



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

<https://archive.org/details/freewillbaptists1271free>

T F W B

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST



January 2012

FROM THE CREATORS OF FIREPROOF



DVD coming
January 17, 2012
Pre-order your copy today!

Our price: \$19.97
Retail: \$24.99

HONOR BEGINS AT HOME

COURAGEOUS

Christian retail version includes extra footage/bonus material not found in other retail stores.

Ayden Bookstore
1-800-849-3927

Kinston Bookstore
1-800-875-8049

New Bern Bookstore
1-800-875-8048

2012

January

Retirement Homes Month

The Original Free Will Baptist Monthly Planner

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6 Epiphany	7
8	9	10 Kinston Bookstore Grand Re-opening	11	12	13	14
15 Retirement Homes Sunday	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Kinston Bookstore Ribbon Cutting Ceremony	26	27	28
29	30	31				

REFLECTIONS

with C. H. Overman

MY MINISTRY AT ROSE HILL CHURCH

Leaving a church after serving as pastor has never been an easy decision to make. The same can be said of resigning my position at Rose Hill Church this past July as Associate Pastor of Senior Ministries. Each church served over the years has created new friends and special fellowships. This has proven true at Rose Hill.

In the Fall of 2003 I was approached by a leading member of the church and one I had known for many years, Delano Wilson, and the pastor, Leon Harris, and asked if I would consider accepting the role of associate pastor, and then they explained what I would primarily be doing. I didn't give them an answer that day. I needed some time to consider the matter, so I decided to wait until the first of 2004. At that time I was serving as supply pastor at Malachi Chapel Church, Columbia, NC, one of the churches I served at the beginning of my ministry. This only included each Sunday morning service. Around the first of 2004 I decided to accept the position at Rose Hill, with the understanding that I would continue with Malachi until they secured a pastor. Later in the year Brother Walter Reynolds and I rotated every other Sunday until they secured Brother Robert May as regular pastor.

My primary responsibilities at Rose Hill were to visit the shut-ins and those in the nursing homes. The pastor would continue the hospital visits. The number varied from week to week and at times when they entered the hospital I would also visit them there. My ministry grew after the church purchased a bus and the senior members became interested in taking

trips and one of the first was to visit Cragmont Assembly for a few days in October. Later on we adopted the name "Rose Hill Sunrisers" and the trips became more frequent. The name and purpose of the group was officially approved by the church and later a larger bus was purchased. These trips proved to be a great time of fellowship as we visited various parts of eastern Carolina.

My visits to the shut-ins created some close friendships but, sad to say, as time passed, many of them passed on to their heavenly reward. Visiting them was a blessing. Fifteen and twenty minute visits usually stretched into thirty minutes or an hour.

In July of 2011, I announced my resignation as Associate Pastor at Rose Hill. The decision was not easy and my reasons were profound—partly because of my health problems and also the desire for more free time on my own. As planned, we have moved our membership back to the Ayden Church, a church where I served as pastor and where I have had special ties over the years.

We are grateful for the opportunity we've had to serve Rose Hill Church. They blessed us and helped us in many ways, both financially and spiritually. My 80th birthday was a great event for me and my family. For the fundraising dinner to help with our granddaughter's operation at Duke Hospital almost two years ago we will be forever grateful. We will miss some of the Pastor Appreciation, birthday, and Christmas gift cards, etc. Thanks Rose Hill for a wonderful "trip."



C. H. Overman was born in Wayne County, NC. He became a member of Union Grove Church at the age of 14. He was ordained into the Gospel ministry in August of 1952. Throughout the years he has served as pastor of 12 churches and served on various boards and committees. He taught in the public schools for 20 years, served as editor of FWB Press for more the 16 years, and general secretary of the OFWB Convention for more than five years. He has resided in Ayden since 1958. He is married to Ruby N. Allen and they have four children and five grandchildren.



CHURCH & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Folkstone Church, Eastern Conference, is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send your résumé with a DVD of a recent sermon to: Carl Duff, 206 Tar Landing Rd., Holly Ridge, NC 28445.

Div. Sch.
 BX
 6393
 .F744
 v.130
 2012

FEATURES & COLUMNS

- 2** Reflections with C.H. Overman
- 4** Winners' Street Kids' Club Reaches Families With the Gospel
- 27** Pondering the Past with Celia Hales
- 30** A Sling and a Stone with Marc Boswell
- 31** Psalms for the Soul with Linda Herring

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- 6** Retirement Homes
- 8** FWB Press
- 11** Sunday School
- 12** Children's Home
- 16** Foreign Missions
- 20** Mount Olive College

ANCILLARY MINISTRIES

- 28** NC Foundation for Christian Ministries
- 32** Woman's Auxiliary

33 COMMUNITY CONNECTION

RECEIVED

JAN 17 2012

DIVINITY SCHOOL LIBRARY
 DUKE UNIVERSITY

ON THE COVER

The Staff of the Free Will Baptist Press and Copypro technicians standing around the new digital press that was installed the week of December 5, 2011.

Editor
Darren E. Davenport
 editor@fwbpress.com
Production Manager
Jerry Goff
 jerry@fwbpress.com
Circulation, Accounts Receivable
Amy Stokes
 amy@fwbpress.com
Accounts Payable
Wallie Hargrove
Editorial Assistants
Dixie McLawhorn, Carlton Oakley
Graphic Designers
Jerry Goff, Amy Benson,
Nathaniel Ingram, Dixie McLawhorn
Production Team
Ronnie Jones, Ted Johnston,
Joshua Roundtree, Johnnie Stancill
Editor Emeritus
C. H. Overman



www.fwbpress.com

President

Jeff Daughtry
 jeff@fwbpress.com

Board of Directors

- Frank Flowers (Chairman), Central
- C. H. Overman (Vice Chairman), Central
- Royce Reynolds (Secretary), Albemarle
- Joe Ballance, Cape Fear
- Kelley Smart, Central
- Mike Scott, Eastern
- Nancy Hardee, Pee Dee
- Mark Hobbs, Central
- Loydene Proctor, Western

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.

Subscription Prices: All subscriptions are payable in advance: 1 year (12 issues) \$15
 2 years (24 issues) \$27
 4 years (48 issues) \$53.

A **Bundle Plan** (\$8.50 each) and an **Every-Family Plan** (\$11.75 each) is also available. Call or e-mail circulation or the editor for more details.

© 2011 *The Free Will Baptist* • All Rights Reserved.

The Free Will Baptist is edited and published monthly by the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc., 3928 Lee Street, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159. Second-class postage paid at Ayden, North Carolina (USPS 2094-4000).

Winners' Street Kids' Club Reaches Families With the Gospel

For a number of years, several ministries across the United States have been taking the message of Christ into local communities through what is commonly referred to as "Sidewalk Sunday Schools" or "Backyard Bible Clubs." For the past five years, the First Church of Wilson has been reaching out to children and their families through their version of this approach with what they call "The Winners' Street Kids' Club." Essentially, the Winners' Street Kids' Club is a mobile Children's Church program that takes the Gospel message to the neighborhoods where children and their families live. This type of outreach may also work very well for a number of other Free Will Baptist Churches seeking to reach families.

The Wilson effort began when Associate Pastor Doug Radford, along with several volunteers, gained permission to use a vacant lot in a nearby community as a site to teach children about God. According to Doug, "After passing out some flyers for a few days, we simply set up some chairs and a couple of tables and had children's church there on the ground." The response was very encouraging, as 25 to 30 kids joined them for a number of consecutive Thursday afternoon Winners' Street Kids' Club sessions. This success opened the door for them to bus many of the participating children to First Church's Vacation Bible School that summer and then to their ongoing Wednesday night children's and youth sessions. The bus ministry continues today, with some of the children and youth who were at the first Winners' Street Kids' Club five years ago, still regularly attending Wednesday night activities at the church. Some of these students have also participated in summer camps, youth trips, Christmas programs, and other church events. Most importantly, they continue to be taught God's Word on a regular basis, and several have made professions of faith in Christ.

Excited by the early successes, First Church decided to continue to use the Winners' Street Kids' Club approach in other areas of Wilson. In 2007 their Men's Fellowship Outreach purchased a used, 16 foot enclosed trailer that was then modified for outreach. An 8 by 16 foot platform was added to the side and constructed so that it can be lowered and raised with an electric winch. A retractable canopy provides an overhead covering for the platform when in use. The side of the trailer has a "kid friendly" mural that serves as a backdrop. A large flat screen television is used to display video and PowerPoint from a DVD player and laptop

computer. A portable sound system is also used during the Kids' Club events. Power is provided by using batteries and an inverter. Essentially, the trailer is a portable children's church that features all the equipment that is typically found inside a church classroom. It is important to note though, that with a couple of basic, inexpensive items that are often already available at many churches, an effective children's and family outreach can be accomplished. While the modified trailer provides a great presence and enhances the presentation, it is not an absolute necessity for this sort of ministry. The trailer does come in handy for other uses at the church though, and is not limited to being utilized just for outreach.

The weekly one-hour Winners' Street sessions include games, rewards for Bible verse memorization, an interactive Bible lesson, prayer, and other activities. Messages focus on salvation as well as other practical aspects of godly living. Kids' Club has also been used to discourage gang activity among students by including a member of the Wilson Police Department as a speaker. Sessions are energetic and engaging for the children and adults who attend. Pizza parties and other special events are also occasionally incorporated into the Kids' Club schedule.

Winners' Street also offers a great opportunity for First Church adults, youth, and children to serve while gaining practical ministry experience. Several teenagers, retirees, and others routinely assist with setting up and breaking down the equipment, registering children, and helping with games. Volunteer Cathy Jones works regularly at the Kids' Club along with her 10 year-old son, Andrew. After helping with a Kids' Club series in a poor neighborhood, Mrs. Jones noted that, "being a part of our Kids' Club has really had an impact on Andrew's life. This became evident when we drove by a large building that was for sale and Andrew told me he wished we could buy it. When I asked him why, he said that he would let people who didn't have a home live there and would give everyone who came a Bible so they could learn about Jesus. As his mother, I realized then just how blessed we were to be a part of such a wonderful outreach."

Kids' Club does not require an excessive number of volunteers to be done smoothly and effectively. Two or three adults can manage a well-planned Kids' Club that involves 40 or more children. This fact alone makes the in-community based approach most practical for many churches that may

have limited numbers of staff and available volunteers. Bus ministries and other outreaches typically raise issues of cost, liability, and the need for more assistance than are sometimes available. Kids' Clubs can be done very efficiently using resources that are often already available at your church.

Besides an ongoing ministry, a Kids' Club type event can also be a one-time promotional outreach for your church or an upcoming happening such as VBS. First Church has done several "block party" outreaches where they served hot dogs, gave away freeze-pops, offered free clothing that had been collected from the congregation, played games, and gave away prizes. According to Pastor Doug, "These serve as great kick-offs for a series of Winners' Street sessions for a given neighborhood." Pastor Doug believes that "simply waiting around for children and families to come into our churches is not a very effective strategy. While there are many different ways for a church to reach out to their community, going into a neighborhood where people live, and showing them that you care enough to invest some time and resources is a good approach." God's Word clearly directs us to be proactive in our efforts to spread the Good News into every part of our world, both far and near. While foreign missions for most of us is focused on sending and supporting those who have been called by God to go, local missions is most leveraged when we all get actively involved. This certainly includes personal evangelism in the workplace, social settings, and other interactions. However, there are many other effective strategies and approaches for this most important endeavor, to which we all have been appointed by God. A Kids' Club type outreach is one of those potential ministries.

Doug hopes other churches that desire to reach children will consider a Kids' Club type outreach. He feels that



Outreach Trailer Set Up for a Winners' Street Kids' Club Session



Club Participants Playing a Game on the Trailer Platform

reaching out to children is an especially great way to grow God's kingdom and reach families. According to Doug, "Many of the parents have told us how much they appreciate our efforts with their children; they also call or come by just to talk about parenting, spiritual matters, and other needs as well." Several families have attended services at First Church after learning

about them through the Kids' Club, and now have ongoing relationships with the church.

Pastor Doug is very willing to answer questions or assist other churches in beginning a Kids' Club outreach ministry. He can be reached at First Church of Wilson at (252) 291-6446, ext. 222.



FREE WILL BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES

Wow. The year 2011 has come and gone. It is so hard to imagine how quickly it has happened. It seems like just a short time ago I was reminiscing about 2010 and how God has blessed this ministry. As we prepare to move into 2012, we look at doing even greater things for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is allowing us to share his blessing with those who need our help. This ministry continues to be blessed beyond our expectations.

As the year 2011 began, we found this ministry in the same situation as many of our churches and brothers and sisters in Christ when it comes to the economic situation. The Board of Directors and staff of this ministry are again stepping out on faith because we believe God will supply our needs to get the job done. We have set a budget in place to guide us during this upcoming year and we are expecting God to work through our churches and people to meet this budget.

This ministry now serves 21 clients on a regular basis. From time to time we serve other seniors who find themselves in a needful situation. Due to the economic downturn, we have added five new clients since last year and now have three applications for assistance waiting to be processed. If these are added, as I believe they will be, there will be a total of 24 clients in which this ministry serves. This will be the largest number of people being served by this ministry since I became director seven years ago. This is wonderful—except for one big thing. The overall giving from our churches has not increased in this seven-year period. The amount of money now being used to help our clients is equal to our income and this leaves no room for repairs and maintenance, administration, or other things that have to be cared for.

We were tremendously blessed to have very little damage to our duplex and storage buildings from hurricane Irene. We had a little shingle damage to both buildings, but it was minor. The main

damage we had was in the rear of the duplex. Two trees, that were located there, decided to topple. The result of this was the crushing of a utility building and carport and the destruction of our chain link fence around the property. God took care of Kaye Jones, who lives in the duplex, during the storm and, except for a period without electricity, she was fine. She did lose some food, but otherwise was unscathed.

We continue to be blessed with disability equipment. It is amazing how people have donated to this part of our ministry. It is a constant merry go round with much of this equipment. It goes out and is returned and it goes right back out again. This is great because it is saving our folks a lot of money from not renting or purchasing some of this equipment. I would estimate that the amount of money we are saving our folks annually would be in the neighborhood of \$3,000.

We have on hand equipment such as hospital beds, wheelchairs (manual and electric), walkers, bedside commodes, shower chairs, recliner/lift chairs, walkers, canes, and crutches. Please contact us if you are in need of a disability item and if we have it you can borrow it and it will not cost you anything.

The recliner/lift chairs are one of our hottest items. I cannot keep them on hand because so many people are in need of one. We have 13 of these chairs in our inventory and all are on loan at the present. We are beginning to be in need of manual wheelchairs. The few we have on hand now are in bad shape. So many have been loaned out and have not yet returned that we are practically out of them. If you know of someone who has a recliner/lift chair and/or a manual wheelchair that they do not know what to do with, please let me know. We can definitely use them.

Another hot item is seated walkers. These are in high demand because they are so useful to those who cannot walk long distances. We only have

RETIREMENT MINISTRY BOARD MEMBERS

- **The Reverend Jerry English**
Eastern Conference Representative
Chairman
- **Mr. Reginald Parker**
Cape Fear Conference Representative
Secretary
- **Mrs. Jean McPherson**
Pee Dee Association Representative
- **The Reverend Michael Barnhill**
Eastern Conference Representative
- **The Reverend Louis Godwin**
Central Conference Representative
- **The Reverend Clifford Ball**
Central Conference Representative
Vice Chairman
- **Mrs. Sondra Thick**
Western Conference Representative
Assistant Secretary
- **Mr. George Wooten**
Central Conference Representative
- **Mr. Lloyd Jones**
Albemarle Conference Representative
- **The Reverend Dr. Tom Parrish**
Piedmont Conference Representative

Our prayers from Retirement Homes are for you to have a very happy and prosperous year ahead and that we can work together to make this ministry the very best it can be. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the financial support and prayer support you have given and covet them continuously.

Ronnie Taylor, Executive Director

four of this type of walker and they are always on loan. If your church or some group within your church is looking for a special project, you may want to take on purchasing the seated type walker for our inventory.

When you are not in need of such items as we have available, you may not think about how wonderful this program is. We think if you would ask Ms. Nancy Reeves of Pireway Church in the Pee Dee Association if this part of our program is beneficial, we believe she would shout, "yes!" We were able to supply Sister Reeves with an electric wheelchair. Her pastor

told me that during their revival she rode that chair to church every night. She lives not too far from the church, but this chair made it possible for her to attend.

We do not purchase any equipment we have in our inventory, but repairs have to be done and when we have to purchase batteries for the wheelchairs the cost is about \$200 for each chair. We deliver equipment items if necessary and this year alone we have traveled to Bladenboro, Tabor City, Greensboro, and Elizabeth City as well as many places closer to Ayden.

We covet your prayers and

continued support for this ministry. We are asking pastors, Woman's Auxiliary presidents, Layman's League presidents, and other groups please invite Retirement Homes to come to your church or meeting to tell you all about the wonderful things the ministry has to offer our people.

Please remember that January is Retirement Homes month and the 15th is Retirement Homes Sunday. If your church could take up a special offering that Sunday it would be appreciated, and if your church doesn't have us in their budget, please work to get us there.



20/20 VISION

Since 1873, the Free Will Baptist Press has been reporting the news to the people of the Free Will Baptist Church. The Press prints the “Good News” through Sunday School literature and the news of our denomination through our monthly magazine, *The Free Will Baptist*. We get the Word out through the sale of Bibles and Christian books at our three bookstores, located in Ayden, Kinston, and New Bern. We also assist our churches and ministries in proclaiming the Good News by supplying their printing needs.

Looking back reminds us that The Press is the denomination’s oldest ministry and Pitt County’s oldest continuous business. With that history we must look to the future to maintain those titles. The future brings many questions and opportunities. The printing and publishing industry continues to be a rapidly changing business. Books and magazines look and feel different than we are used to, and people no

longer shop as before. The Free Will Baptist Church deserves the best quality in printing, news delivery, and bookstores possible. The Press must meet these challenges!

The Board of Directors is aware of these challenges and is working setting goals and developing plans to achieve those goals. Below is the beginning of “2020 Vision,” which will be a clear picture of our goals and vision for The Press by the year 2020.

The future is bright for The Press, and it is an exciting time to be a part of this ministry. The Board of Directors, personnel, and I appreciate you joining with us in this important service to the Free Will Baptist Church.

Sincerely,
Jefferson D. Daughtry
President

Since July 1, we have completed the following:

- New website at www.fwbpress.com,
- *The Free Will Baptist* on the website,
- Kinston Bible Bookstore moved to the Vernon Park Mall,
- Evaluated the need for and have leased a new digital press,
- New greeting card displays in our bookstores,
- Published a special edition of *The Free Will Baptist*.

To help us have a clear vision for the future, we would like to hear from you.

- How can The Press better serve the Free Will Baptist Church?
- What items would you like to be able to purchase at the bookstores?
- What type of articles would you like to read in *The Free Will Baptist*?
- How can we improve our Sunday School literature?
- Are there other needs The Press should be meeting?

Free Will Baptist Press

Four Areas of Ministry

Literature Magazine Bookstores Printing

Sunday School Literature

- Examine our current literature
- Examine literature of other companies
- Study current needs and wants of the Free Will Baptist Denomination
- Identify writers and persons whose calling is writing Christian literature

The Free Will Baptist Magazine

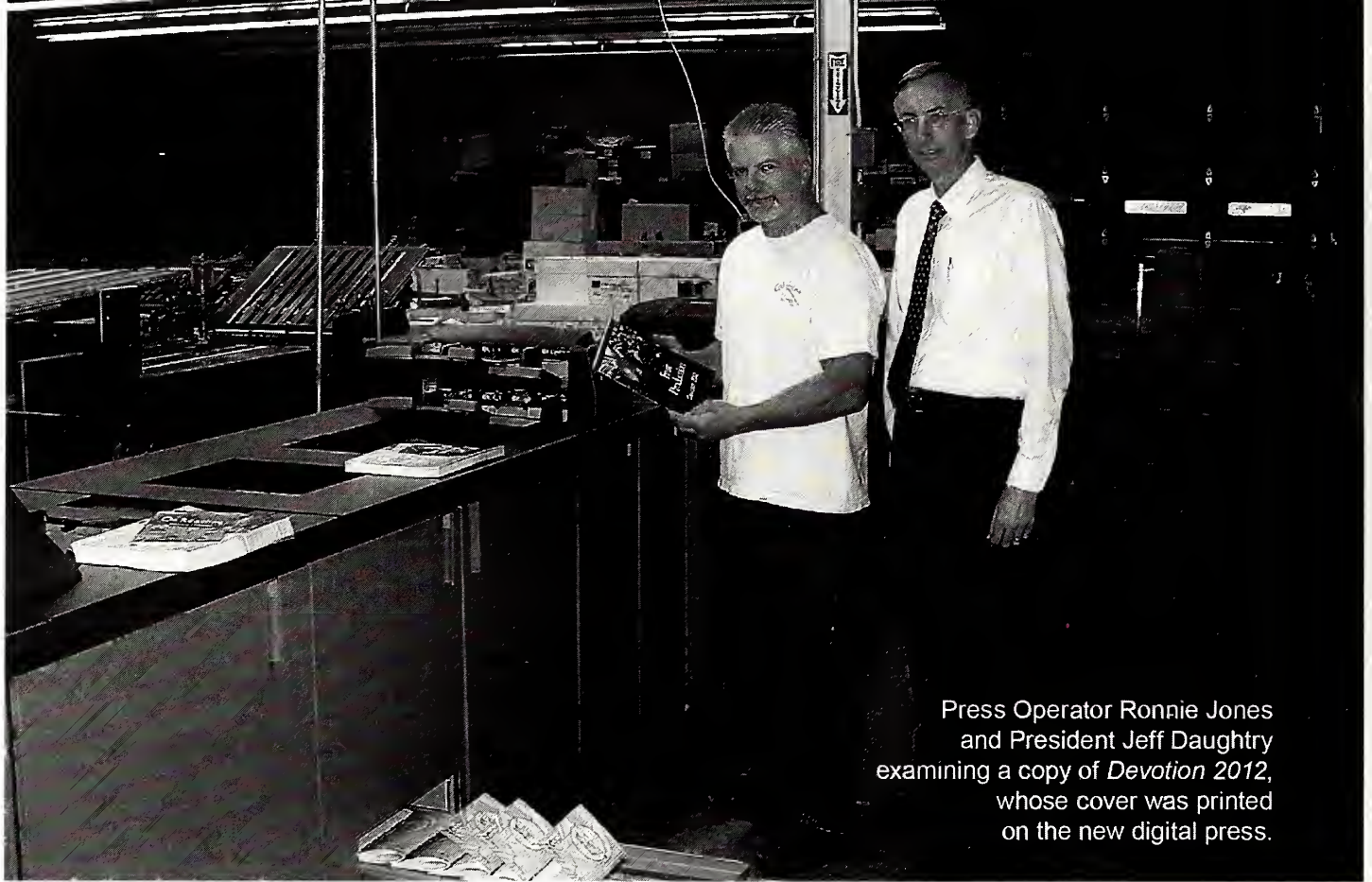
- Improve the look and content
- What do Free Will Baptists want in our magazine?
- Identify writers and appropriate articles
- Improve circulation

Bookstores

- Online shopping through our website
- Point-of-sale capability for checkout, inventory control, and billing
- Adequately merchandise the stores
- Evaluate the location of our stores and the opening of other stores
- Create a Bookstore Experience

Printing

- Print church bulletins and newsletters
- Meet all of our church's printing needs
- Publish and print more books
- Our new press allows us to print small quantities with a print-on-demand feature.
- Print denominational resources
- Publish eBooks



Press Operator Ronnie Jones and President Jeff Daughtry examining a copy of *Devotion 2012*, whose cover was printed on the new digital press.

MOVING ON UP

The Press Installs New Technology

BY DARREN DAVENPORT, EDITOR

The Free Will Baptist Press has taken a leap of faith into the world of digital print technology. This is new and exciting territory for our staff as it will allow us to better serve the Free Will Baptist Denomination, as well as our other clientele. Through a partnership with Copypro of Greenville, we are leasing a new digital press that will enable us to produce saddlestitched or perfect bound magazines and perfect bound books up to 600 pages. The digital press will produce primarily black and white material. However, up to 20 pages of color can be inserted into any publication. All this with clean, professional quality.

The new president of The Press, Jeff Daughtry, stated, "This is an important time for the Free Will Baptist Church. This digital press will enable us to print almost anything with color, including *The Free Will Baptist* and our Sunday School literature." This major step reinforces Mr. Daughtry's belief that The Press should not beg for your business—we should earn it!

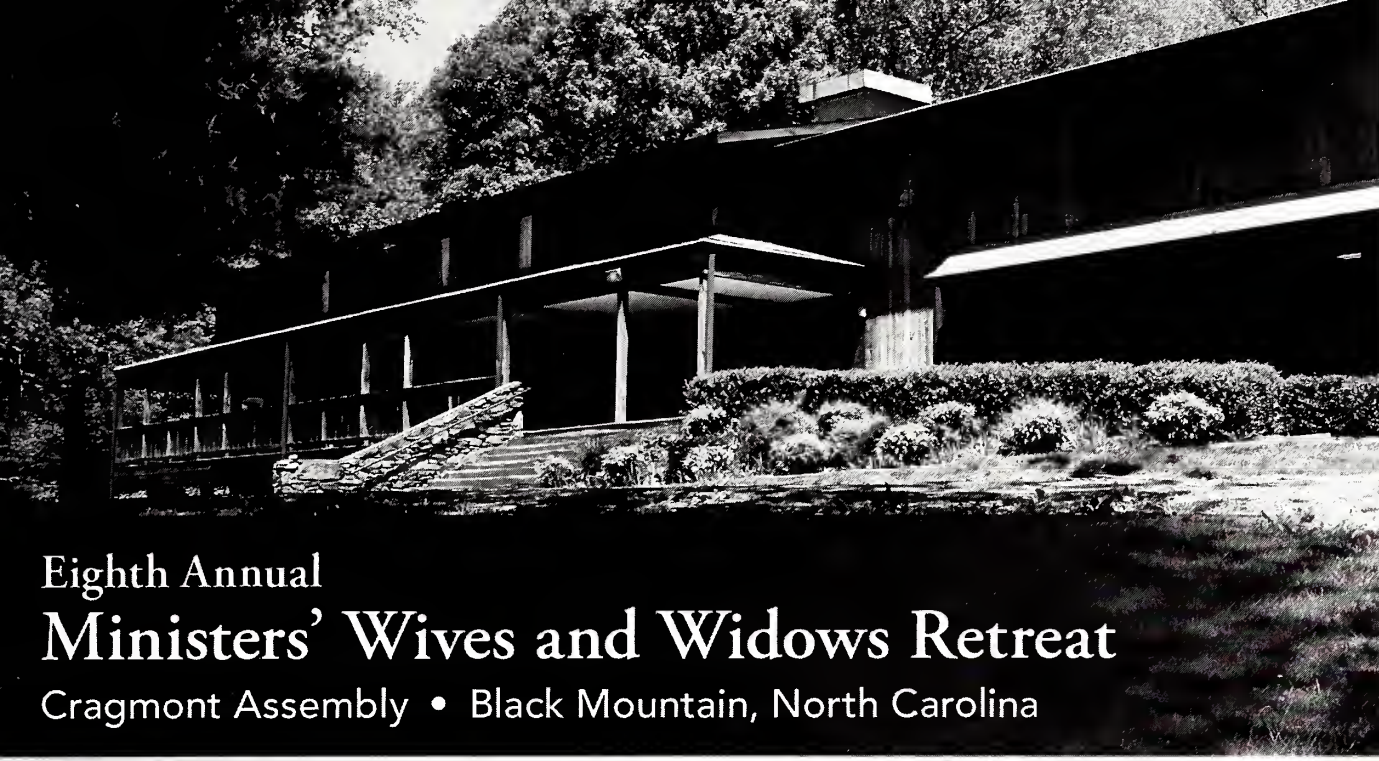


If you would like further information on our new equipment and its capabilities, or if we can help you with any of your printing needs, you may contact us toll free at 800-849-3927 or by e-mail at <jerry@fwbpress.com>.



P.O. Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513 • (252) 746.4963 • www.ofwbsundayschool.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY



Eighth Annual Ministers' Wives and Widows Retreat

Cragmont Assembly • Black Mountain, North Carolina

The Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry is again sponsoring the Eighth Annual Ministers' Wives and Widows Retreat at Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain, North Carolina, beginning Thursday, January 26 and ending with Sunday morning worship on January 29, 2012. This year we will be focusing on a Bible study entitled, "The Verbs of God" by Margaret Feinberg. The discussion sessions will focus on, "Where is God when you need Him?" Through these sessions, it is hoped that one might come to understand God's active nature and realize He is always active and engaged in our lives. Even when we can't see Him, we know He is constantly on the move and working. During the weekend you may choose to shop, hike, sleep, sing, or just relax in front of the fire. We feel that this is truly going to be an uplifting weekend for the minister's wife or widow. We will have several special activities available during the spare time as well to help us relax and reflect. We will be making jewelry, having spa sessions, and other surprises.

Registration is simple. Complete the following information and mail it to Mary Dudley at P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC, 28513. The information could also be emailed to <director@ofwbsundayschool.org>. The cost of the weekend is \$150 inclusive. The registration should be received by January 21, 2012. If you need it, transportation will be arranged for you. We are hoping to have a comfortable bus for travel. If you are not already a member, we invite you to come and become a member of the Cinderella Sisters Support Group. (You can also register online by going to our website: <www.ofwbsundayschool.org>).

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30).



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Any special diet needs you might have: _____



Children's Home President/CEO Earns Executive Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership



Gary Lee, President/CEO of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Middlesex, NC, recently earned his Executive Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership through the Duke University Continuing Studies program. The Executive Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership is a 50-hour comprehensive program that offers experienced nonprofit professionals the opportunity to increase their capacity for effective entrepreneurial leadership through applied theoretical studies, executive skills training, and reflective practices in an

interactive learning environment. Composed of nationally known experts from Duke University and leading practitioners, the faculty provides interactive instruction and practical resources to enhance and expand participants' skills in nonprofit leadership.

Mr. Lee also received a \$750 scholarship to attend the program through Duke University.

Mr. Lee stated, "The leadership studies allowed me to work with other nonprofit professionals from various backgrounds and organizations. I was particularly interested in networking with those who work from faith-based ministries like our Children's Home. This opportunity allowed me to challenge myself and better understand my leadership style."

In 2009, Mr. Lee earned a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Duke University.

Mr. Lee has served as the President/CEO of Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Inc. since 2008. He also had served The Home in several capacities during the previous 17 years.

Mr. Lee's educational background includes degrees from Johnston Community College, a Bachelor's degree from Mount Olive College in Business Administration, and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Campbell University. Mr. Lee resides in Four Oaks, NC with his wife, Janet, and their two children, Peyton and Reagan. He is a member of Faith Original Free Will Baptist Church, Four Oaks, NC.



Campus Addition

The Children's Home Campus has a new addition. In late November, Mr. Henry C. Cowin came to the campus to deliver and set up a gift—a statue he had constructed. Rose of Sharon pastor, Bryant Hines, and other members and friends came to help with the delivery.

Mr. Cowin lives in Beargrass, North Carolina with his wife, Johnna, and is a member of Rose of Sharon Church. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. He was employed with Weyhaeuser Corporation, where he retired with more than 36 years of service. Since his children have started families of their own and moved away, Mr. Cowin has more time to spend on what started as a childhood hobby.

As a child, Mr. Cowin always enjoyed working with clay, not modeling clay like you could buy from the store, but clay dirt that he found in the fields and yard. He would take the clay and mold and shape it into animals and figures.

Since his renewed interest in molding and sculpturing, he has been commissioned by local businesses and groups to make statues. The statues he makes now are not made of clay; they are made of solid concrete, rebar, and hardware cloth. He molds and shapes the concrete into any thing imaginable. His work can be seen all around Beargrass. Two high schools in the surrounding area display school mascots that were handmade by Mr. Cowin, a huge black bear for Beargrass High School and a Falcon for Bertie High School. One of his most recent statues has been placed on the campus of the Children's Home. Located on the lawn between the administrative office and Memorial Chapel you will find the statue depicting Jesus with his arms outstretched, as if He is welcoming children into his arms.

We are very thankful to Mr. Cowin for sharing this gift with the children, the staff, and all who visit the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.



What's Happening at The Home?

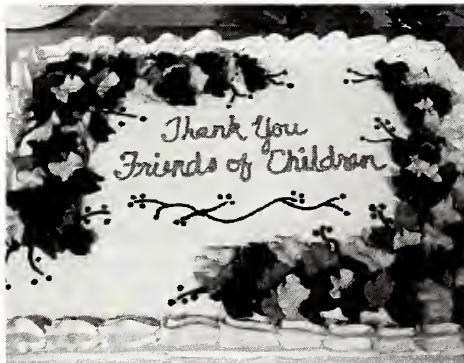


Things have been quite busy at The Home for the past few months. The children and staff have enjoyed time together through several different events. During November, Children's Home month, we enjoyed your many visits, cards, and gifts.

Just as Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome, "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world" (Romans 1:8).

On November 12, the children were treated to their first Christmas party for 2011. This is an annual event sponsored by the Crusaders For Christ Sunday School Class, Stoney Creek Church, Goldsboro, with the help of other Sunday School Classes, groups, and individuals from within the church. Community groups and local churches also participated by sponsoring

children and hosting activities. The evening's activities began with "fill your own stocking," "how much is inside," corn hole game, make your own craft, and other fun activities, including a visit with Santa, face painting, and a demonstration from the K-9 unit of the local law enforcement agency. A delicious meal was served, with the Children and staff being the honored guests, a devotion was given, and then the "big event" began when each child was given Christmas gifts that had been selected just for them. It was a great party, and the children were overjoyed by the "royal treatment." Thanks to all who helped to make this a great testimony of sharing, and an evening full of special memories for the Children at The Home.



A Friends of Children's Day celebration was held on November 19, 2011. More than 150 guests attended this day of celebration. The speaker for the day was the Rev. Wayne King, pastor of First Church, Wilson. Special music was provided by the Honeycutt Family singers, a group composed of a mother and her three children, all Free Will Baptists from Robert's Grove and Lee's Chapel churches from the Dunn area. Their music enhanced our service tremendously.



Each Sunday afternoon at 4 P.M., the children and staff join together for worship in Memorial Chapel. The children participate in the singing, reading Scripture, and praying.

On Sunday, November 20, the Praise Band of Pine Level Church visited with the children during the Sunday Worship Service. The band participated in the opening parts of the service with the children and then shared many beautiful new contemporary Christian songs. Our children loved the music; however "Shine" was their favorite. The children are looking forward to the Praise Band's return in the New Year.

On November 27, the campus worship included the children helping with the hanging of the greens and celebrated the first Sunday of Advent. We have some very talented young people and we enjoy the gifts they share each Sunday.

On Tuesday evening, November 22, the Greenville First Church Woman's Auxiliary treated the entire Children's Home

family to a "WONDERFUL" Thanksgiving dinner, complete with ham, turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, mac and cheese, beans, casseroles, congealed salads, rolls, tea, and every kind of dessert imaginable. Heritage Hall was transformed into a beautiful fall evening with pumpkins, multicolored leaves, and soft candlelight. We dined with "real" tablecloths and napkins and satin table runners enjoying soft piano music and practicing our best manners. The children presented a program after the meal including a song that was written by the children during a previous worship service. We appreciate these ladies (and gentlemen who helped serve) so very much for making our Thanksgiving extra special this year. Even the leftovers were taken back to the cottages and enjoyed the next day. Thank you, Greenville First, for sharing with us this Thanksgiving. We thank God for you.

On Saturday December 3, the pastor of Lanwood Chapel Church, Selma, Charles Petit, his wife Arlene, and other members of his congregation came to The Home for a tour and to drop off gifts for the children. For some, it was the first visit on the Children's Home campus.

We are always excited to have visitors come by. The office is open from 8 A.M.—5 P.M., Monday through Friday. If you would like to visit The Home, please call us and let us know so we can get you on the schedule and have adequate staff on hand to show you around.



Campus Needs

- Pillow Covers
- Boys Body Wash
- Flat Irons (for hair)
- Alarm Clocks
- Bedroom Lamps
- Front Porch Rocking Chairs (10—Cracker Barrel type)
- Small Colorful Wastebaskets
- Over-the-Toilet Cabinets (free standing)
- Wii™ Games (E rating)

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE CHILDREN AND STAFF
OF THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME**



Baptism last May 1, 2011 in Bacas River in Norzagaray, Bulacan

Church Outing and Baptism

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

BY SAMBOY CALUGAY

God is so good! The Caloocan and Bulacan Church had an outing last May 1, 2011 at Bacas River in Norzagaray, Bulacan. This was our Christian family bonding with the church baptism and thanksgiving for those who graduated from pre-school up to college. In our baptism, there were four women who committed themselves to follow Christ through water baptism. They were Sister Tresha, a college student, studing education, Sister Rosana, a graphic designer, Sister Bernadeth, a law

student, and Sister Inday, a woman who walks all day to find empty cans, plastic bottles, and iron to sell just to earn a little money for her food and needs, a woman full of difficulties in life. She has vices like smoking and drinking liquor, but when she received Christ as her personal Savior, she's removed all vices and she is happy in serving God. We are also happy because she allowed God to change her life. Please pray for the work of the Lord here in Metro Manila. Thank you and God bless you all!



Pastor Rodrigo Valentos with the first members.



Rev. Jose Degamo officiating the Child Dedication Service.



Talibon Church congregation

Church Anniversary

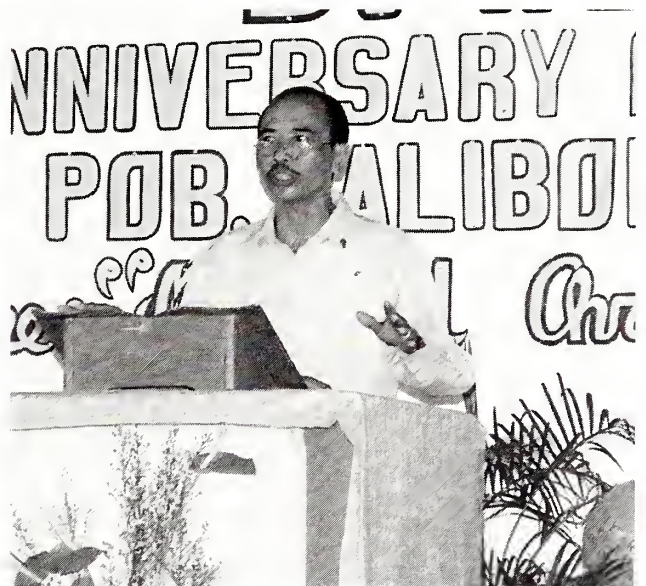
TALIBON, BOHOL, PHILIPPINES

BY THE REV. DARIO BASINGIL

The Talibon Free Will Baptist Church on Bohol Island celebrated its 12th Anniversary on October 16, 2011. The theme for this special day was "Matured Christians." Several speakers shared messages that spoke about ways a person grows into maturity in Christ.

There was also a child dedication. This service emphasized the responsibility that parents and congregations have in guiding the children in a Christian walk.

The Lord blessed us with a great day. We are thankful for all that He has done through Pastor Rodrigo Valentos and the congregation to make Christ known in this area. Thank you for your prayers for this ministry.



Rev. Dario Basingil, Guest Speaker

God Sees Our Potential

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, MEXICO

BY EVERARDO MARTINEZ HERNANDEZ

On Saturday, October 8, our monthly meeting for men was held in the Ebenezer Free Will Baptist Church. This meeting was attended by men from our other Free Will Baptist Churches. We praised God with songs and hymns and listened to some testimonies of what God has done in the lives of the brothers. One brother, Andres Gonzales, stepped forward and thanked God for the privilege to be in that meeting to enjoy the blessing of sharing with others. Almost two years ago now, Brother Andres was in the hospital with a brain stroke. He was transferred from Piedras Negras to the hospital of specialties in Monterrey, Mexico, where he was hospitalized for almost one month. Before leaving the hospital, one doctor told him

that he must believe in God, because only this would explain the recovery from such a delicate brain problem. The doctor also said that many patients with the same problem suffer from problems in speaking, walking, or moving, and some even die. He said, "but you are going out of here healthy and without any permanent sequela." "That," exclaimed the doctor, "only God can do." And immediately Andres answered, "I believe in the God who gives life to the dead."

After this testimony, Brother Eleazar Lugo gave a very inspiring sermon on the vision that God has for us, and the work He wants us to accomplish for His glory.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY! GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE!

ADVENTURES ON PROMISE ISLAND

Where Kids discover GOD's lifesaving love!

GOD'S PROMISE

I AM WITH YOU

God is with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
Daniel 3:1, 4-28

Session 1

GOD'S PROMISE

I CARE ABOUT YOU

Jesus cares for Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.
John 11:1-3, 17-44

Session 2

GOD'S PROMISE

I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED

Jesus helps a man brought by four friends.
Mark 2:1-12

Session 3

GOD'S PROMISE

I WILL SAVE YOU

Jesus dies to save us.
John 19:16-18, 29, 30; 20:24-31

Session 4

GOD'S PROMISE

I WILL ANSWER YOU

God answers the prayers of Paul and Silas.
Acts 16:22-34

Session 5



Theme Bible Memory
HEBREWS 10:23

THE ORIGINAL
Publisher of VBS

Standard
PUBLISHING
vacationbibleschool.com

You're invited to

2012

VBS Workshop

Saturday, February 18, 2012
10 A.M.

Free Will Baptist Press
3928 Lee Street, Ayden, NC

- Representatives from Standard and Group will be making presentations.
- Starter kits, super power packs, and product will be available from Standard. Starter kits and super power packs will be available from Group and Gospel Light.
- Light refreshments will be provided.
- All product will be discounted 10% all season long.

Gospel Light's

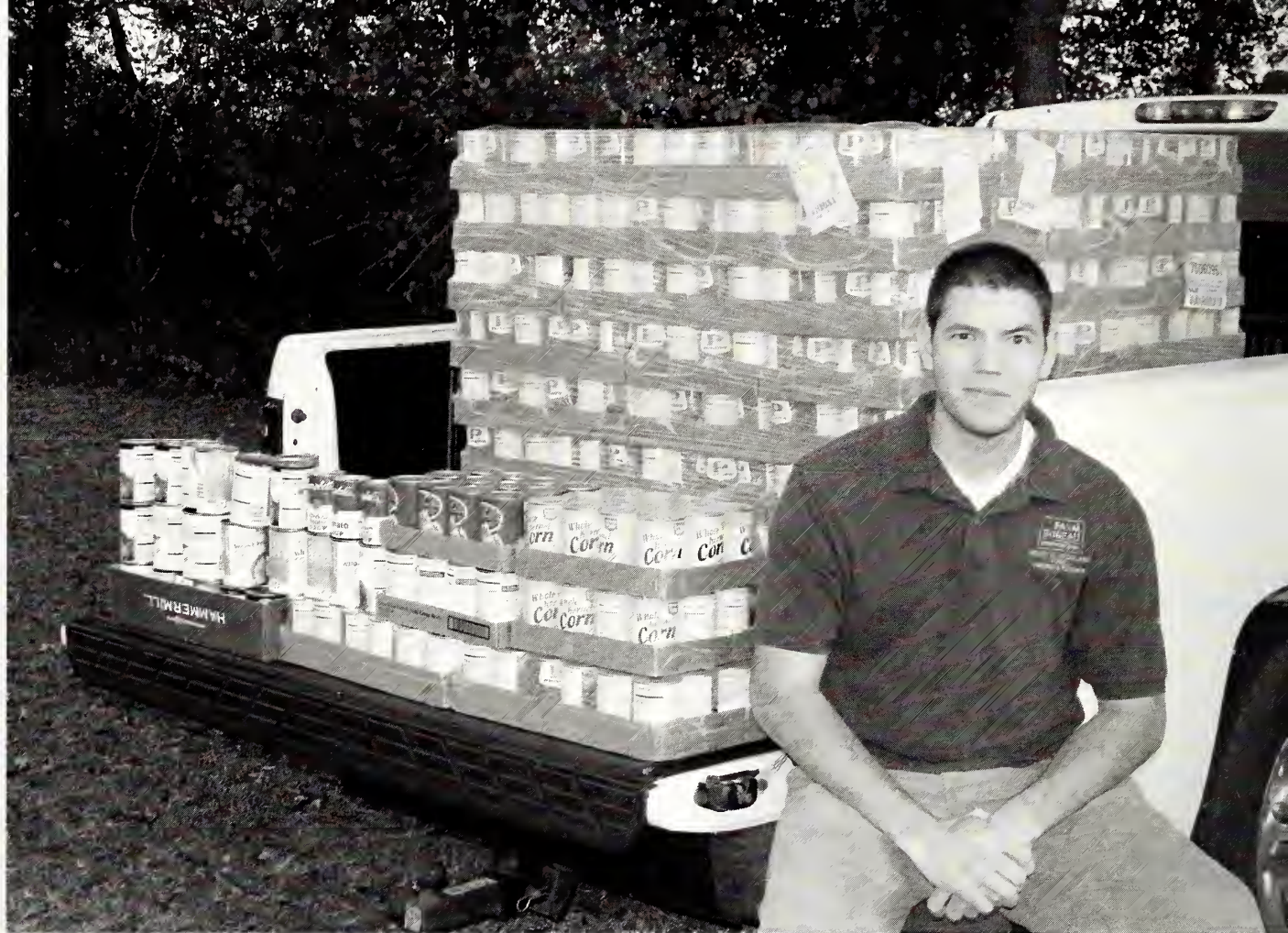


Group's



Group's





Young Farmers & Ranchers Join Fight to End Hunger

The American Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers & Ranchers Program is working with Feeding America to help feed the millions of Americans who face hunger through a nationwide service project coined Harvest for All. The Mount Olive College Collegiate YF&R Committee, working in conjunction with North Carolina's Farm Bureau Federation, was a participant in this effort.

Chairperson for the Mount Olive College Young Farmer and Rancher Committee, Edward Olive, and other members of the group recently collected and donated over 1,800 pounds of canned food to the Food Bank of North Carolina.

"Collegiate YF&R, in conjunction with Mount Olive College's Collegiate FFA, worked together to come up with almost one

ton of food to contribute to this effort," stated Olive. "We were challenged to donate more pounds than NC State University's YF&R and we accomplished that goal collecting almost 500 pounds more, we are very proud of that effort."

Throughout the year, farmers across the nation will donate food, funds, and people power to strive for a hunger-free America. And whether the contribution is a bushel, a dollar, or an hour, Farm Bureau and Feeding America will be working together to finish an important job—making sure every American can enjoy the bounty produced on American farms and ranches.

Collegiate YF&R is open to all junior and senior students having an interest in learning more about the issues and policies facing agriculture.

Educational Opportunities at

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Campus Visitation Day: January 16, 2012

High school seniors, juniors, and families can learn more about how to get scholarships and financial aid, athletic team tryouts, and music auditions, and what to expect in residence halls and campus life activities. Campus tours will include residence halls, academic, and athletic facilities and conversations with faculty and students. Contact <admissions@moc.edu> or call 1 (800) 653-0854 to make your reservation. Registration begins at 9 A.M.

Saturday, February 18, is Church Night!

The Mount Olive College Trojan basketball teams take on Erskine College. The Admissions team will be glad to assist your church group with tickets (\$1 a person) and details. Contact Tim Woodard, director of admissions, at <twoodard@moc.edu> or call us at 1 (800) 653-0854.

Save the Date: February 18, 2012

FAFSA Day is a statewide Saturday set aside annually to help new and continuing college students complete their free application for federal student aid online. Bring your tax information and join us in Raper Hall where financial aid experts will be available to help you complete your FAFSA, 8 A.M. to NOON. Parents are invited too!

Scholarship Information

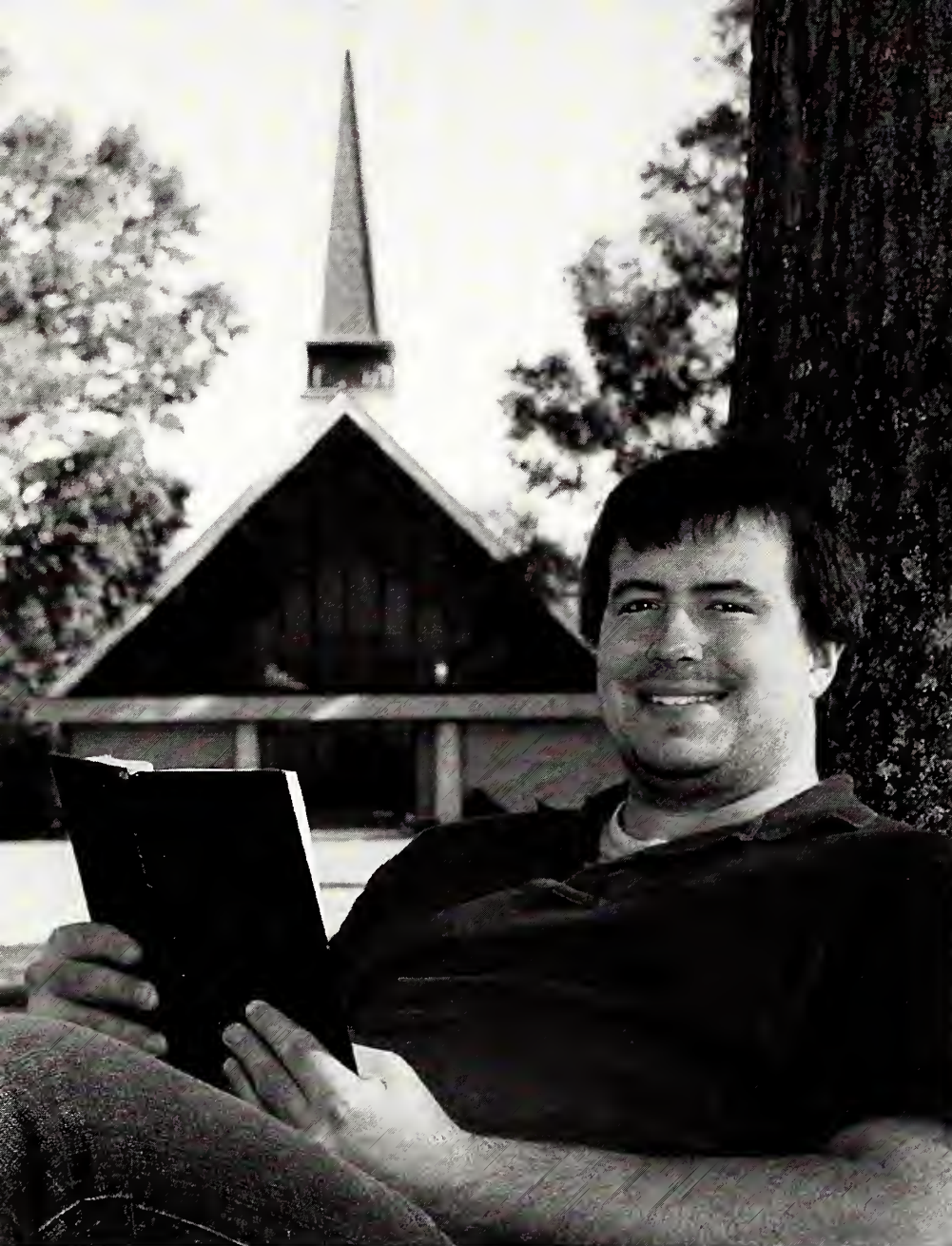
Active OFWB members are eligible for a \$3,000 tuition grant annually if they attend full-time in the daytime program at MOC. Ask about MOC scholarships provided for academic merit, athletics, music, and art. Admissions representatives can tell you more at <admissions@moc.edu> or at 1 (800) 653-0854.

Programs for Adults

One-night-a-week college programs for adults are available at Mount Olive, New Bern, Jacksonville, Washington, Wilmington, and Research Triangle Park. Complete our free online application at <www.moc.edu> and learn more about our programs by clicking on the location nearest your home or workplace. Multiple start dates are available each semester, so ask about these convenient programs and how you can complete your degree. Call 1-800-NEW GOAL. You will be connected to the location nearest your home.

Mount Olive College Has an Active Facebook Page!

Watch for exciting events and news at <www.facebook.com/#!/mountolivecollege>.



Hobgood Enjoys the Collision of Life and Learning at Mount Olive College

Many college students look at their senior research project (SRP) as another burden standing in the way of graduation. Not so for Josh Hobgood, a senior majoring in religion at Mount Olive College. Hobgood, of Winterville, NC, has been interested in studying religion since the age of 14 when he read *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis.

“That book changed my life,” Hobgood expressed, “It allowed me to look at Christianity for myself when I was still very young.”

When it came time to make his college

selection, Mount Olive College was an easy choice for Hobgood who’s father, Ronnie, is pastor at LaGrange Free Will Baptist Church.

“I would not trade my Free Will Baptist upbringing for anything. I have been given a firm foundation that I have continued to build upon here at Mount Olive College. The beautiful part of it all is that this is just the beginning of my journey towards a life following Christ.”

Now, in his senior year, Hobgood is diving deep into his studies and working hard to complete his SRP.

“I chose to do my SRP on Saint Bonaventure, a 13th century theologian and philosopher,” Hobgood said.

The theme for his SRP is contemplation; a subject Hobgood relates to personally. “I have contemplated and made many tough decisions this year and am still working through some. I don’t think it is random that the best year of my life, to date, has been full of some of the toughest decisions I have ever had to make.”

On the most influential element of his studies, Hobgood believes that studying religion has broadened his perspective for all of life’s situations.

“The most important thing I have gained is to understand something before I judge, change, or respond to it. So many things could be solved in our world today if people truly were aware of the problems before they sought to act in response to it,” Hobgood voiced.

Hobgood admits that education is not the only gift he has received while attending college, “Mount Olive College has been more than just an education for me; it has given me a place to belong, bringing new family into my life. The friends I have made here will last for the rest of my life.”

Out of the classroom Hobgood enjoys participating in Collide, a new campus ministry. As a leader of Collide, Josh helps direct music and plays guitar for the worship band.

“This ministry is about real people with real lives colliding with a real God,” Josh expressed. “I love the heart of Collide and I try to live by it daily.”

After graduation, Josh plans to attend Wake Forest University and work towards a master of Divinity degree, and hopefully, one day obtain his Ph.D. No matter what his future holds, Hobgood feels prepared to take on any challenge.

“The beauty of my education at Mount Olive College is that I have learned to be happy with where I am currently in life. I hope to be in ministry in some way, whether that is teaching as a professor or being a pastor. Either way, I am confident that the foundation I have gained here will carry me to a bright future.”

Josh is the son of Ronnie and Mitzi Hobgood of LaGrange, NC, and he has one sister, Jessica Moss.



The Late Reverend J. C. Griffin Still Gives

By Jean F. Ackiss

J.C. (Jake) Griffin III recently visited Mount Olive College and brought sermon outlines, dates the messages were preached, and other literature from the late Reverend J. C. Griffin, Sr. Having grown up in the Eastern Conference where Mr. Griffin was well known and loved, it was a joy to look over this material, written in Mr. Griffin's own handwriting.

While I do not remember any other messages I heard as a young person, I recall vividly a message Mr. Griffin preached during revival in my home church when I was a teenager—*Three Things That Can Never Be Recalled: A Sped Arrow, a Spoken Word, and a Lost Opportunity*. Mr. Griffin was not only a very well respected minister in his time; he was a leader of the finest sort. Even though he grew up in a family that had little financial means, he was a firm advocate of education. In 1923 when there were no great reservoirs of money for education, Mr. Griffin wrote in the Free Will Baptist magazine:

"The denominations who have ignored education...have gone to ruin and have largely passed out of existence...And he who does not improve his talent is not counted 'a good servant by the Lord'...I think it a crime against a loving God for man to say that 'I'm a preacher of the Gospel, and that God is preaching

through me and I don't have to study; and then for the same fellow to misquote, mispronounce, misconstrue, mislead, and slaughter up language, mystify God's plain truths, cause destruction instead of building, and then accuse God of any such preaching. It is a crime. God is the very embodiment of intelligence and wants His Word presented intelligently."

Many will remember the name, J.C. Griffin; however, today there are probably few people who actually knew him. I remember Mr. Griffin as a loving, kind, yet firm minister of the Gospel. He could take a strong stand when he felt the need. When I was a teenager Mr. Griffin was in his 70s, yet he was a very energetic minister who still pastored churches and preached many revivals, not only in the Eastern Conference, but also throughout eastern North Carolina. Whether it was in revival or as a pastor, Mr. Griffin always left the church stronger than it was before he came. He served in some of the highest offices of our denomination. He inspired people and left his mark everywhere he went.

The notebooks and material through which Mr. Griffin kept records of sermons and other events are now stored in the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection at Mount Olive College. Anyone can feel free to review them—yes; the late Reverend J. C. Griffin is still giving.

REL Class Start Dates

Are you interested in taking a class or two to further your biblical knowledge or to learn ideas for Christian education and leadership in the church? Then you may be interested in taking one of the following classes offered by the Religion Department. As you will note, classes are available at the Mount Olive, New Bern, and Washington locations. If interested, contact MOC Office of Admissions at (800) 653-0854 for information on fees for taking a course and instructions on how to register for the classes. If you need further information about the courses, contact Dr. Tyanna Yonkers at (919) 658-7861 or the Rev. Neal Cox at (919) 658-7860.

Mount Olive

Session A: (1/9/12–2/6/12)

- REL 315: Life and Letters of Paul—Session A • Monday nights 6–10 P.M.

This course is a study of the background of Paul and of his life and ministry, together with a careful examination of the character and content of his letters.

Session B: (2/13/12–3/12/12)

- REL 340: Sermon Preparation and Delivery • Monday nights 6–10 P.M.

This course is a study of the preparation and delivery of sermons.

- REL 452: Applied Hermeneutics • Monday nights 6–10 P.M.

This course is designed to help the student gain the elements of skill necessary for interpretation of biblical texts.

Session C: (3/19/12–4/23/11)

- REL 403: Ministry to Youth, Adults, and their Families • Thursday nights 6–10 P.M.

This is a course emphasizing the education principles and practices of Christian education to youth, adults, and their families with emphasis given to developmental characteristics and spiritual needs of these age groups.

- REL 421: History of Christianity I (up to the Reformation) • Monday nights 6–10 P.M.

This course is a historical study of the events, personalities, and doctrines that have influenced the growth and development of the church from the first century to the eve of the Reformation.

New Bern

Session A:

- REL 342: Church Leadership • Thursday nights 6–10 P.M.

This course is an introduction to effective leadership styles for ministers, to principles of church administration, and to leadership in worship.

- REL 310: Hebrew Prophets • Monday nights 6–10 P.M.

This course is a study of the Old Testament prophets, their historical background, their teachings, and their contributions to the biblical faith.

- REL 215: Introduction to the Bible • Tuesday nights 6–10 P.M.

This course fosters an integration of faith, learning, and living by increasing a student's knowledge and understanding of the literature and history of the Bible.

Session B:

- REL 410: Life and Teachings of Jesus • Monday nights 6–10 P.M.

This course is a study of the Gospels as sources for knowledge of Jesus with attention to the theological perspective of each of the evangelists.

Session C:

- REL 315: Life and Letters of Paul • Monday nights 6–10 P.M.

This course is a study of the background of Paul and of his life and ministry, together with a careful examination of the character and content of his letters.

Washington

Session A:

- REL 430: Modern Christian Theology • Thursday nights 6–10 P.M.

This course is a study of the major movements of modern theology through the reading of selected works by nineteenth and twentieth century theologians.

Session B:

- REL 331: Christian Ethics • Thursday nights 6–10 P.M.

This course is a study of the ethical implications of the Christian faith with attention given to the historical development of the Christian ethic as well as the social implications of Christianity in selected contemporary social problems.

Session C:

- REL 355: History of World Religions • Thursday nights 6–10 P.M.

This course is a historical study of the major religions of humankind with the aim of bridging the interval between the founding of these religions and their present state.



Visitation Day

From left to right are: Hannah Woodard (Tee's Chapel OFWB Church, Johnston County); Emily Peele (Micro OFWB Church, Johnston County); Lindsay Johnson (Haymount OFWB Church, Cumberland County); and Alex Galloway (Daniel's Chapel OFWB Church, Wilson County).



Mount Olive College Celebrates the True Meaning of Christmas

Mount Olive College was recently transformed into a winter wonderland for the third annual Christmas by Candlelight service. Attendees were treated to a variety of pre-event activities including: an ice skating rink, a gigantic snow globe for taking keepsake photos, carriage rides, and hot chocolate. The events officially got underway when President and Mrs. Philip P. Kerstetter lit the campus Christmas tree in front of Rodgers Chapel.

Donna Ricks, of Mount Olive, said, "Mount Olive College truly felt like a winter wonderland! Everyone had a great time ice skating, taking a carriage ride, sipping hot chocolate, and listening to beautiful Christmas music."

Following the outdoor festivities, guests strolled along the luminary lit sidewalks to the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center for a Christ-centered service. The service, patterned after the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, included nine Scripture lessons tracing the history of salvation. Each reading was followed by a carol made possible by the Mount Olive College Music Department; The Mount Olive First Baptist Church Choir, LaGrange Free Will Baptist Church Choir, and the Sanctuary Choir and Sanctuary Bells from St. Paul United Methodist Church in Goldsboro.

Kari Sander, manager of Foundations and Sponsored Programs at Mount Olive College, brought her daughter and grandchildren to the

event. She said, "We thought the event was wonderful. My grandchildren sat mesmerized during the service. The music was outstanding."

Chris Amon, of Mount Olive, said, "I thought the event was superb. The Lois K. Murphy Regional Center was the prettiest I have ever seen it, and the music was fantastic."

President Philip P. Kerstetter commented, "As a Christian faith-based college, it is only fitting and proper that we gather together with the larger community to celebrate the joy, wonder, and majesty of Christmas. We are pleased to be able to provide this Christmas gift to our campus, to the churches, and to the communities that we serve."

Pondering the Past

with Celia Hales

HAVING DONE ALL, STAND

Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand (Ephesians 6:13).

This is a column for worriers. This is a column for me.

My grandmother, Anna Garriss Hill, used to say, when she counseled me, that I came by my worrying “honestly.” By that she meant to say that both my great-grandmother, Celia Hart Garriss, and my mother, Joyce Hill Hales, were worriers also. As for my grandmother, she seemed to have a better, healthier attitude toward the problems that she encountered. She had listened and taken to heart the advice that she got at the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church.

The Bible verse quoted above, one of my favorites, is a powerful antidote to worry. One must, of course, take to heart the message with which the verse ends: “having done all, stand.” By this I believe we must pray hard, work hard, and then leave the results in the hands of God. We are to turn over any tendency to worry to Him. If we have done all, and we choose to “stand,” then we are leaving the outcome in the best possible place, in God’s care.

I remember one (of many) instances in high school when I had three tests

in rapid-fire order. I fretted, silently and verbally, to my parents, especially my mother. I worked myself up into quite a state. And then I made 100 on each of the three multiple-choice tests. I say this not to brag about my intellect as a teenager, but to emphasize to myself (again) and to you, that those things that we worry about rarely come to pass. And we have ruined our days, surely an affront to God.

There are many reasons that we develop a tendency to worry. In my case, it was an almost conscious awareness that if I worried hard enough, I would be sure to work hard enough. This is faulty thinking, but it would be years before I would make a serious effort to change my habits.

Now I write on this verse from Ephesians because my mother has some minor health problems (as does everyone at age 91), and my husband Paul and I are called upon to see that her care is good and that she gets to the doctor when needed. Last night she called us about 9 p.m., after her shower, because the aide helping her bathe had expressed concern about one of the health problems. Of course, the aide meant well, and she did not know all that the nurses at my mother’s community, plus my husband and I,

had been doing to solve this problem. It is not life threatening, and we have received good advice from a physician specialist. But the well-meaning aide had upset my mother, late on a Saturday evening, when the only recourse was to talk my mother into a calmer state, and to call the nurse on duty. The nurse gave a mild sedative to my mother, and she slept well. The next morning she was calm.

But I reminded myself of this verse this morning, particularly the words, “having done all...stand.” There will be more phone calls on Monday morning, when the head nurse is on duty, as well as a call to a physician specialist. But for now, this Sunday morning, Paul and I have done all that we can. And so I am not to worry. I am to turn my mother and her health care over to God in prayer, and then to stand.

I read the verse from Ephesians and reread it. Such important advice, and yet we don’t often take to heart the good advice in our Bibles.

Why worry any longer? Why worry at all? Because we are human, with human frailties. But the burden can be lessened considerably by taking to heart the biblical passages that may be some of our favorites.



A former religion librarian at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Celia now lives with her husband Paul in Oxford, Mississippi. She was previously employed at both the Free Will Baptist Press and Mount Olive College.



Bench Placed in Memoriam

As part of our Friends of Children’s Day Celebration, time was taken to pay tribute to Dr. William Burkette Raper, alumnus 7/36–7/44, who passed away on August 1, 2011. His wife Rose and their children were in attendance for this special dedication. The Friends of Children’s Day visitors gathered on the patio of Heritage Hall to join in the service. A Black Granite Bench had been placed on the patio area of Heritage Hall, adjacent to the bell tower. Mr. James Cahoon, Chairman of the Board of Directors had opening remarks and told of how Dr. Raper had held many jobs while living at The Home. One job Dr. Raper frequently recalled was his duties of rising early to ring the bell for breakfast, again for lunch and dinner, and for any special meetings that required everyone’s attendance.

Mr. Gary Lee, President/CEO followed with comments on the support Dr. Raper had always given him personally, and given The Home.

Mr. Lee then unveiled the bench and read the bench inscription as shown below:

William Burkette Raper
September 10, 1927–August 1, 2011
Alumnus: July 17, 1936–July 1, 1944

Arriving at the orphanage at the age of eight, Burkette lived here until graduation from Middlesex High School in 1944. Continuing his formal education at Duke University, he earned a Bachelor’s in Liberal Arts in 1947 and a Master of Divinity in 1952. Ordained in 1946 as a minister by the Western Conference (NC) of Original Free Will Baptists, he served as pastor of several churches before becoming President of Mount Olive College in 1954 where he served for 40 years. Following retirement from The College, he continued to be active in denominational work for a combined total of 65 years of service to God and humanity.

Bench Seat

“From the matrix of life at the Orphanage, I learned that I alone was responsible for the decisions I made. But I also learned that there were many good people—both known and unknown to me—who were responsible for the benefits and opportunities life has afforded me. These people gave of their time and resources without thought of benefit for themselves. In the spirit of our Lord, they gave to make life better for others. To them, I owe a life of gratitude. Had it not been for the Orphanage, only God knows what could have been my future.”

“Those red clay rocky hills
will always be The Hills of Home”

— *Dr. W. Burkette Raper* —

Later in the memorial service, Board member, the Rev. Johnny Sullivan led in a moment of silence and then a closing prayer. As seemed fitting, the bell tolled to end the memorial service.



A *Sling* and a **STONE**

Significance in Christ as a Young Adult

with Marc Boswell

Discerning God's Call

When I was eighteen years old, I discerned the movement of God's spirit in my life, calling me into the ministry. As I would later tell others, I was shocked at what I felt I sensed God saying to me—so much so that I told God that it was not a good idea and that God should take a day or two and think about this. Sure enough, to my astonishment and frustration, the following evening arrived and I felt God speaking into my spirit the same word as the previous night.

I was surprised over the call because I never felt myself to be a particularly "spiritual" or "church-y" person. I accepted Christ as savior years earlier and was baptized. Like so many people, I contented myself afterwards to pray a little, read the Bible occasionally, and attend worship on a fairly regular basis. I did what I thought was my part, but I wasn't terribly interested in being zealous or overly committed to my faith. At the time, as a freshly minted high school graduate, I felt a more pressing need to figure out what I was going to do with my life vocationally. I began attending Pitt Community College, but I had little idea of what sort of job path or career I wanted to pursue. Before I had this rather dramatic experience of God's call in my life, in other words, I had never considered the idea of pursuing ministry as a vocation. Ministry was something other people were called

to do—particularly, older adults. It's safe to say that 98% of the young adults I knew at the time had never considered ministry as something God could call them to do.

I mention this part of my story here for the sake of raising the following question: What are we doing, as churches, as conferences, and as a denomination, to encourage and help our young adults discern the call of God in their lives, particularly as it relates to the possibility that God is calling them to pursue some form of professional ministry (e.g., working as a chaplain, a pastor, a youth pastor, a non-profit director, etc.)? By raising this question, I am not suggesting that we do a poor job of helping young adults (or older adults) discern this call after they have had a clear, direct experience with God. In my experience, I received lots of support from my home church, the Central Conference, and other leaders throughout the denomination. (I'm particularly grateful to the many congregations that patiently sat through the terrible sermons I inflicted upon them as I slowly learned how to preach!) However, this occurred only after I felt and discerned this type of call during the revival services.

In other words, could it be that there are many more young and older adults in our churches, youth groups, and elsewhere that are being called by God to pursue

some form of ministry but they do not have the tools to discern this or even an idea that this is something that God might actually call them to do? To state it differently, why was it the case, as an eighteen year old, that it never occurred to me that ministry was something God could call me to do? I considered work like criminal justice or social work because I wanted "to help people," (i.e., ministry), but I never thought that this desire to help people could take the form of ordained ministry within the denomination.

One reason this occurs, it seems, is due to the popular evangelical understanding of spirituality and our life with God. As such, we emphasize the individual and personal nature of God's work in our lives, so much so that we are often hesitant to help another person discern that call even if we sense or suspect that God is "dealing with a person." We feel spiritual matters are a private affair between that person and God. I have often heard it said by congregational leaders throughout the denomination that they were not surprised that a person announced he or she felt called to ministry because the leaders saw that person's gifts or sensed that God was "doing something in their lives." Many times, though, if we sensed that God might be calling a person, we would not dream of helping a

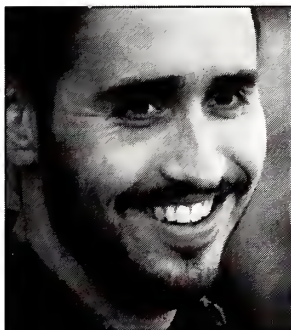
person through that discernment. We'd celebrate with them when they accepted such a call, but the actual working out of such a thing is between the person and God. But is this the way it needs to be?

Some may protest that to help in the discernment process would be interrupting, hampering, or interfering in God's work with that person. Others may worry that to do so could lead people to consider ministry when they had not actually been called. Regarding the first concern, there are several instances in the Bible in which the community helps individuals discern and hear the nature of God's call in their lives. Regarding the second concern, I am not suggesting that we tell people

they're called when they're not. I'm simply suggesting we find methods to encourage young adults and others to consider the possibility of ministry or to consider that it is one option out of many forms of vocation that God could possibly call them to pursue. In other words, there are many young adults who may look for work in a field that they're not called towards because we haven't helped them through a discernment process. Again, I'm not suggesting we discern for them, but we could help them spiritually process and think through such an issue.

The space of this article is too short to suggest any formal plans or tips for such a thing, but I do

hope it starts a conversation about the ways in which we help and assist young adults (or older adults) in the process of discerning what God might be calling them to do with their lives—whether this is in computer programming, nursing, teaching, volunteering, farming, or some form of professional ministry. Can we be proactive in helping each other through these processes of discernment? Should any of our young adults look for work or try to discern a vocation without ever considering the possibility of ministry? God, indeed, works in personal, individual ways, but God can also work through mutual help and communal discernment, too.



Marc Boswell was born in Wilson County, NC. He is a member of Spring Branch Church in Greene County, where he was nurtured and supported while pursuing ordination in the Central Conference. In January of 2006, he was ordained. Since graduating from Mount Olive College, Marc has studied at Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, VA) and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Evanston, IL), while working in several churches between North Carolina, Virginia, and Illinois. He and his wife, Kate Fiedler Boswell, now reside in Richmond, Virginia, where he is completing work on his Ph.D. in the areas of systematic theology and American religious history. He enjoys teaching, preaching, cooking, and UNC basketball.

Psalms

for the Soul

with Linda Herring

The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Psalm 51:1 says, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation." You might be surprised that Psalm 51, David's well known confession of adultery with Bathsheba, is full of joy. It teaches lessons about sin, repentance, and getting our hearts right with God. Is your heart right with God? Is your fellowship with Jesus full of love and joy? In this Psalm, David prayed for his relationship with God to be restored. He had sinned and only God could give him a clean heart. If you sinned, God wants to restore your relationship with Him. He will restore you and create in you a clean heart. David had yielded to temptation and disobeyed and only God could renew a steadfast spirit within him. He deserved to be cast from God's presence, but he pleaded for mercy. He had offended God and deserved punishment, but he put his hope in God's unfailing love to forgive him. God knew we would struggle with sin in our lives but when Christ returns and we dwell with Him forever, we will be free. We can repent, seek forgiveness and enjoy a restored relationship with God right now through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Thanks be to God. Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm.



2012 Cragmont Woman's Retreats

Registration Form

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Please complete ONE form per person (make copies as needed) and mail with \$20 non-refundable registration fee to: **Joan H. Little**, 7063 Stantonsburg Road, Farmville, NC 27828 (Make all checks payable to Cragmont Woman's Retreat).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Church: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone #: _____

Please complete all items below which apply to you.
Rooms will be assigned in order of registration received.

_____ I NEED a downstairs room due to MEDICAL reasons (Limited Availability).

Roommates desired: _____

Lodging request: _____ Main Building. (2-4 per room) _____ Upstairs _____ Downstairs
_____ Lodge (3-4 per room)
_____ Motel (2-4 per room) _____ Hollifield House (6-8)
_____ Girls Dorm _____ Boys Dorm _____ Floyd House (8)

CHECK Retreat & all related information which relates to that retreat.

_____ **Morning Star Retreat** (April 13-15) Speaker: Frances Anderson
_____ \$20 registration fee enclosed (\$75 Balance Due upon arrival).

_____ **Dayspring Retreat** (June 6-9) Speaker: Jennifer Gudac
_____ \$20 registration fee enclosed (\$85 Balance Due upon arrival).
Day Spring Retreat also welcomes couples and families.

_____ **Cornerstone Retreat** (July 29-August 3) Speaker: Michelle Hamm
_____ \$20 registration fee enclosed (\$120 Balance Due upon arrival).
_____ I plan to ride the bus (Cost—\$55). Travel Day will be on Sunday A.M.
_____ Side trip to Gatlinburg—Christ in the Smokies (Formerly Christus Gardens)
Total Cost \$50 (Includes bus, meal & admission).
_____ \$30 non-refundable deposit enclosed for side trip. DUE BY JULY 15
There will be 2 afternoon shopping trips to Ashville. (\$5 each)

_____ **Emmanuel Retreat** (September 7-9) Speaker: TBA
_____ \$20 registration fee enclosed (\$75 Balance Due upon arrival).



Note Burning at Pilgrim Home Church To God Be the Glory...

We know all our blessings come from Him. Oh, how He has filled our storehouse! On homecoming Sunday, September 18, 2011, we burned the note for our new sanctuary. The 30-year mortgage was paid off in 10 years. God opened doors in many different ways for the account to be settled. Pilgrim Home pastor and members thank each person who helped in any way in the raising and giving of funds.

A history of the church from its

beginning until now was shared with those in attendance.

Our pastor was honored that day with the unveiling of his portrait to be hung in a designated place in the new building. The Historical Committee is in the process of collecting a portrait of all past pastors to be hung with our present pastor, James Sowers. Please pray that God will continue to bless our church to spread His word and help us to do His will.

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”
(Philippians 4:13 KJV).



Rock Springs Church, Bailey, NC

A Razzle Dazzle Extravaganza was held on Saturday, October 29, 2011, as a fundraiser for our Woman's Auxiliary. We started selling breakfast items at 8 A.M., hotdogs at lunch, and a bake sale throughout the day. Some of our wonderful cooks prepared and cooked individual apple pies, sweet potato pies, and banana tortillas. The smell, as well as the taste, was a sure sell out as soon as they took them out of the pan.

We had vendors renting space as a part of our fundraiser. The vendors sold pottery, handmade

jewelry, crafts, wreaths, hand painted ornaments, and the auxiliary sold items we sell throughout the year.

It was a successful day for our auxiliary and a wonderful time of fellowship. We raised approximately \$1,700 to use for our home and foreign missions projects.

We are so blessed and our community really came together for a successful day to help us achieve our auxiliary goals. Thanks to everyone who helped, shopped, volunteered, etc.



PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGE

The Rev. Roney Bunn

Old Address
7655 Leonard Road
Kenly, NC 27542

New Address
829 Forest Lake Drive
Lakeland, FL 33809

Phone: (252) 230-6818 • E-Mail: roneybunn@aol.com

Display/Advertising Rates

- b/w—1/8 page vrt./hrz. • \$20
- b/w—1/4 page vrt./hrz. • \$30
- b/w—1/2 page vrt./hrz. • \$40
- b/w—3/4 page vrt./hrz. • \$50
- b/w—Full page • \$60
- b/w—back cover • \$120
- color—back cover • \$150

Churches & Ministry Positions • \$8
(maximum of 4 lines)

Personal Information Changes • No Charge
(notice of phone, mailing address, and e-mail address changes)

These rates are for first-time runs. Additional consecutive runs are half-price (of equal or lesser size).

The printing of ads is contingent on the availability of space. We reserve the right to condense space as necessary. You will be charged only for the actual size used.

These advertising rates are for, and advertising is permitted by, OFWB churches and auxiliary organizations. These charges apply to any announcements, coming event listings, invitations, and registration forms. If you have any questions, contact the editor by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227. **There is no charge for feature article submissions from OFWB churches/members or news releases of recent OFWB church happenings.**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE INFORMATION FOR ARTICLES AND ADVERTISING

The deadline for submissions to The Free Will Baptist is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before. You may submit items 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.

* Phone-in or handwritten information is acceptable. However, we cannot be held responsible for errors!
* Pictures are not returned unless there is an appropriate self-addressed stamped envelope included!

Submissions for Personal Information Changes will run for 2 months only.



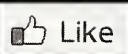
WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU HAVE:
a new address, received damaged or duplicate copies, missed an issue, experienced any billing problems, or you want to renew or cancel a subscription. You may contact us by e-mail at: <editor@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (252) 746-6128 or (800) 849-3927.

Better Than Ever!

The new TFWB web portal allows subscribers to expand their reading options for their favorite magazine.

Subscribers should receive a username and password to login to the site with their copy of the October issue. Once you're logged in you'll have online access to every 2011 issue of TFWB. Read articles online, share with your friends, and dig into even more information about our authors and articles. The website also includes an easy to use print order form. But that's just the beginning. We're looking to expand content and ordering options and offer our readers a chance to really engage in the conversation of our denomination.

To kick start this effort, The Press is offering free access to the Special Memorial Issue of The Free Will Baptist honoring Dr. William Burkette Raper online. Just go to <www.fwbpress.com> to begin reading.



us on facebook

Coming soon:

Grand Re-opening of the Kinston Bible Bookstore

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Allison T. Cain
Author and Speaker,
godchickdevotions.com

&

Jennifer Johnson
Author, *Egret Gospel*

will be available for book signing at 5:30 P.M.

Musical selections provided by:

Brothers In Fellowship



6:30 P.M.

Servant's Heart



7:30 P.M.

Ribbon-cutting Ceremony

Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 11 A.M.



NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

A Foundation for the Future of Original Free Will Baptists

Announces

Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists Endowment

This Endowment will help provide scholarships for Central Conference ministers enrolled in graduate theological schools.

NC Foundation for Christian Ministries

P.O. Box 210 • Mount Olive, NC 28365-0210

Phone: (919) 658-5250

E-mail: admin@ncfcm.org

*Footprints convey that someone has gone before us,
Leaving us a marked way;
And remind us that we also can leave a marked way
For those who come after us.*



PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID 28513
USPS 2094-4000

DUKE UNIVERSITY
PERKINS LIBRARY
DURHAM NC 27706

Username: duke Password: qmatbuod

T F W B

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

INCOMPLETE

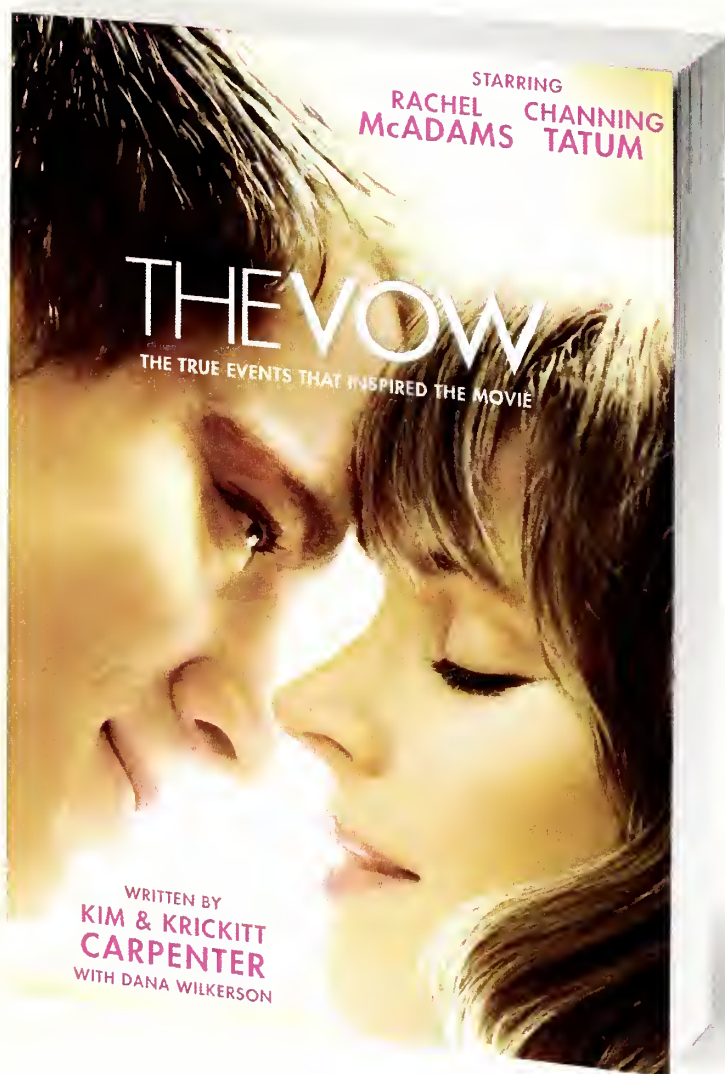
MISSING: nos 2, 6, & 12

VeggieTales®

March 2012

THE VOW

THE TRUE EVENTS THAT INSPIRED THE MOVIE



Our Price

\$10.97

Life as Kim and Krickitt Carpenter knew it was shattered beyond recognition on November 24, 1993. Two months after their marriage, a devastating car wreck left Krickitt with a massive head injury and in a coma for weeks.

When she finally awoke, she had no idea who Kim was. The woman he had married essentially died in the accident.

Against all odds, Kim and Krickitt fell in love all over again. Even though Kim stood by Krickitt through the darkest times a husband can ever imagine, he insists, "I'm no hero. I made a vow."



Release Date: February 10, 2012

ISBN-13: 978-1-4336-7579-9

Retail Price: \$14.99

Format: Trade paper

Page Count: 240

Trim Size: 5 1/2 x 8 1/2

To order, call 1.800.849.3927 ext. 221 or visit one of our store locations at:

Ayden Bible & Bookstore
3928 Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-6128

Kinston Bible & Bookstore
Vernon Park Mall
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 527-2843

New Bern Bible & Bookstore
1232 S. Glenburnie Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 638-6193

2012

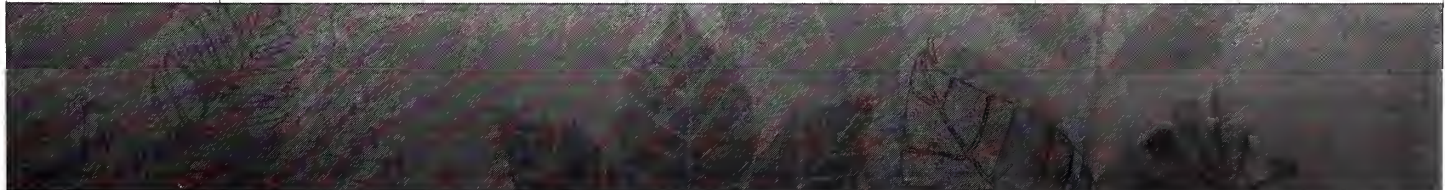
March

Foreign Missions Month

The Original Free Will Baptist Monthly Planner

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Sunday School Institute @ Mount Olive College
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Daylight Saving Time Begins	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day Eastern Woman's Aux. Sarecta Church @ 9:30 A.M.
18	19	20 Spring Begins	21	22	23	24 Central Woman's Aux. Howell Swamp Church @ 9:30 A.M. New Life — New You
25 Foreign Missions Telethon Sunday	26	27	28	29	30	31 Cape Fear Woman's Aux. Smyrna Church @ 9:30 A.M.



Pondering the Past

with Celia Hales

The Healing Effects of Simple Laughter

Much of the greatest happiness of my childhood and early adulthood took place in Ayden, North Carolina, at the home of my great-grandmother, Celia Garris, and my grandparents, Ed and Anna Hill. Their house, then 307 (later 572) East Second Street, was just around the block from the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church. The proximity was a reminder that Christianity was the center of my family's joy, and that center resided in the Original Free Will Baptist faith.

I remember occupying myself at the church in off hours, when there were no services, with childhood pastimes. My grandmother often decorated the church with flowers and greenery from her yard, and she took me with her to the church. She decorated for special occasions during the church year, and she, when asked, decorated for weddings.

When I was quite young, maybe six or so, I remember one time when I longed for something to do while I waited. I got into trouble. I took all of the paper fans on sticks (there was no air conditioning), the ones given by Farmer's Funeral Home, and lined them throughout the sanctuary in the little receptacles for communion glasses. The "little holes" held the fans nicely, or so my six-year-old self thought. But my grandmother was not amused. She made me undo all my handiwork and put the fans back in the shelf that held the hymnals.

At home at 307 East Second Street, there were frequent, virtually daily, visits from my grandmother's cousins. I loved to hear them tell old family stories about getting into trouble in their choice of play as children (Much as I had at the church with the fans, nothing was very bad).

Kirby Smith was one cousin who told hilarious stories of the mischief he and his brothers got into. And when their mother, Cora, punished him and his little brothers for their mischief, they retreated next door to my great-grandmother, their Aunt Celie, for comfort. Years later, gales of laughter overcame all of us who listened to Kirby's stories of a past long gone.

When I was in my twenties, I went through a period of anxiety. My nerves were on edge, and, as a result, I became too inwardly focused. One memorable afternoon my grandmother decided to build a birdhouse from prefabricated materials. She wisely drew me in. I helped her for two or three hours, completely absorbed by the task. At the conclusion of our successful project, I realized, like a light bulb bursting, that I had felt absolutely no sense of anxiety or nervousness for the whole time that my grandmother and I worked together. She had taken me out of myself with her genial good humor and childlike sense of fun. My grandmother had been my playmate, and thereby brought happiness to my day. Laughter had replaced anxiety and too much self-centeredness.

We need to let go, to get outside ourselves, when this world hangs too heavily about us. Our families can bring us joy when worries about the stability of our economic security threaten us. Our times in church can be an oasis of peace and contentment, for who of us is as likely to fret when worshipping God among the people we know and love best?

Yes, laughter is the best medicine. Laughter orients us outward and upward, and the healing balm that it provides is profound indeed.



A former religion librarian at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Celia now lives with her husband Paul in Oxford, Mississippi. She was previously employed at both the Free Will Baptist Press and Mount Olive College.

Editor

Darren E. Davenport
editor@fwbpress.com

Production Manager

Jerry Goff
jerry@fwbpress.com

Circulation, Accounts Receivable

Amy Stokes
amy@fwbpress.com

Accounts Payable

Wallie Hargrove

Editorial Assistants

Dixie McLawhorn, Carlton Oakley

Graphic Designers

**Jerry Goff, Amy Benson,
Nathaniel Ingram, Dixie McLawhorn**

Production Team

**Ronnie Jones, Ted Johnston,
Joshua Roundtree, Johnnie Stancill**

Editor Emeritus

C. H. Overman



www.fwbpress.com

President

Jeff Daughtry
jeff@fwbpress.com

Board of Directors

Frank Flowers (Chairman), Central
C. H. Overman (Vice Chairman), Central
Royce Reynolds (Secretary), Albemarle
Joe Ballance, Cape Fear
Kelley Smart, Central
Mike Scott, Eastern
Nancy Hardee, Pee Dee
Mark Hobbs, Central
Loydene Proctor, Western

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.

Subscription Prices: All subscriptions are payable in advance: 1 year (12 issues) \$15
2 years (24 issues) \$27
4 years (48 issues) \$53.

A **Bundle Plan** (\$8.50 each) and an **Every-Family Plan** (\$11.75 each) is also available. Call or e-mail circulation or the editor for more details.

© 2012 *The Free Will Baptist* • All Rights Reserved.

The Free Will Baptist is edited and published monthly by the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc., 3928 Lee Street, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159. Second-class postage paid at Ayden, North Carolina (USPS 2094-4000).

FEATURES & COLUMNS

- 2** *Pondering the Past* with Celia Hales
- 4** *The 1611 King James Version*
- 28** *A Sling and a Stone* with Marc Boswell
- 38** *Psalms for the Soul* with Linda Herring

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- 6** Foreign Missions
- 9** FWB Press
- 10** Mount Olive College
- 14** Cragmont
- 16** Convention News
- 24** Children's Home
- 26** Sunday School

ANCILLARY MINISTRIES

- 30** NC Foundation for Christian Ministries
- 32** Woman's Auxiliary
- 34** Camp Vandemere

36 COMMUNITY CONNECTION

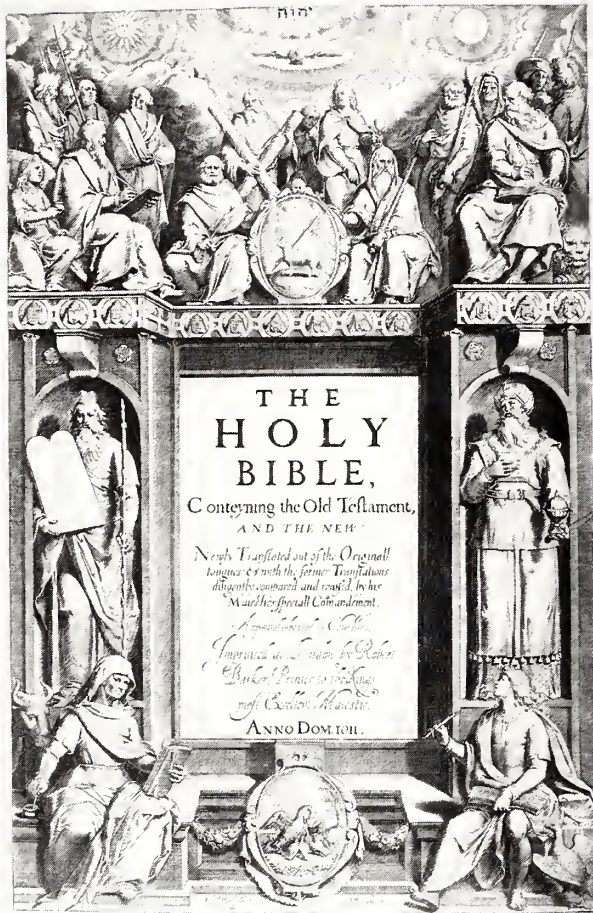
ON THE COVER

Robin Good, the star of the new VeggieTales Movie, *Robin Good and His Not-So-Merry Men: A Lesson in Handling Hurt*.

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2012

DIVINITY SCHOOL LIBRARY
DUKE UNIVERSITY



The 1611 King James Version

By Dr. Michael Pelt

The King James Version that you might read today is not an exact copy of the original, which was published in 1611. In 2011 we were celebrating the 400th anniversary of that famous publication but almost no attention was given to that fact in the pages of *The Free Will Baptist*. The editors at Zondervan Press decided earlier to publish an exact replica of the original 1611 printing in a 400th Anniversary Edition and copies of this special edition were given to several persons in attendance at the annual appreciation dinner in October at Mount Olive College by Dr. Pepper Worthington, editor of the Mount Olive College Press. I was one of those fortunate persons.

In my youth I almost never read from any translation of the Bible except the King James Version simply because I was unfamiliar with the many English translations that were in existence. It was not until I entered college that I obtained a copy of the New Testament in the Revised Standard Version, first published in 1946. Then after I finished college I received as a gift a copy of the complete RSV, which was published in 1952. I used that Bible in divinity school and for several years afterward. Although some people were critical of that translation, the truth is that it was based on a more accurate text of the languages in which the Old and New Testaments were written and scholars have gained access to far more information about the times and circumstances when the Bible was being written and its text was transmitted.

When I began to read from the 400th Anniversary Edition, I soon discovered that it was different from the more familiar text of the KJV. I had to become familiar with the style of printing and the spelling of words that characterized the original KJV. In many cases the letters themselves had different shapes that could easily confuse the untrained eye. I then concluded that the average reader today would soon weary of trying to read long passages, especially if the contents were unfamiliar. Some uninformed readers could well make the mistake of declaring that this edition is not the real Bible. But we have to realize that this Bible was translated and published in the early 1600s and that the English language was in an earlier

The title page to the 1611 first edition of the Authorized Version Bible by Cornelius Boel shows the Apostles Peter and Paul seated centrally above the central text, which is flanked by Moses and Aaron. In the four corners sit Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, authors of the four gospels, with their symbolic animals. The rest of the Apostles (with Judas facing away) stand around Peter and Paul. At the very top is the Tetragrammaton “יהוה”

The title page’s central text is:

“THE HOLY BIBLE,
Conteyning the Old Testament,
AND THE NEW:

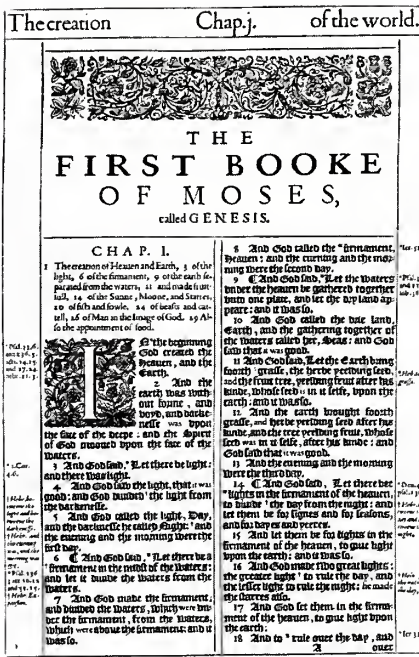
Newly Translated out of the Originall tongues: & with
the former Translations diligently compared and revised,
by his Majesties speciall Comandement.

Appointed to be read in Churches.

Imprinted at London by Robert Barker, Printer to the
Kings most Excellent Majestie.

ANNO DOM. 1611 .”

At bottom is:
“C. Boel fecit in Richimont.”.



The first page of the Book of Genesis from the original 1611 printing of the King James Bible.

stage of development at that time. If some changes had not been made in subsequent editions of the KJV, it would not have appealed to later generations of readers. In many instances even the meaning of English words has changed during the last 400 years. And there is always the problem of translating ancient languages into modern languages that are structurally and culturally different. It is not simply a matter of finding the one word that matches a word in the ancient tongue.

How did the KJV come to be translated and published in 1611? Several translations in English had appeared earlier. The most popular Bible at the time was the Geneva Bible, which was translated in Geneva by English scholars in exile from England and which became the Bible of Puritan households during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. After the Queen died in 1603, James VI of Scotland was crowned as her successor in 1604. He then called a conference of churchmen at Hampton Court to

discuss the complaints of the Puritans against the Church of England. The conference did not accomplish much, but in the end Dr. Reynolds, Puritan president of Corpus Christi College proposed that a new revision of the Bible be undertaken. The King liked this idea since he had attempted a translation of the Psalms and a paraphrase of the Book of Revelation. He subsequently ordered that this work be undertaken by competent scholars from Oxford and Cambridge and Westminster, divided into six groups with each group assigned different parts of the Bible. Several rules were established by which the translators were to proceed with their work. Some of these were: (a) The Bishops' Bible is to be followed, and as little altered as the truth of the original will permit. (b) The old ecclesiastical words are to be kept, viz. the word church not to be translated congregation, etc. (c) No marginal notes at all are to be affixed but only for the explanation of the Hebrew or Greek which cannot easily or fitly be expressed in the text. (d) Procedures for reviewing and editing the work were outlined. (e) These translations are to be used when they agree better with the text than the Bishops' Bible: Tyndale's, Matthew's, Coverdale's, the Great Bible, and the Geneva Bible. Unlike our current KJV in which additional words supplied by the translators are printed in italics, the original text of this version supplies these same words in very small print.

This original printing of the KJV includes a Preface of eleven pages in small print with the title "The Translators to the Reader." This is a valuable addition to the KJV and it would be well if it were included in later editions of this Bible. In this Preface the translators try to explain why such a revision of the Bible was needed and they clearly feel the need to defend their work against its critics. As soon as the version appeared, it was sharply criticized and for the next

forty years it had to be defended, but it gradually won the day. The conciliatory attitude expressed in the Preface may have been of some help. It says: "Truly (good Christian Reader) wee never thought from the beginning that we should neede to make a new Translation, nor yet to make of a bad one a good one—but to make a good one better, or out of many good ones, one principall good one, not iustly to be excepted against; that hath bene our indeavour, that our marke" (spellings preserved). The translators had to use the knowledge concerning the text of the Old and New Testaments that was then available to them. For example, they used the Greek texts of the New Testaments prepared in the 16th century by Erasmus and Beza, who had access to none of the earliest Greek manuscripts that are available to modern scholars. Other weaknesses of this version could be mentioned, but that is not our purpose in this article.

For about 250 years the KJV was used almost exclusively by the English speaking public. It has been praised for the excellence of its language and its influence on English literature. But due to the many new discoveries during the 19th and 20th centuries of early manuscripts and other knowledge that has considerable impact on the translation of the Old and New Testaments, there have been several revisions of the Bible in the King James tradition, such as the English Revised Version (1881–85), the American Standard Version (1901), the Revised Standard Version (1946–52) and editions of the New Revised Standard Version, as well as several other modern speech translations published in the United States and in Great Britain. There is such a wealth of translations available to the public today that enable us to have a better understanding of the Scriptures and which are meant to provide us with a clear grasp of God's message for us in the language we use today.

