- At afternoon break, pray for your family.
- Get together with a few friends in the evening and pray for your ministries, your church, and your pastor. Include a special time of prayer for America and our Armed Forces, and the state of our world.
- Have a special time to give thanks before you retire for the evening.

Contact your Denominational Headquarters with information on how you observed your National Day of Prayer.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

NORTH CAROLINA WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION OF OFWB SEVENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION—MAY 8, 2003

HOSTED BY CENTRAL CONFERENCE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

ELM GROVE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, AYDEN, NORTH CAROLINA

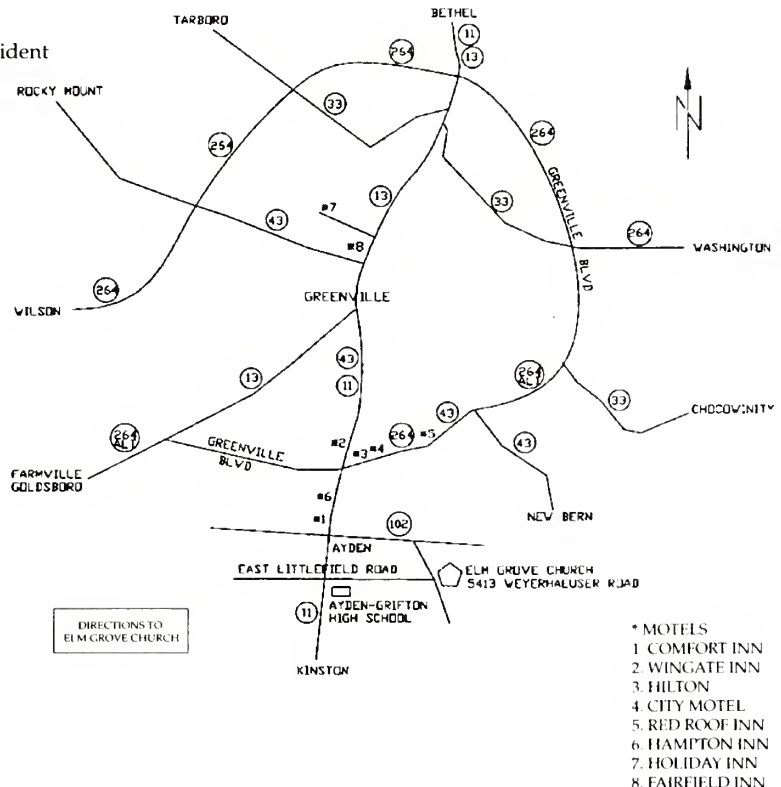
Theme: "Jesus Calls Us"

Scripture: *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you ...* (John 15:16).
And they that are with him are called, and chosen and faithful (Revelation 17:14).

Pianist—Judy Jones
Organist—Elma Beddard

Song Director—Angela Warren
Ushers—Elm Grove Auxiliary

8:30 Registration—Carolyn Jernigan, State Vice President
8:30–9:15 Coffee and Donuts, Everyone Is Invited, Fellowship Hall
9:30 Call to Worship
Hymn #495, "Jesus Calls Us"
Call to Order—Joan Little, State President
Devotion and Convention Prayer—Julia Gaskins, President
St. Mary's Auxiliary
Welcome—Jane C. Tripp, President, Central
Response—Wanda Johnson, Vice President, Cape Fear
Announcements—Debra Baggett, President,
Elm Grove Auxiliary
President's Address—Joan Little
Business Session
Offering and Offertory Prayer—Nancy Hardee,
Vice President, Pee Dee
Life Membership Award—Committee
10:55 BREAK
11:05 Auxiliary Hymn #528, "In the Service of the King"
Denominational Ministries—The Rev. Buddy Sasser,
Vice President, Convention of OFWB
Business Session—Joan Little, President
Committee Reports
Other Business
Memorial Service—Kathy Cahoon,
Youth Chairman, Albemarle
Special Music—Gina Tripp
Introduction of Speaker—Diane Riley,
Christian Education, State
Message—Sue Griffin, Vice President and Treasurer
Pleasant Plain Auxiliary, Western
Hymn #516, "Make Me A Channel of Blessing"
Benediction and Blessing—the Rev. Frankie Baggett,
Pastor, Elm Grove



NOTICE

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 cents per member per year.

Send these dues to your District Treasurer; she will keep 20 cents and send 20 cents 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

ATTENTION

The 2003 session of the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention will convene on Thursday, May 8, 2003 at Elm Grove Church in Ayden. Registration will begin at 8:30 A.M. Each Auxiliary should represent with one delegate for each 25 members or fraction thereof, plus a registration fee of \$25. 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 delegate the trouble of having to pay at the door. Please mail your fee before April 25, if possible, to the following address: Mrs. Nadine Crocker, 568 House Road, Kenly, NC. If you cannot possibly attend, please mail your fee anyway, as the Convention needs your support. We hope, however, to see you there.

Nadine Crocker, State Treasurer

Jesus is the Only 1

Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

May 16–18, 2003
Mount Olive College

*Jesus saith unto him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
John 14:6*



2003 Convention Schedule

Friday, May 16

- 5:00–8:00 Registration—College Hall
- 8:00 Session 1—College Hall
- 10:00 Devotional Workshops

Saturday, May 17

- 8:00–9:00 Breakfast—Murphy Center
- 9:00 Late Registration—College Hall
- 9:30 Session 2—College Hall
- 10:30 Talent Exposition—College Hall
- Lesson Presentation & Public Speaking—College Hall
- 12:00–1:15 Lunch—Murphy Center
- 2:00 Awards Presentation—Murphy Center
- 3:30–5:00 Fun Time
- 5:00–6:15 Dinner—Murphy Center
- 7:30 Session 3—College Hall
- AVALON in Concert
- 10:00 Installation Service & Refreshments—Murphy Center

Sunday, May 18

- 7:30–8:30 Breakfast—Murphy Center
- 9:30 Worship Service—Rodgers Chapel
- 11:00 Check-out
- 12:00 Lunch Available—Murphy Center

The Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists would like to invite your church to the 2003 Youth Convention. This year's convention promises to be the best one ever, with a new format, improved praise & worship time, exciting speakers and workshops, along with a dynamic concert by the hottest Contemporary Christian group AVALON.

Included here is all the information necessary for your church to be a part of 2003 Youth Convention.

Upon arrival at the Youth Convention, go to the Registration Table in College Hall to check-in for room assignments and to pick up meal and concert tickets.

Even if your church is not lodging at the college, please check-in at the Registration Table so we can have accurate accounts of churches represented and total attendance.

Registrations are due **May 1, 2003**. Detach the registration form on the next page and send it along with one check that will cover registration fee, lodging, meals, concert tickets, and project money to the address below:

Scott Lane
Assistant Director, Youth Convention of OFWB
1255 NC 581 N.
Pikeville, NC 27863
(919) 736-1423
Email: scottl@icomnet.com
Make check payable to Youth Convention OFWB

Youth Project

The 2003 Youth Project is for Cragmont Assembly. "The Mule Fund" will go toward the purchase of a Mule, which is an All-Terrain-Vehicle that has a dump bed, and will be great for going up the mountain to work on the trail. The goal for "The Mule Fund" is \$10,000. The goal for each church is \$150.00. but any amount given will be greatly appreciated.

Things To Bring

- Bring athletic equipment for fun time (glove, bat, tennis racquet, tennis balls, volleyball, etc.)
- Bring a Bible, notebook, pen or pencil.

T-Shirts

Youth Convention T-Shirts will be on sale throughout the weekend at the convention.

AVALON



TO
PERFORM
AT
YOUTH CONVENTION
of OFWB
MAY 17, 2003

Registration

- Registration for the Convention is \$50 per church and is due by May 1, 2003.
- Any registrations received after May 1 or received at the convention are \$75 per church.

Lodging

- Rooms are assigned in the dorms and apartments of Mount Olive College on a first come, first serve basis.
- Guests need to bring their own pillow, blankets, linens, bath towels, and soap.

REGISTRATION FORM

Friday Night

Males	Females
Leaders ___ x \$8 = ___	Leaders ___ x \$8 = ___
Cherubs ___ x \$8 = ___	Cherubs ___ x \$8 = ___
AFCs ___ x \$8 = ___	AFCs ___ x \$8 = ___
YFAs ___ x \$8 = ___	YFAs ___ x \$8 = ___

Saturday Night

Males	Females
Leaders ___ x \$8 = ___	Leaders ___ x \$8 = ___
Cherubs ___ x \$8 = ___	Cherubs ___ x \$8 = ___
AFCs ___ x \$8 = ___	AFCs ___ x \$8 = ___
YFAs ___ x \$8 = ___	YFAs ___ x \$8 = ___

AVALON Concert

The Youth Convention is excited to announce Avalon in concert on Saturday night of the Convention. Tickets must be purchased in advance. The price of tickets to the concert are \$5 per person for churches that register and attend the weekend Convention.

Concert Tickets _____ x \$5 = _____

Scott Lane
Assistant Director, Youth Convention OFWB
1255 NC 581 N.
Pikeville, NC 27863
(919) 736-1423

Email: scottl@icomnet.com

Make check payable to Youth Convention OFWB

THERE'S NO BETTER TIME!™



Original Free Will Baptists' FAMILY DAY!

Sponsored by the Youth Convention of OFWB

Saturday, June 7, 2003

Celebrate Family Fun at Virginia's Premier Theme Park! Come and enjoy a full day of fun, food and fellowship at Paramount's Kings Dominion with your family and friends!

SPECIAL DISCOUNT TICKETS:

\$24 **\$20**

ages 7 and above
you save **\$17.99**
off the \$41.99 regular
general admission

ages 3 to 6
you save **\$7.99**
off the \$27.99 regular
child admission

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT Picnic

Served from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm. Enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, Caesar salad, fresh cut fruit, chips and ice cream treats.

Ages 7 and above: **\$10.50**
Ages 3 through 6: **\$5.50**

GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE AND SAVE!

Admission tickets will be on sale at the Paramount's Kings Dominion Group Sales Window on June 7, from 9:00 am to 12 noon. Tickets will cost \$26.00 adult and \$22.00 child. Look for the Original Free Will Baptists Window!

Note: meal tickets must be purchased in advance.

for ticket information contact:

Scott Lane - Assistant Director of Youth Convention
Original Free Will Baptists, 1255 NC 581 N, Pikeville, NC 27863
919-736-1423 scottl@icomnet.com



KingsDominion.com

Prices, programs and policies subject to change without notice. © 2003 Paramount Parks Inc. * is a © 2003 Paramount Pictures. DROP ZONE is a registered trademark of Paramount Pictures. All Rights Reserved.

HISTORY OF CAMP VANDEMERE

A group of men came together to look for a place on the coast for people to get away and just relax and draw closer to God. God opened the door for the men to find Camp Vandemere, a place on the coast of "Bay River." So the camp's history goes back a long way.

I am sure there were struggles during the process but they probably had this in mind; "Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58). We as Christians need to remember this also and not give up. Luke 9:62 says, "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." When God wants us to do something, we need to do it and not look back. I believe the camp has God's blessings and we cannot quit.

With these things in mind, do not look back! You know where the Lord has brought you from. We here at the camp can see the camp's history through pictures, and we can see where God has brought the camp and continues to bring the camp. Please pray for the camp and please help us in what ever way you can. Use your abilities for God; He has given them to you for a reason.

NEEDS LIST

- 4 TV/VCR combos for the Family Lodge Rooms.
- 7 White Plastic Rocking Chairs for campers to relax and enjoy the beautiful view of God's wonderful creation.
- Groups to take on projects to help improve the camp facilities.
- Campers to share God's bounty with us.

THANK YOU

Camp Vandemere would like to thank the "Youth for Christ Rally" for donating three rocking chairs.

Camp Vandemere would also like to thank Gethsemane Church Woman's Auxiliary for donating two rocking chairs.

Thank you so much for helping to improve God's beautiful camp.

SUMMER 2003 CAMP SCHEDULE

May 3	Third Union Fun Day
May 25-30	Open
June 2-6	Director, John Thompson, Baptist Minister (252) 633-0025
June 6-7	Eastern Conference Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat
June 8-13	Director, Tim Heath (252) 638-3803
June 16-20	Women's Week
June 23-27	Open
July 2-5	Juniper Chapel Church Retreat
July 6-11	Director, the Rev. Joe Ratcliff (252) 244-0207
July 12	Fifth Union Fun Day
July 13-18	Director, Eva Mae Clark (252) 637-5346
July 20-25	Berry Hodowanic, New Bethlehem (252) 249-0133
July 28-Aug. 1	Open
Aug 22-23	Singin' By the River

*Weekend retreats available. Please check with the manager for availability.

If you would like to direct a week of camp please contact:

Wesley Taylor
(252) 745-3171 (Camp Office)
(252) 745-1203 (Home)
(252) 514-3222 (Cell)
(252) 634-1287 (Pager)

If you would like to attend a week of camp that is already scheduled, please contact the director of that week for an application.

SINGIN' BY THE RIVER

This year's "Singin' by the River" will start on Friday night with, of course, wonderful gospel music and preaching. "Called Out" will be here on Friday night with one other gospel group. If you would like to stay in the Camp facilities on Friday night, please contact Wesley Taylor at one of the above numbers. Please come out and support the Camp.

LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 10 Executive Board Meeting
VFW Building, Snow Hill
7 P.M.
- May 8 Executive Board Meeting
VFW Building, Snow Hill
7 P.M.
- May 9 Ladies' Night
Harrell's Chapel Church
Hwy 58 North, Snow Hill
7 P.M.
- June 6 State Layman's League Meeting
Camp Vandemere
- June 7 Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat
Camp Vandemere

DON'T FORGET!

The Layman's League is building the Cragmont Trading Post Building #8 at Cragmont. Please send donations to Cragmont Assembly. If you would like to help build this building, contact Elmer Harrell at (252) 747-2894.

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## VISION WALK POSTPONED

Cragmont Vision Walk at Mount Olive College has been postponed to September 13. The Layman's League has volunteered to help cook supper.

## PEOPLE & EVENTS

### TO ALL MINISTERS OF THE CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

The Executive Committee of Original Free Will Baptist Ministerial Association wishes to invite you to attend the 2003 Ministers' Conference at Cragmont Assembly, May 19-21. This year's theme is "Responding to God's Call by Equipping God's Church" with seminars being conducted by our guest, Dr. Roy De Brand.

Monday evening Communion services and daily worship services will be conducted by ministers from within our association ranks. This is the annual meeting of the Ministerial Association. Please fill out the registration form below and return as soon as possible. The cost of pre-registration is \$35. This fee covers your membership dues and picture for the week. Please make all checks payable to OFWB Ministerial Association and mail this form and check to: Bryant Hines Jr., 203 Teachey Court, New Bern, North Carolina 28562. Please return your form and payment by May 10.

#### MINISTER'S CONFERENCE, MAY 19-21, 2003

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your building preference. Rooms will be assigned on a first come, first served basis!

Main Buiding  Motel  Floyd House  Dorm

I will be staying off campus

Do you have any existing health problems that would prvent you from being on the second floor? Yes  No

Please indicate in the space below with whom you wish to room if you will be staying in the Main Building or Motel.

\_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you will be eating supper at Cragmont Monday night, May 19.

Please note: All ministers' 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 wish to join the Ministerial Association this year but cannot attend our Conference, you may join or renew your membership by sending \$30 membership dues to the above address.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL ROOMS AT CRAGMONT WILL HAVE A PER ROOM CHARGE INSTEAD OF AN INDIVIDUAL CHARGE AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST.

# A TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE R. GASKINS

by Dixie McLawhorn, Editorial Assistant,  
FWB Press and Member of Pleasant Hill Church



*Heaven's Sounding Sweeter All the Time.* That is the title of a familiar song that Catherine Gaskins and Cyrus Taylor sang many, many times at Pleasant Hill Church, near Greenville, NC. Catherine loved that song, and she loved to sing it. Sitting at the piano, gently playing and passionately singing harmony with Cyrus would sometimes make her almost cry, for she thought of how wonderful it would be to be in the presence of her Lord and Savior.

Jesus called her Home on Thursday, January 30, 2003 and now she is in His presence. She was a faithful servant to God, her family, a son, Barry and grandson, Simon, her church family, and others. She was raised in the church and church was where she felt the most at peace. And now she is at peace, resting in the arms of Jesus; she now has her reward.

Catherine had to be a strong woman for a long time. Her husband, Roy Page Gaskins, was killed in a freak farming accident when their only son, Barry, was still in school. At the time, Catherine, who was a stay-at-home mom, didn't even know how to drive a car. She had to learn fast. And her life was lived from that moment on in a "take the bull by the horn" fashion. She was "green" about the farming business, and her neighbors (and friends) Amos and Ida Mae Sutton "walked" her through the rest of the farming season. Through it all, she clung to her faith in God, that He would not forsake her. God and all of her good friends saw her through her tragedy.

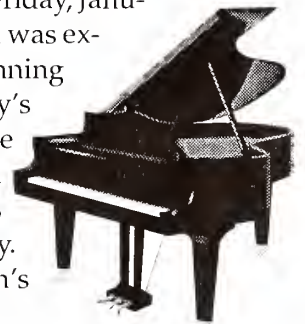
Mention the name Catherine at Pleasant Hill Church and people will immediately light up. They will tell anecdotes of things she did at church or other church related places. To say she was a busy lady is quite the understatement. Catherine took her role of Woman's Auxiliary President very seriously. Our Woman's Auxiliary hosted the Central District Woman's Auxiliary Convention on Saturday, March 22, 2003. Catherine was so looking forward to that. She had been preparing for it for months, talking with different members about all the arrangements that needed to be taken care of. Her mind raced with ideas for the Convention. At the funeral home, several ladies from other Free Will Baptist churches asked if we were still going to host the event. Our answer was yes, and it would be done in such a way as to give honor to Catherine's memory.

She was a woman of action. She always wanted everything to be in its place when it came to her church

and her entire life for that matter. She was always present and working at fundraisers for the church, the Woman's Auxiliary, and the youth who would be going to Cragmont. She needed to be working on something at the church. If she wasn't cleaning out the supply closet, she was getting the music straight or practicing a new song on the piano or visiting shut-ins, people in the hospital or nursing homes; and she seldom went to visit empty-handed. She would take food she had prepared or a book or a basket of goodies or some little trinket just to let the person she was visiting know that he or she was loved and was missed at church.

Catherine was by all accounts a type of female Barnabas. She was definitely an encourager; many times somehow just knowing that it was needed. She gave of herself unselfishly in so many ways—financially, physically, emotionally, spiritually, and sometimes, even if we really didn't want it (but really needed it), she would tell us to "Get with the program!" But Catherine wanted to help. In any way that she was able, she helped so many people; and she felt that a gentle nudge was sometimes the only appropriate thing she could do, other than pray about the situation. Catherine was a faithful prayer warrior. She, in her take-charge manner, would get on the telephone and call everybody she could think of when there was an urgent prayer need.

Catherine was our pianist for over 50 years. Even though her eyesight had gotten poor during the latter part of last year because of cataracts, she still continued to play the piano. She stopped playing just long enough for her sight to get back to normal after having surgery to remove a cataract in early January. At least that was the plan. She was in the hospital due to heart problems and was scheduled to go home on Friday, January 31. She was feeling so good and was excited to go home, and she was planning on playing the piano at that Sunday's morning worship service. Well, she just went Home a little earlier, and if there is a piano in Heaven, she's right there and playing flawlessly. Just one more reason that Heaven's sounding sweeter all the time.



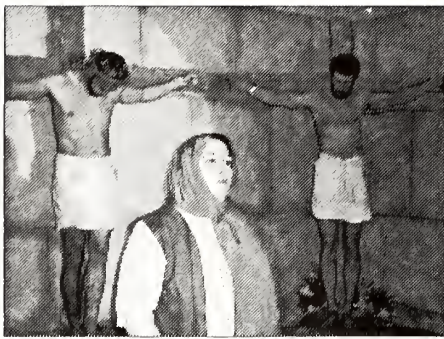
# EASTER BLESSINGS

White Oak Grove Church located on 5744 Kennedy Home Road, La Grange will be performing the drama "They Call His Name Jesus." The scheduled nights are Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13 at 6:30 P.M. The doors will open at 6 P.M. and a nursery will be provided. Admission is free.

The drama is a story of the life of Jesus. You will also meet and hear the testimonies of John the Baptist, the Samaritan woman, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Nicodemus, Pilate, Judas, Barabbas, Simon, Mary, His mother, and John, the beloved disciple, the centurion, Mary Magdalene, Peter, Thomas, and even Satan makes an appearance.

The Lord works in mysterious ways. He has taken this drama and opened up to our church a way to share the Gospel of Christ to our friends, family, and community and other churches. Lives have been changed and people have received Christ. We want to give God all the glory and honor. He has taken ordinary people and done an extraordinary work in their lives. We just want to praise Him and thank Him. Come and share with us the greatest story ever told. You will receive a great blessing and your spirit will be prepared to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For additional information, you can call Linda Herring at (252) 566-9704.

Mary Magdalene  
(Ananda Kennedy) singing.  
Back: Jesus (Jared Hobbs) and thief  
(Terry Yarborough).



Mary, the  
mother of Jesus  
(Dianne Herring)  
stands with  
John, the  
beloved  
disciple,  
(Vernon Herring).



The Last Supper



Jesus (Jared Hobbs) crucified between two thieves, played by Cliff Rouse and Terry Yarborough.



Peter (David Dawson), Jesus (Jared Hobbs), and Thomas (Liuwood Sutton)



He's Alive!

**"They Call His Name Jesus"**  
White Oak Grove Church, La Grange  
Saturday April 12 & Sunday, April 13  
6:30 P.M. Doors open at 6 P.M.  
Admission is free. Nursery provided.

# Journey TO THE Cross

Experience this awe-inspiring  
journey that will change your  
life for all eternity!

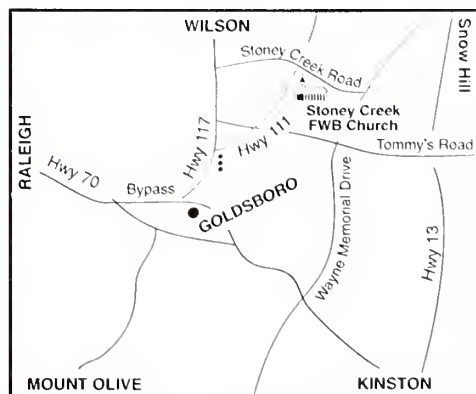
APRIL 4-6  
APRIL 9-13  
APRIL 16-19

Performance each night  
at 8:00 P.M.  
at Stoney Creek Church

For Reservations  
Call (919) 735-3916  
Monday - Friday (9 A.M. - 4 P.M.)

**T**he only outdoor walking  
drama that places you literally  
in the heart of the action along  
Christ's journey. Be prepared to  
experience the inspiration of a  
lifetime as you walk with Jesus  
from His birth to ascension!"

With a cast & crew of 200, come  
and experience a walking tour  
this Easter season. Call and  
reserve your spots early.  
Reservations are required.  
Nurseries are not provided.  
Entire tour area is wheel chair  
and stroller accessible. There is  
no admission cost. Donations  
are welcome. Shows will not be  
performed during inclement  
weather. The Gospel is  
presented at the conclusion of  
each performance.



**Stoney Creek Church**  
752 Stoney Creek Church Road  
Goldsboro, North Carolina 27534

# KING'S CROSS ROADS CHURCH HOLDS REVIVAL



King's Cross Roads Church will begin their Spring Revival on Sunday night, April 6 and services will continue through Friday night, April 11. Services will begin on Sunday night at 7 P.M. and services Monday night through Friday night will begin at 7:30 P.M.

The Rev. Philip Wood, pastor of Reedy Branch Church of Winterville, NC will be the guest Evangelist. King's Cross Roads Church is located 10 miles west of Greenville, NC between Farmville and Falkland at 2080 Seven Pines Road.

There will be special music each night. For additional information contact the pastor, the Rev. Bruce Jones at (252) 746-6293.

## King's Cross Roads Youth Fellowship Auxiliary

presents

"Can You Hear the Call?"

The Call to Salvation • The Call to Christian Service

Three Nights of Revival

April 17-19, 7 P.M.

Guest Speakers Include:

Thursday night—Roger Haithcock, Associate Pastor  
Winterville Church

Friday night—Alan Wooten, King's Cross Roads  
AFC Youth Director and Operation Stomp Assistant Director

Saturday night—J. D. Hudson, Associate Pastor,  
Garner Church of God

Special Music Includes

Brothers-N-Christ

Divine Promise and other special youth ministries nightly

For more information contact: Jay or Gina Tripp (252) 752-8247,  
Spencer Owens (252) 749-1533, Alan Wooten (252) 749-4204



## FOUR IN CHRIST

and



## SECOND EDITION

at



## PLEASANT HILL CHURCH

(Located 13 miles south of Greenville)



## SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2003

## 6 P.M.



## Come and enjoy

## a special time of singing!



# NEWS FROM POWHATAN CHURCH

by Rita Jones

# ST. MARY'S GROVE



*Arise, shine ... the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee" (Isaiah 60:1).*

As we celebrate our Savior's Resurrection, let's remember to reflect His light to a lost world by the lives we live everyday. A blessed Easter season to all from Powhatan!

Powhatan invites everyone to join us for our Spring Revival beginning April 13-17 with guest speaker, Steve Norris of the Western District. If you can't be with us, remember us in your prayers as we seek to revive our faithfulness.

On February 1, the Powhatan Youth Group sponsored a "Soup 'N' Sandwich" lunch as a fundraiser. Thank you to all who participated in support of the next generation of church leaders.

Rejoice with us—five from the congregation came forward at our February 2 worship hour to become new members! We welcome new members Stan and Debra Jones, Alice Poole, Courtney Poole, and Renee Waters.

Dianne Riley of Mount Olive College kept busy on Saturday evening, February 8, greeting and taking photos of church groups that came for the Trojans games against Pfeiffer College. The Cape Fear district encouraged member churches to attend our monthly youth meeting and had over 150 people in attendance. Powhatan took the Cape Fear banner for Overall Attendance with Smyrna as runner-up and Robert's Grove claimed the Youth banner with Shady Grove as runner up. Everyone had fun in the individual shooting competitions and enjoyed the women's and men's games.

An ice storm caused us to cancel Sunday services on February 16 and kept most of us home on Monday. On Tuesday, February 25, several activities were going on at Powhatan. The Sons of Confederate Veterans were holding their monthly meeting in the fellowship hall while leaders were working with youth members putting finishing touches on some arts and crafts projects. In the sanctuary, the deacons, trustees, building committee, and pastor met to discuss building options. Their ideas were presented to the church membership on February 26.

On March 1, the Powhatan bus pulled out at 7 A.M. carrying 12 members to the Sunday School Institute at Mount Olive College. Congratulations to Phillip and Lisa James on their nominations for Superintendent and Teacher of the Year and to Dennis Ford and Kitty Barnes of Little Rock for being recipients of the awards for 2003. Mary Dudley reported that less than 10 of our approximate 250 churches responded with nominations, and she hopes that number will increase next year. The numbers for the institute were great. Over 400 people converged on the Mount Olive College campus to take part in the informative workshops offered during the day. Mary said they'd "throw another potato in the pot" and keep right on going! On our bus ride home, everyone was excited and sharing what they had learned in their individual workshop choices. We could hardly wait till Sunday morning to share our ideas. We still have a lot to learn, but it is wonderful to have a group ready to jump in and work on improving our Sunday School program as well as other ministry areas.

That evening, our youth gave a dress rehearsal performance of the talent entries for 2003. Thank you to all the youth for their hard work, the coaches for their assistance to each group, and to the church members for their support

St. Mary's Grove, Benson, NC hosted their first Blood Drive for the American Red Cross on Saturday, February 1, 2003. We had 37 people to donate with 15 first time donors. It went so well we are planning another Blood Drive on Saturday, June 14, from 9 A.M.-1:30 P.M. Call the church at (919) 894-1784 if you would like to participate.

The Youth will be having a Pancake Supper and Silent Auction fundraiser on Friday, April 11. Supper will be served from 6 P.M. The historically lively Silent Auction will feature homemade goodies and crafts and will be from 8 P.M.-9 P.M. Join us for a night of fellowship and friendly competition.

Easter weekend activities will start with an Egg Hunt on Saturday at 4 P.M. followed by a Pig Pickin' supper. Sunday morning will start with a Sunrise Service and breakfast to celebrate our risen Savior. Sunday School and Worship Services will be held at their normally scheduled times of 9:45 A.M. and 11 A.M.

The St. Mary's Grove family extends a warm welcome for you to come to all of these events.

## Antioch Church

announces

### "A Dedication Service"

to celebrate  
the completion  
of their new church

(which burned January 26, 2002)

on

Sunday, April 27, 2003

2:30 P.M.

Special Music, Preaching,  
Tour of Church, Special Guests,  
Words of Greeting and Fellowship,  
Time of Praise,

All Preachers Recognized

Everyone is  
invited to attend.

Refreshments will be served.

God has richly blessed us to rebuild  
a new facility in a little over a year.

Come join us!

# Mount Zion Church

1912 Lynches Beach Loop Road  
Bayboro, NC 28515

Extends a cordial invitation  
to all friends,  
Denominational Ministries, former  
members, and pastors

To join us in celebration  
and dedication of our  
new church building

To the glory of our  
Savior and Lord  
on

Sunday, May 18, 2003

Homecoming 11 A.M.  
Lunch immediately following

Special Music 1:30 P.M.

Dedication 2 P.M.

*What a great world this  
would be if people  
would spend as much energy  
practicing their religion  
as they spend  
quarreling about it.*

## YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE YFA WEEK

Cragmont Assembly  
June 23-28

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 2003 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 23-28.

The 2003 theme is *Lots of Paths, Only One Way*. 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.

To make sure that you are among those who attend YFA Week, mail the application below with an \$85 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 \$235. This cost includes transportation, food and lodging at Cragmont, daily snacks, a group picture, a mid-week trip, 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.) Checks should be made payable to Youth Frontier Conference/YFA Week.

---

### Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender (circle one): M F

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration form and fee to: Janie Sowers  
Box 824, Middlesex, NC 27557, phone (252) 235-2408.





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**I'M NOT SUFFERING FROM INSANITY I'M ENJOYING EVERY MINUTE OF IT!**  
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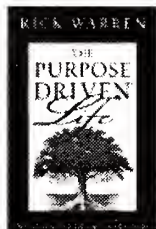
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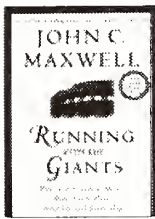
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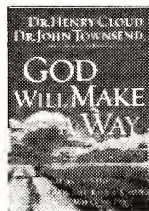


**THE YOUNG MAN IN THE MIRROR**, by John C. Maxwell, (Broadman and Holman Publishers, \$12.99, softcover).

Having written the blockbuster best-seller *The Man in the Mirror* (over 2,000,000 in print) and a number of other books to teach men what they should have learned as boys, Patrick Morley has now written a book designed and written for young men to prepare them for what they are to face and to prepare them to become the men they are destined to be.

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**GOD WILL MAKE A WAY**, by Dr. Henry Cloud, and Dr. John Townsend, (Integrity Publishers, \$21.99, hardcover).

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We all have times when we feel lost, we hurt and we find ourselves asking, "Where is God in all of this?" When the road gets rough and we don't know which way to turn, it can feel like God is so far away.

Even when we are not in a crisis, there are times when it seems something is missing. There is an uncomfortable distance between where we are and where we want to be.

When you find yourself in that place, you are in a window of opportunity where you can experience God like you never have before; where you can see His supernatural power at work more clearly than when things are going your way.

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- *You'll have more control over your life.* You'll have better success with setting boundaries, and emotionally, you'll begin to feel the way you really want to feel.

- *You'll satisfy your spiritual hunger.* You'll rediscover the wonder of child-like faith and reconnect with the God you know as loving, accepting, and wanting the best for you.

*God Will Make a Way* is about the often-surprising ways God shows up in our lives and how He addresses our problems in ways we never thought possible.



**WHAT EVERY PASTOR SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL**, by Elmer L. Towns & Stan Toler, (Regal, \$8.99, softcover).

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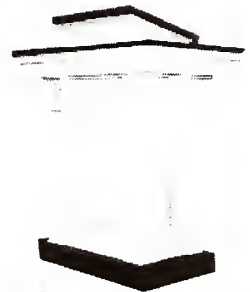
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Happy Mother's Day

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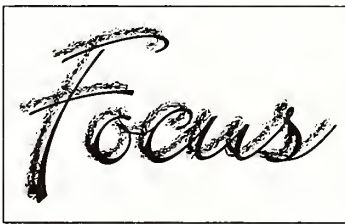
# SPRING FORWARD!

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

Thought: When it comes to Christian service, do we spring forward—or *fall* into the *background*?

Spring is such a wonderful time of year. I love the extra light in the evening. The warmth and coolness of the air, the sunlight shining down on us, and everything blossoming all around are what probably make spring my favorite time of year. I don't particularly like the pollen flying around—but you've got to take the good with the bad.

Spring brings for the Christian the Easter season—our reminder of Christ's Glorious Resurrection. I hope we all took plenty of time thanking God for our blessings. We also have coming upon us Mother's Day. A day in which we have set aside to specially honor or memorialize our mothers.



Motherhood is no small thing. It, as well as fatherhood, carry with it enormous responsibility and sacrifice. Fathers need to make sure that they, along with their children, treat mothers with love and respect. The Bible does clearly say to honor your father and your mother.

Anyway, let's strive to be a blessing to all those to whom we come in contact. Spending time complaining about this or that is a waste of precious, precious time. Praising God from whom all blessings flow is what we should be spending more time on. Whether it's with praise choruses or prayer—thank and praise Him for it all. Enjoy your spring and summer this year. Be sure, though, that you keep your Heavenly Father in the middle of it!

## HOW CAN WE BE NOT TROUBLED?

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

During times of war we always feel troubled. We may outwardly go on with our lives in a fairly normal fashion; yet, there is always that nagging concern with many questions coming into our minds. At the time of this writing the war with Iraq is ongoing, but with a greater measure of success than one week ago. It may be that by the time this article appears, the actual war will be over, or at least the major fighting. We all pray that such will be the case.

Day by day we hear of the death or capture of our soldiers and a feeling of sadness comes over us. So far, casualties have been relatively few in comparison to the major wars of the past; however, the loss of any one life is a tragedy and brings mourning to the loved ones and to our nation.

I was eleven years old when WWII began; I was fifteen when it ended. I remember many things about life during those difficult years. After the Pearl Harbor attack, our young men enlisted in the armed forces by the tens of thousands and during the months that followed hundreds of thousands were drafted for a total of over twelve million. America shifted into a different mode of existence. Many of the conveniences were sacrificed for the sake of the war effort. With many young men in the "service," women took their places in the factories and on the farms. Cars and appliances were not available since the factories that made them were turning out materials and weapons of war. The war news came to us mostly through the radio and what we read from our newspapers and magazines. It was not as current as the news in this technological age. We are watching this current war



almost the instant it happens, whether for good or bad.

Several of my cousins served during WWII. My brother, Quentin, was drafted in the Army, was wounded in action and was discharged with a Purple Heart. Thankfully, his wound did not result in any physical disability. We received a telegram from the War Department simply stating that he was "wounded in action." It was some time later before additional information was received. We were fortunate, however, for many others received the message of a son, husband, or father who was killed in action. Our home church placed a blue star in a frame for each one of its young men or women in service. Upon one's death, the blue star was replaced with a gold star.

Whether he actually said it or not, I'm not sure, but I remember that President Franklin D. Roosevelt was credited with saying, "I hate war, and Eleanor (his wife) hates war—and so do we! What a dread war brings upon our very souls."

After Jesus had spoken of the destruction of the buildings of the Temple as recorded in Matthew 24, the disciples asked Him when these things would happen. Jesus then began what we know as the Olivet Discourse. He first spoke of wars and rumors of wars; then said, "...see that ye be not troubled;..." (Matthew 24:6). On many other occasions He told His followers to have no fear. He is saying the same to us today. Our trust and eternal hope is in Him. The present troubles will soon pass away and others will take their place. So it is and so it has been in all generations, but He has promised to always be with us.

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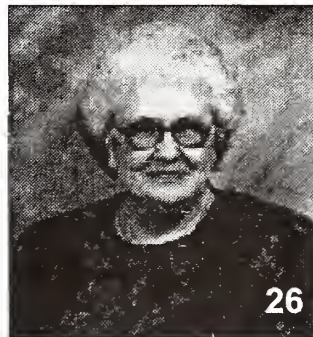
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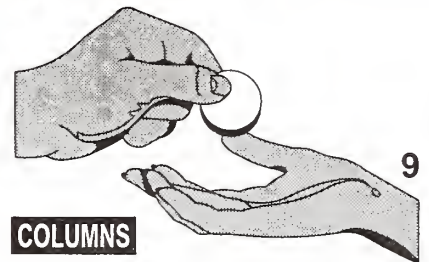


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# POWER VERSE

Train up a child in the way  
he should go; and when he is old,  
he will not depart from it  
(Proverbs 22:6).



# The Compassion of a Mother

by W. Burkette Raper



*And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter,  
and he became her son (Exodus 2:10).*

Since preaching a sermon on family life during my first pastorate, I have approached the subject of motherhood with trepidation. At that time I was unmarried, pastor of Oak Grove Church in Sampson County, NC, and a student in college where I had taken a course on "Marriage and the Family." I chose Mother's Day as the occasion to share my university learning with my rural congregation. As I spoke to the people at the door following the service, there were the customary compliments which ministers relish and take for face value. I noticed one lady, however, standing aside, patiently waiting for others to pass. From the expression on her face, I sensed that she had her own views about the sermon. As she took my hand, she smiled and said, "I have always heard that there were two groups of people who knew about rearing children—*old* maids and *young* preachers!"

That experience was more than fifty years ago. The good lady spoke words of truth I have never forgotten, and I am sure I benefited more from her one sentence than a hundred people did from my thirty-minute sermon.

With the passing of the years, I married, became the father of six children, and now the grandfather of nine. During a recent Bible reading about the birth and early childhood of Moses, my thoughts were kindled about the contribution compassionate mothers make on the lives of their children, and thus this article.

## The Mother of Moses

The life of Moses is written large in the Bible, both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Here is a

man who delivered his people from slavery, led them to a new land and gave them the laws and moral principles which have informed the civilization by which we live today, some 3,500 years after his time. But without the compassion and ingenuity of his mother, Moses would have died in infancy.

Who was this woman? She was virtually nameless—one has to search the Bible carefully even to find her name (Exodus 6:20) Notwithstanding her obscurity, she has come down to us in history as a superb example of a compassionate mother.

When she gave birth to Moses, a death sentence awaited him. The king had mandated that all Hebrew children should be drowned at birth, but the compassion of Moses' mother was stronger than her fear for her life. She cradled her infant son until she could conceal him no longer. Instead of casting him into the river, she skillfully crafted a waterproof basket and carried him to the place at the river where the king's family came for bathing. Tenderly she placed the basket near the bank among the reeds so that the current would not carry it out into the river, and she posted her daughter, Miriam, to keep watch.

In due time, the king's daughter and her attendants arrived at the river. When the princess saw the basket, she sent for it, and when she opened it, she heard the child crying. Immediately, she recognized it as one of the Hebrew babies. Although she felt pity for the helpless child, she knew there was no way she could care for it, for these were days before milk bottles and prescription formulas. At this point, Miriam appeared, and observing the quandary of the

princess, she volunteered to find a Hebrew woman who could nourish the child. The king's daughter gladly accepted her offer, and Miriam went at once to get the child's mother! Without recognizing that the woman was the mother of the baby, the princess not only asked her to nourish the child but promised to pay her.

Oh, the ingenuity of a compassionate mother! First, Moses' mother had kept the baby at home until his existence was no longer a secret; next, rather than throw him into the river, she prepared a basket which served as a life-raft; third, she placed the basket among the reeds where it would not float out into the river but where it would be found; and fourth, she instructed her daughter on how to be creative in a life-threatening situation.

## A Sacrifice of Love

The story of Moses offers some valuable insights into the meaning of motherhood for those who will vicariously revisit his birth through the mind and heart of his mother. Consider the thoughts and emotions that she must have experienced as she nourished and cared for her son day and night, knowing that in a short time she would have to give him up. No longer would she be able to hold him in her arms, nor would she have the opportunity to teach him the faith and values by which she hoped he would live.

Consider the anguish Moses' mother must have experienced, as, like a slave, she had to give her son to her master and go through the years knowing she had no rights or privileges regarding him. Consider

*(Continued on next page)*



her fear that he would grow up not knowing his real mother, and being terrified by the thought that she might never see him again. But her love for her son had been extended to its furthest reach: she had saved his life, and through her ingenuity, she had brought about the opportunity for him to grow up in the palace of the king rather than as a slave in a brickyard.

Moses' mother had done what she could for her son, and her consolation would be in knowing that she had extended her compassion as far as she could reach. From this point on, his future was beyond her control. She could only hope that his foster mother would love him, and she would pray that God's purpose for his life would be fulfilled. She had made the sacrifice of love.

### Our Mother

Hopefully, this brief profile of the mother of Moses will foster in us a better understanding and greater appreciation for the contribution our mothers have made on our lives. Perhaps we would all benefit from reviewing the pivotal experiences of our childhoods not so much from our perspective, but by viewing them through the hearts and minds of our mothers. Could it be that the experiences which were the most painful for us were even more painful to our mothers.

From the beginning of time, God has ordained that the gift of life would be through motherhood. Not since Eve has anyone, including Jesus Christ, come into the world except through the medium of a mother. None of us got here on our own. Our births and childhoods were not without the vicarious pains of our mothers.

One of the blessings of Mother's Day is that it can rekindle in us one of the greatest qualities of motherhood—*compassion*. Indeed, Mother's Day is a call to us to relive that compassion in our own lives.



# Who Will Wash My Feet?

by Elaine Swinson

I listen to the soft quietness slowly drifting throughout the congregation invoking a stillness as gentle as angels' wings winnowing the air. The reverent celebration of the Lord's Supper is starting among the bold disharmony of everyday life. A calmness of inner peace escapes to envelop mind, body, and soul. We are truly in God's presence. This is the very first communion service I will share with the members of our new church as the pastor's wife.

We join hands with Jesus as the sacraments representing His broken body and shed blood are solemnly passed one to another. Someone prays aloud, sending our unison request for blessings upon the holy symbols we are about to share.

An unbidden tear slips quietly down my face as we lift our cups to eat and drink together. A memory captured from the words of the apostles gives a clear image of Jesus as He shared His last meal with His beloved disciples.

To follow the example of Jesus kneeling upon the floor of the Upper Room to wash His disciples' feet, we move without a single word being spoken to wash the feet of our brothers and sisters in Christ. The rich and the poor become as one.

I feel a moment of apprehension. Who will wash my feet? As the new pastor's wife, I look out among the unfamiliar faces searching for an unspoken invitation. My heart beats faster as I lean toward a gentle soul to ask if I may wash her feet. With a soft apology she whispers that she and her sister always share this part of the service and I nod in understanding.

Two by two the ladies walk together, sharing the bonds of friendships built throughout the years. I quickly see that each has a chosen one whose feet to wash. My steps are faltering as we move forward. I feel the warmth of uncertainty begin to creep into my face. In a few steps we will reach our destination and still no one seems to recognize my plight. I think to myself that since I have no partner, perhaps I should simply "fade away" and hide in the ladies' room until an opportune time comes to slip back into the group unnoticed.

Suddenly, a touch on my arm and a whispered word brings my attention to one of the ladies standing near me. With quiet humility she asks if she can wash my feet. Relieved, beyond measure, I accept her invitation. Silently, secretly, I thank God from the bottom of my heart as I join my benefactor and her friend in the solemn service.

The service has concluded and a lingering group stands together sharing bits and pieces of news, reluctant to leave the presence of the warm spirit of the Lord. As I listen to the pleasant hum of their voices, I know that in time I will be a part of their confidence and will find my place among the flock. I make a mental note to remember this night and watch for new members or visitors and make sure they always feel welcome—not alone.

# Fundamentalists Have Changed; Have Free Will Baptists?

(A Contemporary Commentary)

by The Reverend Danny M. Smith

Free Will Baptists existed before fundamentalism. Born out of the controversies of higher criticism and evolution, fundamentalism was the champion movement of Bible-believing Christians of all denominations in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Free Will Baptists of earlier generations identified with fundamentalism. The National Association of Free Will Baptists formed in 1935, of which the North Carolina State Convention was a charter member, was and still stands "without apology for the ole-time religion and the Word of God."<sup>1</sup>

In its simplest form, fundamentalism expresses itself in five crucial statements:

1. the Holy Spirit did so inspire, guide, and move the writers of the Holy Scriptures as to keep them from error
2. the Virgin Birth of Christ
3. Christ's death as a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice and reconcile us to God
4. Christ's bodily resurrection and ascension to Heaven and intercession
5. Christ's mighty miracles which made changes in the order of nature.<sup>2</sup>

Under this umbrella most Free Will Baptists pass for fundamentalists. But it was the most exclusive nature of separatist fundamentalism that North Carolina Free Will Baptists disdained. Anyone who has studied North Carolina Free Will Baptist background knows that this small band of believers has had to maintain

its existence against infiltrating movements. If the Free Will Baptist relationship with fundamentalism was convenient in the early years, by the 1950s it became strained and eventually severed. In 1962, the State Convention withdrew from the National Association of Free Will Baptists over issues related to church polity, educational orientation, and historical differences.<sup>3</sup> Indeed, militant, separatist fundamentalism was headed on a one-way street.

About this time, a young zealous evangelist known as Billy Graham became the watershed of Evangelicalism's trend for the future. In 1957, to the chagrin of old-line revivalists, he opened his Madison Square Garden Crusade to all participants, liberal or conservative. Graham wanted to be known as a constructionist, not a separatist.<sup>4</sup>

Free Will Baptists of North Carolina would follow in his train. What they feared in fundamentalism was an isolated dead end. To go with Christ "outside the camp" did not appeal to North Carolina progressivism. For example:

Fundamentalism denounced denominationalism and advanced the local independent church; whereas North Carolina Free Will Baptists owed their existence to a denominational structure.

Fundamentalism warned of accreditation in higher education as capitulating to the world's standards; whereas North Carolina Free Will Baptists desired a regionally accredited college.

Fundamentalism sought its fellowship just among those of like persuasion; whereas North

Carolina Free Will Baptists wanted to share in mainline church acceptance.

Fundamentalism during the civil unrest of the 1960s defended segregation; whereas North Carolina Free Will Baptists eventually opened their ministries to all races.

Some fundamentalists, though, have changed. No one would have imagined that:

Jerry Falwell, the independent Baptist pastor, would lead his Lynchburg, Virginia congregation to join the Southern Baptist Convention,<sup>5</sup>

or that the Free Will Baptist Bible College would aggressively seek accreditation,<sup>6</sup> or have a president who graduated from Yale University,<sup>7</sup>

or that Jack Van Impe would repudiate his association with the World Congress of Fundamentalists to welcome fellowship with neo-evangelicals,<sup>8</sup>

or that Bob Jones University, which lost its tax-exempt status in 1984 over interracial dating, would later declare upon its reversal, "It is of such little significance to us...but of such significances to the world."<sup>9</sup> Indeed, shortly after Billy Graham declared that the Bible said nothing against mixed marriages, Bob Jones followed suit by lifting its ban on interracial marriage.<sup>10</sup>

If North Carolina Free Will Baptists perceived these difficulties before

*(Continued on next page)*

they developed, then they were indeed before their time, even visionaries. But if North Carolina Free Will Baptists found fundamentalism repugnant so that they could embrace theological liberalism, neo-orthodoxy, or wholesale ecumenicalism without regard to genuine Free will Baptist doctrine, then they sold their birthright for a mess of pottage.

The danger may be in the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists becoming a sect unto itself, precisely what it feared of fundamentalism. It

would behoove the Free Will Baptist people to move beyond passively licking their wounds and rather share their salt and light with the world. An Associated Press report recently revealed there are more Free Will Baptists concentrated in Greene County than anywhere else in the nation. Whereas eastern North Carolina has done well with its witness, is this as far as it goes?

Here is a ministry worth observing, even emulating: the Bible Broadcasting Network, a 24 hour

radio outreach founded by Bob Jones alumnus Lowell Davey. Its music is conservative. Its theology is conservative. Strangely enough, of the 1/2 hour air time devoted to biblical instruction, not one speaker is a militant separatist. These are Bible teachers familiar to all: Charles Swindoll, David Jeremiah, Erwin Lutzer, Woodrow Kroll, etc.

Fundamentalists have changed; not their doctrine but their policy. Have Free Will Baptists changed?

End notes

<sup>1</sup>Logo of the *Free Will Baptist Witness* of the North Carolina Association of Original Free Will Baptists.

<sup>2</sup>The "essential and necessary doctrines" adopted by the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church, 1910, for the ordination of ministerial candidates. From *The Authority and Interpretation of the Bible*, by Jack B. Rogers and Donald K. McKim (San Francisco, CA, Harper & Row, 1979), pp. 362, 378.

<sup>3</sup>Floyd B. Cherry, *An Introduction to Original Free Will Baptists*, (Ayden, NC: Free Will Baptist Press), pp. 48-52.

<sup>4</sup>Louis Gasper, *The Fundamentalist Movement 1930-1956*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1963), p. 142.

<sup>5</sup>*The National Liberty Journal*. Lynchburg, VA: Spring 1998.

<sup>6</sup>*Free Will Baptist Bible College Bulletin*, Nashville, TN: Winter, 1997.

<sup>7</sup>*Bulletin*, Fall, 2001.

<sup>8</sup>See, *Heart Trouble in the Body of Christ*, by Jack Van Impe.

<sup>9</sup>Bob Jones III on "Larry King, Live," cir., 1999.

<sup>10</sup>This announcement came from Bob Jones University shortly after Senator John McCain had nationally accused the University as a bigoted institution, sometime before the Presidential election of 2000.

# WANTED:

**Writing Skills,  
Biblical Knowledge,  
Dependability**

If you match this description and would be interested in writing Sunday School Literature, fill in the information below and send it to: Editor, Free Will Baptist Press, PO Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513. If you don't match this description, but you know of someone who does (and may be interested in writing Sunday School Literature) give this to that person and let them send it in. Benefits include the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to the spreading of God's Word through the printed page and you can make a little extra spending money!

Check the age category you would be most comfortable writing to:

Junior     Middle School     High School  
 Young Adult     Adult

Would you be interested in writing a teacher's guide? If so, which one?:

Junior Bible Teacher  
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Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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# Honoring Our Church Leaders

by Dr. Michael Pelt

For a number of years several of our local churches, along with our institutions and organizations, have chosen to honor those who have rendered distinguished service either to the local church or to the denomination at large. Some pastors who have served a church for as many as twenty or thirty years have been given special recognition for their faithful leadership. Now and then church musicians, Sunday School superintendents and teachers, church clerks and treasurers, and others who have served long and well in some capacity have been honored by their congregations.

For many years Mount Olive College has given recognition at Founders Day ceremonies to college personnel who have served on the faculty or staff for multiples of five years. The college has also sponsored dinners in honor of retiring personnel who have spent most of their careers at the college. At one of these dinners Dr. Burkette Raper was honored by the college and its supporters, as well as by leaders in government and education across North Carolina, for forty years of service as president of our college.

A few of our ministers have celebrated fifty or more years in the ministry at special services with family and friends in attendance. One of these is the Rev. C. H. Overman, who served as editor of the Free Will Baptist Press, as General Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, and as pastor of several churches at various times over a period of fifty years. Another is the Rev. N. Bruce Barrow, who has spent seventy years in ministry as a pastor, having also served in positions of leadership, including moderator of the Central Conference and president of the Convention,

among other offices in the denomination. In its desire to give some recognition to the clergy, the Central Conference has for several years presented certificates to ministers who have been members of the conference for as many as 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, or 50 years.

The woman's auxiliaries of our churches have long endeavored to honor certain of their leaders at the local, district, and convention levels. The Life Membership Award may be presented to a deserving member each year in a local auxiliary, at a district meeting, and at the annual Woman's Auxiliary Convention. The recipients of the award are given a certificate and a pin that features the emblem of the woman's auxiliary. At the Seventy-fifth Annual Session of the Woman's Auxiliary Convention recognition was given to past presidents of the Convention and special tributes were given to two women who had rendered outstanding service in the past—Mrs. Alice Lupton and Mrs. Gertrude Ballard.

Each of these happy occasions has provided a fitting tribute to those being honored. We can be grateful for men and women who are willing to devote their lives in service to the church and its mission in the world. Such persons have understood that they are called to serve and not to be served. They are more concerned to see that their labors are spent in doing God's work in the world rather than in seeking some earthly reward. Therefore, it is altogether proper that they should be honored by their fellow workers and that we should all be inspired by their examples of faithful service.

If we should look back to previous generations of Free Will Baptists over the last two centuries, we shall

uncover the names of many other persons who have rendered invaluable service to our denomination. To mention their names or to number their deeds would take us far beyond the limits of this brief article. The record of our history gives us some account of their works. They have gone on to their reward, but their contributions to our faith and heritage should not be forgotten. Without their faithful witness and labors we would not have many of the churches, institutions, and programs through which we are able to serve Christ in the world today.

One of the ways by which we can honor those who have exemplified sound leadership and faithful service to our churches and to the denomination at large is to see that their names are on the "Wall of Honor" at the denomination's headquarters in Ayden, North Carolina. Already dozens of names have been placed there, but there are many deserving men and women whose contributions to the church have not been given this form of recognition. We would suggest therefore to our readers that if you know of someone whose name should be added to the Wall of Honor, please write to the Original Free Will Baptist Headquarters, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, or send email to [administrator@ofwbheadquarters.org](mailto:administrator@ofwbheadquarters.org) and request information about the Wall of Honor and how the name of some worthy individual can be placed on it.

Any church or group needing assistance in planning an event to honor an individual may contact the Headquarters at the above address and members of the Leadership Endowment Subcommittee of the Convention's Executive Committee will be available to help them with suggestions for such an event.



Our Change for Children Campaign is a huge success for our ministry. Again this year, we believe the Lord will bless the efforts of many Free Will Baptists who give their change for the Children's Home ministry. The campaign generates financial support for us during the crucial summer months, helps us with the rising costs of childcare, and also increases awareness of the Children's Home.

We can never express our gratitude to the churches that participate in this campaign year after year. This campaign was designed to give everyone the opportunity to give in a simple and economical way.

We invite everyone to save your change again this year. We have sent information, bulletin inserts, and bags to each church to help them in preparing for the launching of the "Change for Children 03" campaign the first Sunday in May.

At the end of May all collection bags will be turned into the church. Your pastor, or church officer will be responsible for sending the funds to the Children's Home. Please be in prayer for us and for another successful year with our "Change for Children" campaign.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**Annual Homecoming**  
**Sunday, July 13, 2003**  
**On the**  
**Campus of**  
**Free Will Baptist**  
**Children's Home**

## NEEDS LIST

We request you:

- pray for the Children's Home ministry;
- designate a Sunday in May as Children's Home Sunday;
- collect change in the change bags during the month; and
- support the Children's Home in this campaign.

This opportunity will:

- encourage families to work together collecting their change;
- provide youth and new members the opportunity to learn about the Children's Home;
- increase awareness of your childcare ministry; and
- increase financial support from churches.

Thank you so much for the support you give to us to make a difference in the lives of children.

## CAMPUS MAKES SUMMER PLANS

Our children are getting very excited anticipating the end of the school year and the arrival of summer. School ends on May 27 and our summer recreation program will begin shortly after. Our campus facilities include Whitley Center gym, recreation center equipped with table tennis, air hockey, pool table, softball field, and a swimming pool. They will spend time doing crafts, socializing and participating in a variety of activities. In addition to using our facilities our children will have the opportunity to get away for events off-campus like bowling, skating, and the movies. Many groups have also made plans to provide the residents with cookouts and games. This summer will definitely prove to be one of excitement and fun.



## BASS JOINS MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

by Erin Pritchard, Student Intern



Dr. Karen Bass talks with student leaders on campus. (Left to right) Kelley Smart, Reedy Branch Church, Pitt County; Bryan Williamson, Saint Mary's Grove Church, Johnston County; Dr. Bass; Jonathan Skinner, Sherron Acres Church, Durham County; and Laurie Evans, Kenly Church, Johnston County.

"Working at a Christian college is a very comfortable environment for me because my own personal values are reflected in the values and mission of the College," says Dr. Karen Bass of Abbottsburg, who recently joined Mount Olive College as vice president for student development.

"I enjoy working with people who care not only about what the students become but also who they become," she adds. As vice president for student development, Bass' responsibilities include supervising campus ministries, counseling services, health services, student activities, residence life, and student services.

Bass attended Bladenboro High School and later married Bryan Singletary, her high school sweetheart. His mother attended Oak Grove FWB Church for many years.

Bass received her associate of arts degree from Peace College in 1988. In 1990, she earned her bachelor of arts degree in psychology. She earned her master's degree in higher education administration from North Carolina State University in 1992, and her doctorate of higher education administration in 2002.

Bass has served as transfer coordinator, resident director and director of student activities at Peace College as well as the government internship coordinator at North Carolina State University.

She is a volunteer with Race for the Cure and Special Olympics among others. She has received the Raleigh Jaycees' Outstanding Young North Carolinian Award and is a member of the Psi Chi Honor Society.

"I am ready to share my creativity, experience and enthusiasm with the students, faculty and staff of MOC," says Bass. "I look forward to working with student development to make a great place even better."

The Free Will Baptist 10 May 2003

## A BREATH OF FRENCH AIR

by Erin Pritchard, Student Intern



Laurie Evans

At 1:00 P.M. four pairs of hands nervously clutched the seats in their airplane at Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Once they were in the sky, they knew they were just one stop and several hours away from the destination of a lifetime—Paris, France.

"I was pretty nervous about the flight," says Laurie Evans of Kenly, member of Kenly Church. "Especially since our country was on the brink of war."

This was the first time that the senior English major at Mount Olive College had flown across the Atlantic Ocean. She was accompanied by Tiffany Brice of Wallace, a sophomore English education major, Jamie Massengill of Four Oaks, a junior business management major, Clint Matthews, a senior psychology major from Campbell University, and Mrs. Karine Caglayan of Kinston, assistant professor of foreign languages at Mount Olive College and advisor on the trip.

"Spring Break in Paris and Madrid" is an annual trip in the department of literature and foreign languages at Mount Olive College.

(Continued on next page)

The thirteen-day program in early March consisted of three nights in Paris, one night in Montpellier, France, four nights in Dénia, Spain and three nights in Madrid.

Caglayan, who lived in France for a year and spent several summers living in Paris, has been directing study abroad programs for over 30 years. Caglayan has been to both France and Spain more than 60 times and has directed over two-dozen study abroad programs.

"Traveling is an important part of education," says Caglayan. "I see immediate linguistic results in my foreign language students who travel and study abroad. The experiences are so rewarding that I make it an integral part of my teaching."

The group raised money through a donut sale to pay for the trip, but most of the expenses were out of pocket. "For the amount of time we spent abroad and for all the activities we participated in, the trip was very affordable," says Evans.

The group arrived in Paris at 9:30 A.M., and immediately began to tour the city. "The best way to avoid jet lag is to stay busy," states Caglayan. Even though they were

able to sleep on the plane, to them, it was three o'clock in the morning.

While in Paris, the group visited the Eiffel Tower, Champs Elées, which is known as "the most beautiful boulevard," and the Louvre Museum, which houses the "Mona Lisa" and hundreds of other notorious works of art.

The group ate in typical French restaurants and cafés, and even visited the "Latin Quarter," the student neighborhood in Paris. In this section of town, restaurant goers are enticed with samples of food to eat in the dozens of restaurants along the strip.

On their third day in France, they visited the infamous Palace of Versailles, one of the largest castles in the world. That afternoon, they ate at Le Consulat, a renowned café in Paris, which was frequented by Ernest Hemingway and Vincent Van Gogh during their lifetime.

"Even though the participants of this year's study abroad program were all Spanish students, they fell in love with Paris," says Caglayan.

The group rented a car and left Paris on Sunday afternoon, heading toward Dénia, in the province of Valencia, Spain. They stayed in an

apartment on the Mediterranean Sea and took a day to drive through the mountains, viewed the Mediterranean coast and its crystal blue waters, tropical gardens, and waterfalls.

The group left Dénia early Friday morning and headed to Madrid. They visited the Royal Palace, saw a Flamenco show, visited the Prado Museum and took a half-day tour of Toledo, Spain. "I loved the flamenco show, with the traditional Spanish dancers," says Evans. "Their costumes were very extravagant."

The one thing Evans did not enjoy was the bullfight in Toledo. "It was very violent," she states. "I saw six bulls meet their demise right before my eyes. It was horrible!"

Evans, who has taken more than 24 semester hours in Spanish, was easily able to understand many of the conversations and signs in Spain. "Mrs. Caglayan taught us enough French for us to get around by ourselves, but she felt more comfortable letting us go off in groups in Spain because we all knew the language pretty well," she says.

"She did a wonderful job scheduling our activities," says Evans. "There was never a dull moment!"

## MOUNT ZION CHURCH VISITS COLLEGE



Mount Olive College was pleased to welcome the "Mount Zion Seniors" from Mount Zion Church, Nash County, for a visit in early April. Shown in the picture are sixteen senior citizens along with their pastor, the Rev. Calvin Heath and his wife Debbie who arrived at the campus in time to enjoy the Tuesday morning Chapel service with students. After the Chapel service the group had lunch in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, and the Rev. Jeff Daughtry, Assistant Director of Planned Giving, led the group on a tour of the campus. Mozelle Batchelor served as coordinator for the church group.

Church groups are invited to visit the College, enjoy a meal in the Murphy Regional Center, tour the campus and learn

more about this ministry of the Original Free Will Baptist Church. To schedule a visit to the College, please contact Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854 or e-mail: [jfackiss@moc.edu](mailto:jfackiss@moc.edu).

# MOORE IS KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT GRADUATION

Mount Olive College will graduate around 250 students at its 49th spring commencement on Saturday, May 10, 2003. Graduation exercises are scheduled for 2 P.M. in College Hall.

The commencement speaker will be Kenneth "Kenney" Moore, founder of Andy's Inc. Moore graduated from Mount Olive College with an associate's degree in 1983 and transferred to Atlantic Christian College, now Barton College, to earn his bachelor's degree. He opened his first restaurant in the Goldsboro mall in 1991. Around 70 operations are expected in Eastern North Carolina in the next year. Moore credits a great deal of what he has learned about life and business to the experiences he gained as a student and member of the Trojan baseball team at MOC.

"During my sophomore year, our team was considered to be in a rebuilding stage and not expected to be at peak performance. But, I found out a funny thing that I have carried over into my business. That year, we won the conference and were ranked 20th in the country. That taught me that you can have less talented people, but if you have the same goals, dreams, and ambitions and work together as a team, you can accomplish amazing things," he commented.

Moore is a staunch supporter of Mount Olive College. He has established a \$10,000 endowed scholarship fund to provide educational opportunities for employees of Andy's. He was also instrumental in the construction of the Moore-Williams Fieldhouse at MOC, named after Moore's parents, Dal and Nancy Moore, and his parents-in-law, Jimmy and Frances Williams.

Preceding the graduation ceremony will be the commencement worship service at 10:30 A.M. in Rodgers Chapel.

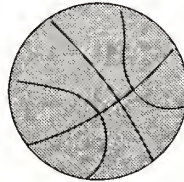


The Rev. Brad Williamson, (left) a former student of the College and pastor of La Grange Church, Lenoir County, is shown as he talks with the Rev. Greg Day, Campus Minister at the College, and Rhonda Houston, a freshman student from Deep Run Church, Lenoir County after he had delivered a message at the Tuesday morning Chapel service for students.

## SUMMER CAMPS AT MOC

### Bill Clingan's Basketball Camp

June 23-26  
7:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.  
Cost: \$125  
Boys and girls ages 7-15



### Volleyball Camp

July 7-11  
8 A.M.-4 P.M.  
Girls ages 12-18



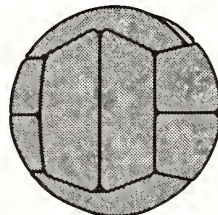
### Soccer Camp

July 7-11  
All ages



### Softball Camp

July 14-18



### Diamond Stars Baseball Camp

July 20-25  
Contact Carl Lancaster for additional information

For more information, contact Tina Parks at (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854



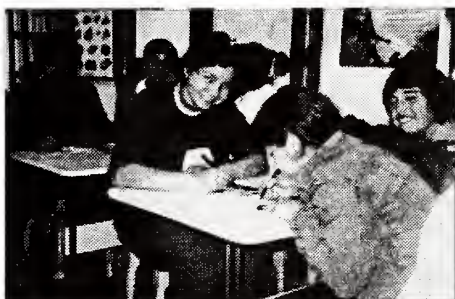


## THE LORD'S GRACE

by Tezdjan



*These kids are called "Our Little Ones." Most of them go to the elementary school and receive good grades.*



*The youth learning writing and reading. Here they are coloring Bible pictures.*



*The girls are dancing.*



*Kiril and Willem talking about witnessing to his patients in the house of Debehho, Summer 2002.*

I see the young girls coming for prayer every Tuesday, the women on Wednesday and Thursdays, the little ones on Sunday morning, and the youth on Sunday evenings. I am wondering about the grace God has prepared for all of us here. I realize that it all began with one man and one Mission Organization. The present work has developed due to the patience, love, and experience of this servant of the Lord. The more I learn by my studies and the more hours I spend with the Gypsies of the nearby camp, I realize that God is providing light in the dark and difficult lives of these people. One educated man among the many uneducated is the beginning of a revolution. That is exactly what we have experienced all these years, with the happiness and disappointments, which all revolutions characterize. I honestly cannot understand how this servant of the Lord had managed to have hope while everything seemed to be hopeless. He continued to plan and dream about the development of the work while such activities were still forbidden by law. What I do understand is that he has not only love to God and Christ, but that God blessed him with knowledge and understanding. He was excellently equipped that helped him to realize what is going on in my country. That made all of us more aware of the constant changing situation. We all appreciate and deeply respect you for witnessing to us the grace of the Lord, while we even did not realize that we need His Grace. Now I know that the essence of faith is grace. May the Lord bless all of you in your service that may at times involve you in the revolution of Christ.

## THE CHURCHES IN PHILIPPINES VISAYAS AND MINDANAO DISTRICT

by The Reverend Zacarias Perocillo



*The Rev. Perocillo seated second from the left discussing church matters with other leaders.*

The congregation of the Visayas and Mindanao are generally situated in nine cities and three provinces, an area close to two-thirds part of the whole country. We strive to reach adults with the Gospel, but I encourage and challenge our church workers to give more time to the young people and children because they are the hope of the Free Will Baptist Church as the years go by.

There is so much trouble all around due to terrorist activities, especially in the Mindanao district. (At the time of this writing Davao City was bombed twice in one day.) There is also an increase and spread of illegal drugs, yet our churches are growing because people seek God in troubled times. Since the harvest is plenteous and the workers are few, what we need most at this time is the production of capable leaders who can influence people. These leaders need to be spiritually and academically equipped to reach the youth. They need to teach them, not only in the church schools, but also in other areas of life.

Please join us in prayer for the Philippines.

# FWB RISEN LORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, INC. VILLABULCITA, BULACAO CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES

by Tirzah Perocillo

Glory to God in the highest! Through the full support of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Original Free Will Baptists, the Free Will Baptist Church, Philippines, Inc., established its first government accredited Elementary School and High School, namely: Risen Lord Christian School, Inc. At the turn of the Millennium, three branches were opened simultaneously in Consolacion and Naga, all of Cebu and at Villabulcita, Bulacao, Cebu City. Starting with just 70 students in school year 2000, the enrollment has now reached to more than 300 students distributed in the three campuses, with the rapid growth doubling each year. The main campus stands on a God-granted purchase of an additional lot which made the whole place able to accommodate a unique playground with four buildings: The Pre-Elementary Department with the Administration Office, the Chapel, the Elementary and High School Department, the Canteen, and the Parking Area. The Risen Lord Christian Fellowship Administration encouraged and challenged its members to help buy the additional lot through pledge, and that the whole church did. With quite a sum to come up, God granted that we are able to pay a thousand dollars to the bank monthly, which is an amount hard-earned and hard to raise for any FWB local church to do. Even only on its third year of operation the school is employing 15 teachers, 7 office staff all fully salaried according to the standard set by the Department of Labor.

In the school year 2003–2004 we are hoping and expecting an increase in enrollment to almost a thousand students.

Why establish a school? Filipino Roman Catholicism is different from

the rest of the world. The product or converts of our evangelism is ostracized by the community. Our church members also longed to send their children to a school which accommodate Christian faith. Government schools today have deteriorated in focus, making public schools like a private Catholic school. The Filipinos are education-oriented, that is why we value educating our children by sending them to good schools, more than anything in life. So we, the Board of Directors, envisioned of providing the church and the community, a quality education based on God's Word, the Bible. God approved and so we have come up with a curriculum which is Bible-centered, and internationally competitive. Through

the Holy Spirit and with much prayer, we are learning how to manage this school well because we have seen its great potential as a tool in reaching out to souls in the community. The church attendance is now increasing as the school grows.



*Children in the Children's Home Foundation, Inc.*



*RICS—Chapel Time—Bulacao. Even parents of the students are also attending.*



*Association of Christian School and College Girls and Boys Brigade at Risen Lord Christian School.*



To: All Ministers of the Convention of OFWB

The Executive Committee of the Original Free Will Baptist Ministerial Association wishes to invite you to attend the Ministers Conference 2003 at Cragmont Assembly May 19-21. This year's theme is "Responding to God's Call by Equipping God's Church," with seminars being conducted by our guest, Dr. Roy DeBrand.

Dr. DeBrand is Professor of Preaching at Campbell University Divinity School. He has earned the following degrees: B.A., University of Corpus Christi, Texas; M. Div. and Ph.D., and he previously taught at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Monday evening Communion Services and daily Worship Services will be conducted by ministers from within our association ranks. This is the annual meeting of The Ministerial Association. Please fill out the registration form below and return as soon as possible. The cost of pre-registration is \$35. This fee covers your membership dues and picture for the week. Bryant Hines, Planning and Marketing Director for Cragmont and liaison to The Ministerial Association will receive dues and registration.

Please make all checks payable to OFWB Ministerial Association and mail this form and check by **May 10**, to:  
The Rev. Bryant Hines, Jr.,  
203 Teachey Court, New Bern, NC 28562

**Minister's Conference  
May 19-21, 2003**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your building preference. 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 any existing health problems that would prevent you from being on the second floor? Yes  No

Please indicate in the space provided with whom you wish to room if you will be staying in the Main Building or Motel. \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you will be eating supper at Cragmont Monday night, May 19.

Please note: All ministers' 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 wish to join the Ministerial Association this year but cannot attend our conference, you may join or renew your membership by sending \$30 membership dues to the above address.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL ROOMS AT CRAGMONT WILL HAVE A PER ROOM CHARGE INSTEAD OF AN INDIVIDUAL CHARGE AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST.

## MINISTER'S CONFERENCE May 19-21, 2003

### *Responding to God's Call by Equipping God's Church*

**Monday, 7 P.M.** Holy Communion  
Stephen Prescott  
Welcome and Announcements  
Doug Skinner  
Fellowship in Dining Hall

#### **Tuesday**

7:30-8:30 A.M. Breakfast  
9 A.M. Worship  
Fred Baker  
10-10:45 A.M. First Session  
Dr. Roy DeBrand  
*Equipping God's Church*  
11 A.M.-12 P.M. Second Session  
Dr. Roy DeBrand  
*Equipping God's Church*  
**Lunch and Afternoon Break 12 P.M.**

#### **Tuesday Evening**

7 P.M. Business Meeting

#### **Wednesday**

7:30-8:30 A.M. Breakfast  
9 A.M. Worship  
Rudy Owens  
10-10:45 A.M. First Session  
Dr. Roy DeBrand  
*Equipping God's Church*  
11 A.M.-12 P.M. Second Session  
Dr. Roy DeBrand  
*Equipping God's Church*  
**Lunch and Afternoon Break 12 P.M.**

#### **Wednesday Evening**

7 P.M. Closing Worship  
Service  
Garland Suggs

# WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

## WOMAN'S AUXILIARY SUNDAY AT FIRST CHURCH, WILSON

by Tracy Anderson



On February 23, 2003 First Church of Wilson had Woman's Auxiliary Sunday. The purpose was to celebrate the ministry of women in the church and to honor them for their service. The service was opened with special music by the Woman's Auxiliary Choir who sang *Woman's Auxiliary Happiness Song*. Special music was also provided by Nancy Matthews, Becky Latham, and Janice Owens.

Dot Suggs, Woman's Auxiliary President presented a gift to Ms. Elsie Temple. She will be 80 years old this year. Dot also introduced the speaker, Dianne B. Riley. Mrs. Riley gave the message on having margins in our lives.

Linda Davis, Woman's Auxiliary Vice-President presented the Life Membership Award to Dot Suggs. Her son, Ricky Suggs and daughter, Cindy Temple escorted her to the podium. She received a Life Membership pin and a Life Membership certificate. Dot's other family members in attendance were recognized. Dot lives her life in faith, gives sacrificially of herself, loves her fellow man, and receives her strength

from Christ. She has been an active member of the Woman's Auxiliary for 40 years, serving as President from 1983-1985 and is currently the President.

The service was closed with the wonderful hymn, *Victory in Jesus*. This day, Woman's Auxiliary Sunday, was a very exciting and special day for the women of First Church of Wilson. It was truly a day of appreciation, love, and gratitude for the women of our church.

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### WOMAN'S CONFERENCES

JUNE 2-7, Sheryll Wood, Speaker • JULY 28-AUGUST 2, Carolyn Jernigan, Speaker

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Which Conference Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

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

If you do not plan to ride the bus, please check here. \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this registration form along with a \$20 deposit to: Teresa M. Ball, 6144 Weyerhaeuser Rd., Grifton, NC 28530; A balance of \$140 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont. Make checks payable to: Cragmont Woman's Conference.

There will be afternoon trips to Black Mountain and Asheville for \$10 each. A train excursion/dinner outing is planned for Wednesday for \$70. Please check \_\_\_\_\_ if you plan to go on the train ride so we can make reservations.

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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The Woman's Auxiliary Conference is in need of volunteer drivers with buses/vans to transport women to the June Conference. Transportation will be needed to leave on Monday morning, June 2 and return on Saturday, June 7. Please call May Pittman at (252) 756-3517 or Teresa Ball at (252) 524-4677 for further information



## SUNDAY SCHOOL MONTH AT PINEY GROVE FWB CHURCH

Piney Grove Church (Eastern Conference) of Albertson celebrated Sunday School Month each Sunday in February. During the first Sunday our Sunday School members set off balloons to celebrate and welcome people to our Sunday School. The send off was coordinated by Bo Terry, Superintendent and Glenn Dail, Assistant Superintendent. Second Sunday our Sunday School officers were recognized and presented goody bags in appreciation for their service by Cathy Crumpler, a member of the Sunday School Ministry and their pastor, Joe Crumpler. Third Sunday our teenagers assisted by Carol Davis and Linda Stroud presented a narrated Sunday School review of the characters in our lessons for the month. On the fourth and final Sunday of the month we celebrated the children of our Sunday School. Their pastor visited their classes and presented them with Bible game books and goody bags. The highlight of our month was an "I Love Sunday School" dinner and "Make Your Own Hat" contest on February 21, 2003. Everyone enjoyed a covered dish supper and viewing the hat contest. Participants paid \$5 each to enter the contest. Monies collected were sent to the Sunday School Ministry. Winners were selected in three divisions. Youth: John Patrick Herring with the theme "I'm in the Lord's Army"; Women: Mattie Newsome with "Springtime"; and Men: Dwight Stroud with "Survival." Glory be to God and thank you for Sunday School and an opportunity to learn more about Your Word.



*The Three Winners*



*Men's Group*



*Youth Group*



*Linda Stroud is pictured here as Lady Liberty. She had the idea for the hat contest.*



*Pictured at left: Women's Group*



## EMPLOYEE RETURNS AFTER KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

by Dixie McLawhorn, Editorial Assistant

On Tuesday, April 8, 2003, a cold and rainy day, Wallie Hargrove came back to full-time work at the Free Will Baptist Press. She had been through major surgery to receive a much needed kidney from Larry Herbert, (see the January 2003 issue of *The Free Will Baptist*) on Tuesday, January 14, 2003. Things she had done without much thought before the surgery now took a concerted effort to accomplish. But if you know anything about Wallie, you know that she won't let things like that stop her. Wallie had been working partial days since March 3, staying for about 2 hours on the days she felt up to it. It was a struggle in the beginning though. Now, many of us would have taken the attitude that this would be a time to "catch up on our rest," but she needed to be back in the swing of things. Sitting around, doing nothing is not her idea of a fun time.

Shortly after coming back to work, Wallie had a set back. The peritoneal cavity had begun to collect fluid around the kidney she received. There was talk of rejection, and people prayed even harder than they had been praying for Wallie. She had to go through a procedure where the doctor drew the fluid out with a needle. This should have taken care of the problem; however, it did not. On March 10, one week after returning to work, she was readmitted to the hospital for surgery to rechannel the fluid to her stomach. During that hospital stay the doctor took a biopsy of her kidney to find out if her body was beginning to reject it. He found that her body was not rejecting the kidney, but the anti-rejection medica-

tion she was taking was toxic to her kidney. Her medication was immediately changed and since that time, Wallie has been on the road to better health.

When asked how she feels now, Wallie smiled and said, "Fantastic for the shape I'm in." She has been making regular visits to her doctors since her discharge from Pitt County Memorial Hospital. She said that during her last visit, the doctor said that "everything looks good." Her *creatin* level has dropped from 3.1 to 2.1, which is considered o.k. but a level in the low 1s would be better. Her doctor is not overly concerned with her level, as it has progressively gotten lower since her second surgery. Her *hemoglobin* is low, so she gets an EPO shot once daily. (EPO stands for the hormone *erythropoietin*. It is produced by healthy kidneys to stimulate bone marrow, which in turn produces red blood cells. When EPO is not manufactured as it should, the patient becomes anemic.) And her iron level is also low, so she has begun to receive iron intravenously. It takes approximately 2 hours for the iron to be discharged into her vein. She doesn't know how long she will have to have supplemental iron, but she takes life one day at a time anyway. She is losing weight, but that's a good thing. She has even begun walking on a treadmill. There have been days when she felt good as she walked out of her doctor's office and there have been some not-so-good days. But through it all, she knows she has come a long way since her nights of hemodialysis at the *Greenville Dialysis Clinic* in Greenville, NC.

Wallie and her donor, Larry Herbert have been in constant contact with each other. "He calls me on 'clinic day' to find out what's going on and how I'm doing," she said. Donor Awareness Week was Monday, April 14 through Thursday, April 17 this year. Both Wallie and Larry were stationed at a booth located in the cafeteria at Pitt County Memorial Hospital on Wednesday, April 16 and were available to talk to people about the need for organ transplant donations. Wallie can certainly testify to the fact that there are not enough kidneys or other organs being donated. She hopes that having been given the opportunity to talk with people about her surgery and the need of other patients has done some good.

As a result of the articles in *The Free Will Baptist* about Wallie's transplant, she has received many cards from people in churches within the Original Free Will Baptist denomination. Several of the cards came from people she didn't even know, but who are her fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. She thanks each of you for the cards and the prayers you have sent up on her behalf.

"My church has been mighty good to me, too," she said. "They brought food, sent cards, called me and most especially, they prayed for me." Her husband, Steve pastors Christian Chapel Church in Pink Hill, NC.

It may have been a cold, rainy day when Wallie came back to "the Press," but the Son has been shining down on her through this whole time.

## Jesus is the Only 1

### Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

May 16–18, 2003  
Mount Olive College

#### 2003 Convention Schedule

##### Friday, May 16

- 5:00–8:00 Registration—College Hall  
8:00 Session 1—College Hall  
10:00 Devotional Workshops

##### Saturday, May 17

- 8:00–9:00 Breakfast—Murphy Center  
9:00 Late Registration—College Hall  
9:30 Session 2—College Hall  
10:30 Talent Exposition—College Hall  
Lesson Presentation & Public  
Speaking—College Hall  
12:00–1:15 Lunch—Murphy Center  
2:00 Awards Presentation—Murphy  
Center  
3:30–5:00 Fun Time  
5:00–6:15 Dinner—Murphy Center  
7:30 Session 3—College Hall  
AVALON in Concert  
10:00 Installation Service &  
Refreshments—Murphy Center

##### Sunday, May 18

- 7:30–8:30 Breakfast—Murphy Center  
9:30 Worship Service—Rodgers  
Chapel  
11:00 Check-out  
12:00 Lunch Available—Murphy  
Center

**Jesus saith unto him, "I am the  
way, the truth, and the life: no man  
cometh unto the Father, but by me."**

**John 14:6**



The Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists would like to invite your church to the 2003 Youth Convention. This year's convention promises to be the best one ever, with a new format, improved praise & worship time, exciting speakers and workshops, along with a dynamic concert by the hottest Contemporary Christian group AVALON.

Included here is all the information necessary for your church to be a part of 2003 Youth Convention.

Upon arrival at the Youth Convention, go to the Registration Table in College Hall to check-in for room assignments and to pick up meal and concert tickets.

Even if your church is not lodging at the college, please check-in at the Registration Table so we can have accurate accounts of churches represented and total attendance.

Registrations are due **May 1, 2003**. Detach the registration form on the next page and send it along with one check that will cover registration fee, lodging, meals, concert tickets, and project money to the address below:

Scott Lane  
Assistant Director, Youth Convention of OFWB  
1255 NC 581 N.  
Pikeville, NC 27863  
(919) 736-1423  
Email: [scottl@icomnet.com](mailto:scottl@icomnet.com)  
Make check payable to Youth Convention OFWB

## Youth Project

The 2003 Youth Project is for Cragmont Assembly. "The Mule Fund" will go toward the purchase of a Mule, which is an All-Terrain-Vehicle that has a dump bed, and will be great for going up the mountain to work on the trail. The goal for "The Mule Fund" is \$10,000. The goal for each church is \$150.00. but any amount given will be greatly appreciated.

## Things To Bring

- Bring athletic equipment for fun time (glove, bat, tennis racquet, tennis balls, volleyball, etc.)
- Bring a Bible, notebook, pen or pencil.

## T-Shirts

Youth Convention T-Shirts will be on sale throughout the weekend at the convention.

# AVALON



TO  
PERFORM  
AT  
YOUTH CONVENTION  
of OFWB  
MAY 17, 2003

## Registration

- Registration for the Convention is \$50 per church and is due by May 1, 2003.
- Any registrations received after May 1 or received at the convention are \$75 per church.

## Lodging

- Rooms are assigned in the dorms and apartments of Mount Olive College on a first come, first serve basis.
- Guests need to bring their own pillow, blankets, linens, bath towels, and soap.

## REGISTRATION FORM

### Friday Night

#### Males

Leaders \_\_\_ x \$8= \_\_\_

Cherubs \_\_\_ x \$8= \_\_\_

AFCs \_\_\_ x \$8= \_\_\_

YFAs \_\_\_ x \$8= \_\_\_

#### Females

Leaders \_\_\_ x \$8= \_\_\_

Cherubs \_\_\_ x \$8= \_\_\_

AFCs \_\_\_ x \$8= \_\_\_

YFAs \_\_\_ x \$8= \_\_\_

### Saturday Night

#### Males

Leaders \_\_\_ x \$8= \_\_\_

Cherubs \_\_\_ x \$8= \_\_\_

AFCs \_\_\_ x \$8= \_\_\_

YFAs \_\_\_ x \$8= \_\_\_

#### Females

Leaders \_\_\_ x \$8= \_\_\_

Cherubs \_\_\_ x \$8= \_\_\_

AFCs \_\_\_ x \$8= \_\_\_

YFAs \_\_\_ x \$8= \_\_\_

## AVALON Concert

The Youth Convention is excited to announce Avalon in concert on Saturday night of the Convention. Tickets must be purchased in advance. The price of tickets to the concert are \$5 per person for churches that register and attend the weekend Convention.

Concert Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5= \_\_\_\_\_

Scott Lane

Assistant Director, Youth Convention OFWB

1255 NC 581 N.

Pikeville, NC 27863

(919) 736-1423

Email: [scottl@icomnet.com](mailto:scottl@icomnet.com)

Make check payable to Youth Convention OFWB



**THERE'S NO BETTER TIME!™**

# Original Free Will Baptists' **FAMILY DAY!**

Sponsored by the Youth Convention of OFWB

**Saturday, June 7, 2003**

Celebrate Family Fun at Virginia's Premier Theme Park!  
Come and enjoy a full day of fun, food and fellowship at  
Paramount's Kings Dominion with your family and friends!

**SPECIAL DISCOUNT TICKETS:**

**\$24**      **\$20**

ages 7 and above  
you save **\$17.99**  
off the \$41.99 regular  
general admission

ages 3 to 6  
you save **\$7.99**  
off the \$27.99 regular  
child admission

## **ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT Picnic**

Served from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm.  
Enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, Caesar  
salad, fresh cut fruit, chips and  
ice cream treats.

Ages 7 and above: **\$10.50**

Ages 3 through 6: **\$5.50**

## **GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE AND SAVE!**

Admission tickets will be on sale at the Paramount's  
Kings Dominion Group Sales Window on June 7, from  
9:00 am to 12 noon. Tickets will cost \$26.00 adult and  
\$22.00 child. Look for the Original Free Will Baptists Window!

Note: meal tickets must be purchased in advance.

### **for ticket information contact:**

**Scott Lane** - Assistant Director of Youth Convention  
Original Free Will Baptists, 1255 NC 581 N, Pikeville, NC 27863  
919-736-1423      [scottl@icomnet.com](mailto:scottl@icomnet.com)

  
**Paramount's  
KINGS DOMINION**

[KingsDominion.com](http://KingsDominion.com)



# CAMP VANDEMERE

## ABSOLUTE SURRENDER TO THE KING

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

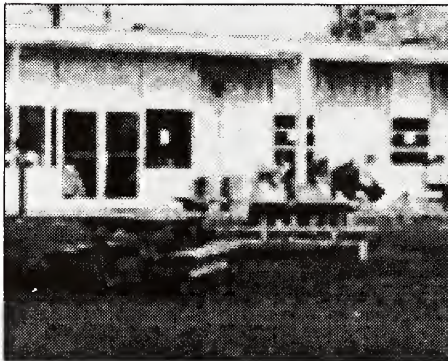
River Bend Baptist Church and Mt. Zion Church joined together with Christ for an empowering Women's Retreat on March 28-29, 2003. The women joined together Friday night for a wonderful meal followed by an evening of worship and praise for the Lord Jesus Christ. This was a special time for the women to bond together, pray together, and share how the Lord has blessed each one. Sondra Phillips shared God's Holy Word in a wonderful evening message. There was very little rest time Friday night; some did not rest at all. At 2:30 A.M. a lady was saved, and the angels rejoiced.

Throughout the weekend there were touching testimonies by Debra Jones and Catherine Nopper. Special music was provided by Lisa Caroon, Beverly Holton, Cathy Hurt, Ruth Simpson, and The Praise Team. Saturday morning the women were blessed with a wonderful and powerful message given by Christ through the Rev. Harriett Cross.

A special thank you to all of those who had a hand in organizing the weekend, and to all of those who shared their blessings and talents with us.



*Praise Time*



*Fellowship Time*



*Food Time*

### SINGIN' BY THE RIVER

This year's "Singin' by the River" will start on Friday night, August 22, with, of course, wonderful gospel music and preaching featuring "Called Out" and the "Marlboro Boys." If you would like to stay at the Camp facilities on Friday night, please contact Wesley Taylor at one of the numbers included in the Summer Camp Schedule on this page. Please come out and support the Camp.

## SUMMER CAMP 2003

|                |                                                             |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 3          | Third Union Fun Day                                         |
| May 25-30      | Open                                                        |
| June 2-6       | Director, John Thompson, Baptist Minister<br>(252) 633-0025 |
| June 6-7       | Eastern Conference Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat   |
| June 8-13      | Director, the Rev. Tim Heath<br>(252) 638-3803              |
| June 16-20     | Women's Week                                                |
| June 23-27     | Open                                                        |
| July 2-5       | Juniper Chapel Church Retreat                               |
| July 6-11      | Director, the Rev. Joe Ratcliff<br>(252) 244-0207           |
| July 12        | Fifth Union Fun Day                                         |
| July 13-18     | Director, Eva Mae Clark<br>(252) 637-5346                   |
| July 20-25     | Berry Hodowanic, New Bethlehem<br>(252) 249-0133            |
| July 28-Aug. 1 | Open                                                        |
| Aug 22-23      | Singin' By the River                                        |

\*Weekend retreats available. Please check with the manager for availability.

If you would like to direct a week of camp please contact:

Wesley Taylor  
(252) 745-3171 (Camp Office)  
(252) 745-1203 (Home)  
(252) 514-3222 (Cell)  
(252) 634-1287 (Pager)

### NEEDS LIST

- 20 loads of Rock—\$65 per load
- Groups to take on projects to help improve the camp facilities
- Campers to share God's bounty with us.

### THANK YOU

Camp Vandemere would like to thank Woodmen of the World Camp #652 for donating an American Flag and a Christian Flag to Camp Vandemere. Hazel Hawks and Thelma Whitford presented the flags to Wesley Taylor, camp manager, and his wife, Courtney at Macedonia Church on March 23, 2003.



## STANDING TALL

As I travel the highways across this beautiful country that God has allowed us to call America, I have read on billboards many times the statement "A man never stood so tall as when he stooped to help a child."

Now is the time that each one of us can stand tall and let our lights shine. There are many ways you can stand tall as you work with and through Home Missions and Evangelism.

One program that has proven very successful is the Sponsorship Scholarship Program. This service provides scholarships to needy H'Mong children. First, in the Lao Evangelical Youth Camp at Cragmont, June 8-9 when the H'Mong youth from North Carolina meet to worship and play to help themselves develop to better serve the Lord Jesus Christ and America. The second H'Mong Youth Camp for H'Mong youth and others is August 3-9 at Heavenly Hills Christian Camp in California.

The cost of a scholarship is \$50 a year—that's less than \$1 a week.

There are many youths in need of a scholarship. Now is the time for each of us to stand tall and let our lights shine by providing scholarships for those who need a little help. Will you and your church please help?

Please call Dr. A. Graham Lane at (252) 637-9638 or the Home Missions office at (252) 746-4963. You may also fill out the form below and mail it to Home Missions, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. Our email address is [assistant@fwbhomemissions.org](mailto:assistant@fwbhomemissions.org).

-----  
YES, I/We would like to help a needy youth to attend a Christ-centered summer camp. I/We would like to provide \_\_\_\_\_ sponsor scholarships at \$50 each. Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Home Missions and Evangelism for Sponsorship Scholarship

Name (Individual or Organization) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## LEAGUE CONVENTION

### CONVENTION OF OFWB LEAGUES

**THEME:** "My Awesome Friend"

**SCRIPTURE:** "A friend loveth at all times ..." (Proverbs 17:17a)

Leaguers spent an awesome day celebrating our "Awesome Friend," Jesus Christ, on Saturday, March 15, 2003 at Mount Zion Church in Roper, NC. A selection of choruses awakened any sleepy heads we may have had after the drive to Mount Zion. Lloyd Jones of the host church extended a cordial welcome to which Hillary Williams of Goldsboro Church and Alan Joyner of Aspen Grove Church gave the response. Judy Moore presented a thought-

provoking devotion on how a true friend is like a bandage. Alan Joyner's report from Christian Cadet Week at Cragmont Assembly got our youth excited about signing up for a week of summer camp.

The excitement continued with the Sword Drill. Our winners were: Adults—4th Place, Lisa Williams; 3rd Place, Judy Moore; 2nd Place, Margaret Ard; 1st Place, Sharlene Howell; Intermediates—2nd Place, Jason Williams; 1st Place, Tim Howell. Goldsboro was the big winner with five of the winners and one winner was from Aspen Grove.

We enjoyed a wonderful program

presented by "Arise," a youth group from Union Chapel Church, Plymouth, NC. Another delight of the day was the traditional League "Singspiration." It would easily get my vote for the best ever with three churches—Goldsboro, Aspen Grove, and Mount Zion participating with some glorious music.

Our fun, devotion-filled Saturday at Mt. Zion concluded with a delicious meal provided by the host church.

Make plans now to join us on Saturday, March 20, 2004 at First Church, Goldsboro for the next League Convention.

# BIBLE SWORD DRILL 2003-2004

## Convention of Original Free Will Baptist Leagues

### STUDY GUIDE

#### I. Scripture Searching (Stewardship)

1. Deuteronomy 16:17
2. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
3. Matthew 22:19-21
4. Acts 20:35
5. Luke 12:34
6. Haggai 2:8
7. Proverbs 3:9
8. Romans 12:1
9. Malachi 3:8-10
10. Romans 14:12
11. Colossians 3:2
12. 1 Corinthians 16:2

#### II. Unfinished Quotations (Easter)

(Jesus' seven final statements)

1. "Then said Jesus, *Father, forgive them...*" (Luke 23:34).
2. "Then Jesus said unto him (*malefactor*), verily..." (Luke 23:43).
3. "When Jesus therefore saw his *Mother,...*" (John 19:26-27).
4. "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, *Eli, Eli,...*" (Matthew 27:46).
5. "After this Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished,..." (John 19:28).
6. "When Jesus, therefore, had received the vinegar, he said, *It is finished...*" (John 19:30).
7. "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, *Father, into thy hands...*" (Luke 23:46).

#### Favorite Scriptures

8. "But seek ye first the *kingdom of God,...*" (Matthew 6:33).
9. "And Mizpah, for he said, the *Lord watch between,...*" (Genesis 31:49).
10. "Study to shew thyself *approved unto God,...*" (2 Timothy 2:15).
11. "All *Scripture* is given by inspiration of God,..." (2 Timothy 3:16).
12. The *ten* commandments (Deuteronomy 5, Exodus 20) (Read first verse of either)

#### III. Character Drill (Crucifixion, Resurrection)

1. Herod, Pilate—Luke 3:1
2. Annas, Caiphas—John 18:12-13
3. Judas—Luke 22:48
4. Peter—John 18:26-27
5. Centurion—Mark 15:39
6. Simon of Cyrene—Mark 15:21
7. Nicodemus—John 19:39-40
8. Joseph of Arimathaea—Mark 15:43
9. The Eleven—Mark 16:14
10. Mary Magdalene—John 20:11, 18
11. John—Acts 1:13-14
12. Thomas—John 20:28-29

#### IV. Book Drill

1. Leviticus
2. Ruth
3. Ezra
4. Ecclesiastes
5. Jeremiah
6. Hosea
7. Micah
8. Zechariah
9. John
10. Galatians
11. 1 Timothy
12. 2 John

#### V. Topical Drill (Witchcraft, etc.)

1. Witch—Exodus 22:18
2. Witchcraft—Micah 5:12
3. Sorcerers—Malachi 3:5
4. Enchantments—Isaiah 47:9-10
5. Bewitched—Acts 8:9
6. Child of the Devil—Acts 13:8-10
7. Sons of the Sorceress—Isaiah 57:3-4
8. Mediums, workers with familiar Spirits—2 Kings 23:24
9. Made sons pass through the fire—2 Kings 21:1, 6
10. Idolatry—Galatians 5:19-21
11. Unbelieving—Revelation 21:8
12. Seeking dead on behalf of the living—Isaiah 8:19-20

#### VI. Doctrinal Drill (Resurrection)

1. The Bible teaches that *Jesus rose from the dead* on the *third* day. (Luke 24:6-7)

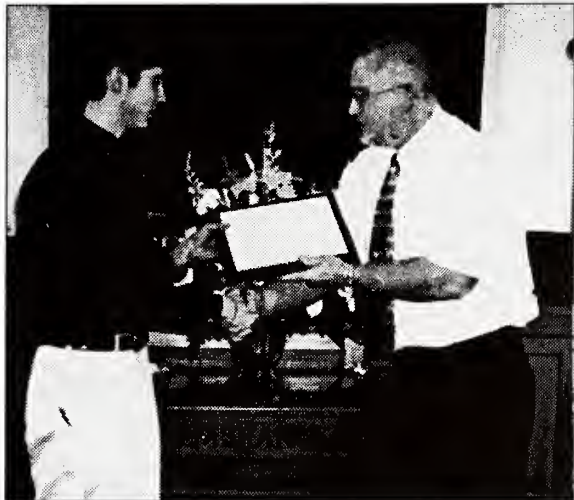
2. The Bible teaches that *Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life*. (John 11:25)
3. The Bible teaches that *those who sleep (die)* shall awake, some to *life*, some to *contempt*. (Daniel 12:2)
4. The Bible teaches that our *redeemer liveth*, and we shall see Him. (Job 19:25-26)
5. The Bible teaches that we *may know Christ* and the *power* or Resurrection. (Philippians 3:10-11)
6. The Bible teaches about the *resurrection of the dead*. (Matthew 22:31-32)
7. The Bible teaches that when we *help the poor*, we shall be *rewarded* at the resurrection. (Luke 14:13-14)
8. The Bible teaches that all in the *graves* shall hear God's voice, *some for life* and *some for damnation*. (John 5:28-29)
9. The Bible teaches that those who believe in me (Jesus) shall never die. (John 11:26)
10. The Bible teaches that *believers shall appear* with Christ in glory in a *glorified body*. (Philippians 3:20-21)
11. The Bible teaches that when Jesus shall appear, the *Christian dead* will arise, then *living Christians* will meet them in the air. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
12. The Bible teaches that when *Christ shall appear*, *believers* shall be *like Him*. (1 John 3:2-3)

---

Bibles will be provided. Only references from this guide will be accepted. Any church or youth group may have Junior (ages 9-11); Intermediate (ages 12-15); and adult contestants. Primary (ages 6-8) will compete in Scripture Searching and Book Drill. This year there will be no limit on participants. However, at the Convention, the church must register with one \$25 fee. God Bless You!

## MARC BOSWELL LICENSED BY SPRING BRANCH

*Submitted by The Reverend Walt Tyndall*



On February 2, Spring Branch Church held a licensing ceremony for Marc Boswell. Marc has accepted the call into the ministry and will accomplish great things for the Kingdom of God. Marc made his decision at our revival services last fall and came before the church the following Sunday. In January, he met with the Central Conference Ordaining Council and they approved the licensing by the church.

Marc is eighteen years old and a graduate of Beddingfield High School. He graduated fourth in his class and is presently attending Pitt Community College in the Ambassador Program. Marc has already begun to take courses through correspondence that will help him in the ministry and also meet the requirements set forth by the Central Conference.

Marc has been a member of Spring Branch most of his life and is a tremendous young man. He teaches Sunday School and is a member of the Church Board. He also assists with YFA. He has a great desire to grow spiritually and spends much time in Bible study and prayer. He is excited about his faith and living according to God's Word.

Marc has had several opportunities to preach outside of our church and will be holding our Fall Revival this October. His preaching is dynamic and filled with enthusiasm. He is available to fill in for ministers who need him.

After the licensing ceremony, the church had a reception with a meal for Marc in the Fellowship Hall where he was presented a plaque to commemorate this occasion.

It is my privilege to be Marc's pastor and a joy to see a young man so devoted to serving God. Please pray for Marc as he continues to prepare for ministry.

### CAPE FEAR CONFERENCE/UNION MEETING WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 21, 2003 from 10 A.M. to 12 P.M. (noon). The Board of Christian Education is sponsoring a workshop in place of the Union Meeting. The Rev. Greg Day, an instructor and Chaplain for Mount Olive College will present a program reference "Church Staffing." We, the Board of Christian Education, feel this will be an informative program and we encourage all our churches to attend. The Union will be hosted by Casey Chapel Church. The Church is located on Hwy 70 East of Goldsboro. Lunch will be provided by host church.

## 'HONOR OUR TROOPS' SUNDAY

*Submitted by Betty Rollins*

On March 16, 2003, Walnut Creek Church, LaGrange, held a special service to show support for our military personnel who have been deployed. We were privileged to have Colonel Tom Schenk, chaplain at Seymour Johnson AFB, Goldsboro, as our guest speaker. After being introduced by the Rev. Tony McLamb, pastor, Colonel Schenk delivered a very inspirational message entitled "Victory." We were blessed and encouraged by his words.

We invited as our guests, representatives from Seymour Johnson AFB, as well as military families among our friends and acquaintances. We were blessed with a beautiful day and a wonderful turnout. Afterwards our guests were invited to share a bountiful meal with us in our fellowship building at which time we were able to enjoy a time of good fellowship.

Everyone was greeted by Faye Bartlett who pinned yellow ribbons on each one. Our worship service began with the "Pledge of Allegiance" led by Matt McLamb as he presented the flag to the congregation. A wonderful program had been planned. It began when the WCFWB little folks sang, "I Love America" with a recitation by Pattie Whitfield. "America" was then sung by WCFWB young ladies: Emily Herring, Katie Herring, Scarlet Lane, Katie and Sarah Strickland, and Megan Thompson. The choir sang the prayer, "God Bless America," joined by the congregation on the second stanza. Prior to the morning message, the choir sang "A Patriotic medley" comprised of "The Battle Hymn Of The Republic" and "America the

*(Continued on next page)*

Beautiful," and "In Times Like These." The congregational hymn was "Victory In Jesus." Our youth ushers were Ray Grady and Matt McLamb.

In these perilous times, it is with a deep sense of concern for those who are deployed that we recognize and show our support for those who serve our country, and recognize the sacrifices that they and their families and loved ones are making to defend our country and others who are oppressed. We hope to convey to them that they are daily and frequently lifted in our prayers and that this may be of comfort to them. We pray that God will bless them, the leaders of our country, and others in harm's way. We solicit God's guidance and many prayers through these trying times.

MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA!

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

Holly Springs Church is attempting to locate pictures of former pastors for display in our archives room. Holly Springs has a long history which dates back to the late 1700s. We lack pictures of the following pastors and would appreciate any help that you might be able to offer. The pastors and their years of service to our church are:

Elder C. R. Pearce 1893-1895, Elder J. H. Sasser 1895-1898/1899-1907, the Rev. W. T. Johnson 1907-1910, the Rev. L. E. Ballard 1942-1944, and the Rev. P. C. Wiggs 1957-1960.

If you or your church has pictures that we could borrow and have prints made we would greatly appreciate using them. I will return them to you as soon as I can have copies made. Please call me collect at the following number or write to me. I will assume any cost that might occur in mailing the picture to me.

Your help with this request would be greatly appreciated.  
Elgie Weaver Creech, 10166 NC 42E, Kenly, NC 27542; phone, (919) 284-3756

## LOUISE REICH BRYAN

April 11, 1926-July 12, 2003



In the pre-dawn hours of January 6, 2003, God called Louise Reich Bryan to "enter into the joys of eternal life which I have prepared for those who love and trust Me" (Words of W. Burkette Raper). Suffering from a fall in July, 2002, Mrs. Bryan, the wife of the Rev. Allen B. Bryan of Goldsboro, had been in Wayne Memorial Hospital in Goldsboro, for most of the past six months.

Mrs. Bryan had been active in Free Will Baptist work in the Eastern Conference and Convention since she and the Rev. Bryan were married in 1974. She was active in the Woman's Auxiliary, working in each church where she and the Rev. Bryan served, to build up the organization to be an A-1 Auxiliary. She was an avid supporter of Mount Olive College. Churches where she and the Rev. Bryan have served full-time include Northeast Church, Mount Olive; Roberts Grove Church, Dunn; and Warsaw Church, Warsaw.

Since the Rev. Bryan's retirement from the full-time ministry in 1994, Rev. and Mrs. Bryan continued their full-time church membership at the Northeast Church, Mount Olive, and made their home in Goldsboro.

In addition to her husband, other surviving members of her family include: son, Gene Reich of Goldsboro; stepdaughters, Jo Ann Banks of Annapolis, MD; Peggy Cochran of Robersonville, NC; stepsons, Edgar Bryan of Washington, NC; Howard Bryan and Ben Bryan of Statesville; 10 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted on January 17 at the Tyndall Funeral Home in Mount Olive, by the Rev. Sherman Dilly and Dr. W. Burkette Raper. A graveside service and burial were conducted by the Rev. Dilly at the Oak Grove Church and Cemetery, Bladenboro, NC. Memorials can be made to the Bryan-Hester Endowment Fund at Mount Olive College.

## EASTERN DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

2003-2005

*First Row (L-R):  
Amy Scott, Benevolent Chair;  
Happy R. Taylor, Secretary;  
Judith Kennedy, Vice President;  
Jo Ann Parrish, President;  
Eleanor Baker, Field Secretary.*

*Back Row (L-R):  
Gail Heath, Camp Vandemere Representative;  
Wanda Costner, Study Course Chair;  
Lois Wetherington, Assistant Treasurer;*

*Linda Jenkins, Mission Chair; Audrey Quinn; Program-Prayer Chair; Velma Morris, Treasurer.*





**SHE'S GONNA BLOW!**, by Julie Ann Barnhill, (Harvest House, \$9.99, softcover).

"Look out—she's gonna blow!"

Yes, you *do* love your kids—and other moms struggle with feelings of anger just like you do!

A "been-there-done-that" mom herself, Julie Barnhill turns the hilarious scenes of everyday life with kids into a practical guide for anyone who's wrestling with the down-to-earth realities of being a mom. If you've ever experienced the following...

- You were going to be a "good mother"—but it only worked until the kids were born.
- You find yourself saying "never again," and then blowing it yet another time.
- You get to the end of the day and realize you haven't laughed, relaxed, or enjoyed your children.

...*She's Gonna Blow!* offers you hope, honest understanding, and good measures of laughter and wise biblical counsel. Julie will help show you the way back to the God who knows your mother heart as no one else does—and who offers lifelong peace and change for your journey of mothering!



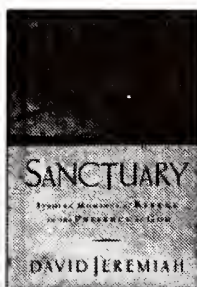
**IS THE FATHER OF JESUS THE GOD OF MUHAMMAD?**, by Timothy George, (Zondervan, \$12.99, softcover).

The days when western Christians could ignore the influence of Islam are over.

Today as never before, the world's second largest religion is shaping our culture, and words such as *jihad*, *imam*, *Quran*, and *fatwa* have entered our vocabulary. While all Muslims are no more alike than all Christians are alike, there are certain fundamental beliefs that all Muslims hold in common—some of which Christians would agree with, including belief in one true God. But is it the same God? How does the God of Muhammad differ from the God of Christianity?

Written in a clear, passionate style that is conciliatory, balanced, and uncompromisingly biblical, this book describes and contrasts the distinctives of Christianity and Islam. Its author, a noted historian and theologian who has studied Islam for many years, writes with an eye on helping Christians better understand how to interact with Muslims. Beginning with an overview of Islam—what it is and how it arose—here are fascinating and relevant insights on

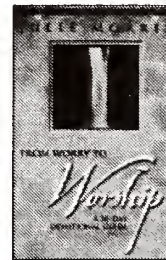
- the Five Pillars of Islam
- the role of religious violence from the Crusades onward
- the doctrine of the Trinity and the character of God
- Christian and Muslim views of Jesus Christ and salvation
- what Christians can learn from Muslims
- how Christians can share Christ with their Muslim neighbors... and more



**SANCTUARY**, by David Jeremiah, (Integrity, \$13.99, hardcover).

Find peace and comfort in the midst of life's daily distractions.

In our complicated, hectic world we all long for a sanctuary from the chaos—a refuge where we can rest and be refreshed by a message and hope from God's Word. In this 365 day devotional, respected pastor and author Dr. David Jeremiah encourages us to maintain an awareness of God's presence, no matter what our circumstances. Each daily reading features a Scripture passage and insightful comments from Dr. Jeremiah that will help you find the peace and comfort that God provides.



**FROM WORRY TO WORSHIP**, by Julie Morris, (New Hope, \$9.99, softcover).

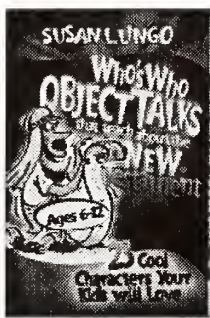
Find freedom from worry by investing 15 minutes a day for 30 days.

Job stress. Debt. Weight gain. Rebellious children. Marital problems. Terrorism.

Applying God's Word to real-life problems. From *Worry to Worship* encapsulates biblical truths into 30 manageable 15-minute sessions. God's power can transform the worrying mind through daily study of the Scriptures.

Bible teacher, lay counselor, and ex-worrywart Julie Morris charts a path from the anxiety of worry to the freedom of worship. Begin your journey here and find the contentment that belongs to every believer.

Life offers countless reasons to worry. Worship is the antidote.



**WHO'S WHO OBJECT TALKS THAT TEACH ABOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT**, by Susan L. Lingo, (Standard, \$5.99, softcover).

Who purchased Jesus' burial tomb and why? Whose name meant "innocent" but was really a rough rogue? Who will give a blast on his trumpet to signal the end of time?

You'll discover these exciting answers and loads more in *Who's Who Object Talks That Teach About the New Testament!* Kids will love eating tasty "locusts and honey" as they discover the many firsts of John the Baptist. They'll be amazed as they watch change made from a dollar and learn that Jesus changes our lives in amazing ways! And imagine kids' delight as they prepare glow-in-the-dark ceiling posters and discover who angels really are and how they serve God and us! *Who's Who Object Talks That Teach About the New Testament* combines life-changing Bible truths with loads of cool characters who bring the New Testament awesomely alive and make it radically relevant for kids today!

Each memorable message in *Who's Who Object Talks That Teach About the New Testament* introduces an important biblical character as it traces his or her life and some of the surrounding events. Kids will learn, just as people of Jesus' time learned, about God's amazing grace, His powerful plans for our salvation, the importance of faith and obedience, and a multitude of other life-altering truths. Each message offers a memorable craft project, game, slick trick, or other concrete way to remember the who and the what behind each biblical person. And check out the nifty Who's Who collectible cards that help kids recall in a snap who was who!

In the exciting pages of *Who's Who*

*Object Talks That Teach About the New Testament*, kids will discover ...

- Fascinating facts about New Testament characters
- Ways to serve and honor God as His people did long ago
- Powerful reminders of God's Word and Jesus' salvation
- A fresh appreciation for the New Testament

Use these motivating object talks as mini lessons on New Testament people and truths, as cool stand-alone object talks or kids' sermons, or as powerful Bible-study enrichment tools. You'll have a ball presenting these memorable messages, fascinating facts, and awesome Bible enrichment fun as you and your kids answer the questions: Who was who, and what did they do?



**WHO'S WHO OBJECT TALKS THAT TEACH ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT**, by Susan L. Lingo, (Standard, \$5.99, softcover).

Who was the oldest living person on earth? Whose name was mentioned over 1,000 times in the Bible? Whose name meant "star" in Persian, and became a superstar who saved her people?

You'll discover these exciting answers and loads more in *Who's Who Object Talks That Teach About the Old Testament!* Kids will love hosting dove races as they discover how Abigail was God's perfect peacemaker. They'll chuckle as they try to place "candles" on Methuselah's birthday cake and learn that God has a plan for everything—even for our ages! And imagine kids' delight as they try to pin the lips on the donkey and learn how Balaam was more stubborn than his talking friend! *Who's Who Object Talks That Teach About the Old Testament* combines life-changing Bible truths with loads of cool characters who bring the Old

Testament awesomely alive and make it radically relevant for kids today!

Each memorable message in *Who's Who Object Talks That Teach About the Old Testament* introduces an important biblical character as it traces his or her life and some of the surrounding events. Kids will learn, just as God's people learned, about God's amazing grace, His powerful plans, the importance of faith and obedience, and a multitude of other life-altering truths. Each message offers a memorable craft project, game, slick trick, or other concrete way to remember the who and the what behind each biblical person. And check out the nifty Who's Who collectible cards that help kids recall in a snap who was who!

In the exciting pages of *Who's Who Object Talks That Teach About the Old Testament*, kids will discover ...

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Use these motivating object talks as mini lessons on Old Testament people and truths, as cool stand-alone object talks or kids' sermons, or as powerful Bible-story enrichment tools. You'll have a ball presenting these memorable messages, fascinating facts, and awesome Bible-enrichment fun as you and your kids answer the questions: Who was who, and what did they do?

*Be sure and check out these great books at your local Bible Bookstore!*



# Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

by Pepper Worthington

## SPIRITUAL THIRST OF THE NAMELESS WOMAN

### Introduction

Liz Curtis Higgs creates a modern tale of Crystal who works at the Oasis Bar and one night meets a stranger who offers her and all the bar guests a water which will quench their thirst. What amazes Crystal is the fact that the stranger knows about her five husbands and current affair. This story parallels the Biblical story of the woman at the well.

### Crystal at the Oasis

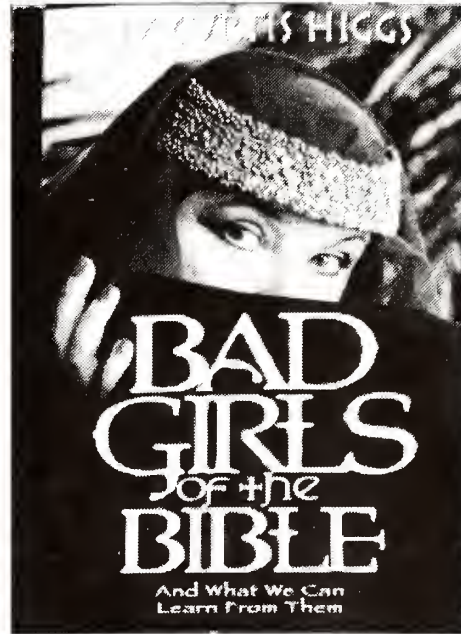
Liz Higgs' character Crystal is a modern western woman who knows the way of the world and has grown weary. She has been married to five men—Jimmy, Richard, Bart, Lowell, and Wayne. Currently, she is living with Mick but is not married to him. Crystal thinks that "after five trips to the altar, what was the point" (85)?

Crystal is forty-seven and tired. The men tease her, but she knows how to thwart sexual calls. One night a stranger comes into the Oasis and creates a water that quenches the thirst in a way alcohol never could. He tells her all about *her* life and asks her to drink the water which will fill her thirst. "She took a hesitant sip and was amazed at its purity, the sweet clarity of its taste" (89).

### Jacob's Well at Sychar, Samaria

Higgs then turns to the Biblical story of the woman at Jacob's well in Sychar, Samaria. Jesus is resting by the well while his disciples have left to get food.

Quietly a Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. It was most likely noon and the two of them were alone, what Higgs calls a "one-on-one,



the single best way to approach anyone about spiritual matters" (93).

### Temporal Thirst and Spiritual Thirst

What is this story in John 4 about? Higgs interprets the story as a message about spiritual thirst, a thirst which can be satisfied by the truth of confession, forgiveness, and love.

Jacob's well offered "rainwater mostly" (93) for the body. Such water was common and used by sheep as well as humans. Such water never satisfied the body forever. When Jesus speaks to the woman (nameless) at the well, He offers her what Higgs calls "living water" (93), the water of truth that reaches down to the spiritual self and heals.

### Process of Drinking Spiritual Water

If spiritual water is the water of truth, how might the nameless woman partake? Higgs clarifies the process of drinking the water (truth) that satisfies. First, the woman (everyone) must confess the life of sins. She must acknowledge her five husbands and her current affair. Second, the woman (everyone) must partake of the spiritual water Jesus offers, the water of truth which

### Part IV:

Liz Curtis Higgs, *Bad Girls of the Bible*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: Waterbrook Press, 1999. *Dying for a Drink*.

pp. 84-105. ISBN 1-57856-125-6. \$12.95

evokes repentance and forgiveness in order to free the self to honor God. Third, the woman (everyone) then goes to her friends and brings them forth to Jacob's well to meet the stranger who knows all and offers the living water which satisfies thirst.

### Discarded Water Pot

In her excitement to tell her friends at Sychar of the man who offers the living water of truth, the woman without a name leaves behind her water pot. What could this mean in John's story?

Higgs suggests that the woman left behind the dead water and raced to her village with the living water within. She left behind the water pot that held rainwater and rushed to the village with the living water of truth within. She left behind her shame and sin and ran with the living wetness of forgiveness, hope, and blessing.

Higgs notes: "How our sister must have loved being part of that two-day revival meeting in Sychar! She was no longer treated as an outcast; she was part of the community. She was no longer seen as a foolish female; she was a wise woman. Hadn't she been the first to meet the Messiah? Hadn't she cared enough to include others in the excitement" (102)?

Higgs adds: "The woman with no name left behind not only her discarded water pot, but her shame as well, never to embrace it again" (102).

### Conclusion

At the end of the modern tale and the Biblical story, Higgs leaves the reader with a series of questions to ponder. Among the most intriguing of these discussion questions are these: (1) "Why is this woman never named in Scripture?" (2) "What are you thirsty for, spiritually?" (3) "What prompted the Samaritan woman to respond to this stranger?" (4) "At what moment did the woman realize they were talking about more than mere well water?" (104-105).

# Christian Art Review

by Michael Warning

## Introduction

There are six figures in this engraved art design based on a mosaic in the Kariye Museum in Istanbul, Turkey. The two figures to the far right are making an appeal to Pontius Pilate who is on his throne. In the center are two attendants and a third servant stands behind Pilate as a guard. What is significant about this Christian art is the quality of folk art that it represents from the Middle East. Although the incidents of the New Testament are from the Middle East, we are accustomed to seeing them depicted in a European context. A king looks like a European king and not a pasha (man of high rank in Turkey). Here is an exception, for within the Kariye Museum in Istanbul, the very center of the Eastern Orthodox Empire, we see a folk art depiction which is not European but is strongly Middle Eastern.

## Artistic Style

The basic emphasis in this artistic style is upon the figures and their action. Although there is some detail, it is minimal when compared to a European engraving. Basic outlines in black define the six figures. The shading and tonality are provided by an elaborate system of crosshatching both at the sky of the design and at the ground, or top and bottom of the image.

Gestures and stopped movement are an essential feature of this depiction. For example, notice the humble gestures and bowing of the heads that are being made by Mary and John at the right of the image. They are robed in a very stylized fashion and we know they are part of the holy story

because an aura or halo surrounds their heads.

The developmental structure of the architecture of the royal building and walled garden is extremely stylized and appears to western eyes as ill-shaped and ruined. However, in the convention of the Eastern Orthodox style, the architecture in its detail and its realistic treatment is not as important as in the West.

## Symbolism

In the center of the mosaic we see what is left of the worldly goods of Jesus, namely, a blood-stained garment, a staff, and a rope for the garment. This symbolizes the sorrowing after the Crucifixion and the realization for the believer that other than the remembered sayings and life experiences there is little else with which to remember Jesus. There is a

sadness and a poignancy that is carried forth in this visually minimal expression.

Symbolically, the heads of the servants are bowed as well as the heads of Mary and John and the soldier. Only the head of Pontius Pilate is upright, for he is the one gesturing in his official way as if to say, "Yes, here they are. Take them and go."

## Conclusion

Christian art such as this engraving based upon a mosaic serves as a reminder of a more complete story. But also, the art reflects how little is left of Jesus after the Crucifixion. We are reminded of the miracles and how much had to be remembered by those who followed and loved the Christ. Resurrected, Jesus lives in the lives and stories of those who followed and loved him—then and today.



"Mary and John requesting the Garment of Jesus After the Crucifixion," on a tri-metallic plate with a series of sunbursts on the outer edge within triangles on a black background. Based on a mosaic from the Kariye Museum in Istanbul, Turkey. From a private collection.

# CHURCHES & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**BOB ALEXANDER**, licensed minister in the Albemarle Conference of Original Free Will Baptists, is available to supply or pastor. Interested persons may contact him by phone at (252) 776-0236. Please leave a message if there is no answer.

**THE REVEREND PETE RAWLS** has been cleared by the Board of Ordination of the Cape Fear Conference and is available to serve as pastor, for pulpit supply, and for revivals. He may be contacted by mail at 1639-A Powhatan Rd, Clayton, NC 27520 or by phone at (919) 989-3190.

**PLEASANT HILL CHURCH**, Pitt County, is seeking a Christian pianist. Interested persons should call (252) 746-2048 and leave message.

**THE REVEREND A. B. BRYAN**, member of the Eastern Conference, is available for pastoral, supply work, or special services. He may be contacted by mail at 231 Five Points Road, Dudley, NC 28333 or by phone at (919) 736-8996.

**NEW BETHLEHEM CHURCH**, Pamlico County, is interviewing candidates for the position of pastor. This will be a full time position in a country church with a congregation of about 100. Duties will involve the running of a church as the Lord has called a pastor to do. No mowing or sanctuary cleaning experience needed. We need a man to lead, teach, and tend to the flock. Interested persons may send a resume to: Mickey Buck, PO Box 184, Bayboro, NC 28515. You may also phone him at (252) 745-4822.

## ATTENTION

### E-Service Now Available

If you would like to receive information items or advertisements by e-mail, send your e-mail address to: [editor@fwbpress.com](mailto:editor@fwbpress.com) and type E-Service List in the subject line.

May education never become  
as expensive as ignorance.

### PLEASE KEEP IN MIND

The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December.) You may submit articles by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to [editor@fwbpress.com](mailto:editor@fwbpress.com)
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor.
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*  
PO Box 159  
Ayden, NC 28513.

\*No phone-in information will be accepted.

Advertising submissions will run for a maximum of 2 months only. Submissions for *Churches & Ministry Positions Available* and *Personal Information Changes* will be run for 2 months. A re-submission is required for these columns.

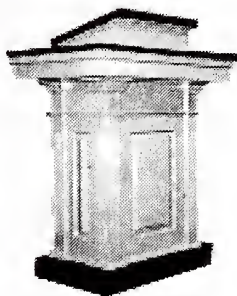
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- Every Family Plan* (\$9.75 each): The church provides us the names and addresses of every member and we send them to each home. The church is billed quarterly.

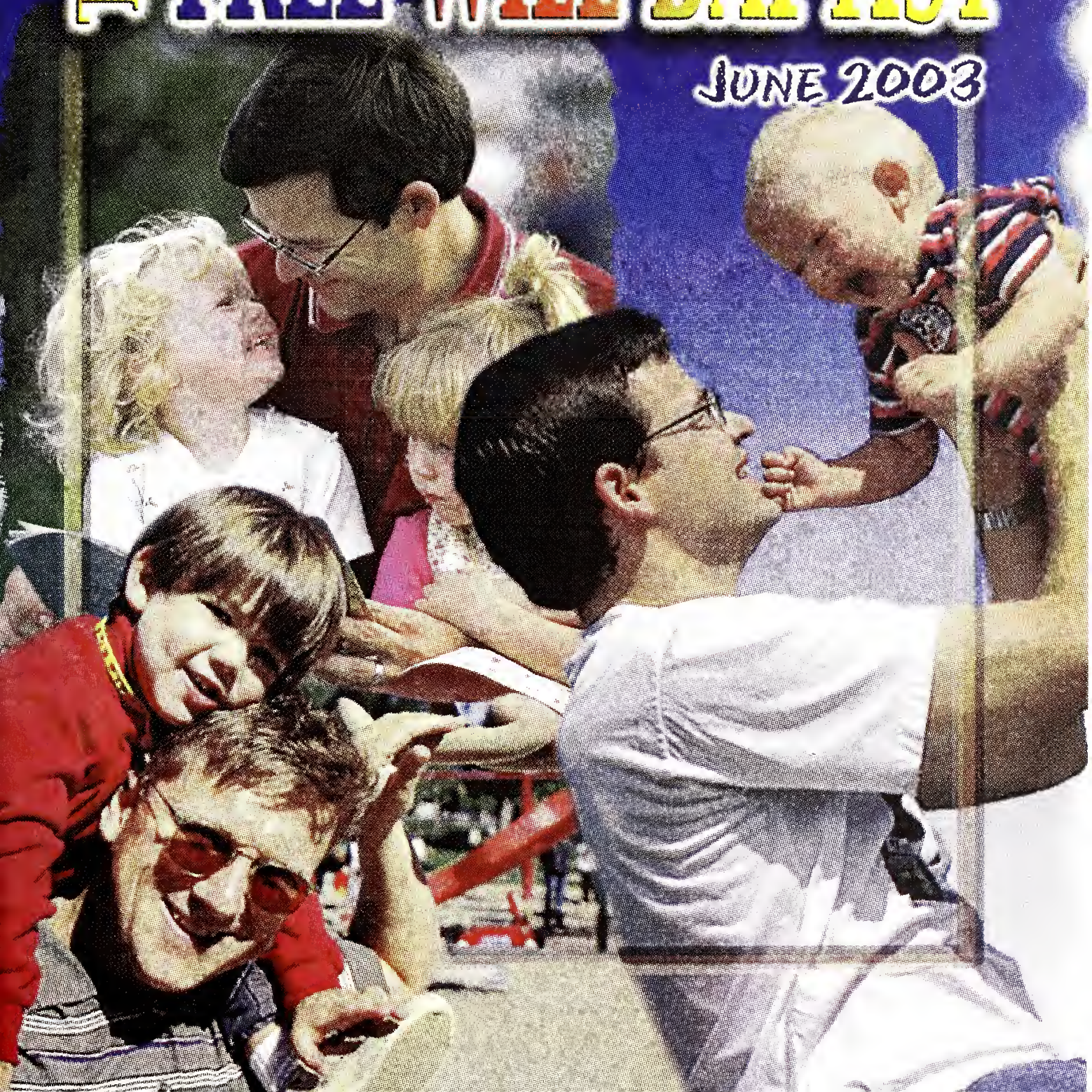
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Happy Father's Day

# THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

JUNE 2003



# FATHERHOOD

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

"I want to be just like you, cause he wants to be just like me" comes from the chorus of a popular Christian song by Phillips, Craig, and Dean. It speaks very powerfully of the role of a Christian father. This song brings tears to my eyes every single time I hear it. Even though I am not an actual father myself, I am a father figure to my nephew and to my two recently new stepchildren. This song speaks volumes; it goes further to say, "I want to be a holy example for his innocent eyes to see." Me—a holy example? My legs quiver at the thought! Yet, I WANT to be a holy example for their innocent eyes to see. If they even remotely look up to me I don't want to let them down. Each day and night we all can be praying for our "fatherhood" and our children. How can



we do less? If they want to be just like me, I want that "me" to be the very best it can be. Living a Christ-like life is no small thing. The only one that's ever done that perfectly was—well—Christ! Nonetheless, he ex-

pects us to do our very best to live moral, honest lives, and to do so in the fold of His love.

If we stumble or fall, allow Him to pick us up because "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Psalm 91:1). Don't forget that not just your kids

are watching you. There are plenty of people out there that will be ready to try to tear you down. We can, however, cling to the promise of Philippians 4:13 which states, "I can do all things through Christ...."

## TOO MUCH VERBIAGE?

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

The first time the word "verbiage" caught my attention was several years ago when a good minister friend, the Rev. Walter Sutton, used it. I've used it several times and it always reminded me of Brother Sutton. Incidentally, he had little appreciation for verbiage.

My home dictionary is not new at all, but I doubt if its meaning has changed to any degree with the passage of years: "...verbiage, an excess of words beyond those needed to express concisely what is meant; wordiness"—*Webster's New World Dictionary*.

Disagree with me if you like, but it seems obvious that we are living in a day of abundant verbiage—an excess of words. Being around the house more for the past several months than at any other time in my adult life, and viewing more TV and radio news, I have reached the definite conclusion that we simply do not need all the stuff that spues forth from the various sources of the modern media. Radio and TV talk shows abound with verbiage that includes any subject that one thinks up. With experts who instruct us on matters that we already know about (example: how to take care of our pets and plants in cold weather), our own decisions about life are minimized.

Weather forecasters are prime examples of verbiage. One favorite phrase is, "for the most part." It seems to me that weather reports could be given in much fewer words with less repetition.

Everything has become dramatic in this day of modern communications (wordiness). Some of the network channels show several things on the screen at the same time, including a scrolling across the bottom of the screen, which makes me wonder just how much the

human brain can absorb. Give me the good old days when one person presented the news in simple fashion, but I know those days are long past.

The recent war with Iraq was the most widely covered by the news media in our history, with imbedded reporters on the scene. We were prone to watch and listen to the unfolding events. We soon realized, however, that enough was enough, that our emotions have their limitations, so we more often pressed the "off" button. A military chaplain, so I was told, in speaking to a group about the troublesome events of the war, instructed his listeners to stop looking, to back off.

How in the world did previous generations survive without all this verbiage? Well, they did, and with more contentment than this present generation. We've come a long way from the day of the community telephone in the community's country store to cell phones carrying an abundance of words from ear to ear—wordiness that we could live without.

It is our Christian responsibility to be an informed individual. In writing to the Ephesians, Paul admonished: "See then, that ye walk circumspectly..." (Ephesians 5:15), to be aware of happenings going on around us. Modern means of communication help us in this walk of awareness, but let us avoid the burdening of our minds with verbiage.

Paul wrote to Timothy about a coming time of apostasy, including the following verse: "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Timothy 3:7). Have we not reached that predicted time?

## Reflections

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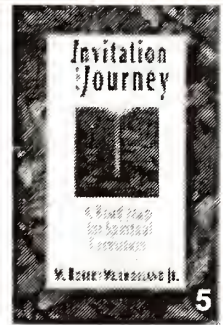
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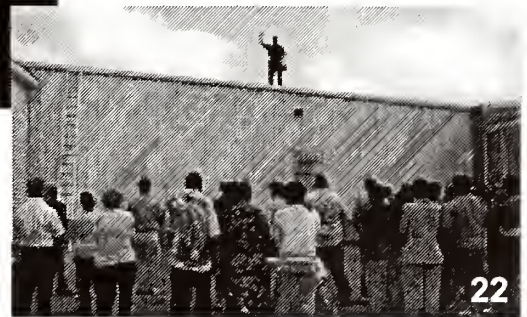
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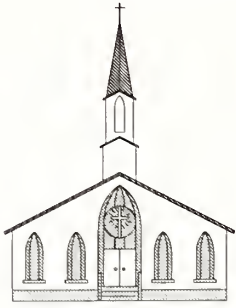


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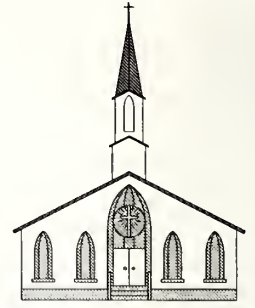
## POWER VERSE

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God,  
that giveth to all men liberally,  
and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him  
(James 1:5).



# A Healthy Church Life

by Tharen R. (Happy) Taylor



The following article is the message that Mrs. Tharen (Happy) Taylor gave at the Western District Woman's Auxiliary Convention on Wednesday, April 2, 2003 at Friendship Church, Middlesex, North Carolina.

The question that we would like to answer is "How do we have a healthy church life experience?" There are three components of a healthy church life experience and if you do not have a strong commitment to each of these components, then your church life will not be healthy. You must relate to all three because they are interdependent upon one another.

The first component of a healthy church life is worship. Worship is the act of reverence and homage paid to God. It is commanded in the Scriptures! When we come to worship, we need to be committed and surrendered to the Lord. On Sunday we must understand that it is the Lord's day and not a day to do anything other than to be in the presence of the Lord. We know how important it is on Sunday morning and Sunday night to be in the presence of the Lord with the people of God.

The second component of a healthy church life is to be committed to a small group ministry that takes place at most churches every Sunday morning about 11 o'clock. A time when we are so connected to our church that it really does not matter what the storms of life might be, we are totally committed to that fellowship and to one another.

The third component is service. Service is so important. If we are not serving the Lord then obviously we are not being all that God wants us to be. Each one of us needs to be involved in the service of the Lord. If you want to be happy, if you want to

be blessed, then there must be a strong connection of your life to worship, to your church, and to service.

Let us look closely at worship. Worship should be your inspiration to a healthy church life. As you leave worship not only on Sunday, but at your private time during the week, you need to leave inspired. You should be inspired to understand that God wants you to live a holy and Godly life and to know that the atmosphere has been set in your life for you to walk with God.

If worship is going to inspire us, then worship must be tied and connected to our relationship to the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is working and the Holy Spirit is present, then there is evidence that God is at work and the Holy Spirit will set an atmosphere for worship. If He is not present in our life, if He is not mighty in our life, then there will be no worship. We must know that it is He who will inspire you to work for God. When a person comes to church on Sunday and they leave the campus of the church without experiencing worship, they are doing themselves a great injustice in their life. They will never be all that God wants them to be, because it is worship and worship alone that sets the climate for your spiritual life to grow. If there is one reason that you should be at church every time God has us here, it is that you need the atmosphere set. You must have the thermostat set in your life for you to experience God, for you to be with God, and to worship God.

People can have some different ideas about worship. When you talk about work in the church some think only of two people, the minister and the song leader. The story is told of a church where the minister and the song leader were not getting along. As they began this experience of not getting along, it gradually began to spill over into the worship service. For example, the first week the minister preached on commitment and how we should all dedicate ourselves to the service of God. The song leader closed the service that morning leading the song, *I Shall Not Be Moved*.

The second week the minister preached on tithing and how we all should give gladly to the Lord. The song leader closed the service leading the song, *Jesus Paid It All*.

The third week the minister preached on gossiping and how we all should watch our tongues. The song leader closed the service that morning leading the song *I Love to Tell the Story*.

With all this going on, the minister became so disheartened with the situation that the following Sunday, he told the congregation that he was considering resigning. When he finished preaching that morning, the song leader closed the service leading the song, *O Why Not Tonight?*

And it came to pass that the minister indeed did resign and the next week he informed the congregation that it was Jesus who led him to their church and it was Jesus who was tak-

(Continued on next page)



ing him away. The song leader closed the service that morning leading the song, *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*.

People can have some strange ideas about worship. Worship is an encounter with Christ that results in a lifestyle change. That's what worship really is, an encounter with Christ that results in a lifestyle change.

This is why we are reading from chapter 6 of the Old Testament Book of Isaiah verses 1-4.

King Uzziah had served as king for 52 years and for the most part he was a good king. He tried to assume the role of the priest and was stricken with leprosy and died according to history in 739 B.C. It was in the year of King Uzziah's death that Isaiah had a worship experience that resulted in a lifestyle change. The reason that Isaiah's life was so affected by his worship was that he experienced God. He literally experienced being in God's presence and he experienced God Himself. Worship experiences God.

Worship that experiences God is composed of two things. First of all, it sees the Lord. Worship that experiences God sees the Lord. That's what happened to Isaiah, he saw the Lord. Look again in verse 1, "I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up." Do you take that literally? We read in the Scriptures, "I saw the Lord," that was Isaiah's testimony. In those first four verses God gave Isaiah a vision. God gave him a glimpse. He gave him a preview of God Himself. Isaiah saw King Jesus sitting on a throne that was high and lifted up. He saw the angelic beings known in the Scripture as the seraphim, who covered their faces and their feet with their wings. He saw them in the midst of worshiping in humility, and they were administering to God. He not only watched them worshiping and serving, but he also heard them praising God. Isaiah heard them crying out continuously, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory!" They were

praising God for Him being a Sovereign God. They were blessing God for Him being completely and supremely Holy. Isaiah not only heard and saw, but he experienced the power and presence of God. The Bible says that all of Heaven was shaken by their worship; even the door posts and thresholds were shaken. The presence of God filled all of Heaven and the cloud of God's presence absolutely saturated Heaven from beginning to end. The Temple was filled with smoke.

Worship sees the Lord. If worship is going to truly be a time when you experience God, you must see the Lord in worship. It is important that our worship points us to Jesus. There is no mistake about it; Isaiah 6 is saying that Isaiah encountered God. He had an experience with God.

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**Our desire and prayer should be, "Lord, I want to experience You," and the emphasis is not on the experience itself, but it should be on God who gives you that experience.**

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Are you reminded of others in the Bible who came before us as well? What about Jacob? Jacob encountered God. It changed his life and then his name was changed to Israel. Moses encountered God. God took a stuttering man and he led a nation out of bondage. Joshua encountered God and his life was changed forever. David encountered God in the midst of his brokenness. Daniel encountered God. Paul encountered God. John encountered God. They all experienced a real live personal worship.

When you go to your church on Sunday morning and Sunday night, your desire should be, I want to experience God. Let us make it perfectly clear, the experience is not the key, God is the key! Our desire and prayer should be, "Lord, I want to experience You," and the emphasis is not on the experience itself, but it should

be on God who gives you that experience. When you come to Him and you encounter Him, it is then that you worship.

Read Isaiah 6:5-7.

Notice the word "then"; why is that word, "then," so important? Isaiah had just experienced God. He had just seen God. He had just encountered God. "Then, Isaiah said, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips."

The second mark of worship that inspires is worship that not only experiences God, but worship that exposes you. When you have encountered God, you do not have time to look at anybody else. You have to deal with you. When you experience God, your number one issue is no longer the sins of others, but your own sin. When you truly get in the presence of God, there will be brokenness. When Isaiah experienced God, He saw himself for what he really was. He saw himself as broken and he said "Woe is me! I am a man under judgment, because I am a man of unclean lips. I am not worthy to join all of Heaven in praise to God."

When we are in the presence of God and we are worshiping, we will not only see ourselves as sinful, but we will also see ourselves as broken. God does not accept our worship when our lips are unclean. He said, "I live among a people of unclean lips." The people were unworthy also. Isaiah was saying, "I saw the Lord and since then I see myself as being sinful and I see myself as being broken."

It matters not who you are, it matters not the status in your life. When was the last time that you have been broken before God? That is what happens in real worship, real worship encounters God. If we come and worship, the bottom line is when we leave the campus of our church on Sunday morning and Sunday night, if we have truly worshiped, there are some areas in our life that will change. If there is no change, there is

*(Continued on next page)*

no worship. Isaiah saw himself as sinful. He saw himself as broken, but he also saw himself as forgiven. One of the angelic beings came with a coal and as they touched his lips and said, "Isaiah listen, yes you have seen the Lord, yes, God has broken you, but I want to tell you that your sins are forgiven." As they touched his lips with the coal they said, "Your iniquity is taken away and your sins have been forgiven." When we leave this place whether it is on a Sunday morning or Sunday night, when you leave your quiet time on a daily basis when you have worshiped Him, you should leave with a confidence that not only have your sins been exposed, but your sins have also been forgiven. Because of what Christ has already done, I do not have to pay for the judgment of my sin. He has already become the Judge over my sin and the recipient of what my sin deserves and that is destruction and death.

There will be no pride when you truly worship. When you truly worship, there will be no walls built up causing you to worry. When you truly worship, you will encounter God. You will experience God. You will have your heart broken and there should be confession. The altars at our churches on Sunday morning should be filled with men and women, boys and girls who want to experience God.

The first mark of worship is worship experiencing God. The second mark of worship is exposing yourself, sinful, broken, and forgiven. The third mark of true meaningful worship results in a lifestyle change. When you truly worship God and you have been in the presence of God, it will affect the people around you. The greatest thing you can do for your family is to worship and to be in worship because sooner or later it will spill over into your family life. Sooner or later it will make a difference in your friendships and relationships if you truly worship. That is why the greatest thing that you can do for your family is to be in worship.

In verse 8, we find the word again, then. Then Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord "Whom shall I send...?" His sins had been revealed and exposed before God. Then Isaiah said, "Woe is me." He looked upward, he looked inward, and then in verse 8, he began to look outward. God said, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" I believe he is referring to the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Notice Isaiah's willingness, "I will go, here am I, send me." Isaiah said, "I will go."

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### **Let me challenge you today, become a worshiper.**

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Does God speak to you in worship? Has He shown you anything about your life that needs to be changed? Has He shown you something that He wants you to do? It is an amazing thing, when we truly look upward, then we look inward, and then it is as natural as breathing, we will look outward. The reason that we do not see another person's needs is that we have not worshiped. True worship does not edify us, but true worship results in looking at other people and seeing their needs.

A tremendous principle, Isaiah only went after he was clean. He only heard after he was clean. Could it be that we would be more willing to go and do whatever God wants us to go and do, and serve wherever He wants us to serve, if we would just accept Him, hear Him, and be cleaned up by Him?

Some of us come to church on Sunday morning and Sunday night, some just on Sunday mornings, and we do not give anything back. We do not serve, we do not work, we are just coming and getting. Let me challenge you today, become a worshiper. When you become a worshiper, your life will begin to revolve around the things that really matter and that is your relationship with God and how God wants to use you in making a difference in the lives of other people. There will no longer be a desire for

you to sit on the bench and just gain. There will be a desire for you to go, using the gift, using the talent and the abilities that God has given to you.

God has wired you to serve, but you will not serve until you've been with Him. Being with Him is the number one issue, because out of your walk with Him, you serve. You do not worship unless you meet God; you will not serve God nor have the desire to serve unless you worship.

When we go to God in our private time and we really encounter Him, when we come in a public setting and truly encounter Him, our worship becomes inspiring. We are inspired to obey God, inspired to love God, inspired to go for God, inspired to sacrifice for God, inspired to be like God.

This country desperately needs our worship to be so powerful and meaningful with Christ that it will just spread out to other people. True worship covers a multitude of sins. True worship moves away things that happen every day of your life that you can come and lay at the feet of Jesus, and then go right on in your spiritual life.

We need to be worshipers. Have you experienced God? Have you seen Him? Has God shown you what you are? Has He shown you that you are sinful and that you need to be broken? Has He shown you that you are forgiven? When you leave here today, is your worship going to spread out into the lives of other people? Who is going to be affected by you being here? Does your family sense your walk with Christ? God wants us to experience Him because when we experience Him, we will leave changed before the Lord. If worship sets the climate of inspiration, then surely you can be inspired to be what God wants you to be in your life. Have we truly worshiped? Can we see ourselves as sinful, broken, and forgiven? Has there been a lifestyle change?

Isaiah did. He looked upward, he looked inward, and then he looked outward. He was willing to go. "Here am I Lord, send me!"

# A DAY WITH M. ROBERT MULHOLLAND

By Tyanna Yonkers Day, D. Min.  
Associate Professor at Mount Olive College

On Tuesday, February 25, 2003 a crowd gathered in Rodgers Chapel at Mount Olive College for the Twelfth Annual Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture. Little was it realized what a tremendous blessing awaited those who gathered. The Reverend Dr. M. Robert Mulholland, Jr., a tall, slim man, took his place behind a small podium. He had a commanding presence that called everyone to attention. The humility that wrapped his being beckoned those gathered to listen with not only their minds, but also with their hearts.

Dr. Mulholland began by inviting us to look at our life's journey. Where is the journey taking each of us? Every person is on a spiritual journey. Each moment of every day of our lives we are moving either toward God in wholeness, or away from God in brokenness. There is no such thing as standing still on this journey. The question before each person was, "Am I living into Christ?" Mulholland defined this journey of living into Christ as "the process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others."

As people of faith we must recognize that this journey of ours toward living into Christ is a *process*. It is not something that magically happens to us in an instant. God meets us where we are with all our sins, visible and invisible, and accepts us. God then works with us to enable us to discover who we truly are in Christ Jesus. "Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it, you may grow into salvation" (1 Peter 2:2).

The journey is a process of *being conformed*. This part of the process we cannot do ourselves. We think we can because we want to be in total control of our lives. If we are truly honest with ourselves, we recognize that we also try to control what we want God to do for us. It is God, not ourselves, who does the conforming. "For it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for God's good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). God is at work

in us. We are not at work in ourselves. When we think and act like we have control over our lives we not only try and control our lives, but we also try to control and manipulate the lives of others.

To what are we being conformed? We are being conformed to *the image of Christ*. When we are in control of our lives we conform ourselves to our own image and the black, empty hole inside of us grows deeper and darker. Opening ourselves to the transforming work of God makes us more and more like Christ. Only as we are conformed toward Christ's image do we discover true peace, happiness and wholeness. Only then does the light shine in the dark places of our inner lives and make us new creatures in Christ.

Why do we live this process in Christ? Is it for our own selves and what we can get out of it? No! We live *for the sake of others!* How often we forget this part of our journey. As followers of Christ we are called to total abandonment to God. This means we give all of ourselves totally and completely to God for God. How do we do this? We do this by being available for others. When Jesus was asked what was the greatest command he replied, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30). But Jesus did not stop there. He said that a second was "like it," meaning it was just as important. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (see Mark 12:28-34, Matthew 22:34-40 and Luke 10:25-28). These commands cannot be separated. We cannot truly love God if we do not love others. We cannot truly love others if we do not love God.

So how do we know whether or not we are growing more toward Christ-likeness? Mulholland offered a litmus test. Ask those who are close to you, "Am I more loving, patient, kind, etc. than I was a year ago?" If you are, then you are letting go of control of your life

and allowing God to conform you to the image of Christ for the sake of others.

After the first lecture we entered into a time of worship. Worship began by calling the people to remember the journey of the Christian's life. The opening hymn reminded us of the divine and excelling nature of God's love. The Word of God was read from Ephesians 1:3-10 and John 17:20-23. As Dr. Mulholland began his message, he asked, "Do you know who you are?" The answer came from Ephesians. Through Jesus Christ we have been adopted as God's children. This adoption was God's good pleasure. We were chosen to be God's children before the foundation of the world. Through Christ we are being redeemed. We sat in awe as God's grace flowed upon each one of us, filling us and affirming us.

After spending the morning looking at this spiritual formation journey to wholeness, we paused for fellowship at the table. Lunch in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center nourished our bodies. The table fellowship was enriching. Conversations buzzed around the room as people discussed the insights and help they had gained through the morning's lectures and worship.

The day concluded with examining the depth of our spiritual journey. This lecture addressed the question, "How do we get there?" Mulholland pointed out that we face daily the danger of the religious "false self." In Christ we have died to the old life, but we keep on living in the old way. We try to live "religiously" instead of living in Christ. We think by "doing" religious things we are people of faith. Or we think if we stay away from the things that are "wrong" we will be people of faith. This kind of living is mere "religiosity." Mulholland reminded us that trying to be holy in the law will destroy us. It is not about "doing" or "not doing" things. It is about living a

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"Christ-centered life." It is living faith with all that we are, heart, soul, mind, and strength.

When Christ becomes our all, then we begin to see Christ in every other person. We learn to be "lowly and humble enough to allow others to be who they are" instead of expecting them to be whom we want them to be. Just as God starts with us where we are, we must start with others and be with them where they are. This is the first dynamic of relationships that Paul talks about in Colossians 3:12-13.

The second dynamic of relationships is forgiveness. Mulholland said, "We

think forgiveness is what we do for others. But forgiveness is "what we do to be liberated from the bondage of what they have done to us." When we are unforgiving of others, that unforgiveness poisons every relationship in our lives. It makes us keep others at arm's length. Unforgiveness also confuses us into thinking that we want justice when what we really want is revenge. This way of living with unforgiveness is "the primary poison in the life of the Church." This is not putting on the love of Christ. It is living the "false self" and thinking it is the love of Christ. The result is that we are

no longer able to be the salt and the light of the world.

Since 1996, Mount Olive College students have been inspired by Dr. Mulholland's book, *Invitation to a Journey: A Roadmap for Spiritual Formation*. This book serves as the primary text for the courses, "Spiritual Formation," and "Introduction to the Bible." Students attest to the way this book has helped them have a greater understanding of their spiritual journey. Having the privilege of personally meeting and hearing Dr. Mulholland has enriched and deepened us all.



**CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY**

## FALL 2003 SPECIAL EVENT

### FALL FESTIVAL OF GOSPEL MUSIC OCTOBER 19-22, 2003

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- Three nights in the main building or motel
- Three breakfasts and the evening meal on night of arrival
- Transportation and admission to area Christmas entertainment. Group meal on each day of local touring
- Entertainment at Cragmont

Requirements: A \$100.00 non-refundable deposit is required with registration form. Balance due upon arrival. Reservations made on a first received, first served basis only.

Payment: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover cards are accepted. Checks should be made payable to Cragmont.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Need ground level room ? \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Bus routes will travel the US 264 and US 70 corridors. Pick-up places and times will be mailed out two weeks prior to trip.

Return form with deposit to:  
Cragmont Assembly  
1233 North Fork Road  
Black Mountain, NC 28711

## NEW HEIGHTS

"I need your help," says John Williams. As you know the current facilities at Cragmont are inadequate to meet the needs of the conferences and retreat groups. For example, both the dining hall and chapel are not large enough to handle the size of our summer conferences. Four out of the seven youth conferences are at or above 200 in attendance. The kitchen is not adequately equipped to cook and prepare food for these large numbers. More bed space is needed. This inadequacy exists not just for the weeks of camp but for the weekend church retreats as well.

A master plan has been approved by our Board of Directors to address these needs. It calls for twelve new, small lodge-type buildings that would give us 160 more beds, a new chapel and gym, expansion of the dining and kitchen facilities. It has an estimated price of five million dollars.

Our Board of Directors has also approved the "New Heights" campaign to raise these funds. New Heights is a pledge program that has different levels of giving as suggestions for people and churches or church groups. Any level of giving that is chosen can be spread out over five years. This is the outstanding feature of this program. The lowest pledge of \$1000 spread out over five years amounts to approximately 55 cents per day. This makes it possible for almost anyone to get involved.

Cragmont belongs to the Original Free Will Baptist denomination and, therefore, is your facility and your facility needs your help. Please consider this as a personal plea from me (John Williams) for help in raising the funds to expand this ministry. It is said that we have some forty thousand members in our denomination. All we need are five thousand of those members to say "Yes, I will help."

The different levels of pledging are:  
Setters of Stone—A total gift of \$10,000  
Polishers of Stone—A total gift of \$5,000  
Engravers of Stone—A total gift of \$2,500  
Cutters of Stone—A total gift of \$1,000

### RESERVATIONS

If you would like reservations at Cragmont for your church, contact Bryant Hines at (252) 637-7171 or [bryanthines5@aol.com](mailto:bryanthines5@aol.com).

## 2003 CAMP SCHEDULE

Below is a list of opportunities for Conferences this summer at Cragmont along with the dates and contact person. We hope to see you this summer.

### June Woman's Auxiliary Conference

June 2–7

Teresa Ball (252) 524-4677

### Cragmont Youth Conference

June 9–14

Bryant Hines (252) 637-7171

### Christian Cadet Conference

June 16–21

Wes Boyd (919) 736-9436

### Youth Frontier Conference YFA

June 23–28

Janie Sowers (252) 235-2408

### Youth Frontier Conference AFC

June 30–July 5

Frankie Baggett (252) 746-7850

### General Youth Conference II

July 7–12

Chris Singleton (910) 298-3520

### General Youth Conference I

July 14–19

Bryant Hines (252) 637-7171

### Young People's Bible Conference

July 21–26

Rudy Owens (919) 965-2796

### August Woman's Conference

July 28–August 2

Teresa Ball (252) 524-4677

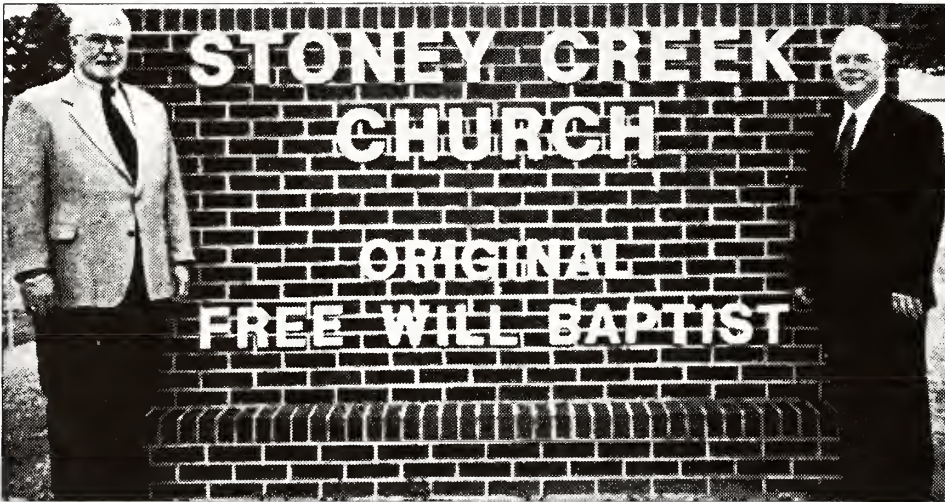
## THE CRAGMONT

The Cragmont is a golf tournament that is held each year to raise funds for Cragmont. This is the 24th year for this event. The tournament is directed by Rick Watson and is held at Happy Valley Country Club in Wilson, NC. The date for the tournament is August 7–8, 2003. For more information, go on line at: [www.cragmontgolf.org](http://www.cragmontgolf.org) or contact Rick Watson at (919) 284-5355. This is a great event that you don't want to miss.



## STONEY CREEK CHURCH TAKES LEADERSHIP ROLE IN STEWARDSHIP

by Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support



Darrell Horne, Chairman of the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees and member of Stoney Creek FWB Church with Pastor Gary M. Bailey.

At the February meeting of the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees, the Board reviewed its financial standing for the first six months of the fiscal year. After considering the economy that has greatly affected earnings from endowed funds, the large number of military who have been deployed to the Persian Gulf, greatly affecting our enrollment at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and a good source of revenue, and other factors through which the College has no control, the Board agreed to seek \$1 million in additional funds by June 30, 2003. The College has made significant progress on its financial stability during the last two years; however, the Board recognizes that we are approaching a benchmark with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), our accrediting agency. We must continue to strengthen our position. Because of the need to demonstrate our financial stability with SACS, we are looking

beyond just having a balanced budget—we must have a significant positive fund balance on June 30, 2003.

Out of the \$1 million the College is seeking, \$100,000 has been requested from Free Will Baptists (churches and individuals). In March a letter was sent to all churches requesting that they consider an additional gift in the amount of \$7 per member or that a special offering be taken prior to June 30. These gifts will be used to help fund more than \$1.5 million that has been committed in scholarships to our students this year.

Churches who have not sent an offering are encouraged to seek God's plan for a gift to the College prior to June 30. The remaining part of this article illustrates how one church has responded to this ministry's request.

Following the February meeting the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Darrell Horne, made an appeal to his home church, Stoney Creek Church. As a result, the church voted

in a regular business meeting on April 30, to pledge \$50,000 to the College payable over the next five years. The first \$10,000 will be given prior to June 30, 2003 and will be above regular budgeted gifts to the College, which were \$15,000 this year (July 1, 2002—June 30, 2003).

Stoney Creek Church has been a strong supporter of the College and for several years has been the lead church in giving the largest contribution at the Wayne County Dinner. In the early 90s when the dining hall was being constructed, Stoney Creek Church gave \$20,000 for this project. The church now has three worship services each Sunday morning with an average attendance of more than 600 people. Their youth program has more than 800 young people under the age of 19 who regularly attend their own youth meetings on Sunday and Wednesday nights. They have a full-time staff of six people and one part-time person.

Over the years they have had a large number of students to attend Mount Olive College who are now involved in local, state, and national endeavors, making significant contributions to our country.

Pastor Gary Bailey, an alumnus of the College and pastor of Stoney Creek Church for the past 24 years, stated that the members of the Church see the great importance of the College to the local area and to the Free Will Baptist Church in general. Under the leadership of Pastor Bailey, the church has responded to needs in the local community with many outreach programs, feeling it has a

*(Continued on next page)*

responsibility to reach out beyond its own walls to minister to the world. It considers Mount Olive College as one of the avenues by which the work of the local church is carried into the world.

When making reference to the pledge over its normal support to Mount Olive College, Pastor Bailey said, "God has provided all that makes Stoney Creek the vibrant church it is. By giving back to the Lord, through the work of Mount Olive College and other ministries, the church endeavors to be pleasing to Him."

Pastor Bailey stated about Stoney Creek Church, "We take seriously the illustration of the Dead Sea. It is said that the Dead Sea has no outlet. It only takes in water from the streams and river that runs into it. Because it does not give of its water but through evaporation, it has become so salty that no living organisms can exist in its water. The church that does not give of itself, both in service and in money, will turn in on its own self, and die. Just as running water maintains its purity by flowing from one body to another, the life of the church is maintained by its reaching out beyond itself."

## COHORT START DATES FOR WORKING ADULTS

### Evening College at Mount Olive

Contact Vickie Stroud or Matt Green at (800) 653-0854

- Tuesday, June 24, Heritage Program

### MOC at Wilmington

Contact Dr. Harvey Hutchison at (800) 300-7478 or at [hhutchison@moc.edu](mailto:hhutchison@moc.edu).

- Monday, June 2, Management and Organizational Development
- Monday, June 16, Management and Organizational Development at Southeastern Community College

### MOC at New Bern

Contact Dr. Joe Klotz at (800) 868-8479 or at [jklotz@moc.edu](mailto:jklotz@moc.edu).

- Thursday, June 5, Heritage Program

## SUMMER SCHOOL

If you or someone you know wants to get ahead, catch up, or just take a course to see how you like college, MOC has a place for you.

- Summer Session at MOC: June 2– July 11, 2003.  
Contact [admissions@moc.edu](mailto:admissions@moc.edu) or call Tim Woodard at (800) 653-0854.  
Summer B online courses begin Monday, June 9–July 13.  
Summer C online courses begin Monday, July 14–August 17. Now enrolling.  
Contact [admissions@moc.edu](mailto:admissions@moc.edu) or call Tim Woodard at (800) 653-0854.

## MEMBERS OF PHI BETA LAMBDA PLACE IN STATE COMPETITION

Two Free Will Baptist students recently received awards at the State Leadership Conference Competition of the North Carolina State Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL). The event featured more than 410 students, advisors, and professional division members representing 31 college chapters.

First and second place winners will represent the State PBL Chapter at the National Leadership Conference in Dallas, TX, in June.

Jessica Murphy of Pikeville received third place in the marketing division and eighth place in the hospitality management competition. She was also elected NCPBL eastern region vice-president. Murphy, a sophomore business management major, is the daughter of Randy and Alice Murphy. She is a graduate of Charles

B. Aycock High School. She attends Stoney Creek Church in Wayne County.

Joy Daughtry of LaGrange received second place in international business and fifth place in the business law categories. She was also recognized for her participation in leadership development seminars. Daughtry, a junior accounting major, is the daughter of Jeff and Wanda Daughtry. She is a graduate of North Lenoir High School and is a member of Westside Church.

The MOC Chapter of PBL received the Terry Lowrance Leadership Award, third place for the largest increase in local chapter for the eastern region, and third place for the largest percentage increase in local chapter membership.

*(Continued on next page)*

## OPENINGS FOR FALL SEMESTER

New freshmen will begin the fall 2003 semester on Sunday, August 17 with orientation. There will also be an orientation planned for new transfer students. Residence halls open for continuing and new transfer students on Tuesday, August 19. Classes begin on Wednesday, August 20.

If you are interested in attending Mount Olive College or know of someone who is, please contact our admissions office at (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854. Freshmen Advising Day is scheduled for June 28, 2003. Registration begins at 8:30 A.M. in Murphy Regional Center.

Phi Beta Lambda provides opportunities for students to enhance their self-confidence and leadership skills, sharpen public speaking skills, build friendships, apply money management techniques, network

with business leaders, and acquire job readiness skills. The Phi Beta Lambda national organization is operated in cooperation with the United States Office of Education, the American Vocational Association, and the

National Business Education Association.

Sonya McCoy is the Mount Olive College advisor of PBL. McCoy attends Hugo Church in Lenoir County.

## BILLY WAYNE AND ANNE BEALE DILDAY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED



*Shown at the time of the endowed scholarship fund presentation are (left to right) Jackson (son of Kevin and Cheryl Dilday), Cheryl and Kevin Dilday, and Billy Wayne and Anne Dilday.*

Billy Wayne and Anne Dilday have long been supporters of denominational ministries for the Free Will Baptist Church. For many years they have faithfully represented their home church, Hickory Chapel near Ahoskie, at district and statewide meetings.

Billy Wayne and Anne were blessed with a son, Kevin, and from the beginning of his school days, his parents supported and encouraged him in academics and sports. Kevin had played sports in high school and when he entered Mount Olive College, he became very active with the Trojan Basketball team at Mount Olive College. While he was a student at the College his parents not only attended the home games but many of the games that were a long distance away. Through Kevin's involvement with the Trojan Basketball team his parents developed a special relationship with the basketball coach, Bill Clingan. And even after Kevin graduated from Mount Olive College in 1995, his parents still attended Trojan basketball games.

In remembering his experience with the Dilday family, Coach Clingan said, "I had the privilege of knowing Billy Wayne through his son, Kevin, having coached him at Mount Olive College. As Kevin graduated and became my assistant, my friendship with Billy

Wayne grew. Billy Wayne was very proud of the man Kevin had become and all his successes, including his wonderful wife, Cheryl, and their son, Jackson. I will miss Billy Wayne as he was a true friend, but I know his spirit, his quiet enthusiasm, and his love for Mount Olive College and our basketball team will live on through his memory."

Endeavoring to show his love and appreciation for his parents Kevin expressed to Dianne B. Riley, Director of Alumni Relations, his desire to honor them in a meaningful way, and on January 15, 2003, in the privacy of their home, Dianne Riley met with the family and close friends when she announced to Kevin's parents that he had established the Billy Wayne and Anne Beale Dilday Endowed Scholarship in their honor.

Kevin stated that his parents had sacrificed for him to go to school and they always wanted the very best for him. "My parents have always been model parents. They lived the right way, not telling me, but showing me the Christian example. They didn't just tell me not to drink or not to smoke or to go to church; they lived it before me. No dad could have been a better model from my earliest memory until now. He taught me what really makes a

difference in life. He taught me how to plan, how to take care of family, how to be a loving husband, how to be a firm and loving father, and how to treat people. I hope that when other people see me they will see him in me and I can be respected just half as much as he is. I want to be like my Dad, and I hope that I can be the kind of father to my son that my Dad has been to me," Kevin shared with those present for the presentation. Regarding his mother Kevin said, "All my friends in high school and college said that my Mom is the sweetest, kindest, most caring person in the world. She may appear very quiet, but she will do anything for anyone. My friends loved to come to our house. She was so good to all of them." In summary Kevin stated that he thanked God for allowing him to have Billy Wayne and Anne Dilday as his parents.

He expressed the desire that this scholarship would help someone else just as the Willoughby Scholarship, the Free Will Baptist Tuition Grant, and the Honors Scholarship helped him when he attended Mount Olive College. The Endowed Fund is established to honor his parents and the purpose is to assist worthy male athletes recruited to play basketball at Mount Olive College.

First preference will be given to students who are descendants of Billy Wayne and Anne Beale Dilday, next preference will be residents of Hertford County and next preference will be residents of North Carolina. Anyone can give any amount at any time to this Fund.

In 1998 Billy Wayne was diagnosed with cancer. He fought courageously and kept a positive attitude, stating continuously that he was in God's hands. On February 20, 2003, after 4 1/2 years of extensive treatments and numerous hospital stays, God called Billy Wayne to his eternal home.





## MISSION CONFERENCE—PHILIPPINES

by Rosana R. Briones



The Mission Department of the Free Will Baptist Church, Philippines conducted its 17th Mission Conference last October 30–31, 2002 at Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. All workers and delegates arrived on October 29, coming from our churches in the North, South, and Central Districts of Palawan. There were 113 workers and delegates in attendance. They were housed in the dormitories of Palawan Bible College.

The theme for the conference was “Managing in God’s Wealth,” with Scripture taken from Matthew 25:14–27. There were six lecturers who shared

with us what the Bible says about God’s Wealth. Rev. Pio dela Rosa held a licensing service for Pastor Ademar Aspa and Peter Villacarlos. On October 30 at 2 P.M. we had game competition. The men and women enjoyed volleyball. The last night of the conference was the “Challenge Service,” and the Lord’s Supper. We were blessed to have this kind of conference.

We praise God for His goodness and many blessings upon us. Let us pray for our Mission Director and all leaders of the Free Will Baptist Church worldwide.

## GIFTS FROM GOD

by Rosana R. Briones



had to walk long distances for their work, which limited the amount of work they could do. Praise the Lord for His goodness.

Thank you for giving to make it possible to provide special needs such as this.

The workers of the northern district Palawan, Philippines requested a special project of eight bicycles from the Board of Foreign Missions. They prayed for this to be granted and last July 22, 2002, their prayers were answered. The bicycles were purchased and distributed to the various pastors. These bicycles are used to advance the Gospel in different areas through Bible studies and visitation. Before receiving the bicycles, the pastors

## SHORT-TERM TEAMS SUMMER 2003

On Saturday, May 3, we held an orientation session with all the Short-Term Team members who will be working in Mexico this summer. It was great to see all these excited people, and we are looking forward to the ministry God has in store for each of us. The teams will be involved in Vacation Bible School, Women’s Bible studies, and the construction of a church building for the El Sinai congregation in Saltillo. Please join us in prayer for these teams.

The dates we will be in Mexico are as follows: June 14–22, June 28–July 6, and July 12–20. Pray also for those who will minister at Camp Morelos August 2–10.

Now is the time to pray and consider Short-Term Team Ministry in 2004. Contact the Foreign Missions office for dates and details at (252) 746-4963.

## VAN DER PLASES RETURN TO BULGARIA

Willem and Lydia van der Plas returned to Bulgaria on May 1. Their time in North Carolina was a great blessing. They enjoyed meeting many of you while they were here, and they thank you for your kind hospitality. Please remember them in prayer as they readjust to their ministry and life in Bulgaria.

Contact the Foreign Missions office for dates and details about the Short-Term Team Ministry in 2004.

# NEWS FROM BULGARIA



Dear Friends in Our Lord Jesus,

We would like to inform you about the changes that are taking place in Varna and Targoviste. We would like to thank you for your support to our ministry. We have almost finished the hall in Targoviste, and the building in Varna takes about two weeks to get it under the roof.

With joy we witness the name of the Lord to children, youth, and adults. The people of the world are constantly worrying about their material needs, but in the church they learn that they need to be saved and that the Lord has not saved them to be troubled by their poverty. The faith builds up their hearts. We see how they find hope, truth, and love in their Creator. It is a joy to meet weekly with 80 to 100 children

in Varna and Targoviste; some are more regular than others. Most of them are not attending the elementary school, because their parents cannot afford to pay the required school materials.

We teach them the Bible, how to pray, to read and write. Dear friends, again we want to thank you for your spiritual and financial support to our work in Varna and Targoviste. Our prayers are with you. May the Lord bless you abundantly in all that you do. May the peace of God be in your hearts. The LORD rules.



## HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

### A NOTE FROM HOME MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

Due to the tragic event of tornadoes in the Mid-West, we at Home Missions and Evangelism will be taking donations and clothing articles to contribute to the proper organizations of the disaster-hit areas to be distributed to those in need.

You may make your check payable to Home Missions and Evangelism and earmark it for tornado victims. For more information, please call the Home Missions office at (252) 746-4963 or email [assistant@ofwbhommisions.org](mailto:assistant@ofwbhommisions.org). Our address is PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

Thank you for your support.



## WHAT CAN I GET MY FATHER?

A father is a special person who God places in our life to laugh with, share with, learn from, and love. Father's Day is the Sunday set aside to honor and remember the special father in our lives.

We all can recall special things about our father that have become cherished memories. What better way could there be to show our love and gratitude for our father than by sharing a gift with the residents of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home that will enable our staff to serve children and families in need of physical, emotional, and spiritual care, understanding, and Christian love.

We can all run out to the store to pick up a card or a gift to give our father, but why not make this year special by completing the form below, and returning it with a special gift. Each gift in honor or memory of a special father will be acknowledged with a card, and published in our newsletter. Let your special father know that you are sharing love and Christian values that he helped instill in you. Thank you for your generous support to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

Gift In Memory or In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Circle Your Choice)

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church (If Free Will Baptist) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:**

FWB Children's Home, Inc., PO Box 249, Middlesex, NC 27557-0249

## RE-ACCREDITATION

We are working very hard to renew our accreditation. Our accreditation from the Council On Accreditation, New York, expires in October 2003. Our staff has already started working on accreditation materials, including a complete self-study of our ministry. Our completed self-study is due on July 14, 2003. A site visit of team reviewers will follow on September 22, 2003. This accreditation ensures that the Free Will Baptist Children's Home meets "best practice" standards in all aspects of our ministry.

It is our desire to be the best that we can be in serving the needs of our residents, while representing the Free Will Baptist denomination.

**Don't Forget to  
Mark Your  
Calendars for:**

**"Alumni  
Homecoming"**

**Sunday,  
July 13, 2003**

**at the**

**Free Will Baptist  
Children's Home**



## CONVENTION NOMINATION PROCEDURES

The nominating committee of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists invites all boards, committees, churches, and pastors to submit nominations for the vacancies to be filled at the 2003 Convention. Nominations must include, the name, church, occupation, and a short paragraph describing the qualifications and/or gifts the person would bring to the board, committee, or office, and the name of the person or group making the nomination. Nominations must be postmarked no later than July 31, 2003. Nominations received after that date will not be considered by the committee.

The nominating committee will make its decision and contact the persons nominated. A report will be prepared for publication in the Convention Report book.

### *Vacancies To Be Filled At The 2003 Convention*

**Officers:**

Secretary (2005)  
Treasurer (2005)

**Executive Committee:**

**Terms ending (2005)**

Albemarle

Pee Dee

Piedmont

Western

**Children's Home Board:**

3 vacancies: Terms ending (2007)

**Church Finance Association****Representative:**

1 vacancy: Term ending (2004)

**Cragmont Assembly Stock****Representative:**

2 vacancies: Terms ending (2006)

**Foreign Missions:**

1 vacancy: Term ending (2008)

**Free Will Baptist Press Foundation****Representative:**

1 vacancy: Term ending (2004)

**Home Missions:**

1 vacancy: Term ending (2010)

**Ministers' Program:**

1 vacancy: Term Ending (2008)

**Mount Olive College:**

5 vacancies: Terms ending (2009)

**Retirement Homes Ministry:**

2 vacancies: Terms ending (2008)

**Convention Board of Trustees:**

1 vacancy: Term ending (2006)

**Chaplain's Commission:**

1 vacancy: Term ending (2008)

**Commission of OFWB Student****Fellowships:**

1 vacancy Term ending (2006)

**Historical Commission:**

1 vacancy: Term ending (2006)

**Layman's League Board:**

4 vacancies: Terms ending (2006)

**Sunday School Board:**

3 vacancies: Terms ending (2006)

### NOMINATION FORM

I (we) would like to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for consideration

by the Nominating committee to fill the vacancy of \_\_\_\_\_

The information below is **required** to complete the nomination:

Nominee's Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications this person would bring to the position \_\_\_\_\_

Signatures of person or group making the recommendation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to: Nominating Committee, 6661 Rock Ridge School Road, Sims, NC 27880  
(Forms should be postmarked no later than July 31 for consideration by the committee.)

### QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MINISTERS

At the request of the president of the Convention of OFWB, we are seeking to obtain the opinions of our ministers as to whether or not there is a need for a minister's manual to be prepared by a committee and published by the Convention. In order to ascertain the need for such a manual, we must have input from our ministers. Please complete the questionnaire below, sign your name, and return it to OFWB Headquarters, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, or copy and e-mail this form with your answers to: [administrator@ofwbheadquarters.org](mailto:administrator@ofwbheadquarters.org)

Are there special occasions of worship or practices among Original Free Will Baptists that should be included in a minister's manual? Give examples.

Would you be willing to purchase and use a manual prepared for OFWB ministers?

What additional suggestions do you have concerning the topics or kinds of materials that ought to be included in a manual for OFWB ministers?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

On what occasion(s) do you use a minister's manual?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Give the title, publisher, and date of publication of the manual you are presently using. \_\_\_\_\_

## PROMISES KEPT MINISTER'S PROGRAM SUNDAY

There are few things more precious than a promise. We are reminded of God's promise every time we see a rainbow and we remember promises we have made and how hard we work to keep our word. The Minister's Program is in the promise-keeping business. Whether it is to a retired minister, a widow, an older minister at Christmas, or a participant in a life insurance program, we have made and continue to make promises to those we serve.

Father's Day, June 15, 2003 has been set aside by the convention as *Minister's Program Sunday* in the local church. While this may not be front page news in the world, the Minister's Program does many positive things for ministers within our denomination and we depend on you to help us keep these promises.

Many of the promises that the Minister's Program makes involves finances. Did you know that during this past year churches through their support of the Minister's Program sent \$100 to every minister age 65 and older in our denomination? This was a total of nearly \$10,000 through an annual project called Christmas Cheer. The board also declared a surplus last year and distributed over \$75,000 to those ministers preparing for retirement and those already retired. Life insurance policies with death benefits approaching \$400,000 and cash values of over \$150,000 were turned over to participating ministers this year.

Despite the losses suffered in financial markets, the Minister's Retirement Program is fully funded

dollar for dollar. Over the years, the Minister's Program built a reserve that provided a surplus transfer of \$165,000 to the program account allowing us to avoid a shortfall. This assures our participating ministers that their monthly retirement income will continue uninterrupted now and into the future. Many of our retired ministers have outlived their benefits but continue to receive their monthly and quarterly checks. This is only possible through the churches' support of this program on an annual basis.

These are all examples of promises made and kept by the Minister's Program and the churches of our Convention. Over \$325,000 was provided in direct support by the Minister's Program to those ministers participating in one phase or another of this program. All this was accomplished with gift support from our churches of just over \$50,000 last year.

Minister's Program Sunday is a day that each of you can assist this program in keeping the promises made to our ministers.

The purpose for *Minister's Program Sunday* is two-fold. Father's Day is a day in which we honor our fathers who are living and remember those who are not. When we describe fathers, we generally use terms like leadership, strength, hardworking, diligent, tireless, wise, understanding, and compassionate. Would you use some of these same terms to describe your pastor? Certainly! Although your pastor may not be your father, the same characteristics that make a good father also make a good pastor. This day will give you an op-

portunity to consider your pastor in the same light that we think about fathers. When congregations view their pastor in a positive light, then positive things seem to happen in our churches.

Another consideration for Minister's Program Sunday is that, unless your church was just recently started, you have probably had several pastors. More than likely one or more of these men are a part of some phase of the work of the Minister's Program. Your support helps us help them. Think about it. Over \$325,000 in benefits have been paid directly to or used on behalf of those ministers that participate in the work of the Minister's Program. This is only through the generosity of God's people—you!

Does your church contribute to the Minister's Program? You may find it surprising as I did that almost 40% of our churches did not provide any gift support to the Minister's Program last year. Please consider receiving a special offering this Father's Day or sending a special gift to the *Minister's Program* so we can continue the work you have commissioned us to do.

*Remember to*  
*Support*  
*Minister's Program*  
*Sunday*  
*Father's Day, June 15*



## THE WINNERS ARE:

The 2003 Spring Sunday School Workshops were built around the topic, "Five Handles for Getting a Grip on Your Sunday School." There were 10 sites with 7 conferences/associations represented. Approximately 175 people attended the sessions that provided practical insights and applications for:

- Cultivating an atmosphere of warmth and friendliness
- Establishing an appropriate teaching/learning environment
- Making membership meaningful
- Creating new classes
- Identifying, enlisting, and training new Sunday School leaders

The winners of the various tools shown during the Spring Sunday School workshops are:

- ✚ Ms. Paula Perritte from Pleasant Plain Church, Selma, NC (Clear Toolbox)
- ✚ Ms. Elaine Smith from Pleasant Grove Church, Erwin, NC (Toolbelt)
- ✚ Ms. Lisa Oakley from King's Crossroads Church, Fountain, NC (19 Piece Tool Set With Tool Box)
- ✚ Ms. Gail Hawkins from Union Chapel Church, Plymouth, NC (103 Piece Mechanics Tool Set)

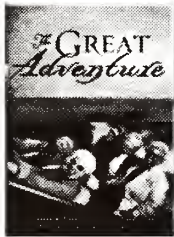
### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THOSE WINNERS!

Thanks to all those people who participated in the Spring Sunday School Workshops in each Conference. It is hoped that the information learned will net many positive results. Let's all try to catch the vision of growing our churches through the Sunday School.

For further information about providing learning opportunities for your Sunday School workers, please contact Mary Dudley at the Headquarters by phone at (252) 746-4963 or by e-mail at [director@ofwbsundayschool.org](mailto:director@ofwbsundayschool.org).



## NEW IN REVIEW

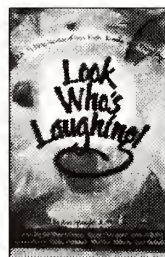


**THE GREAT ADVENTURE**, by various authors, (W. Publishing Group, \$15.99, hardcover).

Join us for a road trip through the twists and turns of life. In *The Great Adventure* devotional, Patsy Clairmont, Barbara Johnson, Marilyn Meberg, Luci Swindoll, Sheila Walsh, and Thelma Wells invite you to join them on a journey of life in the steadfast lane.

This wide-ranging collection of sixty devotions will encourage, comfort, and inspire you—and prompt some laugh-out loud moments—as these popular Women of Faith speakers share the fun, tears, joy rides, and pitfalls they've found in issues that all women face. With the same down-to-earth style that has touched the hearts of nearly two million women attending the

Women of Faith conferences, these beloved women write vividly of life's memorable moments.



**LOOK WHO'S LAUGHING**, Compiled by Ann Spangler & Shari MacDonald (With stories by various authors), (Zondervan, \$12.99, softcover).

Warning! Not for the humor impaired!

That's right—if you don't like to laugh, stop now, while you can! Because this collection of stories, jokes, quips, and anecdotes doesn't leave off at mere chuckles. It's meant to produce gale-force laughter, with gusts up to 100 mph.

Some of today's funniest writers and speakers await you inside. Ken Davis has thoughts to share about air bags. Becky Freeman exposes the sensuous woman.

Dave Meurer takes a manly look at menopause. Armed with the world's ultimate vacuum cleaner, Chonda Pierce wages war on the dust mite.

There are also church bulletins, hilarious one-liners from the mouths of kids, lawyers, and air travelers, and plenty more offerings of assorted sizes by the likes of Patsy Clairmont, John Ortberg, Barbara Johnson, Sheila Walsh, Marilyn Meberg, Luci Swindoll, and others.

Need we say more? Go ahead and *Look Who's Laughing!* It's about to be you!

These books can be ordered through the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc. by calling toll free (800) 849-3927 or by visiting one of your local Bible Bookstores (with locations in Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson). These titles receive a 10% discount.

# WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

## MORNING STAR CRAGMONT RETREAT

*April 25-27, 2003*



Willem and Lydia Van der Plas brought to the Morning Star Retreat a living example of our theme, "Life in the Spirit." As our missionaries to Bulgaria, they have truly fulfilled the theme Scripture from Ezekiel 36:27. Using events and people from the pages of God's Word, the Saturday morning studies by Willem and Lydia filled us with the wonder and knowledge of lives enfolded in the Spirit of God. Our Saturday night "Sunday School Lesson" was a special

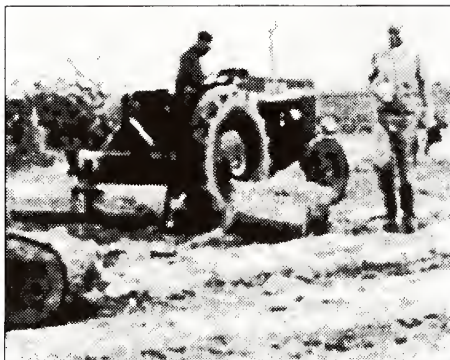
treat as Lydia in a dramatization introduced us to a personality from their work in Bulgaria. This was followed by a heart-touching slide presentation. The youth involved in the Christian work based in the Van der Plas home had prepared it for their own families to proclaim the Christmas and Easter stories. The faces of these Christian teenagers, many of whom came to Lydia and Willem as young children, truly tell the story of missions as nothing else can. The message of "new life" in Jesus Christ shines forth from these redeemed hearts through eyes of Christian love and wonder. Lydia told of little ones that she bent down to hug when she first arrived in Bulgaria and who now must bend down to hug her. Can there be a more revealing expression of what the seeds planted in Christian love can produce? If there was any doubt of the value of this work it was dispelled by a slide of two little boys, one bringing the other to the Van der Plas home to see a Children's Bible and to tell the story of Jesus. We had the pleasure of hearing Willem again as he brought the Sunday message.

The weekend was filled with the beautiful sounds of the outflowing of the Christian spirit. Psalm 23 flooded our hearts with wondrous peace as Ramona Puckett used it for our Saturday morning devotion. God blessed our ears, hearts, and souls with wonderful music by Gladys Avery. Karen Ribeiro drew us all into the fellowship of music as she formed us into a Cragmont choir, where even the non-singers thought they could sing. Of course, no Woman's Conference would be complete without the reading of Psalm 121. Joan Little, President of the Woman's Auxiliary, shared with us those timeless words by the psalmist.

The 120 campers showed generous hearts to Cragmont with collections of approximately \$1,000 for the traditional Cragmont offering and approximately \$900 for motel curtains, bedspreads, etc. Cragmont gave us a weekend of gracious hospitality that created the setting for the outpouring of the Spirit into our lives.

# CAMP VANDEMERE

## WORK DAY



Camp Vandemere would like to thank everyone who participated in the Work Day. We accomplished a lot of work in one day with everyone's help. A new canoe stand was built; trees were cut down; six rocking chairs were painted; the painting of the bathhouse was finished; windows were cleaned; the screened-in building was cleaned; and a lot of yard work was completed. Thank you all for your hard work.

## NEEDS LIST

- One of Camp Vandemere's faithful companions has been kicked out of her old home and is now out in the rain, while waiting for the finances for a new home. She is 5' 7" and weighs about 15,000 pounds. Her name is Massey Ferguson, and she is our tractor. Her new home will be a 25' x 35' wood siding building with a concrete floor. The cost is approximately \$6,000. Please help us with the finances for Massey's new home.
- Base Rock—\$200 per load
- Churches to support Camp Vandemere

## LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER'S CLUB

Support Camp Vandemere by joining the Lighthouse Keeper's Club. The purpose of Camp Vandemere is to win lost souls to Christ and to strengthen and renew Christians through various camp weeks and weekend retreats. Membership is only \$140 per year, and can be paid all at once or in installments of \$12 monthly. Once you have been a member for one year you will receive a certificate which entitles you to send one person to a camp week of your choice or spend two nights in our family lodge without cost.

This is an excellent way to help people in your church or community attend camp as well as providing financial support to the Camp.

If you would like more information about joining the Lighthouse Keeper's Club, please contact Wesley Taylor, camp manager, and he will send you additional information. Remember, donations to Camp Vandemere are tax deductible.

## WOMAN'S CONFERENCE

Theme: "Jesus Calls Us"  
Speaker: Kitty Barnes  
When: June 16-19, 2003

Attention Ladies, please come and join us for Camp Vandemere Woman's Week. We have a guest speaker each morning for our Bible sessions. On Wednesday we will be honoring our Woman of the Year from all our auxiliaries at Mt. Zion Church.

On Tuesday morning we will board the bus for New Bern where we will tour the town on a trolley.

If you would like to participate in this time of Bible study, fellowship and fun, contact: Co-directors, Judy Kennedy at (910) 298-4311 or Stumpy Quinn at (252) 638-6406,

## SUMMER CAMPS

### 2003

|                |                                                             |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 2-6       | Director, John Thompson, Baptist Minister<br>(252) 633-0025 |
| June 6-7       | Eastern Conference Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat   |
| June 8-13      | Director, the Rev. Tim Heath<br>(252) 638-3803              |
| June 16-20     | Women's Week                                                |
| June 23-27     | Open                                                        |
| July 2-5       | Juniper Chapel Church Retreat                               |
| July 6-11      | Director, the Rev. Joe Ratcliff<br>(252) 244-0207           |
| July 12        | Fifth Union Fun Day                                         |
| July 13-18     | Director, Eva Mae Clark<br>(252) 637-5346                   |
| July 20-25     | Berry Hodowanic, New Bethlehem<br>(252) 249-0133            |
| July 28-Aug. 1 | Open                                                        |
| Aug 22-23      | Singin' By the River                                        |

\*Weekend retreats available. Please check with the manager for availability.

If you would like to direct a week of camp please contact:

Wesley Taylor  
(252) 745-3171 (Camp Office)  
(252) 745-1203 (Home)  
(252) 514-3222 (Cell)  
(252) 634-1287 (Pager)

## SINGING' BY THE RIVER

This year's "Singin' By the River" will start on Friday night, August 22 with wonderful gospel music and preaching from "Called Out" and the "Marlboro Boys." If you would like to stay in the camp facilities on Friday night, please contact Wesley Taylor at one of the above numbers. Please come out and support the Camp.



# LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

## SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

Camp Vandemere, Vandemere, NC

June 6-7, 2003

*Your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men,  
but in the power of God (1 Corinthians 2:5).*

Theme: "Power for Christian Living"

### Friday: June 6

6:00 Meal followed by a business session

### Saturday, June 7

|                       |                                    |               |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 8-9 A.M.              | Breakfast (\$4) and Fellowship     |               |
| 9-9:30 A.M.           | "The Power of the Holy Spirit"     | Floyd Newsome |
| 9:30-9:45 A.M.        | Recreation and Fellowship          |               |
| 9:45-10:45 A.M.       | Special Music: "The Marlboro Boys" |               |
| 10:45-11 A.M.         | Break                              |               |
| 11-11:30 A.M.         | "The Power of Prayer"              | Tony Gatlin   |
| 11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. | Lunch (\$5)                        |               |
| 12:30-1 P.M.          | Prayer and Meditation              |               |
| 1 P.M.                | Benediction                        |               |

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 2** Central Conference, Host Little Creek Church, NC Hwy 903, Ayden, Meal 6:45 P.M., Business, 7:30 P.M.
- June 6** State Convention, Camp Vandemere, Host Gethsemane Church, Meal, 6:45 P.M., Business, 7:30 P.M.
- June 7** Spiritual Life Retreat, Camp Vandemere, Vandemere, NC
- June 12** Executive and Promotion Board Meeting, 7 P.M., VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC
- July 10** Executive and Promotion Board Meeting, 7 P.M., VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC
- Aug. 14** Executive and Promotion Board Meeting, 7 P.M., VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC

## REGISTRATION FORM

Layman's League  
Spiritual Life Retreat  
June 6-7, 2003

Each person planning to attend the retreat is requested to complete and return this form by June 5, 2003.

Make checks for overnight accommodations (\$10) payable to the State Layman's League.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

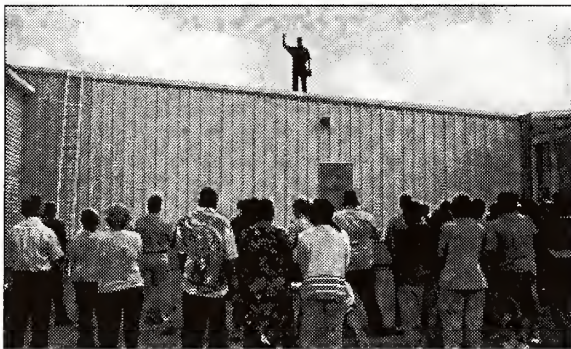
Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

(Please check the appropriate blanks)  I plan to attend the retreat at Camp Vandemere on June 6-7, 2003  
 I plan to stay at Camp Vandemere on Friday night, June 6, 2003.

Please return this form to: Elmer Harrell, 502 Southeast 3rd Street, Snow Hill, NC 28580

## URGENT NEED AT BLENDED FELLOWSHIP

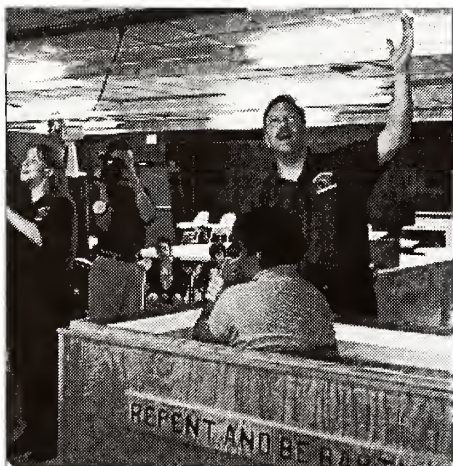


I am writing this letter to you to provide an update on the Blended Fellowship Mission work. As a reminder, this is property that is jointly owned by Blended Fellowship and the Cape Fear Conference. The property consists of land, an 80 by 100 foot metal building, a newer 100 by 100 foot metal building, and an old wooden house.

Over the past year, since the property was purchased, much work has been done by the mission and volunteer workers from other churches to provide a temporary meeting place. During this time the mission has grown and on the third Sunday morning in March had 80 in attendance; average attendance is about 70. During this past January the Wayne County building inspector checked the property and found numerous items that were not in compliance with the state building codes. Most of these were things that will provide a safer meeting place. The Cape Fear Conference Executive Committee examined the property and has decided that it will be best to proceed with bringing the newest metal building (100 by 100) up to code, thereby providing a permanent meeting place for Blended Fellowship Mission.