Sources:

The 1611 King James Version, 400th Anniversary Edition
The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible in Four Volumes, published by Abingdon Press, 1962.



Reaching the Unreached People by Feeding

PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

BY DIOSA S. OMBANG

As we grow in doing the ministry the Lord entrusted to us, we are thankful to the Lord for continuously moving our hearts to reach the needy people for Christ. Consequently, we have the privilege to serve the children at Barangay Sagpangan, which is about 17 kilometers away from the church. In spite of our hectic schedule, God directed our hearts to minister in a way of feeding. Many children are experiencing lack of food in their family, even a cup of delicious, yet nutritious, porridge. There are 33 malnourished children from the remote mountain who came down out of hunger and poverty. We convey gratefulness to the Lord that we can meet their needs in two areas of their lives, mainly spiritual, the ultimate undertaking of Jesus Christ sharing the good news of salvation and meeting their physical needs in just one serving of porridge a week. Our hearts melt seeing their conditions and their needs. Ministering to them gives us an opportunity to fulfill the task of workers in the vineyard upon reaching these



children every Saturday. We are reminded of how Jesus handled His ministry while He was still here on Earth giving importance to children. As we quote in Mark 10:14 "...Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Indeed the Lord moves to spread the Gospel to the unreached peoples group.

Bayanihan

PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

BY THE REV. JIMMY L. OMBANG

Bayanihan is one of the activities that we have as a unity work of all pastors of the First Free Will Baptist Churches in the south District. This is one way of integrating all our efforts in sharing the Good News of salvation to the lost. We were privileged to host this activity in Barangay Bagong Sikat to saturate this area with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, redeeming the time and reaching the lost for Christ. The following churches participated: Apo Aporawan, Balacan, Aribungos, Maasin (Brookespoint), Abo-abo, Ipilan, and Plaridel. We praise the Lord for those precious souls won to Christ and the democracy that we are enjoying in our country in sharing the Gospel to the unsaved. There were 19 adults who responded and came to know the Lord Jesus as their Lord and personal Savior.

As a result of the Bayanihan activity there were 12 Bible studies opened and they expressed an interest to know God more. One of the most exciting situations is that the people of the Barangay decided to build a temporary building that they may worship God and decided to be the daughter church of Plaridel First Free Will Baptist Church. Our hearts overflowed with joy because the Lord has answered our prayers. It's been a long time that we kept on praying that the people



in Barangay would one day realize that they need the Lord in their lives. We are thankful to God for it is the year of God's favor. People seek the Lord and we have to be diligent in sharing the Gospel. We owe everything to God and you as our sponsors, supporters, and prayer partners in the ministry. Indeed this is the fruit of our labor for the Lord. To God be the glory for all the accomplishments that we have in serving the King of Kings, our Lord Jesus Christ. As you see in the picture a lot of children came to the Lord as well. Indeed, the harvest field needs more workers to gather the yield of its fruit.

I Love That Man

BALCHIK, BULGARIA

BY WILLEM VAN DER PLAS

Gemmy, the niece of Medji, shocked her aunt saying, “I love that man!” Medji asked her, “What? Which man?” Laughing, Gemmy repeated, “Aunt, I love that man so much!” Alarmed, her aunt said, “Tell me, which man?” “I love Jesus my dear aunt. I love Jesus because He has made Himself special to me, He loves me and I know that He died for my sins; He has taken all sins away from me.”

Last year in February Gemmy joined the Bible study group on Saturday evenings. At that time she neither believed in God nor in Jesus Christ and she shared the views of her friends, “It is all nonsense.” Her questions during lesson hours were critical, not always easy to answer. She resisted believing in God, yet she received a certain peace in her heart from the lessons; “something” changed her, she told me.

The lesson “Why Jesus died?” has been important to change her, leading her thoughts towards Jesus. Suddenly she asked, “Did Jesus die for all my sins?” However, to my question: “Are you sure that Jesus died also for you?” She could not give an answer of full assurance. Honestly she said, “I do not know.” This lesson, however, brought her in the reality of Jesus Redeemer—turning her heart to Jesus. At that time she began to read the Bible verses, which we used in the lesson, at home and she found more about Jesus in her Bible, leading her into her love towards Jesus.

Gemmy testified, “My sins have been forgiven and I am changing. Many people have been amazed about my changes—they are wondering. I enjoy an enormous freedom, it is great relief to be free of my past, knowing that a total new life stretches out ahead of me.” I asked her, “Can you tell me

about your changes?” Gemmy shared a part of her renewed life: “Before, I lived in many conflicts with my parents and other people around me. My character and behavior are different now. My wishes for the future changed because

before I was dreaming of wealth and richness, while nowadays I am thankful for my freedom, my health, and peace in Christ. The best choice is to belong to God the Father, living for Jesus our Lord and Savior. God hears my prayers, He knows my wishes; He is helping me grow obedient to Him. I don’t feel anymore the need to be helped, but I desire helping others, sharing the blessings I received and I don’t need to hear, “Thank you!” because I received myself. Sharing is JOY.”

Gemmy continues: “My cousins and my friends repudiate my views, my strong belief in God, and my Love for Jesus. They don’t want to hear about these matters. That is painful, because they don’t know what they miss in their lives.

I love to read my Bible in the time I am free. First I read the New Testament stories about Jesus and at this moment I read Genesis, which is a wonderful book about God and people, real people who lived thousands of years ago. My father, who is Muslim, wants to hear these stories also and he decides to save money to buy a pair of glasses so he can read for himself. The Words of the Bible are touching him and providing him peace, also.

Believe me that I have trials, too. I lost my job in the Italian textile factory in December last year, while I prayed God to keep me there at work. Is it God’s mistake? Of course not! With or without job, I love THAT MAN, His name is JESUS.”



The best choice is to belong to God the Father, living for Jesus our Lord and Savior...I don’t feel anymore the need to be helped, but I desire helping others, sharing the blessings I received and I don’t need to hear, “Thank you!” because I received myself. Sharing is JOY.

— Gemmy

NOTE: I interviewed Gemmy Edip, a remarkable young lady, just about 20 years old. She finished high school and was forced, more or less, by her Aunt Medji to join the Bible Studies. It is a pity that she lost her job at the Italian factory, where the management has a weird labor-hiring policy. They work for about 4 months with young people and fire them to hire other young workers, which makes it possible to pay out salaries under the Government requirements, because they are booked as learners with a temporary contract. Gemmy labored there already 6 months and hoped that she could remain in her job.

FOREIGN MISSIONS' ANNUAL TELETHON

TELETHON SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2012

THEME: "YOUR COMPASSION IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE"

THEME VERSE:

"And of some have compassion, making a difference."

JUDE 22



REACHING THE LOST



LEPERS



CHILD CARE



RELIEF

GOAL 2012: A total of \$225,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL.

**Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5 P.M.
Dial 252.746.4963.**


Your compassionate gifts and call on Telethon Sunday enable our pastors, and teachers around the world to minister in the name of Christ and make life changing differences in the lives of thousands of people every year.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS IS MARCH 25, 2012

PRAYER GOAL:

All churches joining together in united prayer during the Morning Worship Hour in one accord for revival.

LET US PRAY

 **OFWB**
INTERNATIONAL
FOREIGN MISSIONS
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
252.746.4963
director@ofwbi.org



FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS

3928 Lee Street • P. O. Box 159 • Ayden, NC 28573 • 1 (800) 849.3927 • www.fwbpress.com



Highlights from the Kinston Bible & Bookstore's First Children's Movie Night.



Highlights from the Kinston Bible & Bookstore's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Educational Opportunities at **MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE**

OFWB Tuition grant

Active OFWB members are eligible for a \$3,000 tuition grant annually if they attend full-time in the daytime program at MOC.

Music, Art, and Athletic Scholarships for MOC daytime students

The music department professors will be happy to arrange audition time for students who are interested in auditioning for music ensemble scholarships, and coaches will be scheduling team tryouts this spring. Ask admissions representatives about these procedures. Art portfolios can be reviewed for scholarships if students are interested in pursuing the art or visual communication major.

Merit and Leadership Scholarships for MOC daytime students

MOC scholarships for merit and leadership are also available for students who have outstanding high school grades and student leadership experiences. Admissions representatives can tell you more at <admissions@moc.edu> or at 1 (800) 653-0854.

Accepted Student Days

Are scheduled on April 23 and June 29, 2012. Any student who is accepted and has paid the confirmation fee is eligible to attend this important day. The goal of the day is to help new college students entering college in the fall of 2012 register for classes, have their photo ID made, and to complete paperwork for housing and roommate assignments and other college services. Contact admissions at 1 (800) 653-0854 or <admissions@moc.edu> for more information.

One-Night-a-Week Programs for Adults

One-night-a-week college programs for adults are available at Mount Olive, New Bern, Jacksonville, Washington, Wilmington, and Research Triangle Park. The tuition cost for these programs is offered at a reduced rate. Complete the free online application at <www.moc.edu> and learn more about our programs by clicking on the location nearest your home or workplace. Multiple start dates are available each semester, so ask about these convenient programs and how you can complete your degree. Call 1 (800) NEW GOAL. You will be connected to the location nearest your home. Financial aid is available.

RN to BSN Online Program

Applications for the RN to BSN program are now being accepted for the April 23, 2012 start date. Entering students must hold RN licensure and submit college transcripts no later than April 5, 2012. To apply visit <www.moc.edu> and click on apply now. To learn more about this program, contact Joy Phillips, nursing program coordinator at <jphillips@moc.edu> or by calling 1 (800) 653-0854.

- **Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture**

March 26–27, 2012 • Rodgers Chapel

Contact: Tyanna Yonkers at (919) 658-7861 or e-mail <tyonkers@moc.edu>

Dr. Ellen Ott Marshall will be the guest speaker for the 22nd Annual Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture. Dr. Marshall is associate professor of Christian Ethics and Conflict Transformation at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. She focuses on contemporary Christian ethics, and is particularly interested in issues of violence and peacemaking, ethical questions in literature and film, and the dynamic relationship between faith, history, and ethics. The first lecture will be held on March 26 at 7 P.M. On March 27, there will be a 9 A.M. lecture, and an 11 A.M. worship service. The purpose of the event is to provide a medium for continuing education for the ministers and laypersons of North Carolina.

- **The Magdalene Ensemble: "Behold: Her Story of Easter"**

April 3, 2012 @ 7:30 P.M. • Southern Bank Auditorium, W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Hall

\$10 general admission

Contact: Stuart Burnham, (919) 658-7166 or <sburnham@moc.edu>

Behold is a musical drama that portrays the events of Easter as witnessed through the eyes and words of the women who were there. Having seen the risen Jesus, Mary Magdalene invites us to rejoice in the reality of spiritual rebirth. Let those with eyes to see and ears to hear, BEHOLD!



Mount Olive College
Celebrates
the True Meaning
of Christmas

Mount Olive College welcomed the Advent season with its annual Christmas by Candlelight service on November 29, 2011. Attendees were treated to a variety of pre-event activities including an ice skating rink, a gigantic snow globe for taking keepsake photos, carriage rides, and hot chocolate. The events officially got underway when President and Mrs. Philip P. Kerstetter lit the campus Christmas tree in front of Rodgers Chapel. Also lighting the campus were over 400 luminaries that lined the walkway around Kemp Commons. Several of the luminaries were lit in honor and in memory of loved ones with all proceeds going to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

Carla Williamson, Mount Olive College Chaplain, visited the Children's Home and presented Mr. Gary Lee, Children Home President/CEO, with a \$500 check along with gift Bibles donated by employees of the Mount Olive College's Student Affairs Department. Lee shared that the Children's Home presents each child they serve with a Bible. During the year of 2011, the Children's Home helped over 70 children.

"We would like to thank all who sponsored a luminary," Williamson said. "This is just one way Mount Olive College can give back to the community and the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination. May God continue to bless the work of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home and Mount Olive College!"

Meet Audrey Owens

Read Her Transforming Story

As a little girl, she saw her father's passion for his work in business administration and decided that she wanted to pursue a career that would inspire that same kind of passion in her. Her mother, who graduated from Mount Olive College in 1981, taught her to follow her dreams, but to make sure that she never lost touch with her reason for living: her relationship with Jesus Christ. So, she followed her parent's footsteps and enrolled in Mount Olive College as a business administration major.

When Audrey Owens of Wilson, NC arrived at Mount Olive College, she got involved in Phi Beta Lambda, a division of the Future Business Leaders of America. "We would travel and compete in business competitions all over the United States. It was through this club and the professors of the Tillman School of Business that I knew that I made the right choice. Business administration is the right major for me." Management is the aspect of business that interests Owens the most. "I am a people person, and I love trying to make sure that everyone is happy. If not, I like the challenge of conflict resolution."

Since the beginning of her college career, Owens, has been a ministry leader on campus. During her freshman year, she became involved with Thursday Night Worship and attended every service. "My sophomore year, a spot in the praise band opened, and I started singing with the band. I eventually joined the ministry team and we planned the Thursday Night Worship services, musical entertainment for Chapel Services, the yearly concert, missions/services projects, and many other events. I love



I am a people person, and I love trying to make sure that everyone is happy. If not, I like the challenge of conflict resolution

serving God through the talents that He has given me, and I love serving others." Owens admits that being a part of campus ministries has been her passion for the past four years.

Owens, a twenty-two year old senior, believes that being a ministry leader has opened the door for her to meet many incredible people. "Not only has this strengthened my walk with Christ, but I have made friendships that will last a lifetime. These friendships helped me through some extremely tough times in the last four years." Though her work on campus has been gratifying, it didn't come without facing challenges. "Honestly, I think that my sophomore year was a transformational year for me; I ended the year a completely different person and student than I was my freshman year." Owens credits her friends and campus ministry with being the positive influence she needed. "I would recommend getting involved in campus ministries to all students, because it can truly change their

lives. Whether you are going through a rough spot in life or just simply need a support group, campus ministries offer it all."

The most valuable lesson that Owens has gained from working as a ministry leader at Mount Olive College is that people are always watching. "It is important to make sure that you live out who you say you are. I have had the pleasure of witnessing a person accept Christ for the first time as a ministry leader, I have sung prayers of healing, and I have seen a man praise the Lord through Free Spirit's singing even during his time of pain. These

article continued on next page

(continued from previous page)

are some of the most valuable experiences that I will never forget.”

Owens’ philosophy that people are always watching has benefitted her academically as well. “I would say that my hard work as a student has paid off, because I have received numerous recommendations and awards from many professors and that all came from them watching me as a student.”

Owens has won the prestigious award of the Handy Mart Scholarship. Her recommendation was based on her interaction with professors and students in the classroom. “I went up against eight other top business students, and I was one of two students chosen for a \$16,000 scholarship (\$8,000 for two years). This experience taught me that one day in the job world, my actions will be watched; therefore, I always need to do my best if I want to succeed.”

After graduation in May, Owens will travel to Croatia with the Junior Honors Class. “I will graduate on Saturday and fly to Croatia for a week on Monday. This is my celebration from my parents.

Owens says that Mount Olive College transformed her life. “Mount Olive College showed me and taught me how to be a business manager. It has transformed my life and helped me find my passion.”

“It is important to make sure that you live out who you say you are. I have had the pleasure of witnessing a person accept Christ for the first time as a ministry leader, I have sung prayers of healing, and I have seen a man praise the Lord through Free Spirit’s singing even during his time of pain. These are some of the most valuable experiences that I will never forget.”



Dr. Ken Benton Speaks at MOC Chapel Service

From left to right are: Jonathan Whitford (Saints Delight Church, Craven County); Samantha Webster (Ayden Church, Pitt County); Carla Williamson, Campus Chaplain; Drs. Ken and Marilyn Benton (Goldsboro First Church, Wayne County)



FWB Students Attend Visitation Day

First row (left to right): Aaron Warwick (St. Paul Church, Sampson County); Spencer Skinner (Daniels Chapel Church, Wilson County); Amanda Cockrell (Kenly Church, Johnston County)

Second row (left to right): Nick Mitchell (Wintergreen Church, Craven County); Phillip Sloan (Rose of Sharon Church, Martin County); Jake Lilley (Rose of Sharon Church, Martin County)



2012 Cragmont Summer Schedule

Morning Star

April 13-15, 2012

Joan Little (252) 753-3217

7063 Stantonburg Rd. • Farmville, NC 27828

Dayspring Conference

June 6-9, 2012

Joan Little (252) 753-3217

7063 Stantonburg Rd. • Farmville, NC 27828

Christian Cadet Conference

June 18-23, 2012

Joey Williams (919) 734-9080

139 Windyfield Dr. • Goldsboro, NC 27534

Pee Dee Youth Confernce

July 2-5, 2012

Heath Connor (910) 740-4454

727 Mount Olive Rd. • Bladenboro, NC 28320

General Youth II Conference

July 9-14, 2012

Brad Williamson, Director: (252) 244-0207

Wilma Parker, Registrar: (252) 522-0967

P.O. Box 6423 • Kinston, NC 28501

Young People's Bible Conference

July 23-27, 2012

Chuck Owens (252) 289-7669

1506 Washington Ave. • Weldon, NC 27890

Emmanuel Woman's Mini Conference

September 7-9, 2012

Joan Little (252) 753-3217

7063 Stantonburg Rd. • Farmville, NC 27828

Ministerial Association of OFWB

June 4-6, 2012

Stephen Prescott (910) 567-5347

7605 Newton Grove Hwy. • Dunn, NC 28334

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 11-16, 2012

Angela Mattox (252) 671-7176

1469 Wintergreen Rd. • Cove City, NC 28523

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC)

June 25-30, 2012

Frankie Baggett (252) 746-7850

5403 Weyerhaeuser Rd. • Ayden, NC 28513

Bed, Breakfast, & Blessing

July 5-8, 2012

Cragmont Assembly 1 (877) 669-7677

1233 North Fork Rd. • Black Mountain, NC 28711

General Youth I Conference

July 16-21, 2011

Bryant Hines (252) 792-5745

7946 Bear Grass Rd. • Robersonville, NC 27871

Cornerstone Woman's Conference

July 29-August 3, 2012

Joan Little (252) 753-3217

7063 Stantonburg Rd. • Farmville, NC 27828



Pastor/Deacon Retreat

March 22–24, 2012

This year Dr. De W. Eakes will lead the retreat. In our denomination we place great weight on being “servants” as is evident by the importance we place on “The Washing of the Saints’ Feet.” This ordinance is our denominational symbol for servanthood. It is my belief that true leaders lead through serving others—which is exactly what Christ taught. Dr. Eakes will take us through some of the issues as well as give us practical information that will help ministers and deacons do their work in a Christ-like manner.

The cost of the retreat is \$110 per person. This includes your room plus breakfast, lunch, the evening meal on Friday, and breakfast on Saturday. The schedule is as follows:

- **Thursday (22)**
7:30 P.M.Check-in; Worship Service
- **Friday (23)**
8:00 A.M.Breakfast
9:00–12:00 NOONTwo sessions
12:00 NOONLunch; afternoon is free
6:00 P.M.Supper
7:30 P.M.3rd session.
- **Saturday (24)**
8:00 A.M.Breakfast
9:00 A.M.Last session

To register, please send in your church name, number in your group, housing preference, phone number, and handicap needs to our office at Cragmont. You may e-mail at <cragmont@charter.net>, or you may phone in at (877) 669-7677. We do ask for a \$50 deposit and the balance would be due upon arrival.



The Century of Grace Campaign

Growing Together As the People of God

Many of our Denominational Ministries have their special times throughout the year that have become cornerstones for their financial support. For example, the Children's Home has its "Change for Children," Cragmont has its annual Golf Tournament, Mount Olive College has the annual fall dinners, Foreign Missions has its Telethon Sunday, the Sunday School Ministry has Rally Day and the Institute, and Home Missions has its First Thursday Meetings. Through these efforts, funds are raised that provide some stability and opportunity to expand their work.

In 2005, the Original Free Will Baptist Convention's Executive Committee decided to re-open the Headquarters Administrative Office. The direction taken by the committee and office personnel became one of service to The Denomination and logistical support to our churches and ministries. Since its new directives were established, the Headquarters office has successfully implemented a number of new initiatives that provide much needed service to Original Free Will Baptists, including a professionally designed, easy to use website <www.ofwb.org>, an expanded e-mail network that services several of our ministries and includes over 1,000 individual contacts, and in co-operation with the Home Missions Ministry, there are training opportunities for deacons, ushers, greeters, lay-speakers, and more. Plus, the Headquarters Office has been instrumental in restructuring the annual convention to include the Pastor's IMPACT Banquet and afternoon workshops that have been very well received. Through the communications network, OFWBs are informed of church news and events, deaths, sickness, prayer requests, meeting schedules, and more. Other support services include pulpit supply, interim ministry assistance, church consultation services, various workshops, and study courses.

The budget for the Headquarters and Convention Office is provided by our churches, as is the case with most of the other ministries. Through convention registration fees, offerings, and contributions, our churches and some of our ministries provide an annual Headquarters income of \$60,000, the smallest amount of any OFWB ministry. And while other funds come

in from rent, service fees, utilities, etc. these monies are sent right back out to compensate those companies who provide these services. We thank our God for sustaining this ministry.

The CENTURY OF GRACE CAMPAIGN is designed to provide an annual base of financial operation. There are a number of ministry goals that are in the early stages of development, but have been put on hold until funding has been secured. Some of these include:

- Expanding the OFWB Youth Ministry
- Continuing Development of the Family Ministry
- Cost-Free Counseling for Ordained Ministers
- Broader Educational Opportunities for Christian Ministry
- Heightened Exposure Through Modern Media Sources (Radio, TV, Internet)

You and your church's participation in this \$100,000 campaign will bring our Headquarters Office one step closer to reaching the solid financial base needed to continue the work on these programs. Your annual contribution of \$500, along with your regular budgeted support, may be just the "shot in the arm" we need to move our Convention to the next level of service.

As our Original Free Will Baptist Convention celebrates its 100th annual session this year, please consider that extra gift. As our way of saying "thank you," upon completion of your annual pledge, we will send you a beautifully framed copy of the photo, "Servanthood," as seen on the back cover of this magazine, along with a wonderful marble paperweight embossed with the OFWB logo and the words "Century of Grace 1913-2012."

Thank you for your support of the Original Free Will Baptist Convention and Headquarters. We look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting May 22-24, 2012 on the campus of Mount Olive College. A wonderful celebration is being planned and many exciting events will be taking place. Visit our webpage at <www.ofwb.org> for more details, including on-line registration, devotions, directories, news and events, and much more. And be sure to join our e-mail list.

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists
"Serving Him By Serving You"

P.O. Box 39 • Ayden, North Carolina 28513

E-mail: ofwb.hq@ofwb.org



The 100th Annual Session of the
Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

“Working for God with Enjoyment”

(1 Peter 4:13)

May 22–24, 2012

On the campus of Mount Olive College

Banquets, Worship, Workshops, Music,
Late-night fun, and Celebration

Enjoy a journey through our 20th Century history.
Hear and see leaders from the past. Enjoy early church music.

Take an exciting trip to our OFWB future.

See and hear tomorrow’s leaders today.

A Century of Grace
1913–2012

Original Free Will Baptist Convention Nomination Form

The following positions are to be filled at the 2012 Convention

Convention Officers: 2 positions

- President
- Vice President

Executive Committee: 3 positions

- Conference Representatives for Cape Fear, Central, and Eastern

Children's Home Board: 3 positions

Foreign Missions Board: 1 position

Home Missions and Evangelism Board: 1 position

Minister's Program Board: 1 position

Mount Olive College Board of Trustees: 5 positions

Retirement Homes Board: 2 positions

Sunday School Board: 3 positions

Cragmont Board: 3 positions

Layman's League Board: 4 positions

FWB Press Foundation Representative: 1 position

Church Finance Association Representative: 1 position

OFWB Convention Board of Trustees: 1 position

The following Commissions each have 1 position available:

- Historical Commission
- Commission on Education for Christian Ministry
- Chaplain's Commission
- Commission on Youth Ministry and Student Ministry Leadership

Mail your nominations to:

Sam Weeks

2375 Smith Road • Smithfield, NC 27577

All nominations must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2012.

(Nominations will also be called for from the floor of The Convention.)

I/We would like to nominate _____

to fill a position on the _____

(Name of Board, Commission, or Representative)

_____ (Signature of Person or Ministry making the nomination)

Each nomination must include a biographical sketch of the person being nominated and why you feel they would be an asset to that ministry, commission, association, or foundation.

THERE'S NO HURT TOO BIG FOR GOD!



A long time ago, in the faraway town of Bethlingham, roved a bard of merry men, led by the fearless Robin Good. Their mission: to help people by fundraising from the rich and giving to the poor!

But when a greedy Prince starts stealing the townspeople's hams, donations are down and Robin's friends take off and decide to give robbing from the rich a try.

Feeling rejected, Robin thinks things can't get any worse, until he finds out that the ham-hoarding Prince has also captured his friends. Can Robin overcome his own hurt, rescue his friends and restore the townspeople's hope?

Find out in this fun Veggie story where kids learn that there's no hurt too big for God!

*Includes the new
Silly Song*

**BUBBLE
RAP**

RETAIL PRICE: \$14.99

ON SALE: \$11.97

To order, call 1.800.849.3927 ext. 221 or visit one of our store locations at:

Ayden Bible & Bookstore

3928 Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-6128

Kinston Bible & Bookstore

Vernon Park Mall
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 527-2843

New Bern Bible & Bookstore

1232 S. Glenburnie Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 638-6193

Veggie Puzzles that are Twice as Nice!



New lenticular puzzles from VeggieTales feature a "holographic" image that shows two images when the puzzle is tilted. Featuring characters from popular VeggieTales stories "Robin Good and His-Not-So-Merry Men" and "Sweetpea Beauty," these puzzles will delight children and also remind them of important values!

\$7.99



Product specifications:
Puzzle board 9 1/2" x 11 1/2"
Puzzle pieces 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"

To order, call 1.800.849.3927 ext. 221 or visit one of our store locations at:

Ayden Bible & Bookstore

3928 Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-6128

Kinston Bible & Bookstore

Vernon Park Mall
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 527-2843

New Bern Bible & Bookstore

1232 S. Glenburnie Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 638-6193

VEGGIE DEVOTIONS ALL YEAR ROUND!

ONLY
\$6.99
EACH

VeggieTales

365
Bedtime
Devos
for BOYS

VeggieTales

365
Bedtime
Devos
for Girls

● *365 daily bedtime devotionals Moms or Dads can read to their girls or boys*

To order, call 1.800.849.3927 ext. 221 or visit one of our store locations at:

Ayden Bible & Bookstore

3928 Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-6128

Kinston Bible & Bookstore

Vernon Park Mall
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 527-2843

New Bern Bible & Bookstore

1232 S. Glenburnie Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 638-6193

FOR LIFE'S LITTLE BOO-BOO'S!

Introducing Veggie Bandages - the fun comfort strips that feature Bob & Larry with the sentiment that reminds kids "There's no hurt too big for God!"



\$2.99



To order, call 1.800.849.3927 ext. 221 or visit one of our store locations at:

Ayden Bible & Bookstore

3928 Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-6128

Kinston Bible & Bookstore

Vernon Park Mall
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 527-2843

New Bern Bible & Bookstore

1232 S. Glenburnie Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 638-6193

SUPERBALL ***GOLF TOURNAMENT***

Friday, April 20, 2012
Cardinal Country Club • Selma, NC



Registration: 11 A.M. • **Tee-off:** 1 P.M. • **Cost:** \$50 per person

Includes 18 holes of golf, riding cart, dinner, refreshments, and chance to win various prizes!!!

Awards

- **Putting Challenge** • **Closest to Pin on Holes 2 & 13**
- **Longest Hole** • **Winners of each Division**

The proceeds from this tournament will go toward our Layman's work projects, such as providing handrails, handicap ramps, etc. for those who are in need of such, but cannot afford them.

To register, contact Bill Stevens at <blstevens@embarqmail.com> or (919) 915-3700;
or call Frank James at (919) 320-7319

Golf attire is required. No steel spikes are allowed on the course.

Tournament Player Registration Form

Team Captain

Captain's mailing address

Captain's e-mail address

Captain's phone no.

Player 2

Player 3

Player 4

Team classification (check one)

Junior (3 members under 50 years old)

Senior (3 members 50–64 years old)

Super Senior (3 members 65 or older)

Total Payment Enclosed \$_____

Mail your registration with check payable to:

Johnston Union Layman's League

PO Box 1851 • Smithfield, NC 27577



Recreation

A Way to Change Lives and Enhance Personal Growth

The Recreation Activities program gives our residents the opportunity to express themselves by using their talents. They learn ways to have fun while exercising, and also learn the value of staying fit and healthy. Each child has been given the opportunity to participate in Zumba, an aerobic type dance; workout circuits; individualized workout programs; and sports activities such as basketball, team bowling, wiffle ball, and volleyball. Singing is also one of their favorite activities, which was showcased in the talent show in late January.

They have also focused on the value of giving back. One of their favorite events was to make cards and crafts to share with the local rest home. They delivered the gifts and were able to share Scripture and songs with the seniors there.

Time has been set aside to discuss personal hygiene, and they have participated in dinners and outings that help promote good social skills, refine manners, and learn patience.

Spiritual life has always been an important part of the Children's Home ministry. In addition to our weekly Bible study and our Sunday worship, where our children participate through singing and Bible readings, there are other opportunities for our children to increase their spiritual awareness.

Through our Recreation Activities Program they have been able to experience worship with other youth groups and participate in Bible study. These activities are instrumental in developing skills that will help these young adults grow into well-rounded individuals.



Children participating in exercise.



Our children sharing Scripture at a local rest home.



Baptismal Service

On Sunday, January 8, as part of the weekly worship service at Memorial Chapel there was a baptismal service. The Rev. Johnny Sullivan, board member and pastor of Daniel's Chapel Church, Wilson, spoke at the worship service prior to the baptismal service. The candidates for baptism were six young ladies from the Home who had recently committed their lives to the Lord. Before the service was over, there were two more residents who made a profession of faith.

Our worship team is diligently working to plant spiritual seeds in the lives of the children living at The Home who have been entrusted to our care.

Please be in prayer for these young ladies who have committed to change their lives, and all of the children and staff at The Home.



Gift of candy, straight from the heart.

A Little "Faith" Can Do Great Things!



Faith Fountain is only eight years old, yet she prays for the Children's Home every night in her prayers. Faith came to visit back in the fall with her church, Bethlehem FWB, Fountaintown and has been a faithful supporter of The Home ever since. She saved candy and sent a huge bag for the children recently. She also robbed her piggy bank to send a gift, too.

Oh, how little children can lead us. Thank you Faith for your "faith" in, and continued prayer support of, the children and staff of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.



Change for Children 2012

Be on the look out! The first letter for our "Change For Children Campaign" will be mailed to your church officers and pastors the week of March 15, 2012. If you need to update contact or mailing information, please contact the Development Office at (252) 235-6507.

Needs List

- (5) Stainless Steel Range Hoods (36 inch—2-speed w/light)
- Twin Size Comforters (bright colors—geometric shape designs, or solid)
- Bedroom Lamps
- Bed Pillow Covers (vinyl)
- Body Wash (boys & girls)
- Trash Bags (13 gallon and larger)
- Food Storage Bags (gallon & quart)
- (25) Exercise Mats (approximately 68 inch x 24 inch size)
- High Chairs/Booster Seats
- Umbrellas
- (4) Rechargeable Flashlights (large size)
- Double A Batteries
- Disposable Tablecloths for 72 inch Round Tables (white or pastel colors)
- Summer Trip Sponsor (\$2,000)
- Individually Wrapped Snacks





Opportunities for Learning

Powhatan OFWB Church

7:00 P.M.–8:30 P.M.

First Tuesday of each month except
January, July, and August

January 3, 2012

Awakening the Sleeping Giant, Part 1

- The Church in the Fourth Dimension
- Building Blocks of Effective Ministry

February 7, 2012

Awakening the Sleeping Giant, Part 2

- Sunday School and the Local Church
- Sunday School Teacher: Mentor & Friend

March 6, 2012

Awakening the Sleeping Giant, Part 3

- Sunday School Teacher: Evangelist & Pastor
- Sunday School Teacher: Body Builder & Bridge

April 3, 2012

Awakening the Sleeping Giant, Part 4

- Sunday School Teacher: Activist & Agent
- Sunday School: Equipping for Life, Ministry, & Leadership

May 1, 2012

Growing an Evangelistic Sunday School, Part 1

June 5, 2012

Growing an Evangelistic Sunday School, Part 2

September 4, 2012

The Challenge of Sunday School

October 2, 2012

Getting an Grip on Sunday School

November 6, 2012

What Every Sunday School Teacher Should Know

Robert's Grove OFWB Church

7:30 P.M.–9:00 P.M.

Second Thursday of each month except
July, August, and December

January 12, 2012

Successful Teaching, Part 1

February 9, 2012

Successful Teaching, Part 2

March 8, 2012

Awakening the Sleeping Giant, Part 1

- The Church in the Fourth Dimension
- Building Blocks of Effective Ministry

April 12, 2012

Awakening the Sleeping Giant, Part 2

- Sunday School and the Local Church
- Sunday School Teacher: Mentor & Friend

May 10, 2012

Awakening the Sleeping Giant, Part 3

- Sunday School Teacher: Evangelist & Pastor
- Sunday School Teacher: Body Builder & Bridge

June 14, 2012

Awakening the Sleeping Giant, Part 4

- Sunday School Teacher: Activist & Agent
- Sunday School: Equipping for Life, Ministry, & Leadership

September 13, 2012

Seven Laws of Teaching

October 11, 2012

Time Management for Teachers

November 8, 2012

For Kids Sake

Macedonia OFWB Church

7:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M.

Third Thursday of each month except
July, August, and December

January 19, 2012

Awakening the Sleeping Giant, Part 1

- The Church in the Fourth Dimension
- Building Blocks of Effective Ministry

February 16, 2012

Awakening the Sleeping Giant, Part 2

- Sunday School and the Local Church
- Sunday School Teacher: Mentor & Friend

March 15, 2012

Awakening the Sleeping Giant, Part 3

- Sunday School Teacher: Evangelist & Pastor
- Sunday School Teacher: Body Builder & Bridge

April 19, 2012

Awakening the Sleeping Giant, Part 4

- Sunday School Teacher: Activist & Agent
- Sunday School: Equipping for Life, Ministry, & Leadership

May 17, 2012

Keys to Sunday School Growth

June 21, 2012

The Challenge of Sunday School

September 20, 2012

Getting an Grip on Sunday School

October 18 2012

For Kids Sake

November 15, 2012

Teaching Standards & Values to Kids

Pleasant Hill OFWB Church

Grimesland, North Carolina

7:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M.

Fourth Monday of each month except
May, July, August, and December

January 23, 2012

Awakening the Sleeping Giant, Part 1

- The Church in the Fourth Dimension
- Building Blocks of Effective Ministry

February 27, 2012

Awakening the Sleeping Giant, Part 2

- Sunday School and the Local Church
- Sunday School Teacher: Mentor & Friend

March 26, 2012

Awakening the Sleeping Giant, Part 3

- Sunday School Teacher: Evangelist & Pastor
- Sunday School Teacher: Body Builder & Bridge

April 23, 2012

Awakening the Sleeping Giant, Part 4

- Sunday School Teacher: Activist & Agent
- Sunday School: Equipping for Life, Ministry, & Leadership

June 25, 2012

Sunday School Care Package (Motivating Teachers)

September 24, 2012

Successful Teaching, Part 1

October 22, 2012

Successful Teaching, Part 2

November 26, 2012

For Kids Sake

Come and join us for any of all of these occasions!

For further information, contact Mary Dudley at the Sunday School Ministry office
at the Headquarters at (252) 746-4963 or <director@ofwbsundayschool.org>.

A *Sling* and a **STONE**

Significance in Christ as a Young Adult

with Marc Boswell

Jesus and the Unemployed

Recently, while staying at Cragmont, I had the good fortune of crossing paths with some good Free Will Baptist folks, most of whom were young adults. My wife and I were enjoying the comforts of the “New Lodge” while she worked at a few conferences in nearby Montreat. Also staying in the lodge was a wonderful group of young adults from a Free Will Baptist church in Wilson County. We were able to strike up a few conversations over the course of the weekend, and, during one conversation, I asked them to tell me a little more about what matters concerned them and what issues were most pressing in their lives at the moment.

Almost in unison, they began to speak about the economy. The prospect of finding work after graduating college, of paying off college loans, or finding work whether they attended school or not, were topics we briefly discussed while sitting around the lodge.¹ I wondered what our churches, our faith, and our theology had to say to these young adults in the midst of their anxiety and concern (as far as that goes, the same question could be asked on the behalf of middle-aged adults and older adults, who are also having a particularly hard time finding work since employers in some sectors are skeptical about hiring those closer to retirement age).

Some would be quick to say that our work or our jobs fall into a “secular” or “worldly” realm, a space in our lives that Christianity or our spirituality does not necessarily touch. But, can our lives be so

neatly divided into “secular” and “sacred” camps? Can we not, on the other hand, speak of a deeper spiritual dimension at play in the part of our lives that we associate with our work or our lack thereof? Most any person who has been unemployed or underemployed, or faced the direct possibility of either, know that these stations in life do, indeed, affect our spirit, our mind, and our hearts. The pressures and the consequences of these parts of our lives are all too real and all too human. Thoughts that the Christian faith only speaks to personal morality, e.g., not using bad language or gossiping, are hopefully dispelled in the face of this deeper, more serious dimension of what it fundamentally means to be human (to be able to work and produce).

Thankfully, there was a time when our Baptist ancestors knew this. In the decades before the Revolutionary War (1775–1783), Baptists and other evangelicals throughout the American colonies created a name for themselves by specifically and intentionally siding with the poor and oppressed. In many Southern colonies, the state-supported church was the Anglican Church of England, and most evangelicals were seen as “dissenters” and rabble-rousers for not supporting the state Church. Likewise, many well-heeled and wealthy, land-owning Anglicans turned their noses at the poor and the unlettered evangelicals, driving them to emphasize all the more their class consciousness and their firm belief that Jesus demanded that they care for the least, the poor, and the oppressed.

To be a Baptist, in other words, during these decades before the War, was to practice solidarity and concern with the economically disadvantaged as a badge of spiritual identity and social identity in a land ruled by wealthy, Anglican elites.

Of course, the Revolutionary War did not end favorably for the many loyal British Anglican clergy in the colonies, and the Baptists and other evangelicals suddenly found themselves no longer on the lower rung of the social and religious totem pole in the absence of Anglican dominance. Somewhere along the way, though, many evangelicals unfortunately lost the urgency of identifying with the poor and powerless in the wake of their newfound prestige and social abilities. This spiritual emphasis would come, go, and return over the next few centuries. Yet, here we stand once more in a position to realize, as many of these older Baptists and evangelicals realized, that the ability of many folks to find work and pay their bills can sometimes have less to do with their initiative and responsibility, and more to do with larger socio-economic forces that are beyond the reach of any one individual person looking for a job. In other words, perhaps we can see once again that the unemployed, underemployed, and the poor are not necessarily “lazy” or “irresponsible.” Instead, we can see that they are caught in the push and pull of decisions (good or bad) made at different levels of a globalized world, and that, regardless, the individual and her or his family are still beloved children of God.

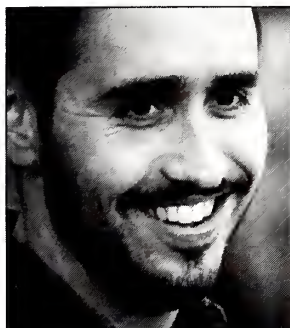
Thankfully, we come from a vast heritage of people who know how to care for one another in times of need and distress, as I remember many times when emergency funds were raised, for example, by a youth car wash, a pig-picking, or a love offering. Even more, we know that we follow a Savior who did not draw dividing lines between the “deserving poor” and the “undeserving poor;” who did not ask whether a person’s sins or their parents’ sins left them in a dire situation; who

not only looked sympathetically upon those struggling financially amongst his own tribe, race, or friends, but upon all people equally; and who made rather clear that we demonstrate our love for Him [Jesus] and our neighbors not just through praying, but also through concrete actions of clothing the naked and feeding the hungry (or whatever that looks like for us today).²

We follow a God who unashamedly loves human beings for no other reason than the fact that they are human

beings, or, as some people say, because “God didn’t make no junk.” During this time of continued economic uncertainty, may our care and actions reflect this unqualified love for our young adults and the rest of God’s children with whom we share this world and its resources. Like our Baptist ancestors, may we also keep firmly in mind that there was a time when we found a great part of our identity by siding with and caring for those trampled and discarded by our economy.

1. Thankfully, as I write this, new reports are just being released that the U.S. has seen an increase in jobs for the fifth month in a row, and the unemployment rate has dropped yet again, this time to 8.3%, the lowest mark since February 2009. Source: <http://money.cnn.com/2012/02/03/news/economy/jobs_report_unemployment/index.htm?hpt=hp_t1>
2. John 9:1–4, Matthew 5:43–48, 8:5–13, 25:31–46



Marc Boswell was born in Wilson County, NC. He is a member of Spring Branch Church in Greene County, where he was nurtured and supported while pursuing ordination in the Central Conference. In January of 2006, he was ordained. Since graduating from Mount Olive College, Marc has studied at Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, VA) and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Evanston, IL), while working in several churches between North Carolina, Virginia, and Illinois. He and his wife, Kate Fiedler Boswell, now reside in Richmond, Virginia, where he is completing work on his Ph.D. in the areas of systematic theology and American religious history. He enjoys teaching, preaching, cooking, and UNC basketball.

The Eastern District Woman’s Auxiliary is offering a study course on stewardship by Linda Herring.

April 14, 2012 @ 10:00 A.M.
Registration @ 9:30 A.M.

Westside FWB Church
Lenoir County
1205 Lynn Drive • Kinston, NC
(252) 522-4505
www.westsidewfbchurch.com

HONEY-DO JOBS

Painting • 40 years experience
Carpentry • Rotten Wood Repair
Power Washing • Gutter Cleaning
Restorations & Renovations • References are Available
— FIX IT IF POSSIBLE —

Charles Petit
Home: (919) 553-5741 2014 Penny Lane
Cell: (919) 675-5896 Clayton, NC 27520

Spring Eastern District Woman’s Auxiliary

Hosted by Sarecta Original Free Will Baptist Church
(5 miles north of Kenansville on Hwy 11. Turn right on Sarecta Road, church is 3 miles on the right).

Theme: “Give It Your Best”
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:31
Worship Service: Diane Riley

March 17, 2012
Registration @ 9:30 A.M.



Central Conference of OFWB Endowment

By The Reverend Ronnie V. Hobgood,
Pastor, La Grange First Free Will Baptist Church



The Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists has always been a leading voice in the field of Christian education, especially concerning the education of ministers. In 1896, at a Union meeting held at Spring Branch Church (Now Ayden Church), there was great discussion on establishing a school, which later was established as the Ayden Free Will Baptist Seminary. In 1900, the Conference took the lead in Christian education when they adopted an Education Committee report that recommended "that the Conference accept the theological course of study at the seminary as requirement for ordination for future applicants for the ministry" (Pelt 222). The Conference also took a major leading role in the establishing of Mount Olive College and has encouraged those preparing for ministry to attend.

The Bible teaches we are to "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15 κτν). Ministers of the Central Conference are licensed upon the recommendation of the local church and approval of the Ordaining Board of the Conference.

After meeting the educational requirements, ministers are ordained by the Conference through the Board of Ordination. The conviction of the conference is if ministers are to "rightly divide the word of truth," they must be prepared. A minister prepared through proper theological education will have a fruitful ministry, bringing honor and glory unto our Savior, Jesus Christ. With this conviction, the Central Conference in session on November 9, 2006 approved the establishing of the "Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptist Ministerial Endowment" for the purpose of assisting ministers financially for Seminary or Divinity School education. The \$10,000 goal was reached in 2011. The Conference approved, in its 2011 session, to continue to add to the endowment by five hundred dollars per year. In addition to the endowment, the conference has also supported the "Shepherd's Fund" with an annual gift to assist ministers in their preparation for ministry.

The following from the Central Conference have received scholarships from the NC Foundation for Christian Ministries: Dustin Bannister, Greg Barnes, Marc Boswell, Blair Crocker, Otis Ham, John Hill, Ronnie V. Hobgood, Todd Sutton, and Brad Williamson.

article continued on next page

Spring Scholarship Awards Announced

Each semester the Shepherd's Fund of the NC Foundation for Christian Ministries distributes financial awards to Free Will Baptist students who are preparing for ministry work in the Free Will Baptist Denomination. At the January 2012 meeting of the scholarship committee, the names of 15 students were recommended for spring scholarship awards. The total amount of the awards recommended for the spring semester was \$14,741.29, which is a slight increase over the amount awarded in each of the two previous semesters. The majority of those students receiving scholarships are

attending Mount Olive College or Campbell Divinity School as a result of the partnership agreement between the two schools. Though the students attending one of the partnership schools are given first priority, to date, no students from qualified non-partnership schools have been denied.

Free Will Baptist ministers and those sensing a call to ministry are encouraged to seek the best possible education available in preparation for effective ministry. In the past, financial barriers have been a concern, but with the support of generous donors through the Shepherd's Fund, those financial

barriers are disappearing and the path to quality educational opportunities for ministers is more accessible than ever before.

Such opportunities will continue to be available only if the funds are provided through donors. Those who make a financial contribution to the scholarship fund have the gratifying experience of knowing they are ensuring a well educated pool of ministers for the next generation of Free Will Baptists. If you would like to know more about receiving a ministerial scholarship or making a contribution to the fund, please contact The Foundation office at (919) 658-5250.

Mark Your Calendar

North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries



Invites you to be our guest
(Open invitation with advanced reservation)

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING Friends of the Foundation

Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 7 P.M. • Location: TBA

Building a Foundation for the Future of Original Free Will Baptists

Donnie E. Lassiter, Chair

Central Conference of OFWB Endowment *(continued from previous page)*

The desire concerning preparation for ministry has been expressed in a beautiful way by Dr. Michael G. Cogdill, Founding Dean of Campbell University Divinity School: "To provide churches with highly committed, well-educated ministers who stress the role of servant leadership and who can empower local congregations to fulfill their mission." This statement expresses the desire of the Central Conference.

If you would like to support the "Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptist Ministerial Endowment,"

send your gift to the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries, Post Office Box 210, Mount Olive, NC 28365-0210.

The Rev. Phillip Boykin serves as Moderator of the Central Conference.

Pelt, Michael R. *A History of Original Free Will Baptist*,
Mount Olive College Press, Mount Olive, NC 1996



District and State Woman's Auxiliary Officer's Workshop

On Saturday, January 21, sixty-six woman's auxiliary convention, district and local officers met in the Raper Building at Mount Olive College. The purpose of the workshop was to open lines of communication among the officers at each level and to give assistance to individuals where needed in fulfilling the responsibilities of the office to which they had been elected.

Upon arrival, the officers enjoyed a continental breakfast and a scavenger hunt that helped them get better acquainted with other officers across the state. In the opening session, Deborah King welcomed the officers and gave the instructions for the small group discussions. Jean Ackiss had the opening prayer.

Each woman's auxiliary convention officer met with their counterparts from the district and local auxiliaries during the breakout sessions. During these sessions, the groups



reviewed their duties and responsibilities using the *Manual of Methods of the Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists* as a guide. They also discussed ways that the woman's auxiliary convention officers could assist district officers and how activities and projects

could be coordinated. Each group determined one goal and a plan of action for accomplishing that goal during 2012.

During the closing session, a representative from each office reported a summary of the group's discussion and shared the goal and plan of action for reaching that goal. It was evident from the reports that better communication is needed among the officers. The information gleaned from the small group sessions will be compiled by Carolyn Jernigan and shared with the officers attending. Jean Averette closed the meeting with prayer.

New Life—New You



Woman's Auxiliary Convention

March 24, 2012

9:00 a.m.

Howell Swamp OFWB Church
673 Speights Bridge Road
Walstonburg, NC 27888



Join us for the New Life—New You Woman's Auxiliary Convention. Just as the coming of Spring brings new life after a long, cold winter, we also need a time of spiritual renewal and revival. This conference will feature special music by Chasity Fisher and words of inspiration from Peggy Williams, Ginger Taylor, and Len Joyner known as 3 Peas in a Pod who will share God's plan of protection, promise, and peace. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with a light breakfast of doughnuts, coffee, and juice. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there. Registration fee is \$15 for each auxiliary attending. Contact May Pittman at (252) 756-3517 for more information.





Camp Vandemere News

The past eight months here at Camp Vandemere have proven to be both awesome and devastating! During the summer camps of 2011, there were 48 first-time decisions for Christ! We had 10 weeks of summer camps that were filled with fun, fellowship, and worship! There were also over 75 rededications. Near the end of our summer camps, we held our first annual "Summer Fun Fest," which was a huge success! Over 200 people attended. We had hosted weekend retreats continuously since March and were booked every weekend through Thanksgiving! And then, the devastating part of the year! On August 27 of last year, Hurricane Irene pushed no less than six feet of water through our existing buildings. Walls were torn out of the chapel and kitchen. The dorm building was mostly intact, but full of debris. At first glance, the buildings looked salvageable, but after inspection by our maintenance/development chairman and the camp director, they were found to be not only ripped apart in places, but also unstable due to prior floods. The salt water had caused many of the main support metal frames to rust completely in two at the bottom.

The Board of Directors met and unanimously voted to take down the damaged buildings and rebuild a new building on the same site. Previously, we had been considering building a new facility across the road on our property. The new facility will consist of a large commercial kitchen, a small, separate kitchen, a large dining hall, and a smaller one that would double as a

conference/meeting room. It will have two more large meeting rooms, an activity room, a recreation room, a chapel, dorm rooms and eight motel rooms. There will be approximately 28,000 square feet in the building and will have a price tag of about 2.5 million dollars. And yes, this is a lot of money, but it's not even half of what we had projected the facility across the road to be. There have been and I'm sure there will be in the future, many negative comments made concerning the new facility! But on the other hand, there have been so many more positive comments than bad! Going in to this project, the Board of Directors hoped that everyone would be positive and as excited as we are, but also realize that everyone won't like the idea simply because of the amount of money required to build. As the old saying goes, "you can't please everyone," and I'm sure that won't change now!

We have taken the dorm building and the kitchen/dining hall buildings down now and are planning on saving the chapel. It will be moved beside the volleyball court and used as a separate conference/chapel as needed. Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will have a permit and will have begun construction. It is expected to take about 4 to 6 months to build. This brings us to our next subject; summer camps. The Board has agreed that we need to conduct our summer camps, if at all possible. Our summer camp committee has come up with the following plan to accommodate our summer camps in the event the new building isn't

ready. We will house the campers in RVs and other housing. The two rooms under the old lodge building will be used for meeting rooms. We will have a large tent with smaller tents inside for other meeting rooms and the existing chapel will be used as a multi-purpose building. Our bathhouse is still in operation. The RVs will be in formation around the bathhouse. Hopefully, our piers will be back up and usable for summer camps, as well. It was approved to build both piers back larger than before. As everyone should know, there will be construction going on during some of the camps. There will be a safety fence installed around the construction site. Our local health department is also involved with helping us set up for summer camp operation.

The Board of Directors also voted to hire Mrs. Amanda Finch as the Assistant Director of Camp Vandemere, Inc. as of January 1, 2012. In conjunction with this position, the mobile home has been renovated and will be utilized as housing for the Finch family, as long as she works for the camp. The mobile home will be moved to our property across the road in the spring of this year.

We have had many committee meetings concerning our camp and the buildings. These committees have labored long and made many hard decisions. One of the first things we decided was that we stay focused on God and His will during this time. Prayer first—that's what we have agreed upon as a group. If we keep God first, there is nothing impossible. Not one thing! The Board has agreed to hire a consultant, along with one other person to be in charge of fundraising to build this facility, but they can't do it alone. It will take the combined effort of all our churches and all of their members to accomplish the goal. Each of our board members and the director have pledged to prayerfully and financially support this project! In the upcoming weeks, I, along with any other board member or our capital campaign manager, would greatly appreciate the opportunity to come and present our future plans for Camp Vandemere to your church.

Along with this, we sincerely need for each church to consider increasing their yearly support and possibly one-time special offering to help with initial upfront costs. We realize this has to be a combined effort of many churches and individuals. There have been several churches to do this already. Most are committing to a 10-year plan of extra support.

I do want to thank the groups that continue to come to the camp and help with the cleanup. It has been a tremendous job, but as of a couple of weeks ago, the buildings are completely down and gone, the debris is cleaned out of the woods, and most of the yard is back to normal. It will be spring soon. The grass will be green and flowers will bloom. It's a new day here at The Camp—a new beginning! Hopefully, the actions we have taken over the past several months will take the camp to where it needs to be for the future. As the Board of Directors began to plan these new facilities, this was always on their minds: Will it meet our needs now and in the future? The answer is: "Yes, it will!" And, for a long time into the future. I'm reminded of the original drawings of an earlier proposal to increase the camp facilities. This has been in the minds and hearts of many of the prior camp directors and chairmen. Now, it will come to being. Just like sowing seeds to get someone saved; the seeds were sown earlier for these new buildings and now, we get to actually see them come into existence. As I've told one of the older Board of Director chairmen, Mr. Owen Arthur: "I truly hope that you see this building up and operating."

Also, along with the need for prayerful and financial help to build our building, we need for everyone to plan their times here at The Camp. I do want to hopefully answer some questions that have come up. The main one is, "Who can use The Camp and what can it be used for?" The camps first and foremost purpose is to serve our summer camps. All other uses are secondary. The camp was first established for this purpose, as a summer camp and retreat center. Consecutively,

for the last four years, there have been between 48 and 50 first-time decisions for Jesus Christ here at The Camp. This is not to say that there weren't that many saved prior to these past four years; I'm sure there were many. I have only kept up with these numbers since I have been the director. The camp can be used for any event as long as those using it abide by our rules and regulations. It is a Christian camp and we do expect a certain level of behavior! I have had ball teams, family reunions, weddings, women's and men's groups, scrapbooking groups, and many, many others. In the future, we hope to have even more different groups. We will certainly be able to house more than one group at a time. I'm sure that will be the biggest change anyone will notice. That will be great! The more people that are here, the larger percentage that might come to know Jesus!

Even in the midst of all the heartbreak and confusion of the last part of our year, Amanda came up with the idea of one more event for the year; a Christmas party. I believe this turned out to be the most awesome event of the year. Our churches were asked to donate Christmas trees, decorations, lights, and gifts. All of these items were to be put in the large disaster relief tent where the event was to take place. We had many volunteers that helped decorate and the tent looked awesome. The purpose for all the donated items was that they be given away to the people of the town of Vandemere at the end of the night, most of which had lost everything they had in the flood from Hurricane Irene. Everyone was able to shop—free of charge—and it did make a difference in the lives of those that came. Even in the despair of losing their possessions, they were able to celebrate Christmas. We, on the other hand, were just blessed again to be able to give back to the community!

Thank you and God bless,

Rick Price, Director
(252) 670-9775

New Sandy Hill Has Food Drive

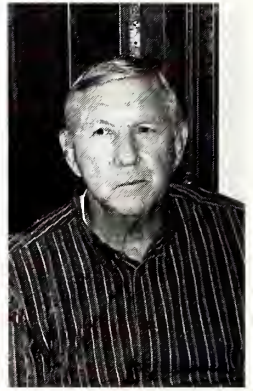


New Sandy Hill Church has participated in a community outreach program for several years now. The program, Bailey Area Ministries, is coordinated and administered by the Bailey United Methodist Church. Individuals, churches, and businesses from around the community collect nonperishable food items to be distributed to those who need them.

At New Sandy Hill, the months that have a fifth Sunday are designated as "Bailey Area Ministries" months. We place a grocery cart in the lobby and each Sunday School and church member is encouraged to bring nonperishable foods to share with the ministry.

As part of our monthly Sunday School activities, a competitive challenge (which class could collect the most food) was given to the Sunday School

members. The adult classes (Golden Years, Adult, and Ambassador Classes) would compete against one another, and the younger classes (Beginners, Primary, Junior, and Intermediate) would compete. The competition lasted throughout the month of January. On fifth Sunday, January 29, the collected items were moved from individual classes into the lobby to be weighed. After all of the items were weighed and averaged according to the number of members in each class, the winners were declared. The Ambassador Class collected more than 200 pounds of goods and won the adult competition and the Junior Class won the younger class competition.



The project doesn't end with the collection, though. One of our deacons, Mr. Alton Manning, also a trustee, is retired from public work. He volunteers his time to load all of the collected items onto his truck and carry them to the Methodist Church and unload them for storage and distribution. He can probably tell you exactly just how many cans it takes to make up 687 pounds, the total amount of food items collected.

It is our desire to share the good news of Jesus Christ through Word, and Deed!



Hopewell Church

Trays carrying soup and sandwiches circled the Fellowship Hall of Hopewell Church on January 29. The church's youth served the congregation in an effort to raise money for them to attend Cragmont Summer Camp. Lots of fun was had by everyone.

A Brief History of Edgewood Original Free Will Baptist Church

Edgewood Original Free Will Baptist Church is located in rural Edgecombe County at 680 Edgewood Church Road, about 3 miles East of Hwy 258 or 2 miles west of Hwy 43. We are a small church with a big heart for Christ and for one another. We enjoy a unique and special bond of love as a church family, where "everybody is somebody and Jesus is Lord!"

Edgewood has long been known as the friendly little church beside the road since our beginning on October 28, 1921, with Elder E. L. Abrams as the first pastor. Edgewood Church began as Edgewood School. Mr. Sam Moore was the owner of the property that the school was located on. Calvary Episcopal Church from Tarboro came out and wanted to have Sunday School in the school building. It lasted for a while; then Calvary Church decided to end it. However, the local people in the community thought it would be a great idea to continue Sunday School. They decided to have church services and began in one room of the building. Other rooms were torn down and minor construction was done on the remaining room and a front door was added.

On August, 27, 1920, Elders E. L. Abrams and J. W. Wooten were sent to Edgewood School to report their ideas on using the building to hold a revival and start a church.



On July 29, 1921, Elder Abrams was instructed to find someone to assist him in a revival at the school. Elder W. L. Hart assisted Elder Abrams in organizing the school into Edgewood Church. Mr. Sam Moore had a sister, Ruth Moore, who was a teacher at the school. Because they had been part of the school, he decided to give the property to Edgewood Church. On October 28, 1921, Edgewood Church was received into the Fourth Union and

its name was added to the list of other churches.

On September 28, 1923, the Fourth Union met with Edgewood Church for the first time. The church had yearly meetings on Saturdays and Sundays and would spread dinner on the grounds.

Construction began in the later part of 1943 for the current sanctuary and was completed in 1944 with wood siding. The fellowship building was built in 1965. In 1977, the church was bricked and new windows were installed. On March 5, 1980, the name of the church was changed to Edgewood Original Free Will Baptist.

In 2000, the church had storm windows installed and in 2001 the church parking lot was paved.

In October of 2010, renovation of the sanctuary was begun, and was completed in February of 2011. The church has had 22 pastors, one interim pastor, and three supply pastors in 90 years.

We thank God for the older people that had a desire for a church to worship in this community. We may not be a large church in number, but thank God, Edgewood OFWB Church still stands strong for Jesus Christ.

Smyrna Church News

SUBMITTED BY HELEN SMITH

Smyrna Church (Cape Fear Conference) in the Meadow community has two new deacons. Mr. Ray Anderson and Mr. Rufus Jackson were ordained during the morning worship service on January 15. Pastor Richard Whitman administered the oath.

The Rev. Whitman used the topic "God Is Calling" and Scripture from 2 Samuel when administering the oath to both Mr. Anderson and Mr. Jackson and shared the six requirements of faithfulness to both wives.

The pastor also charged the church to pray for and encourage the couples before presenting them with certificates.

The right hand of fellowship and congratulations were given by those present.

2012 Woman's Conference

Our annual Woman's Conference will be held this year at Faith Church Camp in Morehead City, NC. In prior years, the Woman's Conference has been held at Camp Vandemere, but this year's conference location has been changed due to damage sustained by the Camp from Hurricane Irene.

Registration will be Monday morning, June 4, 2012. The conference will run through the following Thursday, June 7, 2012. For more information or if anyone has questions, please call Stumpy Quinn at (252) 638-6406 or e-mail Judith Kennedy at <teacher3@embarqmail.com>.

Hands-in-Motion

SUBMITTED BY JUDITH BANKSTON

The women of Rock Springs Church in Bailey, NC, organized the Hands-In-Motion, which is their Prayer Shawl Ministry, in February 2011. They meet once a month and have been busy crocheting shawls and making lap quilts. These prayer shawls and lap quilts are given to people in the church and community who are facing some difficult times in their lives.

Our prayer is that those who receive a shawl or quilt may discover comfort and solace as they use it. May it encircle them in God's love and peace, now and always.

In our first year, we have presented 15 shawls and five quilts to people who are sick or shut-in.



Psalms for the Soul

with Linda Herring

The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Psalm 63:1 says, "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;" Do you seek the Lord with all your heart? Do you thirst for Him as the deer pants for the water brooks? To make yourself at home in God's presence and His love, we must: (1) Give Him the first part of your day. We must put Jesus first place in our lives. (2) We need to love His Word. The Bible says that we do not live by bread and water alone but by every Word that comes from God. (3) Spend time in prayer. Spend time listening. Spend time praising God. (4) Write down your thoughts. Make a record of your personal walk with God. In other words, keep a journal. Write down how you feel, your disappointments, heartaches. Write down answers to your prayers and always be thankful. These simple practices can make a big difference in our lives. They will take effort but the rewards are worth it. Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm.



Linda Herring is married to Vernon Herring. They have two children, Amy and Vernon and three grandchildren, Jenna, Jared, and Noah. Linda is an active member of the White Oak Grove OFWB Church in LaGrange, NC. Linda leads a Bible study group, Circle of Friends. She has been a drama director of two dramas that she wrote, *They Called His Name Jesus* and *The Book of Ruth*. She is a resource for the OFWB Woman's Auxiliary. Her outreach ministry includes this column in TFWB, a radio broadcast by the same name (aired on WAGO 88.7 FM), and a weekly devotional article for the *La Grange Weekly Gazette* and *The Sampson Weekly*. She also has a devotion book printed by the Mount Olive College Press.



THE MAGDALENE ENSEMBLE:

"BEHOLD: HER STORY OF EASTER"

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

April 3, 7:30 p.m.

in the Southern Bank Auditorium

Behold is a musical drama that portrays the events of Easter as witnessed through the eyes and words of the women who were there. Having seen the risen Jesus, Mary Magdalene invites us to rejoice in the reality of spiritual rebirth. Let those with eyes to see and ears to hear, **BEHOLD!**

Tickets: \$ 10 general admission.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU HAVE:

A new address, received damaged or duplicate copies, missed an issue, experienced any billing problems, or you want to renew or cancel a subscription. You may contact us by e-mail at: <amy@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (252) 746-6128 or (800) 849-3927.

Advertising Rates

- Black/White—1/8 page (business card size) . . . \$30
- Black/White—1/4 page . . . \$40
- Black/White—1/2 page . . . \$50
- Black/White—3/4 page . . . \$60
- Black/White—Full page . . . \$70
- Full Color Centerfold—Left Side . . . \$175
- Full Color Centerfold—Right Side . . . \$175
- Full Color Centerfold—Both Sides . . . \$325
- Full Color Inside Front Cover—Full Page. . . \$150
- Full Color Inside Back Cover—Full Page . . . \$150
- Full Color Back Cover. . . \$200
- Churches & Ministry Positions . . . \$20
(maximum of 4 lines)

Ad prices are for single/first runs. There is a 25% discount on each additional run.

The printing of ads is contingent on the availability of space and we reserve the right to condense ad space as necessary. You will be charged only for the actual size used.

We reserve the right to refuse any material that is not consistent with our principles and practices as a Christian company and as a ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

These advertising rates are for, and advertising is permitted by, OFWB churches and auxiliary organizations, as well as qualified business organizations. These charges apply to any announcements, coming event listings, invitations, and registration forms. If you have any questions, contact the editor by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227. **There is no charge for feature article submissions from OFWB churches/members or news releases of recent OFWB church happenings.**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE INFORMATION

The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) **When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before.**

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Articles sent for publication should be sent in Microsoft Word or Macintosh Pages. Files sent in Microsoft Publisher, .PDF, or others cannot be used.

PHOTO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Your digital photos are more likely to be included in the publication if the following guidelines are followed:

1. Set digital cameras at the highest resolution possible. We realize that it takes longer to e-mail larger files, but print requires a higher resolution than the web.
2. When e-mailing photos, please send them one photo at a time. This ensures that there will not be any file compression and your photo will e-mail at the largest size. Please do not send photographs within the body of the article. Each photo should be sent in a separate e-mail in JPEG format. If there is more than one picture, note 1 of ?, 2 of ?, etc. in the subject line.
3. Large group photos typically do not work well. If taking photos of a group activity, submit several photos of individuals or small groups, and we'll select the ones to print.
4. Get in close—we like to see smiling faces. Only photographs that are close to the subject matter and are in focus reproduce well.
5. If possible, please include the names of all the people in each photo. Identify from left to right and from front to back.
6. Non-digital photos can be sent to our office. However, pictures will not be returned unless there is an appropriate self-addressed stamped envelope included!

ADVERTISING SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

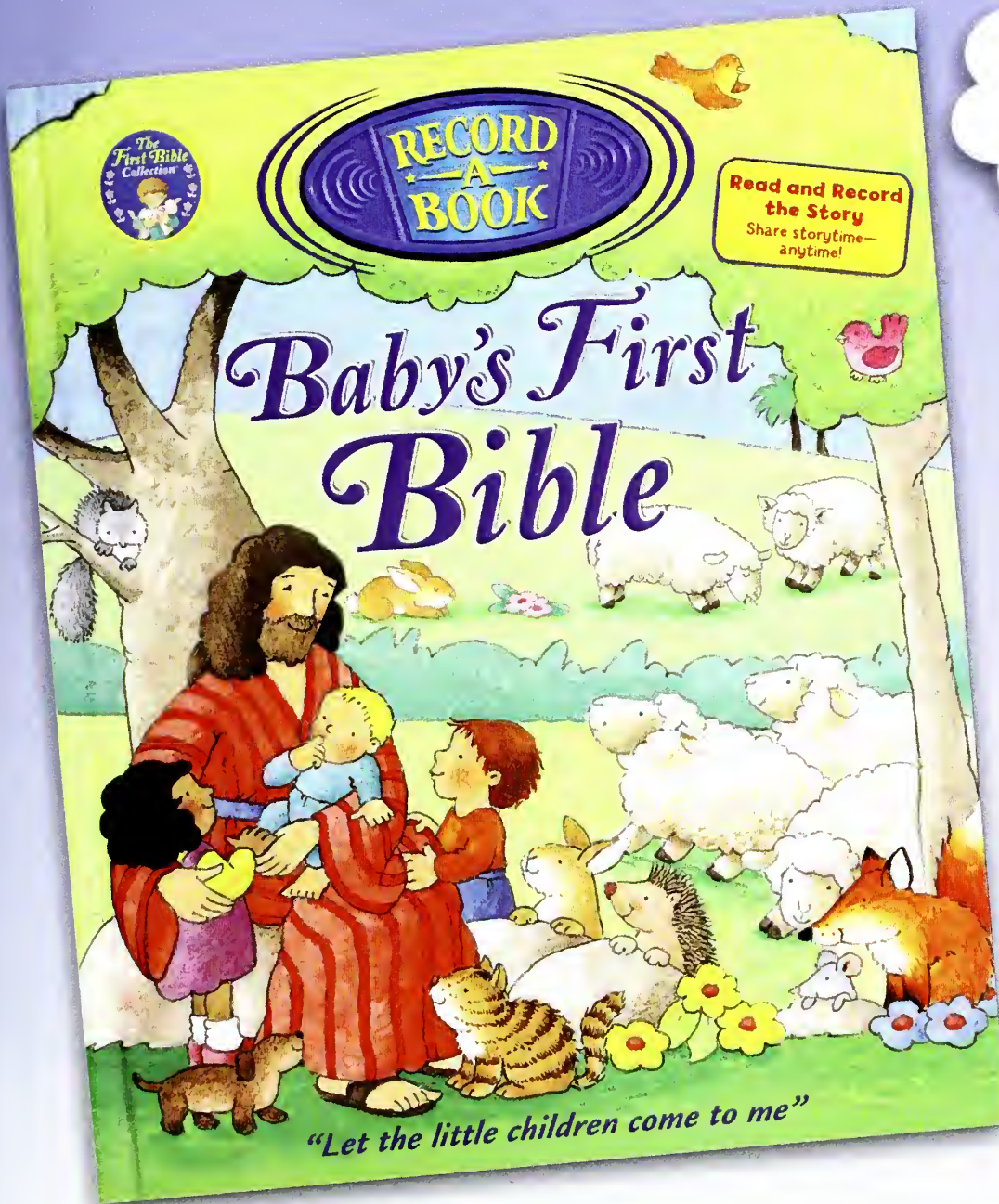
Ad materials should be sent in Microsoft Word or Macintosh Pages. Files sent in Microsoft Publisher, .PDF, or others cannot be used. Camera-ready artwork is generally not accepted. However, with prior approval, we will accept files in Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator (currently Adobe Creative Suite 3 or earlier).

You may submit items in any of the following ways:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
P.O. Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513.

Baby's First Record-A-Book Bible

Give the gift of story time anytime!



Retail \$21.99
On Sale \$16.47

*Read to that special child—
from anywhere!*

The wonderfully unique *Baby's First Record-A-Book* comes alive with an easy-to-use recording device built right into the book, so that you can record the text for your child to hear any time.

Standard[®]
PUBLISHING
Bringing The Word to Life

To order, call 1.800.849.3927 ext. 221 or visit one of our store locations at:

Ayden Bible & Bookstore

3928 Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-6128

Kinston Bible & Bookstore

Vernon Park Mall
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 527-2843

New Bern Bible & Bookstore

1232 S. Glenburnie Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 638-6193

Celebrating 100 Years of Ministry **A Century of Grace**

A \$100,000 Journey through the
OFWB Convention's 100th Year
ending May 21–23, 2012

Expanding the OFWB Youth Ministry
Continued Development of Family Ministry
Cost-Free Counseling for Ordained Ministers
Broader Educational Opportunities for Ministry
Heightened Exposure Via Modern Media Sources

Your annual gift of \$500 will bring us one step closer to reaching complete financial stability. With this solid foundation to build upon, the vision of the Headquarters Office can be realized one opportunity at a time. Help us win people to Christ by reaching them where they live—in the 21st Century.

Original Free Will Baptist Headquarters Office

P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513

Phone: (252) 746-4963 • Web: www.ofwb.org

E-mail: ofwb.hq@ofwb.org



Special Offer

Upon receipt of your full
pledge, you will receive a
beautifully framed copy of the
photo shown above:

“Washing the Saints’ Feet”

plus a lovely marble paper
weight embossed with the
Original Free Will Baptist logo
and
Century of Grace 1913–2012.

Thank you for joining this
historical effort.

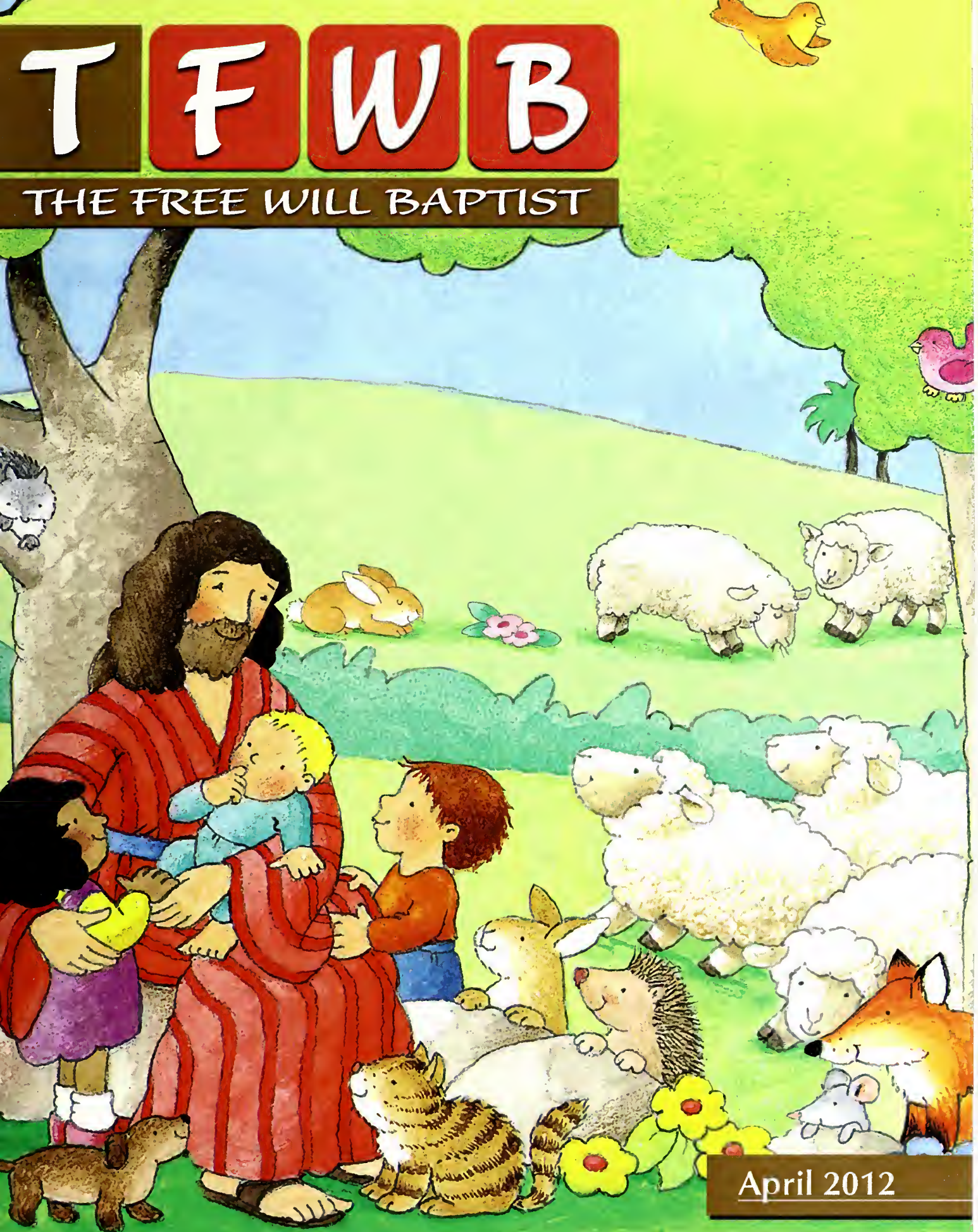


PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID 28513
USPS 2094-4000

DUKE UNIVERSITY
PERKINS LIBRARY
DURHAM, NC 27706

T F W B

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

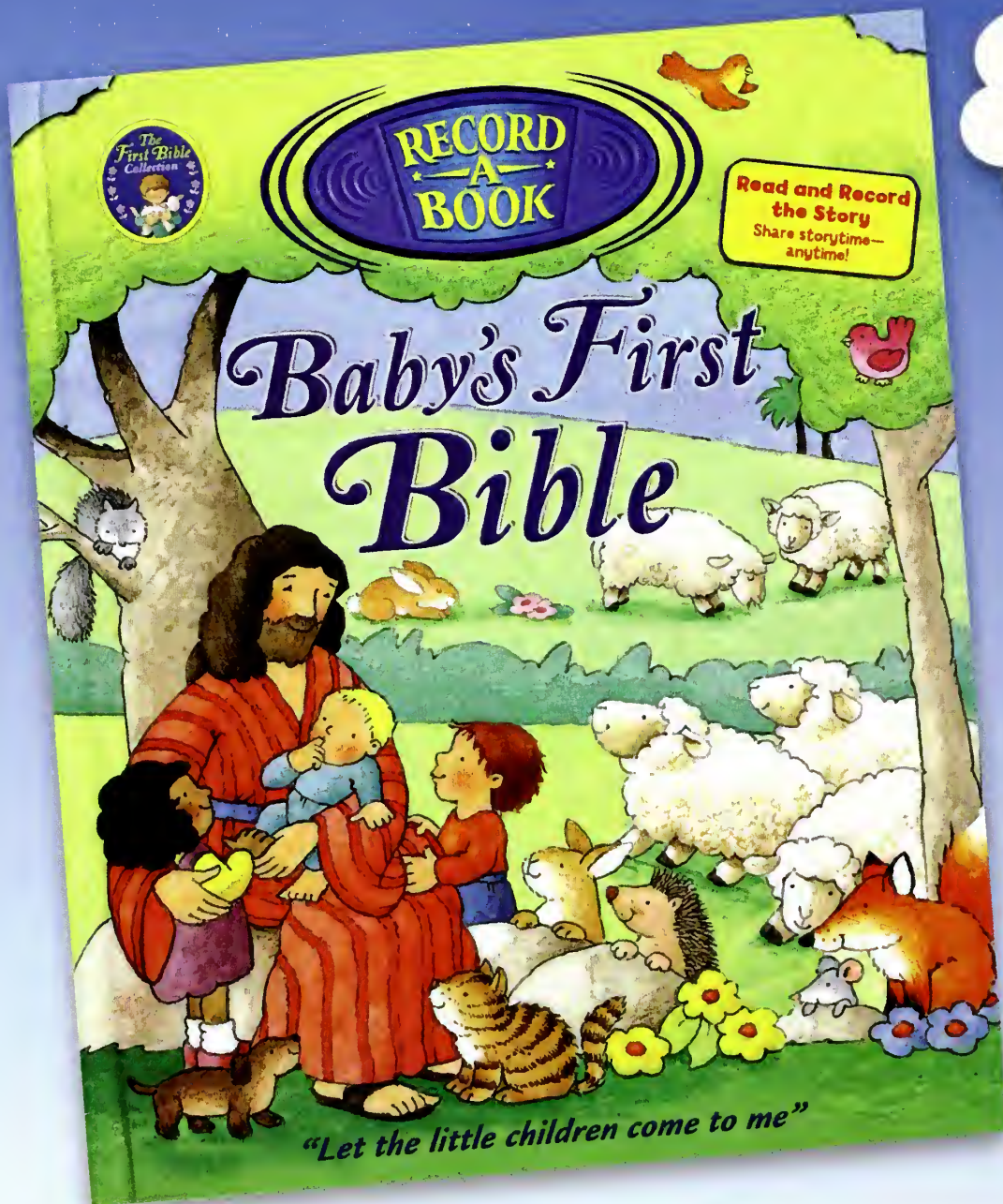


April 2012

"Let the little children come to me"

Baby's First Record-A-Book Bible

Give the gift of story time anytime!



Retail \$21.99
On Sale \$16.47

*Read to that special child—
from anywhere!*

The wonderfully unique *Baby's First Record-A-Book* comes alive with an easy-to-use recording device built right into the book, so that you can record the text for your child to hear any time.

Standard
P U B L I S H I N G
Bringing The Word to Life

To order, call 1.800.849.3927 ext. 221 or visit one of our store locations at:

Ayden Bible & Bookstore
3928 Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-6128

Kinston Bible & Bookstore
Vernon Park Mall
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 527-2843

New Bern Bible & Bookstore
1232 S. Glenburnie Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 638-6193

2012

April

Home Missions Month

The Original Free Will Baptist Monthly Planner

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Palm Sunday	2	3	4 Western District Woman's Aux. Convention @ Stancil's Chapel Church	5 Maundy Thursday	6 Good Friday	7 Passover
8 Easter	9	10	11	12	13	14 15 th Anniversary Gala Concert by Freespirit @ MOC
15	16 Central District Woman's Aux. Study Course 7 P.M. @ Rose Hill Church	17	18	19	20	21 Spring Alumni—Morning Star
22 Earth Day Good Shepherd Sunday	23	24	25 Administrative Professional's Day	26 Spring Concert 7:30 @ MOC Spring Student Show Reception 4-7 P.M.	27	28
29	30					

Pondering the Past

with Celia Hales

Believe, But In God's Will

"What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24).

This verse, a favorite of mine, is at first glance, a puzzle. We might want to consider that we can have anything we want if we imagine ourselves believing in it enough. And this might translate into obsessions and deep, deep praying. We might, indeed, fool ourselves into believing that what we are praying for is in God's will for us. We might so want something that we get ourselves tangled up.

Many writers have made the point that, years later, we are in a position to thank God for not having answered our prayers with a "yes." We may recognize that His saying "no" to us was the very best thing to ever happen to us. Jesus makes this point, when He says, in the Sermon on the Mount:

"Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Matthew 7:9-11).

Moreover, I think that we know when we are asking amiss. And I know that I once wanted something very badly, but never felt the green light to actually pray for that special thing that I wanted. Now, years later, I know why I got a "stop" internally every time I would be tempted to pray for that gift. It would not have been a positive

thing for my life, but would have brought challenges for which my upbringing had not prepared me. I have never actually discussed this experience with anyone at all, lest of all a pastor (I wish sometimes that I had). But my own personal experience leads me to speculate that most of us have had similar experiences of knowing what *not* to ask for.

If we can believe something with our whole heart, we know that it is a true prayer from our whole being. Then we can ask in confidence that our prayer will, sooner or later, be answered in the affirmative. We are not infallible, of course, and even at this point we can make mistakes because we can be carried away by emotion. We need to test our own hope and our longing, to ask God, in prayer, if this belief is genuine. If, over time, we are confident of the rightness of God's answer, we will walk a green earth.

There is a bestseller making the rounds that is entitled, *The Secret*. I read this book with a good bit of skepticism because of the extremely materialistic bias. People are led to believe that they can have anything that they want (and material things are emphasized) if they visualize those things and think about them lots.

This practice may well be true. But do we really want the material things in place of the intangibles of God? God does care that we have the material things that we need, as much as the intangibles. He seeks to fulfill all of our needs. But if we obtain

the materialistic without asking God for the love and joy and patience that He wills for us, the material will be as ashes and dust in our hands.

I do believe that when we fill our minds with the intangible things of God, we are much happier people. Chasing after material things, by whatever method, does not long bring the peace that we really seek. And I do believe that I know that God Himself would not have us avoid His Will by praying for a desired end that is not in our best interests.

We get the green light when we know that what we pray is something that we have tested out in advance, that we asked for guidance from God. When our prayer for hope has met this test, then our belief in its fruition is well grounded. And life becomes a little less uncertain.

So, let us pray, and let us believe that God will grant our prayer—but only when we are certain that we are asking for and believing in a thing that God would will for us. Again, I stress, we can make mistakes as we consider what God might want for us, but we often are right on the mark. He knows us better than we know ourselves, and it is when He knows us (and we don't know as much) that the things that we wish and the things that He wishes, may be different. I believe that we discern better when we are constant in our prayer life. May all of us be led to give God time in prayer today.



A former religion librarian at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Celia now lives with her husband Paul in Oxford, Mississippi. She was previously employed at both the Free Will Baptist Press and Mount Olive College.

Editor

Darren E. Davenport
editor@fwbpress.com

Production Manager

Jerry Goff
jerry@fwbpress.com

Circulation, Accounts Receivable

Amy Stokes
amy@fwbpress.com

Accounts Payable
Wallie Hargrove

Editorial Assistants

Dixie McLawhorn, Carlton Oakley

Graphic Designers

**Jerry Goff, Amy Benson,
Nathaniel Ingram, Dixie McLawhorn**

Production Team

**Ronnie Jones, Ted Johnston,
Joshua Roundtree, Johnnie Stancill**

Editor Emeritus

C.H. Overman



www.fwbpress.com

President

Jeff Daughtry
jeff@fwbpress.com

Board of Directors

Frank Flowers (Chairman), Central
C. H. Overman (Vice Chairman), Central
Royce Reynolds (Secretary), Albemarle
Joe Ballance, Cape Fear
Kelley Smart, Central
Mike Scott, Eastern
Nancy Hardee, Pee Dee
Mark Hobbs, Central
Loydene Proctor, Western

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.

Subscription Prices: All subscriptions are payable in advance: 1 year (12 issues) \$15
2 years (24 issues) \$27
4 years (48 issues) \$53.

A **Bundle Plan** (\$8.50 each) and an **Every-Family Plan** (\$11.75 each) is also available. Call or e-mail circulation or the editor for more details.

© 2012 *The Free Will Baptist* • All Rights Reserved.

The Free Will Baptist is edited and published monthly by the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc., 3928 Lee Street, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159. Second-class postage paid at Ayden, North Carolina (USPS 2094-4000).

FEATURES & COLUMNS

- 2** *Pondering the Past* with Celia Hales
- 4** A "Holy" Holy Week
- 6** *Discerning God's Call to Ministry in the Church*
- 7** *Psalms for the Soul* with Linda Herring
- 8** *Faith After Fire*
- 34** *A Sling and a Stone* with Marc Boswell

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- 10** Home Missions
- 13** Children's Home
- 16** Foreign Missions
- 18** Sunday School
- 19** Cragmont
- 23** Convention News
- 26** Mount Olive College

ANCILLARY MINISTRIES

- 36** NC Foundation for Christian Ministries
- 38** Woman's Auxiliary

39 COMMUNITY CONNECTION

ON THE COVER

The cover art for *Baby's First Bible: Record-A-Book*. Used with permission by Standard Publishing and Reader's Digest.

RECEIVED

APR 18 2012

DIVINITY SCHOOL LIBRARY
DUKE UNIVERSITY

A “Holy” Holy Week

By The Reverend Stephen Prescott, M.Div.

In just a few days, we will be celebrating one of the most holy times of the Christian year, aptly named “Holy Week.” It is during this sacred time that we, as believers in Jesus Christ, will remember the final week of Jesus’ earthly life—His entry in Jerusalem, the last meal He shared with His disciples, His agonizing death upon the cross of Calvary, and His victorious resurrection from the grave. No other time of the Church year is filled with such drama, such meaning, and such importance!

Unfortunately, it seems as if our Original Free Will Baptist Denomination doesn’t recognize the value and importance of worshipping faithfully during this hallowed time. In many ways this week has lost its holiness; thus, becoming just another span of time between Sundays. This is unfortunate...and is in desperate need of change. As Original Free Will Baptists, we need to reclaim our greater heritage as Christians and begin to give this week the significance it demands. We are in need of recovering a “Holy” Holy Week!

Let us begin by asking this question, “What makes this week Holy?” That may seem like a ridiculous query, but it is important that we begin, fittingly, at the beginning. For us as human beings, time is very important and we recognize this by how we celebrate special occasions: birthdays, anniversaries, significant personal and community events, etc. Likewise, time is important to us as Christians, for we mark momentous Christian and church events: Easter, Christmas, Pentecost, Homecoming, Thanksgiving, etc. Why do we do this? We do this because time not only frames our earthly existence, but we understand that God works within time to disclose Himself and His mighty acts. Genesis 1 reveals that God created time, calling the light, Day, and the darkness, Night. It is God who organizes His relationship with His people in moments of time: the calling of Abraham, the Exodus, the entrance into the Promised Land, the establishment of the Davidic Kingdom, the Exile, etc. And time outlines God’s work of redemption through Jesus Christ. It is the Apostle Paul who writes in his letter to the Galatians 4:4–5, “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.” In his book, *Introduction to Christian Worship*, James White states, “Christianity talks not of salvation in general but of salvation accomplished by specific actions of God at definite times and places.”¹ Recognizing important events is an integral part of our Christian faith tradition and practice as Christ’s church. Consequently, what time of the Christian year is more important than the days between Palm and Passion Sunday and Easter Sunday! It is during this sacred week that Jesus Christ fulfills the Father’s will for His life by dying upon the cross for the sins of all humanity, a sacrificial act that culminates in His

glorious resurrection from the dead, conquering both sin and death. Thus, what makes this week “holy” is that there is no other time in human history where God’s gracious and merciful acts of salvation are on such full display. For us as Christians, we have no choice but to call this week “holy” and to observe it as hallowed.

Which brings us to our next question, “How are we to worship God faithfully during Holy Week?” We know that since the end of the Fourth Century, the Church has commemorated the last days of Jesus, including the crucifixion and resurrection, and that such commemoration has incorporated the gathering of God’s people to participate in acts of worship, such as the reading of psalms, antiphons (short scripture texts chanted or sung responsively preceding or following a psalm), communion, and other appropriate observances.² Therefore, in order for us to worship God faithfully during Holy Week, we must intentionally gather on these sacred days for the purpose of worship. While that may very well sound redundant, the fact remains that many of our OFWB Churches are darkened during Holy Week, save those congregations that have study and prayer services on Wednesday evening. That we may hold sacred this most holy week of the year, we must be willing to not only adopt new services of worship, but be committed to plan and execute services that both honor God’s gift of salvation in Christ and teach our congregants the importance of commemorating the events of Jesus’ life remembered during this week.

In order that we might observe a “Holy” Holy Week, our thoughts now turn to the actual services conducted during this time. While Christian traditions may vary, the following outlines generally accepted services of worship:

Palm and Passion Sunday

Holy Week begins appropriately on the Sunday prior to Easter Sunday, when the church gathers together to remember Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and the week of Jesus’ Passion. While many continue to refer to this day as “Palm Sunday,” it is more appropriate to include the term “Passion” in the title. The reason for this is understandable: To only celebrate Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on this day is to misread the Gospels and the overarching story therein. The ironic part about Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem is that the very people who shout “Hosanna!” on Sunday will be calling for His death on Friday. As stated by Laurence Stookey in his book *Christ’s Time for the Church*, “Jesus enters [Jerusalem] for one reason only: to die. The Gospel writers are clear about this, and ‘Palm Sunday’ observances that are ‘three cheers for Jesus’ forfeit biblical integrity.”³ It is for this reason that Bible readings on this Sunday include both Jesus’ entry and His ensuing crucifixion.

Palm and Passion Sunday services appropriately begin with a reading from the Gospels accounting Jesus' entry and are followed by a reading from Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29, from which the crowd's shouts of "Hosanna!" find their scriptural basis. These readings can be presented by the pastor, a scriptural reader, or by the congregation and suitably followed by the singing of a processional hymn, such as "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" or "All Glory, Laud and Honor." Adding to the celebratory mood is the inclusion of palm branches. These are handed to worshippers prior to the service and are used for the purpose of involving the congregants in the story. Traditions contrast as to how these are used, but here are three options: (1) Gather the congregation outside of the sanctuary, where the scripture lessons are read, and then process into the sanctuary bearing palms while singing; (2) Begin the service with the congregation in the pews, and then have them process and lay their branches on the pulpit area while singing; or (3) After the scripture lessons are read, have the congregation hold their palm branches high as they are singing. Regardless of the option chosen, it is important that the worship action be done with reverence and reflection upon the events of the day.

Following this section, the service is then to take a sharp turn, as the scripture lessons and songs begin to focus upon Christ's saving act upon the cross. It is time for the congregation to connect with the fact that they are much like the crowds in Jerusalem that week, praising Jesus on Sunday and cursing Him by week's end. It is through this image that God's incredible mercy is able to shine through declaring that, "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Fitting selections from scripture include the Servant Song from Isaiah 52–53, Paul's humiliation-exultation hymn from Philippians 2:5–11, and the account of Jesus' trial and crucifixion as taken from one of the Gospels. Likewise, hymns such as "*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*" or "*Lamb of Glory*" convey the aura of sacrifice on display.

While the service begins celebrating Christ's welcome into Jerusalem, it correctly ends with the congregation reflecting upon the extraordinary grace of God revealed in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross of Calvary and how, through that dreadful act, salvation has come to the world.

Maundy Thursday

If there is any day of the Christian year that Original Free Will Baptists ought to celebrate, it is Maundy Thursday, for it is on this day that Jesus institutes two of our three Gospel Ordinances: the Lord's Supper and Washing the Saints' Feet. It is here, within the backdrop of Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples, that these ordinances become for us not simply orders to be followed, but meaningful acts of reverence that teach us about the sacrifice Christ made for us and the sacrifice we are to make in our service to God and our neighbors.

The term "Maundy" is derived from the Latin word "mandatum," which means "command" or "order." Thus, Maundy Thursday observes the day on which Jesus gives His followers

crucial commandments that they are expected to both embrace and express. As recorded in John 13:35, Jesus states on the night of His betrayal, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." It is this verse that frames the Maundy Thursday service, for it is in the worship acts of the Lord's Supper and Washing the Saints' Feet that Jesus reveals symbolically and practically how He shows His love for humanity and how we are to show our love for God and our neighbors.

The scripture lessons for Maundy Thursday reflect the circumstances of the occasion. Exodus 12:1–14 recalls the institution of the Passover meal, 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 provides Paul's account of the institution of the Lord's Supper, and John 13:1–17 recounts the washing of the disciples' feet and, for us Original Free Will Baptists, the establishment of this ordinance. Reflections upon these scriptures are to focus upon how Christ has become our ultimate sacrifice and example, and how we are to witness for Christ through our sacrifice and example for the world. Including appropriate songs, such as "Jesus Paid It All" and "My Jesus, I Love Thee," will strengthen the meaning of the service. Likewise, changing the locale can create a deeper sense of worship. Influenced by one of my mentors, the Rev. Ronnie Hobgood, I hold this service in the Fellowship Hall, where the congregation is seated at tables arranged in the shape of a cross, ornamented with palms from Palm and Passion Sunday and candles to provide additional light and ambiance. It is here that the congregation celebrates the Lord's Supper, and then retires to prepared rooms for Washing the Saints' Feet.

The conclusion of the service involves reading the account of Jesus prayer in Gethsemane and subsequent arrest. The focus is on the fact that, at this point in the Holy Week story, all of Jesus' disciples desert him, providing us the opportunity to confront the reality that we would have also deserted Jesus. Again, a change of location is suggested, with the congregation gathering outside in the churchyard or garden, weather permitting. And while it may seem strange, it is not appropriate to end this service with a benediction, for the service has really not concluded. The story of Jesus, following its outline in scripture, proceeds with His trial, conviction, and execution; therefore, the service is to continue on Good Friday.

Good Friday

There's an old saying: "You can't have Easter without Good Friday." Before we can encounter the risen Lord on Easter, we must contend with the crucified Christ on Good Friday. We must be willing to confront the horrid reality of what our sinfulness cost Jesus—His very life. Therefore, the purpose of worshipping on Good Friday is to remember that Jesus Christ came to give His life as a ransom for many. Yet, the service is not intended to devolve into a dismal tribute to Jesus' suffering, but it is to focus upon the "working out of divine intention with a view to the salvation of an otherwise doomed creation."⁴

article continued on page 22

Discerning God's Call to Ministry in the Church

By Dr. Michael R. Pelt

This year Original Free Will Baptists will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formation of our Convention. As part of that celebration we need to be considering what the future holds if we hope to continue the progress that has been made during the last 100 years. What kind of leadership will be needed if our Convention and its constituent conferences and churches are to serve the generations that will come after us? All but one of the ministries of the Convention were formed during the past 100 years. Without visionary leaders who were willing to take the initiative to establish these ministries none of this would have happened. If we look back over the 400 years since our beginning as a denomination, it is clear that we would not have survived without thoughtful and dedicated persons of faith who assumed responsibility for planting the seed, nurturing the growth of congregations, and striving to unite them in conferences and a convention on the basis of shared beliefs and practices. Sound leadership has been essential to this process.

We expect God to call those who will serve as leaders in the church, but in our denomination the church is involved in choosing those who are called. No minister is licensed and ordained without being recommended by the vote of the congregation and no pastor is chosen without the vote of the church that calls him. Those who serve as officers of the conferences or the Convention are approved by the vote of these church bodies.

But what lies behind this matter of understanding the call to the ministry? It involves discernment on the part of persons who feel that God wants them to serve as instruments of His purpose as revealed in the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is no simple matter for the one who feels such a call to discern what it means. It is assumed that the call comes through the message of the Gospel and in consequence of a committed relationship to Jesus Christ and in the context of a community of faith. Many would assume that this matter of a call to ministry must necessarily be a private matter between that person and God and

that no one else should become involved. But why must that be the case if we take seriously our obligations to one another in the life of the church? Sometimes the one who is wrestling with this question needs the help of other believers in the community of faith who have more wisdom and experience and can offer prayerful guidance. If we sense that something like this is happening in someone's life, we ought to be open to a conversation with them. If we are the pastor or another church leader, we could present them with opportunities for service that will test whether or not they are gifted for ministry of one kind or another. Not everyone has the same gifts or is equally gifted, but everyone needs opportunities to test their gifts as they are engaged in ministry to others.

There is much work to be done in the life and ministry of the local church and in the mission of the church to the world around us. It is in becoming involved in that work and that mission that Christians are made aware of how their gifts can be used to manifest the reality of the kingdom of God in this world. My personal experience confirmed this understanding of a call to the ministry. I had two older brothers in the ministry who saw that I had a commitment to serve Christ in some way, so during the summers after my freshman and sophomore years in college they arranged for me to teach adults in Vacation Bible School in several churches where they were serving or had served as pastors. This led to opportunities to preach in some of these churches and to conduct youth revivals during the summer following my sophomore year. By that time I had been licensed to preach and was scheduled to be ordained. In my junior and senior years in college and beyond I was serving as the pastor of small churches as I pursued my education.

Not everyone who feels a call to ministry is fortunate enough to have two older brothers who have had years of experience in the ministry. But many of those who are now fully engaged in ministry and are well equipped to serve can identify young people who are gifted for ministry and can become like older and wiser brothers

to them. They can help these young people to be sensitive to God's presence in their lives and encourage them to seek God's will for their lives as they grow in discipleship and service in the life of the church.

This matter of discerning a call to the ministry is more complicated today than it was when I was young. The vocational and professional opportunities are so much broader and higher educational opportunities are much more accessible to young people today. There are counselors in high school and in college who can provide information concerning vocational choices as well as choices regarding the education needed to prepare for a vocation. But they may not be in a position to provide guidance in making decisions about spiritual matters. This is where the church has a responsibility to help young people to be mindful that their life choices, including vocational choices, should be made in keeping with God's will for them. They need to understand that they can serve God by being his servant in the world, either in church ministry or in a wide variety of vocations that serve God's purposes for human life. The church must assume its responsibility to help its young and older disciples to discern their calling in the context of many possible ways that are worthy of investing their lives. But it would be a

travesty if the church failed to make its young people aware of the need for strong and capable leadership in the community of faith. To do this we must find ways to create a setting in which gifted young disciples will have the opportunity to consider what God wants them to do with their lives. And we must be ready to help those who are wrestling with the question of a call to church ministry to find the answer without trying to make the decision for them.