To accomplish the renovation of the newest metal building, providing a sanctuary, two restrooms, a kitchen, eight classrooms, and a church office will be costly. Even by using volunteer labor wherever possible, the estimated cost will exceed \$50,000, but will not exceed \$100,000. Time is also of the essence because the county building inspector is expecting to see speedy work results or else the electrical meter may be removed, and if that happened this conference mission would be without a meeting place. I encourage each pastor to present this urgent need to your church as soon as possible.

I have contacted the Rev. Doug Seymour, pastor of Blended Fellowship, and he said that he and his signing choir, "Blended Hands" will be glad to come to your church on Sunday nights and share personal information about the work. If you desire a visit, please telephone Doug at (919) 731-3013 for scheduling.



Please have your church treasurer make all checks payable to the Cape Fear Conference and designate all contributions for the Blended Fellowship Building Fund. Mail all contributions to the following address: Sam Weeks, 2033 Smith Road, Smithfield, NC 27577.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and faithful support for this work project!

In His service,  
Sam Weeks  
Cape Fear Conference Treasurer

## EASTER BASKETS DELIVERED TO CHILDREN'S HOME

On Sunday, April 13, around 30 children, youth, and adults from Reedy Branch Church in Winterville, took Easter baskets that members of the church had prepared to the children at the FWB Children's Home in Middlesex. The afternoon staff started off with the children from the church joining in a game of basketball with the children at the Children's Home. Next the groups headed over to Heritage Hall where youth director, Marci Rollins, gave a devotion and everyone enjoyed sandwiches, chips, cookies, and drinks. The children then were invited to pick out their Easter baskets. After everyone opened their baskets, Reedy Branch's group was given a tour of the campus.



*Pictured are some of the teenage girls selecting their Easter baskets.*



*Pictured are some of the girls opening their Easter baskets.*

# MEMORIAL TRIBUTE GIVEN AT THE CAPE FEAR AUXILIARY CONVENTION

by Hilda Renfrow Starling

*(The following Memorial Tribute was given by Hilda Starling at the Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary Convention on April 5, 2003 at Vandora Springs Church, Garner, NC)*

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die."

Let us Pray:

Our Heavenly Father we humbly bow in Your Holy Presence, asking Your blessings upon this service, dedicated to the memory of our departed members, who during the past year, have been called from this life, to the great beyond, where death comes not. Comfort those who mourn their passing. Give them strength and courage to bear their sorrow, in this time of need. May we not mourn as those for whom there is no hope. Rather may we look forward with assurance to a morning's joy with Thee. We thank You for the assurance of eternal life, and faith to believe that we shall reap if we faint not. May we, in this solemn hour, re-dedicate our lives to Your service so that when the call comes to us, we may be ready to answer, and hear from our loving Lord, the welcome words, "Enter thou into the joy of the Lord." I pray this prayer in the name of our loving Savior, Jesus Christ, who died for all. Amen.

In the quietness of this hour we pause to pay special tribute to those who have stepped through the Heavenly portals into the beautiful life—to "that city not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Our chain of friendship and love has been broken by death; however, this separation is only temporary for the Christian, and we can look forward to reuniting with loved ones in the world where death comes not.

These members were faithful to their church and auxiliary, and shared that love through kindness to others. Where understanding was required, they made every effort to understand; where tolerance was the necessary virtue, they excelled. A spirit of honesty, loyalty, and faith were some of the most obvious qualities in the lives of these our members.

By their lives it was evident that they gripped and held onto the hand of God—the hand that blessed and let that peace whose storm is calm hold kinship in their breast. Their bodies are gone from our presence, but the memories will remain with us.

As I think of these who have gone on to their Heavenly Home, I have visions of Gethsemane where Jesus communicated with God—a place where something quiet breathes into the spirit—peace, be still. These members walked in their garden while on earth and now are in the garden of that city called the New Jerusalem. So may the memory of our loved ones who have gone before, who walked with God and talked with Him and did His bidding, serving in steadfastness until life's last shadow fell in quiet confidence, be safe on that eternal shore.

In answering the Master's call these have left behind years of devoted service in their community, in the church, in the Woman's Auxiliary, and to their families. We mourn their passing, yet we feel their presence among us today.

"Sleep on dear friends, a life like thine has not been lived in vain. But holds an influence rare divine on us who still remain."

We cherish the memory of those gone on, but we must listen to God as He speaks comfort to us who are left behind.

Psalm 23: "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

John 14:1-3: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Sure, our hearts have been saddened as God in His infinite wisdom took those we love to shine for Him in Heaven. We mourn their passing, but with our Shepherd we find the courage needed in the hour of trial because we know the Lord is our ever present help.

Without faith in God, without faith in a resurrection after death to a glorious life eternal, the suffering and trials of this life would be unbearable. But our faith is real. "We walk by faith, not by sight."

God is with us in whatever trials we have to endure, and He will never fail or forsake us. The waters we are called to pass through may be deep, but they will not sweep us off our feet as long as we hold fast to the hand of

*(Continued on next page)*

the Shepherd.

Why then should we fear when our Shepherd holds out His hand saying, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you"? There are times in our lives when this is just what we need to hear and believe. There are times when it is important to know that God is watching over us and He is doing all that is necessary.

The psalmist tells us that even when the burdens and cares of the day weigh heavily upon us, God spreads a table before us and brings us to still waters and green pastures and we find Him a Rock, a Shelter, a Hiding Place.

God, many times, comes closest to us in times of sorrow, in times of depression and disappointment, in times of discouragement and loss, in times of loneliness and defeat. It is then that God draws nearest to us and reveals Himself and pours out all the riches of His grace.

God wants us to walk with Him each step of our pilgrim way. Not only for our welfare, but for the benefit of others that we might be an example to them.

It is not always easy, and for most of us it would be impossible if we had to depend on ourselves, but God comes to us wherever we are. He is with us in every situation, and if we allow God to be a part of everything in our lives, even the sad and painful things, He will bring some good out of them.

What shall we say about sorrow that has invaded our lives. Just this: "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

God never promised us a life free from all pain, but He did promise, "When you pass through the valley, I will be with you." Of this we can be certain, that no matter what may come our way, God will be with us in all the days that lie before us.

"I am the Good Shepherd" said the Lord. "My sheep hear My voice and I know them, and they follow Me, and I give them eternal life." These loved ones whom we memorialize

today are safe in the palm of His almighty hand.

All through life's changing scenes, days of peace, days of peril, days of joy, days of sorrow, days of perplexity, days of smooth sailing; all along the pilgrim journey, the Shepherd has been before us to guide us, beside us to comfort us, and now as the shadows close, in goodness and mercy, He follows after, that none might be lost.

As we look to the light of the Cross, we hear His Words of love. "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

The God who inhabits eternity loves us and our loved ones with an everlasting love and will never let us go. Our loved ones have gone home. To go home with Jesus is the instinct of the soul, and when death comes, it is not extinction, but rather passing into the Father's House, our eternal home.

God's love is uttermost and unchanging, and not even death can snatch us from His power, for out of death, to the child of God, shall come everlasting life.

The psalm opened with the joyous statement, "The LORD is my shepherd," and closed with the affirmation, "I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

He brings us all the way from green pastures and still waters to the Father's House.

"We need to remember that our loved ones were loaned to us for a time as gifts of God, and now they have been called Home to enjoy the permanent peace and eternal blessings of God and now await our coming to join them.

"We do not lose the ones we love,  
they only go before,  
Where there is Everlasting life, where  
sorrow is no more,  
There the soul will always live, and  
peace is everywhere;  
We do not lose the ones we love, God  
takes them in His care.  
There is a long a-winding road, along  
which each must go. It leads

beyond the hills of time, into the sunset glow.

But only for a little while, our loved ones leave our sight,  
For just beyond the hills they wait,  
in God's Eternal Light."

May We Pray:

Almighty God, our Father, from whom we come and unto whom our spirits return, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Thou are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Grant us Thy blessing in this hour, and enable us so to put our trust in Thee, that our spirits may grow calm and our hearts be comforted. Lift our eyes beyond the shadows of earth, and help us to see the light of eternity. So may we find grace and strength for this and every time of need; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

## CAPE FEAR CONFERENCE/ UNION MEETING WORKSHOP

The Board of Christian Education is sponsoring a workshop in place of the Union meeting. The Rev. Gregg Day, an Instructor and Chaplain for Mount Olive College will present a program reference "Church Staffing." We, the Board of Christian Education, feel this will be an informative program and we encourage all our churches to attend.

The Union will be hosted by Casey's Chapel Church, located on Hwy. 70 East of Goldsboro. Lunch will be provided by host church.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 21, 2003 from 10 A.M.-12 P.M.

# POWHATAN HEADS TO MT. OLIVE FOR YOUTH CONVENTION



*YFA Bell Choir won a gold medal*



*Cherubs Dylan James and Mari Ann Cox singing "Lean On Him."*

If you have never been a part of the Spring Youth Talent Explosion in the Cape Fear, you cannot imagine the work that goes into the entries and the scoring. This year, there were 48 talent entries hoping for a chance to be one of only three chosen to represent the Cape Fear District at the May State Convention. Only 21 of the 89 Arts & Craft entries could go to State and only 6 of the 21 Christian Writings, Public Speakers, and Lesson Presenters. That totals to about 158 young people carefully working to prepare an entry they could be proud of. The 30 State slots got filled by the highest scorers and 128 entries returned to their local churches. We carried 15 individual youth members with 31 entries to this year's event. We came home Saturday with the following medals: 11 gold, 18 silver, and 2 bronze. Seven of Powhatan's entries went on as part of the 30 to the State held in May.

Congratulations to all who took part

and to our state representatives: Shyanne Davis—Cherub; Gregory Bass II—AFC; Hayley Benson, Roberta Widhalm, Crystal Guy—Nikki Jones—YFA.

On March 9, Girl Scout Troops 364 (Senior) and 474 (Brownies) were honored for Girl Scout Sunday. The girls appreciate all the support by the church family.

Four of our members attended the Cape Fear Union Meeting at Bethel on Saturday, March 15: the Rev. Jim Bogle, Alan and Beverly Price, and Rita Jones. The Rev. Sam Weeks gave the opening devotion. In business items, a motion was passed to send \$500 for medical expenses for Libby Harper. Steven Prescott was introduced as the new pastor at Johnston Union. Newly licensed ministers and others wishing to join the Union (Fred Johnston, Raeford Byrd, and Braxton Carter) came forward and were welcomed with a handshake from the Rev. Joe Balance, moderator. There were about 76 present for the meeting (about 21 ministers).

Frank Harrison reported on a challenge from Mt. Olive College to raise \$100,000 by June 30. Edmundo Gonzalez spoke in support of Foreign Missions. Roy Clifton and Sam Weeks gave an update on the needs at Blended Fellowship (building must be brought up to code) and asked churches to help support them financially. Martha Parsons gave an update

of the youth activities, mentioning the May Convention and possible July mission trip to Atlanta. Talent from Bethel performed special music and had a display of their crafts from the recent competitions.

The Rev. Emmitt Jones presented the message. A meal and fellowship was enjoyed following the meeting. Thank you to Bethel for your hospitality.

Four were baptized at our worship service on March 16: Alice Poole, and youth members Timothy Gay, Michael Langley, and T. J. Parnell. Our evening services were cancelled and fourteen members attended the World Missions Conference at Mt. Olive College, hearing the messages brought by the Rev. Willem and Lydia Van der Plas. Congratulations and thank you to our pastor who now has his commercial license and was our bus driver for the evening.

The Laymen sponsored a BBQ chicken fundraiser on Friday, March 28, and raised funds to purchase and place two flagpoles on the church grounds. Thank you to all who helped out.

On March 29, two groups visited other areas for fellowship. Our bus carried a group to hear the Gaithers in concert at Chapel Hill. Four traveled to Greenville and attended the G.E.M. (God Empowers Me) event at Black Jack Church (Central District). Youth Nicole Lee and Nikki Jones (and their mothers) enjoyed the evening of fellowship with a program by Wes Boyd and the Big House Band. The skits and special devotion were a great motivation, especially for young people.

In Memoriam: Remember our pastor, the Rev. Jim Bogle and his family during the loss of his father. In our community, an assistant principal at Clayton High School, Mrs. Gail Blowe, passed away suddenly on March 30 and all our youth have been greatly affected by the sad news. Please remember these families in your prayers.

# SUMMERTIME IS FUN TIME FOR POWHATAN YOUTH



With Kings Dominion scheduled for June 7, Vacation Bible Schools planned by most churches, and several weeks at Cragmont, summer is a time of fun and fellowship for our young people. Powhatan is planning to be a part of it all. Our VBS will be "Adventures of the Nile" from June 15-19, and we welcome all visitors to join us. We all enjoyed hearing about the "Adventures in Bulgaria" of Willem and Lydia van der Plas on April 5. Both addressed the Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary meeting at Vandora Springs that morning, with Willem asking, "Can Jesus be seen in your life?" He reminded us to be humble and give thanks to God for anything accomplished through His power. That evening, at the Cape Fear Youth Rally in Bethel, the Van der Plas had slides showing a Christmas pageant that the gypsies of Bulgaria performed. What a blessing to see their work! Willem thanked us for the blessing he had received on this visit and said he is grateful to be a part of the Lord's work. Martha Parsons explained to the group that this was the couple we send our Christmas project money to, and Willem explained how much it meant to the people there. Just a little bread, a warm coat, a pair of socks or shoes—things we take for granted—are such treats to the people they serve.

In the installation of officers for the Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary for 2003-2005 on April 5, Diana Bass was installed as field secretary, following the late Grace Barbour in the position. Rita Jones was installed as co-youth chair with Martha Parsons. A special thank you to Mary Allen and the Bethel youth for a wonderful program on the Prayer of Jabez at the evening's Youth Rally.

Over 150 people were in attendance, representing 13 of our district churches. Banners were awarded as follows: Youth—Powhatan, Youth Runner-Up—Haymount, Overall—Riverside, Overall Runner-Up—Smyrna.

At the quarterly business meeting on April 9, it was announced that Deacon Greg Bass will rotate off the board in June and Kerry Chestnut was voted back on. Thank you to both these men for their faithful service. It was voted that our coming quarter's Foreign and Home Missions support will help cover the expenses of school teacher, Rachel Langley to Mexico and several of our youth officers and members to Atlanta with the Youth Convention this summer. Pray for both these endeavors to be blessed with a successful ministry outreach to the lost.

The Cherubs had an Easter Egg Hunt and Kite-Flying afternoon on Saturday, April 12. There were lots of plastic eggs filled with surprises and lots of little folks to look for them!

April 13 was the Cape Fear District Bible Bowl. Lee's Chapel and Robert's Grove competed at Shady Grove. From Powhatan, State Officer Nikki Jones helped as a score keeper and Cape Fear Youth President Roberta Widhalm served as the time keeper. Thank you to Jonathon Pearce of Smyrna for being the moderator and to Misty Jernigan and Rita Perry of Shady Grove for serving as judges. Congratulations to both teams for their display of knowledge and to Robert's Grove for taking both the AFC and YFA title in the Cape Fear. They represented the district at the State in May.

Stephen Norris, pastor of Union Chapel (Western District), was our Revival speaker April 13-17. He preached mostly from the New Testament with examples from Jesus' life. We enjoyed his visit with us and appreciate his church members coming to support him during the week. The house was full and the fellowship was wonderful (especially the "heavy" refreshments on Thursday evening!).

Easter Sunday began with a sunrise service. At the 11 A.M. worship hour, we had a communion service before the morning message. Six people came forward during the closing hymn and asked to join our church. We voted to welcome them in: Lonnie and Helen Barbour, Renee Boykin, Michael Langley, Timothy Gay, and Carmen Poole and extended to them the right hand of fellowship.

Congratulations to the Edwards' family on the birth of their quadruplets: Elizabeth, Emma, Colleen, and Conner (the Swinson's grandchildren). Powhatan's Youth group saw the article in the April issue of *The Free Will Baptist* and began collecting items to deliver to the family for the babies when they are able to come home from the hospital. Continue to pray for them and their bundles of blessings.

Fourteen ladies from Powhatan attended Morning Star weekend at Cragmont. There were over 120 registered for the weekend with 33 first-timers. Powhatan had three of the first-timers, one of the three oldest present (Sister Ollie Brady, age 87), and one of the three youngest present (Cynthia Narron, age 19). Willem and Lydia Van der Plas shared with us during the weekend about "Life in the Spirit" and taught us how we are only "dust," without the Spirit God breathes into us. The slides they showed on Saturday evening gave us all a blessing and a taste of their mission work in Bulgaria. We pray for their continued success as they returned to the mission field on May 1. We also ask for financial support for them as they hope to grow and build a larger facility so more people can be reached with the Gospel



# CRAGMONT RETREAT

by Betty Rollins



The Psalms come alive when you're in the mountains. Certainly the beauty of nature resounds from hill to hill, completely mesmerizing the mind. The trees were lacy with shades of green as the leaves put forth and others were loaded with blossoms as spring just couldn't hold itself in any longer. Everywhere nature was alive—the birds, the animals, the rippling brooks, and people enmass. Cars were abandoned by the road sides as folks took off on nature trails, lounged by streams of water, loaded up their fishing gear, attempted riding the rapids, pedaled bikes, went horseback riding, or just soaked up the great joys of the marvelous outdoors. What a perfect time for a retreat.

After several years of applying for reservations, members of Walnut Creek Church finally succeeded in making weekend reservations at Cragmont for a much anticipated retreat. The weather predicted snow in the mountains and low temperatures but nothing could dampen the spirits of these anxious folks.

On Friday morning, April 11, several cars met in Clayton at 6:30 A.M. to begin their trip; others left from various other routes. Arriving at Cragmont shortly after noon our adventure began. The afternoon agenda called for a trip into the mountains where snow grazed the foliage and

the lure of "Little Switzerland" and "Emerald Village" drew excitement. Walking through the slush of snow we toured an emerald mine and later panned for gems. Several found "exotic" promising stones and fancitized visions of fantastic pieces of jewelry.

We were famished for the delicious meal provided by Cragmont's "Chef" John and assistants. Afterward we enjoyed vespers in the Cragmont Chapel around a huge roaring fire in their fabulous fireplace. It was easy to be thankful for our safe trip, mountain adventure, and the relaxing atmosphere and wonderful fellowship. When vespers were over, games were played while a few of the "older" folks enjoyed the rocking chairs and small talk.

What a restful night! The winds whispering in the trees, the invigorating mountain air, gently soothing tired, excited folks into a wonderful slumber.

Morning came too quickly. But the hearty breakfast lured the retreaters to the dining hall and appetites were sumptuously filled. The agenda for the day was a full one. Back up the mountains to an adventure at Caves Cove, a short stop in Cherokee, and several over-poweringly beautiful scenic stops along the way. (God's Creation defies description!) Caves Cove was an educational delve into mountain life in the 1800s; folks lived independently off the land and their surroundings. Wildlife was abundant and the folks were self-sufficient in their small community. Even on our tour the wildlife was fearless and it was almost possible to reach out and touch them. Such wonder was amazing—quite an appearance.

Down the mountain trail we had reservations for a show at the "Comedy Barn" and supper afterward at the Old Mill. The two-hour return trip brought us home shortly after midnight—but they had the "light on for us." Wearily, we crawled into bed and slept peacefully another night in the mountains.

The next morning we enjoyed a fabulous breakfast of country ham and biscuits with worship services following with Little Creek Church from Ayden who were also on retreat the same weekend. Our worship hour was most inspirational and the Palm Sunday message brought to us by the Rev. Frank Flowers reminded us of the season and the reason for the joy and fellowship we felt. Sadly, but much refreshed, we parted company for the journey home.

For those of us who had never visited Cragmont—what a wonderful experience. How proud we are of our Free Will Baptist mountain retreat. It must be an inspirational experience for our youth during the summer months and others who enjoy the various programs sponsored by this Christian investment. If you've never been, you're missing a real treat! We need to make a real effort to support Cragmont.

## HOMECOMING SERVICES

Snow Hill Church will hold Homecoming services on Sunday, June 8, with Sunday School at 10 A.M. and Morning Worship at 11 A.M. Dinner will be served on the grounds immediately following the service. Everyone is invited to attend. Snow Hill Church is located at 1213 Red Hill Church Road, Mount Olive. The Rev. Bob Fussell is pastor.

# THE QUILTING PARTY

by Rosalene Bass



It all began in February when I asked Miss Debbie to a quilting party at my home. She said, "Yes, I want to come and learn to quilt because I have a top my mother and sister made for me that I want to quilt." Her mother, Mrs. Patricia Bennett and her sister, Mrs. Connie Morris from Juniper Chapel Church had made the beautiful queen size double wedding band top several years ago.

Miss Debbie came to my quilting, watched a few minutes, got a needle and thread and went to work. She was quick to learn and did good

work. The Woman's Auxiliary decided to finish Miss Debbie's quilt for her. Mozelle Batchelor, auxiliary president, Evelyn Manning, and Miss Debbie went shopping for the lining, batten, thread, binding, and needles. Sam and Ann Matthews provided the queen size frames. A committee of six ladies put the quilt in the frames on Monday morning, March 17. We started quilting that afternoon. We decided to have a quilt show too. Everyone was encouraged to bring a quilt to display if they had one. Tables were placed along two walls in the Fellowship Center for the quilt display. Eight ladies brought one or more quilts to show. One lady brought several hand-made baskets she had made. The quilts and baskets were all beautiful. We worked Monday and Tuesday evenings until 9 P.M. for the benefit of the working women. The entire church membership was invited to come by to quilt, look, eat, or visit. Betsy Coppedge and Geraldine Manning were in charge of lunches and refreshments. They served two delicious lunches and refreshments every day all day. Some of the men enjoyed visiting and eating. Some came three or four times a

day and would always ask, "Aren't you finished yet?" A total of sixty-four people came during the four day party. Our quilters included some neighbors and visitors, Mrs. Doris Hudson and Lou Vellen Wantor from Black Jack Church. One lady who quilted was 83 years old. Our youngest was six years old—Lauren Wells who put in a few stitches.

We all had sore backs, shoulders, and fingers. One day, Miss Debbie had four or five fingers taped up. We kept on quilting and Thursday, March 19, about 1 P.M. we finished quilting. Mozelle took the quilt home to bind and hem it. She embroidered in one corner of the lining side, "Quilted by ladies of Mt. Zion Church, March 2003."

On Sunday, April 6, at the close of the morning service, Mozelle Batchelor and Evelyn Manning presented the finished quilt and a quilt memory book to Miss Debbie and Pastor Heath. In her presentation remarks, Mozelle said, "Like us, these stitches are not perfect. Some are short, some are long, and others are crooked, but every stitch was stitched with love and admiration that this church family has for you and your family."



To the left are children from Christ Church, Stokesdale, NC who attended our annual Easter Egg Hunt held on April 19, 2003. A great time was had by all, including Pastor David Atkins (back row, far right, holding Noah Bankston, whose dad is serving with the Marines in Iraq). The children know the true meaning of Easter, but the egg hunt is a fun time of games, prizes for all, and good food.



# TRIBUTE TO NORMA REARDON

by Sherry Matthews



*The following article appeared in The Sampson Independent written by Sherry Matthews, Editor about Norma Reardon, one of the oldest members and active participant in Free*

*Will Baptist activities in the Pleasant Grove community.*

PLEASANT GROVE COMMUNITY—The church—and God—have always been at the center of Norma Reardon's life.

She was raised in church, had her first date with her husband at church, raised all her children in the church, and has been an active participant in church activities, and many of its offices, for nearly all her 81 years. And that's the way she wants it.

"Faith has taken me through every step of my life," Reardon said during a recent interview in a Sunday School room at her church, Snow Hill Free Will Baptist Church, a small, rural Duplin County church located at the corner of Red Hill and Tram Roads. "And this church has meant a great deal to me throughout my life." "It's where I found the Lord, and it's where my children found the Lord. The people here are just like family—there's a lot of love here, a lot of caring."

It's been that way at Snow Hill all Reardon's life. Some of her most cherished memories, she says, happened within its walls. "This church is a large part of my life," she says, a tender smile etching its way across her face. "The memories I have," she sighs, then smiles, "they are dear to me, very dear."

This past Christmas, Reardon shared some of those memories, spanning 81 years, during the adult choir's cantata, "A Tender Snow Hill Christmas." A member of the choir herself since the age of 12, Reardon said being able to share just a few of the cherished moments she has lived at Snow Hill was special.

Reardon, who served as church treasurer for 42 years and who continues to teach adult Sunday School, came to Snow Hill for the first five years of her life on a horse and buggy. There was no electricity. In fact, she said, electricity didn't get turned on in the church until the 1940s.

Still, church was the center of everyone's lives. "We'd have lunch on the grounds—people were close; families came to church together—it was the focal point.

"It was a much slower way of life then. Times were hard, in some respects, but people were close. Neighbors helped neighbors. God was at the center of everyone's life, then family. "And church was where we all came together."

Born the only child to Festus and Jane Whaley Powell, "Mrs. Norma" as she is affectionately called by many of those who love and respect her, grew up on the farm and, because of her mother's terrible bouts with TB, often found many of the family responsibilities placed on her young shoulders. "My mother was sick a lot when I was growing up," Reardon says, growing reflective as she recalls her childhood. "My grandmother, Emma Powell, helped me a great deal and it meant a lot to me. "It was just me, mama and daddy—when mama was sick my grandmother would be there to help us in any way she could."

Reardon's mother had TB, and for three years, she was bedridden, leaving her young child and husband to do as much as they could on their own. When Reardon was 12, her mother contracted TB again, bedridden for another three years. This time older and able to shoulder more responsibility, the young Norma would prove herself adept at handling family matters and keeping up her school work. "I'd get up before sunlight to help daddy, then I'd go to school and come back home to do whatever else was needed." And she managed to juggle all her duties and still become valedictorian of her class at B.F. Grady School. "It was hard work, but I just kept trying. With help

from God, I was able to do it all," Reardon said.

Through those years, she and her father would become close. A daddy's girl she was, and continues to be many years after his death. "My daddy was a wonderful man," Reardon says, a smile slowly returning to her face. "He took good care of me and mama. God and church were at the center of his life." In fact, when he was 10, her father was able to drive one of the nails in the under-construction of Snow Hill Church. "So we've been a part of this church since its beginnings," Reardon said. Just as she's been a part of the Snow Hill, now referred to as Pleasant Grove, community.

Growing up on the farm had its challenges—there was tobacco to be tended, farm animals to raise and other chores to be done—but there was also a tightly-knit community spirit, a willingness to help one another, and a fun-loving nature about those who were neighbors. "I enjoyed working on the farm. Families could be together that way. You didn't have one headed off this way, and another going in a different direction. It was hard work, but it most certainly had its share of benefits." Just as growing up in the Snow Hill community did. Reardon said, "Her family's yard was the biggest in the neighborhood so it wasn't unusual for it to be teeming with youngsters." "Everyone came to my house. There was always kids around. You see, there wasn't much else to do. You'd go to church, play in the yard Sunday afternoons, work, and go to school during the week." "Some might think that doesn't sound like fun, but it was...it really was."

And church, she pointed out, continued to be the focal point of each family's life. In fact, Reardon had her first date with husband, Rotha, at Snow Hill Church. "That's true," she says, smiling, "our first date was right here in this church. It was the State Convention, back in September 1938." Her husband lived in Smithfield at the time, and the Snow Hill pastor's wife

*(Continued on next page)*

was Rotha Reardon's sister. That, in fact, is how the two met.

The year after they first met, Rotha Reardon came down to Duplin County to farm with his sister, and to be closer to Norma Powell. "After all," she said, "the 55-mile drive from the Snow Hill community to Smithfield, where Rotha Reardon lived was a long way to travel in the late 1930s." The two were married just over two years after their first date, in November 1940. Their wedding was in Snow Hill Church.

"In 1940, life was good. It was different, but it was good. There was a lot of love in our home and in our community and it spilled over to just about everybody."

The Reardons farmed, raised a family of three—son, Kenneth, who lives less than a mile from the church, and daughters, Faye Jones, who now lives in Wilson and Carol Blizzard who lives in Deep Run. And church continued to be the center of their lives. Following in the footsteps of her grandmother, who had the very first

Sunday School class at Snow Hill, Reardon taught. At age 16, she started teaching and throughout the years she's taught every age group at the church, from the teens and children to the young marrieds and senior citizens. "That, perhaps, is one of my greatest blessings, teaching Sunday School. "I've had some really good experiences through teaching. When you have people come up to you and tell you that something you said or did made them really want to come to church, join the church, well there's really no greater blessing." "To have someone tell you that you helped bring them closer to the Lord—things like that touch your heart."

Rotha Reardon died at age 60 with cancer. Norma was only 55. "The loss, she said, "was devastating, and it was her faith in God, the love of her church family and community and the support of her children that brought her through that most difficult period in her life. "Faith got me through. Every night when I'd go to bed I'd just

seek the Lord's strength, and He would provide it."

Now at 81, Reardon's faith continues to grow stronger, and she continues to seek the Lord's help, she said, in getting her through each day. She still remains active in her church, and she continues to be an active part of her community, baking food for neighbors when they are sick or where there's been a death, and carrying folks to the doctor when the need arises.

"I try to do all I can for people. I believe that's what the Lord teaches us to do—and you get so many blessings from it."

She teaches adult Sunday School on a rotating basis now, and every Sunday she is in the choir, singing and smiling, doing the Lord's work and enjoying every minute of it. "One of my greatest prayers is that the Lord will help me be a help to someone else," she said. And another prayer—that her much beloved church will continue to grow and spread the news of God's love.

## THE LILY IN GRANDMOTHER'S GARDEN

by Brenda Smith

On Sunday, April 13, 2003, the Youth Department of Spring Hill Church presented a delightful story about a garden that had special flowers, a frog and a spider—they could talk! These special characters helped to tell a special Easter story.

We started working on the play at the beginning of the year by receiving a "listening tape" to leave in our car! This helped the adults and children learn the songs along with the speaking parts. Our cast worked diligently and attended practice twice a week. All during this time, several of the cast members worked on the props for the play—borrowing garden statues, a beautiful trellis, a birdhouse, an outside table complete with umbrella, and lots of potted plants.

The story unfolded with the main character, Aaron (played by Zach Beachem), disobeying his mother. He and his friend played ball in his Grandmother's flower bed and

broke her favorite Easter Lily. Aaron pondered about this and even sang a solo entitled, "What's a Kid to Do?" in which he thought up several tales that would explain how the Lily was broken. He finally came to the realization that the truth was the only explanation. He and his friends agreed that if you tell the truth you do not have to remember what you said, because you can always tell the truth again and again. Lies, on the other hand, bring you double trouble.

After confessing to his mother, Aaron apologized to her and then to his Gram. Gram took him to the garden and along with his mother explained to him that the bulb of the Easter Lily was buried safely in the ground and the only thing that was broken was the stem, flower, and a few leaves. Next year the Lily would come back out and bloom again. His mother compared this to Jesus being in the tomb and then coming out after three days.

The frog and spider added much to the play, as the costumes were very eye-catching. The children and adults who played the flowers were decorated with headbands or hats covered with silk flowers to represent the Easter Lily, a rose, sunflower, and a daisy. At times during the play, the flowers talked to each other and the Easter Lily, played by Paige Herring, told how special the Easter Lily was and what the different parts of the Lily represented. A rabbit almost stole the show when he made a dash through the garden and the frog stated "rabbit, rabbit" instead of his usual "read it, read it."

The play concluded with each person reciting a Bible verse they had learned, singing the final song, and wishing everyone a Happy Easter! The ladies of the church decorated the fellowship hall and prepared a delicious refreshments for the cast and guests. Everyone enjoyed the food and festive atmosphere.

## CHURCHES & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

FIRST FWB CHURCH, Rocky Mount, is seeking a full-time pastor to live in Rocky Mount and lead our church in full-time Christian ministry. Interested ministers may contact Don Rogers, 225 Kent Court, Rocky Mount, NC 27804 or by phone at (252) 442-4445.

BRIAN DAVIS, ordained minister in good standing with the Western Conference of Original Free Will Baptists, is available for supply, interim, revival, or full-time pulpit duties. Interested persons may contact him by phone at (252) 243-3809 or by e-mail at [Brian.Davis@bbandt.com](mailto:Brian.Davis@bbandt.com).

PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH, Pikeville, is seeking a full-time Associate Pastor/Youth Pastor with the main emphasis on Youth Pastor. Interested candidates may contact and/or send a resume to Ronnie Barnes at 567 Nahunta Road, Pikeville, NC 27863 or call him at (919) 734-2223.

BOB ALEXANDER, licensed minister in the Albemarle Conference of Original Free Will Baptists, is available to supply or pastor. Interested persons may contact him by phone at (252) 776-0236. Please leave a message if there is no answer.

THE REVEREND TOMMY BRYSON JR., ordained minister in the Pee Dee Association of Original Free Will Baptists, is available to pastor, for pulpit supply, and for revivals. Interested persons may contact him by phone at (252) 776-0236. Please leave a message if there is no answer.

THE REVEREND PETE RAWLS has been cleared by the Board of Ordination of the Cape Fear Conference and is available to serve as pastor, for pulpit supply, and for revivals. He may be contacted by mail at 1639-A Powhatan Rd, Clayton, NC 27520 or by phone at (919) 989-3190.

PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, Pitt County, is seeking a Christian pianist. Interested persons should call (252) 746-2048 and leave message.

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The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December.) You may submit articles by any of the following methods:

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- Hand deliver, or
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**\*No phone-in or handwritten information will be accepted.**

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# THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

JULY 2003



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(COLOSSIANS 3:23)

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TAKING PRIDE IN THE WORKPLACE

# SO MANY THINGS TO DO!

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

Yes, it's almost done! The house is almost finished. Almost—almost. There are so many little things to take care of: picking out paint colors, trim work, carpeting, hardwood flooring, lighting fixtures, bath fixtures, cabinetry, decorations—the list goes on and on. It's enough to make your head spin! Making sure things are just like you want them is tough, especially when there are so many options and you like so many different things. The number of paint colors available is enough to make you sea sick. It's a lot of work. It's also overwhelming and exciting at the same time. My wife, Carla, is learning to be patient with me through this whole process.

It's also a blessing beyond measure. I have so much for which to be thankful, despite all the heartache I've been through these past couple of years. Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." My wife and I are support systems

for each other—and we want Christ to be the foundation of the whole system. The whole "maintaining a house" thing is a big responsibility and it's going to take a great deal of effort to keep it up.

I think my point is that in the middle of all these "so many things to do," which, by the way, includes doing my best in my job and in family upkeep, I need to keep my eyes on Jesus. Let's face it, without Jesus, all of this is in vain. If our eyes are on Jesus, "...God will supply all [our needs] according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). Let's keep in mind that the verse says *needs* not *wants*.

There are going to be plenty of times we'll get frustrated, angry, tired, and perplexed, but let's keep our eyes on Jesus and let Him carry our burdens for us like He said He would if we would only ask—and let Him.

Paint will fade; metal will rust; decorations will get old; but we must recognize, God is still in control!



## A YEAR LATER

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

It doesn't seem possible, but more than a year has passed since resigning the editorship of The Free Will Baptist Press, and almost a year since the service of celebration of fifty years in the ministry. It is really amazing how time flies and how busy life can become in older age and semi-retirement. In reality, a minister never really retires; but simply moves into a different phase of life. During this past year, it has been my privilege to speak in several of our churches. In some cases the pastor was away and in others there is no pastor. I have also continued writing for the Press.

This past year has allowed me to do some things that time would not previously permit: time with my children and especially the grandchildren; projects around the house (which are not yet completed); time to go places in a more leisurely manner; and sometimes allowing procrastination to play its role because some things can simply wait. I've remarked, however, that I probably will not live long enough to do all the things I want to do, which I hope is a positive aspect of my life at this point. I still plan to take time to visit old friends and old places that I've not seen in years.

Since my heart catheterization and stent placement in

August 2001, my health has been good, for which I thank God every day. I am still participating in the Cardiology and Pulmonary Rehab program offered by Pitt County Memorial Hospital. It provides a systematic program of exercise that is closely monitored by medical professionals. It has been a source of encouragement and has convinced me of the importance of regular exercise.

I will always have my denomination at heart. My concerns for its future growth will never diminish, although I may not be as actively involved. One does not spend fifty-one years in service to the Lord and church, and then suddenly quit. My prayers are for the success of our outreach ministries and growth in our churches. Of major concern, however, is the aging of our ministers and their retirement from active pastoral work, a part of the natural cycle of life. God desires to bless us with more laborers, and we must pray that souls will answer His call.

I wish to thank those who have commented about my continual writing in *The Free Will Baptist*. I do plan to continue contributing to "Reflections." Your comments are always welcome. Let us hear from you.

Praise Him for His marvelous love and blessings!



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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 to the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

**Submissions:** All material for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month prior to publication. (Example: items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the fifth day of December.) Pictures are not returned unless there is an appropriate self-addressed stamped envelope included. Items for publication should be addressed to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159 or sent by e-mail to [editor@fwbpress.com](mailto:editor@fwbpress.com).

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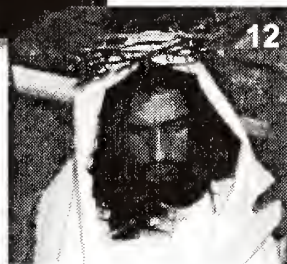


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# POWER VERSE

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose (Romans 8:28).

# James Baxter Hunt Sr.

(July 20–May 7, 2003)

*Distinguished Free Will Baptist Layman and Leader of Mount Olive College*

*by W. Burkette Raper*

Mr. James B. Hunt Sr. of Wilson County, NC, and a member of the Board of Trustees of Mount Olive College for thirty-four years, died May 7, 2003. Funeral services were held at his home church, Marsh Swamp Original Free Will Baptist, by his pastor, the Rev. Ray Wells, and Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president emeritus of Mount Olive College. The following tribute is extracted from the message of Dr. Raper at Mr. Hunt's funeral on May 11.

## Mr. Hunt and Mount Olive College

Mr. Hunt's relationship with Mount Olive College can best be described in the words of Daniel Webster during a landmark case in 1819 before the United States Supreme Court. Standing before that court in defense of Dartmouth College, his alma mater, Mr. Webster said to the Chief Justice: "It is, sir, as I have said, a small college. And yet there are those who love it."

It has been my good fortune to be associated with Mount Olive College for nearly forty-nine years, and I can attest that no one has shown greater love for this institution than James Hunt. A newspaper reporter, who was preparing a feature on him, called to ask why Mr. Hunt, who was not an alumnus of Mount Olive College, had such an extensive involvement with it. I think the answer goes back fifty years—to 1953—when the sponsoring body of the College, the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, was meeting right here in Mr. Hunt's home church.

The major issue before the Convention was whether to authorize the purchase of an abandoned grammar school building in Mount Olive at a price of \$25,000 for the purpose of establishing a Christian college. Mr. Hunt was a leader whose vision transcended the view of little minds who were blinded



*James B. Hunt Sr.*

by what is rather than challenged by what could be. Against strong opposition, the motion passed, and the following year the College opened with twenty-two students; but a long and daunting challenge lay ahead.

## Church Dinners

A decade passed, and in early 1963, I was back at Marsh Swamp, pleading the cause of the College, which by then had grown to an enrollment of 250 students. It was still housed, however, in the old grammar school building, and a creative approach was needed to raise funds for new buildings on a new campus. By now, Marsh Swamp Church had its first alumnus of the College as its pastor, the Rev. Melvin K. Everington. That Sunday afternoon, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Everington, and I searched for ideas, and during our search, a concept in church support was born that would make the difference in the growth of the College and possibly even its survival. We outlined a plan for county-wide church dinners, and

Mr. Hunt agreed to head a committee to test the plan here in Wilson County. In May of 1963 the first dinner was held. Gifts totaled \$1,279, but with two hundred people attending the dinner, we knew the plan would work, and we have never looked back. Last year, three thousand people attended eighteen dinners throughout eastern North Carolina with gifts to the College in excess of \$500,000.

Building on the pioneer leadership of Mr. Hunt, during the past forty years these church dinners have been the means of more than \$8 million in gift support to the College. But the benefits have been far more than financial—they have bonded the Church and the College into an inseparable union. I can tell you that without these dinners, Mount Olive College would not be a four-year College, nor would it enjoy the campus it has today.

The following year, 1964, Mr. Hunt was elected to the Board of Trustees, and that same year contracts were awarded for the first two buildings on what is now the campus of the College. During Mr. Hunt's tenure on the Board of Trustees, every major building now on the campus was constructed, including the academic buildings, the resident halls and apartments, the library, the chapel, the cafeteria-student center, and the administration building.

## Making Mount Olive a Senior College

In 1974 the Trustees elected Mr. Hunt chair of the board, and three years later the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists requested that the Board of Trustees "work aggressively to make Mount Olive College a four-year institution." It was a monumental undertaking, but Mr. Hunt did not flinch.

*(Continued on next page)*



At that time, the College had no facilities for physical education, and the building of College Hall became the flagship for the four-year program. August 1982, was set for the ground breaking, and James Hunt was so determined to keep this date that I believe that if necessary, he would have mortgaged his home. Contracts followed the ground breaking and in January 1984—one of the great days in the history of Mount Olive College—we held the grand opening of College Hall with his son, Jim, as our speaker. In May 1986, James Hunt presented the diplomas for the first baccalaureate degrees awarded by the College, and in December the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools affirmed our accreditation as a senior college.

It was fitting that at the last trustee meeting over which Mr. Hunt presided as chair, in 1989, the Board approved a \$10 million "Road to Excellence" campaign, which was designed to strengthen and to advance the College toward the dawn of a new century. And how appropriate it was that Mr. Hunt's son, Jim, accepted the chairmanship of

this campaign and provided the leadership to assure its success.

One of the major results of this campaign was the construction of the administration building, cafeteria-student center, and fine arts facility which helped to complete the transfer of all operations from the old grammar school building to the new campus.

### Endowment

Another feature of Mr. Hunt's vision for the College was the building of an endowment. In 1977 "The Elsie Brame and James Baxter Hunt Endowed Fund" was established as a part of the observance of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the first Free Will Baptist Church in America. Mr. Hunt saw clearly and felt deeply the Christian mission of the College, and when it came to defining the purpose of the Hunt Endowment, it was with a tender feeling that he wanted to provide a meaningful and lasting tribute to Mrs. Hunt, a teacher and a librarian. And thus the income from the Hunt Endowment is

designated for the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection.

During the years Mr. Hunt and I worked together, I came to feel that I was the most fortunate college president in North Carolina to have a trustee chair with his vision, commitment, and support. He is the only person whose generosity to the College I ever morally felt I should restrain. And I did so—more than once. James Hunt was an extraordinary gift of God to humanity, and in return he lived and gave his life in humble and devout service to help make life better for others. Over the years, I am sure I have visited in his home more than one hundred times, and I never left without feeling encouraged and inspired to be a better person and to work by a higher standard. Today, we celebrate the life of a man who was a friend to us all.

As we each ponder the contribution he has made to our life, let us remember that:

The value of a good man  
Cannot be measured—  
It can only be treasured,  
And treasure it, we will.

## JESUS CALLS US

*The following message was presented by Sue Griffin at the 2003 State Woman's Auxiliary Convention held at Elm Grove Church, Ayden, NC on May 8, 2003.*



My cup runneth over today! I am elated to be here with you! Will you pray with me?

Our Heavenly Father! We want to thank you today for guiding us all safely to Elm Grove Church here in Ayden, NC. As you know, Lord, we have gathered here as your North

Carolina FWB Auxiliary Women to continue Your work that You have called us to do. Heavenly Father, Your workers' faces are beaming for You in Your house today. Speak to these women and men through me. Touch their lives and draw each one of them closer to You! We know that without You, we are nothing! We are looking to You to continue to lead us as Christian women. We always want to do our very best for You. May each one of us answer Your calling as You call us individually and collectively for Your work! We pray in Your name now and forever. Amen.

"Jesus is Calling You!" He had Jackie Flowers to telephone me back in December and ask me to meet you on your continuing Christian pilgrimage here at this stop-over in Ayden! Jesus and I have been talking...conversing back and forth...working with each

other together for over 4 months. He has filled me with a wealth of information—note pads filled—for His personal message to us. But, I'll have you out before your lunch deadline! It is so thrilling that we have this direct line with Him, isn't it? He is here! His spirit dwells in us!

Do you have a personal, really close relationship with Jesus daily? Minute by minute? Hour by hour? Do you give Him time with planned and unplanned conversations? Prayer? Do you humbly drop to your knees the way He prayed to His Heavenly Father? Do you get your messages directly from His Holy Spirit who empowers you? Are you visibly energized for Him?

I had a real awakening and unforgettable experience several years ago.

*(Continued on next page)*

I just felt like I had to get closer to God! I really wanted to experience Jesus' power inside of me. I yearned for Him to awaken my soul! I just kept praying for a really close relationship. I felt this "hunger" for a closer personal walk and I just wanted to be "fed" more by Jesus. Well, Jesus truly came to me!

I was on an Emmaus Walk—a weekend retreat with 50+ other Christian women like you. I was sleeping on a Saturday night so soundly, certainly not thinking about my sincere nor repetitive request to Him. He awakened me around 3 A.M. with my heart p-o-u-n-d-i-n-g out of my chest, p-o-u-n-c-i-n-g, b-l-a-r-i-n-g the song, "Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart Lord Jesus, come in today, come in to stay, come in to my heart Lord Jesus!" I truly thought I was having a heart attack! What a memorable way to make His point to me! I'll never forget it! I had not sung those words since I was a small child. But, I had repeatedly asked Him to really come alive in me! I actually went back to my home church and nearly begged Preacher Harwood to allow me to bring the Sunday sermon! I don't know what I would have done if he had said, "No, Sue!" I was just so filled with God and His Son, Jesus! Jesus had called me to work harder at spreading His Word! How can anyone say no to His work?

In order for us to serve Jesus and truly be committed to put him first in our lives, we need to study the positive evidence that He lived, died, and was bodily resurrected. There are recorded 14 facts that show us this positive evidence. I have prepared for you a handout from my weekly Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) lecture notes so that you can study this evidence later. And ladies, we can rejoice in the fact that Jesus' first appearance after His dying on the Cross for our sins was to a w-o-m-a-n, like you, Mary Magdalene, in John 20:10–18. Jesus honored women with this example...us! He called her by name, "Mary" in verse 16. She responded with one word... "Teacher." Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am re-

turning to my Father, and your Father, to my God, and your God'" (John 20:17 NIV). Mary went to the disciples with the news: "'I have seen the Lord!'" There are 13 other factual encounters recorded for you where Jesus was seen for the next 40 days walking, talking, eating, teaching, counseling, showing His wounds, and proving that He was alive! He then ascended into Heaven which was witnessed by the good, honest, godly disciples. Now, with these facts and Jesus' Holy Spirit living within you, we have the same task...to go and tell others about our Lord, to know His Holy Word, and to live a life working for Him daily. Jesus is calling you today to proclaim this message. He told me so. Study the *Great Commission* in Matthew 28:18–20: "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age'" (NIV).

You are His gift—that's what God gave His Son for dying on the Cross—you! He was covered in His Blood for our sins. The chain began with Moses and the Ten Commandments, the recordings of the prophets, letters from the apostles, documented conversations, Scriptures and visions, songs with messages, the chosen 12 disciples, the creation of this beautiful universe and all of mankind—us. We are part of the Christian history of this world! And, the best is yet to come if we listen and answer His calling. Jesus Christ is the right and only choice! You will be blessed with an eternal Heavenly life as he has demonstrated for us if you claim Him first in your life!

I know personally that you can accomplish anything that you want to! How are you giving of yourself? You have sole custody of your life—your entire life! Not just your bank account, but your soul! You have talents to use for our Lord and that means doing our best all of the time! Your life is what you want it to be! You are truly Jesus' gift to the world. He is real! Don't let

Him down or put limits on yourself. Do you give advice and serve as a role model to a younger person? If not, find one! Donate your time and energy daily and with zeal! Set your goal and projects every day...every week...every month...every year!

Home and Foreign Missions started with Jesus as our example. Are you truly following in His footsteps? Let's work harder for Mount Olive College where we do make a difference in our young people's lives as they market His Word. I know...one of the greatest experiences in my life was working with Dianne Riley and Jean Ackiss. Oh, what precious memories I will always have of Mount Olive College. Our auxiliary in our church supported the Children's Home with a campus visitation and money for a special Christmas project this year. Additionally, Cragmont is definitely calling us ladies. We must get involved there now. We can help with all of these outreach ministries! They need us!

I know how Jesus calls you to visit the sick and shut-ins, cook that wonderful Free Will Baptist traditional home food and enroll in higher education. Bible study is a must! Pray for others, teach Sunday School, serve on planning committees and boards, publish articles and bulletins, support others, give of your money, and speak out for Jesus Christ every day of our lives! That's when we make Him number one in our lives!

Jesus sent out "12 pilgrims" last June from the Women's Conference at Camp Vandemere who have been journeying in response to His calling! Most of these women are sitting in here today! They are part of us—auxiliary women! Jesus demonstrated mission work to us when He gathered up His own twelve disciples. As Jesus called, taught, and prepared each one of them personally, He is calling each one of us to do the same! Are you a dependable and positive worker for Jesus? Do you find excuses why you don't put Him first daily? He asked me to mention this to you today!

Jesus also prepared me for today through studying, praying, and working every Monday night in Bible Study Fellowship. This year we have

studied the Book of John: The Life of Jesus! It has been absolutely breathtaking, thrilling...so fulfilling and continues to be one of the greatest and most gratifying highlights of my life! This is my third year in Bible Study Fellowship that meets weekly around the world with over 1,000 interdenominational classes. Just in Smithfield, we are at peak capacity with over 300 women plus our youth who are committed to learn about the Bible with Lynda Carroll, Johnston County BSF Director. And, there is a waiting list of participants! I just can't imagine life without a weekly Bible study! There would be no real purpose or true meaning in my life! This is the second year that our own Judith Kennedy in attendance today has driven from Kinston to Smithfield every Monday night for this Bible Study. God's Word is for us to live by, to know it, and apply it every day in our lives. It grieves me to see others involved in their daily routine without studying consistently their Supreme Maker's Holy Word. How can a person be greeted in Heaven as Jesus' worker if he or she doesn't know God's Laws, examples, parables, lessons, and Scriptures that He challenges and asks us to live by?

He gave us fifteen knowledgeable authors who wrote our 2003 Auxiliary Handbook. They were commissioned to touch our lives so that we can better understand the special job that God has for each of us...in His service and to help us recognize and answer His call. In John 15:16 He tells us, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you!" Think about that! He created us to be His and in return He wants us to choose Him. Let's read Revelation 17:14: "And they that are with him are called, and chosen and faithful." He is appealing to us, Auxiliary women. He has asked you for help! Thank you authors, for touching our lives with this handbook and Nina Grace for your godly skills. I challenge each of you to inhale the powerful, meaningful, and colorful front cover! I can just visualize it right now! I wish it could have been a huge backdrop for us today! Jesus is calling you in that picture! He told me so. Study your cover!

Do you contact others periodically—someone in your church, a neighbor, friend, a sinner? Or do you wait for someone else to do it? Happiness lies in the passions that we pursue and in the pressures that we decline. It is in the ordinary moments that we should elevate ourselves to have small celebrations.

What is your passion in life? Find it! Nurture it! Grow it! Enjoy it! Don't feel guilty about doing things that make you happy. If you are happy, you are an inspiration to others around you. Do you have vision? Does your life really count for Jesus or do you just try to get by? You can make a difference in other's lives! I hope you aren't just treading water, resting, saying, "I'll do it later!" What is your mission? I thank God that I can describe myself with 3 words which are: (1) Christian, (2) Positive, (3) Workaholic! As FWB Auxiliary women, we need a visible track record! We are role models for others! As Christian women, make Jesus alive and active in all aspects of your life.

For the first time in teaching school for over 33 years, my female principal, Brookie Honeycutt, came over the intercom and made a significant difference in 400+ young elementary lives last month. She told them the true Christian meaning of Easter and then opened the monthly staff meeting a week later with prayer. She, too, like you, is an active Free Will Baptist Auxiliary worker in Johnston County!

God gave us our life. We can teach our own children, take them to church, offer advice, warn them, love and discipline them, show them right from wrong, but we can't later live their life for them after they become adults. Jesus does the exact same thing with us. He gives us the Holy Spirit, Holy Bible, and Holy Prayer and teaches us. If we are on His winning Christian team, we will exert excitement, action, determination, knowledge, and success at promoting the most important thing in our lives...our Savior, the Lord of our life!

Philippians 3:20 states "our citizenship is in heaven" (NIV). I love that verse! I always want to fill that in on requested informational forms! Don't

give God your "leftovers!" Give your all to the One who gave His All to you!

Do you do your best for Him? It is so easy to waste time in our lives by existing instead of living! I learned to really live for Him in 1990 when I had a bout with cancer. I thank Him that I had cancer! I'm such a better Christian for Him because of it! I learned to love the journey...the work...the walk...on my pilgrimage! I learned to give back to our world...to others! If you think of life as a terminal cancer incident, you'll live with passion as God wants us to live. Study His survival handbook, your Holy Bible! The classroom is everywhere around us and the exam comes at the very end. Will you pass? Just get by with a grade of 70? Remember 69 is failing! There's just one point difference in passing or failing! But, experience those 90s and you will be soooooo happy all of the time! The choice is yours!

Remember those mid-life crises years? Future golden years? I know that by keeping our priorities right every day—every moment—you are totally fulfilled! Truly, you will be blessed and at total peace in your life! Life to me is really about our Christian pilgrimage—knowing and serving God first, giving to our families, friends, and others, bursting forth with happiness, laughter, and love for our best friend—Jesus—making our community and world a better place to live, living by good not evil, constantly a life with meaning not emptiness, and knowing what we want to achieve before the next stage of my life—understanding death—and everlasting life with God. The decisions we make predict whether or not our life truly counts! That's what He said to tell you!

I know our wrinkles look better with a turned up mouth smiling as Jesus calls us to do His work—a smile that is authentic, caring, exciting, joyful, loving, a Christian smile! Then, all those aging lines turn upward and disappear! Now, I know that will make us happy ladies!

Be ablazed and energized for God in all aspects of your life as you leave our conference today! Continue your blessed Christian pilgrimage as *Jesus Calls You* to go forth! He'll be looking for your footprints out there!



## FWB STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT MOC AWARDS DAY

Nine Original Free Will Baptist students were recognized at the recent Awards Day at Mount Olive College.



*Jessica Murphy and Dr. Jerry Sheppard*

Jessica Murphy of Pikeville received the 2003 Citation for Outstanding Student of the Year in Business and the Faculty Award for Student Excellence.

The citation recognizes a student who has excelled academically and who has demonstrated outstanding service to the business department. The Faculty Award for Student Excellence is a scholarship for academic excellence, superior extracurricular activity, and service to the College.

Murphy, a junior business management major, is the daughter of Randy and Alice Murphy. She is a graduate of Charles B. Aycock High School and is a member of Stoney Creek Church.



*Joy Daughtry*

Joy Daughtry of LaGrange, received the North Carolina Association of CPAs Scholarship.

The North Carolina Association of CPAs Scholarship is sponsored by the Coastal Plains Chapter of North

Carolina Association of CPAs and awarded to an outstanding accounting student selected by the Mount Olive College accounting faculty.

Daughtry is the daughter of Jeff and Wanda Daughtry and attends Westside Church. She is a graduate of North Lenoir High School. She is a member of Phi Beta Lambda and the Undergraduate Alumni Association.



*Laurie Evans and Dr. Dee Clere*

Laurie Evans of Kenly received the 2003 Citation for Outstanding Student of the Year in Literature and Foreign Language.

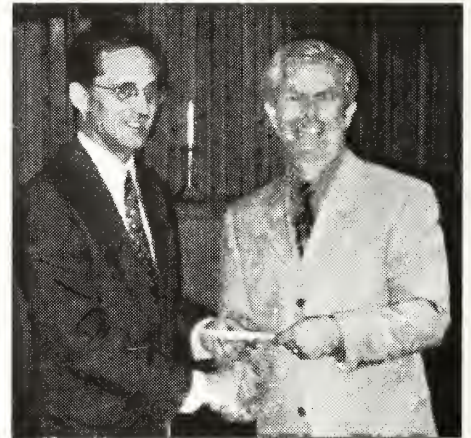
The 2003 Citations for Outstanding Students of the Year recognize seniors who have excelled academically and who have demonstrated outstanding service to particular departments.

Evans, a senior English major, is the daughter of Tommy and Marcia Evans. She is a graduate of North Johnston High School and is a member of Kenly Church.

The Rev. Woodrow Wilson Freeze III of Williamston received the Free Will Baptist Ministerial Award.

The award is a scholarship given by the North Carolina Ministerial Association of Original Free Will Baptists to an outstanding returning Free Will Baptist student who has demonstrated potential for excellence in the Christian ministry.

Freeze, a senior religion major, is the son of Woodrow and Viki Freeze. He is married to Elisa Freeze. He is a graduate of South Rowan High School and has previously attended North Carolina State University. He is a member of Williamston First Church.



*The Rev. Woodrow Wilson Freeze and Dr. K. David Hines*



*Christina Thompson and Dr. Richard Bounds*

Christina Thompson of Benson received the 2003 Citation for Outstanding Student of the Year in Science, and the Henderson Science Club Award for Best Scientific Research by a Senior. Thompson was also recognized as being a member of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

The citation recognizes a senior who has excelled academically and who has demonstrated outstanding service to

*(Continued on next page)*

the science department. The Henderson Science Club Award for Best Scientific Research by a Senior, awards the recipient a \$50 United States Savings Bond.

*Who's Who Awards* are certificates given to students selected by the Faculty Award Committee from faculty nominations for academic achievement, leadership, and community service. Students are listed in *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

Thompson, a senior biology major, is the daughter of Terry and Patsy Thompson. She is a graduate of South Johnston High School and is a member of St. Mary's Grove Church.



*Kelley Smart and Dr. David Hines*

Kelley Smart of Winterville received the 2003 Citation for Outstanding Student of the Year in Religion.

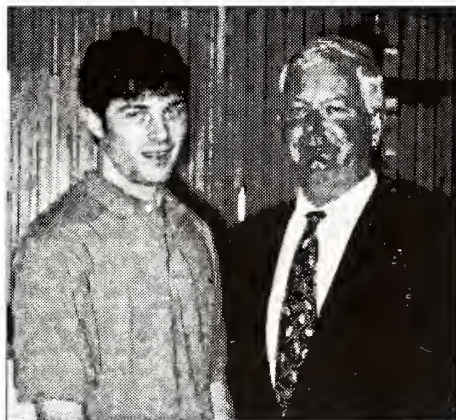
The citation recognizes a student who has excelled academically and who has demonstrated outstanding service to the religion department.

Smart, a junior religion major, is the son of Larry and Mary Lee Smart. He is a graduate of Greenville Christian Academy and has previously attended Pitt Community College. He is a member of Reedy Branch Church.

Dallas Sutton of LaGrange received the M. L. Johnson Business Award.

The award is a scholarship in memory of M. L. Johnson (1916-1969), the first treasurer/business manager of Mount Olive College (1951-1961). The scholarship is given to a rising senior selected by the business faculty for greatest promise in the field of business.

Sutton, a junior business management major, is the son of Hilda Sutton. He is a graduate of North Lenoir High School and is a member of LaGrange First Church.



*Dallas Sutton and Doug Hood*



*Bryan Williamson*

Bryan Williamson of Benson was inducted as vice president into the 2003-2004 Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Cabinet.

As a member of the executive cabinet, he will serve as an advisory council to the College's administration and faculty and will be responsible for the quality and content of student life at the College.

Williamson, a junior religion major, is the son of the Rev. Aubrey and Mrs. Carla Williamson. This is Williamson's fourth year as an SGA member. He is a member of St. Mary's Grove Church.



*Samantha Benson and Dr. Ellen Jordan*

Samantha Benson of Newport received the Freshman of the Year Award. It is an award for scholarship, distinguished leadership, and superior extra-curricular activity given by the Mount Olive College faculty.

Benson, a freshman English education major, is the daughter of Richard and Pamela Benson. She is a graduate of West Carteret High School and is a member of Silver Creek Church.

## LOOKING FOR A FAMILY VACATION DESTINATION?

### Look No Further!

|                         |                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Available:</b>       | Mount Olive College's Pelletier Creek House<br>5 miles from Atlantic Beach—Access to Bogue Sound                                                              |
| <b>Location:</b>        | Pelletier Creek House<br>4704 San Juan Circle<br>Morehead City, NC 28557                                                                                      |
| <b>Features:</b>        | Deep water boat dock, conference room, deck, sleeps 14 adults and several children, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, den, cable TV & VCR, quiet neighborhood |
| <b>Check in:</b>        | 4 P.M.                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Check out:</b>       | 11 A.M.                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Maintenance Fee:</b> | \$975 per week during peak season, call for off-season rates                                                                                                  |

For more information, contact Margaret Wells at MOC at (919) 658-2502 Ext. 3112 or (800) 653-0854 or email [mwells@moc.edu](mailto:mwells@moc.edu).

*No pets, alcohol, or smoking please.*

**Make your summer vacation plans TODAY!**

# MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE IS NOW ENROLLING FOR SUMMER AND FALL PROGRAMS AT ALL LOCATIONS

**Mount Olive College at Mount Olive:** (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854

Contact Tim Woodard at [twoodard@moc.edu](mailto:twoodard@moc.edu) or apply online at [www.moc.edu](http://www.moc.edu).

- We are now enrolling for **Summer Session C Online** which begins July 14, 2003.
- **Fall Semester 2003 begins Wednesday, August 20, 2003:** We are now enrolling new freshmen and new transfer students for traditional college at the Mount Olive location.
- **Session A online for Fall 2003 begins August 20, 2003.**

**Evening College at Mount Olive:** (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

Contact Matt Green at [mgreen@moc.edu](mailto:mgreen@moc.edu) or Vicky Stroud at [vstroud@moc.edu](mailto:vstroud@moc.edu). Apply online at [www.moc.edu](http://www.moc.edu).

- **Heritage Program** for working adults with little or no college experience starts Thursday, September 4, at 6 P.M.
- **Management and Organizational Development (MOD)** degree completion program starts Monday, September 8, at 6 P.M.
- **Early Childhood Education (ECE)** degree completion program starts Thursday, September 11, at 6 P.M.
- **Criminal Justice Administration (CJA)** degree completion program starts Thursday, September 18, at 6 P.M.

**Mount Olive College at Goldsboro (Seymour Johnson AFB):** (919) 735-5052

Contact Dr. Opey Jeanes at [ojeanes@moc.edu](mailto:ojeanes@moc.edu) or apply online at [www.moc.edu](http://www.moc.edu).

- **Fall Term I** at MOC at Goldsboro (Seymour Johnson AFB) begins August 20, 2003.

**Mount Olive College at New Bern:** (252) 633-4464 or (800) 868-8479

Contact Dr. Joe Klotz at [jklotz@moc.edu](mailto:jklotz@moc.edu) or apply online at [www.moc.edu](http://www.moc.edu).

- **Management and Organizational Development (MOD)** degree completion program starts Tuesday, August 19, at 6 P.M.
- **Criminal Justice Administration (CJA)** degree completion program starts Tuesday, September 9, at 6 P.M.

**Mount Olive College at Research Triangle Park:** (919) 941-2970 or (888) 258-5188

Contact Dr. Robin Spaid at [rspaid@moc.edu](mailto:rspaid@moc.edu) or apply online at [www.moc.edu](http://www.moc.edu).

- **Management and Organizational Development (MOD)** degree completion starts Wednesday, August 6, at 6 P.M.
- **Heritage Program** for working adults with little or no college experience starts Thursday, August 21, at 6 P.M.

**Mount Olive College at Wilmington:** (910) 256-0255 or (800) 300-7478

Contact Harvey Hutchison at [hhutchison@moc.edu](mailto:hhutchison@moc.edu) or apply online at [www.moc.edu](http://www.moc.edu).

- **Heritage Program** for working adults with little or no college experience starts Tuesday, August 5, at 6 P.M.
- **Management and Organizational Development (MOD)** degree completion starts Thursday, August 14, at 6 P.M.

## A GRADUATION STORY

by Laurie Evans, Class of 2003



Laurie with mom and dad

Four years ago, a shy, scared, and skittish young girl moved away from home for the very first time. She had to leave her parents and begin her education alone, (or so she thought), at Mount Olive College. This girl was terrified at first because she did not know anyone at this new place that she would live for the next four years. She found that eventually she would find here a whole new family consisting of friends, classmates, advisors, and professors who would make her feel right at home.

That scared young girl was me. I remember the day I moved in like it was yesterday. My daddy, when it was time to leave, looked at me and said, "Laurie, you make me proud!" During my four years at Mount Olive, I have strived to do just that. The road was not easy, but with the help of God, my family, and my friends, I made it to where I am today.

I have made scores of friends while I have been at Mount Olive College. Some have gone on to other things, and some remain at Mount Olive College working, just like I have, toward their degree. I could not even begin to name them all. Each of them, however, has made an impression on my life, and I am so thankful for everyone who I have come to know at Mount Olive College.

It is so funny to me how time flies. What has been four years seems like only one. It saddens me to know that I will be leaving soon and that I will have to face something new. I will greatly

*(Continued on next page)*

miss all of my friends, advisors, and professors here, but I am comforted by the fact that I will be able to return to visit. I am so thankful that I chose to attend Mount Olive College. I firmly believe that it was the place for me.

## 2003 SPRING GRAD FACTS



*The Rev. Jesse Fulcher, pastor of Shady Grove OFWB Church, Sampson County, smiles broadly after having just received his diploma at the 2003 Spring Graduation at Mount Olive College.*

- Commencement Speaker—Kenney Moore, president and founder of Andy's and alumnus of the College
- Worship service speaker—Dr. Ellen Jordan, vice president for academic affairs
- 250 graduates for Spring 2003
- 87 graduates from Mount Olive
- 56 graduates from Goldsboro
- 43 graduates from Wilmington
- 33 graduates from New Bern
- 31 graduates from Research Triangle Park
- Cheryl Hooks, associate professor of fine arts received the Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching
- Jaime Britt Cox of Goldsboro received the Martin Award given in honor of Lorelle F. Martin
- Cynthia Grady of Albertson received the Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for Academic Excellence
- Gary Stutts of Durham received the Lora W. and Maurice H. King Award
- Daniel Pettus of Goldsboro received the Perret Award given in memory of Michael J. Perret

## A LIFE OF SERVICE

*Talton Inspires  
Many to Give to Mount Olive College*



*Mr. and Mrs. Hardy Talton*

Born and raised in Wayne County, Hardy Talton was known in his community as a friend and respected leader during his lifetime.

A farmer, Talton worked at the Smith Warehouse for 13 years before serving as supervisor of the Goldsboro Tobacco Market for 16 years. He was later inducted into the "Wayne County Agriculture Hall of Fame."

An active member of Pleasant Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church in Wayne County, Talton served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, and president of the Wayne County Sunday School Association. He started the first boy's baseball team at Nahunta School, promoted scouting, and was involved in the building of Charles B. Aycock High School.

Dr. W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College president emeritus, said, "Mr. Talton's strengths and capabilities included both religious and educational fields. He was the first layperson to serve on the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees (1955-1963) and was influential in keeping the College in Wayne County, following a strong bid by the citizens of New Bern for the relocation of the College in that city."

Talton served three terms in the North Carolina Senate, and two terms

in the North Carolina House of Representatives among other noted achievements. He married Mildred Roberts in 1920, who not only supported Talton in his public service endeavors, but was also a leader in the community and at Pleasant Grove Church, where she served as a pianist.

In 1975, a dinner of appreciation was held in Talton's honor. Proceeds from the dinner went toward the establishment of the Hardy and Mildred Talton Endowment Fund at Mount Olive College. More than 600 people attended the dinner.

Talton was one of the first persons to participate in the Charitable Giving Through Life Insurance program at the College. At the time of his death in 1982, the assets of his policy and memorial gifts were added to the Talton Endowment. Following a gift by the Talton's daughter, Mrs. Mary T. Owensby, the Hardy and Mildred Talton Endowed Scholarship Fund reached the level of a named endowed fund, having gifts of \$10,000 or more. The income from the endowment will allow the Hardy and Mildred Talton Scholarship to be awarded annually providing music scholarships for qualified students from Wayne County, with preference given to graduates of C. B. Aycock High School.

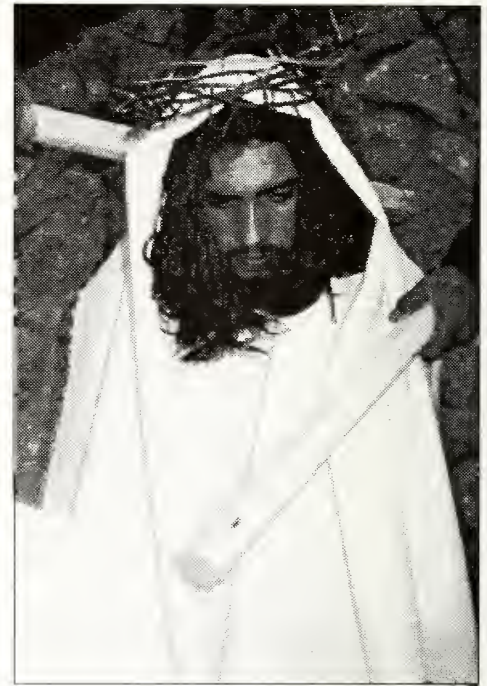
The fund, which began with the appreciation dinner in 1975, has grown as a result of direct gifts, memorial gifts, a Charitable Gift Annuity, and the Charitable Giving Through Life Insurance policy on Mr. Talton. Because of the Hardy and Mildred Talton Endowed Scholarship Fund, Mr. Hardy will continue to touch the lives of students in Wayne County.

To find out more about endowed scholarships or charitable gift annuities at Mount Olive College, contact: Dr. Burkette Raper or Jeff Daughtry in the Office of Planned Giving at (919) 658-5250.



## A HEAVY STONE

by Willem van der Plas



Christmas and Easter are High Days to be celebrated in worship and with thanksgiving. The children, youth, and adults like to re-enact these events, but the smallest stage would even take too much space in our rooms. Our meeting rooms are much smaller than a regular choir space or pulpit space in our churches in North Carolina.

At Christmas there is always a happy celebration of the Birthday of Jesus. And the celebration of Easter is even more abundant, because we celebrate the Resurrection of our crucified Lord. Jesus' Ascension is the celebration of hope exaltation, while Pentecost is the day of Christian proclamation into the world.

The space problem led me to the idea to make slide programs of the events. I wrote a scenario for the Christmas program from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. We discussed the backgrounds for the pictures and developed simple costumes. The Gypsies proved to be very good actors and Tezdjan made an excellent series of pictures. Our members have become very enthusiastic about the results.

Many mothers and grandmothers wanted to see the pictures. However we gave them more than just pictures. Every session we took time for worship and prayer. Almost everybody agreed: "Peace truly has come over me. My sorrows and troubles vanished for a while and later at home I have been able to carry the burden of my sorrows much easier. I don't understand what happened to my life."

The mothers and grandmothers group doubled since December. More than 60 women were regularly attending the worship and prayers by the end of January. The ladies are divided in four different

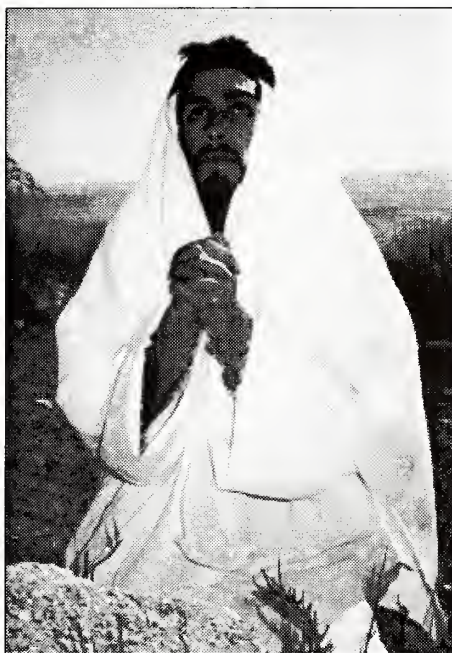


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groups and meet on four different evenings. There are eight Bible Study groups now. We meet with children, youth, and young men divided in four different groups on Sundays. Sunday worship as we know it in North Carolina is not possible.

How did we celebrate Easter? With slide pictures again! I wrote the scenario from the Triumphant Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to the Ascension event before I came to North Carolina. Tezdjan made her choice for the slide pictures and called me in the first week of April: "Willem, the slides are really beautiful; nine more women asked to be allowed to attend the Easter celebration." What a joy!



The crusaders defended the Holy Places with the sword; we are witnessing Jesus Christ as the King of Peace. We are in the offensive against the Half Moon by witnessing the Cross of our Lord Jesus our Risen Lord. The Great Prophet Jesus is taking the place of the prophet Mohammed.

Still we have to roll "a heavy stone" away to show our Risen Lord. A group of young men asked: "Tezdjan, when do you take care for us? When can we come to the prayer meetings? We need to learn to pray too." She answered them: "Pray the Lord that He will give me more space that I combine the groups together, I have neither room nor time left to meet you. Therefore, wait!" "But we need to learn to pray too," they responded.

We live in a time with economic regression and all our ministries cry for extra support. Let us therefore pray to our God: "Lord, move that heavy stone away, that many more people may be able to receive the True News of Liberation: 'Life in Christ.'"

The people in Bulgaria surely need your support to the building fund of our Mission Program. Our people have chosen the Free Will Baptist denomination. They respect and love you: weekly they pray for you and sincerely thank the Lord for all that you are providing. Please pray with us that the Lord will remove that "heavy stone" and that many more may see that the tomb is empty and that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

## ACT NOW!!

Now is the time to begin praying about Short-Term Team Ministry 2004! We need to hear by September 15 from those who desire to join a team. Applications are processed as they are received. It is to your advantage to apply early. Below are the dates for 2004:

Philippines: April 17–May 1

Mexico: June 12–19; June 26–July 3; July 10–17; August 7–15  
**Dates for Spring Break and additional teams will be announced at a later date.** Contact the Board of Foreign Missions at (252) 746-4963 for information and to reserve your place on the Team. **Don't miss out on a cross-cultural experience that will change your life!**

## SAN VICENTE PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

by Rosana R. Briones



This is the view of the San Vicente Church in San Vicente, Taytay, Palawan. The building is made of slight materials like (nipa, bamboo, sawali). Espalia Taguan is the pastor of the church.



The young people give their special song to the Lord. They are committed to serve God. Sometimes they conduct a Bible Study.



The children join also and render their songs. They are happy when they sing.

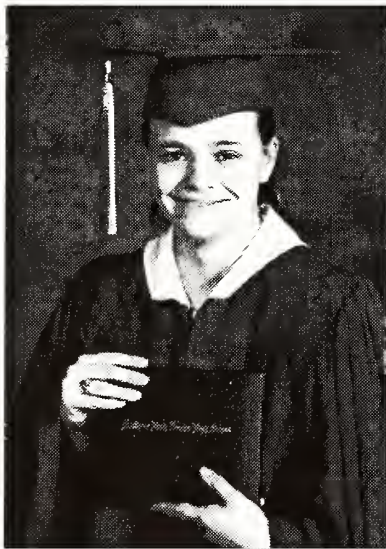


The Rev. Dario S. Basingil gave a message and we are blessed to hear the Word of God.

## GRADUATION

In June two of our residents graduated from high school. We are very proud of these young ladies. As they take one step closer to their goals, please join us in wishing them the best.

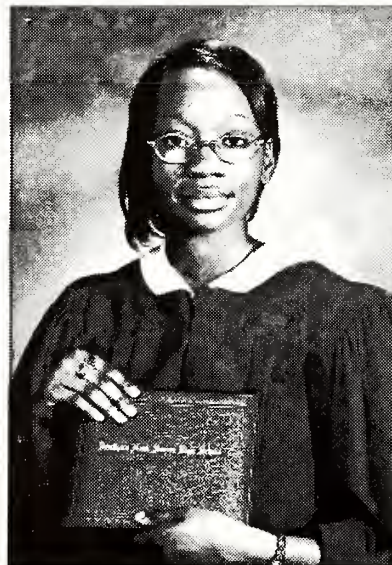
Kim M. has been a resident of the Home for eight years. In high school, Kim was a member of FCCLA (Family Community Caring Leaders of America), and for the past three years she participated in ROTC. She has attended several youth development retreats to enhance her abilities in goal setting, problem solving, effective communication, and making good choices. During her stay at the Home, she has made many friends. Kim will continue to stay at the Home while she attends Nash Community college. She is enrolling in the Child Care Development Program with hopes of someday opening her own Day Care facility.



Denys C. has been a resident of the Home for three and a half years. She said that during her stay at the Home she has learned that we cannot measure our self-worth by another's achievements; we are all equal individuals. Denys went on to say that

she is thankful to members of the Children's Home staff that were kind and loving to her by showing concern and understanding. During her stay here, Denys attended several youth development retreats where she was president of her council. In high school, she was a member of the Band Color Guard. Also, she was in the ROTC for six years where she learned some of the aspects of military life, and some of the aspects of becoming a model citizen. She also traveled to five different states where she was able to visit places like the Kennedy Space Center, the Aquarium, Arlington National Cemetery, and a submarine. Denys says, "You can never go wrong by joining the ROTC." She was also a member of DECCA, where she was awarded "State Proficiency in Sales and Food Administration."

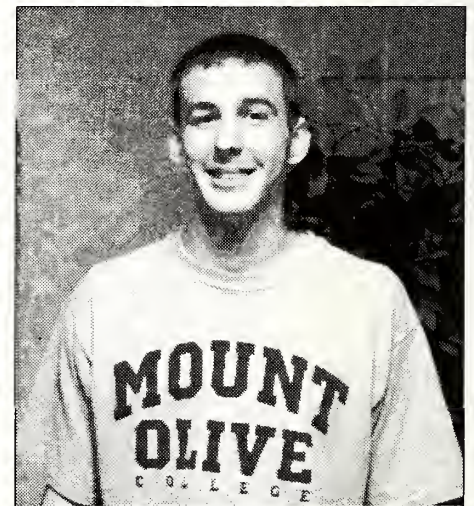
Denys will attend Fayetteville State University in the Fall, where she will pursue a major in criminal justice and a minor in English. Her long term goals are to become a registered nurse to pave the way for her dream of becoming a US Air Force JAG (Judge Advocate General).



## NEW FACES JOIN OUR STAFF



Darla Raper joins our staff as a Social Work Intern, providing social work services and case management to the residents of the Home. She will complete 420 hours during her field placement at the Home toward completion of her bachelor of social work degree at Barton College. She also has a minor in religion and philosophy. Darla resides in Wilson with her husband, Alan, and her two boys, Brandon and Colby. She is an active member of First Church, Wilson.



Jonathan Skinner joins our staff as Recreation Director. He will coordinate the recreational activities for the Home, such as swimming, softball, volleyball, and summer trips. Jonathan is a senior at Mount Olive

*(Continued on next page)*

College where he is working toward a double major in religion and computer information systems. He is an active member of Sherron Acres Church in Durham. In addition to being active in his church, Jonathan has served

as youth counselor at various camps, including Cragmont and Camp Willow Run.

Please join us in welcoming these two into the ministry of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

## AWARDS BANQUET



With school coming to a close for the summer, the excitement started to build for our annual School Awards Banquet. On May 27, we started the afternoon with fun and games for the residents, as well as the staff. Volleyball, sack races, and basket-

Duncan commended the residents for a job well done and emphasized that a personal relationship with Christ is the greatest reward one can receive. Closing remarks were given by our two graduating high school seniors.



ball free-throw contests were some of the games that were played. The afternoon was rounded out with a pig pickin' and an awards presentation. Certificates of recognition were presented to the residents for their achievements during the school year. Later in the evening, Pastor Lester

### HOMECOMING

Don't forget our  
57th Annual Alumni Homecoming  
July 13, 2003!

### THANK YOU

"Change for Children 2003" was a success. We send out a special thanks to all of the churches that participated in this campaign.



**CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY**

## VISION WALK 2003—SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

This fun event is designed to give our youth the opportunity to participate in Cragmont's New Heights Campaign. Our first Walk-a-Thon was a great success. Vision Walk 2002 saw 242 young people raise over \$18,000 toward Cragmont's new gym/recreational complex. We hope to have over three hundred youth exceed \$25,000 this year!

Vision Walk is not JUST limited to young people—anyone can participate! Call or write Bryant Hines for registration forms for further information about this great day. Don't miss out on the journey toward New Heights! (Bryant Hines, Planning and Marketing Director, 203 Teachey Court, New Bern, NC 28562; telephone, (252) 637-7171.)

### LOOKING FOR ALUMNI

Coming Soon...Something New From Cragmont...Soon We'll Be Looking for Former Campers Who Are All Grown Up! But Don't Worry...We Know You're Out There...We'll Find You...And When We Do...You'll Be Glad We Did!

# FALL 2003 SPECIAL EVENTS

## FESTIVAL OF GOSPEL MUSIC

October 19–22, 2003

Enjoy the beauty and splendor of Fall in the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee along with the very best in Southern Gospel music from DollyWood.

Groups scheduled to perform at DollyWood include The Kingdom Heirs, The Crabb Family, The Isaacs, The Lewis Family, and The Talley Trio!

Your Package Price of \$225 includes:

- Transportation to Cragmont on Sunday the 19th with return on Wednesday the 22nd—(supper on your own)
- Three nights stay at Cragmont in the main building or motel with breakfast Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
- Transportation to and from, full park admission, and lunch at DollyWood on Monday and Tuesday (evening meals both nights at DollyWood on your own)

Requirements: A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required with registration form. Balance due upon arrival.

Reservations made on a first received, first served basis only.

Payment: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover cards are accepted. Checks should be made payable to Cragmont.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Need ground level room? \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Bus routes will travel the US 264 and US 70 corridors. Pick-up places and times will be mailed out two weeks prior to trip.

**Return form with deposit to:  
Cragmont Assembly, 1233 North Fork Road,  
Black Mountain, NC 28711**

## A CRAGMONT CHRISTMAS

Thursday–Sunday

December 4–7, 2003

Your package price of \$225 includes:

- Transportation to and from Cragmont
- Three nights in the main building or motel
- Three breakfasts and the evening meal on night of arrival
- Transportation and admission to area Christmas entertainment. Group meal on each day of local touring
- Entertainment at Cragmont

Requirements: A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required with registration form. Balance due upon arrival. Reservations made on a first received, first served basis only.

Payment: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover cards are accepted. Checks should be made payable to Cragmont.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Need ground level room? \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Bus routes will travel the US 264 and US 70 corridors. Pick-up places and times will be mailed out two weeks prior to trip.

**Return form with deposit to:  
Cragmont Assembly, 1233 North Fork Road  
Black Mountain, NC 28711**

# THE CRAGMONT 2003

When: August 7-8, 2003  
 Tee Times: 8:30 A.M. & 1:15 P.M. each day  
 Where: Happy Valley Country Club  
 Hwy. 264, Wilson, NC

| <i>Point Scale</i> |            |               |        |
|--------------------|------------|---------------|--------|
| 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      |

- All playoffs will be decided by a closest-to-the-pin competition.
- Requests will be granted on a first-registered basis.
- Teams are urged to register by mail, phone, or e-mail as soon as possible.
- The tournament will conclude with an awards banquet scheduled for 7 P.M. on Friday at Bill's Barbecue. Spouses and children of participants are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

One golfer will have an opportunity to attempt a putt worth \$10,000. If successful, the money will be divided equally between the golfer and Cragmont.

*Please note the changes in Legends & Super Seniors. Combined ages of 275 for Legends allows golfers, for example of ages 74, 72, 69, & 60 to partner in this division. Combined ages of 235 for Super Seniors allow golfers, for example, of ages 64, 62, 59, & 50 to partner in this division.*

| Senior Categories |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Competitors       | 4-8 points          |
| Patrons           | 9-11 points         |
| Masters           | More than 11 points |

| Open Categories |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Competitors     | 4-7 points   |
| Patrons         | 8-9 points   |
| Players         | 10-12 points |
| Masters         | 13-16 points |

*DO NOT ASSUME ANY CONVERSATION WITH ANY TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF THIS PUBLICATION HAS GUARANTEED YOUR TEE TIME!*

Cragmont Assembly is a Christian youth camp located in Black Mountain, NC, serving the Original Free Will Baptist Church of North Carolina. Traditionally a summer youth camp, recent years have seen weekend retreats by families and churches increase to a level that current capacities will not accommodate the requests we receive.

This tournament supports the camp life of up to 15 young people at Cragmont in the North Carolina mountains each year by affording discounts for their volunteerism during the tournament.

You may register by calling: Dana or Brian Batchelor at (252) 291-4497 or Rick Watson at (919) 284-5355 (H) or (919) 284-7004 (W). Or you may register on-line at: [www.cragmontgolf.org](http://www.cragmontgolf.org)

### REGISTRATION FORM

Sign up for: (check one)  Ladies  Legends  Super Seniors  Seniors  Open

Captain's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Handicap or Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Player #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap or Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Player #3 \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap or Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Player #4 \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap or Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Tee Time: (check one, optional for Seniors, Ladies, and Open teams)  Thursday Morning  Thursday Afternoon  
 Friday Morning  Friday Afternoon

If you are registering more than one team, please complete a registration form for each.  
 (Mail completed form to: The Cragmont, 8012 Springfield School Rd., Kenly, NC 27542. For additional information: call Rick Watson at above numbers.)



## SUNRISE LANDING GROUNDBREAKING



*Pictured left to right holding shovels: Mr. Julian Gallup, Everette Harper—director/pastor, Howard McPherson—board chairman, the Rev. James Owens—executive director, and the Rev. Harold Swinson—moderator of Albemarle Conference.*

On Saturday, May 3, 2003, several members of Sunrise Landing Church, members of Home Missions and Evangelism, friends from the Albemarle Conference, and other visitors assembled at the future site of Sunrise Landing Church to celebrate and join in the official groundbreaking ceremony. An inspirational service was held and a time of fellowship and good food was enjoyed.

This is another step in a long time dream and vision for an Original Free Will Baptist church to be established at Point Harbor, NC.

The group meets at Powell's Point Senior Citizens Building each Thursday evening, beginning at 7 P.M., conducted by Everette V. Harper, director/pastor.

If you visit the area, please make a point to include a time of worship with this group. Also, if you know of anyone who has moved into the area, please notify Home Missions with the information so we can follow up on them.

REMEMBER TO INCLUDE THIS GROUP WITH YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

### A VIDEO SERIES WORTH SEEING

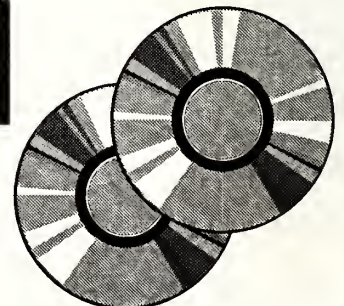
*by Dr. Lloyd Bailey, Barrow Professor/Department of Religion, Mount Olive College*

Of the hundreds of videos that I view as part of my job as a teacher in Sunday School and at Mount Olive College, there are a few well worth recommending to churches for rental or purchase.

A good example is a recent series of programs that were shown on PBS. There were four of them, about 50 minutes each, entitled, "The Kingdom of David: The Saga of the Israelites." Their focus is upon historical events, rather than on the kinds of religious interpretation of the Bible that might cause denominations to differ.

The first segment covers the period from Israel's emergence as a nation down to the Exile (6th century B.C.); the second down to the Roman conquest of Palestine (1st century B.C.); the third, covering the 1st century A.D. is the most interesting, and one of the best portrayals that I have seen of the struggle among Jewish parties and of the war with Rome that was going on at the time of Jesus and the Gospels; and the fourth covers the emergence of Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire and the struggle that Judaism had for survival.

The series is available on video or DVD at the bargain cost of \$34.98. It can be ordered from PBS at (800) 752-9727.





## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BEGINS PROCESS

For some time the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists has functioned without the office of General Administrator being filled. Although the work of the Convention has continued, the Executive Committee of the Convention has continued to work and seek to fill this office. Over the past months, the Executive Committee has been working to redefine the office and its responsibilities. With this work complete, the Executive Committee has appointed the Policy and Personnel Committee to begin receiving resumes of those persons interested in this position. The committee consists of the Revs. Harold Swinson, Garland Suggs, and Dr. Michael Pelt.

The search committee will begin receiving names and resumes from those persons who may wish to be considered for this position. The committee will receive resumes beginning July 1, 2003 through August 31, 2003. Please send your resume to the Rev. Harold Swinson at 4961 Free Union Church Road, Pinetown, NC 27865. All resumes will be kept confidential and the final decision made by the Executive Committee of the Convention. Please be much in prayer for the search committee and the Executive Committee and the decisions they will be making in the coming months.

The qualifications for the office are as follows:

### Qualifications and Responsibilities of the General Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

#### Purpose

The purpose of this position shall be to provide a principle administration of the Convention and Executive Committee and the establishment of an office for the purpose of general public relations within and without the denomination relative to the entire program of the Convention. (Article III, Section 4 of Constitution and Bylaws).

#### I. Qualifications

**Personal:** The candidate for this position shall evidence these personal qualities:

1. Personal integrity, good moral and ethical behavior, and responsible management of personal finances.
2. Sound Christian character and commitment.
3. A temperament capable of contributing to good interpersonal relationships.
4. Well-founded Christian convictions along with the capacity for open-mindedness and honesty in all deliberations and decisions.
5. Holds a personal theological position that is coherent with that of the denomination.
6. Given to neatness and good taste in matters of dress and appearance.

**Educational:** \*\*The candidate for this position shall have:

1. \*\*An adequate education and work experience in the area of administrative leadership, to include at least a college degree or ten (10) years of experience.
2. A general knowledge of church history and doctrine, especially that of Original Free Will Baptists.
3. Knowledge of the Bible and Christian theology supportive of an adequate perception and understanding of the Church and its mission in the world.

**\*\*Experience:** The candidate shall have had tenure of successful leadership. Administrative experience in a local church, or one of the conferences, or the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, or one of its ministries is considered helpful.

#### Responsibilities:

1. The General Administrator is an officer of the Convention, employed by the Executive Committee, and charged with the responsibility of administering the work assigned to him or her by that committee within the framework of programs and policies approved by the committee. In that capacity he or she shall attend meetings throughout the denomination and make reports about the Convention and its work to various constituencies. He or she shall attend the meetings of the Executive Committee and shall implement such actions and functions as are delegated to him or her.
2. The General Administrator is responsible for providing assistance to the various boards, commissions, and committees of the Convention. In this role he or she is to serve as a consultant to these agencies of the Convention in helping them to be consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Convention and the purposes for which these agencies were established. He or she shall be properly informed as to the policies, programs, and procedures of the various boards with a view of coordinating their efforts toward harmony and a spirit of cooperation.
3. Denominational Headquarters: The General Administrator is responsible for supervision of the

*(Continued on next page)*

headquarters office and the staff under his or her direction in accordance with personnel policies of that office.

4. The General Administrator shall be responsible to coordinate the work of the various denominational boards with the aim of facilitating cooperation and avoiding conflicts. In wider church circles he or she shall seek to build and sustain relationships with other churches that have similar beliefs, aims, and purposes, and he or she shall endeavor to interpret the position of our church to the larger Christian community.

#### Specific Duties:

1. The General Administrator is responsible to work with the Recording Secretary in the publication of the annual Yearbook.

2. The General Administrator is responsible to work with the Recording Secretary for printing and distribution of the annual Church Letter prior to the meeting of the Convention.

3. The General Administrator will be responsible for compiling and publishing the annual denominational Report Book.

4. The General Administrator shall act as a liaison with pastors of the Convention. He or she will prepare and maintain a Ministerial Service Record file and shall assist pastors and local churches in regard to matters of placement, salary, and benefits.

5. The General Administrator shall be responsible for preparing each year a denominational calendar. He or she shall expect complete cooperation from the various boards, commissions, and committees in its preparation.



## JULY 2003 MONTHLY PLANNER



### MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change so we encourage you to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

- 4 — Independence Day
- 7 — Sunday School Eastern Regional Training, 7 P.M.
- 13 — Children's Home Alumni Homecoming, 9 A.M.
- 14 — Central Conference Ordination Board Meeting
- 14 — Children's Home Accreditation Self-Study Complete
- 14 — MOC Summer School Session C Online Begins
- 15 — Sunday School Board Meeting, 7 P.M.
- 23-27 — Youth Convention trip to Atlanta, GA
- 26 — Eastern District Executive Board Meeting
- 26 — Piedmont Conference
- 28-31 — Fall Woman's Conference

## AUGUST IS HERITAGE MONTH for Original Free Will Baptists

#### Purpose

To effectively know where we are going, we must understand from whence we have come.

To provide the opportunity for our people to reflect upon the importance of continuing ministry.

To show the connection between the congregation and the Convention.

To remind us all of our privilege and obligation to support the Church that we may continue our heritage.

To rekindle/revitalize our commitment of this ministry to the Church.

To participate financially in the maintenance of this ministry.

#### Calendar of Events

Congregation Sunday—August 3

Covenant Sunday—August 10

Mission/Ministry Sunday—August 17

Heritage Sunday—August 24

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

3926 Lee Street • PO Box 39, Ayden, NC

(252) 746-4963 • FAX (252) 746-7993

E-mail: [administrator@ofwbheadquarters.org](mailto:administrator@ofwbheadquarters.org)





# THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CONVENTION GOLF FELLOWSHIP



**New Day  
New Time  
Same Fun**

**Monday, September 15, 2003  
9 A.M. Shotgun Start  
Southern Wayne Country Club  
Mount Olive, North Carolina**

**Trophies!!  
Free Stuff!!  
Fun! Fun! Fun!**

## TWO DIVISIONS:

Junior Duffers—Through age 49  
Senior Duffers—Age 50 and over

(At least 3 players must be 50 to qualify as a Senior Duffer Group)

Closest to the Pin and Long Drive Holes in each division.

Your Individual Entry Fee of \$45 includes the following:  
Golf Cart Rental, 2 Mulligans, 1 Red Bomb (ladies' tee), Give-aways  
Free Soft Drinks, 5 Prize Tickets (additional tickets available)

**Enter  
Early!  
25  
Team  
Limit**

**WIN  
A  
NEW  
CAR  
OR  
SPLIT  
\$10,000**

**DISCLAIMER:** This is a Christian fellowship designed for ministers and members of Original Free Will Baptist churches and Sunday Schools. Employees of Convention Ministries and fellowship sponsors are also invited to participate. Soft spikes and collared shirts are required. No alcoholic beverages or coolers will be allowed. Violators of this policy will be asked to leave the course and will forfeit all fees paid. Neither the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, Fellowship directors, nor Southern Wayne Country Club will be held liable for injury, damage to personal property, or theft. A submission of the registration form below implies acceptance of these terms by your team.

## REGISTRATION FORM

My team agrees to the terms stated in the Fellowship Disclaimer. Team Captain sign here: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Team Division: \_\_\_ Junior Duffer \_\_\_ Senior Duffer

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Team Members:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Mail this form along with entry fee to:  
Buddy Sasser, 3202 Hillman Road, Kinston, NC 28504

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Please circle the number beside the member(s) you are paying for.)  
Make Checks Payable to: "Convention of OFWB"

# YOUTH CONVENTION

## ONLY 1—2003 Youth Convention of OFWB

Submitted by Scott Lane

Assistant Director, Youth Convention of OFWB



*Contemporary Christian group Avalon*

The 2003 Youth Convention took place at Mount Olive College on Friday, May 16 through Sunday, May 18 with the theme, "Only 1." The Scripture text came from John 14:6: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Friday began with the youth officer team getting things set up. Churches that had pre-registered for the weekend to stay in dorm rooms and for meal tickets checked in at the registration table. Convention T-shirts were for sale and a Kings Dominion table had information about the June 7 weekend. Some of the denominational ministries had tables set up. There were 48 churches registered for the weekend, which is the most churches that have ever registered.

Session 1 opened at 8 P.M. with a welcome, invocation, and announcements. The Cape Fear District presented the pledges to the Bible, the Christian Flag, and the American

Flag. Jonathon Pearce of Smyrna asked any Iraqi War veterans or their children that were in the audience to come forward. Small tokens of thanks were given to those who came forward. A group of singers from several Cape Fear churches then sang the Avalon song, "If My People Pray," in tribute to our military and their families. As they sang, a video presentation of various photos showing the "Human Faces" from the Iraqi War and its aftermath were shown on the big screen.

Pastor Terry Whittenton followed a praise and worship time with the group from Mount Olive College, "MD." He gave the devotion from the Book of Joshua. He said that to become a champion for God we must have several things: a strong faith, a whole-hearted commitment to God, a spiritual relationship with Jesus that allows not even any "little bit" of sin, an obedient heart, and a willingness to declare our destiny for God's

service. He shared about his heart attack last fall and how grateful he was to be able to be here with us this year. He said we all have some level of commitment to go to church on Sundays and to the Convention each year, but are we wholly committed to God? He asked the leaders to consider if they became leaders because no one else would take the job or if we were obeying God's call to work with our youth? As Joshua declared, "...as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (24:15) so should we declare our destiny to be one of committed service to God, come what may. Many young people came forward during the benediction, pledging to try to live as a "champion" for God.

Evening devotions were held for each age group at 10 P.M.

Saturday morning started out with a business session. The project money raised, which exceeded \$7,000, was presented to Bryant Hines for the Cragmont mule. He asked for double the number of walkers for the second Vision Walk in September. Dianne Riley described the plans being made for the project money for Mount Olive College next year. A scholarship program will be started for students to come to Mount Olive College based on the funds. Following the business session, the group "MD" performed during the praise and worship time, and Pastor Terry held a short devotion. A talent exposition for all the first place district winners was held, along with the presentations of lesson presentation and public speaking.

All state winners were recognized by district in a ceremony in the Murphy Center on Saturday afternoon. Five churches were recognized

*(Continued on next page)*

as achieving gold levels of the Elizabeth C. Hansley Outstanding Youth Program Award (Hickory Chapel, Marlboro, Powhatan, Robert's Grove, Sound Side) and one as a participant (Lee's Chapel). State Woman's Auxiliary president Joan Little gave a brief explanation of the program, and all churches were encouraged to participate next year. AFC Bible Bowl teams were given plaques as follows: 3rd place—Beaverdam (Pee Dee), 2nd place—La Grange (Central), and 1st place—Robert's Grove (Cape Fear). A Bible Bowl committee member explained that the YFA competition had not yet been completed due to an injury to one of the players, but that Ormondsville (Central) and Robert's Grove (Cape Fear) teams would schedule to complete it and receive the awards at a later time.

Fun time followed with free activity time for everyone outside on the campus.

On Saturday night a concert with the award winning group, Avalon, was held. Over 750 tickets were sold to OFWB church groups (an amazing number of participants) as well as the many sold through our bookstores and other Christian stores. The total attendance for the concert was around 1200. Between 30 & 40 young people came forward to accept Christ in their lives when Pastor Terry offered an invitation following the concert with Avalon. The message in song had touched the hearts of the young people through the presence



Friday night's "Tribute to America"

of the Holy Spirit.

New officers were installed following the concert and everyone enjoyed a pizza party. On Sunday, there was a business meeting at breakfast and then a worship service in Rodgers Chapel. Janie Sowers led the praise and worship time and Heather and Hope McPherson performed special music. Dianne Riley involved the audience in her program, encouraging us to hug one another and share God's love. If we make mistakes, we can start over, knowing we have His forgiveness as we try to serve Him. Holland White sang an invitation hymn followed by the benediction by Jeremy Godwin.

The 2003 Convention emphasized

that there is "Only One" path we should follow because there is only one way to receive salvation—through the saving grace of Christ's Blood shed on the Cross. There are many methods of expressing our worship. We must determine our own particular calling in His service; and through prayer and faith, we must commit ourselves to that calling. Especially as young people, realizing this will help becoming a champion for God a much more achievable goal.

We want to thank everyone for making this Youth Convention a success. We look forward to seeing everyone next year at the 2004 Youth Convention, which will be May 14–16.

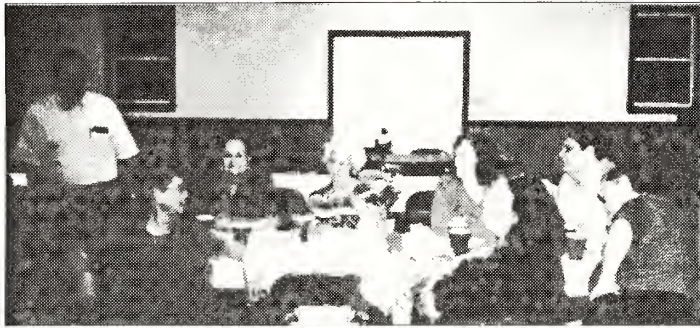
## LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- |                           |                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>July 10, 2003</b>      | Executive and Promotional Board Meeting, VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC<br>7 P.M.                      |
| <b>August 14, 2003</b>    | Executive and Promotional Board Meeting, VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC<br>7 P.M.                      |
| <b>September 8, 2003</b>  | Central Conference Layman's League, King's Cross Roads Church<br>Meal—6:30 P.M., Business 7:30 P.M. |
| <b>September 13, 2003</b> | Vision Walk, Mount Olive College, Layman's League to cook supper.<br>Meal—5 P.M.                    |

## LADIES' NIGHT HARRELL'S CHAPEL CHURCH

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE GUM SWAMP CHURCH



## WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

### NORTH CAROLINA WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION OF OFWB

*by Becky Jo Sumner, Corresponding Secretary*



Elm Grove Church of the Central District opened its doors of hospitality to the seventy-sixth session of the Woman's Auxiliary Convention of OFWB on May 8, 2003. Throughout the day we felt drawn in Word and song to the theme, "Jesus Calls Us." We were reminded that our Lord calls the young as we listened to the beautiful voice of Emily Carlton. We were made aware that His call goes out to those in the midst of busy days as we listened to the lovely memorial service presented by Kathy Cahoon. As the Life Membership Award was given to Dot Dail of the Central District, we were taught anew that our Savior's call is to a lifetime of service. Sue Griffin, who brought our convention message, instilled in us the awesome need to listen for the call of Jesus in our lives. The call to give of our talents to His work was revived in us as we listened to Gina Tripp, Judy Jones, Angela Warren, and others give of their musical talents to His glory. As the Rev. Frankie Baggett of the host church invited us to a delicious meal, we were made aware that our Lord's call is often to jobs that receive little recognition, such as preparing a meal for 199 delegates and visitors.

It was a wonderful day filled to overflowing with worship and fellowship in Christian love. As I look back over the day, I think it can best be expressed in the words of Dot Dail's granddaughter, Brittany Bowen. Brittany presented a summary of her grandmother's life as a part of the Life Membership Award. In her presentation she shared Dot's advice for living, "Follow the way Jesus leads." Jesus calls His children, there is no better response than to answer His call.

## TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND BOB HARBER

February 1, 1931—May 12, 2003

by Kathryn H. Brinn, Sidney Church

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of the Rev. Bob Harber at his home in Zephyrhills, Florida, on May 12, 2003. Bobby Jean Harber was born February 1, 1931, in Clay County, Arkansas, to Louie and Grace Harber. He accepted God's call to the ministry at the age of 24 and devoted the rest of his life to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pastor Bob had the heart of a missionary and a fervent, compassionate love for all people. In a message given at the 1997 Free Will Baptist Mission Rally, he stressed that God "views all the people of the world with the same eye of love ... all kinds of people, everywhere." He stated, "The love of God, expressed from the Word of God, through the Spirit of God, shared by the people of God with other people who need God will expand His Kingdom." Mr. Harber expanded God's Kingdom by reaching out in Christian love to thousands of people as he pastored churches in Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri, Michigan, California, North Carolina, and Florida.

In 1976, while pastoring at a General Baptist church in Santa Anna, California, he and his first wife, Rheda, came to know and love the wonderful people who were refugees of the Vietnam War known as the H'Mong who are from the mountains of Laos in Southeast Asia. At that time, he made a commitment to help these people in their efforts to establish a Christian church. Though he and his wife moved on to serve churches in other states, they always returned to California to work with the H'Mong refugees whenever possible. They were pastoring a church in North Carolina in 1982, when Rheda was killed in an automobile accident.

In 1983, Mr. Harber returned to California where he agreed to serve as Ethnic Mission Director for the Original Free Will Baptist and General Baptist Home Missions Boards. In 1984, he



*The Rev. and Mrs. Bob Harber*

married Dollie and they became a team, serving many ethnic groups including the H'Mong, the Thai, Chinese, Vietnamese, Hispanics, Filipinos, Cambodians, and African-Americans. Pastor Bob was instrumental in establishing twenty Asian-American churches in the greater Los Angeles area. He helped H'Mong students gain entrance to Mount Olive College in North Carolina, and Oakland City College in Indiana. He and Dollie played a large part in making the Bible available to the H'Mong people in their own language and developed for them a dictionary of Christian terms. He was named an honorary citizen of Laos and received an honorary Doctorate from the Lao Evangelical Church.

After leaving California in 1996, to pastor the Sidney Church near Belhaven, North Carolina, Mr. Harber continued to support and minister to ethnic groups, traveling to Florida, California, and Minnesota for special services and training sessions. Every summer he returned to Sonora, California, to speak at the Lao Evangelical Church youth camp where 40 to 50 youth were baptized annually. At Sidney, he encouraged the church

to reach out in Christian love to one another and to the surrounding community. One of his favorite passages of Scripture was 1 John 4:7-8: "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." This theme was stressed in every sermon he preached and demonstrated every day of his life. During his tenure at Sidney, 50 new members were added to the church.

In 2000, the Harbers again returned to the mission field, when Mr. Harber accepted the call to serve as pastor of a General Baptist mission church in Zephyrhills, Florida. Under their leadership, the church grew from 8 members to over 60 members. Pastor Bob had given his best to the Master's work on earth, and the Lord declared his work finished on May 12.

His brother, Raymond Harber, and his first wife, Rheda Mae Goodman Harber, preceded him in death. He is survived by his second wife, Dollie, and seven children: Cathy Jane Norred of Piggott, Arkansas; Denny Jones of Conway, Arkansas; Mike Jones of Paragould, Arkansas; Teresa Jackson of Southern Pines, NC; Larry Harber of Memphis, Tennessee; Pam Campos of California; and Donald Harber of Florida; 15 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. A funeral service was held at Zephyrhills General Baptist Church in Florida with the Rev. Mochoua Mouachow officiating, and a second service was held in Rector, Arkansas with the Rev. Ron Byrd officiating. Mr. Harber was buried in Woodland Heights Cemetery in Rector, Arkansas. We will miss his gentle sense of humor and his kindhearted wisdom, but the love he shared lives on after him. We praise God for his life and for the assurance that we will one day join him to "dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23:6).

## CHANGE AT SIDNEY



Every May the noise begins, that sound of tinkling coins that we all collect to meet a need—the Change for Children drive for our Children's Home. The members at Sidney Church collected and counted their contributions this year at an after church fellowship complete with homemade ice cream! Some sorted the change, some counted, some rolled the change and some had to count over, and over, and over before rolling. The fellowship was friendly and warm, the ice cream sweet, and more than all of that we received the blessing of being involved in a ministry that takes care of children. We raised more than we had in the past and grew to know each other better. We also learned that if you sort the change into cups before counting, make sure the change cups look different than your drink cups—you might get a surprise! This simple thing that we did of collecting that little bit of change and adding it to everyone else's let us make a big difference and make a larger contribution than we could on our own. It sure felt good and makes us look forward to doing it all over again next year!

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

by Betty Rollins

Walnut Creek Church of LaGrange observed special Memorial Day services on Sunday, May 25, 2003. We were honored to have as guests the Coastal Plains Chapter of Ex-POWS and their wives.

Our services began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the congregational hymn, "Victory in Jesus." The church trio composed of Emily Herring, Katie Herring, and Sarah Strickland then presented special music, "America." The choir was joined by the congregation as we sang "God Bless America." A beautiful patriotic medley consisting of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "America the Beautiful" was sung by the choir. Conducting the musical program, the story of the origin of "Taps" was presented followed by a solo rendition by D. J. Whitfield, Jr. Our pastor, the Rev. Tony McLamb, delivered the morning message.

After services our guests were invited to join us in the fellowship building for lunch. We enjoyed a bountiful meal and marvelous fellowship visiting with our guests. What a wonderful way we had of honoring those who gave their lives for our country and the freedom we enjoy. This observance was made even more meaningful with the presence of our Ex-POWS who made us mindful that many men and women risked their lives for the wonderful blessings we have and while all did not perish, many suffered ordeals, tortures, and atrocities beyond description. We were thankful that God blessed them with the strength, courage, and endurance to persevere and return to us.

Thank you, Lord, for those who gave and for those who survived. Thank you for this country You have blessed us with and we pray we will always be so grateful for what You have given us that we will always strive to maintain what we have and seek to share it with oppressed people everywhere. God, bless our nation and inspire our leaders to lead our country in Your way. Amen.

## THANK YOU



Cragmont says  
THANK YOU  
to the  
State Youth  
Convention  
for the mule.  
It came just in  
time to start  
the camp season  
off right!

# SMYRNA CHURCH NEWS

by Helen Smith



Left to right: Janice Tart, Amber Allen, Savah Allen and Ashley Parker.



Left to right: Daughter Emily McLamb and Mother, Linda McLamb participants in the Spring fling Women's Workshop.

"It has not been that folks at Smyrna (Cape Fear Conference) have not been busy, especially the church youth, it is because we have not stopped to document the events," reports Helen Smith, church program committee chairman.

We had five state representatives for youth competitions. They were Kayla Hickok, Amber Wood, Armatha Noles and a singing group composed of Amber Allen, Savak Allen, Ashley Parker, and Janice Tart.

Members of our youth also received 12 gold, 10 silver, and 1 bronze medals at the Cape Fear District competition.

A total of 30 attended the State Youth Convention at Mount Olive College.

On the Saturday before Easter, the Woman's Auxiliary's Ethel Tart Circle sponsored a Spring-Fling Women's Christian workshop with speaker Amy Creed. The topic was "The Perfect

Lamb of God." Twenty-six ladies participated in the workshop.

Monthly youth meetings have been well attended and weekly youth choir practices have provided Sunday worship service music because of sickness in the adult choir. The youth choir has provided music at several other churches and are preparing to compete in the State Gospel Singing Convention in Benson.

On Palm Sunday night, ladies of the church presented a non-rehearsed drama entitled "The Other Twelve Disciples" portraying 12 of the women who followed Jesus and His disciples.

Special individual gifts were made for all our mothers for Mother's Day with the caring hands of our youth.

On May 25, a service was held to honor our high school graduates: Cameron Allen, Janice Tart, Savak Allen, Richard Denning, David Summerlin, and Amanda Allen. Following the worship service, Vance Wade and Rodney Wood sang, "I'm Proud to Be an American" in memory of the fifteen veterans buried in the church cemetery. A brief memorial service and the placing of flags on the graves of the deceased veterans followed.

Other past events included a sweetheart banquet, Youth Sunday, a lock-in, and a trip to the Boone area.

Upcoming events include Vacation Bible School where everyone is planning a great time researching "Treasures of the Nile."

## WOMAN'S AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTED



Geraldine Johnson Lamm receives the Life Membership Award. Left to right: Geraldine, Betty Atkinson.

During the 11 A.M. worship service on Sunday, May 4, 2003, Geraldine Johnson Lamm was presented the Life Membership Award by the Woman's Auxiliary at Little Rock Church in Lucama, North Carolina.

Gerry's service covers several years. She began her work with young children and continued working with them for more than fifteen years, nurturing them through their teen years. She taught a Sunday School class for years and urged her students to read their Bible from cover to cover. Some are very proud of the fact that they had read it through by the time they were twelve years old. And rightly so! For several years she helped direct our annual Christmas Play and Vacation Bible School. She took the youth group on swimming trips and skating parties where she broke her arm on one trip. They went caroling at Christmas and visited many shut-ins. She also took them on hay rides and all day bus trips to Wilson to shop for needy families at Christmas.

When tragedy struck her sister's family she did not sit around pondering what she could do or where she was needed most. She just rolled up her sleeves and stepped right in. She put her own plans on hold and became the glue needed to help her grieving family. She became their second mother. She helped them emotionally,

*(Continued on next page)*

spiritually, financially, and any other way she felt was needed. As her niece said, "She never puts her own needs ahead of her family." Would you believe she even shared her wardrobe with her nieces? They were no doubt, the best dressed kids in school. Most likely a lot of these clothes were bought just to be shared. With awe, I was told, "She even let us share her jewelry." A jewelry box can be a magical place to ramble in for a child. During these years she held down a full time job, sang in our chancel choir, and continued to teach a Sunday School class.

Years passed and the little ones were not so little anymore. She married her very loving and patient "fella."

She still kept her eye on her family but jumped right in and helped her husband care for his elderly parents. She cared for them as if they were her own people (Ruth and Naomi style) for

the remainder of their lives. She found many ways to make their "golden years" more comfortable.

She also assisted with the care of her older sister and niece. Her niece was confined to a wheelchair for years. She had as much "spunk" as her aunt though and never gave up.

She continued with her benevolence work, meeting challenge after challenge. She cared for her ailing husband for many days and nights, keeping him cheered up as much as was possible. She knows he is patiently waiting for her to "come Home."

For years she served on our church's Benevolence Committee. Taking food and comfort to the homes of families that had lost a loved one. She broke her foot in an accident on one occasion when she was taking a chocolate pie to someone she thought needed comfort food. She still chuckles about having chocolate pie spread everywhere, even between her toes.

She is still active in her Woman's Auxiliary, serves on the Benevolence Committee and sometimes sends out as many as twenty cards in a month. She is still no slacker.

Life can bring many surprises. It is no surprise, though, that she and her sister have moved back in together. They are roommates again. Believe me, there is never a dull moment around their home.

She is loved by all of her family as well as her church family. This is why it is such an honor and pleasure to honor Gerry in this small way.

We were blessed to have a very inspiring message, "New Beginnings," by Dianne Riley, Director of Alumni Relations at Mount Olive College during our morning worship service. She reminded us it would behoove us to listen to God's voice as Gerry had listened to Him through the years. She ended her message with a song.

## GIANTS AND WARRIORS

by Dixie McLawhorn



The members of Pleasant Hill Church in Pitt County have been on a "counting campaign" since January. In an effort to raise money for the "Change for Children" campaign for the Children's Home, the youth leaders came up with a new way to get the whole church involved and keep them interested in this very worthwhile effort.

The youth leaders got the ball rolling as two teams, David's Giants and Joshua's Warriors, signed up members. The two co-captains of each team passed out to their members the blue bags from the Children's Home. The bags had, however, been altered a bit. A label had been applied on the back of each bag that had the "logo" of their

team, instructions to drop their change every Sunday in the box decorated with their "logo," and the date of the end of the campaign. Every Sunday, the youth and their leaders counted and wrapped the coins. Progress of the amounts raised was shown through the use of a chart for each team, and they were posted where all church members could see where each team was in the "race to see who could raise the most" for the Children's Home. Now, when you have a contest, you have to have a prize! So, it was decided that the team who raised the most money would be treated to a home-cooked meal by the other team.

The members of each team were excited each week as the youth and their

leaders sat down to count the change. Talk around the counting tables was always about who was going to have to cook for who. The campaign ended in early May, and the winner was—THE CHILDREN'S HOME! After all, they were the reason we had this contest! On Saturday, May 17 several members of the church took a check in the amount of the change that was raised, paper supplies, and cleaning products that were collected for the Children's Home.

By the way, David's Giants raised the most money! Joshua's Warriors will gladly cook and serve up a well-deserved meal.

Congratulations David's Giants!



# HOMECOMING AND DEDICATION SERVICE

## MOUNT ZION CHURCH

On Sunday, May 18, 2003, Mount Zion Church celebrated Homecoming and the dedication of our new sanctuary and fellowship hall. Our morning "Homecoming Service" brought families and friends back home for this special occasion. Most had not seen our new facilities. They were excited for us and enjoyed the changes. Memories of the older church were spoken of with love. Often a tear was shed for those who had been so much a part of our heritage, but had gone on to be with the Lord. As the worship service began, old hymns and new songs of praise were offered in harmony to the Lord. The Rev. Michael Williams, pastor, brought the morning message. After worship service, a bountiful meal was served and friends fellowshiped until the afternoon service began.

Pre-dedication music soon began and the congregation gathered back in the sanctuary. A variety of worship music was presented by individuals and groups of the church.

Many of our denominational ministries were represented including Dr. and Mrs. W. Burkette Raper, Dr. J. William Byrd, and Bob and Jean Ackiss—all representatives of Mount Olive College. The Rev. Buddy Sasser represented the Original Free Will Baptist State Convention. Judy Kennedy and Stumpy Quinn represented the Camp Vandemere Board.

At two o'clock, the lighting of the candles began our much anticipated dedication service! The choir sang a rendition of "Look What God Is Doing" for the call to worship. This was followed by a congregation hymn, "To God Be the Glory." The worship mood was set and the Spirit of God was felt as the service proceeded. Scripture reading from Psalms, and prayer was offered by Deacon Jeff Styron. Beverly Holton brought a beautiful solo and Deacon Russ Hudson followed with a charge to



*Mt. Zion Church in the early 1950s*



*Mt. Zion Church Today*

our people through a solo, "This Could Be the Day." Pastor Williams introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Burkette Raper. Smiling, Dr. Raper admitted he was standing before two groups of people today. In the congregation were the faces of those he could see, and just as certainly were the faces of others who were a part of our history, but had gone on to be with that "great cloud of witnesses." He presented a short history, telling of the time in the '30s when the minister's salary was raised to \$12.50 per week and the change of Aladdin lamps to electricity. These brought a lot of laughter from the younger groups, not being able to imagine how hard it had been at times to keep the church going. Many of the elderly had deep, serious expressions, realizing only God could bring us this far. Dr. Raper soon brought it all into focus, with the spiritual challenges

we faced. "God will have a plan," he said, "and our obedience will determine the future for those who come after us. The real task of ministry is before us, '...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit...'" (Zechariah 4:6).

Keys from the long range planning and building committee were turned over from the chairperson, Patricia Cross to the oldest tenured deacon, Mr. H. L. Rowe. Presentation of a large white Bible given to the church in 1976 by a former pastor and wife, the Rev. and Mrs. E. E. Edwards, was placed on the altar, bringing the past and future ministry focal points together. The deacons then anointed our altar and prayed. All heads bowed in reverence as Lisa Caroon sang "Holy Ground." A responsive reading of commitment followed. Immediately the keys were transferred from the Deacons to the Trustees as Pastor Williams charged them with duties of caring for the building. Chairperson, Debbie Hudson, accepted. Recognition of denominational ministries, ministers, and other guests followed with response from the congregation. The choir and soloist Shelly Simeon gave a closing hymn of blessing, "Till We Meet Again."

The service had come to a close, but new opportunities of ministry had begun. "To God be the glory, great things He has done."

### HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Proverbs 29:18).

The origin of Mount Zion Church is unknown. It is mentioned for the first time in the 1860 minutes of the General Conference as having 59 members.

*(Continued on next page)*

In August 1885, the deed to the land of the old church was recorded from J. R. McCotter and wife Sarah A. McCotter to Mount Zion Church. In 1899, the church property was valued at eight hundred dollars and in 1978, the value was fifty thousand dollars. Today it is valued at approximately one million dollars.

In 1953, there was a discussion on building a new church. A "building fund" was started with one hundred dollars from the Sunday School collections. This was the beginning of a total renovation converting a wood frame building into a brick building with four classrooms, two bathrooms, and a kitchen. This served the congregation very well until the late 70s. With a need for more classrooms, adding a second story was discussed, but this idea was tabled.

In 1979, a parsonage was built in Vandemere. Because of it being rented out for most of the years, a motion was passed to sell the property. It was sold in 2001.

In 1981, additional land was donated to the church by the Charles K. McCotter family for a new fellowship hall addition. It was to be forty by sixty-foot and include four classrooms, two bathrooms, and a larger kitchen. It was completed and in use by the next year.

In 2000, a Long-Range Planning Committee was appointed. After much discussion of needs, a decision was made to consider building a new sanctuary and fellowship hall. The committee had been advised by builders not to add on to the present wood pegged sanctuary due to age. It was clearly decided that the church of 118 years was not to be demolished. It could be used for our youth church, fellowship rooms, Sunday School rooms, and our Preschool and After School programs.

In 2002, a proposal was brought before the congregation to build a new sanctuary and fellowship hall, which would include a kitchen, nursery, sound room, senior classroom, and bathrooms. It was also to include a baptistry. This

building would necessitate additional land for a parking lot. The McCotter family was once again approached and agreed to sell us the needed land for one-half of the appraised value. The deed from Charles K. McCotter and wife, Patricia B. McCotter was deeded to Mount Zion Church. Plans proceeded and a drawing of the proposed building was presented to the church for consideration and approval.

"Our building dreams" have become realities in which we now worship and dedicate to the glory of God!

Mount Zion through all the years has grown and continues to grow spiritually and physically. From a small wood frame building in the 1800s to this present day church, many families have dedicated themselves to serving God through obedience. Times have often been tough, but "God has always been faithful." Today we dedicate ourselves and our church to the service of our Lord and to God be the glory.

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

## SPRING BRANCH CHURCH

In 1903, Spring Branch Church, Walstonburg, NC, was established. On Sunday, July 13, beginning at 11 A.M., a day of celebration will take place to observe the centennial year of the church. After the morning worship service, we will gather for dinner on the grounds, followed by the dedication of a memorial stone commemorating this event. We will conclude with a song and testimony service in the afternoon. Everyone is invited to come out and join us for this wonderful event. For more information, please call Pastor Walt Tyndall at (252) 753-5005.

Many families and friends have sacrificed time, energy, and finances, including those of many years that helped to lay our foundation and have gone on to be with the Lord. Donations have been generous. They have frequently come from acquaintances that just desire to be a part of God's ministry here.

There have been tears of joy, exhausted energies, even much frustration, and always prayer. There is still much physical work to be done. Most important is the spiritual challenge. This can only be accomplished by and through complete focus and surrender in the leading of His Spirit.

God has given everyone a special talent to use in the building of His Kingdom. Our only desire is to be found faithful, always in prayer and abiding in His love that God will be glorified. We sincerely thank you for your prayers, gifts, and encouragement. God bless us all!

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

## THANK YOU

Thank you to all who remembered Dean and I during my heart bypass and corodid artery surgery on April 30. All went well. I have been recovering at home since May 7. Thank you for the beautiful and encouraging cards, flowers, and visits. God has been so good. Please continue to lift us up in your prayers.

Rev. Andrew J. Hill, Pastor  
Pearsall Chapel Church

## CHURCHES & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

THE REVEREND TOMMY BRYSON JR., ordained minister in the Pee Dee Association of Original Free Will Baptists, is available to pastor, for pulpit supply, and for revivals. Interested persons may contact him by mail at 241 Soles Road, Whiteville, NC 28472 or call him at (910) 641-0262. Please leave a message if there is no answer.

PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH, Cape Fear Conference, is in need of a full-time pastor. Interested persons should contact John Bryant at (910) 897-5612 or James Smith at (910) 897-4747.

THE REVEREND SWADE BENSON, is available for full-time, part-time, or interim pastoral services. Interested persons may contact him by phone at (252) 776-0236.

MICRO CHURCH, Micro, Johnston County, is beginning the search for the position of full-time pastor. We are looking a man to run the church as the Lord has called a pastor to do. For more information, contact Lawrence Phillips at (919)284-4818 or Steve Brown at (919) 284-5232.

FIRST FWB CHURCH, Rocky Mount, is seeking a full-time pastor to live in Rocky Mount and lead our church in full-time Christian ministry. Interested ministers may contact Don Rogers, 225 Kent Court, Rocky Mount, NC 27804 or by phone at (252) 442-4445.

BRIAN DAVIS, ordained minister in good standing with the Western Conference of Original Free Will Baptists, is available for supply, interim, revival, or full-time pulpit duties. Interested persons may contact him by phone at (252) 243-3809 or by e-mail at [Brian.Davis@bbandt.com](mailto:Brian.Davis@bbandt.com).

PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH, Pikeville, is seeking a full-time Associate Pastor/ Youth Pastor with the main emphasis on Youth Pastor. Interested candidates may contact and/or send a resume to Ronnie Barnes at 567 Nahunta Road, Pikeville, NC 27863 or call him at (919) 734-2223.

NEW BETHLEHEM CHURCH, Pamlico County, is interviewing candidates for the position of pastor. This will be a full-time position. We are looking a man to run the church as the Lord has called a pastor to do. Interested persons may send a resume to: Mickey Buck, PO Box 184, Bayboro, NC 28515. You may also phone him at (252) 745-4822.

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An inferiority complex would  
be a mighty fine thing if only  
the right people had it.

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The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December.) You may submit articles by any of the following methods:

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# THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLUES!

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

The month of August marks for most of us with children back-to-school time. Most kids are filled with phrases such as, "Awe man! School's back already." Generally speaking, for parents this is a good thing. What to do with your kids while you're at work is no longer a concern. On the other hand, though, spiritually speaking, children are right back in the lion's den. Public schools are being mandated more and more about what can and can't be said or done. The homosexual agenda is being covertly pushed into our textbooks as an "alternative lifestyle"—that there is nothing wrong with it. Political correctness is being inserted into our textbooks as well, to the point of being ridiculous. And prayer is no longer tolerated in school—at least publicly. But no one can keep us from praying privately.

What in the world are we to do with all this, and so much more, trying to tear away at the very fabric of

Christianity? The Bible says to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). This spiritual training should be coming from the parents. Yet, if we as parents, don't warn our kids about the dangers of alcohol, drugs, or pre-marital sex, someone else is going to do it for us, and we won't have any control over who that is or what they teach.

Have you ever tried to convince your child that something he or she was taught by a teacher was not necessarily right? Some kids will argue that because their teacher said it, that it was fact. Yes,  $2+2=4$  will always be a

fact. But everything is not that simple.

Bottom line: If we are not already doing so, there has never been a better time to start—and not stop—praying! Our kids' futures, whether they realize it or not, are depending on our faithfulness.



## THE ERODING OF MORALITY

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

Morality, simply expressed, relates to principles of right conduct. To the Christian, these principles are based on Biblical truths. They are a part of our Judeo-Christian heritage and faith. Without them we lose our sense of moral direction. Those who reject Biblically-based principles of morality have no real secure mooring of conduct. Conscience will not suffice without spiritual guidance and influence. The laws of governments that exclude the laws of God only add to the erosion.

At one time we spoke of the "gradual" decline in moral convictions. Now it is swarming over us, devouring all who will accept the lies of Satan. The striking down of the sodomy law by the United States Supreme court and the legalization of same sex marriages by the Canadian Parliament, if it holds, will surely result in a more aggressive and militant agenda within the gay rights movement and its supporters. It is predicted that homosexual couples in our country will go to Canada where they will legally marry, and then return to claim all the rights and benefits of male and female married couples. Children in our schools will be taught that such is an acceptable lifestyle. It began some twenty-five years ago when our youth were taught that any lifestyle was okay as long as no one else is hurt. What a satanic deception! But that's how the breakdown begins.

In Luke 17:26-30, Jesus spoke of the days of Noah and the days of Lot, or the city of Sodom. The people were "doing their own thing," with no thought of God and His rightful place in their lives. "They did eat, they drank,

they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (vv. 27-30). In citing these two events in Biblical history, Jesus was stressing the importance of being prepared to meet God. By excluding Him, they were destroyed. Those who were found

to be righteous were delivered, but their number was very small—Noah and his family and Lot and his family. The sins of both generations are well documented in the Scriptures. In Noah's day every thought and intent of their hearts was evil. In Sodom there was immorality of the most base sort

which brought the judgment of God upon it.

The Laws of God have not changed. The Ten Commandments have not been declared null and void. It is still a sin to commit adultery and fornication. Sexual sins are a blight upon our nation. These evils will destroy our nation from within if they go unchecked. Legality of evil practices does not make them right. In the beginning, it was male and female that God placed together to enjoy each other and to procreate the human race. A man leaves his father and mother and is joined unto his wife. This is God's plan. So must it ever be!

Let us remember: "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

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## POWER VERSE

And ye shall teach them [commandments] your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou riseth up (Deuteronomy 11:19).



# Four Times A Year Just Isn't Enough

Scripture—Matthew 5:21–26

*(Delivered by the Reverend Stephen Prescott at this year's OFWB Minister's Conference on Monday, May 19, during the service observing the Ordinances of the Lord's Supper and Washing the Saints' Feet)*

It usually happens on fixed dates throughout the year, but those dates vary from church to church. For some, it's on the Sunday prior to the Quarterly Business Meeting. For others, it's on the Sunday after the Quarterly Business Meeting. Some have it on Wednesday, but most churches have it on Sunday. It's usually held during the Evening Service; many consider it logistically impossible to hold it during Sunday Morning Service. Occasionally, it's held at other special times of the year, such as Maundy Thursday, Easter, and Christmas. But, on the average, most of our churches have it four times a year.

I'm sure you know by now what I'm talking about—the Gospel Ordinance Service, the service held in our churches to partake in the Lord's Supper and Washing the Saints' Feet. As Original Free Will Baptists, we consider these, with Baptism, to be the sacred ordinances of the Gospel, and it is our duty to participate in them. But, is four times a year enough? Four times a year to partake in the sacred ordinances of the Gospel? Four times a year to gather with God's people around the table of Communion and around the basins and towels to embody the life and teachings of Christ? Four times a year to partake in deeds of thanksgiving and service that instruct what true Christian fellowship really is? Four times a year to share in concrete acts of worship that teach us what it means to truly be Christ's body? When we look at the value of Communion and Washing the Saints'

Feet in light of what we believe about God, Christ and His salvation, the church, and our task as Christian disciples, four times a year just isn't enough.

These ordinances of thanksgiving and humility are more than just symbols of past action; rather, they are undeniable symbols of reconciliation, fellowship, service, and love. They are too important to be stuck in some obscure service that only a small percentage of the congregation attends. They should hold a role of vital importance in our worship because of what they teach us about being faithful Christians.

For the next few days, we will be gathered here at Cragmont to learn more about equipping God's church. I know I am looking forward to the sessions that will be conducted by Dr. Roy DeBrand, as he leads us in discovering new and stimulating ways to train our churches for the task of producing and nurturing Christian disciples. But tonight, I want us to consider two of the greatest instructional practices that we have at our disposal—Holy Communion & Washing the Saints' Feet.

When it comes to equipping God's church, there are very few methods that come closer to teaching what the life of Christ is all about than these special Ordinances! Yet, to make such a claim requires for us all to have a renewed understanding of what it means to celebrate and participate in the ordinances of Communion and Washing the Saints' Feet. We need to

understand that these observances aren't just signs, but are indelible symbols that point to a greater understanding of Christianity. And we need to understand that these observances do indeed teach us about the life of Christ and how we are to walk as He walked.

Bread, cup, basin, towel, and water—our theology teaches us that these are symbols involved in the acts of Christ during His ministry that we use in observing the Ordinances. We don't believe that they are endowed with the real presence of Christ, like some Christians who hold a high sacramental theology. And we don't believe that they are dispensers of grace to those who partake; we don't believe grace is mysteriously infused into our lives when we ingest the bread and cup, or when our feet are washed with the water in the basin. The elements themselves do nothing in the way of justification or sanctification.

It is for that reason that many within Baptist traditions have come to see the elements of the ordinances as nothing more than "mere signs." They are seen as simple images that serve no purpose for effecting salvation; therefore, they serve no real purpose in their Christian lives. Bread, cup, basin, towel, and water are insignificant because, as just signs, they are not important to one's Christian growth. However, to write them off as "mere signs" is to move just as far to one side of the argument as those who worship the elements as being Christ Himself and distributors of grace.

*(Continued on next page)*



The bread, cup, basin, towel, and water are all enduring symbols that represent important facets of our Christian faith and practice. The bread and cup are significant in their representation of the body and blood of Christ; that which was broken and shed on our behalf upon the Cross of Calvary to bring about the salvation of humanity and to inform us of the incredible nature of God's love that we might live through Him. And the basin, towel, and water are important in their depiction of the humility and service of Christ; that which was ultimately expressed in His Crucifixion and to be lived as we give our lives for others as Christ gave His life for us. As pastors, we must take the initiative to teach our congregations that the emblems of the ordinances are, in fact, priceless signs that represent crucial elements of our faith—the love and sacrifice of Christ for all and the love and sacrifice of ourselves in Christ for the world. By educating our people about the emblems of Communion and Washing the Saints' Feet in such a way, we begin to dispel the myth that these ordinances have no real purpose in the life of the Christian. Then we are able, in turn, to instruct them that by partaking in the Ordinances of Holy Communion and Washing the Saints' Feet, they can learn valuable practices that will form and shape them into the people God would have them to be.

But how does that instruction take place? How do ingesting bread and cup and washing another person's feet teach us to reflect the image of Christ? Perhaps the best way to phrase the question is this...What does it mean to truly celebrate the Ordinances?

To rightly answer this question, we need to take a look at our Gospel lesson in Matthew 5:21–26. This passage from Matthew is taken from Jesus' incredible Sermon on the Mount, the greatest collection of Jesus' teachings found in the Scriptures. Now we could talk for hours about the impact of these verses upon many aspects of our Christian lives, but it is verses 23–24 that will be grabbing our attention.

Jesus has just addressed the problems of hostility and anger that will

inevitably be faced by the believer; now He is giving practical applications on how to directly address these problems when they arise. In order to apply Jesus' radical demands to their situation of imperfect people living in a flawed world, Jesus gives a radical answer. Jesus says that they are to consider reconciliation as the way of overcoming anger and hostility, an act of greater righteousness appropriate to those who belong to the Kingdom of God. In effect, Jesus is saying that His Kingdom is not constituted by anger and hostility, but by love and reconciliation.

We must realize Jesus acknowledges that we will get angry and suffer through broken relationships; why else would He need to address this situation? But what's important is the calling that Jesus gives to all His followers—to be a people who live by reconciliation. How, then, does this teaching relate to the Ordinances of the Lord's Supper and Washing the Saints' Feet? What better way to live out Jesus' instruction of reconciliation and love than through the practice of breaking bread with each other and washing one another's feet! Jesus teaching of reconciliation as we bring our gifts to the altar cuts right to the heart of our worship, especially when it comes to the practices of Communion and Washing the Saints' Feet.

Both breaking bread and washing feet are intimate times, shared amongst those who are in close fellowship. Yet, what does it mean to come to the Communion table to share a meal with a brother or sister with whom we are angry? And what does it mean to wash a friend's feet when there is a brother or sister with whom we aren't reconciled? For all the instruction we can give about how to apply the teachings of Christ in our lives, few offer such concrete application as Communion and Washing the Saints' Feet.

These Ordinances are significant in that they are expressions of the unity of the body of Christ, for they require the presence of a believing community in order to be carried out. In understanding Communion and Washing

the Saints' Feet through the language of unity, these acts not only denounce division and every conflict that hasn't been reconciled, but calls each Christian who comes to the table and washes another's feet to act out reconciliation by being reunited with fellow believers. Taking such a stance regarding the ordinances may well be difficult, even radical to many of our congregations. But I believe it is necessary to turn our observances of Communion from the typical funeral dirge that produces no action to the thankful attitude of reconciliation that creates unity among our congregations, and to turn our observance of Washing the Saints' Feet from a time to converse about church business, local gossip, or the day's sporting event into a time of honest service where we make the effort to be reconciled with our neighbor.

The worship of God has long been seen as the way by which the church recollects and articulates the Christian faith and the Christian story. This is no more true than when we worship God through the ordinances of Communion and Washing the Saints' Feet. This remembrance and enunciation of God through the Gospel ordinances is crucial in forming the ways in which Christians connect and interact with each other and to the world. The actions that constitute these ordinances serve in this formative process where Christians are able to emulate the word proclaimed in relation to the community of faith and, in turn, the peoples of the world.

My fellow ministers, by the acts of Communion and Washing the Saints' Feet, we can constantly teach our congregation about the love and reconciliation of Christ, and about putting that love and reconciliation into practice. As a result, these ordinances can continually fashion us into people who reflect the social ethic of Christ, seeking to love and serve our neighbor in faithful observance of the life of Christ and truthful obedience to the command of Christ. For these reasons, celebrating Communion and Washing the Saints' Feet four times a year just isn't enough!



# The Power of Prayer



by Charmaine V. Wade  
Hillside Church, Grifton, North Carolina

Before reading my story, I want you to keep in mind the power of prayer. Always be willing to stop and pray for someone. I know that I have had hundreds of prayers said for me by people in churches I'll never know, from my family and friends, my church family here at Hillside and especially Pastor and Mrs. Diane Brock, my sons, Brian and Joseph, but most of all my mother and father. I pray that God will always keep me as close to your heart as you are to mine. I love you all.

Have you ever heard of those people who, when they are born, seem to hit the ground running and never look back? Well, I seem to have started at the other end of the spectrum. I was born a month early, in fact, the day after my father's birthday. After two days of torture, the doctor presented my father with this proposition, "There's been a problem. I can't save them both, so what do you want me to do? Save your wife or your child?" Daddy hung his head in his hands and said, "Do what you can; it's in God's hands." I'm sure after what must have seemed like an eternity, the doctor finally returned and said, "They're both alive. Your wife is all right, but your daughter's lungs just are not developed enough. We have her on oxygen to help her breathe, but I can't make any promises."

Time passed and they were able to bring me home. Little did they know that was just the beginning. There would be countless doctor visits, the long hospital stays, and the long faces of the doctors who each time, would say she's just not going to make it.

Then one fateful visit when it looked as if it were the end, mama looked at the doctor and said, "Take her out of the oxygen tent and hand her to her father. If it's her time to die she'll do it in her father's arms." I don't remember this of course, but remembering my father as I

do, I'm sure he held me with every ounce of love in his body. Seconds, minutes, hours passed and I was alive in my father's arms with my mama looking on.

As I grew, the multitude of illnesses continued and the asthma only increased. Daddy would work two and three jobs at the time just to try to keep up with the medicine and doctor bills. Mama would constantly walk the floor holding a child she thought would die at any time, and go days, nights, weeks with no sleep. I think she believed if she closed her eyes for a second, I would be gone.

My whole childhood was spent sick. I would always have to stay in the house while all of the neighborhood children were outside running and jumping, all while I watched at the window. I just couldn't understand why, but all the time she would keep me occupied with paper and crayons. And when I would ask her why Jesus didn't love me like He did all the other children, she would always say, "Oh, but He does. Someone has to stay in and draw all the pictures." I know God gave me what talent I have to draw, but I'll always be convinced that mama planted the seed.

Time passed and I grew slowly and more sickly. I was always the puny looking child with the sunken eyes and the sallow skin, but I actually got to start school! During the first grade I went to school an entire thirty days! Things weren't as they are now and teachers were more willing to come by your home and bring your work. I think they really did it a lot of the time because I looked so pitiful, but as the years passed, they had to come by less and less.

You would think that after all of this as I got older, I would have been more appreciative and thankful and not such a rebellious teenager. How my father and mother didn't kill me I'll never

know, because I certainly gave them every opportunity. Maybe God intends it that way sometimes. If you don't listen, you definitely find out the hard way. Maybe that way you come to appreciate the outcome more. But even when you grow up it doesn't mean that the lessons don't get worse when you don't listen. Isn't it wonderful that God is always with us even when we don't have the good sense to ask Him for help? I was about to find out the worst and the best was yet to come.

While dealing with an abusive marriage my health once more brought me to my knees. I'd learned through life how to deal with my asthma—what not to do to make it worse. But suddenly nothing seemed to help. I was right back where I was as a child. More doctors, more hospitals, hearing more and more that I just wouldn't last much longer. Then it really got interesting; the headaches began and wouldn't go away. Most of my doctors knew what was going on at home, and they'd always say, "It's your nerves; if you would just get out of that violence it would get better!" But I just couldn't give up; I refused to leave.

When the headaches got unbearable I hoped maybe I just needed new glasses. So at a routine eye appointment the doctor examined my eyes and called me back into his office. I honestly don't know whose face turned whiter when he gave me the news, his or mine. He said, "Mrs. Wade, I've made you an appointment with a neurologist in the morning to have a workup. I'm afraid I've found a tumor." That was one of the longest nights of my life. The next morning it was confirmed. I had a tumor that was all across the back of both my optic nerves and the front of my brain. There was no type of surgery for it. I'd probably go blind. My only op-

*(Continued on next page)*

tions were spinal taps to draw off the excess fluid to help relieve the pressure. It wouldn't stop the headaches, but it would slow down the blindness. But he reminded me that it wouldn't kill me.

With a multitude of prescriptions, spinal taps, and slowly weakening eyes, I battled with the tumor for nine years. Endless pain, endless abuse. I was beginning to believe that the only end to any of it was to put an end to me. I had already stopped counting the spinal taps after they reached one hundred. I endured eye surgery at Duke twice where they took a laser and drilled a hole in each one of my optic nerves, and then they closed it right back up. And just when I thought it couldn't get any worse, September 11 arrived.

I was up early that morning watching the early news program when it seemed that the world was coming to the end. I just couldn't take my eyes off the television. The pain in the eyes of those people, the ones who were searching so frantically for their loved ones, the joy in the eyes of the ones that found them, and the pain in the eyes of those who knew they never would. It finally hit me that day just how short life was and I dropped to my knees to pray. I asked God to forgive me of my sins, and to forgive me for being such an ungrateful backslider, and to give me guidance. The doctors had already told me I wouldn't last much longer; my body was getting too weak. The pain was so unbearable and so was the unspeakable abuse at home. I don't know how long I stayed on that floor, but when I got up I knew what I had to do. God didn't expect me to live in the turmoil I was in, and I knew He wouldn't let me die alone. By that weekend it was done. I packed everything he owned and told him to never come back. I told him I forgave him—he couldn't help the fact that he didn't love me. All I wanted to do was die in peace.

Two days later my neurologist called and asked me to come in, right then. I would have never guessed what I was about to hear. After ten years of trying to find a surgeon to attempt to help me, one had just moved to Greenville that very week. He already had made the appointment for the next day. After reading my file and checking me for five minutes she looked at me and said, "Let's go for it. Your odds are kind of

bad, but I believe I can put a shunt at the base of your spine that will help pull the fluid away from your brain, route the tubing to your digestive tract, and help save your eyes. What do you want me to do?" It only took me two seconds to say, "Let's do it."

In three days I was in surgery. Many hours later she approached my family in the waiting room and smiled, and said, "She made it through surgery, so far, so good. I'm hopeful." When I woke up and saw so many people hovering around me, I wasn't sure where I was until I glanced from side to side and saw all of the tubes and monitors, and then it hit me. I was alive, and I could still see! At that point I didn't care about the pain I was in, all I wanted to do was thank God.

One amazing feeling I will never forget is when the doctors would come in and open up the temporary drain line to draw out the extra fluid. It always felt like they were pulling fire from my head to my back, but it always felt so wonderful by the time they stopped. Three days later the shunt was working fine; they removed the temporary line and sent me home.

Day by day, week by week, I got better and better. Life was returning better than ever, and I knew it was all the hand of God. It lasted eleven months. I woke one morning in such pain I couldn't get off the bed. It seemed like it took me forever to inch over to the phone to call 911. Within four hours I was in surgery again; the shunt had completely stopped up and I was right back where I was. The surgeon decided she'd try again, so she took out the old one and put in a different style. Once again I awoke and felt grateful to God. I did so well they sent me home in seven days.

I was home for two days when I woke myself up screaming in the middle of the night. Once again I had to call 911. It took them all of thirty minutes and I was in intensive care being told the shunt had stopped because I had developed bacterial meningitis and several other strains of infections in the operating room during the last surgery. Three doctors stood in front of me and said, "It's got to come out now, but we really don't believe you will make it this time; you are consumed with infection." When I woke up in the recovery room I don't know who was more surprised,

me or them. That's when I found out the rest. I would have to be given massive doses of antibiotics for at least weeks. The meningitis would never go away. It could lay dormant for long periods of time, but could always come back. But they also told me they had put one more shunt in my spine. After all, what did I have to lose? For two weeks it seemed to be working, and then the medicine turned on me.

I felt as if I was going mad; my body was on fire and I was so weak I could barely move, but then it started. I would crawl out of bed pulling tubes as I went only to crawl into the other side of the bed. I prayed to die, my skin was crawling, and it felt like everything inside my body was pushing it's way out. For two days and nights this was a constant ordeal. I couldn't sleep, I couldn't be still. The third day when the screaming started and didn't stop, they gave me something to knock me out.

I slept for four days. I vaguely remember people going and coming, but each time there would be another needle and I would go back to sleep. I woke up one morning while they were taking blood. I could smell coffee, see people walking around me, and I realized that once again, thanks to God, I was alive.

By the end of the week they decided they would send me home with the lines still hooked up. I could take my medicine at home and be in my own bed. They assured me they had adjusted the medicine and I'd have no more problems. I could easily change the fluid bags myself and a nurse would check in on me from time to time. So home I went, for two days, but because the pain had returned, I had to go back again. They changed the dosage and sent me back home, for one day. By the time I had given myself the third dose the next day I knew something was wrong. I felt incredibly hot, yet my skin had goose bumps on it as if I were freezing. I looked in the mirror at myself and my skin was blood red and my veins looked as if they were coming out of my skin. I remember holding a cross a dear friend had given me that had the Serenity Prayer on it. I couldn't let go of it, but I managed to call another friend to please come, and I called 911. By the time they got there, my friend and my mother were still trying to hold me down. But

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they weren't having much success, I would run from one end of my trailer to the other, back and forth, begging God to please just let me go, all the while holding onto that cross. It took all of those rescue men to pry that cross out of my hand to load me onto the stretcher. I don't remember anything after that.

When I woke up the next day the doctor was standing by my bed. I fully expected him to tell me that the meningitis was back, but that wasn't it. My body had gone into shock because it had turned toxic from the medicine. I'd had a severe reaction to it, but once again God had kept me here. But the damage was done and the shunt had to come out and they couldn't risk putting another one in my spine. There was already far too much scar tissue to deal with, because each time they operated on my spine to install the shunt they also had to operate on my stomach to route the tubing so the fluid would go out of my digestive system. This time there was only one option left, to put it in my brain. I asked to come home for a week. I had things I had to do, things I needed to say to people, and decisions to make.

Once again I said, "Lord, what do I do?" I woke up the next morning with the answer, I was going to try one more time. The surgery went remarkably well and in a matter of days I was feeling like my old self. My head didn't hurt, and all I wanted was to come home and go to church and praise God because once again He hadn't given up on me. For four and a half months I felt like Wonder Woman. I was able to do so many things I just couldn't stop. I felt useful and alive again. Then the week before Christmas something unexpected happened.

I was taking mama to town when we saw a bale of pine straw lying in the road. That was too good to pass by because I knew she could use it in one of her flower beds. There was no traffic so I pulled off the road to put it into the trunk of the car. Just as I leaned in with it a gust of wind came and slammed the trunk lid on top of my head, right on top of my new shunt. I stood there a few moments to shake it off, all the time hoping mama hadn't seen what had just happened. But by the time I was back in the car the tale was told, there was already a trickle of blood running down

the side of my face and a goose egg that would have won at any state fair. But as I wiped off the blood and regained my composure I can honestly say that my head didn't hurt. I attributed it to having been so hard-headed all my life. We finished our errands for the rest of the day. By eight o'clock that night the tale had turned on me again, I was having trouble seeing, but my head wasn't hurting that badly, so I called the doctor on call. I explained the events of the day hoping he would say to just take a pain pill and rest awhile, but once again all I heard was to call 911.

I don't remember ever having seen them move so quickly in the hospital before. Within twenty minutes they had taken blood, done an x-ray and another spinal tap. When the surgeon walked in the room he handed me a paper. He said, "You have to sign this consent form for me now." "Why now?" I asked. "You usually make me sign it before you do the taps; did you forget?" He looked at me very sternly and said, "I only wish I had. Your shunt is hemorrhaging, and the meningitis is back; your count is already at 8,000. You'll be dead within the hour if we don't move quickly."

I know I must have signed that form but I honestly don't remember doing it. I couldn't understand what was happening. I didn't feel bad; the trunk lid had just hit my head. How could I be so sick so fast? I was in surgery in ten minutes. It was the next day before I really remembered very much, but once again when I woke up there was another doctor standing by my bed. He said, "It will take some time to get the meningitis under control, but the shunt is out of your head and I repaired all the damage; there's only one problem. You won't ever be able to have another shunt put in, so you will just have the headaches again and the spinal taps, and maybe we can save your vision. I'm sorry, I did the best I could do, but you are alive." And with that he turned and walked out of the room. As I looked up at the ceiling the tears began to roll down my face. Yes, I know you did all you could do doctor, but the only reason I'm alive is God.

I spent all of December and most of January in the hospital. When I got to come home in January, I began having the strangest dreams. I tried to dismiss them to all of the medicine I was tak-

ing, but they just wouldn't go away, and they were always the same. I would keep hearing a voice saying, "You aren't asking the right question," and then I would sit up in bed and see the slightest shadow of a figure at the foot of my bed. I'd go back to sleep and each time the same thing would happen. This went on for ten nights. I tried to put it in the back of my mind because I couldn't figure it out. And I certainly didn't want to tell anyone about it. I was sure they would think I was crazy, because, after all, the only witness was my cat who sleeps with me each night! Every time it happened I'd look over at my cat and he'd be sitting up, with every hair on his body straight out. But it wasn't over yet. The first week of February I woke up one night with a horrible pain behind my eyes. I called my neurologist and once again he said, "I'll be waiting at the hospital for you; call 911 now."

I cried as I called them and then I got on my knees to pray. I begged God that if He couldn't heal me from this to please take me home to be with Him. Within minutes I was again at the hospital, having blood drawn, getting x-rays, and another spinal tap to check for the meningitis.

But something very strange was about to happen. I fell asleep while they were doing the tap, something I had never done before in the entire ten years. When I woke up they had moved me to my room. I opened my eyes to just another hospital room, just like I had done so many times before. But as I looked around, I realized my head didn't hurt. In fact, I felt so good I drifted back to sleep and didn't wake up until the next morning. Once again when I awoke I was surrounded by the doctor and a host of interns. As they always seem to do, they talk about you as if you are not even in the room. I listened to him give them ten years of history that I had heard time and time again. I could have just as easily told them myself. He told them all that he believed I was one of the few patients of his who had really been to Hell and back, and that he really could not understand why I was alive. That's when it happened. He turned to me and said, "We have all of your reports back now. There are no

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signs of the meningitis, and we took several x-rays; there is no sign of the tumor. I don't know how, but it's gone. You can rest today and go home in a couple of days." With that they all turned and left the room.

As I laid there alone the sobs of joy began to come and would not stop.

Then suddenly I thought of the Scripture verse, "Ask and ye shall receive." That was it! I prayed every time before rescue would pick me up, but it was always the same prayer, "Dear Lord, help me stand this pain one more time. It hurts me so for my family and friends to see me in so much pain."

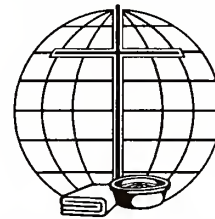
Then I understood the dreams, "You are not asking the right question!" He wanted me to ask for healing! What a difference it can make in the way we phrase our words. Always ask God for what you want, because without Him we are nothing, and with Him everything is possible.



# CONVENTION NEWS



## AUGUST 2003 MONTHLY PLANNER



### CONVENTION PROMOTION MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change so we encourage you to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

| SUNDAY                                                                    | MONDAY                                                     | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                      | WEDNESDAY                                  | THURSDAY                                                | FRIDAY                                                   | SATURDAY                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Notes: _____<br>_____<br>_____                                            |                                                            |                                                                                                                                              |                                            |                                                         | 1<br>Fall Woman's<br>Conference                          | 2<br>Cape Fear and<br>Western District<br>Youth Meeting, 9 A.M.<br>CF Youth Field Day<br>Fall Woman's<br>Conference |
| 3                                                                         | 4<br>Sunday School<br>Eastern Regional<br>Training, 7 P.M. | 5                                                                                                                                            | 6<br>Church Finance<br>Meeting, 10:30 A.M. | 7<br>Annual<br>Cragmont Golf<br>Tournament              | 8<br>Annual<br>Cragmont Golf<br>Tournament               | 9                                                                                                                   |
| 10                                                                        | 11                                                         | 12<br>Retirement<br>Homes Board<br>Meeting, 3 P.M.                                                                                           | 13                                         | 14<br>Minister's<br>Program<br>Meeting, 10 A.M.         | 15<br>Eastern NC<br>Christian<br>Education<br>Conference | 16<br>Eastern NC<br>Christian<br>Education<br>Conference                                                            |
| 17<br>Cape Fear Union Camp<br>Meeting, 6 P.M.<br>MOC Fall Semester Begins | 18                                                         | 19<br>Foreign Missions<br>Board Meeting,<br>10 A.M.<br>FWB Press Board<br>Meeting, 1 P.M.<br>Liaison Literature<br>Committee Meeting, 4 P.M. | 20                                         | 21<br>Children's<br>Home Board<br>Meeting,<br>7:30 P.M. | 22                                                       | 23<br>CF Youth<br>Convention<br>Executive<br>Committee<br>Meeting, 9 A.M.                                           |
| 24<br>31                                                                  | 25                                                         | 26<br>MOC Board of<br>Trustees<br>Meeting<br>MOC Fall Convocation                                                                            | 27                                         | 28                                                      | 29                                                       | 30                                                                                                                  |

# PROGRAM FOR THE NINETY-FIRST SESSION OF THE CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

## SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2003

### Tuesday, September 16, 2003

7:00 P.M. Night of Evangelism

Special Guests: The Four-In-Christ Quartet and Bishop L. N. Forbes

### Wednesday Morning, September 17, 2003

8:45 A.M. Congregational Singing and Fellowship

9:00 A.M. Call to Order

Devotions, Welcome

9:10 A.M. President's Message

9:20 A.M. Executive Committee's Report

9:30 A.M. Finance Committee's Report

9:40 A.M. Nominating Committee's Report

9:50 A.M. Introduction of Fraternal Delegates

10:00 A.M. **Report of OFWB International Inc. (Foreign Missions)**

10:15 A.M. Congregational Singing and Special Music

10:25 A.M. **Report of the OFWB Sunday School Ministry**

10:40 A.M. *Minister's Association Report*

10:45 A.M. **Report of the OFWB Children's Home**

11:00 A.M. Break \*\*Please visit your Ministry Display Area

11:20 A.M. **Morning Worship**

12:00 P.M. Recess for Lunch

Worship Leader

The Reverend Charles Renfrow, Secretary

Dr. K. David Hines, Mount Olive College

The Reverend Fred Baker

The Reverend Charles Renfrow

Mrs. Gloria Brown, Treasurer

The Reverend Ray Wells, Chair

The Reverend Buddy Sasser

The Reverend Harold Jones

Mrs. Mary Dudley

The Reverend Doug Skinner

Dr. Bobby Taylor

**Bishop J. N. Perry, Motivator**

### Wednesday Afternoon

1:30 P.M. Congregational Singing and Devotions

1:40 P.M. **Report of Cragmont Assembly**

1:55 P.M. *Carolina Bible Institute Report*

2:00 P.M. *Chaplain's Commission Report*

2:05 P.M. **Report of the Minister's Program**

2:20 P.M. Break \*\*Please visit your Ministry Display Area

2:40 P.M. Congregational Singing and Special Music

2:45 P.M. **Report of the Church Finance Association**

3:00 P.M. *FWB League Convention Report*

3:05 P.M. *Woman's Auxiliary Convention Report*

3:10 P.M. Closing Devotions

3:15 P.M. Recess for the Day

The Reverend John Williams

The Reverend Rudy Owens

Dr. De Wayne Eakes

The Reverend Don Fader

The Reverend Don Fader

Ms. Becky Jo Sumner

Mrs. Joan Little

5:30 P.M. **Sunday School Banquet**

7:30 P.M. **Mission Rally**

Murphy Center

College Hall

### Thursday, September 18, 2003

8:45 A.M. Congregational Singing and Special Music

9:00 A.M. Call to Order and Opening Devotions

9:10 A.M. **Report of the OFWB Press Foundation**

9:25 A.M. *Camp Vandemere Report*

9:30 A.M. **Report of the OFWB Retirement Homes**

9:45 A.M. *Historical Commission Report*

9:50 A.M. Congregational Music

9:55 A.M. **Report of the OFWB Home Missions**

10:00 A.M. *Layman's League Report*

10:05 A.M. **Report of Mount Olive College**

10:20 A.M. Break \*\*Please visit your Ministry Display Area

10:35 A.M. **Morning Worship**

11:30 A.M. Break \*\*Please visit your Ministry Display Area

11:45 A.M. Business Session

12:15 P.M. *Memorial Committee Report*

12:25 P.M. Closing Devotions

12:30 P.M. The Convention Is Adjourned

Mr. Cliff Gray

Mr. Wesley Taylor

The Reverend Bruce Dudley

Dr. Michael Pelt

The Reverend James Owens

Mr. Russell Tyson

Dr. J. William Byrd

**Dr. Tyanna Day, Motivator**

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BEGINS PROCESS

For some time the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists has functioned without the office of General Administrator being filled. Although the work of the Convention has continued, the Executive Committee of the Convention has continued to work and seek to fill this office. Over the past months, the Executive Committee has been working to redefine the office and its responsibilities. With this work complete, the Executive Committee has appointed the Policy and Personnel Committee to begin receiving resumes of those persons interested in this position. The committee consists of the Revs. Harold Swinson, Garland Suggs, and Dr. Michael Pelt.

The search committee will begin receiving names and resumes from those persons who may wish to be considered for this position. The committee will receive resumes beginning July 1, 2003 through August 31, 2003. Please send your resume to the Rev. Harold Swinson at 4961 Free Union Church Road, Pinetown, NC 27865. All resumes will be kept confidential and the final decision made by the Executive Committee of the Convention. Please be much in prayer for the search committee and the Executive Committee and the decisions they will be making in the coming months.

The qualifications for the office are as follows:

## Qualifications and Responsibilities of the General Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

### Purpose

The purpose of this position shall be to provide a principle administration of the Convention and Executive Committee and the establishment of an office for the purpose of general public relations within and without the denomination relative to the entire program of the Convention. (Article III, Section 4 of Constitution and Bylaws).

### I. Qualifications

**Personal:** The candidate for this position shall evidence these personal qualities:

1. Personal integrity, good moral and ethical behavior, and responsible management of personal finances.
2. Sound Christian character and commitment.
3. A temperament capable of contributing to good in-terpersonal relationships.
4. Well-founded Christian convictions along with the capacity for open-mindedness and honesty in all deliberations and decisions.
5. Holds a personal theological position that is coherent with that of the denomination.
6. Given to neatness and good taste in matters of dress and appearance.

**Educational:** \*\*The candidate for this position shall have:

1. \*\*An adequate education and work experience in the area of administrative leadership, to include at least a college degree or ten (10) years of experience.
2. A general knowledge of church history and doctrine, especially that of Original Free Will Baptists.
3. Knowledge of the Bible and Christian theology supportive of an adequate perception and understanding of the Church and its mission in the world.

**\*\*Experience:** The candidate shall have had tenure of successful leadership. Administrative experience in a local church, or one of the conferences, or the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, or one of its ministries is considered helpful.

### Responsibilities:

1. The General Administrator is an officer of the Convention, employed by the Executive Committee, and charged with the responsibility of administering the work assigned to him or her by that committee within the framework of programs and policies approved by the committee. In that capacity he or she shall attend meetings throughout the denomination

and make reports about the Convention and its work to various constituencies. He or she shall attend the meetings of the Executive Committee and shall implement such actions and functions as are delegated to him or her.

2. The General Administrator is responsible for providing assistance to the various boards, commissions, and committees of the Convention. In this role he or she is to serve as a consultant to these agencies of the Convention in helping them to be consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Convention and the purposes for which these agencies were established. He or she shall be properly informed as to the policies, programs, and procedures of the various boards with a view of coordinating their efforts toward harmony and a spirit of cooperation.
3. Denominational Headquarters: The General Administrator is responsible for supervision of the headquarters office and the staff under his or her direction in accordance with personnel policies of that office.
4. The General Administrator shall be responsible to coordinate the work of the various denominational boards with the aim of facilitating cooperation and avoiding conflicts. In wider church circles he or she shall seek to build and sustain relationships with other churches that have similar beliefs, aims, and purposes, and he or she shall endeavor to interpret the position of our church to the larger Christian community.

### Specific Duties:

1. The General Administrator is responsible to work with the Recording Secretary in the publication of the annual Year-book.
2. The General Administrator is responsible to work with the Recording Secretary for printing and distribution of the annual Church Letter prior to the meeting of the Convention.
3. The General Administrator will be responsible for compiling and publishing the annual denominational Report Book.
4. The General Administrator shall act as a liaison with pastors of the Convention. He or she will prepare and maintain a Ministerial Service Record file and shall assist pastors and local churches in regard to matters of placement, salary, and benefits.
5. The General Administrator shall be responsible for preparing each year a denominational calendar. He or she shall expect complete cooperation from the various boards, commissions, and committees in its preparation.



# THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CONVENTION GOLF FELLOWSHIP



**New Day  
New Time  
Same Fun**

**Monday, September 15, 2003  
9 A.M. Shotgun Start  
Southern Wayne Country Club  
Mount Olive, North Carolina**

**Trophies!!  
Free Stuff!!  
Fun! Fun! Fun!**

## TWO DIVISIONS:

Junior Duffers—Through age 49

Senior Duffers—Age 50 and over

(At least 3 players must be 50 to qualify as a Senior Duffer Group)

**Enter  
Early!  
25  
Team  
Limit**

Closest to the Pin and Long Drive Holes in each division.

**WIN  
A  
NEW  
CAR  
OR  
SPLIT  
\$10,000**

Your Individual Entry Fee of **\$45** includes the following:  
Golf Cart Rental, 2 Mulligans, 1 Red Bomb (ladies' tee), Give-aways  
Free Soft Drinks, 5 Prize Tickets (additional tickets available)

**DISCLAIMER:** This is a Christian fellowship designed for ministers and members of Original Free Will Baptist churches and Sunday Schools. Employees of Convention Ministries and fellowship sponsors are also invited to participate. Soft spikes and collared shirts are required. No alcoholic beverages or coolers will be allowed. Violators of this policy will be asked to leave the course and will forfeit all fees paid. Neither the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, Fellowship directors, nor Southern Wayne Country Club will be held liable for injury, damage to personal property, or theft. A submission of the registration form below implies acceptance of these terms by your team.

## REGISTRATION FORM

My team agrees to the terms stated in the Fellowship Disclaimer. Team Captain sign here: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Team Division: \_\_\_ Junior Duffer \_\_\_ Senior Duffer

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Team Members:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Mail this form along with entry fee to:  
Buddy Sasser, 3202 Hillman Road, Kinston, NC 28504

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Please circle the number beside the member(s) you are paying for.)  
Make Checks Payable to: "Convention of OFWB"





## ONE COLLEGE, FIVE LOCATIONS, INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

Everyone wants to make a difference in the world. Our graduates do just that every day in eastern North Carolina, from the Triangle to the coast. Each one of them had to start somewhere...and they started with us.

### MOC at Mount Olive Fall Semester begins Wednesday, August 20.

We are now enrolling new freshmen and new transfer students for traditional college at our Mount Olive location. Apply online at <[www.moc.edu](http://www.moc.edu)> or contact Tim Woodard, director of admissions <[twoodard@moc.edu](mailto:twoodard@moc.edu)> or at (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

### MOC at Goldsboro Fall Semester begins Wednesday, August 20.

We are now enrolling students. Contact Dr. Opey Jeanes at (919) 735-5052 or <[ojeanes@moc.edu](mailto:ojeanes@moc.edu)>.

### Evening College at Mount Olive.

Contact Vickie Stroud or Matt Green at (800) 653-0854 or <[vstroud@moc.edu](mailto:vstroud@moc.edu)> and <[mgreen@moc.edu](mailto:mgreen@moc.edu)>.

- Thursday, September 4, Heritage Program for working adults with little or no college experience
- Monday, September 8, Management and Organizational Development degree completion program
- Thursday, September 11, Early Childhood Education degree completion program
- Thursday, September 18, Criminal Justice Administration degree completion program

### MOC at Research Triangle Park.

Contact Dr. Robin Spaide at <[rspaide@moc.edu](mailto:rspaide@moc.edu)> or (888) 258-5188.

- Wednesday, August 6, Management and Organizational Development degree completion program
- Thursday, August 21, Heritage Program for working adults with little or no college experience

### MOC at Wilmington.

Contact Dr. Harvey Hutchison at <[hhutchison@moc.edu](mailto:hhutchison@moc.edu)> or (800) 300-7478.

- Tuesday, August 5, Heritage Program for working adults with little or no college experience
- Thursday, August 14, Management and Organizational Development degree completion program

### MOC at New Bern.

Contact Dr. Joe Klotz at <[jklotz@moc.edu](mailto:jklotz@moc.edu)> or (800) 868-8479.

- Tuesday, August 19, Management and Organizational Development degree completion program
- Tuesday, September 9, Criminal Justice Administration degree completion program

## THANK YOU ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS!

by Jean F. Ackiss  
Director of Church Support

I have often said that I work with the best people on earth. I am very grateful for Original Free Will Baptists who genuinely care about God's work. They are good people, and when they are informed about needs from a ministry, they always respond. Even though the College was having a very successful year, many challenges faced us due to a drop in the economy and the war. We had little control over many areas that affected the College. A goal of \$100,000 was requested from Original Free Will Baptists. In March a letter was sent to all churches requesting that they consider an additional gift in the amount of \$7 per member or that a special offering be taken prior to June 30.

Approximately 255 churches and individual Original Free Will Baptists responded with gifts and pledges to the College totaling \$127,877. This measure of support will play a special role in helping the College demonstrate its financial stability for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. All of the gifts received from Original Free Will Baptists will be used to help fund more than \$1.5 million in scholarships to our students for the 2002-2003 academic year.

For everyone who prayed, invited someone else to give, or gave themselves, we humbly thank you, and we thank God for you!

## PLANNING SESSIONS FOR MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE DINNERS

Planning sessions for the 2003 Mount Olive College dinners will be held during the month of August and the first week of September. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support and Coordinator of the College dinners, will be meeting with volunteers in the Original Free Will Baptist Churches to plan each of the annual 18 county-wide dinners. Invitations are being sent to each church inviting their participation to plan for the dinner in their county. The pastor, local chairperson, and other interested persons are

encouraged to attend the Planning Session. Anyone interested in finding out more information about the planning session and dinner in their county can contact their local pastor or Jean F. Ackiss at (919) 658-2502, (800) 653-0854 or e-mail at <jfackiss@moc.edu>.

As a ministry of the Original Free Will Baptist denomination, the College seeks to serve the people of the denomination by helping recent high school graduates and working adults develop their lives through Christian higher education.

## MURPHY ELECTED STATE PBL PRESIDENT

*by Erin Pritchard Brescia, Student Intern*



*Jessica Murphy and Dr. Kathy Best*

Jessica Murphy of Pikeville, who was elected Eastern Region Vice-President at the Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) State Competition in April, was recently promoted to PBL State President.

Murphy's responsibilities include conducting business meetings, helping coordinate conferences, and serving the members of PBL. She will also conduct workshops at conferences with other state officers.

"I was shocked and excited when I found out I was the state president," states Murphy. "I'm grate-

ful to have the opportunity to serve North Carolina PBL for the remainder of the year."

Murphy, a senior business management major and art minor, is the daughter of Randy and Alice Murphy. She is a graduate of Charles B. Aycock High School. Murphy is a member of Stoney Creek Church and was the recipient of the 2003 Citation for Outstanding Student of the Year in Business and the Faculty Award for Student Excellence at the College's Awards Day held last spring.

## VIRTUAL FARMERS' MARKET IS UP AND RUNNING

The Agribusiness Center at Mount Olive College has developed a virtual farmers' market <<http://www.virtualfarmersmarket.com>> focused on agribusiness education and commerce in eastern North Carolina. The home page spotlights links to various agribusinesses, agri-tourism businesses, crops, livestock, horticulture, forestry, organic farming, and the weather. The site also highlights a different agribusiness and agri-tourism business each week.

A forums section on the site gives participants an opportunity to discuss and share ideas on a variety of topics such as crop production, animal diseases, and labor issues. Farmers can visit the certification section and access on-line forms, soil sample reports, and permits required for various farming operations.

In June, the virtual farmers' market registered 182 agribusinesses with an additional 100 scheduled for inclusion before the fall. Registration and participation is free until December 31, 2003. For more information on how to register contact Don Scott at (919) 658-7510.



# MAKING THE CAREER CONNECTION



*Rhonda Houston, a sophomore and member of Deep Run Church in Lenoir County, and Linda Greenwood, Director of the Career Center.*

is responsible for providing leadership and the administration of a centralized career development center.

"I work at keeping up-to-date on current career development issues," said Greenwood. "I study the best practices used by career centers and tailor them to what is most appropriate to our career center."

The primary goal of the career center is to help students learn how to plan for a career and to develop decision-making and job search skills. The career center offers personal career advising, self-assessment and interest inventories, career exploration, internships, career fairs, and graduate school information.

The "MOC Job Network," which was introduced last year, is a service provided by the Career Center that offers employers the ease of a web-based tool to post full-time, part-time, internship, and summer positions at no cost. Employers can also search the resumé database of MOC students and alumni twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Students can use the site to search for a job.

An annual job fair is also sponsored by the career center, and the center works very closely with the alumni relations office to build relationships between alumni and students. Through the mentoring network, MOC alumni interact with students to provide advice about careers, employers, internships, and employment opportunities.

During the 2002-2003 academic year, the career center offered several career information panels in fields such as human resources, social services, federal government, teaching, banking and finance, and criminal justice. These events allowed students to learn more about their particular field of interest, and network with guest speakers and MOC alumni. A variety of resumé and interview workshops are also held throughout the year.

All incoming freshmen take the Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator and are encouraged to take advantage of assessments available on the Internet.

"I would encourage all MOC students to start early and take advantage of the career center's resources," Greenwood stated. "The more students learn about themselves and the better they plan their college studies and work experience, the better choices they will make along the way."

"I enjoy the variety of responsibilities and the people I interact with," said Linda Greenwood, director of the career center at Mount Olive College. "Developing students' skills in career decision-making, discussing staffing solutions with employers, and researching graduate schools, all in an eight-hour period, make for an exciting work-day."

Greenwood has been working at Mount Olive College since 1984. She

# MOC SAYS GOODBYE TO A FRIEND

Mount Olive College said goodbye to a dear friend this past spring. James B. Hunt Sr., a retired soil conservationist and avid supporter of the College died on May 7, 2003. The father of former Governor Jim Hunt was 91.

A member of Marsh Swamp Original Free Will Baptist Church, Hunt was active in the founding of Mount Olive College. Hunt was a member of the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees from 1964 until 1998. He served as chair for 15 years.

After the death of his first wife of 55 years, Hunt established "The Elsie Brame and James Baxter Hunt Endowed Fund" at Mount Olive College. The endowment is dedicated to providing resources for the library. Because of this fund, Hunt's desire to help Mount Olive College grow will remain evident for years to come.

Upon Mr. Hunt's death, the College has received more than 1,000 memorial gifts which have been added to the Hunt Endowment Fund, perpetuating his legacy. Anyone wanting to contribute to the fund can contact Nancy Westfall at (919) 658-2502.

"James Hunt was an extraordinary gift of God to humanity, and Mount Olive College is a better institution of Christian higher education because he was sent our way," Dr. W. Burkette Raper said.





## BUILDING PROGRESS IN VARNA, BULGARIA

by Willem van der Plas



*Building of Christian Center in Varna*

By the support of the members of Rose of Sharon Church, Arapahoe Church, Stoney Creek Church, and the Paul Palmer Conference, we are able to continue the building of a Christian Center in Varna.

The rough building is almost ready. It needs now to be completed with doors and windows, with water and electricity, with plastering inside and outside.

The members of the church don't know anything about this building yet, because we met too much resistance after some of our members proudly spoke about the building of a church on the land that we bought in the center. This was the first plan. We were terribly cheated and opposed by the local officials. We received the official building "visa" in September 2001. But the local authorities managed to mislead us terribly. It became clear to us that we never would be able to build something worth the price in the center. We decided to find another piece of

land that we bought in May of last year. We asked some retired civil officers to help us with all the requests and they did well.

The city officials know about the present building, that there will be a kind of education center in the future. Therefore we have a very strict control on the safety of the building, which is done by "the building police of the City of Varna." Unto now everything went smoothly. We are dealing with a different quarter municipality in the large city of Varna. Our new building is being built in a park at the West Side of Varna.

We have the National approval to educate children, youth, and adults on how to live according to the Bible. That our UNION has been approved by the National Government is very special. We see it as (Boschidar) a miracle of God, because after we applied about 17 applicants have been turned down. When the building is ready, we are allowed to teach the Bible and to educate according to the Bible.

It is surely through mutual perseverance and the determination of Tezdjan that we are this far with the development of the building. She had to go to Varna several times per week to get the needed stamps and official approvals. Only for electricity she needed to get 14 stamps of approval. She made herself a good friend of the municipality architect, which has been a great help.

The building will be under the roof by the end of this month. Then comes the time that we have to complete it with plastering and finishing the floors, wet rooms, and electricity. Much still has to be done.

It will be a joyful event when we can dedicate this building to the Lord. Blessed are His faithfulness and His goodness.

## ANNUAL CONVENTION MISSION RALLY

The Annual Convention Missions Rally will be held on September 17 at 7:30 P.M. in College Hall. Please plan to attend and pray about the amount the Lord would have you, as an individual, or a church, to give.

This year we have a significant increase in our budget due to the need for additional personnel and expansion on all existing fields. The growth and financial stability of this ministry is directly related to your interest and faithful prayer and financial support.

Thank you in advance for your generous response. I hope all of you can attend the rally; but if you cannot, you can mail your special offering to Board of Foreign Missions, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. You will still receive credit for the Rally offering.

**REMEMBER:** You must earmark your check for Foreign Missions or place it in a special Foreign Missions envelope. These will be sent to every pastor and supplied at the Rally.

Harold Jones, *Director/Treasurer, Board of Foreign Missions*

# REJOICING IN THE DESERT

by Harold Jones



*Group picture taken at RDU*

The first team to Mexico this year was a group from the Holly Springs Church in Newport, NC. We departed from Raleigh-Durham Airport on Tuesday morning, May 27, at 6:25 A.M. and arrived in San Antonio, Texas, at 10:30 A.M. After renting the vans, we began our journey to Sabinas, Mexico, where we spent one night. (Of course, we had to get visas at the border and documents for the vans at the zone before entering.) We arrived in Sabinas at 9 P.M. IT WAS A LONG DAY!!

On Wednesday morning we traveled through Múzquiz, then down a long stretch of road that is sparsely populated until we came to the dirt road that leads to Camp Morelos. At this point, we were stopped by the Mexican military for questions about our purpose for entering this area and then we were free to go. We had an exciting ride to the camp. The camp is located 100 miles from Múzquiz. Camp Morelos does not offer luxurious accommodations, only the bare necessities—a place to sleep on the floor, no electricity, no showers, only cold water, a bucket and a cup for a bath, and a few out houses. But the scenery is simply beautiful, the air is pure, and the desert breezes are refreshing.

There were 18 in our group and about 35 Mexican teens and adults. The opening service was on Wednesday night. Juan Montoya, the pastor of the Aposento Alto (Upper Room) Free Will Baptist Church in Monclova was there to provide wonderful Mexican music with his guitar and accordion. He treated the group with "The Moses Song." This is a beautiful song with a Hebrew sound that tells the story of Moses leading the Children of Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land. Every team that visits loves this song. Ray Conner, pastor the Holly Springs Church, ministered the Word in the opening service, with Brother Lalo Martinez interpreting in Spanish.



*Brother Juan Montoya singing "The Moses Song."*

Brother Erasmo Rangel and others cooked our meals each day. They love to cook and provided authentic Mexican food for us to eat. Dishwashing was shared by different dishwashers after each meal. Brother Juan even tried his hand at this.

On Thursday morning after devotion and breakfast, we went mountain climbing. This is always an exhilarating experience. The mountain is difficult, but the reward is the view from the top. Thursday night we were blessed with another wonderful service. Mike Styron shared a message and testimony that touched all of us. The Lord is calling this young man and his family into mission's service.

Friday was filled with Bible studies in the morning for teens, adults, and the pastors. Everyone enjoyed

*(Continued on next page)*



*The Reverend Ray Conner preaching with Brother Lalo translating.*

the craft time that followed. The afternoon was devoted to games and fun time. Friday night we had the closing service with Lalo Martinez

sharing from the Word. There was special music by the Mexican youth and a skit by the drama team from Holly Springs.

We left the camp early Saturday morning with the joy of the Lord and thankfulness for His protection and care for us while in this remote place.



Finally at the top of the mountain.



Brother Juan Montoya trying his hand at dishwashing. (His wife, Ricardo is on the right).



The teens sharing through music.



Brother Mike Styron sharing his testimony.



Craft time was enjoyed by everyone.



The Holly Springs youth shared a drama.



The closing service on Friday night.



Lining up for that delicious Mexican food.



The afternoon was filled with games.



Dishwashing, a shared chore.



Brother Lalo preaching the closing service.

### ACT NOW!!

Now is the time to begin praying about Short-Term Team Ministry 2004! We need to hear from those who desire to join a team by September 15. Applications are processed as they are received. It is to your advantage to apply early. Below are the dates for 2004:

Philippines: April 17–May 1

Mexico: June 12–19; June 26–

July 3; July 10–17; August 7–15

**Dates for Spring Break and additional teams will be announced at a later date. Contact the Board of Foreign Missions at (252) 746-4963 for information and to reserve your place on the Team. Don't miss out on a cross-cultural experience that will change your life!**



# CHILDREN'S HOME



# CRAGMONT

## YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Since 1920, the Children's Home has been a ministry to over 1700 children and families. During those years the needs of the children and families we serve has changed. The Home has changed to better accommodate the needs of these children. However, one thing that remains the same is our determination to help restore the children's faith in themselves, God, and his or her world. This is our purpose, as well as providing food, shelter, and clothing. As generous Original Free Will Baptist supporters, you are an important part of this ministry. How long has it been since you visited the Home? We have events throughout the year usually scheduled for weekends at the Home where you can come and tour the campus, as well as interact with the residents and staff. You are always welcome here. However, we do ask that you give us a call to schedule a visit so we can arrange to have staff available to show you around, and avoid scheduling conflicts. Following are a few of our most recent visitors.

**June 14:** Two groups from Cornerstone Community Church, Rocky Mount, NC, visited the Home. They were the Bikers for Christ and the Conspiracy of Kindness. They provided a most enjoyable day of games, food, gifts, music, motorcycle rides, and fun for the children.

**June 19:** A group from Memorial Church, Chocowinity, NC, came to the campus for a tour. The group included the pastor, Owen Arthur, Jr.; Richard Potter, their Director of Bible School; and teachers, helpers, and children that had attended VBS. Upon completion of their tour, they presented the Home with a check.

**June 26:** A group from Warden's Grove Church, Lowlands, NC, stopped by the Home for a campus visit. The group consisted of the Rev. Frances Garner; his wife, Lorraine; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Satter; their children; and other members of the Warden's Grove congregation and community. Mr. Garner served on the Board of Directors of the Home from 1986 until 1994. He and Lorraine also served at the Home in the 1970s as houseparents and maintenance personnel. After a campus tour and a time of reminiscing, the group presented the Home with a check.

Our worship center, Memorial Chapel, was built in 1952, with the beautiful steeple being added in 1977. Over the years, there have been many commitments made to God in this house of worship. With your help, we have maintained the church and surrounding buildings on campus so that they have remained a visual testament to the dedication of Original Free Will Baptists. However, we now see the need to re-shingle the church roof, the roof of one of the campus staff houses, and repair some water damage at the church. We estimate that the cost of this maintenance project will be in excess of ten thousand dollars.

Please pray that God will provide the increase so that we can make these necessary repairs as we continue His ministry for His children.

If you have questions about this project, please feel free to contact us.

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!  
FRIENDS OF  
CHILDREN'S DAY  
NOVEMBER 22, 2003**

## NEHEMIAH RETREAT OCTOBER 17-19, 2003

You are invited to attend a retreat on discipleship featuring as our guest speaker, the Rev. Ray Wells, pastor of Marsh Swamp Church. Mr. Wells will be speaking Friday and Saturday evenings, and Sunday morning with special music at each service. Saturday during the day you will be free to roam around the mountains enjoying the beautiful fall color. However, we want to stress that this is a retreat that is being designed to benefit your Christian life, so we want you present in each service.

The cost of the retreat is as follows: If staying in the Main Building or Motel, the cost will be \$55 per person. If staying in one of the dorms, the cost will be \$42 per person. This price includes two nights lodging (Friday and Saturday) and two evening meals (Friday and Saturday) and two breakfast meals (Saturday and Sunday). Cragmont Club members may use their three free nights (coming in on Thursday if you wish).

To register, return this form along with a non-refundable deposit of \$15 (deposit can be applied to total bill) per person to Cragmont: "Nehemiah Retreat," 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711 or call (828) 669-7677 and register with your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express card.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

# OPPORTUNITIES AT CRAGMONT

## The Cragmont Golf Tournament,

August 7-8, 2003.

Register by calling Dana or Brian Batchelor at (252) 291-4497 or Rick Watson at (919) 284-5355 (H) or (919) 284-7004 (W). You may also register online at <www.cragmontgolf.org>.

## Vision Walk 2003 Saturday,

September 13, 2003.

It's time to register for Cragmont's Vision Walk 2003! Our first walk-a-thon was a great success. But we're looking to New Heights for 2003! In 2002 we had 242 participants who raised over \$18,000. This year we want over 300 young people to exceed \$25,000! Anyone can participate! To register, contact Bryant Hines at 203 Teachey Court, New Bern, NC 28562 or call Bryant at (252) 637-7171.

## Festival of Gospel Music, October 19-22, 2003. Package price of \$225.

Enjoy the beauty and splendor of fall in the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee along with the best in Southern Gospel music from Dollywood.

Groups scheduled to perform include The Kingdom Heirs, The Crabb Family, The Isaacs, The Lewis Family, and The Talley Trio. To register, send your name and address and a non-refundable deposit of \$100 to Cragmont Assembly, 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711 or contact us by phone (828) 669-7677. You may also pay with Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover cards. Checks should be made payable to Cragmont.

## A Cragmont Christmas, December 4-7, 2003. Package Prices of \$225.

This package includes three nights in the main building or motel, three breakfasts and the evening meal on night of arrival, transportation and admission to area Christmas entertainment, group meal on each day of local touring, and entertainment at Cragmont. To register, send your name and address and a non-refundable deposit of \$100 to Cragmont Assembly, 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711 or contact us by phone (828) 669-7677. You may also pay with Visa, MasterCard, American Express,

and Discover cards. Checks should be made payable to Cragmont.

## Ski Retreat Dates Available For Your Church 2004.

Let us help you with your ski retreat. Stay at Cragmont and ski at Wolf Laurel for a package price of \$100 per person. The package will include one ski session, two nights lodging in the main building, two breakfasts, one evening meal, and a Sunday morning devotion. Wolf Laurel is boasting all new ski equipment and a new lodge. Contact Bryant Hines at (252) 637-7171 to reserve your weekend. If you prefer other ski resorts, different accommodations (ex: dorm), more or less meals, arrangements and prices are negotiable.

January 2-4, January 9-11, January 30-February 1, February 6-8, February 13-15, February 20-22, February 27-29, March 5-7, March 12-14.

## Spring Retreat Dates Available For Your Church 2004.

March 5-7, March 12-14, March 19-21, April 2-4, April 23-25, May 14-16, May 21-23.

## CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCE



As the long days of summer invite us to vacation trips, the Cragmont Woman's Conference on June 2-7, 2003, challenged us to produce fruit for our Lord. Sheryll Wood, our Bible teacher, shared a series of messages on the theme, "Bearing Fruit in Season," based on Galatians 5:22-23 and Psalm 1:3a. One of her most important points was that in each stage of our lives we are preparing for another level of living in God's plan. This preparation involves developing the "fruit of the Spirit."

Phyllis Langley started our days with delectable morning devotions. Our fruit basket of musical abilities was blended into a tasty mixture by Jackie Flowers, music director; and Nina Grace Register, pianist. Each evening we discovered some new views on some old fruits as we discussed Jesus' teachings on the Sabbath and His view on the value of women.

Fruit of a different taste was offered by Teresa Ball and May Pittman (registrar and director of the conference) in a train ride followed by dinner at the Jarrett House for the week's "Big Trip."

From the creative program booklet's cover to the inspiring message Friday night by the Rev. Harold Jones, director of Foreign Missions, it was a week filled with the flavors of God's Word.





## ANNOUNCING THE EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONFERENCE

RIVERFRONT CONVENTION CENTER, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15—SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2003

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2003

12:30 P.M.—8:00 P.M. (Includes 3 Workshop Sessions and Dinner)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2003

7:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M. (Includes 5 Workshop Sessions and Lunch)

Registration fees are nominal and meals are included if you are pre-registered by August 9, 2003.

There will be 65 workshops available. They are listed below and categorized.

### Preschool

Teaching Preschoolers with Bible Learning Activities—Ron Richardson

Nurseries in Churches—Kaye Edwards

Why Develop a Nursery Procedures Manual—Terry Noble

Picture This!—Beverly Wiezorek

### Children

How Not to Bog the Cogs (Creative Learning)—Ron Hunter

Children Dealing With Grief—Kaye Edwards

Children: Worship and Wonder—Karen Snyder

Equipping Children With Bible Skills—Ron Richardson

Child Abuse—Lynn Panell

Children in Adult Worship—Kaye Edwards

Rotation: Model Learning Centers—Kay Edwards

11 Things You Gotta Know About Teaching Elementary—John McMurphy

The Art of Storytelling—Brenda Best

### Youth

11 Things You Gotta Know About Teaching Preteens—John McMurphy

Hearts, Brains, and Growing Pains—John McMurphy

Utilizing Teens in Ministry—Dick Noble

Ministering to Teens—Kitty Barnes

### Adults

11 Things You Gotta Know About Teaching Adults—John McMurphy

Adult Teaching Methods—Dick Van Cleave

Shake, Rattle, and Roll Your Sunday School—Brenda Best

Reaching Young Adults—Clancy Hayes

### Seniors

Reaching and Teaching the 40+ Crowd—Clancy Hayes

Seniors, "Passing the Torch"—Joyce Carlisle

### Administration

Stirring the Ashes—Wes Bartel

Purpose Driven Sunday School—John McMurphy

Counting More Than Nickels and Noses—Ron Hunter

Making Your Sunday School an Effective Discipleship Tool—Wes Bartel

Building Teams—Dick Van Cleave

### Teaching Strategies

The ABCs of Classroom Management—Clancy Hayes

Understanding How God Wired Your Students—Larry Jaffrey

How to Have an Effective Children's Church—Dick Noble

Another Way to Teach God's Word, Ventriloquism/Puppetry—Judy Smith

### Pastors & Leadership

Building a Small Group Ministry—Dick Van Cleave

Examination and Navigation—Ron Hunter

Points to Consider When Buying Insurance—Mike Bremer

The Purpose Driven Church and Sunday School Ministry—Wes Bartel

Finding Them and Keeping Them, Assimilation—Wes Bartel

We Build People—Wes Bartel

Applying Customer Service Principles in the Church—Dick Van Cleave

Avoiding Common Legal Pitfalls, Overview of Good Legal Management—Randall Rogers

Financial Matters, Overview of Basic Stewardship Concerns—Randall Rogers

10 Secrets for Successful Sunday Schools—Clancy Hayes

Leadership, How to Delegate—Dick Noble

What's Driving Your Church?—Mike Stewart

(Continued on next page)

**General Information**

Which Translation Is Best?—John Roller  
Major World Religions—John Roller  
Between the Testaments—John Roller  
Jewish Holidays—John Roller  
Biblical Stewardship—John Roller  
Money Management—Linda Weathersby  
Time Management—Michelle Jackson  
A Crash Course on Jesus in the Old Testament—  
Larry Jaffrey  
Christ in the Passover—Larry Jaffrey  
Looking at the Gospel Through Jewish Eyes—Larry Jaffrey  
Spiritual Formation—Tyanna Day  
Our Legal Rights—Michael J. DePrimo, American Family  
Association Center for Law and Policy

**Women**

Building Women’s Ministry—Michelle Jackson  
Women in Exile—Terry Noble

**Music**

The Ebb and Flow of the Worship Service—  
Christine Rogers  
Me? Use Music in My Class?—Christine Rogers

**Family & Marriage**

Making Marriage Great—Clancy Hayes  
Preparing People to Be Parents—Clancy Hayes

There will be many vendors from such places as Cook Com-  
munications, Gospel Light, Group, Randall House, Church  
Mutual, American Family Association Center for Law and  
Policy, Picture This! Judy Smith, Venture Bookstore, Middle  
East Ministries, MACEA, Coastal MACEA, Shepherd’s  
Shoppe, Mount Olive College, and many others. We do  
invite you who are interested in your church, Sunday  
School, and youth programs to come, listen, and learn.