The Commission on Education for Christian Ministry has been given the opportunity to provide two workshops at the 2012 session of the Convention on Wednesday afternoon. A panel consisting of members of the Commission and the Rev. Marc Boswell will discuss the topic "Discerning the Call to Christian Ministry." We want to encourage church leaders as well as other interested persons to join us at one of these workshops during the Convention. Last year Campbell Divinity School sponsored a conference on the topic "Creating a Culture of Call." They have announced a follow-up event on April 10 with the topic being "Exploring the Call Day." Interested persons should contact them at <divinity.campbell.edu> under Church Relations or call Elaine Dawson at (910) 893-1882 by March 28.

Psalms for the Soul

with Linda Herring

The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Anxiety is the enemy of a peaceful life.

People do everything they can to get rid of stress. They travel, go to the gym, try to break bad habits, but they still have headaches, backaches, stomachaches, and whatever. I believe we can have peace during anxious times. Jesus said to seek peace in Him because He has overcome this troublesome world. The key is to shift our focus from the scary problem onto God, who lovingly provides whatever we need from His limitless resources and power. Peace is a gift from God. The Holy Spirit produces a sense of calm in believers who seek the Lord's protection against anxiety. Psalm 40:16 says, "Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified." Let the peace of God rule in your hearts. Trust God and lean on Him. Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm.



Linda Herring is married to Vernon Herring. They have two children, Amy and Vernon and three grandchildren, Jenna, Jared, and Noah. Linda is an active member of the White Oak Grove OFWB Church in LaGrange, NC. Linda leads a Bible study group, Circle of Friends. She has been a drama director of two dramas that she wrote, *They Called His Name Jesus* and *The Book of Ruth*. She is a resource for the OFWB Woman's Auxiliary. Her outreach ministry includes this column in *TFWB*, a radio broadcast by the same name (aired on WAGO 88.7 FM), and a weekly devotional article for the *La Grange Weekly Gazette* and *The Sampson Weekly*. She also has a devotion book printed by the Mount Olive College Press.

Faith After Fire

Church pulls together, opening sanctuary 8 months after storm

By Olivia Neeley, Times Staff Writer

Reprinted with permission from The Wilson Times

Nearly eight months ago, a powerful storm ripped through Wilson. And First Free Will Baptist members couldn't believe what happened next.

Lightning struck an area less than 4 feet away from the church's steeple, causing their church to burn throughout the night. It was an emotional moment for church members, who were just days away from kicking off their 90th anniversary.

On Sunday, First Free Will Baptist Church will hold their first service inside the once heavily damaged sanctuary since the June 10 fire. It will begin at 10:30 A.M. at 4865 Nash St. NW.

"The church is the people as we've said many times, it's not a building," said Senior Pastor Wayne King. "The faithfulness, the resiliency, the loyalty and support of the people rallying through tough times is the thing that really blesses us and causes us to have great gratitude and appreciation. We are very blessed."

The church's regular early morning service, which begins at 8:15, is slated to begin Feb. 26, King said.

Faith and Blessings

The fire caused a little more than \$800,000 worth of damage to the church—half of that was damage inside the sanctuary.

As the restoration process began, First Free Will Baptist's congregation needed a place to meet on Sundays. And God proved faithful, church members said, providing an alternative.

The New Hope Baptist Church family blessed the church by letting them use their ministry center, King said.



Photo by Brad Coville, *The Wilson Times*

Firefighters from several departments battle a fire at First Free Will Baptist Church in June.

Fighting the Fire

About 40 firefighters from multiple agencies battled the blaze June 10, using at least 30,000 gallons of water. It took them at least 3 hours to put the fire completely out, which included hot spots.

Firefighters, who began fighting the fire inside the church sanctuary, quickly changed gears due to safety concerns. That's when they rushed to the Packhouse Road side, set up ground ladders and climbed on top of the roof to get closer to the sanctuary.

Wilson Fire/Rescue Services, East Nash and Silver Lake Volunteer Fire departments were among the agencies who responded to the fire.

Firefighters were able to save precious, historical church records.

And church members appreciated their efforts. They cooked supper for them, passed out water and before they left served them breakfast.

"They were phenomenal," Jim Campbell, battalion commander for Wilson Fire/Rescue Services previously said.

"They were very gracious in giving us and allowing us the use of that facility," he said. "We had a larger area that provided some accommodations that we didn't have here on site. We used that through the month of October."

King said as the work progressed on the building, they were able to get back inside the classrooms and resume some activities.

"We had to combine some Sunday schools during that time," King said. "We had some moving back and forth and that presented challenges."

But those challenges made this church family stronger.

"What we see God doing is people's willingness to hang in there and endure the tough times," he said. "And to realize what a wonderful thing God has given us in a building facility, to have that restored. It makes us appreciate all the more what we had to start out with."

"Amazingly Blessed"

Crews worked hard this week, putting on the final touches. The sanctuary, whose wooden ceiling was once charred, shined brightly. The smell of new carpet filled the air, far different from the remnants of the fire several months ago. The church steeple was also replaced.

"Everybody pulled together, worked together," King said. "We are just very grateful what God provided through all this process... We could have been without any sort of viable meeting place for all these months... we could have been without anything. At least the building wasn't burned down completely. We had something to work from."

A week ago, members headed to the church, pitched in and unpacked boxes, said Associate Pastor Doug Radford.

"People were working on the inside and on the outside," Radford said. "We are amazingly blessed with a wonderful church family."

The congregation, which is made up of more than 350 active members, moved to its current location at 4865 Nash St. NW in December 1999. Throughout the months their ministry has continued. Not even a fire could stop them from their daily mission—sharing God's love to all.

"We tried to keep pushing forward," Radford said. "The good things we were blessed to do continued on, even under the different circumstances. It's the people that count, not the building."

The church is the people as we've said many times, it's not a building. The faithfulness, the resiliency, the loyalty and support of the people rallying through tough times is the thing that really blesses us and causes us to have great gratitude and appreciation. We are very blessed.

—Wayne King, Senior Pastor



Photo by Gray Whitley, *The Wilson Times*

The Rev. Wayne King and associate pastor Doug Radford stand at the new pulpit in the sanctuary of the First Free Will Baptist Church on West Nash Street.

HONEY-DO JOBS

Painting • 40 years experience
Carpentry • Rotten Wood Repair
Power Washing • Gutter Cleaning
Restorations & Renovations
References are Available
— FIX IT IF POSSIBLE —

Charles Petit

Home: (919) 553-5741

Cell: (919) 675-5896

2014 Penny Lane

Clayton, NC 27520



The Biker Prison Ministry of Original Free Will Baptists

The Biker/Prison Ministry of Original Free Will Baptists has a strong outreach emphasis. This ministry will take our team into youth detention centers, prisons, and to motorcycle events where they will “serve with enthusiasm.”

The Biker/Prison Ministry is under the direction of Dr. Timothy Webber and now has been granted permission to bring God’s ministry to all the youth detention centers in North Carolina.

To become a member of this ministry or to make donations, please contact the Home Missions and Evangelism headquarters at (252) 526-9908.



AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS™

American Heritage Girls, Inc.

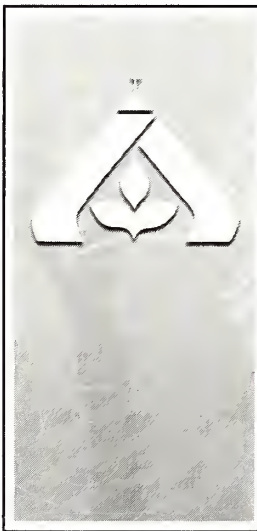
I promise to Love God, Cherish my family, Honor my country, and Serve my Community (AHG Oath).

American Heritage Girls is the premier National Scouting Organization for young women that encourages family involvement and embraces Christian values.

American Heritage Girls is a Christ-centered, non-profit scouting organization, offering a wholesome scouting program for girls, ages 5 to 18. AHG was founded with the love of God... through the love of families...for the love of children.

Since its start in 1995 in West Chester, Ohio, American Heritage Girls has grown from 10 troops and 100 members to more than 6,000 members in over 180 troops in 33 states. AHG was founded by a group of mothers wanting an alternative scouting program for their daughters.

You may contact the Home Missions office at the above telephone number for further information. We will be glad to visit your church to answer your questions about American Heritage Girls and help you organize a troop.



2012 MISSIONS RALLY

Theme: “Working for God With Enjoyment”

Wednesday, May 22, 2012 @ 7:00 P.M.

Kornegay Arena, Mount Olive College
Mount Olive, NC

Don't miss the report from Home Missions & Evangelism and the update from the Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry

Hurricane Irene:

A Work Still in Progress

BY LYN TRIPLETT

Every storm brings a different temperament. Irene was rather sneaky. She lulled residents into a false sense of security. Over and over we have heard, "Irene was only a Category 2 storm—that is nothing."

So with a false sense of security, there were only basic precautions taken, parties scheduled, pictures made and a cavalier attitude of "Aw, shucks, bring it on Irene" prevailed throughout Eastern and Coastal North Carolina. A false sense of security wrapped them with an insulated sense of smugness. Then Hurricane Irene arrived. And she stayed, and stayed, and stayed, and stayed. The tide came in, the flooding began, and it, too, stayed, and stayed, and stayed. Water from the sound flooded so high and so far inland, that in places on the Outer Banks it almost literally met the surf of the Atlantic Ocean. Hurricanes are usually thought of as "huge, wet, tornados;" meaning they bring a lot of wind and a lot of rain for a short time. Irene, however, just sat off the coast of NC and churned out high and low pressures, storm surges, inches and inches of rain riding a high tide, and then she let loose the tornadoes to do their damages. Recovering after wind damage is easy—cut the trees, fix the roof, and move on. Flood damages are entirely different. The damages continue to increase weeks after the storm has died. There is dirt plus dampness that breeds mold and mildew that thrive in the heat, humidity, and darkness of insulation, floor joists, ductwork, siding, and flooring. The longer it takes to eliminate the damaged structures and make complete repairs, the worse a home gets. Irene is still here and she is still creating an insidious havoc with the lives of the survivors.



April

is

Home Missions

and

Evangelism

Month

Good Shepherd Sunday

Sunday, April 22, 2012

Your funds will help us to
“Touch Lives for a Lifetime.”



An Extraordinary Day

It is not just an ordinary day when you can take your lunch break at your workplace and have the opportunity to join with other staff in open Christian devotion. It's extraordinary! We began February 22 and gather each Wednesday in the conference room and share devotion. These special devotions are in observance of Lent and will continue up through Holy Week. They were organized by our Director of Church Ministry, Dianne Riley. All staff members were invited to attend. These devotions are in addition to our Staff worship services.

Spiritual growth has always been an important part of the Children's Home Ministry. Dianne is busy hosting church visits and having cottage devotions around campus with the children, as well as helping organize the Sunday worship services with the Campus Minister and her other duties.

It is a true blessing to be able to share with each other during this time of year when we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior and at other times throughout the year at the Children's Home.

Family Foster Care Update

Our family foster care program is growing. We currently have 12 licensed families working with The Home. There are nine children in our family foster care program, with four children under the age of four.

Change for Children 2012

Change For Children Collection Materials should be in hand ready to begin our Campaign in May. Letters have already been mailed to notify church officers and pastors.

Please remember the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in your daily prayers as we strive to provide the best possible care for the children we serve.



From the Children's Home to You:

Happy Easter

May you feel his presence as you celebrate the Risen Lord and Savior

He Lives!



A "Sweet" Evening



As soon as the school buses stopped at The Home on the afternoon of February 14, the children hurried into the cottages. They were anticipating a Valentine Social to be held on campus just for them. Staff had decorated the gym and prepared a delicious meal for the evening. The tables were covered and decorated with hearts and other valentine decorations.

At 5 P.M. the children walked over to the gym, dressed in their finest: ready for good food, good music, and lots of socializing. Some of the young ladies even donned new hairstyles.

A photo booth was set up so everyone could have a photo made to remember the evening. It was a great time for the children, and I'm sure there were new memories made.

Needs List

- Individually Wrapped Easter Eggs and Easter Candy
- (5) Stainless Steel Range Hoods (36" 2 speed w/light)
- Twin Size Comforters (bright colors, geometric shape designs or solid)
- Bedroom Lamps
- Bed Pillow Covers (vinyl)
- Body Wash (Boys & Girls)
- Trash Bags (13 gallon and larger)
- Food Storage Bags (gallon & quart)
- (25) Exercise Mats (approximately 68" x 24" size)
- High Chairs/Booster Seats
- Umbrellas
- (4) Rechargeable Flashlights (large size)
- Double A Batteries
- Disposable Tablecloths for 72" Round Tables (white or pastel colors)
- Summer Trip Sponsor (\$2,000)



Eternal Collision Visits Home

On February 18, the children here were treated to a demonstration of strength. Eternal Collision, a group from Washington, NC visited The Home. A group of three: a farmer, a marine, and an engineer, mesmerized the children (and staff) with different feats of strength. Some of the feats were breaking bats, rolling up frying pans, tearing thick phone books in half, bending 3/4" solid steel rods and then rolling them up like a rope, and breaking

stacks of concrete bricks with their hands. Throughout the demonstration the group shared their testimony with the staff and children. One of the testimonies used the stacks of bricks to illustrate how Satan desires to build a wall of evil around you that separates you from God.

A pizza meal was shared with the group before they headed back home. It was a good evening of fun and fellowship while spiritual seeds were sown.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

(Romans 1:16)



Advancing The Gospel In Trying Times

ROSITA, MEXICO

BY THE REV. ANTONIO ESCOBAR

I recently had the privilege of preaching at the Shalom FWB Church in Rosita. Brother Aguero invited me to a program of Revival, and at the same time to the anniversary of the church. I was glad to see that the Lord has blessed the work there, and the ministry of this church. The church has grown and they now have new people. They are working with new families, even though he and his wife, Benita, have had poor health recently. However, they continue at the present time to do the work, being helped by their family. They are doing a great work. We also had a baptismal service while I was

there. A brother and sister who had been converted to Christ were baptized and joined the church as active members.

I give thanks to the Lord for the opportunity to serve in His work and to help our churches here in Mexico as they go through situations that are coming our way. The churches are working and preaching every day and taking the Gospel to homes, and reaching souls for Christ. The programs in our churches have not been held back because of the current situation and the Shalom Church is an example of this. Let us pray for the health of our Brother and Sister Aguero and for their ministry.



Shall We Meet for Bible Study?

BY WILLEM VANDER PLAS

Shall we meet for Bible Study on Christmas Eve? Yes, let us have a Christmas Banquet together on December 24. Do we plan to meet or to eat?

A lively discussion led us to the decision: "We better learn to understand what happened at Bethlehem about 2,000 years ago. Jesus was born in such a poor situation and many of us suffer poverty today, also. Willem, can you prepare a special Bible study for Christmas?" Our Bible Studies are around the "Questions of Faith and Life."

I prepared for each member some Bible verses to read, taking us back in time, teaching about the Child and the Man born in Bethlehem. Lydia opened the readings with Micah 5:2: "A special King shall be born in Bethlehem."

In the Gospel of Luke we have been reading several events about the birth of Jesus and in the second book of Luke (Acts), Jeilan read Acts 1:8 and about the promise of Jesus' return in verses 10 and 11. Tezdjan finished the readings from Revelation 22:7, 12, 20-21; "I am coming quickly."

The center of our thoughts has been Bethlehem, which means House of Bread. Jesus offers himself as the "Bread of Life" (John 6:33, 35, 51).

Each of the attendants, except Lydia and I, have been well educated Muslims who value highly the importance of the "Korban" as blood sacrifice to Allah. Bethlehem Ephrata is also a region where the shepherds tended their flocks. Certainly, sheep for the temple sacrifices at Jerusalem came from Bethlehem and obviously it was not a co-incidence that shepherds heard the message of Jesus' birth first. The Shepherds first brought homage to the child, the Lamb of God, the unique and ultimate Korban. There has not been a greater Korban ever since Jesus died on the cross. By his death and resurrection he has been made **THE MAN WHO BRINGS US LIFE**.

Christmas demands to witness Him, to exclaim his return, to expect his coming quickly and to see and understand that he is making all things **NEW**.

Some thoughts they shared:

- Tonight, we received peace in our hearts from God, which means that He favors us.
- Jesus told us to witness Him to other people. The Lord asks us to increase our efforts to make Him known as Jesus the Savior.
- We truly celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ; blessed in Him, ...didn't we eat the **BREAD of LIFE**?
- Let us bring daily Glory to God in the highest, because He loves people all over the earth.

Thank you for your prayers and your support.





Working for God With Endurance

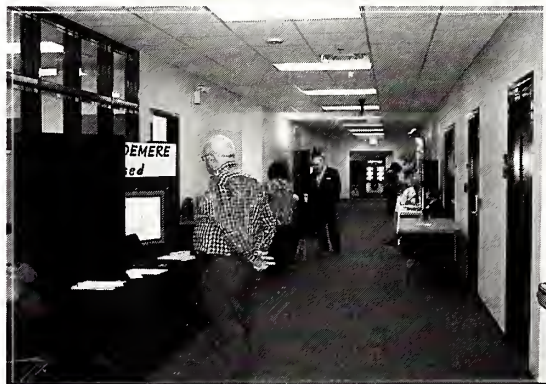
71st Annual Sunday School Institute

While the rains came on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at Mount Olive College, the spirits of approximately 300 people were not dampened. There was learning, fellowship, and either renewing or making new friendships. Fifty-nine churches were represented. Many door prizes were given out to young and not so young. There were several vendors present that were received very well. The Free Will Baptist Press had a tremendous bookstore present and our participants rallied around the tables and bins to purchase items that would enhance their lives at home and in Sunday School. The workshop leaders were quite

knowledgeable in their respective fields and shared some valuable information.

There were 18 people nominated for either Teacher of the Year or Superintendent of the Year. The 2012 winners were Ms. Janice Carter, Teacher of the Year and Ms. Wendy Taylor-Philyaw, Superintendent of the Year. They were both from Whaley's Chapel Church near Richlands.

Below you will find some pictures depicting the fun and excitement felt during the day. Many thanks go to all the volunteers and others that supplied goods and services for the occasion.





2012 Cragmont Summer Schedule

Morning Star

April 13-15, 2012

Joan Little (252) 753-3217

7063 Stantonburg Rd. • Farmville, NC 27828

Dayspring Conference

June 6-9, 2012

Joan Little (252) 753-3217

7063 Stantonburg Rd. • Farmville, NC 27828

Christian Cadet Conference

June 18-23, 2012

Joey Williams (919) 734-9080

139 Windyfield Dr. • Goldsboro, NC 27534

Pee Dee Youth Conference

July 2-5, 2012

Heath Connor (910) 740-4454

727 Mount Olive Rd. • Bladenboro, NC 28320

General Youth II Conference

July 9-14, 2012

Brad Williamson, Director: (252) 244-0207

Wilma Parker, Registrar: (252) 522-0967

P.O. Box 6423 • Kinston, NC 28501

Young People's Bible Conference

July 23-27, 2012

Chuck Owens (252) 289-7669

1506 Washington Ave. • Weldon, NC 27890

Emmanuel Woman's Mini Conference

September 7-9, 2012

Joan Little (252) 753-3217

7063 Stantonburg Rd. • Farmville, NC 27828

Ministerial Association of OFWB

June 4-6, 2012

Stephen Prescott (910) 567-5347

7605 Newton Grove Hwy. • Dunn, NC 28334

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 11-16, 2012

Angela Mattox (252) 671-7176

1469 Wintergreen Rd. • Cove City, NC 28523

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC)

June 25-30, 2012

Frankie Baggett (252) 746-7850

5403 Weyerhaeuser Rd. • Ayden, NC 28513

Bed, Breakfast, & Blessing

July 5-8, 2012

Cragmont Assembly 1 (877) 669-7677

1233 North Fork Rd. • Black Mountain, NC 28711

General Youth I Conference

July 16-21, 2011

Bryant Hines (252) 792-5745

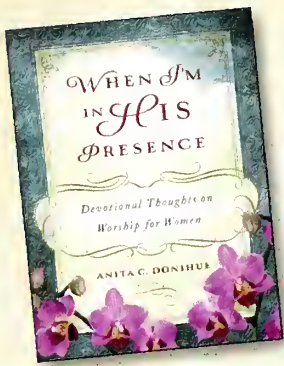
7946 Bear Grass Rd. • Robersonville, NC 27871

Cornerstone Woman's Conference

July 29-August 3, 2012

Joan Little (252) 753-3217

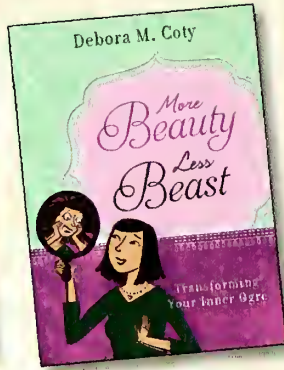
7063 Stantonburg Rd. • Farmville, NC 27828



\$9.99



\$7.99



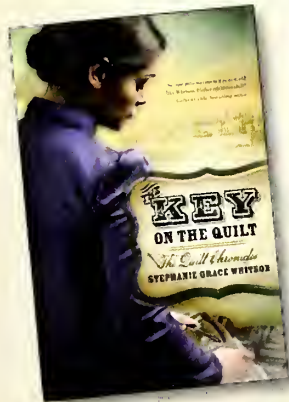
\$9.99



\$2.99



\$5.99



\$12.99



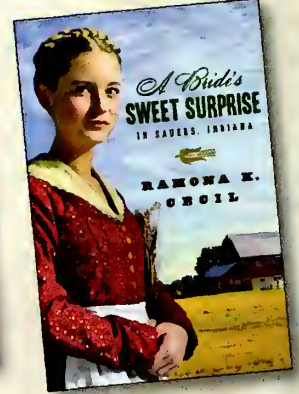
\$12.99



\$12.99



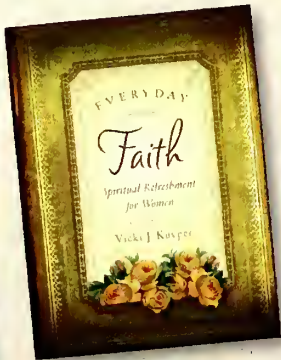
\$12.99



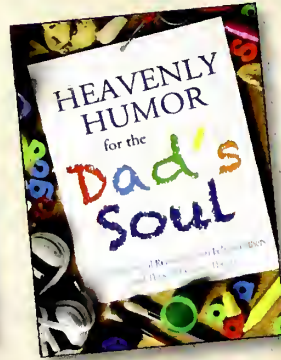
\$12.99



\$7.99



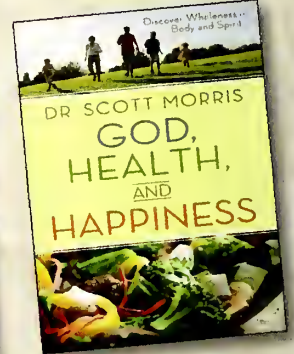
\$9.99



\$7.99



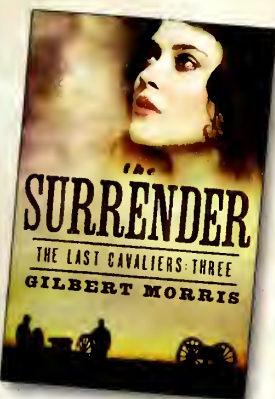
\$9.99



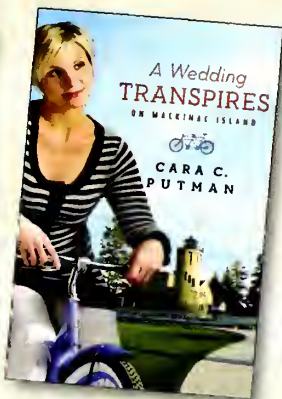
\$5.99



NEW FROM
BARBOUR PUBLISHING



\$14.99



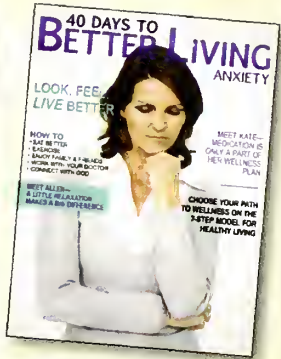
\$12.99



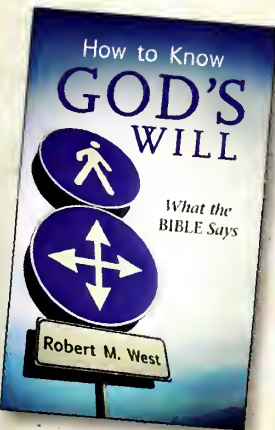
\$12.99



\$7.99



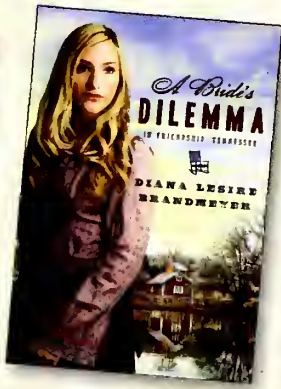
\$7.99



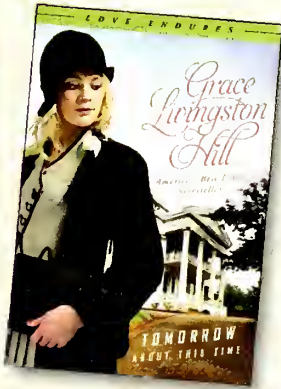
\$2.99



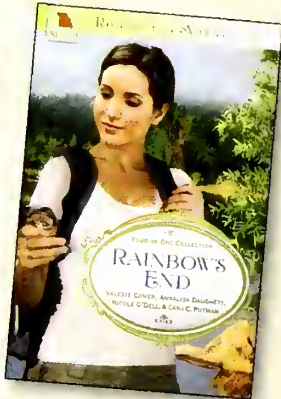
\$12.99



\$12.99



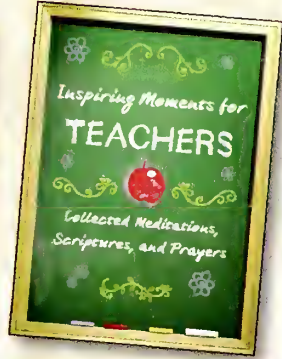
\$12.99



\$7.99



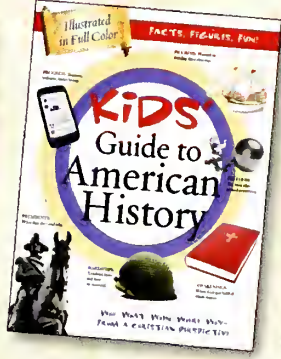
\$14.99



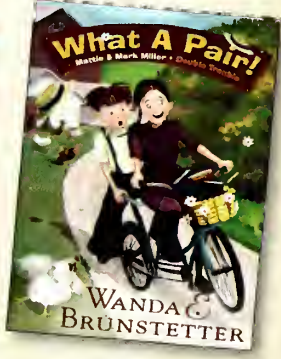
\$9.99



\$2.99



\$9.99



\$5.99

To order, call 1.800.849.3927 ext. 221 or visit one of our store locations at:

Ayden Bible & Bookstore
3928 Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-6128

Kinston Bible & Bookstore
Vernon Park Mall
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 527-2843

New Bern Bible & Bookstore
1232 S. Glenburnie Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 638-6193

Crucial to the carrying out of this service is its setting. Creating an environment where people can encounter and reflect upon the crucified Christ is paramount to the effectiveness of this service. It is important to remove the paraments (or altar cloths) from the sanctuary, which is intended to signify the stripping of Jesus' garments during His crucifixion. If possible, conducting the service with minimal light, or even totally by candlelight, can create a setting that contributes to the significance of the observance. Initial scripture lessons provide the framework for the service, as the Servant Song from Isaiah 52–53 is read, as is Hebrews 10:1–25, which focuses upon the meaning of Jesus' sacrifice and its intended impact upon His believers. Meditations on Jesus' offering of Himself are appropriate, as are songs which highlight this significant event, such as "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" and "I Gave My Life for Thee." At this point, the Good Friday service can move into two traditional, yet different, directions:

1. *Service of Prayer*—One traditional service involves prayer on behalf of the world. As Jesus' death upon the cross is intended to bring salvation to all humanity and as Christians are called to present to the world God's salvation, Good Friday becomes a grand occasion for intercession, praying for the entire creation for which Jesus died.⁵ The prayer service begins with the reading of John's account of Jesus' crucifixion, located in 19:1–37. Following the scripture meditation, the pastor leads the congregation in praying for the Church, the world, the afflicted, the unrepentant, and for Christian believers everywhere. Following the prayers, an appropriate song may be sung.

2. *Service of Tenebrae*—An early Christian observance, "Tenebrae" (pronounced tēn'ə-brā') uses scripture, light, and sound to convey the story of and meaning behind the crucifixion of Jesus. Tenebrae is the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows," and begins with seven lighted candles as the only objects on the communion table and as the only source of light. This service utilizes the following passages of scripture to recount the events of Jesus arrest, trial, and crucifixion in dramatic fashion: Luke 22:1–6; Matthew 26:36–44, 27:11–18, 21–26; 27:27–37, 45–54; Mark 14:43–50, 66–72; and John 19:38–42. These selections

are emphasized by the extinguishing of one candle after each reading until only one light—the Christ candle—remains lit. Music and sounds reflective of the events, such as nails being hammered and the tomb being sealed, are incorporated into the service for emphasis. After the reading of Matthew 27:45–54, the Christ candle is hidden, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil over good. And once John 19:38–42 is read, the hidden Christ candle is finally restored to its place, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. After a time of silent reflection and by the single light of the Christ candle, the congregation departs the service in silence.

Like the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service, it is not appropriate to end the Good Friday service with a benediction, for the service will not reach its finale until the church gathers on Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

As previously noted, Holy Week doesn't officially conclude until the body of Christ congregates for its Easter Sunday Sunrise Service to rejoice in the new life that has come through Christ's victory over death and sin. Yet, for us to rightly celebrate the resurrection, we must travel with Jesus through the last week of His earthly life. It is only when we take this journey with Christ and our fellow Christians that we are able to truly understand and appreciate how Jesus became the propitiation for not only our sins, but also for the sins of the whole world. It is Christian writer Fleming Rutledge who states, "We cannot earn God's gifts of forgiveness, reconciliation, resurrection, and eternal life. These divine gifts are beyond our capacity to earn through any means we could possibly devise. It has already been done for us. It is freely accomplished through the self-giving of Christ.... Only the death by crucifixion of the Son of God was sufficient to lift the terrible curse of sin from the world.... Nothing less would suffice. The ugliness of His Crucifixion corresponds to the ugliness of the sin of the world. He has passed through His ordeal 'out of bondage into freedom, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.' It is finished. It is accomplished. It is enough. It is once—for all."⁶ May we all worship faithfully the Lord our God as we strive to celebrate a "Holy" Holy Week.



Sources

1. White, James F. *Introduction to Christian Worship*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2000. p. 47.
2. *Ibid.*, pp. 55–56.
3. Stookey, Laurence Hull. *Christ's Time for the Church*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1996, p. 89.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 96.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 100.
6. Rutledge, Fleming. *The Seven Last Words from the Cross*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004. pp. 67–68.



Celebrating 100 Years of Ministry **A Century of Grace**

A \$100,000 Journey through the OFWB Convention's 100th Year
ending May 21–23, 2012



- Expanding the OFWB Youth Ministry
- Continued Development of Family Ministry
- Cost-Free Counseling for Ordained Ministers
- Broader Educational Opportunities for Ministry
- Heightened Exposure Via Modern Media Sources

Your annual gift of \$500 will bring us one step closer to reaching complete financial stability. With this solid foundation to build upon, the vision of the Headquarters Office can be realized one opportunity at a time. Help us win people to Christ by reaching them where they live—in the 21st Century.

Original Free Will Baptist Headquarters Office

P. O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513

Phone: (252) 746-4963 • Web: www.ofwb.org
E-mail: ofwb.hq@ofwb.org

P. O. Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513 • (252) 746-4963 • www.ofwb.org

CONVENTION NEWS

The 100th Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

May 22–24, 2012

Working For God With Enjoyment

Tuesday, May 22

- 5:15 P.M. Seventh Annual Pastor's I.M.P.A.C.T. Banquet
7:30 P.M. 100th Anniversary Worship and Celebration
9:00 P.M. Late Night Social and Entertainment hosted by the Northeast Church Auxiliary

Wednesday, May 23

- 8:30 A.M. Registration Opens—Kornegay Arena
9:30–10:30 Congregational Singing, Special Music
Opening Plenary Session
Welcome. Mount Olive College
Call to Order The Reverend Ray Wells
Scripture & Prayer
Greetings from the President The Reverend Harold Swinson
Nominating Committee Report
Necessary Business
10:30–10:45 Break—VISIT THE MINISTRY DISPLAY AREA
10:45–11:45 Worship Service
11:45–12:45 Lunch in the Murphy Center
1:00–1:25 Plenary Session
1:30–2:45 Learning Session I
3:00–4:15 Learning Session II
5:45 P.M. Sunday School Banquet—Murphy Center
7:30 P.M. Missions Rally Hosted by Foreign Missions

Thursday, May 24

- 9:00 A.M. Registration Re-opens
9:30–10:15 Congregational Singing
Scripture and Prayer
The Convention Reconvenes
Convention Executive Committee Reports:
Secretary, Finance, Second Readings, Etc.
Ministry Recommendations and Final Reports (part 1)
• Sunday School, Mount Olive College, FWB Press, Retirement Homes, Home Missions
10:15–10:30 Break—VISIT THE MINISTRY DISPLAY AREA
10:30–11:15 Ministry Recommendations and Final Reports (part 2)
• Children's Home, Minister's Program, Foreign Missions, Church Finance, Cragmont
11:15–11:45 Election and Installation of Officers, Boards, and Committees
Resolutions Committee Report
Final Business
11:45 Report of the Memorial Committee
12:00 The Convention is Adjourned

The 101st Annual Session of the Original Free Will Baptist Convention will convene May 21–23, 2013



**COME CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION MISSION RALLY.**

MAY 23, 2012 7:30 P.M.

KORNEGAY ARENA, MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

FEATURES:

There will be special music. A pictorial walk down memory lane via PowerPoint. (You do not want to miss this.) A special message as we look to the future.

SPECIAL OFFERING: Your special offering for Foreign Missions at this Rally will enable us to move forward as we look to future growth on all our fields around the world.

**REMEMBER YOU MUST EARMARK YOUR GIFT FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS
OR PLACE IT IN A SPECIAL FOREIGN MISSIONS ENVELOPE.
THESE WILL BE SENT TO EVERY PASTOR AND SUPPLIED AT THE RALLY.**



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THIS SPECIAL CELEBRATION .



MOC Receives Gift of Historic Assembly Hall and Apartment Complex

Mount Olive College will soon have a new venue for cultural events as well as an expanded area to house approximately 50 additional students. Thanks to a gift from Progress Energy valued at \$2.5 million, Mount Olive College is the recipient of the Mount Olive Historic Assembly Hall and Apartment Complex located at 207 Wooten Street in Mount Olive. The gift has been in the works for approximately nine months and officially came to fruition in December of 2011.

At his inauguration address in March of 2010, President of Mount Olive College, Philip P. Kerstetter, spoke on his many goals for the College. Among those priorities was growing the College's traditional enrollment from the size of 800 students to that of 1,250 to 1,500 students. To that end he said, "We will need to examine how we will expand our residential housing, have the facilities needed to deliver high quality academic and co-curricular programs, and maintain economic access to students from our service regions. This will require us to actively and aggressively seek funds from others to assist us."

The gift from Progress Energy is one step toward growing the traditional enrollment.

Constructed in 1925, the Mount Olive High School Apartments and Assembly Hall is one of only four

structures within the city limits of Mount Olive to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The 39,310 feet structure sits on two acres of land. Included in the Mount Olive School Apartments are nine, one-bedroom apartments ranging from 600 to 747 square feet and 10, two bedroom apartments ranging from 800 to 935 square feet.

According to Vice President for Student Development, Dan Sullivan, the College is honoring all current lease agreements and is working with the current residents as they transition to other housing. "As current residents matriculate out, Mount Olive College students will move in," Sullivan said.

The College anticipates having an open house for the auditorium portion of the facility this summer. The 430-seat auditorium features 26-foot ceilings, a wrap-around balcony, and a 28-foot stage.

"We look forward to utilizing the auditorium for college and community functions," President Kerstetter said. "We are already planning to have this year's Christmas by Candlelight event in the auditorium. Other events could include community movie nights, musical performances, plays, pageants, and the list goes on. We are extremely grateful for this generous gift from Progress Energy and look forward to utilizing the space to its fullest potential."

Educational Opportunities at

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Accepted Student Days

Accepted Student Days are scheduled April 23 and June 29, 2012. Any student who is accepted and has paid the confirmation fee is eligible to attend this important day. The goal of the day is to help new college students entering college in the fall of 2012 register for classes, have their photo ID made, and to complete paperwork for housing and roommate assignments and other college services. Contact admissions at (800) 653-0854 or <admissions@moc.edu> for more information.

Mount Olive College Scholarship Information:

Active OFWB members are eligible for a \$3,000 tuition grant annually if they attend full-time in the daytime program at MOC. Music, art, and athletic scholarships are also available for daytime students at the Mount Olive location. Auditions, portfolio review, and tryout dates are announced periodically. Students attending the Accepted Student Days can also arrange to meet with music, art, and athletic representatives in the afternoons. Scholarships for merit and leadership are also available for students who have outstanding high school grades and student leadership experiences. Admissions representatives can tell you more at <admissions@moc.edu> or (800) 653-0854.

FAFSA Completion Information:

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is completed annually by every college student who wants to apply for federal and state grants (money you do not have to repay), work study, and loans. New college students and their parents should file their taxes for 2011, and then complete the FAFSA online at <www.fafsa.ed.gov>. Use MOC school number 002949.

One-Night-a-Week Programs for Adults

One-night-a-week college programs for adults are available at Mount Olive, New Bern, Jacksonville, Washington, Wilmington, and Research Triangle Park. The tuition cost for these programs is offered at a reduced rate. Complete the free online application at <www.moc.edu> and learn more about our programs by clicking on the location nearest your home or workplace. Multiple start dates are available each semester, so ask about these convenient programs and how you can complete your degree. Applications to start the term beginning April 23, 2012 are being accepted now. Call 1-800-NEW GOAL. You will be connected to the location nearest your home. Financial aid is available.

RN to RSN online program

Applications for the RN to BSN program are now being accepted for the April 23, 2012 start date. Entering students must hold RN licensure and submit college transcripts no later than April 5, 2012. To apply visit <www.moc.edu> and click on apply now. To learn more about this program, contact Joy Phillips, nursing program coordinator at <jphillips@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854.

MOC Student Blair Mozingo makes it to Top 96 in American Idol and Crowned Miss Goldsboro

Mount Olive College student Blair Mozingo knows a thing or two about music—she's been singing and performing since the age of 7. The Duplin County native has sung from North Carolina to California in weddings, pageants, choral competitions, and most recently as a contestant on American Idol.

"This is my second time trying out for Idol," Mozingo said. "The first time I was 17 and I did it for my mother who is a huge fan. This time, I did it for myself."

In August of 2011 Mozingo won the "Be a Star with QDR" radio contest on 94.7 with the Q Morning Crew, provided by Mercury Records. As the winner of the contest she was awarded a round trip destination to Houston, TX where she auditioned for season 12 of American Idol. During her third round of competition she sang "Don't Forget to Remember Me" by Carrie Underwood to Judges Nigel Lythgoe and other Idol producers.

"I played with them a little bit, and told them I had chosen that song because I didn't want them to forget me. Nigel was one of the judges that had cut me when I was 17," Mozingo said.

Mozingo got the green light to the next round. The next day, however, she



"I feel like God has blessed me with a talent and I have to be faithful to Him and His word and carry it on..."

came down with bronchitis. She could not eat, could not sleep, and could not even whisper. She spent that day in Urgent Care, and the next recuperating. The next day she once again sang "Don't Forget to Remember Me;" this time for Idol judges Randy Jackson, Jennifer Lopez, and Steven Tyler. After about 30 seconds they cut her off.

She recalled that Jennifer Lopez said, "I don't know if your voice is ready." "I told them I had been very sick, and I urged them to let me do 10 or 15 seconds of another song and then send me to Hollywood so I could prove myself."

They gave her another shot, and she sang Patti Griffin's "Up to the Mountain." She received three yeses and a golden ticket to proceed to Hollywood.

When asked about the process, Mozingo said, "It's all about survival of the fittest. You have to focus on yourself because there is always going to be someone less talented than you and there's always going to be somebody better, or that you think is better. So you just have to beat yourself out and then it's in the judge's hands."

article continued on page 30

coming events

- **Spring Alumni Weekend—Howard confirmed date**
Save the Date April 13–15, 2012
Contact: Anne Hamm at (919) 658-7822 or <ahamm@moc.edu>
- **"Free Spirit" to present a 15th Anniversary Gala Concert**
April 14, 2012 @ 7:30 P.M. • Southern Bank Auditorium
Contact: Alan Armstrong at (919) 658-7188 or e-mail <aalarmstrong@moc.edu>
- **Spring Band Concert**
April 26, 2012 at 7:30 P.M. • Southern Bank Auditorium
Contact: William Ford at (919) 658-7818 • Admission is free and open to the public.
- **Spring Student Show Reception**
April 26, 2012 • Contact: Bob Murray at (919) 658-7183
Teresa Pelt Grubbs Fine Arts Gallery and Laughinghouse Hall Student Gallery 4–7 P.M.



Winter Glitz at MOC Supports Student Scholarships

Though a cold wind was blowing, guests were transported to warm tropical islands upon arrival at the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center for Mount Olive College's fifth annual Winter Glitz. Nearly 200 guests attended this year's black tie optional event that debuted in 2008. The theme for this year was "Escape to the Flavor of the Islands." The festive sounds of a steel pan band set the mood for the evening. As guests entered the corridor, they were greeted by student volunteers dressed in floral Hawaiian shirts and leis. They were taken down a hallway lined with Bamboo fences, palm trees, tropical foliage, and pink flamingos. The main dining hall was decorated with tropical backdrops, Adirondack chairs, and life-size sail boats. The tables were covered with white and teal tablecloths and decorated with center pieces filled with sea shells, beach grass, and foliage.

Entertainment included musical selections by vocalists Jason and Jamie Britt Cox along with special guest vocalists Clifton Cuddington and Rebecca Fordham. Thomas M. Casey accompanied the vocalists. All performers were alumni of Mount Olive College. Joshua Gray Wiggins provided piano entertainment for the night.

Complementing the sights and sounds of the event, guests were treated to a menu of tropical flare. Pioneer College Caterers served fresh fruit salad, pecan raisin loaf, grilled boneless pork chops with pineapple glaze, red roasted potatoes, asparagus with mango salsa, and key lime pie garnished with fresh lime.

The College's Alumni Association planned and organized the event to raise funds for student scholarships. Over five years, the event has raised over \$100,000 in scholarship funds. A continued attraction this year was the silent and live auction items. This year, guests were able to bid on exquisite items such as a River Landing golf package, a weekend theater package in Raleigh, and tickets to the Carolina Hurricanes with an autographed puck.

"I'm very excited about this evening," says Dr. Philip P. Kerstetter, president of Mount Olive College. It is a very important event for the Alumni Association. It benefits some students who would otherwise not be able to attend Mount Olive College if it weren't for scholarships."

Many alumni who have shared this vision for Winter Glitz from its inception look forward to attending every year. "I

article continued on page 30

McKay Assumes Post as Planned Giving Director at MOC



Dwayne McKay has been appointed director of Planned Giving at Mount Olive College. In this position McKay will be responsible for developing and implementing initiatives to identify, cultivate and solicit prospects to ensure a strong base of ongoing financial support for the College.

McKay comes to the College after 17 years with Andy's Burgers, Shakes and Fries where he was the vice-president of special events and corporate training. He also owned Andy's restaurants in Havelock, NC and Holly Springs, NC. McKay has attended East Carolina University and is currently enrolled at Mount Olive College pursuing his bachelor's degree in business management.

McKay is an elder at Mount Olive Presbyterian Church and is a former board member of the Mount Olive Area Chamber of Commerce. McKay is married to Terri McKay, his wife of 16 years. The couple has two children: Lucas, age 14 and Malia, age 10. The family resides in Mount Olive, NC.

Blair Mozingo *(continued from page 28)*

Mozingo left for Hollywood on December 11. She was mentally and physically prepared. She had taken multi-vitamins, gotten plenty of rest, and had even spoken to Scotty McCreery's mom to find out what advice she could offer. In Hollywood, Mozingo competed with 320 other contestants over a five-day period. She made it to the top 96 contestants and was eliminated later in the week.

Although she didn't make it to the final Idol cuts, she's proud of the progress she made and she hasn't given up on the process.

"I think this experience was pretty awesome," she said, "but I am not done

yet. They release the next audition dates in June, and I'll be ready."

Described by her friends as the brightest crayon in the box, and that there is never a dull moment around her. In fact, while she's waiting for the next audition dates, she will surely not be sitting "idol." The junior psychology major has a busy academic and social calendar. This spring Mozingo competed and won the Miss Goldsboro pageant, and is headed to the Miss North Carolina Pageant. She also provides vocal and pageant coaching to teen girls interested in pageants; she is working on a gospel music show; does community service; and is active in her church, Snow Hill Original Free

Will Baptist Church in Duplin County, where she is a youth group leader and Vacation Bible School director.

Mozingo's long-term plans include graduating from Mount Olive College in May of 2014, pursuing her master's degree in counseling, and then returning to Duplin County as a guidance counselor. For Mozingo, her faith plays a big part in not only her music, but in her life.

"I feel like God has blessed me with a talent and I have to be faithful to Him and His word and carry it on, that is why one of my favorite songs is "Up to the Mountain." I go up to the mountain every day; that's why I sing every day."

Winter Glitz *(continued from page 29)*

have the desire to see other students come to Mount Olive College and have the experience that I had when I was here as a student," admits Francine Cooke, member of the Mount Olive College Alumni Board. "Helping with the scholarship foundation means so much to me. It's very rewarding."

Kenny Woodard, a donor, attends Winter Glitz because he enjoys the fellowship. "This College is important to me, but in addition it is important to eastern North Carolina. So many students benefit from this College and the influence that they get from the mentors, the teachers, and the staff." Woodard went on to say, "The funds that are raised here give students an opportunity for a better life."

Gregg Paul, president of the Mount Olive College Alumni Association, gave special thanks to the Winter Glitz committee and the night's volunteers. "Winter Glitz is more than the night's activities," he said. "The event has become an essential element of alumni involvement by giving of our time, talent, and resources to benefit the next generation of students. It is a time to continue friendships and build new relationships as we work collectively with all prior graduates. I am especially grateful to Romey McCoy who chaired this year's event and was ably assisted by Carolyn Hill, Francine Cooke, the Alumni Board and other alumni and friends."

2012 Church Night



Webcast With World-renowned Leaders Coming to MOC

Community business leaders can access the knowledge and experience of world-renowned leaders by attending the Chick-fil-A Leadercast on the campus of Mount Olive College May 4, 2012.

Chick-fil-A Leadercast is a one-day leader development event broadcast LIVE from Atlanta, Ga. to hundreds of sites throughout the nation, including Mount Olive College. The local event is being presented jointly by the Mount Olive Area Chamber of Commerce and the Mount Olive College Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center.

Speakers for this year's event include:

- **Soledad O'Brien**, Anchor and special correspondent for CNN
- **Tim Tebow**, NFL quarterback, Heisman Trophy winner and best-selling author
- **Patrick Lencioni**, Best-selling author and president of The Table Group
- **John Maxwell**, Leadership expert & best-selling author of "The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership"
- **Angela Ahrendts**, CEO, Burberry
- **Roland Fryer**, Professor of economics at Harvard University and CEO of the Education Innovation Laboratory
- **Urban Meyer**, ESPN analyst and former head football coach for the University of Florida
- **Andy Stanley**, Best-selling leadership author and communicator
- **Sheena Iyengar**, Author of "The Art of Choosing" and world-renowned expert of choice

Last year, 85,000 leaders from 17 countries attended Chick-fil-A Leadercast. In its 12th year, this full day, experiential conference is predicted to reach its largest audience to date.

"We are pleased to be able to present this world-class leadership development event here in our local community," said Lynn Williams, chairman of the Mount Olive Area Chamber of Commerce. "We encourage business, civic, and community organizations to take advantage of this opportunity for a thoughtful, yet fast-paced day of leadership inspiration and training."

This year's program will focus on the power of choice. The diverse group of internationally-acclaimed authors, leadership experts, and practitioners will share insights to help leaders empower and equip others at work, at home, and in the community through his or her choices.

The day begins locally with registration at 8 A.M. in W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Hall at Mount Olive College. It concludes at 4:30 P.M. Lunch is included.

Tickets for the local event are \$75 through April 1. After the April 1 early bird deadline, tickets will be \$100. To order tickets, call the Mount Olive Chamber at (919) 658-3113.

For more information about Chick-fil-A Leadercast, visit <www.chick-fil-a-leadercast.com>.

Organized in 1930, the Mount Olive Area Chamber of Commerce is the hometown Chamber for Mount Olive, NC, a small community located in Eastern North Carolina that is home to the Mt. Olive Pickle Company and Mount Olive College. <www.mountolivechamber.com>

Director of Alumni Relations

Mount Olive College at Mount Olive has an immediate opening for the Director of Alumni Relations. This position reports directly to the Vice President for Institutional Advancement and is responsible for the planning and implementation of programs and projects that strategically engage alumni in strengthening programs and provide tangible benefits to alumni. Serving as an ambassador, the Director of Alumni Relations is charged with securing commitments from alumni to provide professional expertise and volunteer service. Partnering with Development colleagues to identify, cultivate, solicit and steward alumni giving; and serving as a liaison between the Alumni Association Board of Directors and the office of the Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

Responsibilities Include:

- Work closely with the Alumni Association Board of Directors
- Plan, implement, and promote alumni programs that support the college's strategic plan
- Ensure accurate and complete alumni database records
- Establish and build relationships with alumni, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;
- Routinely identify and qualify alumni prospects for gifts; communicate development-related activities via written contact reports filed in Raiser's Edge and periodic attendance at prospect management meetings
- Oversee and balance the budget for Alumni Relations

The successful candidate will have a bachelor's degree or a combination of education with a minimum of four years of experience in alumni relations and/or human relations with recruiting and retaining volunteers; fostering productive relationships with volunteers and developing volunteer leadership. Excellent communication, writing, planning, organizational, and interpersonal skills coupled with professional and ethical standards for handling confidential information a must. This position requires a candidate to have the ability to travel and work evenings and weekends as needed. Candidates should submit a cover letter, résumé, and the names and phone numbers of at least three professional references to: <ssweet@moc.edu>. Applicants are encouraged to submit using MSWord. Position advertised until filled.

A *Sling* and a **STONE**

Significance in Christ as a Young Adult

with Marc Boswell

Not Afraid of the Dark

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 25:46) This painful question and cry of agony forcefully came forth from Jesus’ lips before His death on the cross. With Good Friday and Easter celebrations approaching, this hauntingly familiar verse crossed my mind, leaving me to wonder, what, if any, connection it might have with the lives of faith of young adults. Does this time of doubt and pain in Jesus’ life open a window for us to peer into His humanity and discover, after all, that He’s not so different from us? Or, does it at least serve as a much-needed reminder that Jesus actually did experience the confusion and heartache that’s part of being human? Is there something within this cry from the depth of Jesus’ gut that rings in the ears of all of us religious folk, something that challenges the easy, simplistic faith with which we often content ourselves?

Over the past few years, many young adults have tragically taken their own lives in a series of suicides, causing churches, families, friends, and schools to think deeply about the way we live together in a diverse culture and the degree to which our religious communities can make sense of the “dark places” in our lives: those things or areas which are difficult to openly talk about with others; things in our lives that will draw condemnation, not an invitation to wholeness. Many of the young adults who committed suicide were gay, whether openly or not. These cases, in particular, have pricked the conscience of U.S. Americans, and

groups and organizations nationwide have called for greater attention to bullying and abusive behavior. Surely, several of these teens found familiar Jesus’ words on the cross, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?,” as they knew that churches were not the place to which they could turn as they wrestled with this aspect of their lives.

Other teens and young adults have taken their lives for other reasons. In my short 27 years I can think of several acquaintances, former classmates, and friends-of-friends who felt a similar depth of confusion and pain, thinking that there was no way out of the situations that brought them to such despair. Some of these people were religious, others were not. Many of them were beloved by their families and friends, and by all outward appearances, they showed all the signs of having a successful, white, middle-class life. Some had healthy marriages, good jobs, and others were doing well in high school or college. They did not abuse drugs or lead a reckless lifestyle. Still, there was something in their lives that led them to also find familiar Jesus’ words on the cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?,” and they, too, had reached a point in which they believed (consciously or unconsciously) that the church was not a place to which they could turn as they wrestled with their own “dark places.”

Still, there are countless others of different ages that sit in our pews, attend our youth groups, or, perhaps, even preach from our pulpits week-in and

week-out that grapple with issues in their lives that bring them to the brink of despair. Some are desperately looking for work, others are wondering what the point is of their lives, and others are struggling along in their marriages, in being single, in being widowed, in their relationships with children, or in their memories of shame and guilt that are not “appropriate” to discuss in the context of church. Sadly, the church is still, for many, not a hospital for the sick, but a country club for the healthy, while for others, the church is desperately telling them that they’re unwell, when they know they’re not.

It’s for these reasons that I find such paradoxical hope in Jesus’ agonizing words on the cross. As He cried out in despair, He, too, knew what it was like to be unable to depend upon His religious community for support. (Remember how crowds of people turned away from His teaching; how they called Him blasphemous and marched Him straight to Pilate for crucifixion.) He, too, knew what it was like to be despised, cursed, and abandoned by those who loved Him. (Remember how quickly His disciples left Him?) He, too, knew what it was like to not be able to make sense of the world or God in a desperate time when He most needed to feel God’s presence and love. (Remember, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”)

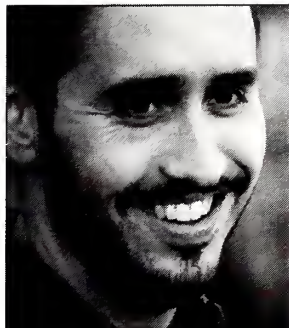
The Jesus, that young adults, and middle-aged adults, and older-adults are looking for, is one who takes sin seriously, to be sure, but who also understands the

inevitable fact that we are sinful, broken people. This is a Jesus for the weak and the culturally despised, not a Jesus for the spiritual superstars. This is a Jesus who enters into the broken, dark places of the human condition, not one who only hands out fire-insurance for the afterlife. All human beings want to know that: 1) they're lovable and acceptable, and 2) there is a way towards wholeness or healing. What so many human beings do not know is that our God has entered the

depths and "dark places" of the all-too-human experience of feeling unlovable or unacceptable and the all-too-human experience of feeling abandoned by God in times of despair.

Jesus' words on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?," remind us that He, too, knows what it's like to be in the dark place of despair. In fact, there is no place in our lives so dark that Jesus cannot stand next to us in that darkness in a spirit of solidarity. This is

a Jesus who has conquered the darkness of despair, Hell, and the grave, because He has experienced and gone through that very darkness, while being raised to new life by God. This is a Jesus worthy of our adoration and worship during this Easter season; this is the God who also offers new life to us in the midst of our dark places. "Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes!"



Marc Boswell was born in Wilson County, NC. He is a member of Spring Branch Church in Greene County, where he was nurtured and supported while pursuing ordination in the Central Conference. In January of 2006, he was ordained. Since graduating from Mount Olive College, Marc has studied at Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, VA) and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Evanston, IL), while working in several churches between North Carolina, Virginia, and Illinois. He and his wife, Kate Fiedler Boswell, now reside in Richmond, Virginia, where he is completing work on his Ph.D. in the areas of systematic theology and American religious history. He enjoys teaching, preaching, cooking, and UNC basketball.

Woman's Auxiliary Convention of OFWB

The State Woman's Auxiliary Convention will meet on May 10, 2012 at Oak Grove Church in Bladenboro, NC. The registration fee is \$25 and should be sent by April 25 to the state treasurer. Registration will begin at 8:15 A.M. In order for your local auxiliary to be registered, you must send your fee to: **Mrs. Nadine Crocker, Treasurer** • Woman's Auxiliary Convention of OFWB • 569 House Rd. • Kenly, NC 27542 • Phone (919) 284-3341

Even if you cannot attend, please send your registration fee anyway, as the convention needs your support. We hope, however, to see you there.

Per Capita Dues

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 \$1 per member per year.

These dues should be sent to your District Treasurer—she will keep 50¢ and send 50¢ 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.

Yours in Christ,
Nadine Crocker, State Treasurer

Central District Woman's Auxiliary Study Course

April 16, 2012 @ 7:00 P.M.

Rose Hill FWB Church

6236 County Home Rd. • Winterville, NC

Speaker: Deborah King

Topic: *A Clean Heart, A Renewed Spirit*

Bring your Bible for Bible study.

For more information, contact:
Faye Adams (252) 756-3568

Spring Western District Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Hosted by:

Stancils Chapel OFWB Church
Kenly, NC

(8 miles from Kenly at the intersection of Hwy 222 and 42)

Wednesday, April 4, 2012
Registration @ 9:00 A.M.

Worship Speaker: Janie Taylor
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6:18



North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries

The Foundation Re-Envisioned

By The Reverend Ricky Warren
Pastor, Lee's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church

The Upcoming Seventh Annual Meeting

On May 8, 2012, the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries will hold its Seventh Annual Meeting at Mount Olive College. This will be the first annual meeting since the passing of the organization's founding president, Dr. William Burkette Raper. With this in mind, the Foundation Board of Directors plans to use this annual meeting as an opportunity to honor and remember Dr. Raper for his vision and commitment to the future of Original Free Will Baptists as well as an opportunity to demonstrate the ongoing realization of his initial dream.

The First Annual Meeting

The Foundation's file folder on the First Annual Meeting includes the program, the invoice for the food, and other preserved documents from the event. They reveal that the meeting took place on April 25, 2006 at Hull Road Free Will Baptist Church. Seventy-one people, representing some of the most dedicated Free Will Baptists, were present. The meal for the evening consisted of turkey and dressing. An information packet, in a yellow file folder, was placed at each seat to explain to the guests how the new Foundation would benefit: (1) Free Will Baptist ministries, (2) donors, (3) local churches, and (4) the Free Will Baptist Church. At that first meeting, it was reported that \$1,270,055 had already been received by the Foundation from a total of 41 donors. A special presentation, in the form of plaques, was made to Mr. Don and Mrs. Linda Lassiter as well as to Dr. Michael and Mrs. Betty Pelt for their instrumental efforts in establishing the work of the Foundation. Because the Foundation was just getting started, there were no disbursements to worthy ministry projects that could be reported, but that would soon change.

Dr. Raper's Notes

What are more compelling than the printed documents are the preserved handwritten notes Dr. Raper made in preparation for the event. The name of each guest was recorded by his hand as each person called in to confirm. The list is complete with the date, contact information, and a running total of those planning to attend. The notes reveal that each person was special to Dr. Raper and each person was vital to the future he had envisioned for the Foundation and for Original Free Will Baptists. Other notes reveal that the message Dr. Raper hoped to convey in the First Annual Meeting was the need for "A Creative Vision for Christian Stewardship."


The handwritten notes from which he spoke that evening show the care with which he wished to explain the well-thought out design of the Foundation he had been dreaming of and working toward for years. He spoke of the parents, teachers, church workers, and other sacrificial Americans who had paved the way for us to follow, saying "we are debtors to those who went before us," and that it was time to begin "turning our heritage into a legacy."

Dr. Raper's words, work, and life demonstrated his relentless belief that not only were Free Will Baptists "a good people with a Godly heritage" but that through the Foundation, they would have "a vehicle to help do for others what had been done for [them]."

Invitations to the Seventh Annual Meeting

At the upcoming Seventh Annual Meeting at Mount Olive College, Murphy Center, the legacy of Dr. Raper will be celebrated and renewed as over 200 of those who share in that dream gather in support of "A Creative Vision for Christian Stewardship" and "a vehicle to help us do for others what had been done for us."

For more information about the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries or for an invitation to the Seventh Annual Meeting, please contact the Foundation office at (919) 658-5250, NC Foundation for Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 210, Mount Olive, NC 28365, or email: <admin@ncfcm.org>.



An Open Invitation
to the Seventh Annual Meeting
of the
*North Carolina Foundation
for Christian Ministries*

Tuesday, May 8, 2012 @ 7:00 P.M.
Murphy Center, Mount Olive College
Mount Olive, North Carolina

A Tribute to Dr. W. Burkette Raper

Minister, Christian Educator, Philanthropist, and Visionary
September 10, 1927–August 1, 2011

A delicious dinner—Free with advanced reservation
Distributions from newly qualified endowed funds for 2012
Special Music

Advanced Reservations Required
Please confirm your reservation by April 24

US Mail

NC Foundation for Christian Ministries
P. O. Box 210
Mount Olive, NC 28365

E-mail or Telephone

admin@ncfcm.org
(919) 658-5250
Fax: (919) 635-3777

Name(s) _____ Number in your party _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____



Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

The Eighty-Fifth Annual Session
May 10, 2012

Hosted by the Pee Dee District Woman's Auxiliary
Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church
Five Miles East of Bladenboro off Highway 242, on Oak Grove Church Road

Registration and Continental Breakfast — 8:15 A.M.

Convention Choir Sings — 8:45 A.M.

Convention Choir practice, Saturday, April 28 at 8:30 A.M. at Rodgers Chapel, Mount Olive College.
We are counting on all past choir members and invite others to come sing with us.

Convention Convenes — 9:00 A.M. (Concludes with Lunch)

Wednesday, May 9, 2012, Early Arrivals

Dinner

"Front Porch" Restaurant — 6:30 P.M.
1100 West Broad Street • Elizabethtown

Lodging

Days Inn • 609 East Broad Street • Elizabethtown • (910) 862-7444

Program and Directions will follow in the May Issue

Questions, contact Dianne B. Riley at <driley@fwbch.org> or <drileymoc@gmail.com>



Meet Our New Pastor



It was a great evening of good food and heartfelt Christian fellowship.

The church congregation is eager to worship, learn, and grow under the leadership of our new pastor, as we labor together to further the Kingdom of God.

“As the Pastor of New Sandy Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church, It is my distinct privilege to have been chosen by God first to serve Him, and secondly that He has opened this door that I may continue to serve Him. A unique bond of love has already been formed with the members of New Sandy Hill. Together with God’s help, I truly believe that God will perform a great work. It is my prayer that the spirit I feel with my flock can be expanded not only throughout our community, but throughout our denomination.

Join us as we pray that God’s spirit will have His will in each of our lives.”

On Sunday, March 4, 2012, the Woman’s Auxiliary at New Sandy Hill hosted a meet and greet for their new pastor, Scott Casey. Judy Hinton, auxiliary program chair/activities coordinator, gave introductions and opening prayer. Church members wore identifying nametags so the pastor could put names with faces and families. A meal was served prior to the evening worship service.



Pastor Scott Casey
New Sandy Hill OFWB Church
8021 New Sandy Hill Church Rd., • Bailey, NC 27807

Little Creek Church Sunday School Promotion

SUBMITTED BY TOMMY FORREST

Little Creek Church celebrated Sunday School Month in February with a variety of activities. At the beginning of the month, everyone drew a name to select a “secret valentine.”

Each person was remembered with a “love token” each Sunday. Also each Sunday, attendees could guess the number of candies in a jar, with the winner receiving all the candies. On First Sunday, we had a continental breakfast. Third Sunday Worship Service was conducted by the youth of the church. The laymen served everyone a full breakfast on Fourth Sunday, and secret Valentines revealed their name.

Worship service on Fourth Sunday was “The Gift of Love” presented by Jeff and Gloria Emmerich from Rocky Hock Playhouse in Edenton.

We welcome you to come and worship with Little Creek Church at 11 A.M. each Sunday. Our pastor is the Rev. Philip Wood.



Jeff and Gloria Emmerich

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU HAVE:

A new address, received damaged or duplicate copies, missed an issue, experienced any billing problems, or you want to renew or cancel a subscription. You may contact us by e-mail at: <amy@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (252) 746-6128 or (800) 849-3927.

Advertising Rates

- Black/White—1/8 page (business card size) . . . \$30
- Black/White—1/4 page \$40
- Black/White—1/2 page \$50
- Black/White—3/4 page \$60
- Black/White—Full page \$70
- Full Color Centerfold—Left Side \$175
- Full Color Centerfold—Right Side \$175
- Full Color Centerfold—Both Sides \$325
- Full Color Inside Front Cover—Full Page. . . . \$150
- Full Color Inside Back Cover—Full Page \$150
- Full Color Back Cover. \$200
- Churches & Ministry Positions \$20
(maximum of 4 lines)

Ad prices are for single/first runs. There is a 25% discount on each additional run.

The printing of ads is contingent on the availability of space and we reserve the right to condense ad space as necessary. You will be charged only for the actual size used.

We reserve the right to refuse any material that is not consistent with our principles and practices as a Christian company and as a ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

These advertising rates are for, and advertising is permitted by, OFWB churches and auxiliary organizations, as well as qualified business organizations. These charges apply to any announcements, coming event listings, invitations, and registration forms. If you have any questions, contact the editor by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227. **There is no charge for feature article submissions from OFWB churches/members or news releases of recent OFWB church happenings.**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE INFORMATION

The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) **When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before.**

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Articles sent for publication should be sent in Microsoft Word or Macintosh Pages. Files sent in Microsoft Publisher, .PDF, or others cannot be used.

PHOTO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Your digital photos are more likely to be included in the publication if the following guidelines are followed:

1. Set digital cameras at the highest resolution possible. We realize that it takes longer to e-mail larger files, but print requires a higher resolution than the web.
2. When e-mailing photos, please send them one photo at a time. This ensures that there will not be any file compression and your photo will e-mail at the largest size. Please do not send photographs within the body of the article. Each photo should be sent in a separate e-mail in JPEG format. If there is more than one picture, note 1 of ?, 2 of ?, etc. in the subject line.
3. Large group photos typically do not work well. If taking photos of a group activity, submit several photos of individuals or small groups, and we'll select the ones to print.
4. Get in close—we like to see smiling faces. Only photographs that are close to the subject matter and are in focus reproduce well.
5. If possible, please include the names of all the people in each photo. Identify from left to right and from front to back.
6. Non-digital photos can be sent to our office. However, pictures will not be returned unless there is an appropriate self-addressed stamped envelope included!

ADVERTISING SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Ad materials should be sent in Microsoft Word or Macintosh Pages. Files sent in Microsoft Publisher, .PDF, or others cannot be used. Camera-ready artwork is generally not accepted. However, with prior approval, we will accept files in Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator (currently Adobe Creative Suite 3 or earlier).

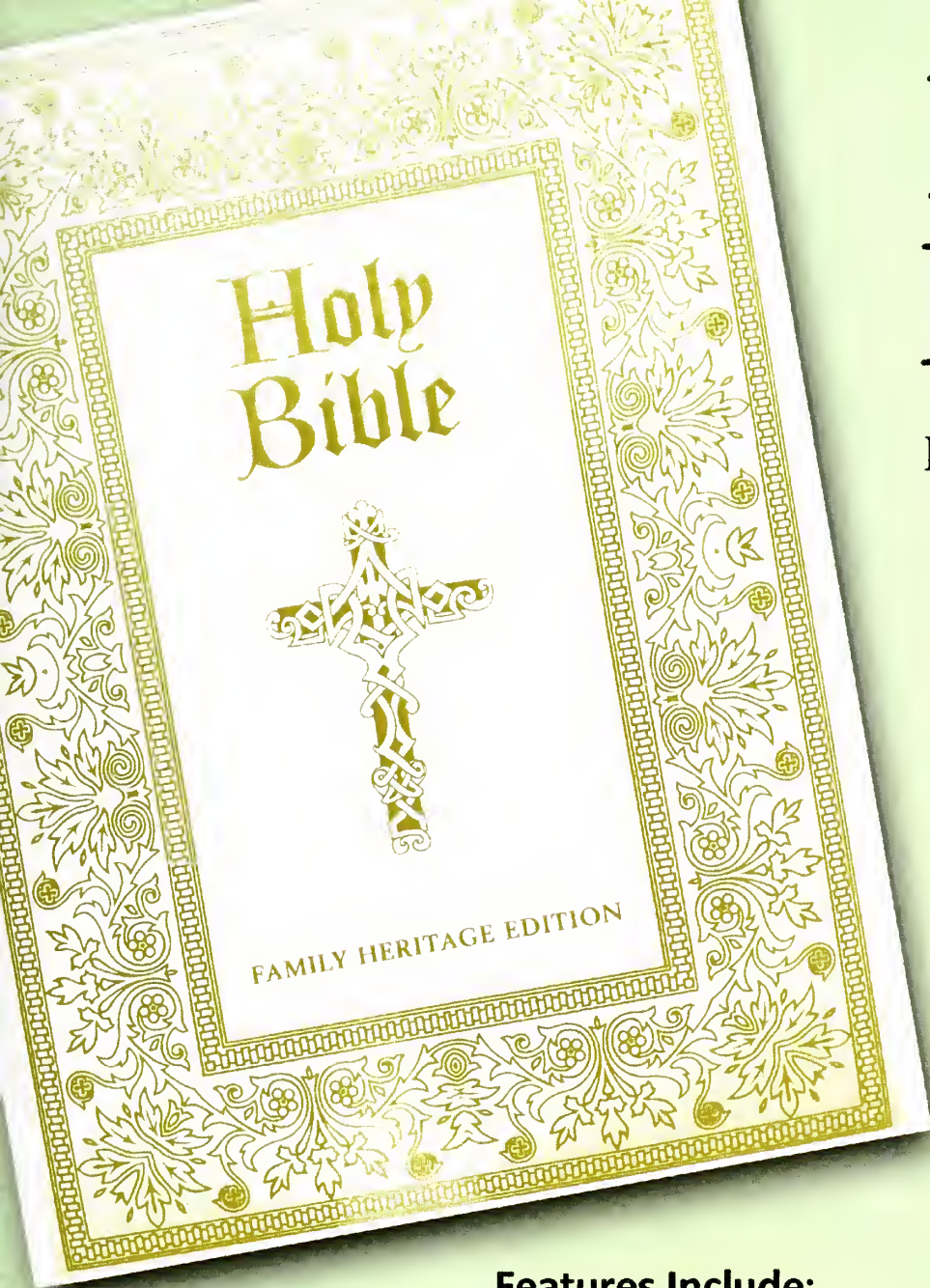
You may submit items in any of the following ways:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>.
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
P. O. Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513.

HOLY BIBLE

FAMILY HEIRLOOM
EDITION

Elegant in classic white, this beautiful King James Version Bible makes a magnificent family keepsake that can be passed down from generation to generation.



Features Include:

- Personalized presentation page with births, deaths, etc.
- Detailed family records section to record marriages
- A family tree genealogical chart
- Concordance
- Gold foil stamped cover
- Easy to read typesetting
- 24 pages of classic art illustrating the best-known Bible stories
- 8 pages of historic Biblical maps

Retail \$29.99

ON SALE
\$21.97

(while supplies last)

To order, call 1.800.849.3927 ext. 221 or visit one of our store locations at:

Ayden Bible & Bookstore

3928 Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-6128

Kinston Bible & Bookstore

Vernon Park Mall
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 527-2843

New Bern Bible & Bookstore

1232 S. Glenburnie Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 638-6193

Tuesday, May 22

- **Minister's Banquet**
5:30 P.M. Murphy Center,
P. T. Lucas Award,
Recognitions, Fellowship,
a great Meal, and it's FREE
- **Evening Worship**
7:30 P.M. (Kornegay Arena)
Old style and modern music
Leaders of the
Past, Present, and Future
- **Late Night Celebration**
9:00 P.M. (Murphy Center)
Birthday Party with cake,
ice cream, and entertainment.

Tuesday / Wednesday
May 23-24

- **Wednesday**
Registration begins @ 8:30
Opening Session
Worship Service
Afternoon Workshops
Sunday School Banquet
Misson Rally
- **Thursday**
Registration @ 9:00
Ministry Reports
Election of Officers
Business
Memorial Committee

Celebrating A CENTURY OF GRACE

The 100th Annual Session of the Original Free Will Baptist Convention

May 22-24, 2012
on the Campus of Mount Olive College



Working for God With *ENJOYMENT*

*But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings;
that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with
exceeding joy (1 Peter 4:13).*

Original Free Will Baptist Headquarters
P. O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513

(252) 746-4963 • On the Web: www.ofwb.org • E-mail: ofwb.hq@ofwb.org



PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID 28513
USPS 2094-4000

DUKE UNIVERSITY
PERKINS LIBRARY
DURHAM, NC 27706

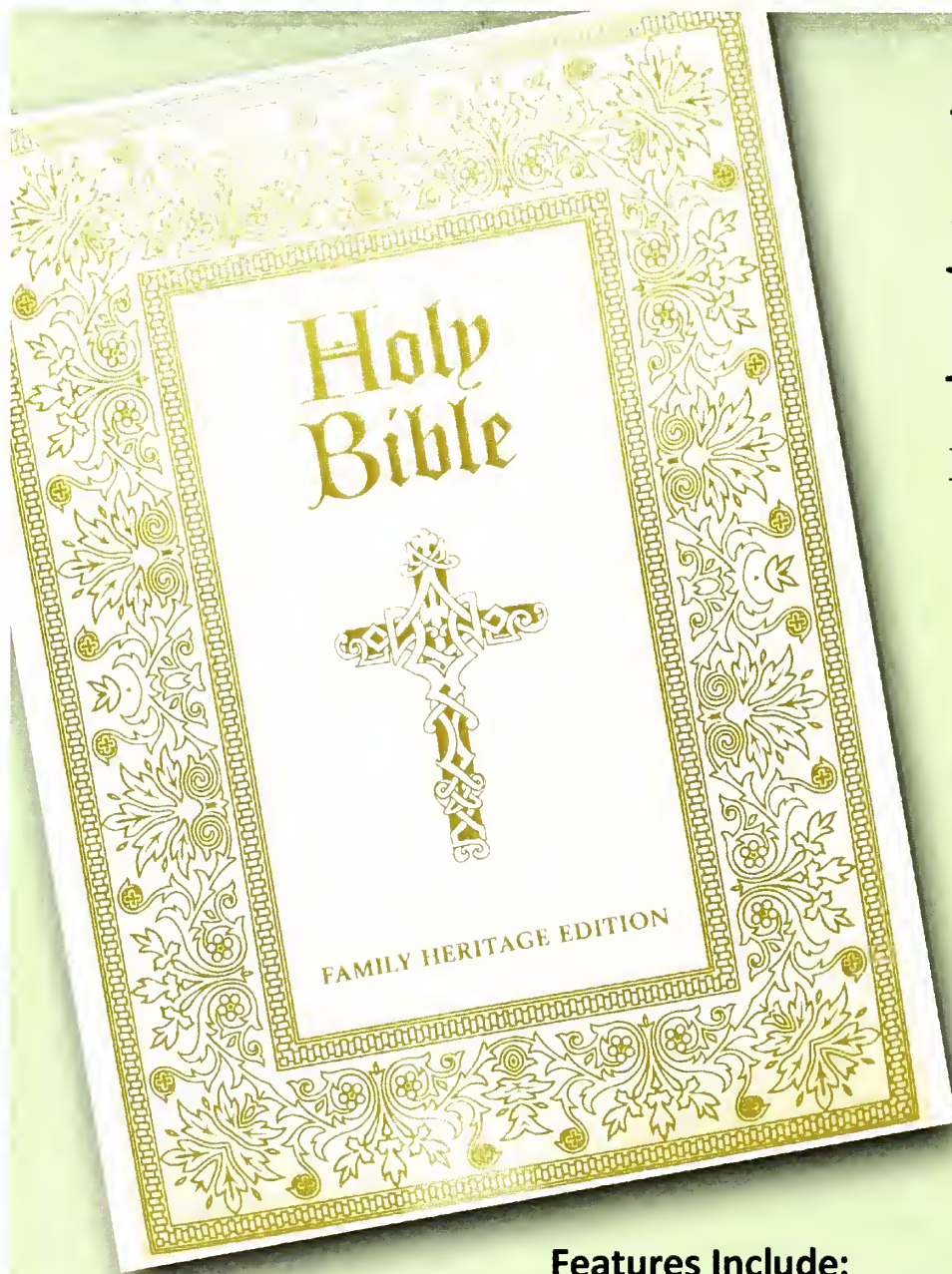
T F W B

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

*Happy
Mother's
Day*



May 2012



HOLY BIBLE

FAMILY HEIRLOOM EDITION

Elegant in classic white, this beautiful King James Version Bible makes a magnificent family keepsake that can be passed down from generation to generation.

Retail \$29.99

ON SALE
\$21.97

(while supplies last)

Features Include:

- Personalized presentation page with births, deaths, etc.
- Detailed family records section to record marriages
- A family tree genealogical chart
- Concordance
- Gold foil stamped cover
- Easy to read typesetting
- 24 pages of classic art illustrating the best-known Bible stories
- 8 pages of historic Biblical maps

To order, call 1.800.849.3927 ext. 221 or visit one of our store locations at:

Ayden Bible & Bookstore

3928 Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-6128

Kinston Bible & Bookstore

Vernon Park Mall
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 527-2843

New Bern Bible & Bookstore

1232 S. Glenburnie Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 638-6193

2012

May

Children's Home Month

The Original Free Will Baptist Monthly Planner

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 National Day of Prayer	4	5
6	7	8 National Teacher's Day	9	10 OFWB Woman's Auxiliary Convention	11	12 Nurse's Day
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17	18	19 Armed Forces Day
20	21	22	23 Sunday School Leadership Banquet	24	25	26
		OFWB Convention				
27 Pentecost	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

Pondering the Past

with Celia Hales

Jesus as a Healing Presence

I once read an inspirational story about an older man, in frail health, who was physically sick and very afraid that he might die. A formerly strong and vigorous man who had been the CEO of a major corporation, he was used to being "in control," a role that he relished. But now those days were behind him, and he faced the great uncertainty of death with abject fear. He had not been a religious man, but knowing nothing else to do, he finally called for a pastor to visit his bedside.

The story continues. The pastor asked a few probing questions, and then asked, "Do you ever use your imagination in solving business problems?"

The sick man nodded his head. But he looked very puzzled.

The pastor continued, "Do you believe Jesus healed people when He walked the earth?"

And again the man nodded his head.

The pastor got up from his chair, and then pushed the chair closer to the bed.

He asked, "Can you use your imagination to think of Jesus sitting by your bed in this chair?"

It was as though a light bulb came on. The former CEO knew where the conversation was heading.

Do we? Can we use our imagination to think of Jesus walking with us on our daily trek through this sometimes difficult world? Can we imagine Him putting His hand on our forehead, in comfort, as we bid sleep to come at the end of a difficult day? Such imaginings do not have to be idle fantasies. Did not Jesus promise to be with us, even until the end of the world?

The story with which I began has a bittersweet ending. The former CEO did not live long after the pastor visited. But the daughter of the dead man relayed to the pastor what she said was a "curious thing." Her father had died with his hand outstretched, resting on the chair that was always pulled up beside his bed. And his face was peaceful in death.

Had not Jesus, in imagination or in truth, welcomed the former CEO to his eternal home? And, someday, can we not imagine that He will do the same for us? Surely Jesus did heal the man, not physically, but emotionally. When the former CEO died with a serene expression on his face, he had been at peace in his final moments.

May we not all pray for the same, when our time comes?



A former religion librarian at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Celia now lives with her husband Paul in Oxford, Mississippi. She was previously employed at both the Free Will Baptist Press and Mount Olive College.



CHURCH & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Friendship Church, Farmville, NC, is seeking an associate pastor whose primary responsibilities will be serving our youth. The associate pastor will also be asked to assist the senior pastor. Inquiries should be directed to Jackie Ellis at (252) 753-5220.

Editor

Darren E. Davenport
editor@fwbpress.com

Production Manager

Jerry Goff
jerry@fwbpress.com

Circulation, Accounts Receivable

Amy Stokes
amy@fwbpress.com

Accounts Payable

Wallie Hargrove

Editorial Assistants

Dixie McLawhorn, Carlton Oakley

Graphic Designers

**Jerry Goff, Amy Benson,
Nathaniel Ingram, Dixie McLawhorn**

Production Team

**Ronnie Jones, Ted Johnston,
Joshua Roundtree, Johnnie Stancill**

Editor Emeritus

C. H. Overman



www.fwbpress.com

President

Jeff Daughtry
jeff@fwbpress.com

Board of Directors

Frank Flowers (Chairman), Central
C. H. Overman (Vice Chairman), Central
Royce Reynolds (Secretary), Albemarle
Joe Ballance, Cape Fear
Kelley Smart, Central
Mike Scott, Eastern
Nancy Hardee, Pee Dee
Mark Hobbs, Central
Loydene Proctor, Western

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.

Subscription Prices: All subscriptions are payable in advance: 1 year (12 issues) \$15
2 years (24 issues) \$27
4 years (48 issues) \$53.

A **Bundle Plan** (\$8.50 each) and an **Every-Family Plan** (\$11.75 each) is also available. Call or e-mail circulation or the editor for more details.

© 2012 *The Free Will Baptist* • All Rights Reserved.

The Free Will Baptist is edited and published monthly by the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc., 3928 Lee Street, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159. Second-class postage paid at Ayden, North Carolina (USPS 2094-4000).

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Free Will Baptist Press, P.O. Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513-0159.

FEATURES & COLUMNS

- 2** *Pondering the Past* with Celia Hales
- 4** *An Enduring Faith*
- 5** *The Milkshake*
- 28** *Lesson Inner View* with Adrian Grubbs
- 29** *Psalms for the Soul* with Linda Herring
- 32** *A Sling and a Stone* with Marc Boswell

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- 6** Children's Home
- 12** Convention News
- 14** Cragmont
- 17** Foreign Missions
- 21** Mount Olive College
- 10** Retirement Homes
- 11** Sunday School

ANCILLARY MINISTRIES

- 34** NC Foundation for Christian Ministries

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

ON THE COVER

A scene from the deck of a home outside Winterville, NC showcasing some of God's spring beauty.

RECEIVED

MAY 09 2012

DIVINITY SCHOOL LIBRARY
DUKE UNIVERSITY

An Enduring Faith

By The Reverend Brad Williamson

“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”¹ With these words, the Apostle Paul seeks to encourage his spiritual son Timothy to remain faithful in discharging his calling.

We glean from these words a vital principle, one that we all would do well to remember. Paul is “reminding us that faith can be communicated, that family religion is a matter of supreme importance, and that an inheritance of godly traditions and religious instincts is a blessed possession.”²

What is surprising is that Paul references Timothy’s mother and grandmother as the depositors of his faith. The reason for this is that in both the Jewish and Greco-Roman cultures of that day, fathers were the ones responsible for their sons’ education.³ For whatever the reason, Timothy’s father was not the one who was responsible for Timothy’s religious education.

Paul confirms that this education was left to Lois and Eunice, who sought to pass on the traditions of their ancestors. Paul also confirms that this is more than religious training; it ultimately leads to Christian faith. Do not miss that important distinction: religious training that only provides head knowledge is not a saving faith.

Paul affirms that Timothy’s faith is sincere, and it is a faith that began in his mother and grandmother. It is a faith that has its roots in Judaism and finds its completion in Christianity. It is a faith that sustains them, nurtures them, and propels them every day. It is a faith that is so important to Lois and Eunice that they seek to share it with the people they love.

Returning to the principle gained from the Scriptures, we are reminded of the role women play in the telling of the

gospel narrative. We are also reminded of the necessity of that narrative being shared in the home. “To the names Lois and Eunice can be added those of Monica (the mother of St. Augustine), Susanna Wesley (the mother of John and Charles), and the generations of Christians who have effectively instructed and prayed for children and grandchildren.”

Once there was a time when children received religious education from three sources: home, church, and school. Sadly, those days are gone, and it seems that all three sources have failed in one fashion or another. As a believing mother and grandmother nurtured Timothy, so is that needed for our children today. Believing women today have a great opportunity to shape and mold the faith of the children God brings into their lives.⁴

The lesson to be learned from Paul’s affirmation is that there is a great need for our children to receive Christian instruction in the home. In my ministerial experience, I have seen how parents have often left this instruction to the church. Sadly, many parents have misunderstood their role and have forsaken their God-given responsibility to pass on their faith to their children. What greater joy can there be than to be able to instruct one’s child and to see faith blossom? What joy it is to be the one to lead your child to Christ; and yet many parents seem fine with “letting the church do that.”

Paul reminds us all of the role women can have in the development of the children in their lives. What a privilege God has given to be able to mold and shape little ones to know and love God. In those early years, children develop rapidly, and God has placed so many women in children’s lives to be a godly influence. There is one point to remember, however. This role is not meant to just provide good input. “It is not just creating a constructive home atmosphere and positive interaction between a child and his parent. There is another dimension. The child is interacting with the living God...Part of the parent’s task is to shepherd him as a creature who worships.”⁵

Reflecting on my own life, I am reminded of my mother’s influence on my life. Being the son of a pastor is not the easiest way to grow up. There are expectations upon the pastor and his family that other families do not experience. Sometimes it feels as if you really are living in a fish bowl where your whole life is on display for the bemusement of others. Growing up in that type of environment can take its toll upon a family, and yet, it can also be some of the best times of one’s life.

I remember times as a child when my father was away at a revival or a meeting and it was my mother who made sure my sister and I had everything we needed. I remember hearing my mother pray for us, sing to us, and display for us a love for

article continued on page 39

1. 2 Timothy 1:5.
2. Charles R Erdman, *The Pastoral Epistles of Paul* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1966), page 99.
3. Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 1994), page 624.
4. Walter L. Liefeld, *1 and 2 Timothy/Titus: the NIV Application Commentary from Biblical Text—to Contemporary Life* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1999), page 225.
5. Tedd Tripp, *Shepherding a Child’s Heart* (Amityville: Christian Literature Crusade, 1995), page 21.





The Milkshake

By The Reverend Mark Hobbs


It was a pleasant day not too many years ago when I had an unwavering thirst for a milkshake. I do not drink them often. It's not because I dislike them; I refrain for fear of great accumulations around my waist. I walked inside the Burger King and placed my order, "One small chocolate shake, please." I eagerly waited until my number was called. I never drink with a straw; however this was the occasion to use such a marvel of mankind.


I sat in the booth alone. I was TDY (on temporary duty). The milkshake began disappearing from the cup as I used the plastic straw. With my throat freezing from the cold shake, I remembered drinking other milkshakes...

 I was nearly a sixth grader when I rode my red one speed bicycle, Betsy, up the blacktopped highway to my cousin's house. My cousin, a man 30 years of age, had always seemed strong and brave to me, but his life was changing. He suffered with cancer. He had always been my friend. His appetite waned and he began losing weight. He could still drink milkshakes. His mother, his wife, and his grandmother each made great shakes. I would meet him for an afternoon shake. Sometimes, we sat at the kitchen table. Often we sat out back around the picnic table underneath the pecan trees. We would slowly sip the thick shakes out of the mammoth clear glasses. We watched the blue jays fighting the other birds. We heard the bugs buzzing by our heads. Sometimes the pesky flies would attempt to join our little gathering. Usually we sipped and talked. Our talking was as constant as the swishing of Ginger's tail, as she swished her tail through the air encouraging flies to leave her alone. Ginger was the first horse I ever rode. She stood a few feet away in the pasture watching us with her big brown eyes. We sweated and we talked. Day after day I came to drink a milkshake and sit with my cousin. Our ritual began in July. It ended in December as my cousin's condition worsened. He died in early January.

 Sometimes, Sundays meant a milkshake. After working long hours in the fields or studying hard in school, our family would pile into the '57 Chevrolet on Sunday afternoon and head to wherever my Daddy would take us. Often we would visit relatives or simply ride through the countryside and see the sites. Daddy knew every mile of road and each bridge as he had labored for 35 years on bridges in the county. Each ride would be different, but they all ended up nearly the same way.

Next to the Chevrolet dealer sat the Dairy Bar. It was heaven on a hot Sunday afternoon. Milkshakes cost a quarter. Two scoops of ice cream cost a dime. We would look at the new and used Chevrolets and then pack into the black sedan with our cold treats. We rode away talking, licking, and slurping.

 One of the best parts of going to college was meeting new people and making life long friends. The railroad track still divides the small town in which my college was located. I had no car in college, but my friends did. Not too far down the street from the Sears catalogue store sat the best drugstore in the entire town. Milkshakes were made the old fashioned way. My college roommate, other friends and I would skip class sometimes to enjoy time around the little brown wooden tables. Those great milkshakes cost 75¢. That was a lot of money for nearly always broke college kids. We laughed and talked and enjoyed ourselves around those tables. Graduation came in 1978. Each year our religious denomination has it's meeting at the college. Whenever my roommate and I are able to attend the convention, we meet. For many years we went to the old drugstore and sat at the antique tables and sipped on milkshakes that cost \$2.00 a piece. Now the drugstore is closed and we meet at Andy's. We talk, reflecting on the past and wondering what the future holds.

 When living in Florida, with my wife and three children, we often cruised over to the nearby town of Melbourne. We shopped at different places and then ended our trip at Steak N Shake. In giant glasses came thick creamy shakes like those we enjoyed back home in North Carolina at Four Oaks. The Canady family operated Four Oaks Drugs since the late 1930s. No trip home to North Carolina was complete without sitting in the old wooden booth carved with the initials of love-crazed teenagers over the last 80 plus years. To me it seemed to be the best place on earth to get a milkshake and talk with friends and family. During one visit there, Mr. Canady talked to me as I sipped my shake. His wife of over 50 years had died recently of cancer. We talked; I sipped on my shake. I listened and heard him describe his bride and their life together. Tears filled his eyes. They were tears of happiness of a life spent with someone he loved deeply.

article continued on page 39



Celebrating 92 Years

May is Children's Home Month within the OFWB denomination. There are many events going on during the month. During this month the Free Will Baptist Children's Home will celebrate 92 years of Christian childcare.

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit during the early 1900s, Original Free Will Baptists sought to establish a home for orphaned children. This vision became reality on May 23, 1920, when the first children, a family of four, were admitted to the Home.

At times during the early years, especially during the great depression, it was quite a

struggle to keep the doors of the Home open. Through the determination and dedication of the Home's staff, along with assistance from churches across the state and local community members, the Home was able to withstand the economic struggles and remain open.

Lives continue to be changed in a positive way, as we remain committed to our mission and our purpose to restore a child's faith in himself, God, and his world.

Thank you for your continued support to this His childcare ministry



Change for Children 2012

Materials should have been received for the 2012 Change for Children Campaign by all of our churches. If you need additional supplies, please do not hesitate to contact the Development Office at (252) 235-6507 or <cbatten@fwbch.org>.



Memorial Chapel Renovation Complete

The renovation to Memorial Chapel is now complete.

Before the first service was held in the newly renovated chapel, Mr. Gary Lee, President invited all of the children and staff for a tour. They were all excited about the “new church.” The Ministry team is already using the new sound/video system, with their first service being on Palm Sunday.

God is good, and we praise and thank Him for his continued blessings.

Needs List

- Altar Cloths
- 5 Stainless Steel Range Hoods (36 inch, 2 speed w/light)
- Twin Size Comforters (bright colors, geometric shape designs, or solid)
- Bedroom Lamps
- Alarm Clocks
- Bed Pillow covers (vinyl)
- Body Wash (Boys and Girls)
- Trash Bags (13 gallon and larger)
- Food Storage Bags (gallon and quart)
- 25 Exercise Mats (approximately 68 inch by 24 inch size)
- High Chairs/Booster Seats
- Costumes for Seasonal Plays and Skits
- Umbrellas
- (3) Rechargeable Flashlights (large size)
- Summer Trip Sponsor (\$2,000)
- Individually Wrapped Snacks

Church Ministry

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, what a wonderful season of the Christian's year. At the Children's Home this year, our remembrance and celebrations began on Ash Wednesday. Each Wednesday during the 40 days of Lent, staff participated in Lenten Luncheon Devotionals. Also, forgiveness was our word for each week during this special time along with weekly computer devotionals relating to God's Wisdom. We used this time to reflect, repent, and prepare ourselves as we studied the death and resurrection of Christ.

A purple cloth hung on the rough 5 foot cross that stood as a reminder before us during this season. The children had devotionals also related to Lent in their cottages, especially on Wednesday evening with Ms. Dianne. Palm Sunday began Holy Week as the children processed into our newly renovated church with their Palm branches as Ms. Jan Boykin played "The Holy City." Free Spirit Praise Team brought beautiful selections of "Healing is in Your Hands" and "God So Loved." This was followed by three of our residents singing "All Hail King Jesus." Our message was delivered by Dr. Mickael Cariveau, Associate Professor of Biology at Mount Olive College who inspired everyone (you could have heard a pin drop on



the carpet in Memorial Chapel) with his message of "The Cross." Monday was our day for "Cleansing the Temple" and Tuesday was teaching day where we held an Easter Egg Hunt, followed by Scripture readings by the children on the steps of Heritage Hall. The Scripture was found in the Easter eggs that had been prepared by the Pine Level Youth. We enjoyed a huge Easter Meal. On Wednesday evening the residents and staff watched the "Passion of the Christ" together; much discussion and prayer followed. Easter snack/goodies were enjoyed from the Ladies of Pine Level Church. Our campus pastor, Richard

Cuddington, conducted our Maundy Thursday Service. Meditation sheets were given to all the residents to use on Friday and Saturday in preparation for Easter Sunday. A beautiful Easter Service was held on Sunday evening followed by Easter baskets given to all of the children from St. Mary's Grove of Benson.

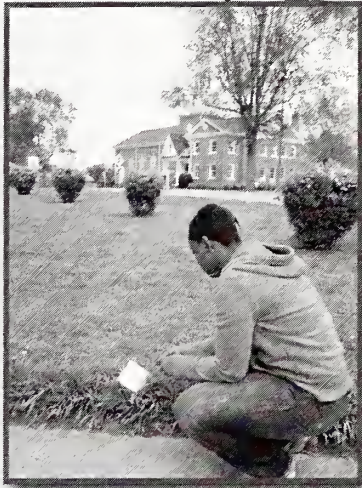
Residents and Staff enjoyed the meditation walk, which cut across the park area in the center of campus.

During the past few months, we enjoyed visits by Lee's Chapel Black Light ministry and puppets with a program for the kids entitled "Inner Space/Outer Space," the Bethlehem Church who brought Cracker Barrel Rocking Chairs for each cottage along with a pizza lunch, the Snow Hill Church who brought games to play, shared a cookout with us and left goody bags for each child.

It was a great time of sharing enjoyed by the children and staff—food, fun, and games, and more importantly, the good news of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

Members of Oak Grove Church, Newton Grove, (Ms. Ina, Ms. Charlotte and Ms. June) visited campus to drop off supplies and take a brief tour. We really appreciated the visit and the gifts, especially those "Sampson County" sweet potatoes.





61st ANNUAL OBSERVANCE THURSDAY, MAY 3RD

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

ONE NATION * UNDER GOD

**"BLESSED IS THE
NATION WHOSE
GOD IS THE LORD"**

PSALM 33:12

WWW.NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG

NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER



Y A S K E U P L



Please Join Us for the 9th Annual
Paper and Cleaning Products Drive
 Friday, July 20 at 7:15 P.M.
Fireworks Night!

Paper and Cleaning Products will be collected at gates to benefit
Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Middlesex, NC

Our Layman's League has joined once again with the Carolina Mudcats to promote a day to help the Children's Home. On July 20, the Mudcats are going to have bins set up at the entrances of their stadium for people to bring paper/cleaning products for the Children's Home. This is a great opportunity for your Church, Layman's League, Woman's Auxiliaries, and Youth Groups to begin, even now, to collect paper/cleaning products and bring them to Tri-County Stadium on that day. There is a discount for tickets purchased in bulk and would make a great day of ministry and fun.

Campus Needs

- Paper Towels • Toilet Paper • Laundry Detergent • Bleach • Dish Detergent • Kitchen Towels • Dish Cloths
- All Types of Cleaning Supplies Like Lysol, Pine-sol, Lemon Cleaners, Pledge, etc. (NO GLASS CLEANER)
- Personal Hygiene Items (Antiperspirant for Boys and Girls, Body Lotions, Bath Powder, Shampoo)
- Trash Receptacles (33 gallon or larger) • Trash Bags (33 gallon or larger)
- Twin Size Comforters • Sheet Sets • Blankets

All Church groups registered in advance will receive:

\$6 Box Seat Special (regular price: \$10)

To receive this special discount, all tickets must be paid for by July 8. Discount not available at the gate. Tickets will be mailed within 10 days prior to the game. Paper products will be dropped off at the stadium.