**Special Speakers include:**

Dr. David Salmons, Pastor of the New Bern Church of  
God—Friday Night  
The Rev. H. C. Hardesty, Pastor of the Crystal Coast As-  
sembly of God—Saturday morning

**Special Music will be rendered by:**

Four in Christ—Friday night  
Brothers in Christ—Saturday morning

The registration information follows:

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Church Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

However, if you are not pre-registered by Saturday,  
August 9, 2003,  
you will be responsible for your own meals.

CEU Credit will be granted to Day Care workers.  
Certificates will be available for \$1 each.

Exhibits will be open: Friday: 12:30 P.M.–8:00 P.M.;  
Saturday, 7:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

For further information complete the form  
and return to:

Mrs. Mary Dudley, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513,  
(252) 746-4963, <director@ofwsundayschool.org>

or

Mrs. Angel Lorton, 105 Ann Court, New Bern, NC  
28560, (252) 637-7967, <aandj@cconnect.net>

\*\*\*\*\*

If you wish to record any of the sessions, please feel  
free to bring your own tape recorder.

65 Workshops, Exhibits, Good Food,  
Great Fellowship, Much Learning!

*For your comfort,*  
*you might want to bring a jacket or sweater!*

Registration Fee: Friday, August 15, 2003—\$20;  
Saturday, August 16, 2003—\$25; (Both days—\$40)

Please mail registrations by August 9, 2003. Walk-ins  
are more than welcome.

Meals are included in the registration fee.

# LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

## SCENES FROM THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE LAYMAN'S LEAGUE MEETING AT LITTLE CREEK CHURCH



## SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT AT CAMP VANDEMERE



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 14 Executive Board Meeting  
Snow Hill, VFW Building, 7:00 P.M.
- Sept. 8 Central Conference  
Layman's League  
King's Cross Roads Church  
Meal 6:30 P.M. Business 7:30 P.M.
- Sept. 11 Executive Board Meeting  
Snow Hill, VFW Building, 7:00 P.M.
- Sept. 13 Vision Walk  
Mount Olive College  
Layman to cook supper.

### DON'T FORGET!

The Layman's League is building the Cragmont Trading Post Building #8 at Cragmont. Please send donations to Cragmont Assembly. If you would like to help build this building, contact Elmer Harrell at (252) 747-2894.

# CAMP VANDEMERE

## CAMP VANDEMERE

"It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth" (Lamentations 3:27). While we are able we should work for the Lord. There are many ways of work: prayer, finances, or labor. While we are here on earth we should be doing something to uplift the name of Jesus.

## BATHHOUSE

Praise the Lord our bathhouse, and full RV hook-up is complete and being put to use. Camp Vandemere would like to thank everyone who had a hand in helping complete the bathhouse. Your time and hard work has surely paid off.

## SINGING' BY THE RIVER

Singin' By the River 2003 will begin on Friday, August 22, with preaching and wonderful gospel music and will continue until Saturday, August 23. Please mark your calendars. Don't forget to call ahead and make your reservations to stay Friday, August 22.

Fun activities all day: swimming, basketball, volleyball, yard sale, homemade cake auction, and wonderful gospel music.

Great food: hamburgers, hotdogs, fish plates, homemade lemonade, sweet ice tea, and homemade sweet goodies.

## NEW STORAGE BUILDING

Macedonia Church has raised \$2,217 to build a new storage/workshop building. They also have church members who are willing to donate their time to help build the shop. In order to complete the task we are in need of more finances. This work/storage building will be large enough for storing the Camp's equipment and to be used for closed in work space. Please pray for the Camp as we pursue this project. If you feel that your church or group can help with this project financially or by donating labor, please contact the manager, Wesley Taylor: (252) 745-3171 (Camp), 634-1287 (Pager) or 514-3222 (Cell).

## PRICE LIST

- RV hook-ups (water and electricity) \$10 per night up to 2 people
- Each extra person \$2 per night
- RV hook-ups, (water, electricity, sewer) \$14 per night up to 2 people
- Each extra person \$2 per night
- Leaving RV unattended (water and electricity only) \$2 per day
- Tent sites \$10 per tent per night
- Dorms \$10 per person per night
- Family Lodges (sleeps 6 per lodge) \$35 per night
- Kitchen \$25
- Camp Grounds \$50
- Pool \$5 per day per person
- Meals \$4 (Breakfast)
- \$5 (Lunch)
- \$6 (Dinner)

For more information and to check availability, please visit our website at: [www.campvandemere.org](http://www.campvandemere.org).

## SEVENTH ANNUAL

### "Singing By the River"

Friday, August 22, 2003, 7:00 P.M.

Saturday, August 23, 2003

9:30 A.M.—Until

Featuring

Friday, 7 P.M.

"Called Out" and "The Marlboro Boys"

Saturday, 10 A.M.

"The Malpass Family," "Covenant"

"The Four in Christ," "Second Edition"

**UNDER THE BIG TENT—RAIN OR SHINE!**

**Bring a Friend! Everyone Is Welcome!**

**Old Fashioned Gospel Singin'**

**Food, Fun, and Fellowship, All Day Yard Sale!**

**Children's Activities: swimming, volleyball, games**

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**Camp Vandemere**  
**215 Third Street**  
**Vandemere, NC 28587**

From New Bern/Bridgeton Area, take Hwy. 55 east to Bayboro; then Hwy. 304 to Hwy. 307 to Vandemere.

## VBS: FUN FOR ALL AGES AT POWHATAN



*Beginner Class at VBS commencement: Melissa Bass, Mari Cox, Jessica Daughtry, and Shane Hardy.*

Adults and youth alike enjoyed learning about "Treasures of the Nile" in June at Powhatan's Vacation Bible School. We had between 60 and 80 each night and enjoyed great meals and fellowship before each evening's program. Some of our visitors returned for our Sunday School and Worship service on Sunday, and we welcome all to come and be a part of our church family. A special thanks to Ann Narron, Cathy Lee, all teachers and helpers, the kitchen crew, and to the youth group leaders and members who built and painted the set and performed puppet skits all week.

Saturday evening, May 31, was "Youth Night" at the Selma Gospel Music Center. Several talented young people between ages 4 and 14 performed, sharing the Gospel message through song. Our church had several young people singing. Dylan James and Mari Cox performed a duet, and Dylan sang two solos. Kenly Church's puppet team "KFC" (Kids for Christ) performed several skits, giving lots of laughs but teaching moral lessons as well. One of the members

acted as Emcee and performed a trumpet solo. This was the first Youth Night but more are planned for future 4th Saturday nights. Due to conflicts, the next Youth Night will not take place until November 29. Admission is free, and an offering is collected during the evening. Saturday's offering went to the building-support fund, but on the first, third, and fifth evenings when regular Gospel groups perform, the offering is usually split between the groups performing. Any young person interested in performing can contact Charles Summerlin at (919) 553-4299 for information about getting on the schedule.

Johnston County Relay for Life was held June 6-7. Sandra Peedin and Cathy Lee headed up the team from our church with the theme "Cancer Freedom" using red, white, and blue colors. Hotdogs were sold to raise additional money. Thanks to all who helped out and the old and young alike who came out and worked during the evening. The county event raised over \$320,000 for cancer research.

Members also supported the King's

Dominion Day for Original Free Will Baptists on June 6-7. Martha Parsons and Scott Lane (State Youth Director and Assistant) went up on Friday along with Rita Jones (Cape Fear Youth Director) to be sure all was ready to start early Saturday morning with ticket sales. The weather seemed dreary with a misty rain most of the day, but it made for no lines or heavy crowds. Those who participated enjoyed the day of fun and fellowship.

The Praise and Worship Team from Wilson's Mills Baptist Church visited our church on Sunday evening, June 8, and conducted services. Their inspirational program of song was enjoyed and we thank them for coming. Remaining funds were paid and eleven from Powhatan are taking part in the third mission trip planned by the State Youth Convention. We had campers to attend the General Camp Week at Cragmont June 9-14 and YFA Week June 23-28. Thank you to the church family for making funds available for these Christian experiences for our young people.

On Friday, June 27, a Youth Leaders' meeting was held at Smithfield First Church for the Cape Fear District. Notable changes voted on by the group include the Arts and Crafts category entries will be registered by the October rally and scored on November 1. The Western and Cape Fear Districts will work together to have judges from each other's districts at future events. Information will be sent out as rules are reviewed and minutes prepared from the meeting for those not able to attend. All churches were encouraged to support the August Fun Day at the Children's Home.

Youth Revival was held on Saturday, June 28, with Jonathon Pearce of Smyrna as the speaker. He used the subject of David facing Goliath, telling us the importance of having God on our side to make the impossible, possible. Some of the Smyrna Youth

*(Continued on next page)*

# EVERETT CHAPEL CHURCH TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS SEPTEMBER 2003

provided some wonderful special music with a final solo by Amber Wood, AFC State winner. Youth conducted services on June 29 for Youth Sunday with Eric Narron of Branch Chapel bringing a message for the morning worship hour. He warned us to be careful of the "I" disease that can move our focus off God and on to ourselves. For the Youth Member of the Year, there was a tie and so two young ladies were honored for their work over the past few years: Kristen Davis and Cynthia Narron (YFA). Both young ladies sing in the youth choir, participate in spring competitions, have been on State Championship Bible Bowl teams, and volunteer in the nursery. We thank them for their examples of spiritual leadership for our AFCS and Cherubs.



Some of the teenage performers at the Selma Gospel Music Center.



Dylan James at the Selma Gospel Music Center.

Everett Chapel is located at 307 Everett Avenue in Clayton, NC and we are planning a "BIG CELEBRATION."

During the month of September there will be services each Wednesday night by different ministers. The first three weeks the speakers will be ministers who went into the ministry from Everett Chapel and the fourth Wednesday night by a former pastor, the Reverend Dr. Billy R. Yawn.

The ministers for each Sunday morning in September are Dr. Yawn on September 7; the Rev. Al Markuson on September 14; the Rev. Fred Johnson on September 21; and the Rev. Harold Jones on September 28 (which will be Homecoming Day). The pastor, the Rev. Lloyd Hargis will conduct services each Sunday night.

Following is the schedule of revival speakers: The Rev. Braxton Carter on September 22; the Rev. Curtis Jones on September 23; Dr. Billy Yawn on September 24; the Rev. Charlie Petit on September 25; and the Rev. Fred Baker on September 26. The revival will be under a tent in the grove adjacent to the church. There will be social activities in the afternoons of September 13 and 20 at the Recreation field.

Everett Chapel has had twenty pastors during its 100 years. Dr. Yawn served the longest—28 1/2 years. Mr. Hargis is the only pastor to serve two different periods of time. He served 7 years and returned in 2000. He is our present pastor.

The church has 313 active members.

The church building went through extensive renovations and additions in 1997, and today is debt free.

The church has been blessed over the years. First, by having such a dedicated man of God as its founder, the Rev. W. B. Everett; second, by having good people who kept the church going during its early years, and third and most important, by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Everett Chapel extends an invitation to all who will come and worship with us at any time, especially during September 2003.

## HOPEWELL AUXILIARY "VISITS" MEXICO WITH STUDY COURSE

by June Wallace, Study Course Chairman



The Reverend and Mrs. Harold Jones (in background) and others at Mexican dinner.

Hopewell Woman's Auxiliary of Smithfield, NC, recently sponsored another missions study course that

combined a presentation by the Rev. Harold Jones with a dinner featuring foods that would be typical of one of our fields of service. This year's theme was Mexico.

The tables were decorated with small, colorful sombreros and red, white, and green streamers. Before dinner, Sandra Jones set up a display table of beautiful and interesting items she had collected on her trips to Mexico. Everyone enjoyed seeing the display and hearing anecdotes about where she had found the objects. The menu included Carne Adovada (a spicy beef

*(Continued on next page)*

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HELD AT REEDY BRANCH CHURCH

by Marci Rollins, Youth Director

stew), Arroz Mexicana (rice with tomatoes, onion, and green chiles), Frijoles (pinto beans with garlic and onions), and Guacamole and Tortillas. For dessert, we had Mexican Chocolate (hot cocoa with cinnamon, whipped into a foam) and Bischochitas (cookies flavored with anise). Probably because these foods were more familiar to our group than some of the items we served when we focused on India and the Philippines, this meal was heartily enjoyed!

Following the meal, Mr. Jones set up a projector and shared with us some slides from his most recent trips. We were so pleased to see the progress made on church buildings throughout our missions program. Mr. Jones told us stories about some of the people whose lives were being touched by the financial gifts of Free Will Baptists. We can't all go to the mission fields, but our concern for the needs of people there can be expressed through our giving.

We had about 45 people at the study course and were able to collect \$600 in a free will offering, which we presented to Mr. Jones. It was an evening that combined fun with a very worthwhile service project. This has been a successful way for our group to learn more about the countries we serve and to raise money for missions. Stay tuned: this coming year, we plan to use Bulgaria as our theme!

Sandra has said that she has had inquiries about our study course menus. I have given her recipes for the Mexican meal, and I plan to get the recipes together for the Indian and Philippine dinners as well. If your group is interested, you can contact Sandra for this information.



Church members of all ages attended the study course on Missions and enjoyed the Mexican meal.

What do cows, pigs, sheep, and chickens, strawberries, apples, grapes, watermelons, and peaches, have to do with teaching children and youth about God? A LOT as was evidenced at Reedy Branch Church's recent Vacation Bible School.

Each night around 50 students and 40 adults were present as lessons on love, patience, peace, kindness, and joy were taught through Bible lessons, crafts, snacks, and songs about fruit and farming. With a theme verse of Galatians 5:22-23, everyone learned how acts of love, patience, kindness, and joy may start out small, but if nourished by reading the Bible, praying, and attending church can grow into big "fruits" that can impact others around us.

Each night was closed by a puppet show of the Gardner family teaching cousin Zeke (a city boy) what farm life is all about. Cousin Annie thought Zeke was going to be the only one learning something during the week, but after accidentally cutting her prize-winning pig tails, dropping her prize-winning watermelon, and shaving her prize-winning lamb too closely, she learned that patience was a necessity in life. She also experienced the kindness and love of others when they credited her as the reason for their prizes at the county fair, and, oh, what joy she found in helping others!

And how can one forget the surprise appearance of mascot Henrietta! Church comic Cindy Evans appeared each night as Henrietta the Chicken to help the children learn the motions to the songs and to bring joy to each face.

The children also learned the need to "lend a helping hand" to others as they brought in paper supplies for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, and raised \$556 for a scholarship fund at Mount Olive College. This was done in the form of a competition between boys and girls (the boys won!) with the winning team having the chance to soak the Vacation Bible School directors Nancy Lawhorn and Kelley Smart, and

Youth Director, Marci Rollins, with water guns on the closing night.

Overall the week was a wonderful success and the children left with knowledge of how they can "grow good fruit!" (The fruits of the Spirit, that is).



The children presented a program of music and puppets for the Sunday morning worship following VBS.



Several children helped the group each night in learning the memory verse.



Teacher Pam Ward decorated her room as a garden and taught her students while scated on a haystack.



The boys enjoyed shooting water at Nancy Lawhorn, VBS Director; Marci Rollins, Youth Director; and Kelley Smart, VBS Assistant Director.

# TREASURES OF THE NILE

by Betty Rollins

What a wonderful time we had on our visits up the Nile! Beginning Sunday evening, June 1, Walnut Creek Church began their Vacation Bible School trips on the Nile. Our "trips" were scheduled for five days beginning at 6:30 P.M. and lasting until 8:30 P.M. We were privileged to have an average of 55 per evening for this expedition, one of the largest groups that our church has ever had. Praise God!

Preparations had begun several months prior when our leader, Christel Perry, assembled her marvelous team of teachers and assistants to plan this adventure. Teachers were: Becky Strickland, preschool; Faye Radford, kindergarten; Wanda Thompson, middler; Tanya Grady, middle/teen; and Louise Coker, adults. Other assistants were: Debbie Herring and daughter, Katie, and Jack Howell, arts and crafts teachers; Janet and Jeff Lane, music teachers; and Faye Bartlett, refreshments. All these combined efforts brought off a wonderful week of learning, activities, and fellowship.

Each evening began with a short assembly where entertainment was provided by the fun-loving characters, Niles the alligator and Humphrey, the camel. They introduced us to the topic for the day. These wonderful puppets brought great delight to the audience both young and old. We studied the lives of Joseph and Moses and how they responded to God's calls to service. This made us aware of our Christian commitments to be responsive to God's call to us and to service for Him. The evening's activities were divided into segments for lessons, crafts, and singing followed by refreshments and fellowship afterwards.

On Sunday, June 8, our morning worship service honored our Bible School expedition to Jesus. Our service showed praise to God for His love and direction. After a welcome by Christel Perry, we sang our theme song *Treasures of the Nile* followed by pledges to the American flag, the Christian flag, and the Bible. The puppet skit featuring Niles and Humphrey (played by Becky

Strickland and Matt McLamb) brought us an "electrifying reminder" of what our destiny in life should be and in Whom we should place our trust.

Our preschoolers and kindergartners made us aware of our goals with their animated songs of *God Sees* and *I Trust God*. Then the middler and middle/teen classes reinforced our goals when they sang *Lead Me In Your Truth, O Lord* and *Lead the Way*. The adult class told of the rewards of following Jesus with the songs *Riches in Jesus* and *We're Free Now*. After the presentation of certificates and recognition of our supporters, we closed our portion of the service with *Lord, We Praise You*.

The congregation was invited after services to visit in the fellowship building to see the results of a rewarding week. Certainly, our journey down the Nile was a most inspirational experience, and we trust the seed planted on this expedition will flourish and mature to glorify Jesus and result in a re-dedication to take advantage of every opportunity to further the Kingdom of our Lord.



Walnut Creek Church, LaGrange, NC, Vacation Bible School 2003.



Walnut Creek Church, LaGrange, NC, Vacation Bible School 2003.

# RETIREMENT

by Kathy Hayes



The Rev. and Mrs. Earl Glenn

The Rev. Earl H. Glenn and Mrs. Marie Gilbert Glenn were honored at a retirement banquet Saturday, May 24, 2003, in the Family Life Center of Daniels Chapel Church, Wilson, NC. More than 250 people attended to honor the Glenns for their 56 years of service in the ministry. Special guests included their daughters, Linda Murray and Jan Benton; their son-in-law, Colby Benton; and their two grandsons, Mark and Matthew Benton.

Highlights of the evening included a presentation of the Key to the City by Wilson Mayor, Bruce Rose and a plaque of appreciation by Convention President, the Rev. Fred Baker. In addition, the Rev. Johnny Sullivan and Maggie Campbell shared highlights of the honorees' lives and ministry. Hattie Mae Everton and Suzette Pittman added some fond memories from the members of Daniels Chapel.

Special music selected by Mr. and Mrs. Glenn was presented by the Daniels Chapel Choir and the New Life Singers.

The couple has ministered at Daniels Chapel for 21 years. Prior to that, they served Tippett's Chapel in Smithfield, First Church in Smithfield, First Church in Wilson, St. Mary's Church in New Bern, First Church in Goldsboro, and LaGrange Church. Mr. Glenn held numerous offices in the denomination during his tenure, and he and Mrs. Glenn are honored on the denomination's Wall of Honor. In addition, the Daniels Chapel congregation named the church parlor the Glenn Parlor, in appreciation for their years of service to the church.

Mr. Glenn completed his final sermon as pastor of Daniels Chapel on June 1, 2003. The Glenns now reside in their home in Goldsboro, NC.



# MEMORIAL CHURCH CELEBRATES WITH THE REVEREND OWEN K. ARTHUR

by Ann Marie Crisp



The Rev. Owen Arthur (front center) is joined by his family for a special Sunday service held in his honor.

The Rev. Owen K. Arthur, pastor of Memorial Church in Chocowinity, NC, retired from BHS in New Bern on May 1, with 38 years of service.

To celebrate this milestone, members of his church surprised him recently with a special Sunday service in his honor. The Rev. Jesse Crisp delivered a wonderful sermon entitled "When God Looks for a Partner." At the end of the worship hour, Ricky Hodges presented Mr. Arthur with a beautiful engraved plaque along with a certificate. Ricky then presented Sister Pat Arthur with a humorous gift bag, which included a note pad and pen for a "honey-do" list. Warm remarks were made by Richard Potter. Following an expression of appreciation by Mr. Arthur, lunch which had been prepared by a local restaurant, was served in the fellowship hall. Several other members of the Arthur family joined the congregation for worship services and lunch, including the Arthur's children, grandchildren, and in-laws. The best part of the day was knowing that he was genuinely surprised.

Mr. Arthur has enrolled in a computer class at Craven Community College and a Bible Chronology class at Carolina Bible Institute, and is looking forward to being even more available to his church family.

## CAPE FEAR UNION MEETING

The Cape Fear Union Meeting will be Sunday, August 17, 2003, 6 P.M. at Lee's Chapel Church, located 6 miles from Dunn on Hwy. 421 South. This will be the Union's annual Revival. Please make plans to attend and bring your donation for the Union.

# TRUTH THE REAL UNDERSTANDING TO HOPE

by Wilma Parker

During the month of June, over 500 Lenoir county residents "turned the tassel" at their respective high school graduations. Few of them realized that they were part of a vision that God had given to one young lady at the beginning of the school year.

During the summer of 2002, a seed was planted in the heart of Miss Amy Daughtry, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Jeff Daughtry of LaGrange. A senior, God opened Amy's heart to the spiritual needs of her fellow graduates-to-be. Even though many churches present their graduates with Bibles, what about those who are un-churched? Didn't they deserve God's Word also? Amy thought so. During a business meeting at her church, Westside Church in Kinston, Amy presented a plan to get the Word out. Called TRUTH (The Real Understanding To Hope), the project would "put God's Word in every Lenoir County high school graduate's hand on graduation day." And so it began.

With the support of the North Lenoir FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes), and FOCUS (an after-school Christian club), Amy and her family and friends began a letter-writing campaign to all Lenoir County churches asking for donations to the project. Normally a quiet, reserved person, Amy was given a voice to speak on behalf of the project. Over \$5,000 would have to be raised, and this would have to come from a county hit hard by unemployment and the West Company tragedy. But as usual, when God gives a vision, He supplies whatever is necessary to see that vision become reality.

Soon letters started coming back with checks, support, and praise for the work that was being done. Christians from all races, ages, and denominations across the county came together to see that the Word of God would be spread to those who were about to take their next big step in life.

Wanting to be good stewards of the money that had been donated, Bibles were ordered from a supplier at a low cost per Bible and current issues of *Campus Life* magazine were ordered. Letters were written explaining to the recipients what they were getting and why. Bookmarks were made congratulating the Class of 2003. Everything was in order and ready to be packaged.

On Wednesday, May 28, several young people and a few adults came together at Kinston High School cafeteria. Many churches and schools from around Lenoir County were represented: Westside Church, First Pentecostal Holiness of Kinston, Tanglewood Church of God, North Lenoir High School, South Lenoir High School, Parrott Academy, Kinston High School, and several others. Within a couple of hours the Bibles, magazines, letters, bookmarks, and candies were packed in bags, stacked in boxes and ready to be given out to the graduates during Baccalaureate ceremonies or at their graduation rehearsals over the next few days.

(Continued on next page)

The response from the graduates was generally favorable. Some were surprised, a few refused the gift, and others accepted it as just one more thing to keep up with. What will happen to the 500+ Bibles that were given out? It may be years before we know the results, but God already knows. Isaiah 55:10–11 says, "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not

return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (NIV).

The seed has been sown. It will yield a harvest. It's up to us as Christians to water and nurture those young "plants" and at the proper time, bring the harvest in.

Will God continue this vision for the 2004 graduating class? He will, if someone will keep his or heart open to God's plans. Could it be you? Could your county be next?

Thanks to the individuals, groups, and churches who donated funds for

the project. Thanks to Amy's family and friends for their work and support of this project. Thanks to the principals at the different schools for allowing and supporting the project to be carried out. Thanks to the students and adults who helped get the bags ready for delivery. Thank You, God, for the work You have begun and will see finished. And thank you, Amy, for the example you have set for others, your willingness to work, your desire to share, and your determination to finish what you started. May you be a shining light to others.

## DEANYE OGLESBY MORRIS

This is a celebration of the life of Deanye Oglesby Morris who was born on February 9, 1907, and went to her eternal reward on May 6, 2003. She was preceded in death by her husband, D. Bagley Morris, and her son, Donovan B. Morris, Jr. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Donna and George Rand Holland; three grandchildren, Paula, Jeff, and Misty; three great-grandchildren (Austin and Cassidy, she loved to see you come into her room); and three great-great-grandchildren.

After reflecting over her life, I discovered that two words describe Miss Deanye. They are "youth" and "missions." Focus on the interaction of these two words and you have the Christian mission of Deanye Morris.

Miss Deanye was born and raised in Bridgeton, NC, the daughter of John and Minnie Oglesby. At the age of eighteen, she was asked by her pastor, the Rev. J. C. Griffin, to go to the Free Will Baptist Orphanage in Middlesex. From September 1925, until December 1934, she taught school at the Orphanage and also instructed the children in playing the piano. She even cut the girls' hair.

During the summers, Miss Deanye took the "Concert Class," a group of the children who sang in churches and received offerings for the financial support of the Orphanage, to churches in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama. She had many stories to tell about her trips with the "Concert Class." Think back to the mid-1920s, about the automobiles and roads that were available. She told of the time when the children crossed on a one-vehicle ferry with their car pulling a trailer with their luggage and supplies.

Miss Deanye made many friends while traveling to the churches. But it was on a trip to Union Grove Church in Wayne County where she made a very lasting friendship. She met Bagley Morris while staying in his family's home. He woke her the next morning at 4 A.M. to tell her that he was glad she stayed in his home for the night and that he had to leave for work. She left the Orphanage after nine years in December 1934, to marry Bagley and move to Pinkney.

Miss Deanye joined Union Grove Church and immediately went to work. She was active in the Ladies' Aid Society, now the Woman's Auxiliary, holding offices in her local auxiliary, the Western Conference Woman's Auxiliary, and the North Carolina State Woman's Auxiliary Convention. She served more than ten years as the Mission Chair in Union Grove's Woman's Auxiliary.

In 1935, she organized the League at Union Grove, which taught the Bible and Church doctrine, especially to young people.

She soon realized the Church needed a youth program and organized the Union Grove Youth Auxiliary. This is the first known youth auxiliary for Free Will Baptists in North Carolina. There was no literature or program book, so she used Woman's Auxiliary literature and adapted it for young people. It was during this time that the young people bought the first organ for the church.

In 1939, she organized the first Vacation Bible School at Union Grove. Children came from the entire community to Union Grove since there were no other Vacation Bible Schools nearby. She also started the first Bus Ministry at Union Grove; she would go around the neighborhood in Mr. Bagley's 10-wheel

farm truck and pick up the children and bring them to Vacation Bible School. It was so successful other churches asked her to help them organize a daily Vacation Bible School.

As the Youth Auxiliary continued to grow, a Youth for Christ Rally was formed at Union Grove by—guess who—right, Miss Deanye.

Many young people have been touched by Miss Deanye Morris. More than a few of those have gone into Christian service, including one missionary, several pastors and evangelists, pastor's wives, Sunday School teachers, and leaders in churches.

She was active in the Bible Memory Association teaching and encouraging young people to memorize verses in the Bible. She would memorize the verses along with the young people. Two of her favorites were:

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20) and;

The Great Commission: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:19–20).

Miss Deanye taught Sunday School most of her years at Union Grove. She played the piano and organ and taught young people to play the piano until she was in her mid-eighties. She told me at age 83, "I love having the young people come in and out of my home and teaching them to play for the Lord."

She taught young people to appreci

*(Continued on next page)*

ate music, especially her children. Donna is the organist at Union Grove and in 1990, Donna and Rand established The George Rand and Donna Morris Holland Music Scholarship Endowment at Mount Olive College. This endowment provides scholarships for students who are developing their musical abilities in the areas of piano or organ.

Miss Deanye also served on the Union Grove Board of Deacons.

Other interests included her yard, where she nurtured beautiful azealeas and camellias. Many happy hours were spent working in her flowers—even having one of the grandchildren fall asleep in the wheelbarrow while she worked.

Since the age of 18 she worked with young people. Only God knows the number of young people she has touched. She will continue to touch the lives of young people because in 1990 The Deanye Oglesby Morris Endowment was established at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. The principal is invested and the annual earnings are used to provide for children who do not have ideal homes and families. The obituary encouraged gifts to the Children's Home. Should you choose to do so, that would be an ideal

memorial for Miss Deanye.

The wife and mother described in Proverbs 31 remind me of Miss Deanye. As I read, I think of Miss Deanye.

Today Miss Deanye is in the presence of God and will spend eternity in Heaven. Not because of all the good things that I have mentioned, but because she believed Jesus Christ when He said, "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). She believed Jesus when He also said, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). She confessed with her mouth that Jesus is Lord and believed in her heart that God raised him from the dead (see Romans 10:9). That is why she has an eternal home in Heaven. Miss Deanye is more alive today than ever.

Deanye Morris will be missed. Hold on to your memories of Miss Deanye. Do not dwell on these last years when she was sick, but remember all the good times and hide them deep within your heart. No one can take away your memories. Cherish them always.

I would like to close with a poem that

I believe includes a message Miss Deanye would like to express to each one of us.

#### MISS ME...BUT LET ME GO

When I come to the end of the road  
And the sun has set for me,  
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room;  
Why cry for a soul set free?  
Miss me a little...but not too long,  
And not with your head bowed low.  
Remember the love that we once shared;  
Miss me...but let me go.  
For this is a journey that we all must take,  
And each must go alone.  
It's all a part of the Master's plan.  
A step on the road to home.  
When you are lonely and sick of heart,  
Go to the friends we know,  
And bury our sorrows in doing good  
deeds,  
Miss me...but let me go.

—Author unknown

*(The above remarks were shared by the Rev. Jeff Daughtry at Mrs. Morris' funeral at Union Grove Church, Wayne County, on May 9, 2003).*

#### Sources:

*The Free Will Baptist*, March 17, 1982, pages 6-7.

*Children's Home Life*, November 1990.

Conversation with Donna and Rand Holland, May 8, 2003.

## CHURCHES & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**THE REVEREND SWADE BENSON**, is available for full-time, part-time, or interim pastoral services. Interested persons may contact him by phone at (919) 553-4837.

**MICRO CHURCH**, Micro, Johnston County, is beginning the search for the position of full-time pastor. We are looking a man to run the church as the Lord has called a pastor to do. For more information, contact Lawrence Phillips at (919)284-4818 or Steve Brown at (919) 284-5232.

**NEW BETHLEHEM CHURCH**, Pamlico County, is interviewing candidates for the position of pastor. This will be a full-time position. We are looking a man to run the church as the Lord has called a pastor to do. Interested persons may send a resume to: Mickey Buck, PO Box 184, Bayboro, NC 28515. You may also phone him at (252) 745-4822.

**Child psychology  
is what children manage  
their parents with.**

## PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

The Reverend Billy R. Nowell  
3105 NC Hwy 96 S  
Four Oaks, NC 27524  
(919) 963-3162

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- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*  
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**\*No phone-in or handwritten information will be accepted.**

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# FREE WILL BAPTIST

SEPTEMBER 2003

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# DOORWAYS, RAMBLINGS, AND OTHER THINGS

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

Have you ever experienced a doorway shutting in your face? You know what I mean—walking behind someone, say, going into a store and they let the door shut right on you. It's just plain rude and inconsiderate! Hopefully there is no one reading this that would do such a thing.

Now, have you ever felt like an opportunity—the doorway of an opportunity—has shut in your face? I don't necessarily mean someone shut it in your face; it could also be because we waited so long to go through it that it shut by itself. That too is a bad feeling!

Now again, have you walked up to a closed door and knocked, and knocked, but there was no answer. This could also be an opportunity that we think we want so bad but, maybe, just wasn't meant to be.

Where am I going with this? Well, there are always going to be open and closed doorways in our lives. We, therefore, need to learn to make the best

out of anything that comes our way. Prayer will help us determine what opportunities are open for you or closed for you and open for someone else. Prayer does work! I've experienced the blessing of answered prayer many times in my life—some right a way—and some many years later. Some were my own

prayers and some were prayers from others on my behalf. It's a wonderful feeling and even sometimes a little scary. I'm not saying that I've got the art of prayer down pat—it still needs lots of work—and more consistency. Pray about everything on your heart. Lay all your

burdens upon Him. He promises to see us through everything. The Bible states, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Let's take Him up on His promise. We have to completely trust Him and the opportunities for us will come our way in His time—and not a second before. Let us Pray!



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## GOD'S INFINITE LOVE

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

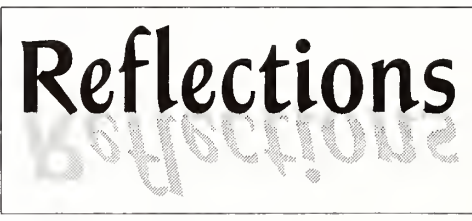
We hear it repeatedly: God loves all people, regardless of race, color, etc. It is the very foundation of our Christian faith. John 3:16 leaves no doubt. If no other passages of Scripture expressed it, that verse would be adequate; however, the pages of the Bible are permeated with the reality of His eternal, unchanging, and infinite love. He loves us regardless of our sins. If we are to experience His love, however, we must receive His ultimate gift of love, Jesus Christ, for He is "...the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). In receiving Him, our sins are forgiven. A transformation takes place. Jesus spoke of it as being "born again," as He explained it to Nicodemus in John 3:1-17. In writing to the Ephesians, Paul wrote of the transformation as being "quickened," reminding them that they were previously "...dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1).

If sin was not a reality, God would not have gone to such an extreme in providing for our salvation and deliverance from evil. Thus, along with His forgiving love, we read of His hatred for sin. The Word reminds us of the consequences of sin, that we reap

what we sow: "Be not deceived: God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7-8). Are we not reaping such consequences today as we observe the continual eroding of morality as eluded to in last month's *Reflections*? We are now in a society and world that is calling evil good and good evil, as was the case when the Prophet Micah delivered his

message to Israel (see Micah 3:1-2). When religious leaders endorse homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle for one of its bishops, we (but not everyone) are declaring that evil is good. Only time will reveal the impact upon our nation, especially our youth.

In the midst of such evil in the world, the Christian can take hope in the truth and reality that God and righteousness will win the battle. His love will triumph. How thankful we are that through His love we overcome the world and through His Spirit reap life everlasting.



# 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. 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.

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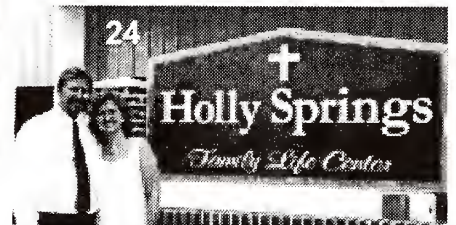
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# POWER VERSE

But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
he was bruised for our iniquities;  
the chastisement of our peace was upon him;  
and with his stripes we are healed  
(Isaiah 53:5).

# What Is Our Attitude?

by Marci Rollins

All throughout time people have had a relationship of some sort with God. In that relationship, God has spoken to humanity in a variety of ways and forms. God has used everything from burning bushes to great floods, to prophets to Jesus Christ to get the message across of what it means to be God's people. Time and time again humanity has misunderstood that message from God. Adam and Eve misunderstood the message and were cast out of the Garden of Eden. The Israelites misunderstood the message and ended up wandering around in the desert for 40 years. Moses misunderstood the message and as a result did not enter into the Promised Land. Lot's wife misunderstood the message and was turned into a pillar of salt. Abraham and Sarah misunderstood the message and turmoil was brought into their home by Ishmael and Isaac. Jacob and his mother, Rebekah misunderstood the message and brought division to one of the closest relationships known to humanity: that of twin brothers. Samson misunderstood the message of God and it cost him his strength. Saul misunderstood the message and lost his kingdom to a little boy with a slingshot and a pebble. David misunderstood the message and it cost him a child. Job's wife misunderstood the message and tempted him to curse God. Jonah misunderstood the message and ended up in the belly of a large fish.

Jesus brought to us the message in the purest form that could ever exist. Jesus was God sent down in human form to reform the Jewish religion and get God's message straight once and for all. Jesus' message was not well liked by His contemporaries, nor is it well liked by the people within our churches today as well as those outside of our churches. Jesus' message was not for us to be a social club

with a bunch of rules and regulations, but it was that we were to be a people who genuinely care about each other and meet each other's needs. In the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, Jesus begins His great sermon with what has come to be known as the Beatitudes. Now break that word down. What does it form? Two basic words: "be" and "attitude." Now I was always told that the word "be" is an action word. It's a word that tells us what to do. And the word "attitude" is our outlook or understanding of life and our instructions in this life. So what was Jesus telling us in the Beatitudes? WHAT ATTITUDE TO HAVE.

Read Matthew 5:2-12.

These are the attitudes that we as Christians are to have. How many times does Jesus say that one must be in Sunday School and church every Sunday morning? None. How many times does Jesus say we are to give a certain amount of money to our Sunday School class, or a certain amount of money to our church, or a certain amount of money to our auxiliaries? None. How many times does Jesus say we are to point the finger at people who don't live up to OUR expectations? None. How many times does Jesus say we are to ridicule people for their shortcomings? None.

What did Jesus say? Comfort those who mourn. Feed those who are both physically and spiritually hungry. Be merciful to others. Be pure in heart. Make peace. That was Jesus' message all throughout. *Take care of those around us. Look at what their needs are. Do not cast judgments...* JUST DO IT!

But once again, humanity just didn't get it. The disciples are portrayed as dazed and confused many times. Peter misunderstood the message and started sinking while walking on water. The disciples misunderstood the message and were unable

to cast out demons and heal. The Sadducees and Pharisees misunderstood the message and ridiculed Jesus on matters such as eating with the sinners and "working" on the Sabbath. Judas misunderstood the message and sold the Savior for a few pieces of silver. Humanity as a whole misunderstood the message and crucified Jesus—God's purest revelation to humanity—on Calvary's Cross.

What was meant to be a dark and fatal blow to the Kingdom of God was not that at all. Jesus arose from the grave signifying that God has not given up on a humanity that time and time and time again misunderstands the message. No, even though there are still misconceptions about the message, there is hope that if we put our trust in Jesus we can get the message right.

Now I am by no means trying to say that we should forsake our organized churches and denominations. That would be like throwing the baby out with the bathwater. I'm saying just the opposite. We need to revitalize the missions of our churches. If we in our organized churches call ourselves the children of God...in essence the messengers of God to those of our day and age...then we need to get the message straight. The church does not exist to pat ourselves on the back and welcome those in who can meet up to our standards. We are not saved by works. But the Bible does tell us that our works demonstrate our faith. Our works are not necessarily how much money we put in the offering plate. Our works are how much we do for others.

We misunderstand the message when we do not speak to the visitor in church. We misunderstand the message when we pass by the homeless and oftentimes the helpless on

*(Continued on next page)*



the street. We misunderstand the message when we do not take care of those who are mourning simply because their names do not reside on our church registers. We misunderstand the message when we do not pray for those around us. We misunderstand the message when we support a government that goes out and kills scores of people in war just because of the wrong doings of a handful of people. We misunderstand the message when we place unreasonable expectations on people who are just babes in Christ. We misunderstand the message when we say, "I've served my time. Let someone else do

it now." We misunderstand the message when we do not visit the sick and the shut-in. We misunderstand the message when we know we could teach children in Sunday School or sing in the choir...but fail to do so. We misunderstand the message when do not provide a nursery so that parents of children can attend church services other than the Sunday morning service. We misunderstand the message when we say, "People can afford what they want to afford," when in reality there simply are people who cannot. We misunderstand the message when we fight over the color of carpet in the

church or where a picture should reside. We misunderstand the message when we do things out of *selfish desire* instead of *selfless concern*.

God is still sending a message to us today. We have the record of how humanity heard the message and misunderstood it in our Bibles. And if we look at the Bible as an entirety we see the message that God has tried to get across to us since the beginning of time. My question for us all today is how are we responding to that message? What are our *attitudes* toward others? If just one of our attitudes are out of place, there's still time to make it right with God.

## THE STORY OF LITTLE SWIFT CREEK CHURCH

It is recorded in the church history of the General or the Original Free Will Baptists that the Rev. Paul Palmer journeyed south through North Carolina into South Carolina as well as other states preaching God's Word and establishing churches.

It is so recorded that in 1740–1742, Palmer made his journey south through Craven County, Onslow County, and on into South Carolina. While passing through Craven County, he found a settlement near Streets Ferry by Little Swift Creek which empties into Swift Creek near the ferry. The Rev. Palmer spent enough time at that location, preaching the gospel, to organize a church which was named for its location, Little Swift Creek.

Little Swift Creek is listed in the Harrison and Barfield History in its last overall church list and when the Shiloh Conference met there. Owing to the loss of Shiloh Conference records, Little Swift Creek is not mentioned. However, the church and

community show evidence that the church did not cease to exist.

It is evident that Little Swift Creek Church was still existing during the War Between the States. Union soldiers moved into the church building and used it for some time. Upon their leaving, the building was burned. Due to financial hardship, it was difficult to rebuild.

The people of the community came together and built a "community church" in which four church groups worshiped—Free Will Baptists one Sunday, Primitive Baptists one Sunday, Disciples of Christ one Sunday, and Methodists one Sunday. This arrangement lasted for a number of years. The Methodists eventually moved to Vanceboro and the Disciples of Christ moved over the creek to Askins and built their church there. This left the Free Will Baptists and the Primitive Baptists at the Little Swift Creek location. It was during the plural activity at Little Swift Creek that the Free Will Baptists adopted the name Macedonia. The name enabled

them to distinguish themselves from the other groups.

Although the name of the Original Free Will Baptist church was changed, the place of meeting continued at Little Swift Creek. As the years passed, the membership of the Primitive Baptists declined and they ceased to use the building at Little Swift Creek. The Macedonia Free Will Baptists were then the only church group to use the community building. They petitioned the court for sole ownership and after five uncontested petitions, the court granted the request. It was during this time of petition that the Macedonia Church began full time services and purchased a new location for the church. They also obtained property and built a parsonage. Then, with the blessings of God, they erected a nice new church structure.

Macedonia, of the Little Swift Creek beginnings, is thriving under the blessings of God. May God be praised.



## CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS MISSIONS RALLY



"Making a Difference...  
Sharing the Light"

Program led by  
Board of Home Missions and Evangelism  
"Motivating Our Workers"

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MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE  
MOUNT OLIVE, NORTH CAROLINA



*Ms. Jill Broadway*

SEPTEMBER 17, 2003  
7:30 P.M.



*HIS—Antioch OFWB Church*



## BRIDGE BUILDERS APPRECIATION DINNER

Mount Olive College—Lois K. Murphy Regional Center  
Saturday, September 27, 2003 at 6 P.M.



*The Mount Olive College Concert Choir*

The annual Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner is provided as a gesture of the College's gratitude to Free Will Baptists for their support at the annual dinners. To help Free Will Baptists understand the ministry of the College and the educational service it provides for its students, the Concert Choir and Free Spirit, a vocal ensemble, will provide a program of sacred selections. Under the direction of Dr. Alan Armstrong, Professor of Music, the Concert Choir and Free Spirit minister to churches in the region as part of their music ministry.

This event honors the 2003 Bridge Builders from the 2002 dinners; however, all friends of the College are invited. Bridge Builders are those who made unrestricted gifts of \$100 or more at their county dinners. They have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Mount Olive College.

## SEPTEMBER OPENING DATES FOR MODULAR PROGRAMS

Mount Olive College has the following program start dates for working adults:

### Mount Olive:

Call Matt Green at (919) 658-2502  
Heritage Program: September 4  
Management and Organizational  
Development program:  
September 8  
Early Childhood Education program:  
September 11  
Criminal Justice Administration  
program: September 25

### New Bern:

Call Joe Klotz at (252) 633-4464  
Criminal Justice Administration  
program: September 17  
Management and Organizational  
Development program:  
September 29

### RTP:

Call Robin Spade at (919) 941-2970  
Criminal Justice Administration  
program: September 29  
Management and Organizational  
Development program:  
September 3

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### REPLY FORM

*(Please return by Tuesday, September 23, 2003)*

\_\_\_ Yes, I plan to attend the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner, Saturday, September 27, 2003. There will be \_\_\_\_\_ in my party attending.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include Area Code)

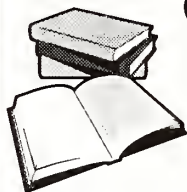
Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to:  
Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss  
Mount Olive College  
634 Henderson Street  
Mount Olive, NC 28365  
Phone (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854  
e-mail address: jfackiss@moc.edu

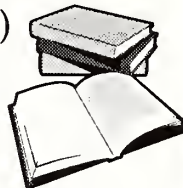
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We have a good selection of devotional, reference,  
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MOC souvenirs and clothing.

Let us know that you are a delegate or visitor  
to the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists!

## FWB STUDENT PLACES IN PBL NATIONAL COMPETITION



Joy Daughtry of LaGrange recently received second place in the international business competition at the Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) National Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas. She is a member of Westside Church in Kinston.

The competition is part of a competitive events program sponsored annually by PBL, a professional association for students pursuing business careers. Individuals, local chapters, and state teams compete in over 40 events representing a range of business, career, and leadership development activities. Over 1500 students and advisors were present, representing more than 30 colleges and universities.

## MOC INTRODUCES NEW MAJOR

Mount Olive College announces the addition of a sociology major within the criminal justice department. Students can enroll in the new major this fall.

“Offering a sociology major strengthens the College,” stated Dr. Eric Ling, chair of the criminal justice department.

According to Ling, graduates of the program can find work in research, welfare agencies, government, and non-profit organizations. “Sociology is also a popular choice for those who are interested in graduate school,” Ling noted.

Classes will include: social problems, family counseling, sociology of gender, family violence, and community health, among others.

For more information:

Contact Dr. Ling at (919) 658-2502

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(919) 658-2502

# MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

## GEARING UP FOR NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

by Rhonda Jessup, Director of Public Affairs

Mount Olive College is the third fastest growing private college in North Carolina. In fact, the College's enrollment has tripled since 1993. Officials at the institution are expecting another record year as they prepare for the 2003–2004 academic terms. Tim Woodard, director of admissions at the College, anticipates 170 new freshman and about 90 new transfer students by the last day of registration on August 22. Approximately 350 continuing students are also expected in the traditional program. According to Barbara Kornegay, vice president for enrollment, 96.3% of all Mount Olive College students are North Carolina residents.

Overall enrollment for the College's five locations in Mount Olive, Goldsboro, New Bern, Wilmington, and the Research Triangle Park is expected to reach 1,400 by Labor Day and 2,600 + by fall semester's end.

"I am delighted that record numbers of students are enrolling in our educational programs. Importantly, this demonstrates both relevance and affordability," stated Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the College.

Mount Olive College credits the increased enrollment to several factors, including the fact that it is rated as one of the top five least expensive of the 35 private colleges in the state, according to studies by the North Carolina Independent College and Universities.

"When considering a private college education, students' first concern should not be the burden of how to pay for it. Finding the "right fit," the best education, and the most positive environment for each student should be the top priority. Every worthy and capable student should have an opportunity to attain a college education. By combining institutional scholarships and grant programs with federal and state assistance and installment payment options and financial

planning, Mount Olive College makes college possible for deserving and qualified students," noted Karen Statler, director of financial aid at Mount Olive College.

More than 90% of the students at Mount Olive College are currently receiving financial aid.

Other advantages of Mount Olive College are its small campus atmosphere, the personal attention students receive from the College's faculty and staff, and the availability for students to compete in 13 NCAA II athletics teams.

"When I began my search for the right college, my biggest concern was that I would become a nameless person on campus known only by the number on my student ID," stated senior Shakenna Green. "Being from Albertson, NC and attending a small high school, I knew I would be more comfortable at a college where I could get to know my professors and they could get to know me. I found all of that and more at Mount Olive College. I have gained valuable job experience and leadership skills as a resident director and assisting in the admissions office. I've also participated in student organizations such as student government, College Ambassadors, and cheerleading," Green continued.

Included in Mount Olive College's fall enrollment numbers will be approximately 2,400 non-traditional students, typically working adults returning to college to obtain their degrees. Enrollment in these programs occurs every month of the year except December and July. The non-traditional programs are an innovative approach to education that gives working adults the opportunity to complete their degrees while continuing their employment. Students enter as a class, meet four hours once a week for a specified number of weeks, and complete a sequence of courses toward a bachelor's degree in Criminal

Justice Administration, Management and Organizational Development, Religion, or Early Childhood Education. The time-condensed format of the nontraditional programs allows students to finish what they started.

For working adults who have little or no college credit, Mount Olive College has developed a three-semester program, called the Heritage Program that provides students with the core courses needed for associate or bachelor degree programs. Working adults interested in finding out more can contact Matt Green at <[mgreen@moc.edu](mailto:mgreen@moc.edu)> or call (919) 658-2502.

Online opportunities are also increasing for students who want to take classes from their homes and offices. For a complete list of online courses at Mount Olive College, view the College's web site at <[www.moc.edu](http://www.moc.edu)>.

The College's newest majors in agribusiness and environmental science and policy are up and running. The agribusiness curriculum provides students with a background and understanding of the use of business principles in agriculture. The environmental science curriculum provides students with a greater understanding of the interactions among the natural sciences and the impact that humans have on the spatial and temporal changes in environmental attributes.

MOC also offers a cooperative teacher education program in conjunction with East Carolina University. The program, which was started in the fall of 1997, allows students to earn their baccalaureate degree from Mount Olive College and recommendation for teacher licensure from the East Carolina School of Education. Licensure areas include middle grades (English, math, science, and social studies) and high school (English and social studies.)



## REFLECTIONS

by Willem van der Plas



It has been a short, intensive visit, meeting many precious friends: brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ. We are thankful to the people of Cape Fear Conference for their hospitality and care during our furlough in March and April 2003. The members and pastor of Shady Grove Church have been very understanding about our schedule and tasks while we were with them in North Carolina. They took us home and made us feel like a part of their congregation and community.

We thank Mrs. Linda Murphy for the house that she made available to us. It looks like a beautiful, small museum with many family treasures. 389 Easy Street was really a place of peace and quietness, being surrounded by trees with countless birds flying into and from the yard. For the first time in our lives we have seen wood ducks. We have gained special friends in Mr. Lesley Mark Godwin and his wife, Ingrid who have been more than helpful to us. Mark and Ingrid, you have spoiled us with your extraordinary care.

Mrs. Linda Jackson together with her friends Barbara and her husband Don surprised us with the use of a complete computer set with an Internet connection that was installed by our pastor, the Rev. Jesse Fulcher. This made it possible to maintain contact with the workers in Bulgaria. All have shown, with kindness and love, that we belong to them and are a part of their Christian family. Forgive me for not mentioning all the names I would like to.

I was tired when I arrived. I was thankful that I had the opportunity to sit in the sanctuary to be able to worship and to hear a message not prepared by myself. The worship services in the churches were inspiring, encouraging, and refreshing. I enjoyed the choirs and the special music. It was a great pleasure to meet brothers and sisters in our churches—to experience their friendship and love. Your love is certainly remarkable and a special gift that you prove by your daily works and prayer. I believe that the heart of the Free Will Baptist denomination is the divine love, which the Holy Spirit has worked in you. You have given us happiness and increased our conviction and understanding for what we stand in our mission ministry within the Free Will Baptist denomination. It is by love that God sent His Special Son into the world; in the same way it is by love that the church sends missionaries into the world.

Many of you came to the Missions Conference. Thank you very much that you made it possible for us to meet and talk with you, and to know that you support God's Mission in the world. The earth belongs to Him and let people know that He is LORD, even the Moslems who live under the burdening pressure of Islam.

It hurts to see friends, who were once vital pillars becoming weak and frail, depending on others either in nursing homes or at their own homes. We thank you that you allowed us to visit you; you have blessed our hearts and minds. It is our prayer that you will have the presence of our loving, Almighty Father to bring you comfort and strength. We also pray for the ones we could not meet this time. Isn't it true that a lot of us are chosen to be pilgrims on earth—pilgrims who travel to the Promised land? Our pilgrimage is adventurous and full of unique events when we are following our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE REALITY  
OF THE MODERN  
INDIA

by Anil Lall



Even though India is a modern country there are still so many places which show the hundred-year-old tradition. An example of this was printed in our daily newspaper dated June 20, 2003 in which there was something very new to us—a human and a dog wedding. As you can see in the picture: “a villager poses with his dog and the nine-year-old Karnamoni Hansda at Khyanan 60 kms from Kolkatta, on Thursday, June 20, 2003. Hansda married the dog in the presence of more than 100 guests at a ceremony held in the village last week. “According to the Santhal tribal people, if a child's first tooth appears on the upper gum, he or she is in great danger that can be only warded off by a dog. In this Santhal Tribe one of our pastors, Brother Shankar Lall, is spreading the Word amongst these strong Hindu people in Rámpur, Chitrnanjan-west Bengal. These are places that Rev. Harold Jones have seen and visited.

# A DEMAND?

by Tezdjan N. Murtazova



The young men who attend our meetings on Sunday evenings love Willem and they missed him very much during his absence. On Sunday evenings we meet only with young men. There are two reasons: the first and worst is that we do not have room enough to meet all together. The second reason is that the young men are used to meeting in the mosque separate from the women. The latter is in fact a protection against jealousy of partners. Two months in America seems like a long time to these young men.

Nevertheless, they prayed regularly for Willem's health and for a blessed fellowship with the brothers and sisters in Christ in North Carolina. When the "van der Plases" arrived at the airport in Varna on May 3, we were all very happy.

During the first Sunday worship hour the young men said to Willem: "Next time when you go to America, you shall ask us first for permission and you go only if we allow you to go and we will decide for how long you will be away from us. If we don't give you permission, you stay with us in Bulgaria. We missed you; the people in America have enough pastors."

It is through the love of Christ that these precious young men spoke in that way. Let us pray that this divine love continues to remain in all of them and all of us. Please pray that we may grow into a faithful congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ.



## ANNUAL CONVENTION MISSION RALLY

The Annual Convention Missions Rally will be held on September 17 at 7:30 P.M. in College Hall. Please plan to attend and pray about the amount the Lord would have you, as an individual, or a church, to give.

This year we have a significant increase in our budget due to the need for additional personnel and expansion on all existing fields. The growth and financial stability of this ministry is directly related to your interest and faithful prayer and financial support.

Thank you in advance for your generous response. I hope all of you can attend the rally; but if you cannot, you can mail your special offering to Board of Foreign Missions, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. You will still receive credit for the Rally offering.

**REMEMBER:** You must earmark your check for Foreign Missions or place it in a special Foreign Missions envelope. These will be sent to every pastor and supplied at the Rally.

Harold Jones, *Director/Treasurer, Board of Foreign Missions*

### TIME IS RUNNING OUT!! ACT NOW!!

Now is the time to begin praying about Short-Term Team Ministry 2004! We need to hear from those who desire to join a team by September 15. Applications are processed as they are received. The teams are already filling and you must ACT NOW!

#### Dates for Spring Break:

February 28–March 5

Philippines: April 17–May 1

Mexico: June 12–19 (FULL);

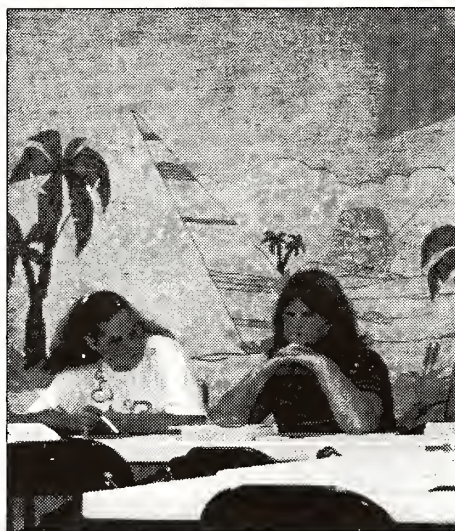
June 26–July 3; July 10–17;

August 7–15 (CAMP MORELOS)

Contact the Board of Foreign Missions at (252) 746-4963 for information and to reserve your place on the Team. **Don't miss out on a cross-cultural experience that will change your life!**



## TREASURES OF THE NILE



We had Vacation Bible School on campus July 21–25, 2003. Each day residents enjoyed an interactive Bible lesson, crafts, music, and refreshments. It was a good week for staff and residents, as we were all reminded that God is our treasure, and that only through His grace are we freed from the bonds of sin.

## WHERE DID THE SUMMER GO?

Summer has drawn to a close and school has started back. Although the residents hate to see summer go, they have many fond memories of trips and fun activities to recall as they settle into their new school schedules. They closed out their summer recreation activities with a trip to Kings Dominion, coordinated by Jonathan Skinner. Jonathan was an asset to the campus this summer, being very instrumental in coordinating the activities that the residents participated in. As he heads back to college, we wish him well.

## HOMECOMING



The 57th annual Homecoming was held on July 13, 2003. Approximately 160 people attended the celebration. The day started with a worship service in Memorial Chapel, with the message being brought by the Rev. Tony Gurganus of Jacksonville, NC. Mr. Gurganus is a retired Southern Baptist minister. Although the afternoon turned out to be rainy, the day was still filled with good food, fun, and much reminiscing with friends.

## THANK YOU

The Cape Fear and Western District Youths held their annual Youth Day at the Children's Home on August 2, 2003. We had a good turnout with over 300 people here for the festivities. The residents and staff of the Home would like to thank everyone for a great day of fun, and for the special gifts given that day. We appreciate your continued concern and support.

## CAMPUS VISITS

We have also recently enjoyed visits from several church groups including Mt. Zion Church in Nash County, Warden's Grove in Lowland, Memorial Chapel in Chocowinity, and St. Mary's Grove in Benson.

*Don't Forget!*

*"Friends of Children's Day"*

*November 22, 2003*





## CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCE



August Women's Conference  
July 28 - August 2, 2003

A week of study devoted to developing our Christian witnessing skills proved an inspiration to campers from 12 to 90 at the July 28–August 2, 2003, Cragmont Woman's Conference. Carolyn Jernigan, our Bible teacher, guided us through a study of Max Lucado's book, *He Did This Just For You*, using video clips, discussion groups, activities, and lecture. Included in each day's study was a beautiful responsive reading which prepared our hearts through the Word for the day's study.

Each morning the course for another day of the Christian journey was set by Sara Parker as she directed our morning devotions with Jean Ackiss leading on Thursday morning. Kerrie Clayton, music director, led us closer to our theme verse, John 3:16, with each music session. She used the songs we all remembered from years gone by, Scripture songs, and songs new to our ears throughout the week. JoAnn Parrish's nimble fingers delighted us again and again at the piano with their message of God's love as the week sped by. The evenings found us again studying God's Word during our self-study time.

As hard as it is to believe, we even had time for an interesting train excursion and dinner at the Jarrod House planned by Teresa Ball and May Pittman (registrar and director for the week).

Thursday brought us our Cragmont message from the Rev. John Williams, manager of Cragmont, and our Cragmont offering of approximately \$2,000. Our week drew to a close with our mission message brought by the Rev. Harold Jones, Foreign Missions director, and an offering of approximately \$1,400. Saturday morning found us singing goodbye with *Blest Be the Tie* as we departed with plans for returning next year.



## MEMORANDUM TO ALL MINISTERS, SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS, AND OTHERS IN LEADERSHIP ROLES

It is time for the annual Fall Sunday School Leadership Banquet. The Banquet will be held on Wednesday night, September 17, 2003, at 5:45 P.M. in the combined President's Room and Hennessie Room in Murphy Center. This will allow us ample time to get to the Mission Rally, which will be held at 7:30 P.M. The cost of the meal will be \$10 per person, payable before, at the Convention, 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.

Our guest speaker will be Mr. Martin L. Walters, Jr. from Christian Law Association. He will provide us information on *Motivating Our Church to Protect Itself*. Come and let us make him feel welcome.

We welcome our ministers, Sunday School Superintendents, Associate Ministers, Youth Ministers, and any other persons who might be assuming a leadership role in the near future. To make your reservations, complete the form at the bottom, detach it, and return it to Mary Dudley by September 12, 2003. Walk-ins are very welcome.

Contributions and registration fees may be sent to:

Mary Dudley  
OFWB Sunday School Board  
PO Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513

We also ask that checks be made payable to OFWB Sunday School Board. We solicit your prayers and concerns for the work of the Sunday School Board and thank you for all your support during this past year.

Yours in Christ,  
Mary Dudley

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### REPLY FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING THE BANQUET: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

## SWEET GUM GROVE CELEBRATES



On Saturday, July 26, 2003, Sweet Gum Grove Church in Stokes, North Carolina, met to honor all their Sunday School teachers and officers. Among the 65 people who attended, one lady in particular was very much surprised. Mrs. Eloise Futrell, who has taught different Sunday School classes for 42 years was honored for her dedicated and committed service to her church and community. She has taught the Pittman Memorial Sunday School class for a good many years. She was overcome by the surprise. Mr. Tracy Coggins, superintendent, presented her with a plaque describing her faithful service. The Sunday School minister presented a certificate of recognition and a letter from Mary Dudley, who could not be present because of a previous commitment. She was also honored with a bouquet of 42 red roses to mark the occasion. Mrs. Futrell was described as humble, knowledgeable, and a dedicated person who is loved by all who meet her. She is also ready to do whatever she can to help another person.

*Congratulations Mrs. Eloise!*



## THANK YOU TO ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

by Fred P. Baker

*President, Convention of Original Free Will Baptists*

Often in life we face challenges that appear to be impossible. In February of 2003, I was asked if the Convention could raise \$100,000 by June 30 for Mount Olive College. After a very brief prayer, I answered, "Yes, I believe they can." During March with much prayer, and the help of Jean F. Ackiss and the Rev. Jeff Daughtry "Challenge June 30" came into existence. That was a lot of money to raise in three months. We knew we had

two things in our favor. First, we have a God that delights in doing the impossible. Second, we knew Original Free Will Baptists are a group of people God can use.

I stand amazed at how God moved in the hearts of our churches and individuals. "Challenge June 30" met its goal and went over the top. Praise God, Original Free Will Baptists, you responded with gifts of \$127,877. God is so good and you are so generous.

I would like to thank every church, pastor, organization, and individual who heard from God and obeyed His voice through prayer and generous giving. I would also like to thank Jean Ackiss and Jeff Daughtry for their help and leadership in this project. "Project June 30" is an example of what God can do when we work together for Him.

Thank you all and God bless each of you.

## YOUTH CONVENTION

### ATLANTA MISSION TRIP

#### "Reaping the Spiritual Harvest"

*by Scott Lane, Assistant Director, Original Free Will Baptist Youth Convention*

On July 23, the Youth Convention embarked on their third mission trip, this one to Atlanta. The theme for this mission trip was "Reaping the Spiritual Harvest" with Scripture references taken from John 4:34-38.

Two bus stops were made to pick up the 56 missionaries in Kenly and Fayetteville. Diana and Gregory Bass (Powhatan-Cape Fear) had devotions on the bus discussing how Jesus called His disciples to "follow" Him. After checking into our hotel, we went to an Atlanta Braves baseball game.

On Thursday, July 24, the group started out the day by meeting at the hotel for a morning devotion. Each devotion held throughout the week was started off with a time of praise and worship. On Thursday morning, a group of teenagers from Powhatan (Nikki Jones, Crystal Guy, Nicole Lee, and Leah Boykin) had the devotion from Matthew 9 sharing how Jesus had compassion on the crowds who followed Him.

The bus took us to First Baptist Church of Doraville where we were given a brief training by Whirlwind Missions on what to expect with our mission work. Most churches consider outreach as setting up and doing something "outside" like a fun day. Tim, the spokesman for Whirlwind Missions, said our plan would be to actually go and knock on doors and get to know the people in their own communities. We were "taking the church to the people." We split into six groups and traveled to various apartment complexes in the International area of metro Atlanta, knocking on doors and inviting people to send their youth to a "Jesus" party. Most of the children were from Catholic, Buddhist, or Muslim background, and almost all of the children spoke English as their second language. In the International area of Atlanta, 145 countries and over 760 languages are represented. The children were anywhere from 3 years of age up to 18 years of age. For some of these

children, this was their first time hearing about the love of Jesus. Our mission work included a Bible School for the children at the apartments. Each group started with a time of recreation and refreshments, followed by a Bible School lesson, and ended with a craft. Each group handed out New Testaments and evangelism booklets to all the children, and some adults. In the afternoon, each group went to a different location, but were doing the same mission work. Following a fun fellowship meal at the Longhorn Steakhouse, we "unwound" at the Malibu Grand Prix arcade, putt-putt, and go-cart race center. Devotions were held on the bus while returning to our hotel, with Katherine Cahoon (Soundside—Albemarle) and Josh Combs (Rains Crossroads—Western) discussing the seed type that gets scattered and birds eat. Sometimes the Word goes out, but Satan snatches it away before it can take root.

*(Continued on next page)*

On Friday, July 25 some of the youth from Piney Grove (Western) presented the morning devotions about a second seed type that falls among rocks. Sometimes, people hear and accept the Word, but soon fall away because they have no roots. The mission work continued at the same apartment complexes as Thursday. How wonderful it was to see the kids come running when they saw we had come back! In the two days of mission work, we worked with a total of 436 people, and had 24 saved and 1 rededication! Praise God!

With the mission work through Whirlwind Missions now completed, we visited the Mall of Georgia area for our evening meal, shopping and fun. Evening devotions at the hotel were led by Martha Parsons and youth from the Cape Fear District (Daniel McLamb, Alan Stewart, Pernon Warren—Shady Grove, and Zack Tart—Robert's Grove). They told of a third seed type which are people who hear the Word, accept it, but then are choked out by the cares of the world.

On Saturday, July 26 Faye Bryant and a group from Pee Dee (Emily Bryant, Heather and Hope McPherson, Brittany Cartrette, and Lee Hinson) presented the morning devotion on the fourth seed type. When the Word takes root in willing hearts, it thrives and a good harvest results.

We had free time that allowed us to visit places around Atlanta: the Coca-Cola Museum, Margaret Mitchell's house (author of *Gone With the Wind*), Underground Atlanta, along with other historical places.

We assembled back together and had our final devotion led by Scott Lane. He said we were working on the harvest of those who would receive eternal life.

The group went to Stone Mountain State Park for the evening. Everyone enjoyed their free time to take in all the activities at the park. We gathered together for the laser light show, which was fantastic.

Sunday, July 27 was the final day of our mission trip. After checking out of our hotel, we departed for First Baptist Atlanta, which is the church pastored by Dr. Charles Stanley. After a wonderful time of worship through songs and music, Dr. Stanley then

personally welcomed and recognized our group. It was amazing how God had worked in Dr. Stanley's sermon, as his message went right along with our trip theme and mission work. He asked if we were "believers, or followers." Even the devil believes. We must be willing to be followers of Christ. There are only two answers when we are called to service—"I will, or I won't." God does not want to hear any 'buts.'" He referenced the people who offered excuses to Jesus. One said he'd follow, but he needed to go bid farewell to his household first. Another wanted to go and bury his father first. He warned us to not offer excuses but to go—to put our hands on the plow and look forward to the work, not glancing back and worrying over old guilts and cares. Followers of Christ must be willing to deny self, make

sacrifices, and suffer to become true servants. The walk is not easy, but the rewards are worth it." After the church service, we departed for home as "Friends" who had memories to share from our seed-planting and hopes for a bountiful harvest in the days to come.

Everyone who went on the trip is looking forward to the next one. If you are interested in being a part of future mission trips sponsored by the Youth Convention, or if you would like for members of the Atlanta Mission Team to come and talk to your church about their experience, contact Scott Lane at (919) 736-1423 or at his e-mail address: <scottL@icomnet.com>.

We want to take this time to thank everyone who prayed for our trip, and a special thank you to all the churches and woman's auxiliaries that supported us financially.



*The Atlanta Mission Team at a training session presented by Tim Cummings, director of Whirlwind Missions.*



*Kathy Cahoon and Linda Holton (Sound Side—Albemarle) along with Kristi Aycock (Union Grove—Western) and Mindy Glover (Pleasant Grove—Western) assist with the children in Arts and Crafts.*



*Linda Holton (Sound Side—Albemarle) teaching and helping with activities about the lesson.*

# WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

## EASTERN DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

*Mt. Zion Church—Vandemere, North Carolina  
September 20, 2003*

Theme: "Jesus Calls Us"

Scripture: "...Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19)

### Order of Service

|                           |                       |                                                                                           |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:30 A.M.                 | Registration          |                                                                                           |
| 9:50 A.M.                 | Music Medley          |                                                                                           |
| 10:00 A.M.                | Call to Order         | JoAnn Parrish, President<br>Folkstone Church                                              |
|                           | Prayer for Convention |                                                                                           |
|                           | Hymn 327              | "Jesus Is Tenderly Calling"<br>Margaret Rose<br>Mt. Zion Church                           |
|                           | Welcome               | Edith Hansley<br>Folkstone Church                                                         |
|                           | Response              | Lina Jenkins<br>Missions Chairman<br>Deep Run Church<br>Beverly Holton<br>Mt. Zion Church |
|                           | Scripture/Prayer      | JoAnn Parrish, President<br>Folkstone Church                                              |
| Special Music             |                       |                                                                                           |
| President's Remarks       |                       |                                                                                           |
| Business Session          |                       |                                                                                           |
| Appointment of Committees |                       |                                                                                           |
| Secretary's Report        |                       |                                                                                           |
| Camp Vandemere Report     |                       | Gail Heath<br>Camp Vandemere Chairman<br>Saint's Delight Church                           |

Convention Offering for Camp Vandemere

Hymn 510 "Jesus Is All the World to Me"  
Report of Denominational Ministries  
Memorial Service

Hymn 357  
Worship Service

Special Music

Business Session  
Youth Report

Treasurer's Report  
Committee Reports  
12:30 P.M. Benediction and Blessing

Hymn 375  
Music Director  
Pianist  
Sound Technician  
Ushers

Wanda Costor  
Study Course Chairman  
Folkstone Church  
"Jesus Loves Even Me"  
Kitty Barnes  
Little Rock Church  
Debra Jones  
Mt. Zion Church  
  
Gracie Jones  
Youth Chairman  
Whaley's Chapel

The Rev. Mike Williams  
Mt. Zion Church  
"Jesus Calls Us"  
Lisa Caroon  
Vicky Sevenski  
Dwayne Cowell  
Gladys Leary  
Katie Newton  
Elaine Sadler  
Rachel Barnes

## WESTERN DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

*Holly Springs—Kenly, North Carolina  
October 1, 2003*

Theme: "Sharing and Caring for Our Own"

Scripture: "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith..." (1 Timothy 5:8).

|           |                           |                                                      |
|-----------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 A.M. | Registration              |                                                      |
| 9:30 A.M. | Hymn                      | "God Will Take Care of You"                          |
|           | Welcome and Prayer        |                                                      |
|           | President's Remarks       | Joyce Edmondson                                      |
|           | Appointment of Committees |                                                      |
|           | Convention Offering       |                                                      |
| 9:50 A.M. | Special Music             |                                                      |
|           | Convention Message        | The Rev. Don Fader<br>Director of Minister's Program |

|            |                                 |                                |
|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|            | Prayer                          |                                |
|            | Offering for Minister's Program |                                |
| 10:30 A.M. | Youth Report                    |                                |
|            | Hymn                            | "Onward Christian Soldiers"    |
| 10:45 A.M. | Break                           |                                |
| 11:10 A.M. | Memorial Service                |                                |
| 11:20 A.M. | Denominational Ministries       |                                |
|            | Business Session                |                                |
|            | Hymn                            | "Where He Leads I Will Follow" |
|            | Benediction                     |                                |
|            | and Blessing of the Meal        | The Rev. Curtis Jones          |
| 12:30 P.M. | Lunch                           |                                |

# CAPE FEAR WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

*Yelverton Grove Church—Smithfield, North Carolina*  
October 4, 2003

Theme: "Live the Life"

Scripture: "And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him and reflect His glory even more" (2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT).

### Order of Service

|           |                           |                                                         |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 A.M. | Registration              |                                                         |
| 9:30 A.M. | Hymn                      | "Living for Jesus"                                      |
|           | Welcome                   | Jane Parker, President                                  |
|           | Prayer                    | Wanda Johnson, Vice President                           |
|           | Devotion                  |                                                         |
|           | Announcements             | Mavie Daughtry, President<br>Yelverton's Grove Auxilary |
|           | Business Session          | Jane Parker                                             |
|           | Minutes                   | Betty Strickland, Secretary                             |
|           | Denominational Ministries |                                                         |
|           | Life Membership Award     |                                                         |
|           | Offering and Prayer       |                                                         |
|           | Break                     |                                                         |

|                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Hymn                     | "My Jesus I Love Thee"       |
| Prayer                   |                              |
| Special Music            | Yelverton's Grove Trio       |
| Message                  | The Rev. Barry Croom         |
| Hymn                     | "Take My Life and Let It Be" |
| Business Session Closed  |                              |
| Benediction and Blessing |                              |

All auxiliaries of the Cape Fear District are urged to send delegates and guests to this very important meeting. Valuable information concerning our district and state work will be given to each of the churches present. See you there!

### NOTICE

The **Central Conference Woman's Auxiliary Convention** will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2003, at Sweet Gum Grove Church in Stokes. Mrs. Debbie Adams, Rose Hill Church will present the message entitled "Walking on Water." Registration begins at 9 A.M. Lunch will be served at 12:30 P.M. following the meeting.

## CAMP VANDEMERE

*by The Reverend Owen Arthur*

A couple of weeks ago I decided I would go down to the Camp and help Wesley. I loaded up my lawn mower and off to the Camp I went. It was on a Friday—that meant that the campers for that week were packing and getting ready to return home and the staff was getting ready for another group for the weekend. I observed how much work had to be done by Wesley and the staff in getting things ready for the weekend group. One of the main problems was time; the campers usually leave around 10 A.M. and the weekend group could start arriving as early as noon. This did not give Wesley and the staff much time to get the Camp clean and ready.

As I mowed and watched I began to realize how thankful I am for Wesley and the staff at the Camp. This also made me think back to all those who in past times have worked at the Camp. There have been many who have been managers, cooks, cook's helpers as well as a variety of

others who have worked hard for the Camp and God's glory. That is not even including the many others who worked in other areas for the Camp. Those who gave tirelessly of their labors and finances to help the Camp and see that it stayed available for the rest of us to enjoy. I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU for all that you have done.

The Camp has had a great summer with many being saved and many others renewing their commitment to the Lord. Please remember that the Camp is open year round, even during the winter months. Once school has started and things begin to settle, it would be a good time for you to reserve the Camp for a weekend retreat for your church or Sunday School class or just to go down and relax.

We ask that you pray for the Camp and invite Wesley to come and tell you about the Camp and what it is doing for the cause of Christ. Wesley can be contacted by any of the

following: (252) 745-3171 (Camp), (252) 634-1287 (Pager) or (252) 519-3222 (Cell).

Work is underway on our new storage/workshop building. We appreciate Macedonia Church for their work in raising the funds to get this project started. It will take considerably more funds to complete this project. If you feel that your church or group can help with this project financially or by donating labor, please call our manager. There are other items that the Camp needs: a new cookstove is the first and most important in my opinion. We have mentioned this before but funds just were not available. We need to replace our ice machine, and it would be great to have a new zero turn mower. We ask that you join us in praying and asking God's direction for each of these items.

Come and visit with us, sit down in one of the rocking chairs, stay a while, and enjoy God's beauty.

## REEDY BRANCH TEENS HOLD WEEKEND RETREAT AT VANDEMERE

by Marci Rollins, Youth Director



*Our group on the pier after Sunday worship: Larry Smart, Mary Lee Smart, Michelle Wood, Phillip Jackson, Krissy Siesel, Tiffany Wood, Lauren Minnick, Sara Davis, Layne Williams, and Travis Sutton.*



*(Pictured Above): In the canoe are Travis Sutton and Larry Smart.*

*(Pictured at Right): Our group enjoyed playing on the water with the paddleboats and canoes. Pictured in the paddleboat are Sara Davis, Phillip Jackson, and Lauren Minnick.*



I was beginning to wonder if we were even going to be able to go to Vandemere this year. The night before our teen retreat to Vandemere, a group had set out on our church van to hear Kelley Smart preach at Kenly Church's Youth Revival...and our van broke down. Just great, I thought. What are we going to do now? How are we going to get the teens and all our luggage to Vandemere? We all tried to look on the positive side of things. It could have broken down the night before when it was pouring down rain, or it could have waited until we were on our way to Vandemere and miles away from home. We put our minds together and began praying and formulated a "Plan B" just in case the van could not be repaired in time. Fortunately, we did not have to rely on "Plan B." Our van was fixed an hour and a half before our departure time!

And I'm so glad that it was! What a wonderful opportunity for our teenagers to draw closer to God and to each other. Our theme for the weekend was "Choosing a Christ-Centered Lifestyle" based on a book by David C. Cook publishers. We divided the weekend into six sessions and despite our being late arriving and one of our session leaders getting sick, we managed to cover all six lessons and have plenty of time for fun. We discussed the need to pray to God about all of life's decisions—dating and marriage, careers and college, morals, and types of jobs and ministries.

*(Continued on next page)*

The teenagers were introduced to the concept of keeping a prayer journal and to new ways to pray to God through Scripture. We enjoyed the movie *Hermie* which told us about a caterpillar who thought he wasn't special, but then bloomed into a beautiful butterfly. All of this was divided off with fun time in the pool, and on the canoes and paddle boats. The water was rough at first and the storm clouds lingered nearby, but we were spared a storm and the waters calmed down to a beautiful glass appearance after supper. I could imagine the same happening when Jesus calmed the storm while on the boat with the disciples.

Our weekend ended with a Sunday School lesson by Larry and Mary Lee Smart, and a worship service on the pier. I used different types of bread to show how much work is done to prepare bread. We must first sow a seed, water the seed, let it grow, gather the outgrowth of the seed, store it, transport it, process it, decide what type of bread it will become, knead it, bake it, maybe slice it, maybe package it, transport it to the store, take it home, rework it, eat it plain, or with something else. I explained to the teenagers that like *Hermie* and the bread, we as Christians are a work in progress. We need to dedicate our lives to Christ and follow His directions in order to see what it is we are suppose to be. We then shared the bread with each other and closed the service with the singing of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

Once again we had a terrific time at Vandemere. The first time I took a group there, no one had heard of it. That is exactly what I like about it. It's far away from the worries of the world and close enough to nature to put us in tune with God.

## WESTERN AND CAPE FEAR YOUTH FUN DAY AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

The Western and Cape Fear District Youth joined together to host a fun day at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home on Saturday, August 2. Between the two districts, 29 churches were represented with around 325 people there. The morning started off with a worship service being held in the Whitley Center, with praise and worship being led by the officers, followed by a devotion presentation by the Atlanta Mission Team sharing their mission trip experiences. A spaghetti lunch was served, then games were held outside on the grounds. The Cherubs had special activities in Heritage Hall.

The Western and Cape Fear District Youth held a campaign to raise \$2,500 to go toward an outside worship area at the Children's Home. After all donations were turned in, a total of \$3,652.32 was raised, which again exceeded our goals. The money will be used toward the building of a campfire/vesper worship area, along with other needs for the gym and athletic equipment.

Along with the money, churches also brought school and hygiene supplies, and other needed items. There were so many supplies brought that the back of Heritage Hall was full.

The Western and Cape Fear District Youth would like to thank all churches that went and supported the Children's Home.



*Praise and Worship in the Whitley Center, led by the Western and Cape Fear District Youth Officers.*



*Sack races and other games were held outside.*



*The back of Heritage Hall was full of school, hygiene, and other needed supplies that were brought by the churches in attendance.*



# NEWS FROM POWHATAN CHURCH

by Rita Jones

If you pass by Powhatan Church in Clayton, notice the recent addition made by our laymen. There are two new flagpoles with a large Christian and American flag on display in the front lawn as a symbol to the community. The lights show them brightly standing in the night, giving honor to our God and country.

Sunday, September 21 will be our annual Homecoming celebration with the Rev. Rayford Byrd speaking. Everyone is invited to join us.

The Cape Fear Youth President and Vice-president, Roberta Widhalm and Crystal Guy (both Powhatan members), traveled to Covenant Church in Fayetteville on Saturday, July 12, to help conduct Vacation Bible School for the youth. They presented lessons from "Son Harvest," (the VBS materials for the Atlanta mission trip) in order to check that everything worked together well. Thank you to Martha Parsons for inviting them to teach and work with the young people.

## MAY DAY CELEBRATION

by Sue Dail



*Sue Dail, Sunday School Superintendent, First Church of Greenville presents check to Margaret Blackman with Joy.Ink, an after-school program for under-privileged kids.*

family. Nearly 500 plates of barbecue chicken were sold weeks in advance to raise money to fund the event. After expenses, there was a balance of \$1,175 that was given to Timothy Christian Church, Gardnerville, NC for their building fund. Their church was lost to fire last year. The amount raised this year was almost double the amount we raised last year. The funds raised last year were given to Joy.Ink, an after-school program designed to teach children how to learn and give them a safe place to go.

God blessed us with two opportunities to share the Good News and enjoy good food and fellowship. More important, He allowed us to be a blessing to others with the extra money we made. God is so good! We give Him all glory, honor, and praise.

On May 3, 2003, the Sunday School Council of the First Church of Greenville sponsored its annual May Day celebration on the church grounds. The event was planned to promote fellowship among the church family and also to reach out to the surrounding community for the cause of Christ by offering fun activities for the entire

## DEEP RUN HONORS GRADUATE

by Jo Ellen Sloan



*The Rev. Adrian Grubbs (R) presents a Bible to Amanda Hill (L).*



*Jo Allen Sloan (R) presents a \$500 scholarship to Amanda Hill (L).*

Deep Run Church recently honored its only student graduating from high school. Amanda Hill graduated from South Lenoir High School in Deep Run. She has been accepted at East Carolina University and will be pursuing a career in nursing. Amanda has been an active member of the church and Sunday School. She was presented a Bible and a \$500 scholarship from the church. The church congratulates Amanda in her accomplishments and wishes her well in her college career.

# CAMP MEETING OCTOBER 3-5, 2003

Dear Friends,

We are experiencing exciting days at Horton Road Church and it keeps getting better. Souls are being saved while Christians are drawing closer to the Lord. Folks are stepping up to serve the Lord like never before. We are most grateful for God's blessing upon this ministry. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to come and be a part of our church family. It's almost time for Camp Meeting and Homecoming! This is another great time to grow spiritually. Our music program will feature our wonderful church choir, as well as, the "Southland Harmony." You will not want to miss the singing at the beginning of each session. Circle these dates on your calendar and make plans to attend every service possible. Bring your entire family.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Camp Meeting, October 3-5.  
Harry Brown, Pastor

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2003

- 7:00 P.M. The Rev. Doug King, Cramerton, NC  
8:00 P.M. The Rev. A. B. Brown, Cramerton, NC  
9:00 P.M. Dr. Randy Sawyer, Gastonia, NC

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2003

- 8:00 A.M. Fellowship—Coffee and Doughnuts  
8:30 A.M. Prayer  
9:00 A.M. The Rev. Jerry Johnson, Wendell, NC  
10:00 A.M. The Rev. Karl Sexton, Virginia Beach, VA  
11:00 A.M. The Rev. Dale Burden, Virginia Beach, VA  
12:00 NOON Lunch, Catered by Ole NC BBQ  
1:30 P.M. Dr. Joe Ange, Knightdale, NC  
2:30 P.M. The Rev. Guy Owens, Wendell, NC

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2003

- 8:00 A.M. Fellowship—Coffee and Doughnuts  
8:30 A.M. Prayer  
9:00 A.M. The Rev. Virgil Nolan, Durham, NC  
10:00 A.M. The Rev. David Lee, Rockingham, NC  
11:00 A.M. The Rev. Jimi Marcum, Goldsboro, NC  
12:00 NOON Homecoming Dinner on the grounds  
(men/ladies—bring extra food  
"Thank You")

## DIRECTIONS TO HORTON ROAD CHURCH

Telephone: (919) 479-5060

Take Hwy. 147, which is the Durham exit off I-40 from Raleigh. Stay on Hwy. 147 until you come to the Hillandaile Road exit. Turn right onto Hillaridaile Road and follow it until you come to Horton Road (approximately 2 miles). Take a right on Horton Road. Cross over Guess Road (first light) and Horton Road Church will be 1/4 mile on the right.

## CORRECTION NOTICE

In the article entitled *The Power of Prayer* by Charmaine V. Wade (August 2003), we incorrectly stated the pastor and his wife's names. It should have read ...Pastor and Mrs. Brock and Diane... We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

# HAPPENINGS AT BLACK JACK CHURCH

by Linda G. Pierce

The youth of Black Jack Church along with their Youth/Associate Pastor, Scott Satterfield, and youth leaders sponsored a 30-Hour-Famine through World Vision. The event began on Friday, July 25 at 2 P.M. and ended at 8 P.M. on Saturday, July 26. The mission of World Vision is to call people to a life-changing commitment to serve the poor in the name of Christ. Founded in 1950 with the help of people like us, it is serving in nearly 100 countries.

The group was divided into teams of five people each. They were responsible for building their own hut for sleep. The individual teams had personal and group devotions. Their service project was to collect and carry canned and staple goods to a family in the community that was in great need.

Friday night they went to the Fun Park in Greenville. There were water activities where everyone got drenched and had a lot of fun. Everyone tried to sleep seven hours to ward off their hunger. They awakened on Saturday morning ready to begin building a food pantry in our church to help meet the need of hurting people in our community.

The goal for this project was to raise \$2,500 for World Vision. The youth had to ask people to sponsor them to raise this money. We well surpassed our goal by raising \$3,000. The 30-Hour-Famine was broken at 8 p.m. Saturday night when we all enjoyed hamburgers and hotdogs.

Everyone who had a part in this event went away with a better understanding of what it is like to be hungry and a greater determination to seek out the world's children and help them realize their God-given potential by tackling the root causes of poverty.

# FREE UNION FREE WILL BAPTIST CELEBRATES EMMAUS FELLOWSHIP

People from Cedar Island, Trenton, Morehead City, Sea Level, Stacey, Vanceboro, Atlantic Beach, Goldsboro, and Raleigh gathered at Free Union Church in Sea Level for the Emmaus Fellowship on July 27, 2003. The Gospel Six and the Rev. Bruce Dudley were on hand to make the Sunday fellowship special.



*The Rev. Bruce Dudley stressed the value of yoking together for Christ in his message at the Emmaus Fellowship at Free Union.*

Worship began with prayer and music. The Gospel Six warmed the service with heartfelt singing of numerous old favorites: *Surely the Presence of the Lord Is In This Place*, *Walk the Streets As Pure As Gold*, *There Is a River That Flows Deep Within*, *Amazing Grace*, and *If It Wasn't for the Lighthouse, Where Would This Ship Be?*

The Rev. Bruce Dudley, Director of the OFWB Retirement Homes, drew upon Matthew 11:28-30 to emphasize his twofold message—the need for Christians to take the



*The Gospel Six led the celebration in music at Free Union's Emmaus Fellowship Sunday.*

yoke of Christ in conjunction with the gift of rest.

"What is a yoke?" asked Mr. Dudley. "The yoke is a device tying two animals together so the two can work together and do more than they could do alone," he answered. "The message in Matthew is clearly this: 'take the yoke upon you and you shall find rest.'"

But rest is one side of the story; the yoke is the hard work side. Mr. Dudley reminded us that Jesus Christ found him in 1957. He married Mary and has been with her 41 years. They together have been a team, working for the Lord.

"The Lord Jesus Christ understood the necessity of a team," Mr. Dudley stressed. "He ordained apostles, taught them what to do and how to do it. We don't go out alone. We go out at least two by two," he said.

Teamwork is a part of Free Will Baptist denominational work. Mr. Dudley spoke of the Foreign Missions team work in Mexico where people worked together to build parsonages. He spoke of the greater denomination efforts to bring the

Retirement Homes mission out of debt, a story of success because Free Will Baptist people worked together.

Prayers, hymn singing, and more than 500 gifts given at the Emmaus Fellowship meal became a way to yoke together the larger community in an effort to praise the presence of God in this church. Everyone left with a tangible gift and the experience of fellowship with Christians at this summer's Emmaus Day celebration at Free Union.



*Harry and Deanna Taylor enjoy their gift of the Oriental screen at the Emmaus Fellowship at Free Union.*

# HOLLY SPRINGS CHURCH FAMILY LIFE CENTER DEDICATION

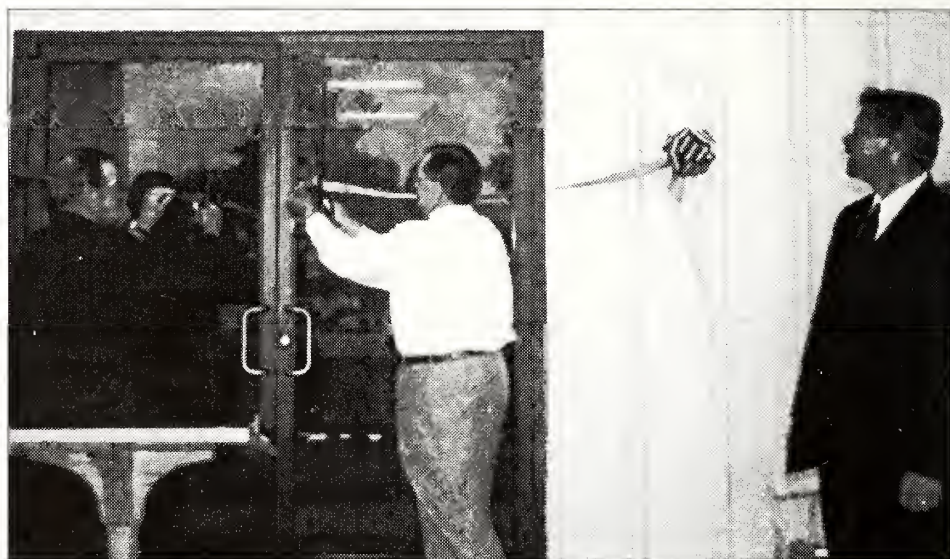
by Peggy Horrell

Holly Springs Church, Newport, NC, is an old church with a new vision. Several years ago, members began to envision the church having a Family Life Center. Such a building would facilitate a long list of ministries. The church visionaries prayed and in faith began raising money for "The Nehemiah Project." A committee was formed to begin planning. God answered prayer and met every need. On June 22, 2003, the vision came into reality with the dedication of the new Family Life Center.

The dedication service included an address by Newport Mayor Darryl Garner. Mayor Garner recalled memories of the church and its members from his youth. He congratulated the congregation on the Family Life Center, and called it an asset for the Newport community. The service also featured special music by The Quartet, Praise Team, and Erin Smith. The Board of Deacons participated in various readings and prayers. A plaque was presented to Brian Fetzer for his service in overseeing the building construction.

Following the morning message by Pastor Ray Conner, the congregation gathered in front of the Family Life Center for the ribbon cutting. Chair of the Deacon Board, Travis Davis, and Chair of the Nehemiah Project Committee, Jackie Durham, cut the ribbon. The congregation then enjoyed a meal together in the new building, with special music provided by Mark and Elaine Gaskins.

The Family Life Center provides an area large enough for meal functions for the church (seating over 200), much needed classroom space in the upstairs area, and a multi-purpose sports court. The first music concert is scheduled for July 6 with Servant's Heart and the Ambassadors. The Family Life Center, now formally dedicated to God's service is first and foremost a mission, a place where souls may be won for Christ.



*Ribbon cutting by Jackie Durham, (L) and Travis Davis, (R). Pastor Ray Conner looks on far right.*



*Pastor Ray Conner and wife, Ginny, in front of Holly Springs Family Life Center sign.*

# Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

## CIVILIZATIONS IN HISTORY AND CONFLICTS

### Introduction

Harvard professor Samuel P. Huntington introduces his thesis of modern conflict in his national bestseller, *The Clash of Civilizations*. He states: "The central theme of this book is that culture and cultural identities which at the broadest level are civilization identities, are shaping the patterns of cohesion, disintegration, and conflict in the post—Cold War world" (20).

We live in a "multicivilizational world" (21) which pushes people inward to ask basic questions of identity. "Who are we?...People define themselves in terms of ancestry, religion, language, history, values, customs, and institutions...People use politics not just to advance their interests but also to define their identity. We know who we are only when we know who we are not and often only when we know whom we are against" (21).

### Civilization Paradigm Thesis

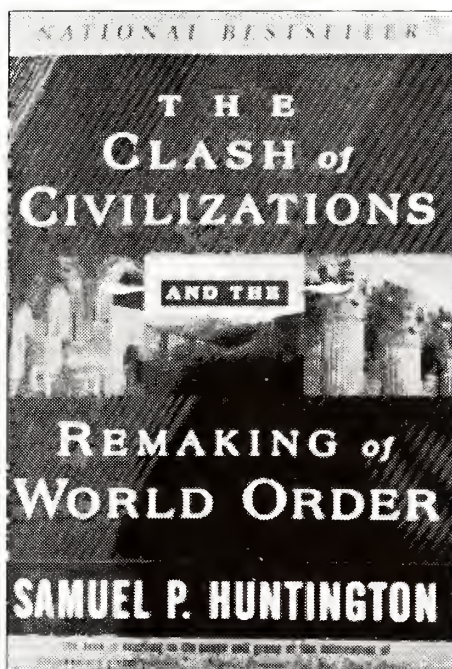
Dr. Huntington eliminates other historical theories of history from the paradigm (model) of harmony (triumph of liberal democracy), the two-worlds paradigm (us versus them), realistic paradigm (184 states of the world are primary), and chaos paradigm (breakdown of government and rise of tribes) (21–36).

Huntington offers us another view of history, what he calls the *civilizational paradigm* (37). This paradigm focuses upon "seven or eight major civilizations "which have both "commonalities and differences" of culture which "shape the interests, antagonisms, and associations of states" (29). The importance of focusing upon such a model in dealing with the disruptions of modern history are fivefold procedures: "(1) order and generalize about reality; (2) understand casual relationships among phenomena; (3) anticipate and, if we are lucky, predict future developments; (4) distinguish what is important from what is unimportant; and (5) show us what paths we should take to achieve our goals" (30).

## Part I

Samuel P. Huntington. *The Clash of Civilizations. Remaking of World Order*. New York: Touchstone Books of Simon & Schuster.

368 pages. ISBN 0-684-84441-9.



### Eight Civilizations of Modern World

If the culture of a civilization is the defining ingredient in world politics, how might one define a civilization? Huntington defines civilization in the singular as an eighteenth-century French concept of what is opposite to barbaric. "Civilized society differed from primitive society because it was settled, urban, and literate" (41). Civilization, however, differs from culture as the nineteenth-century German thinkers noted. Huntington clarifies *civilization* as that which involves "mechanics, technology, and material factors" with *culture* as that which involves "values, ideals, and the higher intellectual, artistic, moral qualities of a society" (41). A cultural grouping is of crucial importance for what a group shares are "language, history, religion, customs, institutions" (43) as well as a "subjective self-identification" (43) with a specific group of people.

A civilization with its culture may change, evolve, divide, fall, or merge. Historians differ in the number of civilizations in world history: Quigley (16), Toynbee (23), Spengler (8), McNeill (9). Huntington sees eight as follows: (1) *Sinic* (Chinese with common Confucian culture from 1500 B.C.), (2) *Japanese* (Japanese culture as offspring of Chinese from A.D. 100 to 400), (3) *Hindu* (Hindu social system dates back to 1500 B.C.), (4) *Islamic* (Islam

as a culture dates back to A.D. 600 in the Arabian peninsula), (5) *Orthodox* (culture with Byzantine heritage, Tatar power and absolutism) (6) *Western* (with Europe and North America as well as Australia and New Zealand and dates back to A.D. 700); (7) *Latin America* (culture with more authoritarian order, Catholicism, and indigenous); (8) *African* (north of Africa as Islamic and other parts as colonies of European imperialism).

### Early Civilizations Before A.D. 1500

The first phase of civilizations in Huntington's analysis is the period in history before A.D. 1500. Little contacts occurred among civilizations. Why? Separation came from "time and space" (48). The Andean civilization had no contact with Mesoamerican civilizations. Space separated civilizations of the great rivers: "Nile, Tigris-Euphrates, Indus, and Yellow" (49).

Ideas took time to move from one civilization to another such as Buddhism to China, printing in China in A.D. 700 to Europe in 1400s, paper in China in A.D. 100 to Japan in 700s, gunpowder in China in 800s to Europe in 1300s.

### Rise of Western Civilization

By the 800s Christianity began to spread in civilizations and Islam in the 700s to 1100s. European culture grew with its (1) "social pluralism," (2) "expanding commerce," and (3) "technological achievement" (50). Huntington insists: "The West won the world not by the superiority of its ideas or values or religion (to which few members of other civilizations were converted), but rather by its superiority in applying organized violence. Westerners often forget this fact; non-Westerners never do" (51).

### Clash of Cultures

Huntington believes what is happening in modern history is a clash of cultures and that now is the time to study the eight civilizations and their cultures in order to understand why non-Western cultures hate us. Huntington declares: "Every civilization sees itself as the center of the world and writes its history as the central drama of human history. Such monocivilizational viewpoints, however, have decreasing relevance and usefulness in a multicivilizational world" (55).

# Christian Art Review

by Michael Warning

## Introduction

Prayer is important and where, how, and when can make an extraordinary difference in our understanding of future events. For Jesus, the prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane is one that is before the most horrific event of His life. One may ask, "Did Jesus know the future?" One might respond by remembering His plea as He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "...if it be possible, let this cup pass from me..." (Matthew 26:39).

## Artistic Style

In this extraordinary painting on a wood panel by Andrea Mantegna (1431–1506) we see a transition taking place not only in the life of Jesus but also in the visual depiction of Biblical events. The question is, "How can we put all of the things that need to be in the painting for it to be correct according to the Biblical record and include the artist's inspirational and creative visualization which has been given?"

Mantegna has solved this by providing for himself a modern context. It is not modern context for us, because the Renaissance city on a hill is not the Jerusalem that modern Americans would envision. There are churches, bell towers, rotundas, and multi-story stone buildings. This was within the sight and mind of Mantegna, for he was in the early period of the Renaissance in Italy and these buildings are of that time frame.

The artistic style is one of the early Renaissance which includes these characteristics: (1) The canvas is clearly divided into foreground, midground, background. (2) A two-point perspective has been established, for even further into the background to the right, we have a perspective that is at an oblique angle terminating at a tall mountain. Indeed there is another perspective that is implied, namely, the cherubim in the upper left corner. (3) A quite idealized view of the scene is portrayed with the

warm raking light. (4) The importance of the foreground with three disciples oblivious to the trial, asleep.

## Symbolism

It is important to note the symbolic nature of the painting, such as the animal witnesses who are present to observe Jesus in prayer. Three rabbits pause on the road in the lower right corner. Above them in a tree which grows from the right corner is a gray stork. In the upper right hand corner another bird in great distance is shown in flight. To the left on the path leading the hill are a pair of rabbits. We might ask, "Why are all these animals important?" They symbolize the presence, witness, and natural wonder for the event which is taking place.

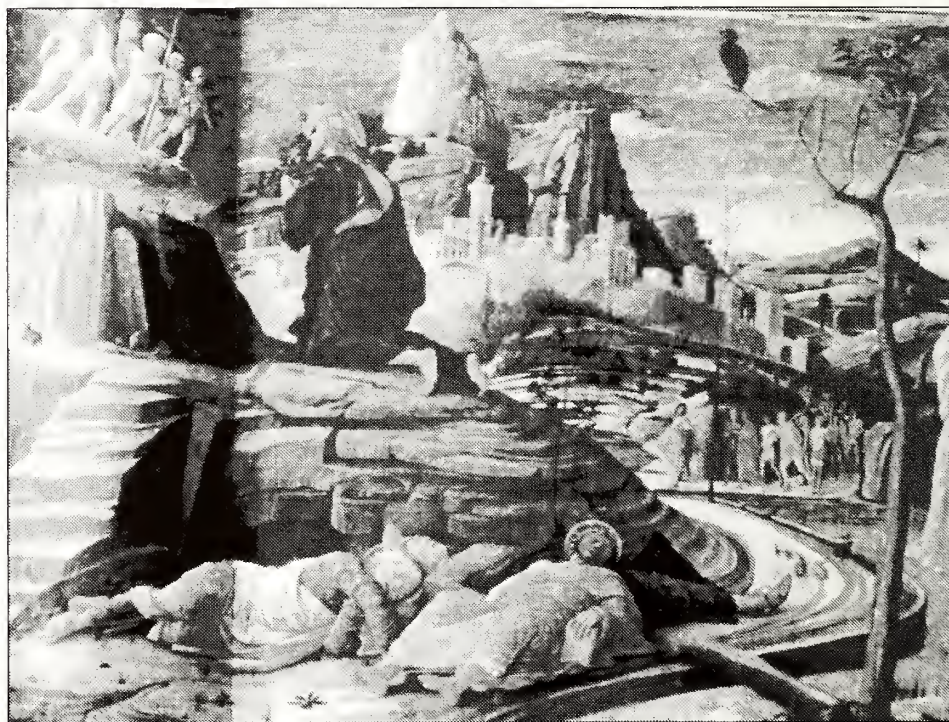
Heavenly witnesses are also present. Cherubim, small angelic beings, float on a cloud in the upper left hand corner. They are within the eyesight of the kneeling Jesus. These five angelic beings are holding three symbolic parts of the agony to which Jesus will go from the garden to the Cross. In the center of the angelic vision, we see the obvious symbol, the Cross. To the left, a black iron post, the kind that in Renaissance times

one was tied to in order to be whipped, symbolizes the flagellation of Jesus as well as the iron nails that will penetrate his hands and feet.

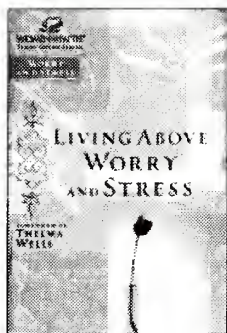
On the far right of this angelic vision we see a sharp pointed spear, symbolic of the implement which will pierce the side of Jesus while he is on the Cross. There is also the sponge on a pole which will be lifted up to Him when He is thirsty.

## Conclusion

For us in the modern industrial world, this scene seems as ancient as the event which is taking place. However, it would be radically modern to a viewer from the early Renaissance in the fifteenth century. For us, like the ultra modern city with skyscrapers we might see in a modern painting, this painting instead has an ancientness but a modernity for fifteenth century Italy. Indeed, art is influenced by its own culture, time frame, and perspective. What is universal, however, is the very heart of Jesus in agony before the horrific events about to follow as the crowds assemble in the distance for the Crucifixion.



Andrea Mantegna (1431–1506), *The Agony in the Garden*. In the National Gallery, London. Wood panel 24 3/4 by 31 1/2 inches. From Richard Mühlberger, *The Bible in Art: The New Testament*. New York: Portland House, 1990. pp. 116–117.



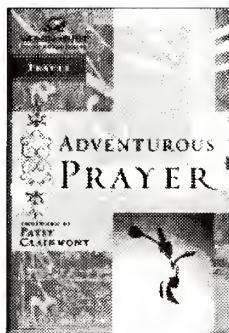
**LIVING ABOVE WORRY AND STRESS**  
*Foreword by Thelma Wells, (Nelson Publishers, \$7.99, softcover).*

Women today are busy. We have so many responsibilities, and only so many days, it is often more than we can handle.

Our hearts are overwhelmed. We are stressed out. We are worried. We dread tomorrow.

In the midst of all this everyday turmoil, our hearts are longing for a place of peace. We know God has promised to calm our fears and give us rest, but we barely have time to whisper a prayer. If you have been struggling, come. Take a little time to explore your Bible, and find some practical guidelines for laying aside fears, worries, and even stress. You really can discover a place of peace.

- Twelve weeks of Bible study—search the Scriptures for God’s answers
- Down-to-earth illustrations give you chances to relate and laugh
- Take home a trinket—a “gift” to remind you of each week’s message
- Dozens of insights quoted from your favorite Women of Faith speakers
- Complete Leader’s Guide included.



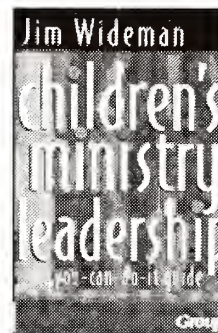
**ADVENTUROUS PRAYER**  
*Foreword by Patsy Clairmont, (Nelson Publishers, \$7.99, softcover).*

Prayer. We know we should all do it more often, take it more seriously and give it more time.

Prayer is our path to the adventure of building a relationship with our Savior. So how do working women and housewives find the time and the place to commit themselves to daily prayer? How do we know what to pray and how to pray it? How can a faithful woman find comfort in daily talks with God?

Your days are full, your life is complicated, and your heart is heavy with unspoken prayers. God knows, and He is waiting for you to turn to Him and tell Him all about it. God is listening for your whisper, and He will answer you.

- Twelve weeks of Bible study—search the Scriptures for God’s answers
- Down-to-earth illustrations give you chances to relate and laugh
- Take home a trinket, “gift” to remind you of each week’s message
- Dozens of insights quoted from your favorite Women of Faith speakers
- Complete Leader’s Guide included.



**CHILDREN’S MINISTRY LEADERSHIP**  
*by Jim Wideman, (Group Publishers, \$16.99, softcover).*

*Children’s Ministry Leadership: The You-Can-Do-It Guide* is the perfect tool for encouraging motivated children’s ministry leaders to grow their ministry with effective administration. You’ll get great field-tested training from the children’s ministry leadership expert. Learn leadership fundamentals, sharpen your administrative and organizational skills and create great time management methods for yourself and your children’s ministry staff.

This essential tool for children’s ministry includes:

- Ideas for honing your administrative and organizational skills specifically for children’s ministry.
- Tips for facilitating and managing time for yourself and your volunteers or staff.
- Tried-and-true practical advice from a children’s ministry trainer and expert in the field.

**Featured selections will be 20% off during the month of September. To receive this discount in bookstore or by phone, you must mention the September 2003 issue of *The Free Will Baptist*.**



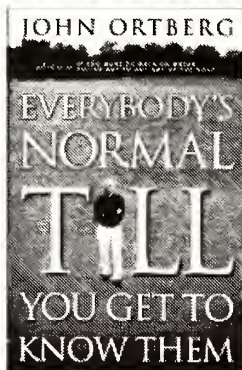
**AS THE TOWERS FELL—STORIES OF UNSHAKABLE FAITH ON 9-11**  
by Lisa Chilson-Rose,  
(New Hope Publishers, \$10.99, softcover).

As the *Towers Fell* goes beyond the faceless statistics to offer personal insights of Christians rocked by 9/11—ordinary people in the most extraordinary of circumstances. Some died, some survived forever changed, some worked in recovery efforts. All came face to face with what they really believed and emerged with individual stories as compelling as the extraordinary one they all shared.

For New York Christians, it was one of the biggest tests of faith that we had.—Lisa Chilson-Rose.

I am still unsure of the future, but with You I can do all things, Lord. I pray that my life would not be free from trials and suffering but be full of Your teaching and grace and mercy. It gives me great comfort to know that You are in control of all things in my life.—From the journal of Jennifer Wong, who died in the 9/11 attack, contemplating her future in a letter to God.

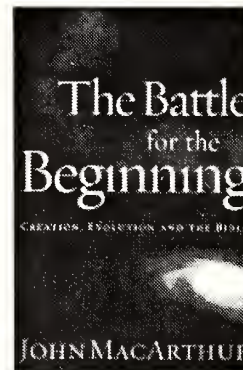
He will never let you down even when devastating things happen like September 11. Many, many people ministered to me. I saw God in the arms that reached out. I saw God love me and be more personal to me.—From Lory Finocchiarra, a police officer and rescue worker.



**EVERYBODY'S NORMAL TILL YOU GET TO KNOW THEM**  
by John Ortberg,  
(Zondervan Publishers, \$16.99, hardcover).

Normal? Who's normal? Not you, that's for sure! No one you've ever met, either. None of us are normal according to God's definition, and the closer we get to each other, the plainer that becomes. Yet for all our quirks, sins, and jagged edges, we need each other. Community is more than just a word—it is one of our most fundamental requirements. So how do flawed, abnormal people such as ourselves master the forces that can drive us apart and come together in the life-changing relationships God designed us for?

In *Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them*, teacher and best-selling author John Ortberg zooms in on the things that make community tick. You'll get a thought-provoking look at God's heart, at others, and at yourself. Even better, you'll gain wisdom and tools for drawing closer to others in powerful, impactful ways. With humor, insight, and a gift for storytelling, Ortberg shows how community pays tremendous dividends in happiness, health, support, and growth. It's where all of us weird, unwieldy people encounter God's love in tangible ways and discover the transforming power of being loved, accepted, and valued just the way we are.



**THE BATTLE FOR THE BEGINNING**  
by John MacArthur,  
(W Publishing Group, \$21.99, hardcover).

The battle lines have been drawn, and the enemy appears to be winning.

"Thanks to the theory of evolution" writes biblical expositor Dr. John MacArthur, "naturalism is now the dominant religion of modern society. Less than a century and a half ago, Charles Darwin popularized the credo for this secular religion. Naturalism has now replaced Christianity as the main religion of the Western world, and evolution has become its principal dogma.

Many Christians who claim to believe the Bible seem willing to allow modern scientific theories to replace the Genesis account of Creation.

Such compromises present a great danger, MacArthur believes. He asserts that in Genesis 1–3 we find the foundation of every doctrine that is essential to the Christian faith—the vital foundation for everything we believe as Christians.

In this book he draws a clear line on today's theological landscape and calls on his readers to help him defend it. "Everything Scripture teaches about sin and redemption assumes the literal truth of the first three chapters of Genesis. If we wobble to any degree on the truth of this passage," he insists, "we undermine the very foundation of our faith."

These and other titles, as well as other Sunday School Curriculum and church supplies are available at **YOUR Christian Resource Centers: The Bible Bookstores of Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson** or you may order by phone at (800) 849-3927.





## GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTING MATERIAL FOR PRINTING

According to the 1983 charter, the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation exists for the following purpose:

"The purposes for which the corporation is organized are: to write, edit, print, publish and distribute any and all religious and educational literature for the Free Will Baptist denomination, including, but not limited to Sunday School quarterlies, teachers' quarterlies, magazines, religious books, periodicals, newspapers, tracts, leaflets, and posters of the denomination; church programs; schedules, minutes of the church, union, conference or convention meetings; hymnals; and other such religious and educational materials and miscellaneous printing as the Board of Directors shall deem desirable for use by Free Will Baptists or other denominations." (*Restated Charter Articles of Incorporation of Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Incorporated, Book 22, Page 535*).

The Free Will Baptist Press Foundation operates as a ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists as described in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*: "All institutions, auxiliaries and enterprises, born because of a recognized need by the denomination and authorized by the parent body are to adhere to the denominational principles and to be servants of the denomination" (111-112). As such we are bound to uphold the principles established in the *Free Will Baptist Church Covenant* (31-32).

All materials submitted for printing should reflect the general principles given above. Materials in conflict with these principles will be returned to the client who originally submitted the material. Normally, clients may choose to edit the materials to reflect these principles and resubmit them to the Press for reconsideration. In cases where the basic philosophy expressed in the material is in direct conflict with the principles under which the Press operates, the Press may return materials and not consider any future revisions. All materials returned to clients will indicate which situation applies.

These guidelines apply to all material printed by the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation including, but not limited to the following: Free Will Baptist literature and publications, book printing (fiction and nonfiction), advertising, programs, newsletters, and business forms.

The Editor, in consultation with the Executive Director and Board Chair, will make decisions as to whether submitted material is acceptable under the guidelines. Exceptions to these guidelines can be made only with the agreement of the Editor, the Executive Director, and the Board Chair on a case by case basis.

(Note: These guidelines have been adopted by the Board of Directors of the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation.)

To assist clients in determining whether material fits our principles, the Press has established the following specific guidelines.

**1**

All materials should reflect a Christian viewpoint. Materials which by their nature do not contain any religious reference (advertising, business forms, etc.) should not express any philosophy in conflict with a conservative Christian view. Materials should not condone any religious views which conflict directly with *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*.

**2**

All materials should avoid questionable or suggestive language.

**3**

All materials should avoid "all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, the abuse of drugs" (*Articles of Faith* 31). In cases in which alcohol and/or drugs are mentioned, it is vital that the reader understand that such behavior is unacceptable. Under no circumstances can such behavior be portrayed as desirable or acceptable.

**4**

All materials should avoid the approval of any questionable sexual relationship. In cases in which any sexual activity or relationship outside of marriage is mentioned, it is vital that the reader understand that such behavior is unacceptable. Under no circumstances can such behavior be portrayed as desirable or acceptable. Materials should avoid any overly suggestive or descriptive portrayals of sexual tension and/or activity even within the marriage relationship.

**5**

All materials should avoid the approval of New Age philosophy, the occult (including witchcraft, fortune-telling, tarot cards, etc.) In cases in which such ideas are mentioned, it is vital that the reader understand that such philosophies and behaviors are unacceptable.



THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST  
MONTHLY PLANNER

# September 2003



## HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY                                                                                                     | TUESDAY                                                                                     | WEDNESDAY                                                                            | THURSDAY                                                                       | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                                                                                   |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        | 1                                                                                                          | 2                                                                                           | 3                                                                                    | 4                                                                              | 5      | 6                                                                                          |
| 7      | 8<br>Central Conference<br>Layman's League<br>Kings Crossroads<br>-Supper 6:30 P.M.<br>-Business 7:30 P.M. | 9<br>10:00 A.M.<br>FWB Press<br>Membership<br>Meeting                                       | 10                                                                                   | 11<br>7:00 P.M.<br>Sunday School<br>Central<br>Conference<br>Regional Training | 12     | 13<br>Cragmont<br>Vision Walk @<br>Mount Olive<br>College, Supper<br>by Layman's<br>League |
| 14     | 15<br>Convention<br>Golf<br>Tournament                                                                     | 16<br>Annual<br>Convention<br>of OFWB                                                       | 17<br>Annual<br>Convention<br>of OFWB<br><br>5:45 P.M.<br>Fall Leadership<br>Banquet | 18<br>Annual<br>Convention<br>of OFWB                                          | 19     | 20<br>Eastern<br>District Fall<br>Convention                                               |
| 21     | 22<br>Children's<br>Home<br>Accreditation Peer<br>Review Site Visit                                        | 23<br>Children's<br>Home<br>Accreditation Peer<br>Review Site Visit                         | 24                                                                                   | 25<br>5:00 P.M.<br>Home Missions<br>& Evangelism<br>Board Meeting              | 26     | 27<br>Mount Olive<br>College<br>Bridge Builder's<br>Appreciation<br>Dinner                 |
| 28     | 29                                                                                                         | 30<br>Sunday<br>School<br>Board Meeting<br><br>Western<br>Conference Board<br>of Ordination | NOTES:                                                                               |                                                                                |        |                                                                                            |
|        |                                                                                                            |                                                                                             |                                                                                      |                                                                                |        |                                                                                            |

**COMING SOON:** October 11, 2003, 7:00 P.M. — Layman's League Executive Board Meeting, VFW Building, Snow Hill

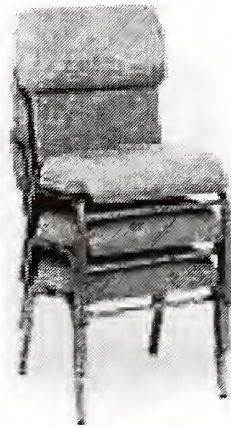
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EVERETT CHAPEL CHURCH, Clayton, is seeking a full-time Associate/Youth Pastor with the main emphasis on youth. Interested persons may contact and/or send a resume to Danny Ellis at 810 Loop Road, Clayton, NC 27520 or call him at (919) 553-7345 or e-mail him at <[DOC1S@aol.com](mailto:DOC1S@aol.com)>.

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The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December.) You may submit articles by any of the following methods:

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- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*  
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\*No phone-in or handwritten information will be accepted.

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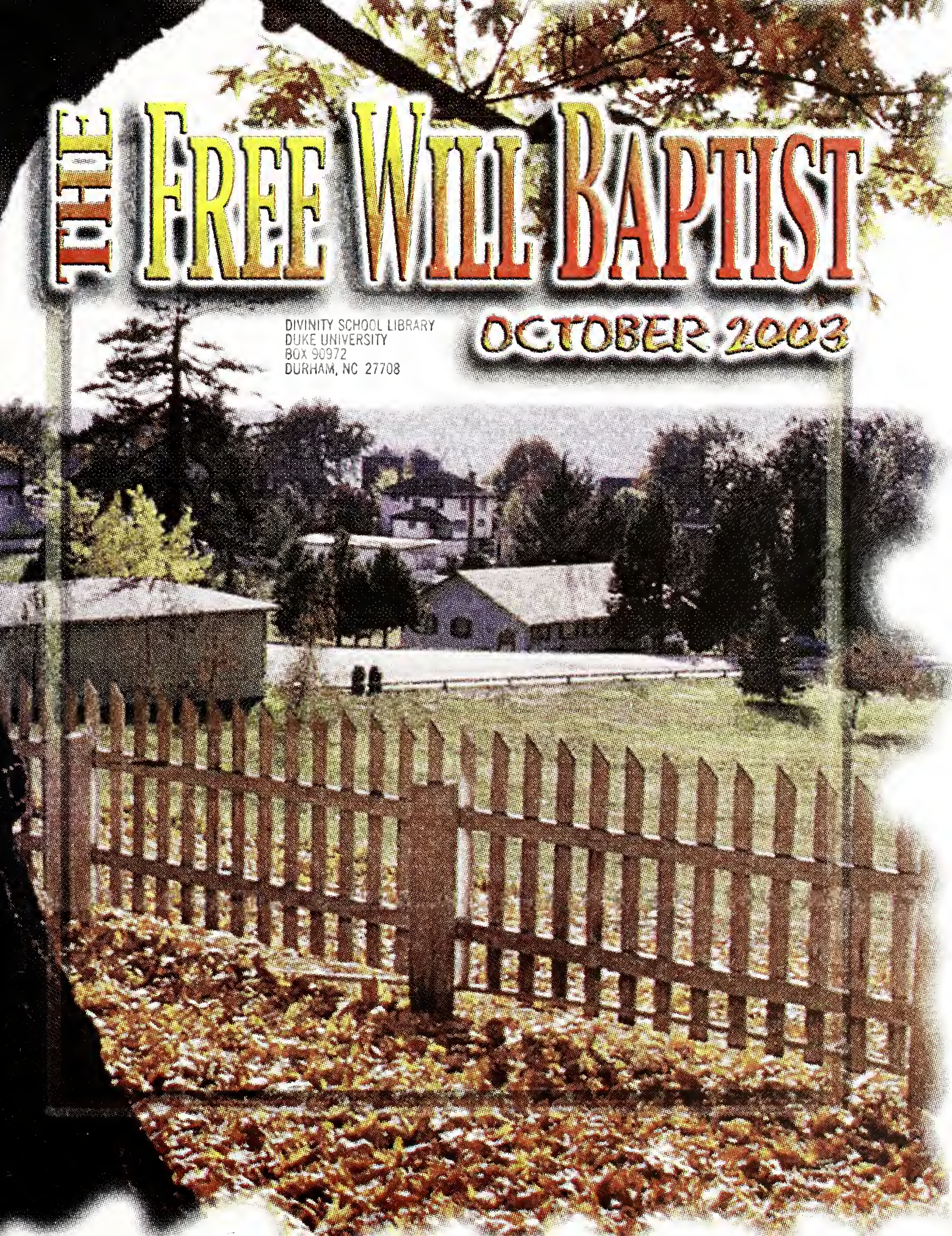
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OCTOBER 2003



# SEASONS CHANGE— DOES GOD'S WORD?

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

The fall season is a beautiful time of the year—when leaves change from their normal greens to the yellows, oranges, and reds. The mountains are an especially magnificent place during this time. Leaves tumbling to the ground, grass browning out, and cool air pushing away the warm can be a dreary event—until spring a couple of seasons later. Change is all around, right? Unfortunately, so many things are changing. Religious freedoms are among them. Christians don't seem to have freedom any more. Morals are changing rapidly. Television more and more depicts certain circumstances and lifestyles as normal and our scrupulously unbiased media (yeah, right) seem to slant everything.

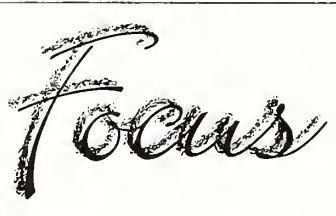
The Bible states that "the grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). This passage doesn't say "for a season," it says "forever." In other words, homosexuality is still a sin, adultery is still a sin, disobeying our parents is a sin,

lying is a sin... It seems sometimes that "Christians" are some of the greediest people—even worse now with the false idea of "prosperity for all Christians" being so heavily taught to us by some preachers.

It's mind boggling to see Christian churches and denominations performing gay marriages and ordaining openly gay priests. And what about the vast amount of children who have been molested by their church leaders! Sometimes I wonder if our country could be headed for the same fate as Sodom and Gomorrah.

What are we to do? How do we turn things back around? Can we, as Christians, do anything about this?

Let's do as Hebrews 13:7-8 tells us, "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (NIV). Let's live "The Righteous Life" 24/7!



## MEMORIALS AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

According to *Webster's New World Dictionary*, a memorial is "...anything meant to help people remember some person or event, as a statue, holiday, etc." Thus, through memorials memories are preserved.

God ordained many memorials in His dealings and directions for His people in Old Testament times. So did Jesus during His earthly ministry. We know the story of Mary of Bethany anointing Jesus with a very costly ointment in preparation for His burial. In spite of the disciples' criticisms, Jesus declared, "Verily I say unto you, Where-soever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her" (Matthew 26:13). So it was, and thus we read about it today.

Memorials mean something; they serve a lasting purpose. So it was with the memorial that was set up upon the crossing of Jordan in the days of Joshua. Under God's directions, Joshua commanded twelve men (one out of each tribe) to take a stone out of the river and arrange them as a memorial. Why? So the story of the crossing of Jordan would be forever told and kept fresh in the minds of His people throughout the generations to come. "...When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones? Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land... That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God forever" (Joshua 4:21, 24).

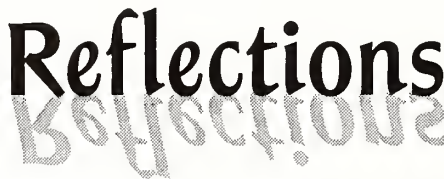
As a nation we have established many memorials. Some

of them remind us of the sacrifice of freedom. Some depict important events in our quest for technology. We have memorialized our great founding fathers, and other great leaders, in the form of statues and paintings. Suppose they were removed from our view and from our history books. Within a few generations they would be forgotten and replaced with other lesser persons and events.

This brings us to the matter of the place and importance of the Ten Commandments in our nation's establishment and history. From the biblical days of Moses and Mount Sinai, they have served humanity in our search for direction regarding our relationship to God and our fellowman. In removing them to some dark, hidden place, away from view, they will ultimately be forgotten. To some, sad to say, their display is an offense; therefore, in the name of separation of church and state, a term that our founding fathers had

not devised, these Commandments are gradually disappearing. The first Amendment to the U.S. Constitution clearly states: "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." The last phrase is often neglected by the proponents of separation of church and state.

If the Ten Commandments ultimately disappear from physical view, as well as other reminders of the reality of God, the result will be of greater harm, both morally and spiritually, than any other tragedy of our present generation, for they will ultimately be erased from memory. Without them, no one will be asking, "What do these stones mean?"



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**Submissions:** All material for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month prior to publication. (Example: items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the fifth day of December.) Pictures are not returned unless there is an appropriate self-addressed stamped envelope included. Items for publication should be addressed to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159 or sent by e-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>.

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# POWER VERSE

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
The same was in the beginning with God.  
(John 1:1-2).

October 1953

# MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE IN SEARCH OF A HOME

by W. Burkette Raper  
(President 1954–1995)



Fifty years ago Mount Olive College was a toddler—just learning to walk. The College had completed its first year of operation in a rented home at Cragmont Assembly at Black Mountain where a total of fourteen students had enrolled during the 1952–1953 year. Of this number, only two were enrolled the entire year. It was, however, a bold and brave beginning under the vigorous leadership of the Reverend Lloyd Vernon, president and Bible teacher, and the Reverend A. B. Chandler, business instructor.

With gift support to the College during the year totaling only \$6,940, most of which was required for rent and plant operations, Mr. Vernon and Mr. Chandler sustained themselves primarily by making a round trip of seven hundred miles on weekends to serve churches in Eastern North Carolina. Notwithstanding a church climate characterized by more doubts than enthusiasm for the College, a beginning had been made toward fulfilling the vision for an educational program that was rooted in the faith and heritage of Original Free Will Baptists. Now that the infant institution had taken its first steps, it was time for the toddler to leave its borrowed cradle for a larger world.

The summer of 1953 found the Board of Christian Education, under the leadership of its chair, the Reverend David W. Hansley, in a diligent search of a home for the College. Upon learning from Mr. Vernon, a native of Mount Olive, that the public school building, where he had attended grades one through high school, was on the market, the Board inspected the property and inquired about the terms for purchase.

When the 1953 session of the State Convention of Original Free Will



*Original Mount Olive College Campus  
Purchased 1953—Used through 1994*

Baptists met at Marsh Swamp Church in Wilson County in September, Mr. Hansley was ready with his report which included recommendations that were a surprise to most ministers and delegates.

First, instead of returning to Cragmont Assembly for the 1953–1954 year, Mr. Hansley informed the Convention that arrangements had been made with the Beulaville Free Will Baptist Church for the College to use its facilities “on a temporary basis.”

Second, he reported that “The Board of Christian Education found that the majority of our people wished the College to be located in the eastern part of the State . . . and by Divine Providence and guidance of God we have at last found property that is suitably located and will adequately meet the needs of our people. We therefore recommend buying this property. The property

is located in the town of Mount Olive . . . (and) can be bought for \$25,000.”

A heated debate followed, and the recommendation for purchasing property and locating the College in Mount Olive was tabled until the following day.

The next item of business was the report of the College treasurer, the Reverend M. L. Johnson, who revealed that the College had a balance of only \$6.17 in its treasury.

After the Convention adjourned for the day, my wife and I went to Mount Olive to see the property. The outside view was one of unkept grounds with tall grass and weeds, and the building itself showed the marks of not having been used for sometime—broken windows and an overall drab appearance. Inside, there was fallen plaster, cracked and

*(Continued on next page)*



sagging chalkboards, upended school desks, oil-soaked floors and corridors filled with debris.

The next day, fifty-two delegates and ministers voted to purchase the school site, twenty-two voted against it, while others abstained. Also, at the 1953 Convention, the first Board of Directors (now Trustees) was elected, including the Reverends N. Bruce Barrow and Earl H. Glenn. Immediately following the adjournment of the Convention, the nine-member Board met, elected Mr. Hansley chair, and set its next meeting one week later to devise plans for raising the \$25,000 for the purchase of the Mount Olive property. The goal was to close the purchase on October 5, and it was agreed that each trustee would use this time to seek gifts for the College.

In my role as the newly elected Promotional Director of the Convention, I met with the Board of Directors at its October 5 meeting in Goldsboro. Mr. Hansley explained that the Wayne County Board of Education had agreed to accept a

down payment of \$4,000 with an extended payment of the remaining \$21,000 for eighteen months at an interest rate of three percent.

As the members of the College Board presented to Mr. Hansley the gifts they had raised, the total came to approximately \$1,800. This was a historic moment—it was now or never. With so much indifference and opposition to establishing a Free Will Baptist College in North Carolina, to fail at this point could have been fatal to the vision that the College was essential for the future of the Church. Those present made additional gifts adequate to bring the amount to \$2,000, and the Reverend C. J. Harris of Greenville, a member of the Board, made a ninety-day interest-free loan to bring the total to \$4,000. Both the Wayne County Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners were in session on this date and confirmed the terms of the purchase. Among those from the Town of Mount Olive who helped to mediate the sale and purchase of the property

were the late Edward F. Carroll of the Chamber of Commerce and S. M. Davis of the Board of Education.

The toddler now had a home; and, like all children, its future would depend upon its commitment to the vision which gave it birth. It would have to set goals and work diligently to procure the financial resources necessary to reach these goals. It would have to attract personnel—administrators, faculty, and support staff—who shared its vision. It would have to provide students with a distinctive quality of education that was rooted in its vision. Above all, its future would ultimately depend upon its commitment to the God-given mission for which it was born.

(A more complete account of the founding of Mount Olive College can be found in *A Short History of Mount Olive College, Volume I*, available at the Free Will Baptist Press, P. O. Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513 or the Mount Olive College Bookstore, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365.)

## WHEN DARKNESS DESCENDS ON A CITY

by Mark R. Hogan

It was a typical Thursday at the college where I work. After two straight weeks of rain, thunderstorms, and enough humidity to sour a block of concrete, we were thankful to have a sunny though very hot day. I was riding the elevator to my office on the fifteenth floor, late in the afternoon, when the power seemed to go off and on. The elevator lurched upward in sporadic spurts, reached the fifteenth floor and stopped; the door remained closed. The power shut off, leaving me in darkness yet again, momentarily. Suddenly, the power surged on and the elevator car dropped to the fourteenth floor and the door opened. I jumped out into the hallway and the lights immediately went out again and did not come back on. I stepped into a co-worker's office and found her

looking perplexed. My office is in a building that is over 100 years old; occasional failures in the building services were not unusual. I remembered that the college assistant who works in my office was alone. I said, "I'm going to check on Priscilla and will be back in a minute." When I arrived she was "bugging" (to put it in her slang). I said, "I'm not sure if this is just in our building or if the whole area has lost power." About that time I noticed more horns than usual honking on the street below. I told her, "This is bigger than our building, the traffic lights are out; listen to the horns." We went back to the fourteenth floor, retrieved our co-worker, and began the long descent down the dark stairwell to the street.

The lobby was full of confused people questioning one another. As

I suspected, the traffic lights were out and the security guards confirmed that it was a major black out. How major we had no idea at the time. We met up with several other coworkers and each decided it best to begin looking for ways to get home. Most of my coworkers are dependent on public transportation, which had been paralyzed with the blackout. Fortunately, I live just around the corner from my office. I walked to my apartment and climbed the stairs to my home on the eighth floor. The heat was already building up in our apartment from the hot day and the late afternoon sun. My wife was home listening to her Walkman radio. By that time, it was being reported that all of New York City, much of the North East and large

*(Continued on next page)*

sections of the Great Lakes area were without power. We knew that in a few hours we would be enveloped in darkness. No one really knew what to expect. Most expected the worst.

If I were a superstitious person, I might have begun to worry. My family likes to joke about never coming to visit me in September. It started before I moved to New York. In September of 1999, I went through the flood of the century in Eastern North Carolina (many of you remember it well). In September of 2001, I went through the September 11 attacks in New York. Now, in August of 2003, I experienced the largest blackout in US history. I guess the lesson is not to visit me in late summer or early fall of odd numbered years. However, my relatives back home in Detroit will have to re-think their position, since they were hit by this disaster, too.

My wife is a nurse in an intensive care unit, and her hospital disaster plan required her to report to work for assignment, so I escorted her to the hospital. As the sunshine receded into the horizon and dusk gave way to darkness, there was a light and buoyant feeling in the streets, almost a festive atmosphere. Yes, people were tired, hot, and frustrated. Many were still miles from home. Yet, in the midst of the misery there was a strange contentment. It was almost as if the horrors of September 11 had prepared the city for this lesser disaster. Absent were the lootings and fires so prevalent in previous blackouts. Restaurant owners kept their doors open, burned candles, and gave away food and drink rather than let it spoil. People in the streets were once again our neighbors. In all, I would say I heard more mirth than moaning, I witnessed more generosity than gouging, and I encountered more coping than complaining.

At about 11:30 that night I went out for a walk. Though my wife strongly suggested that I stay in, it is somehow in my nature to want to get out and experience such a historical phenomena first hand. I've always

liked to get a little too close to the fire, walk a little too close to the edge, stay a little longer than is really safe. During my excursion, I encountered avenues that at midnight are usually bright with life were now quiet and serene. Park and Fifth Avenues were as quiet as an empty church except for the sounds of revelers proceeding to the candle lit gathering places. Looking up Broadway into Times Square where the lights were usually so proudly glowing, I saw nothing but a dark cavern. Small groups of people sat outside shops gathered around candles and portable radios. Small town camaraderie had come back to the city. How sad that it takes a disaster to bring out the best in us.

My wife had been sent home from the hospital and told to return at 4:00 A.M. We lay down to try and catch a few hours of sleep. As I lay in the heat of the night without air conditioning or even a fan, I thought about the millions of immigrants who flowed into this city and lived in crowded tenements without adequate ventilation. I realized how blessed I was to live in a time of such abundance. It was quiet and peaceful outside, another moment of thanks. I walked my wife back to work in the quiet of the dark and deserted streets. It would be 7:30 P.M. before power would be restored to our neighborhood (one of the last to get power). While it was a long, hot, and uncomfortable day, it was not a bad day. Though the darkness had descended, it did not darken our spirits. Is there something to be learned?

Darkness descends on every city, town, hamlet, or village from time to time. At times it will be a literal darkness. However, the spiritual darkness that settles in over a place, person or parish is much more to be feared. The Bible describes our spiritual foe as a ruler of darkness (Ephesians 6:12). Missionaries speak about a regional darkness that may settle in a country. To be sure, we have entered a period of spiritual darkness in our land. For many people these are dark, desperate, and discouraging times.

We were without power for 27 hours. It seemed like days. I was hot, grouchy, and tired of climbing the eight flights of stairs to our apartment. Everything was a struggle. Perhaps you feel like everything in your life is a struggle. What others seem to take in stride totally frustrates you. You look in the mirror and only see darkness. When you pray you feel like the man in the cell phone commercial, "Can you hear me now?"

The lights came on as quick as they went off. Street lights beamed, traffic lights flashed, fans spun to life, air conditioners began to hum. Other than a few things we had to throw out of our refrigerator, there seemed to be little evidence of the massive blackout. In fact, I suspect that when we are in the presence of God in eternity the darkness we experienced in this life will seem very small. The Apostle Paul said, "I reckon the sufferings of this present are not worthy to be glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18). He speaks of our "light affliction," also (see 2 Corinthians 4:17). The darkness of our days will one day seem light.

My flashlight was not large and powerful, yet it kept me safe and secure. I was able to negotiate the stairwells. I could signal to approaching cars that I was crossing the street. I could even help my neighbors who had forgotten or lost their flashlight or whose batteries had gone dead. In broad daylight, that flashlight beam would be imperceptible. However, during a blackout it was a powerful force. The Scripture says we must "shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:15). Jesus said "I am the light of the world" (John 9:5). The Bible states that "...God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5). The Apostle Paul reminds believers they "...were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8).

God is still shining His light in dark places. The Saturday following the blackout, I was taking a morning

walk through the East Village. I entered a section known as Alphabet City (once one of the highest crime areas of the city). I passed by a long line of people waiting to go inside a building with a sign proclaiming "The Fathers House Ministry Center." A little farther up the sidewalk I noticed a group of young Hispanic men forming a circle. The leader cried out in a thick accent "Father God we are covered by the blood...covered by the blood." As I walked further along the sidewalk, I heard their voices rising in a chorus of prayer. There is a light in the darkness.

The Mission American Coalition will be convening their National Leadership Forum to New York City in October 2003. Mac Pier, the director of the Concerts of Prayer Greater New York says, "This is an historic opportunity for New York City ministries to host one of the largest meetings of evangelical

leaders in nearly a century...The NLF [National Leadership Forum] will provide an opportunity for leaders to experience what God is doing in preparing an urban Pentecost by bringing the whole world to NYC" (National Leadership Web Page). There is light amidst the darkness.

Where has God placed you? Perhaps you are the flashlight someone needs to find his or her way home. Maybe a weary fellow pilgrim needs the light of your smile to lift them up. Blackouts are a bad thing. But blackouts can be survived if you have just a little light. Are you prepared for the next blackout you face? Keep your flashlight handy and your batteries charged. Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world." A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

"Let your light so shine before

men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16).

One striking image that emerged from the sky during the blackout was something that many take for granted—the stars. One normally can't perceive the stars in the city because of the bright city lights. The stars are always present, but unnoticed. God's light is always present in the world even when unnoticed by the world at large. The blackouts of life give us opportunity to shine for Christ. Paul reminds us to be "Blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe" (Philippians 2:15 NIV). The world staggers like a man unexpectedly caught in the darkness. The light of Christ's love will lead to safety and security. When it is dark outside, even a little light will do.

## MINISTER'S PROGRAM

### NATIONAL CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY

October 12, 2003

The Minister's Program would like to remind all churches that October 12, 2003 is National Clergy Appreciation Day. While each of us appreciates our pastor, this day gives us an excuse to do something special for him. He stands with us in times of sorrow and tragedy as well as those moments of joy that all families experience. Sometimes we forget to say thank you for all he does, but the Bible reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13: "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves." We encourage

each church member to do something on this day to show that you care. Here are some ideas:

- If your pastor has children, offer to baby-sit. Give him a free voucher to redeem with a 24 hour notice.
- Wash the pastor's car. If his wife has a car, then wash hers, too. Don't forget to fill it up with gas while you have it.
- Purchase a gift certificate to a nice restaurant. While it's nice to take the pastor and his wife with you, they would probably enjoy a romantic dinner for two.

- Make a theme gift basket. A book-worm, music, or other hobby theme would be nice.
- How about if your Sunday School class went together and gave him a new suit. Don't forget the shirt and tie.
- What about a mini-vacation to the coast or mountains?
- A thank you card with a gift inside.

The gift doesn't have to be extravagant. Anything from the heart will mean a lot.

# THE FREE WILL BAPTIST MINISTER'S PROGRAM

## Mission Statement

*"It is the purpose of the Free Will Baptist Minister's Program to serve the churches and ministers of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. It is our assertion that the minister can best meet the spiritual requirements of a congregation if they are unencumbered by the burden of financial insecurity. To this end we provide administrative services, information resources, and educational opportunities. These are designed to help the minister and the local church plan together a program of compensation and benefits designed to meet the minister's present and future financial needs."*

The Minister's Program has been a part of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists for over 50 years and has sought to serve the churches and ministers of our Convention by providing financial resources, administrative services, information, and educational opportunities as it relates to their financial well being. We are an arm of the local church helping them do what they cannot do alone.

It is important to note that providing for a pastor should not be the task of the Minister's Program, central board or governing authority. According to the Scriptures, the responsibility of providing for the needs of the pastor rests squarely upon the shoulders of the local church. The Minister's Program has evolved into an extension of the local church helping them provide what they cannot provide themselves. Providing a top flight retirement program, compensation recommendations, and tax planning are just a part of what we do.

In addition to this, we provide hardship grants for ministers in need. Through your generosity, each Christmas ministers 65 and over receive a \$100 gift from you, the churches of the Convention. This year that amount has been raised to \$125 by a special gift from the Steve Burress family in Pinetops, NC. Steve is a member of Aspen Grove Church and the son of the late Hubert S. Burress, who served the denomination as pastor for many years. This generous contribution will be a challenge to our local churches as we attempt to make this increase permanent.

We administer the Minister's Widows Fund and the Surviving Ministers

Fund, which provide death benefits to the spouses of participants. In addition, this year we have received gifts from the Rev. Michael Warning and Dr. Pepper Worthington to be distributed to the recipients of these funds in the spirit of Christian fellowship, and we are most appreciative of their kindness and generosity.

The retirement benefits of all ministers who retired under the old program have been supplemented, many of whom have outlived their benefits but still receive a monthly gift. Again, this is because of your faithful support. This year the retirement plan was valued and was found to be underfunded by over \$150,000. This valuation is done every three years to insure that those ministers who have retired will continue to receive the benefit promised to them when they began receiving benefits. The board moved to cover this shortage completely and then declared a \$75,000 surplus which was distributed to all ministers participating in the retirement plan. This amounted to a transfer of funds to our ministers of almost a quarter million dollars and was the largest transaction in the history of our program!

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 of our 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.

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 sometime 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 building 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 whom God has called to serve.

Does your church support the Minister's Program in its regular program of giving? Last year 40% of our churches did not provide any gift support to the program. Was this your church? 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    | ANNUAL GIFT CHALLENGE | For more information, please contact:<br>Donald Fader,<br>The Free Will Baptist<br>Minister's Program<br>PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513<br>(252) 523-5800 |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Less than 100 | \$150                 |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 100-149       | \$300                 |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 150-199       | \$400                 |                                                                                                                                                       |
| Over 200      | \$500                 |                                                                                                                                                       |



## THE FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE: PRICELESS

by Erin Brescia, Student Intern



Approximately 170 new faces recently arrived at Mount Olive College: freshmen gearing up for their first academic year. The eager students arrived with U-hauls and pick-up trucks jam packed with mini-refrigerators, storage units, computers, and clothes—everything they would need to survive their first year of college.

Registration lines weaved throughout the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center and over 50 student volunteers assisted with checking students into their rooms and carrying belongings to and from vehicles.

Between the parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends, the campus was bustling with activity for the majority of the afternoon.

Freshmen underwent three days of orientation before beginning classes, and will assemble twice a week with their advising class throughout the remainder of the semester. Study skills, campus policies, and a healthy college lifestyle are among the wide range topics that are discussed during these meetings.

Although the transition from high school to college can be intimidating, Meredith Tew of Dunn, a member of Lee's Chapel Church, is excited to finally be a college freshman. "It is great to venture away from high school and begin something new," she said. "I'm ready to start being more independent."

Tew saw the campus for the first time on one of the visitation days that are regularly scheduled by the admissions office. "I had a really great experience. It is a beautiful campus, and I like that the teachers know me on a first name basis."



Meredith Tew

Rodgers Chapel was the primary thing that captured Tew's attention. "You hardly ever see a church in the middle of a campus, and that is what caught my eye. It shows that there is a strong Christian atmosphere here."

While some students are too far

away from home to schedule regular visits, Meredith plans to go home to do laundry and get a home-cooked meal every now and then.

"Going to a school that is affiliated with my church will give me the chance to interact with my extended church family," she says. "Even though I am away, I know I have the support, guidance, and prayers of my church family at Lee's Chapel."

By the end of the year, the new students will hardly recognize themselves as the eager freshmen who first stepped foot on campus on a warm August afternoon. The changes that they will undergo and the things they will learn are what make the Mount Olive College experience priceless.

Tew is the daughter of Craig and Glenda Tew. She is a graduate of Midway High School in Spivey's Corner, NC.



Pictured at left:  
The entire Holliday family chips in to help Angela move into her dorm room.



Pictured at right:  
Phil Holliday waits patiently on the back of his pick-up truck for his daughter, Angela to give him instructions. They are from Bear Grass and attend Rose of Sharon Church.

## VISITATION DAY— NOVEMBER 11

Campus Visitation Day is scheduled for Tuesday, November 11. High school seniors and their parents are invited to attend this event to learn more about the opportunities at Mount Olive College. Attendants participate in campus tours, meet faculty and other students, as well as discuss scholarships and financial aid opportunities. Potential students can audition for music scholarships and meet athletic coaches, also. For more information, contact Barbara Kornegay, Vice President for enrollment at (919) 658-2502 or e-mail her at <bkornegay@moc.edu>.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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## ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND November 21-23

The annual Alumni Weekend celebration will kick off Friday, November 21 with fun activities planned for returning Mount Olive College alumni, families, and students. Alumni will have the chance to cheer on their alma mater as the Trojan basketball team defends its championship in the Pickle Classic Tournament. For more information, contact the alumni relations office at (919) 658-2502 or e-mail <driley@moc.edu>.

## MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE DINNERS

Below is a schedule of the annual 18 county-wide dinners to be held for Mount Olive College in October and November. Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, coordinator of the dinners, invites all Free Will Baptists to attend the dinner in their county. The dinners serve a three-fold purpose: (1) To allow the College to distribute information regarding its educational services to the Free Will Baptist Church and the region it serves; (2) To provide an opportunity for Free Will Baptists to give financial support to help the College fulfill its mission by providing for its students' educational experiences that are rooted in the Christian faith; and to provide the opportunity for high school students to learn about the services and programs the College offers. Persons interested in attending one of the dinners must make reservations through their local church chairperson or Jean F. Ackiss at the College.

ONslow-BRUNSWICK COUNTIES: Thursday, October 2, 7 P.M., Folkstone Church, Folkstone, Ronnie Parker, Chair. Goal: \$4,850.

LENOIR COUNTY: Saturday, October 4, 7 P.M., Daly's Chapel Church near Seven Springs, Cleo S. Hinson, Chair. Goal: \$25,450.

PEE DEE ASSOCIATION: Tuesday, October 7, 7 P.M., Mt. Calvary Church between Bladenboro and Whiteville, Danny McPherson, Chair. Goal: (Gave last year \$13,700).

BEAUFORT COUNTY: Saturday, October 11, 6 P.M., Southside High School, Chocowinity, Billy Gurkin, Chair. Goal: \$12,625.

GREENE COUNTY: Monday, October 13, 7 P.M., Hull Road Church near Snow Hill, Randy Beaman/Genevieve M. Taylor, Co-Chairs. Goal: \$43,250.

NASH COUNTY: Tuesday, October 14, 7 P.M., Whitley Center, FWB Children's Home, Middlesex, John R. Manning, Chair. Goal: \$9,825.

EDGEcombe COUNTY: Monday October 20, 7 P.M., First Church, Tarboro, Ray Williamson, Chair. Goal: \$10,425.

PAMLICO COUNTY: Tuesday, October 21, 7 P.M., Camp Vandemere, Vandemere, Judy Thaanum/Joy T. Caroon, Co-Chairs. Goal: \$7,950

JONES COUNTY: Monday, October 27, 7 P.M., Whaley's Chapel Church, near Richlands, Gene Burkett, Chair. Goal: \$7,375.

WAYNE COUNTY: Tuesday, October 28, 7 P.M., Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Mount Olive College, Barbara Lancaster, Chair. Goal: \$72,825.

DUPLIN COUNTY: Saturday, November 1, 6 P.M., Mount Olive College, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Tommy Benson, Chair. Goal: \$22,375

JOHNSTON-WAKE COUNTIES: Monday, November 3, 7 P.M., Everett Chapel Church, Spiritual Life Building, Clayton. Keenan Hinnant/Wanda Jones Blow, Co-Chairs. Goal: \$54,275.

CARTERET COUNTY: Saturday, November 8, 6 P.M., West Carteret High School, Morehead City, Sheri S. Noonan/Edgar Pake, Co-Chairs. Goal: \$17,425.

CRAVEN COUNTY: Monday, November 10, 7 P.M., Juniper Chapel Church Fellowship Hall, near Vanceboro, Angie W. Piner, Chair. Goal: \$26,475.

WASHINGTON, TYRRELL, MARTIN, AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES: Thursday, November 13, 7 P.M., Union Chapel Church Fellowship Hall, Plymouth, Lloyd W. Jones, Jr. Chair. Goal: \$32,000.

PITT COUNTY: Monday, November 17, 6:30 P.M., South Central High School (Forlines Road) near Winterville, Jane T. Tripp, Chair. Goal: \$44,225.

WILSON COUNTY: Tuesday, November 18, 7 P.M., Daniels Chapel Church near Wilson, Johnny Sullivan, Chair. Goal: \$51,600.

SAMPSON, HARNETT, AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES: Thursday, November 20, 7 P.M., Sampson County Agri-Exposition Center, Clinton, Lee Morton Jernigan, Chair. Goal: \$44,300.

**Total 2003 Dinner Goal: \$500,950**

# MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE GETS ITS OWN "HIGHLAND LADDIE"



*The morning mists hang softly over the new-mown grass as the sun slowly begins its ascent to start a new day. The breeze gently moves through the tops of stately pines, while below, the sound of bagpipes cuts through the silence with a haunting refrain.*

"Ah," you might imagine, "what a beautiful portrayal of dawn in the Scottish Highlands." You would be right, of course, but you would not have to go that far to witness such a setting. This poetic description could be that of almost any given morning right at Mount Olive College! The location: the field beside Laughing-house Hall. The bagpiper: Dr. Alan Armstrong, professor of music. Most people are aware that Armstrong is an accomplished pianist and cellist and directs the talented Mount Olive College Concert Choir and the Christian ensemble *Free Spirit*, but they are not aware that he is also an award-winning piper.

Armstrong began taking lessons on the bagpipes in July 2001 after

returning from a thirtieth wedding anniversary trip to Scotland with his wife, Anita. (Anita is Mount Olive College's main receptionist). The Armstrongs saw the bagpipe "up close and personal" on this trip, and Dr. Armstrong was immediately "bitten with the bug" to learn how to play them. During their visit to Glasgow, the Armstrongs visited the *Piping Centre*, the principal training school for bagpipers the world over, and purchased a practice chanter and book to begin learning the difficult instrument. Once they arrived back home, Armstrong found a teacher in Wilmington, North Carolina, who not only got him started, but also helped him order his bagpipes. His current teacher, Andrew Simpson, is a former Scots Guard and a top piper. He is the Pipe Major of the Port City Pipes and Drums, of which Armstrong is a member. In addition to taking private lessons, Armstrong attends bagpipe summer camps and workshops to improve his skills and meet other pipers.

Although he had only been studying to play the bagpipes for one year, Armstrong decided last October he wanted to begin competing against other pipers at highland games held throughout the Southeast from March to October. "Since bagpipes have limited occasions to perform outside of pipe bands, pipers began competing against one another back in the 1700s. Today, serious bagpipers compete regularly for medals and 'placing.' If a person places 1st through 6th in any given competition, he or she is awarded points based on how many other pipers he or she beat. At the end of the season, points are tallied for ranking among all competitors," Armstrong explained. The rule of thumb says that it takes six years for an individual to learn to play the bagpipes

well. "I went into my first competition knowing that," Armstrong explained, "but I wanted to see how well I could do and just get some experience." At that first competition in Charleston, South Carolina, last October, Armstrong did not even place in two of the three events he entered, but in the third he took first prize. "I went from total discouragement to total exhilaration in one micro-second," he said beaming. "That first place medal let me know I was on the right track." Since then, Armstrong has competed in three other highland games, the most recent in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, where he took third prize in the 2/4 march competition. He has placed in every game, thus far, and looks forward to improving to the point when he can consistently medal.

Although he enjoys competing, Armstrong enjoys using his bagpipes more to serve the community. "That is one of the reasons I learned to play them in the first place," he said. "I wanted to be of service to Wayne County when bagpipes are needed." Once word got out that a bagpiper resided in Wayne County, Armstrong was tagged to play for Eagle Scout ceremonies, convocations, weddings, "but especially funerals," he notes. "I have had the honor of playing for some of Wayne County's finest, and it is so gratifying to know that I have been able to use a talent God is giving me to bless others." Armstrong also performs for some Mount Olive College functions, and has helped usher in the new year at the Mount Olive New Year's Eve Pickle Drop the past two years. "People are finding more and more events in which to incorporate bagpipes," Armstrong said. If he has it his way, he will be there to do the honors.



## REFLECTIONS

*by Willem van der Plas*

It was a pleasure to meet good friends and many students at Mount Olive College on March 18, 2003. I do not expect praise after I speak because the Bible is the starting point for my messages, but I was thankful to receive positive remarks from some of the students. It has been pleasant to have lunch with the campus minister, the Rev. Greg Day, Dr. Raper and Mrs. Rose Raper, Mrs. Jean Ackiss, the Rev. Jeff Daughtry and several of the students—Nathaniel Grubbs, Jonathan and Emily Skinner. Dr. Raper gave us a generous offer to choose books in the College bookstore that we can use in Bulgaria. In Kenya as well as in the Philippines, we always have been able to visit large Christian bookstores that we miss in Bulgaria. We are very thankful for that generous offer. These books will last and be factual for decades, not only as a blessing to me but also to our co-workers that are able to read them in the English language. Good bookstores are like museums with the most extraordinary paintings and sculptures.

Shady Grove Church is one of the first churches that we visited more than 20 years ago. Again, it has been a blessing to us to be in your midst. The evening of March 23, we attended the worship service in the church at Beulaville. The youth presented a very special program with "outreach" as the theme. It touched me when I see young people who are concerned about Christian outreach. "Some of you have grown up so fast and changed so much that we did not recognize you at first sight. Please remain in the conviction that the Lord needs you as His witnesses to the world. Outreach is a need and an obedience to our Redeemer."

It was in Arapahoe that we learned

the song, "We Are One in the Bond of Love." Working at the borders of the Kingdom of God, we learn to understand how true these words are. It is the LORD who manifests Himself in us when we love others. The Sunday School teacher blessed our hearts and minds. We got filled by the powers of worship in prayer and singing. How good it has been to meet our friends, precious brothers and sisters in Christ and those whom we never met before; yet it is the Bond of Love that unites us. Thank you that you are willing to support our building program regularly. By doing so you bring thankfulness and praises to the Lord from all who are not able to support financially to build their sanctuary—their Holy place to worship.

The weekend of April 5-6 was both busy and exciting. Saturday morning we were invited to participate in the Auxiliary Conference at Vandora Springs Church in Garner. On Saturday evening, we were guests at Bethel Church where the Cape Fear Youth met. Sunday morning we drove to the Rose of Sharon Church at Bear Grass. It has been this church that accepted to donate to our building program at Varna. It was a privilege to meet Mr. Philip Hodges, who has donated a substantial amount to make it possible to start the building. Unfortunately, we got into financial problems because of political manipulation, which made it impossible to build in the center of Varna; however, it is possible that we can build at the west side border of the city. Because of this delay the building materials were five times more expensive than when we planned and estimated the building cost. We are thankful to all who made it possible to begin and to extend the building.

## PRINCE OF PEACE CHURCH

*by Maria Dolores Adan de Ramos*

God bless you. I am a lady 50 years old with three children, and a husband delivered by the Lord for many years. When my children were small, he took them to church,

but when they grew up, they no longer went with him. The principle thing was that I never went with him to church; I never helped him; I always told him that I did not have the time, and in truth I always was working at home and had no time for anything else.

What I now know is that that was the pretext that I used not to go to church. The reality of it all was that I smoked too much, and I felt unworthy to step into the holy place where the Word of God is preached. But the Lord is wise and He places things in a way that we should have an encounter with Him. One day, I went to see the doctor because I felt ill, and he told me that I had to quit smoking. He said my arteries were congested with smoke, and that is why I always felt tired. Though many times I tried to quit smoking, I just could not do it. The day that the doctor told me to quit I knew that I could not do it because my habit was too deeply rooted.

All that was left for me to do was to cry out to our Lord Jesus Christ. I remember what my husband had said to me, "All the things that we ask of Christ, He would give to us.

Definitively, I quit smoking and began to go to church. I remember

*(Continued on next page)*



that every time that I went to church I cried and felt that God was with me.

A few months after, I had a stroke, leaving the left side of my body worthless. I was in the hospital and for several days was speechless. When I was convalescing, I thought that I would not be able to return to church and that the Lord had abandoned me. We know that the devil does not sleep and he had put a lot of negative things in my head. I got around in a wheelchair and did not want to go to church, but thanks be to God that my family and my brethren in faith never stopped praying for me. We know that the "prayer of a faith man avails much."

The Lord has been merciful to me. I have learned to accept whatever He has planned for me. It has been three years since the stroke and I have felt God's blessings from day to day. When I left the wheelchair, I began using a "walker," and now from time to time I use a cane.

My life has changed of being a person that always had said that two hours of worship services was "a loss of time." I am now a daughter of God. Alleluia!

I now live to be grateful to God for all His wonders that He has made in my life and my family. I know that while we hold His hand He will never leave us!

## JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE ONES

*Family Brooke's Point Church, Palawan, Philippines  
by Pastor Eder M. Peralta*



"Let the little children come to me for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14 NIV).

Little children are potential to the Kingdom of God. Our children's ministry continues to minister to the little ones through Sunday School, DVBS annually, Pre-school FWBC Christian school, and Sowers fellowship every Sunday afternoon. This year we accommodated more than 100 children in our DVBS and most of them are from the family of unbelievers. Let's remember God will save the household through these little children. They were the next generation who will succeed the work of evangelism. Let us share Christ until He comes.

Pray for this ministry, especially our need of a small vehicle to pick up the children every Sunday and for other activities.

God bless you!

## SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

*by The Reverend Dario Basingil*

Last April 20-26, 2003, the Mission Department of the Free Will Baptist Church Philippines held their fourth National Youth Summer Camp in Narra, Palawan, which is a part of Southern Palawan Island, about ninety-two kilometers from the city of Puerto Princesa. The meeting was held in the Narra Gymnasium.

The theme for the Camp was "Growing In Christ Through the Year," with Scripture taken from Ephesians 4:13, "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 fullness Christ."

The participants came from all churches of Palawan. There were eleven ministers who were invited to speak. During lecture time, we divided into three groups: (1) a group of first timers (non-Christians) headed by the Rev. Bernardo Borja. The topic was salvation; (2) a group of children headed by Sisters Maricris Bañes and Marites Venoya; (3) a group of those who were already Christians. We had a baptismal service on the last day and thirteen young people, who upon the confession of their faith and in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, were baptized.

The last night of the National Youth Summer Camp was challenge and awards night. Before giving the awards the Rev. Dario Basingil gave the challenge to the youth. His Scripture was taken from 2 Peter 3:18, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We praise God for the full support of pastors, workers, campers, and for the North, Central, and South districts. All the local churches made contributions, and everyone enjoyed the activities of the fourth National Youth Summer Camp 2003 of the Free Will Baptist Church Philippines.

*(See pictures on next page)*



*Pictured at left and below: South, North, Central district banners with the overall campers inside the gymnasium Narra, Palawan.*



*Maricris Bañes and Marites Venoya were the lecturers for the children.*



*The Reverend Basingil with the new baptized young people.*



*The Reverend Borja, lecturer for the youth. The topic was "Salvation."*

## LIFE

*by Fidel B. Presto*



*Warlita T. Franco*

Life is a wonderful blessing given to us by God. Sometimes sad things happen to us, but we must remember that our lives are in the hands of God who made the Heaven and the earth.

Our co-worker Sister Warlita Franco died in the hands of God on June 27, 2003. She had been in the Puerto Princesa Hospital because of ovarian cyst and aseitis.

Sister Warlita Franco was one of our kindergarten teachers, library aid, as well as a kitchen supervisor for eight years from 1993–2001 at Palawan Bible College.



## GREG AND DAWN PERRY — A TEAM EFFORT

In May of 1999, Canaan House, our emergency shelter for boys opened. Currently located in Bailey, our emergency shelter is designed to meet various needs of children and families. It is a ministry that provides a safe place for children who are facing crisis and are in need of immediate care. While there, they are enrolled in programs that are designed to help improve their lives and build self-esteem. Canaan House can accommodate seven residents. The maximum stay at an emergency shelter is ninety days. Canaan House is set up as family-style living, where the boys attend public school, and are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular school activities, such as sports.

The Director of Canaan House is Greg Perry. Greg has been with the Free Will Baptist Children's Home for ten years, where he began as a Children's Services worker. In speaking with Greg, one will see his desire to reach out to children and make a difference in their lives.

Many of the things we take for granted—food, shelter, and understanding, are some of the key essentials in molding and changing the lives of children and families. Greg's philosophy is "Meet the needs of the children and the children will change themselves." He prides himself in trying to help children achieve their dreams and hopes, so that one day they can give something positive back to the community. Greg's reward, though not immediately received, is when children who have moved on with their lives will call back or come by to visit years later just to express their appreciation for being given an opportunity to succeed in life.

Greg is not the only one in his family in the childcare profession. It was early in Greg's career, approximately eight years ago, that he met his wife, Dawn, at a childcare conference in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Dawn R. Perry began her career with the Home in 1995. She has worked in many different areas of the childcare profession. Currently, she is one of our campus Social Workers. Her duties include direct contact between the county Social Workers and the children and families we serve. She is the main liaison between our residents and the school system.

Dawn's long-term goals are to continue her work with children and families, with her satisfaction coming from knowing she is making a difference in the lives of children. The rewards are not instant, but the pride and gratification comes when she sees a child reach his or her goals.

It takes special people to work with children. Here, we can see that these two are as one, as they share their lives and work toward the common goal of making a difference in the life of a child, which in turn will make a difference in our world.

## FRIENDS OF CHILDREN

You are cordially invited to become a Friend of Children. Membership in the Friends of Children program is achieved with a monthly gift of \$20 or more to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. Membership provides you with an opportunity to become partners and share a sense of satisfaction with other concerned friends in ensuring the on-going ministry of "A Christian Home for Boys and Girls."

There are three levels of monthly giving recognized within the membership of the Friends of Children program. You may choose the category that matches your resources and interest.

- Cornerstone Members: \$100 plus
- Foundation Members: \$40-\$99
- Friends: \$20-\$39

Free Will Ministry to Children  
"FRIENDS OF CHILDREN"  
Statement of Faith

Please mail to: Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Inc.,  
PO Box 249, Middlesex, NC 27557

Because of my/our concern, commitment and support to children, and the Child Care Ministry of Original Free Will Baptists, I/we will become Friends of Children at the following level:

Cornerstone Member     Foundation Member     Friends

Name: (Person(s) or Group) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed you will find my first gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_. I plan to begin \_\_\_\_\_. Please print your name exactly as you wish it to appear on the Friends of Children award. Normally, you will receive your Friends of Children award within 30 days.

**Don't forget Friends of Children Day,  
November 22, 2003**

## MAINTENANCE PROJECT

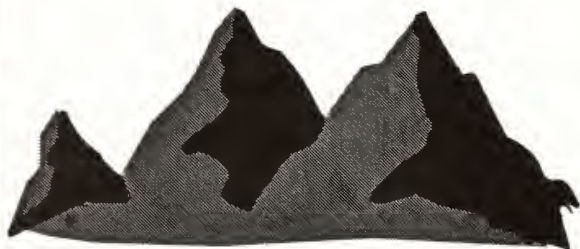
It was mentioned in a previous article that our church, Memorial Chapel, and other campus buildings are in need of repair. Upon further inspection of our facilities, we have identified additional major repairs needing to be taken care of now, amounting to approximately \$30,000. We do not currently have the money in our budget to take care of these repairs, and we need your help. Thanks so much for remembering us with your prayers and your support, as we continue to be a guiding light to many children. For those of you who have already contributed to this project, we express our sincere appreciation.



General Youth Conference II  
July 7 - 12, 2003



General Youth Conference II



Check out our  
packages on the next page.  
A new package is available.  
Reserve your space now  
for an unforgettable experience.

## A CRAGMONT CHRISTMAS

Thursday–Sunday

December 4–7, 2003

Your package price of \$225 includes:

- Transportation to and from Cragmont
- Three nights in the main building or motel
- Three breakfasts and the evening meal on night of arrival
- Transportation and admission to area Christmas entertainment. Group meal on each day of local touring
- Entertainment at Cragmont

Requirements: A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required with registration form. Balance due upon arrival. Reservations made on a first received, first served basis only.

Payment: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover cards are accepted. Checks should be made payable to Cragmont.

-----  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Need ground level room? \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Bus routes will travel the US 264 and US 70 corridors. Pick-up places and times will be mailed out two weeks prior to trip.

**Return form with deposit to:  
Cragmont Assembly, 1233 North Fork Road  
Black Mountain, NC 28711**

## NEHEMIAH RETREAT

OCTOBER 17–19, 2003

You are invited to attend a retreat on discipleship featuring as our guest speaker, the Rev. Ray Wells, pastor of Marsh Swamp Church. Mr. Wells will be speaking Friday and Saturday evenings, and Sunday morning with special music at each service. Saturday during the day you will be free to roam around the mountains enjoying the beautiful fall color. However, we want to stress that this is a retreat that is being designed to benefit your Christian life, so we want you present in each service.

The cost of the retreat is as follows: If staying in the Main Building or Motel, the cost will be \$55 per person. If staying in one of the dorms, the cost will be \$42 per person. This price includes two nights lodging (Friday and Saturday) and two evening meals (Friday and Saturday) and two breakfast meals (Saturday and Sunday). Cragmont Club members may use their three free nights (coming in on Thursday if you wish).

To register, return this form along with a non-refundable deposit of \$15 (deposit can be applied to total bill) per person to Cragmont: "Nehemiah Retreat," 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711 or call (828) 669-7677 and register with your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express card. Checks should be made payable to Cragmont.

-----  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## BED, BREAKFAST AND BLESSINGS

JULY 5–9, 2004

Something new will be offered next summer for you and your family. Youth Frontier YFA and Youth Frontier AFC are combining into one week, therefore, there will be an open week. It is our desire to offer a time that will appeal to the families who might want to vacation in the mountains. Our idea is that Cragmont will function as a place for "Bed, Breakfast and Blessing. We provide a bed and prepare a nice breakfast with a blessing each day. You then spend your day sight-seeing around the mountains. A devotional service is planned for Wednesday evening during the week. Another feature of the week is that you may stay the entire week or any part of it. The cost is \$15 per person per day. This includes a night's lodging and breakfast. You may register for this week immediately. Call (877) 669-7677 to give us your information or write to us at Cragmont, 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711. We will need your name, address, and phone number. To register, a \$15 per person deposit is required which will be applied to your stay. We do accept American Express, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. Checks should be made out to Cragmont. Cancellation 30 days prior to July 5, 2004 for a full refund of deposit.



## SUNRISE LANDING 1 FOR 5 KINGDOM BUILDING



The greatest investment we will ever make on earth is that with which to build God's Kingdom.

It has been stated that one of the most needful areas of the world for God's Word is here in the United States of America. If this is true, it certainly applies to eastern North Carolina.

Sunrise Landing Church will be the only Original Free Will Baptist Church east of Columbia and Elizabeth City at the present. The church will be nestled on beautiful property near the Currituck Sound.

### PLEASE BE A SUNRISE LANDING 1 FOR 5 KINGDOM PARTNER!

As a KINGDOM PARTNER, you are being asked to pray for this work and pray for God's leadership as to your involvement.

### 1 FOR 5 KINGDOM BUILDING

#### TOTAL FOR 5 YEARS

\$ 1,000  
\$ 2,500  
\$ 5,000  
\$10,000  
\$12,500

#### ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION

\$ 200  
\$ 500  
\$1,000  
\$2,000  
\$2,500

Please send contributions to Home Missions and Evangelism at PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 for **Sunrise Landing Kingdom Building Project.**



## SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

### CENTRAL CONFERENCE REGIONAL CHRISTIAN TRAINING Marlboro Church

**October 9, 2003 7:30-9:30 P.M.**

Topic: *Responding to God's Call Through Evangelism*

**November 13, 2003 7:30-9:30 P.M.**

Topic: *Developmental Characteristics and Stages of Faith*

**January 8, 2004 7:30-9:30 P.M.**

Topic: *Teaching Tips for Each Age Level*

(Age levels will be divided for instruction and interaction)

For further information:

Call Mary Dudley at the Sunday School office,  
(252) 746-4963

### EASTERN CONFERENCE REGIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TRAINING

#### WHALEY'S CHAPEL CHURCH Marlboro Church

**October 6, 2003 7-9 P.M.**

Topic: *Scripture Memorization*

**November 3, 2003 7-9 P.M.**

Topic: *Relieving Stress in One's Life*



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
FOR THESE IMPORTANT DATES!**

# WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Following is a list of Youth materials for Cherubs, AFC, and YFA for 2004 that have been previewed by the Literature Committee of the Woman's Auxiliary Convention. These were approved on January 17, 2003 at the Executive meeting in Mount Olive, NC. You may purchase these materials from the Bible Bookstores of Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, or Wilson.

## CHERUBS

Ages 2-3—Grades 5-6

*Undercover Heroes of the Bible*  
*Favorite Bible Heroes*

Ages 2-3—Grades 3-4

*Favorite Bible Children*

Ages 5-10

*Instant Bible Lessons: God's Angels*

Ages 2-3—Grades 5-6

*Hands on Nature*

Ages 2-3—Grades 3-4

*Favorite Bible Stories*

## AFC (Ambassadors for Christ)

*Life Saver: Jesus' Ministry, His Resurrection, His Ascension, God's Word Spreads*  
(13 lessons)

*The Champion: Batting a Thousand, Sacrifice Fly, The Comeback Kid, The Rookies*  
(13 lessons)

*Dares From Jesus*  
(13 lessons)

*Creative Bible Lessons on the Prophets*  
(12 lessons)  
(They have 7 more books on different books of the Bible.)

*52 Ways to Teach Missions*  
(9 more on different topics)

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## YFA (Youth Fellowship Auxiliaries)

*Real Faith: Creation, The Fall, Noah, Abraham*  
(13 lessons)

*All the King's Men: David, Solomon, Elijah*  
(13 lessons)

*The Champion: Batting a Thousand, Sacrifice Fly, The Comeback Kid, The Rookies.*  
(13 lessons)

One book only is needed per group.  
Pages are reproducible.

Order From  
the Bible Bookstores  
of  
Ayden, Kinston, New Bern,  
and Wilson  
or  
Toll Free:  
(800) 849-3927.

# DID YOU KNOW?

## AFC WATCHWORD

"...in thee do I trust; cause me to know the way wherein I should walk;...Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God..." (Psalm 143:8, 10).

## AFC MOTTO

"To know Him, to Love Him, to Serve Him"

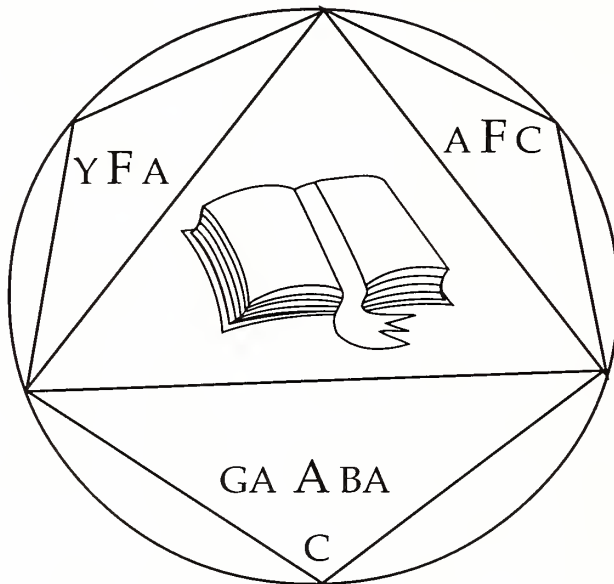
## AFC COLORS

Royal Blue, Carolina Blue, and Gold

## AFC PERMANENT CHORUS

"If You Know the Lord"

## AFC EMBLEM



The CIRCLE stands for God's eternal truth.

The THREE POINTS of the TRIANGLE represent:

1. Free Will
2. Free Grace
3. Free Salvation

The SIX POINTS of the HEXAGON represent:

1. Perseverance of the Saints
2. Washing of the Saints' Feet
3. Immersion of Believers
4. Second Coming of Christ
5. Open Communion
6. Free Will Baptist Church Government

The BIBLE is God's Word and our guide to consecrated service.

Be sure you attend your "Local," "District," and "State" Youth Meetings.

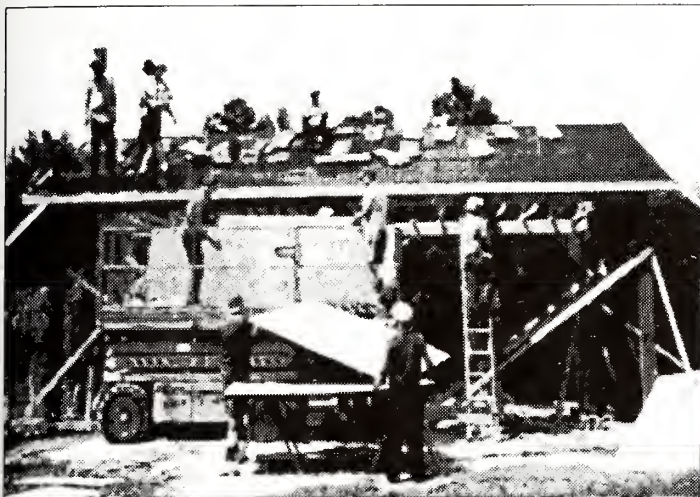
Remember it is only by your support the *State Youth Project* can be a success.

The project needs your PRAYERS and your MONEY.

(Check with your District Youth Chairman for the dates of meetings and information on the State Youth Project.)



## GARAGE/WORKSHOP



Thank you to all of the men who have put in a lot of hard work, time, and sweat to help build the garage/workshop. The camp is still in need of financial help to complete the project. The workshop still needs a cement slab poured and then to be closed in. If your church would like to help with the need, please contact the camp manager, Wesley Taylor.

## SINGIN' BY THE RIVER



The Camp's annual Singin' by the River fundriaser was a big success. Thank you to all of those who participated in the singing, the ad book, and all of the prayers. A total of \$16,000 was raised. This total includes the ad book, food, lodging, and drinks. The singing began on Friday night with a wonderful turnout. We enjoyed wonderful singing, food, and fellowship. Saturday was a fun-filled day. Everyone enjoyed Southern Gospel singing, great food, lots of entertainment for the children—moonwalk, swimming, fishing, and canoeing. Thank you again for everyone's hard work and support.

## SPECKLED TROUT FISHING TOURNAMENT

It is time once again to start planning for the annual Speckled Trout Fishing Tournament at Camp Vandemere. This year's tournament will be November 14-15. The tournament will begin Saturday morning at 6 A.M.

*Using Camp facilities for Friday night*

Supper (Nov. 14)—\$6

Breakfast (Nov. 15)—\$4

Lodging in Dormitory—\$10 per person

Lodging in Family Lodge—\$35 per lodge  
(sleeps 6 per lodge)

*Prices for Fishing in Tournament*

Per Person—\$25

(Includes Dinner Saturday night  
and Fishing Tournament Certificate)

*Prizes*

First and Second Place Trophy for most weight per boat  
(Maximum of 2 people per boat)

First and Second Place Trophy for Biggest fish

All proceeds will go to help support Camp Vandemere. This package is for a one night stay, including breakfast, supper, and fishing fee: \$45 per person. If you choose to stay in Family Lodge building prices will be increased. Please contact Wesley Taylor, camp manager, for additional prices and reservations. Trophies will be given. Please fill out form below.

---

### SPECKLED TROUT FISHING TOURNAMENT

November 14-15, 2003

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Number in party: \_\_\_\_\_

Overnight lodging: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form by November 8, 2003 along with \$10 (non-refundable) fee to: Camp Vandemere, PO Box 188, Vandemere, NC 28587.

Please make checks payable to Camp Vandemere. Ice, drinks, and snacks can be bought at the Camp.

## POWHATAN NEWS

by Rita Jones

### CAPE FEAR FALL FESTIVAL BEING HELD

Everyone is invited to take part in the Cape Fear District Youth Fall Festival being held at Haymount in Fayetteville, NC on Saturday, October 4, from 4-8 P.M. Instead of a regular youth rally, this meeting will have games, hot dogs, Bingo, live music by a Christian band, and other fun activities. Come out and enjoy an afternoon of Christian fellowship and nice fall weather with youth from the churches of the Cape Fear District.

### FUN DAY AT CHILDREN'S HOME

On August 2, the Cape Fear and Western Districts joined together for a "Fun Day" at the Children's Home. Powhatan sent 3 Cape Fear officers, 10 other youth, and 7 adults to enjoy the day and deliver items donated by our congregation. A contribution was made to the project of an outdoor worship area by the Powhatan Youth Group. There were around 325 present, representing 29 churches. The goal of \$2,500 was surpassed by \$1,152.32.



*Julie Cox was the first one "dunked" at the Family Fun Day at Children's Home on August 2, 2003.*

### VISITATION PROGRAM

Becky Harden and the Willard Benson Sunday School class continue to take the lead in the visitation program to local rest homes.

Meadowview, Classic Care, and the Bryan Center are some of the rest homes visited on Tuesdays and Thursdays with singing and fellowship during the month. All are invited to join in the volunteer group.

### NEW DEACON

Congratulations to J. E. Barbour, our newest deacon. He and his wife, Barbara, were ordained on Sunday morning, August 3. He suffered a heart attack in August that led to bypass surgery at Wake Medical Center. Remember him in your prayers as he recovers.

### MEXICO TRIP

Welcome home to Rachel Langley, who traveled to Mexico in June and July with Foreign Missions to work with families there as she has done for several years. She was excited about their work and to hear the presentation by the youth who went on the Youth Convention Mission trip to Atlanta. She is taking the challenge made by the Atlanta team to continue to "take the church to the people" here at home by planning events in the Clayton area.

### MACEA WORKSHOPS

Connie Barton and Rita Jones attended the Christian Education workshops in New Bern, August 15-16. Between the two, 16 different classes were taken and all were very informative. The Kemery Ard Sunday School class had an outing at Myrtle Beach the same weekend and everyone enjoyed the fellowship and brief "get-away" from regular routines.

### YOUTH CONVENTION

The Youth Convention Executive Committee met Saturday, August 23, at Mt. Olive College to begin making plans for 2004. Crystal Guy and Rita Jones attended as the Cape Fear

Representative and District Youth Director. The theme and Scripture verses for 2004 were selected and Bible Bowl study guides were received with a couple of rule changes. Additional information will be coming from District Directors to all churches in the next few weeks.

### HERITAGE SUNDAY

August 24 was Heritage Sunday, and we celebrated by honoring our members age 80 and over. Sister Joyce Blinson is our oldest member, and there were 7 other ladies (Margaret Johnson, Ollie Brady, Inez West, Margaret Lee Blinson, Pearl Wood, Nell Carrington and Shirley Hatcher), who joined her on the front pew and gave testimony of changes they've seen over the last 80 years. All agreed that the Lord had blessed them and that they were very pleased with the progress going on at Powhatan. They had memories of once a month services on Saturday and Sunday during the harder times and when we had one pot-belly stove for heat in the winter. The fellowship meals before the time of paper plates involved much more work. At one time, there was only one communion cup and all drank from it and passed it on. The Rev. Bogle said the church survived through tough times because of the faithful members such as these ladies. Woman's Auxiliary president, Sandra Peedin, presented each lady with a rose corsage. All present received a blessing from the words of wisdom shared by these ladies, and a covered dish meal was enjoyed after services in their honor.

### IN MEMORIAM

Thedford Wood, deacon for about 45 years went home to the Lord on Friday, August 8. Remember his wife of 68 years, Pearl, and their family during this time of loss.

# A FAMILY AFFAIR

by Erin Brescia, Student Intern, Mount Olive College



For the Daughtry family, Mount Olive College is more than just a school affiliated with their denomination; it is an important part of their lives and has been since before they enrolled.

Not many students can say that some of the employees and professors at Mount Olive College have known them since they were little, but Joy and Daniel Daughtry of LaGrange can.

"Our children visited Mount Olive College often while they were growing up," stated the Rev. Jeff Daughtry. "Mount Olive College was talked about openly in our church and at home. I am convinced that a Christian college is the best place to make the transition from high school to the real world."

These experiences left such an impact on Joy that she never looked into another college. "Mount Olive College was the only school I applied to," she said. "Mount Olive College has been a part of my life since I was very small, and it was important for me to attend a college affiliated with my church."

Joy, a senior accounting major, graduated from North Lenoir High School in 2000 and entered Mount Olive College that August. Her brother, Daniel, a junior business management major, graduated from the same high school and entered Mount Olive College one year after his sister.

Before going to college, Joy was very active in the youth department

at Westside Church. She is currently on the library committee and assists in the nursery. At Mount Olive College, Joy is a member of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL), and both she and Daniel participate in the Honors program.

Daniel serves as the sound technician for the Mount Olive College Singers and other than academic work, has little time for anything else.

Growing up with two sisters, Daniel was the target for many practical jokes and was blamed for all the "sibling wars." Today, their brother/sister relationship has grown into friendship.

"Joy and I have an understanding that we can pick on each other, but no one else can," Daniel stated.

Last semester, because they had similar schedules, they ate lunch in the cafeteria together several days a week. Daniel relies heavily on Joy's proofreading abilities for his papers, also.

Many professors have not made the connection that Joy and Daniel are family, or that their father works in the Office of Planned Giving, but they prefer it that way.

"I rarely see my dad, but I know he is close by if I ever need him or want to ask his advice on something," said Joy.

"Because we are all on campus and dad and I have the same name, our e-mail occasionally gets mixed up," stated Daniel.

The Rev. Jeff Daughtry began working as the assistant director of planned giving in September of 2000. He helps donors develop a plan of support for Mount Olive College that is meaningful to them. "With effective estate planning, most donors are able to support Mount Olive College in a greater way than they ever imagined," stated Daughtry.

Daughtry received an associate of science degree from Mount Olive College in 1978, and his bachelor of

science degree from Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) in 1980. He served as pastor of Westside Church and was on the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees from 1992 until 2000. His wife, Wanda, graduated from Mount Olive College in 1979.

Joy will graduate in May 2004. She plans to attend graduate school at North Carolina Central to pursue a master of library science degree. Daniel will graduate in 2005. Joy and Daniel's youngest sister, Amy, graduated from high school in May of this year and attends Barton College.

Joy and Daniel know they made the best decision when they chose Mount Olive College. "By attending a college affiliated with our denomination, we not only received scholarships, but moved out of our home into the relationship of another family that continues to look out for our best interests," stated Daniel.

## COMPUTERS AND THE CHURCH

The Central Conference Continuing Education Committee will sponsor a seminar on November 20, 2003, entitled *Computers and the Church*. The seminar will address the following topics:

Does my church need a computer?  
How much can the church afford?  
What kind of software is there for me and the church?  
The Internet: Yes or No?

The seminar will begin at 6 P.M. with supper and will be over no later than 9 P.M. The cost (including meal and seminar) will be \$5. The location will be in the Greenville area.

To reserve your spot, please send your name and \$5 fee to: Frankie Baggett, 5403 Weyerhaeuser Road, Ayden, NC 28513.

Please make checks payable to: Central Conference.

# GOOD SHEPHERD AWARD



Johnny Stroud, Assistant Scout Master of Troop 447, Deep Run, NC, was recently presented the Good Shepherd Award for adult scouters at a Sunday morning service at the First Baptist Church in Deep Run, NC.

Johnny had been the Assistant Scout Master of Troop 447 for the past 12 years and has earned the assistant Scout Master of the Year

Award. He has completed the Scout Master Training Program and the Wood Badge training program. Johnny has been active in the youth program and has served as a deacon of the First Baptist Church in Deep Run. When he was a young Boy Scout, Johnny achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and earned the God and Country badge.

The presentation of the Good Shepherd Award was made by the Troop 447 committee chairman, Elwood Hill, and the church pastor, the Rev. Norman Davis, Jr. The Good Shepherd Award consists of a framed certificate and a pendant attached to a red, white, and blue ribbon to be worn around the neck and an adult God and Country square knot to be won on the Scout Leader uniform. Norman Davis, Jr., who lives in La Grange, but a native of Deep Run, added words of encouragement and a prayer of dedication.

For completion of the work, Johnny was presented a certificate of appreciation by Elwood Hill on behalf of the sponsoring organization. Deep Run Boy Scout Troop 447 was chartered over 35 years ago and has been sponsored most of that time by the Deep Run Original Free Will Baptist Church.

## HOMECOMING SERVICE FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, MIDDLESEX

*by Clentis Capps*

Friendship Church of 47 Friendship Church Rd., Middlesex, NC, will observe its annual Homecoming on Sunday, October 26, 2003.

Our Sunday School begins at 9:45 A.M. and the morning worship at 11 A.M. The Rev. Dwight Chapman, a former pastor, will be delivering our morning message.

Everyone is invited to a picnic lunch at noon in the fellowship hall. Our members, former members, pastors, and friends are welcome to come worship, praise, and fellowship as long as you wish.

### Gum Swamp Church Fall Festival

Saturday, October 11, 2003

6:30 A.M.—2 P.M.

Gum Swamp Church Road  
Belvoir (Off of Hwy 33  
West, Turn right at the  
caution light, then  
right onto Gum Swamp  
Church Road)

Yard Sale

6:30 A.M.—10:30 A.M.

Breakfast Biscuits

6 A.M. until gone

Crafts

8 A.M.—2 P.M.

Great Christmas gifts,  
books, homemade salsa,  
ornaments, birdhouses,  
half or whole cakes and pies,  
baked goods, canned goods  
FOOD—FOOD—FOOD

Breakfast Biscuits

BBQ Chicken plates

with the fixin's—\$5

### IVAN PARKER

in concert

Sunday, October 19, 2003

7 P.M.

at the

Greene County Middle School

Free Admission

(Love Offering Taken)

With

Special Guests

BROTHERS IN CHRIST

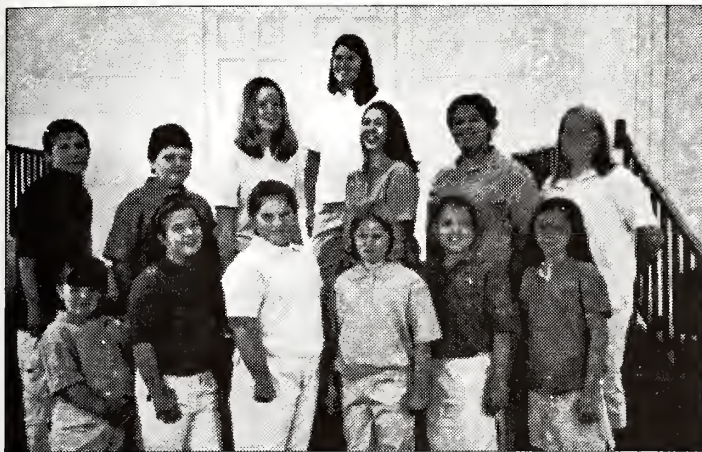
and

GRACE DIVINE

Doors open at 4:30 P.M.

Concessions available

# SMYRNA CHURCH



"His Kids," the singing youth choir from Smyrna (Cape Fear Conference) won the first place trophy in the Junior Choir Division at the State Gospel Singing Convention in Benson, NC. Members of the group are first row: Maddison Wood, Kayla Hickok, Kelly Wood, Jamie Lyn Wood, Erin Parker, and Parrish McLamb. Second row: Elliott McConnell, Laura Beth Parker, Amber Wood. Back: Carla Allen, director.



The duet "Heaven Sent," composed of Laura Beth Parker and Amber Wood chose to enter the Senior Duet division after winning the Youth Division two years in a row.



"Assurance," the female quartet composed of (L-R): Janice Tart, Amber Allen, Savah Allen, and Ashley Parker won the first place trophy in the Youth Quartet Division.



"His Kids" in action during the July 3 "Celebration of Music Sunday" under the direction of Carla Allen.



Senior Choir, "Smyrna's Testament Choir," participated in the Senior Choir Division of the State Gospel Singing Convention in action during "Celebration of Music Sunday" being led by Carla Allen.



Mascots from Smyrna's Vacation Bible School, Niles and Humphrey, are really Amanda Johnson and Nicole Watson.

# Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

## WESTERNIZATION AND RESPONSES FROM NON-WESTERN SOCIETIES

### Introduction

What is happening today with the raging hatred of the terrorists aimed at America? Why do the Islamic fundamentalists hate Americans so much? Harvard professor Samuel P. Huntington has his own theory which he calls the clash of cultures, a clash that prevents the entire globe from becoming western. What are the core traits of Western civilization? What are other cultural responses to Western civilization?