Paper and Cleaning
Products Drive Questions?
Call Bill Doane (252) 753-3717

Mudcats Questions?
Call (919) 269-2287



The 100th Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

Working for God
With Enjoyment

1 Peter 4:13

May 22–24, 2012

On the Campus of Mount Olive College

“Yesterday Joining Hands With Today”

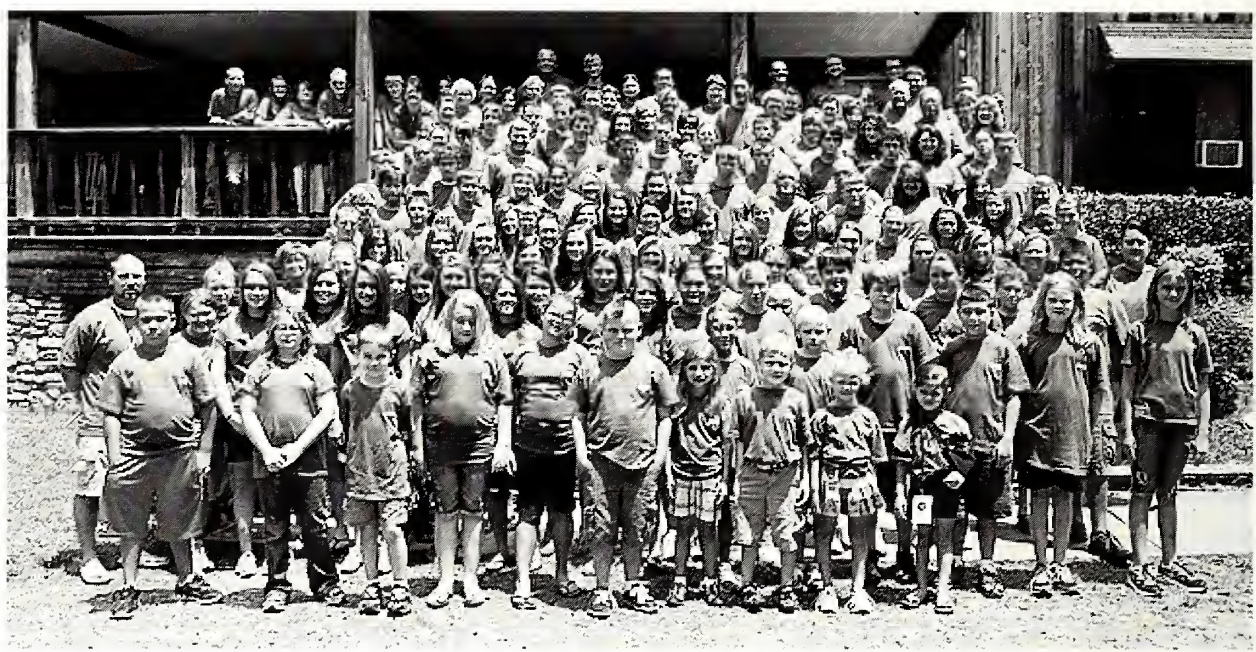


2012 Original Free Will Baptist Convention
Learning Opportunities

Wednesday Afternoon, May 23, 2012 • 1:00–1:20 / 1:30–2:30 / 2:45–3:45

All Learning Opportunities will be held in Raper Hall

- ☞ **A Look at Our Future (Plenary Session–1:00 P.M. only):** Buddy Sasser, Director of Convention Services, shares hopes, dreams, and goals for the future of the OFWB Denomination.
- ☞ **Computers Made Simple:** This workshop has been offered several times in different venues and has seen overflow sessions each time. Mrs. Cindy Peele of the Micro OFWB Church does an excellent job of helping the computer novice master the basics of e-mail, Facebook, surfing the Internet, and other simple procedures. The communication process of the future is now in the present. You are sure to enjoy and benefit from this workshop.
- ☞ **Video Worship:** Multitudes of shut-ins, home-bounds, hospital patients, and others unable to attend Sunday worship would love to view the morning services. Mr. Don Flowers of the Little Rock OFWB Church will demonstrate the basics of videoing your worship and streaming it live on the internet.
- ☞ **Sanctuary Etiquette:** Participants will learn the proper meaning and use of the symbols of worship found in our churches, and the reasons for reverence in God's House. The Reverend David C. Hansley, OFWB Home Missions Director, offers expertise generated by more than 50 years of experience.
- ☞ **The NC Foundation for Christian Ministries:** Dr. Don Riberio (Ormondsville OFWB Church), the Reverend Ricky Warren (Lee's Chapel OFWB Church), and Mr. Don Lassiter (Selma OFWB Church) will carry on the ministry envisioned by Dr. Burkette Raper. While your support of our ministries and churches is important now, it can continue after you are gone. Attend this valuable session to discover how (Note: 1:30 session only).
- ☞ **Successful Children's Ministry:** The Reverend Joey Williams, Children's Ministry Pastor at Stoney Creek OFWB Church, discusses the methods used to create and maintain a thriving ministry to our youthful attendees. You will also discover the family benefits of operating a children's ministry in your church. Think you don't have enough kids? Start where you are...and grow.
- ☞ **Successful High School Student Ministry:** Exploring the myths, the facts, the relationships, and the worship space of a successful high school student ministry in the rural church. High School Student Ministry is more than controlled chaos; there is a method behind the madness. The Reverend David Currie, of Marsh Swamp OFWB Church, leads this discussion.
- ☞ **Reaching and Keeping the 25–50 Crowd:** Bringing in the sheaves requires more than just opening the front door of the church. Keeping them away from the back door is even harder. The Reverend James Howard Nobles, of Mission Valley OFWB Church, offers a fresh perspective on ministry to and by the post baby-boom bunch.
- ☞ **Meeting the Needs of Seniors and Shut-Ins:** Your church exists today because of the faithfulness of its senior adults. Those who are confined to their homes are just as valuable to the life of your church. Dr. DeWayne Eakes, of Little Rock OFWB Church, helps us understand the unique ministry opportunities presented by our seniors and shut-ins.
- ☞ **Applying God's Word to Everyday Life:** Mr. Jessie B. Bennett, a lifetime member of the Antioch OFWB Church near New Bern, NC, offers a layman's perspective on how to lean upon the Word of God as we experience our day-to-day living.
- ☞ **Discerning the Call to Christian Ministry:** Our goal is to help church leaders understand that young disciples may feel God's calling to some type of Christian service. In that situation, churches need to provide a setting in which persons can discern what God is leading them to do. Church leaders, as well as young disciples, are invited to participate in one of these workshops. This is an important step toward building strong and capable leadership in the denomination. Led by Dr. Michael Pelt, professor emeritus at Mount Olive College.
- ☞ **Memoirs of the Home:** Author J. Andrews Smith shares the life and times of residents of the FWB Children's Home. His book, *The Family*, a compilation of stories provided by former residents of the Home, will be available during the Convention at the FWB Bookstore in Kornegay Arena.



We're Getting Ready For Camp!

Cragmont should be viewed as another tool the local church can use in the ministry to the congregation it serves. The purpose of the Church and Cragmont is to present the Gospel, teach Scripture, and promote fellowship. Through a week of camp this purpose can be realized and can be an experience that most young people will want year after year. So it is that time of the year for parents and youth leaders to talk with their youth about what sort of camp or retreat they will attend this summer. Those of us who work at Cragmont, along with those who give their time volunteering as directors and counselors, hope that your youth will consider attending a week of camp at Cragmont.

Picture if you will smoke rising from a crackling campfire down in the horseshoe area of the front yard. The stars are brightly shining overhead. Friends and counselors are all gathered singing songs to the music of a guitar. In the calm of the moment the mind's eye is on Jesus and the way He showed us we should live. In the softness of the night Jesus can speak through the songs we sing and through the words of a counselor. In an atmosphere such as this it is just so easy to hear Him. Below please find opportunities for a summer camp experience along with the person to contact for registration.

Minister's Conference
June 4-6, 2012
Stephen Prescott (910) 567-5347

Dayspring Retreat
June 6-9, 2012
Joan Little (252) 753-3217

Cragmont Youth
June 11-16, 2012
Angela Mattox (252) 671-7176

Christian Cadet
June 18-23, 2012
Joey Williams (919) 734-9080

Youth Frontier
June 25-30, 2012
Frankie Baggett (252) 746-7850

Pee Dee Youth
July 2-5, 2012
Heath Connor (910) 740-4454

Bed, Breakfast & Blessing
July 5-9, 2012
Arlinda Williams (828) 669-7677

General Youth
July 9-14, 2012
Wilma Parker (252) 522-0967

General Youth
July 16-21, 2012
Bryant Hines (252) 792-5745

Young People's Bible
July 23-27, 2012
Chuck Owens (252) 289-7669

Cornerstone Retreat
July 29-August 3, 2012
Joan Little (252) 753-3217

“Isn’t It Time For Jesus?”

May 25–27



You, no doubt, remember the popular slogan of a few years ago, “What Would Jesus Do?” I thought it was one of the best catchphrases of all time. Yet it is not used much any more. It was just a

slogan, a motto, that people grew tired of much like many of our television commercials. I would like to bring back this tired old slogan in a retreat where we will study things Jesus said and did in an effort to better the way we live our lives as Christians. Our study guide will be the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This retreat is open to all who wish to come—adults, college, and teens. To register yourself or group contact the Cragmont office at (877)

669-7677. The retreat will begin with the evening meal on Friday, May 25 at 6 P.M. and end with a worship service at 9 A.M. Sunday, May 27 following breakfast. We will offer all three meals Saturday. Our retreat sessions of study will begin on Friday following the evening meal, two study sessions Saturday morning, and one Saturday evening following the evening meal. The cost of the retreat is \$100 per person. Saturday afternoon will be free to take in sightseeing or shopping

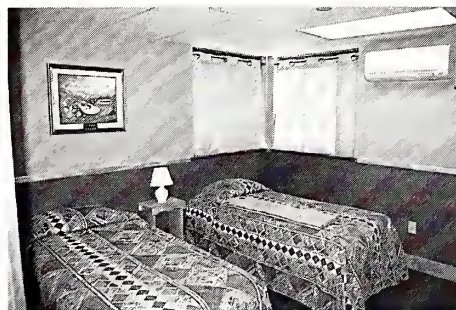
Bed, Breakfast and Blessing 2012

A few Sundays ago I had an experience everyone has had at sometime. A beam of light came through a window and caught on a piece of jewelry and the refracted light danced along the wall of the sanctuary in spots of glowing light. The dazzling interludes in life are wonderful “God moments,” shiny spots of “Son shine,” drawing our attention God-ward to His peace and glory. You are invited to such a sparkling time at Cragmont this summer, July 5–9. Come experience the light of God’s blessings in the glory of His mountains during “Bed, Breakfast and Blessing.” The cost is \$12 per person and includes a night

of rest in a good “bed,” a delicious “breakfast” to start your day, and a “blessing” to enfold your adventures and discoveries in North Carolina’s summer mountains or rest in a Cragmont rocking chair. Psalm 21:3 says that God “preventest him with the blessings of goodness” (KJV). That means God sends “blessings of good things to meet” us (AMP). Come experience the refracted light of God’s amazing creation and share in His blessings at Bed, Breakfast and Blessing this summer. For more information or for reservations contact Arlinda Williams at (828) 778-1752.

New Project Complete!

The winter winds are blowing from the north making the ground hard as concrete and bringing with them those very cold temps that I used to love but now dread. At this writing (January 3) the high should only be in the low 30s. However, we are warm and toasty because of the completion of the installation of the Mitsubishi “Mr Slim” split units. The Mitsubishi split system provides us with heat and air in a unit that does not require duct installation. In the renovation of the main building of the 90s it was determined that there was no cost efficient method of having air condition in the rooms. Now with the split system we can have air and a much more efficient heat source. “Split,” put simply, means that part of the unit is outside and part inside. They use the heat pump concept and up to four rooms can connect to one



outside unit. Each room will have its own inside wall mounted unit. The Cragmont Board approved the project back in late summer and everything, including the dorms, are finished. We secured a loan to get the work done before winter to take advantage of the more efficient heat. According to the information from Mitsubishi, we should see a 20% reduction in our electric bill this winter for these buildings. We certainly hope so! It is also

our hope that having air conditioning in these buildings will cause a renewed interest in using them. If you have ever spent a night in the main building during summer you know how hot it can be. Also during camp we will no longer have the situation where some children go to air-conditioned rooms and some don’t. If you would like to help with this project with a financial gift, just earmark your check “Cool Breeze/Warm Feet.” If your Sunday School class, Men’s League, Woman’s Auxiliary, or other church group would like to help with the cost of a room you can do so for \$3,500. Please consider being one of the thirty \$3,500 gifts we need to complete this project. While this amount is intended for groups you may want to contribute as an individual. Please know that we are very thankful for all gifts. We hope you will come stay with us soon.

Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

The Eighty-Fifth Annual Session
Thursday, May 10, 2012

Hosted by the Pee Dee District Woman's Auxiliary
Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church
Five Miles East of Bladenboro off Highway 242, on Oak Grove Church Road

Directions

Find your best way to US 701 toward Elizabethtown; (from the East, Hwy 41 to 701 or Hwy 117 to Hwy 403 to US 701; from the North take I95 to US 701 or to Hwy 87 South at Fayetteville to US 701). Continue on US 701 South to Intersection of US 701 and NC 242. Turn right on to NC 242 (State Employees Credit Union is on your right). Continue on NC 242 to the intersection of NC 242 and Oak Grove Church Road; turn right, church is on your left.

Registration and Continental Breakfast—8:15 A.M.

Convention Choir Sings—8:45 A.M.

We are counting on all past choir members and invite others to come sing with us.

Convention Convenes—9:00 A.M.—Concludes with Lunch

Early Arrivals

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

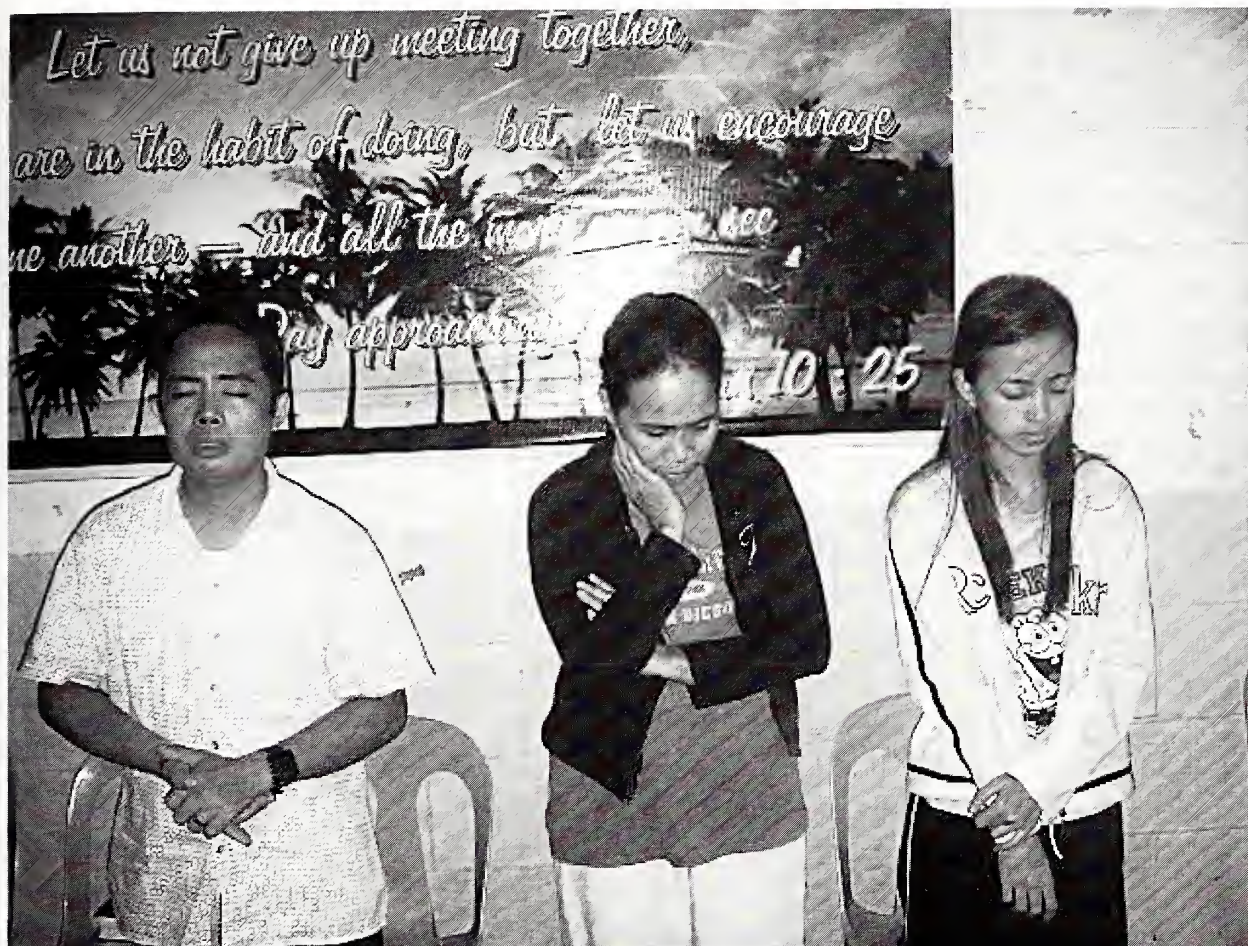
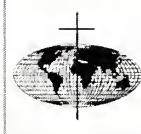
Dinner—6:30 P.M.

“Front Porch” Restaurant
1100 West Broad Street • Elizabethtown

Lodging

Days Inn • 609 East Broad Street • Elizabethtown • (910) 862-7444

Questions? Contact Dianne B. Riley at <driley@fwbch.org> or <drileymoc@gmail.com>



FFWBC Manila Prayer and Fasting

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

BY MARVEY CUBA

The Bible teaches us to “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). We are to be persistent in prayer and keep alert as we pray, giving thanks to God. Prayer is the breath of every believer. That is why Pastor Arnel Cuba emphasized this to each member, and taught the significance of this in the life of every Christian. The First Free Will Baptist Church in Manila has an overnight prayer and fasting every Friday. We are doing this alternately in the Bulacan and Caloocan chapters. We are grateful to the Lord because it helps and strengthens our spiritual life and growth. Everyone is learning about the deeper spiritual life, and the importance of communicating with God through reading our Bibles, prayer, and doing our part as God’s children. We are blessed because our members have a heart to commit themselves to this church program. We are also experiencing how God moves in miraculous ways. We pray for the

sick, ministering through counseling, and the Lord has worked wonderfully. We give all the glory and praise to Him!

Dear Friends, if we are going to experience the full power of the Lord, individually and in our churches, and see a great revival, we must be as serious in prayer as these dear believers in the Philippines.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2012 SPECIAL PROJECTS

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE



It is almost time for Vacation Bible School 2012 across our denomination. We sincerely thank every VBS that provided funds this past year to help provide food for the Gypsies in Bulgaria during the harsh winter. We received over \$8,000 and all of it was sent to Bulgaria. Thousands of meals were served during the winter months. Your gifts were a great blessing and kept these dear people from going hungry.

We have a special project to offer for this year. We will still need to provide food for the Gypsies during the winter of 2012-13, to keep them from going hungry in the cold months when they have no work. We also want to provide mosquito nets for our fields in Liberia, the Philip-pines, India, Bangladesh, Guinea, and Haiti. In all of these countries, malaria is a serious problem. In Africa alone, 3,000 children die

every day from malaria. Many of these deaths could be pre-vented with a simple mosquito net.

The funds you send this year will feed the hungry and protect many people from the deadly disease of malaria. Help remove suffering, especially from the children that are only learning about life and should not have to endure the suffering caused by malaria and hunger. Thank you for considering these projects for your VBS offering this year.

With deep concern for others,

Harold Jones
Executive Director



P. O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 • (252) 746-4963 • director@ofwbi.org



COME CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF FOREIGN MISSIONS AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION'S MISSION RALLY

**FOREIGN MISSIONS IS IN CHARGE
MAY 23, 2012 7:30 PM
KORNEGAY ARENA, MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE**



FEATURES:

- **THERE WILL BE SPECIAL MUSIC BY STEPHEN AND LYNN PRESCOTT.**
- **A PICTORIAL WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE VIA POWER POINT.
(YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS THIS.)**
- **A SPECIAL MESSAGE AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE.**

SPECIAL OFFERING:

YOUR SPECIAL OFFERING FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS AT THIS RALLY WILL ENABLE US TO MOVE FORWARD AS WE LOOK TO FUTURE GROWTH ON ALL OUR FIELDS AROUND THE WORLD.

REMEMBER YOU MUST EARMARK YOUR GIFT FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS OR PLACE IT IN A SPECIAL FOREIGN MISSIONS ENVELOPE. THESE WILL BE SUPPLIED AT THE FOREIGN MISSIONS DISPLAY DURING THE CONVENTION AND AT THE RALLY.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THIS SPECIAL CELEBRATION.

Children's Sunday School Curriculum

Standard Publishing
HEART SHAPER
Children's Curriculum



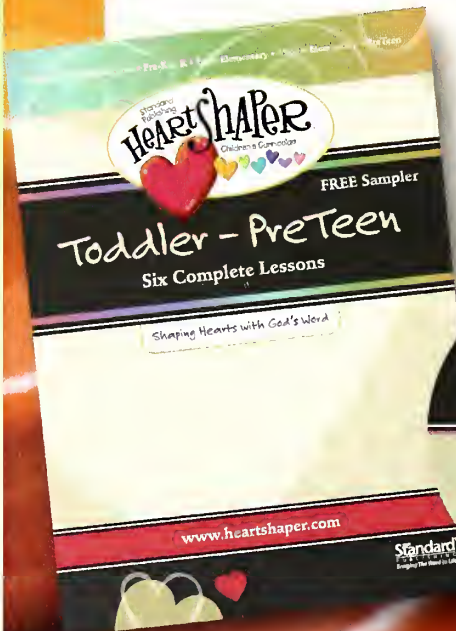
Shaping Hearts
with God's Word



Get Your **FREE**
Sample Lesson Today!

Includes a complete lesson and
digital resources for every age level.

♥ Call 1-800-849-3927



Copyright © 2008 by Standard Publishing. All rights reserved. Permission is granted to reproduce and distribute this material for personal and non-profit use only. Please note that any and all reproduction is prohibited in any form and to any and all other persons or organizations.

COMING for Fall 2012



New Resources

♥ **REACH—kids with special needs**
a quarterly newsletter that teachers can use for adapting lessons and including children who have special needs.

- General tips and encouragement for teachers
- Age-specific ways to adapt activities included in HeartShaper lessons
- Ideas for helping families of children with special needs

♥ **LEAD—kids to Christ**

a pocket guide designed to help teachers and volunteers lead a child to a salvation decision.

- Quick reference for teachers including tips for where to start and what to ask kids
- Scripture references to help a child learn what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus
- Ideas to guide children through God's Word and provide ongoing encouragement

♥ **CONNECT—with HeartShaper community**

a resourceful website including discussion forums with topics relevant to children's ministry leaders, teachers, and volunteers.

Ask questions, share ideas, and get connected!

♥ **TRAIN—yourself and your team**

online resources including free downloads, recruiting and training videos, PowerPoint presentations, and more!

Feel confident teaching HeartShaper lessons right from the start!

Standard
PUBLISHING



To order, call 1.800.849.3927 ext. 221 or visit one of our store locations at:

Ayden Bible & Bookstore

3928 Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-6128

Kinston Bible & Bookstore

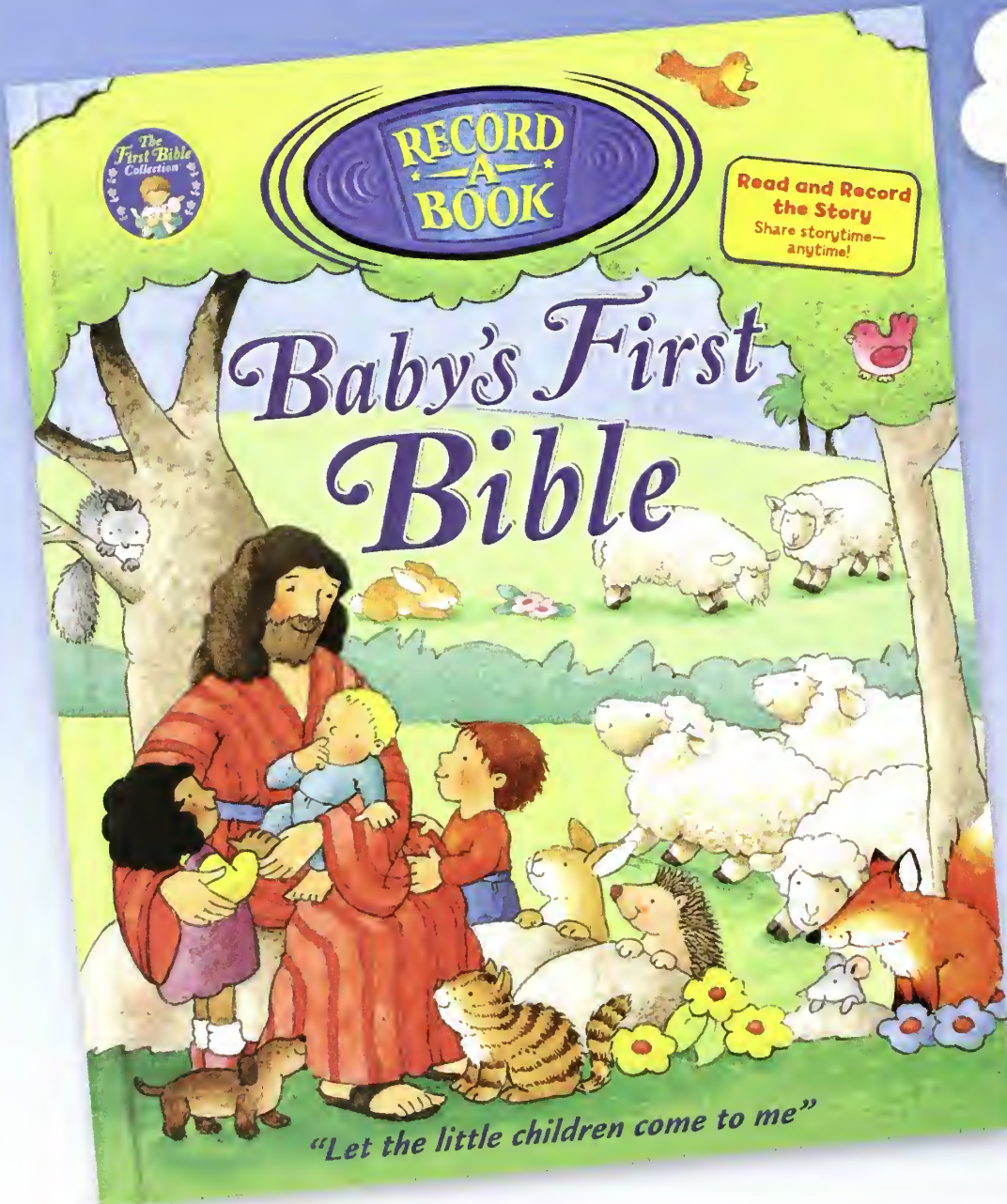
Vernon Park Mall
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 527-2843

New Bern Bible & Bookstore

1232 S. Glenburnie Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 638-6193

Baby's First Record-A-Book Bible

Give the gift of story time anytime!



Retail \$21.99
On Sale \$16.47

*Read to that special child—
from anywhere!*

The wonderfully unique *Baby's First Record-A-Book* comes alive with an easy-to-use recording device built right into the book, so that you can record the text for your child to hear any time.

Standard[®]
P U B L I S H I N G
Bringing The Word to Life

To order, call 1.800.849.3927 ext. 221 or visit one of our store locations at:

Ayden Bible & Bookstore

3928 Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-6128

Kinston Bible & Bookstore

Vernon Park Mall
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 527-2843

New Bern Bible & Bookstore

1232 S. Glenburnie Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 638-6193



MOC Adds Teacher Licensure Component

“Teachers are one of the most important role models in students’ lives,” said Amanda Sharpe, a secondary math education major at Mount Olive College. “Teachers spend more time with children than most parents do. Therefore, the school system needs dedicated and caring individuals for the position. I feel that I can make a difference in my students’ lives and help them to better themselves and society.”

For students like Amanda Sharpe, Mount Olive College has made becoming a teacher more accessible than ever before. Previously, Mount Olive College students interested in teacher education could take the first three years of study at MOC, and then transfer to a partnering university such as East Carolina University, North Carolina State University or Campbell University to complete their student teaching and licensure components.

Not anymore. In December 2010, Mount Olive College received approval from the State Board of Education to begin offering teacher licensure for B-K, elementary education, music education, health and physical education, agriculture education, science education, social studies education, mathematics education, and English education. Now, students interested in teaching in any of those licensure areas can complete all of their licensure requirements at Mount Olive College.

“Most teacher education programs are at least 60 miles from Mount Olive,” said Dr. Tommy Benson, chair of the Department of Education at Mount Olive College. “That was simply not convenient for most of our students.” Benson went on to note that having a teacher licensure program at Mount Olive College helps the local school systems as well. “Very often if you get student teachers into your school system you

Teachers spend more time with children than most parents do. Therefore, the school system needs dedicated and caring individuals for the position. I feel that I can make a difference in my students’ lives and help them to better themselves and society

— Amanda Sharpe

can hire those teachers,” Benson said. Benson noted that the state of North Carolina trains an average of 2,500 to 3,000 teachers annually but the state traditionally hires about 10,000 teachers. “That is a big gap that we hope to help fill,” he said.

“It was music to my ears and a big relief,” said Matinzicio Edmondson, a music education major, in talking about the College receiving the licensure component. Without Mount Olive adding the licensure component, Edmondson would have had to travel to Campbell University to obtain licensure.

Amanda Sharpe had a similar reaction, “I was excited to find out that Mount Olive College was going to offer a teacher licensure program because I did not want to leave my friends and professors,” the Selma native said. “I enjoy attending a small college and did not want to transfer.”

Benson indicated several advantages of enrolling in the teacher education program at Mount Olive College versus at a larger institution: advantages like smaller classes, individual attention, and professors teaching the classes, not teaching assistants like in some larger institutions. But perhaps the biggest advantage is that from the time a student decides to enter the teacher education curriculum at MOC he or she is provided with hands-on opportunities to do observations, to volunteer in the classrooms, and to work in small group settings. “It really makes a difference to be able to put into action what you learn in the classroom,” Edmondson said.



article continued on page 27



Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture

Dr. Ellen Ott Marshall, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics and Conflict Transformation at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, presented the annual Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture at Mount Olive College in March. Dr. Marshall's lecture, titled "Christians in the Public Square," focused on the relationship between faith and politics.

Dr. Marshall emphasized the constructive role of moral ambiguity and the importance of cultivating love and theological humility in ethical and political matters. As Dr. Marshall said in her sermon, "If we affirm God's presence but

fail to embody it, then God remains invisible to those who most need a comforter and advocate. If we experience God's grace but fail to exhibit it, then God's work in us remains incomplete. God's invitation is, I think, a moral imperative for us. We must fashion our lives, form ourselves, to be receptive and responsive to God's presence and purposes in the world. We must strive every day to cultivate the mind of Christ and offer our lives as a visible sign of love and a channel for God's grace." Dr. Marshall's lecture was timely, thought provoking, and challenging.



Spring Hill Church Visits MOC

Educational Opportunities at MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Planning for College

High school seniors and college students who wish to enroll in the daytime program at Mount Olive College can apply online at <www.moc.edu>. Click on apply online. Applicants should have official SAT/ACT scores and high school/college transcripts sent to Mount Olive College Admissions, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Admission and scholarship decisions are made based on these documents, as well as other information requested by the Admissions Office. Contact Tim Woodard at <twoodard@moc.edu> or call (800) 653-0854 with questions.

Confirmation Deposits Due

Accepted students should pay their confirmation deposit (\$50 commuters, \$100 residents) right away in order to be eligible to attend Admitted Student Day in June. Make check payable to Mount Olive College or contact Barbara Whitfield at (919) 658-7883 to pay by phone. MOC accepts VISA, MasterCard, DISCOVER, and American Express debit/credit cards.

Admitted Student Day

is scheduled for June 29, 2012. Any student who is accepted and has paid the confirmation fee is eligible to attend this important day. To register to attend this day go to <www.moc.edu> and head to the admissions page. The goal of the day is to help new students entering college in the fall of 2012 register for classes, have their photo ID made, and to complete paperwork for housing and roommate assignments and other college services. Contact admissions at (800) 653-0854 or e-mail <admissions@moc.edu> for more information.

Mount Olive College Scholarship Information

Active OFWB members are eligible for a \$3,000 tuition grant annually if they take at least 12 semester credit hours in the daytime program at MOC. Music, art, and athletic scholarships are also available for daytime students at the Mount Olive location. Auditions, portfolio review, and tryout dates are announced periodically. Students attending Admitted Student Day can also arrange to meet with music, art, and athletic representatives in the afternoons. Scholarships for merit and leadership are also available for students who have outstanding high school grades and student leadership experiences. Admissions representatives can tell you more at <admissions@moc.edu> or (800) 653-0854.

One-Night-a-Week Programs for Adults

One-night-a-week college programs for adults are available at Mount Olive, New Bern, Jacksonville, Washington, Wilmington, and Research Triangle Park. The tuition cost for these programs is offered at a reduced rate. Complete the free online application at <www.moc.edu> and learn more about our programs by clicking on the location nearest your home or workplace. Multiple start dates are available each semester, so ask about these convenient programs and how you can complete your degree. Call 1-800-NEW GOAL. You will be connected to the location nearest your home. Financial aid is available.

RN to BSN online program

Applications for the RN to BSN program are now being accepted. Students wishing to begin in Fall 2012 can begin their application process now. To learn more about this program, contact Joy Phillips, nursing program coordinator at <jjphillips@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854.

Daniels' Roots Run Deep at MOC

Robert Tyler Daniels of Raleigh enjoys working on engines, hunting, and offshore fishing with his family and friends. The 23-year-old religion major has a passion for the Bible and for helping people with disabilities. He's the great-grandson of the Reverend J. C. and Ethel Moye who gave one of the first endowments to the College in the late fifties. After graduation, the Mount Olive College junior plans to continue his education and to obtain his master's in Divinity. Sharon Mervin sat down with Daniels recently for an interview.

Mervin: Why did you choose Mount Olive College from all of your other options?

Daniels: When I received "the call" into the ministry, I knew that there was no other option but Mount Olive College. However, leaving all my friends and leaving the path I thought my life should be taking was difficult. Mount Olive College made the transformation easier on me. Also, I needed a Christian atmosphere that was familiar to me and a quiet place where I would feel accepted for who I am. There were no other places than Mount Olive College. It has always been the cornerstone of the Moyes, my Grandfather's family. It is like returning to my roots and home. I knew I was going where I would receive the best quality education, and it would be the right stepping stone for my future.

Mervin: Did your family history influence your decision to attend Mount Olive College?

Daniels: My family history did indeed influence my decision to attend Mount Olive College. As a third generation of the Moye family, we were taught the importance of the school and the wonderful and loving relationship of Dr. and Mrs. Raper over the years. Dr. Raper had a passion for this college; I can honestly say that I would not be here if it weren't for him. When I made the decision to enter into the ministry, I

knew that there was no other institution that would prepare me and give me the tools and knowledge that I would need to fulfill this dream more than Mount Olive College.

Mervin: Do you find that it's beneficial when speaking with a younger audience that you will be a younger preacher?

Daniels: Some people get their call when they're younger and some when they're older. But when you get put in that position, it doesn't matter your age. When you feel God's presence...you may not want to change, but you are going to change. I don't think your age matters.

Mervin: You told me once that you have a passion for working with people with disabilities. How would you like to help them?

Daniels: I have family with cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and autism. They are just an inspiration to me. I would like to possibly do work or some kind of ministry with them to be sure that they receive the same kind of quality education that other kids receive. They need a different form of learning. Being sure that they get proper care and education weighs heavy on my heart. I would like to do something soon, but we'll see how that goes.

Mervin: What are your ultimate education and career goals after you graduate?

Daniels: My ultimate goal is to continue my education and to begin work on my master's degree in Divinity. After that, I pray that God will show me the work He has in store for me and to share my knowledge of the Bible and my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Wherever I end up on my journey I know that God's hands and the inspiration of my family are the only reasons for me being there.

Mervin: You are probably aware that the tag line for Mount College is "Transforming Lives and Transforming Education." How has your life been transformed by Mount Olive College?

Daniels: My life is transformed every day by a deeper understanding of God's word. I have been challenged on a daily basis by the curriculum and the professors to strive to do my best. It is a special feeling knowing that every time I walk onto the campus that the Lord is working through my classes to enable me to spread His word and bring knowledge of the love of Jesus Christ.

Mervin: Who has been your greatest inspiration?

Daniels: That's a difficult question and I'm reluctant to answer because I'm afraid that I may leave someone out or offend someone. Several people have inspired me. Dr. and Mrs. Raper and most of my professors have been very inspiring to me. Dr. Raper opened his arms to me to make sure that my spiritual journey became a reality, and that reality would take place at Mount Olive College. Dr. Hines is an extraordinary individual who continues to inspire me each day with his knowledge and caring attitude. Dr. Hines has been most helpful—especially with the hard curriculum and the "pep talks" to keep my head above water.

As far as my family, I have been blessed with a large, extended family: my Mom and Dad, Will and Debbie Daniels; my Grandparents, Bob and Betty Moye; my brother and sister, Everett and Lindsay; aunts and uncles, and many cousins. My family means the most to me; they inspire me, push me, and will do anything for anyone at a moment's notice. While growing up, their passion for Christ, love of people, understanding of mistakes, and trust in second chances, has proven to be the foundation of my life. My grandfather Dr. Robert "Bob" Moye's roots are very deep in the ground here at Mount Olive College.

Mervin: Your grandfather was a business manager at Mount Olive College wasn't he?

Daniels: Yes. He was the athletic director here at Mount Olive College and later became the business manager. His only reason for leaving MOC was to pursue his dream of being a dentist. He ran a Christ-centered dental practice for

over 35 years. Although my grandfather was never a minister, I believe that his "pulpit" was his dental chair, where he witnessed and told of the blessings that had been given to him over his life. His unfailing passion for people and Christ has been truly inspiring to me, and his patience throughout my life and new journey. He is a man that I look up to in every aspect of life, his perseverance, gentle spirit, and love for his family is something that I treasure. The compassion that he demonstrates to everyone around him is something that I strive to be like every day. I also thank God for the opportunity to be a part of Mount Olive College.

Mervin: What chapter in the Bible sums up your view on life?

Daniels: Romans 8. The last part says, "What shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" That is the basis of my life. I would like to reach out to kids and tell them that He is for us. There is nothing on the earth that can stand in their way. I take it personally as well. No one can stand in the way of me achieving my goals.

Teacher Licensure *(continued from page 23)*

Benson expects to see a dramatic increase in the number of teacher education majors at the College as a result of the licensure component. Previously the College was only graduating one to two teacher education majors a year. In the first year of Mount Olive College offering teacher licensure, there are 23 students enrolled in elementary education, 22 in agriculture education, 14 in music education, 11 in mathematics education, 8 in English education, 8 in history education and 2 in science education. This combined with the 365 students enrolled in early childhood education comes to a grand total of 457 students.

Coming in the fall of 2012, the College plans to add health and physical education. Other programs for consideration in the future include art education and special education.

Dr. Philip Kerstetter, president of Mount Olive College, noted that "Part of our College mission is service to our communities, and preparing highly-qualified teachers to serve in our community schools is an important way that we fulfill that expectation. Students who come from the region truly want to go back to their home communities and serve. I am excited about the College's ability now to provide this important educational opportunity to our students and to our region."

Lesson *Inner View*

A deeper look inside this month's lessons from the OFWB Foundation Curriculum and commentaries based on the International Sunday School Lessons.



with Adrian Grubbs

The Sunday School lessons for the month of May will conclude this study in the Gospel of John. If you have been following the previous lessons this quarter, no doubt you have a greater appreciation for the fourth Gospel; it is an engaging study. The material in the Gospel of John is presented on two levels: a casual reading is interesting and informative; exploring the deeper meanings is exciting and transforming. After all, the writer of the Gospel tells us that he presents these events and teachings of Jesus “that you may believe” in Christ, and by believing “you may have life” (John 20:31).

I like to think of this Gospel as a fine hand-woven fabric with intricate designs and colorful patterns, intertwined in such a way as to produce an elaborate work of art. John tells us that he selected certain words and works of Jesus (he could not include them all) to show that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30), that Jesus was sent to take away the sins of the world, and that by believing in him you have eternal life (John 3:16). Then, the materials he selected about Jesus

are woven together to tell the story of Jesus in a unique way. The result is indeed a true work of art, which we call the Gospel of John.

One of the strands of fabric running through the Gospel is the “I AM” sayings of Jesus. The four lessons for the month of May focus on five of these statements below.

Background for the “I AM” statements by Jesus goes back to the third chapter of Exodus. When God called Moses to go down to Egypt and lead God’s people to freedom, Moses had several objections. One of them was that he did not know God’s name; he wanted to know what to tell the people when they asked for the name of the God who sent him. The “LORD” told Moses to say to the people of Israel that “I AM” has sent him to them. The proper name for God in the Old Testament is YHWH, or Yahweh, translated into English as “LORD” or “The LORD.” In later Judaism, God’s proper name was considered too sacred to be spoken aloud by mortal

The “I AM” sayings of Jesus

- Lesson 1: May 6 (John 6:22–35) “I AM the bread of life”
- Lesson 2: May 13 (John 10:7–18) “I AM the door of the sheep” and “I AM the good shepherd”
- Lesson 3: May 20 (John 11:17–27) “I AM the resurrection and the life”
- Lesson 4: May 27 (John 14:1–14) “I AM the way, the truth, and the life”

There are two other “I AM” sayings which are found in John 8:12 (I AM the light of the world), and John 15:1 (I AM the true vine). In these statements Jesus declares his identity to all who will hear.

beings. So when they were reading the Scriptures and came to “YHWH” they would say “Adonai,” or Lord. In Exodus 3:13–15 the proper name of God (YHWH) was directly associated to the verb “to be.” Jesus took that very phrase, I AM, to identify himself. That phrase is used in the Gospel of John to tell us who Jesus is, not once, but numerous times throughout the Gospel. So in John 8:58 Jesus tells the Jews, “Before Abraham was, I AM.”

This brief background gives us a deeper appreciation of what Jesus was actually saying when he used the “I AM” phrase. First, he was saying that he is I AM—“I AM the LORD.” And secondly, as the LORD He is the bread of

life, He is the door of the sheep and the good shepherd, He is the resurrection and the life, and He is the way, the truth, and the life.”

One more hint for studying these lessons, another thread running through the Gospel of John, is to connect the words of Jesus to His works. For example, in the first lesson Jesus says, “I AM the bread of life.” Earlier in chapter six Jesus feeds the 5,000 with five barley loaves and two fish. The connection is unmistakable. Can you find connections to “His works” for the “words of Jesus” in the other lessons?



H. Adrian Grubbs, Jr., was born in Dade City, Florida, to the Rev. Herman A. and Lillian Kinard Grubbs. The family moved to Mount Olive, NC, in 1959. Adrian was ordained in the Eastern Conference in 1963 and has served eight churches. After a 30-year pastorate at Deep Run OFWB Church he retired in 2007 because of vocal problems. Grubbs has served the denomination as President of the Sunday School Convention, Moderator of the Eastern Conference, member of the Eastern Conference Ministerial Examining Board, and is currently on the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees. Adrian and Jo Ann have one son, two daughters, and six grandchildren.

Psalms

for the Soul

with Linda Herring

The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Are you in a crisis right now? Have doubt, stress, and anxious and fearful thoughts been going through your mind? Psalm 13:2 says, “How long must I wrestle with these thoughts and this sorrow in my heart?” Just as lancing a boil is necessary first to healing, facing truth is the first step toward becoming whole. Those who grow through a crisis learn which hopes, dreams, and expectation are really important. At first you may feel things will never be the same again. That is normal. You may have to make adjustments in how you work, where you spend your leisure time, and how you relate to your family and friends. A crisis will force you to reach deep within yourself and find hidden strength. Psalm 18:2 says, “The Lord is my Rock, my Fortress and my Deliverer, my God. In whom I will trust.” Follow Jesus. Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm.



Linda Herring is married to Vernon Herring. They have two children, Amy and Vernon and three grandchildren, Jenna, Jared, and Noah. Linda is an active member of the White Oak Grove OFWB Church in LaGrange, NC. Linda leads a Bible study group, Circle of Friends. She has been a drama director of two dramas that she wrote, *They Called His Name Jesus* and *The Book of Ruth*. She is a resource for the OFWB Woman’s Auxiliary. Her outreach ministry includes this column in *TFWB*, a radio broadcast by the same name (aired on WAGO 88.7 FM), and a weekly devotional article for the *La Grange Weekly Gazette* and *The Sampson Weekly*. She also has a devotion book printed by the Mount Olive College Press.



Greetings from your Retirement Homes Ministry!

God is so good, all the time. I continue to thank God for the wonderful people who make up our churches and understand the need to support this great ministry.

Our client list is now at 23. We were saddened to hear of the passing of one of our clients in March. Mr. James Taylor went home to be with the Lord this past March. We count it a privilege to have had the opportunity to assist him through this ministry. We have added several new clients recently and have an application pending at this writing.

May is the Youth Convention and the Annual Convention of Original Free Will Baptists and, as last year, we will have a display set up at both of these conventions. The Youth Convention is May 18-20 and the Annual Convention is scheduled for May 22-24 at Mount Olive College. I hope to see many of you there.

Our disability equipment program continues to be a real blessing to many of our people. Our disability equipment is loaned out free of charge to our people. We are so happy to be able to fill a need whenever possible. God has enabled people to respond to this area of our program in a mighty way and by our folks have saved many dollars because of it.

As many more clients have been added to our ministry, our budget is being stretched to its limits. Giving to this ministry is down from last year and this is causing a strain on us to meet the needs. I mention this because we continue to need your prayers and support to be able to continue helping our clients and collecting and distributing disability equipment.

Again I say thank you for all your support, both prayerfully and financially, and hope to see you at the conventions.

Ronnie Taylor, Executive Director

RETIREMENT HOMES MINISTRY

P.O. Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513 • (252) 746.4963

**THE AYDEN, KINSTON, AND NEW BERN BIBLE & BOOKSTORES
OF THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS ARE CHANGING THEIR NAME.
WE ARE CURRENTLY MAKING THE TRANSFORMATION TO:**



Spreading the Word. For Life!

**CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927**

**CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843**

**CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193**

More exciting things are coming soon!



Memorandum to All Ministers, Sunday School Superintendents, People in Church Leadership Roles, and Others Interested in Church Growth

Greetings on behalf of the OFWB Sunday School Board! The Annual Convention is upon us once again and we need to set aside a block of time to gather together for the Annual Sunday School Leadership Banquet. The Banquet will be held on Wednesday night, May 23, 2012 at 5:45 P.M. in the main dining room in the Murphy Center. We will have ample time to get to the Mission Rally, which will convene at 7:30 P.M. The cost of the meal will be \$8 per person. The cost of the meal is payable before, at the Convention, or at the Banquet. You will be given meal tickets designating that you have paid in advance and are to be seated with the Sunday School Ministry. In order to have a fairly accurate count of people; it would be desirable to send your reservation ahead of time. You can pay later, but please try to let me know that you are coming. If you are not able to get a meal ticket, you can pay as you go through the serving line.

We will have The Reverend Billy Keith as our special speaker for the night. He was well received at the Sunday School Institute and folks wanted to know when they could hear him again. He will be addressing the body in terms of Working for God With Enjoyment as it relates to our Sunday School work. Other special surprises will be happening as well. So come and join us.

We welcome our Ministers, Sunday School Superintendents, Associate Ministers, Youth Ministers/Directors, Licensed Ministers, and other interested persons. Please pass this information to folks in your churches. To make your reservations, complete the form below, detach it, and return it to Mary Dudley by May 21, 2012. You may also register by calling the Sunday School office at (252) 746-4963, e-mailing the information to <director@ofwbsundayschool.org> or by going to our website, <www.ofwbsundayschool.org> and registering. Walk-ins are very welcome.

Registration fees may be sent to:
Mary Dudley
OFWB Sunday School Ministry
P.O. 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 the past years.

Yours in Christ,
Mary Dudley

Name: _____

Church: _____

Number Attending the Banquet: _____

Money Enclosed: _____

P.O. Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513 • (252) 746-4963 • www.ofwbsundayschool.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

A *Sling* and a **STONE**

Significance in Christ as a Young Adult

with Marc Boswell

A Christian Approach to the Trayvon Martin Case

I tried to convince myself that I should not write an article about the murder of Trayvon Martin, the 17-year-old African American who was shot and killed by George Zimmerman in Sanford, Florida, on February 26. The reasons I came up with for not writing an article were few, and they weren't very good. I wondered if some might claim that the subject had become too heated, as debate swirls about the racial/racist dynamics that many think are involved in the situation. Why risk angering people by broaching such a hot topic? I didn't get very far with this reason, seeing that Moses, the prophets, Jesus, Paul, and countless others in the Bible made lots of people upset and angry by the topics they discussed, leading some to be imprisoned (Paul), some crucified (Jesus), and others stoned (Stephen). Christianity has a history of troublemakers, it seems.

I also asked myself if this actually fell into the scope of the *A Sling and a Stone* column. Is this a relevant topic? After all, wasn't Trayvon Martin an African American teenager in Florida? This reason didn't work, either, I realized, as I was never asked to write a column that only addressed white Free Will Baptist young adults, or young adults in North Carolina, or young adults who were on the rolls and attended youth group in one of our churches.

My faith and Christian life would not be what it is today if it had not been for the predominately black church in which I worshiped for years as a young adult before moving to Virginia. My

commitments and my loyalties, in other words, cannot be narrowed down only to white people or white Christians because the Church is much larger than any particular denomination or race.

I also wondered if some would quickly point to Trayvon's troubles at school. Would knowing this part of a 17-year-old's past make Zimmerman's actions understandable or justifiable? A political commentator on one of Glenn Beck's websites questioned whether or not Trayvon was actually innocent, implying that he was, indeed, "dangerous" due to these incidents. The fact that George Zimmerman had no knowledge about any of those incidents, however, was not mentioned by the commentator. Likewise, it was not mentioned that high school suspensions does not make it legal for one citizen to murder another in the United States, particularly when that young adult is carrying only a bag of skittles and a bottle of tea.

This last reason deeply troubled and failed to convince me not to write an article for many reasons, not least of which was my Christian faith. Several things come to mind:

1) Nowhere in the Bible does God claim that the value and worth of a human's life is altered or cheapened because he or she was suspended from high school. How would we, our families, or the youth in our youth groups do if this was a criterion we used to judge the value of their lives?

2) Paul makes it very clear that all humans are sinful and fallen, meaning that any person's lack of righteousness in the sight of God is not grounds upon which one human can take the life of another—"Judge not, lest ye be judged." We all have a fallen nature, end of story.

3) The good news or "gospel" is that, in spite of our sin, and through Jesus Christ, God judges, loves, values, and redeems all of humankind. We "free

...for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

(1 Samuel 16:7)

willers” or “general” Baptists know this very dearly, as we have long insisted that Christ did not atone only for the sins of a particular righteous few, but for all people. Therefore, as a Christian, I could care less about the past mistakes of a 17-year-old boy when drawing a conclusion about the value and worth of his life and whether he “had it coming,” as several political commentators have implied (which has been increasingly discredited by the facts).

4) The prophets, Jesus, and Paul all demonstrated that a person is not righteous in the sight of God if he or she follows the “law” (whether social, political, or religious). The prophets continually point out that laws and their execution can be unjust and abhorrent to God. Jesus consciously broke certain laws and stated that laws were made because human life is valuable, and that humans do not have to blindly give obedience to laws that fail to value human life (Mark

2:27). Paul understands the gospel to mean that righteousness does not come from a human’s effort to follow the law, but only from God through Christ. In other words, as a Christian, my understanding of this situation hinges less on an ambiguous “Stand Your Ground” law and whether or not Zimmerman had a “right” to kill the young man—Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount simply does not allow it, at least, that is, if you take the Bible literally and believe its inerrancy.

Therefore, while I have strong opinions about the racial/racist dynamics of this situation (i.e., racial profiling), my Christian convictions and faith remind me, all the more, that God neither values

a human life based upon a petty high school suspension record, nor writes a person off because of a troubled past—that’s grace. Just ask Peter, the person who denied even knowing Christ, or ask Paul, the dangerous, violent person who arrested and abused Christians.¹ Or, ask any of us who are sinful, broken people; people who are capable of hurting and do hurt others, yet find ourselves judged, loved, and redeemed by Christ our Savior. Or ask Trayvon’s parents, whose faith has led them to insist from the beginning that they do not want an “eye for an eye,” but only justice for their son and, for Zimmerman, a jury before his peers.

¹I want to be clear that I am not suggesting that Trayvon’s past is similar to the violent past of Paul the Apostle. Trayvon was a high school boy who does not deserve to be characterized as a criminal or racially profiled as a dangerous young black man.



Marc Boswell was born in Wilson County, NC. He is a member of Spring Branch Church in Greene County, where he was nurtured and supported while pursuing ordination in the Central Conference. In January of 2006, he was ordained. Since graduating from Mount Olive College, Marc has studied at Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, VA) and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Evanston, IL), while working in several churches between North Carolina, Virginia, and Illinois. He and his wife, Kate Fiedler Boswell, now reside in Richmond, Virginia, where he is completing work on his Ph.D. in the areas of systematic theology and American religious history. He enjoys teaching, preaching, cooking, and UNC basketball.

HONEY-DO JOBS

Painting • 40 years experience • Carpentry • Rotten Wood Repair
 Power Washing • Gutter Cleaning • Restorations & Renovations • References are Available
 — FIX IT IF POSSIBLE —

Charles Petit

2014 Penny Lane • Clayton, NC 27520
 Home: (919) 553-5741 • Cell: (919) 675-5896





Upcoming Events

Spring is a busy time for almost everyone. Farmers are preparing land and planting, schools are preparing for graduation and summer break, and churches are preparing for Vacation Bible School. The North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries is preparing also. In the next few weeks, plans will be made and implemented for the Foundation's Annual Meeting, for the Original Free Will Baptist Convention report and workshop, for the applications for the fall semester Shepherd's Fund scholarships, and for the ongoing work of the Foundation.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is the highlight of the Foundation's year because it provides an opportunity to come together with those who support the noble mission of the Foundation for the purpose of celebrating the accomplishments that have been made through our shared vision. This year's Annual Meeting will be held at Mount Olive College on May 8 and will include a tribute to Dr. William Burkette Raper, the Founding President of the Foundation who passed away last August. Additional items on the program will be a delicious meal, entertainment, and the distribution of funds to recipients for the newly qualified endowment funds.

OFWB Convention

Just as the Annual Meeting is a highlight for the Foundation, the highlight of the year for the denomination is the annual Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, held this year on May 22–24. The Foundation is honored to be a part of that celebration as an affiliated ministry of the Convention. As such, the Foundation will be present with information at a display booth and will have its report printed in the Convention reports book. Hopefully, all will review the material to gain a deeper understanding of the mission, work, and direction of the Foundation as it continues "helping good people do good things." Representatives of the Foundation will also be present to offer suggestions and to answer questions about involvement through the Foundation.

Each year the Convention provides the Foundation with an opportunity to provide informative workshops related to the work of the Foundation. This year the workshop will be entitled "How to Establish and Grow Your Church Endowment," with the hope that representatives from some of the churches with

successful endowments can provide information that may assist others. As a result of this workshop, which will be held on May 23, it will be clear that any church can have a secure and permanent source of funds for future ministry needs.

Shepherd's Fund Scholarships

In addition to work with endowments for churches and other ministry organizations, the Foundation is heavily involved in securing funding for the education of ministers through the Shepherd's Fund. Each fall and spring, ministerial students who intend to work in the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination, and need additional funding for their tuition and fees, may apply for a Foundation scholarship. These funds are awarded after all other means of financial assistance have been exhausted in hopes of helping to bridge the financial gap that may otherwise prevent a current or future minister from progressing in his or her education.

The deadline for spring 2012 applicants certainly has passed, but those interested in applying for fall 2012 scholarship assistance are encouraged to submit an application and all supporting documentation before August 31.

A major aspect of the Foundation work after the Convention will be working with donors who will fund the Shepherd's Fund Scholarships. As always the Foundation will rely on the continued generous support of the conferences, churches, and individuals who have supplemented the endowed funds with direct annual gifts in the past. These donations have been absolutely essential to the ongoing success of the scholarship program and the future of the ministry in our denomination. Additionally, the Foundation will be working to identify new donors who have been inspired by the vision. There are countless others who have the means to assist in some way. Those who do so will receive the benefit of knowing they have contributed to a lasting legacy that will continue to provide blessings well into the future through the work of sound ministry in our denomination.

Ongoing Work of the Foundation

In addition to the upcoming events listed above, the Foundation will continue to assist churches, ministries, and individuals who desire to do good things through philanthropic means. Those who would like to be a part of this work are invited to consider supporting

article continued on page 39



Front row: Three Peas in a Pod (from left to right: Ginger Taylor, Len Joyner, Peggy Williams) <3peapods.com>
Back row: Special Music (from left to right: Chasity Fisher and Brittanie Taylor) <movinup.org> and <chasityfisher.com>

Central District Spring Convention

The Spring Convention of the Central District met March 25, 2013 at Howell Swamp Church. It was a day of spiritual renewal focused on the theme "New Life—New You." A time of fellowship was from 9–9:30 A.M. Refreshments were served. Our meeting was opened with greetings from President May Pittman. Words of inspiration were presented by Peggy Williams, Ginger Taylor, and Len Joyner, known as the "Three Peas in a Pod." Chasity Fisher and Brittanie Taylor rendered special music. Door

prizes were given out at different times during the convention. A delicious meal was served by Howell Swamp Church. The Fall Convention will be September 22, 2012 at Hugo Church. A study course will be held on April 16, 2012 at Rose Hill Church at 7 P.M. The speaker will be Dr. Deborah King. The convention was truly an uplifting day for the 156 women that attended. If you want more of God's blessing please make plans to attend our Fall Convention.



Life Membership Award

Little Creek Woman's Auxiliary presented a life membership award to Amy Cameron Stokes for her dedication and service to the auxiliary. Making the presentation is Hagar Jackson, auxiliary president. Presenting the pin is Etta Taylor, assistant Program Chairwoman. Thank you Amy for all you do for the auxiliary and Little Creek Church.



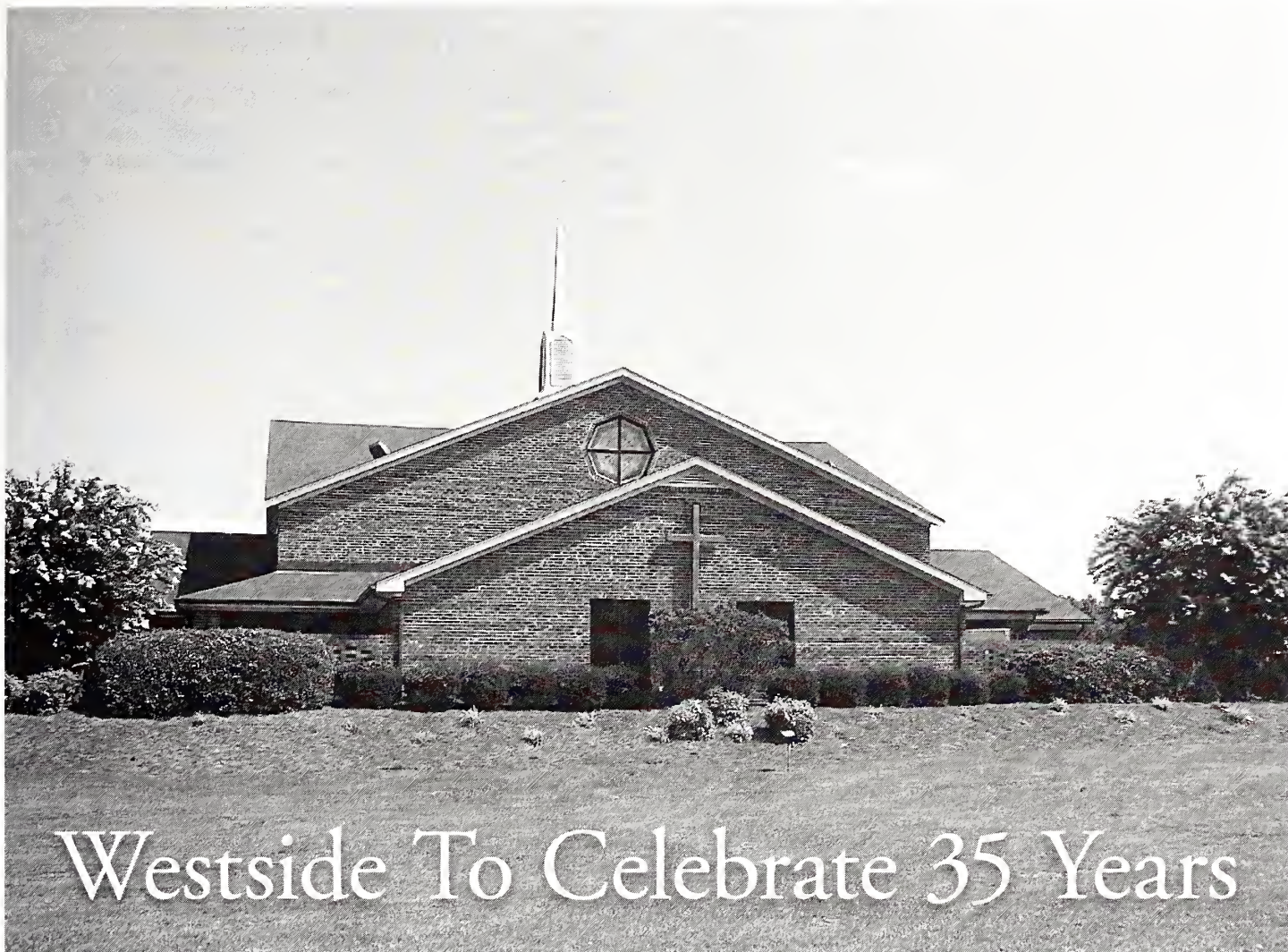
Smith's New Home Church Honors Perfect Attendance

What better way to start a new year than to honor dedicated Sunday School members. That is what happened on New Year's Day at Smith's New Home. Three of our members were recognized for their perfect attendance during 2011, and were presented with their pins by Sunday School Superintendent, Jim Rillard.

Betty Heath (top right) was presented her 28th year perfect attendance award. Mary Tyndall (bottom left) and Jack Drew (bottom right) received their 3rd year perfect attendance awards.

Their dedication and support for our Sunday School Program is an example we all should follow. Congratulations and may God continue to bless them as they work for His glory.





Westside To Celebrate 35 Years

Back in February of 1977, a small group of people met in a home with the vision of beginning a new church on the west side of Kinston. On Sunday, March 6, 1977, with 29 people, Westside Original Free Will Baptist Church was born. It was officially chartered on May 3, 1977.

After a few months of in-home meetings, land was purchased on Lynn Drive, dirt was turned, and construction began on a modest building in November 1977. Over the years, more land and more construction have been added to the footprint on Lynn Drive. The newest facility, the Family Life Center, was dedicated in February 2006.

Throughout the years, God has blessed Westside with pastors who have led the church to be the people He desires us to be. These faithful men have served as senior, youth or interim pastors: the Rev. Reb Lancaster, the Rev. Clifton Rice, the Rev. Wayne King, the Rev. Jeff Daughtry, the Rev. Buddy Sasser, the Rev. Chris Singleton (senior pastors), the Rev. John Robert Harris (youth), the Rev. W. H. Willis (interim), Dr. K. David Hines (interim), and the Rev. Mike Barnhill (interim). Since

2008, our Wednesday night youth services have been led by James Wiggins, a Mount Olive College student. In July of 2011, God led the Rev. Michael Woolard ("Pastor Mike") and his wife Kristi to Westside where they have been serving, leading, and teaching the church to follow the vision God has given them.

On May 6, 2012, Westside will celebrate their 35th anniversary with a special day of singing, preaching, fellowship and lunch. Pastor Mike will be bringing the morning message. Come and experience with us what God has in store for Westside!

We also invite you to attend our Spring Revival on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights, May 21–23, beginning at 7 P.M. each night. Evangelist Jacob Berry will be the speaker.

Our vision at Westside is to know Jesus and to make Him known to others. If you are seeking a church home where you can learn, grow your relationship with the Lord, and get involved in doing God's Kingdom work, Westside is the place for you. We welcome you to worship with us. There is something here for everyone.



In His Service

On Sunday March 4, the members of Free Union Church in Pinetown, NC hosted a reception honoring Mrs. Betty Whitley and Mr. Charlie Keech for their many years of service to the church, the community, and their Lord. Family and friends were present to celebrate the occasion.

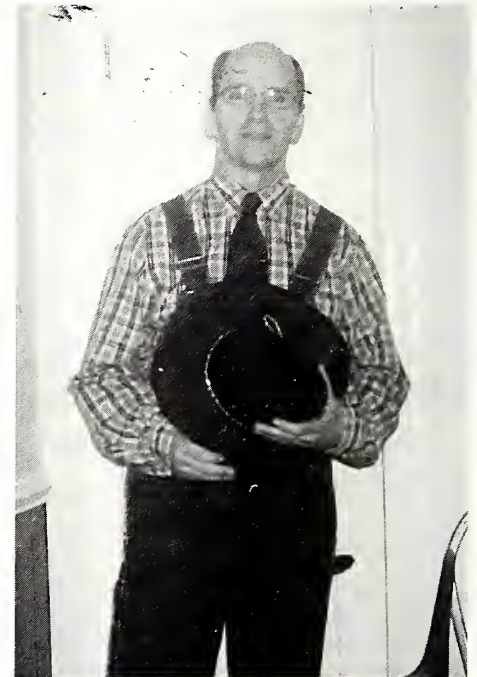
Miss Betty and Mr. Charlie have been a part of Free Union all of their lives. Miss Betty has been a Sunday School teacher and a member of the Woman's Auxiliary; Mr. Charlie, a teacher, deacon, and chairman of the board. They have filled in whenever needed at a moment's notice, and have been a positive role model for all ages. Miss Betty and Mr. Charlie, we thank you for your hard work and for staying the course to further the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

The Greatest Roundup

The Rev. Richard Whitman, pastor of Smyrna Church in the Meadow community (Cape Fear Conference) chose his topic for the February 26 sermon, "The Greatest Roundup" closing Sunday School Awareness Month.

The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year with the theme, "Working For God With Endurance" and with February being Sunday School Month, "Bringing the church and family together" was stressed.

The first Sunday of the month the church established prayer partners. For second Sunday, each class did valentines for patients at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Fayetteville and for church shut-ins. For third Sunday, classroom teachers, helpers, and assistants, along with Sunday School officers were awarded boxes of Valentine candy. For "round-up" Sunday, the Rev. Whitman closed the celebration in his special attire using scripture from Revelation 19:4-21.



Wood 50th Anniversary

Charles and Dorothy Wood of Pine Level celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, March 24, 2012 with a reception at Holt Lake Bar-B-Que and Seafood in Smithfield, NC. The hosts of the celebration were the couples' children, Ms. Tami Wood of Winston Salem, NC and Mr. and Mrs. Woody Wood and their children Sarah and Zachary, of Pine Level, NC. The honored couple attend Yelverton Grove Church, Smithfield.

An Enduring Faith (continued from page 4)

God. As a teenager, when I had a need or question, it was my mother with whom I would talk. During this time, my father was there for me, as well, but it was easier to talk with my mother.

With all of the ups and downs in a pastor's family, I never saw my mother give up hope or say she wanted out. She was willing to stick it out, standing beside my father "for better, and for worse." I cannot remember a particular Bible verse she taught me, or a particular Bible story, but what I do have is a faith that has been transferred and made my own. To me, that is the principle to be learned from

Paul's message to Timothy.

I believe that something must have been transferred because here I am, a pastor with my own family. I have exchanged one "fish bowl" for another, and have brought along my own family for the journey. I, too, am away from my family constantly, leaving my wife Jennifer to provide the majority of nurturing to our children. She has accepted this role graciously and does the best she can to pass on our faith to our children. Again, our children might not be able to remember one particular Bible verse or Bible song their mother taught them, but what they will have, though, is

a love for God and for others; this, they will receive from their mother.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism begins with the question, "What is the chief end of man?" The answer is simple: "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever." I believe this has been the unspoken goal of my mother, my wife, and countless other Christian women throughout history. They not only strive to live this for themselves, but to also raise their children to do the same. This is the type of faith Paul affirmed in Timothy's life. This is the type of faith that truly is an enduring faith.



The Reverend Brad Williamson is Pastor of Macedonia OFWB Church, Craven County. He is the husband of Jennifer, and father of Jonathan, Rebecca, Elizabeth, and Lydia. He received a B.A. in Religion from Mount Olive College, and a M.Div. in Christian Ministry with Biblical Languages from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He currently is enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry program at Campbell University Divinity School.

The Milkshake (continued from page 5)

Today on April 5, 2012, 13 years have passed since first hearing that love story; my wife and I stopped in for a shake and a visit with Mr. Canady. He was very thin and frail. His mind was still sharp. The weight of a gallon of Maola Milk was almost too much for him to lift. He spoke lovingly of his wife once again. As I got in the car to leave, I wondered how much longer Mr. Canady would be able to make milkshakes and share his wisdom of life?

Milkshakes are not magical. They are simply a blended concoction of ice cream, milk, and flavors that somehow turn into a wonderful creation. I was reminded as I drank my shake alone at Burger King in Germany in the summer of 1999, that milkshakes are better when you have company. Life is that way too; it is not meant to be lived alone. Life might be better if we drank more milk shakes while spending time with people who enrich our lives. I'll have one more vanilla shake, how about you?

NCFCM Upcoming Events (continued from page 34)

the Foundation through the establishment of an endowment or through designated gifts. Financial or in kind gift support may be applied to the work and advancement of the Foundation, to scholarships for students preparing for ministry, or to named endowments. Individuals, families, conferences, and churches are also invited to establish new endowments with the Foundation to benefit their desired philanthropic initiatives.

Conclusion

The Foundation will continue to fulfill its mission "to provide a means, heretofore not available, to strengthen the work of our churches and ministries in advancing the Christian faith for present and future generations." The Foundation Board of Directors are composed of extremely well-qualified Original Free Will Baptists who have all been successful in their own areas of expertise and who have a passion for seeing our denomination, churches, and individuals succeed in the cause for Christ. The responsibility to carry out the plans of the Board falls largely to one part-time staff person, Mrs. Bertie Sanders, who is arguably the Foundation's most valuable asset. These capable men and women will continue to determine, plan, and implement the most fruitful course to achieve the Foundation's mission.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU HAVE:

A new address, received damaged or duplicate copies, missed an issue, experienced any billing problems, or you want to renew or cancel a subscription. You may contact us by e-mail at: <amy@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (252) 746-6128 or (800) 849-3927.

Advertising Rates

- Black/White—1/8 page (business card size) . . . \$30
- Black/White—1/4 page \$40
- Black/White—1/2 page \$50
- Black/White—3/4 page \$60
- Black/White—Full page \$70
- Full Color Centerfold—Left Side \$175
- Full Color Centerfold—Right Side \$175
- Full Color Centerfold—Both Sides \$325
- Full Color Inside Front Cover—Full Page. . . . \$150
- Full Color Inside Back Cover—Full Page \$150
- Full Color Back Cover. \$200
- Churches & Ministry Positions \$20
(maximum of 4 lines)

Ad prices are for single/first runs. There is a 25% discount on each additional run.

The printing of ads is contingent on the availability of space and we reserve the right to condense ad space as necessary. You will be charged only for the actual size used.

We reserve the right to refuse any material that is not consistent with our principles and practices as a Christian company and as a ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

These advertising rates are for, and advertising is permitted by, OFWB churches and auxiliary organizations, as well as qualified business organizations. These charges apply to any announcements, coming event listings, invitations, and registration forms. If you have any questions, contact the editor by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227. **There is no charge for feature article submissions from OFWB churches/members or news releases of recent OFWB church happenings.**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE INFORMATION

The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) **When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before.**

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Articles sent for publication should be sent in Microsoft Word or Macintosh Pages. Files sent in Microsoft Publisher, .PDF, or others cannot be used.

PHOTO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Your digital photos are more likely to be included in the publication if the following guidelines are followed:

1. Set digital cameras at the highest resolution possible. We realize that it takes longer to e-mail larger files, but print requires a higher resolution than the web.
2. When e-mailing photos, please send them one photo at a time. This ensures that there will not be any file compression and your photo will e-mail at the largest size. Please do not send photographs within the body of the article. Each photo should be sent in a separate e-mail in JPEG format. If there is more than one picture, note 1 of ?, 2 of ?, etc. in the subject line.
3. Large group photos typically do not work well. If taking photos of a group activity, submit several photos of individuals or small groups, and we'll select the ones to print.
4. Get in close—we like to see smiling faces. Only photographs that are close to the subject matter and are in focus reproduce well.
5. If possible, please include the names of all the people in each photo. Identify from left to right and from front to back.
6. Non-digital photos can be sent to our office. However, pictures will not be returned unless there is an appropriate self-addressed stamped envelope included!

ADVERTISING SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Ad materials should be sent in Microsoft Word or Macintosh Pages. Files sent in Microsoft Publisher, .PDF, or others cannot be used. Camera-ready artwork is generally not accepted. However, with prior approval, we will accept files in Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator (currently Adobe Creative Suite 3 or earlier).

You may submit items in any of the following ways:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
P.O. Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513.

**A MUST
HAVE FOR ANY
CHRISTIAN!**

**THE NEXT TIME GOD ASKS
YOU TO SPEAK, BE READY!**

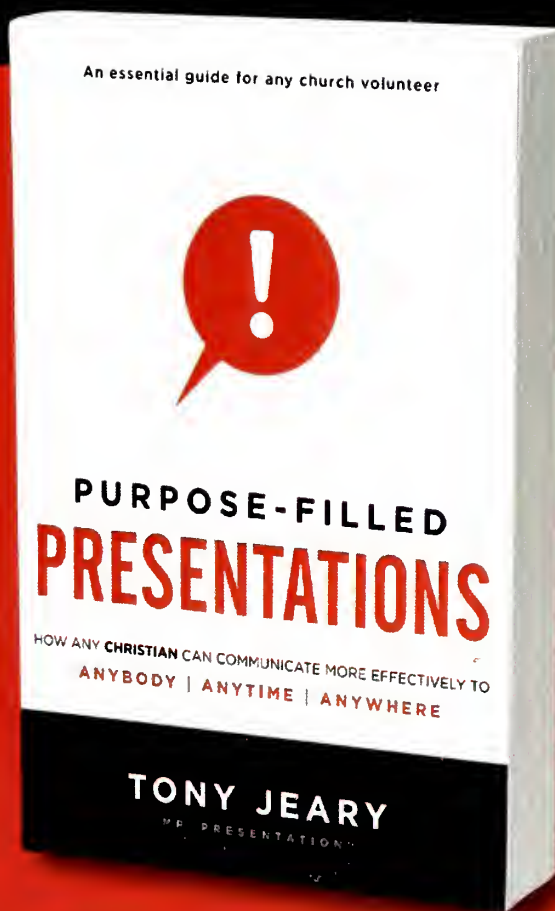
PURPOSE-FILLED PRESENTATIONS

**How Any Christian Can
Communicate More Effectively
to Anybody, Anytime, Anywhere**

Chances are, if you're active in your church, at some point you'll have to talk to people. Your presentation may be informal—like greeting people at the door—or formal—like sharing your testimony before a congregation. But either way, it will make an impact.

Master presenter Tony Jeary uses his experience training top CEOs around the world to provide a unique, practical handbook for any teacher, preacher, leader, speaker—any Christian involved in ministry.

Gain confidence, enhance your credibility, and maximize your response—prepare with purpose.



“Speaking is a skill, which means it can be learned, particularly if you have the right teacher. Tony Jeary is the right teacher.”

—Zig Ziglar, The Zig Ziglar Corporation

“I encourage you to try the Jeary Theory—practical steps to make your presentation effective.”

—John Maxwell, Founder, INJOY Ministries

“Whether you're a Sunday school teacher, a small group leader, or a pastor, this book will give you the tools you need to make your presentations count!”

—Ken Blanchard, coauthor of *The One Minute Manager®* and *Lead Like Jesus*

Retail \$14.99
On Sale \$10.97
(while supplies last)

To order, call 1.800.849.3927 ext. 221 or visit one of our store locations at:

Ayden Bible & Bookstore
3928 Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-6128

Kinston Bible & Bookstore
Vernon Park Mall
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 527-2843

New Bern Bible & Bookstore
1232 S. Glenburnie Rd.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 638-6193

Standard®
PUBLISHING
Bringing The Word to Life



NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

A Foundation for the Future of Original Free Will Baptists

Presents a Workshop on

How to Establish and Grow Your Church Endowment

at the

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

May 23, 2012

from 1:30–2:30 P.M.

For more information on the establishing of church endowments and the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries, please see our section inside.

*Footprints convey that someone has gone before us,
Leaving us a marked way;
And remind us that we also can leave a marked way
For those who come after us.*



PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID 28513
USPS 2094-4000

DUKE UNIVERSITY
PERKINS LIBRARY
DURHAM, NC 27706

CONGRESS

of America

T · F · W · B

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

... and such is
... resolutions, in
... this office
... that

... the people
... We have unshaken them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement at home. We have unshaken them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement at home. We have unshaken them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement at home.

... We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them as we hold the rest of mankind, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connections between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be terminated, and that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connections between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be terminated.

... And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

John Hancock
Samuel Adams
John Adams
James Otis
Robert Morris
Benjamin Franklin
Thomas Jefferson
George Washington
John Jay
James Madison
Giles
John Rutledge
Edmund Randolph
George Wythe

July 2012

2012-2013 Standard Lesson Commentary



Paperback
022000212 • \$16.99

Hardback
027403212 • \$19.99

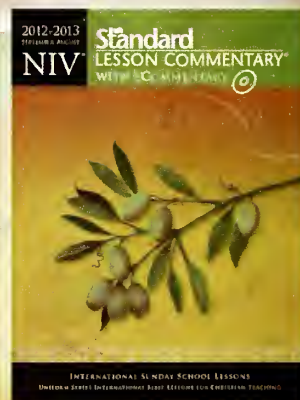
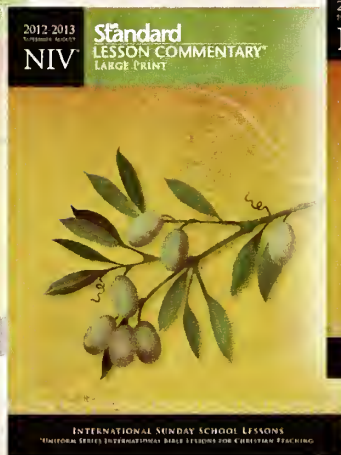
Large Print
022100212 • \$19.99

eCommentary
020510212 • \$22.99

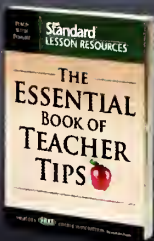
Paperback
023200212 • \$16.99

Large Print
023100212 • \$19.99

eCommentary
020520212 • \$22.99



Standard
PUBLISHING
Bringing The Word to Life



- Perfect complement to standard lesson commentary® or any ISSL curriculum
- 52 informative articles with over 150 ideas for effective lesson presentations
- Undated articles to use throughout the year every year

025485312 • \$12.99 (ON SALE \$9.97)

**Place
your
order
today!**



CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!

2012

July

Mount Olive College Month

The Original Free Will Baptist Monthly Planner

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
Pee Dee Youth @ Cragmont (2-5)				Bed, Breakfast, & Blessing @ Cragmont (5-9)		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Bed, Breakfast, & Blessing (5-9)		General Youth II @ Cragmont (9-14)				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
General Youth I @ Cragmont (16-21)						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Young People's Bible @ Cragmont (23-27)						
29	30	31				
Cornerstone Women's @ Cragmont (29-August 3)						

REFLECTIONS

A Guest Editorial

Words Matter

By The Reverend Mark Hobbs

I was sad when driving away from Mount Olive College after the Mission Rally on May 23. An inspiring service was held detailing many highlights of the past 50 years of Original Free Will Baptist Foreign Mission work around the globe. A tribute to Missionary Willem van der Plas was shared. As the 100th Session of the Original Free Will Baptists was called to order nearly 12 hours earlier, an announcement was made sharing the news that the Rev. C.H. Overman had died. As we headed home, my wife and I reflected on the many events of the day. Things would never be the same.

Growing up a congregant of Hopewell Church near Smithfield, I read our denominational paper, *The Free Will Baptist*. Along the way I became familiar with a man through his words. The Rev. C.H. Overman wrote many editorials. I believe he believed the words he carefully chose to place in the pages of *The Free Will Baptist*. Of course, I did not agree with everything he wrote. That was not his intention. I believe he wanted me and all other readers to think. Thinking is not something many people want to do any more. That takes time, and you

know how it is these days. Everybody is so busy doing whatever it is they do they don't have time to think or to pray. As 16-year editor or assistant editor, C.H. caused me to think a lot and to pray a lot. I will miss that.

Preacher Overman served as pastor at least 23 times to various flocks that were in need of a man called by God. I believe thousands of people heard the Gospel proclaimed by this man that liked to laugh, tell jokes, and sing powerful hymns of our faith. I'm certain many of his former parishioners wish they could hear one more story or one more song.

If you add up all the years Denominational Servant Overman gave to the Original Free Will Baptists, you'll come up with over 90 years of service. The League, the Central Conference, the State Convention, and the Sunday School Convention all benefited from the wisdom and care of this servant. Our entire denomination has been strengthened and guided by C.H. Our loss is great.

Public Educator Overman taught public school for 20 years. Youngsters that never stepped into a church building were instructed by a faith-

filled man. Rotarian Overman served his organization for 31 years, with 16 years perfect attendance.

Father Overman blessed his four children. Husband Overman cherished his two brides, Janice and Ruby. Love is a gift from God, and C. H. shared that love.

As an adult male in my early 50s, I realize that C.H. served with distinction for 60 years (1952–2012) as an ordained Free Will Baptist preacher. For all my life, the Rev. Overman has been praying, preaching, teaching, writing, and testifying about God's grace, mercy, and love. I somehow feel alone and unprotected. That's how I felt that night while leaving the Mission Rally. In the days since, I have reread many of C.H.'s editorials, thought much about our conversations, and revisited in my mind meetings in which we shared. The words that C.H. wrote in the September 2011 issue of *The Free Will Baptist* are still correct, "His legacy will live on." I know this to be true. The Rev. C.H. Overman's life of faith, words of nurture, correction, and love will continue to guide me on my faith journey.



Mark S. Hobbs, born to Shelton and Jane Hobbs of Smithfield, NC, was nurtured in the Christian faith at Hopewell Church where he and Gracelyn married in 1980 and was ordained in November 1980 by the Cape Fear Conference. He graduated from Mount Olive College, Barton College, and Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest. After a five year pastorate at First Church, Rocky Mount, he served as an Air Force Chaplain for 20 years until retirement in 2006. He has served as pastor at Snow Hill Church and taught Air Force Junior ROTC at North Johnston High School since 2006. He serves on the Central Conference Ordaining Board, Chaplaincy Commission, and Free Will Baptist Press Board. His three children and two grandchildren are gifts from God.



THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

July 2012

Volume 130 • Number 7

Vice President and Managing Editor

Darren E. Davenport

darrend@fwbpress.com, editor@fwbpress.com

Production Manager

Jerry Goff

jerry@fwbpress.com

Circulation, Accounts Receivable

Amy Stokes

amy@fwbpress.com

Accounts Payable

Wallie Hargrove

Editorial Assistants

Dixie McLawhorn, Carlton Oakley

Graphic Designers

Jerry Goff, Amy Benson,

Nathaniel Ingram, Dixie McLawhorn

Production Team

Ronnie Jones, Ted Johnston,

Joshua Roundtree, Johnnie Stancill



www.fwbpress.com

President

Jeff Daughtry

jeff@fwbpress.com

Board of Directors

Frank Flowers (Chairman), Central

C. H. Overman (Vice Chairman), Central

Royce Reynolds (Secretary), Albemarle

Joe Ballance, Cape Fear • Kelley Smart, Central

Mike Scott, Eastern • Nancy Hardee, Pee Dee

Mark Hobbs, Central • Loydene Proctor, Western

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.

Subscription Prices: All subscriptions are payable in advance. 1 year (12 issues) \$15
2 years (24 issues) \$27
4 years (48 issues) \$53.

A **Bundle Plan** (\$8.50 each) and an **Every-Family Plan** (\$11.75 each) is also available. Call or e-mail circulation or the editor for more details.

© 2012 *The Free Will Baptist* • All Rights Reserved.

The Free Will Baptist is edited and published monthly by the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc., 3926 Lee Street, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159. Second-class postage paid at Ayden, North Carolina (USPS 2094-4000).

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Free Will Baptist Press, P.O. Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513-0159.

FEATURES & COLUMNS

- 2** *Reflections: A Guest Editorial*
- 4** *A Call for Explicit Agreement, Visible Unity, and Unusual Prayer for Our Nation and Churches*
- 5** *Food for Thought*
- 6** *The Reverend C. H. Overman*
- 23** *Pondering the Past with Celia Hales*
- 28** *Lesson Inner View with Adrian Grubbs*
- 29** *Psalms for the Soul with Linda Herring*
- 34** *A Sling and a Stone with Marc Boswell*

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- 11** Mount Olive College
- 12** FWB Press
- 13** Children's Home
- 17** Sunday School
- 24** Foreign Missions

ANCILLARY MINISTRIES

- 30** NC Foundation for Christian Ministries
- 32** Youth Convention
- 33** Camp Vandemere

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

ON THE COVER

The flag of the United States of America with the Declaration of Independence superimposed into the background.

CONTENTS

RECEIVED

JUL 05 2012

DIVINITY SCHOOL LIBRARY
DUKE UNIVERSITY

A Call for Explicit Agreement, Visible Unity, and Unusual Prayer for Our Nation and Churches

By The Reverend Harold Jones

I have had the privilege over my lifetime to travel to many countries around the world. The sites have been wonderful and the people warm and interesting. I sincerely love the people I have met over the years and thank God for the opportunities I have had to serve Him in other parts of the world. But as much as I love to be in those countries there is still no country like the United States of America. This country has given us freedom unprecedented in history. It has given us security, prosperity, and the right to worship as we desire. As I look at our country today, however, I am saddened at what I see and wonder how long these precious freedoms will last.

The pilgrims traveled across the treacherous Atlantic on the Mayflower in 1620 and landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts to escape the volatile political environment in England and the Netherlands. Before landing, they signed the Mayflower Compact, which stated the purpose for coming to this new land, "For the glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith...." Not everyone on the ship signed it, but it was the first governing document for Plymouth Colony. Today there are voices ringing across the land that want to change history, but there purpose was clear.

The Revolutionary War was fought with England from 1775–1783 to gain freedom as a nation. During the war, prayers were offered daily for God's divine protection. Throughout the war there were things that happened that turned the tide of the battles that could only be attributed to God. The victory was won and the nation gained its freedom. Following the war there was a disturbing moral and spiritual decline across the land. J. Edwin Orr wrote the following about this period: "Not many people realized that in the wake of the American Revolution there was a moral slump. Drunkenness

became epidemic. Out of a population of five million, 300,000 were confirmed drunkards; Profanity was of the most shocking kind. For the first time in the history of the American settlement, women were afraid to go out at night for fear of assault. Bank robberies were a daily occurrence." The churches were losing more members than they were gaining. "The Chief Justice of the United States, John Marshall, wrote to the Bishop of Virginia, James Madison, that the Church was too far gone ever to be redeemed. Voltaire averred and Tom Paine echoed, Christianity will be forgotten in thirty years."

At the Constitutional Convention in May 14–September 17, 1787, where they were attempting to write a constitution to govern the United States of America, they were making no progress. They were bickering with one another and divided into different groups, more concerned about their regional interests than the overall welfare of the nation. At this point, 81 year old Benjamin Franklin stood and addressed the delegates with the following: "I have lived, Sir, a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that **God** governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings that "except the Lord build they labor in vain that build it." I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel: we shall be divided by our little partial, local interests, our projects will be confounded and we ourselves shall become a reproach and a byword down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter, from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing government by human

wisdom and leave it to chance, war, and conquest.

I therefore beg leave to move—that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of this City be requested to officiate in that Service."

They began to pray and the results was one of the greatest documents ever written by man to govern a nation—The Constitution of the United States of America.

The country, however, was still in trouble. The Constitution did not satisfy the moral and spiritual needs. Without a moral and spiritual foundation, what good is a great Constitution? A call was made for "explicit agreement, visible unity, unusual prayer." This was based on a book written by Jonathan Edwards, a famous New England preacher, who preached the unforgettable sermon, "Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God." The book was published in 1747 and was instrumental in the first great awakening.

"In New England, there was a man named Isaac Backus, a Baptist pastor, who in 1794, when conditions were at their worst, addressed an urgent plea for prayer for revival to pastors of every Christian denomination in the United States. Churches knew that their backs were to the wall. All the churches adopted the plan until America, like Britain was interlaced with a network of prayer meetings, which set aside the first Monday of each month to pray. It was not long before revival came." This was called the second great awakening.

Friends, we need a great awakening today. Look at our nation. It is not safe for children to play out of the site of a parent or guardian for fear of a predator.

article continued on next page

Food For Thought

By The Reverend Mark Hobbs

It was one of those weeks. Every moment was crammed full of things to do and people to see. When I got home I had just a few minutes before I had to leave again. I decided to use my precious minutes walking. I headed south on the shoulder of the road, and then I turned and headed back toward the house. I realized the highway department had cut the grass along the highway right of way. As I neared the drive I noticed an orange color spread along the grass. It looked like orange cotton candy strewn everywhere. I stepped closer and I saw...

A few weeks earlier I was headed to the barn when I observed our most ferocious cat, Chips, a furry gray native of Duplin County. She was in the dog yard eating dog food out of my dog, Wags', bowl. Tux, a black female cat with a white fur strip that runs from under her neck to her tail, was munching on the cat food near the barn. She had adopted us about four weeks earlier. We knew nothing of her, except she was like Zaccheus—up a tree on the day we met her. Tux stayed up the tall pine for hours until my daughter Kate, came home from school. Kate went and talked sweetly to the cat and Tux came down. Tux is now a regular at the food bowl. As I observed the eating habits of these two felines I saw OMJ (Orange Man Junior) peering from the woods that are about 20 yards from the barn. OMJ came to our house about four months ago; he looked just like another cat we had loved. OMJ was not like Chips. Chips demanded to be rubbed; if we did not rub her she would nip our legs with her sharp teeth. Tux fell in front of us as we traveled across the

yard. She looked up at us with pleading eyes, "Rub me please." OMJ refused to let us get close to him. We called to him. He would run back to the woods. We have three bowls loaded with cat food. They are filled each morning and evening. The food is theirs; it's our gift to them. OMJ never ate when we were nearby. He would sneak food when he thought we were not watching or close by.

I believe OMJ has suffered like many people have suffered. OMJ has always been welcome to eat from our food and drink from our water bowls. We have called to him in hopes he would let us love him with hugs and rubs. We could not protect him from fleas. Lots of people are just as afraid of God as OMJ has been of us. John 3:16 reminds all of God's certain love for us. Yet many refuse to draw near; they prefer to remain on the edges of faith like OMJ does the woods. They try to sneak and steal blessings from God as OMJ does the food from the food bowl. It makes me sad to think of people living like this. I want everyone to be wise and soak up God's grace, instead of living in fear.

...As I stepped closer to the spot of the cotton candy looking substance, I realized no cotton candy was strewn. The giant grass cutter had clipped OMJ. He lay there beside the ditch. He did not move; he did not run. OMJ was dead. His time had come to an end and my opportunity to shower him with love was gone. When God calls to us let us run to Him so He can love us as He desires.

Visible Unity and Unusual Prayer *(continued from previous page)*

Murders and robberies are common place. The family is under attack from all sides. There is an attempt to redefine the family. Life is ended for over a million unborn babies every year. Materialism is glorified. Darwinism is taught rather than God the Creator. We are told, from some sectors of society, that it is wrong to pray "in the name of Jesus." We have become so politically correct that we have to be careful, lest we offend anyone, anyone but a Christian. It seems that Christians are open game. We are a nation intoxicated with illegal drugs and legal alcohol. Churches are declining all across America. We are in trouble. It is time to once again call for "explicit agreement, visible unity, unusual prayer."

The situation we are in today can only

be addressed by prayer. We need the intervention of God. We need a Heaven sent move of the Holy Spirit across this land. The Bible says in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

On this fourth of July, as we celebrate our freedoms with parades, fireworks, and barbecues, please take a moment from the excitement of the day and look at the true state of our nation. Pray for God to send a great awakening once again to this land. All great revivals have begun with prayer. When just a few see the state of the nation

and the churches from a broken heart and fall on their face before God and cry for revival, revival comes.

Can Free Will Baptists lead the way? The answer is yes, if we will sincerely pray. I challenge every pastor, every church, and every member to set aside time each day to earnestly pray for revival. I further urge all of our conferences and associations to come together and set coordinated times of prayer for revival. Could we set aside one-half of our prayer meetings to just pray for revival and revival alone?

It is now time for the church to be the church and take a stand—on our knees. For only God can help us, save us, and revive us. LET US PRAY!

The Reverend C. H. Overman

October 31, 1930–May 23, 2012

In celebrating the life of the Reverend C. H. Overman, we remember his life was lived to the glory of God. When reflecting upon life and ministry, one can say with the hymn writer:

Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory—great things He hath done!

His great life, which brought glory to God, began at the age of fourteen when he made his confession of faith in Christ and united with Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Wayne County, North Carolina. In 1950, he heard the voice of God saying: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” (Isaiah 6:8 kjv). He answered God’s call by responding: “Here am I; send me” (Isaiah 6:8). After sharing this call with his church, he was presented his “Certificate of License” into the Gospel ministry in June of 1950. On August 30, 1952, he was ordained into the Gospel ministry by the Western Conference in a service held at Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Kenly, North Carolina. Members of the Ordaining Council were The Reverends Fred A. Rivenbark, James A. Evans, and Floyd B. Cherry. This year made his 60th year as an ordained minister.

After graduating from Nahunta High School of Wayne County in



1949, he began his preparation for Christian ministry. He attended the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee from 1950–1952. He continued his college education at Atlantic Christian College in Wilson, graduating in 1957 with a major in religion and a minor in social studies.

Later, during the summers of 1969 and 1970 he completed his “Teacher Certification” studies at East Carolina University.

C.H. truly had a pastor’s heart. When observing his life, the words of Isaiah reflect his joy of serving the Lord as a pastor: “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings” (Isaiah 61:1 kjv). This passage is a shadow of the anointed Christ who would come as the Savior of humankind, yet the anointing of the Holy Spirit is upon those who answer God’s call to proclaim the Gospel message of salvation and discipleship. One of his greatest joys was to see people confess and believe in Jesus Christ with their heart as the resurrected Savior. Also as a teacher, he found great joy in making disciples through teaching and training believers through the Word. He served through his sixty years of ministry the following churches:

*Soundside, Malachi’s Chapel, Gum Neck, Columbia
*Memorial Chapel Church, FWB Children’s Home, Middlesex
*First Church, Goldsboro
*Ayden Church, Ayden
*First Church, Kinston
*Hickory Grove Church, Stokes

Spring Branch Church, Walstonburg
Grimsley Church, Maury
Aspen Grove Church, Fountain
Little Creek Church, Ayden
Rose Hill Church, Winterville

**Churches served on more than one occasion, either as regular pastor or interim pastor.*

When thinking upon his pastoral work, the following poem comes to mind entitled, *Pastor*:

Thank you, Pastor, For seeing the world through eyes of Compassion...Serving God’s people with Humility of heart...
Helping the needy with hands of Mercy...Lighting the way with the Father’s Love. —Anonymous

His dedication to serving his Lord has enabled him to touch countless lives, where his memory will fondly be remembered. It is evident as one reviews his service to the Original Free Will Baptists of his great love for the denomination, having served in the following ways:

- *Assistant Editor and Editor of the Free Will Baptist Press, 16 years
 - Recording Secretary of the State Convention, 7 years; vice-president for 4 years
 - Treasurer of the Fourth Union of the Central conference, 2 years
 - Cragmont Assembly (1951)
(camp bus driver, instructor for State Sunday School Convention: Counselor of Christian Cadet Week for five years)
 - Recording Secretary of the Central Conference, 6 years
 - *Member of the Central Conference Ordaining Board, 7 years
 - Vice President of the North Carolina Ministerial Association, 2 years; president for 2 years
 - Member of the Sunday School Convention Executive Committee, 8 years
 - Vice President of the State League Convention, 6 years
 - Chairman of the Convention's Board of Publications, 2 years
 - Executive Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, 6 years
 - Chairman of the Convention's Project Solution Task Force Committee, 8 years
 - Member of the Barrow Endowment Fund Committee at Mount Olive College
 - Editor Emeritus of the Free Will Baptist Press
-

During the last few years, he enjoyed writing his monthly article in *The Free Will Baptist* entitled, "Reflections." His love and desire for this ministry to grow was seen through his visits to The Press one to three times a week. The denomination owes a debt of gratitude for his leadership within the Original Free Will Baptists for the cause of Christ. He made his mark upon the denomination and he will be missed. His encouragement to ministers and laity alike should inspire all to continue to move forward telling the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

Family was also very important to C. H. Overman. His parents were the late Clarence Henry Overman, Sr. and Fannie Bass Overman. He was the third child in a family of four children, a brother, Quentin, and two sisters, Athalene and Janice. On August 16, 1952, he married Janice Howell, daughter of Norman and Mamie Howell. The wedding took place at Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville. Two children were born to this union, David Howell (Hal) and Jeanne. His wife, Janice, went to be with the Lord on February 5, 1978.

In June of 1978, C. H. met Ruby Nichols Allen of Farmville. In December of 1978, C. H. and Ruby were married in

the Marlboro Original Free Will Baptist Church. With this marriage, he became the father of two more children, Jeffrey, who was ten years old at the time, and Tina, who was seven.

C. H. and Ruby also have two sons-in-law. Greg Gaylor (Jeannie's husband) and Larry Mann (Tina's husband); two daughters-in-law, Lisa (Hal's wife) and Jenean (Jeff's wife); five grandchildren, Cody Gaylor, Carly Gaylor, Jena Allen, Logan Mann, and Macy Mann.

The testimony of C. H. continues to live among this world, an example of placing one's trust completely in Christ, knowing when we acknowledge Him in all His ways, He will direct our paths. His example teaches one to lean completely on Jesus. With the Apostle Paul he could say: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8 KJV).

He has now received his crown of righteousness and has entered the Father's house.

On Saturday, May 26, 2012 at 11 A.M., a Service of Christian Witness to the Resurrection for C. H. was held at the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church. The presiding minister was the Reverend Ronnie V. Hobgood, assisted by the Reverends Harry Grubbs, Mike Rowell, and Roger Haithcock. Mrs. Sandra Jones shared in a special tribute to his life. Mitzi C. Hobgood served as organist, the Pittman Family and the Brickhouse family provided special music. The graveside service was conducted at 2 P.M. at the Pikeville cemetery with the Christian Flag service by the Central Conference and members of the Ayden Rotary Club serving as pallbearers.

Memorial contributions may be made in his honor to the Reverend Clarence H. Overman Jr. and Janice Howell Overman, RN Endowed Scholarship Fund at Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson St., Mount Olive, NC 28365.

Our prayers continue to go out to Ruby, his devoted wife in ministry, and all his family members and friends. May all continue through the example of C. H. Overman to be salt and light as we witness to our world that Jesus is "The resurrection and the life" (John 11:25 KJV).



Educational Opportunities at MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Space Available at MOC!