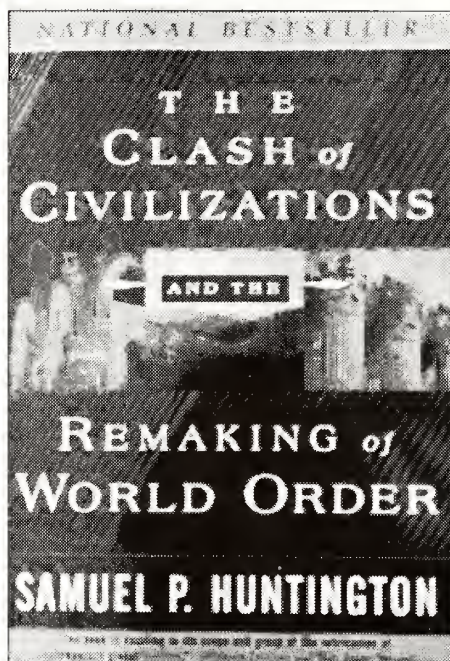
### Eight Core Traits of Western Civilization

Huntington identifies eight core traits of Western civilization: (1) the Classical legacy, (2) Catholicism and Protestantism, (3) European language, (4) Separation of spiritual and temporal authority, (5) rule of law, (6) social pluralism, (7) representative bodies, and (8) individualism (69–72). The *Classical legacy* includes “Greek philosophy and rationalism, Roman law, Latin” (69). *Catholicism and Protestantism* provided the push for growth as Huntington insists that “it was for God as well as gold that Westerners went out to conquer the world in the sixteenth century” (70).

*European languages* include Latin and the “categories of Romance and Germanic” (70) languages. *Separation of spiritual and temporal authority* includes the insistence that “God and Caesar, church and state, spiritual authority and temporal authority” (70) remain separate.

The *rule of law* includes the “centrality of law to civilized existence” (70), a fact inherited from the Romans. Huntington declares: “The tradition of the rule of law laid the basis or constitutionalism and the protection of human rights, including property rights, against the

Samuel P. Huntington. Part II: *The Clash of Civilizations. Remaking of World Order*. New York: Touchstone Books of Simon & Schuster. 368 pages. ISBN 0-684-84441-9.



exercise of arbitrary power” (70).

*Social pluralism* includes the development of “diverse autonomous groups” (71) coming together and developing so that the dominance of marriages and blood ties did not rule but pluralism did instead. *Representative bodies* provides “a vehicle for expanded political participation” (71). *Individualism* includes “a tradition of individual rights and liberties unique among civilized societies” (71).

### Three Responses to Westernization of Non-Western Societies

Japan, China, and Islamic cultures have sought a policy of *rejectionalism*. In Japan the “rejectionist stance came to an end with the forcible opening of Japan by Commodore Perry in 1854 and the dramatic efforts to learn from the West following the Meiji Restoration in 1868” (72).

China’s policy of rejectionalism was rooted in “the Chinese image of itself as the Middle Kingdom and the firm belief in the superiority of Chinese culture to those of all other people. Chinese isolation, like Japanese isolation, was brought to an end by Western arms, applied to China by the

British in the Opium War of 1839–1842” (72).

In Islamic groups of hardline fundamentalism, rejectionism has led to terrorism from “Sadat’s assassins” (73) to others, but Huntington sees such “zealotry” to fail.

Another response to Westernization of non-Western societies is the policy of *Kemalism*, a theory that Westernization will destroy the “indigenous culture” in order to modernize. This response is so named from Mustafa Kemal Ataturk in his effort to create a new Westernized Turkey. Huntington believes Ataturk made Turkey a *torn country* as a result, a “society which was Muslim in its religion, heritage, customs, and institutions but with a ruling elite determined to make it modern, Western, and at one with the West” (74).

A third response to Westernization of non-Western societies is the policy of *Reformism*, what Huntington calls an “attempt to combine modernization with the preservation of the central values, practices, and institutions of the society’s indigenous culture” (74). Modernization can occur but the core values of the indigenous culture can survive in this policy, also.

### Conclusion

Huntington believes another culture might modernize but not necessarily Westernize. For example, Japan can keep its indigenous culture but still be modern. He concludes: “Modernization, in short, does not necessarily mean Westernization. Non-Western societies can modernize and have modernization without abandoning their own cultures and adopting wholesale Western values, institutions, and practices” (78). If, therefore modernization develops and *increases* the power of the indigenous culture, then in essence modernization might give muscle to the indigenous culture which rejects the Western culture. Is not the world by becoming more modern also becoming “less Western?” (78).

# Christian Art Review

by Rev. Michael Warning

## Introduction

Certain stories and events in the Bible have become world examples of philosophy in moral conduct. Even those who are not totally familiar with the Bible use Biblical examples without recognizing the source. In a sense it shows the power of the Biblical document. One of the best examples of these widely known stories is the dance of Salomé before King Herod. This oil painting on wood from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, is a fine example of one of these stories brought to life by the Italian Benozzo Gozzoli (1420–1497).

## Artistic Style

Jewish law and religious righteousness are the working factors here in this painting. An event which is not included in the painting is critical to the understanding of the painting. King Herod married his half-brother's divorced wife, Herodias. Salomé is the daughter of Herodias and is a beautiful woman who is an erotic dancer. John the Baptist rebuked King Herod for marrying Herodias, because she was already a member of the family and such a marriage was against Jewish law.

In this painting we see four major events taking place, each as a part of the story with the background hatred of Herodias toward John the Baptist.

The artistic style is one that is associated with the transition of Medieval art to that of the Renaissance. Gozzoli painted at the cusp of this artistic change, and his painting reflects characteristics and qualities of both artistic ages.

These characteristics include the following: (1) the new emphasis

upon perspective, (2) the beginning of the depiction of stopped or free movement, (3) anatomical accuracy, (4) glorification of the human body and its movement, (5) frozen gestures that tell a story, (6) an expansion of the colors of the pallet, (7) an extraordinary obsession with detail, (8) a strong allegorical sense to the story depicted, (9) a deeply moralistic insight to the story depicted, (10) the painting of an ancient story within the modern setting of the time.

## Symbolism

There are four symbolic scenes. The first, to the far right, shows King Herod with his right hand over his heart, clutching a knife in his left hand. Seven figures are standing around a table on which a Passover Supper has been set. There is ritual salt, the individual loaves of bread, the water, and the juice. This symbolizes Herod's tie to ancient Judaism.

The second symbolic scene is Salomé in the center of the picture. She is dancing an erotic dance before Herod, symbolizing the temptation of the flesh.

The third symbolic scene is to the far left in a small chamber with an arched doorway. Here we see John the Baptist bowed in prayer, a great shining aura surrounding his head. Above him a knight prepares to decapitate him, symbolizing the anger of Herodias who encouraged Salomé to request the head of John the Baptist as her reward for dancing.

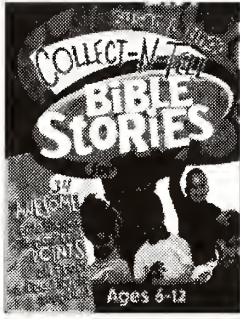
The fourth symbolic scene which is in the background of the center panel we see Salomé offering the platter with the head of John the Baptist to her mother who appears pious in her red costume, symbolizing the color of blood.

## Conclusion

Is there great satisfaction in revenge? Does Herodias really achieve a victory over the prayerful John the Baptist? Is there danger in granting the fulfillment of any favor which arises out of the temptation of the flesh? Who in this painting appears more forceful—the dancer, the king, the angry queen, the swordsman, or the devoted, prayerful John the Baptist?



Benozzo Gozzoli (1420–1497), *The Dance of Salomé in the Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Art Gallery, Washington, DC.* Wood panel nine and one-eighth inches by thirteen and one-half inches. From Richard Muhlbberger, *The Bible in Art: The New Testament.* New York: Portland House, 1990, pp. 70–71.



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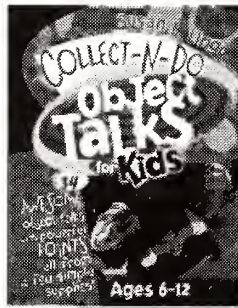
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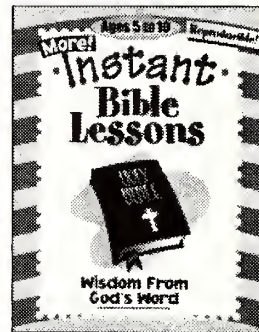
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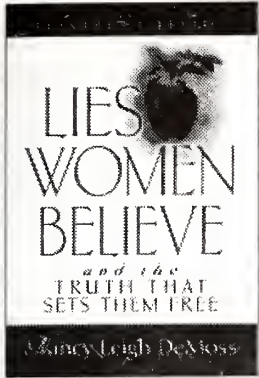


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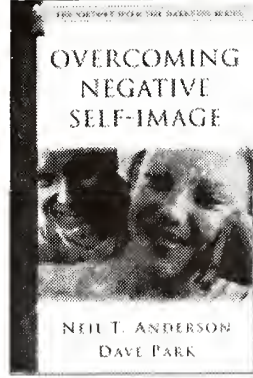
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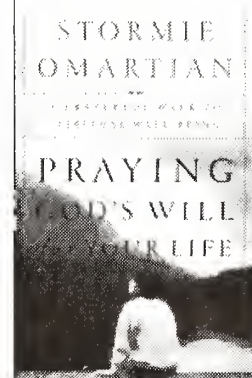




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We are like Eve. We have all experienced defeats and failures, trouble and turmoil. We have all experienced a selfish heart, a shrewish spirit, anger, envy, and bitterness. And we ache to do things over, to have lives of harmony and peace. In her book, *Lies Women Believe*, author Nancy Leigh De Moss exposes those areas of deception most commonly believed by Christian women:

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- Lies about sin: *I cannot walk in consistent victory over sin.*
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- Lies about their circumstances: *I just can't take any more.*

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**MONTHLY PLANNER**  
**October 2003**

**MINISTER'S PROGRAM MONTH**

*Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.*

| SUNDAY | MONDAY                                                                                                                       | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                                          | THURSDAY                                                                                                                           | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                                                                                                              |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        |                                                                                                                              |         | 1<br>Western District<br>Woman's Auxiliary Meeting | 2                                                                                                                                  | 3      | 4<br>9:30 A.M.<br>Cape Fear<br>Woman's Auxiliary Meeting<br>—<br>4 P.M.—8 P.M.<br>Cape Fear<br>Youth Fall<br>Festival |
| 5      | 6<br>7:00 P.M.<br>Sunday School<br>Eastern Regional<br>Training                                                              | 7       | 8<br>ALBEMARLE<br>CONFERENCE                       | 9<br>9:30 A.M.<br>Albemarle District<br>Auxiliary<br>Convention<br>—<br>7:00 P.M.<br>Sunday School<br>Central Regional<br>Training | 10     | 11<br>7:00 P.M.<br>Layman's League<br>Executive Board<br>Meeting, VFW<br>Building, Snow Hill<br>—<br>MOC Parent's Day |
| 12     | 13<br>9:30 A.M.<br>Albemarle District<br>Youth<br>Convention<br>—<br>Central<br>Conference Board<br>of Ordination<br>Meeting | 14      | 15                                                 | 16<br>WESTERN<br>CONFERENCE                                                                                                        | 17     | 18<br>PEE DEE<br>ASSOCIATION                                                                                          |
| 19     | 20                                                                                                                           | 21      | 22                                                 | 23<br>EASTERN<br>CONFERENCE                                                                                                        | 24     | 25                                                                                                                    |
| 26     | 27                                                                                                                           | 28      | 29                                                 | 30                                                                                                                                 | 31     |                                                                                                                       |

COMING SOON:

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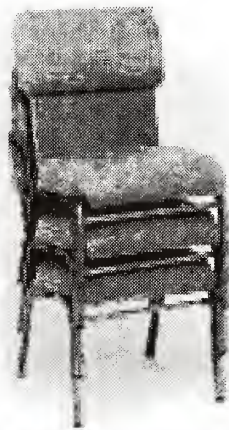
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The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December.) You may submit articles by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to [editor@fwbpress.com](mailto:editor@fwbpress.com),
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*  
PO Box 159  
Ayden, NC 28513.

\*No phone-in or handwritten information will be accepted.

Advertising submissions will run for a maximum of 2 months only. Submissions for *Churches & Ministry Positions Available* and *Personal Information Changes* will be run for 2 months. A re-submission is required for these columns.

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# THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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Happy Thanksgiving



# THANKSGIVING

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

It seems a shame that the Thanksgiving holiday season, other than sitting down on that day and stuffing ourselves with turkey, is pretty much looked right over. Why is that? Have we forgotten that whatever we have—whether little or much—is all a gift from God? Maybe He's testing us with whatever it is we do have. Yes, we should be thankful everyday. But stores and advertising companies just pass right over Thanksgiving like it doesn't even exist. We jump right into Christmas decorations and all the hoopla before we even get to Halloween (and I won't even go into that one). The manufacturers, advertising companies, and stores are teaching us to be greedy and self-serving. If for some reason "Santa" doesn't give us what we want, we're back in the stores the day after Christmas (the second busiest shopping day of the year) to return that gift for what we do want...



What was I talking about? —Ohhh, Thanksgiving— see, I almost forgot myself.

Anyway, I don't know what to say. We seem to be an "I want what I want, when I want it" society and if we don't get it there will be no peace until "I" do get it. Parents and children are both in this thing together—almost like we're feeding off each other. These trends today are very disturbing.

We need to focus more on God and what He has so richly blessed us with and not worry so much about things we don't have. Believe it or not, happiness doesn't come from possession of things; it comes from keeping our focus on God and serving needs other than our own. This year lets remember to spend time giving God the thanks that He deserves for the things with which we have been blessed. Have a truly grateful Thanksgiving!

## ISABEL AND FLOYD

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

When I was growing up in Wayne Country, NC, I don't recall hearing about hurricanes. Farmers often referred to "August gusts," which always brought a lot of rain and gusty winds and often damaged the crops. These were, no doubt, associated with hurricanes. I remember that we would sometimes find it necessary to continue the harvesting of tobacco during these rainy, gusty times.

My first encounter with a named hurricane was in 1953, while pastoring churches in Tyrell County. Barbara was her name and she came in in early August (which proved to be more than an August gust). The rain began about 9 A.M., and the wind increased throughout the day. That evening I headed for the Gum Neck FWB Church, in spite of the wind and rain, where revival services were being held. Only a few showed up, so we had a short devotional and prayer session and then I headed back to the parsonage in Columbia. My wife, Janice, was a nurse and was employed by the hospital in town. Shortly before 11 P.M., I drove her to the hospital for her "graveyard" shift. By that time, the Scuppernon River had begun to flood the lower part of town. I drove as close to the hospital's front door as possible, actually on the sidewalk, and we both ran up the steps into the lobby. I stayed around for awhile, and when the eye passed I returned home and slept through the rest of the storm. I was told that the last part of the storm, though of shorter duration, was worse than the first. Back then, storms did not bring the uneasiness to me as much as they do now. Maybe it's because we have learned and hear so much about them. These days, many hurricanes have ravaged eastern North Carolina and the rest of the Atlantic seaboard.

## Reflections

The last four years have brought two major hurricanes to eastern North Carolina. We will never forget the floods of Hurricane Floyd, and the devastation brought by Hurricane Isabel on September 18. Counties south and east of Pitt County were hit lightly compared to those in the more north-eastern region.

On September 28, I conducted services at Malachi Chapel Church in Tyrell County, one of the churches I served in the early 50s. Ruby and I spent the day riding throughout the county, observing the damage and visiting friends. Trees did most of the damage as they fell on power lines, houses, and buildings. All the folks at Malachi were thankful for God's

protective care and especially for the help that began to arrive in the form of utility crews from many other states, the Salvation Army, and others. Very little damage befell our three churches—Soundside, Malachi Chapel, and Gum neck. However, Gum Neck did suffer the loss of shingles. Burvell Jones, a member of that church, told me they were waiting for the insurance adjuster to make a determination on their damage. James and Cathy Cahoon, members of Soundside Church, who live in Columbia, North Carolina expressed their surprise at how quickly the crews were able to restore electricity to most areas, although they were without it for about seven days. Many other towns and communities in eastern North Carolina have suffered a lot of damage and loss, and as with Floyd, recovery will be long term.

*For information about how you can help with disaster relief, contact the office of Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 or call (252) 746-4963.*

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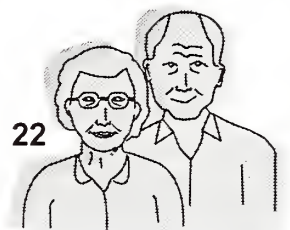


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# POWER VERSE

O give thanks unto the LORD;  
for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever  
(Psalm 136:1).



# THANKSGIVING: A TIME TO REMEMBER THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BLESSED OUR LIVES

by W. Burkette Raper



Left to Right: Dr. W. Burkette Raper and the Rev. Troy McCourry at the McCourry home in Burnsville, NC.

One of my most cherished memories of growing up in the Free Will Baptist Orphanage (now Children's Home) was the autumn arrival of apples, all kinds of canned goods, potatoes, and other produce from the mountains. I still remember the yellow cab lights on the two trucks which would be parked at the entrance to the basement of the old three-storied building where the dining hall and food storage rooms were located. Our task was to unload the trucks before leaving for school.

At that time, I had never been farther west than Raleigh. I had heard of the mountains; but to me, it was as if they were in a distant land. For us children, the goodies which the trucks brought were like manna from Heaven. Now we could have an apple at breakfast, another apple to

go with the two sandwiches in our lunch bag, and still another apple when we came from school. They were of all sizes and a variety of colors: red, yellow, and green. Our favorite was what we called the "pear apple" large, red, juicy, sweet, and shaped like a pear.

One of the most prized items on the trucks were the home-canned peaches, both whole pickled and halves bright yellow, as bright as gold when the glass Mason jars were held to the light. Not all these peaches found their way to the pantry, however. At opportune moments, jars could be concealed under our coats; and in the darkness before dawn, they were carried to hiding places to be enjoyed on days when the apportioned food on our plates at mealtime left growing boys still hungry.

As a teenage boy, my thoughts

never extended beyond the pre-dawn arrival of those trucks and the welcome foods they brought. It never occurred to me how this produce found its way to the Orphanage. I never thought about the fatigue of the truck drivers who had driven nearly four hundred miles through the night over narrow and winding roads all the way from the Tennessee border. I never asked who the people were who canned the peaches, made the best apple butter I ever ate, dug the potatoes, picked the apples, and loaded the trucks. Above all, I never asked why people whom we had never seen would work so hard and be so generous to us.

Although it has been fifty-nine years since I left the Orphanage, my memory is still clear and tender of those crisp autumn mornings when we children awoke and the sight of yellow cab lights told us that the trucks from the mountains had arrived. Those trucks and the food they brought have remained one of the most joyful memories of my eight years at the Orphanage.

## Rediscovering a Good Man

Now, fast forward more than half a century. The Barrow Professor of Biblical Studies at Mount Olive College, Dr. Lloyd Bailey, a native of Burnsville in Yancey County, NC, brings me a book, *History of the Jack's Creek Free Will Baptist Association*. He tells me that it is from a life-long neighbor of his, a Free Will Baptist minister, who says he remembers me and my brother, when we were children at the Orphanage. I

*(Continued on next page)*



open the book and find written on the inside front cover:

*To the Rev. Mr. Raper, from the Rev. Troy McCurry on whose knee you and brother James Earl once sat at Middlesex FWB Home for Children. I have also brought apples and "taters" from Peterson Chapel FWB in Yancey County for use at the Home (when James A. Evans was Superintendent).*

*Troy McCurry  
Age: 79*

In the words of John Wesley, "My heart was strangely warmed," and soon thereafter my brother James Earl and his wife, Doris, my wife, Rose, and I spent a memorable afternoon with the Rev. and Mrs. Troy McCurry and their son, Wade. Although now in his early eighties, Mr. McCurry is still active in the daily operations of a greenhouse business he established more than thirty years ago. We found him busy rooting cuttings. Looking up at James Earl, a broad smile came over his face as he said, "There is that blue-eyed boy I

wanted to adopt."

Although Mr. McCurry was valedictorian of his high school class in 1937, "times were hard" and being one of ten children, he had to settle for business correspondence courses to continue his education. After working for a number of years for the Farm Security Administration, he went into business for himself. Later, he and his wife, Hattie, opened the greenhouse, and soon thereafter their son, Wade, joined them in what has become a multi-state business.

Mr. McCurry's contact with the Orphanage came from a visit to the Home with the Rev. Grady C. Fender, who was serving as a representative of the Home for the Jack's Creek Association. He recalled that the Orphanage would send empty jars to the churches for use in canning, and he took on the additional role of organizing the gathering of produce, hence the annual autumn arrival of the trucks with the apples and the jars which had been filled with home-grown vegetables and fruits, including the peaches! When I

confessed to him that some of those jars of peaches never made it into the pantry, he eased my conscience by saying, "That's all right—we sent them to you children."

Ordained by the Jack's Creek Association in 1942, Mr. McCurry is still an active minister. For the past seventeen years he has been pastor of Pensacola Free Will Baptist Church, which in May, 2003 celebrated its one hundredth anniversary. Mr. McCurry vividly remembers attending several sessions of the North Carolina State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, including 1951 at White Oak Church in Bladenboro when the Convention voted to establish a junior college. "I wondered if it would ever get off the ground," he said.

Across the years and over so many miles, making a personal acquaintance with Mr. McCurry has been a heart-warming experience. He is one of an unknown number of Christian benefactors for whom I will always be thankful.

---

## FOUR WEE BLESSINGS

*by Elaine Swinson*

---



*Six months old—(left to right): Conner, Elizabeth, Collin, and Emma*

*Melanie and  
Drew Edwards  
Proudly Announce  
the Birth of  
Four Wee Blessings  
Born on  
March 17, 2003  
(St. Patrick's Day)*

*(Continued on next page)*

Conner Nicholson Edwards  
2 pounds and 6 ounces  
14¼ inches long  
Born at 10:03 P.M.

Elizabeth Morgan Edwards  
1 pound and 4 ounces  
11 inches long  
born at 10:03 P.M.

Collin Williams Edwards  
1 pound and 15½ ounces  
15 inches long  
Born at 10:04 P.M.

Emma Grace Edwards  
1 pound and 15 ounces  
14¼ inches long  
Born at 10:04 P.M.



*Homecoming Day for Conner at three months  
(left to right): Conner, Emma, Collin, Elizabeth*



*Dedication Sunday at Macedonia Baptist Church  
(left to right): Conner, Elizabeth, Collin and Emma*

God's soft whisper of comfort and promises softly surrounded Melanie and Drew as they awaited in excited anticipation the birth of their four babies. Conner, Elizabeth, Collin, and Emma made their unplanned entrance at Duke Hospital three months ahead of schedule, causing ripples of concern for their parents and "support team."

Creating quite a stir in the intensive care nursery, these wee babies soon squirmed their way into the hearts of all the nurses and doctors. Like little sheep jumping over a fence, one by one they began to grow healthy and make their way to greener pastures. Conner

was the first to come home, with Emma right behind. Tiny little Elizabeth could hardly make it over the top, but with great determination, she scaled the top rail with flying colors. Collin was bringing up the rear when he was nabbed by a gastrointestinal disease called necrotizing enterocolitis.

Two other little ones in the same unit died of this dreaded disease the day Collin was given his diagnosis. Prayers were sent up to Jesus by hundreds of Christians all over the United States, India, the Philippines, Mexico, Canada, and Japan for this precious little soul. Miraculously, Collin began to improve

and started running for the fence to jump over and join his brother and sisters when his bowel perforated. Dr. Rice, a Christian doctor on staff at Duke Hospital, performed emergency surgery to remove ⅓ of Collin's small intestine and ⅓ of his large intestine. Dr. Rice's testimony gave Melanie, Drew, and their families the strength and hope they needed, when he told them that he was a born again Christian and would never perform an operation without first praying to God.

On September 6, Collin, weighing only 6 lbs. 12 ounces at nearly 6 months old, finally made that final leap and joined Conner, Emma, and Elizabeth at his new home. His bright eyes and gentle smile are symbols of the graciousness and love bestowed on this family by the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is said that great sorrow is divided in half and jubilant happiness is doubled when shared with those who love you. Melanie, Drew, and all their family would like to tell you today that, through the love shown to them by all their caring friends, the sorrows they have experienced during Collin's illness and from the overwhelming logistical obstacles that they have encountered has been divided many times. You have given them the comfort and strength that only comes from those who have joined hands with God to form an unyielding circle of care and concern.

*(Continued on next page)*

# Ninety-First Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

by Pepper Worthington  
Photography by Pepper Worthington

Like birds that feather their nests with soft material to prepare for the birth of their fledglings, all of you have given your time, talents, and financial resources to make the breathtaking birth of their four children as calm and easy as possible. Their babies have so many adopted grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles, and cousins that their family tree has turned into a forest. A special expression of thanks is given to the youth of Powhatan, Whaley's Chapel, Free Union (Pinetown), Harmony, and Little Rock Churches for their gracious gifts.

However, the greatest gift you have given them is the knowledge that you loved them enough to tuck them inside your heart. Melanie, Drew, and their families give to you their thanks, their love, and a promise that your efforts will never be forgotten.

The Ninety-First Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists came to order on September 16, 2003 in College Hall at Mount Olive College, the day before the onslaught of Hurricane Isabel charging up the coast into eastern North Carolina. In order to provide safety for those having to drive great distances, president, the Rev. Fred Baker maneuvered to get all the reports scheduled in one day—brevity and compactness the key to convention leadership in 2003.



The Ninety-First Annual Session of the Convention of OFWB was compressed into one day, Wednesday, September 16, 2003, because Hurricane Isabel was approaching eastern North Carolina.



Many Original Free Will Baptists came to the Ninety-First Annual Session of the Convention of OFWB on September 16, 2003.

Several women participated in the report presentation from the podium, offering a greater visibility to women in small leadership positions across the denomination. Joan Little praised the Convention's theme—*Motivating Our Workers*. Becky Jo Sumner praised the

fellowship as she reported about the work of the Free Will Baptist League.

In a burst of enthusiasm, Joan Little



Joan Little reported on the Woman's Auxiliary

declared in her report on the Woman's Auxiliary, "Motivation comes from service to others. It is important to know where true happiness is found—from God and from serving others. We had to be a *soil* for some worthwhile activities. Our motives should be the needs of those around us. To lose sight of myself is the best use of my gifts. Let us continue to grow and to serve our Lord as He has us to do," she concluded.



Becky Jo Sumner presented the FWB League Convention Report while Fred Baker (seated) kept the speakers moving.

**Attorney M. L. Walters, Jr.**  
**Christian Law Association**  
**Seminole, Florida**

"If you have not experienced legal difficulties yet, you are blessed," noted

(Continued on next page)

**Note:** If you have a desire to help Melanie and Drew with their needs, you may contact them or the Rev. Harold and Elaine Swinson, the grandparents, at the addressess below. The babies use approximately 150 diapers, 7 cans of formula, and 2 large boxes of wipes each week, and require clothes to be washed several times a day. Even though they are blessed with good insurance, their portion of the hospital and doctor bills amount to several thousands of dollars. Each one of the children must be taken back to Duke Hospital for developmental sessions and to the pediatrician each month. In addition, Collin has special needs that require visits to a gastrointestinal physician.

Drew and Melanie Edwards  
4814 Dillard Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27606  
(919) 233-4590

The Rev. Harold  
and Elaine Swinson  
808 Jones Bridge Road  
Pinetown, NC 27865  
(252) 943-2646

Attorney M. L. Walters, Jr. of the Christian Law Association in Seminole, Florida. "We have received 70,000 calls from people all over the United States who have experienced legal difficulties. We have a newsletter, *The Legal Alert*. We had a case from a call from 10-year-old Paul. He called our office and told us that his school would not allow him to take his Bible to school. We took his case and proved that Paul's constitutional rights had been violated because he has the right to carry his Bible anywhere he wants to carry it. Students do have a right to carry a Bible," insisted Walters. "My job is to go to colleges, churches, and conventions all over the country and tell Christians what rights they have," he noted.



Wesley Taylor enthusiastically presented his report on Camp Vandemere at the Ninety-First Session of OFWB.

### Wesley Taylor on Camp Vandemere

"We have completed the bath house at Camp Vandemere. The new Camp sign was put up by a Boy Scouts group," reported Wesley Taylor as he tried to make Camp Vandemere a reality in the middle of College Hall. "We have new paint on both buildings!" exclaimed Taylor, his youth and vigor as visible as fresh paint.

"We have things to look forward to," Taylor continued, dropping his bait into the great hall. "On November 15-16 we have a Speckled Trout Fishing Tournament. You are all invited!"

Camp Vandemere is more than a camp to Taylor; it is a place for encounter, that of fellowship with mortals and fellowship with the Divine. His eagerness to get the buildings in top shape reflects his determination. "We need to paint the roofs, remodel the boy's bathroom. I know material things will diminish, but God's Word will never diminish. We have got to trust in the

Lord and He will bring it to pass," he said, his voice a song of hope, faith, and love.



Fred Baker presided over the Ninety-First Session of the Convention of OFWB.

### Russell Tyson and the Layman's League Report

"The Layman's League exists to promote fellowship and sharing among our men to touch others for Christ," declared Russell Tyson with the spark that was caught earlier in the voice of Wesley Taylor.

"We sponsor a Gospel Sing, a Ladies' Night, and an Endowment Fund here at Mount Olive College," continued Tyson. "Our big project for this year is to raise funds to build a building for Cragmont. I would like to thank each of you for your support this past year," he concluded gratefully.



Marvin Taylor (left) and Bishop J. N. Perry (right) enjoy the fellowship at the Ninety-First Session of the Convention of OFWB.

### Bishop Joseph Nathan Perry, Jr.'s Morning Message— The Effectiveness of Prayer

"I am glad I am on the battlefield of the Lord," noted Dr. Joseph Nathan Perry, Jr., guest speaker for the Morning Worship Service at the Ninety-First Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

"We all need help. Nobody can handle problems totally alone. We need to talk to God," Perry stressed. "How often we hear the word *prayer*. What is prayer? Prayer is *talking with God*. That meaning alone should excite us. Thank God I have a way to God," he said.

"Take the telephone. How many have a telephone? Practically everybody. But think about this. No matter how much you may try to reach me, if my phone is off, you won't reach me. Think how important it is to be connected to God, to communicate with God. We can continually talk to God by way of His creation. Prayer is the way to talk to God. Prayer is the way, not meetings or gatherings alone. If we want peace to grow, then we must know the effectiveness of prayer. Talking at meetings will not get it. *God* has to be invited. Somebody may not quite be saved here. Some may want their way, but thanks be to God, there is a method of prayer. When the president, pastor, and officers of the church are not able to handle your needs, aren't you glad you can talk to God?" asked Perry.

"God will turn a listening ear and hear our prayer. Prayer makes the difference in anyone's life. God loves to hear from us. God has a listening ear to tune into your cry and mine. Prayer makes all the difference!" declared Perry.

Perry recalled the story of Jabez and how Jabez, whose name reminded his mother of her pain in giving birth to him, wanted to change. The prayer of concern might be about who we are and what we are. "Our prayer of concern might be to move out of the territory we are in and move into the territory of God. Jabez didn't change his name, but he did change his life. He became somebody in the sight of God. God knows how to open a door for you. God also knows how to close a door for you," declared Perry.

"We can be all that God says we can be if we keep our hands in the hands of God," concluded Perry.

### The Reverend Don Fader and Church Finance

"We are a conduit by which your church can borrow money to fulfill a

*(Continued on next page)*

vision," noted Mr. Fader in his report on Church Finance. He proceeded to show a series of slides of churches who came to Church Finance to build or to buy land. St. Mary's of New Bern borrowed money to remodel. Pilgrim's Home in Dover borrowed money. "Call us," invited Fader. "We can help if your church has a vision for buildings. Churches helping churches is more than a slogan for us," he insisted.

Fader announced that the Christmas Cheer gift for 2003 will increase to \$125 to all ministers age 65 and older, thanks to the Steve Burress family of Aspen Grove FWB Church.

Fader recommended that October be designated as Minister's Program Month, that the second Sunday in October be set aside as Clergy Appreciation Day, and that the second Sunday in June be set aside as Minister's Program Sunday.



*"The FWB Press is 130 years old, and we plan to be there another 130 years," said Cliff Gray in his report at the Ninety-First Annual Session.*

#### Cliff Gray and the FWB Press

"The Free Will Baptist Press dates back to 1873," noted Cliff Gray as he used slides to introduce his report. "In 1873 Ulysses S. Grant was president. In 1876 Custer's Last Stand became famous. We are 130 years old at the Free Will Baptist Press, and we plan to be there another 130 years," he said.

"We have been in our current building in Ayden since 1967. We publish quarterlies and if your church desires to use our literature or even other literature such as David C. Cook, we can supply that literature," he reported.

Gray commented that most purchases made at our four Bible Bookstores would receive a 10 percent discount. "If your church owns a membership, please send in your proxy if your church cannot be represented at our meetings," he announced.

#### The Reverend Bruce Dudley, Dr. Alan Lamm, Dr. James Owens

Quickly, Mr. Dudley reported on the 16 clients of the FWB Retirement Homes Ministry: Robert Sellers, Margaret Brown, Hulon Whitehead, Nita Tucker, Louise Owens, Kaye Jones, Betty Campbell, Linda Sasser, Louise Jones, Geraldine Mangum, Dr. and Mrs. Cedric Pierce, Raymond Jones, William, Jeremy, and Sarah Reason.

"We at FWB Retirement Homes Ministry recently had to deny help to somebody because we have met the limits of our resources," reported Dudley.



*"The Free Will Baptist Historical Collection is preserved as a legacy to those who have gone before us," reported Dr. Alan Lamm.*

Dr. Alan Lamm reported for the Historical Commission. "We are who we are thanks to the sacrifices of those who have gone before us," noted Lamm. Also announced was the Legacy Endowed Fund for the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection at Mount Olive College, a cooperative work between the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists and the College. The Legacy Endowed Fund is an effort to preserve the history of the denomination and may be explained further by contacting Dr. W. Burkette Raper or Jeff Daughtry at (919) 658-5250 or (800) 653-0854.



*"Yes, Lord, I'll do it," reported Dr. James Owens in his reminder of D. L. Moody's commitment and outreach to Home Missions.*

Dr. James Owens reported on Home Missions and Evangelism, introducing the Short-term Missionary Program, the Disaster Relief Program, and others. "And where is your mission field?" asked Owens. "Look out your door.

Look out your window. All that you see from your house is your mission field," he declared.

Owens stressed the importance of scouting programs as an outreach program, the H'mongs in California, the Lighthouse Ministry, and others.



*"Mount Olive College is the third fastest growing private college in North Carolina in the last five years," declared Dr. J. William Byrd in his report.*

#### Dr. J. William Byrd and the Mount Olive College Report

"We are grateful to the Free Will Baptists for your expressions of love and care. We do all we can to earn your trust. Every Free Will Baptist student who comes here gets a \$2,500 scholarship each year for a total of \$10,000 over a four-year period," reported Mr. Byrd, president of Mount Olive College.

"Also at Mount Olive College, we provide ministerial scholarships. We offer a pulpit supply service and the Barrow Family Endowment Fund for Christian Ministries. Some leading scholars in Biblical studies come to our campus to offer major lectures as an outreach to affect the lives of our people," noted Byrd.

"I am happy to report that Mount Olive College is the third fastest growing private college in North Carolina in the last five years. We are fifth among the five least expensive colleges in North Carolina," he said.



*The Rev. C. H. Overman listens attentively to the reports at the Ninety-First Session of OFWB.*

*(Continued on next page)*

"Mount Olive College has been able to grow and to serve because of the strong leadership and vision of Mr. Raper who served for 40 years as president. He helped Mount Olive College become the institution that it is today," Byrd declared.

"We are an evolving institution. We have 10 percent more students than last year," he noted.

The 2003 Mount Olive College Press season includes the following three books: (1) *Poet Geography* by Lynn Veach Sadler with illustrations by Alvin

Hartness; (2) *Around the World: Port Cities and Islands (Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Pitcairn Island, Easter Island, Tahiti, Bora Bora, and New Zealand)*, by Pepper Worthington; (3) *My Dad Wears Striped Pajamas* by Carol De Stout, illustrations by Paul Reaves Heath.



## CHILDREN'S HOME

### CHILD OF ORPHAN GIVING BACK TO BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

by Amity H. Page, Daily Times Correspondent

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MIDDLESEX—There's no money in the budget for a new church roof.

But if 23-year-old Josh Aycock of Wilson gets his way, the Free Will Baptist Children's Home will receive before winter the \$8,000 needed to replace the leaking roof.

The church roof is just one of several repairs that the home has not been able to complete because the estimated \$35,000 cost is not in the budget. "The poor economy has slowed donations," said Bobby Taylor, Children's Home president and CEO. "We've had to cut back, and one of the areas you cut back is maintenance expenses," he said.

"The 20-year-old roof has been leaking for some time," said Taylor. "The Home has made temporary repairs for more than a year, patching along the way."

Aycock heard about the need from his mother, Judy, who grew up at the Children's Home and serves on the board of directors. He is targeting alumni and local businesses for financial support.

"I'd like to have it raised before the dead of winter. It becomes hard to work with shingles when it gets cold," he said. "But we'll keep going until we get it either way."

This N.C. State University senior jumped at the opportunity to give

back to the family that raised his mother and four of her siblings. She moved to the Home when she was 10, and lived there until she went to college.

---

*"They say, 'It takes a village to raise a child.' A village of Free Will Baptist people raised me. I am what I am today because of what people did for me there."*

**Judy Aycock**  
**Former resident**  
**Children's Home**

---

"I remember all the stories she tells about growing up there and the great things they did for her," Aycock said. "I can't imagine what it would have been like then to be an orphan in the South without having that place to go to."

"The church is a sacred place and holds a lot of memories for a lot of people," said Judy Aycock, who was baptized there and remembers attending many services there.

"They say, 'It takes a village to raise a child,'" she said. "A village of Free Will Baptist people raised me. I am what I am today because of what people did there for me."

And she has passed that on to her children. Taylor said he's appreciative for Aycock's help, but he is most impressed by his motivation.

"Here is Josh: He has his mom and never had to live in a children's home. But he has appreciation for what the Home has done for her and has taken an active part to make sure the ministry to children and families continues," Taylor said.

"Many alumni probably don't even know about the financial need," said Judy Aycock, "and raising money should not be difficult."

"That's not a lot of money for the people I knew who grew up there," she said. "So many kids who grew up there are successful. There is no reason why we can't make this happen."

Aycock said he hoped to have the \$8,000 raised by the end of October.

---

Donations marked  
"roof repair" can be sent to:  
FWB Children's Home  
P.O. Box 249  
Middlesex, NC 27557-0249

---

## 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 of gifts. 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, Women's 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 3, 2003.

You can help us help our children have the best Christmas ever.

FWB CHILDREN'S HOME  
Sponsorship Reservation Form

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_  
We Would Like To Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Cut Out and Mail Form To:  
FWB Children's Home, Inc.  
P.O. Box 249  
Middlesex, NC 27557-0249



## MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

### ALUMNI WEEKEND SET FOR MOC

Hundreds of alumni are expected to return to their alma mater November 21-23 to participate in Mount Olive College's Annual Alumni Homecoming Weekend.

The festivities will begin mid-day Friday with an alumni golf tournament at Southern Wayne Country Club near Mount Olive, followed by dinner in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. The 38th Annual Pickle Classic Tournament will be held Friday and Saturday, November 21-22. Friday night's tip-off begins at 6 P.M. with University of Tampa vs. Elizabeth City State University, followed by Longwood College vs. MOC Trojans at 8 P.M.

The consolation game begins at 4:30 P.M. Saturday. The championship game is at 6:30 P.M.

On Saturday, November 22, an alumni basketball game and silent auction will take place. The Fourth Annual Criminal Justice Seminar and a Business Seminar sponsored by the School of Business will begin at 10:45 A.M. Reunions for the classes of '58, '63, '68, '73, '78, and '83, '88, '93, '98, '03 and MOD reunions will be held between 12:30 P.M. and 2 P.M.

A reunion luncheon featuring the Mount Olive College Singers will be held in Murphy Regional Center followed by a dessert reception at

2:45 P.M. where special recognitions will be given. Among those presentations include the recognition of the College's Alumnus of the Year.

The culmination of the Mount Olive College Homecoming Weekend will take place on Sunday morning with a memorial service at the Alumni Cross Walk led by Marie Glenn, former Registrar, followed by a worship service in Rodgers Chapel. Russell Duncan, class of 1968, will serve as the guest speaker.

For more information contact Dianne Riley, director of alumni relations, at (919) 658-2502 or e-mail at <driley@moc.edu>.

# PEACOCK RETURNS TO WORK AT ALMA MATER



*Martha Ann Peacock*

Wayne County native Martha Ann Peacock feels strongly about the mission and purpose of Mount Olive College, her alma mater.

"Mount Olive College offers the commitment of academic quality while keeping the focus on students," she said. "You get it all at Mount Olive College: academics, career preparation, Christian values, and a wonderful environment."

Peacock earned her associate of applied science in accounting from Wayne Community College in 1990. She worked as an engineering assistant at Excel-Linde before becoming a secretary.

"While I was working at Wayne Community College, several positions became available that I could perform but was ineligible for because I did not have a bachelor's degree," she stated.

Peacock decided to enroll in Mount Olive College. "Mount Olive College offered exactly what I needed," she said. In 1997, she graduated from the institution with her bachelor of applied science degree in business management.

Once she received her bachelor's degree, she was promoted to assistant director of financial aid at Wayne Community College. From there, she performed the dual tasks of Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs coordinator.

Eventually, she was offered a position at Appalachian State University as Financial Aid counselor and moved her family to Boone.

In August, she returned to her alma mater and home in Wayne County; accepting the assistant director of financial aid position at Mount Olive College.

"The people are the main reason why I came back to work here," she said. "You can tell that the professors and staff really care about their students. Mount Olive College has a wonderful group of people. Everyone I have met and worked with has been very positive and up-lifting."

Peacock is the granddaughter of the late Reverend J. B. Starnes, an OFWB Minister. "He was a big supporter of Mount Olive College. My grandmother still is," she says.

Mr. Starnes served as the preacher at a variety of OFWB churches in North Carolina. Before passing away in 1981, he was pastoring Faith Church in Morehead City. He was an avid supporter of Cragmont Assembly and held many offices in the Eastern Conference and OFWB State Convention.

"My grandfather is my role model," said Peacock. "He taught me that everyone you meet is a brother or sister in Christ and you should treat them as such. He walked in the footsteps he preached."

With the advice from her grandfather in tow, Peacock is fulfilling her duties at Mount Olive College, making students the number one priority. "I love working with students to help them reach their educational goals," she said. "Mount Olive College has so much to offer. It provides a solid foundation for education and life itself. There is something for everyone."

Peacock is married to Bobby Peacock and they have two sons, Bobby and Jeremy.

## MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE CHRISTMAS BUFFET

DECEMBER 4, 2003

The Mount Olive College Christmas Buffet is an annual event of music, fine dining, and fellowship. Join us for this festive occasion as we celebrate the Christmas season with music provided by the Mount Olive Community Instrumental Ensemble and Free Spirit. For ticket information, contact Dave Amon at (919) 658-2502 Ext. 3007. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under.



# THE ART OF LIVING

by Erin Brescia

Six-year-old Cheryl Hinton stood at the edge of the glassy Mediterranean Sea with her parents and wondered at the power and grace of the waves that crashed in front of her. A weathered, old woman was sitting in the shade nearby, folding a fishing net with such consistency and care that the little girl was sure that she possessed secret wisdom not yet shared.

Cheryl's attention was drawn to a building just to the right of the woman, where paintings illuminated the room. When she entered, the smell of wet paint captivated every sense of her body. In the quietness of that moment, little Cheryl Hinton knew that she was sent to earth to show others the beauty of the world through art, just as she was seeing it then, in a gallery in that small French fishing village.

"The depth of commitment and the urgency I sense is not an outcome of my choice of career," she said. "The commitment and the sense of urgency came first, and was a directing force behind my choice of a career.

Cheryl Hinton Hooks is first an artist, and second, the associate professor of fine arts at Mount Olive College. "I love to see the minds, creativity, and outlook on life my students have," she said. "I also love seeing them grow closer to the people they were created to be."

Hooks, whose father was in the Navy, lived in seven states throughout her childhood and in France for three years. She earned her associate of arts degree from Mount Olive College in 1978, her bachelor of arts degree from Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) in 1982, and her master of fine arts degree in drawing and painting from East Carolina University in 1995.

She returned to her alma mater to

teach in the Fall of 1995. "Having graduated from Mount Olive College with a degree, I understood the mission of the College and knew my own personal values would be nurtured as well," she stated.

According to Hooks, art helps her ask the "difficult questions" in life and allows her to share with others the things that can only be seen through her work. "I worship God best when I paint and draw," she said. "I am part of the creative gift He has given us as human beings. I am closest to God when I create."

At Mount Olive College, Hooks teaches art history, design, and art appreciation classes, in addition to four levels of drawing and painting classes. In her beginner classes she stresses formal elements of art, design principles, and uniformity of works. In the upper levels of her painting and drawing classes, she encourages students to find their own aesthetic and "listen" to the silence.

"Those who aren't interested in works of art, on a simplistic level, are missing out on the beauty, the sense of wonder, and the direct connection with the people of the past," says Hooks. "All the secrets and wonders of the world are expressed and explored in the arts."

As an artist, Hooks believes that most people go through life half-asleep, blind to what the world is trying to present us, and that we can be a selfish people, obsessed with materialistic gain, wanting more and more and never being satisfied. The arts help us as human beings to awaken to more of what there is to see and to feel a connection to one another. This connection is what nurtures our spirit to give.

Hooks works with a wide variety of art media. She recently completed 12 works entitled "Re-Discovery,"

which were inspired by the first four years of her daughters' lives. The works, supported in part by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, will be featured in the Teresa Pelt Grubbs Gallery at Mount Olive College throughout October. "I feel that each work that I create is a gift. With each creative experience, I learn more about myself."

Her artwork has been seen in various solo and group exhibitions at Mount Olive College and in Wayne County, as well as in Greenville, Raleigh, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Italy, and has won awards on both regional and national levels.

Hooks has traveled to England, France, and Italy to view great works of art and has visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and enjoys visiting the North Carolina Museum of Art and other local galleries on a regular basis.

Hooks is on a life-long journey, one that began when she was six years old, when she first realized the need for an appreciation of the arts.

"Creative thinking cannot be limited to only those who express themselves with a paintbrush or pencil," she said. "Our world is crying out for creative minds in all fields of study. Our challenge is to see more, experience more, feel more, and to live creatively."

Hooks is the recipient of the 2003 Thomas R. Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching at Mount Olive College. She was the featured speaker at College Convocation in September, where she encouraged the freshman class and others in attendance to "be still, and listen to the silence."

She is married to Gene Hooks. She has three daughters, a son, and a stepdaughter. The family resides in Fremont.



## REFLECTIONS

by Willem van der Plas



We thank the people of Arapahoe and Stoney Creek Churches who contributed to make it possible to continue building this very important project. I am certain that the LORD will speak good about you, favor you, and will reward you. As I said already, you make His people praise His name by your generosity.

The "hour" at Roberts Grove Church has been covered with a slide program of "our youth." The youth of Balchik re-enacted the Birth, Crucifixion, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The slides have been made by Tezdjan, and she may be very proud about the quality. It was a joyful rendezvous and a pleasure to share our ministerial activities with you. In our prayer time we are with Kim Baker, with our friends, the Rev. Fred Baker and Mrs. Linda Baker. Prayers are powers of unison between our good Lord and us who are in need of His protection and presence.

Blessed time we spent with the Cape Fear Youth in the Bethel Church near Four Oaks. The program was interesting and enjoyable. Thank you that you allowed us to be with you and to speak about our ministry in East Europe. I am very much involved in youth work and youth outreach in this part of the world. Youth have the potency of vitalizing energy in times of weakness and encouraging power in times of struggle. To all our young folks in North Carolina I'd like to say: "Keep your enthusiasm in the LORD and keep your eyes focused on God's plan with the peoples of the earth. It is a wonderful venture to serve the LORD worldwide." I pray that some of you will be able to prepare yourselves to serve somewhere in the world in places where the Gospel is unknown.

Missionaries usually don't die as millionaires, but it is their reward to become filled with Powers of Divine Love to other people in the world. Believe me that it is a unique task to teach and pastor people who are not familiar with the Gospel. For the poor people who live without expectation there is not much hope left in our secular, capitalistic world. However, the message of Jesus Christ opens new perspectives to all who live in desperate situations. The ultimate truth is not in money but in the words that are written on money: "In God We Trust."

Jesus once said, "Blessed are the poor." He did not say, "Blessed are those who give to the poor." To us who are living so privileged and are equipped to give He says, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy" and "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." The wonderful teachings of Jesus in Matthew 5 lead us all to the right behavior in how to deal with God's provisions and blessings.

The drive was far, but it was worth it to be at the Albemarle Auxiliary Conference at Mount Tabor Church. We were with few men, but the messages have blessed us. It was delightful to meet Mrs. Cooper after about twenty years. Thank you for everything that you brought to us. Please keep our ministry in your minds by prayer and support. Besides, we depend primarily on the Lord, we rely on you, too.

## PREPARING FOR THE MINISTRY

by The Reverend Antonio Escobar



Brother Gavino and his family are members of the Sinai Church. He is a man who loves the Lord and desires to serve in the work of the church, and to preach the Word of God, but he has had no preparation toward this goal.

I spoke to him to ask him if he would like to study to prepare for the ministry. He said he needed that. Since then, I have been training him for already one month, and he now is able to preach short sermons, but he is learning every day.

Gavino is a very active brother in visitations, and he is bringing people to church. He and his family are studying together, and all of this is helping them to grow in understanding the Word of God. He now speaks with much more confidence because he now understands what he is saying.

As Brother Gavino initiated his studies toward the ministry, we are praying that the Lord will call others to serve in the ministry. We have several young men studying, and we are praying for them, that the Lord will call them to serve.

We are soon to open a work of family groups or cells in different neighborhoods, and we will need men and women for this work. We are praying that the Lord will give us the servants needed for this work.

Thank you for your prayers on behalf of this work, and for us that we might find grace before these people, and that we might do a work in this city.

# PLAYGROUND BECOMES A PART OF EDUCATION AT RISEN LORD



The Risen Lord School, a FWB affiliated school hidden off the main streets of Pardo, has just completed a playground that is an integral part of its education philosophy. The latest research from America shows that learning is at its best when children's bodies

are active, and this activity is made a part of their daily school environment. Faith Perocillo, one of the founders of the school stated, "Before we built a first-class playground, many of our students spent their break time fighting and throwing stones at each other."

The playground changed all that. It is filled with both moving and stationary equipment: carousels, swings, rope climb, fireman's pole, spinning tire, spring-loaded seasaw, high slide, a bouncing Jeepney, monkey bars, chin-up bars, and X-O station, all fabricated in Cebu with materials easily available here. "When we finished our first carousel" said Ms. Perocillo, "the children were afraid of it." "They didn't know what it was like to be dizzy." "Now it makes me dizzy to watch them spin!"

Ms. Perocillo says that it is important that a playground have adequate space and equipment and that it be attractive to a wide range of ages. Too often playgrounds are pushed into a tiny corner of the campus and only a few pieces of broken equipment can be found. Ms. Perocillo says that a significant part of the grounds at Risen Lord were devoted to a playground at the early planning stages of the school. An area was picked that was both large and well shaded with trees.

According to Ms. Perocillo, children find it easier to learn when their bodies are active. This is not only important at recreation time, but in the classroom. "Our school is very young and we are introducing in the classroom active learning principles where students touch, feel, and experience as part of their learning environment." "We are trying to replace many of the old techniques of static environments of teacher lecturing, rote memorization, and monotonous fill-in worksheets with dynamic approaches where students work together and with teaching techniques that emphasize process rather than facts." "We would rather our students be able to write a thoughtful paper on their experiences than recite an encyclopedia of facts that are soon forgotten after a periodical exam!" "We are not a fancy school, but we are a caring one that puts the interest of real learning of our students above all else."

An important part of Ms. Perocillo's success is her open mind. She looks for and encourages new ideas from her teaching staff and others involved in her school. "We are thankful for the morale and financial support we receive from the Free Will Baptist Church, International, based in the United States," said Ms. Perocillo. "We are also very thankful to American Larry Dominessy who has been residing with his wife, Marilou, in Pardo for the past year and a half and has been the main mover in designing, financing, and building our playground. "Many of our students come early so they can play on the playground and don't want to leave in the evening. It's the way students should feel about their school!"



## DECEMBER IS FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH

The month of December has been designated in the church calendar as **Foreign Missions Month**. I encourage each pastor to incorporate this message in your Christmas sermons, for Jesus truly came to seek and to save those who are lost. Ministry to the lost is the chief business of the Church.

I also encourage each church and individual to remember Foreign Missions in your Christmas giving. Your gift to this ministry makes it possible for our denomination to continue its outreach to the nations beyond.

Thank you in advance for your generous gift during December. God bless you with all the full joy of Christmas!

In the Name of Jesus,  
Harold Jones, *Director/Treasurer*

*Thank you for your generous support for OFWBI at this year's Mission Rally at Mount Olive College. The total amount for offerings was \$28,033.84.*



## DISASTER RELIEF



Great destruction and disruption of people's lives and livelihoods have taken place and continues to take place as Hurricane Isabel affects many lives throughout our churches and communities.

Several of our ministers, as well as individual families, have experienced significant losses and need our help.

The amount of damage varies from one location to another. Some suffered damage to their churches and homes while others are without electricity and will be for an undetermined amount of time.

We want to help as many as we possibly can, but, in order for us to do so, we need the help of our churches and congregations.

We are aware that some areas need different kinds of help, so, in order for us to address the immediate needs, we are asking the following:

### 1. Prayer

- for all the people who are experiencing hardship during this time.
- for the agencies, organizations, and volunteers who are working so hard to help.
- for the extended needs of the people to be met in the months ahead.

### 2. Cash Donations

- Please make your checks payable to:  
OFWB Disaster Relief Fund  
Home Missions and Evangelism  
P.O. Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513



Thank you in advance for your support of this special ministry.

## CHURCH FINANCE ASSOCIATION



### HURRICANE DISASTER LOANS MADE AVAILABLE TO FWB CHURCHES

We are all familiar with the destruction caused by Hurricane Isabel. Several of our churches have received significant damage and are in need of repair. While insurance will help with problems caused by the wind, property and casualty insurance does not cover flood losses. In response to this, Church Finance Association has authorized a disaster loan at a variable rate of 3.50% to help restore our churches. If your church has a need for this assistance or if you know a church which is in need of help repairing their damage, please contact:

Church Finance Association, Inc.  
Donald Fader  
(252) 523-5800

*"Churches helping churches since 1940"*



## MOTIVATING OUR WORKERS

by Fred P. Baker, President

Our theme for this church year is "Responding to God's Call by Motivating Our Workers." We have had yearly themes for our Convention for several years now. Themes can become only nice slogans on pretty banners and not affect the daily routine of our personal lives and churches.

Our yearly themes are intended to accomplish much more. They provide direction for planning our annual Convention program. They should shape our focus for ministry during that church year giving all of us guidance that we may be laboring in unity as we join Jesus Christ in building His Kingdom here on earth. Working together achieves results. The yearly themes provide the structure for us to come together with Jesus and experience church growth in spirituality, membership, and in the number of churches. Our theme should generate ideas for sermons, seminars and workshops for pastors, and churches to use in the work of disciplining every member for ministry. Church growth will come when

the entire church engages in personal ministry for Jesus. God's Word calls for the whole church to take the whole Gospel to the whole world. These yearly themes will guide our Convention to work together toward achieving that goal.

Original Free Will Baptists are a generous and hard working people, but we are not growing as we should. The need of the hour is for us to repent and turn from our besetting sins of judging, criticizing, accusing, and tearing down those who disagree with us. Satan is lying and leading us to tear down internally faster than we are building. We desperately need to reaffirm our allegiance to God, His Word, and His will as our road map. Let us again pray with Jesus, "Not my will but thine be done."

Our yearly themes are not just randomly chosen religious phrases. These are prayed over, studied, and selected by our leaders under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. They believe these themes are God's will

and that themes will thrust our denomination onto the cutting edge of growth. We are beginning to work on our next set of five year themes. If you have any ideas, please send them to us at the headquarters.

I challenge every pastor and every local church to embrace this year's theme "Responding to God's Call by Motivating Our Workers." May our love for God and love for our fellowman bind us together in unity of purpose. Each one may approach the theme in different ways, but let everyone be motivated and be a positive motivator of our brethren.

Please keep an eye on *The Free Will Baptist* for follow-up articles on this year's theme. Members of the Executive Committee of the Convention have committed themselves to write and share their ideas about motivating our workers. There will be an article each month to encourage and help motivate our people. God bless and please pray for our Convention and its leaders.

## DISASTER RELIEF

Hurricane Isabel brought about a lot of change and destruction to Eastern North Carolina and to Original Free Will Baptists. Hurricane Isabel Disaster Relief is managed under the Home Mission Ministry. The Convention has asked all churches to collect an offering and canned goods and get them to the Home Mission Department. Money may be sent to:

Hurricane Isabel Disaster Relief Fund  
c/o Home Missions and Evangelism  
P. O. Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513

The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, having evaluated the damage to our churches and church members' homes, have given fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to the Hurricane Isabel Disaster Relief Fund. We are working closely with Home Missions to help meet the needs of our people. Thank you for all that you have done.



## CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry is awarding Camp Scholarships for those young people from ages 9–18 who wish to go to camp but who need financial assistance. The scholarship value will cover the cost of the camp, with the exception of personal spending money. The procedure is a simple one:

1. Complete the application provided, fold, stamp, and return it to the Sunday School Director at P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. Use extra paper if it is needed. Application must be postmarked by December 31 in order to be considered.
2. Be sure the application is accompanied by a letter from the pastor of the church or the Sunday School Superintendent substantiating the financial need.
3. When the selection has been made by an anonymous committee, the applicant will be notified and will inform the Sunday School Director as to which camp he or she wishes to attend. The Director will then send the money to the appropriate camp, whether at Cragmont Assembly or Camp Vandemere. The applicant will need to provide his or her own spending money for the camp week.
4. The awards will be formally presented at the Annual Sunday School Institute in March at Mount Olive College.

### APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parents or Guardians: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference: \_\_\_\_\_

Write a brief statement as to why you want to go to camp and why you need the financial assistance. (Use extra paper if needed.)

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**Spread the  
CHRISTMAS**

*Spirit*

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHEER

riage ceremonies of our parents.

Now many of them are unable to attend the conference meetings or the Convention, and we have lost touch with them. There is a real danger that we may forget them and the important work they have done.

Each year, through Operation Christmas Cheer, the Minister's Program acknowledges these men who have given so much to our people and churches. During this season, the Minister's Program sends Christmas greetings to all ministers age 65 and over along with a monetary gift. This year, due to a gift from the Steve Burress family of Aspen Grove, we will be sending a gift in the amount of \$125. Mr. Burress wanted to do something special for the ministers in our Convention and he agreed to pay the difference between the \$100 gift and this year's \$125 remembrance. We would like to challenge our churches to meet this new challenge and help to make it a permanent part of Christmas throughout our denomination. While the Minister's Program sends the greeting, it is done on behalf of the churches and congregations of the Convention. This program reaches over 100 ministers at a cost of over \$10,000 to the Minister's Program.

### Who Makes This Possible?

We do! It is our churches and other organizations within the church that make this program a reality. However, last year approximately 40% of our churches provided no gift support to the Minister's Program. Your support

through the year makes programs like this possible. Help us remember them! Those who receive these greetings write back to thank the churches for making this program possible. One minister wrote to say, "It means so much to be remembered by my denomination," and another said, "This gift will really come in handy, and I sure can use it. Thank you."

### What Can You Do?

This program is not self-funding and we depend on churches, Sunday School classes, auxiliaries, Layman's League, individuals, and youth groups. Your gift helps make a difference during this season to men who have served over the years. Please contribute \$125 to help sponsor this program. In addition, we hope that 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 do this during 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.

To participate please send your gift to:

The Minister's Program  
Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513



### Remember Them!

Over time, some of the ministers who have faithfully served our churches have changed pastorates and are no longer an active part of the church family. Many of these men are still working hard in their capacities as pastors while others who, because of advancing years or disability, have retired from pastoral ministry. These are the men who preached the revivals, baptized our children, and performed the mar-

# CAMP VANDEMERE

by The Reverend Owen Arthur

"To God be the glory!" This is how I feel in relationship to Camp Vandemere and the recent hurricane. God richly blessed the Camp and spared us from major damage. A lot of planning and work was put into action.

On Tuesday, before the hurricane, many friends of the Camp came and began to move things to higher ground. Pamlico Packing of Vandemere loaned us two trucks and we were able to put all the mattresses, tables, chairs, and other items in them so they could be moved to a safer place. Several people from area churches came, some with trucks and trailers, and helped move everything.

We did get water in the buildings, but there was no damage to them. Several volunteers went in after the hurricane and disinfected everything. The piers received the most damage. The water just lifted them up and it looks like all we have to do is have them washed back down. After the storm came, we began the task of putting everything back so the Camp would be ready for the group coming in for the weekend. Once again,

friends of the Camp came to our aid. I would like to say a great big THANK YOU to all those who helped.

I want to share some more good news. Remember that some time ago I mentioned that the Camp needed a new cook stove? At that time, we did not have the resources to purchase one. Since then, the Lord has blessed the Camp and now we have a brand new stove. The old stove has served us well and we are looking forward to the new one doing the same.

Keep in mind that the Camp is available for you to use year round. We have church groups, family reunions, weddings, choir workshops, and other events taking place at the Camp. It is being used to honor and glorify our Lord. Also, remember our Family Lodge. It is just right for a family get away, or for a larger group, or for individuals to spend a few days fishing. We also have camper spots for those of you who prefer these accommodations. Ladies, don't forget that just 25 miles away is historical New Bern, with its many shops for

you to check out. Call the Camp today and make a reservation for your special event.

Speaking of fishing, don't forget the Speckled Trout Fishing Tournament that is being held November 14-15. If you haven't registered, let me encourage you to do so. A great weekend is planned.

Our weekend of Gospel music was a great success. Notice I said weekend. Wesley suggested that this year we add a Friday night session to our singing; we did, and it was a success! I would like to thank all the groups for coming and singing for us. Without them we wouldn't have been able to have our annual Singin' By the River. Plans are to do the same again next year. Watch for information at a later date.

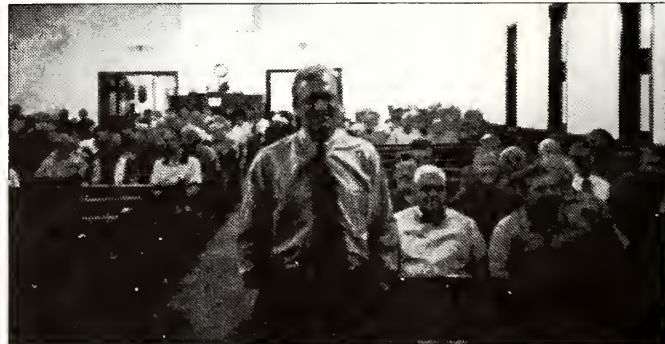
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If you would like to make a donation to the Camp, you may mail it to our treasurer, Mrs. Judith Kennedy, 933 North NC 41, Pink Hill, NC 28572.

Please keep the Camp in your prayers and come see us.

## LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

### SCENES FROM CENTRAL CONFERENCE LAYMAN'S LEAGUE MEETING AT KING'S CROSSROADS CHURCH





## ARE WE THANKFUL?



Representatives at the last Youth Convention Executive Committee meeting: Crystal Guy, Mindy Glover, Hope McPherson, and Catherine Cahoon.

Christians have a lot to be thankful for during this season. Our loving God who sent His Son to save us from our sin and who never leaves us; fellowship with kindred spirits; the freedom to enjoy that fellowship and to share the Gospel with others. Our gratitude should show through the fruit we bear for the Kingdom.

The Cape Fear Youth Fellowship held a Youth Rally on Saturday, September 6, at Smyrna in Meadow, NC. There were seven churches represented with 107 people present. Several testimonies were given during the program in the "Penny for Your Thoughts" portion. Vice President Crystal Guy conducted the business segment and updated the group on items from the State Youth meeting of August 23. Attendance banners were awarded as follows: Youth-Powhatan; Youth Runner Up—Robert's Grove; Overall—Pleasant Grove; and Overall Runner-Up—Riverside.



Cape Fear Officers present at Vision Walk: Crystal Guy, Zack Tart, and Roberta Widhalm.

Powhatan's Woman's Auxiliary sponsored a pizza lunch at the Children's Home on Sunday, September 7 following the morning worship hour. Several auxiliary members and youth rode the bus and carried some gifts and enjoyed lunch with the group. On the same afternoon, "House Party," a Christian concert at Alltel Pavilion by several artists, had many Original Free Will Baptists in the crowd. Several attended from Powhatan and we saw churches from as far away as Beaverdam (Chadborn-Pee Dee District) or as close by as Shady Grove (Dunn-Cape Fear District). It was a fun day of praise and worship, and a portion of the funds raised went to build a house for a Habitat for Humanity family.

The 2nd Vision Walk took place at Mount Olive College on Saturday, September 13. Powhatan's fundraising team consisted of Crystal Guy, Nikki Jones, Roberta Widhalm, Nicole Lee, Leah Boykin, and Gregory Bass. Parents and Woman's Auxiliary members Jackie Guy, Rita Jones, and Cathy Lee attended in support of the team and Cragmont. The damp weather kept some churches at home, but over \$14,000 was raised for the day. Thank you to Mount Olive College for hosting, to Third Promise,

who sang in the afternoon, and to all who cooked, helped with registration, or worked in any way to make the day a success.

Fall Revival began September 14 with the Rev. Swade Benson bringing the message. Monday's speaker was the Rev. Lloyd Hargis, who said we need to "get on the ball and be lights in a dark world." Tuesday, the Rev. Dennis Pollock brought the message and inspired us with laughter as we fellowshiped from the Word. Alan Price spoke on Wednesday, but the Thursday services with the Rev. Doug Seymour were cancelled thanks to Hurricane Isabel. Homecoming went on as planned on September 21 with the Rev. Rayford Byrd, former member, bringing the message on which future homecoming did we want to be a part of—the one in Heaven or the one in Hell? An afternoon memorial service sponsored by the Woman's Auxiliary remembered those members who had passed away in the past year—Jimmie Pounds, Joe Dupree, Robert Lee, and Deacon Thedford Wood.

Five members from Powhatan took part in the State Convention on Wednesday, September 17. The Rev. Jim Bogle, Alan and Beverly Price, Rita Jones, and Rachel Langley were part of the busy day. Messages were delivered by Bishop L. N. Perry ("Effective Prayer") and Dr. Tyanna Day ("Love God and Live Like It") and business was conducted by the 570+ registered ministers, delegates, and visitors. The mission rally that evening concluded the Convention and raised over \$24,000 for missions.

Thank you to all the adults who planned, drove, and took part in the Youth Scavenger Hunt at Powhatan on Saturday, September 20. Julie Cox had a great list of hard-to-find items and Bible Trivia questions for the five

(Continued on next page)

teams to work on. Renee Boykin's team (with visitor Kalyn Hopper of Haymount) took first place, finding all the items and answering all the questions to achieve the highest overall score. Thank you to all the households and businesses that

donated items to the teams when they were given a surprise visit during the one hour scramble to get everything from a \$2 bill, a live ant, a green sucker, to some gray hair.

Sunday evening, November 23, is the date of the annual Thanksgiving

Community Sing for several churches in the Clayton area, and everyone is invited to be a part of the evening of worship at Everett Chapel (Western District). Check our new website at <[www.powhatanchurch.com](http://www.powhatanchurch.com)> for other announcements.



## GRANDPARENTS' DAY— YOUTH SUNDAY

Oh, what a beautiful day! Sunday, September 7, 2003 dawned as a marvelous day, sun brightly shining, weather mild and comfortable, and a wonderful gathering at Walnut Creek Church. But why shouldn't it be—not only was it the Lord's Day but it had been set aside to honor grandparents, and the youth of our church had decided that the best way they knew to honor these special folks would be to "control" the activities of the day.

Assisting D. J. Whitfield as Sunday School superintendent were fantastic teachers: Emily Herring and Scarlet Lane, co-teachers for the Adult Class; Katie Herring for the Young Adult Class; Benjamin Herring and D. J. Whitfield, co-teachers for the Primary Class; Katie Strickland and Megan Thompson, co-teachers for the Elementary Class; and Matthew McLamb and Sarah Strickland, co-teachers for the Cradle Class. Ray Grady served as secretary-treasurer for the day. The only adult participating in the youth activities was our pianist, Tim Bradshaw. The Sunday School hour proved to be not only a treat but a real blessing; evidence that the future leadership of our church is in good hands. Thank God for His blessings!

Sara Strickland presided over the morning worship service. After the preliminaries, she read a tribute to grandparents. Special music included

a solo by Tim Bradshaw, "Another Child to Hold," and a solo by five-year-old Holden Bradshaw entitled "Jesus Is the Key." The history of Grandparents' Day was presented by Pattie Whitfield. The WCFWB little folks sang the action songs "Deep and Wide" and "Jesus Loves Me." The WCFWB Youth Choir sang "Shout to the Lord" and we were honored by a solo, "You Are My King, from Katie Strickland accompanied by the Youth Choir.

Ushers for tithes and offerings were Travis Lane and Tyler Owens. Matthew McLamb led the smaller children with the spelling of grandparents after which the grandparents were individually honored by their grandchildren, who had made cards containing recollections of precious memories.

The morning message was delivered by Ray Grady and Matthew McLamb, followed by the invitation and benediction by the Rev. Tony McLamb, pastor.

What better way to honor not only grandparents but parents and the adult members of our congregation as well as to have the youth of our church share in such a wonderful service. We praise God for blessing us so abundantly, for restoring our faith in the future, and for making us so proud of our youth...what a tribute to grandparents!

## FALL REVIVAL

Living Waters Church will be holding Revival on Sunday, November 2–Wednesday, November 5 at 7:30 P.M. each evening. The speaker is a veteran FWB pastor and former home missionary, the Rev. George C. Lee of Goldsboro.

The church is located 2½ miles west of Pikeville on Princeton Highway across from Northwest Elementary School.

## STUDY COURSE

A study course on Women of the Bible (Stewardship) will be held on Saturday, November 8 in the fellowship building at Kinston First Church, 314 W. Lenoir Street, Kinston, NC 28501; (252) 527-0619 (church). The session will begin at 9:30 A.M. The speaker will be the Rev. Greg Day, Campus Minister, at Mount Olive College. Everyone is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

## NOTE

Mrs. Pearl Hunt (formerly Mrs. Pearl Johnson) wishes to express her thanks and appreciation to all those who remembered her during the loss of her husband, James B. Hunt, and also the loss of her oldest daughter, Glenda. Her new address is 1325 Harvard Parkway, Apt. 101, Garner, NC 27529.

# LIBRARY DEDICATION

by Marietta Elks



Alice M. and Morris Elks,  
Historians Emeritus, Black Jack Church

Sunday, September 7, 2003, was an eventful day at Black Jack Church. The new library was dedicated during the morning worship service. Charles Gaskins, chairman of the

church board, conducted the dedication service by informing the congregation of the use of reference books, study aids, teaching aids, family helps, marriage helps, and videos. An explanation of the check-in and check-out system for the materials was clarified. Volunteers will monitor the library maintenance.

Additionally, Bill Kittrell, current church historian, addressed that the new library had a special historical section. Mr. Kittrell has compiled a book with a tremendous amount of Black Jack Church and community history dating back to 1831, the year of the organization of the church, then known as "Imitation Free Will Baptist Meeting House." The vast and valuable historical accounts compiled in the Black Jack Church

Historical Book was dedicated to Alice Mills and Morris Elks, historians emeritus. Mr. and Mrs. Elks, who were recognized for their invaluable historical contributions and research, were honored by having their portrait placed in the library historical section.

Chairman Gaskins accredited that many people were involved in organizing, donating, and laboring to make the new library a success. Recognition was given to these toiling individuals.

The Rev. Phillip Boykin, pastor, concluded with a dedication prayer that the new library be used for Christian study and personal growth. The congregation was encouraged to view the library following the church service.

## A Stoney Creek Christmas Spectacular



A collection of secular and sacred music and drama.

The sights, sounds, and miracles of Christmas from our family to yours.

December 12-14, 7 P.M.

For complimentary tickets, call (919) 735-3916 or e-mail Kerrie Clayton, Director of Music, at <kclayton@ncrrbiz.com> Tickets required.

Stoney Creek FWB Church  
752 Stoney Creek Church Road  
Goldsboro, NC 27534

## THANK YOU

A heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to all individuals, churches, and organizations who contributed to the Libby Swain Harper Medical Fund. The stem cell transplant has been scheduled twice but had to be canceled due to a respiratory problem that developed in the meantime. Due to the overwhelming donations and fundraising efforts, the goal for the transplant was reached. The funds have been given to NC Chapel Hill who is waiting to perform the transplant when the respiratory problem is no longer present. Even though the funds for the transplant have been reached, there are still over \$125,000 in medical expenses that have been incurred in the meantime.

Again, Everette and I would like to thank you for all your prayers, cards, phone calls, and concern as they have helped us both through a very trying time. With the grace of God we will be able to claim victory over this disease. Keep us in your prayers, and may God bless each and every one of you for your help.

In Christian Love,  
Libby and Everette Harper

# SNOW HILL CHURCH GEARS UP FOR FALL FESTIVAL

by Sherry Matthews

The Snow Hill Church family is bounding into fall with a bevy of activities for people of all ages, and they're hoping everyone will come and be a part of the activities.

On the heels of two spaghetti lunches, one in September and another in October, to raise money for the church's building fund, members are gearing up for a November full of upcoming events.

On November 15, the church, located at 1213 Red Hill Road, Mt. Olive, NC, will be the site of a fall festival filled with fun, food, fellowship, and a whole lot of goodies for people to enjoy and purchase. Floyd Carrell, who is co-chairing the festival with fellow church member, Betty Smith, said there will be something for everyone to do. Beginning at 7 A.M.

on November 15, church members will be holding a yard sale. At 11 A.M., members will be serving barbecue pork and barbecue chicken. There will be crafts for sale, games for the kids and the young-at-heart, a refreshment stand for the early risers at the yard sale, and an auction.

All the proceeds will go to support the church and its activities. "We hope everyone will come out and be with us during the Fall Festival," Carrell said. "I think they'll have a good time, get some good food, and have an opportunity to get some really nice things at the craft sale, the yard sale, or the auction.

"It's a good way to spend a Saturday and a great way to support the church," he added.

## The Heart of Thanksgiving

Later in the month of November, the choir will present its first-ever Thanksgiving Cantata.

During the 11 A.M. service on November 23, the choir will present "The Heart of Thanksgiving." According to choir director, Gloria Edwards, the cantata will feature traditional Thanksgiving music performed by the choir, church solo artists, and the church's quartet.

Incorporated into the music," Mrs. Edwards said, "will be a heartwarming play which will be performed by Fran and Ricky Bostic.

"Everyone is invited to come and celebrate Thanksgiving with our church and be a part of our very first Thanksgiving cantata," Mrs. Edwards said.

## MAKING THE CHURCH WORK BY MOTIVATING ITS MEMBERS TO CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Everett Chapel Church

November 16, 2003 • 6:30-8:30 P.M.

Following a brief opening session by David Hines entitled, "What does it mean to be the Church?", pastors and church members can choose one of the following topics:

"Effective Worship: Making Worship Meaningful," by Stephen Prescott

"Discipleship: Growing in God's Image," by Tyanna Day

"Getting a Grip on Christian Education," by Mary Dudley

"Developing the Leader That Is Within You," by David Hines

"Programs for Youth: Beyond Activity," by Chris Glover

Everett Chapel Church is located in Clayton at 307 Everett Avenue, one block from Highway 70-E; (919) 553-5236.

*This learning opportunity for pastors and church members is made possible by the Barrow Family Endowed Fund for Christian Ministries, Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC.*



*The Reverend and Mrs. Garland Suggs*



*(Left to Right): Grayon Noles, Doris Tart, Leslie Herring, Jr., Herman Raynor, Doris Godwin, and Peggy Parker.*

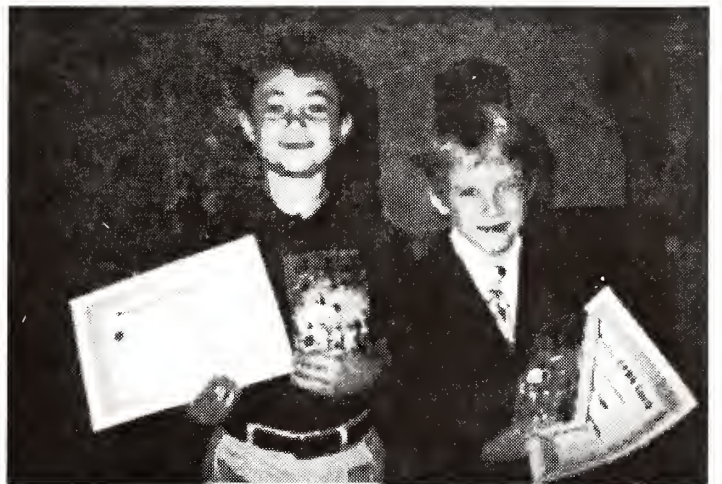


*The youth conducted a heartwarming program to thank Mr. Suggs for his commitment and dedication to the church.*

On Sunday, September 14, 2003, Mt. Calvary Church, Clarkton, NC, honored their pastor, the Rev. Garland Suggs of Crusoe Island. A day of appreciation was celebrated among the 63 in attendance. Brother Heath Conner and the church youth conducted a heartwarming program to thank Mr. Suggs for his commitment and dedication to their church. He has served Mt. Calvary for the last 11 years. He has shared times of sorrow, as well as joyful times with us all. Mr. and Mrs. Suggs were presented with a mini-vacation by the church as a token of their appreciation. A special gift was presented to Mrs. Suggs by the Woman's Auxiliary president, Linda Ransom.

Everyone brought covered dishes to provide for a luncheon that followed the service. After the meal, the couple was showered with appreciation cards and gifts. The church members agreed that they are truly blessed to have Mr. and Mrs. Garland Suggs as a part of their lives and church.

A total of 199 years of perfect attendance were recorded during Sunday School promotion Sunday, September 7 at Smyrna Church when Grayon Noles received his 36th perfect attendance award; Doris Tart received special recognition of a bouquet of flowers from the church when receiving her 50th perfect attendance pin; Leslie Herring, Jr. received his 29th year; Herman Raynor received his 22nd year; Doris Godwin received her 43rd year; and Peggy Parker received her 9th year pin.



*Pictured are Zeb Wade and Ewan Raynor receiving their promotion certificates and their own Bibles given for entering the Primary Sunday School class during Sunday School Promotion Sunday on September 7 at Smyrna Church (Cape Fear Conference). Both young men are in the first grade at Meadow Elementary School.*



Ten-year-old Dylan Sepulvado of Shreveport, LA needs a new heart.

## DYLAN SEPULVADO SHREVEPORT, LA

Dylan's great aunt Betty Betts and family moved into the area of Covenant Church, Hope Mills, NC, in August 2003 from Shreveport, LA. It is such a pleasure having them in Covenant Church.

It was during special prayer time that we at Covenant were introduced to 10-year-old Dylan. At this time, Dylan resides in Dallas, Texas near Children's Hospital waiting for a HEART DONOR. Would you place this young man on your prayer list that GOD will provide him with a new heart.

As Dylan waits for this new heart, his great-aunt Betty, is writing a book in his HONOR. Following are several excerpts from the book.

### DYLAN 'S ADVENTURES

#### Day 1

A brand new day for Dylan to start.  
He's on his way to look for a brand new heart.

Over the land and under the sea,  
he's looking for something to help him breathe.

He's heading in the direction of a creek,

He's walking very slow, because his little legs are weak.

He saw a big tree and decided to sit down, the whole time thinking maybe one day, he'll dance like a clown.

Just think one day he'll be on top,  
Who knows, he may even be a cop.  
Looking at his compass, he's thinking which way to go,  
North, South, East, West, just which way would be the best.

They're cute and nice, those little electronic carts, but he would no longer need one, if he had a brand new heart.

Love Always,  
Aunt Betty

#### Day 2

Little Dylan is so smart.  
Once again he's on his way to look

for that brand new heart.

By sunrise, he's getting well on his way.

Which way to go, it's hard to say.  
He looks up at the mountain so high,

Could a heart be there? He won't know 'til he gives it a try.

Almost a fourth of the way to the top,

Little Dylan had to stop.

One day with God, and a little luck,  
Dylan could be driving a big red fire truck.

Dylan sings a little as he goes on his way.

And he laughs a little knowing that tomorrow's another day!!!

Love Always,  
Aunt Betty

#### Day 3

Dylan started out for another long walk.

He was so anxious, he wished his little cat could talk.

M.J. is his little cat's name, in and out between his legs, she wanted to play a game.

A game he did not want to play, for

he had one thing on his mind, if today would be the day, a special heart he would find.

M.J. ran up a tree, Dylan yelled, "Is there a heart up there for me?"

M.J. looked around and shook her head, "No!"

She knew Dylan was sad, with his head bent low.

She prayed, "Lord, please help Dylan to smile again!"

As she looked back down, she said, "Amen!"

Love Always,  
Aunt Betty

#### Day 4

Dylan and M.J. left right at dawn, for they wanted to get back before the sun was gone.

They took this road that was gravel and rock.

They knew if they found a heart, it would definitely be a shock.

But Dylan and M.J. would not let anything go unseen.

For he prayed a long time to our Father, our King.

Not too far ahead, Dylan saw a cave.

# COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELDON, NC

Vacation Bible School was held July 21–25 with an average daily attendance of 52.

Our theme was "That All People May Know." We started each day with pledges, theme song, and Scripture verses. We had mission sites for Mexico, Bulgaria, Philippines, and India. We had two speakers for each country represented. The rooms were decorated for each country and world maps and globes were used.

The lessons used, along with the mission information from our Free Will Baptist missions were:

Mexico: "Samuelito," taught by Ms. Jane Medlin and Shelly Strickland; Bulgaria: "A Man for God's Plan," taught by Jim Elliott; "Ticket for Theodore" (4–5 year olds), "Gates of Splendor" (teens) taught by Mary Sweat and Amanda Belflower; Philippines: "Doming the Popscicle Boy," taught by Mrs. Alice Porch and Johnny Christenbury; and India: "Ringu" taught by Jessica Bowman.

Our main Bible verses were Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:15 which were taught to the students by using an overhead projector. They learned these verses in open assembly and in the classrooms.

Our theme song was "Happiness Is the Lord" and our mission offering song was "I'm a Missionary's Helper."

Preceding each offering, video clips from the OFWBI showing mission work in other countries and sharing the work done by missionaries with a challenge were viewed. We had two teams which competed in the offering that was taken each day: the hare and the turtle (the boys against the girls) to see who

*(Continued on next page)*

He didn't know if they should go in or if they were even that brave. He goes to the door and yells, "Is there a special heart waiting there for me?" Something roars and says,  
"No, little boy, we are very sorry."  
"Lord, please give me strength and hope. I don't know how much more my mommy and I can cope!"

Love Always,  
Aunt Betty

Day 5

Dylan and M.J. started for a boat. On their way they met a billy goat. "Have you seen a special heart today?"

The goat answered, "No, why if I may?"

"Well, we're searching the world over, for I need one to breathe. I need one to breathe. I've just turned ten so much I want to achieve!"

Dylan and M.J. went on their way, they climbed on the boat as it started to sway.

Dylan was at the wheel and M.J. was in the crow's nest, deciding to go straight would be the best. Up ahead, they saw a large blue whale.

Dylan asked about a heart, but the whale answered by shaking his wide blue tail.

Dylan with sadness, looked up toward the sky, "Lord, forgive me—this is not madness. Help me to find a heart, for I don't want to die!"

Love Always,  
Aunt Betty

Day 6

Dylan and M.J. woke up with a sense of joy!

As they started searching again, they met a little boy.

Dylan and M.J. said hi! The little boy said likewise.

The little boy said his name was Joe and he was looking for a lung.

Dylan said, "I'm looking for a heart, and we have just begun." Joe asked if he could walk with him and M.J.

Little Dylan smiled so big and said, "OK!"

They went down the road singing this song, "Oh, Heart, Oh, Lung! Oh, where, oh, where can you be?"

"We want to live, We want to live, if only you would believe!"

"Lord, please help us not to give in, and Thank You,

Jesus for my new found friend!"

Love Always,  
Aunt Betty

Day 7

Dylan, Joe, and M.J. started out a little different this day.

They decided to go by a playground so they could watch other children play!

They all three sat on a bench together.

Thinking they don't want to feel like this forever.

Across the way, they saw a little girl sitting alone.

She looked so weak, so white as a statue made of stone.

She said, "I take a lot of medicine, just so many. I feel I can tell you both, but I need a kidney."

Dylan and Joe told her what they both needed, but that they all are special and that wasn't being conceited.

She said, "My name is Pam." "I'm Dylan and I'm leader of the pack, I am!"

"And my name is Joe," as he breathes real slow with the children looking so sad, Dylan said, "Please for the rest of the day, don't let us feel sorrow, for as long as God's with us, there will always be tomorrow!"

Love Always,  
Aunt Betty

could raise the most money. It was a tie. Our goal was ¼ mile of pennies (\$211). The amount raised for missions was \$440.34 (over ½ mile of pennies). Praise God!

We had crafts daily with the help of Ms. Penny Boyce and Nicole Griffin. Our nursery helpers were Mrs. Lisa Turner and Lisa Bounds.

Our music helper was Berniece Lewter. We used flash card songs with mission emphasis.

Our commencement service was held on Friday night. Each class told one of the mission points and sang several of the songs they had learned during the week. A video was shown that was taken of the children who participated in each class. Certificates were given and the program closed with a video clip entitled "Here Am I." Our pastor closed the program with remarks and prayer.

A time of fellowship was enjoyed with refreshments that consisted of dishes from each of the countries studied.

The mission emphasis continued in Sunday School with everyone meeting together to watch the video "To the Ends of the Earth." We had some decisions for salvation with one girl showing an interest in the Short-Term Mission Program.

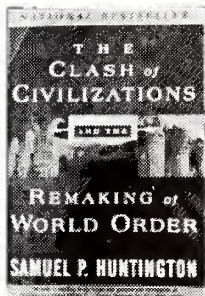
## GUM SWAMP CHURCH, BELVOIR, NC

Gum Swamp in Belvoir, NC celebrated their 245th homecoming on Sunday, September 28, 2003.





# Dr. Pepper's Book Corner



## DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION AND RISE OF ISLAMIC RESURGENCE

### Introduction

Harvard Professor Samuel P. Huntington believes Western civilization is in decline and that the Islamic religion is rebuilding. He believes the indigenous non-Western cultures are increasing in power just as they are becoming more modern. Both of this Islamic resurgence and growth of non-Western cultures are a challenge to Western civilization.

### The Decline of Western Civilization

Why is Western civilization in decline? Huntington insists that the result of the military build-up of the Cold War has placed Western civilization in a stew of problems from "internal problems and needs," "slow economic growth, stagnating populations, unemployment, huge government deficits, a declining work ethic, low saving rates, and in many countries including the United States, social disintegration, drugs, and crime" (82).

Spengler talked about the decline of the West. The two world wars divided Europe and "decolonization further reduced European influence" (83). In the meantime non-Western cultures are increasing in population, literacy, and

health. In East Asia there is rapid growth. East Asian countries are increasing their military spending and the issue of weapons of mass destruction has spread, all pointing to "the fading of the West and the rise of other power centers" as the "global processes of indigenization" (91) surges.

### Islamic Resurgence

In history, the time of social change and economic shifts introduces uncertainty, fear, and a need for stability. Religious groups may bring clarity to an identity crisis by giving new meaning to an indigenous culture. What then are the psychological, emotional, and social needs of a culture that would bring forth an Islamic resurgence?

Huntington sees Islam "as a source of identity, meaning, stability, legitimacy, development, power, and hope" (109). What the resurgence is about is not a rejection of modernity but a rejection of Western culture and values. Islamic law replaces Western law. There is a text (Koran) and an ideal of a perfect society (111). A "religious nationalism replaces secular nationalism" (100). The Islamic resurgence is "a reaction against secularism, moral relativism, and self-indulgence, and a reaffirmation of the values of order, discipline, work, mutual help, and human solidarity" (98). The uncertainty of society, the swift changes, the unemployment, and the needs unmet create a huge caldron of unrest which may be filled by Islamic certainties of belief and vision.

### Part III

Samuel P. Huntington. *The Clash of Civilizations. Remaking of World Order*. New York: Touchstone Books of Simon & Schuster. 368 pages. ISBN 0-684-84441-9.

Why has Western culture failed in Islamic cultures? Huntington believes this failure is rooted in the Islamic resistance to "Western liberal concepts" (114). Islamic views have been developed through the Islamic teaching in "state-controlled schools" (115), through Islamic law, through an indigenous culture which stresses the "patriarchal, nativistic, and authoritarian" (106). The moral values of fifth century B.C. Confucius stresses "order, discipline, family responsibility, hard work, collectivism, abstemiousness" (108). What the Chinese sees as Western values are the antithesis to Confucian values, namely, the devastating Western "self-indulgence, sloth, individualism, crime, inferior education, disrespect for authority" (108).

### Conclusion

As East Asia and the Islamic oil add to the decline of the West, so will the non-Western cultures supplant Western values. Huntington's prediction for our twenty-first century is chilling: "The large numbers of young people with secondary educations will continue to power the Islamic Resurgence and promote Muslim militancy, militarism, and migration. As a result, the early years of the twenty-first century are likely to see an ongoing resurgence of non-Western power and culture and the clash of the people of non-Western civilizations with the West and with each other" (121).



THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST  
**MONTHLY PLANNER**  
**November 2003**



**CHILDREN'S HOME MONTH**

*Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.*

| SUNDAY                                                                 | MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                                     | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                              | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                | FRIDAY                                                                                                                                  | SATURDAY                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                         | <b>1</b><br>9:30 A.M.<br>FWB League<br>Executive Meeting<br>—<br>Cape Fear<br>Youth Rally                   |
| <b>2</b><br>7:00 P.M.<br>Sunday School<br>Eastern Regional<br>Training | <b>3</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>4</b>                                                                                                                                                    | <b>5</b><br>10:30 A.M.<br>Church Finance<br>Meeting<br>—<br>Central<br>Conference<br>Pre-Conference<br>Worship Service | <b>6</b><br>CENTRAL<br>CONFERENCE                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>7</b><br>State Layman's<br>League Meeting,<br>Bethany Church<br>(on 903 near<br>Winterville)<br>Meal—6:30 P.M.<br>Business—7:30 P.M. | <b>8</b>                                                                                                    |
| <b>9</b>                                                               | <b>10</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>11</b><br>CAPE FEAR<br>CONFERENCE                                                                                                                        | <b>12</b>                                                                                                              | <b>13</b><br>10:00 A.M.<br>Minister's<br>Program Meeting<br>—<br>7:00 P.M. Sunday<br>School Central<br>Regional Training<br>—<br>7:00 P.M.<br>Layman's League<br>Executive Board<br>Meeting, VFW<br>Building, Snow Hill | <b>14</b>                                                                                                                               | <b>15</b><br>Fishing<br>Tournament<br>at Camp<br>Vandemere<br>—<br>10:00 A.M.<br>Cape Fear<br>Union Meeting |
| <b>16</b>                                                              | <b>17</b><br>Eastern<br>Conference<br>Layman's League<br>Meeting                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>18</b><br>FWB Press<br>Board Meeting<br>at 1:00 P.M.<br>—<br>Retirement Homes<br>Board Meeting<br>at 3:00 P.M.<br>—<br>Foreign Missions<br>Board Meeting | <b>19</b>                                                                                                              | <b>20</b><br>Children's<br>Home Board<br>Meeting                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>21</b><br>MOC Alumni<br>Homecoming<br>Weekend                                                                                        | <b>22</b><br>MOC Alumni<br>Homecoming<br>Weekend<br>—<br>Friends of<br>Children Day at<br>Children's Home   |
| <b>23</b><br>MOC Alumni<br>Homecoming<br>Weekend                       | <b>24</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>25</b><br>MOC Board<br>of Trustees<br>Meeting<br>—<br>MOC<br>Founders Day                                                                                | <b>26</b>                                                                                                              | <b>27</b><br>HAPPY<br>THANKSGIVING                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>28</b>                                                                                                                               | <b>29</b>                                                                                                   |
| <b>30</b>                                                              | <b>COMING SOON:</b><br>Dec. 1 — Central Conference Layman's League<br>Meeting at Tarboro Church<br>Meal—6:30 P.M., Business—7:30 P.M.<br>Dec. 11 — Layman's League Executive Board<br>Meeting at VFW Building, Snow Hill, 7:00 P.M. |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                         | <b>NOTES:</b>                                                                                               |

# CHURCHES & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**KELLEY SMART**, a licensed minister of the Central Conference, is available for pulpit supply work. Interested persons may contact him by phone at (252) 756-4171 or (919) 915-0716.

**THE REVEREND GREG MILLS** will be available to churches within a one hour drive of Greenville, NC to serve as interim pastor beginning in November. He is an ordained minister in good standing with the Eastern Conference of OFWB. He is also available for revival services. Interested persons may contact him by e-mail at <pastormills@yahoo.com> or by phone at (252) 752-8861.

**SAINTS DELIGHT CHURCH**, Ormondsville, Greene County, is beginning the search for the position of full-time pastor. For more information, contact Greg Baldwin at (252) 752-1711.

**UNION CHAPEL CHURCH**, Plymouth, Washington County, is seeking a man called by God to serve as pastor—to faithfully preach the Word and to advance the cause of Christ. For more information, please contact Tony Hawkins at (252) 793-3955 or Wayne Britt at (252) 927-4507.

**THE REVEREND PETE RAWLS** has been cleared by the Board of Ordination of the Cape Fear Conference and is available to serve as pastor, for pulpit supply, and for revivals. He may be contacted by mail at 1639-A Powhatan Rd, Clayton, NC 27520 or by phone at (919) 989-3190.

**KEITH GARDNER**, a graduate of Liberty University and an ordained pastor in the Free Will Baptist Denomination is available to assist churches in the absence of a pastor, either weekly or on an interim basis. For more information, you may call (252) 756-9853 or e-mail at <kgardner@geeksnet.com>.

## PLEASE KEEP IN MIND

The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December.) You may submit articles by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to [editor@fwbpress.com](mailto:editor@fwbpress.com),
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*  
PO Box 159  
Ayden, NC 28513.

\*No phone-in or handwritten information will be accepted.

Advertising submissions will run for a maximum of 2 months only. Submissions for *Churches & Ministry Positions Available* and *Personal Information Changes* will be run for 2 months. A re-submission is required for these columns.