It's not too late to apply for fall 2012. Recently graduated high school students and college transfers apply online at <www.moc.edu>. Call Admissions at (919) 658-2502 to make an appointment for a campus tour. Complete your FAFSA (free application for federal student aid) at <www.fafsa.ed.gov>. For help with this form and other questions about financial aid, contact Admissions at (919) 658-2502.

Scholarships Available

MOC offers the OFWB tuition grant for \$3,000 to full-time college students attending the daytime program. Scholarships for academic merit, music and artistic talent, and athletic skills are also available.

Teacher Education Programs

in early childhood, elementary education, physical education, math, science, English, social studies, music, and agriculture are now available at Mount Olive College. Teacher licensure is also available for candidates who already have completed their degrees in these areas of study. Contact Dr. Tommy Benson, education chair, at <tbenson@moc.edu> for more information.

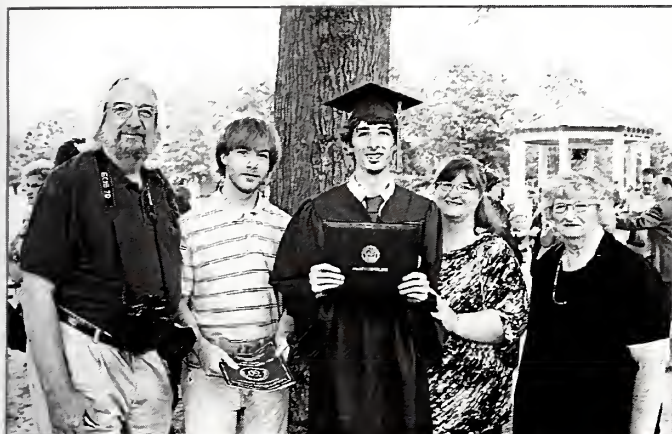
RN to BSN Online Program

Applications for the RN to BSN program are now being accepted. Students wishing to begin in fall 2012 can begin their application process now. To qualify for admission, students must be licensed RN's. To learn more about this program, contact Joy Kieffer, nursing program coordinator, at <jkieffer@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854.

One-Night-a-Week Programs for Adults

One-night-a-week college programs for adults are available at Mount Olive, New Bern, Jacksonville, Washington, Wilmington, and Research Triangle Park. The tuition cost for these programs is offered at a reduced rate. Complete the free online application at <www.moc.edu> and learn more about our programs by clicking on the location nearest your home or workplace. Multiple start dates are available each semester, so ask about these convenient programs and how you can complete your degree. Call 1-800-NEW GOAL. You will be connected to the location nearest your home. Financial aid is available.

2012 Graduates



Troy Herring and Family
(Pleasant Grove Church, Wayne County)



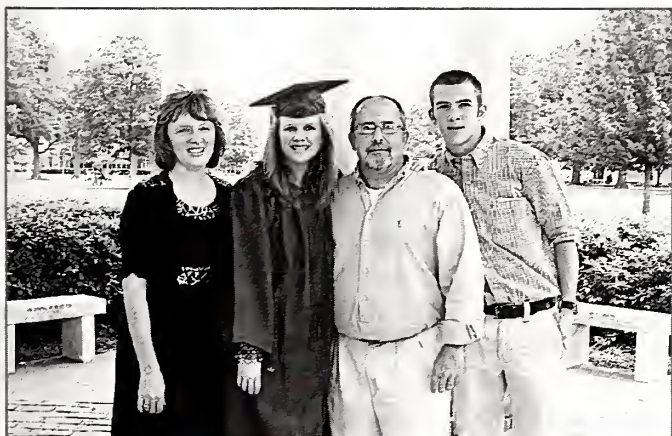
Josh Hobgood and Family
(La Grange Church, Lenoir County)



Audrey Owens and Family
(Wilson First Church, Wilson County)



Kayla Pridgen and Family
(Mt. Zion Church, Wilson County)



Brittani Schultze and Family
(Stoney Creek Church, Wayne County)



Samantha Webster and Family
(Ayden Church, Pitt County)

She's Not Just Clowning Around

Senior fine arts major Lindsey Merryfield graduated from Mount Olive College on May 5. The Goldsboro native then plans to pursue her dream of becoming a Ringling Brothers circus clown.

"My family laughed at me when I first told them," Merryfield said of becoming a clown. "They were like, 'you've gone to college for four years to try to join the circus?' But, seriously they've really supported me."

Merryfield hopes to utilize her performing, painting, and writing talents in the circus. "The possibilities are endless," she said. "Art comes in very handy in sewing costumes, designing makeup, making props, and writing gags. It all boils down to creativity."

Merryfield's creative gene was stirred early in life. "I was notorious for getting into trouble for drawing all over the walls when I was little," she confessed.

Although she loved to draw and perform, having participated in the Spring Creek High School marching band, concert band, and jazz band, when it came time to choose an educational path for college, Merryfield did not follow the creative avenue. Instead, she started out majoring in agriculture with the goal of one day becoming an Ag-Ed teacher. She changed her major twice before finally settling into her true passion—fine arts.

Sitting in the art studio in Laughinghouse Hall it is evident that Merryfield has found her niche. Applying bright yellows, greens, and reds to one of her many canvases she talks about her drawings, many of which are renderings of clowns that she knows personally.

"When most people think of clowns, they think of animal balloons, big red noses, and crazy costumes. In my drawings, I want people to wonder about the person behind the makeup. I want them to wonder who it is and how they got there," she said.

Merryfield's own interest in clowning came about unexpectedly. Her best friend from high school, Andrew Hicks, who is now himself a Ringling Brothers circus clown, introduced Merryfield to clowning.



"Clowning is such an emotional art, I've learned so much about myself by being a clown.... There's nothing better than being in a group of kids and doing something completely silly that they wish they could do themselves."

The pair has clowned at parties, festivals, fairs, churches, and schools. At first Merryfield looked at clowning as just a fun outlet, then she made the connection to something deeper: she realized that clowning could provide a creative outlet for her artistic expression.

"I know the exact date it happened," she said. Andrew and I were writing gags for a performance, but it just wasn't clicking for me. All of a sudden, he said, "This is not working; go get in the car."

He took Merryfield to a deserted, wooded area and then started acting crazy. "He was dancing and spinning in circles; it was completely undignified. He stopped and looked at me and said, 'Now I want to see you do it.' It took me a while to break my pride. Once I did, we were both just going crazy. After that day, I was a completely different person, and a completely different clown."

Merryfield is more comfortable with herself now. She has blossomed from the shy and reserved teenager to a confident young lady unafraid to express herself, not only in her clowning, but also in her everyday life.

"Clowning is such an emotional art," she said. "I've learned so much about myself by being a clown. As a performer you have to make yourself vulnerable to the audience. There is a creative process, but I think it's more about getting out there and making people laugh. There's nothing better than being in a group of kids and doing something completely silly that they wish they could do themselves. Everyone wishes that they could get up and do something crazy. But that's not normal. So, as clowns, we get the chance to do what's not normal."

Merryfield has experienced something else that not many do...the opportunity to use her clowning to break down barriers.

article continued on next page

Blackwell Hired as Executive Associate to the President



John Blackwell joins Mount Olive College as Executive Associate to the President.

Blackwell, who has relocated to Mount Olive, comes to The College after serving seven years as Dean of the Chapel at Kansas Wesleyan University and four years as Dean of the San Diego School of Christian Studies and Minister of Discipleship at First United Methodist Church in San Diego.

Blackwell and his wife, Nancy, have two adult children, Jaime and Davie, a daughter-in-law, Chynnene, along with three bulldogs. Blackwell's interests include reading, writing (he is the author of seven books, plus journal articles), piano, and travel. In 2009, Blackwell delivered the commencement address at Mount Olive College.

"I am very impressed with Mount Olive College," says Blackwell. "I believe that transformation through higher education is essential for our development as children of God." Blackwell hopes to help Mount Olive College blend strong academics, faith and learning, and church relations.

New Coaching Minor Coming to Mount Olive College

Beginning in fall 2012, Mount Olive College will offer a new coaching minor. Dr. Burt Lewis, chair of the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, said, "We are very excited to offer a coaching minor. Our department hopes this minor will be attractive to students who are interested in teaching and coaching at the middle school and high school levels."

Mount Olive College offers a versatile curriculum in Recreation & Leisure Studies, allowing students to specialize in Leisure Service Management, Recreational Therapy, Sports Management, Exercise Science, or the Teaching Licensure Program of Health and Physical Education. Dr. Lewis believes the new minor will give students seeking employment after graduation a competitive edge. "Over the last several years, our department has had approximately 45 individuals who have entered the school system(s) as a teacher/coach via the lateral

entry program. We believe they have been hired because they had a background in athletics and had the ability to coach."

The new coaching minor at The College will have a total of 21 subject hours with 7 unique classes, offering theoretical and practical knowledge in the aspects of coaching. One such class is sport psychology, a course intended to introduce students to the mental component of sports performance including the relationship of stress, anxiety, goal setting, and concentration to athletic performance. Another class offered will be strength and conditioning techniques, which was designed to incorporate research-based knowledge and apply practical applications in order to improve athletic performance, fitness, and quality of life for all populations. Dr. Lewis hopes the new coaching minor will serve as a recruiting tool to incoming athletes attending Mount Olive College.

Clowning Around *(continued from previous page)*

While on mission trips to Nicaragua and Puerto Rico, Merryfield used her clowning to bring smiles to impoverished children. When she returned from the trip, she captured the experience on canvas.

"The living conditions were horrible, but I didn't want to portray that. I wanted to portray the colors. I wanted people to see how I felt about it. It was a beautiful place and the people were beautiful and full of

life. They didn't know that they were poor. They were laughing and having fun."

The ability to make people laugh and forget their problems, if even for a short while, is one of the things that makes clowning so attractive to Merryfield. "In my heart, I love clowning, and I want to join the circus to be a light for others."

After graduating with her bachelor's degree in May, Merryfield will travel to

Texas to spend a week in clown school before auditioning for the big top. She will use the time to develop her clown character and refine her skills. But she won't learn how to be funny.

"I don't think you can learn to be funny; I really think that is a trait that is inside a person. Sometimes I look at a person and think, 'that person's got a little bit of clown in them,'" she smiled.

Report to the 2012 Convention of OFWB

By Jeff Daughtry, President

Thank you for supporting the Free Will Baptist Press. This is my first report to the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists since beginning my duties on July 1, 2011.

This report is presented in memory of the Rev. C.H. Overman who went to be with the Lord yesterday morning. His relationship with The Press goes back more than 55 years serving as Assistant Editor and Editor, and at his death he was serving as Editor Emeritus and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Congratulations to the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists on the celebration of our 100th Convention. The Press, in today's language, became a Free Will Baptist ministry at the first Convention in 1913.

Since 1873, The Press has been reporting the news to the people of the Free Will Baptist Church. The Press prints the "Good News" through Sunday School literature and the news of our denomination through our monthly magazine, *The Free Will Baptist*. We get the Word out through the sale of Bibles and Christian books at our three bookstores, located in Ayden, Kinston, and New Bern. We also assist our churches and ministries in proclaiming the Good News by supplying their printing needs.

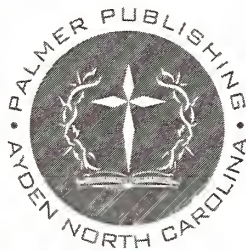
- I believe Free Will Baptists deserve the best Sunday School literature of any denomination.
- I believe Free Will Baptists deserve the best magazine of any denomination.
- I believe Free Will Baptists deserve the best stores to purchase their Christian merchandise.

We are not there yet, but we are headed in that direction.

In the Bible, God often changed a person's name before something significant happened or after a remarkable encounter with the Lord. Abram became Abraham; Sarai became Sarah; Jacob became Israel; Simon became Peter; Saul became Paul. The Board of Directors of The Press believes something significant is about to happen.



Our bookstores are now Cross and Crown Christian Stores. Having the same name gives continuity between our stores and our denomination. Before, the only relationship was with the name of the town. Now, when you see Cross and Crown Christian Stores you know that this is your store. We can add "A ministry of Original Free Will Baptists" when appropriate. Since moving the Kinston store to Vernon Park Mall in November, sales are up 50% over last year. The future appears bright for our stores, with proper merchandising.



Paul Palmer organized the first two Free Will Baptist churches. It is only fitting to name our publishing ministry Palmer Publishing, which publishes *The Free Will Baptist* (magazine) and *Foundation Curriculum* (Sunday School literature). Palmer Printing Solutions can produce all your personal, church, or commercial print needs and provides full service bulk mailing. We can print and mail your job and you do not have to leave your church, home, or business; just e-mail us your project and we will print and mail it for you.





Daughtry Announces Promotion

The Free Will Baptist Press is pleased to announce the appointment of Darren Davenport as Vice President and Managing Editor, effective July 1, 2012. He will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of The Press.

Davenport began his service with The Press in May of 1994. Beginning his work in shipping and receiving, he also held positions in graphic design, store sales associate, store manager, store coordinator, and, most recently, editor of publications.

Press President Jeff Daughtry said, "Darren brings 18 years of experience that will continue to benefit The Press and the Free Will Baptist Denomination. He has been a Free Will Baptist all of his life and has deep Free Will Baptist roots. I look forward to working with Darren in his new position and seeing The Press move to the next level of excellence."

Davenport is excited about the future of The Press stating that, "I believe that God has great things in store for The Press. I am truly thankful for the opportunity that Mr. Daughtry and the Board of Directors have given me and am looking forward to working with our staff to further the mission of the Free Will Baptist Press in 'spreading the Word' as efficiently and effectively as possible."

A member of Reedy Branch FWB Church, he is married to his wife of 10 years, Carla, a first grade teacher at Ridgewood Elementary School. He has two stepsons, Joshua (and wife Kasey) and Dustin Combs, and Eric Davenport (nephew). He is the doting grandfather of two, Molly Grace and Joshua Caleb.

A very important announcement: the annual membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 11, at 1 P.M. at the Ayden FWB Church. The Board of Directors will be recommending that the Press apply for 501(c)(3) status, which will allow us to receive charitable contributions and the donor receive charitable deductions on their income tax return. This must be approved by the membership with a 2/3 of the membership voting. When you receive your invitation to the meeting, please plan to attend or return your proxy.

We printed a Special Edition of *The Articles of Faith* for this Convention. It is a large print edition and you can purchase them at our Convention bookstore for the special price of \$5 each. We only printed 500 copies to sell at this Convention. Our new digital color press allows us to print one book, or thousands. In fact, we can personalize your Sunday School literature with a

picture of your church on the cover, and your church, class name, and other information on the back cover. There is a small set-up fee, but no additional cost for the individual books.

The new press allows us to print almost anything imaginable. In fact, we are only limited by our imagination and dreams. Let us help you make your printing dreams come true.

As someone more famous than I once said, "I have a dream." My dream for The Press includes the words quality, excellence, and modern. It can only be achieved with your help. Please share with me your ideas and suggestions for The Press. I promise that your suggestions will be considered.

The future is bright for The Press. Please be patient, come along with us and enjoy the trip from where we are to where we are going. And remember this, The Press is not going to beg for your business—we are going to earn your business!

Thank you for supporting the Free Will Baptist Press.

You may send comments, ideas, and suggestions to <jeff@fwbpress.com>.



Annual School Awards

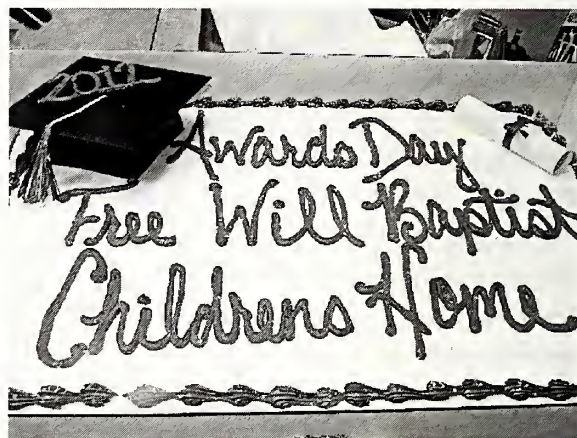
On June 5, children and staff gathered in Heritage Hall for the annual school awards program. Each year, we set aside time to recognize children who have worked hard to improve their grades and study habits.

The program began with opening remarks from President/CEO, Mr. Gary Lee. Mr. Lee spoke briefly to the children on the importance that education has on lives. He encouraged each person to do his or her best. Mr. Lee also gave statistical information on the advantages of completing high school and, if possible, pursuing higher education to become successful in life.

The children who are leaving elementary school and entering middle school were recognized, as well as those who will be entering high school. Certificates were given to those who had received the highest grade campus wide for Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. Special recognition was also given to the middle school student and to the high school student that had the highest overall grade point.

Immediately following the ceremony, a meal was shared by residents and staff.

We are proud of the efforts of the children at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. For many, school is very challenging because of the circumstances they have been exposed to prior to coming to The Home. We wish them well as they continue to work towards their educational goals.



Needs List

- Altar Cloths
- 5 Stainless Steel Range Hoods
(36 inch 2 speed w/light)
- Twin Size Comforters
(solid colors, bright colors—geometric shape designs)
- Bed Pillows
- Bedroom Lamps
- Alarm Clocks
- Bed Pillow Covers (vinyl)
- Girls Antiperspirant
- Body Wash (Boys & Girls)
- Trash Bags (13 gallon and larger)
- Dishwasher Detergent
- Dish Detergent
- Cleaning Supplies
(Clorox Cleanup, Lysol Spray Cleaner, Scrubbing Bubbles)
- Food Storage Bags (gallon & quart)
- 25 Exercise Mats (approximately 68 x 24 size)
- Umbrellas
- 3 Rechargeable Flashlights (large size)
- Individually Wrapped Snacks



Visitors are always welcome on campus. We only ask that you call ahead so we can have staff available to show you around.

Recently the local chapter of Woodmen of the World, a fraternal insurance group, donated an American flag to the Children's Home. The flag was presented to Home President Gary Lee by Mr. Tim Smith, secretary for the Bailey Woodman Lodge.



Please Join Us for the 9th Annual
Paper and Cleaning Products Drive
 Friday, July 20 at 7:15 P.M.
Fireworks Night!

Paper and Cleaning Products will be collected at gates to benefit
Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Middlesex, NC

Our Layman's League has joined once again with the Carolina Mudcats to promote a day to help the Children's Home. On July 20, the Mudcats are going to have bins set up at the entrances of their stadium for people to bring paper/cleaning products for the Children's Home. This is a great opportunity for your Church, Layman's League, Woman's Auxiliaries, and Youth Groups to begin, even now, to collect paper/cleaning products and bring them to Tri-County Stadium on that day. There is a discount for tickets purchased in bulk and would make a great day of ministry and fun.

Campus Needs

Paper Towels • Toilet Paper • Laundry Detergent • Bleach • Dish Detergent • Kitchen Towels • Dish Cloths
 All Types of Cleaning Supplies Like Lysol, Pine-sol, Lemon Cleaners, Pledge, etc. (NO GLASS CLEANER)
 Personal Hygiene Items (Antiperspirant for Boys and Girls, Body Lotions, Bath Powder, Shampoo)
 Trash Receptacles (33 gallon or larger) • Trash Bags (33 gallon or larger)
 Twin Size Comforters • Sheet Sets • Blankets

All Church groups registered in advance will receive:

\$6 Box Seat Special (regular price: \$10)

To receive this special discount, all tickets must be paid for by July 8. Discount not available at the gate.
 Tickets will be mailed within 10 days prior to the game. Paper products will be dropped off at the stadium.

Paper and Cleaning
Products Drive Questions?
Call Bill Doane (252) 753-3717

Mudcats Questions?
Call (919) 269-2287



Does The Church Measure Up?

By Mary Dudley

I have been asked many times by many different people, pastors, Sunday School Superintendents, teachers, and others, “How can I help my church to grow?” I have tried to answer to the best of my ability and knowledge that the church grows from the inside out and not the outside in. By this, I mean that the people who profess Jesus Christ as Savior should be in a right relationship with Him before they can begin to grow their church. Oftentimes folks get the idea that if they just ask someone to come once that will do it. But if the church family is in disharmony, the visitor soon recognizes this and will not come back. We have to know ourselves well enough in our relationship with Christ that we can give of ourselves to others. We have to be willing to open our hearts and minds to new ideas and different ways of doing things. I am not trying to say that we should throw away our tradition in favor of the new. There are many aspects of our tradition that we should hold dear such as our beliefs as stated in our *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists*. If we are of the mind set that we cannot change or modify the way in which we do some of the activities of our church, we may be impeding our progress or growth. A good definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. There are many different methods that can be used when teaching a Sunday School class or leading a youth group. The method used needs to meet the learning needs of the listener. As a teacher you might ask, “How do I know what method is good for the listener?” The answer is simple. You can read, come to the Sunday School Institute, or attend learning sessions in one of our Regional Training Centers. As teachers and other church leaders, we need to encourage everyone to learn all they can to be the best that they can be. An analogy I like to use is this: when the table is set and ready for a meal, do we or do we not sit down to eat? I am sure that we do. When workshops/seminars are scheduled that would assist us in doing a better job in our church, why do we not go and learn all we can? I hear such things as “I do not have the time,” “my children need me,” “I have to work,” “I just use the Bible and that’s good enough for me,” “I am too tired,” “I’m not a teacher so why should I go” or any number of different excuses. It is our duty or obligation to learn all we can in order to share ourselves with other people. A friend of mine made a statement in a recent blog to me, which reads, “We count numbers instead of making numbers count.” There is a great deal of truth in that statement. We want our numbers to be large, but we do not want to expend the energy that it takes to make the numbers count by being true to our Lord in making the visitor feel welcome in our fold. Research has proven that the majority of people come to church in search of friends or a sense of belonging. If they see that the people are REAL and TRUE in their worship, then they want to find the Jesus that the people follow. A special Sunday is coming in September. It is *Back To Church Sunday*. Why can we not join with other churches to get people back to church on September 16, 2012? Give of ourselves to others to enrich the Kingdom! You can visit outreach.com for further information concerning this Sunday.

KIRK CAMERON PRESENTS

OUR
FAMILIES
ARE WORTH
FIGHTING
FOR

DVD
Available July 2
Retail \$19.99
ON SALE \$16.97
For a Limited Time,
While Supplies Last

MONUMENTAL

IN SEARCH OF AMERICA'S NATIONAL TREASURE

KIRK CAMERON PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH CAMFAM STUDIOS A PYRO PICTURES PRODUCTION "MONUMENTAL: IN SEARCH OF AMERICA'S NATIONAL TREASURE"
PRODUCED BY DUANE BARNHART KIRK CAMERON & ANGELA ALVAREZ DIRECTED BY JOHN BONA BILL HOUGH & MARK GAMBEE EDITED BY MARSHALL FOSTER WRITTEN BY KEVIN MILLER DIRECTED BY DUANE BARNHART

CAMFAM

PYRO PICTURES

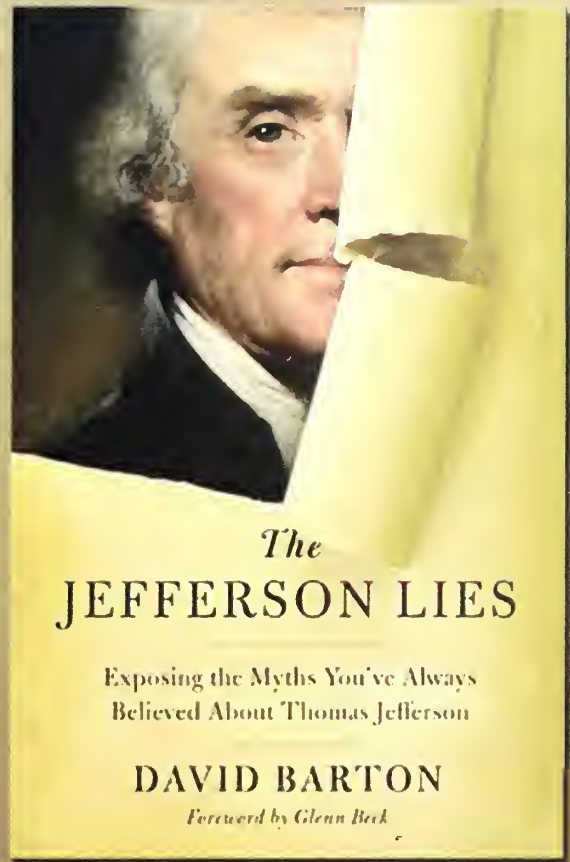
www.monumentalmovie.com

MPAA RATED R FOR LANGUAGE
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SOME MATERIALS MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN
UNDER 17 YEARS OF AGE

Available at Cross & Crown Christian Stores

To order, call 1.800.849.3927 or visit your nearest location:

3928 Lee Street, Ayden • Vernon Park Mall, Kinston • Glenburnie Plaza, New Bern



Hardcover: Retail Price \$22.99

ON SALE \$16.97

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last

America, in so many ways, has forgotten its roots, its purpose, its identity—all have become shrouded behind a veil of political correctness bent on twisting the nation's founding, and its founders, to fit within a misshapen modern world.

The time has come to remember again.

In *The Jefferson Lies*, prominent historian David Barton sets out to correct the distorted image of a once-beloved founding father, Thomas Jefferson. To do so, Barton tackles seven myths head-on, including:

- Did Thomas Jefferson really have a child by his young slave girl, Sally Hemings?
- Did he write his own Bible, excluding the parts of Christianity with which he disagreed?
- Was he a racist who opposed civil rights and equality for black Americans?
- Did he, in his pursuit of separation of church and state, advocate the secularizing public life?

Through Jefferson's own words and the eyewitness testimony of contemporaries, Barton repaints a portrait of the man from Monticello as a visionary, an innovator, a man who revered Jesus, a classical Renaissance man—and a man whose pioneering stand for liberty and God-given inalienable rights fostered a better world for this nation and its posterity. For America, the time to remember these truths again is now.

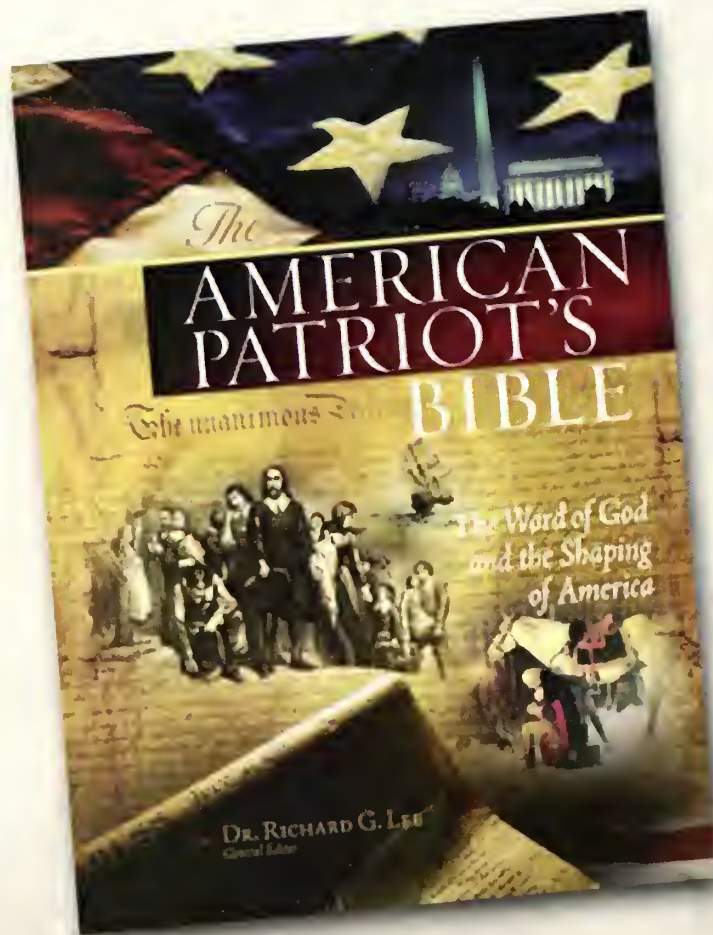


To order, call 1.800.849.3927 or visit your
nearest Cross & Crown location:

3928 Lee Street, Ayden
Vernon Park Mall, Kinston
Glenburnie Plaza, New Bern



THOMAS NELSON
We Inspire the World



THE ONE BIBLE THAT SHOWS HOW "A LIGHT FROM ABOVE" SHAPED OUR NATION. Never has a version of the Bible targeted the spiritual needs of those who love our country more than The American Patriot's Bible. This extremely unique Bible shows how the history of the United States connects the people and events of the Bible to our lives in a modern world. The story of the United States is wonderfully woven into the teachings of the Bible and includes a beautiful full-color family record section, memorable images from our nation's history and hundreds of enlightening articles which complement the New King James Version Bible text.

Hardcover: Retail Price \$44.99

ON SALE \$19.97

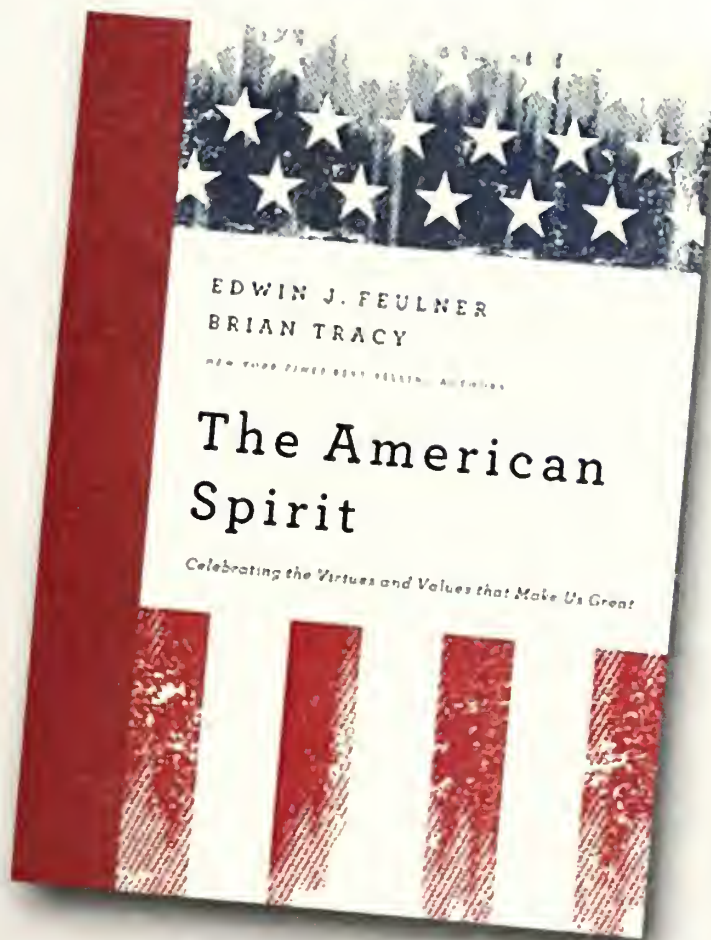
For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last

ALSO AVAILABLE:

Patriot Blue, Stormcloud Gray Leather-Look: Retail Price \$69.99 • **ON SALE \$29.97**

Navy Blue Leather: Retail Price \$69.99 • **ON SALE \$29.97**

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last



The United States is an exceptional place to call home thanks to the character of the American people. With conviction and urgency, Ed Feulner and Brian Tracy affirm our core tenets—from patriotism and optimism to faith and generosity—and challenge all of us to live out the timeless principles of citizenship.

Packed with engaging stories, insightful profiles, and eye-opening statistics, *The American Spirit* serves as an indispensable primer on the bedrock belief that an indomitable spirit does exist, that it defines us as a people, and that it must be preserved for the nation to flourish.

Hardcover: Retail Price \$24.99

ON SALE \$18.97

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last



To order, call 1.800.849.3927 or visit your
nearest Cross & Crown location:

3928 Lee Street, Ayden
Vernon Park Mall, Kinston
Glenburnie Plaza, New Bern



THOMAS NELSON
We Inspire the World

U.S. SENATOR
TOM A. COBURN, M.D.

WILEY-BLANKENHORN PUBLISHERS



THE DEBT BOMB

A BOLD PLAN TO STOP WASHINGTON FROM BANKRUPTING AMERICA



To order, call 1.800.849.3927 or visit your nearest Cross & Crown location:

3928 Lee Street, Ayden
Vernon Park Mall, Kinston
Glenburnie Plaza, New Bern



THOMAS NELSON
We Inspire the World

In a nation whose debt has outgrown the size of its entire economy, the greatest threat comes not from any foreign force but from Washington politicians who refuse to relinquish the intoxicating power to borrow and spend. Senator Tom Coburn reveals the fascinating, maddening story of how we got to this point of fiscal crisis—and how we can escape.

Long before America's recent economic downturn, beltway politicians knew the U.S. was going bankrupt. Yet even after several so-called "change" elections, the government has continued its wasteful ways in the face of imminent danger. With passion and clarity, Coburn explains why Washington resists change so fiercely and offers controversial yet commonsense solutions to secure the nation's future.

At a time when millions of Americans are speculating about what is broken in Washington, *The Debt Bomb* is a candid, thoughtful, non-partisan exposé of the real problems inside our government. Coburn challenges the conventional wisdom that blames lobbyists, gridlock, and obstructionism, and places the responsibility squarely where it belongs: on members of Congress in both parties who won't let go of the perks of power to serve the true interests of the nation—unless enough citizens take bold steps to demand action.

"Democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There was never a democracy yet that did not commit suicide." —John Adams

Throughout a distinguished career as a business owner, physician, and U.S. senator, Tom Coburn has watched his beloved republic careen down a suicidal path. Today, the nation stands on the precipice of financial ruin, a disaster far more dangerous to our safety than any terrorist threats we face. Yet Coburn believes there is still hope—if enough Americans are willing to shake the corridors of Washington and demand action.

With an insider's keen eye and a caregiver's deft touch, Coburn diagnoses the mess that career politicians have made of things while misusing their sacred charge to govern.

Coburn's incisive analysis:

- Reveals the root causes of America's escalating financial crisis
- Exposes Washington's destructive appetite for wasteful spending, power grabs, backroom deals, and quick non-fixes
- Rises above partisanship to implicate elected officials of all stripes in steering the nation off course
- Lays out a commonsense guide to restoring order
- Concludes with a clarion call and sound advice for Americans who would dedicate themselves to defusing the debt bomb.

Above all, Coburn believes the United States can continue as a beacon of opportunity for future generations—but how we act today will determine whether we deliver the nation to our children and grandchildren fully alive, on life support, or without a pulse.

Hardcover: Retail Price \$24.99

ON SALE \$18.97

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last

Pondering the Past

with Celia Hales

Praying at the Close of the Day

I once read an inspirational essay by a writer who said that he fell asleep at night while praying. He went on to say that at first he chastised himself for the practice, as though he were being rude to God. But, then, he concluded, "Now I try to have it so I go asleep with God, hoping that prayer will permeate through and through my subconscious mind." One might imagine that, with this peaceful oasis concluding his hectic days, that his dreams were sweet.

I have thought about this account quite a bit. Does it make sense to you? Is he communing with God in the best way possible? Or is he being rude to God, falling asleep in the midst of his prayer?

I have concluded, after much consideration, that this man's experience is a good model. He is oriented away from fear by his practice. He turns the hectic day aside and rests in the arms of God. He lets God handle his problems all night long. And then he, with a sound sleep behind him, is reinvigorated to face the uncertainties of another busy day.

We are too much stressed by our lives in 2012. The world, as they say, is too much with us. We need more practices, such as this man found, to soothe our troubled minds and hearts.

I have adopted the writer's practice as my own. Frequently I read Scripture for 30 minutes to an hour before heading for bed at a late hour. I recite a prayer from childhood; its familiarity is a childlike quality that I have retained in adulthood, and the practice is comforting in the extreme. Then I pray for at least one friend or family member whom I know is struggling.

And then, before my prayers arouse me (the opposite of what I want), I sink deep within, wordlessly. I normally sense the warm serenity of God's love, and this drives me more deeply downward toward sleep. I let my mind wander a bit, if my mind won't readily settle down on a given night. And I listen for an inward sense of what God might be saying to me. I receive, rather than just ask. Finally, I, quite literally, as the writer I told you about above, pray myself to sleep.

Do I always feel so calm at night? No. But going to sleep with God on my mind is the surest way that I know to invite sleep quickly.

Is this practice unfair to God? Does he want our full attention when we pray, not a drowsy time at the close of the day?

Certainly we need to pray throughout the day, when we are alert and going about our tasks. If we only seek God when we are close to sleep, we will not ever receive from Him all that He would give to us. He wants to help us; it is a free offer.

But the close of the day is a time of turning over any hectic nature of our days to a God who cares for us in the midst of our difficulties. He will stay awake through the night; He will care for us. We can safely sleep with His arms encompassing us.

The inspirational writer (whose name I have long forgotten) knew a good thing when he experienced it. I am glad that he relayed his experience. Life is sometimes stressful, and this "praying one's self to sleep" is one of the most powerful antidotes to stress that I have ever found.



A former religion librarian at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Celia now lives with her husband Paul in Oxford, Mississippi. She was previously employed at both the Free Will Baptist Press and Mount Olive College.

HONEY-DO JOBS

Painting • 40 years experience • Carpentry • Rotten Wood Repair
Power Washing • Gutter Cleaning • Restorations & Renovations • References are Available
— FIX IT IF POSSIBLE —

Charles Petit

Home: (919) 553-5741 • 2014 Penny Lane
Cell: (919) 675-5896 • Clayton, NC 27520



FFWBC Manila YWAR Activities

PHILIPPINES

BY PASTOR ARNEL CUBA

“Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith, and purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). The Apostle Paul encouraged young Timothy to be faithful in serving God although Timothy was very young. Age doesn’t matter when it comes to serving God, especially the youth. They need to be molded by God’s Word at their young age since the future depends on them. This is one of the aims or targets of our youth from Caloocan and Bulacan or the YWAR “Youth with A Revelation.” They have their Sunday youth activities that open their mind set to the Christian or Godly world that free them from all stain or sin. They have their outdoor fellowship, build bridges of friendship, and love, training youth members to evangelize and pray, mobilizing youth members for evangelism, set up training groups, using the “One Win One” sharing testimony techniques, and personal witnessing and follow up. This helps them to strengthen their spiritual life and also how to reach out to others. Please pray for the youth and their activities. God is good to us!





Sister Geline prayed for the new officers

FFWBC Manila-YWAR Oath Taking PHILIPPINES

BY SISTER TES CALUGAY

The Youth have their own officers to delegate position and to do their part as a youth. On February 12, 2012, during our 5th year anniversary, the “Youth with A Revelation” (YWAR) took their oath in front of the congregation. From now on they know their function and they are using it to glorify God. Let us pray for them because most of them are students while others have their own work. Besides their businesses in life, the Lord must be the first priority, especially in their life devotion. Most of them testify that God is great to their work and studies. We are praying that their lives will be a channel of blessings and inspirations to others. The Lord reminds us “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.” God is great!



The newly YWAR elected officers of First Free Will Baptist Church, Manila.

District I Summer Youth Camp 2012

BOHOL, PHILIPPINES

BY SUSAN BASINGIL

Last May 21–24, 2012, the Original Free Will Baptists International, Incorporated, District I was holding its Annual Summer Youth Camp. The theme was “Successor of Faith Builders” with Scripture taken from 1 Corinthians 3:10. Pastor Aldrin Esteban was the guest speaker of the last night of the camp.

To highlight the camp, different activities were being held: ball games, ALM (Academic, Literature, and Music), and search for Mr. and Ms. Campers 2012. The ball games consisted of basketball (men’s division), volleyball (girl’s division), and badminton. For ALM: In academic competition there were Bible challenges such as history, and math quiz. The literary competition consisted of preaching, poster making, stage play, pinoy henyo (a game played with a partner, one has a word on the forehead and the other will try to guess the answer within a limited time) and tanging hinga (they will sing a song and hold the last word as long as possible). In musical competition there was modern dance and vocal solo.

May 21, 2012 was the arrival of the delegates and pastors. The following 12 churches from District I were present: OFWBCII Tagbiliran, Bilar, Montevideo, Polacion Norte, Montesuerte, Sierra Bullones, Sagbayan, Tuntunan, Inabangga, Danao, Matin-ao, and Vallehermos, along with the respective pastors: Alfonso Marzon, Rodrigo Banol, Angelito Baitol, Manuel Banol Sr., Marilou Tusoy, Marjorie Lamoste, Cesar Bautista, Mario Paquibot, Neri Trazo, Lolita Ayungao, and Lolita Esto.

May 22, 2012 was the opening of the different contests, the elimination of the ball games, and search for Mr. and Ms. Campers 2012. May 23 was the ALM contest and May 24 was the ball games championships, awarding ceremony, and revival service. Every night and early morning of the day was the listening to God’s Word handled by Pastor Alfonso



Marzon on the first night, and Pastor Manuel Banol on the third night. Pastor Dario Basingil and Pastor Teofilo Marzon gave the devotional each day.

The lecture session was handled by Pastor Rodrigo Banol and the oath taking of the new set of youth officers. They are Abel Banol, President; Manuel Banol Jr., Vice President; Glyss Ressanne Opelinia, Secretary; Mitchie Marzon, Assistant Secretary; Lenwel Jeane Batilong, Treasurer; Grace Marzon, Assistant Treasurer; KH Bitang, Auditor; Daniel Banol, Johny Vistal, April Grace Painagan, Alwin Remorosa, Eunice Boligor, and Roselyn Lomod, CICs (Church Information Council).

The said activity was being successful through the unity of all young people,

pastors, pastor’s wives, new officers, and with the assistance of the former officers headed by Rico Marzon, and Elizabeth Alcorido, the program Organizer and committee, and above all through the endless support and provision of our God Almighty for without Him nothing will happen. All victory, glory, and honor go to Jesus Christ alone.

They were all happy when they were emerged in the presence of God and understood that they are all successors. They were very thankful to see how all their efforts had brought much reward. Poblacion Norte won as the overall champion, followed by Sagbayan, then Montesuerte. They are all winners in the name of Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2012 SPECIAL PROJECTS

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE



It is almost time for Vacation Bible School 2012 across our denomination. We sincerely thank every VBS that provided funds this past year to help provide food for the Gypsies in Bulgaria during the harsh winter. We received over \$8,000 and all of it was sent to Bulgaria. Thousands of meals were served during the winter months. Your gifts were a great blessing and kept these dear people from going hungry.

We have a special project to offer for this year. We will still need to provide food for the Gypsies during the winter of 2012-13, to keep them from going hungry in the cold months when they have no work. We also want to provide mosquito nets for our fields in Liberia, the Philip-pines, India, Bangladesh, Guinea, and Haiti. In all of these countries, malaria is a serious problem. In Africa alone, 3,000 children die

every day from malaria. Many of these deaths could be pre-vented with a simple mosquito net.

The funds you send this year will feed the hungry and protect many people from the deadly disease of malaria. Help remove suffering, especially from the children that are only learning about life and should not have to endure the suffering caused by malaria and hunger. Thank you for considering these projects for your VBS offering this year.

With deep concern for others,

Harold Jones
Executive Director



P. O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 • (252) 746-4963 • director@ofwbi.org

Lesson *Inner View*

A deeper look inside this month's lessons from the OFWB Foundation Curriculum and commentaries based on the International Sunday School Lessons.



with Adrian Grubbs

The Sunday School lessons for July continue the theme of God's justice. In unit 1 we studied the Torah for the meaning of justice. This month, in unit 2, we look at some examples of justice as demonstrated by five leaders in Israel. These lessons span some 200 years, so some background history might be helpful. We tend to lose sight of the overall theme as we focus on the Scripture text for each lesson. Plus, the five situations we are studying, from five different Bible passages occurring years and decades apart, may seem to be isolated and unrelated events. But all of them take place within the context of Israel's history—salvation history; and each text was selected to show how justice was put into action over the years.

Our lessons begin at a critical time in Israel's development as a nation and as God's people. Since the death of Joshua, the twelve tribes of Israel had been preoccupied with settling their respective territories. That in itself was challenge enough, but it was made harder by the various peoples surrounding them. The Canaanites resented the intrusion of the Israelites; they constantly harassed them and raided their villages. To make matters worse, the Israelites took in the gods

of their neighbors. It was not that they outright rejected their God, the living God who had delivered them from Egypt and brought them to this new land. But they insulted Him by thinking that He could not do what they thought the gods of Canaan could do. They brought into their homes the idols of false gods as good luck charms, hoping that they would

the Ark of the Covenant was captured by the Philistines. Our first lesson begins when the Ark was finally returned to Israel, and Samuel called for the people to return to God.

Samuel was a priest, prophet, deliverer, and judge. It was during his ministry that Israel made the transition from judges (deliverers) to kings; he was the last of the deliverer-

Every generation has to deal with problems that have different faces, places, and other details; and yet, the challenges are very much the same: to live and practice God's standard of justice.

have productive families, flocks, and crops. Needless to say, God did not take the insult lightly. He withheld His blessing, leaving them exposed and vulnerable to their enemies. Eventually, they would cry out to God for help, and He would call out a judge (literally, a "deliverer") to deliver them from their enemy. It would not be long, though, before they would fall back into the same pattern. Because of such foolishness,

judges. He was also a priest whose duty was to oversee the shrine at Shiloh and to lead the people in the worship of God. He was a circuit judge who settled disputes among the people. And he was widely known as a prophet of God; as such, he anointed the first two kings of Israel. The first king was a sore disappointment; the second, King David, became a

article continued on next page

Psalms

for the Soul

with Linda Herring

The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Psalm 145:8–9 says, “The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.” Sometimes life can hit us hard. When that happens, it makes us question if God really cares about us? From our scripture today, God tells us that He loves us and He will extend to us mercy and grace at just the right time. The Bible tells us that God is our Father. Being our Father, He has the responsibility of taking care of us and our needs. Instead of complaining, look for ways to express our love to Him. We need to count our blessings and thank Him for life itself. We need to thank God for His Son, Jesus. He said, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13) and has also said, “I have called you friends...” (John 15:15). God is good all the time. All the time God is good. Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm.



Linda Herring is married to Vernon Herring. They have two children, Amy and Vernon and three grandchildren, Jenna, Jared, and Noah. Linda is an active member of the White Oak Grove OFWB Church in LaGrange, NC. Linda leads a Bible study group, Circle of Friends. She has been a drama director of two dramas that she wrote, *They Called His Name Jesus* and *The Book of Ruth*. She is a resource for the OFWB Woman's Auxiliary. Her outreach ministry includes this column in *TFWB*, a radio broadcast by the same name (aired on WAGO 88.7 FM), and a weekly devotional article for the *La Grange Weekly Gazette* and *The Sampson Weekly*. She also has a devotion book printed by the Mount Olive College Press.

Lesson inner View (continued from previous page)

legend. Samuel led the twelve tribes of Israel through the transition from a loosely knit tribal confederacy to a united kingdom.

But the united kingdom would not be united for long—just over 100 years. When Solomon died the kingdom divided into the northern Kingdom of Israel and the southern Kingdom of Judah. David's descendents ruled in the Kingdom of Judah, his dynasty lasting some 400 years. Jehoshaphat, in the lesson for July 29, was David's great-great-great-grandson. The fourth lesson, from 2

Kings 8, concerns the prophet Elisha and King Jehoram of the northern Kingdom of Israel.

Every generation has to deal with problems that have different faces, places, and other details; and yet, the challenges are very much the same: to live and practice God's standard of justice. When we, God's people, seek and do God's justice, life goes better for us and our neighbors. When we are careless about justice, we drift away, and God becomes displeased.



H. Adrian Grubbs, Jr., was born in Dade City, Florida, to the Rev. Herman A. and Lillian Kinard Grubbs. The family moved to Mount Olive, NC, in 1959. Adrian was ordained in the Eastern Conference in 1963 and has served eight churches. After a 30-year pastorate at Deep Run OFWB Church he retired in 2007 because of vocal problems. Grubbs has served the denomination as President of the Sunday School Convention, Moderator of the Eastern Conference, member of the Eastern Conference Ministerial Examining Board, and is currently on the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees. Adrian and Jo Ann have one son, two daughters, and six grandchildren.



Foundation's Seventh Annual Meeting Held at MOC

By The Reverend Ricky Warren

Introduction

On May 8, 2012, the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries held its Seventh Annual Meeting. The event was held for the first time at Mount Olive College in celebration of the partnership The Foundation enjoys with The College and in memory of The Foundation's founding president, Dr. William Burkette Raper. Over 225 supporters were in attendance, which made it the most well attended annual meeting to date.

The Foundation Board of Directors used this annual meeting as an opportunity to honor and remember Dr. Raper for his vision and commitment to the future of Original Free Will Baptists as well as an opportunity to demonstrate the ongoing realization of his initial vision. It was the first annual meeting since Dr. Raper's passing on August 1, 2011.

Meeting Summary

As guests arrived they were greeted by Mrs. Linda Lassiter, Mrs. Angela Warren, and others who assisted them with nametags and seating prepared in advance by Mrs. Bertie Sanders. Tables had been colorfully decorated by Mrs. Judy Thaanum and others with beautiful floating votive candle centerpieces, yellow accessories, and greenery. Delightful piano music was provided by Mr. Brian Parnell while guests enjoyed warm fellowship and a delicious meal prepared by Pioneer Catering.

The master of ceremonies for the evening was Mr. Donnie Lassiter, Chairman of the Foundation Board of Directors. The program began with a welcome from Dr. K. David Hines, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Mount Olive College and an invocation by Dr. Michael Pelt, Professor Emeritus of Mount Olive College and Chairman of the Original Free Will Baptist Convention's Commission on Education for Christian Ministry. Entertainment for the evening was provided by two groups. The first group was a quartet consisting of Dr. Don Ribeiro, Mrs. Jessica R. Oaks, Miss Sarah Ribeiro, and Mr. Jordan Jones. The second group was a trio consisting of Mr. Dan Taylor, Mrs. Susan Tyson, and Ms. Pam Croom from Friendship Church (Greene County).

The current work of The Foundation was highlighted when distribution checks were presented to recipients from the six most recently qualified endowment funds and beneficiaries of previous distributions came forward to give testimony to the positive difference these distributions are making. Testimonials were given by Dr. Ed Croom, Superintendent of Johnston County Schools; The Reverend Dustin Bannister,

Pastor of Oak Grove Church; and Mr. Brandon Johnson from Ormondsville Church. Each expressed gratitude for the contributions of donors and for the work of the Foundation.

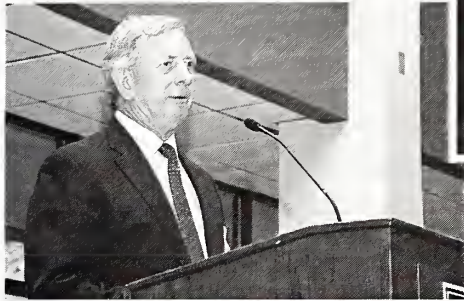
The keynote address for the evening was a tribute to Dr. W. Burkette Raper given by Mr. Charles L. McLawhorn, Jr. who spoke about the benefits of The Foundation and the initial meeting he and Don Riberio had with Dr. Raper that led to its establishment in 2005. Both sad and humorous stories about Dr. Raper shared during the speech were supplemented by the same types of stories around each table as guests shared their own memories of the man they loved and admired so much during his lifetime of service.

The program concluded with a moving scene as Mrs. Rose M. Raper and the children she and Dr. Raper reared together were asked to gather on the stage. Dr. Don Riberio presented a framed certificate to Mrs. Raper to commemorate the establishment of the W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Endowment for Educational and Charitable Purposes, which was made possible through gifts given in Dr. Raper's memory. A resolution passed by the Foundation Board of Directors was also read and framed copies were presented to each member of the Raper family. The resolution was in recognition of the years of humble service and visionary leadership Dr. Raper provided and for his work as the founder and president of The Foundation. As a final gesture of thanks, the Reverend Ricky Warren presented a dozen yellow roses to Mrs. Raper on behalf of The Foundation, pointing out the sacrifices Mrs. Raper and the rest of the family had made over the years so that others could benefit from the work Dr. Raper was allowed to do. In response, Mrs. Raper made a few impromptu comments that were characteristic of her gracious nature.

Conclusion

The Seventh Annual Meeting of The Foundation was a great success because of the many who have given graciously for the betterment of humanity. We invite others to share in this joy of giving and to be a part of our next annual meeting in the spring of 2013.

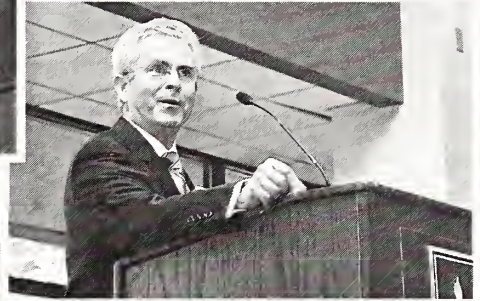
If you would like to know more about the services of The Foundation, please call (919) 658-5250 or send an inquiry to NC Foundation for Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 210, Mount Olive, NC 28365-0210. Because The Foundation is a non-profit Christian charity, all contributions are tax-deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service as allowed by law.



Donnie Lassiter,
Master of Cermonies



The Reverend Johnny Sullivan



Dr. K. David Hines



Dr. Don Ribeiro and Group



Dr. Ed Croom



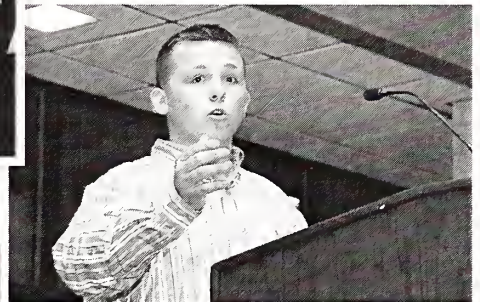
Mr. Dan Taylor and Group



Dr. Michael Pelt



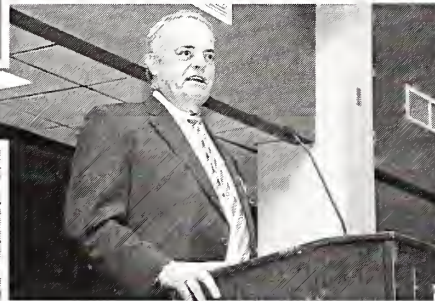
Mrs. Rose M. Raper



Mr. Brandon Johnson



Mrs. Linda Lassiter
and Mrs. Angela Warren



Mr. Charles McLawhorn, Jr.



Vickie Singleton, Chris Singleton,
Jimmy Lewis, Debbie Lewis



Mr. Brian Parnell



Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists 2012 Bible Bowl

YOUTH CONVENTION

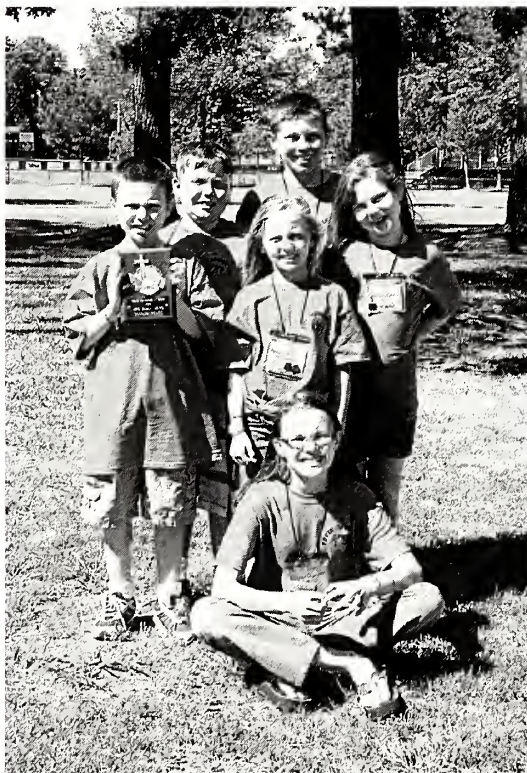
Thirteen teams from six churches met in an exciting display of Bible knowledge at the Youth Convention held at Mount Olive College the weekend of May 18–20. The young people ranged in age from Cherubs (0–8), AFCs (9–12), to YFAs (13–19) and answered questions about the apostles, quoting scriptures verbatim, when needed.

The YFA group met on Friday evening, the Cherubs on Saturday morning, and the AFCs on Saturday evening in group competition. Mr. James Cahoon, District Youth Co-Chairman of the Albemarle District, was the moderator for all three age groups and did an outstanding job of keeping the games moving and making the teams feel at ease. The results are as follows:

	Cherubs	AFCs	YFAs
1 st	Jackson Heights	Jackson Heights	Jackson Heights
2 nd	Whaley's Chapel	Hopewell	Beaverdam
3 rd	Yelverton Grove	Yelverton Grove	King's Crossroads
4 th		Beaverdam	Whaley's Chapel
5 th		Whaley's Chapel	Yelverton Grove

Every group did a great job of sharing the scriptures and answering questions as they had been coached over the past year. The judges were impressed with the knowledge and manners shown by each team. A big "Thank You" goes out to all who helped as judges, scorekeepers, timekeepers, and audience, as well as each Bible Bowl participant.

The topic for 2013 is "The 12 Tribes of Israel," and the study guide was included in the convention program. Any church that has an interest in taking part should contact their district director. Time and commitment are required by the team members, as well as the coaches, but the rewards include Bible knowledge that will stick with everyone for a lifetime. It would be great to see all districts have teams in 2013!



Hopewell AFC Team

Top row (L to R): Dillon Fulcher, Jay McKenzie
Next row (L to R): Adam Crumpler,
Anna Kate McKenzie, Shelby Casey
Sitting: Lauren Crumpler.



Whaley's Chapel BB AFC Team

Front row: Raegan Taylor, Desta Daniels, Hannah Moody
Back row: Wanda Taylor, Anna Hobbs



Whaley's Chapel BB Cherub Team

First row: Harlee Moody, Bethany Ramsey, Lark Burgess,
Charity Jarman, Jasmine Hogan. Back row: Coach Pat Taylor

As you know, there's been plenty to do since Hurricane Irene came through. We feel God has given us an opportunity to make our camp better than ever. And to that end, here's what we've been up to.



Camping This Summer

Camp Vandemere will be open this summer. Visit Camp Vandemere on Facebook or call Rick Price at 252-670-9775 to find out more.

Meetings With Vandemere Town Council

We've shared our thoughts and goals for rebuilding with the Vandemere Town Council, and meetings with them will continue. Their cooperation will help rebuilding go smoother — and ultimately make for a better camp.

Master Plan And Campaign

Preliminary plans for the new camp were drawn up by an architect. A Master Plan is in development based on those plans, input from the Vandemere Town Council and others. A Capital Campaign is also in development.

Camp Archives In Original Free Will Baptist Historical Collection

By establishing a Camp Vandemere archive at Mount Olive College, we're preserving the history of the camp and our denomination. You're encouraged to contribute any artifacts and mementos you may have from your time at Camp Vandemere. Let us know what you have! Email: campvandemere@gmail.com.

Camp Vandemere Alumni On Facebook

We've established an online community for former CV campers and volunteers.

This page will become a source of valuable information as the new camp takes shape, and will play an important role in the Capital Campaign.

Got An Idea For Camp Vandemere?

Nobody knows Camp Vandemere as well as those who camped or volunteered there. And we'd love to hear your thoughts. What worked before? What needs to be rethought? How can we improve the experience? Email your ideas to campvandemere@gmail.com or mail to the address below.

A *Sling* and a **STONE**

Significance in Christ as a Young Adult

with Marc Boswell

Christianity: A Polite Religion?

In an old episode of “The Andy Griffith Show,” Sheriff Andy Taylor agrees to help the rough-around-the-edges Ernest T. Bass find someone to date. Ernest T., the troublesome hillbilly, had recently tried his hand at a neighborhood social thrown by a very polished, polite woman in Mayberry. After breaking every social norm and code of decency imaginable, Ernest T. is thrown out of the party and told to never return. After being arrested for the disruption and telling his woes to Andy and Barney, Andy attempts the seemingly impossible—he is going to civilize the unruly and uncouth Ernest T.

Andy goes through a series of exercises with Ernest T., teaching him how to politely enter a room, how to announce his words properly, and how to make small talk at a social gathering. In one memorable scene, Andy, Opie, and Aunt Bee have Ernest T. over for dinner to teach him table etiquette. During the meal, the young Opie asks Ernest T. to pass him a slice of bread, at which point Ernest T. picks up a piece and flings it through the air in Opie’s direction. A surprised Opie reaches out to catch the flying food, and a scandalized Aunt Bee exasperatingly scolds Ernest T., telling him “Throwing food is a sin!” Andy quickly agrees with Aunt Bee, claiming, “It sure is. You *pass* it. You don’t *throw* it.”

What stands out to me from this scene is Aunt Bee’s use of the word “sin” to describe the nature of Ernest T.’s action, i.e., responding to Opie’s request for a piece of bread by tossing it instead of “politely” passing it. Aunt Bee’s declaration of “sin” points to the way that evangelical Christianity in the United States had become a religion that, amongst other things, stressed the importance of being polite and forming good manners. Aunt Bee didn’t simply say that throwing food was “impolite” or “uncivilized,” but rather that it was sinful, an act that God frowns upon or an act that distances the human being from God.

This episode came to mind after two conversations I recently had with Free Will Baptist young adults. In one conversation, a young woman was telling me that she had recently started a summer internship. She tried to determine if any of her new co-workers were Christian, and her method for doing so caught me a bit off guard. She said that she knew

certain individuals weren’t Christians, or, at least, weren’t good Christians, because they often used profanity and would sometimes tell “dirty jokes.” In the other conversation, a young man condemned the hypocrisy of a certain Christian friend for also committing the sin of telling a “dirty joke.”

The way that both of these individuals pointed toward profanity and the telling of crude jokes as being sinful acts or signs that one is not devoted to Christ caused me to think back to the “Andy Griffith” episode recounted earlier. My concern in this article is not to discuss whether or not these things are sinful, nor am I trying to argue that middle-class values are bad values to hold. What does concern me, though, is that evangelical Christianity often presents the Christian faith as if there’s nothing more to it than getting saved, cleaning up your language, and learning how to properly “pass the bread” at a dinner table. By saying that it concerns me, I am not suggesting that it’s good to throw bread at one another or tell off-color jokes. I am, however, claiming that Jesus was concerned much less with the cultivation of good manners and was much more concerned with other things.

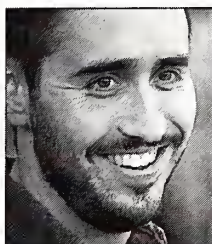
Undoubtedly, someone can point to certain passages of the Bible that speak about the morality of the language we use or the things we fill our minds with, and why these things are, indeed, important to the discipleship of a Christian. I’m not arguing that they’re not important. Nevertheless, as a young adult, I also know that the same type of legalism that Jesus and Paul resisted can still be found today in our religious practices. To state it differently, my young friend who started the summer internship could have looked to see if her co-workers cared for the sick, gave of their possessions to the hungry, or visited the oppressed in prison (Matthew 25). Or, she could have asked if they brought release to the captives, freed the oppressed, or brought good news to the poor (Luke 4). Likewise, she could have asked if they pronounced woes on the rich (Luke 6) and spent time hanging out with the outcasts and despised of our society (Luke 5). Instead, she looked to see if they cussed or told crude jokes.

There are young adults all over the world looking to be part of something that tells them their lives are meaningful

and allows them to participate in a movement that helps the despised, the poor, and introduces positive change into a hurting, dark world. Christianity, based on the passages of Scripture referenced above, seems to be just that type of “something.” But it cannot be that if it’s primarily rendered as the legalistic system of a God who cares more about the jokes one tells than the way a person works for justice (Micah 6) or brings abundant life to those deprived of their basic rights and full humanity (John 10). Being polite, in other words, is a good thing, but to be a disciple of Jesus of Nazareth is certainly a lot more than this, right?

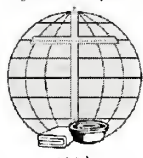
Most of my young adult friends from eastern North Carolina who no longer attend church do so neither because they have a particular grievance against God nor because they have little interest in Jesus. Instead, Christianity is often portrayed to

them as a system of moral values that cares primarily about the things mentioned above in the conversations shared with my two friends. Christianity, in other words, seems to be a legalistic religion that polices the amount of certain four-letter words uttered in a day. According to Scripture, though, the founder of our faith could be seen prolonging parties with wine (John 2), calling religious leaders impolite names (Matthew 23), causing a scene and protesting in religious buildings (Mark 11), and breaking established rules and radically reinterpreting the Hebrew Bible (Mark 2, Matthew 5). This Jesus, to be sure, is a far cry from someone judging Ernest T. Bass for throwing food. One has to wonder, did the unruly Jesus actually have more in common with the unruly Ernest T. Bass?



Marc Boswell is from Saratoga, NC, where he grew up as a member of Spring Branch OFWB Church. He is ordained in the Central Conference and currently lives in Richmond, VA, where he is working toward the completion of a Ph.D. in the fields of Theology and American Religious History at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

The
Articles of Faith
and
Principles of Church
Government
for
Original Free Will Baptists
(of the English General Baptist Heritage)



100th
Anniversary Edition
Convention of
Original Free Will Baptists

100th Anniversary Edition

of

The Articles of Faith

A Larger Print (5.5 x 8.5 inch trim size)

\$5 each

For a limited time only/while supplies last

Consumed in the flame of surrender
Yet transforming every thought of soul
All is become new and made whole

When sheep without their shepherd stray
Our prayer; revive in us our first love
Renew the comfort of embrace
Restore communion grace
Leading ever the homeward way

Abundant flows His River to reclaim and to set free
Face, upstream, the source
Lest we drift into a barren, with no outlet, sea

— *Scotty McCoy* —

Have you ever seen God in a darkened starry night?
Have you ever seen God in an eagle’s gliding flight?

Have you ever seen God in the powerful waves of the sea?
Have you ever seen God in the tallest redwood tree?

Have you ever seen God in the mountain’s magnificent view?
Have you ever seen God in the vast sky so blue?

Have you ever seen God in the fresh morning dew?

Have you ever seen God in you?

— *Kathryn Wiggs* —



“Crowns for Christ” Hat Luncheon Held

On Saturday, May 19, 2012, the Annie McPhail Woman’s Auxiliary of Oak Grove Church located in Newton Grove, NC hosted their Second Annual “Crowns for Christ” Hat Luncheon and fundraiser.

The event was held in the fellowship hall with tables clad in linen white cloths and yellow napkins accentuated with gorgeous yellow and green floral centerpieces. Napkins secured with green and yellow raffia included souvenir auxiliary ink pens. Personal place cards, water, and “tulip-like” cups of mints invited guests to their seats at the luncheon.

Welcoming the cool breezy morning, women ranging from ages four to ninety-four, dressed in their favorite outfit adorned with beautiful fascinating hats. Spring was clearly visible in their wispy fabrics and array of colors. Guests enjoyed the occasion to embrace a fading fashion of southern charm, elegance, and tradition.

Mrs. Charlotte Hudson, president of the auxiliary, greeted guests and briefly shared the importance of virtue. Mrs. Dale Langston of Stewart’s Chapel Church presented the message, “A Virtuous Woman.” Also from Stewart’s Chapel, Mrs. Tangie Langston, vocalist, presented a message in songs.

Following the message, Ms. Wendy Giddens, vice president and Mrs. June Hairr, secretary, presented the 2012 “Woman of the Year” award to their mother, Charlotte Hudson, president of the auxiliary. Wendy shared that her mother’s life embodies a “life giver,” a source of nurturing, devotion, patience, and unconditional love. June shared the story, “Farm Mom,” an essay written by Charlotte’s children. Nominations submitted by auxiliary members unanimously recognized Charlotte’s commitment to service, leadership, and devotion to the auxiliary, church, and God.

Mrs. Bernice Godwin closed the program with a prayer of blessing. Guests enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch catered by Meadow Village Restaurant in Benson, NC.

The auxiliary raises funds by offering sponsorship opportunities at various levels (listed below).

- ☛ “Crowns for Christ” table, \$1000—2 tables (16 seats)
- ☛ “Majestic Hat” table, \$500—1 table (8 seats)
- ☛ “Hallelujah Hat” table, \$250—(4 seats)
- ☛ “Honorable Hat” table, \$100—(2 seats)
- ☛ “Loyal Hat” \$20—(1 seat)



June Hairr, secretary for the auxiliary and daughter presents the award to her mother, Charlotte Hudson, president of the auxiliary.



Charlotte Hudson, 2012 Woman of the Year Award

Lucille Overman Grady

By Edythe Blanton

May's Chapel Church honored its oldest mother, Lucille Overman Grady, on Mother's Day.

She was born Georgia Lucille Overman on March 10, 1925 to Belle and Richard Overman. She was born about one half mile south of May's Chapel Church on present day US 117 Alternate at the top of the hill. Older brothers, Robert and Aaron, welcomed a new sister to the family. Several years later, Emmaline completed the family. Her mother and father were founding members of the church and her father, Richard, operated a sawmill. He was responsible for cutting the lumber used for building the first church. She accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior right here at May's Chapel and was baptized in Durham's Lake—then known as Dudley Beach. Throughout her early years, Lucille was raised to attend church and do her part. She has never forgotten that lesson.

She attended Brogden School but met her future husband, Perry Grady, at church. She married him in 1940 at the age of 15 and spent the next 40 years with him. Most of their married life they lived where Mrs. Lucille currently resides. In the early years they farmed and later managed their own business, Grady's Electric. They had five children, Mary Lois, Joseph, Bobby, Kenny, and George. Having five children made for a busy life between homemaking, the family business, school activities, and church.

Lucille realized she needed more job skills so she took some business classes at Mount Olive College. These were put to good use when they opened the family business. Lucille also took over the care of her elderly mother for a number of years. When Perry died suddenly in 1980 she went to work at Southern Bank.

Lucille always had a lot of artistic ability. She took up painting as she began a longtime friendship with local artist, Janet Lee. She also loved to travel. Her traveling companion on many trips to Cragmont and several trips throughout the eastern United States and Canada, was Nellie Outlaw. Nellie tended to be quiet and shy while Lucille was outgoing and never met a stranger.

They made the perfect traveling companions. She went out west with her daughter and son-in-law in 1982 and experienced the grandeur of the Grand Canyon from the ground and the air. She also traveled with Mary Lois to Hawaii where she fell in love with the beauty of The Islands. She traveled with granddaughter, Alicia, taking a cruise down the Mississippi River. That is the unique thing about Mrs. Lucille. She is fun! You know all senior citizens and some younger people are not fun. But all ages enjoy her company.



Lucille has always been active in her church. For many years she directed Vacation Bible School. In later years she could be depended upon to lead the adult crafts. She was very active in the Woman's Auxiliary, NTO Club, and a valuable member of the church choir. When deteriorating eyesight forced her to leave the choir recently, it created a real void. She is greatly missed.

She has often said she was not blessed with a lot of material things, but she has been blessed with the things that really matter—family, friends, and her church. She loves being surrounded by her five children, 11 grandchildren, and 22 great grandchildren. Likewise, her friends and family love being a part of her life.

On behalf of the church, Edythe Blanton presented Lucille Overman Grady with a plaque, formally thanking her for being a great mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and loyal and faithful servant to her Lord and church for many years.

Did Your Relative Attend the FWB Seminary or Eureka College?

Most Free Will Baptists know that the denomination had two educational institutions that predated the founding of Mount Olive Junior College/Mount Olive College. The FWB Theological Seminary was chartered in 1896, opened in 1898 and closed in 1924. Eureka College was chartered in 1925 and opened in 1926. It closed in 1929 for financial reasons. Both institutions were in Ayden, NC.

The Free Will Baptist Historical Collection has several catalogs of the two schools, but their holdings are not complete. From the catalogs that are available, the list that follows are persons who attended one or both of the institutions. The staff of The Collection believes that other catalog years might be held by the families of these students. The Collection has catalogs for the years: Seminary: 1905, 1908–09, 1912–13;

1913–14; 1914–15; 1916–17; 1917–18. College: 1926–27; 19[27]–[28] (Both catalog covers bear same date of 1926–27, but they are for two different sessions).

If some of your relatives are listed as students, please see if you can locate any other catalogs which these students might have kept among family papers, etc. Please contact Gary Barefoot, Curator of the Collection, if you should find catalogs other than those listed (telephone: (919) 658-7827, e-mail: <gbarefoot@moc.edu>). Also, if you know that your relative attended either institution and their names are not listed, let that be known as well. The Collection is interested in compiling as complete a list of alumni as possible. As far as is known, there are no living alumni of either institution.

FWB Theological Seminary & Eureka College Students

(Names from available catalogs of both institutions: Part 1 of 4)

Name of Student	Hometown	Catalog Years	Name of Student	Hometown	Catalog Years
Adams, Clyde	Kinston, NC	1905	Baily, Geo. W.		1908–1909
Adams, Daisy	Kinston, NC	1905	Baker, Alice	Ayden, NC	1905
Adams, Frances	Tuscarora, NC	1926–1928	Baker, Daniel		1908–1909
Adams, John	Kinston, NC	1905	Baker, Hennie	Ayden, NC	1905
Adams, Vera	Kinston, NC	1905	Baker, Nora Lee	Ayden, NC	1905
Alexander, Bruce	Pitt County, NC	1912–1913	Baldree, A. T.	Ayden, NC	1926–1928
Alexander, C. A.	Washington County, NC	1914–1915	Ballinger, Dixie	Ayden, NC	1905
Alexander, Dennis W.	Tyrrell County, NC		Ballinger, Nellie	Ayden, NC	1905
Alexander, Romie	Tyrrell County, NC	1912–1913	Banks, Hubert C.	Pamlico County, NC	1913–1914
Alexander, Walter M.	Ayden, NC		Barber, Charles	Ayden, NC	1905
Allegood, Royse	Ayden, NC	1926–1928	Barber, Lottie	Ayden, NC	1905
Allen, Albert	Johnson County, NC	1912–1913	Barber, Pearlise	Ayden, NC	1905
Allen, C. N.	Pitt County, NC	1912–1913	Barnhill, J. T.	Parmele, NC	1925–1928
Allen, Matthew R.	Smithfield, NC	1908–1909	Barrington, Cenia	Ayden, NC	1908–1909
Allen, Ransom	Smithfield, NC	1905	Barrington, Ethel	Ayden, NC	1908–1909
Allen, Thomas Benjamin	Four Oaks, NC	1908–1909	Barrington, Leona	Ayden, NC	1908–1909
Alligood, Boyce	Ayden, NC	1926–1928	Barrow, Charlotte	Greene County, NC	1914–1915
Anderson, Alma	Mt. Olive, NC	1926–1928	Barrow, Johnnie	Craven County, NC	1916–1917
Anderson, Evelyn	Ayden, NC	1926–1928	Basden, Johnnie	Ayden, NC	1905
Anderson, Jesse	Ayden, NC	1926–1928	Batts, W. B.	Nashville, NC	1926–1928
Anderson, Mary	Ayden, NC	1926–1928	Beaman, Thomas E.	Wilson County, NC	1917–1918
Anderson, Velma	Mt. Olive, NC	1926–1928	Bedard, Nettie	Littlefield, NC	1905
Armstrong, Cleaton O.	Columbia, NC	1905	Beddard, J. T.	Pitt County, NC	1912–1913
Armstrong, Hattie	Columbia, NC	1905	Beddard, Mrs. Willie	Pitt County, NC	1914–1915
Armstrong, McCellan	Columbia, NC	1908–1909	Bennett, J. R.	Grantsboro, NC	1926–1928
Armstrong, Mittie	Columbia, NC	1908–1909	Biggs, Arhur. M.	Wilson County, NC	1913–1914
Atkinson, Robert	Fremont, NC	1925–1928	Biggs, P. V.	Wilson County, NC	1912–1913
Baggette, Ben	Clarendon County, SC	1917–1918	Blackman, J. C.	Pine Level, NC	1908–1909

Name of Student	Hometown	Catalog Years	Name of Student	Hometown	Catalog Years
Blackwelder, I. J.	Lake Butler, FL	1926-1928	Cox, Louis	Ayden, NC	1905
Bodiford, J. R.	Greelyville, SC	1908-1909	Cox, Ollie	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Bodiford, Samuel L.	Greelyville, SC	1905	Cox, Roscoe	Black Jack, NC	1905
Bowen, Mary	Ayden, NC	1926-1928	Craft, Janie	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Boyd, Lila Rook	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915	Creech, Ida	Johnston County, NC	1912-1913
Boykin, Willie	Johnson County, NC	1917-1918	Creech, J. M.	Pine Level, NC	1908-1909
Branch, Jasper	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913	Croom, Maddie	Lenoir County, NC	1912-1913
Branch, John	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913	Crumpler, Arthur	Kenly, NC	1926-1928
Branch, Myrtle	Ayden, NC	1905	Dail, Daisy	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Branch, Pattie	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914	Dail, Estelle	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Branche, Bessie	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918	Dail, Hubert	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918
Branche, Peatrice	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918	Dail, Inez	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Braxton, Ethel	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917	Dail, Lizzie	Renston, NC	1908-1909
Braxton, Luther	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915	Dail, Lucy B.	Winterville, NC	1908-1909
Broadwaters, Thomas W.	Merritt, NC	1905	Dail, Mary	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Broughton, Daisy	Arapahoe, NC	1926-1928	Dail, Maud (Newsome)	Lucama, NC	1908-1909
Brown, Doris	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915	Dail, Mrs. G. W.	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Buck, Lossie Belle	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915	Dail, Rosa Lee	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Burnette, Bert Moye	Greene County, NC	1917-1918	Dail, Ruth	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Burnette, Jewell	Greene County, NC	1917-1918	Darden, Dred	Wilson County, NC	1917-1918
Bvrum, Cora	Ayden, NC	1908-1909	Darden, Nathan	Wayne/Wilson County, NC	1916-1917
Byrd, Hattie	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914	Daugherty, Hubert	Craven County, NC	1916-1917
Byrum, Mary	Ayden, NC	1926-1928	Davenport, Charlie	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918
Byrum, Sadie	Ayden, NC	1905	Davenport, H. L.	Lenoir County, NC	1917-1918
Cannon, A. R.	Ayden, NC	1926-1928	Davenport, Johnson	Lenoir County, NC	1917-1918
Cannon, Lillie	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913	Davidson, J. R.	Vienna, GA	1926-1928
Cannon, Mrs. Allen	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915	Davidson, Mrs. J. A. (R?)	Vienna, GA	1926-1928
Cannon, Roy	Ayden, NC	1908-1909	Davis, C. H.	Davis, NC	1926-1928
Carmack, Geo. W.	Dover, NC	1905	Davis, Clem	Carteret County, NC	1912-1913
Carmack, W. H.	Dover, NC	1905	Deans, Alice	Nash County, NC	1913-1914
Carter, Perlle Mae	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917	Deans, B. D.	Nash County, NC	1913-1914
Case, Vivian	Snow Hill, NC	1908-1909	Deans, Mary	Nash County, NC	1913-1914
Casey, Elijah	Grantsboro, NC	1926-1928	Dennis, Edgar	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Cash, B. J.	Greene / Pitt County, NC	1916-1917	Dennis, Jasper	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Causey, Jarvis	Craven County, NC	1916-1917	Dennis, Myrna	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Cayton, Georgia	Edwards, NC	1908-1909	Dennis, Zacheris	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Cayton, T. D.	Aurora, NC	1905	Dixon, Benjamin	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Chambers, Clyde	Duplin County, NC	1914-1915	Dixon, Eva	Greenville	1905
Cheek, Julian C.	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915	Dixon, Lizzie	Ayden, NC	1905
Clark, Geo.	Kinston, NC	1926-1928	Dixon, Lorena	Ayden, NC	1905
Clark, George	Nash County, NC	1914-1915	Dixson, John S.	Black Jack, NC	1908-1909
Clark, George	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915	Dowty, Hattie	Oriental, NC	1905
Coker, S. A.	Florence County, SC	1913-1914	Dowty, Sudie	Grantsboro, NC	1905
Coley, Paul	Wilson County, NC	1912-1913	Driggers, Scott		1926-1928
Collins, Estelle	Craven County, NC	1917-1918	Dunn, Edith	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Colly, Willie	Wayne County, NC	1916-1917	Dunn, Guy	Pamlico/Pitt County, NC	1916-1917
Cook, Leon	Craven County, NC	1914-1915	Dunn, Wilbert	Pamlico County, NC	1916-1917
Cook, William	Speight's Bridge, NC	1908-1909	Dunn, Wilbur	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918
Corbett, Irene (Wellons)	Micro, NC	1908-1909	Earley, Eva	Hertford County, NC	1913-1914
Corbett, Ora	Ayden, NC	1908-1909	Edmondson, Gillen	Mildred, NC	1908-1909
Corbett, Rella	Ayden, NC	1905	Edmondson, Selma	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Cox, Carmen	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914	Edwards, A. T.	Lenoir County, NC	1913-1914
Cox, G. C.	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918	Edwards, Athleene	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917
Cox, Harry	Ayden, NC	1905	Edwards, Dolton	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Cox, James H.		1908-1909	Edwards, E. J.	Kinston, NC	1905
Cox, Jesse	Ayden, NC	1908-1909	Elks, James	Chicod, NC	1926-1928
Cox, Jeter	Ayden, NC	1905			

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU HAVE:

A new address, received damaged or duplicate copies, missed an issue, experienced any billing problems, or you want to renew or cancel a subscription. You may contact us by e-mail at: <amy@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (252) 746-6128 or (800) 849-3927.

Advertising Rates

- Black/White—1/8 page (business card size) . . . \$30
- Black/White—1/4 page \$40
- Black/White—1/2 page \$50
- Black/White—3/4 page \$60
- Black/White—Full page \$70
- Full Color Centerfold—Left Side \$175
- Full Color Centerfold—Right Side \$175
- Full Color Centerfold—Both Sides \$325
- Full Color Inside Front Cover—Full Page. . . . \$150
- Full Color Inside Back Cover—Full Page \$150
- Full Color Back Cover. \$200
- Churches & Ministry Positions \$20
(maximum of 4 lines)

Ad prices are for single/first runs. There is a 25% discount on each additional run.

The printing of ads is contingent on the availability of space and we reserve the right to condense ad space as necessary. You will be charged only for the actual size used.

We reserve the right to refuse any material that is not consistent with our principles and practices as a Christian company and as a ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

These advertising rates are for, and advertising is permitted by, OFWB churches and auxiliary organizations, as well as qualified business organizations. These charges apply to any announcements, coming event listings, invitations, and registration forms. If you have any questions, contact the editor by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227. **There is no charge for feature article submissions from OFWB churches/members or news releases of recent OFWB church happenings.**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE INFORMATION

The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) **When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before.**

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Articles sent for publication should be sent in Microsoft Word or Macintosh Pages. Files sent in Microsoft Publisher, .PDF, or others cannot be used.

PHOTO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Your digital photos are more likely to be included in the publication if the following guidelines are followed:

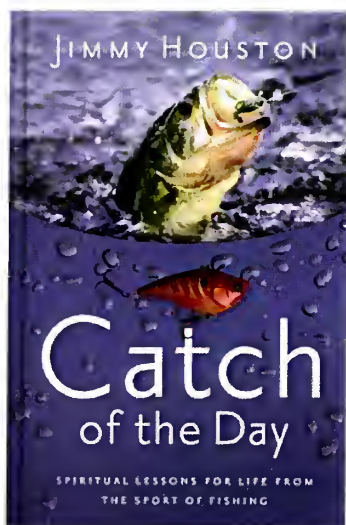
1. Set digital cameras at the highest resolution possible. We realize that it takes longer to e-mail larger files, but print requires a higher resolution than the web.
2. When e-mailing photos, please send them one photo at a time. This ensures that there will not be any file compression and your photo will e-mail at the largest size. Please do not send photographs within the body of the article. Each photo should be sent in a separate e-mail in JPEG format. If there is more than one picture, note 1 of ?, 2 of ?, etc. in the subject line.
3. Large group photos typically do not work well. If taking photos of a group activity, submit several photos of individuals or small groups, and we'll select the ones to print.
4. Get in close—we like to see smiling faces. Only photographs that are close to the subject matter and are in focus reproduce well.
5. If possible, please include the names of all the people in each photo. Identify from left to right and from front to back.
6. Non-digital photos can be sent to our office. However, pictures will not be returned unless there is an appropriate self-addressed stamped envelope included!

ADVERTISING SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Ad materials should be sent in Microsoft Word or Macintosh Pages. Files sent in Microsoft Publisher, .PDF, or others cannot be used. Camera-ready artwork is generally not accepted. However, with prior approval, we will accept files in Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator (currently Adobe Creative Suite 3 or earlier).

You may submit items in any of the following ways:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
P.O. Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513.



Catch of the Day

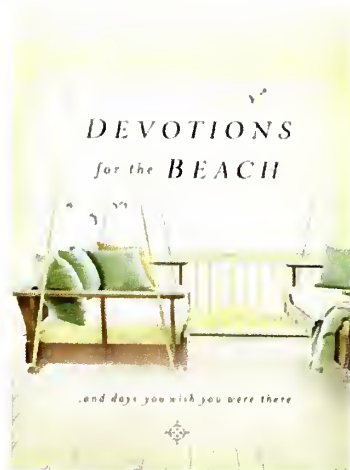
Put into action the characteristics needed to be a great fisherman, and see how they can also make you into a great fisher of men.

Fishermen don't rely on luck in order to catch fish—they put their skills, knowledge, and experience into play every time they cast their line. Likewise, righteous and godly living doesn't come naturally but requires study, commitment, and a lot of practice. In *Catch of the Day*, Jimmy Houston combines both his love of fishing and his love of God in this unique fisherman's 365-day devotional. Each day features Scripture and a thought for meditation that applies insights from the art of fishing to daily spiritual growth, as well as a fishing tip from a pro. Anyone who loves God's creation, combined with the excitement of the catch, will truly enjoy this guide of spiritual lessons for life.

Hardcover: Retail Price \$14.99

ON SALE \$11.97

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last



Devotions for the Beach

Dig your feet in the sand and let the water cool your toes as you escape into the beauty of God's seaside creations, and hear His voice more clearly than perhaps anywhere else.

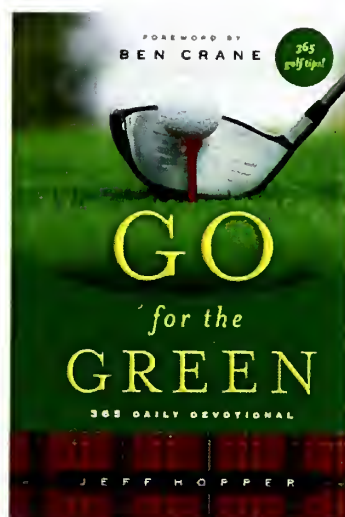
There's nothing quite like the warmth and relaxation of the beach—away from the stresses of the world and into a place of peace and refreshment. *Devotions for the Beach* is the gentle breeze that takes you there, to see the majesty of God and to open your heart and soul to the One who created it all. These 90 devotions explore the parallels of life with the elements of the shore to help you see God, to find hope, to draw strength, and to rest in the comfort of His arms throughout your day. Included are striking photographs with a fresh, contemporary design for timeless appeal.

Every woman will want a copy of this book as a gentle reminder of days at the beach and the call of God's love.

Hardcover: Retail Price \$16.99

ON SALE \$12.97

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last



Go for the Green

God can meet us wherever we are, and for golfers, that is often on the golf course.

Experience daily devotions with the peace you feel on an early morning course, the excitement of doing well, the enjoyment of time spent with the closest of all friends.

This daily round of golf-themed devotions offers thoughts for throughout the year: the Off-Season, the Majors Season, the Golf Season, and the Silly Season. Conceived by the founder of a faith-and-golf ministry, each devotional and scripture are partnered with a solid golf tip to help the reader get to the green. Written in a pleasant, intelligent style that will connect with players of all ages, *Go for the Green* is a hole-in-one for its target audience.

Hardcover: Retail Price \$14.99

ON SALE \$11.97

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last



To order, call 1.800.849.3927 or visit your nearest Cross & Crown location:

3928 Lee Street, Ayden
Vernon Park Mall, Kinston
Glenburnie Plaza, New Bern



THOMAS NELSON
We Inspire the World



NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

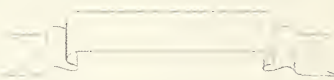
A Foundation for the Future of Original Free Will Baptists



Announces

Scholarship Application Deadline

August 31, 2012



The Reverend Dustin Bannister, Pastor
Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church
Newton Grove, NC

Dustin is one of 32 students to have received
in excess of \$125,000 in scholarships since 2006.

You could be next!

For more information on scholarships, endowments, and the
North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries, please see our section inside.

*Footprints convey that someone has gone before us,
Leaving us a marked way;
And remind us that we also can leave a marked way
For those who come after us.*



PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID 28513
USPS 2094-4000

DUKE UNIVERSITY
PERKINS LIBRARY
DURHAM, NC 27706

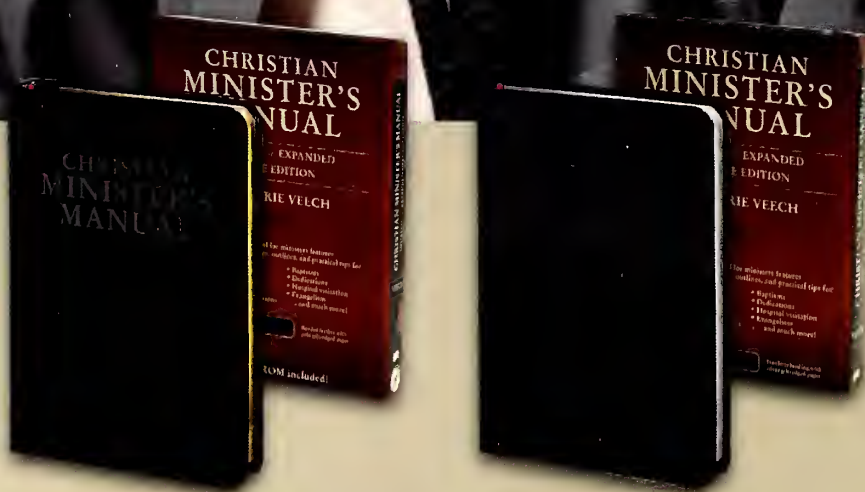
T · F · W · B

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST



AUGUST 2012

Christian Minister's Manual



These updated and customizable editions of the *Christian Minister's Manual* cover how to perform common ceremonies including weddings, funerals, dedications, and ordinations. A great gift for ministers! Each edition has two ribbon markers, gilt-edge pages, and a gift box.

**Each one can be imprinted with your pastor's name at no additional charge.*

Deluxe Bonded Leather with CD-ROM
Retail \$34.99 • ON SALE \$27.97

DuoTone Imitation Leather
Retail \$24.99 • ON SALE \$19.97

Standard
PUBLISHING

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last



CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!

2012

August

Heritage Month

The Original Free Will Baptist Monthly Planner

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
Cornerstone Women's @ Cragmont (29-August 3)						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

REFLECTIONS

A Guest Editorial

DO WE NEED REVIVAL?

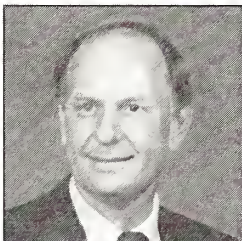
By The Reverend Mike Scott

August is the month we celebrate our heritage as Original Free Will Baptists, and as we look back on the history our denomination we can see how God has blessed, directed, and sustained His work through us. From humble beginnings we have grown into a church that impacts individuals not only in this country but also in many areas of the world. Today, Original Free Will Baptists are actively involved in many areas of ministry in that needy and abused children are being cared for, aid and comfort is given to those affected by natural disasters, and the elderly have a place to look for help and support. Besides this, we have mission programs in place that reach out to both our own country as well as various points throughout the world, camps where both the old and the young can attend to be spiritually energized, educational institutions that offer a variety of degrees (all with a Christian emphasis), a Sunday School ministry that greatly benefits our churches, programs for ministers that ensure those who spend a lifetime in Christian service will be provided

for in their old age and a press that is diligent to supply the needed materials for our denomination to fulfill Paul's command to study in order that we might be approved before God. All of the tools are in place for us to go forward and do a great work for both God and His Kingdom, but is something missing?

August is not only our Heritage month as a denomination, but it is also the last full month of summer. This means fall is coming, and for many of our churches that means it is time for Fall revivals. For years now our Foreign Missions Director has encouraged us to pray for revival, but for the most part his pleas have fallen on deaf ears. A revival should be a time of refreshing in which God's people renew their commitment to Christ, but for the most part they have become routine. We tend to hold revivals at the same time every year, and many times we invite the same guest speaker to come. There was a time when revivals ran for two weeks or longer, but now we're lucky if we can get people to attend three or four nights. In general, the typical revival has run its course.

I do believe we as Original Free Will Baptists need REVIVAL, but it will come only as God's people sincerely seek it. A revival cannot be planned, packaged, and presented; instead, it must be prayed down from Heaven above. Speaking through King Solomon Almighty God says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). God truly wants to bless His people, but they must be in a position to receive those blessings. The Bible teaches us that we can have the desires of our heart (see Psalm 37:4); therefore, if we genuinely and sincerely want revival, it can become a reality. The Psalmist cries out "Wilt thou not REVIVE us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee" (Psalm 85:5), and we likewise need to storm the very portals of Heaven in behalf of our nation, our denomination, and the lost people throughout the world.



Mike Scott is the pastor of Juniper Chapel OFWB Church in Vanceboro, NC and serves as a Ministerial Advisor to the Convention of Layman's Leagues. He has been in the Gospel ministry since 1972 and considers it a great privilege to proclaim the message of redemption through the Lord Jesus Christ. Mike is married to Amy Barbour Scott, and together they enjoy serving the Lord, spending time with family, and traveling.

Managing Editor

Darren Davenport
editor@fwbpress.com

Production Manager

Jerry Goff
jerry@fwbpress.com

Circulation, Accounts Receivable

Amy Stokes
amy@fwbpress.com

Accounts Payable
Wallie Hargrove

Editorial Assistants

Dixie McLawhorn, Carlton Oakley

Graphic Designers

**Jerry Goff, Amy Benson,
Nathaniel Ingram, Dixie McLawhorn**

Production Team

**Ronnie Jones, Ted Johnston,
Joshua Roundtree, Johnnie Stancill**



www.fwbpress.com

President

Jeff Daughtry
jeff@fwbpress.com

Vice President

Darren Davenport
dardend@fwbpress.com

Board of Directors

Frank Flowers (Chairman), Central
Mike Scott (Vice Chairman), Eastern
Royce Reynolds (Secretary), Albemarle
Joe Ballance, Cape Fear • Kelley Smart, Central
Nancy Hardee, Pee Dee • Mark Hobbs, Central
Loydene Proctor, Western

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.

Subscription Prices: All subscriptions are payable in advance: 1 year (12 issues) \$18
2 years (24 issues) \$32

A **Bundle Plan** (\$10 each) and an **Every-Family Plan** (\$14 each) is also available. Call or e-mail circulation or the editor for more details.

© 2012 *The Free Will Baptist* • All Rights Reserved.

The Free Will Baptist is edited and published monthly by the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc., 3928 Lee Street, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159. Second-class postage paid at Ayden, North Carolina (USPS 2094-4000).

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Free Will Baptist Press, P.O. Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513-0159.

FEATURES & COLUMNS

- 2** *Reflections: A Guest Editorial*
- 4** *United We Stand; Divided... Well, You Know!*
- 7** *Willem van der Plas*
- 8** *Patience With God*
- 9** *A Back to School Guide for Parents*
- 18** *Finding Peace with Michelle Taylor*
- 20** *A Sling and a Stone with Marc Boswell*
- 31** *Pondering the Past with Celia Hales*
- 36** *Lesson Inner View with Adrian Grubbs*
- 37** *Psalms for the Soul with Linda Herring*
- 42** *Dr. Pepper's Book Corner*

RECEIVED

AUG 24 2012

DIVINITY SCHOOL LIBRARY
DUKE UNIVERSITY

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- 15** *Convention News*
- 16** *Foreign Missions*
- 22** *Children's Home*
- 10** *Sunday School*
- 10** *Home Missions*
- 12** *Mount Olive College*

ANCILLARY MINISTRIES

- 38** *NC Foundation for Christian Ministries*
- 40** *Woman's Auxiliary*

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

ON THE COVER

Rachel Broadway, Megan Monroe, and Jacob Monroe with Rusty Martin, Jr. (center) who starred as Dylan Mitchell in the movie, *Courageous*, standing outside of Kornegay Arena on the campus of Mount Olive College during the Convention of OFWB on May 23, 2012.

United We Stand; Divided... Well, You Know!

by The Reverend Neal Cox

Each of us have probably heard the familiar statement united we stand, divided we fall. It is well known that Patrick Henry said, "united we stand, divided we fall, let us not split into factions which must destroy that union upon which our existence hangs."¹ However, it is less known that this concept springs from a more ancient source of wisdom. The following two fables of Aesop date as far back as 600–500 B.C.

A lion used to prowl about a field in which four oxen used to dwell. Many a time he tried to attack them; but whenever he came near they turned their tails to one another, so that whichever way he approached them he was met by the horns of one of them. At last, however, they fell a-quarrelling among themselves, and each went off to pasture alone in a separate corner of the field. Then the Lion attacked them one by one and soon made an end of all four.² United we stand, divided we fall.

An old man on the point of death summoned his sons around him to give them some parting advice. He ordered his servants to bring in a bundle of sticks, and said to his eldest son: "Break it." The son strained and strained, but with all his efforts was unable to break the Bundle. The other sons also tried, but none of them was successful. "Untie the bundle," said the father, "and each of you take a stick." When they had done so, he called out to them: "Now, break," and each stick was easily broken. "You see my meaning," said their father.³ Our strength is in unity.

It just makes good sense; there is simply strength in numbers. This is not news, nor should it surprise us.

During the last few years, The Reverend Buddy Sasser (along with the Executive Committee of the Convention) has planned and offered the OFWB annual conventions that have advocated for unity amongst the brethren. Of course this is what we all desire for our denomination, especially since Satan is as a roaring lion roaming about seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). As Aesop's fable above reminds us, we are not able to stand against the lion alone.

Pastors and laity alike have been thinking about the issue of unity, seeking to highlight and remove hindrances to the development of a deep sense of organic community. What follows is one more attempt to move this conversation forward in a respectful way.

It has been stated that one of our greatest strengths is our diversity. This is a statement with which I whole heartedly agree. However, it must also be stated that when it comes to *certain issues* of core doctrinal belief, there must be at least a measure of agreement. Sound theological conviction has more sustaining power for harmony than ideological sniping has for disunity.

In a cartoon recently posted on Facebook, Linus and Lucy peered out of a window at a deluge of rain. Lucy turned to Linus and exasperatedly said, "Boy, look at it rain...What if it floods the entire world?" To which Linus calmly responded, "It will never do that...In the ninth chapter of Genesis, God promised Noah that would never happen again, and the sign of the promise is the rainbow." Relieved, Lucy replied, "You've taken a great load off of my mind!" To which Linus confidently stated, "Sound theology has a way of doing that!" Amen Linus; amen!

Recently, I have been thinking a great deal about the direction of the OFWB Church and its future. The constant calls for unity at conferences and conventions indicate that there is still (at least on some level) a sense of disunity underlying our gatherings. There are obviously going to be preferences concerning certain topics of conversation amongst us, and the great thing about our polity in the OFWB Church is that there is room for disagreement on many of these topics. However, at this last convention, I distributed a short survey as part of an independent study for my work at Campbell. The assumption of this survey was that we are divided on what matters the most, our doctrine of salvation. A second assumption (related to the first) was that this division is one of the main reasons we often pull apart rather than together.

My sense was that when this survey was returned, it would show that good portions of our people, *including many of our pastors*, supply the doctrines of *regeneration and justification* in their mind when they hear the words saved or salvation. And sadly, this is what the data shows.

Five hundred surveys were distributed and of those, 100 were answered and returned. The evidence is somewhat bleak concerning the issue of unity on this all-important doctrine. Between 33 and 50% (depending on which question was being responded to) answered in such a way as to suggest they believed that salvation is only (*or at least mainly*) about regeneration and justification. Even in spite of the fact that the *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government of OFWB*

of the General Baptist Heritage clearly teach us that the doctrine of salvation includes sanctification.

The results of the survey (below) are reported as follows with

as little bias as possible:⁴ (i.e. at this point, I am not suggesting what is right or wrong, I simply seek to highlight the obvious division in our theology)

When given the option to assert that salvation affects *only the soul* or at least given the option of favoring *only the salvation of the soul* for future heavenly bliss (as opposed to any *real social* component of salvation in the here and now): 40% said that salvation has *no real social* component and is *only about (or mainly about) spending eternity in heaven after we die*. 50% said that salvation is equally about an individual's spiritual condition for eternity as well as about one's social responsibility to live as Christ here and now.

When asked if evangelism is *only about saving someone's soul* even if that means neglecting their social, bodily, and felt needs: 56% said we should be more concerned about getting a soul saved even if it means neglecting social ministry. 37% said that the Church should minister to *both* the bodily and the spiritual needs of all persons.

When asked what salvation means: 33% said that our salvation is *only* about a *spiritual future existence* in Heaven. 67% said salvation is about *living in God's Kingdom here and now as well as living in a future* consummated Kingdom paradise in God's presence.

When asked what was most important for our salvation: Jesus' life, crucifixion, or resurrection, or if they are *equally important*: 50% said that our salvation is dependent on Jesus' death *more than* His life's example or His resurrection. In spite of the fact that Paul says without the resurrection, our faith would be vain and we would still be in sin. Only 43% said that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are *equally important*.

When asked if our salvation is simply a legal transaction which *only affects a docket* of paperwork recording our guilt in the courtroom of Heaven or if salvation actually goes deeper in scope and nature *affecting our life* and the entire cosmos: 41% believe our salvation is *simply and only a legal transaction* on the docket in Heaven. 51% believe our salvation is deeper in scope (even cosmic) so that Jesus redeemed everything which is under his Lordship.

When asked if as Christians we are *obligated* (i.e. it is part of the total salvation experience) to share our finances with those in need, in a bi-polar example of a twist of our theological belief system as articulated in the data of this survey above: A full 88% believe that because we are saved, we *are in-fact obligated* to share our finances with those in need. 91% believe that because we are saved, we are *obligated* to offer forgiveness and re-establish community through social acts of responsibility! And 63% believe that because we are saved we are indeed *obligated* to help with social concerns in the lives of our brother or sister in economic times of distress, that we should help them find gainful employment, find affordable housing, repair their substandard homes, and help them to have access to food, water, and lights in their home. Yet, 31% said that although these are *nice things*, the performance of these are in no way a part of what it means in essence to be "*saved*."

The question which we are left with in the process of collating this data is are we really that schizophrenic in our belief system or are we just confused as to the terminology of our doctrine? I sincerely hope that it is the later because from that we can recover. If there has ever been evidence of the need for a recovery of an OFWB systematic theology, the contradictory statements reflected in the percentages above proclaim it. For when one systematizes one's beliefs, one's words begin to actually line up with one's actions.

Division on such a core doctrine as salvation cannot help but have a deleterious effect on our health as a denomination. Throughout history, when the doctrine of salvation has become individualized, otherworldly, and *only focused* on the spirit, soul, or future existence in heaven, it has always devolved into dangerous (even deadly) consequences. "Heavens Gate

members believed that HaleBopp, an unusually bright comet, was the sign that they were supposed to *shed their earthly bodies* or containers and join a spacecraft traveling behind the comet that would take them to a *higher plane of existence*.⁵ This errant doctrine of salvation led them to mass suicide.

The orthodox belief of the Church of Jesus Christ has always embraced human embodiment (*incarnation*) as a gift, which God is in the process of redeeming and not something to be shunned as evil.⁶ The OFWB official doctrine is in line with this thinking. Our doctrine teaches us that by faith alone through repentance the individual as a whole (both body and soul) is regenerated, justified, and then set on the path of sanctification, which is defined as a process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others.⁷

The most frightening aspect of the answers received on the first part of this survey is the evidence that, between one third and one half of us, have embraced some hybrid form of the heresies of doceticism and gnosticism. When one sets out to study the Scripture for the doctrine of salvation, one quickly realizes that one cannot build an entire doctrine on one or two passages.

It would be fairly easy to embrace a penal substitution theory of the atonement based on one or two passages of the Bible. So too would it be easy to embrace a moral influence atonement theory based only on a few passages. Certainly some have understood the doctrine of the atonement as Christus Victor based only on a few passages. However, the faithful have always realized that multiple passages in the Bible teach various aspects of several worthwhile atonement theories that must be understood as a coherent whole. Seeking to reduce a complex doctrine such as salvation to a simple idea is worse than intellectually laziness; it is spiritually dangerous.

A few respondents in the survey felt the need to editorialize their answers as if to suggest that the question was a moot point. One such editorial comment suggested the author of the survey should have known that “For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8). The remark implied a condescending connotation that suggested that the survey was inappropriate because the scripture is so very clear that the point of the questions became infantile.

However, what the editorialist did not do is add the equally valid and inspired verses from James 2:18–26. James says that there are some who say that they are saved by faith alone and that works have absolutely nothing to do with salvation. Yet, James challenges anyone who would say that the doctrine of salvation is explained *only and fully by faith alone* to “show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.” He continues to question, “But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” (v. 20). Thus James concludes by stating that “Ye see then how that *by works* a man is justified, and *not by faith only*” (v. 24).

If there has ever been an example of disparate sounding thoughts on the doctrine of salvation, it is clearly the dialogue (even if vicariously) between James and Paul. Now, we can certainly harmonize these two great men of faith. We can say that Paul is only saying that one can do nothing to gain God’s favor initially; that justification and regeneration is simply by grace alone through faith alone! Therefore, what Paul is not saying is that we are saved by faith alone through grace alone and that nothing therefore should change in the life of the believer as a result. To this Paul would say, “God Forbid!” (Romans 3:31; 6:2, 6:15; 7:7; et.al.).

Nor (if we harmonize) is James saying that someone could possibly do anything to ever earn God’s favor and deserve justification or regeneration. James is simply saying that if a person has in-fact had that life changing experience by faith through grace in the experience of regeneration and justification, then one cannot help but be a different person

(i.e. the process of sanctification) from whose life the good works of Christ naturally *will (not might)* flow.

Yes, we can harmonize these two great men of faith, but what we *cannot* and must not do is smugly act as if one of their comments did not exist or somehow mean less when considering the doctrine of salvation. And this is one of the biggest problems of our denomination today as is evidenced by the data listed above. A full third to one half of the respondents know well Paul’s doctrine of salvation by grace alone through faith alone and embrace it. Yet from an undue fear of crossing some imaginary line of works based salvation, they reject James’ words about salvation being full and complete only in as much as it is evidenced in our *social actions* performed in and through the Name of Jesus Christ.

The problem which develops with such an individualistic, heavenly, spiritualized idea of salvation is that it leads to seeing people simply as *souls* who need to be saved. This is not technically wrong if the term *soul* is defined biblically as the whole self, body, mind and spirit. However, it is often not defined as such but rather as the intangible animating life force invisibly inside “this old husk of a body which needs to be shed.” This leads to a concept of salvation being defined as simply forgiveness of the *consequences* of sin, and thus not defined as a human being completely regenerated and thus expected to live differently for Christ.

The snowball effect of bringing people to Christ with no real expectation of a radical life change has led to bloated church rolls of hundreds of members who have been told that *all they have to do* to be saved is believe. They took us up on that offer! This leaves us with few in the pew on any given Sunday and weak or anemic churches that (because each member has the individual mentality that salvation has nothing to do with *what we do*) have the corporate mind as a church that we should not do anything significant for Christ’s glory. This thinking has led to between one third and one half of our churches literally doing nothing outside of the four walls of the church for fear of being labeled as a church who advocates works based righteousness.

The reason it becomes easy to do nothing in the Name of Christ is because of what was pointed out above, respondents stated that *although these are all nice things*, they are in *no way* a part and parcel of what it means to be saved and thus are not part of the mandate of the church based on our total salvation experience. Individual churches (indeed the denomination as a whole) must recover a full sense of the doctrine of salvation (to include the process of *sanctification*) in order to develop the deep, organic, communities of justice, faith, and righteousness that Christ calls us to embody.

The point is that for all of the calls to (and the speeches about) unity at conferences and conventions over the past decade, we are still somewhat divided in one of the areas that matter the most. And as long as we continue to live in this divisiveness, we will be ineffective as a body. But if we recapture our stated

article continued on page 52

Willem van der Plas

September 3, 1933–May 19, 2012

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints (Psalm 116:15)

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them (Revelations 14:13)

Willem van der Plas was a faithful servant of the Lord who devoted his life to making Christ known around the world. Willem wrote the following in his application to the Board of Foreign Missions in 1982, which describes well the life of this man of God:

First of all we praise the Lord for the many blessings which He brought and brings in our lives. My wife, Lydia, and I were born in the year that Adolf Hitler won the elections in Germany, 1933. Our home was at Katwijk aan Zee, a small fishermen village, 8,000 inhabitants, on the North Sea coast in the Netherlands (Holland). We knew each other since our childhood and received our education in Christian schools. During the last year of World War II, we suffered by poverty, lack of food, and hard oppression of the Nazis. With very many others we are still thankful to the people of the U.S.A. for their concern with the occupied world and the Liberation in which so many Americans lost their lives. To me it was this poverty and hardship which has helped us to build up our minds to the primer values of life; as a Christian to be obedient to the Lord and to serve God in this world—His world. To work for the foreign mission, in areas in the world where people do not know the Christ of the Bible, has been on our minds since we were young.

In January 1957, we married at Katwijk aan Zee and in that year we received our first son, Herman Rhijn. In 1959 we got our second son Martin Willem. In the second part of the 60s we received two more children, Caroline, our daughter in 1966 and Dirk, our third son, in 1969.

After our marriage, I was a school teacher.

Just before Christmas 1968, we got a strong call to serve our Lord in Turkana, Kenya. The Mission Board we joined was



the GZB (Fundamental Dutch Reformed Church). Our destiny was Turkana, a remote rural area, a kind of semi-desert which borders to Sudan-Ethiopia and Uganda. Never we felt that we did sacrifice and we were able to follow our Master who sacrificed Himself.

In 1975 we were back in Holland, where I served as principal of an elementary school from 1975–1980. The adjustment was difficult. Finally, we decided to take a job offer given to us by a Dutch fish company, which exports live eel from North Carolina to Europe.

After searching and moving around a bit, we landed at the Free Will Baptist Church of Arapahoe. Our children enjoyed the preaching (this was very important for me), and so did we. We decided to stay in that church. Dirk, our youngest son, was the first to join the Free Will Baptist Church and he was baptized in 1980.

We needed more time because our roots in the Dutch Reformed Church were strong. Lydia and I served in this church many years—I, as youth leader, and Lydia as Sunday School leader. However, we felt home in this church and we cannot explain the kind care and love of the Arapahoe Free Will Baptist folks. We praise God very often for knowing them all. In 1981, we joined the church, and after our vacation in January 1982 we decided to ask our pastor to be baptized, knowing that this baptism is a scriptural baptism. During the whole Sunday of our baptism, I felt the Spirit of God so strong with us that this day became very special to me. And being baptized, I could only whisper to our pastor, the Rev. Doug Skinner, "Praise the Lord." We were very thankful to our God, who opened the Scriptures to us and next to our pastor for his guidance and patience with us. To leave a church is not changing an old pair of shoes.

Being in this business, we knew that our duty was not in this field of life. God made me restless and being blessed in so many ways I was looking forward to something unknown ahead of us.

The contact with the Rev. Harold Jones in December 1981 made me aware that the Lord wanted us back in His field. Last summer, a warm day, our pastor (the Rev. Doug Skinner) took us to the Rev. Harold Jones at Ayden. He explained the character of the work in the different fields. After praying and searching the Scriptures, we were certain that the Lord wanted us to work in India or elsewhere.

Willem and Lydia served in the Philippines 1984–1990 and Bulgaria from 1991 until his death. The ministry in Bulgaria was the love of Willem's life. Even as his health failed, he continued to give his life to this ministry. He will be greatly missed by all of us, but thank God that he was a part of our lives. Please keep Lydia and the work in Bulgaria in your prayers.



Patience With God

by Tess Williams

This message was given on Youth Sunday at Robert's Grove Church on February 26, 2012

A friend and I were talking about what all had been going on in our lives and what all had happened the last couple of months. I told her I did not know what I was going to do this week. She said, "What do you mean?" I said, "I have two projects due Monday and on top of that, my nerves are tore all to pieces because I have to preach Sunday for Youth Sunday." She said, "Do you know what your topic is yet?" I said, "I sure don't. I figured I would just wait and see what He tells me or lays on my heart to talk about." She said, "Well just remember the verse I always tell you!" I said, "I know Philippians 4:13 says, 'I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me'" (KJV). She said, "God never puts too much on you that He knows you can't handle," I said, "I know, but it just seems like a lot to me." She said, "I know, but you can do this. I know you can. I have faith that you can do this." I said, "Thanks." She said, "I wish I could go but I have something going on at my church." I said, "oh no, that's alright, you just stay at your church."

Later on that week, she came up to me and said, "Have you talked to Him about what you're going to talk about?" I said, "I have prayed and prayed and prayed and He hasn't done anything yet." She said, "Tess, you have to be PATIENT!" And I was like, wow, that could be it. So Thursday came around and still nothing and I was like, Lord, did I forget to mention that it's Sunday when I have to talk? Or are you just waiting for the right time to tell me? So then, still nothing, and Friday came and something happened and patience came up in a conversation with Leonard, Jennifer, and myself. We were talking about something and I was like, Lord,

if this is your way of telling me to talk about patience, let me know. And so, here I am, talking about patience!

Ok, I want you to raise your hands if you think you have patience?

Ok, raise your hand if your patience has ever been tested by your spouse, children, family members, friends, or even yourselves?

There are always some good sayings on Facebook and there was one the other night and it said, "When you pray, be sure to listen also. You have things you want to say to God. So be patient because God has things He wants to say to you." And I have thought about that ever since I read it and wondered why do we pray if we're not going to listen? This is where patience comes into play. We all have things that we want to say to Him and as soon as we ask for something we expect to get it right then. Right? But it does not work that way. He has to think about what we are asking for before He answers and we have to be patient and wait like Romans 12:12 says, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (NIV84). We have to be joyous and hope He answers us, and be patient when we pray. We have to be faithful everyday to God; we can't pick and choose when we want to pray because if we do then He is going to pick and choose when He wants to answer us. And we should not have that kind of relationship with God; we should want to talk to God all the time. He's like our friend; we should want to talk to our friends every day. But just remember, God is not the type of person/friend to fail you, He will never let you down no matter what you do. He is always going to be there beside you

every step of the way. The other Sunday when the Rev. Leonard Henry was here he preached on "Putting Your Faith in God, Not in Man," and that is so very true! No matter what we try and do to get our friends to like us, just remember that we already have the best friend that we will ever need and He has proven to us that He will never forsake us.

We need to be patient and wait on Him to answer our prayers. Because no matter what we do or say, God knows what's best for us. So this is a good reason to be patient with God because He knows what we need before we ever ask for it. Every time we pray we have to wait and listen to what God is trying to tell us. If we want something bad enough—we will wait for it. And that is what we should do with God. If we want Him to answer us, we need to be patient and wait to see what He tells us.

How many of you pray, but let your patience get the best of you?

Some of us have a hard time praying because we have a hard time dealing with our patience. We expect it to be like a drive through window—quick and easy. We want to get what we want and be on our merry way. But it is not that simple sometimes. We can be in that drive through line and it can be just as slow as molasses, but yet, we have to be patient and wait. It's like this:

You go to McDonald's, you're in a big hurry to get somewhere and it's going to be awhile before you can get anything to eat. You're sitting in the drive through line and your stomach is already growling and you think this line is never going to move. But yet you've sat there for five minutes and you're not going to

article continued on page 52



A Back to School Guide for Parents

By Erin Broadway

As hard as it is to believe, Back to School Season is upon us. From preschool to college, heading back to school is a time full of excitement seasoned with a pinch of sadness that summer is officially over. For students, teachers, and parents alike, getting ready to go back to school requires a great deal of preparation. Whatever the age of your child, Back to School Season can be a fun and exciting time for both you and them! There is a quote that states, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail." Preparing for your child's school year helps ensure a successful student and a less-stressed family.

Having been a teacher myself, I know the importance of starting off a school year on the right foot. For teachers, the first day of school sets the tone for the entire year. Teachers have to prepare their classrooms, lesson plans, and prepare their minds for a great school year. When I did my student teaching several years ago, my supervising teacher told me that the day he does not get excited and nervous on the first day of school, was the day it was time to stop teaching. This was great advice, as well as the old adage for new teachers: "Don't smile until Christmas."

Teachers have such an impact on students—not just their learning, but their everyday lives. After all, they spend almost eight hours a day with their students. Teachers wear several hats throughout the day such as psychologist, nurse, parent, coach, etc. Sometimes their role as Educator has to temporarily take a back seat.

As you are preparing for this new school year, I encourage you to take time to pray for your child's teacher. Try to make time to pray for him/her every day, even if it is just for a minute. You might be surprised at how your small prayer could make a big difference this school year! Pray that he or she will not only teach the curriculum effectively, but also have a positive impact in your child's and his or her classmates' lives. Pray for the leaders of the school and school system that they will make decisions having sought God's guidance. If you do not have school age children, pray for your grandchildren's teachers or neighbor's teachers. Consider starting a partnership within your church to help local teachers. Some churches "adopt" the teachers of their local schools and a member of the church becomes that teacher's prayer partner, resolving to pray for that teacher throughout the year and occasionally sending small tokens of appreciation such as a decorative notepad, or

even just a special note of encouragement. Some parents are choosing to homeschool their children for a variety of reasons. Don't forget that homeschooling is just as valid and important as public or private school. Homeschool teachers are usually parents, but need just as much prayer and encouragement as those in a traditional school.

High school graduates that will be going away to college this fall face an immense amount of preparation as well as anxiety. It's a new chapter in their lives and for the first time they will find themselves on their own, away from their family. Emily Broadway, a 2012 graduate of Davidson College suggests that college freshman establish themselves with a community on campus, and off campus. Getting involved with a Christian organization such as YoungLife is a great on-campus community. Finding a good, Bible-believing church in the area can be valuable in establishing adult relationships to help in the case of minor emergencies, such as a flat tire. (Having an auto club membership, such as AAA, is also invaluable! I'm embarrassed to admit the number of times I had to call them when I was in college.) Emily noted that being involved with both an on-campus and off-campus community was essential to being successful while away at school. She also suggested that students take a course or two of interest outside of one's major. This could simply be an interest or something practical, such as an economics class.



Students in middle and high school face many challenges from entering puberty, dating, balancing extracurricular activities and academics, to facing more difficult courses. It's very important that the lines of communication stay open between parents and their child, but also between parents and teachers.

article continued on next page



Teachers have such an impact on students—not just their learning, but their everyday lives. After all, they spend almost eight hours a day with their students. Teachers wear several hats throughout the day such as psychologist, nurse, parent, coach, etc. Sometimes their role as Educator has to temporarily take a back seat.

continued from previous page

Oftentimes, parents and teachers alike tend to wait until there is a problem before opening the line of communication. Take the time to go to orientations and open houses to meet your child's teachers. A positive, established relationship helps tremendously should a problem arise concerning your child. Middle and high school students sometimes find it difficult to balance academics with their extracurricular activities, including athletics. Every student is uniquely made by God and should discuss with their parents what works best for their family. However, having a few extracurricular activities that one is very interested in, enjoys, and can dedicate time to may be better than having several extracurricular activities that stretches the student in a hundred directions and ends up affecting the student academically. Students involved in at least one activity outside of school tend to do better academically and learn how to manage their time effectively. Often the desire to participate in athletics can motivate students to keep their grades up.

Elementary school age children in this society are exposed to so much technology that books are slowly becoming a thing of the past. However, whether it be on an e-reader or an actual book, I encourage parents to get elementary age school children off on the right track by creating a set reading time each evening. Elementary school is where children develop their love of reading, before the years of required readings that come in middle and high school. Help your child to foster a love of reading by reading a book of their choice. (Many

elementary schools require 15 minutes of reading for students to meet their reading goals anyway.) Help ease younger children's anxiety about starting back to school by meeting their teacher(s) before school starts and doing a "walk-through" of the first day of school. Make sure they know what their bus number is, where their classroom is located, their teacher's name, etc. It would be very helpful to make sure younger children know their full name, your name, their address, and phone number. If your child has any health concerns or food allergies, make sure you take time to discuss this with your child's teacher ahead of time.

Children starting preschool can be very anxious especially if it is the first time they have been away from a parent or family member for any length of time. Help your child feel comfortable by meeting your child's teacher. If the preschool has a playground, check with the school to see if you can take your child there to help acquaint them to the facility. Drive by the school and point it out, gently explaining that they will be going to school there soon. Make sure you reassure your child that you or a family member/friend will take them there and be back to pick them up in just a little while. It may take the first few weeks of school for your child to fully adjust to the new environment. The more excited you can make it sound to your child, the more likely they will have an easy transition.

Preparing for back to school also involves shopping for school supplies. Despite the ups and downs of our economy, you can rest assured that there will be bargains on school supplies in the coming weeks. For the past several years, North Carolina has been offering a tax-free holiday the first weekend in August to help families save on the cost of school supplies. As a bargain shopper myself, I urge families to take advantage of the sales to stock up on school supplies their child(ren) will need for the upcoming school year. Many retail stores have a kiosk with a list of supplies broken down by schools and grade levels. It is a good idea to double check with your child's teacher to see if there are any additional supplies that your child may need for the year that may be specific to their classroom. Your child's teacher may also have a wish list of items that are needed for the classroom that are not provided by the school, such as boxes of tissues, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer, etc. (Check with your child's teacher specifically as the school may have policies concerning certain items.)

As much as it is important to prepare for going back to school by purchasing new clothes, backpacks, and school supplies, it is even more important to prepare spiritually. In 2 Timothy 3:14–15, Paul writes to Timothy to remind him to continue in what he had learned and to remember who taught him those things. Timothy learned about the scriptures as a child, which led him to come to a saving knowledge of Christ Jesus. Just as we encourage our children to do their best in their studies at school, we must not forget to encourage them in their studies of God's Word. After all, Proverbs 22:6 tells us to "Train up a child in the way he should go, [so] when he is old he will not depart from it."



Tips to Start the School Year Off Right

(no matter what grade your child is in)

Sleep

It's important for children to get enough rest. Set an age-appropriate bedtime and stick to it throughout the year. Have a trial run a week before school starts of them going to bed at the designated time and practice getting up and getting ready for school at the time they will have to when school starts. They will be much less groggy the first week of school!

Pack the Backpack

Help your child pack his or her backpack each evening. Make sure all homework is complete and your child has the supplies he or she needs for the next day.

Lay Out Clothes

In your nightly bedtime routine, help your child to lay out his or her clothes that they plan to wear the next day. You'll have less stress in the morning when you're not searching for that missing sock!

Chill Out

Allow your child time to "chill out" in the afternoon before starting any homework. Children need time to decompress just like adults. Consider letting them play outside to run off energy or even have a few minutes of screen time (television or computer).

Homework

Make a set time for homework, such as 30–45 minutes after "chilling out." Have a set space for homework and try to eliminate distractions. Check with your child to see if he or she needs help and to ensure the assignment is complete.

Talk

Talk to your child about his or her day. If you suspect any problems, don't be afraid to make contact with his or her teacher.

Pray

Don't forget that the most important thing to do is to pray for your child and his or her teachers. Prayer is powerful!



The Future

An Interesting...and Sometimes Scary Concept!

The following has been taken from the closing moments of the Original Free Will Baptist Convention worship service that took place on Tuesday, May 22, 2012, after the viewing of the documentary on the History of the OFWB Convention.

The future of the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination seemed dim during the economic disasters of the 1920s and 30s...**BUT WE SURVIVED!** The 1950s and 60s saw men of vision working very hard to keep our deeply wounded family intact. Men like Lloyd Vernon, D.W. Hansley, R. H. Jackson, Michael Pelt, Earl Glenn, Bruce Dudley, Jackie Godwin, C.H Overman, Burkette Raper, and countless other leaders guided our churches through battles destined to divide...**BUT WE SURVIVED!** Survival is good! It leads to a great heritage...one that we, who celebrate this 100th Annual Session, will be forever grateful. But we must be careful not to allow our history to become our future. *Walking in the shadows of yesterday will never bring us into the light of tomorrow.* Our heritage must encourage our progress. Our challenge to you is one of vision...a

denominational-wide call to shift our focus from that of maintenance and survival, to one of cooperation, dedication, commitment, and outreach.

Our Heritage has brought us missionary work in nine countries, a major private college, a nationally recognized disaster relief organization, a mobile Sunday School ministry, an emerging printing and publishing facility, a Children's Home, camping facilities on both ends of our state, assistance for the retired and disabled, and so much more. Our mentors have done exceptional work to keep our people looking forward through some of the most difficult days in the history of our world. Now the time is right to go beyond the looking glass into the fields that are white with harvest. We must take what God has given us and walk boldly into those Samaritan fields in search of the spiritually and physically needy.

IT IS TIME...for new leaders to be birthed from the pews and pulpits of our churches, and for those leaders to be shared with our denomination. We seek men and women who are willing to listen and learn about our history and heritage, and then go out into their future to create the next generation's pathway.

IT IS TIME...for the mentors of today to allow their students to become the leaders they were destined to be. You have done an excellent work in preparing young leaders. Now we must trust God to lead and those whom you have taught to follow His leading.

IT IS TIME...for fresh minds with new concepts of ministry to carry the unchanging Word of Almighty God to a world that is rapidly running out of time.

THE FUTURE! *What an interesting and sometimes scary concept!* To the disciples the future was to "...go into all the world and preach the gospel." Is this our future...to bring the lost to Him? Or do we allow the "crop" to die because the church has chosen to close the door to new and different methods of harvesting lost souls?

Mentors, continue teaching, listening, guiding, encouraging, and being examples to those leaders coming after you. Young men, young ladies...you

are hereby challenged to boldly and prayerfully step forward, undaunted by your own uncertainty or indecision, following the leadership of the Holy Spirit, continuing to learn from the makers of your present. **WHY?** To carry on the ministry of the OFWB Church, as you are led by the words of our Savior to "teach others what I have taught you."

Happy Birthday, OFWB Convention! If Jesus carries, may leadership emerge that will guarantee a second "Century of Grace."

Copies of the video "A Century of Grace" are available from the Headquarters in Ayden.
Call (252) 746-4963 or e-mail <ofwb.hq@ofwb.org> for more details.

August is OFWB HERITAGE MONTH!

As we celebrate our 100th Anniversary as a Convention, will you join the festivities by sharing a special gift this month? **Just 750 friends sharing \$100 each will place us very close to our goal.** Or, you may wish to become a partner in our newest Campaign. Read below to learn how you can help us explore our future and chart the course for a second...

Century of Grace

A \$100,000 Journey through
the OFWB Convention's
100th Year ending
May 21–23, 2013



Expanding the OFWB Youth Ministry
Continued Development of Family Ministry
Cost-Free Counseling for Ordained Ministers
Broader Educational Opportunities for Ministry
Heightened Exposure via Modern Media Sources

Your annual gift of \$500 will bring us one step closer to reaching complete financial stability. With this solid foundation to build upon, the vision of the Headquarters Office can be realized one opportunity at a time. Help us win people to Christ by reaching them where they live—in the 21st Century.

Make your gifts payable to:

Original Free Will Baptist Headquarters

P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 • Phone: 252.746.4963 • Web: www.ofwb.org • E-mail: ofwb.hq@ofwb.org

On Wednesday morning, May 23, 2012 Convention Services Director Buddy Sasser laid out a sevenfold challenge to those in attendance at the annual OFWB Convention. The response that day was overwhelming. We now wait to see if the wave of support will display itself as answers to the challenges.

On Tuesday evening (May 22), in video form, we saw evidence of the work of many people. This great work has brought our denomination to where it is today. Looking to our future is sometimes very unsettling and the steps we must take are often like those in a new pair of shoes—painful and slow. Today we have come to offer Original Free Will Baptists a series of challenges that comes from the heart of our denomination—our preachers and laity. These challenges have one simple goal in mind—to shift our religious focus from one of maintenance and survival to a solid course of cooperation, commitment, dedication, and outreach.

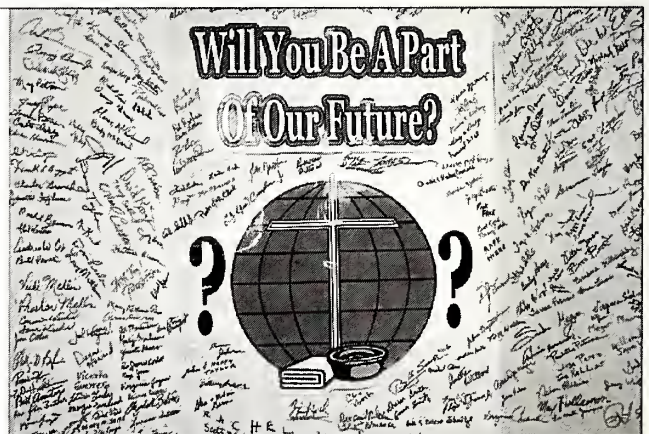
In a recent survey, members of the clergy and laity were asked, “What is the greatest need of our denomination and churches?” The following are the top seven answers, in no particular order, and a challenge to the leadership of our conferences and churches.

1. **The Great Need: More Unity Within Our Ranks.** Acts 2:1 says that those in the upper room were all “in one accord.” Their primary goal was to hear from God, and when they did, they told it to everyone they could find. **The Challenge:** Rather than talking about one another, let’s talk about Jesus. Win one person to Him this year.
2. **The Great Need: More Practical “How To” Training.** Baptism, Communion, Visitation, Funerals, Weddings—There are so many ministry-related practices that young pastors have to learn alone. **The Challenge:** Create yearly practical ministry workshop training days within your conference.
3. **The Great Need: Understanding and Accepting Diversity.** We are not talking about doctrinal or interpretive difference. These will exist until Jesus comes and we, as Christians, should be very thankful that we serve a God that understands our hearts and sometimes ignores our minds. Rather, we speak of the vast differences in worship

styles and congregational lifestyles. **The Challenge:** It would do us all good to visit other OFWB congregations, to observe and involve ourselves in their worship. Keep an open mind, however; we are all different.

4. **The Great Need: More Mentoring One-on-One.** Licensed ministers, particularly those young in age, are desperately seeking someone older and wiser to become their mentor, their teacher, and their father in ministry. They are searching for a friend and confidant as they go through the process of becoming a minister. **The Challenge:** Within your conference develop an intern program for licensed ministers that will provide weekly one-on-one consultation, training, encouragement, accountability, and prayer.
5. **The Great Need: Ministry to Your Community.** This one is simple. **The Challenge:** Find a need in your area and fill it.
6. **The Great Need: Uniform Standards of Ordination.** Surprisingly, this comes more from the laypeople of the church. Potential pastors are met with a variety of requirements and procedures. Educational standards are vastly different and the examination materials require from one hour to several days to complete. **The Challenge:** Conference Ordaining Council Chairmen meet to share their unique standards and discuss pros and cons of developing a single, consistent procedure.
7. **The Great Need: Winning more people to Jesus.** The reason we are failing here is a lack of committed concern for the lost. Jesus gave the Great Commission to all of us (Matthew 28:19–20). We are to always look for opportunities to share the message of the Gospel to everyone. **The Challenge:** Remove personality, prejudice, and pride and focus on a community that needs Jesus. “Go into all the world and preach the gospel”

Ok, there they are! How you respond is up to you. I do pray that someone will step forward and do the work necessary to meet the challenge. Over 300 signed the commitment board at the Convention. Now, how will you make that commitment turn into reality? I pray daily for God’s leadership during our 2nd Century of Grace.



The 16th Annual

Original Free Will Baptist Convention Golf Fellowship

NEW DATE: Friday, September 21, 2012

Happy Valley Country Club, Wilson, NC • 9:00 A.M. Shotgun Start

Your Entry Fee of \$60 per player Includes:

- Green and Cart Fee
- One Free Prize Ticket
- One Mulligan
- Free Soft Drinks • Goody Bag
- Opportunity for More Prizes
- Fun & Fellowship

Sign Up Early and Join the Fun!!

This Tournament is limited
to the first 25 teams with paid entry fees.

No team is guaranteed a spot
until all team members have paid.

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Free Play for Sponsored Teams
- Jack-Pot Putts • Target Shots
- Sand Trap Challenge
- Name Your Prize Putts
- Free Refreshments
- Straight Drive Challenge
- Closest to the Pin
- Prizes • Trophies • Gifts

Male Divisions:

- Junior—Two Team Players Under 55
- Senior—Three Team Players Over 55
- One Open Female Division

ENTRY FEE

- Only \$240 Per Team
- Complete the Team Registration
- Return along with your Full Team Fee to:
- Convention Golf Fellowship 2012
- P.O. Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513

Make Checks Payable to:
Convention Golf Fellowship

2012 TEAM REGISTRATION

TEAM DIVISION Junior _____ Senior _____ Female _____

Captain _____ Phone _____

Player 1 _____ Player 2 _____

Player 3 _____ Player 4 _____



First VBS—Philippines OFWB Church Villa Reyes SAN NARCISO, QUEZON

BY EMMANUEL ABANTO

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6) was the verse that penetrated the heart of Villa Reyes Original Free Will Baptist Church and made them decide to launch the first Vacation Bible School. The theme was “I Can Serve God.” The dates were April 30–May 7, 2012. The community, especially the parents, warmly accepted the event by allowing their children to be enrolled in VBS. In addition, the people of the community believed that their children can acquire knowledge and a good attitude that can help make them a God-fearing member of the family, and the community as a whole. Thank God because their expectations have been met through the help of the staff: Pastor Danilo B. Abanto and Sister Susan D. Basingil, and of course the teachers, Emmanuel C. Abanto (as principal), Edmar C. Abanto, Dearly Ann F. Abanto, Marlon C. Abanto, Venus C. Abanto, Rudelyn E. Puyos, John Paul E. Puyos, Jecel Calosor, who were devoted in nurturing the heart and mind of the children.

The chairman of Barangay Villa Reyes, San Narciso, Quezon, Hanson Blanca attended the graduation ceremony. For our welcome address, he gave positive thoughts to the Church in conducting such worthy activities. In addition, Pastor Danilo B. Abanto challenged each and everyone to serve God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength. There were 61 children

and 17 youth who successfully finished the course and promised that they will enroll again next year in VBS. Praise God for His great provision and He is really faithful to those who are willing to do His will.



Work Program

Jordan Free Will Baptist Church

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, MEXICO

BY ELISEO RODRIGUEZ TORRES

Our intention in writing this article is to share with you how our lives have been blessed and how we have grown spiritually and numerically.

For several years we have looked for ways to structure and plan to help our church grow. First Thessalonians 5:18 says, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." First Corinthians 15:58 says, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

Being a leader means responsibility, commitment, and arrangement. For each plan, project, dream, and vision, effort is required. It also requires work, time, and money. But it is worth all the effort. Each project that is started or implemented should be seen through to the finish. This is the only way to assure those you are trying to reach that what you are doing is credible, reliable, and stable.

On October 4, 2011, we began worship services in homes. These are called cells, with the purpose of growth in our church, to bring glory to our God. In this way we engage our brothers in the service of the local church. In order to develop this work of the Lord, we formed four teams, with a team leader who is in charge of 5 to 10 people in his cell group. We also have three support groups who observe the teams and helps them develop. This effort leads to church growth.

Each of us are praying for God to use us in His work. This ministry enables us to train others for the Lord's work, such as teachers, pastors, counselors etc. We also formed a few groups of musicians, for the purpose is to have more musicians to help the church and in teams.

The order of the cell group services in the homes has a monthly theme. For example, in October 2011, the theme was "Knowledge Makes You Wise," based on Ezra 7:10. In November, the theme was "Reverence for God" based on Proverbs 1:7. In December, the theme was "Issue of Obedience," based on Ephesians 6:1-3. For January 2012, our theme was "The Value of Salvation." For February, the theme was "Waiting on God," based on Romans 8:24-25. In March, the theme was "Man's Faithfulness to God," based on Nehemiah 13:13. In April, the theme was "The Presence of God in Our Lives," based on Exodus 33:8-11. These topics have been a great blessing and have strengthened our faith. We are working with taste and harmony.

On March 4, 2012, we started with a program of evangelism—a door-to-door campaign. What has been learned from our Sunday morning worship is implemented from theory to practice. Before the Prayer walk, we must pray and fast, for strength and wisdom to expound the word of



God. And to rebuke the enemy to leave the way clear that souls may be saved and tracts are distributed. The text was based on Joshua 1:1-5.

March 11, 2012 was the second day of our visitation campaign. It consists of going from house to house and sharing a devotional from the Word of God, prayer, and giving an invitation to the church.

This has blessed our lives, as we share with others. May the Lord richly bless each of you is our prayer. Pray for us as we seek to increase God's Kingdom in Mexico.

Finding Peace in the Storms of Life

with Michelle Taylor

Spot the Manipulators

One of the biggest problems when dealing with manipulators is being aware of what is happening. It is high time we bring these actions out into the open. To be honest, the best defense is to remove yourself from the toxic person, however, some manipulators behave the way they do because we make it easy for them to do it. If you are reinforcing their behavior, sometimes these relationships can be salvaged, but not always.

Here are some examples of manipulators and the best way to handle them:

Those That Belittle You

Those who deliberately belittle you in attempts to control you are one of the worse types of manipulators. These people may say you're not worthy of their company or may be a little more subtle than that by telling you, "You'll never find another man or woman willing to put up with you like I do." The best defense is to give these people clear consequences for their actions. These people thrive from your reinforcement knowing that you won't fight back. Instead, make it clear what will happen if they continue to act or say things that are demeaning to you. However, you must follow through with your threat. These partners will never treat you as an equal, unless you put the same amount of pressure on them to change, as they do for you to conform.

Imposers of Guilt

Partner's that manipulate relationships by guilt understand they have a strong hand when dealing with a person of a caring nature. They may claim their problems are your fault, making you feel like you have to put up with them, otherwise they will be placed in an even worse position than they already are. They are telling you that by being with them, you have become indebted to their happiness. The best way to deal with this kind of guilt is to appeal to the person's self-image. Tell them that you're sorry they're going through a tough time, but you need a strong partner who can take care of himself or herself. If that doesn't bring them around, they are not ready to accept responsibility for their own life, and you're better off without them.

Conditional Love

Sometimes manipulators use conditional love to shape the tendencies of their partner. In other words, if you do what they want, they will offer kindness, attention, and love. However, the moment you fail to reach their expectations, they take it away, demanding you work within their terms. Your defense is to not give in to make things better. If you give into their fits, even just once, they will learn that the best way to manipulate what they need, is by using love as a bargaining tool.

article continued on page 21



Michelle Taylor is married to Donald Taylor and are both members of Cabin OFWB Church in Beulaville, NC. They are very supportive in their church and love the Lord very much. They have seven children between them: Eddie, Kim, April, Justin, Jordan, Meghan, and Anthony Lee Taylor (deceased) and three grandchildren: Jacob, Zachary, and Daniel (deceased). They have a very special dog named Molly. Donald and Michelle enjoy serving the Lord, working in the yard, working in the home, and spending time with their family. Michelle also loves working with young adults in her church. Michelle has always been like a neighborhood mom to many other children and her husband is the leader and "ROCK" for us all.

LIES In The Womb



By
Michelle Taylor



Michelle Taylor is an author and has several books being published by Tate Publishing. Her first book being published now is *Lies In The Womb* and she also has written two more which are also being published by Tate. Her second book is entitled *The Final Chapter of Abuse* and the third book is entitled *All In The Name Of Love*. Michelle is currently attending Cabin Original Free Will Baptist Church in Beulaville, NC, pastored by Jay Winberry. Michelle is also working on her fourth book entitled *Why Me Lord*. Michelle is highly motivated in helping others with similar situations she has endured during her life and has a huge testimony of how God moved and changed her life in so many ways. She is also very open and candid about her story of abuse.

Michelle Taylor is a national speaker and author who learned some very important lessons from her journey in life and raising her children—dear Justin, Jordan, and Meghan. She has endured a lot of pain during the course of her life and is so proud of each of her children and their accomplishments. They taught her so much about love and without them she would have nothing. They literally saved her life as she managed to pick herself up each time, dust off and begin again by her faith in Jesus Christ.

You can order your book now at <www.liesinthewomb.com>
Also available in e-book format.

e-mail: michelle@liesinthewomb.com • phone: 910-375-0220

A *Sling* and a **STONE**

Significance in Christ as a Young Adult

with Marc Boswell

Getting In on the Action

Over the past six days, I was baptized into the world of Presbyterian polity in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (my apologies if that sounds boring already, but please press ahead). My wife, who works for a Presbyterian seminary, represented the school during the PC(USA)'s biennial General Assembly, which is the equivalent of our denomination-wide, yearly convention. During the gathering, Presbyterians from around the country debated one another and worked together as they marched through a long list of business items. Some items were polarizing and contentious, others mundane, and others marked achievements and events that the entire denomination, more or less, could be thankful for and celebrate.

What struck me about the gathering, in relation to this column and the Original Free Will Baptists, was the participation of young adults in many different facets of the assembly. The event, to oversimplify, involves committees of pastors and laity meeting to discuss proposals brought to the floor for consideration, and, then, the larger gathering of commissioners (i.e., the plenary session) who debate, amend, accept, or strike down the recommendations of the committees. The young adults who were accepted

to participate or sent by their local governing bodies were included in both the committee meetings and the larger voting processes of the commissioners.

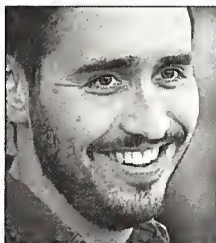
In the committees, the young adults were allowed to vote and speak their minds about the particular items under discussion. In the larger plenary session, depending on their specific role, young adults either had "voice," in which they (and other groups) would be asked for their recommendations but not given a final vote. Or, if they were sent as commissioners, they had voice and also could vote. Regardless of the specific role, the young adults were able **a)** to learn a great deal about specific issues relating to the life of the church and their denomination, **b)** to learn about parliamentary procedure and the way the Presbyterian church handles its business, and **c)** to actually become invested in the life of their denomination and the movement of the Spirit at a larger level of church life.

I don't mention all of this to imply that the OFWBs should mimic the PC(USA) in polity, which isn't very different from ours, or that it would be easy to adopt a similar model for our conventions and Annual Conference gatherings. I say this up front because many OFWBs are

already keenly aware of the difficulties involved for including young adults in this facet of our denominational life since our meetings are mostly held during the hours of the school day and during the academic/school year. For that matter, it is also difficult to involve middle-aged and working adults in the business of our conferences and Convention for similar reasons.

Nevertheless, what I am offering as food for thought is my experience of seeing high school and college students willingly give up a week of their summer to participate in the business of their denomination and the work of our Lord. These young adults were not there to be entertained or under the pretense that they simply sit quietly and learn. Instead, they were present to learn with and from their more seasoned Christian sisters and brothers and to lend their experience and voice to the ongoing conversation within the denomination. As many older participants commented, they too learned from and with the young adults as they collectively sought new and faithful ways to follow Christ.

At the very least, I would encourage our congregations, conferences, and denomination not to simply see young adults as ones who need to be



Marc Boswell is from Saratoga, NC, where he grew up as a member of Spring Branch OFWB Church. He is ordained in the Central Conference and currently lives in Richmond, VA, where he is working toward the completion of a Ph.D. in the fields of Theology and American Religious History at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

entertained and taught, though they and we are always in a position to learn and grow. Along the same lines, (and this, perhaps, is more important than we think) I would encourage us not to underestimate the willingness or interest of a young adult to participate in the governing life of the church at any given level. True, all young adults may not be interested. At the same time, an interest may be sparked only after the invitation to participate. We should not assume that young adults are not interested in carrying out the work of the church. Instead, find creative ways to give them a chance, which includes being given a recognized voice, a seat at the table, and the education and equipment necessary for such participation.

Lastly, I'm not so delusional that I think the nitty-gritty, parliamentary, and political aspects of church business are always fun and exciting. Most adults will agree, and I'm not suggesting that you'll find an abundance of youth who are chomping at the bit to sit in a conference or business session. However, you may be pleasantly surprised that there are some young adults in our midst who have the depth and substance of spirit to see beyond the mundane, boring parts of church business and who want to participate in it regardless. Most likely, they know or sense that the Spirit moves even in the mundane and tedious dimensions of the life of the Church.

More importantly, they probably already sense that Jesus has not called

them to a life of discipleship in which they're simply entertained by youth leaders or led on mission trips. While that's well and good, they also feel that they're called or are waiting to be called to a life of meaningful participation in an actual, concrete worshiping community. To state it differently, if our churches aren't recognizing the voices of young adults, and if they insist on making them wait until they're married with children to take a governing role in the life of the church, the young adults most likely will waste no time finding networks, institutions, and people who will listen to their voice and who will invite them to participate in something which brings them fulfillment.

Spot the Manipulators *(continued from page 18)*

Good and Bad Times

Some manipulators fear intimacy, so they maintain a balancing act of both good and bad moments throughout the relationship. This keeps things from escalating to a commitment. The reason this works is because the bad or sad times influence a partner with low self-esteem to accept the poor treatment in order to regain the favor of their lover. The good times reinforce their commitment, by strengthening their belief that they must be in a blissful relationship. While you may not always be happy, you should never feel you have to beg for your partner's forgiveness to reap a small reward. Your best defense is to remind yourself that anyone who intentionally hurts you is not worth your time. Take advantage of their next low point or sad moment to get out of the relationship.

Broken Promises

Some manipulators get what they want by making promises they won't keep. They're not all bad, as some just like the attention, or don't have the backbone to tell

a guy/girl they're not interested. Their intention may be there, but when it comes time to deliver, there isn't enough motivation to get the job done. In defense, you should never loan anything of value to someone you don't know. In addition, when in doubt you should ask for the promise prior to holding up your end of the bargain. For example, if a partner promises not to lie if you take them back, tell them that you will, but first they must regain your trust. This is one way to establish consequences for their actions, while giving them the opportunity to avoid punishment in the future, by proving to be genuine with their commitments.

It can be difficult to avoid manipulators. There is a common thread throughout all of the above and that is a lack of awareness. If you are not happy in your relationship or feel insecure, there is a chance their intentions for you are not honorable. It is my hope that you will become aware of what is happening before it's too late and make the necessary changes

HONEY-DO JOBS

Painting • 40 years experience • Carpentry • Rotten Wood Repair
Power Washing • Gutter Cleaning • Restorations & Renovations • References are Available
— FIX IT IF POSSIBLE —

Charles Petit

Home: (919) 553-5741; Cell: (919) 675-5896

2014 Penny Lane, Clayton, NC 27520



Anyone for Brunch?

Saturday, June 9, 2012 was an exciting day at the Children's Home. Members of St. Mary's Grove Church, Benson visited the campus to share food, fellowship, and fun. They prepared a wonderful brunch with pancakes and sausage, sandwiches, chips, and all kinds of fruit and veggies.

St. Mary's provided nametags for all their folks and ours so everyone could learn each other's name. The residents enjoyed meeting everyone that day, but it was a special treat to meet Mrs. Rosa Lee Barbour. As part of St. Mary's outreach ministry, she sends cards each month for the residents celebrating birthdays. The residents liked to see the face behind the cards and gifts.

After brunch more fun began. St. Mary's group partnered up with the residents. Everyone had a "buddy." The girls went to the recreation center to

be pampered by St. Mary's own nail tech, giving each girl a manicure. While some were getting a manicure the others were working on scrapbooking. The guys enjoyed games in the gym including corn hole, ladder ball, and basketball. Devotions were held with each group by the St. Mary's team. After the activities, everyone was treated to five different flavors of homemade ice cream—a real delight.

As the activities came to a close, the residents returned to their cottages and St. Mary's team went on a campus tour, hosted by Ms. Dianne Riley.

This special day was coordinated by Linda Barbour, and made possible by the combined efforts of the Woman's Auxiliary, the men, and the young people of St. Mary's Grove. It was a wonderful experience for The Home, and a true testament to the Christian outreach of St. Mary's Grove's.

Sundae on Wednesday

Ms. Dianne Riley, Director of Church Ministry, had quite a surprise for the children on Wednesday evening, June 27. Each cottage had been 100% present for several weeks at church; they had participated really well, and she just wanted to say thank you.

There were three different kinds of ice cream, and seven or more different kinds of toppings. Every thing you would need to make the perfect sundae. To determine who would be first in line, questions were asked related to the previous Sunday's service. The table that had the most correct answers was first in line. It was a "cool" way to encourage participation and attention at the devotion and worship services.





Let's Praise Together

Sunday evening July 1, the Marsh Swamp Praise Band joined in the worship service with the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. Kat Cahoon Alphin, who was the previous recreation director for The Home, was the vocalist for the group. She led the praise and worship service. In attendance for the evening were visiting youth groups from Little Rock Church, Lucama; Spring Branch Church, Walstonburg; and Marsh Swamp Church, Sims.

The message was brought by the Children's Home pastor, Richard Cuddington. The evening began with presentation and pledges of the American and Christian Flags, followed by a history of our independence as a nation, and as Christians.

To close out the evening, the Children's Home Recreation Director, Miss Kat Nelson provided popsicles in the park. It was a great evening enjoyed by all.



Needs List

- 5 Stainless Steel Range Hoods (36 inch, 2 speed with light)
- Dishwasher Detergent
- Dish Detergent
- Cleaning Supplies (Clorox Cleanup, Lysol Spray Cleaner, Scrubbing Bubbles)
- Twin Size Comforters (bright colors, geometric shape designs, or solid)
- Bedroom Lamps
- Alarm Clocks
- Bed Pillows
- Bed Pillow Covers (vinyl)
- Girls & Boys Antiperspirant
- Body Wash (boys and girls)
- Trash Bags (13 gallon and larger)
- Food Storage Bags (gallon and quart)
- 25 Exercise Mats (approximately 68 inch by 24 inch size)
- Umbrellas
- 3 Rechargeable Flashlights (large size)
- Individually Wrapped Snacks



Time to Cool Down

Record temperatures have been recorded all across the local counties. Middlesex, located in Nash County, was no different. Temperatures soared at The Home. On July 1, a severe thunderstorm came through the area. The Children's Home missed severe damage, however, there were several limbs and bits of debris scattered around campus. Mr. Batchelor had to use the tractor to pull a large limb away from the front of Heritage Hall. Mr. Jonathan drove the small tractor around campus pulling a trailer as residents volunteered to pick up smaller debris from all around the yards. The power only went out for a short time, and everything was back in order in time for the next church service.

On Tuesday, July 3, the children, along with the Kat Nelson, our recreation director came up with a pretty fun way to cool down. They gathered on the hill beside Central Cottage and made a giant Slip and Slide. The afternoon hours passed quickly as they slid down the soapy hill and played other water games.



Pastorpreneur

CREATIVE IDEAS FOR BIRTHING SPIRITUAL LIFE IN YOUR COMMUNITY



JOHN JACKSON

Pastorpreneur

A Christianity Today survey identified the most common self-described leadership weaknesses to be in strategizing, visioning, and entrepreneurial skills. But there is a tension that exists between dreaming, vision-casting, and being able to actually pull it off. What is from God, what is from our own imaginations, how do we recognize the difference, and then what do we do with it?

In *Pastorpreneur*, pastor and speaker John Jackson equips pastors to employ businesslike strategic planning and innovation skills to enhance their congregational leadership. Jackson's practical strategies and grand vision will empower you to explore new methods for maximum impact on your church and community and become the church that you and God dreamed of.

Retail \$16.00 • ON SALE \$11.97

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last

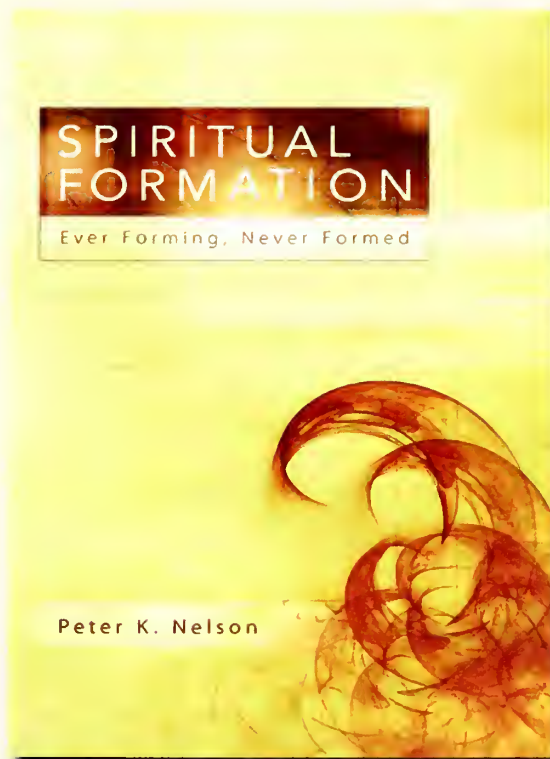
Spiritual Formation Ever Forming, Never Formed

In our ongoing battle against sin in our life as believers, we need all the help we can get. *Spiritual Formation: Ever Forming, Never Formed* is a breath of fresh air in this fight, setting out biblical foundations and offering practical advice.

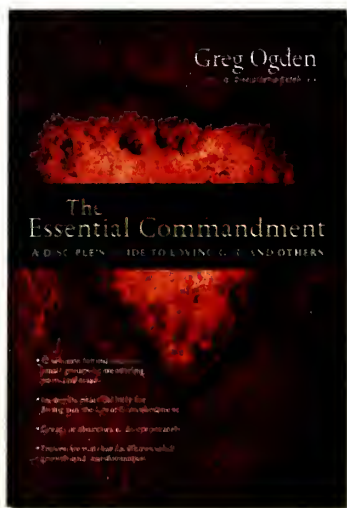
Spiritual Formation both humbles triumphalistic Christians and gives much needed hope to defeated Christians. We can deceive ourselves that sin is a problem only for unbelievers, and yet reality clearly points to the looming presence of indwelling sin in the lives of Christians and its deadly impact on the church. By not fully admitting and openly addressing chronic sin problems, believers can do harm to ALL through this hypocrisy. *Spiritual Formation* is a scalpel to cut away tumors of ignorance, avoidance, and pride, creating honest believers who then will be an authentic witness to a hurting world.

Retail \$20.00 • ON SALE \$14.97

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last



 **INTERVARSITY PRESS**
Heart. Soul. Mind. Strength.



Retail \$16.00
ON SALE \$11.97

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last

The Essential Commandment

Is it really possible to live out the Great Commandment?

When an expert in the law asked Jesus what the greatest commandment is, Jesus gave a clear and simple answer:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

But what does the Great Commandment look like on the ground, in our day-to-day lives? And can we even come close to living it out?

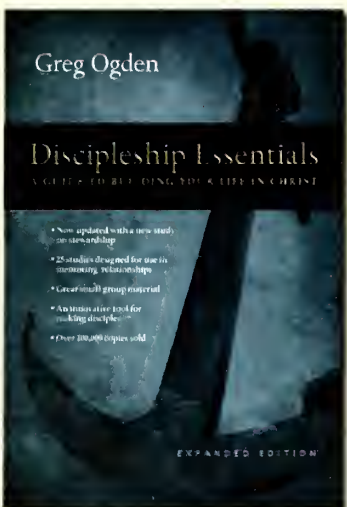
Jesus, Greg Ogden believes, has a simple answer to that too. He writes, “Jesus didn’t follow [the Great Commandment] up by saying, ‘I know I’m asking a lot, but do the best you can. I know you’ll never fully approximate this high and lofty goal, but it’s still worth striving for.’ ...Jesus thinks this is possible.” And with Jesus, Ogden has found, it is possible—and essential.

In this practical, in-depth handbook, Ogden draws from his years of pastoral experience training and discipling others to help us truly be changed by Christ into people who love God and love others with all that we are. Following the format of his bestselling *Discipleship Essentials*, each chapter includes

- a core truth
- a memory verse
- an inductive Bible study
- a reading on one aspect of the Great Commandment

Thoughtful questions will also help you examine your heart and life and move you to open yourself to God’s transforming work.

Above all, Ogden helps you see that the Great Commandment is actually a great invitation to join God in bringing his kingdom to earth. And as you learn to do so, you’ll find that the greatest commandment leads to the greatest life possible.



Retail \$18.00
ON SALE \$13.97

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last

Discipleship Essentials

Discover the fullness of life in Christ.

We grow in Christ as we seek Him together. Jesus’ own pattern of disciple-making was to be intimately involved with others and allow life to rub against life. By gathering in twos or threes to study the Bible and encourage one another, we most closely follow Jesus’ example with the twelve disciples.

This workbook by Greg Ogden is a tool designed to help you follow this pattern Jesus drew for us. Working through it will deepen your knowledge of essential Christian teaching and strengthen your faith.

Each week contains the following elements:

- a core truth presented in a question-answer format
- a memory verse and accompanying study
- a field-tested inductive Bible study
- a reading on the theme for the week
- questions to draw out key principles in the reading

This material is designed for groups of three. It has also been used successfully as an individual study program, a one-on-one discipling tool and small group curriculum.

Jesus had a big enough vision to think small. Focusing on a few did not limit his influence. Rather, it expanded it. *Discipleship Essentials* is designed to help us influence others as Jesus did—by investing in a few.

Second edition includes a new foreword by the author. These studies are for both individuals and groups.

Leadership Essentials

Leadership is essential.

Maybe you've shied away from leadership because you don't know what it will involve, or you feel too unsure of your own abilities. But your leadership is needed! In every sector of society, from families to businesses to churches, leadership roles remain empty, waiting for people willing and able to step up and make wise decisions that bring positive change. And, in a world with priorities vastly different from Christ's, Christian leaders are especially needed to point people to Him.

Preparation is essential.

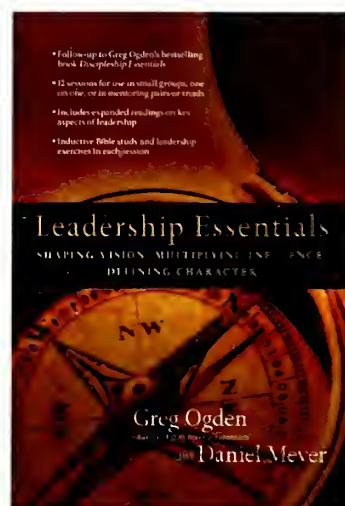
As essential as the leadership itself is the preparation beforehand, which is why Greg Ogden, a seasoned leader himself, has created this interactive guide that will give you the tools you need to lead well, using your unique gifts and experience.

Divided into four sections, this workbook will help you develop character, postures, vision and skills as you participate in the following elements in each chapter:

- a memory verse
- a Bible study
- a reading
- a leadership exercise

By working through these multiple channels of learning you'll be equipped not just with head knowledge about leadership but with true character formation and awareness of your own abilities that will prepare you for the challenges and choices of leadership.

Designed to work well on your own, with a partner or with a group, *Leadership Essentials* by Greg Ogden and Daniel Meyer is the essential preparation tool for those who would be led and shaped by Christ to lead others with strength and wisdom.



Retail \$17.00
ON SALE \$12.97

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last

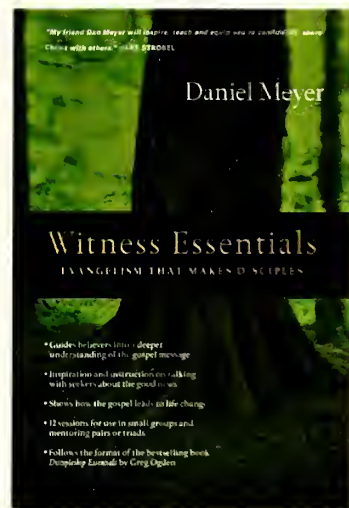
Witness Essentials

We know the radical difference the gospel of Jesus Christ makes, and we want others to see and enjoy its benefits. In fact, we don't want them to just pray a prayer and move on to the next interesting thing. We want them to sink their roots deeply into the grace of God.

So often, though, we feel that we are inadequate to this important task—that we don't know enough or that we will offend our friends. Daniel Meyer has provided the tools you need to move forward:

- the basics of the gospel message
- the role of life change in our witness
- how to present the good news

The Bible studies, exercises, and readings in this book will deepen your personal faith and equip you to minister to others with a new sense of confidence and calling.



Retail \$16.00
ON SALE \$11.97

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last

 **INTERVARSITY PRESS**
Heart. Soul. Mind. Strength.

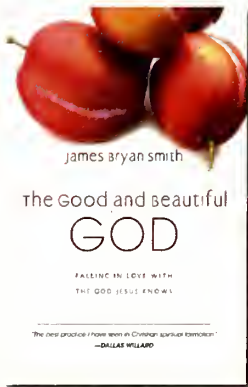


CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!



The Good and Beautiful God

“God wants me to try harder.” “God blesses me when I’m good and punishes me when I’m bad.” “God is angry with me.”

We all have ideas that we tell ourselves about God and how he works in our lives. Some are true—but many are false. James Bryan Smith believes those thoughts determine not only who we are, but how we live. In fact, Smith declares, the most important thing about a person is what they think about God. The path to spiritual transformation begins here.

Turning to the Gospels, Smith invites you to put your ideas to the test to see if they match up with what Jesus Himself reveals about God. Once you’ve discovered the truth in Scripture, Smith leads you through a process of spiritual formation that includes specific activities aimed at making these new narratives real in your body and soul, as well as your mind.

At the end of each chapter you’ll find an opportunity for soul training, engaging in spiritual practices that reinforce the biblical messages on your mind and heart. Because the best way to make a complete and lasting change is to go through the material in community, small group discussion questions also accompany each chapter. Those who are leading apprentice groups will also find additional help and opportunities to interact with other leaders at the Apprentice website, www.apprenticeofjesus.com.

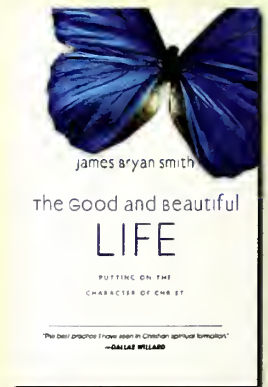
This deep, loving, and transformative book will help you discover the narratives that Jesus lived by—to know the Lord he knew and the kingdom he proclaimed—and to practice spiritual exercises that will help you grow in the knowledge of our good and beautiful God.

The Good and Beautiful Life

“I have never met a person whose goal was to ruin his or her life. We all want to be happy, and we want it all of the time.”

So begins James Bryan Smith in *The Good and Beautiful Life*. The problem is, he tells us, we have bought into false notions of happiness and success. These self-centered decisions lead us further into the vices that cause ruin: anger, lust, lying, worry, and judging. Eventually we find ourselves living a beautifully packaged life of self-destruction.

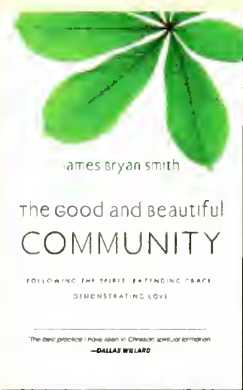
Following the Sermon on the Mount, this follow-up to *The Good and Beautiful God* guides us to look behind these character flaws and to replace our false beliefs with Jesus’ narratives about life in the kingdom of God.



The Good and Beautiful Community

In this third book in the Apprentice Series, James Bryan Smith helps us know how to live in relationship with others as apprentices of Jesus. “Apprentices of Jesus are not part-time do-gooders,” he writes. “They live in continuous contact with the kingdom of God, and are constantly men and women in whom Christ dwells. They do not sometimes tell the truth, sometimes live sacrificially or sometimes forgive. There are myriad opportunities for us to impact the world in which we live.”

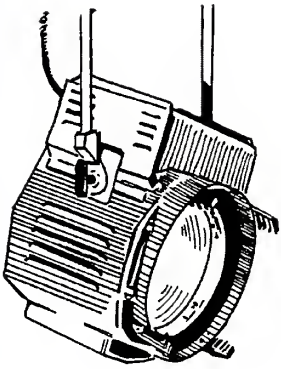
Yet many times we’ve gotten it wrong, tending to emphasize personal faith over social justice or vice versa. In these pages Jim Smith shows us how to bring spiritual formation and community engagement together, and then once again offers spiritual practices that root new, true narratives about God and the world in our souls. His insight and humility as a fellow learner with us will lead us to live in authentic ways as a good and beautiful community of Christ-followers, shining the light of the Spirit into every relationship.



 **INTERVARSITY PRESS**
Heart. Soul. Mind. Strength.

The Apprentice Series
(Hardcover) Retail \$23.00 each • ON SALE \$17.97 each

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last



SPOTLIGHT ON IMPORTANT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY FOR THE FALL OF 2012!

POWHATAN OFWB CHURCH

Clayton, NC

First Tuesday of Sept., Oct., and Nov.
7:00 P.M.–8:30 P.M.

- Sept. 4 The Challenge of Sunday School
- Oct. 2 Getting a Grip on Sunday School
- Nov. 6 What Every Sunday School Teacher Should Know

ROBERT'S GROVE OFWB CHURCH

Dunn, NC

Second Thursday of Sept., Oct., and Nov.
7:30 P.M.–9:00 P.M.

- Sept. 13 Seven Laws of Teaching
- Oct. 11 Time Management for Teachers
- Nov. 8 For Kids' Sake

MACEDONIA OFWB CHURCH

Ernul, NC

Third Thursday of Sept., Oct., and Nov.

- Sept. 20 Getting a Grip on Sunday School
- Oct. 18 For Kids' Sake
- Nov. 15 Teaching Standards and Values to Kids

PLEASANT HILL OFWB CHURCH

Grimesland, NC

Fourth Monday of Sept., Oct., and Nov.

- Sept. 24 Successful Teaching: Part 1
- Oct. 22 Successful Teaching: Part 2
- Nov. 26 For Kids' Sake

These learning opportunities are sponsored by the Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry. They are for anyone interested in the expansion of their church through the Sunday School. The Sunday School Department can and does provide leadership training for church leaders. It provides the biblical foundation for our understanding of the teachings of our Lord. The Sunday School is the teaching, winning, and maturing arm of the church. With all these aspects of the Sunday School, we should be growing our churches more than we are. One wonders about our sincerity, dedication, and commitment to our Lord through study. We should be reaching more people in the communities than we are. After all, is this not what our Lord mandated us to do in Matthew 28:18–20?

CONTACT THE OFWB SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY AT (252) 746-4963 or <director@ofwbsundayschool.org> for further information.

COME AND JOIN US FOR ANY OR ALL OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES!



Home Missions and Evangelism is one of the most exciting movements of our Church, calling us together to help fulfill the Great Commission. We have unleashed a fury of activity on behalf of EVANGELISM. Your organization can play a vital role in this much needed HOME FRONT MINISTRY. Contact us today to become involved in these unprecedented opportunities of service. Phone (252) 526-9908 or <assistant@ofwbhommisions.org>.

EVANGELISM

Learn the unique way to reach your community and grow your church. The following effective workshops will give your church the opportunity to be on the cutting edge of evangelism.

- KEYLIFE MINISTRIES
Discipleship Training (AIM), Pure Adventure, Mobile Chapel, Effective Ushers, Praying-Caring-Sharing, Invitational Visitation, Church Growth Ideas, Tent Ministry, Growing in Christ, Evangelism Today
- SCOUTING
Boy Scouts of America, American Heritage Girls
- BIKER/PRISON MINISTRY
- WHEELS ON FIRE FOR CHRIST MINISTRY

HOME MISSIONS

To date we serve 21 Mission/Churches and 2 Youth Camps.

- NEW LIFE, Leland, North Carolina
- FREE SPIRIT, Wilson, North Carolina
- MORENO CAMBODIAN/LAO, Moreno Valley, California
- ETHNIC MISSIONS (H'MONGS)
9 in California, 2 in North Carolina, 1 in St. Paul, Minnesota, 1 in Las Vegas, Nevada
1 in Salt Lake City, Utah, 1 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
2 Youth Camps: 1 in North Carolina at Cragmont, 1 in California at Camp Twain Hart
- ETHNIC MISSIONS (HISPANIC)
Free Spirit, Wilson, North Carolina, Alpha & Omega, Ayden, North Carolina
Holly Springs, Newport, North Carolina

PROJECT KIDS KARE

As you prepare SHOE BOXES with school supplies, toys, and small gifts, you will be helping needy children who have been affected by a disaster. This is a year-round project, and NOW is an excellent time for your auxiliary to schedule this special project.

TLC

(Touching Lives Corps)

for persons or groups who desire to do evangelism endeavors for a weekend, a week, or more.

REGISTRATION HARVEST HELPER

YES, I will make a commitment to help Original Free Will Baptist Home Missions and Evangelism TO TOUCH LIVES FOR A LIFETIME, by praying at least two (2) minutes each day.
(Mail to 2600 W. Vernon Ave., Kinston, NC 28504)

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____ Conference _____

I understand that by making this covenant, I am becoming a **HARVEST HELPER**

Date _____ Signature _____

Pondering the Past

with Celia Hales

Worshipping In A Strange Place

You and I have often heard quoted the sentiment of non-church-goers: “I can worship God on the golf course.” Well, aside from one-half semester coursework in college, one-half credit hour, I have never been a golfer. But I am not judging those who find God in strange places. I once found Him in a second-story public school library that I directed, with both doors to the library locked, and the only sounds being those of young teens on the playground during this, the lunch hour. Let me explain

I had started this school library with the generosity of other librarians, at other junior high schools, who weeded their collections and gave our newly organized school what they no longer wanted. I had carefully selected new books for the year with a small \$2,000 bit of extra money for a new library. I was told to anticipate no new monies for the year. But on that fateful day, my supervisor, the head librarian of the county, had summoned me to her office. When I arrived, she was all smiles.

“I have something for you,” Mrs. Waddell exclaimed. “How would you like another \$2,000 to purchase new books for your library?”

“That’s amazing,” I rejoined. “How did you do it?”

Mrs. Waddell replied, “Your principal went to bat for you. And all the other

schools are also getting the increased money, too.”

“But there is a catch,” she said ominously. “You must encumber this money in the next two days.”

Now, this was the seventies, and junior high books averaged \$6 each, a figure that included complete processing—plastic covers and pockets in the back of each book for checkout.

I had not prepared ahead from selection magazines, because I had been forewarned that there would be no new monies for a full year. So this was a total surprise.

I had never been a librarian before; this was my first year, and I had been on the job for about two months. I was inexperienced, and I wanted very, very much to succeed.

I thanked Mrs. Waddell, and left, walking slowly. I had some thinking to do.

Since it was the lunch hour, the library was closed, and I entered with the key, and relocked the door. I sat in a child’s chair that was part of a group of chairs intended for a reading circle. I felt numb. Yes, this was wonderful news, but how did I select, wisely, over 300 books in all subject areas, and at the right grade level—in two days?

I was a perfectionist back then. This “hurry” flew in the face of all

of my normally carefully considered preparations.

So I prayed, silently, though there would have been nobody around if I had prayed aloud.

It only took a few minutes before I felt God’s peace descend upon me. I have remembered that few minutes all of these years since. It wasn’t a life-and-death matter, but for me, it was an important moment. I calmed right down. When the lunch hour was over, I unlocked the library doors with a sense of peace.

I still didn’t know how I would do it—how I would select wisely in two days.

But I knew that I was not alone. The peace that descended upon me helped me to center, and soon settle down to work, selecting those 333 books.

So the public school library became my “church” for a few memorable moments. And the books got ordered in two days, without undue stress and with the assurance that my decisions on what to choose to buy would be reasonable.

God is there for all of us, just like this. Perhaps there are few moments like this for some, more for others. But He is always there when we sincerely ask for help.

And what more can we really ever need, when His care is so close?



A former religion librarian at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Celia now lives with her husband Paul in Oxford, Mississippi. She was previously employed at both the Free Will Baptist Press and Mount Olive College.



Educational Opportunities at MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Start College now!

There are few spaces available in the fall 2012 daytime program for recent high school graduates and college transfers. Students wishing to attend fall semester must provide official transcripts prior to enrollment. Contact Tim Woodard at <twoodard@moc.edu> or (800) 653-0854 for information about admissions requirements.

Fall 2012 Details

New Freshmen arrive for orientation and the beginning of Freshman Seminar on Saturday, August 11, 2012. Residence halls will be open for moving in. Returning students move in Monday, August 13, 2012. Classes begin Tuesday, August 14, 2012.

Spring Semester 2013

Applications are being accepted for spring 2013 now. Visit <www.moc.edu> and click on "apply now" to complete the free online application.

RN to BSN

Applications are being accepted for the RN to BSN program; classes begin August 13, 2012. To qualify for admission, students must be licensed RN's. To learn more about this program, contact Joy Kieffer, nursing program coordinator, at <jkieffer@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854.

Teacher Education Programs with Licensure

Mount Olive College is now offering teacher education programs with licensure in the following areas: early childhood, elementary education, physical education, math, science, English, social studies, music, and agriculture. Contact Dr. Tommy Benson, education chair, at <tbenson@moc.edu> with questions.

Coaching Minor

The College has also begun a minor in coaching. Students who are interested in this program can contact Dr. Burt Lewis at <blewis@moc.edu> or (800) 653-0854.

One-Night-a-Week Programs for Adults

One-night-a-week college programs for adults are available at Mount Olive, New Bern, Jacksonville, Washington, Wilmington, and Research Triangle Park. The tuition cost for these programs is offered at a reduced rate. Complete the free online application at <www.moc.edu> and learn more about our programs by clicking on the location nearest your home or workplace. Multiple start dates are available each semester, so ask about these convenient programs and how you can complete your degree. Call 1-800-NEW GOAL. You will be connected to the location nearest your home. Financial aid is available.



Honors Students Travel Abroad

Every year Mount Olive College Honors Program participants have the opportunity to travel overseas. This year's selected destination was the European countries of Slovenia and Croatia. Students were accompanied by Mount Olive College President, Dr. and Mrs. Philip Kerstetter, Dr. Alan Lamm, and Dr. Bankole Olatosi.

"Before this trip, I had never been out of the country or ridden on an airplane," explained honors student Marah Radford. "The most memorable moment for me was looking out my airplane window and seeing Croatia for the first time—it was absolutely breathtaking and is something I will never forget for the rest of my life."

Students visited the old town of Dubrovnik the first day of their trip. They viewed the Franciscan Monastery, the Bell Tower Clock, St. Laurence Fortress, the Sponza and Rector's Palace. In the afternoon, they traveled along the beautiful coast of the Adriatic Sea to the city of Split.

Recent Mount Olive College biology graduate Jelena Atkins of Leland, NC was grateful for the opportunity to expand her knowledge of different cultures. "This trip has inspired me to continue to travel overseas and discover the beauty of other countries. I would never have had the chance to visit not one, but three European countries if not for the honors program at Mount Olive College."

On the second day students enjoyed a city orientation tour of Split, before driving north along the coast to Trogir, home to artists and scholars from around the world. Then they journeyed inland towards the beautiful Plitvice Lakes National Park, a breathtaking natural wonder, which includes 16 terraced lakes surrounded by thickly wooded mountains and lush vegetation.

"The experience showed me that life is far too short to remain unaware of the beautiful world God has created for us. One's understanding of world geography is nothing in comparison to actually traveling overseas and experiencing firsthand the beauty of our world," marveled senior secondary English education major, Aisha Atkinson of Goldsboro, NC.

The group returned to the beautiful Bay of Kvarner and its popular seaside resort, Opatija on the third day. Then they headed north to Postojna, the site of one of the largest caves in Europe, where they toured the subterranean world via train. Crawford Bolton enjoyed the sites, as well as the interactions with other tourists. "As we traveled, we met many different people from all over the world, which really helped me to see that the world is more diverse than I could ever imagine. It gave me motivation to learn other

article continued on page 35

2012 Planning Sessions for MOC Dinners

The schedule for the 2012 Planning Sessions are listed below. Mount Olive College is a ministry of the Original Free Will Baptist Church brought into being to provide educational services for the Church. Each church is encouraged to have a representative and its pastor attend the planning session where up to date information will be provided and plans made for the annual College dinner. For additional information please contact Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, at (919) 658-7744 or <jfackiss@moc.edu>, or Hope McPherson Fields, Assistant Director of Church Support, at (919) 658-7714 or <hfields@moc.edu>. If you are calling long distance please use 1 (800) 653-0854.

- **Jones County**
Wednesday, August 8 @ 3 P.M.
Friendship OFWB Church near Trenton
- **Greene County**
Thursday, August 9 @ 7 P.M.
Hull Road OFWB Church near Snow Hill
- **Beaufort County**
Friday, August 10 @ 7 P.M.
Free Union OFWB Church near Pinetown
- **Nash County**
Sunday, August 12 @ 3 P.M.
Free Union OFWB Church near Spring Hope
- **Lenoir County**
Monday, August 13 @ 7 P.M.
Westside OFWB Church, Kinston
- **Duplin County**
Tuesday, August 14 @ 7 P.M.
Cabin OFWB Church near Beulaville
- **Wayne County**
Thursday, August 16 @ 7 P.M.
First OFWB Church of Goldsboro
- **Onslow-Brunswick Counties**
Friday, August 17 @ 7 P.M.
Folkstone OFWB Church, Folkstone
- **Pamlico County**
Sunday, August 19 @ 3 P.M.
Rock of Zion OFWB Church, Grantsboro
- **Pitt County**
Monday, August 20 @ 7 P.M.
Reedy Branch OFWB Church near Winterville
- **Washington, Martin, Tyrrell, and Pasquotank Counties**
Thursday, August 23 @ 7 P.M.
First OFWB Church of Plymouth
- **Carteret County**
Friday, August 24 @ 7 P.M.
Crab Point OFWB Church, Morehead City
- **Wilson County**
Monday, August 27 @ 7 P.M.
Daniels Chapel OFWB Church near Wilson
- **Sampson, Harnett, and Cumberland Counties**
Tuesday, August 28 @ 7 P.M.
Oak Grove OFWB Church near Newton Grove
- **Craven County**
Thursday, August 30 @ 7 P.M.
Saint Mary's OFWB Church, New Bern
- **Johnston-Wake Counties**
Tuesday, September 4 @ 7 P.M.
First OFWB Church of Smithfield



The experience showed me that life is far too short to remain unaware of the beautiful world God has created for us. One's understanding of world geography is nothing in comparison to actually traveling overseas and experiencing firsthand the beauty of our world.

— Aisha Atkinson —

continued from page 33

cultures and languages,” expressed Crawford Bolton, a senior Human Resource Management major from Louisburg, NC.

Their trip concluded with the group traveling to the capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana, where they visited the open-air market, City Hall, Robba’s Fountain and the Three Bridges. After returning to Bled, they went sightseeing at Bled Castle. Then on the long flight home, the group rested and recounted the wonderful sights seen and memories made.

While reflecting on her trip, senior art major Brianka Morgan noted that the United States was still a young nation when compared to European countries. “This trip has been transformational in that I now see as a country we are still growing and developing: in culture, in the arts, and in thought. I am reminded that through this stage of our existence, still so young and still growing, we can still make revolutionary decisions about water conservation and nature preservation.”

President and Mrs. Kerstetter thoroughly enjoyed the trip, and the company they kept during it. “Croatia and Slovenia were breathtakingly beautiful and the people were warm and hospitable,” they explained, “But the best part of the trip was not the scenery—it was getting to know our MOC students better and enjoying the camaraderie of traveling with Dr. and Mrs. Lamm and Dr. Olatosi. Our students are wonderful ambassadors for us to the world—we are very proud of them.”

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Campus Ministry Presents

THE BIG BANG CONCERT

Tuesday August 21 7:00 P.M.

located in Southern Bank Auditorium

No Admission Fee

**The concert will feature the
Campus ministry groups:**

- Collide
- Voices of Praise
- New Directions
- Reality Check

Interested in attending MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE?

**The Original Free Will Baptist Tuition Grant
can help you make that dream a reality!**

Eligibility requirements include:

- full-time enrollment in the traditional program
- continuous membership at an OFWB church that supports the Convention of OFWB
- completion of FAFSA and OFWB application annually

The \$3,000 grant is renewable each year based on maintaining satisfactory academic progress and meeting all requirements.

Contact the Office of Admissions to learn more!

800-653-0854 • www.moc.edu

Lesson *Inner View*

A deeper look inside this month's lessons from the OFWB Foundation Curriculum and commentaries based on the International Sunday School Lessons.



with Adrian Grubbs

The Sunday School lessons for August wrap up our study on God's call for justice. In unit 1 we turned to the Torah to discern the meaning of justice in a biblical sense. Then last month we looked at five leaders in Israel to see how they put that justice into practice. This month our studies take us to the Psalms and Prophets to consider the praise and promise of justice.

Our world, it seems, is infested with selfishness and greed. Would it be an oversimplification to say that the collapse of the housing market and subsequent recession was caused by the greed of a few congressmen, realtors, bankers, and lawyers (not to mention the greed of consumers!)? And many other countries around the world are in serious financial crisis because of deep-seated corruption, i.e., greed. Why do we citizens tolerate the absurd salaries and bonuses of corporate leaders and professional athletes? Why was there not a deafening cry of "foul" from the citizenry at the underhanded way in which the state-run lottery was enacted by the legislature in North Carolina? Is there no end or limit to carnal greed?

This month we study passages from the Psalms and the Prophets that promise an end to greed and corruption. But before we write this off as the futile hopes of dreamers, let us remember from previous lessons that the world belongs to God because He created the world, and all people belong to God because He created us all. Therefore, God has the right to demand and expect from us a high standard of justice. Corrupt leaders will be called to account for their misconduct,

and they will be replaced by honorable and just leaders.

Psalm 146 assures us that even though human leaders may fail, our God executes justice, especially for the powerless and the forgotten. Isaiah promised that a child, a son, would be given, who has the full authority of God, and who will rule with justice and integrity. Jeremiah told of a day when God would raise a righteous branch of David, who will execute justice and righteousness and replace those shepherds who scatter the sheep. And Ezekiel promised a shepherd who will actually lead and feed His sheep.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to assign a date to Psalm 146. However, we can understand how the Psalms developed over a period of time and how they became an important "handbook" for private and public worship. The Psalms include hymns that were sung and psalms that were recited in worship services or read in the public reading of the Scriptures. Some psalms were to be used as antiphonal readings between the choir and the congregation; other psalms lend themselves to responsive readings by the worship leader and the people. Psalm 146 is a praise psalm extolling the righteousness and justice of the Lord.

Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel were prophets during times of political turmoil in the Middle East. Isaiah was the spokesman for God when Assyria rampaged the area, destroying the

continued on next page



H. Adrian Grubbs, Jr., was born in Dade City, Florida, to the Rev. Herman A. and Lillian Kinard Grubbs. The family moved to Mount Olive, NC, in 1959. Adrian was ordained in the Eastern Conference in 1963 and has served eight churches. After a 30-year pastorate at Deep Run OFWB Church he retired in 2007 because of vocal problems. Grubbs has served the denomination as President of the Sunday School Convention, Moderator of the Eastern Conference, member of the Eastern Conference Ministerial Examining Board, and is currently on the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees. Adrian and Jo Ann have one son, two daughters, and six grandchildren.

Psalms for the Soul

with Linda Herring

The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Do you have the ability to wait well? Daniel Coleman calls the ability to wait well, "the master attitude." If you want the master attitude there are several things you have to do. Psalm 123:2 says, "As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters so our eyes look to the Lord." (1) Humility. Waiting reminds us that we are not in charge. Waiting humbles us in ways we need to be humbled. (2) Trust. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. We must trust God and wait on Him even when we do not clearly see His hand at work. (3) Expectation. My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from God. Do you look to God for everything? Or do you look to people? People will let you down and disappoint you but God will never let you down. Learn to wait well, it is the master attitude. Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm.



Linda Herring is married to Vernon Herring. They have two children, Amy and Vernon and three grandchildren, Jenna, Jared, and Noah. Linda is an active member of the White Oak Grove OFWB Church in LaGrange, NC. Linda leads a Bible study group, Circle of Friends. She has been a drama director of two dramas that she wrote, *They Called His Name Jesus* and *The Book of Ruth*. She is a resource for the OFWB Woman's Auxiliary. Her outreach ministry includes this column in *TFWB*, a radio broadcast by the same name (aired on WAGO 88.7 FM), and a weekly devotional article for the *La Grange Weekly Gazette* and *The Sampson Weekly*. She also has a devotion book printed by the Mount Olive College Press.

continued from previous page

northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C. and threatening Judah. Jeremiah was called to speak for God when Babylon was assaulting the southern Kingdom of Judah; Jerusalem was finally captured, trampled, and burned in 586 B.C. Ezekiel, as priest and prophet, was God's spokesman during the Babylonian exile.

During those times in Israel and Judah, through graft and greed the rich were becoming richer and the poor were becoming hopeless. Politics was corrupt. There was no justice in the legal system for the poor who could not afford a bribe.

Personal integrity and basic human rights were not available to those without power and money. These three prophets (and others) cried out against the injustice in the land, and called for the people and their leaders to turn back to God with just and righteous living. They proclaimed the promise of God that if the people would trust Him, then He would give them a Son (Isaiah 9), raise up a Branch of David (Jeremiah 23), and send a Shepherd (Ezekiel 34) to lead in righteousness and to rule with justice. Our God is a God of righteousness and justice, and He requires the same of His people.



CHURCH & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Daniels Chapel Church on Frank Price Church Road in Wilson has a part-time youth pastor position open. Contact search committee representatives Jeremy Mercer at (919) 700-8649 or Mitch Hayes at (252) 289-7896. We will send you the job description and a job application. Send résumés to <jeremy.mercer@yahoo.com> or <Tmhayes0708@yahoo.com>. Also, please visit our website at <<http://danielschapelfwb.com>>.



Students Seeking Ministerial Scholarships Through The Foundation

Introduction

Since its inception in 2006 the Shepherd's Fund of the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries has awarded over \$128,000 in scholarships to Free Will Baptist students preparing to serve in Christian ministries. Without the work of The Foundation, this large amount of money would not have been available and the progress of our denomination would have been inhibited. We are grateful for all those who have provided these funds through The Foundation and for all those who are putting the funds to good use in preparing for ministry.

The number of scholarships awarded each year has been growing steadily and as more students become aware of The Foundation's scholarship program more questions arise concerning the criteria for receiving scholarships. The Foundation is pleased to offer the following information to help guide students who are seeking financial assistance through The Foundation in preparation for ministry.

Scholarship Criteria

The purpose of the Foundation scholarship program is to assist Original Free Will Baptists who are preparing to serve in some aspect of Christian ministry as an Original Free Will Baptist. Applicants seeking assistance toward graduate level degrees must (1) be a graduate of an accredited college or university; (2) be accepted and attending an Association of Theological Schools (ATS) accredited Divinity School or Seminary; (3) provide financial aid and tuition information; (4) be in good standing as an Original Free Will Baptist member or minister, as indicated by various letters of recommendation; and (5) provide a signed biographical statement. Applicants seeking assistance toward undergraduate degrees must conform to the same requirements, with appropriate modifications, as those for graduate level studies.

It is the intention of the program to help bridge the gap between the cost of tuition and fees and limited available funding. Therefore, the Foundation scholarship program seeks to assist qualified students who need additional financial assistance after all other funding and financial aid sources have been exhausted. Scholarship assistance through The Foundation is limited to \$200 per semester hour

and is not to exceed \$1,200 per semester. Awards will be distributed by The Foundation directly to the college or university of each student, considering each student's unmet tuition expenses, as funds are available. If funding is limited, priority will be given to students who have demonstrated good academic progress and are seeking the renewal of a scholarship. Priority is also given to students who are attending Mount Olive College or Campbell Divinity School as established in our partnership agreement with these schools. Students must submit an application prior to the stated deadline for each semester that assistance is desired

Other Scholarships Available

The above criteria apply to the largest pool of funding through The Foundation, which is called the Shepherd's Fund. Other funds are available through some endowments established with The Foundation to provide scholarship funding. Each has slightly differing criteria. On the next page is a listing of all the scholarship funds offered through The Foundation. Students should be aware of all the funding sources available through The Foundation for which they may qualify.

Conclusion

Thanks to the generous support of individuals, churches, and conferences, The Foundation is able to provide a variety of ministerial scholarship options to those who need financial assistance. Applicants should be aware of all scholarship options and plan in advance to have their applications and all supporting documents in The Foundation office before each semester's stated deadline. The next deadline for applications is August 31. Applications are available through The Foundation office, P. O. Box 210, Mount Olive, NC 28365; phone: (919) 658-5250; e-mail: <admin@ncfcm.org>.

The Shepherd's Fund

Scholarships at academically accredited colleges, divinity, and theological schools to assist those who wish to prepare for excellence in fulfilling their calling. The Foundation defines "Christian Ministry" as pastoral services or a vocation in a church or institution that is under the auspices of the Church, including ministry to youth, the elderly, church music, Christian education, Chaplaincy, missions and other Christian services to humanity.

Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church Scholarship Endowment for Christian Ministry

Scholarships for Original Free Will Baptists called to Christian ministry, with first preference to students from Stoney Creek Church who are enrolled full-time at any location of Mount Olive College.

Thomas Bruce and Mary Moore Dudley Scholarship Endowment

Scholarships for Christian Ministry, Public School Education, and Christian Education.

James Benjamin Lewis, Jr. Scholarship Endowment for Church Music

Provides annual scholarships for students preparing for voluntary services or vocations in church music, including pianists, organists, vocalists, and choir directors. Scholarship awards may also be made for students who are enrolled in professionally accredited graduate schools in preparation for full-time vocations in church music. Preferential consideration will be given to members of Marlboro Original Free Will Baptist Church or persons recommended by the Church, who are attending Mount Olive College.

The Ministerial Association of Original Free Will Baptists Endowment

Scholarships provided to Original Free Will Baptists who are enrolled in divinity schools and other graduate schools which are accredited by ATS as recommended by the Scholarship Committee of the Ministerial Association.

Esther Davis Smith Scholarship Endowment

Established by the Reverend Danny M. Smith as a memorial to his grandmother, Esther Davis Smith, scholarships will be for traditional and nontraditional programs of study, which may include distance learning. The first two years must be at Mount Olive College, and after the completion of a minimum of 48 semester hours, the recipient may continue to receive the scholarship upon transferring to Liberty University in pursuit of a baccalaureate or graduate degree in their chosen field of study.

North Carolina Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists Endowment

Scholarships for ministerial students from the Central Conference who are attending seminary or divinity school.





Morning Star Retreat

The Woman's Auxiliary held its annual Morning Star Retreat on April 13-15 at Cragmont Assembly. The theme was, "If He Brings You To It, He Will Bring You Through It." Frances Anderson of Rock Springs Church in Bailey was Bible Teacher for the weekend. She inspired all with her moving PowerPoint presentations and words of encouragement including the importance of "Perseverance, Endurance, and Strength." Tanji Bass held Morning Devotion and Sandra Stallings taught the International Sunday School Lesson. Both ladies are also members of Rock Springs. There were 65 ladies in attendance with 14 first timers to The Retreat. Three ladies in attendance were over 80! Each district in the state was represented.



Dayspring Retreat

As I was getting my hair cut today, I heard another client in the salon say, "I just need the world to stop and let me get off for a while." I promptly invited her to the next Woman's Auxiliary Retreat, Cornerstone Retreat, July 29-August 3. I told her I had just returned from the Dayspring Retreat on Saturday, and how those few wonderful days of worship, praise and Christian fellowship at our beautiful Cragmont Assembly are just that...a time the world seems to stop and let you get off for a short while.

The speaker for the retreat was Pam Braxton, a member of Deep Run Church. Pam shared selected scriptures that supported the need for a mind-body-spirit connection as God originally planned. Pam used the subtopics of GRITS-GREENS-GRAMMAR-GYRATIONS-GERITOL. She effectively taught about the need for comfort through good relationships (grits), good nutrition (greens), an active mind (grammar), and physical activity (gyrations) and that we would have "get up and go" without the use of Geritol. Pam involved

everyone in a regimen of chair aerobics that had all laughing and participating, even the ninety-four year old participant.

On Wednesday evening, worship was led by the Rev. Harold Jones, Director of Foreign Missions International. It was a journey through two Psalms, 121 and 139, from the Living Bible, a paraphrased translation. King David realized the awesomeness of our God. He had been made acutely aware by Nathan the Prophet of the all seeing, all knowing God. The Rev. Jones reminded us that we cannot fool God. Sin has its consequences. The Church must love the sinner—not judge. God will lead us to life everlasting.

John Williams, Director of Cragmont Assembly, shared scripture and a message along with a vision for Cragmont on Thursday evening. After singing praise songs, the group was led in a Bible Study by Bren Best, member of Whaley's Chapel Church. Handouts were provided for participants. Selected Scriptures were shared to teach about some of the times Jesus retreated from the throngs, rested and prayed alone with His Father. Strength for our

Christian journey is built on prayer. The Holy Spirit led many of the group to share highlights of their journeys that edified the saints! It was after 10:00 before the group retired from the Chapel with overflowing hearts.

Afternoons were free for relaxation, reading, shopping, fellowship, and studying.

Each morning began with devotions led by Carolyn Jernigan, a member of Shady Grove Church. She shared a handout with affirmations listed for each day that encouraged everyone to show love, have joy, and have peace through the practice of these affirmations. It was a wonderful study on these fruit of the Holy Spirit.

The group was blessed all week by the beautiful piano music provided by JoAnn Parrish, a member of Folkstone Church, as we lifted songs of praise to our God. Call right now and tell the world to stop and let you get off for the next auxiliary retreat. You will be blessed!

Averette Receives Life Membership Award

The Woman's Auxiliary of the First Church in Greenville led the Sunday morning worship service on June 24, 2012. After May Pittman read the scripture, she commented that it would be good to review the qualities and traits of one who receives the Life Membership Award. She then proceeded to say that such a woman is in our midst today and called Jean M. Averette to the front to receive the honor.

Jean is a native of Pitt County and has lived here all of her life. She graduated from Winterville High School and East Carolina University, majoring in education. She wore many hats during her career and retired in December 1994 as Director of Special Education for Pitt County Schools.

She became a member of our church on April 2, 1959 and has served in many capacities. She is a member of the Crusaders Sunday School Class where she has served as president, secretary, on the hospitality committee, and teacher. She has planned many outings for the Prime Timers Group, taught Bible School, played in the hand bell choir, and on the committee for creating the church library. She is an ordained deaconess, a member of the Mount Olive College Board, and served the past two years as Pitt County chairman of the MOC dinners.

On the local Auxiliary level, she has served as president, secretary, Children's Home chairwoman, and is currently missions chairwoman and on the benevolent committee. On our state level, she served one term as vice-president and is currently in her second term as president.

She has renewed her spiritual life through attending Cragmont Woman's Retreats where she has met many friends.

Jean is a wonderful cook—and no homecoming, benevolent, or covered dish meal would be complete without her pineapple casserole, blueberry dessert, and ice cream cake. She is a gracious hostess as she welcomes visitors and groups to their "Mountain Top" home in Atlantic Beach.



Traveling is a joy to her and she has visited all 50 states, Mexico, and she went to China with a group of educators.

She retired in 1995 and began actively serving her church and denomination. She felt called to go to Mississippi when Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast and made mission trips in September 2005 and February 2006.

Jean is blessed with a loving husband, Carl, two children—Carla and Vance, five grandchildren—Jay, Dylan, Madison, Annabelle, and Sawyer. Carla was not able to attend, but May read some comments she shared about her mother, ending with "We are so proud of her for being a beautiful, strong, Christian woman inside and out."

Jean was presented a Life Membership Certificate and Auxiliary pin with Bible attached. Jean, you are very deserving of this award and we take great pleasure in presenting it to you. Wear it with pride!



Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

Christian Lessons From Biblical Characters

Max Lucado, *Cast of Characters*.

Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2012. 230 pages. ISBN 978-0-8499-4673-8.

Book reviews in this column are *not* meant to reflect any theological or political positions.

Max Lucado

Max Lucado serves as the minister to Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas. He and his wife Denalyn have three daughters: 8-year-old Jenna, 6-year-old Andrea, and 3-year-old Sara. He has spent a lifetime preaching, teaching, and writing, giving to readers inspirational books, children's books, and gift books. His newest book, *Cast of Characters*, is an in-depth look at some of the common characters in the biblical stories—Jairus, Nicodemus, Jesus' brothers, Mephibosheth, Josiah, Job, the thief on the cross, and others. Lucado takes these stories and adds his own modern twist, linking our common lives to the cast of characters in the biblical stories. Some 23 chapters present characters, begin with a biblical reference, and end with questions for reflection and discussion. This book may serve as a helpful resource in sermons, lessons, and meditations.

Among Some of the Women in the Cast of Characters

Max Lucado develops the stories of the unnamed women caught in adultery, Simon and Mary loving Jesus in Bethany, and the woman with the issue of blood. Each of these three women appear as sources for spiritual guidance to questioning followers of Jesus Christ.