To feel sorry for the needy  
is not the mark of a  
Christian—to help them is.

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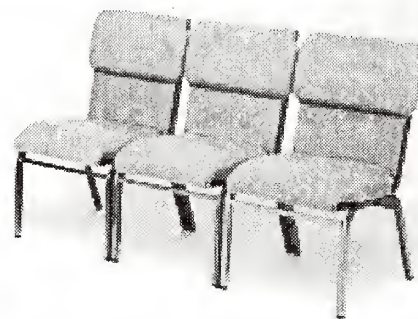
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December 2003

# THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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# IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

The Christmas season is a grand ole time of year. Getting in the middle of the hustle and bustle sometimes is exciting and exhilarating to me (and sometimes frustrating too). Shopping for decorations and lights and wreaths and—and whatever—I must say, is kind of fun, especially since my crew and I have just moved in to a new home. I'm learning that it's hard to shop for teenagers and pretty easy to shop for a seven-year-old. My wife and I pretty much, for gift-giving occasions, buy each other practical things for the home. Anyway, Christmas is an exciting, yes wonderful, time of the year. But is it really because of the exchange of gifts among family and friends and getting together for this party or that meal or for all the

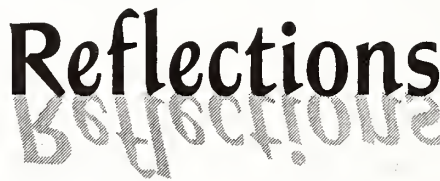


pretty decorations? No—it's not! All those things are nice, but for Christians it is not what Christmas is all about. And Christians, we have got to tell this to the world: We have Christmas because God sent His Son some 2000+ years ago to save the world, if we will hear, from our sin. Jesus is the reason for the Season! Not gifts, not decoration, not turkeys, not hams—Jesus. And we as Christians have got to eliminate the apathy that we have fallen victim to, and tell the world what we know—and even more important—live it! Remember, "For unto *us* a child is born, unto *us* a son is *given*... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6, italics added).

## IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

This question came from the lips of youthful David after hearing about Goliath and the boasting of the Philistines as recorded in 1 Samuel 17. David's initial purpose in visiting the Israelite's camp was not to challenge Goliath, but to bring food to his brothers, who were a part of the army. He delivered the food and then joined his brothers, who were about to go to battle with the Philistines, and particularly their champion, the giant Goliath, who made his appearance while David was in the camp. David was astonished to find the men of Israel so filled with fear. His response was, "...for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (v. 26). David was sternly rebuked by his older brother, Eliab, who questioned his motive for being there and accused him of being motivated by pride "and the naughtiness" of his heart (v. 28). Then David asked the all-important question that each person must ask (and answer) when faced with decisions and challenges. His presence was ordained of God. There was a reason and it was realized in the slaying of Goliath,



thus freeing Israel from the threat of the Philistines. **Our Cause: The Christ of Christmas**

Christmas is a reminder of the reason for our existence on this earth. Jesus came that we might have life and have it abundantly. His cause in coming to earth was the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose. He never lost sight of that purpose, even as He faced the fearful agony and suffering of the Cross. When He was reviled and hated, He pressed on toward His eternal destiny. Can and would we be so determined? Is there any justifiable reason that we should not? Do we have a cause for which we would give our life? Is there not a cause?

Indeed, in surrendering ourselves to His divine will and purpose, in receiving Him as our Savior, we have our cause—our lives are transformed as we die to self. Let's not allow the hustle and bustle and commercialization of this Christmas season to rob us of the true joy of the season. May the reality and truth of John 3:16 sink deeper in our hearts and bring peace, adoration, and praise to the One whose cause was to give His life a ransom for many.

# THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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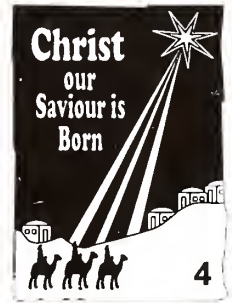
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# POWER VERSE

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).



# WHAT IF THERE WERE NO CHRISTMAS?

by W. Burkette Raper

It was a quiet Saturday morning in early November. We had just finished a leisurely breakfast and a review of the newspaper when Rose looked at me with a distinct message in her eyes which told me that she had something of substance she wanted to discuss. There was a brief pause, I waited, and then she said: "Let's talk about Christmas."

The agenda was our five children, nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and other members of our family—a total of some twenty-five people—with whom we are blessed to share Christmas.

## A Year Without Christmas?

As Rose left to go shopping, I thought: "What would a year be like without Christmas?" No other season is approached with so much anticipation, occupies so much of our time, provides the occasion for the expenditure of so much of our money or touches our inner spirits so deeply as does Christmas. No other season focuses our hearts and minds on the meaning of home as does Christmas. Of all of our childhood memories, those of Christmas are among the ones we treasure most. At no time of the year do our hearts yearn more to be with those whom we love. For many of us, Christmas kindles a warmth of home and family that remains with us throughout life.

## A World Without Christmas?

As I continued to ponder the meaning of Christmas, I thought: "What would our world be like if the historic event out of which Christmas originated—the Birth of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God—had never taken place? There would be no churches; no ministers of the Gospel; no Christian

compassion for homeless children; no Christian ministries for suffering humanity—the hungry, the disposed, the lonely, the sick, and the victims of man's inhumanity to man; and there would be no Christian schools, colleges or medical centers. Indeed, without the Birth of Jesus Christ, the world would be without all that Christianity has brought to civilization.

In the Gospel account of Jesus' Birth (Luke 2:1-14), there is an assortment of people of all ranks: the emperor of Rome, who ruled the world; the governor of Syria; a carpenter by the name of Joseph and his wife, Mary, whose newborn Son was in a cattle barn, because "more important" people occupied the inn. But history turns on what happened that night. The Word, which was God, had been made flesh and was now dwelling amongst us, and neither the emperor nor the governor would be able to withstand the light and message this Child was bringing into the world: "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." That light would shine in darkness and all the darkness of the world would never be able to overcome it (John 1:1-14). Herein is the meaning of Christmas—the Birth of Jesus, the Son of God—for without Him, there would be no Christmas.

## A Life Without Christmas?

I thought further: What would our lives be like without the meaning of Christmas—God with us? There would be no means for the forgiveness of our sins; no complete revelation of God's love for humanity; no sense of Christian vocation; no power that evil could not overcome; no New Testament as a resource for divine guidance and strength for daily living; and no assurance of eternal life. How dreary and meaningless such a life would be!

And so, notwithstanding all the social, commercial, and entertainment baggage that across the centuries has become attached to the Christmas season, still we ask: What would a year be like without Christmas? What would our world be like without Christmas? What would our lives be like without Christmas? I hope I never know, for the joy and meaning of life are rooted in those eternal words of Him whose Birth we celebrate. "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).

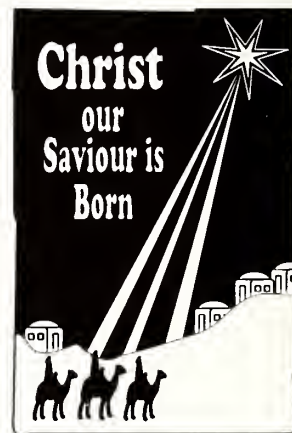
Christmas—it is time to hear the angels say: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!" (Luke 2:14).

It is time for us to sing with Isaac Watts:

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing.*

It is time for us to join with Henry W. Longfellow in listening to:

*The bells on Christmas Day,  
their old familiar carols play,  
and wild and sweet the words repeat,  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men.*





# LEE'S CHAPEL

## DEMONSTRATING GOD'S LOVE IN PLAIN VIEW

by Ricky Warren, Pastor

The month of October was an exciting time for Lee's Chapel. God has shown the church the need and the joy of reaching out to others. The community around Lee's Chapel is called Plain View, and we have come to realize that our mission is to be "God's Love in Plain View." Matthew 5:16 states, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." We wanted to share some of our outreach ideas with other people and churches just to get them thinking of ways they could reach out to their own communities.



Our Fall outreach events began with the men of our church setting up the tent provided by Home Missions.

### Fall Festival

The second annual Fall Festival was held on Saturday, October 4. Over 300 people registered and enjoyed free rides, games, drinks, and hotdogs. All of the organizations of the church contributed to the success of the event. Two thousand fliers were printed and given to every school-aged child in the district. A concert was provided after the meal.



One of many children who has seen "God's Love in Plain View."

### Friend Day

For five weeks leading up to this event, our members prayed and invited their unsaved and unchurched friends to attend a special worship service as their invited friend. This event was well planned and executed. On Friend Day, October 5, attendance increased by sixty percent, and over one third of those in attendance were invited guests. Follow up is being conducted, but several new families have already been attending faithfully ever since. If interested, a guide for conducting a Friend Day event has been prepared by Dr. Elmer Towns.

### Golf Tournament

The Men's Fellowship held its 14th Annual Golf Tournament on October 11. Proceeds from this event go to help fund the many ministries of the Men's Fellowship, which include building wheel chair ramps, providing hotdogs for youth, and supporting other ministries such as the Children's Home. This year the event was held in cool wet weather between twelve teams.

### Homecoming and Revival

Everyone who attended an outreach event was invited to our Homecoming on October 12 and our Fall Revival conducted by Covenant Ministries. These events were well attended, and some of those in attendance had been contacted through one of our outreach events.

### Shoebox Ministry

One of the longstanding outreach ministries of our church is Operation

Christmas Child. This year, two hundred and fifteen gift boxes were packaged and will be delivered to children around the world.



Shoebboxes were collected for Operation Christmas Child.

The results of all these efforts will never be known on this side of Heaven. However, we believe that God has called us to be faithful to the Great commandment (Matthew 22:37-39) and to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) no matter the apparent results. We can do this best by always being "God's Love in Plain View." To God be the glory!



## REFLECTIONS

by Willem van der Plas



The first will be the last and the last will be the first. The Westside Free Will Baptist Church in Kinston was

the first church where we went in the early 1980s and during our furlough this year it was the last church we visited. How good it was to share our thoughts and memories of past years together. The lunch hour we spent was fruitful and again we were able to explain that the general opinion about Americans is less negative in Europe than the American media likes to express. Thank you to Steve Clayborn and Maurice Hill. Steve for your interest in World Missions and Maurice for your many CDs which we can use in our ministry. Tezdan was very happy with them.

Please do not feel offended if your names are not mentioned and our thoughts to you are not personally expressed. It was good to be at home again and all of you helped us to feel at home.

During the Morning Star meeting,

we studied the Spirituality of God and of human beings. Life in the Spirit is Life with God. I left out the gifts and the fruit of the Holy Spirit on purpose, and so I wanted to come to the teaching of Jesus that God is Spirit and that He needs to be worshiped in Spirit and in Truth. Besides, I shared with you my discovery that *we are Spirit* because He brought His Spirit in the body that He formed out of earth; consequently, our fleshly body will decay but our spirits will be united with the Spirit of God. The question now is: "To which spirit do we belong? To the evil spirit—the devil or to the Divine Spirit—our Creator and Lord." The tree of choice between good and evil is still with us and we may face that tree more often than we like; however, in the Cross of Jesus we received the tree of *Life*. We want to thank you for your company in worship and prayer of which we can say, "Surely the Lord was with us." Thank you very much for the inspiration that you have brought to us.

I kindly ask you to remember my sermon about the stone that has to be rolled away. Heavy stones have to be removed in this part of the world. We live and serve in the power of our Lord

and by the nourishment of your prayers, your involvement and your willingness to support our ministry.

Let us focus for a moment on Jesus' words in Matthew 10:42 and Mark 9:41: Jesus said, "If anyone gives a cup of cool water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, he certainly will not lose his reward." Jesus does not literally speak about little children, but He speaks about His disciples, about the righteous and the prophets. In Mark 9 we read similar words spoken to John, His disciple, "Anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward." In this context we learn that to witness in the Name of Jesus is essential.

People who only need to turn a tap to receive drinking water are not able to understand Jesus' Words. Repeatedly we read in the Bible about the importance of water. The people are depending on water wells and fountains. It is life sustaining! Water mostly is the symbol for life, even for the Spirit of God. The water supplies were not personal properties, but wells which belonged to the community. Not mine, but ours by the Grace of God!

## BLESSINGS FROM THE LORD

by Fidel B. Presto



First of all, we give praise to God for enabling us to have 14 enrolled students from the Palawan Bible College for the school year 2003–2004. God has allowed us to proclaim and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God who made it possible for us to carry out this work. Furthermore, we sincerely thank all those who encouraged and prayed for the school, Palawan Bible College, especially to the Foreign Missions Board, for their support which will help to meet the challenges of the next generation.

# THE BODY OF CHRIST IN ACTION! FWB CHURCH FAMILY BROOKE'S POINT, PALAWAN

by Pastor Eder M. Peralta



*Mission Team in Outreach Ministry*



*Baptismal Service—34 new believers were baptized.*

Praise the Lord! Praise His Name forever! We give all the honor and glory to Him Who lives forevermore.

Our church family recently saw great results as we responded to the command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to "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" (Matthew 28:19–20). We labored for six Saturdays, spending time teaching and sharing the love and blessings of God. Praise God, our labor was not in vain. On Saturday, May 3, 2003, there was great rejoicing in Heaven and on earth for the Kingdom of the world became the Kingdom of our Lord. Glory to God! We baptized 37 people as new members of the family of God. We continue to give our time, money, and abilities for the sake of expanding God's Kingdom. We have a lot of places to go, because we know people need the Lord.

We plead with you to help us meet an urgent need. Your favorable response will bring a great change in our land and revival among the people of God. We need a small vehicle and musical instruments, which will cost approximately \$5,000. This will help us to go from place to place for crusades, revivals, our outreach ministry, and more.

Again, thank you for considering these needs. We declare more blessings, favor, and more souls will come to you in Jesus' name. God bless you all for your faithfulness.

## Alleluia!

### HE • IS • BORN

#### DECEMBER IS FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH

The month of **December** has been designated in the church calendar as **Foreign Missions Month**. I encourage each pastor to incorporate this message in your Christmas sermons, for Jesus truly came to seek and to save those who are lost. Ministry to the lost is the chief business of the Church.

I also encourage each church and individual to remember Foreign Missions in your Christmas giving. Your gift to this ministry makes it possible for our denomination to continue its outreach to the nations beyond.

Thank you in advance for your generous gift during December. God bless you with the full joy of Christmas!

In the Name of Jesus,  
Harold Jones, *Executive Director*



## FITS LIKE A GLOVE

by Erin Brescia, Public Affairs Specialist

Gloves are designed to be worn comfortably. They can't be too loose, or they would fall off. They can't be too tight, because they would be uncomfortable. To Kelley Smart of Winterville, Mount Olive College "fits like a glove." The Christian values and moral atmosphere are a perfect fit, and they compliment the standards Smart has set for his own life.

Smart, the son of Larry and Mary Lee Smart, is a member of Reedy Branch Original Free Will Baptist Church. When he graduated from Greenville Christian Academy in 1998, he had no intention of training to become a minister. "At first I wanted to study architecture, and then I changed to information systems with a focus in computer networking. After completing my associate's degree in 2001, I spent a year working toward college transfer credit," he stated. Smart accepted the call into full-time ministry around Christmas of that year and became licensed by his church in the Central Conference of OFWB.

When Marci Rollins, a 2002 Mount Olive College graduate, began serving as youth minister at his home church, she became an encouragement to Smart as he contemplated entering the ministry.

"I was already familiar with Mount Olive College because of my involvement in different denominational events," he says. "I participated in the State Bible Bowl in 1996 and attended the State Youth Convention."

Smart enrolled in Mount Olive College in 2002. A senior religion major, he is active in a number of the religious organizations on campus. In addition to being a student Ambassador, he is a member of Fellowship of Christian Students, Student's Theological Fellowship, and FWB Fellowship. At the Spring Awards ceremony, he received the 2003 Religion Major of the Year award. "Everyone has made me feel



welcome. I really enjoy the one-on-one fellowship with professors and the small class sizes," said Smart.

At Reedy Branch Church, Smart has served as the Sunday School Superintendent and has worked with the High School Sunday School Class. He continues to assist with various youth functions and at Bible studies and services as needed. "I do a lot of pulpit supply work right now," he said. "So, I am away from my home church quite a bit."

During the summer, Smart attended a mission's trip to Mexico with various local churches. It was an eye-opening experience. "It was amazing to see how passionate the people were about serving God. We really overcame barriers during that week, but were reminded that regardless of our cultural differences, we were united in Christ," he stated.

When Student's Theological Fellowship held a recent chapel service, Smart delivered the message. Holding a piece of red clay dough he asked the students "Have you thought about what it really means to be in the image of God?" To Smart, being in God's image is letting Him take control, and allowing Him to shape and mold us into whatever He desires. Just as children sculpt

clay dough, God wants to sculpt His children; so that they can serve Him in the best way.

Smart will finish his studies next summer. In the meantime, he is looking forward to being ordained next fall, and has been looking into graduate programs. "I am continuing to pray for which direction my ministry will take."

## COMING EVENTS

### CONCERT CHOIR PERFORMANCE

December 2, 2003

Directed by Dr. Alan Armstrong, the featured work of the annual fall concert will be Johann Sebastian Bach's Magnificat in D-major. The event, held at First Baptist Church in Mount Olive, is free. For more information, contact Dr. Armstrong at (919) 658-2502.

### BUSINESS BREAKFAST BRIEFING

December 10, 2003

Join us for this series of business breakfast seminars designed for the business, academic and technology communities. The event will begin with a breakfast buffet at 7:30 A.M. For more information, contact Becky Mitchell, vice president for institutional advancement at (919) 658-2502 or e-mail <bmitchell@moc.edu>.

### FALL 2003 COMMENCEMENT

December 13, 2003

Commencement ceremonies for Mount Olive College will be held on Saturday, December 13. The Worship Service begins at 10:30 A.M. in Rodgers Chapel followed by a luncheon in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. The commencement service is scheduled for 2 P.M. in College Hall. Tickets are required for admission.

### SPRING SEMESTER BEGINS

January 6, 2004

Traditional classes at Mount Olive College will begin on Tuesday, January 6. For more information about schedules or to register, contact the Office of Admissions at (919) 658-2502.

### AGRIBUSINESS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

January 11-15, 2004

A four-day event is planned to introduce future and young farmers to the personal and business management tools required to succeed in agribusiness and provide them with resources to become future successful leaders in rural North Carolina. The workshop will be limited to 25 participants, each less than 40 years of age, and preferably husband and wife teams. For more information, contact Dr. Don Scott at (919) 658-2502 or e-mail <dscott@moc.edu>.

# JUST IN TIME FOR ENGLISH TEA

by Tiffany Brice, Student Intern

The usual dreary weather of London was no where to be found as 15 honor students from Mount Olive College and six companions stepped off the plane and into the crisp, cold air at 7 A.M. on a Wednesday morning. The sunny skies could only mean good things for the group as their four-day adventure unfolded.

The trip was part of the Mount Olive College Honors Program. Those participating in the program take a study and travel course their junior year. The trip is designed to give the students a chance to experience a different culture. "One of the goals for a trip like this is to help raise the confidence of our students," stated Dr. David Hines, Chair of the Department of Religion and head chaperone. "It is important for us to experience the culture of others."

While on the trip, the students toured the Tower of London, the home of the crown jewels since the 14th century. Among the gems is the world's largest diamond, weighing 503 carats. The diamond is part of the royal scepter.

The students toured St. Paul's Cathedral, the site of Prince Charles' and Princess Diana's 1981 royal wedding. "St. Paul's will always be memorable to me because of the view from the top of the cathedral," said Tiffany Brice of Wallace. "After climbing all 530 steps, you were able to see London Bridge and Shakespeare's Globe Theater when you looked out across the city."

Westminster Abbey was on the agenda, also. Originally built for worship and as a place to pilgrimage, it is now the resting place of many historical figures, including Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Mary I, Geoffrey Chaucer and Charles



Dickens. Located nearby is a renowned monument of William Shakespeare.

The visit to Buckingham Palace, the official residence of the Queen of England, was a highlight of the trip, and the group enjoyed the hike around Stonehenge. And, of course, what is a trip to London without seeing "Big Ben," the world's largest clock?

"I have always dreamed of seeing Stonehenge in real life," said Brice. "I could hardly believe my eyes!" To this day, it is unknown what Stonehenge is, where it came from, or what it represents.

Dr. Eric Ling, Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and a native of England, joined the group on the trip and was instrumental in answering questions and helping to navigate the city. "I enjoyed being able to visit London again," stated Ling. "I had not been to Stonehenge since I was a teenager and had never climbed the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral. It was a positive experience for me."

During their free time, the students visited places they found personally intriguing such as

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, and the British Museum. "I am proud of the way the students learned to navigate the city when they were on their own," stated Hines.

The students had the opportunity to see one of a variety of plays being performed in the city. "I chose to see "Phantom of the Opera," states Brice. "I had never seen a musical before. It was amazing to see a classic in the place where it originated."

On Saturday, the group met natives of Winchester who were kind enough to give them a personal tour of the city. The group toured Winchester Cathedral and visited the home and burial site of Jane Austen, as well as the legendary round table of King Arthur's court. "Winchester was different than cities in America because there were almost no tall buildings," noted Nathaniel Grubbs of Elizabeth City.

Having the opportunity to visit a foreign country is a once in a lifetime experience and will not be soon forgotten by any of the students. "For me, London is no longer just a place on the map," said Grubbs.

# MOC STUDENTS ATTEND LEADERSHIP RETREAT

by Tiffany Brice, Student Intern



Pictured are several members of the 2003-2004 Student Government Association.

Members of the Student Government Association (SGA) at Mount Olive College recently attended their annual leadership retreat at Pelletier Creek in Morehead City. Four guest speakers from the College presented workshops on the qualities of good leaders. "We were able to see how our personal leadership style fit into the big picture of student government as a whole," stated Bryan Williamson, member of St. Mary's Grove Church. Williamson is currently vice-president of the Student Government Association.

Among the FWB student representatives are: Angela Holliday, a freshman resident life representative from Rose of Sharon Church; Rhonda Houston, a sophomore from Deep Run Church, treasurer of the sophomore class; and Bryan Williamson.



## CHILDREN'S HOME

### 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 of gifts. 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 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 3, 2003.

You can help us help our children have the best Christmas ever.

FWB CHILDREN'S HOME  
Sponsorship Reservation Form

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children  
We Would Like To Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Cut Out and Mail Form To:  
FWB Children's Home, Inc.  
P.O. Box 249  
Middlesex, NC 27557-0249



## WINTER 2004— ATTENTION YOUTH GROUPS !!

There is still limited dorm space available for ski groups January through March. We have a special ski package available that makes skiing with us a very affordable adventure. Call John at (877) 669-7677 for complete details and reservations.

## "BED, BREAKFAST, AND BLESSINGS" A WEEK FOR THE FAMILY

JULY 5-9, 2004

### Something New...

Because Youth Frontier YFA and AFC Conferences are combining into one week; there will be an open week in 2004. It is our desire to offer a time that will appeal to the families who might want to vacation in the mountains. Our idea is for Cragmont to function as a place for "bed, breakfast and blessings." We provide a bed, prepare a nice breakfast with a blessing each day. Then you may spend your day sightseeing around the mountain. A devotional service is planned for Wednesday evening during the week. Another feature of the week is that you may stay the entire week or any part of it. The cost is \$15 per person per day. This includes a night's lodging and breakfast. You may register for this week immediately. Call our toll free number (877) 669-7677 to give us your information. Or, you may write us at Cragmont, 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711. We will need your name, address, and phone number. To register, a \$15 per person deposit is required which will be applied to your stay. We accept American Express, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. Checks should be made payable to Cragmont. Cancellation 30 days prior to July 5, 2004 is required for a full refund of deposit.

## VISION WALK 2003 SUCCESS

The day began with a drizzle—but ended with over one hundred twenty-five walkers of all ages having a great time walking around the campus of Mount Olive College and raising money for Cragmont. And raise money they did! When all was said and done over \$16,000 was raised for our New Heights campaign! Many thanks to all who made this day such a great success. To our Woman's Auxiliaries who provided all the food and drink for the day, to our Laymen's League who came and cooked hundreds of hamburgers and hot dogs, and to the Youth workers and parents—"Thank you" for such great support!

## BEEN TO CRAGMONT RECENTLY?

Did you happen to take one of our room keys home with you? Please return them to Cragmont if you did. Mail them to 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711 or just drop it in the mail box. We would greatly appreciate it!

## PLEASE NOTE

Our new number to call for individual or group reservation is (877) 669-7677.

*The Free Will Baptist* 11 December 2003

## PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTRY

Deacon/Pastor  
Enrichment Seminar  
April 1-3, 2004  
Seminar Leader: Dr. David Hines

Seminar Sessions will center on ...

*The Deacon's Calling  
and Christian Walk*

*The Relationship Between  
the Pastor and Deacon*

*The Deacon's Relationship and  
Responsibilities to the Church*

Cost: \$65 per person  
(double occupancy).  
Includes all meals  
and Main Building lodging.  
(\$55 per person dorm lodging)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Return with \$25 deposit  
(balance due upon arrival) to:  
Cragmont Assembly  
1233 North Fork Road  
Black Mountain, North Carolina  
28711

Make checks payable to Cragmont.  
For further information, call Bryant  
Hines at (252) 637-7171.

Bryant Hines would love the opportunity to come to your church and share the excitement of Cragmont. He is available for Sunday or Wednesday services. He is available to classes, groups, and organizations, also. Call him at (252) 637-7171 to schedule him at your church.

## 2004 CALENDAR

|                |                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| *March 26      | Cragmont Spring Swing           |
| *April 1-3     | Partnership In Ministry Seminar |
| April 15-18    | Morning Star Conference         |
| May 17-20      | Minister's Conference           |
| *May 21-23     | Biltmore Flower Festival        |
| June 7-12      | Women's Conference              |
| June 14-19     | Cragmont Youth Conference       |
| June 21-26     | Christian Cadet Conference      |
| June 28-July 3 | AFC/YFA Conference              |
| *July 5-10     | Bed, Breakfast & Blessings      |
| July 12-17     | General Youth Conference II     |
| July 19-24     | General Youth Conference I      |
| July 26-31     | Young People's Bible Conf.      |
| August 2-7     | Women's Conference              |
| August 5-6     | Cragmont Golf Tournament        |
| Sept. 11       | Vision Walk 2004                |
| Sept. 13-16    | Convention OFWB                 |
| October 15-17  | Club Weekend                    |
| October 18-21  | Fall Gospel 2004                |
| October 22-24  | Club Weekend                    |
| October 25-28  | Weekday Club                    |
| December 2-5   | Cragmont Christmas              |

\* Denotes New Events for 2004.  
For more information contact:  
Bryant Hines at (252) 637-7171

## CRAGMONT SPRING SWING



Carolina Pines Golf &  
Country Club  
New Bern, North Carolina  
Friday, March 26, 2004

Four Man Best Ball Format  
Two Start Times—  
8:30 A.M. and 1 P.M.  
Tournament Limited  
to 20 Teams Each Start

Entry Fee: \$40 per person

Contact Bryant Hines at (252) 637-7171  
for further information and entry forms.  
<bryanthines5@aol.com>



Fall Festival of Gospel Music  
October 19 - 22, 2003





## MOTIVATION MISPLACED

by Buddy Sasser, Vice President, Convention of OFWB

To motivate means "to inspire someone to produce or perform to their highest standards." Levels of motivation range from a friendly pat on the back for a job well done to multi-million dollar contracts that call for consistent levels of production. While we as Original Free Will Baptists may not have the ability to function continuously at the multi-million dollar level, we certainly should be able to operate far beyond the pat-on-the-back range. But from where will this motivation come? Why has there been such great difficulty getting out enough information. Almost daily our churches receive letters from one Ministry or another. Why, then, are our people not motivated to move this denomination into a repeatable cycle of in-state, nationwide, and global Ministry? Where does the answer lie?

Before we can find the answer, we must first determine the source of the problem. The dilemma seems to originate, at least to some degree, from the most recognized area of the local church—the pulpit! Many of our ministers have repeatedly failed to present to their congregation the information, programs, needs, requests, and opportunities offered by our Ministries. (*Dear preacher friend, if you are not one of this "many," save your sarcasm and keep on supporting your denomination.*) The members of the Executive Committee hear all too often of church members who, by their own admission, do not understand the structure of our denomination and, in some cases, cannot even name the 10 major Ministries, their leaders, or

what their general programs are all about. The greatest fault for this lack of knowledge lies with those pastors who often fail or blatantly refuse to keep their people informed. Mr. Pulpit Preacher, you do not have the right to withhold information about the Ministries of the Original Free Will Baptist denomination from your people. None of our ministries are perfect. After all, they are led and directed by non-superhuman beings that occasionally miss the mark God has intended for them. But withholding information and support from your people because you personally differ in interpretation of programs, policies, procedures, or personnel is not only damaging to the people and churches who depend on that Ministry, it also offers two very negative statements about those ministers who choose to do so:

1. Failure to offer prayerful and financial support to a Ministry eliminates any voice you or your church may have in the policies and procedures of that Ministry.

2. Failure to recommend support to a Ministry for any reason puts that minister in direct violation of his ministerial code of ethics, which he signed before he was ordained into the Original Free Will Baptist Church. (*Ring, ring, ring...this could serve as a wake up call to our conference ordaining councils.*)

Dr., Rev., Pastor, Preacher...allow us to remind you of God's call to be His servant, and *your choice* to serve Him in the Original Free Will Baptist Church.

If you can no longer be faithful to your call, you should definitely and immediately consider another line of work; if you are sure of your calling but do not feel committed to serve and support the denomination of *your choice*, perhaps another church body could benefit from your ability and talent.

Church members...if you feel you are not receiving the proper amount of information concerning your denominational Ministries, take a motivational step toward those leaders in your church who do receive it and exercise your right to know. There is so much material and information, helps and study aids, educational and retirement opportunities, work and recreation...all provided to you by people who really care. All you have to know is who to contact. Your minister knows, and so should you.

It's time we as Original Free Will Baptists step out of the small, insignificant shell that has surrounded us for so many years. We must begin to take seriously the call of Matthew 28 to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Motivated ministers produce motivated people who support motivated ministries that provide the opportunities and methods to share the wonderful love of Jesus Christ around the world. Perhaps we all, clergy and laity alike, should re-examine our call to service and recommit our lives to the growth of God's Kingdom through His vessel called the Original Free Will Baptist Church.

# MINISTERIAL CODE OF ETHICS

I am a minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, called of God to proclaim the unsearchable riches of His love, therefore, I voluntarily adopt the following principles in order that through dedication and self-discipline I may set a more worthy example for those I seek to lead and serve.

## I. My Personal Life

1. I will cultivate my devotional life, continuing steadfast in reading the Bible and prayer.
2. I will endeavor to keep physically and emotionally fit for my work.
3. I will endeavor to be fair to my family and seek to give them the time and consideration to which they are entitled.
4. I will endeavor to live within my income and will not carelessly leave unpaid debts behind me.
5. I will strive to grow in my work through comprehensive reading and careful study and by attending conventions and conferences.
6. I will be honest in my stewardship of money.
7. I will seek to dress in keeping with the dignity of the ministry.

## II. My Relationship to the Church(es) Which I Serve

1. In my preaching, I will exalt the Bible and will be true to my convictions, proclaiming the same in love.
2. I will maintain a Christian attitude toward my church officers and will not expect the unreasonable of them.
3. In my pastoral calling, I will have respect for every home I enter, for I am a representative of Christ and His church.
4. I will strive with evangelistic zeal to build up my church, but will maintain a Christian attitude at all times toward members of other churches and their religious bodies.
5. I will under no circumstances violate confidences that come to me as a minister.
6. I will not break a contract which I have made with a church for pastoral or evangelistic services without first securing their expressed consent.
7. I will seek to make service primary and remuneration secondary.
8. When employed for full-time service by a church (or churches), I will not engage in other lines of remunerative work without the knowledge and consent of the church or its official board.
9. I will not take sides with any faction in my church unless a doctrinal or moral issue is involved.
10. As a pastor, I rightfully control the use of my own pulpit, but I will not invite persons into it who are not generally acceptable to my people.

11. In my administrative and pastoral duties, I will remember that I am pastor of all my members, and I will seek to avoid any display of preferences and the cultivation of intimacies within the church or the community which may be construed as evidence of partiality. I will seek not to identify myself with any social set either in the church or the community and I will endeavor not to allow personal feelings to interfere with the impartial nature of my ministrations.
12. When I can no longer command the respect and cooperation of a congregation, I will, in the interest of the church, quietly resign and will strive to strengthen the unity of the congregation regardless of the circumstances.
13. I will never speak disparagingly of my church or my profession.
14. I will not incur any sizable financial obligation for the church without first obtaining consent.

## III. My Relationship to My Denomination

1. I will keep myself informed concerning my denomination by regular attendance at meetings of conferences and conventions, reading denominational periodicals, and familiarizing myself with our history, doctrine, and polity.
2. I will not be unduly critical of my denomination, but will cooperate in correcting whatever faults or failures that may occur.
3. As a pastor, I will seek to lead the church (or churches) which I serve to be loyal to the denomination and to cooperate with its program.
4. I will endeavor to be loyal to my denomination; however, if the time should ever come when I feel it necessary to sever my relationship with the denomination, I will surrender my credentials to the proper authorities.

## IV. My Relationship With My Brother Ministers

1. I will refuse to enter into unfair competition with other ministers in order to secure a pulpit or place of distinction.
2. I will refrain from frequent visits to a former field without consulting the present pastor, and if I am called back for a funeral or a wedding, I will request that he (the present pastor) be present.
3. I will not trouble my successor by meddling in the affairs of the church I formerly served.
4. I will be courteous to any predecessor of mine when he returns to the field, so long as he does not meddle in affairs of the church.
5. I will be thoughtful of any retired minister.
6. I will show courtesy and respect toward ministers who are my senior in age.

7. I will not accept the pulpit of another person unless he invites me, or, in his absence receive an invitation from the deacons.
8. I will not knowingly use sermon material prepared by another without acknowledging the source from which it comes.
9. Upon leaving a parsonage, I will seek to leave it in first-class condition, with all dirt, rubbish, etc. removed.
10. Upon retirement from the active ministry, I will give my pastor my loyal support.
11. I will not gossip about other ministers, nor encourage it. But in cases of unethical conduct I will bring the matter before the proper body.
12. I will hold in sincere respect any minister whose work is well done, regardless of the size or the nature of the field he serves.
13. Although I may sometimes differ from my fellow ministers, I will respect their Christian earnestness and sincerity.
14. I will seek not to interfere directly or indirectly with the church work of another minister, and I will especially be careful to avoid the charge of proselytizing.
15. I will neither make nor consider overtures from a church whose pastor has not yet resigned.
16. I will seek to make my relationship with my fellow ministers one of frankness and cooperation.
17. I will show a friendly and cooperative interest in my brethren, attending the group meetings of the ministers, assisting them with labors of love, defending them against injustice, and following them with kindly concern in their hours of need or distress.

## V. My Public Relations

1. I will never lower my ideals in order to appear "a good fellow."
2. I consider that my first duty to my community is to be a conscientious pastor and leader of my own congregation, but I will not use this fact as an easy excuse to escape reasonable responsibilities that the community calls upon me to assume.
3. As an ethical leader in the community, I will seek to be scrupulously honest and to meet my bills promptly.
4. I will not consider myself under obligation to marry every couple that comes to be married, but I will use the power of refusal with great discretion.
5. I will not give the sanction of my presence to unbecoming conversation or conduct and indecent dress.

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This code of ethics has been adopted by the North Carolina Ministerial Association of Original Free Will Baptists as amended during its regular session at Cragmont Assembly, June 18-21, 1962.



## FOLLOWING THE STAR "Serving Together Achieves Results"



by Mary Dudley, Director

The 2003–2004 theme for the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists is "Responding to God's Call By Motivating Our Workers." The Scripture references come from four sources in the Bible. They are listed below from the King James Version of the Bible:

*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves (James 1:22).*

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).*

*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 his harvest (Luke 10:2).*

*Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision (Joel 3:14).*

For the purpose of this brief article, we will take a look at a combination of meanings from all four passages for those who are working to grow the Church through Sunday School. The Scripture reference upon which the Sunday School Ministry derived its slogan, *Teaching and Learning For All* came from Matthew 28:18–20, where Jesus gave us a mandate for service when He told His disciples to go, teach all nations, baptize, and teach further. In Mark 16:15, Jesus told His disciples to go and preach to all nations. Simply put, when we teach, we communicate knowledge or skill of a subject or theme while leading by example. When we preach, we proclaim a message of a

moral or ethical nature that should be accompanied by leading by example. Each infers a change in our way of living. In each of the Scripture passages, there is reference to being active rather than passive in our work for the Lord. So many people today passively offer lip service to his or her Christian life, but find it difficult to follow the mandate of Jesus to get up, go, and work actively to grow in his or her own Christian life and thereby assist in growing the Church. We offer excuse after excuse for not doing what we purport to believe. Jesus was not a passive man. He was extremely active in doing His Father's business. We cannot do any less. We say we want our Church to grow, but fail to realize that the best place to start is in having a strong Sunday School program, the teaching, reaching, winning arm of the Church. Many of us look for a "warm body" to stand in front of a class on Sunday morning, rather than mentoring those people whom we find to have qualities that would be beneficial examples for our children, youth, and even our adults who find themselves searching.

Abraham Maslow identified several basic sequential needs of human beings that need to be understood by our leaders if we are to make an impact in the world today. He theorized, and justly so, that people have a physiological need to survive, which forms the foundation of our needs. This is followed by a need to be safe and secure in our environment. Next comes our need for love, affection, and belonging. We continuously need to be loved and to love. We need to belong to someone or something. We then move up the ladder to a

need for a strong self-esteem. We do need to feel good about our abilities and ourselves but sometimes this need gets magnified into an overextended view of oneself, which translates itself into a need to be number one at the expense of others. Maslow theorized that the highest level of human need is self-actualization, which says that we know who we are, why we are, where we are, how we are, and when we are. We know ourselves better than anyone else and we should be comfortable with that knowledge. In addition, for the Christian to feel self-actualized, he or she needs to be fully conversant with and comfortable in his or her relationship with Jesus Christ. Translation of this faith relationship into a commitment that meets the needs of others causes it to be complete. We have to know and understand our relationship with Jesus well enough that we can give ourselves to others and thus follow God's plan for our lives.

When people come into our churches, they are looking for friends and a place where they can belong. They desire to feel needed. Our churches are made up of individuals who have their own distinctive characteristics and needs. These needs must be understood by the church family in general, but the leadership simply must know, understand, and be able to provide a sense of direction to these individuals as they move into group relationships. Within a relatively short period of time, perhaps three months, the newcomers should be offered a job within the church program in order to help them feel that they belong and can use their talents in the service of the King. These jobs should not be elected

(Continued on next page)

positions, since these should be offered to church members. In offering newcomers opportunities to serve, we not only open the front door, but we close the back door.

Let's examine four more words that are inherent in the service of the King. These words make up the acronym, STAR. In using *Webster's II New Riverside Dictionary*, we find that to *serve* means to supply service to or to be of assistance to some cause. *Together* means to be in one accord, harmony or operating in an effective, coherent condition. To *achieve* means to accomplish or attain by work or effort. *Results* would indicate an outcome to an action. Therefore, while the Church is made up of individuals who make up the groups, there must be an understanding that we cannot function separate from each other in order to be in compliance with the will of God. While individuals working by themselves can

accomplish some things, these very acts are part of the whole. We need to come to a demonstration of a full understanding of teamwork in order to make the Church work in today's society. In our Sunday School program, the officers and teachers should be working together to fulfill the mission of the organization. If there is no mission or goal, then the team cannot work effectively because they do not have a clear understanding of the destination or end result.

Finally, we will begin to understand that we should be actively working *together* to achieve the optimum result, which is to spread the gospel to all people everywhere. If there are individual differences in styles of leadership, interpretation, teaching methods, etc., we should be able to sit down together, discuss our differences and come to a mutual plan of action to serve together to achieve the results that are

needed to grow the Original Free Will Baptist Church. If we can do this, we are going to see a change in direction for our churches. After all, we cannot continue to perform in the same manner time after time and expect different results. Teaching means learning and learning means change. My challenge is to examine our motives, commitment to God, and our relationship with Jesus in such a manner that we can *serve together to achieve results*. May God richly bless you in your endeavors to expand His Kingdom through your service.

If you, your Sunday School, Layman's League, Woman's Auxiliary, or any group within your church or Sunday School would like to examine this further through any of the workshops or seminars offered by the Sunday School Ministry, please do not hesitate to contact Mary Dudley. She will be more than happy to help in any way.

## CAMP VANDEMERE

by Wesley Taylor, Camp Manager

With a wonderful year coming to a close, we would like to thank all of those who have allowed the Camp to be a part of their lives. Many have been saved and many drawn closer to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Camp has accomplished many tasks this year with the Lord's help. We are already planning and looking forward to the tasks that we plan to complete in the upcoming year with the help of the Lord.

### Storage Building

The storage building is still under construction. We still need to pour the cement slab and close it in. Thus far the 24x32 shell and roof have been completed. If you, your church, or your organization can help the Camp with the finances to complete this task, please contact the manager. Your help is needed for the completion.

### 2004 Summer Camp Season

The camping season is getting full. We have 6 scheduled weeks of camp

thus far. Please contact the manager as soon as possible if you would like to organize a week of camp. We are praying every week and weekend will be booked this year.

### New Projects

The Eastern Conference donated a gift of \$5,000 to the Camp for the remodeling of the boy's bathroom. This is a project that is very much needed. Right now, the Camp has 4 showers in the boys' bathroom. We plan to expand this to 6 showers and close the showers in as stalls.

The Camp is making plans to place a drop ceiling in the dining room and dormitory, also. The cost of this project is estimated at about \$10,000. If you can help with either of these projects physically or financially, it would be greatly appreciated.

The Camp has appointed a committee to look into different designs for a Family Life Center. This will be the biggest project the Camp has taken on thus

far—with a rough estimate of about \$200,000. We are asking the churches and conferences to support this project. Please pray with us as we take this large leap of faith.

### 2004 Singin' By the River

Please make plans now for the 2004 Singin' By the River, August 20–21. Our plans are the same as in 2003: singing and dinner on Friday night, and singing and lunch on Saturday. Make your reservations early to stay at the Camp's facilities. If you would like to recommend a group for the 2004 Singin' By the River, please contact the manager with your suggestions.

Wesley Taylor, Camp Manager

(252) 745-3171 (Camp)

(252) 634-1287 (Pager)

(252) 514-3222 (Cell)

<vandemere@pamlico.net>

## ATTENTION YOUTH AND LEADERS:

The theme for the 2004 Youth Convention as chosen by the Youth Executive Board in August is "Behind Enemy Lines." 1 John 5:19 is the theme verse. Public Speaking participations should use the theme verse along with Ephesians 6:11 and/or Romans 12:2 in preparing their speech.

*And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness (1 John 5:19).*

*Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:11).*

*"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).*

## DISTRICT NEWS

On October 25 Piney Grove (Kenly) hosted the Western District Youth Rally. Mindy Glover opened the program and welcomed everyone. Praise and Worship time was led by the officers. Janet Sherod played the piano for the offering which was blessed by Len Renfrow. In business, Josh Combs read the minutes from the August Children's Home visit and Mindy Glover gave the treasurer's report and other items. Scott Lane, Western Co-director gave announcements including some format changes for the coming year. There will be a praise team started. Host churches will be asked to provide a separate program for the Cherubs to enjoy.

The program followed a bell song by the Piney Grove Youth. The skit focused on how each of us must choose where we will spend eternity because we never know when we will leave this world for our final destination. We must truly have Jesus in our heart and "take the church to the people," sharing God's love with others.

On November 1 Robert's Grove (Dunn) hosted the Cape Fear District

Youth Rally. The 95 Arts & Crafts entries were judged in the morning and the awards were given out at a ceremony at the evening Rally. The Rev. Fred Baker, Convention President installed new Youth Officers for 2004, challenging the officers to work together and reach out to those churches that are not participating. Incoming President Zack Tart presented a gift to outgoing President Robert Widhalm who has served as an officer since 1999.



*The Rev. Fred Baker, State Convention OFWB President, linked the new officers with a paper chain at the Cape Fear installation service on Nov. 1, challenging them to work together and reach out to those churches whose youth are not participating.*

Announcements concerned the Christmas project of funds for Foreign Missions, a schedule of plans for 2004, and a thank you to the Western District for helping with this year's Arts & Crafts competitions. The roll call of churches by Nikki Jones indicated 13 churches present for a total attendance of 230. Attendance banners were awarded as follows: Youth—Lee's Chapel, Youth Runner-Up—Smyrna, Overall—Powhatan, Overall Runner-Up—Riverside. Following 2 songs by the Robert's Grove Youth, awards were given as follows: 4 bronze, 58 silver, and 33 gold entries. Seven of the ten churches participating in Arts & Crafts will send state representatives to display at the May Youth Convention.

Congratulations to all 95 of the winners!

## MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT Blake Cahoon

Most people by now are aware of the death of Blake Cahoon, the 18-year-old son of James and Kathy Cahoon, which are the Albemarle District Youth Directors. In lieu of flowers, if you would like to make a contribution to honor Blake's memory, you can give to the newly created Youth Convention OFWB Endowment Scholarship at Mount Olive College. As most of you know, this is our project for the upcoming year. A contribution to this scholarship would be meaningful to both James and Kathy, as this scholarship will help two things they love dearly, Mount Olive College and youth. Both are graduates of Mount Olive, and both have been working with the youth of their church and district for many years. Just to let you know, I have talked with both James and Kathy, and they both expressed appreciation to us for doing this for them.

After we receive your contribution, we will send an acknowledgement card to James and Kathy. At the 2004 Youth Convention, we will list the memorial contributions in the program book, along with a presentation to James and Kathy. We hope that each district youth organization will give a contribution. Individuals, local churches, youth groups, and woman's auxiliaries are welcome to make contributions. Please feel free to share this with anyone who would be interested in making a contribution.

When sending the check, please designate it as a contribution in memory of Blake Cahoon.

Please make checks payable to *Youth Convention OFWB*, and mail to: Scott Lane, 1255 NC 581 N., Pikeville, NC 27863 ; phone, (919) 736-1423 or Martha Parsons, 2317 Bayside Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28306; phone, (910) 438-9299

## POWHATAN CHURCH NEWS

by Rita Jones

The Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary Fall Meeting was held at Yelverton Grove on Saturday, October 4. Remembered by special mention in our opening prayer were the Daughtry family, the Jack Austin family, and Treat Brown. The Spring Convention will be at Smyrna, not Bethel as was shown in the program in April. There were 71 present representing 18 churches. President Sandra Peedin, Missions Chair Diana Bass, and Secretary Rita Jones attended for Powhatan. Denominational ministry reports were given by Chris Singleton (Foreign Missions), Carolyn Jernigan (Mount Olive College), and Fred Baker (for Convention, Home Missions, Church Finance, Minister's Program, Cragmont, FWB Press, and the Children's Home.) Mr. Baker asked churches to help raise \$30,000 for building maintenance at the Children's Home. Martha Parsons gave a report of the youth work referencing a handout and poster provided for informational purposes. She asked for continued support and more participation. The Yelverton Grove trio provided special music before the Rev. Barry Croom gave the message on young people. He referenced the Scripture John 21:15-19 where Jesus told Peter three times to feed the lambs. He said we are at war in a lost world trying to hold on to our young people. He listed the "Don'ts" in working with youth as: do nothing, ignore them, and judge or condemn them. He said we must be clear in our expectations and live an example for them. He advised us to do three things: show them how to care for others side by side finding answers to problems, pray for them, and love them. He told a story of a photo-journalist who had won the Pulitzer Prize for a picture of a starving young girl being watched by a vulture as she tried to crawl to where food was being given out. The man later committed suicide. Someone asked what happened after the picture was taken and he said he had shooed away the vulture but not-

ing more. His regret was that he wished he had done more. Mr. Croom challenged us to not let the sun set today without telling a young person that we love them. He doesn't want us to later say, "I wish I had done it." The Cape Fear Youth Rally was hosted by Haymount and was an outdoor Fall Festival on their grounds. Powhatan took the Youth runner up banner behind Smyrna who received the Youth banner with 21 youth. There were over 230 from 10 churches at the rally. We enjoyed a hot dog supper, a demonstration by some stunt bike riders. There was a "Moonwalk" jumping tent and a "Twister" blow-up game for the younger members as well as popcorn, apples, and lemonade. It was like an afternoon fair, but all was done to share our love for the Lord and for one another. At the October 15 quarterly business meeting, the church voted to proceed with building our new fellowship hall and classroom building. Photos for a new church directory were taken by Olan Mills October 17-18. We ask for your prayers for our continued growth.

Thank you to member Rachel Langley and a group that visited from Winterville and Branch Chapel on Sunday evening, October 19, for a missions report from the Mexico trips this past summer. Services including singing in Spanish and reciting favorite verses. Refreshments similar to those served in Mexico were enjoyed in the fellowship hall following the program. Our condolences to Sandra Jones on the recent loss of her mother. The Woman's Auxiliary sponsored a yard sale on Saturday morning, October 25, raising money for yearly projects. Thank you to all from the church family who donated items, bought items, moved tables and boxes, and worked that morning. The historical group, Isaac Hunter's Chapter, Children of the American Revolution, met from 1-3 P.M. in the fellowship hall and were finished in time for a Sunday School group to meet for supper. The quartet, Four in Christ, came for their annual sing later that same evening. The music, praise, and fellowship was wonderful. It was a busy day for Powhatan.



Youth District Presidents Heather McPherson (Pee Dee-Center) and Roberta Widhalm (Cape Fear-Right), both Mt. Olive College freshmen, traveled to Selma in October to watch the volleyball game of friend Nikki Jones (Clayton High School Junior-left) and enjoyed a pizza supper afterwards. All have served as state officers, been on each of the youth Mission trips, and continue to share a special Christian friendship across the miles.



Everyone enjoyed the Mexican feast prepared by Rachel Langley and the Winterville group on October 19.

# PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY AND HOMECOMING SUNDAY



*Ben Rollins making presentations to the Rev. Tony and Joyce McLamb.*

Pastor Appreciation Day was observed by Free Will Baptists on Sunday, October 26. Walnut Creek Church in LaGrange was especially privileged to honor their pastor on this special occasion. The Rev. Tony McLamb and his family came to our church over 17 years ago. Little did we know what an impact they would have on our fellowship.

Tony has been a full-time servant of the Lord since that time. Through his sermons he has relayed God's messages to us, and his prayers have recognized our needs, petitions, and concern for those about us. In illness, hospitalizations, confinement to nursing homes or imprisonments, he is ever present to comfort and offer hope, encouragement, and trust that God will see us through all trials. He rejoices when we gain new members, presides over our marriages, christenings, dedications, reaffirmations, and shares our sorrows in times of bereavement. He and his wife are present to share in all areas of our lives. We have been encouraged to be more conscious of our obligations to the FWB denomination's various ministries (Children's Home, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Mount Olive College, etc. and the advantages of Camp Vandemere and Cragmont. Through his leadership, we have found new joy in participating in various community needs (Salvation Army, Red Cross, Cancer relays, Empty Stocking Fund, Disaster Funds, and other needs both local and county or state).

We would be remiss to fail to recognize Tony's partner in this mission. His wife, Joyce, has been actively involved in all his work and serves our church as pianist, directing our choir in learning new music. Her patience with us is unfounded. She composes our church bulletins, ever conscious of relevant occasions. This is no easy task for she faithfully keeps our prayer list current, keeps us abreast of all upcoming events, and reminds us of approaching birthdays and anniversaries. In addition to serving our church as the pastor's wife, she holds a full-time job and participates in assisting in the cleaning of the church and preparing for various meals we enjoy.

Tony and Joyce came to us with two small daughters but the Lord blessed them with a son and now they boast two sons-in-law and four grandchildren. They are wonderful role models for our young adults so you can easily see why we take such great delight in honoring them. Forgive me if I seem irreverent by not speaking of them as the Rev. and Mrs. Tony McLamb but you have to understand that while we recognize Tony as our pastor and leader, it is difficult to be so formal. You see, while Tony does lead, he and Joyce work with us, beside us, and among us, also. So it is with much endearment that we refer to them so personally.

They possess many other attributes too numerous to mention so may I just sum up our gratitude and thanksgiving by quoting a portion of 1 John 3:1: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us (Walnut Creek FWB Church)...." We have been truly blessed for over 17 years.

Pastor's Day happened to coincide with our annual Homecoming. Our sanctuary was filled with many old friends, former members, and wonderful acquaintances. Our Sunday School hour and worship service was blessed with special music by the "Called Out" singers. Following the recognition of our pastor and his family, the Lord's message was delivered by Mr. McLamb. A bountiful dinner was served in our fellowship building, and we continued to enjoy a beautiful day of fellowship.

You would have thought that no day could have been more complete, but that same evening we began our Fall Revival. We were privileged to have as our revival evangelist, the Rev. David Charles Hansley. As if we were not full enough, his messages each night through Wednesday blessed our lives and the Holy Spirit was present with us in every service. Special music enhanced each evening. On Sunday evening, we were blessed with song-messages from Steve Walker, on Monday with Doug Smith, on Tuesday with Jason and Jaime Cox, and on Wednesday with Robin Potter and her group "His In Song." On the last night of our revival, its success was evidenced when many came forward in a reaffirmation of faith. What joy we experienced! When this week of praise and worship ended, we felt as one of our soloists sang, "I'm Drinking From the Saucer (of the Lord) Because My Cup Runneth Over." How blessed!

On Wednesday, October 29, the youth of our church hosted a Fall Celebration: "On Fire For Christ." We enjoyed a bonfire and roasted hotdogs and marshmallows. This was followed by a devotional from Matt McLamb and Sara Strickland and songs by our youth. There were games for everyone: bingo, bobbing for apples, musical chairs, clothing, and pitching games along with lots of excitement, fun, and entertainment. Many children made the evening a great success and the adults easily adjusted to the festive mood. It proved to be a wonderful evening of good Christian fellowship.

*(Continued on next page)*

On Friday, October 31, the men of our church hosted a fish fry. On the Saturday prior they ventured on a fishing trip to Atlantic Beach and returned laden with an abundance of fish. We enjoyed another evening of good eating and fellowship. Afterward, many went to Goldsboro to visit the Judgement Day program sponsored by the First Pentecostal Holiness Church. This was an annual trek by our youth and others interested. It was a very impressionable program addressing the current issues of our community and county, alerting the public to the evils we, as Christians, constantly face and the consequences for not approaching them properly. Their performance is a real service to our community.

October was a busy month for our church but a very fulfilling one. It was a time of harvest and prepared us for the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

In November we began preparation for an annual event in our church, the "Hanging of the Greens." This has been a very popular activity of our church and a most inspirational service. Written and directed by Garry and Joan Price, it enlists the participation of all the church members and humbly guides us into the true meaning of the Christmas season. This program was presented on the evening of November 30 followed by refreshments in the fellowship building.

## WALNUT CREEK CHURCH HOLDS REVIVAL

by Pepper Worthington

Pastor Tony McLamb welcomed all to the Walnut Creek Free Will Baptist Church revival. To draw the congregation closer to the presence of God, he called upon Doug Smith to sing. Music filled the sanctuary. The lyrics of the songs Mr. Smith sang prepared the way for the revival message.

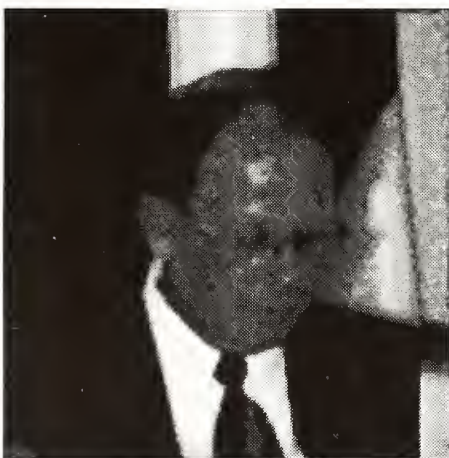
*man. But I can't even walk without you holding my hand.*

*I never made a fortune. It's probably too late now. I'm happy anyhow. Sometimes my way is rough, but I have a friend in Jesus and that makes me rich enough. I'm drinking from my saucer, Lord, because my cup has overflowed.*

The Rev. David C. Hansley led the revival with a dominant theme—in the shadow of the blood-stained cross we must make a choice.

"I tell you what," declared Mr. McLamb, "that's good singing. Every song is a blessing. Doug, we appreciate what you are doing for the Lord; keep it up."

Red-headed Doug smiled, his voice and face ready for the revival message.

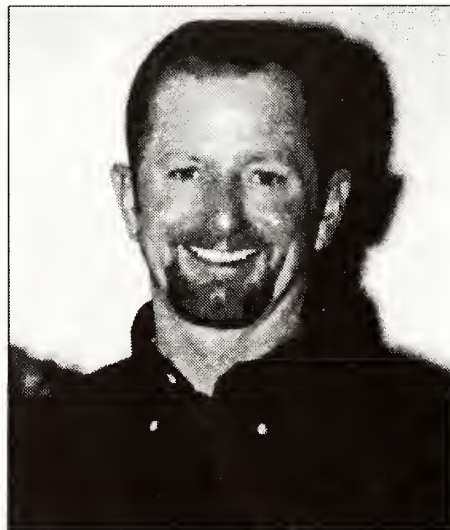


The Rev. Tony McLamb prayed for spiritual revival.

*Cheer up, my brother live in the sunshine.*

*Just be true to Jesus. You're all invited to my mansion. Down here I've never had much, but I've always tried to share.*

*I thought that number one would surely be me. I thought I could build on life's sinking sands. I thought I could make it all alone. I thought I was a mighty big*



Doug Smith sang inspirational ballads at the Walnut Creek FWB Church revival.



The Rev. David Charles Hansley led the revival at Walnut Creek FWB Church.

"We have choices to make when we go to the doctor," began Mr. Hansley. "The hardest choice I had to make was when I had to take my mother to a nursing home. But we also have a choice to decide to be drawn closer to Christ by way of an old rugged Cross. We have to make a new choice. We have to make a new

(Continued on next page)



covenant. We have to make a choice that the church be revived spiritually," he said.

"I remember when my dad said to me that I would have to make choices, but he warned me to make sure I was making a quality choice in Jesus Christ," he noted.

Mr. Hansley then told the story of the testimony of racecar driver Mark Martin, a driver who won seven Winston Cup races but who saw another driver die. Upon seeing the death of a colleague, Martin decided he needed to be ready to die. He needed to make sure he knew Jesus Christ as his Savior. Mr. Hansley added, "I am glad Mark Martin was willing to put his testimony in print."

Questions followed to alert the people of the necessity of choices. "What else can we do about the life we are living?" asked Mr. Hansley. "What more can be done?" He turned to Romans 8:5-6: "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (NKJV).

"If we make the right choice, eternal life will be ours," preached Mr. Hansley. "There are only two ways to follow through after life—either Heaven or Hell. Paul said that God's grace is sufficient. When we see grace, we see mercy. Where there is grace, there is mercy. Where there is mercy, there is grace."

Mr. Hansley then turned to Romans 6:22-23: "But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (NKJV).

"Behold, we have become new creatures in Christ Jesus!" declared Mr. Hansley. "The night of Jesus' coming, the shepherds standing out in the field under a Bethlehem sky had a choice to make. The angel interrupted their silent night and broke their sense of peace. They must have

felt a panic. Can you imagine tonight if Jesus descended and asked us to make a choice? Would we not be in a panic? Would we not be frozen? But imagine *Jesus moving among us* to help us make the right choice. The shepherds made the choice to hasten to see the One of which the angels had spoken. The centerpoint of our life must be where God wants us to be. If we are not there, at the centerpoint, then *we* have moved away, not God, not Yahweh, not Jesus, but us. We must make a choice to turn from where we are. We may be filled with the joy that may be ours. The Savior was under the Bethlehem sky and the shepherds found the babe lying in a manger.

"Could I cry aloud tonight—they found Him! They found Him! But also could I cry aloud tonight—I found Him! I found Him!" he rejoiced.

"Jesus was born the Savior. Jesus died the Savior. He arose the Savior. He will return as the Savior. You'll have to make a choice. You may be like the shepherds in the field and be shocked, be astounded, but be willing to make a choice," he said.

"Can you remember when you were so wretched and undone and you made a choice? You might be in a gutter somewhere wrapped up in the mud of sin. But with Christ, look

at you now. Now you are born again, a believer in the redeeming blood of Christ. We need to tell the story. If ever there has been a time the church needs to be revived, it's today. We need to win the lost. We need to open every door we can open. We need to revive people, lift them from the sinking sand," he stressed.

"We have a choice and that choice is ours whether to take ourselves and others to the throne of grace or their blood will be on our hands. Every member needs to be telling the story," he added.

Then Mr. Hansley asked, "Are you saved? Are you born of the spirit? Are you born again?"

Five steps to be born again were emphasized in the revival week. The five crucial steps of the new life born of the Spirit include these:

1. The admission of the need to be saved from sin and the admission that life is undone without the presence of Christ.
2. The belief that the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ can take away sin.
3. The necessity to repent publicly.
4. The necessity of confessing our sins before God.
5. The decision to receive Jesus into our soul.

"Rededicate your life to Jesus," stressed Mr. Hansley.



Members of the Walnut Creek FWB Church worked hard with the Revs. David Hansley and Tony McLamb to make the revival a renewal of the spirit.

## SMYRNA CHURCH HONORS THEIR MINISTER



*Michelle and Jonathan Pearce*

Smyrna Church located on NC 96 in the Meadow Community honored their minister Jonathan Pearce and his wife Michelle on Sunday, October 12, 2003, which was designated Clergy Appreciation Sunday.

Special music by the youth choir and the church's combined choirs dedicated their special music to the couple.

Brother Pearce has been serving as minister to the church for the past several months awaiting ordination by the Cape Fear Conference.

## SMYRNA CHURCH HOLDS HOMECOMING SERVICE



Smyrna Church located in the Meadow Community held its fifty-third Homecoming service on Sunday, October 5, 2003. A memorial service for Mrs. Iola Herring, a long-time member, was held during the service.

Mrs. Herring's son, Leslie Herring, Jr., his three daughters, and their families are members of the church.

Pictured are left to right: Asia McConnell and her parents, Dianne and Edward McConnell. Back: Carolyn Tew, Leslie Herring, Jr., and Kayla Hickok.

Those unable to attend were: Elliott McConnell, Kayla's parents, Sam and Darlene Hickok and their two-year-old son, Dylan, and Carolyn's husband, Gerald Tew, who is in the process of being deployed for the second time.

## SNOW HILL CHURCH CHOIR TO PERFORM "CHRISTMAS IN DIXIE"

Last year, the Snow Hill Church adult choir broke new ground with its "A Tender Snow Hill Christmas," featuring music from country superstars Alabama and original narration from choir director Gloria Edwards and church member Sherry Matthews.

Because of the popularity of the cantata, the choir will be doing two encore performances, Saturday, December 13 and Sunday, December 14 with some added music, a new name, and new narration.

This year's cantata, "Christmas in Dixie," will be performed each night at 7 P.M., and will once again feature music from Alabama's hit Christmas album of the same name, along with other selected Christmas favorites. Once again, the narration will be written by Edwards and Matthews. "Our cantata will share the joy of our Savior's Birth," said Edwards. "We hope that everyone will come out and share the holidays with our church family and enjoy the sounds of the holiday with our choir. Snow Hill church is located at 1213 Red Hill Road, Mount Olive, NC.

**ARAPAHOE CHURCH  
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THE  
9TH ANNUAL  
BETHLEHEM WALK  
DECEMBER 11-13  
7-9 P.M.  
(Continuous Tours)**

**For more information contact:  
Arapahoe FWB Church  
7970 South Hwy 306  
Arapahoe, NC 28510  
(252) 249-1630  
(252) 745-5206**



Ten-year-old Dylan Sepulvado of Shreveport, LA needs a new heart. His adventure continues...

## DYLAN'S ADVENTURES (PART II of III)

Day 8:

Dylan, Joe, Pam, and M. J. started out the next morning at nine A.M. with hopes of a heart, lung, and a kidney they would find. After they met, they made it to the corner when they all started to shake. For just ahead away, they saw a large black snake. The snake said, "Good Morning!" They realized this snake was nice. For his eyes looked so warm and not like ice.

They said, "We're looking for a special heart, lung, and kidney, please our new friend, have you seen any?" "No, I'm afraid I have not, for I was just crossing this road, Boy, I'm hot!"

All three and M. J. said, "Thank you, we have to go, but if you do, just let our friends, the birds know!" The large black snake looked pitifully as they left. As he looked toward the heavens, he felt one day they would be blessed!

Day 9:

Morning light came creeping up. Dylan, Joe, Pam, and M. J. were still awake. All three so anxious, so many days of their lives still at stake.

As they were walking, they saw a black spider going up the wall. "Hey!" Have you seen a special heart, lung, or kidney?" Be careful; don't fall." In a small voice, she says, "No, but I'll look tonight." All three children said, "Alright." Caught up in the spider's web was a fly. "Have you seen a special heart, lung, or kidney?" "No, but if I get out of this web, I'll look. Believe me, I can see plenty!"

They all three left for they wanted to try another place. All three had a feeling of excitement, for they knew they were filled with God's grace.

Day 10:

It was seven o'clock in the morning

of one fine day. Dylan knew the day would be great, no matter what anyone would say.

He left the other two children sleeping with M. J. as he started to look. In his backpack he had his water bottle, chips, and a mapbook.

Dylan walked and walked and then he met a little girl named Savannah. She also had a backpack carrying water, crackers, and a banana.

Savannah and Dylan got to talking and she told him she needed a liver. Dylan listened and then he had to shiver. He thought to himself, "Now there's four of us! God forbid, but if this keeps up, we're going to need a real bus!"

Day 11:

The children were surrounded by hundreds of monkeys. "Please have you seen a special heart, lung, or kidney, or liver for us?" "No! We're sorry little ones, we have not. But we will look and give it our best shot!"

The children go further into the woods. Oh, if only they could find what they needed. If only they could! Dylan ran up and tripped over a big black bear. "Oh! I'm so sorry, I swear. Have you seen a special heart, lung, kidney, or liver for us?"

"No!" roared the bear, "what's all the fuss?"

"I need a bone marrow transplant," replied the bear, "but you don't see me crying."

"Yeah, but we want to live," said the children. "And we're never going to give up trying!"

Day 12:

The children made it to the clearing, when out jumped a very large

tiger with stripes of orange and black. All four children and M. J. screamed and jumped back. Dylan asked, "Have you seen any lungs, kidney, liver, or a heart?"

"If you'll sit and visit with me for awhile, I'll look when we part."

They all sat around a fire and talked together. And the very large tiger thought to himself, if he had a family like this, it would last forever!

The tiger told the children, "I have an extra lung, because I have two. Joe, if you'd like one I'll give it to you."

Day 13:

Dylan left early before the sun came up. This time he only took his little coffee cup. Dylan was sad today, and his little eyes were red. For last night he tossed and turned in his little blue bed.

Dylan was just not feeling himself these last couple of days. He just wished he was normal so that he could run and play.

His mama told him, he was special and that God loved him so very much! And that with Dylan a lot of people's hearts would be touched!

Day 14:

One morning as Dylan was walking down the street, he met a little dog, who said his name was Pete.

Pete asked, "What's the matter little boy? Don't you feel o.k.?"

"No, today is not one of my good days." Dylan replied. Pete asked, "Why are your lips and fingernails so blue?"

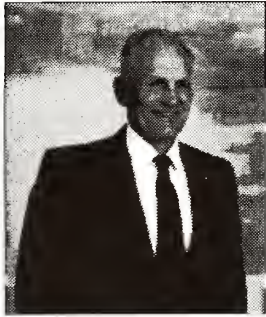
"I don't get enough air to my heart, it's even hard for me to tie my shoes!"

"They told my mommy and me that if I don't get a new heart, I would die!"

"So now I spend all my time looking for one so that I can survive!"

# IN MEMORIAM CHARLES BRYANT (C.B.) HINNANT

November 23, 1913–October 22, 2003  
by W. Burkette Raper



Mount Olive College has experienced a great loss in the death of C. B. Hinnant, a member of the College Board of Trustees since 1984—a period of nineteen years. Funeral services were conducted at the Micro Church on October 24 by Pastor John Henry Lane and Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president emeritus and director of planned

giving at Mount Olive College.

In addition to his services as a trustee, Mr. Hinnant and his late wife, Margenette (1922–1990), served as co-chair of the Johnston-Wake counties dinner for the College during 1986–1990.

Through their generous lifetime support and planned gifts, Mr. and Mrs. Hinnant established "The Charles B. and Margenette A. Hinnant Music Scholarship Endowment" at the College for the purpose of providing annual scholarships for students of "outstanding talent, academic ability, and good character" to prepare themselves for careers and avocations in church music. Their endowment is now the largest endowed fund for the Department of Music. At the request of the family, special music at the funeral of Mr. Hinnant was provided by the Department of Music, including solos by James Austin, a 2003–2004 recipient of the Hinnant Scholarship and a member of the "Free Spirit" singers. Bagpipe music at the cemetery was provided by Dr. Alan Armstrong, Chair of the Department of Music.

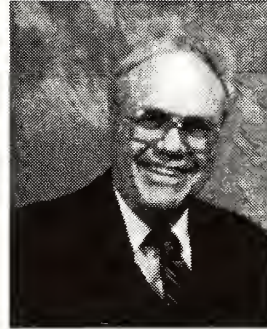
Mr. Hinnant was a lifetime member of Micro Free Will Baptist Church where he served as a deacon, Sunday School Superintendent, and choir member. A graduate of Atlantic Christian College (now Barton) and the University of North Carolina, Mr. Hinnant taught chemistry in high school before entering business and devoting time to his farming interests. In community affairs, he was a former justice of the peace, mayor of Micro, and served on the advisory boards at Micro and North Johnston High Schools. His father, Dr. M. Hinnant, was a long-time member and chair of the Board of Trustees of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Middlesex.

Surviving are two sons, Charles Hinnant and Bryant Hinnant, both of Rowayton, Connecticut; a sister, Margaret H. McLaughlin of Fayetteville; and two grandchildren.

The family invited memorial gifts to "The Charles B. and Margenette A. Hinnant Music Scholarship Endowment," Office of Planned Giving, Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC 28365; or to Micro Free Will Baptist Church.

# IN MEMORIAM THE REVEREND JERRY EDWARD ROWE

February 2, 1929–October 15, 2003  
by W. Burkette Raper



In the death of the Reverend Jerry E. Rowe, age 74, Original Free Will Baptists have lost a beloved pastor and loyal minister of the Gospel.

Born in the Aurora Community of Beaufort County, NC, Jerry graduated from Aurora High School in 1947. While serving in the U.S. Navy during 1948–1950, on August 26, 1949, he mar-

ried Jean Scott Goodwin, with whom he was blessed to share fifty-four years of happy home life.

In 1950, Jerry began a forty-seven year affiliation with Pilot Life Insurance Company. First, he worked out of the New Bern office, but in 1952 he was promoted to staff manager in Morehead City. There, he and Jean became founding members of Faith Free Will Baptist church under the pastorate of the late Noah Brown. While still a member of Faith Church, he experienced his call into the Christian ministry and was licensed by the Church in 1958. The following year he was ordained by the Eastern Conference, and soon thereafter began a two-year period of study at Mount Olive College.

His pastoral ministry covered thirty-six years (1959–1995), followed by eight years of semi-retirement during which he served churches on a supply basis. Altogether, his ministry extended over a period of forty-four years. Included in his pastorates were Union Chapel Church, Beaufort County; Pleasant Hill Church; Piney Grove and Gum Swamp Churches, Pitt County; Holly Springs, Sound View, Welcome Home, Silver Creek, and Davis Churches in Carteret County.

He served on the Board of Directors for Cragmont Assembly and Camp Vandemere, also.

Participating in his funeral services on October 18 were the Rev. and Mrs. Francis Garner, who provided special music; the Rev. Ray Conner, pastor of Holly Springs Church; and the Rev. James Gurganus, who was called into the ministry during the second pastorate of Jerry at Holly Springs (1978–1983). Mr. Gurganus, who considers Jerry as his father in the ministry, described Jerry as "a very happy person, always smiling, even in the final days of his illness with cancer. Brother Jerry loved people and he had a great compassion for lost souls and a great zeal to win them to the Lord."

*(Continued on next page)*

Personally, it was my privilege to be one of Jerry's teachers while he was enrolled at Mount Olive College and to enjoy a personal friendship with him and Jean, both in the churches they served and in the hospitality of their home. I always found them to be genuine in their Christian commitment and loyal to the faith and work of Original Free Will Baptists. They devoted themselves to fostering unity and goodwill in the churches they served and they provided positive leadership in the support of the ministries of Original Free Will Baptists.

As an alumnus, Jerry was always steadfast in upholding the ministry of Mount Olive College. I distinctly remember his leadership and personal support in helping the College make the transition from a two-year to a four-year institution. In the early 1980s, when we were seeking funds for the building of College Hall—the flagship

for our senior college program—I spent the night in his home and the next day he went with me to visit members of Holly Springs Church with whom he had already made appointments. College Hall was the largest financial project ever undertaken by Original Free Will Baptists, and each time I enter this facility—even to this day—I thank God for people like Jerry Rowe whose vision and generosity helped make this dream a reality.

In addition to his wife, Jerry is survived by three sons: Gregory Thomas Rowe of Berwyn, PA; Luther Calvin Rowe of San Clemente, CA; and Jerry "Jay" Rowe of Newport, NC.

Burial was in Gethsemane Memorial Park, Carteret County. Those who wish to express condolences to Mrs. Rowe may address or visit her at 138 Pearson Circle, Newport, NC 28570 (phone (252) 393-8890).

## TRINITY CHURCH CELEBRATES HOMECOMING



*Andrew Paul (left) expressing the congregation's appreciation to the Rev. Keith and Shirley Pelletier and their son, Andrew for their service to God and Trinity Church.*

Sunday, October 19, 2003 dawned as a beautiful fall day—one that was to be filled with worship, fellowship, reminiscing, and good food. It was a day that had been much anticipated and worked toward. It was the day for celebrating Homecoming at Trinity OFWB Church in Pungo, NC.

After opening the worship hour with prayer, the church's pastor, the Rev. Keith Pelletier, led the congregation in a most appropriate hymn "To God Be the Glory." As the music and words of this beautiful hymn filled the sanctuary, the hearts of those present sent praises up to the Father for His grace and goodness to this church. Mr. Pelletier welcomed everyone, noting how wonderful it

was to have such a good number of visitors in attendance.

Several selections of special music were presented. Trinity's choir opened the time of special music by singing "One Day at a Time." As the choir descended from the choir loft, Brother Andrew Paul stayed behind. He indicated to the pastor that he had something to say. He then proceeded to ask the pastor's wife, Shirley, and son, Andrew, to come to the pulpit. Brother Paul recognized that October was Pastor Appreciation Month and that it was only fitting for the church to express its appreciation to Mr. Pelletier for his dedication to God and to Trinity Church. He recognized the sacrifice the pastor's family makes as they support his serving the Lord. He presented each one with a gift to honor the occasion.

Following this presentation, Betty Allen sang "It Is Well With My Soul." After a time of prayer, Doc Webster gave a beautiful recitation accompanied by the playing of "Sweet Hour of Prayer." Robert Tooley blessed the congregation with a final musical selection before Mr. Pelletier brought the Homecoming message. He read John 14:1-4 as his Scripture selection before bringing a stirring message about the Home in Heaven that awaits us.

The morning worship hour concluded with the congregation singing, "Lord, I'm Coming Home," after which the benediction and blessing on the lunch was prayed.

Immediately after the worship hour, a delicious lunch was served in the church's fellowship hall. Everyone feasted on barbecued pork and chicken prepared by Steve and Mary Steiner, with all the trimmings supplied by the rest of the congregation. All present enjoyed a time of visiting, catching up on "old times," and making new memories. We give God the praise and thanks for blessing us to have such a special day.

# Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

## Introduction

The modern world is dangerously dividing into *us* versus *them* assumptions. Groups are forming cultural and economic ties leaving behind in the cracks what Harvard professor Samuel P. Huntington calls "torn countries" (138) and "lone countries" (136). The "core states of civilizations" (156) may bring order within a civilization and among other civilizations, but the fact that the Muslims do not have a core state becomes a modern threat globally. Huntington refers to a "fault line" (160) emerging that divides the western Christianity in Europe from "eastern Christianity and Islamic traditions" (160).

## Us Versus Them

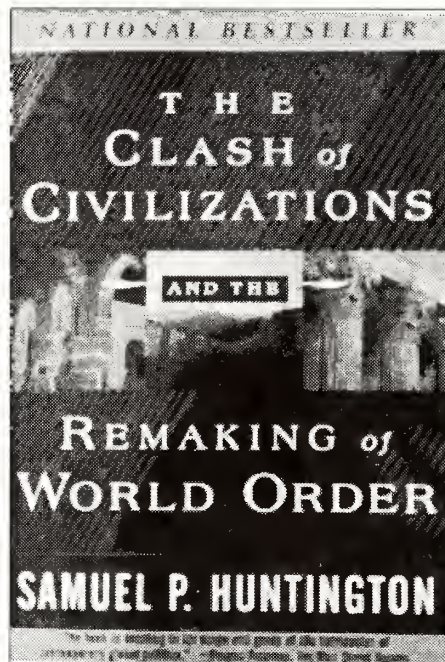
The modern world with its technological changes has led to an identity crisis among people. People are searching for order, connections, roots, power, and strength. The "consciousness of civilizational differences" (129) leads to an inherent need to protect what belongs to the *us* versus the *them*. The sharp division has four reasons, according to Huntington: (1) a sense of superiority of one's own culture; (2) both fear and distrust of different cultures; (3) language differences that lead to communication handicaps; (4) unawareness of cultural practices, beliefs, and assumptions (129).

## Cultural and Economic Ties

Cultures are establishing ties. Huntington identifies numerous ones: (1) CARICOM (Caribbean Community of 13 English-speaking former British colonies), (2) MERCOSUR (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay) (3) ANDEAN Pact, (4) ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Countries, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, China), (5) CENTRAL EUROPEAN FREE TRADE AREA

## PART IV

Samuel P. Huntington. *The Clash of Civilizations. Remaking of World Order*. New York: Touchstone Books of Simon & Schuster. 368 pages. ISBN 0-684-84441-9.



(Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia), (6) NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico, Canada, and United States), (7) EAEC (East Asian Economic Caucus, to include Myanmar, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, China), (8) NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), (9) CACM (Central American Common Market), (10) CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States, pro-Russian), (11) EU (European Union), (12) UAE (United Arab Emirates), (13) OIC (Organization of the Islamic Conference).

## Torn Countries and Lone Countries

What is a torn country? Huntington views a torn country as one with "divided loyalties" and with "identity problems" (139). He lists four torn countries: (1) Russia (torn between the push of Peter the Great (1689-1725) to make Russia western and its indigenous roots of eastern Christian orthodoxy, despotism with autocratic rather than people power); (2) Turkey (torn between Kemal Ataturk's push to westernize Turkey and Turkey's indigenous Islamic roots); (3) Mexico (torn between economic liberalism with Catholicism and Spanish at the heart of

its indigenous roots as well as authoritarian control), (4) Australia (torn between its western heritage and geographical position as an Asian country).

Huntington sees this opposition of Western culture with indigenous culture as a "cultural schizophrenia" (154) which gives birth to problems. These countries may seek to be a *bridge* connecting the East and the West, but as a bridge, the countries become an "artificial creation connecting two solid entities but is part of neither" (149).

What is a lone country? Huntington identifies a lone country as one which "lacks cultural commonality with other societies" (136). He lists three major lone countries: Ethiopia, Haiti, and Japan.

## Core States and Fault Lines

Core states are those states that are strong and powerful enough to bring "civilizational groupings" (155) together so that they can integrate into a block group. The fact that Islam lacks a core state makes it difficult for other groupings with a core state to negotiate with the scattered Islamic threat. This divisiveness is increased by the fault line that is a huge cultural divide between western Christianity and eastern Christianity and Islam (160).

## Conclusion

Islamic faith has been a separating fact for the tribe, the *Ummah*, and the local community rather than a unifying fact. Huntington notes that among Islamic tribes "the idea of sovereign nation states is incompatible with belief in the sovereignty of Allah and the primacy of the *Ummah*" (175). Huntington adds: "An Islamic core state has to possess the economic resources, military power, organizational competence, and Islamic identity and commitment to provide both political and religious leadership to the *Ummah*" (177). Is there a possible core state power in Indonesia, Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, or Turkey? Huntington does not think so and therein lies the ceaseless turmoil among Muslims and others.

# Christian Art Review

by Rev. Michael Warning

## Introduction

In the professional art world there is always much concern about the source of the art work. Careful attention is paid to the method of production and its meaning as well as its relevance to a larger world audience. These criteria can also be applied in a very expansive way to folk art of which this mother Mary and the Christ Child are an excellent example.

Venice has produced artistry in the form of devotional lacework for the Christian churches and Christian believers of the world. This mother, and child is a fine example of their devotion to their craft at which they obviously excel.

## Artistic Style

Lace is a very exacting and tedious medium of artistic expression. For on a tissue thin fabric with the aid of needles and multiple bobbins of thread, the artist ties and reties the intricate pattern of knots, stitches, and lacings which form the pattern. This is formed upon a frame which is supported by a padded cushion. The work is so exacting that lacemakers gradually lose their vision from the strain. At the end of their working career they require a magnifying glass to continue this artistic detail.

The style here is very romantic and lovingly created, for within a wreath of flowers which look like lilies and five-pointed daisies, we see the sacred mother and child. Her dress and outer cloak with its headcovering include the same kinds of flowers as in the wreath. Star-shaped flowers, five of them, march their way up to her hands which gently cradle the Christ Child.

The lace work in this piece is so exacting that facial features of both

Mary and Jesus are present, as are the round rays of holy light which surrounds their heads.

## Symbolism

For the believer this mother and child are the symbol not only of human love and caring but also of a divine love and gift to the world. We know little of the childhood of Jesus, although some folk stories exist in many European countries concerning childhood occurrences. However, in the Biblical record there is the Birth, then a long lapse of time as the Child grows to the accountable age, probably twelve.

The followers of Jesus in every age have wondered about the years between the Babe and the Bar Mitzvah. This lace image is an art of devotion and celebration for the Birth of a Child.

Traditionally, the lacemaker receives an order for a mother and child lace design which must be finished by

the trime of the birth of the child. Very often the lace design is given by the father or the family of the father to the new mother and child. It is upon this occasion that the announcement of the *name* of the child is made official.

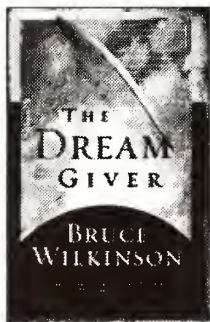
The symbol of the wreath in this lace art is like a garland of flowers for a celebration, similar to those which are presented to the mother at the hospital or within the home following the birth.

## Conclusion

Even the simplest of lacework takes untold hours of knotting, threading, cutting, and forming. A work such as this mother and child represents several days of tedious labor for the lacemaker, but to the mother who receives it as a gift, it represents a blessing for a lifetime and beyond to future generations. Christian art transcends the passage of time and of generations.



*"Mary and the Child Jesus." Anonymous. From Venice. A devotional design in cutwork lace. Size is 8 1/3 inches by 4 and 1/4 inches. From private collection.*



**THE DREAM GIVER**, by Bruce Wilkinson with David and Heather Kopp, (Multnomah, \$16.99, hardcover).

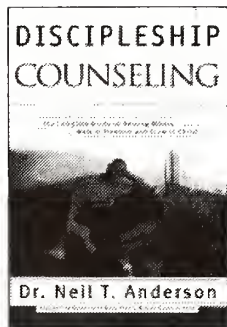
Are you living your dream? Or just living your life?

Welcome to a little story about a very big idea. This compelling modern-day parable tells the story of Ordinary, who dares to leave the Land of Familiar to pursue his Big Dream.

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Let Bruce Wilkinson show you how to rise above the ordinary, conquer your fears, and overcome the obstacles that keep you from living your Big Dream.



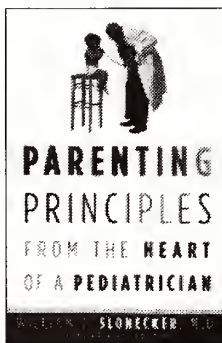
**DISCIPLESHIP COUNSELING**, by Dr. Neil T. Anderson, (Regal, \$24.99, softcover).

Building on the concepts found in *Victory Over the Darkness* and *The Bondage Breaker*, Neil Anderson's counseling ministry guide provides clear information and excellent models to help you understand what

discipleship counseling is all about. If you're a pastor, counselor, or lay leader, this resource will make you more comfortable, confident, and competent in your role as an encourager. In turn, this will help you free people from their emotional pain and spiritual conflicts, as you guide them to a more complete understanding of who they are in Christ.

Specific counseling areas covered in depth include:

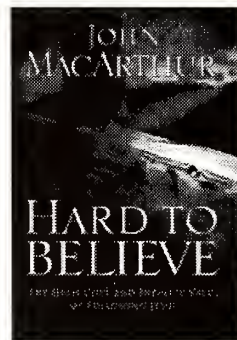
- Defining mental health and understanding how biblical counseling addresses the whole person—body, soul, and spirit.
- Counseling the spirituality oppressed and counseling in Christ to resolve the root issues.
- Overcoming false guidance, deception, bitterness, and rebellion.
- Helping others experience freedom in Christ.



**PARENTING PRINCIPLES FROM THE HEART OF A PEDIATRICIAN**, by William T. Slonecker, M.D. with Chris Slonecker, (Broadman and Holman, \$12.99, softcover).

*Parenting Principles From the Heart of a Pediatrician* is for:

- Parents—who desire to instill family values in their children from a Biblical perspective and a pediatrician's heart.
- Children—in a pursuit to see them have a better chance to know and love God.
- Families—to aid in the repair of this vital institution established by God.



**HARD TO BELIEVE**, by John MacArthur, (Thomas Nelson Publishers, \$22.99, hardcover).

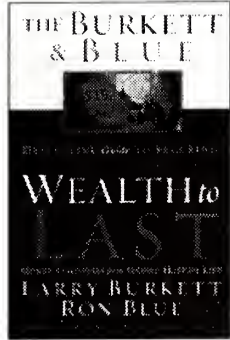
There is no user-friendly, seeker-sensitive Gospel. There is only the truth. Ministers and teachers who water down the Gospel of Christ in order to make it more popular and appealing may be leading their fun-loving audiences down the road to eternal punishment.

This book is John MacArthur's unflinching, unapologetic treatise on the modern tendency to alter the true message of Christianity in order to meet the whims and desires of a culture hoping for nonconfrontational messages, easy answers, and superficial commitments.

Too many people just want a Madison Avenue Jesus to make them well, make them happy, and make them prosperous. But Jesus Christ isn't a personal genie. He is the Savior. He died in agony to satisfy the wrath of a holy God and to forgive the sins of humankind. Faith in Him demands a willingness to make any sacrifice He asks. The hard truth about Christianity is that the cost is high, but the rewards are priceless: abundant and eternal life that comes only from faithfully following Christ.

These and other titles, as well as other Sunday School Curriculum and church supplies are available at **YOUR Christian Resource Centers: The Bible Bookstores of Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson** or you may order by phone at (800) 849-3927. Mention this ad for a 20% discount.





**WEALTH TO LAST**, by Larry Burkett and Ron Blue with Jeremy White, CPA, (Broadman & Holman Publishers, \$22.99, hardcover).

**Financial Wisdom for the Second Half of Life**

You probably have heard people joke, "I've run out of money before I ran out of month!" Well, because of a less-than-predictable stock market and increased longevity, thousands of baby boomers are fearful of "running out of money before they run out of life." And, for them, it's no laughing matter. Maybe *you* are one of these people. You've seen "seniors" clearing tables at your favorite fast-food places, and you've wondered if they're doing this just to "stay busy"...or because they need the hourly wage to survive. If this anxious person sounds like it could be you, you've come to the right place. Congratulations. This book is exactly what you're looking for.

"We see more fear in the age group of fifty and over. On a positive note, we see more potential for God's Kingdom in this same group. Our goal with this book is to help people with their fear, their worry, and their stewardship potential."—from the Introduction of *Wealth to Last*.

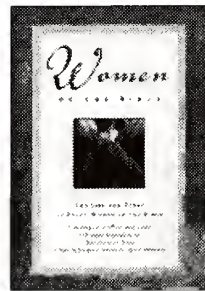


**IT'S TIME TO BE BOLD**, by Michael W. Smith with Foreword by Dan Haseltine, *Jars of Clay*, (\$12.99, softcover).

In this call to radical faith, Michael W. Smith steps out of his comfort zone to reach people the way Christ

did—by sharing his life with them. In *It's Time to Be Bold*, Michael tells the stories behind many of his best-loved songs, shares letters from fans and friends, and gives you a glimpse into his personal, private relationships to show how they are all part of his vision for people to be bold for Christ.

At a time when it's cool to be bored by your religion, Michael W. Smith expresses a faith that is dangerous and bold in its passion for God.



**WOMEN OF THE BIBLE**, *The Life and Times of Every Woman in the Bible* (Nelson, \$16.99, hardcover).

*A heart of passion, of purpose*—God has always sought a woman with these characteristics—a heart to change the world, passion to make a difference, and a purpose for life, no matter how great or small.

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- Scripture and topic indexes for quick access to important information.

*Women of the Bible* will help you discover God's heart for you through His Word—story by story, woman by woman.



**MEN OF THE BIBLE**, *The Life and Times of Every Man in the Bible* (Nelson, \$16.99, hardcover).

*Strength formed from dust*. God made man in His own image, fashioning him from dust and breathing life into him. From Adam to Zuriashaddai, kings to thieves, men of the Bible have shaped history. Some were faithful heroes, while others were villains. Yet God used all of these men to achieve great things.

God still seeks men who can change the world and make a difference, no matter how great or small. Step into the incredible world of the Bible and meet the remarkable men God used to tell His story.

The profiles, in-depth features, topical studies, and expository analysis reveal that each man mentioned in the Bible is not there by chance, but is instead a lesson of faith.

- A to Z<sup>®</sup> profiles of every man in the Bible.
- Biographical data and Scripture references for each man.
- Topical studies and an in-depth look at the various roles of men in the Bible.
- Fact-filled charts, easy-to-read maps, and thought-provoking sidebars.
- Scripture and topic indexes for quick access to important information.

*Men of the Bible* represents God's biblical model for manhood and the personal relationship He desires with men. It will help you discover God's heart for you through His Word—story by story, man by man.



THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST  
**MONTHLY PLANNER**  
**December 2003**



**FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH**

*Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.*

| SUNDAY | MONDAY                                                                                                     | TUESDAY                                                                        | WEDNESDAY                                                                       | THURSDAY                                                                         | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                  |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|
|        | 1<br>Central Conference<br>Layman's League Meeting, Tarboro Church<br>Meal—6:30 P.M.<br>Business—7:30 P.M. | 2<br>MOC Choir Concert                                                         | 3                                                                               | 4<br>MOC Christmas Buffet                                                        | 5      | 6                         |
| 7      | 8                                                                                                          | 9<br>Chaplain's Commission National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces | 10<br>Chaplain's Commission National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces | 11<br>7:00 P.M. Layman's League Executive Board Meeting, VFW Building, Snow Hill | 12     | 13<br>MOC Fall Graduation |
| 14     | 15                                                                                                         | 16                                                                             | 17                                                                              | 18                                                                               | 19     | 20                        |
| 21     | 22                                                                                                         | 23                                                                             | 24                                                                              | 25<br>MERRY CHRISTMAS!                                                           | 26     | 27                        |
| 28     | 29                                                                                                         | 30                                                                             | 31                                                                              |                                                                                  |        |                           |

NOTES:

# CHURCHES & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**MT. ZION CHURCH**, Nashville, is seeking a full time Pastor. Please send a resume and references to Ronald Bass, Chair Pulpit Committee, 1372 S. Old Franklin Rd., Nashville, NC 27856 or e-mail to <jmodlin@louisburg.edu>.

**MARSH SWAMP CHURCH**, Wilson County, is seeking a full time Youth Director. Interested persons should contact Nancy Boykin at 3603 West Court W, Wilson, NC 27893-8099 or call her at (252) 291-5683 or e-mail her at <nancyboykin@hotmail.com>.

**THE REVEREND JACK WEATHERSBY** is available for supply, fill-in, or interim pastoral services and revivals in Pitt and adjacent counties. You may contact him at (252) 756-7777.

**ERIC TRENT**, licensed minister and preaching since 1992, is available for evangelism, pulpit supply, missionary work, revivals, youth pastor, or prayer breakfasts. For more information, contact him at (919) 736-7063.

**SAINTS DELIGHT CHURCH**, Ormondsville, Greene County, is beginning the search for the position of full-time pastor. For more information, contact Greg Baldwin at (252) 752-1711.

**UNION CHAPEL CHURCH**, Plymouth, Washington County, is seeking a man called by God to serve as pastor—to faithfully preach the Word and to advance the cause of Christ. For more information, please contact Tony Hawkins at (252) 793-3955 or Wayne Britt at (252) 927-4507.

**THE REVEREND PETE RAWLS** has been cleared by the Board of Ordination of the Cape Fear Conference and is available to serve as pastor, for pulpit supply, and for revivals. He may be contacted by mail at 1639-A Powhatan Rd, Clayton, NC 27520 or by phone at (919) 989-3190.

**KEITH GARDNER**, a graduate of Liberty University and an ordained pastor in the Free Will Baptist Denomination is available to assist churches in the absence of a pastor, either weekly or on an interim basis. For more information, you may call (252) 756-9853 or e-mail at <kgardner@geeksnets.com>.

## PLEASE KEEP IN MIND

The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December.) You may submit articles by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*  
PO Box 159  
Ayden, NC 28513.

\*NO PHONE-IN OR HANDWRITTEN INFORMATION WILL BE ACCEPTED!

Advertising submissions will run for a maximum of 2 months only. Submissions for *Churches & Ministry Positions Available* and *Personal Information Changes* will be run for 2 months. A re-submission is required for these columns.

God shocked the world  
with a Babe, not a bomb.

## PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

The Reverend Wayne Watson  
818 Hwy 111 N  
Beulaville, NC 28518  
(910) 298-6333

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