Take the unnamed woman caught in adultery. Lucado stresses the power of shame to destroy the human spirit. He recalls the story of 18-year-old Rebecca Thompson who with her 11-year-old sister Amy were kidnapped and thrown from the Fremont Canyon Bridge some 40 miles southwest of Casper, Wyoming. Rebecca had been raped but had protected her younger sister Amy. However, in the push from the 112-foot bridge, Amy died while Rebecca lived. For 19 years Rebecca felt shame and guilt: she had survived while her sister had died. Then later Rebecca jumped from the Fremont Canyon Bridge—her suicide an act of “shame” and “never-ending guilt” (82).

Lucado takes this story and links it to the deep shame the woman felt who was caught in adultery by the Pharisees, the “appointed custodians of conduct” (83). The trap had been set for her; she had been caught while the man escaped. The Pharisees hoped to corner Jesus with the Mosaic law that commanded stoning a woman to death for adultery. But Jesus writes in the sand and turns the law around. In John 8:7, Jesus states, “Anyone here who has never sinned can throw the first stone at her” (85). The Pharisees drop their rocks and shuffle out. Jesus tells the woman in John 8:10–11: “I also don't judge you guilty. You may go now, but don't sin anymore” (86). What message is Jesus leaving? Do not feel shame. You are loved and found not guilty. His message comes not from writing in the sand but from God's love soon to be seen even on a cross.

The story of Simon and Mary loving Jesus in Bethany reflects the courage of Simon and Mary at a time when the Pharisees were after Jesus. Simon had been healed of leprosy and did not forget Jesus. Mary had once been perhaps a prostitute and knew what it meant to be without friends, misunderstood, and cast aside. Risking danger, they both love Jesus in Simon's home in Bethany. Simon feeds Jesus while Mary brings a “large vial of perfume from her house to Simon's” (16). The perfume “was worth a year's wages” (16), but Mary in a risky, extravagant act of love pours the fragrance over Jesus's head, shoulders, and back, creating reprimand from the disciples present but praise from Jesus. What was his message? Lucado claims: “There is a time for risky love. There is a time for “extravagant gestures. There is a time to pour out your affections on one you love. And when the time comes—seize it, don't miss it” (17).

The story of the woman with the issue of blood is the story of a woman who merely wanted to touch the clothes of Jesus to be healed of her excessive bleeding. What Lucado sees in this story is the fact that the woman did something to find a cure, that she took a step of faith,

that she risked from her need. And what did Jesus do? In Mark 5:34, Jesus speaks: “Daughter, your faith has made you well” (43). Lucado believes this woman as Veronica, “the woman who walked the road to the cross with him,” wiping his forehead along the way “when the sweat and blood were stinging his eyes” (44).

Among Some of the Men in the Cast of Characters

Max Lucado presents new ways of seeing Jacob wrestle with his past; Cornelius as a man labeled; Philip as a member “of the bigotry-demolition team” (52) in Samaria and Gaza; Noah as the one bringing a “leaf of hope” (71); Peter and others as “high-octane” (95) witnesses after they had been with the resurrected Jesus; Nicodemus the high-court Pharisee who learned the limits of the law in the light of grace” (102); Ananias as the soul who would not give up on Saul (115); Nathan as the soul pushing David to confront sin in order to “put it away” (125) and allow God to begin anew in his life; Jesus’ four brothers, James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon, as his physical family but not his larger spiritual family; the leper who was healed first by faith and its pronouncement only to be followed by the touch of Jesus (175); crippled Mephibosheth who sat at the table of King David; Josiah who “leapfrogged” (193) back in time to find his dream of faith; Job who both heard and saw God (205); and the thief on the cross whom Jesus saw, valued, and loved (225).

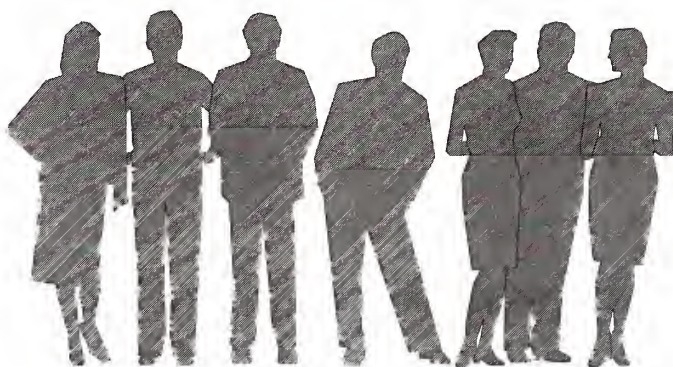
Images in Lucado’s Writing

Max Lucado has a way with words that creates a poignant interest, a new perspective, and a memory device. He speaks of Jacob wrestling with God on the banks of Jabbok as Jacob “rolled in the mud of his mistakes” (24). He describes the paralyzed man where his feet “hung like ornaments on the ends of his legs” (61) and his “hands dangled like empty sleeves from his sides” (61). He defines a “divine love burst” (63) as leapfrogging the physical in order to deal with the spiritual (63). He describes Christians who bring hope to others as members of “the dove brigade” (75). He discusses “canyons of shame” (82) that run deep

and “gorges of never-ending guilt” (82). He describes Annas and Caiaphas as “the power brokers of Jerusalem” (95). He describes a farmer who plants “a seed of grace” (106). Before Paul’s conversion, he sees Saul’s possibility of becoming a Christian “as soon as a turtle learns to two-step” (111). Before Nathan got to King David, Lucado describes David’s soul as resembling “a Canadian elm in winter. Barren. Fruitless. Gray-shrouded” (122). He describes a drifter “wearing alcohol like a cheap perfume” (141). He claims that “Satan is to God what a mosquito is to an atomic bomb” (162). He speaks of leprosy as “death by inches” (171). He speaks of Mephibosheth “dropped like a cantaloupe from a torn paper sack” (185). He speaks of Peter being “awash in a whirlpool of sorrow” (211).

Lines Worth Remembering

Certain lines in Max Lucado’s new book, *Cast of Characters*, are worth remembering. Among some of these loaded lines are these: (1) “Faith is the belief that God is real and that God is good” (41). (2) “Conformity is not fun, but it’s safe” (104). (3) “There is something fundamentally good about taking time to see a person” (142). (4) “God’s holiness commands headline attention” (153). (5) “Heaven gives the boat, but you have to row it if you ever want to see the other shore” (183). (6) “As grace sinks in, earthly labels fade” (184). (7) “Reach for God’s goblet of grace and drink. Grace defines who you are” (186). (8) “All of us are signing on Jesus’ credit card, not ours” (225). (9) “Courage comes as we live with Jesus” (96). (10) “Hope is an olive leaf—evidence of dry land after a flood” (70).



Pepper Worthington was born in Kinston, NC, and married an OFWB retired minister, Michael Gauker Warning, in 1996. The Rev. Warning served as pastor to Free Union OFWB at Sea Level, NC. She received her B.A. degree *cum laude* at Meredith College in 1965, her M.L.A. degree at Johns Hopkins University in 1969, and her Ph.D. with *Phi Kappa Phi* honors at the University of Maryland at College Park in 1976. She has been a professor of English at Mount Olive College since 1979. She is also currently the director of the Mount Olive College Press.



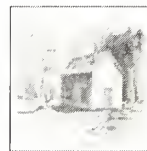
Began as a Shack 115 Years Ago

White Oak Grove OFWB Church, La Grange, NC

The early records of the church do not exist. Fifty-five years ago the Church Clerk began to gather information to compile the church history and an elderly man who lived across the road from the church stated that the church was built in 1897. However, this date is questionable because the oldest charter member of the church was 79 years of age when he died in 1897 and that would have put him at the age of five.

Behold, a new document of question has appeared. The genealogical records on the Louis Barkley Foss family allude to the fact that White Oak Grove may have had its beginning just one mile south of the present location and on the banks of Bear Creek. Louis apparently preached some and considered himself as a Free Will Baptist minister. He traveled to different churches in the area. He was ordained to preach the gospel of the Church of God on November 19, 1893. He built a church near Bear Creek (current address is the corner of Bear Creek Road and Ben F. Herring Road in Lenoir County). The land was deeded to the church but when the land was sold the new land owner claimed the church and it was later turned into a residential dwelling. This building was demolished in the 1970s and a new home was built on the site. It is possible that White Oak Grove had its beginning on the corner of Bear Creek Road and Ben F. Herring Road but the road and bridge structures were limited

in the 1800s and this church site may have failed because flood waters made it impossible to cross Bear Creek. It is believed that the church relocated from the south of Bear Creek to its present location because the majority of its members lived on the north side of Bear Creek. Because the church does not have any proof it must accept the documented facts about its beginning and the date of origin.



In the beginning, what began in 1897 as a one room, unpainted, lap-sided board structure with a tin roof has evolved into a stately structure with support buildings to accommodate the needs and spiritual teachings of the Bible for the residents of this rural community and the contiguous communities. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, this church had no modern conveniences such as electric lights, kerosene lanterns hung from the ceiling, no gas or electric heat, only a wood-burning stove, and the adjacent woods provided the privacy because toilet facilities were not available.

Due to the lack of a deed to the land upon which the church was built, the membership ceased to have worship service and during this time the building was used to store hay. After six years of inactivity the landowner gave the church a deed to the land. This

gift of love generated a spiritual revival that ignited a fire in the hearts of the few remaining members which motivated them to take action to reactivate the church services.

In 1959 the membership realized that additional monies were needed to bring to fruition the goals of the church and the teaching of His Word. Wow! A Harvest Sale was discussed, approved, and each year thereafter the church has enjoyed a Harvest Sale. This event gives all attendees the opportunity to join with others members and share the good food, arts and crafts, and to give back to their home church. It has been realized that many former members come to see their family, friends, and neighbors and talk about things of long ago. Ardent members of the church, the Seth Dawson Family, hosted the Harvest Sale at the Seth Dawson Daily Barn for approximately 50 years. This was a gracious gift that enabled the church to turn a good profit from the hard work of the membership. This has been a bonus for White Oak Grove Church. In later years, a metal building has been constructed on the church property which affords the members the opportunity to prepare the Harvest Sale food on site.

In 1972 the membership realized the use of ponds, lakes, and rivers for baptism as being unsanitary and approved the installation of a baptistery. The baptistery was located behind the choir but during later renovations the baptistery was placed beneath the floor of the choir.

Some good always comes from something bad and this was the case in 1993 when oil leaked beneath the floor of the Sanctuary and the odor from the oil could not be removed. The stench was stifling and the membership approved a massive renovation and building program. Meticulous plans had to be made because everything in the Sanctuary, with the exception of the roof and the walls, had to be removed. The plans called for the construction of the Family Life Center so there would be a place to hold worship services and the renovations and rebuilding proceed in three phases. Phase one was the redesign and renovation of the Sunday School Complex. After the renovations the Sunday School Complex was bricked. Phase two consisted of the construction of a 3,500 square foot Family Life Center to be used for activities not suitable to be held in the Sanctuary. Phase three was the

removal of the floor in the Sanctuary. Next was the tedious job of removing and replacing the soil that was beneath the floor. To gain additional space for the Sanctuary the two Sunday School rooms at the entrance of the Sanctuary were removed and the Sunday School room behind the choir was removed. This was an expensive project but the membership met the challenge and paid the debt before the loan came due.

The church was restricted on all sides with no opportunity to expand. In July 2003 an event was held at the church and the community was invited to attend. A couple from the nearby Methodist Church attended the event and noted the need for parking and gave the church 1.06 acres of land. In October 2006, a couple from White Oak Grove gave the church an additional 4.06 acres of land. The love for White Oak Grove is abound and past members have made arrangements to have a portion of their estate given to the church. Throughout the years there have been renovations, building programs, additions, new construction, and a vibrant membership that is active and promotes and teaches the scriptures as recorded in the Bible.



White Oak Grove is fortunate to have members with great leadership qualities who have been recognized and have served at the local, state, and national level. For a small rural church, White Oak Grove is very competitive when it comes to teachers and enjoys the opportunity to nominate its teaching staff for the yearly Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent of the Year Awards. White Oak Grove is blessed that each member uses the talents that God has given them and many members continue to serve our community and Lenoir County on boards and committees with a Christian attitude which reflects the teachings of His Word.

White Oak Grove is proud of its heritage and is a leader in bringing the Word of God to His people. White Oak Grove is a caring church that is involved in the community and provides innovative programs for all age groups and its ministries include the Woman's Auxiliary, Layman's League, Youth Groups, and the Circle of Friends. Today the members are using the foundation laid by their forefathers to preach, teach, and study His Word.



CHURCH & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

First Church, Greenville, NC, is seeking a full-time minister. Please send résumé to: Stephen Wiggins, 2232 Blackhorse Lane, Winterville, NC 28590.

Hickory Chapel Church, Ahoskie, NC, is seeking a full-time pastor. Interested persons may contact Sandy White by phone at (252) 395-1025 or by e-mail at <bands@gate811.net>.

Windley Receives Award



The Rev. John Mark Windley, Pastor of Pleasant Hill Church (Pitt County), was honored with the Elder P. T. Lucas Award for bi-vocational pastors. He received the award during ceremonies at the IMPACT Banquet associated with the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists held in May 2012 at Mount Olive College in Mount Olive, North Carolina.

The Rev. Windley became pastor of Pleasant Hill Church in May of 2009. Pastor John Mark was a full-time employee at PCS Phosphate located in Aurora, NC,

when he received the award. He worked at PCS Phosphate for 33 years and just now retired on June 30, 2012.

Being a bi-vocational pastor required working eight hours a day at PCS, as well as an additional four to eight hours as pastor of Pleasant Hill Church. He always kept his car packed with the appropriate clothing for any occasion. Therefore, he was always prepared for hospital visits, Highway to Heaven visitations, Layman's League meetings, Conference meetings, visiting bereaved families, and the unknown.

One church member stated, "He is one of the greatest witnesses for Jesus that I have ever met. He shares his testimony and love for Jesus to all who will listen. He is consistent; the man you see on Sunday is the same man you see during the week. He takes every opportunity to witness, not only in the pulpit but also at his job." Another member stated, "His love of Jesus and concern for mankind is so obvious in his day-to-day life."

Pastor John Mark usually does not get home before 9 P.M. or later. He is always there whenever he is needed, regardless of the hour. He is also a very patient man (some compare his patience to that of Job as described in the Bible).

Under the direction of Pastor John Mark, Pleasant Hill Church has started a DVD video ministry that records all Sunday services and special occasions. The DVDs are then taken to the sick and shut-ins. A DVD player is also provided if they do not already have one. This enables them to see (and hear) the Sunday services. The video keeps them involved in the activities at the church, even if they can't physically attend.

Pastor John Mark not only preaches two messages on Sunday, but he also leads the Bible Study on Wednesday evenings. Church attendance and membership have both increased since Pastor John Mark came to Pleasant Hill Church. Pastor John Mark started a Layman's League group that meets

article continued on next page

Camp Vandemere Women's Conference

SUBMITTED BY STUMPY QUINN

The Annual Woman's Conference, which is usually hosted at Camp Vandemere, was held this year at the Faith Church Retreat at Morehead City, NC, June 4-7, 2012. The theme was "A Nail in a Sure Place!" The scripture verses were taken from Isaiah 22-23.

We had 20 full-time campers and several day campers. Linda Herring presented each day's Bible study. The Rev. Wesley Taylor, from White Hill Church, preached the message on Monday night. On Tuesday night, the Rev. Reese Blanchett from Fort Barnwell Church brought the message. Brother Bobby Owens from Memorial Church spoke on Wednesday night and the Rev. Mike Scott, from Juniper Chapel, gave the sermon on Thursday night. We were also again blessed to have the Juniper Five provide the music for that service. They have been so faithful for several years now to come and sing for us each fourth night of the conference.

On Tuesday, we took a day trip to Fort Macon and the History Museum. We also patronized all the thrift stores we could find.

Wednesday afternoon we honored our Woman of the Year candidates from the various churches that sent their special ladies to receive this recognition. Afterward, we rode to Newport to the Rev. James Gurganus' daughter's ice cream shop. What a treat that was!

We were blessed to have two great cooks providing sustenance for all the campers—Happy Taylor and Hazel Smith provided



delicious meals each day. On Thursday night we gave them a break from the kitchen and went out to eat, because we wanted to get everything cleaned up and get packed so we could leave after the evening service.

We want to especially thank the Rev. Gurganus for making sure we had everything we needed. Although we missed the rocking chairs and the view of the Bay River from Camp Vandemere, this little church was just right for us this year. We hope to return to Camp Vandemere next year.

Our daily Bible studies and the messages each night were such a blessing. What a wonderful week of fellowship! Our lives will never be the same.



Prayer Garden

Pastor Ashley Summerlin recently led the congregation of Jackson Heights in a dedication ceremony, as part of the Morning Worship Service, for the newly completed Prayer Garden. He shared how Jesus would periodically go away by Himself to pray, away from the crowds and the noise of everyday life, and how we need to do the same. Molly Jones sang a moving rendition of the old hymn, "In the Garden." After the dedication service, everyone enjoyed a time of fellowship with a meal.

The Prayer Garden is enclosed by a white picket fence to enhance privacy and seclusion for those desiring the serenity it provides. As one enters the garden, they see the cross-shaped brick walkway, accented by beautiful flowers, leading to a wooden cross with a statue of Jesus, to its right, kneeling in prayer, and hear the soothing, rippling sounds of a water feature.

Bible Bowl

The Jackson Heights Church Family is so proud of our three Bible Bowl Teams! All three earned First Place during the annual competitions held recently during the 2012 Youth Convention! Team members and coaches are as follows: (left-right) front row: Cherub Team Coach April Goff, team members Camden Herring, Colby Tucker, Carissa Wynn; Second Row: AFC Team Coach Patricia Kephart, team members James Kephart, Carissa Wynn, Camryn Goff, Joshua Kephart; YFA Team Coach Jan Tucker, team members Mary-Ashlyn Tucker, Daniel Kephart, Miranda Canady.

The coaches and team members were recognized during a recent Worship Service by Pastor Ashley Summerlin for their hard work which began in January! Each coach and team member were presented Medallions, Trophies, and Wal-Mart Gift Cards on behalf of the Church Family and Adult S.S. Class.



(continued from previous page)

once a month. Additionally, he began a men's singing group that has been invited to sing at several revivals. He, himself, is also a talented vocalist often singing solos for various events, as well as singing in the choir.

The Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award of \$3,000 per recipient is used for the advancement of a pastor's ministry. This award is made available through the OFWB Ministerial Association by the generosity of Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington,

NC in honor of his great grandfather (Elder Lucas). Dr. Morris gives these awards to one vocational and one bi-vocational minister each year. Pastor John Mark is the first in either category to have received this award twice in his career. The first receipt of the award was in the year 2000.

The members of Pleasant Hill Church are very proud to have their pastor, John Mark Windley, chosen to receive this wonderful award.

Blended Fellowship Update

Since January, we've offered free sign language classes and have had the wonderful opportunity to teach a young deaf woman how to communicate in a language she was never taught, help a young man with cerebral palsy (hearing, but no voice) communicate through his hands and help an elderly woman with recent severe hearing loss and her hearing husband learn to communicate through sign language.

We're developing a special partnership with the local deaf school and have been given the opportunity to work with the children there at the school, as well as having 35 deaf students attend a program at Blended, designed especially for them, called "Blended Who?" (see photos)

In July, we embarked on a very special four-week program called Blended Bridges in which several godly volunteers, skilled in sign language, came to serve as short-term missionaries. Several deaf or hard-of-hearing mainstreamed students from the local public schools attended along with their siblings and parents, for the purpose of helping them retain and expand their signing skills through academics, arts, and activities. We provided opportunities for fellowship with other signing children and spiritual guidance for the parents from other parents who have faced the same challenges.

Stoney Creek Church blessed us with 230 nice, fabric chairs for our sanctuary. This has allowed us to multipurpose our space and also allowed us the opportunity to bless Shackle Free Outreach Ministry (a neighbor church) with the pews that we have enjoyed for the last several years.

Current Needs:

- Monthly partners for general operating expenses
- Food & non-food pantry items or funds to purchase items (used weekly for our Deaf members)
- Donations earmarked for Blended Bridges, to offset those expenses, especially the recent bus repair expense

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE PRAYERS
AND SUPPORT!



“Everything Is Possible With God” at Mt. Zion

SUBMITTED BY STACIE JONES

Mt. Zion Church in Nashville, NC enjoyed Vacation Bible School from June 18–22. We had 45 kids in attendance and 15 volunteers. At Sky VBS we learned that “Everything is Possible with God” and that no matter how we feel or no matter what happens we can trust God. Our church had an opportunity to see this firsthand—one week before VBS began one of the children from our church, Caleb Whitford (pictured above), was in a bad accident. He had to be airlifted to Greenville with a skull fracture and he ended up having surgery. The kids in VBS truly got to see that “Everything is Possible with God” and that we can trust God no matter what happens. Caleb is now doing remarkably well. We have seen God’s hand in all the details of Caleb’s recovery. Our offering this year went to Caleb and his family in the amount of \$1,620. Praise God!



Skinner Celebrates 40 Years

On July 1, 2012, Spring Branch Church honored its pastor, the Rev. Doug Skinner, on the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the Gospel ministry. Mrs. Ruby Ellis, representing the Woman’s Auxiliary, recognized the Rev. Skinner with the following remarks:

“Doug, you grew up in a Christian home, being taught and shown the love of God all your life. Growing up under this environment, you knew from an early age God had a work for you to do. However, as so many do, you postponed answering the call until God had your attention through a baseball to the eye. Jesus had been asking, as He did to Peter, ‘Do you love me? Then feed my sheep.’

“After accepting the call and being licensed as a minister in 1970, your first sermon was preached at First Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson—your home church. Taking the advice Paul gave in 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV84), ‘Do your best to present yourself to God as

one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth,’ you began to prepare for this calling by entering Mount Olive College in the fall of 1970 where you studied for two years. On July 2, 1972, you were ordained by the Western Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. In this same year you entered Oakland City College and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Religion.

“With the completion of your formal education, the pastoral work of your calling was begun. Pastorates have been at Rosebud, Arapahoe, Winterville, Sherron Acres, and now at Spring Branch. There was an interruption from pastoral service in 1976–1979 while you served as manager at Cragmont Assembly.

“During these 40 years of dedicated service to God and local congregations, many positions have been held in our denomination at the state and conference level. Working with youth as well as adults, your service

has impacted the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination. Numerous weddings, funerals, revivals, baby dedications, and baptisms have been conducted, including some for your immediate family, not to mention you were also baptized in the Jordan River in the Holy Land.

“We here at Spring Branch have come to know you and your family as we, too, have been blessed by your leadership and commitment to serve God in whatsoever capacity He calls. As your future expands and your commitment is fulfilled, many more will hear God’s Word explained and lives dedicated to His service.

“You have been faithful in many things, and we know you will continue this same commitment for years to come. God’s kingdom will grow from this calling you have so faithfully kept. May God’s continued blessings be upon you and your ministry is our prayer for you.”

Important FWB Press Membership Meeting

The annual membership meeting of the FWB Press will be held on **Tuesday, September 11, at 1 P.M. at the Ayden FWB Church.** The Board of Directors will be recommending that the Press apply for 501(c)(3) status, which will allow us to receive charitable contributions and the donor receive charitable deductions on their income tax return. This must be approved by the membership with a 2/3 of the membership voting. When you receive your invitation to the meeting, please plan to attend or return your proxy.

Did Your Relative Attend the FWB Seminary or Eureka College?

Most Free Will Baptists know that the denomination had two educational institutions that predated the founding of Mount Olive Junior College/Mount Olive College. The FWB Theological Seminary was chartered in 1896, opened in 1898 and closed in 1924. Eureka College was chartered in 1925 and opened in 1926. It closed in 1929 for financial reasons. Both institutions were in Ayden, NC.

The Free Will Baptist Historical Collection has several catalogs of the two schools, but their holdings are not complete. From the catalogs that are available, the list that follows are persons who attended one or both of the institutions. The staff of The Collection believes that other catalog years might be held by the families of these students. The Collection has catalogs for the years: Seminary: 1905, 1908-09, 1912-13;

1913-14; 1914-15; 1916-17; 1917-18. College: 1926-27; 19[27]-[28] (Both catalog covers bear same date of 1926-27, but they are for two different sessions).

If some of your relatives are listed as students, please see if you can locate any other catalogs which these students might have kept among family papers, etc. Please contact Gary Barefoot, Curator of the Collection, if you should find catalogs other than those listed (telephone: (919) 658-7827, e-mail: <gbarefoot@moc.edu>). Also, if you know that your relative attended either institution and their names are not listed, let that be known as well. The Collection is interested in compiling as complete a list of alumni as possible. As far as is known, there are no living alumni of either institution.

FWB Theological Seminary & Eureka College Students

(Names from available catalogs of both institutions: Part 2 of 4, to be continued in next issue)

Name of Student	Hometown	Catalog Years
Elks, W. C.	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Ennis, Charles	Zaleski, OH	1905
Ennis, L. R.	Harnett County, NC	1917-1918
Evans, James	Lucama, NC	1926-1928
Everett, Spurgeon	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Everett, Stanley	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Everett, W. B.	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Everett, Willie	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Fagan, Harry	Martin County, NC	1912-1913
Faulkner, Bennie	Greene County, NC	1916-1917
Faulkner, Guy	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Ferrel, W.T.	Durham, NC	1926-1928
Fleming, Roscoe	Conetoe, NC	1905
Fletcher, Fountain	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918
Flynn, Charles	Norfolk, VA	1908-1909
Flynn, Laurie	Norfolk, VA	1908-1909
Fornes, Guy	Pamlico County, NC	1912-1913
Forrest, Margaret	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Fulcher, Earl	Stacy, NC	1926-1928
Fulcher, Leland	Stacy, NC	1926-1928
Fulcher, Otis	Stacy, NC	1926-1928
Galloway, Andrew	Wilson County, NC	1912-1913
Gardner, Dalton	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Gardner, Jasper	Ayden, NC	1905
Garris, Anna	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Garris, Cora Lee	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Garris, Ella	Littlefield, NC	1908-1909
Garris, Esther	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913

Name of Student	Hometown	Catalog Years
Garris, Ezra	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917
Garris, Grover	Littlefield, NC	1908-1909
Garris, Henry	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Garris, Hubert	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Garris, Phedia	Littlefield, NC	1908-1909
Gaskins, Viola	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Gaylord, E. J.	Beaufort County, NC	1916-1917
Godwin, F.W.	Tyrell County, NC	1917-1918
Godwin, M. E.	Micro, NC	1926-1928
Goodwin, Herbert L.	Lukens, NC	1908-1909
Grice, Luther B.	Smithfield, NC	1908-1909
Griffin, J. C.	Nash County, NC	1916-1917
Griffin, Joseph	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Griffin, Marvin	Nash County, NC	1912-1913
Guinn, I.F.	Clio, SC	1905
Guthrie, Idalia	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Guthrie, Mamie L.	Chocowinity, NC	1905
Haley, Charlie	Manning, SC	1926-1928
Haley, Friendly	Clarendon County, SC	1917-1918
Hanzelman, Christian	Hoff, Bv., Germany	1912-1913
Hardee, Hugh	Chicod, NC	1926-1928
Hardee, Miss Fannie	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915
Hardee, Vera Belle	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Hardison, Frost	Pamlico County, NC	1916-1917
Hardy, Harvey	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Harrington, Corinne	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Harrington, Gatha	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Harrington, Glenn	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913

Name of Student	Hometown	Catalog Years
Harrington, Jasper	Ayden, NC	1905
Harrington, Lloyd	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Harrington, Mack	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Harrington, May Belle	Ayden, NC	1905
Harrington, Preston	Ayden, NC	1905
Harrington, Ronald	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Harrington, Rudolph	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Harrington, Wayland	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Harrington, William	Ayden, NC	1925-1928
Harris, Bessie	Ayden, NC	1905
Harris, Charlie	Enfield, NC	1926-1928
Harris, Floyd	Lenoir/Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Harris, H. LeRoy	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918
Harris, Hugh	Littlefield, NC	1908-1909
Harris, James G.	Dothan, AL	1908-1909
Harris, Lena	Ayden, NC	1905
Harris, Leonard	Enfield, NC	1926-1928
Harris, Nettie	Lenior County, NC	1912-1913
Harris, R. H.	Wilson County, NC	1912-1913
Harris, Ralph	Littlefield, NC	1908-1909
Harris, Walter	Chicod, NC	1926-1928
Harrold, Nina	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Harroll, Della	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917
Hart, Frank	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Hart, Geo.	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Hart, George	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Hart, James	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Hart, Jamie	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918
Hart, Julius	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Hart, Mary	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Hart, Nina	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Hart, Patrick	Ayden, NC	1905
Hart, Ray	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Hart, Robert	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Hart, Roy	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Hatch, Ruby Marlie	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Heath, Lula	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Hemby, Cecil	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Hemby, Idalia	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Hemby, Lila	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917
Hicks, Beatrice	Coward, SC	1926-1928
Hill, E. L.	Greene County, NC	1912-1913
Hill, Shade	LaGrange, NC	1908-1909
Hines, Charles J.	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Hinnant, Noble	Johnson County, NC	1917-1918
Hobstetter, William A.	Sciotoville, OH	1908-1909
Holloman, Geo. T.	Speight's Bridge, NC	1905
Holmes, Herman	Beaufort County, NC	1912-1913
Holmes, Waverly	Beaufort County, NC	1912-1913
Holton, Olga	Ayden, NC	1905
Holton, Radford	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Hones, Laura	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Hooten, Johnnie	Lenoir County, NC	1913-1914
Hopkins, Lemmie	Tyrrell County, NC	1912-1913
Hopkins, Willie	Tyrrell County, NC	1912-1913
Horton, Hattie	Ayden, NC	1905
Horton, Vina	Ayden, NC	1905

Name of Student	Hometown	Catalog Years
Howard, Bessie	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Hudson, Larry	Chicod, NC	1926-1928
Humbles, L. W.	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Humbles, Levi	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Hutchison, Ida	Bostick, SC	1905
Hyman, Lowell	Hyman, SC	1926-1928
Hyman, Rufus	Hyman, SC	1926-1928
Jackson, Alice	Craven County, NC	1916-1917
Jackson, Alma	Cooper, NC	1926-1928
Jackson, Ida	Ayden, NC	1905
Jackson, Katie	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Jackson, Maggie	Sampson County, NC	1916-1917
Jackson, Mattie Lee	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Jackson, Nettie	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Jackson, Norva	Dunn, NC	1926-1928
Jackson, Olivia	Sampson County, NC	1916-1917
Jackson, Thomas	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Jernigan, W.L.	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Johnson, Clyde	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915
Johnson, Felix	Lenoir County, NC	1913-1914
Johnson, Herman	Lenoir County, NC	1916-1917
Johnson, Ina H.	Ayden, NC	1905
Johnson, Lossie	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Johnson, Robert	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918
Johnson, Zade	Ayden, NC	1905
Jolly, Guffie	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917
Jolly, Mable	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918
Jolly, Nora	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Jones, Annie	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Jones, Arthur	Tyrrell County, NC	1913-1914
Jones, Benjamin B.	Gumneck, NC	1905
Jones, Bertha	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Jones, Bessie	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Jones, Blaney	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Jones, Ennis	Nelsonville, OH	1905
Jones, Esther Mae	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Jones, Eva	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Jones, Hettie	Tyrrell County, NC	1913-1914
Jones, Julius	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Jones, L. T.	Tyrrell County, NC	1917-1918
Jones, Lillie	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Jones, R. R.	Wayne County, NC	1912-1913
Jones, Ransom R.	Clinton, NC	1908-1909
Jones, Ray	Lenoir County, NC	1914-1915
Jones, Robert	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Jones, S. W.	Littlefield, NC	1905
Joyner, Edward B.	Glennville, GA	1908-1909
Kittrell, Wilbur	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917
Kornegay, Jimmie	Duplin County, NC	1917-1918
Kornegay, Lamb	Duplin County, NC	1917-1918
Kornegay, Ralph	Duplin County, NC	1916-1917
Lamb, Eva Mae	New Bern, NC	1926-1928
Lawrence, Nannie	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915
Lee, Joice	Arapahoe, NC	1908-1909
Letchworth, Lillie	Ayden, NC	1905
Lewis, J. B.	Florence, SC	1905
Litchfield, Leo		1908-1909

doctrine concerning salvation, we will no longer be able to neglect one of the most fundamentally important aspects of evangelism, genuine care and concern expressed in authentic communities of faith.

Therefore this article is offered in the Spirit of Christ with the desire that each of us as OFWB will consider our doctrine of salvation and the resultant actions which that doctrine demands of us. If we continue to supply the teaching of justification and regeneration by faith alone through grace alone in place of the totality of our doctrine of salvation, then it will remain easy to be self-concerned, self-consumed, and ineffective in meeting any of the real *felt* needs in our respective communities. The only thing that will matter will be whether we have been sufficiently successful salespersons in trying to

convince people to sign on the dotted line and *get their soul saved*.

However, if we embrace our historic (and sound) doctrine of salvation which includes sanctification, then the measure of our success will no longer *only* be converts and baptisms but honest-to-goodness changed lives which reflect the nature of Christ. At that point, our evangelistic efforts will not *simply* be high pressure sales techniques, programs, or gimmicks but will include the daily setting apart for the corporeal living of our faith through acts of service to God and humanity. At the risk of quoting Linus, "sound theology tends to do that." So let us pray together that the Lord Jesus Christ will solidify us in unity around our doctrine of salvation, because united we stand, divided...well, you know!

1. <http://www.revolutionary-war-and-beyond.com/patrick-henry-quotations.html>
2. <http://www.bartleby.com/171/52.html>
3. <http://www.bartleby.com/171/72.html>
4. Note: The percentages may not always add up to 100% because some questions had abstentions.
5. http://articles.cnn.com/1998-03-25/us/9803_25_heavens.gate_1_cult-members-marshall-applewhite-wayne-cooke?_s=PM:US (emphasis added)
6. In fact, the first century church labeled as heresy any notion of Docetism or Gnosticism which suggested that God saved only the soul of an individual and that the body was somehow worthless or even evil.
7. Acknowledgement rendered to Robert Mulholland Jr.'s definition of spiritual formation.

Works Cited

- Mulholland, M. Robert Jr. *Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation*. Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1993.
- http://articles.cnn.com/1998-03-25/us/9803_25_heavens.gate_1_cult-members-marshall-applewhite-wayne-cooke?_s=PM:US
- <http://www.bartleby.com/171/52.html>
- <http://www.revolutionary-war-and-beyond.com/patrick-henry-quotations.html>

Patience With God (continued from page 8)

get out of line and go somewhere else because you really want McDonald's right now. You're sitting on the edge of your seat patiently to get to that speaker to place your order. The people finally start moving and you are like, "thank goodness, it is about time." You get to the speaker and she takes forever to start talking and taking your order. So you are still sitting there, patiently, and you are thinking, "why in the world did I come to McDonald's?" But then she comes on and says, "Welcome to McDonald's. May I take your order?" And so you tell her what you want and pray that they do not mess it up because you are in such a hurry. But while you are praying that they don't mess your order up, you pull up to the window and pay for it, and then you drive on up to the next window to get your food, and about that time

you are thinking, "why in the world did they have to put two windows when one window was perfectly fine because you get to pay and get it all at the same window." So then she tells you to pull on up to the door patiently and then they'll bring it out to you. Then as you are pulling up you look in the rearview mirror and see the lady behind you getting her food and think, "why can't I get mine?" You are sitting there patiently at the door and looking at the people inside enjoying their meal and thinking you're never going to get your food. But then you see a man walking toward the door with a McDonald's bag and he comes out and hands you your food so you can be on your merry way.

Today our society has made us to be impatient with people. But we should not have that mind set; we should love

everybody and be patient with them even though it is hard at times. It says in Ephesians 4:2, "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love" (NIV84). And that is what we should do: love everyone and be patient with them. You may have that one person or friend who does the simplest things to make you impatient with them but yet you still love them—and that's what we should do.

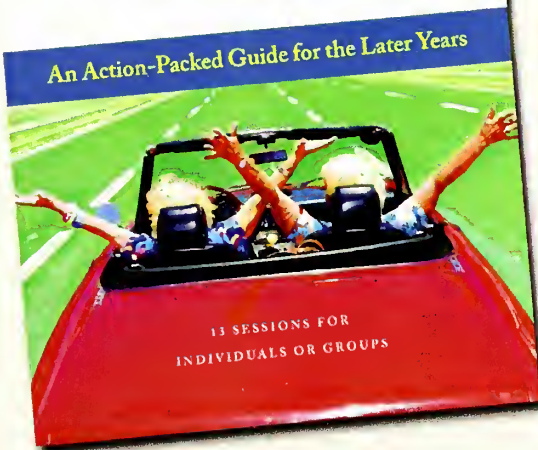
In closing, I'll leave you with this final thought and verse. I want you to remember when you pray to be sure to be patient and listen to God because Proverbs 19:1 says, "A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense" (NIV84).

Always Remember: Patience is the Key.

Dale & Sandy Larsen

Living Your LEGACY

An Action-Packed Guide for the Later Years



 **INTERVARSITY PRESS**
Heart. Soul. Mind. Strength.

Living Your Legacy An Action-Packed Guide for the Later Years (13 Sessions for Individuals or Groups)

No matter what stage of life we find ourselves in, we may wonder if what we've done with our time on Earth bears any significance. But this question becomes especially important when our expectations for lifelong achievement and ability in later years come face to face with a reality that may not meet those lifelong hopes. It's common to ask, "Who am I now? How should I invest these years? Must I redefine myself, and if so, how? Can I still make a difference?"

Dale and Sandy Larsen found themselves in this place of uncertainty, and they longed to move beyond it into something fruitful and hopeful. Here they offer wisdom born from their experience of finding new, often surprising ways to use their gifts and interests to serve God and those around them. They discovered that even though former roles defined by work and family may be gone or become very different, God still has plans and purposes for their life. And he has plans for your life, too.

Join Dale and Sandy in discovering the exciting ways in which God can use you no matter what your age or circumstances may be. Through interaction with personal narratives, Bible studies, connection points with biblical figures, prayer, and exercises designed to help you explore new possibilities, you will learn that there's much more to life now than you expected. Rather than just living out your later years, you can learn—with God's help—to live your legacy.

Retail \$16.00 each • ON SALE \$11.97 each

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last



CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!



NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

A Foundation for the Future of Original Free Will Baptists

Equipping Original Free Will Baptists for Christian Ministry

History of Foundation Scholarship Awards to 32 Free Will Baptist Ministerial Students

Academic Year	Number of Scholarship Awards	Amount
2006-2007	9	\$ 17,750.00
2007-2008	11	16,486.84
2008-2009	13	15,548.00
2009-2010	15	22,808.50
2010-2011	16	28,885.50
2011-2012	<u>15</u>	<u>26,664.29</u>
Six-Year Total	79	\$ 128,143.13

The value of 32 well-prepared ministers serving in Free Will Baptist churches and communities?

PRICELESS!

For more information on the Shepherd's Fund, endowments,
and the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries, please see our section inside.

*Footprints convey that someone has gone before us,
Leaving us a marked way;
And remind us that we also can leave a marked way
For those who come after us.*



PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID 28513
USPS 2094-4000

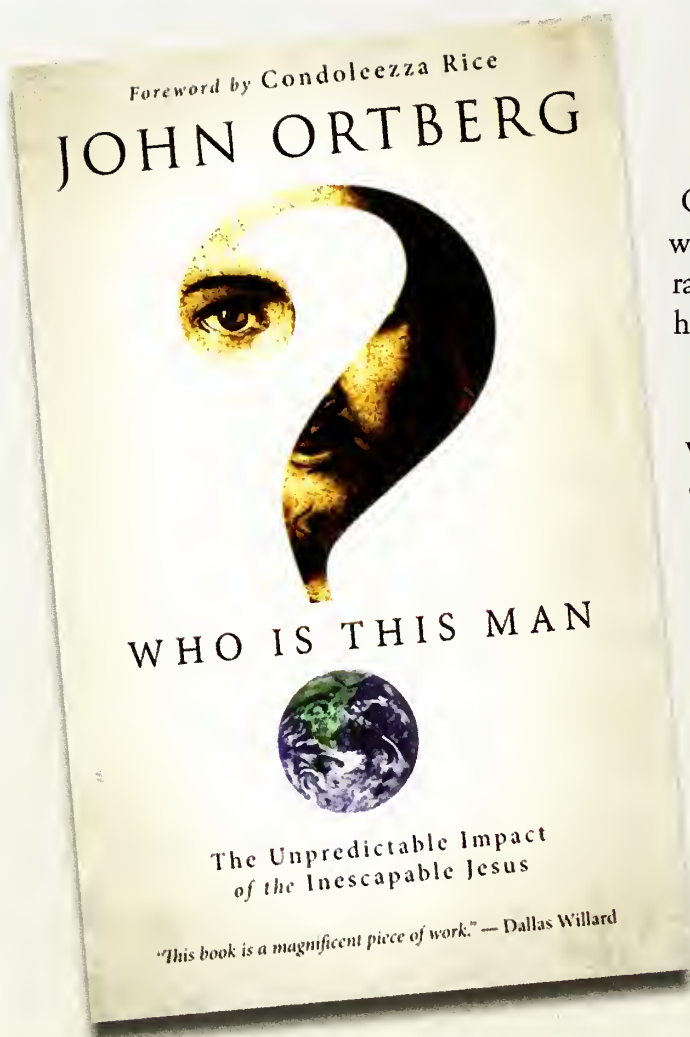
DUKE UNIVERSITY
PERKINS LIBRARY
DURHAM, NC 27706

T · F · W · B

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST



SEPTEMBER 2012



Who Is This Man?

by John Ortberg

On the day after Jesus' death, it looked like whatever small mark He left on the world would rapidly disappear. Instead, His impact on human history has been unparalleled.

Jesus' impact on our world is highly unlikely, widely inescapable, largely unknown, and decidedly double-edged. It is unlikely in light of the severe limitations of His earthly life; it is inescapable because of the range of impact; it is unknown because history doesn't connect dots; and it is doubled-edged because His followers have wreaked so much havoc, often in His name.

He is history's most familiar figure, yet He is the man no one knows. His impact on the world is immense and non-accidental. From the Dark Ages to Post-Modernity He is the Man who won't go away.

And yet...you can miss Him in historical lists for many reasons, maybe the most obvious being the way He lived His life. He did not loudly and demonstrably defend His movement in the spirit of a rising political or military leader. He did not lay out a case that history would judge His brand of belief superior in all future books.

His life and teaching simply drew people to follow Him. He made history by starting in a humble place, in a spirit of love and acceptance, and allowing each person space to respond.

His vision of life continues to haunt and challenge humanity. His influence has swept over history bringing inspiration to what has happened in art, science, government, medicine, and education; He has taught humans about dignity, compassion, forgiveness, and hope.

Retail \$22.99 • **ON SALE \$17.47**

While Supplies Last/For a Limited Time

 **ZONDERVAN®**



CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!

2012

September

Disaster Relief Month

The Original Free Will Baptist Monthly Planner

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8
9 Grandparent's Day	10	11 Patriot Day FWB Press Membership Meeting, Ayden Church @ 1 P.M.	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Fall Begins
23 Good Samaritan Sunday (Disaster Relief)	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

RECEIVED

SEP 04 2012

DIVINITY SCHOOL LIBRARY
DUKE UNIVERSITY

REFLECTIONS

A Guest Editorial

She Was My Daughter Too...

By The Reverend John Hill

December 29, 2008 we said hello and goodbye to a beautiful little girl, Emily Nicole. Emily was somewhat of a miracle; she came along after a long period of hopeful waiting. She was with us for only a while, but Emily left her impression on our lives for a lifetime.

On Christmas Day, my wife, Joy, felt a strange "pinch" in her tummy. There had been weird feelings before as her body contorted to accommodate Emily's already rambunctious life. But in the days ahead, we learned this was more than a pinch. We drove to Vidant Medical Center (then Pitt Memorial Hospital) to meet with our doctor. Soon we were in the birthing room searching diligently for a heartbeat. I remember the numbness in my body when everything was silent. The medical staff was supportive, but the reality was clear. Our lives were drastically changed.

As the staff stepped out of the room, we embraced each other, trying to wake up from this terrible dream. How do we go on from here? I stepped out of the room, leaving Joy alone, while I called our family and friends. Soon my best friends, Todd Sutton and David Currie, met me at the hospital. As our families arrived, we began to induce realizing the tremendous pain of loss.

Questions occupied my mind. What do we do with all the diapers we hoarded? Should I call our friends to cancel the baby showers? We were supposed to be thinking of nurseries, but tragically, now I am thinking funeral homes. All I could do is support my wife knowing there was no way I could really comfort her.

Several hours later Emily arrived. Our friends and family were there offering their support. We saw Emily for the first time and held her. It was more than I could bear. I needed someone else to pray, I didn't have the

strength to be a parent, or a minister. I left Joy with Emily and her family; I needed to be alone (*but I wasn't*).

The coming days were difficult. My training in grief helped me to feel the pain while maintaining my mental control. It was important for us to be clear about our anger. Joy and I agreed we would recognize each other's different style of grief. I knew I could never imagine what she went through. I didn't know what it was like to feel Emily wiggle inside. As a father, all I could do is be angry. I knew the divorce rate among couples who had experienced stillbirths was high. I knew we must deal with our grief openly, honestly, and with mutual respect.

For the first year, the 29th of each month was difficult. I became very angry and would often lash out at friends, family, even church members. In my anger, God drew my attention to the date, and I quickly calmed myself knowing it was my grief. Christmas is still difficult for me; the tinsel and lights do little for me anymore. Joy and I honor Emily's life by retreating, usually to Cragmont.

It's been four years now; we have only recently been able to talk about it. I write this limited reflection to encourage families. Joy and I have met so many couples who have shared their story with us. If you have experienced this, you are not alone.

We experienced Christ through the kindness and love of Christian friends and church members. But for me, I soon realized God the Father knows what it's like to lose a child. I had to pray through my grief that God would teach me his comforting presence and the promise that those who mourn will be comforted. God has brought us great healing and the assurance that one day we will greet Emily once again on far better shores.



John Hill is the minister of Winterville FWB Church in Winterville, NC. He is married to Emily Joy Daughtry Hill and they eagerly await confirmation of adoption of a sibling group from Brazil. John and Joy welcome you to share your story with them by e-mail at <jhill1127@gmail.com> or by mail at 446 Cooper Street, Winterville, NC 28590.

Managing Editor
Darren Davenport
 editor@fwbpress.com

Production Manager
Jerry Goff
 jerry@fwbpress.com

Circulation, Accounts Receivable
Amy Stokes
 amy@fwbpress.com

Accounts Payable
Wallie Hargrove

Editorial Assistants
Dixie McLawhorn, Carlton Oakley

Graphic Designers
**Jerry Goff, Amy Benson,
 Nathaniel Ingram, Dixie McLawhorn**

Production Team
**Ronnie Jones, Ted Johnston,
 Joshua Roundtree, Johnnie Stancill**



www.fwbpress.com

President
Jeff Daughtry
 jeff@fwbpress.com

Vice President
Darren Davenport
 darrend@fwbpress.com

Board of Directors
 Frank Flowers (Chairman), Central
 Mike Scott (Vice Chairman), Eastern
 Royce Reynolds (Secretary), Albemarle
 Joe Ballance, Cape Fear • Kelley Smart, Central
 Nancy Hardee, Pee Dee • Mark Hobbs, Central
 Lovdene Proctor, Western

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.

Subscription Prices: All subscriptions are payable in advance. 1 year (12 issues) \$18
 2 years (24 issues) \$32

A **Bundle Plan** (\$10 each) and an **Every-Family Plan** (\$14 each) is also available. Call or e-mail circulation or the editor for more details.

© 2012 *The Free Will Baptist* • All Rights Reserved.

The Free Will Baptist is edited and published monthly by the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc., 3928 Lee Street, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159. Second-class postage paid at Ayden, North Carolina (USPS 2094-4000).

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Free Will Baptist Press, P.O. Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513-0159.

FEATURES & COLUMNS

- 2** *Reflections: A Guest Editorial*
- 4** *Good as Gold: Celebrating Grandparent's Day*
- 14** *Pondering the Past with Celia Hales*
- 16** *Finding Peace with Michelle Taylor*
- 21** *Lesson Inner View with Adrian Grubbs*
- 22** *Psalms for the Soul with Linda Herring*
- 30** *Dr. Pepper's Book Corner*
- 32** *A Sling and a Stone with Marc Boswell*

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- 6** Home Missions
- 8** Foreign Missions
- 10** Children's Home
- 23** Sunday School
- 24** Mount Olive College

ANCILLARY MINISTRIES

- 28** NC Foundation for Christian Ministries

33 COMMUNITY CONNECTION

ON THE COVER

Great grandparents Pittman and Louise Hines (bottom) with grandparents Bruce and Debby Gray (top outsides) and grandchildren Sean, Seth, Andrea, and Audrey Bunch (top middle) on the new playground at Winterville FWB Church, Winterville, NC.

Good as Gold

Celebrating Grandparent's Day

by Erin Broadway

Grandparent's Day is celebrated the first Sunday after Labor Day and is set aside as a day to honor grandparents and how special they are in our lives. This year, it is Sunday, September 9. With the excitement of the recent summer Olympics, I wondered what it would take for a grandparent to get a gold medal if there were Grandparent Olympics. The truth of the matter is, I think most grandchildren can say that their grandparents deserve a gold medal. I know my grandparents do, and if it were up to me, they would be in the center podium with a gold medal around their necks.

In honor of Grandparent's Day, I have chosen to share some personal stories about my Grandma Louise, my maternal grandmother whom I lost from this earth two years ago. While I know all her pain and suffering is gone and she is walking on the streets of gold, it was honestly one of the toughest times in my life. My grandma was very special to me and we had a unique relationship. She was someone who I could talk to about most anything and often we talked about nothing in particular. We laughed and joked, but I would also always remind her about how she needed to take care of herself (she did not control her diabetes well). When I came home to visit from college, it was often Grandma that I stayed with, not my parents. Grandma often accompanied my family when I was younger on vacation—especially to the beach. She loved the beach. I remember one time when we went to the beach and she, my brother, and I walked about a half mile to McDonald's and then back to the room. That was a sweet time with just my brother and Grandma. That was the same

trip we watched the movie "Fly Away Home" and from then on had an inside joke about Canadian Geese.

My Grandma Louise loved yard sales and Dollar General—long before I ever became a regular shopper there. One year at Christmas, she made us draw numbers. She had labeled different things from shaving cream to knick-knacks with a number. Whatever number we drew, was the present we got. That year, I happened to get the men's shaving cream (of course, I exchanged with one of my cousins, but nonetheless I will always have that precious memory).

With the onset of reality television, my Grandma could have been a contestant on TLC's "What Not to Wear." I always joked with her about her closet that had some clothes in it that she did not need to wear out in public again. Grandma did have a "clutter" problem and occasionally, she and I would go through some things and she would give them to me or put them in a donation pile. I don't know when her "clutter" problem started, but I do know she grew up during the Great Depression and as a child she learned that you held on to what you had. One of the most precious material things she gave me was a nativity set. Every year it would sit out on the coffee table and she would add a crochet angel and some deer to the display. Since she gave it to me several years ago, the angel has topped our Christmas tree and the nativity is prominently displayed.

On a serious note, my Grandma was married for twenty-five years with four children before going through a divorce. Despite her loving kindness and big bear hugs, Grandma was never able to let go

of the hurt she experienced through the divorce. I know it had to play a role in her "clutter" and also in her health. I even recall staying with her one night and she having a dream related to the hurt she experienced. I never knew to what extent she held on to the bitterness until the last day I was with her alone in the hospital room—my husband, me, and Grandma. I opened my Bible to read her a passage and somehow came to Psalm 40. I read it to her as I held her hand. She was in and out of consciousness, but I believe she knew we were there and could hear us. Scotty led us in prayer and then we stayed as long as we could talk with her and watching the "Lawrence Welch Show" that happened to be on in her room. Psalm 40:12 reads "For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold of me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me." Somehow I knew as I read that passage, the time was near for Grandma to go meet Jesus. I can't help but wonder that if she had let go of her bitterness sooner, would she still be here? Regardless of what the answer might be, I know she is with Jesus, settled into her mansion, and walking the streets of gold.

I learned many things from my Grandma such as how to make cornbread cakes, and salmon cakes. I treasure the afternoons I would ride with her somewhere and Adventures in Odyssey would be on the radio. But I have to say the most important life lesson I learned was about bitterness. Sometimes things in life will leave us feeling sour. It may be a situation or a person that has done

us wrong but we need to add some sugar, stir, and make some lemonade. Bitterness can have a negative impact on our health and I saw that in the life of my Grandma. She was a wonderful person who loved everybody and I am so thankful that my husband and my daughter were able to spend some time with her, although it was shorter than what I would have liked. She was a woman of faith, character, and I loved her dearly and miss her almost daily. I knew I was in "trouble" with her if she had to call me; I would always try to call her at least once a week. If she had to call me, it had been too long since I had talked to her. Oh, how I wish the phone would ring and I could hear her voice on the other end.

Another grandparent who would have definitely received the gold was the late Rev. Clifton T. Rice, my husband's grandfather. While I never had the opportunity to meet him personally, I am able to see how the legacy he left lives on in his grandchildren. The Rev. Rice, or "Granddaddy Rice" as he is affectionately called in our family was a wonderful man of God. He started Rice Monuments in 1942 to further his ministry and help provide additional income for his family.

It is now in its 70th year of business, run by his daughter, Joan, son-in-law, Murrell, and grandchildren, Jeffrey and Scott. Rev. Rice had a dry, witty sense of humor and loved everyone. He was an Original Free Will Baptist Minister for over 70 years. He served as pastor at various churches within the denomination such as Arapahoe, Ormondsville, Pleasant Grove, First OFWB Church of Kinston, Westside, and many others. His grandchildren knew him to always have a Hershey bar and a Dr. Pepper from the Exxon station near his business. He had a radio ministry for many years and you would be hard pressed not find a couple that was married by him, often in front of the fireplace at his (now our) home. The late Rev. Rice was invaluable to the work of the Lord through the OFWB.

Grandparents definitely deserve gold medals. My grandparents have been very influential in my life, not just Grandma, but also my paternal grandparents. While my Grandma was a believer, it was my dad's parents, Granny and Papa, who were instrumental in developing my solid foundation on the Word of God. In high school, I was at their house more than I was at my own. They were always at church

every time the doors were open and in 1998 gave me a Scofield Bible, which is now falling apart. Granny taught me that it was okay to write in your Bible. I also cannot overlook the faith of my step-grandparents and how they have always treated my brother and me as if we were actual grandchildren. My grandparents were full of wit and wisdom that have guided me in my Christian walk, just as I know many grandparents are with their grandchildren. As Grandparent's Day approaches, spend time thanking your grandparents and what they have done for you. If your grandparents are no longer here, take the time to thank God for what time you did have with them. Perhaps there is someone in your life who has been like a grandparent to you—take time thanking them as well. Titus 2 tells us that the older women are to be teachers to the young women and to guide them in their faith walk. I thank God for my Grandma and my Granny and what they each have taught me in their own way. I also am thankful for my Papa and his solid foundation in the Word. I do not know where I would be in life without the guidance of my grandparents. I know most of you can say the same.

HONEY-DO JOBS

Painting • 40 years experience • Carpentry • Rotten Wood Repair
Power Washing • Gutter Cleaning • Restorations & Renovations • References are Available
— FIX IT IF POSSIBLE —

Charles Petit

Home: (919) 553-5741; Cell: (919) 675-5896

2014 Penny Lane, Clayton, NC 27520



CHURCH & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

First Church, Greenville, NC, is seeking a full-time minister. Please send résumé to: Stephen Wiggins, 2232 Blackhorse Lane, Winterville, NC 28590.

Hickory Chapel Church, Ahoskie, NC, is seeking a full-time pastor. Interested persons may contact Sandy White by phone at (252) 395-1025 or by e-mail at <bands@gate811.net>.

SEPTEMBER

**DISASTER
RELIEF
MONTH**
for
**Original Free
Will Baptists**



Sunday, September 23, 2012

Good Samaritan Sunday

DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY on this special Sunday to pray for The Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry and to give a love offering.

Disaster Relief Ministry of

Original Free Will Baptists



As God's compassionate people, we have an opportunity to TOUCH PEOPLE'S LIVES at a time of disaster or crisis. Effective Disaster Ministry involves a partnership of every church and every organization within our constituency.

The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism is providing an operational base for an Original Free Will Baptist Disaster Relief Ministry. Our Purpose is to provide:

- A. the skills of carpentry, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, cleaning, repairs, and other skills for those who have experienced Disaster.
- B. the opportunity for Original Free Will Baptists to be involved in an ongoing Compassion Ministry, sharing our Christian experiences.
- C. the opportunity for our denomination to present THE CHURCH IN ACTION.
- D. Assistance to those who have experienced Disaster and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every way possible.

Your Harvest Connection is a member of National VOAD, North Carolina Interfaith Disaster Relief, North Carolina Emergency Management and is registered with FEMA and Homeland Security.

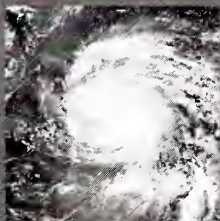
**2600 W. Vernon Ave.
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 526-9908**

**harvestconnection@embarqmail.com
www.theharvestconnection.com**

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

The Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry, to date, has rendered the following services:

- 1. Assisted more than 600 families.
- 2. Assisted 23 churches.
- 3. Assisted 4 schools.
- 4. Delivered food and water.
- 5. Teams worked in severed North Carolina counties.
- 6. Held Vacation Bible School in Sandersville, Mississippi
- 7. Distributed more than 7,000 Emergency Kits.



- 1. CHURCH COORDINATORS The coordinator will be the contact person and promote Disaster Relief in the local church.
- 2. MEMBERS Persons who will dedicate their time to help in The Recovery. Contact our Headquarters Office to learn how you can become involved.
- 3. TEAMS Person in the local church who will form a Disaster Relief Team and become members of The Harvest Connection.
- 4. CHURCH BUDGET Every local church is asked to include this ministry in their budget to provide operational funds.
- 5. EMERGENCY KITS We need 1,000 of each of the 7 different types of kits always available and ready.
- 6. PURE ADVENTURE We need to equip our trailer with cabinets and supplies.
- 7. REPRESENTATION To have the opportunity to visit your church or organization to share our work and ministry.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE FWB Church of Mexico

ROSITA, MEXICO

BY RAQUEL AGUERO

On April 28, the Free Will Baptist Church in Mexico held the Annual Conference at Shalom Free Will Baptist Church in Rosita. Thirteen churches were presented. The Lord's presence could be felt at all times. Each subject matter was resolved favorably. All departments, men, women, youth, and children had time to give a report of their activities and plans. There was a delicious meal, but above all we praise the Lord with great joy and gladness.

It was wonderful to see the brothers who for years have served the Lord and are still standing firm. There were also new Christians who feel a fervor and love for the Lord's work. The members of the Church in Mexico work with dedication, love, and effort to reach more lost souls, and to enlarge the Kingdom of God. We ask your prayers as we move forward.



A Place for the Children

ROSITA, MEXICO

BY FILEMON AGUERO

Members of the Shalom Free Will Baptist Church in Nueva Rosita, Mexico greet you in the Lord's love.

For several years we tried to build an annex to the church building so the children would have a place for their classes. For various reasons, we could not do it. Six months ago we decided to make the effort to build and began to have different activities to raise funds for this project. The members also gave their personal gifts. Seeing that it would not be possible to finish before the Conference meeting that was to be held here, we felt the need to ask help from the Board of Foreign Missions. The assistance was approved and we finished the construction on time. We are grateful for the gift we received. The children call this place "The Temple of the Children." They are very happy and grateful.

We pray that the Lord will reward those who gave to make this possible.



EVANGELISM CRUSADE

PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

BY THE REV. ARMANDO R. MANZANO

The Palawan Bible College, in partial fulfillment of the subject "Evangelism," held an Evangelism Crusade in Maasin, Brook's Point (This is about a 3.5 hours travel from Puerto Princesa City). We were joined by the Music Team headed by Sir Jay-Ar L. Garcia.

The team presented songs, testimonies, and dramas that focused on the life of every person present. As the Scripture says, "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works" (Revelation 20:12). This verse reminds everyone to be prepared physically and spiritually, because this time will surely come. The Rev. Marcos Taladro shared from the message of salvation and urged those who did not know Christ as their personal Savior to accept Him now. About 100 people came forward and surrendered their lives to Jesus. We praise the Lord for this. For all these things, we give our thanks and gratitude to God who blesses us. We are also thankful for our brethren in North Carolina through the Rev. Harold Jones who supports us in prayer and financial needs by extending your hands into the mission field here in the Philippines. Thank you so much! May the abundance and joy of the Lord be upon us all. Glory to God!



Members of Friendship Church, Middlesex, NC

9th Annual Paper and Cleaning Products Drive

On Friday night, July 20, Free Will Baptists rallied together to provide supplies for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. The annual event, our ninth, was held at the Carolina MudCats Stadium in Zebulon. Although rain threatened, the game was played.

The organization of this event by Bill Doane and members of Spring Branch Church Layman's League, Walstonburg, along with the MudCats was a success. Blessings in the form of supplies (paper towels, tissue, plates, cups, and cleaning supplies) came pouring in.

More than 1,400 tickets were sold to Free Will Baptist Churches and local area church groups for this event. The Home had an information booth set up on the concourse offering information on The Home, and a small gift as a show of our appreciation to all who stopped by.

The children and staff were excited about the outing, and especially the fireworks. The spirits of the staff and children never "dampened." This could have been due to the fact that Children's Home President Mr. Gary Lee made arrangements for each

continued on next page



Ready for the crowd



It's raining, it's pouring



Volunteers delivering the goods

continued from previous page

child and staff member to have a rain poncho to keep dry. As the game continued to experience delays, Mr. Gary became the hero of the night when he provided a drink and french fries for the children to enjoy while waiting.

The success of this event could not have been possible without all of the churches and Children's Home friends who participated. New acquaintances and awareness of The Home were made that night with community people and local church members.

The following week, Jeannie and Hope, Members of Friendship Church of Middlesex dropped off their collection of paper products, laundry detergent, hand soap, etc. They were unable to attend the game, but stopped by The Home for a visit to deliver their gifts.

It was another great drive for The Home. Thanks to all who helped make it so! The Lord just keeps on blessing.



Dianne Riley, Director of Church Ministry, accepting joy bears from Matthew Forrest

Needs List

- Dishwasher Detergent
- Twin Size Comforters (bright colors, geometric shape designs, or solid)**
- Bed Pillows**
- Bedroom Lamps
- Bed Pillow Covers (vinyl)
- Bath Towels
- Umbrellas
- Alarm Clocks
- 25 Exercise Mats (approximately 68 inch by 24 inch size)
- Trash Bags (13 gallon and larger)
- Food Storage Bags (gallon and quart)
- 3 Rechargeable Flashlights (large size)
- Individually Wrapped Snacks

**Theses items are the most needed



Bringing Joy

Matthew Forrest of the Ayden Church brought beautiful hand-made bears to The Home to be presented to new residents when they arrive to campus. The Ayden church has begun a Teddy Bear ministry and included the Free Will Baptist Children's Home to receive several bears each month. This is a great ministry since some of our residents have very few personal items upon arrival.

Matthew mentioned that he and his mom just enjoyed sharing with others, and had made bears to share with others, as a way to offer love and comfort.

Church Ministry

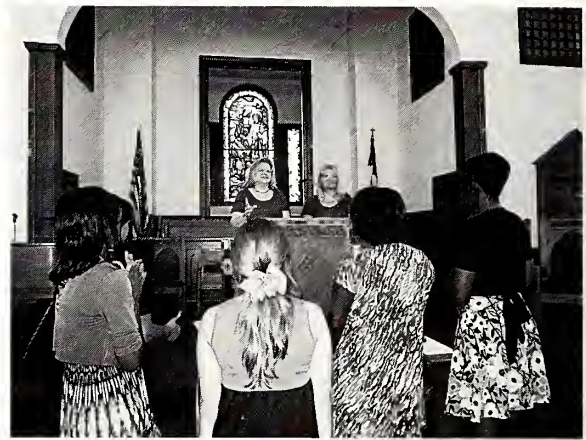


Our Church Ministry Director, Dianne Riley works very closely with our churches, and she keeps them informed of what is going on with the children on campus. Many church auxiliaries and youth groups have visited recently. Dianne recently took a trip and had an opportunity to visit Zion OFWB a Church in Blakely, Georgia. The Auxiliary at Zion prepared bags of body wash, deodorant, and snacks for the kids of the Children's Home. These were given out recently. The children were very excited, and one young lady said, "Wow, this is an on time package...I needed this."

On Sunday July 15, Joyful Praise of Pleasant Plain Church of Selma brought special music for worship. Ms. Paul and Ms. Jeannette were enjoyed by all. While here they had the opportunity to tour the campus. They met our Jesus while they were here.

On July 18, Little Rock Church of Lucama came to the campus with members of their "Summer Adventures" Day Camp participants. Prior to their arrival, arrangements had been made to set up an inflatable water slide and other games. After a good time on the grounds playing, our kids and theirs shared lunch in Heritage Hall. Coordination for this event had come by Dianne and Marci Rollins-Smart, youth pastor at Little Rock. It was a great day of fun and fellowship.

On July 22, members of Long Ridge Church brought dinner from McCall's with lots of fried chicken, dessert, and sweet tea; they joined in with our worship service. Their Pastor JayBird even shared special music with us in song as well as their younger children. Our children led praise and worship and it was a great service. After worship, Long Ridge treated everyone with canisters of candy—all kinds of candy—our kids were elated. The fellowship was great, just like the food!



Joyful Praise, Pleasant Plain Church, Selma, NC



Joyful Praise "Meeting our Jesus"



"Summer Aventures" Little Rock Church Summer Camp



Members of Zion Church Woman's Auxiliary, Blakely GA



Cool Sliding



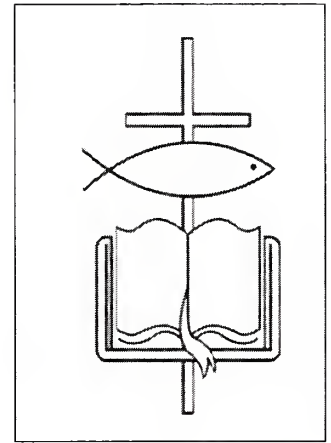
Members of Long Ridge Church



"Behold, I will send for many fishers,
saith the LORD, and they shall fish them..."
Jeremiah 16:16a

WOMAN'S DAY

9 AM



Saturday, September 29, 2012

First Free Will Baptist Church of Wilson

4865 Nash Street NW

Wilson, NC 27896

252-291-6446

Featuring:

Linda Herring & Brenda Best, speakers

Servant's Heart, special music

Join us for a morning of worship, an inspiring message,
food, door prizes, and fellowship!

Fellowship begins at 8:30 a.m.

Light breakfast items will be provided.

Lunch will be served.

Sponsored by: the Western District Woman's Auxiliary

This event will replace our normal

Fall Woman's Auxiliary Convention. All women are invited to attend!

Please send your report information & dues in to:

Mrs. Nadine Crocker

568 House Road

Kenly, NC 27542

Pondering the Past

with Celia Hales

The Beautiful World

Now that summer is here, we often have a reason to thank God anew for the beautiful world in which we find ourselves. Of course, summer is hot, especially in Mississippi. But still I retreat, right after lunch, to our front patio with a book, my journal, and a cup of iced coffee. This has become one of my favorite times of the day, a time when I am grateful to God for His many blessings, a time in calmness when I can appreciate the beautiful world that is His handiwork.

We live on a corner, and there are a number of neighbors for whom turning our corner is a necessity to getting home. The rumbling of cars going by does not block out the singing of nearby birds, the speckled sunlight coming through the trees in our yard, or the wave of a neighbor who happens to walk by—out for a walk despite the heat, because Mississippians are used to the heat and take it in stride. Life while I am on the patio seems especially good.

Why do we not more often thank God for the beauty of His world?

I think the problem is that the world and its stresses are too much with us. We hurry about, with tension in our faces and our voices, and we do not stop. I often did not think that I had much time to stop, before retirement, when I was working a 40-hour week.

We need to stop.

It is often said that life does not give us more than we can handle, though at times it seems to do so. We are blessed by the presence of a loving Creator. And He listens to our prayers. He also answers those prayers, as all of us can attest. One of the things that I sometimes do, after lunch, on my patio, is to write out prayers to God. And I actively “listen” for answers from Him. I find that writing out (as praying aloud) keeps my mind on task, and it gives God the attention that He needs from me so that He can get through the mental busyness that I sometimes have. I often pose questions and write down answers that come to me, a practice that the writer/teacher Julia Cameron (*The Artist’s Way*) recommends. I do not say that God is speaking directly to me, because I know how misguided a statement like that would very likely be. But I do believe that God works “behind the scenes,” so to speak, in letting us know His Thoughts for us. When I am listening, quietly, I think that my mind is particularly open to God’s guidance. Surely you have found this out as well, in your own prayer life.

I remember my year and one-half in Florida, while I was in library school at Florida State University. I recall being blessed by having my bag lunch outside on a patio almost every day—and in January, too! The warmth of the season in Florida did not deter me from

continuing this practice into the spring and summer. When I was younger, studying English at Duke University, the Duke Gardens, located on campus, were a draw all the time. When I was there, reading my assignments for my English classes, often I wondered how many people playing Frisbee should have actually been studying! Memories are sweet when gardens are involved.

The English Romantic poets, whom I studied as an undergraduate, often found themselves drawn to the outdoors. Wordsworth and Coleridge were great walkers through the Lake Country in England. And Wordsworth, especially, lauded the beauty of this world in his memorable poems.

Jesus was drawn to gardens. Of course, the agony in Gethsemane is most likely the time and place that we remember best. But he frequently drew aside from others to commune with God apart from the many who sought him out, almost giving him no relief, no time for replenishment.

We too need to withdraw from the world from time to time, and then we will be ready to take on again our many responsibilities to family and friends, and to our work.

If we give too little attention to alone time in God’s beautiful world, our minds and spirits will suffer. And He would not have it so.



A former religion librarian at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Celia now lives with her husband Paul in Oxford, Mississippi. She was previously employed at both the Free Will Baptist Press and Mount Olive College.

The 16th Annual

Original Free Will Baptist Convention Golf Fellowship

NEW DATE: Friday, September 21, 2012

Happy Valley Country Club, Wilson, NC • 9:00 A.M. Shotgun Start

Your Entry Fee of \$60 per player Includes:

- Green and Cart Fee
- One Free Prize Ticket
- One Mulligan
- Free Soft Drinks • Goody Bag
- Opportunity for More Prizes
- Fun & Fellowship

Sign Up Early and Join the Fun!!

This Tournament is limited to the first 25 teams with paid entry fees.

No team is guaranteed a spot until all team members have paid.

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Free Play for Sponsored Teams
- Jack-Pot Putts • Target Shots
- Sand Trap Challenge
- Name Your Prize Putts
- Free Refreshments
- Straight Drive Challenge
- Closest to the Pin
- Prizes • Trophies • Gifts

Male Divisions:

- Junior—Two Team Players Under 55
- Senior—Three Team Players Over 55
- One Open Female Division

ENTRY FEE

- Only \$240 Per Team
- Complete the Team Registration
- Return along with your Full Team Fee to:
- Convention Golf Fellowship 2012
- P.O. Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513

Make Checks Payable to:
Convention Golf Fellowship

2012 TEAM REGISTRATION

TEAM DIVISION Junior _____ Senior _____ Female _____

Captain _____ Phone _____

Player 1 _____ Player 2 _____

Player 3 _____ Player 4 _____

Finding Peace in the Storms of Life

with Michelle Taylor

Abuse: The Silent Killer

My schedule has been rather hectic lately with speaking to various groups about my story of surviving abuse in many of my relationships. Yesterday I took a break and watched a segment on Oprah's Master Class. She had a woman on the show that had been married to a man for 14 years. Like many couples, they were madly in love at the beginning, got married, and eventually had two children.

Things changed after the children arrived. She noticed odd things beginning to happen like finding marbles or toy cars on the stairs at night after the children had gone to bed. She always kept a glass of water on her nightstand and it tasted like metal, bitter and left a nasty taste in her mouth. Soon, her husband started cooking meals, specifically dinner. However, it too, tasted odd. In fact, she found a green substance underneath the cheese in a pizza he served her. Turns out, it was rat poisoning. Can you believe it?

The point is the signs were there and, as Oprah pointed out, it was important for not only her guest, but for all of us to learn about the signs of abuse. They are often subtle, silent, and unexpected. No one wants to believe that the person they fell

in love with could possibly do something so horrible to their mate. Her guest did not want to believe it was really happening but after the rat poison discovery, she finally took a stand, changed the locks, recorded their phone conversation where he admitted it was rat poisoning and finally, filed for divorce.

Unfortunately, many women get hooked on the roller coaster ride of an abusive relationship or the need to please their husband or the man in their life. Of course, when there are children involved, it makes it much harder to leave the relationship no matter what is going on, simply for financial issues. It takes a lot of courage to leave a relationship and sometimes it takes time to gain some perspective on what is best for yourself as well as your children.

It is estimated that 80% of domestic abuse victims remain silent, suffocated by fear of the unknown life without their spouse, self-doubt, and financial ruin. Whatever is going on in your relationship, the first step is to recognize the signs and symptoms of an abusive relationship. Here are some of the signs and symptoms of an abusive relationship:

- 1) Do you often feel afraid of your partner or avoid certain topics for fear of making him angry?
- 2) Do you feel that you can't do anything right?
- 3) Do you feel like you deserve to be mistreated or are you emotionally numb?
- 4) Does he ever yell at you or humiliate you in front of others?
- 5) Does he criticize you or put you down?
- 6) Is he excessively jealous?
- 7) Does he constantly check up on you or look through your cell phone?
- 8) Does he threaten to take your children away from you?
- 9) Does he force you to have sex?
- 10) Does he destroy your personal belongings?
- 11) Does he limit your access to the phone, money, or the car?
- 12) Does he control who you see or where you go?

If any of these scenarios sound familiar, then it is time to take action. Make a plan and do whatever you have to do to stay safe and keep your family safe. If you suspect that someone you know is being abused, speak up! If you're hesitating—telling yourself that it's none of your business, you might be wrong, or the person might not want to talk about it—keep in mind that expressing your concern will let the person know that you care and may even save his or her life.



Michelle Taylor is married to Donald Taylor and are both members of Cabin OFWB Church in Beulaville, NC. They are very supportive in their church and love the Lord very much. They have seven children between them: Eddie, Kim, April, Justin, Jordan, Meghan, and Anthony Lee Taylor (deceased) and three grandchildren: Jacob, Zachary, and Daniel (deceased). They have a very special dog named Molly. Donald and Michelle enjoy serving the Lord, working in the yard, working in the home, and spending time with their family. Michelle also loves working with young adults in her church. Michelle has always been like a neighborhood mom to many other children and her husband is the leader and "ROCK" for us all.

"A solid, comprehensive plan for attacking your life and career goals."
—Dave Ramsey, New York Times best-selling author



WISDOM MEETS *Passion*

When Generations Collide and Collaborate

DAN MILLER // JARED ANGAZA

By the New York Times Bestselling Author of 48 Days to the Work You Love

Wisdom Meets Passion

When Generations Collide and Collaborate

by Dan Miller, Jared Angaza

Baby Boomers have relied on wisdom to pave the way to success. Education, knowledge, investing strategies, 401ks, real estate leverage and carefully contrived career paths were expected to lead to success in one's golden years. Seeing the overall failure of that formulaic approach to life, younger generations today have relied on passion as the guiding principle for their version of success.

And yet both are necessary. Regardless of age, those using wisdom only to achieve their goals are likely to end up disappointed and unfulfilled-feeling as though they have been chasing empty rainbows. Those trusting passion alone may lose the power of wisdom and end up underachieving, falling short of their potential and unable to attain their worthy goals.

Wisdom without passion is a Ferrari with no gas in the tank. Passion without wisdom is a tricked out 57 Chevy with no steering wheel.

In *Wisdom Meets Passion*, bestselling author Dan Miller and his entrepreneurial son Jared Angaza show how to blend the two-equipping you to accomplish your greatest goals, experience the thrill of fulfilling relationships, create meaningful work, and to complete your purpose and calling here on earth no matter which age group you represent.

Retail: \$16.99 • **ON SALE: \$13.97**
For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last



THOMAS NELSON
We Inspire the World

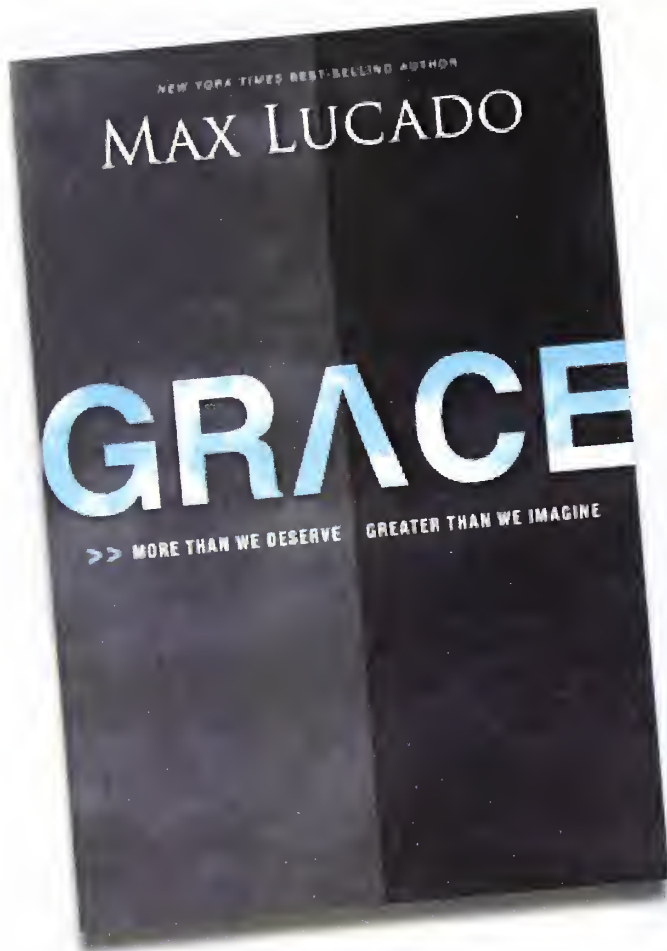


CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!



Retail: \$24.99 • **ON SALE: \$19.97**

ALSO AVAILABLE:
DVD-Based Study

Retail: \$39.99 • **ON SALE: \$31.97**

Participant's Guide

Retail: \$9.99 • **ON SALE: \$7.97**

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last



THOMAS NELSON
We Inspire the World



CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Grace

More Than We Deserve,
Greater Than We Imagine
by Max Lucado

Grace.

We talk as though we understand the term. The bank gives us a grace period. The seedy politician falls from grace. Musicians speak of a grace note. We describe an actress as gracious, a dancer as graceful. We use the word for hospitals, baby girls, kings, and premeal prayers. We talk as though we know what grace means.

But do we really understand it? Have we settled for wimpy grace? It politely occupies a phrase in a hymn, fits nicely on a church sign. Never causes trouble or demands a response. When asked, "Do you believe in grace?" who could say no?

Max Lucado asks a deeper question: Have you been changed by grace? Shaped by grace? Strengthened by grace? Emboldened by grace? Softened by grace? Snatched by the nape of your neck and shaken to your senses by grace?

God's grace has a drenching about it. A wildness about it. A white-water, riptide, turn-you-upside-downness about it. Grace comes after you. It rewires you. From insecure to God secure. From regret riddled to better-because-of-it. From afraid to die to ready to fly.

Grace is the voice that calls us to change and then gives us the power to pull it off.

Let's make certain grace gets you.

Spreading the Word. For Life!

Wild Grace

What Happens When Grace Happens

by Max Lucado

Bestselling author Max Lucado explains that if teens let God's grace change them, shape them, and strengthen them, their lives will never be the same.

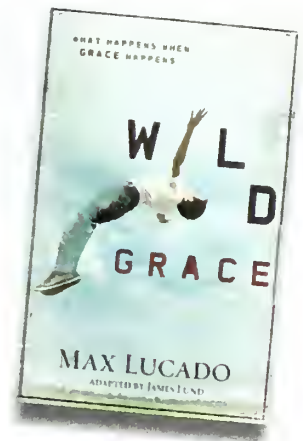
Today's teens are being shaped by the pressures and disappointments of the world. But Max Lucado encourages them to take a close look at what can shape their hearts and their futures from the inside out—God's grace.

As Max explains, "God's grace has a drenching about it. A wildness about it. A whitewater, riptide, turn-you-upside-downness about it. Grace comes after you." *Wild Grace* gives teens an understanding of how grace can change their lives in powerful ways, even when those lives are messed up, off track, or in trouble. Each chapter describes another miracle that happens when we allow God's grace to work on us and through us:

"Grace is God's decision to change everything. Good-bye, earthly labels. Stupid. Unpopular. Ugly. Failure. No longer. You aren't who they say you are. You are who He says you are. Spiritually alive. Connected to God. Amazing."

Teens will be convinced that God knew what He was doing when He made them and His grace is always there, ready to work wonders that are bigger than anything this world has to offer.

Retail: \$14.99 • **ON SALE: \$11.97**



Grace for the Moment: 365 Devotions for Kids

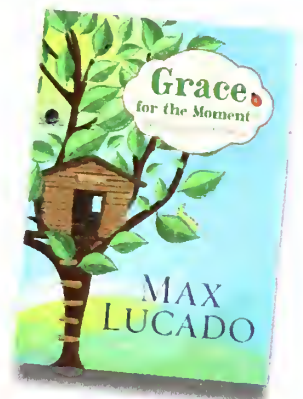
by Max Lucado

Give Your Child the Gift of God's Grace—Every Day.

Grace is: God's best idea...More than we deserve...And greater than we imagine. But how can you plant this important message of grace into the heart of your child?

Adapted from the bestselling devotional for adults (with more than 3 million copies sold), *Grace for the Moment: 365 Devotions for Kids* presents the message of God's grace in a way that children can understand. It's perfect for families to read together or for older readers to enjoy alone. Each day offers a devotion and scripture to encourage regular time with God. And because giving grace is just as important as receiving it, a "Growing in Grace" opportunity accompanies each devotion, offering practical and easy-to-do activities to help kids apply God's grace—every day and every moment.

Retail: \$15.99 • **ON SALE: \$12.97**



Grace Happens Here

You Are Standing Where Grace is Happening

by Max Lucado

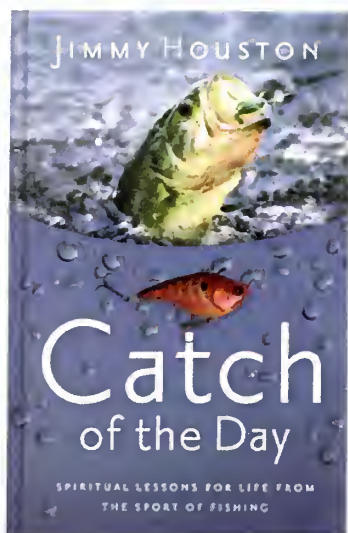
A wonderful message about God's grace and how to apply it to every aspect of your life.

Max Lucado looks at grace from all directions and reveals that no matter which way you look at it, God's grace is always there, ready to do wonders in your life. This beautiful gift book is filled with powerful quotes, Scripture, and stories that will transform your heart and mind with a deeper understanding of God's healing grace. The message gently and eloquently encourages you to accept completely His grace and forgiveness as well as extend the same blessing toward others.

"When grace happens, generosity happens. Unsquashable, eye-popping big heartedness happens. Receiving grace today? Liberality is in the forecast for tomorrow. When you meet a bountiful person, you are standing where grace is happening."

Retail: \$16.99 • **ON SALE: \$12.97**





Catch of the Day

Put into action the characteristics needed to be a great fisherman, and see how they can also make you into a great fisher of men.

Fishermen don't rely on luck in order to catch fish—they put their skills, knowledge, and experience into play every time they cast their line. Likewise, righteous and godly living doesn't come naturally but requires study, commitment, and a lot of practice. In *Catch of the Day*, Jimmy Houston combines both his love of fishing and his love of God in this unique fisherman's 365-day devotional. Each day features Scripture and a thought for meditation that applies insights from the art of fishing to daily spiritual growth, as well as a fishing tip from a pro. Anyone who loves God's creation, combined with the excitement of the catch, will truly enjoy this guide of spiritual lessons for life.

Hardcover: Retail Price \$14.99

ON SALE \$11.97

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last



Devotions for the Beach

Dig your feet in the sand and let the water cool your toes as you escape into the beauty of God's seaside creations, and hear His voice more clearly than perhaps anywhere else.

There's nothing quite like the warmth and relaxation of the beach—away from the stresses of the world and into a place of peace and refreshment. *Devotions for the Beach* is the gentle breeze that takes you there, to see the majesty of God and to open your heart and soul to the One who created it all. These 90 devotions explore the parallels of life with the elements of the shore to help you see God, to find hope, to draw strength, and to rest in the comfort of His arms throughout your day. Included are striking photographs with a fresh, contemporary design for timeless appeal.

Every woman will want a copy of this book as a gentle reminder of days at the beach and the call of God's love.

Hardcover: Retail Price \$16.99

ON SALE \$12.97

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last



Go for the Green

God can meet us wherever we are, and for golfers, that is often on the golf course.

Experience daily devotions with the peace you feel on an early morning course, the excitement of doing well, the enjoyment of time spent with the closest of all friends.

This daily round of golf-themed devotions offers thoughts for throughout the year: the Off-Season, the Majors Season, the Golf Season, and the Silly Season. Conceived by the founder of a faith-and-golf ministry, each devotional and scripture are partnered with a solid golf tip to help the reader get to the green. Written in a pleasant, intelligent style that will connect with players of all ages, *Go for the Green* is a hole-in-one for its target audience.

Hardcover: Retail Price \$14.99

ON SALE \$11.97

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last



To order, call 1.800.849.3927 or visit your nearest Cross & Crown location:

3928 Lee Street, Ayden
Vernon Park Mall, Kinston
Glenburnie Plaza, New Bern



THOMAS NELSON
We Inspire the World

Lesson *Inner View*

A deeper look inside this month's lessons from the OFWB Foundation Curriculum and commentaries based on the International Sunday School Lessons.



with Adrian Grubbs

We begin the 2012–2013 year of Sunday School lessons on the theme, “A Living Faith.” In the first unit we study the final chapters in the Book of Hebrews to explore the question, “What Is Faith?” Units 2 and 3 are from the Book of Acts as we focus on the lives of Stephen, Philip, and Paul.

What is faith? In the Bible faith is more than a set of beliefs or doctrines that sets one group apart from another. Faith is not merely acknowledging the accuracy of a principle or statement. Faith, as used in the Bible, determines how a person lives; it involves trust and commitment. So it can be said that without works faith is dead (James 2:17, 26). Also, in the Bible, belief is more than mental consent. To believe in Christ is to trust Him and commit your life to Him; it is to strive with all your might to live by His teachings and by His example. It is one thing to say, “I believe there is a God,” but it is altogether different to say, “I believe **IN** God.” The first is merely a mental acknowledgement; the second involves trust and commitment. If I truly believe in God, then the life I live will reflect the depth of that belief. On the other hand, if I merely believe there is a God, then my life may or

may not be changed because of that belief. This is what we must wrestle with as we delve into the Book of Hebrews.

In regards to the words “faith” and “believe” there is a common expression that applies: “something is lost in translation.” The Greek (The N. T. was originally written in Greek) has the same root word for our noun “faith” and our verb “to believe.” So, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. I do not merely acknowledge that Jesus is the Christ; I believe in Him, and He is Lord of my life. I trust Him with all my mind and soul and strength. I commit my entire life to Him; I do my very best to be obedient to His teachings; I try to be faithful to His example.

“Hebrews” is different from all the other books in the New Testament. Even though it is placed between the Epistles of Paul and the General Epistles, it does not follow the form of a first century letter; it is more like a theological treatise. It uses a Greek grammar that is more refined and polished than the other writings in the N. T.

Many students of the Bible assume that “Hebrews” was written to Jewish Christians because of the title that has come to be

attached to the book, references to Temple rituals, and many quotes from the Old Testament (all the quotes are from the Septuagint, the O.T. translated into Greek in the third and second centuries B. C.). But the Book of Hebrews addresses Christians, Jewish or Gentile, who do not take their faith seriously and are in danger of drifting away (2:1), falling away (3:12), and failing to attain (4:1), because they have become dull of hearing (5:11). The writer calls on the readers to move beyond rudimentary doctrine and to grow to maturity (6:1). The Book of Hebrews proves that (1) Jesus is superior to the prophets, angels, and Moses (Chapters 1–3), (2) the divine priesthood of Christ is superior to the Levitical priesthood (Chapters 4–7), (3) Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross is superior to the animal sacrifices (Chapters 8–10), and (4) Jesus Christ is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (Chapters 10–13). In Christ, and only in Him, is our faith sure.

First century Christians struggled to be faithful to Christ, against social and political opposition, and to present the Good News to all the world. The challenge is the same for 21st century Christians.



H. Adrian Grubbs, Jr., was born in Dade City, Florida, to the Rev. Herman A. and Lillian Kinard Grubbs. The family moved to Mount Olive, NC, in 1959. Adrian was ordained in the Eastern Conference in 1963 and has served eight churches. After a 30-year pastorate at Deep Run OFWB Church he retired in 2007 because of vocal problems. Grubbs has served the denomination as President of the Sunday School Convention, Moderator of the Eastern Conference, member of the Eastern Conference Ministerial Examining Board, and is currently on the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees. Adrian and Jo Ann have one son, two daughters, and six grandchildren.

Psalms for the Soul

with Linda Herring

The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Fear is a normal human response to something terrifying. The scriptures instruct the people of God not to be ruled by fear. So how does a godly person handle fear? Psalm 112:7 says, "[They] shall not be afraid of evil tidings: [their] heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD." The Psalms catalogs the blessings available to us when we reject fear and trust in the Lord. There are blessings to be shared with our children and our children's children, a legacy lasting beyond our lifetime. The righteous person is both fearless and fearing: only before One does he tremble. Godly people are not immune to suffering. It is true that sometimes our worst fears come true. We have to entrust our fears to the Lord and deepen our faith in the Lord, ultimately fearing Him alone. We can trust the Lord because He is in control of everything. He will work all things for our good if we love Him and live according to His purpose. Just trust God. Just trust God. Just trust God. He will never fail you. Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm.



Linda Herring is married to Vernon Herring. They have two children, Amy and Vernon and three grandchildren, Jenna, Jared, and Noah. Linda is an active member of the White Oak Grove OFWB Church in LaGrange, NC. Linda leads a Bible study group, Circle of Friends. She has been a drama director of two dramas that she wrote. They Called His Name Jesus and The Book of Ruth. She is a resource for the OFWB Woman's Auxiliary. Her outreach ministry includes this column in TFWB, a radio broadcast by the same name (aired on WAGO 88.7 FM), and a weekly devotional article for the La Grange Weekly Gazette and The Sampson Weekly. She also has a devotion book printed by the Mount Olive College Press.

FALL EASTERN DISTRICT Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Hosted by
Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church

(at the corner of Macedonia Church Road
and Old Brick Road, Ernul, NC)

September 15, 2012

Theme:

Where Is Your Trust?

Scripture:

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord,
and whose hope the Lord is" (Jeremiah 17:7).

Registration Begins at 9:30

Guest Speaker: The Reverend Buddy Sasser

Annual Homecoming

October 28, 2012

Friendship OFWB Church

Friendship Church Road, Middlesex, NC

Speaker: The Reverend Lloyd Hargis

Sunday School: 9:45 A.M.

Worship: 11 A.M.

Come worship, fellowship,
and share our food together.



Pullin' for Sunday School

2 Day Truck and Tractor Pull

Friday, November 2, 2012 @ 7 P.M. (Mini-Tractors)
Saturday, November 3, 2012 @ 12 NOON (Trucks and Tractors)

**Sponsored by: Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry
Bethel OFWB Church Men's Fellowship**

Four Oaks Pulling Track (I-95 EXIT 87) • 659 Tetersville Road, Four Oaks, NC 27524

Cost: 13 & up—\$7 5-12—\$3 Under 5—Free

Sponsorship, Advertisement, and Application Form

The Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry is joining with Bethel OFWB Men's Fellowship and Bethel OFWB Church to sponsor a Truck/Tractor Pull to raise funds for the Outreach efforts of the Sunday School Ministry which include the LIFE Mobile Ministry, Camp Scholarships and Retreats for all ages.

Your church, auxiliary group, organization or individuals are invited and encouraged to support this event with your attendance and by purchasing a sponsorship ad. Business card size: \$25, Half page: \$50, Full page: \$100, and Back cover: \$200.

Submit your business card, ad copy for scanning or we will design your ad. Please make checks payable to OFWB Sunday School Ministry.

Mail payment to: Mary Dudley, P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.
Deadline for ads is October 8, 2012.

For information, contact Mary Dudley at (252) 559-3327 or (252) 746-4963
or Jim Best at (919) 796-2775.

P.S. Concessions, Donations, and Manpower are always needed (Call us).

Sponsorship Information

Name of Business or Individual _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Business) _____ (Cell) _____

Ad Size (Check One): Business Card: \$25 Half Page: \$50
 Full Page: \$100 Back Cover of Promotion Book: \$200

(Please attach business card of information as you wish it to be printed
along with your check payable to OFWB Sunday School Ministry.)

JOIN US FOR SOME FAMILY TIME AND FUN!



P.O. Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513 • (252) 746-4963 • www.ofwbsundayschool.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY



Pictured (L-R): Rose Family Developer Eddie Rose, Joe Henderson with Atlantic Construction, Mayor Pro Tem Michael Lazzara, Mount Olive College President Philip P. Kerstetter, Director of Mount Olive College at New Bern and Jacksonville Guy Bradbury, Mount Olive College President Emeritus J. William Byrd, and Mount Olive College Vice President for Finance John Kunst.

MOC at Jacksonville Breaks Ground on New Location

City officials, Chamber members, and Economic Development representatives were on hand for the ground breaking of the new location of Mount Olive College at Jacksonville. Construction is set to begin any day on the facility at 2543 Onslow Drive, with an expected completion date of January 2013. The 10,000 square feet of space, will give students an easier location to access with more parking, additional classroom space, a student community area and additional office space.

Guy Bradbury, director of Mount Olive College at Jacksonville said, “The Jacksonville location has grown significantly since its beginning in January 2009. The area is in need of the educational services that we provide and we want to be a significant part of Onslow County’s development for the future.”

Mount Olive College at Jacksonville serves around 200 students per semester, and the new location will allow the College to serve more citizens of Onslow County and surrounding areas. Program offerings include bachelor degree programs in Business Management, Criminal Justice and Criminology, Early Childhood Education, Health Care Management, and an associate degree in General Studies. The one-

night-a-week class format is specifically designed to accommodate the career goals and busy lifestyle of working adults.

Dr. Philip P. Kerstetter, president of Mount Olive College, stated, “Mount Olive College was founded 60 years ago, and from the very beginning it fully understood that education is a transformational experience. Our tag line says, “Transforming Education. Transforming Lives.” We recognize that education comes in all kinds of sizes, shapes, formats, and the important thing is how we work together to make certain that everybody has legitimate access to a quality higher education experience. We want to be a key educational provider here, providing not only the non-traditional degree completion programs, but we also want to look at other, innovative ways to provide educational services that address the needs of this region. That’s what we are all about here today at Jacksonville.”

The architect for the expansion project is J.C. Woodall. Construction will be completed by Atlantic Construction Company under the guidance of Rose Family Developer Eddie Rose.

Educational Opportunities at MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Mount Olive College admissions representatives will be traveling to meet with high school students at **County College Fairs** during the months of September through November. High school students can ask questions about admissions, scholarships, academic, and athletic programs at these fairs. Contact Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions, for more information at <twoodard@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854.

Apply now for fall 2013. If you are a new high school senior, Mount Olive College invites you to complete your college application now. Apply online at <www.moc.edu>. Applications for spring 2013 are also being accepted at this time. College transfer applications are also being accepted. Call 1 (800) 653-0854 if you have questions.

Take the SAT/ACT

Many students are considering whether to take the SAT and/or ACT at this time in their high school careers. Mount Olive College requires the SAT or ACT from all applicants who are under 21 years of age. We accept the highest score, or combination of scores, regardless of how many times a student takes the test(s). See your high school guidance counselor or contact us at <admissions@moc.edu> for a schedule of test dates.

RN to BSN

Applications are being accepted for the RN to BSN program. The next session start will be spring 2013. To qualify for admission, students must be licensed RN's. To learn more about this program, contact Joy Kieffer, Nursing Program Coordinator, at <jkieffer@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854.

Teacher Education Programs with Licensure

Mount Olive College is now offering teacher education programs with licensure in the following areas: Early Childhood, Elementary Education, Physical Education, Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Music, and Agriculture. Contact Dr. Tommy Benson, education chair, at <tbenson@moc.edu> with questions.

Coaching Minor

The College has also begun a minor in coaching. Students who are interested in this program can contact Dr. Burt Lewis at <blewis@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854.

One-Night-a-Week Programs for Adults

One-night-a-week college programs for adults are available at **Mount Olive Evening College, New Bern, Jacksonville, Washington, Wilmington, and Research Triangle Park**. The tuition cost for these programs is offered at a reduced rate. Complete the free online application at <www.moc.edu> and learn more about these programs by clicking on the location nearest your home or workplace. Multiple start dates are available each semester, so ask about these convenient programs and how you can complete your degree. Call 1-800-NEW GOAL. You will be connected to the location nearest your home. Financial aid is available.

Fields to Head MOC Office of Alumni Relations

Mount Olive College alumna Hope McPherson Fields ('09) has accepted the position of director of Alumni Relations. McPherson earned her baccalaureate degree in business administration with a concentration in business management at Mount Olive College.

"I am honored to be selected to help lead Mount Olive College Office of Alumni Relations to a new level of accomplishment and service," Fields said. "Our top priority is to give our alumni more reasons to get involved and stay involved with The College."


Fields plans to develop programs for mentoring and career networking to ensure that alumni remain engaged with the institution. "I hope to bring a stronger sense of community to the Office of Alumni Relations," said Fields. "I want all of our alumni to feel that they are part of the Mount Olive College community and family. I look forward to having our alumni participate in not only events together, but alumni trips!"

As the contact person for alumni, Fields will be doing more outreach in establishing professional group connections in the cities closest to the college's seven geographically distributed locations in eastern North Carolina. Other goals include keeping alumni connected to the College after graduation, improved and greater use of social media, expanding affinity programs, and working to provide more opportunities to engage all students and alumni.

"Mount Olive College is committed to investing in and providing service to all alumni, from the time they enter our doors throughout their lives," Fields said. "By doing so, the College builds mutually-supporting and lasting relationships. The payoff is successful and happy graduates who will help advance the mission of Mount Olive College for the next generations."

"I want every alumnus to feel the same connection I feel to Mount Olive College. It is my wish that when an alumnus reads or hears of a transformational story one of our students have that they will swell with pride knowing that this is their alma mater."

Fields is married to Mount Olive College alumnus Ryan Fields ('08). The couple currently resides in Mount Olive. Fields is a member of Beaverdam Original Free Will Baptist Church in the Pee Dee Association. She is the daughter of Keith and Willa Dean McPherson of Clarendon.



I am honored to be selected to help lead Mount Olive College Office of Alumni Relations to a new level of accomplishment and service. Our top priority is to give our alumni more reasons to get involved and stay involved with The College.

— Hope McPherson Fields



Commemorating the one-year anniversary of the passing of Dr. W. Burkette Raper, second president of Mount Olive College, Mrs. Raper and family placed a wreath by Dr. Raper's portrait in W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Hall along with six white carnations by the bust of Dr. Raper. President Kerstetter invited the campus community to remember Dr. Raper, reflecting on his vision and tireless efforts on behalf of Mount Olive College.



Printing is our Passion!

**BOOKS • BROCHURES • NEWSLETTERS
 BUSINESS CARDS • STATIONERY • BUSINESS FORMS
 PEW CARDS • OFFERING ENVELOPES • TRACTS
 CHURCH & WEDDING PROGRAMS AND MORE!**

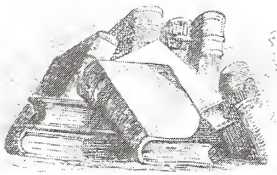
FULL SERVICE BULK PRINTING & MAILING

EVERY-DOOR-DIRECT FOR USPS

3928 LEE STREET
 AYDEN, NC 28513
 252.746.6128
 252.746.9248 FAX
 1.800.849.3927

JERRY GOFF, EXT. 226

WWW.FWBPRESS.COM



Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

Political Doctrines or Christian Visions?

Edward Klein, *The Amateur*.

Washington, D.C.: Regnery Publishing, Inc., 2012. 277 pages. ISBN 978-1-59698-785-2.

Book reviews in this column are *not* meant to reflect any theological or political positions.

The presidential election of 2012 is now upon us with media groups, ads, books, pamphlets, and Internet stories flooding public space. How can anyone make an unbiased judgment on the state of affairs in America? Author Edward Klein adds his voice to the cultural landscape as he presents the presidency of Barack Obama from a conservative reporter's bias—his research skills honed as the former foreign editor of Newsweek and former editor-in-chief of the New York Times Magazine. His new book, *The Amateur*, is rooted in almost 200 interviews with people who have known, worked with, or had some contact with Obama. What Klein tries to do is to blend his conservative, subjective stance with the objective, recorded decisions of the 44th president of the United States.

The Obama Rise in Politics

Edward Klein finds himself going back to the progression of Barack Obama's spectacular rise in politics to peep into the pattern of Obama's enormous success. He sees Obama's role as head of the Harvard Law Review as a huge stepping stone, gaining him a position in the University of Chicago Law School. For 20 years in Chicago, Obama attended the Rev. Jeremiah Wright's

congregation, Trinity United Church of Christ, where Obama listened to sermons filled with themes of black victimization (36). Obama's marriage to Michelle Robinson in 1991 led him to Trinity where an elite wealthy black membership was strong (42). Obama's community organizing skills were developed in Chicago just as his fundraising powers. He rose from the Illinois Senate in 1996 to the United States Senate, launching him onto the national stage with his speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention (40). Obama saw himself as a man of "God-given destiny" (47).

The Obama Doctrine

Edward Klein sees the Obama Doctrine in these basic assumptions: (1) "Global interests should generally come before American interests" (202). (2) "International law should be taken into consideration by American courts" (202). (3) "Washington should hesitate to act without the cooperation of the world community" (202). (4) America has "an obligation to extend an olive branch to everyone, including its sworn enemies in North Korea and Iran" (202). (5) America's limited resources will affect America's commitments, so that defense will reflect when national interests are directly challenged (205). (6) American decision-makers now

will not endorse the sins of previous administrations (208). (7) America must demonstrate religious tolerance and seek a better relationship with the Muslim world (209–210). (8) In his April 2009 speech in Cairo, Obama stressed that Western "colonialism" had "denied rights and opportunities to many Muslims" (209). (9) America would "lead from behind" (219) rather than initiate leadership for world order (219). (10) Fairness must be a part of America's tax system with the 1% paying their "fair share" to help the middle class as in the "European model of social democracy" (249). (11) The federal government should be "a means to eliminate income inequality and ensure greater fairness" (249).

The Obama Problems

Now that the presidential election of 2012 is upon us, Edward Klein presents his conservative view of some of Obama's problems: (1) America has lost its triple A rating on Obama's watch (256). (2) The national debt has increased by nearly \$5 trillion under Obama's leadership. (3) The new healthcare bill will cost an increase of "more than a trillion dollars" (257) and includes "a 4.5 percent tax increase" (257). (4) Catholic-affiliated institutions are upset over the "contraceptive absorption insurance" (257). (5)

Terrorists are still in Guantanamo (257). (6) Unemployment is a big problem at 8%. (7) The European Union is facing a crisis with the Euro and debt (222). (8) Bashar-al-Assad is slaughtering civilians in Syria (222). (9) Iran has not limited its desire to become a nuclear power player (222). (10) Black unemployment is “disproportionately” high (183). (11) The Palestinian conflict with Israel still exists (178). (12) The Jews of Jerusalem believe Obama does not understand the centrality of Jerusalem to Jewish history (177). (13) Some Jews have the impression of an “anti-Jewish bias” in the Obama administration (167). (14) Some businessmen feel that Obama has an anti-business bias (258).

The Obama Spin

Obama emerged in 2008 as a figure David Axelrod created, according to Edward Klein. Obama rose on the stage of public opinion as “a black man who would *heal* America, not *divide* it” (238), as a leader who was not partisan in spirit and “would *rescue* America, not *threaten* it” (238). The Axelrod spin was to show Obama as “a conciliator who had tried to bring together his white mother and black father, who strove to integrate the racial and cultural conflicts in his own life, who promised to heal the blue-state-red-state breach in America, and who

vowed to rescue the world from all its ills” (238). Obama rose as a rescuer spreading his gospel as the “country’s savior” (239).

Now that this messianic spin has failed, Axelrod has come up with a new Obama spin for 2012—he is the rescuer of the Middle Class as he fights a “Do-Nothing Congress of Republicans and their fat-cat, wealthy supporters (251). According to Klein, Axelrod is using the 1948 strategy of Harry Truman who made the presidential race one between the powers of the president and the powers of Congress (251). All the blame for failures will be placed at the doors of Congress and the wealthy corporations with their unfair tax advantages. Class warfare will be raised to a new level to take the focus away from 8% unemployment, the debt crisis, unease in Europe and the Middle East, health care costs, and other down-to-earth issues. Obama’s spin will be not his *lack of leadership* but the *gridlock* of Congress (254). His ultimate spin will be to create a fear in Americans to make a choice between government help and Republican ruin (255). Obama’s own leadership and performance will be omitted in this new spin, because the ads will focus on the approach to government as a choice for bigger government help versus smaller government help that would cripple America (255).

Beware the Earthly Hero

Thomas Carlyle and other writers have warned us of the dangers in depending upon the hero to save us. With the fiscal austerity ahead for the world, perhaps it is wise to get our own house in order and to separate the utopian push of the modern material world from the Pauline push of the spiritual world. As we all become parts of the spiritual body, each of us serving with our own gifts, we seek to discover whatever is honorable, right, admirable, true, generous, and loving, because as Paul tells the Philippians, thinking on these things is the way to peace. The vision of Christianity, of belief in a free-market system, and the hope of democratic principles must be studied, debated, and valued for the individual and the larger community, recognizing the material world is forever confronting the spiritual world. However, Paul Tillich reminds us in *The Eternal Now*: “There is no human condition into which the divine presence does not penetrate... The riddle of inequality cannot be solved on the level of our separation from each other. It is eternally solved through the divine participation in the life of all of us and every being” (46).



Pepper Worthington was born in Kinston, NC, and married an OFWB retired minister, Michael Gauker Warning, in 1996. The Rev. Warning served as pastor to Free Union OFWB at Sea Level, NC. She received her B.A. degree cum laude at Meredith College in 1965, her M.L.A. degree at Johns Hopkins University in 1969, and her Ph.D. with Phi Kappa Phi honors at the University of Maryland at College Park in 1976. She has been a professor of English at Mount Olive College since 1979. She is also currently the director of the Mount Olive College Press.

A *Sling* and a **STONE**

Significance in Christ as a Young Adult

with Marc Boswell

Back to School

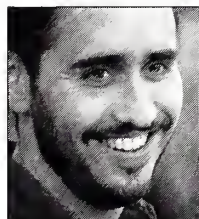
I often tell people that my life was changed in a college classroom. As a young adult, I took religion courses at Pitt Community College, Mount Olive College, and a correspondence class or two from the Carolina Bible Institute. What happened during the course of these classes allowed me to develop both a deeper appreciation for my Christian faith and a set of discerning eyes to better understand the tradition of the Free Will Baptists and the overarching trajectory of conservative evangelicalism in the US. In my experience, the power of education is found in the space it creates for students to discover new worlds, to develop a more complex understanding of history, and to develop the capacities to critically think about the ideas that both shape the student and the ideas that they use to shape their own worlds.

Also, I often tell people that my life was changed in the church. I'm proud of the heritage of my home church—a rural church—in which most people come from blue-collar and farming backgrounds. My friends and family more often did not have a college education; some did not finish high school. Nevertheless, they undoubtedly had a wealth of knowledge and experience that enabled them to shape their communities with integrity and faithfulness. I make no bones about the fact that I would not be the person I am today without the wisdom and love of many of the Sunday School teachers, Bible study leaders, women cooking in kitchens, and men standing around pig-cookers, i.e., the people who formed and shaped me and many other youth on a weekly basis at church.

Given that my life was shaped both in an academic context and in a local Free Will Baptist congregation, I often feel that I'm trying constantly to navigate two different worlds with different sets of opinions about the value of an education. On the one hand, a good education in an academic context ought

to encourage students to engage philosophies, theologies, and scientific analyses based on their own merits, not based on how well they reinforce our own ideas and opinions about the way the world should or ought to work. Indeed, this does mean that the student's world may be opened to things that they would not otherwise learn in church. On the other hand, many conservative evangelical churches have perceived this approach to education to be a dangerous threat to Christian faith. Beginning in the 1920s and 1930s, for example, many conservative churches have been frightened by ideas of Darwinism. After segregation was ruled illegal in 1954, and after it was slowly enforced over the following 20 years, many other conservative evangelicals used their fear of integrated schools to pull out of the public school system altogether. A deep mistrust of "schooling" and an anti-intellectual mentality has since flourished amongst the broader evangelical church.

I mention this with the idea in mind that many Free Will Baptist young adults are returning to high schools, colleges, and universities this month, and they, most likely, will also be invited to step into new ways of thinking of the world and their faith. They are meeting people who lead different lifestyles, understand God differently, and have differing opinions about political and social matters. It is my hope that they, too, will not see these experiences as "threats" or "dangers" that will undermine their faith, but as opportunities to allow their faith to grow and, yes, maybe even change into something they did not expect the Holy Spirit to do. I also hope that they discern the core values of their home communities and develop a greater appreciation for them. The two do not have to be mutually exclusive. The Spirit moves in mysterious ways in multiple places. And, as Jesus commanded us to do, we can grow in our faith through loving God with our whole heart *and mind*.



Marc Boswell is from Saratoga, NC, where he grew up as a member of Spring Branch OFWB Church. He is ordained in the Central Conference and currently lives in Richmond, VA, where he is working toward the completion of a Ph.D. in the fields of Theology and American Religious History at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary



Mission Trip to Haiti

SUBMITTED BY CYNTHIA SUMMERLIN

Three ladies from Jackson Heights Church recently went to Haiti to work at the Hands and Feet Project Children's Village near the coastal town of Jacmel. Beverly Daniels, Maria Lee, and pastor's wife Cynthia Summerlin will never be the same! They joined with 15 others from six states for an unforgettable week of teamwork! Work included painting, laying concrete, and stone sidewalks, repairing doors, supplies inventory, laundry, and much more! The ladies on the team provided a spa for the cooks and wash ladies with manicures, pedicures, and neck, shoulder, hand, and foot massages. The highlight of the week was the relationships built with the children who are orphaned or abandoned. Plans are in the making for a return trip next summer.



Important FWB Press Membership Meeting



The annual membership meeting of the FWB Press will be held on **Tuesday, September 11, at 1 P.M. at the Ayden FWB Church.** The Board of Directors will be recommending that the Press apply for 501(c)(3) status, which will allow us to receive charitable contributions and the donor receive charitable deductions on their income tax return. This must be approved by the membership with a $\frac{2}{3}$ of the membership voting. When you receive your invitation to the meeting, please plan to attend or return your proxy.

Did Your Relative Attend the FWB Seminary or Eureka College?

Most Free Will Baptists know that the denomination had two educational institutions that predated the founding of Mount Olive Junior College/Mount Olive College. The FWB Theological Seminary was chartered in 1896, opened in 1898, and closed in 1924. Eureka College was chartered in 1925 and opened in 1926. It closed in 1929 for financial reasons. Both institutions were in Ayden, NC.

The Free Will Baptist Historical Collection has several catalogs of the two schools, but their holdings are not complete. From the catalogs that are available, the list that follows are persons who attended one or both of the institutions. The staff of The Collection believes that other catalog years might be held by the families of these students. The Collection has catalogs for the years: Seminary: 1905, 1908–09, 1912–13;

1913–14; 1914–15; 1916–17; 1917–18. College: 1926–27; 19[27]–[28] (Both catalog covers bear same date of 1926–27, but they are for two different sessions).

If some of your relatives are listed as students, please see if you can locate any other catalogs which these students might have kept among family papers, etc. Please contact Gary Barefoot, Curator of the Collection, if you should find catalogs other than those listed (telephone: (919) 658-7827; e-mail: <gbarefoot@moc.edu>). Also, if you know that your relative attended either institution and their names are not listed, let that be known as well. The Collection is interested in compiling as complete a list of alumni as possible. As far as is known, there are no living alumni of either institution.

FWB Theological Seminary & Eureka College Students

(Names from available catalogs of both institutions: Part 3 of 4, to be continued in next issue)

Name of Student	Hometown	Catalog Years
Little, Ethel	Chicod, NC	1926–1928
Little, J. H.	Winterville, NC	1926–1928
Little, Retha	Pitt County, NC	1914–1915
Little, Ritta	Pitt County, NC	1913–1914
Loftin, Reba	Lenoir County, NC	1917–1918
Loftin, Ruth	Lenoir County, NC	1913–1914
Lucas, Ethel	Wilson County, NC	1912–1913
Lucas, M. D.	Lucama, NC	1905
Lucas, Sadie	Wilson County, NC	1912–1913
Lucas, L. T.	Wilson County, NC	1914–1915
Lucas, Lula	Pitt County, NC	1917–1918
Luper, Harris	Ayden, NC	1905
Luper, Hattie	Ayden, NC	1905
Luper, Malcolm	Ayden, NC	1905
Lupton, John	Carteret County, NC	1914–1915
Mallette, M. H.	Clarendon County, SC	1913–1914
Manning, Dimple	Pitt County, NC	1916–1917
Manning, Myrtle	Martin County, NC	1914–1915
Manning, William	Ayden, NC	1905
Mason, R. H.	Ayden, NC	1926–1928
Mathews, Annie Lee	Nash County, NC	1917–1918
Matthews, Bennie	Nash County, NC	1916–1917
Mayo, David	Royal, NC	1926–1928
McCaskey, Almeta	Ayden, NC	1908–1909
McCaskey, Bedia	Ayden, NC	1908–1909
McCaskey, Lillian	Ayden, NC	1908–1909
McCaskey, Minnie Luvenia	Ayden, NC	1908–1909
McCaskey, Volena	Ayden, NC	1908–1909

Name of Student	Hometown	Catalog Years
McClees, Roy Willis	Ayden, NC	1926–1928
McCormick, Marvin	Ayden, NC	1926–1928
McCoy, Jessie	Greene County, NC	1912–1913
McDustrell, Howard	Ayden, NC	1926–1928
McGlawhon, Leona	Ayden, NC	1908–1909
McGowan, Claudius	Pactolus, NC	1908–1909
McLawhon, James	Ayden, NC	1908–1909
McLawhon, Ora	Ayden, NC	1908–1909
McLawhon, Preston	Ayden, NC	1908–1909
McLawhon, Samuel	Ayden, NC	1908–1909
McLawhorn, Johnnie	Pitt County, NC	1917–1918
McLawhorn, Lillis	Pitt County, NC	1917–1918
McLawhorn, Marvin	Pitt County, NC	1917–1918
McLawhorn, Mary Ida	Pitt County, NC	1917–1918
McLawhorn, Preston	Littlefield, NC	1905
McLawhorn, Ray	Pitt County, NC	1913–1914
McLawhorn, Reno	Ayden, NC	1926–1928
McLawhorn, Roy	Pitt County, NC	1916–1917
McLawhorn, Thaddeus	Pitt County, NC	1913–1914
McLawhorn, Winnie	Pitt County, NC	1916–1917
McLohon, Leona	Pitt County, NC	1912–1913
Mclouhon, Leona	Pitt County, NC	1912–1913
Meeks, Cletus	Ayden, NC	1926–1928
Miller, Anna	Vandemere, NC	1908–1909
Miller, Daniel	Pamlico County, NC	1912–1913
Millette, Miller	Clarendon, SC	1912–1913
Mobley, John	Ayden, NC	1908–1909
Monroe, Lewis L.	Trio, SC	1905

Name of Student	Hometown	Catalog Years
Moore, Alfred	Wilson County, NC	1912-1913
Moore, Evelyn	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Moore, Lewis	Ayden, NC	1905
Moore, Lewis L.	Trio, SC	1905
Moore, Marjorie	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Moore, William	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Morris, Clara	Wayne County, NC	1916-1917
Morris, E. C.	Johnston County, NC	1916-1917
Mosley, Essie	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Mosley, Margaret	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Moye, Bertha	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Moye, J. C.	Greene County, NC	1912-1913
Moye, Raymon	Greene County, NC	1912-1913
Moye, Ronald	Ayden, NC	1905
Moye, Thaddeus	Ayden, NC	1905
Moye, William	Ayden, NC	1905
Mozingo, Bunyan H.	Durham, NC	1905
Mumford, Eunice	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915
Munford, Ruth	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Munn, Lillian M.	Ayden, NC	1905
Murphy, Filmore	Carteret County, NC	1912-1913
Murphy, Leslie	Davis, NC	1926-1928
Nelson, Eliza	Winterville, NC	1908-1909
Nobles, Clara	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Nobles, Cora	Ayden, NC	1905
Nobles, Glennie	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917
Nobles, H. W.	Winterville, NC	1905
Nobles, Lula	Ayden, NC	1905
Nobles, Marie	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917
Nobles, Marven		1908-1909
Nobles, May	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917
Nobles, Wiley	Winterville, NC	1905
Nobles, Zilphia	Craven County, NC	1912-1913
Oliver, Daniel	Johnston County, NC	1912-1913
Oliver, Foster	Timmonsville, SC	1926-1928
Oliver, Ida	Johnston County, NC	1912-1913
Owens, B. H.	Greene County, NC	1912-1913
Paddley, Eugene	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Padgett, Lucy	Ayden, NC	1905
Patrick, Fannie Lee	Ayden, NC	1905
Patrick, Lyma	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915
Paul, Clara	Beaufort County, NC	1912-1913
Paul, Fannie	Arapahoe, NC	1905
Paul, J. L.	Arapahoe, NC	1905
Paul, Nora	Beaufort County, NC	1912-1913
Paul, Oscar T.	Beaufort County, NC	1913-1914
Paul, Walker	Duplin County, NC	1917-1918
Peed, Bonnie	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918
Peed, Carawan	Beaufort/ Pitt County, NC	1916-1917
Peeden, Gurnie	Johnson County, NC	1917-1918
Phillips, Harry	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Phillips, Annie Lee	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Phillips, Bennett	Ayden, NC	1905
Phillips, Bessie Grace	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Phillips, Hazel	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Phillips, J. R.	Grifton, NC	1905
Phillips, Mary	Ayden, NC	1905

Name of Student	Hometown	Catalog Years
Phillips, Moses	Ayden, NC	1905
Phillips, Walter	Ayden, NC	1905
Pittman, Martha	Beaufort County, NC	1912-1913
Pittman, Paul	Pikeville, NC	1926-1928
Pittman, Robert F.	Lucama, NC	1905
Poston, Ernest	Leo, SC	1908-1909
Powell, E. T.	Enfield, NC	1926-1928
Prescott, Alma	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Prescott, Butler	Beaufort County, NC	1912-1913
Prescott, Colie	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Prescott, E. M.	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Prescott, Elbert	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Prescott, Eunice	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Prescott, Genevieve	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Prescott, James C.	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Prescott, Jamie	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Prescott, Lillian Earl	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Prescott, M. C.	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Prescott, Marie	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Prescott, McVernon	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Prescott, Wendell	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Proctor, Reddin	Wilson, NC	1926-1928
Purifoy, E. E.	Craven County, NC	1914-1915
Rawles, Bessie	Pamlico County, NC	1912-1913
Rawles, Ruby	Pamlico County, NC	1912-1913
Rawles, Thelma	Pamlico County, NC	1912-1913
Reeves, H. A.	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Reeves, Helen	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Rice, Clifton	Arapahoe, NC	1926-1928
Richards, Mabel	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Richbourg, Joseph E.	Foreston, SC	1905
Roberson, Gus	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Roberson, Henry	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Roberson, Willie	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Ross, Annie	Ayden, NC	1905
Ross, Chester	Ayden, NC	1905
Ross, Roberta	Ayden, NC	1905
Ross, William	Ayden, NC	1905
Rowe, Alton	Beaufort County, NC	1914-1915
Sasser, Berta	Wayne County, NC	1912-1913
Sasser, Cora	Wayne County, NC	1912-1913
Sasser, Johnie	Wayne County, NC	1914-1915
Sasser, Rosa	Johnston County, NC	1914-1915
Sasser, Rosa	Johnston County, NC	1916-1917
Sauls, Burrus	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915
Sawyer, Cortez	Tyrell County, NC	1917-1918
Sawyer, John E.	Florence, NC	1905
Sawyer, Katie	Florence, NC	1905
Sawyer, Levi	Pamlico County, NC	1916-1917
Sellers, A. L.	Mitchell County, GA	1912-1913
Seymour, Willie	Grifton, NC	1926-1928
Shurley, E. D.		1908-1909
Shutes, Kenneth	Kynesville, FL	1926-1928
Shutes, S. T.	Kynesville, FL	1926-1928
Silverthorn, William	Pamlico County, NC	1916-1917
Smith, B. G.	Wayne /Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Smith, C. D.	Ayden, NC	1926-1928

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU HAVE:

A new address, received damaged or duplicate copies, missed an issue, experienced any billing problems, or you want to renew or cancel a subscription. You may contact us by e-mail at: <amy@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (252) 746-6128 or (800) 849-3927.

Advertising Rates

- Black/White—1/8 page (business card size) . . . \$30
- Black/White—1/4 page \$40
- Black/White—1/2 page \$50
- Black/White—3/4 page \$60
- Black/White—Full page \$70
- Full Color Centerfold—Left Side \$175
- Full Color Centerfold—Right Side \$175
- Full Color Centerfold—Both Sides \$325
- Full Color Inside Front Cover—Full Page. . . . \$150
- Full Color Inside Back Cover—Full Page \$150
- Full Color Back Cover. \$200
- Churches & Ministry Positions \$20
(maximum of 4 lines)

Ad prices are for single/first runs. There is a 25% discount on each additional run of same ad.

The printing of ads is contingent on the availability of space and we reserve the right to condense ad space as necessary. You will be charged only for the actual size used.

We reserve the right to refuse any material that is not consistent with our principles and practices as a Christian company and as a ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

These advertising rates are for, and advertising is permitted by, OFWB churches and auxiliary organizations, as well as qualified business organizations. These charges apply to any announcements, coming event listings, invitations, and registration forms. If you have any questions, contact the editor by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227. **There is no charge for feature article submissions from OFWB churches/members or news releases of recent OFWB church happenings.**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE INFORMATION

The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) **When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before.**

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Articles sent for publication should be sent in Microsoft Word or Macintosh Pages. Files sent in Microsoft Publisher, .PDF, or others cannot be used.

PHOTO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Your digital photos are more likely to be included in the publication if the following guidelines are followed:

1. Set digital cameras at the highest resolution possible. We realize that it takes longer to e-mail larger files, but print requires a higher resolution than the web.
2. When e-mailing photos, please send them one photo at a time. This ensures that there will not be any file compression and your photo will e-mail at the largest size. Please do not send photographs within the body of the article. Each photo should be sent in a separate e-mail in JPEG format. If there is more than one picture, note 1 of ?, 2 of ?, etc. in the subject line.
3. Large group photos typically do not work well. If taking photos of a group activity, submit several photos of individuals or small groups, and we'll select the ones to print.
4. Get in close—we like to see smiling faces. Only photographs that are close to the subject matter and are in focus reproduce well.
5. If possible, please include the names of all the people in each photo. Identify from left to right and from front to back.
6. Non-digital photos can be sent to our office. However, pictures will not be returned unless there is an appropriate self-addressed stamped envelope included!

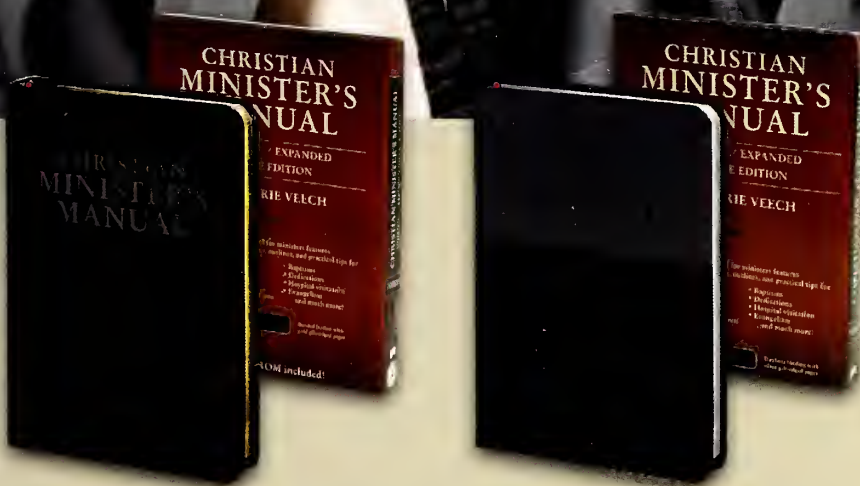
ADVERTISING SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Ad materials should be sent in Microsoft Word or Macintosh Pages. Files sent in Microsoft Publisher, .PDF, or others cannot be used. Camera-ready artwork is generally not accepted. However, with prior approval, we will accept files in Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator (currently Adobe Creative Suite 3 or earlier).

You may submit items in any of the following ways:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
P.O. Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513.

Christian Minister's Manual



Deluxe Bonded Leather with CD-ROM
Retail \$34.99 • ON SALE \$27.97

DuoTone Imitation Leather
Retail \$24.99 • ON SALE \$19.97

These updated and customizable editions of the *Christian Minister's Manual* cover how to perform common ceremonies including weddings, funerals, dedications, and ordinations. A great gift for ministers! Each edition has two ribbon markers, gilt-edge pages, and a gift box.

**Each one can be imprinted with your pastor's name at no additional charge.*

Standard
PUBLISHING

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last



CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!



NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

A Foundation for the Future of Original Free Will Baptists

Helping Good People Do Good Things

Increase Your Retirement Income!!!

Take a look at your investment returns and then let the Foundation see if they can assist you.

A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) of \$100,000 with the Foundation generates 10.2% annual return for a person 87 years of age.

The rate of return for annuities varies with person's age.

Compared to...	Current Rates for CD's	Rates of CD's 6 months ago
6-month CDs	0.36%	0.40%
1-yr CDs	0.53%	0.58%
5-yr CDs	1.60%	1.82%

Source: *USA Today*, Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Annuities can be used to help increase your savings, reduce your tax burden, generate a stream of income, and potentially benefit the charity of your choosing

For more information on the Annuities, contact the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries. Please see our section inside.

*Footprints convey that someone has gone before us,
Leaving us a marked way;
And remind us that we also can leave a marked way
For those who come after us.*



THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID 28513

USPS 2094-4000

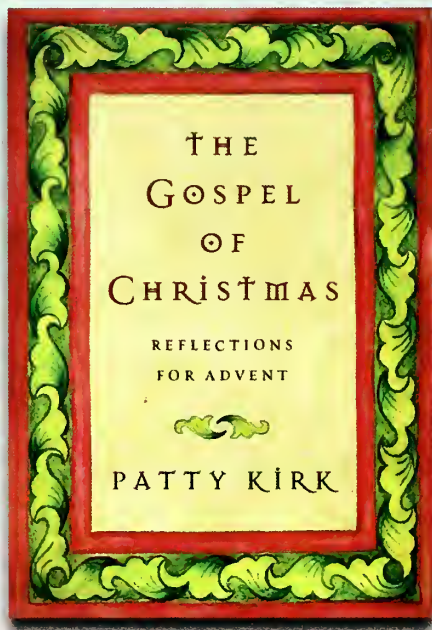
DUKE UNIVERSITY
PERKINS LIBRARY
DURHAM, NC 27706

T · F · W · B

THE FREE WILL BAF



OCTOBER 2012



THE GOSPEL OF CHRISTMAS

REFLECTIONS FOR ADVENT

A child yearns as at no other time in the days leading up to Christmas.

That yearning doesn't entirely go away as we grow older. It still lingers in the backs of our minds. We imagine that Christmas is mainly for children and our adult lives don't stop in the way that children's lives stop on Christmas morning, so we don't give ourselves time to notice the yearning. But it's there—hope mingled with anxiety about what lies ahead.

In *The Gospel of Christmas*, Patty Kirk helps us get in touch with our muted hopes and fears and reminds us that they are met and given their resolution in the coming of Christ, which Christmas celebrates and Advent anticipates, and all our lives prepare us for.

Retail \$15.00 • **ON SALE \$11.97**

For a Limited Time Only/While Supplies Last

 **INTERVARSITY PRESS**
Heart. Soul. Mind. Strength.

25 DAYS OF ADVENT

NIV once • a • day

Prayer and Anticipation are Now in Season: 25 Devotions for Advent

Beginning on December 1, this Once-A-Day Christmastime devotional booklet takes you through the entire Advent season with thoughts on the person of Jesus: His involvement at the creation of the world, His life in the Gospel accounts, and who He is today. Along the way you will meet and examine the lives of various individuals involved in the incarnation, and during the week of Christmas examine the response to this miraculous and gracious event, both in Heaven and on Earth.

Written by Dr. Kenneth Boa, president of Reflections Ministries, these 25 devotions offer select Scripture passages that allow readers to gain a fuller perspective on Jesus' presence throughout the Bible. In addition, each devotion provides thoughts and questions for meditation, along with a prayer for each day, making them perfect for your own personal, family, or small-group use.

The 25 days of reading are broken out as follows: *The Old Testament presence of Jesus: who He was at creation, where He shows up in other parts of the Old Testament, and more. *The people associated with the Nativity: Zechariah and Elisabeth, Mary and Joseph, John the Baptist, Herod, and the Magi. *The specifics and the people directly involved in the nativity: the shepherds, the angels, and the baby Jesus himself. *A Christmas reading that points ahead to His ministry, His passion and His rule as King



Paperback: **Just \$2.99**

For a Limited Time Only
While Supplies Last

 **ZONDERVAN**



CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!

2012

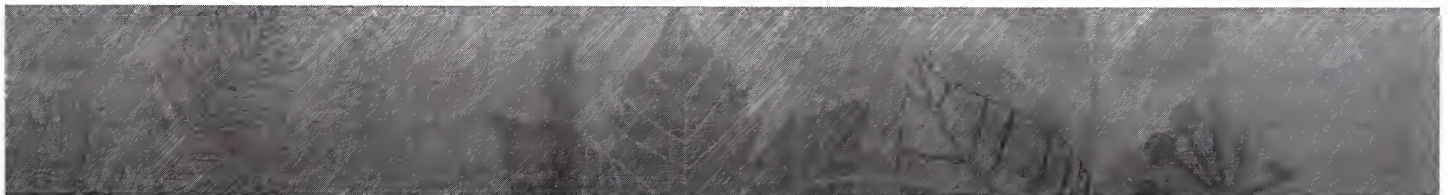
October

Minister's Program Month

The Original Free Will Baptist Monthly Planner

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Central District Study Course with Michelle Taylor Marlboro Church @ 7.00 P.M.	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Columbus Day	9	10	11	12 Fall Fest- @ MOC (see page 29)	13
14 Clergy Appreciation Day	15	16 National Boss Day	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



REFLECTIONS

A Guest Editorial

A Kingdom of Priests

By Sharlene Howell

A treasured doctrine we all share is the priesthood of believers. We love the idea of being priests, mostly because we know it means that we have direct and constant access to God. That is certainly a wonderful privilege. Wherever we are, we can go directly to God with our needs.

Still, if we are priests, does that include responsibilities as well as privileges? What is the job of a priest? And how does that apply to you and me? Most of us think of a priest as someone who listens to confessions. We like to confess to God (who we can't see) instead of having to go through a priest (who we can see). That way, we can hide our faults from our fellow believers. But what does Scripture say about confession? James 5:16 tells us to "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." What does confession have to do with healing? It can be healing to have friends we can trust with our faults. They will pray for us. They will hold us accountable. It can motivate us, knowing that a friend is praying and hoping we can overcome our faults. When we find that we've confessed to our friend and they still love us anyway, we get to see up close what the love of God is like.

At the same time, we need to become the kind of friend that people will feel free to confess to. Would your friends be afraid you would condemn them if you knew their faults? Would they fear you would gossip? (Would they know you would gossip?) What kind of priest are you?

When we look at priests in the Scriptures, we see even more responsibilities. A priest is to be holy (Leviticus 21:6). When we accepted Jesus, we were declared holy. Now, part of our job is to learn to live that way.

Priests were also the people who made sacrifices. We no longer have to have animal sacrifices as priests did before Jesus came. But there are other kinds of sacrifices. First Peter 2:5 tells us that Christians are "...an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices..." What are spiritual sacrifices? Hebrews 13:15 speaks of the "sacrifice of praise to God continually...giving thanks to His name."

But the real sacrifice we are asked to give is ourselves. Look at Romans 12:1. "Present your bodies a living sacrifice." Our whole lives are our sacrifices to God. We sometimes think of preachers or missionaries as people who live sacrificial lives for God. We think of them as people in full-time Christian service. The truth is, we are all in full-time Christian service. We are all His priests. And we are all called to give our bodies as a sacrifice for God to use.

A priest has to be holy. He has to make sacrifices. What is the purpose in all of this? A priest's purpose is to bring God to people, and people to God. As a priest, that's the purpose of your life. We may think of that as the job of our preacher, but his job is really to equip us to do the work of God. Are you presenting people to God? Do you go to God on behalf of your unsaved friends and family members? Are you presenting God to people? What do people see in the way you live? What do they learn about God from what you say?

We are all, as our Church Covenant says, to "esteem it our chief business to make Christ known to the world."



Sharlene Howell is a member of First Free Will Baptist Church of Goldsboro where she serves as pianist. She is Vice President of the Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary, and is a member of the Cragmont Board of Directors. She has a son, Timothy of Greensboro and a stepson, Shawn and wife Karen of Fremont, and a granddaughter, Isabel.

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2012

DIVINITY SCHOOL LIBRARY
DUKE UNIVERSITY

FEATURES & COLUMNS

- 2** *Reflections: A Guest Editorial*
- 4** *The Bi-Vocational Pastor*
- 13** *Pondering the Past with Celia Hales*
- 20** *Finding Peace with Michelle Taylor*
- 25** *Lesson Inner View with Adrian Grubbs*
- 34** *Psalms for the Soul with Linda Herring*
- 36** *Dr. Pepper's Book Corner*
- 38** *A Sling and a Stone with Marc Boswell*

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- 6** Minister's Program
- 9** Cragmont
- 10** Foreign Missions
- 14** Home Missions
- 16** Children's Home
- 26** Mount Olive College
- 30** Sunday School

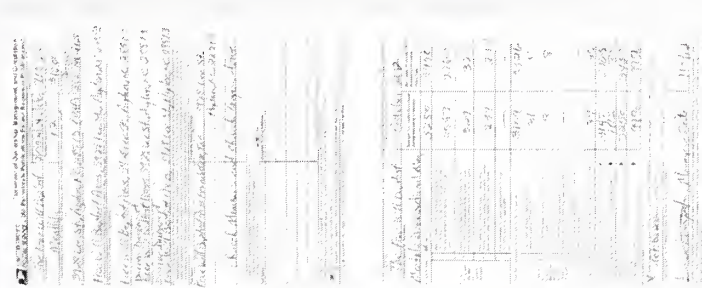
ANCILLARY MINISTRIES

- 32** NC Foundation for Christian Ministries
- 35** Woman's Auxiliary

39 COMMUNITY CONNECTION

ON THE COVER

The late Reverend C.H. Overman (October 31, 1930–May 23, 2012) with his wife, Ruby Overman.



Managing Editor

Darren Davenport
editor@fwbpress.com

Production Manager

Jerry Goff
jerry@fwbpress.com

Circulation, Accounts Receivable

Amy Stokes
amy@fwbpress.com

Accounts Payable

Wallie Hargrove

Editorial Assistants

Dixie McLawhorn, Carlton Oakley

Graphic Designers

**Jerry Goff, Amy Benson,
Nathaniel Ingram, Dixie McLawhorn**

Production Team

**Ronnie Jones, Ted Johnston,
Joshua Roundtree, Johnnie Stancill**



www.fwbpress.com

President

Jeff Daughtry
jeff@fwbpress.com

Vice President

Darren Davenport
darrend@fwbpress.com

Board of Directors

Frank Flowers (Chairman), Central
Mike Scott (Vice Chairman), Eastern
Royce Reynolds (Secretary), Albemarle
Ioe Ballance, Cape Fear • Kelley Smart, Central
Nancy Hardee, Pee Dee • Mark Hobbs, Central
Loydene Proctor, Western

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.

Subscription Prices: All subscriptions are payable in advance: 1 year (12 issues) \$18
2 years (24 issues) \$32

A **Bundle Plan** (\$10 each) and an **Every-Family Plan** (\$14 each) is also available. Call or e-mail circulation or the editor for more details.

© 2012 *The Free Will Baptist* • All Rights Reserved.

The Free Will Baptist is edited and published monthly by the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc., 3928 Lee Street, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159. Second-class postage paid at Ayden, North Carolina (USPS 2094-4000).

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Free Will Baptist Press, P.O. Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513-0159.

The Bi-Vocational Pastor

Part of the Past or Part of the Future?

By The Reverend Donald Fader

Throughout the centuries God has called from among His people individuals to serve and lead His church. As we read the Gospels we see Jesus calling the Twelve from their work to become fishers of men. From that day till now God has raised up leaders and servants to answer the call into the ministry. When we think about ministry today perhaps the first image that comes to mind is the pastor. However, we also see God using those He calls in other important and vital roles.

Ministry today includes service to young people, the sick, the aged, the disabled and a whole host of other special needs that demand specialized commitment in a singular concentrated discipline. It is not unusual to see large churches with a ministerial staff that reaches out to different ethnic groups, oversees the church's musical program, or educational needs and provides focus for different age groups. A church equipped with a staff this size can make a very positive impact within the community in which they are located.

Does that mean that a church must have a large congregation, extensive budget, and several ministerial associates to provide ministry? The answer is no! A quick check of the churches within the Original Free Will Baptist (OFWB) Denomination reveals that only a small percentage of churches can support this type of staffing, but it doesn't limit them in service.

So what does the ministry look like in your church? Demographically speaking, in the OFWB Church the ministry looks like a 60-year-old man who is the church's only paid staff member. He likely leads the congregational singing, prepares the bulletin, sings with or leads the choir, and performs a host of other duties, some known, others unseen. In 60% of our churches he is also bi-vocational.

What does bi-vocational mean? Interestingly enough this word, with or without a hyphen, does not appear in the dictionaries I consulted. For our purposes we will define it as a minister who serves as a pastor while supplementing his income through employment in a career or job outside of the church. According to a survey done by the Minister's Program some years ago,

it was found that almost 65% of the respondents were bi-vocational.

A look back over the history of the OFWB reveals a proud rural tradition. Our beginnings as the OFWB are traced back to the farming communities of Eastern North Carolina where churches were served by a minister who, in many cases, was a farmer himself. He would leave his home and travel to distant churches, by today's standards, serving two, three, and sometimes four churches during the course of a month. Following the Sunday service he would return home to his farm and family to continue working the land and harvesting his crops.

This type of ministry continued for almost 200 years, and during this time souls were won to Jesus, churches experienced growth, and conferences were organized. As

If your pastor is a BVM consider what role in the church you could assume.

we entered into the Twentieth Century, America began to transition from an agricultural to a manufacturing economy. The workforce began to move into towns and cities across the country. Churches also experienced a similar migration but the OFWB lagged in this shift remaining in primarily rural areas. There are several reasons why this may have happened. Perhaps the people of the OFWB chose to remain on the farm. Maybe the minister of that time, lacking a college education or seminary training, was less confident about moving into an area where the congregation was better educated. Whatever the reason might have been, the OFWB Church remained in rural Eastern North Carolina where the majority of our members are today.

In the 1950s we began to see churches calling ministers into full-time ministry and building parsonages where they could live. However, the bi-vocational minister continued to serve one or in some cases two churches

per month. Men like The Reverend C.H. Overman who appears on the cover of this month's issue of *TFWB* represented a class of minister who was one of many who helped shepherd the denomination through a period of growth as a pastor while working in the North Carolina School system in many ways epitomizing the bi-vocational minister.

So we ask the question, is the bi-vocational pastor part of the past or part of the future? We have established that bi-vocational ministers are a part of the past. What role will they serve in the future?

to be effective planners and time managers because they are filling three important roles: the ministry, the family, and their job.

Regardless of how good the BVM is in planning and managing, they must embrace their role as an enabler. The BVM can't do it all even though many of them try. Most pastors assume many different roles within their church. It was mentioned earlier that oftentimes they prepare the bulletin, lead the service and singing, do the visiting, and lead the Bible study or teach Sunday School. Why? They know what they want done, they haven't learned to

Service to God's Kingdom is measured by the commitment and willingness of those that serve. It is not the size of the staff that counts. It is the commitment of that staff to ministry that makes a difference. It is sometimes easy for us to lose sight of the fact that success in ministry is by God working in and through us.

Let's look first at what distinguishes the pastor who depends exclusively on the church for his compensation (fully funded) and the bi-vocational minister who supplements his church income with outside employment. This is not a full-time vs. part-time distinction. Both classes have responded to the highest calling in life and must respond with their highest and best efforts in meeting this call. Some years ago I heard a minister say that bi-vocational ministers (BVM) were "bootlegging the gospel" inferring that their ministry or role was somehow illegitimate and less committed to the ministry than those who serve in a fully-funded position. While this is certainly not true, there will always be those who attempt to elevate themselves by criticizing those around them, but it never works out in the long run.

Typically you will find a BVM serving in a smaller congregation. By virtue of their size, they are less able to fully fund a pastor's compensation. Most BVMs are married and you should not expect the BVM to sacrifice the family for the church or vice versa. With many smaller rural churches, the BVM is able to provide regular pastoral services without placing an undue hardship on the congregation. However, the spouse must provide buy-in because the time devoted to ministry translates to time away from family. This of course requires the BVM

ask others, it's easier, or they just may be control freaks. However, by recruiting others and nurturing them to play a role in the church, they accomplish two very important goals. One, they get others involved in ministry, and two, they save valuable time for other purposes.

For the foreseeable future, smaller churches will continue to need the services of the BVM. As in the past it will continue to play a vital role in the future of our church. It will never play a second class role unless we relegate it to that position. Service to God's Kingdom is measured by the commitment and willingness of those that serve. It is not the size of the staff that counts. It is the commitment of that staff to ministry that makes a difference. It is sometimes easy for us to lose sight of the fact that success in ministry is by God working in and through us. The Apostle Paul reminds us of that in 1 Corinthians 3:6, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."

If your pastor is a BVM consider what role in the church you could assume. What can you do to assist the pastor while serving the church: bulletins, Bible study, choir, youth leadership, senior citizen ministry, visitations, or administrative services? Volunteer, get in the game and stop watching from the sidelines. You can make a difference!



October is Minister's Program Month

October has been designated as Minister's Program Month by the Convention of Free Will Baptists during the 2012 session. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve the ministers and the local churches over the past year. It is our hope that you will remember this program in your prayers and that you will also be generous in your giving to support the work that we do on behalf of all the ministers in the Convention.

Gifts received during Minister's Program Month are critical to the overall success of this program. If your church has met its challenge this year, we say thank you! If you are receiving a special offering for the Minister's Program this month, we encourage you. If your church does not support the work of the Minister's Program, we ask why?

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 he is 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."

What does the Minister's Program do? This program was brought into existence to help prepare the minister for the financial eventualities of life. To do this, we try to help educate the church and the minister about the unique needs of the pastorate. Our goal is not to provide for the minister, that is the church's responsibility, but to

help the church and the minister plan together so that at all stages of life the minister can serve without the burden of financial concerns holding him back.

The Minister's Program is an extension of the local church administering programs that the church could not provide on its own. We stand ready to work with the minister and the church to help them accomplish the goal of working together in a lifetime of financial planning. Ministers step out in faith to answer God's call. That faith is based on the belief that God will prepare them, provide for them, and lead the church to properly support them.

We believe that God channels His provisions through the church, and it is required of them to be good stewards as it relates to their care of the pastor. This does not apply exclusively to matters of compensation, but also to support, appreciation, and willingness on the part of the church to be led. Please consider areas that the Minister's Program can work with you to help build a strong working relationship with your pastor.

Does your minister have a plan for retirement? Churches should help their pastor prepare for the future by funding his retirement plan today. Contact the Minister's Program for any help you may need as you assist your pastor so that he can retire with the dignity and security that his calling deserves. Additionally the Minister's Program provides:

- A \$150 gift to all ministers age 65 and older each Christmas,
- Tax planning help for ministers,
- Administrative costs associated with the Minister's Widows Fund and the Surviving Widows Fund, and
- Hardship Grants for ministers in need.

Clergy Appreciation Day

Sunday, October 14, 2012

The Minister's Program would like to remind all churches that October 14, 2012 is acknowledged nationally and has been designated locally by The Convention as Clergy Appreciation Sunday. While each of us appreciates our pastor, this day gives you an excuse to do something special for him. He stands with you 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 Galatians 6:10:

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

We encourage each church member to do something on this day to show that you care. Here are some ideas:

- A Financial Gift
- A Surprise Vacation
- Gift Certificates to a Store or Restaurant
- A GPS for His Car
- New Cell Phone
- A Note of Appreciation

Perhaps one reason that some ministers are hesitant to discuss the Minister's Program in the local church is because they may be perceived as being self-serving. The Minister's Program is for all the ministers who are presently serving and for those who have served so well.

If your church supports the program, please accept our thanks on behalf of our ministers. If your church does not support the program, please reconsider. Please tell us what we need to do to earn the trust and confidence necessary to receive your support. The only operating

income we receive depends on the generosity of God's people—you.

The scope of this program is limited only by the level of support we receive from you, the local church. Your gift to us is a sacred trust, and we make every effort to provide the greatest benefit to our ministers with a minimum outlay for administrative costs. We hope that you appreciate this fact and that you will continue to support this program with your prayers and gifts. Will you be a part of this ministry? We ask that you consider the following challenge:

For churches with less than 100 members	\$150
100-149	\$300
150-199	\$400
Over 200.	\$500

For additional information or questions, please write or call:

Donald Fader
Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513
252.523.5800

The Rev. Richard Glosson, Chairman
The Rev. Ricky Warren, Vice Chairman
The Rev. Mike Scott

Gene Paramore
The Rev. Doug Seymour

A Call to Prayer for our Leaders

Today we are living in a time that calls for prayer and action. In an effort to go along so that we can get along, the Christian Church has allowed the government to define what is right and wrong, moral and immoral. It comes as no surprise that the decisions which have been made are determined by what is politically expedient rather than spiritually and scripturally based. This threatens the very core and fabric of our society.

Today the community of faith is under attack by those who dismiss the value of what we believe and attack those who have the courage to speak openly about their deeply held convictions. We witnessed the media and government attacks on Dan Cathy, the CEO of Chick-Fil-A, as he shared his beliefs concerning family:

"We are very much supportive of the family—the biblical definition of the family unit. We are a family-owned

business, a family-led business, and we are married to our first wives. We give God thanks for that."

In our politically correct society, the Christian Church has become last remaining target of discrimination and prejudice by the media, entertainment industry and elected officials.

We must support those individuals who stand for the enduring values of the Christian faith and that includes our elected leaders along with others who provide leadership in our communities and churches.

This is Minister's Program Month in our denomination, and we would like to encourage you to lift up these leaders in prayer, especially our pastors. The Minister's Program is reprinting a publication, with permission, by Dr. Wesley Duewel entitled, *Intercessory Prayers for our Pastor, Leaders and Church* which we will be sending to your

church. It is hoped that this publication will help focus your prayers on the leaders that will guide us in standing up for what we believe.

Wesley Duewel, is a former president of OMS International. A missionary to India for 25 years, Dr. Duewel is also the author of *Ablaze for God, Mighty Prevailing Prayer, More God, More Power, and Revival Fire*.

Here are a few of the prayers from the publication we will be sending which are used by permission of Dr. Wesley L. Duewel and the Duewel Literature Trust, Inc., Greenwood, Indiana.

"God has a wonderful plan by which you can have a world influence through your prayer. God has planned that ordinary Christians like you and I can become mighty in prayer for the reaping of Christ's harvest among the nations today."

— Dr. Wesley L. Duewel —

Father, we thank You that no weapon formed against our pastor, leaders, and church will prosper. Every tongue raised against them will be cast down. Rumors and gossip will be turned aside. We pray that Your presence and peace will keep them, that they will dwell in the shadow of the Most High God, and will be delivered from terror, darts of doubt, and diseases (Psalm 91:5-6). Set Your angels about them (Psalm 91:11). No power of the enemy shall harm them (Luke 10:19). We take authority over evil powers of deception, intimidation, and destruction. We bind them in Jesus name, and cast them far from our pastor, our leaders and our church. Father, we pray that Your abundant life would flood and fill their lives (John 10:10). Thank God forevermore!

Renew our pastor and leaders in brokenness and the Holy Spirit. Let them wait upon You and mount up with wings as an eagle (Isaiah 40:27-31). Quicken our shepherd's body with the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:11). Renew Pastor's vision, and confidence on personal and corporate levels (1 John 5:13-14). Revive his boldness to stand in strong personal conviction (Acts 4:32). Amen.

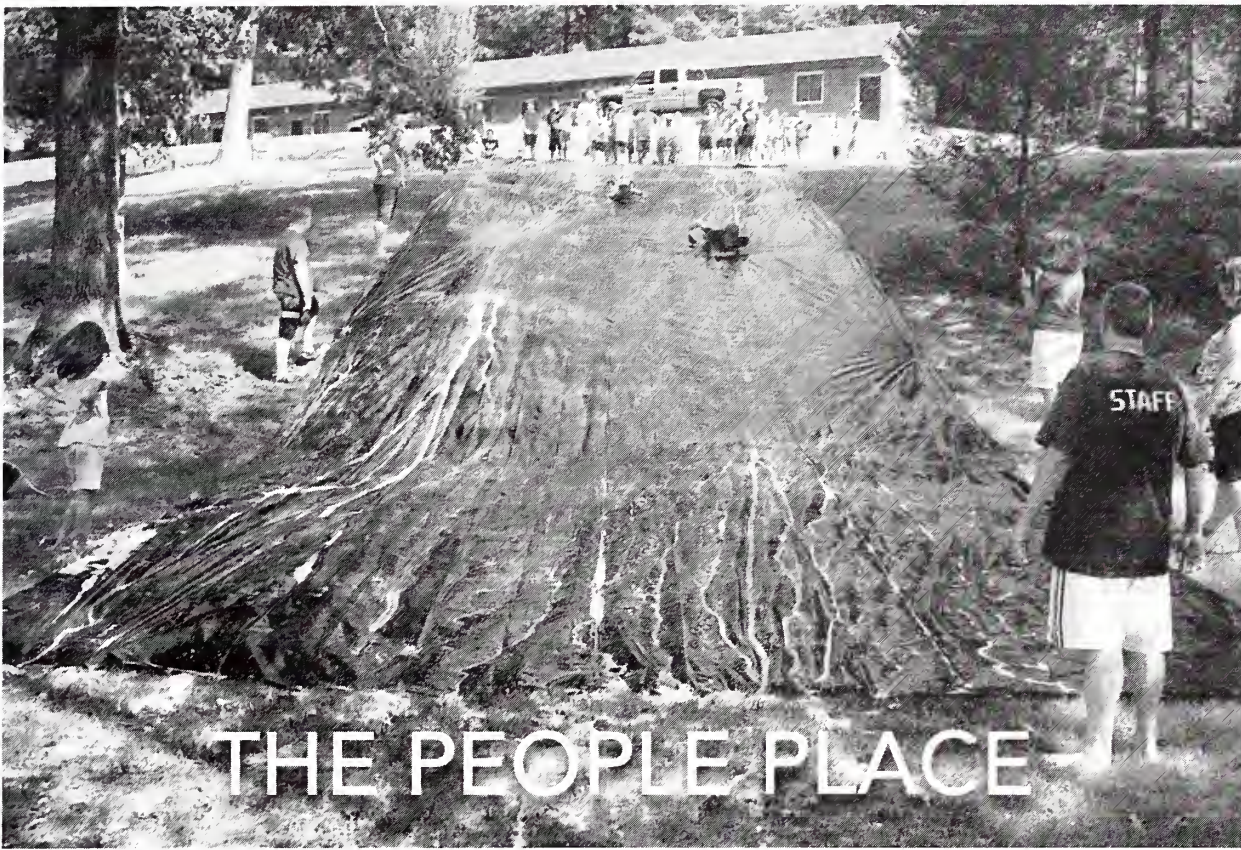
Lord, we lift up the hands of our pastor, leaders and their families. We place them in the shelter of the Most High, to rest in Your shadow. We will say of the Lord, You are their refuge and fortress; You will preserve their family time; Your faithfulness will meet their financial needs in Christ (Philippians 4:19). Release Your promise of abundant life according to John 10:10. Release Your angels to guard them and keep them steadfast for You. You have said, "I will be with them in trouble; I will deliver them, and honour them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them My salvation" (Psalm 91:15,16). In Jesus' name, we cancel all the assignments of the enemy against our pastor's life and family (Matthew 6:10). Amen

No matter what you choose to do for your pastors on "Clergy Appreciation Day" you cannot do more than to keep them before the Lord in your prayer life. It is time to lift these our leaders up to God and be willing to follow them as we work together toward the goal and ideal of America as a nation under God.



1233 North Fork Road • Black Mountain, NC 28711 • (828) 669-7677 • www.cragmontassembly.com

CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY



Pray! That Cragmont will be the setting for spiritual awakening and renewal.

Give! Also consider placing Cragmont in your church budget. The majority of Cragmont's annual budget is met through the faithful support of OFWB churches. This support is vital. General operating expenses rise each year. Increased budget support from our churches is needed to maintain our current low prices.

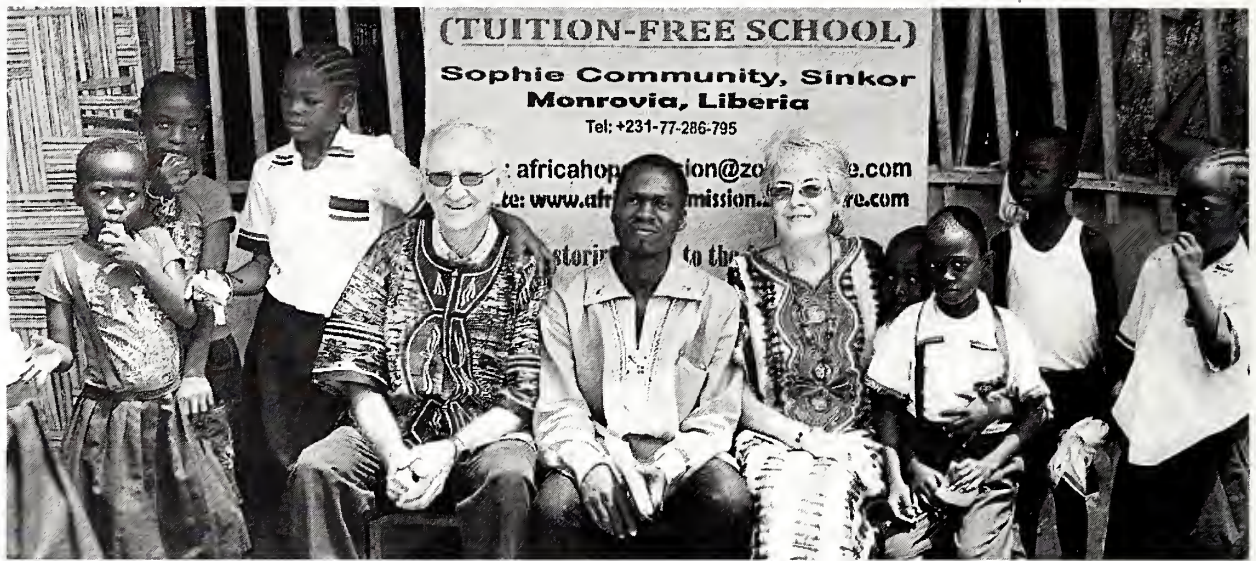
Join! The Cragmont Club. Last year the Cragmont Club brought in over \$35,000. The "Club" is \$180 per year and may be sent in monthly, quarterly, or annually. Club members receive the benefit of one room for three nights per membership.

Visit! We encourage you to visit. Cragmont is located in a great little town named Black Mountain which is also call the "Front Porch of Western North Carolina."

"Let's Top Off"

The Mitsubishi split units were completed in December 2011 providing us with heat and air in a unit that does not require duct installation. "Split," put simply, means that part of the unit is outside and part inside with only a small hole through the wall. They use the heat pump concept and up to 4 rooms can connect to one outside unit. We now have these units in both dorms and the main building. It is our hope that having air conditioning in these buildings will cause a renewed interest in using them. Also, during camp we will no longer have the situation where some children go to air-conditioned rooms and some don't. To top off this project we need to finish paying for them. At the Convention in May we announced a plan to make this happen. We asked for 1,000 people to give \$100. It is my belief that asking many to give a little accomplishes this task easily. We are off to a good start. Some have chosen to give much more than the \$100. So far 56 gifts totaling \$18,770.45 have come in. We appreciate any amount you can give.





Children Across the Atlantic

BY GWENDOLYN KENNEDY

I recently visited a children's class at church to share pictures, objects, and stories about some of my experiences on short term missions trips. We traveled to those countries via the internet on the OFWBI website. The children were listening and asking questions excited to hear about and see other people around the world.

About a week later, the mother of one of the little girls in the class explained to me what her 6-year-old daughter did the next day after the presentation. She had written her own "For Sale" sign and asked her mom for a big basket to put the sign on. Her mom asked what was she trying to sale and why? She was going to sell some of her possessions. She said she was going to help the children in other countries who did not have food or toys. Only she did not know how to get to those countries to give them the money. Her mother explained they could give the money to the missionaries who go to those countries and they would use it to help those children. I could feel the tears well up inside me as the mother was speaking. My heart was touched by the immediate response of the child and her desire to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

One evening as I pondered the sweet little girl's actions, I thought about how she would enter elementary school soon. She would have what she needed to receive a good education: good nutrition, clothes, pencils, papers, books, etc.

Then my mind traveled across the Atlantic Ocean to Liberia to some sweet little children there as well. My

heart ached as I remembered how some of the children walked up beside me on the road to ask me to sponsor them for school. Parents must pay for their children to attend the public elementary school there. I thought about how many parents could not even afford rice for their children to eat. How were they to pay for school? The Original Free Will Baptist Churches of Liberia have started three free schools and approximately 325 children will attend this school year. The Board of Foreign Missions has sent funds to provide paper, pencils, and books, but what they have sent will not be sufficient for the whole school year. Many are hungry and will attend school without eating. The Board is hoping to be able to start a feeding program to provide one meal per day for each student.



Matthew 18:1-5 reads, "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me."

Have we "humbled ourselves as this little child"? How quick have our hearts, hands, and feet responded when we have heard of the needs of others? How willing have we been to give of our possessions, to share with others less fortunate than us, as this "little child" was?



Front L-R: The Rev. Andriano R. Segay & Mrs. Letecia J. Segay;
Back L-R: Mayla S. Daco, Janet L. Tolda, Jenevieve Estacion, Josie
J. Pasia, Eufrocena P. Cabanag, Remedios V. Bacomo, Marivic Joso,
and Estella Bulawit

Woman's Auxiliary

PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

BY LETECIA J. SEGAY

The Emmanuel First Free Will Baptist Church in San Pedro, Puerto Princesa City, has recently organized the Woman's Auxiliary and the officers were inducted. The purpose of the auxiliary is to ignite many idle women in the church that are not involved in the ministry. I believe that in the Bible there are many women who were used by God in the ministry. Women in the church can do something in one other way to help extend the love and care of God, in terms of moral and material needs. They can be a helping hand in the church. By this means, women in the church will be active doing the ministry of the Lord for the glory of God.

The Reverend Andriano Seay, pastor, and his wife, Letecia, are pictured with the new officers of the Woman's Auxiliary. Pray for them as they endeavor to be the hands of Jesus extended to those in need.

His Vinyard—Haiti

BY BISHOP MAURICE ROBERT

Brothers and Sisters, I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am Bishop Maurice Robert, pastor of Thank You Jesus Church in Brooklyn NY, and Divine Grace Church of Jesus Christ in Cap Haitian, Haiti. In 2010, after the catastrophic earthquake that devastated the country, God sent Pastor Harold Jones to join hands with me, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to go to Haiti, to encourage the people in the area where the church is located, and restore their hope.



Many years ago the Lord sent me to start a church in that area. I started under a tent. Since then the Lord has blessed this ministry greatly. There is also an elementary school, which God helped me to build for the poor children of the neighborhood who couldn't go to school because there was no public school for them to go, and their parents were too poor to send them to private one, so they had to stay home. We also serve them lunch whenever our budget allowed us to do so. We have on the roll an average of 110 to 120 students every year. This year the attendance is the lowest. We only have 86 students.

Thank God for making you co-laborers with me in that part of His vineyard. The Lord Jesus Christ, before his departure from the earth to go back to Heaven commanded his disciples saying: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). This is what every disciple of Jesus Christ should be doing. "GO."



Come with us to Israel

MAY 21–30, 2013

We invite you to join us in Israel to celebrate the Jewish roots of our faith in Jesus Christ, God's Son, Yeshua the Messiah.

- We'll visit Bethlehem where He was born.
- We'll sail on the Sea of Galilee where He stilled the storm.
- We'll pray in the Chapel of the Beatitudes, where Jesus preached His "Sermon on the Mount."
- We will kneel at the Rock of Agony in Gethsemane, where He prayed.
- We'll view Golgotha, where He died.
- We'll celebrate the Lord's Supper and His resurrection outside the empty Garden Tomb!
- Couples can renew marriage vows at Cana of Galilee!
- You can be baptized in the Jordan River and also float in the Dead Sea if you'd like.
- We'll see the locales of stories from the Old Testament and learn how geography is still shaping modern Israel.

Our tour will enhance your biblical knowledge so that you will forever after read Scripture with different eyes.

All this will be done in warm fellowship with other believers from many different parts of the United States. We'll sing praises to the Lord every day as we travel through the land of the Bible. We'll also laugh a lot!

We promise you an unforgettable journey that will deepen your faith and increase your joy. Don't miss this special pilgrimage with us!



Blessings, shalom, and love...

Wayne and Ruth Cotton West

For a complete brochure with further information contact:

Wayne and Ruth Cotton West

116 Rothsville Station Rd. • Lititz, PA 17543

(717) 625-3207 • Email: wwrccw@gmail.com



CHURCH & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Hickory Chapel Church, Ahoskie, NC, is seeking a full-time pastor. Interested persons may contact Sandy White by phone at (252) 395-1025 or by e-mail at [<bands@gate811.net>](mailto:bands@gate811.net).

Pondering the Past

with Celia Hales

A Better Life

“...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

Who among us would not like to live a more vibrant, joy-filled life? And do the problems of our everyday life have to keep Jesus’ promise unfulfilled?

I think not. Jesus lived in quite turbulent times, not even considering the stir that He was causing, but the portrait we can draw from the Gospels is not of a worried or preoccupied individual. On the contrary: Jesus was filled with abundant life, living as He did so close to His Father.

And, in the Gospel of John, we learn that He intended an abundant life for us as well. How might we bring this about?

I remember, in my mid-thirties, while spending some time with my parents, reading a book entitled simply, *Loneliness*. Now my father, Ed Hales, was not a morose man; he had his own joy, having found God and joining the church at the tender age of 10. He noticed what I was reading, and while we both enjoyed relaxing on my parents’ screened-in porch, he chastised me for reading something with a title like that. He seemed to say to me, “How can you be happy, when you are reading something that just

sounds depressing?”

At the time I did not appreciate his advice (as children are wont to believe, I thought he did not understand). But as I have grown older, and reflected on the life that my father lived, I know that he had good advice. Staying away from reading that reinforces negativism is one way to bring a better life into the realm of possibility.

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity” (1 Corinthians 13:13).

But “staying away from the negative” is not a prescription for realizing how to live an abundant life, the kind that Jesus taught. In looking back over the hills and valleys of my life, I do think that one characteristic of the “hills” was “hope.” I felt certain from time to time that life would get better. When I failed to feel that certainty for an improvement, I was likely to remain a bit too downhearted. Remember the passage from the New Testament, written by Paul to the Corinthians, and citing “hope,” along with faith and charity (frequently translated “love”) as being the prime necessities for the good life? Certainly, when our spirit nature is in the ascendancy, we don’t

ignore faith and love. Yet it sometimes seems to me that hope is overlooked far too often. We know that faith and love are decreed by the Bible, but how many of us focus on hope in that well-recognized passage?

What is there that can revive hope, if we have lost it for a while? My answer is a return to practical, spiritual time spent with God—prayer, biblical and inspirational reading, and journal writing that connects to our core, our heart. And remember that God has not forgotten about us in our absence; it is ourselves who have temporarily lost sight of Him. When we return to the simple practices of our religion, we will realize that God has always been there for us; it is ourselves who have strayed away, probably because we became too cocky in our faith. Straying from God’s pathway does not have to remain our state of living. God welcomes us back, as the story of the Prodigal Son says, as quickly as we return to our home in Him.

May we offer a prayer today for the times that He stood beside us when we were inattentive to His attention to us. Give spiritual practices a little more time in life, and see if hope does not revive. And with hope, a better life ahead beckons.



A former religion librarian at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Celia now lives with her husband Paul in Oxford, Mississippi. She was previously employed at both the Free Will Baptist Press and Mount Olive College.



More Volunteers Needed!

“For I was an hungred and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in. Naked, and ye clothed me...” (Matthew 25:35–36).

Over the past year, Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry has stretched itself beyond what seems possible. We must say THANK YOU for all your support, whether in prayers, funds, or assistance with your hands.

Please allow me to share with you some of the events and facts during this past year.

Having not completed the tornado work that came about last year in April 2011, along came Hurricane Irene and our work increased with vengeance. With our own people, Original Free Will Baptists feeling the brunt of the storm, we felt helpless because the destruction was over such a broad area. We thought the tornados were scattered, but their path did seem to take a certain direction as they progressed across our state but Irene did more than that. It covered such a large area volunteers had a difficult time trying to take care of their own difficulties and then get to others. We have been working feverishly, trying to cover all the areas that were devastated by the storm as well as covering some areas that haven't been completed from the tornados a year ago. We have partnered with the Methodist Disaster Recovery, the Baptist Men, and the Lutheran Disaster Recovery, the Presbyterian group, the Episcopal Disaster Relief workers and others to assist all those devastated by Irene.

Our work has taken us to 29 different counties in North Carolina. From Bladen County, working on tornado damage with the Presbyterian Church in Elizabethtown to the Outer Banks. In Elizabethtown, working with a large team from Beaver Dam Original Free Will Baptist Church and others, we have completed the roof and carport on one home and have one more to do, some with small repairs on the roof. It has taken a long time for this work because of our volunteers doing double duty. With these two projects, our work with tornados will be complete. Moving from one location to another, from tornado damage to hurricane damage, from things being blown away to flooding isn't an easy task. One takes the removal of trees, picking up the pieces which have been scattered all over, to cleaning up mud, taking out walls, and working with areas that are dangerous because of the risk of disease isn't the easiest job in the world. It takes a lot of effort on the part of volunteers and others to complete any task.



Beyond working with our hands to put back, rebuild, rewire, paint, and finish any project comes the task of assisting people to find ways to obtain the funds to finish the project. As we do not provide the funds for materials we rely on what funds the client receives from Insurance, FEMA, or other sources, to purchase the materials. When those funds are gone, finding ways to replace them is almost impossible. So where do these funds come from? From people just like you, who give from the heart to help people rebuild their communities, homes, and places of worship. It was through the efforts of "Build A Church" Sunday, sponsored by Home Missions and Evangelism, that two churches in the Eastern Conference and one in the Albemarle Conference received gifts of \$20,000 each to help with the needs of rebuilding, or completing a new facility. This amount is just a small portion that has been needed to assist these congregations and does not apply to their homes. It takes lots of donations like these and a long time for people to bounce back from the destruction of Irene and other storms.

It is in areas of Pamlico County, Hyde County, Washington County, Beaufort County, Bladen County, Tyrell County, Onslow County, Wake County, and the list goes on and on that homes are still in disrepair. As of today, July 27, 2012, I returned from Pamlico County where work is still not complete. Our Shower Trailer is at Stumpy Point assisting teams who are working in Dare County and little places like Engelhard, Swan Quarter. Little villages like Lowland and Hobucken are somewhat back to normal but it will take a long time for these people to feel safe again. The town of Vandemere is somewhat complete but Camp Vandemere is operating with campers, which have reduced their capacity for camp. People have loaned campers, mobile kitchens, shower trailers, and other things to make this year as much of a success as possible. This past week we assisted a work group to find work in Vandemere through the Methodists. The area of Edwards Chapel, Carteret County is still working to get some homes and units completed. Ottway, Sea Level, and those small coastal villages are still getting things back in order and hurricane season is here again. The Belhaven Church still hasn't really begun work on trying to repair or replace their facility. Much work still needs to be done.

At the writing of this article, I have had meetings with all of the volunteer organizations and as of August 14, 2012 there are about 500 homes that are still in need of some work. Some are small repairs and some are rebuilds from the ground up—we are not out of a job yet.

So, as you can see—your Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry has not been sitting idle. There is still much work to be done and we have a saying that "we are trying to work ourselves out of a job," but that isn't going to happen very soon. There are still people out there who need our help with whatever. It may be kits, it may be furniture, it may be an encouraging word, and it may be to share the gospel message and give a hand. We still need teams to work and have places to send them so why not give us a call and help us put together a team, the proper way, to assist those still in need. I can promise you this, "God will bless you for it!"

Presented by the Rev. Harold Swinson, Coordinator
Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry



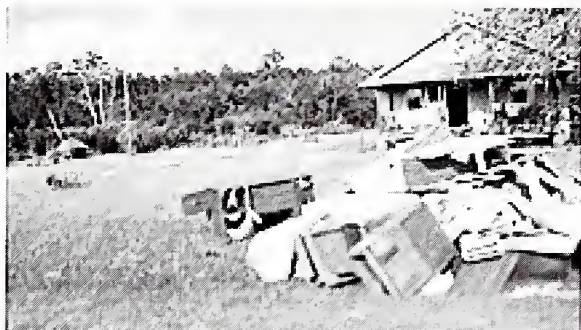
Deliverys in Kinston



Hobucken Community Center



House in Lowland



House in Vandamere, NC



Dublin Grove Church



Church Ministry Director, Dianne Riley, receives a check and school supplies from Bethlehem Church, Fountaintown.

Children's Home Day in Bethlehem

Recently, Bethlehem Church, Fountaintown, had Children's Home Day at their church. Dianne Riley, The Home's Director of Church Ministry was invited to go and share information with the church. Dianne spoke about the history, the mission, and the opportunities of The Home. The Home had been designated as Bethlehem's VBS project. The children had tie-dyed book bags and filled them with back to school items, and they also donated their VBS offerings combined with some gifts from other church members

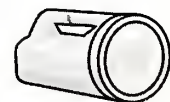
and presented a check to Dianne for The Home.

We appreciate all gifts given to the Children's Home, but it is a special blessing when children work together to give back to others.

Bethlehem and many others have been faithful supporters of The Home this past year, with many projects. Thanks Bethlehem and all who have committed to help us make a difference in the lives of the children served by this ministry.

Needs List

- Twin Size Comforters (bright colors, geometric shape designs, or solid)
- Bed Pillow Covers (vinyl)
- Blankets
- Alarm Clocks
- Bath Towels
- Bath Cloths
- Umbrellas
- Food Storage Bags (gallon and quart size)
- Large Rechargeable Flashlights (one for each cottage)
- HD Cookware
- Plastic Tumblers (12-16 ounce)
- Play Costumes for Seasonal Plays and Skits



Campus Visitors

The last couple of months at The Home have been very busy, with summer activities coming to a close and settling into new routines, and our campus visitors.

We are excited to have you visit our campus to see the grounds, and become more acquainted with The Home and our ministry. Dianne Riley, our Director of Church Ministry, was host to many of the recent visitors, and was delighted to do so. We thank each of you for stopping by for a tour, to share your talents, your gifts, a meal, or just for a visit with the children and staff at The Home.

Pastor James Owens set up a trip for a group from Saint's Delight Church, Ormondsville to come visit. They stopped by to bring paper products and personal items for the children and take a tour. They toured the campus, many seeing it for the first time, and some having not been in 50 years.

Members of Deep Run Church Woman's Auxiliary, along with other church members, came for a tour. The Auxiliary had chosen The Home for a special project for the next few months, and they wanted to get more familiar with the ministry and the needs.

Members of Piney Grove Church, Roper recently toured The Home bringing crafts made at VBS for the children along with personal hygiene and back to school supplies. They also presented their VBS offering to help out with other school needs. This group had never been to The Home before and was excited to see the campus and learn more about our ministry to children.

Although busy, it was time well spent meeting and sharing with our friends, as they shared with the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.



Members of Saint's Delight Church, Ayden



Members of Deep Run Church, Deep Run



Members of Piney Grove Church, Roper, presenting a check to Dianne Riley for The Home.

Friends of Children's Day Celebration

This year will mark 27 years we have celebrated Friends of Children's Day. This is the day we set aside to express our appreciation to our friends and supporters. A day for you to worship with us, tour the campus, meet the children and staff, share a meal, and see the ministry you are a part of.

Partnering Together to Improve the Lives of Children in Need

INVITATION

The Board of Directors invites you and your guests to our annual luncheon for Friends of Children Appreciation Day on Saturday, November 17, 2012, 12 NOON, in Whitley Center on campus. The speaker will be The Reverend Richard Cuddington, Jr. of Kenly, pastor of Memorial Chapel, and Pastor of Northeast Original Free Will Baptist Church, Mount Olive. We encourage you to come and be a part of this special occasion.

Please RSVP by November 5, 2012



Number in Party:

Church Name:

Name:

Telephone:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

E-mail:

Please return above form to:

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME, INC.

P.O. Box 249 • Middlesex, NC 27557

Telephone: (252) 235-2161 or Fax: (252) 235-2625

E-mail: driley@fwbch.org

- If you would like information on becoming a member of our Friends of children program, please indicate by checking the box and information will be mailed to you.*

— Christmas Sponsorship —

In just a few short months we will celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. We call this time of year the Christmas Season, a time to remember the birth of Christ, a time of celebration with loved ones and friends, and a time of sharing gifts.

Many of our children cannot remember Christmas as a happy time or even remember a special Christmas gift. For them Christmas is just another day. Past Christmases have been filled with uncertainty, violence, abuse, and neglect. We strive to replace those memories of uncertainty with joyous ones, and help them experience the joy and excitement of the Christmas celebration. My staff and I are very fortunate to be able to witness the joy of seeing so many children have the opportunity to receive the blessings of Christmas—Christmas joy for the first time. They receive presents, and experience the love of others, and we teach them the story of the Savior's Birth.

Many of you were faithful in your giving to our Christmas Sponsorship program last year, and by doing so some children had their first joyous Christmas. I ask each of you

to consider helping our children have a wonderful 2012 Christmas by participating in our Sponsorship Program.

We begin our preparations early to make this a time that will be remembered...a time with presents for every boy and girl and a time for love and sharing so each child can remember their Christmas at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home and all of the love they were shown. We can't make these things happen without your help. You make Christmas a joyful experience for the children we serve by contributing \$100 for each child you would like to sponsor. Simply complete the sponsorship reservation form below and return it to us by December 3, 2012.

Please accept my wishes to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday season, and my sincere thanks for your help and continued partnership with this child care ministry.

Yours, For *His* Children,
Gary Lee, MBA
President/CEO

Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Inc. Christmas 2012 Sponsorship Reservation Form

Sponsor:

Contact Person:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Number of Children We Would Like to Sponsor:

We Do Not Wish To Participate This Year:

REMARKS:

Finding Peace in the Storms of Life



with Michelle Taylor

Learning How to Forgive Through Jesus Christ

Not too long ago, I cried what felt like oceans of resentful tears. After a short time, my oceans of tears dried up leaving behind only begrudging bitterness. Carrying this around with me, I told the story of my victimhood to anyone who would listen and sympathize. Each time I talked or thought about it, I relived it in my mind causing myself even more hostility. I went through day after day with hate decaying me from within. I had become oppressed by my own bitterness. Finally, I could not bear the feeling of this dark, toxic ensnarement any longer. This was when I began to realize that forgiveness truly is what frees us.

As a child, I felt so unloved and very unwanted by my own mother; she showed me no love, and growing up I felt as if she resented me. These feelings caused me to leave home at age 15. At age 12, I learned I was the product of an affair she had while being married to someone other than my father. Years ago when a woman had an affair, she was considered an unfit mother. Because of being pregnant with me, she lost custody of my oldest half-sister. Mother greatly blamed me for the loss of her first child, who was three years old.

I carried this guilt into adulthood, and it took me many years to learn how to forgive my mother. The only way I learned was through reading many Bible

verses. One passage that really stuck with me (being a single mother myself) was in Psalm 27:10–14 which said, “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up. Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”

Reading this passage repeatedly and praying over these circumstances taught me that forgiveness is the only way to reach Heaven. I asked myself several times if I cannot forgive, then how can God forgive me of my sins? Still having such a burden on me and not feeling the love I needed so desperately, I read Jeremiah 1:4–5. From that message alone, I knew what I needed to do. I had to forgive and show love, which is what God would want me to do. I have tried and tried to do this, but still, to this day my parents show me no love. I know God has a plan and I have faith that He will repair my relationship with my family.

I learned that I cannot judge without being judged, so as I go to many places and speak about my life and my testimony, I

know I have to put God first in my own life and He will repair all situations that I pray for. God has blessed me and has given me many things in my life that I never thought I was worthy of receiving. I have done many things wrong in my own life and for that I am so sorry. God taught me to go to those people I have wronged and ask for forgiveness, which I have. God has blessed me with a wonderful family: my husband, my children, and a wonderful church family and many Christian friends. For that I am so thankful.

On this journey of writing books I give God all the praise for the many blessings He has given to me. I still pray for my family and love them so much and hope one day they will find God in their own lives and learn to forgive. I have learned that forgiving is a very powerful tool; it gives you freedom to live a life that God would want you to live. Because I learned how to forgive and I have such freedom, I do not cry anymore. I look to God instead to take away all the anger I felt many years ago.

I encourage all to forgive. We all have people in our own lives that have wronged us, but without forgiveness we will continue feeling such burdens that do not need to be in our hearts. I encourage all to find the love that God wants us to have instead of bitterness that He would not want for us.



Michelle Taylor is married to Donald Taylor and are both members of Cabin O'WB Church in Beulaville, NC. They are very supportive in their church and love the Lord very much. They have seven children between them: Eddie, Kim, April, Justin, Jordan, Meghan, and Anthony Lee Taylor (deceased) and three grandchildren: Jacob, Zachary, and Daniel (deceased). They have a very special dog named Molly. Donald and Michelle enjoy serving the Lord, working in the yard, working in the home, and spending time with their family. Michelle also loves working with young adults in her church. Michelle has always been like a neighborhood mom to many other children and her husband is the leader and “ROCK” for us all.

Christian Minister's Manual



These updated and customizable editions of the *Christian Minister's Manual* cover how to perform common ceremonies including weddings, funerals, dedications, and ordinations. A great gift for ministers! Each edition has two ribbon markers, gilt-edge pages, and a gift box.

**Each one can be imprinted with your pastor's name at no additional charge.*

Deluxe Bonded Leather with CD-ROM
Retail \$34.99 • ON SALE \$27.97

DuoTone Imitation Leather
Retail \$24.99 • ON SALE \$19.97

Standard
PUBLISHING

For a Limited Time/While Supplies Last



CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!



A Cross & Crow Open



Saturday, Dec 12
Serving Wass

20% off Regular
10% off Sale Price
(some exclusions apply)

The first 40 customers at each location will receive
The Purpose of Christmas by Rick Warren
(a \$17.99 value)



The Voice Bible
Genuine Leather
Special Edition
(\$99.99 value)



Grace
by Max Lucado
(\$24.99 value)

Register for these Door Prizes (available at each location)





Our CHRISTmas House

November 1, 2012

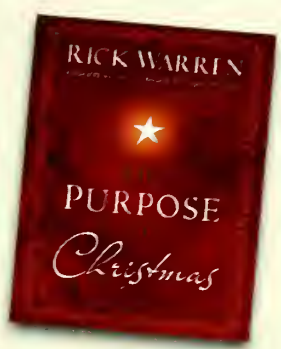
Mail and Cookies

Gifted Merchandise
and Merchandise

(see store for details)



Everyone can receive
a Rick Warren for \$5



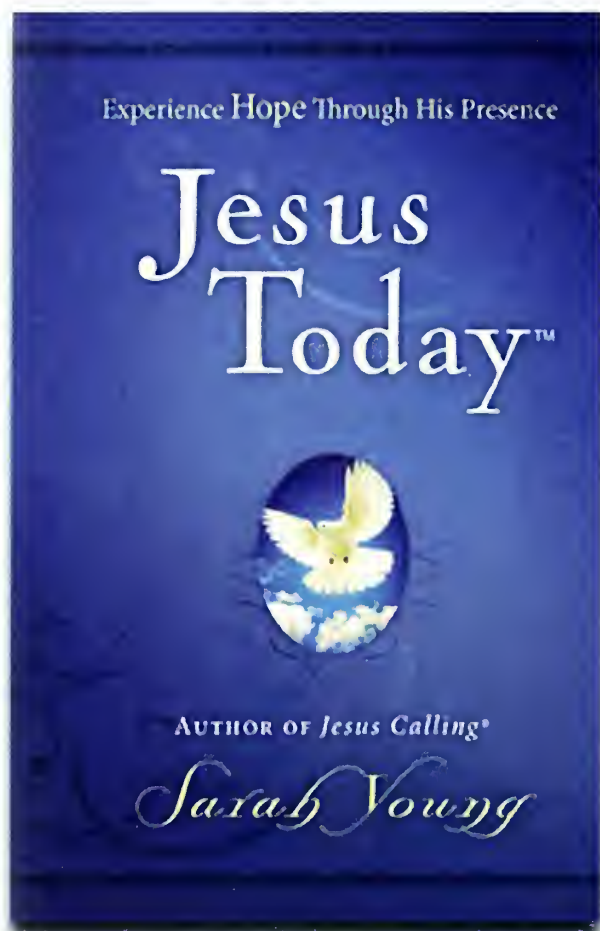
CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!





Jesus Today

By Sarah Young

Beloved missionary, Sarah Young, shares another deeply spiritual devotional to help readers grow in grace, hear from God, and walk with *Jesus Today*[™].

Her first book, the acclaimed bestseller, *Jesus Calling*[®], was born after years of writing in her prayer journal and feeling led to write down what she believed God was telling her. Gradually, her prayer journal turned from a monologue to a dialogue. Knowing that her writings were not inspired as Scripture is, this process still helped her grow closer in her walk with God.

In *Jesus Today*[™], readers will be renewed with a deeper sense of hope as Sarah shares this about her spiritual journey in writing the book: "When I began writing *Jesus Today*, I was deeply discouraged by the failure of many months of intensive medical treatment to improve my health. However, the longer I worked on the book—focusing on finding hope in Jesus—the more hopeful and encouraged I became."

Hardcover

Retail \$15.99 • **ON SALE \$12.97**

For a Limited Time Only/While Supplies Last



THOMAS NELSON

We Inspire the World



CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!

Lesson *Inner View*

A deeper look inside this month's lessons from the OFWB Foundation Curriculum and commentaries based on the International Sunday School Lessons.



with Adrian Grubbs

The Sunday School lessons for October and November are from the Acts of the Apostles. The theme for this month asks the question, “Who Understands Faith?” As you study do not forget that the overall theme for the quarter is “A Living Faith.” Faith begins in a relationship. A healthy marriage is a good example. A couple meets; they become interested in each other; they spend time together getting to know each other (personal characteristics of honesty, integrity, and dependability; how each thinks, what each considers important, what each likes and dislikes, etc.). As the relationship grows they learn to trust each other and decide to make a marriage commitment. There is no jealousy or fear because they have faith in each other. When we learn that God is our Creator and that He loves us, we seek a relationship with Him through Christ Jesus. As we get to know Him we learn to trust Him, and we commit our lives to Him. Because of our relationship with Him, we have faith in Him; we have assurance that He will not forsake us, and we trust Him in life, in death, and beyond. However, our faith is sure to be tested. As in marriage, we will be tempted to break our vows and go

astray. Faith is a living experience, with daily challenges and growth.

The Book of Acts tells the story of how the Gospel was spread by the early followers of Jesus in Jerusalem, into the surrounding territory of Judea, to Samaria (the country that Jews avoided), and to all the world (as Jesus had ordered in Acts 1:8). Our lessons for October concern two of those evangelists, Stephen and Philip. These two were among “the seven” chosen by the church to minister to the Greek-Christian widows who had been neglected.

In Acts 6:5 and 6:8 Stephen is described as being “full of faith.” Consequently, a controversy arose in the Synagogue of Libertines [or Freedmen] over Stephen’s teachings about Jesus. This synagogue was made up of Jews from North Africa, Egypt, and Asia Minor who had been Roman slaves. (The Romans enslaved people to serve as tutors, bookkeepers, valets, and household managers, as well as menial servants; so the men of this synagogue had not necessarily been mere field-hands.) Because of the disputes, Stephen was taken before the Sanhedrin Council. Instead of defending himself, he testified to them about Jesus. During his presentation they

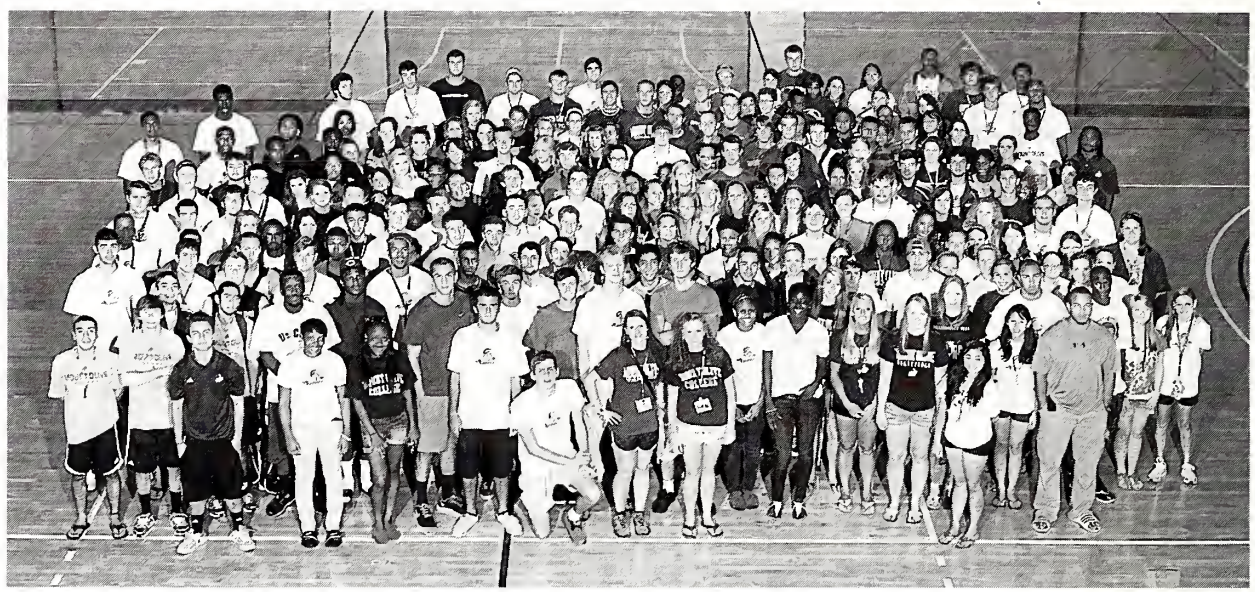
observed that his face was like the “face of an angel” (6:15). Those who translated the Bible into English for some unknown reason chose to transliterate the Greek word “angelos” instead of translating it. “Angelos” means “messenger,” one who is sent to post or announce an official proclamation. So if we translate the Greek word, Stephen’s face looked to them like the “face of a messenger.” In other words, as he spoke to the council his face reflected conviction, enthusiasm, and determination. Such was his faith! Then as Stephen was being executed for his faith, we are introduced to a man named Saul, who will become better known as Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles.

The stoning of Stephen started a Jewish persecution of Jesus’ followers, and they were forced to flee from Jerusalem. Wherever they went, they spread the Good News of Jesus. Philip proclaimed the Gospel in Samaria, where no good Jew would ever set foot. And because of Philip the Gospel traveled to Ethiopia. The Book of Acts does not say that Philip was full of faith, but his actions show that he definitely was.

Do you think that Stephen and Philip understood faith?



H. Adrian Grubbs, Jr., was born in Dade City, Florida, to the Rev. Herman A. and Lillian Kinard Grubbs. The family moved to Mount Olive, NC, in 1959. Adrian was ordained in the Eastern Conference in 1963 and has served eight churches. After a 30-year pastorate at Deep Run OFWB Church he retired in 2007 because of vocal problems. Grubbs has served the denomination as President of the Sunday School Convention, Moderator of the Eastern Conference, member of the Eastern Conference Ministerial Examining Board, and is currently on the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees. Adrian and Jo Ann have one son, two daughters, and six grandchildren.



Freshmen Light the Candle of Learning at MOC Convocation

Mount Olive College held its opening Convocation Ceremony to welcome the Class of 2016 on Saturday evening, August 11. Mount Olive Mayor Ray McDonald Sr. warmly greeted the freshman class, assuring the newest students of Mount Olive College that they were an exceptional part of the town. “Today is a rare, special occasion for each one of you—one that you will remember forever. It is an honor for me to be surrounded by so many special people, especially young people, and to be blessed in the fellowship of this special occasion.”

Dr. David Dommer, assistant professor of biology, welcomed the new student body on behalf of the faculty. “The faculty and administration of this College have a singular mission, and our singular mission is all of you. Our measure of success is your success. Our measure of accomplishment is your accomplishment. What we are here to do is to help you.” Mariana Gattegno, a senior biology major with a minor in chemistry, brought greetings from the entire student body. “I just really want to encourage you to get involved and to make new friends. Step out of the small group you’re in. Everyone here is so friendly, including all of your peer mentors and your resident assistants.”

Free Spirit, a contemporary Christian group made up of Mount Olive College students, gave a small performance, before Dr. Philip P. Kerstetter, president, gave the Convocation address. “This is the beginning of yet another academic year in the history of Mount Olive College. For new faculty, staff, and students, this will be your beginning at Mount Olive. It will be your chance to commit yourself to achieving the most from this incredible opportunity. For returning staff and students and faculty, this too will be another opportunity to both

rededicate and recommit yourselves to achieving the ideals of your profession and for fulfilling the mission of Mount Olive College. Therefore, it is an exciting time for each and every one of us.”

The Convocation was followed by a candle lighting ceremony at the Alumni Crosswalk. “To the newest members of our College family, the lighting of the candles represents the light of learning, the sharing of our Christian values, and the need for us to be living by our College Covenant,” Kerstetter said. “It also represents your connection with your fellow students, both past and present, and our connection to you.”

Following the lighting of the candles, those in attendance sang the Mount Olive College *Alma Mater*.

Kerstetter told students he wanted them to remember the evening because it marks the beginning of their time at Mount Olive College. “Four years from now, you will march in your academic robes to your graduation through the Alumni Crosswalk. In this fashion, your education journey at Mount Olive College begins here, and will end here.”

To the newest members of our College family, the lighting of the candles represents the light of learning, the sharing of our Christian values, and the need for us to be living by our College Covenant. It also represents your connection with your fellow students, both past and present, and our connection to you.

— Dr. Philip P. Kerstetter, President —

Educational Opportunities at MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Apply now for fall 2013: High school seniors—Mount Olive College invites you to complete your college application now. Apply online at <www.moc.edu>. Applications for spring 2013 are also being accepted at this time. College transfer applications are also being accepted. Call (800) 653-0854 if you have questions.

County College Fairs: MOC representatives will be in your neighborhood this fall! Admissions personnel will be traveling to meet with high school students at County College Fairs. To find out when we will be at your high school or county college fair, contact us at <admissions@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854. You can ask questions about admissions, scholarships, academic and athletic programs at these fairs. Contact Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions, for more information at <twoard@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854.

Take the Test: Many students are getting ready to take the ACT or the SAT at this time in their high school careers. Mount Olive College requires the SAT or ACT from all applicants who are under 21 years of age. We accept either test, and we look for the highest score, or combination of scores, regardless of how many times a student takes the test/s. See your high school guidance counselor or contact us at <admissions@moc.edu> for a schedule of test dates.

Visitation Day at MOC: Make plans now to attend Visitation Day at MOC on November 11, 2012, 8:30 A.M. in the Murphy Regional Center. Contact <admissions@moc.edu> or call (800) 653-0854 to make your reservations. Parents and family members are invited too.

Gloriana and Casey James Concert: Mount Olive College announces a fabulous Fall Fest concert for students and the MOC community Thursday, October 12, 7 P.M., at Kornegay Arena. Make your ticket arrangements now: \$20 in advance; \$30 at the door. Find out more at <www.moc.edu/fallfest>.

RN to BSN: Applications are being accepted for the RN to BSN program. The next session start will be spring 2013. To qualify for admission, students must be licensed RN's. To learn more about this program, contact Joy Kieffer, Nursing Program Coordinator, at <jkieffer@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854.

Teacher Education Programs with Licensure: Mount Olive College is now offering teacher education programs with licensure in the following areas: Early Childhood, Elementary Education, Physical Education, Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Music, and Agriculture. Contact Dr. Tommy Benson, education chair, at <tbenson@moc.edu> with questions.

Coaching Minor: Students who are interested in this program can contact Dr. Burt Lewis at <blewis@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854.

One-Night-a-Week Programs for Adults: One-night-a-week college programs for adults are available at Mount Olive Evening College, New Bern, Jacksonville, Washington, Wilmington, and Research Triangle Park. The tuition cost for these programs is offered at a reduced rate. Complete the free online application at <www.moc.edu>. Learn more about these programs by clicking on the location nearest your home or workplace. Multiple start dates are available each semester, so ask about these convenient programs and how you can complete your degree. Call 1-800-NEW GOAL. You will be connected to the location nearest your home. Financial aid is available.

2012 Mount Olive College Dinners

- **JONES COUNTY**

Monday, October 1, 7:00 P.M.; Pilgrim Home FWB Church; Gene Burkett, Chair; Goal: \$10,475

- **GREENE COUNTY**

Monday, October 8, 7:00 P.M.; Hull Road FWB Church; Genevieve Taylor and Randy Beaman, Co-Chairs; Goal: \$55,450

- **CRAVEN COUNTY**

Tuesday, October 9, 7:00 P.M.; Juniper Chapel FWB Church; Lynn Renfrow, Chair; Goal: \$27,125

- **BEAUFORT COUNTY**

Saturday, October 13, 6:30 P.M.; Southside High School; Billy Gurkin, Chair; Goal: \$10,175

- **NASH COUNTY**

Tuesday, October 16, 7:00 P.M.; Whitley Center, FWB Children's Home; John R. Manning, Chair; Goal: \$4,495

- **WASHINGTON, MARTIN, TYRRELL, AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES**

Thursday, October 18, 7:00 P.M.; Union Chapel FWB Church; Lloyd W. Jones, Jr., Chair; Goal: \$21,525

- **LENOIR COUNTY**

Saturday, October 20, 6:00 P.M.; La Grange FWB Church; Cleo Hinson, Chair; Goal: \$30,350

- **PAMLICO COUNTY**

Saturday, October 27, 6:00 P.M.; Mount Zion FWB Church; Ray Lewis, Chair; Goal: \$5,550

- **ONSLow-BRUNSWICK COUNTIES**

Sunday, October 28, 6:00 P.M.; Folkstone FWB Church; Crandall Fountain, Chair; Goal: \$4,600

- **WAYNE COUNTY**

Tuesday, October 30, 7:00 P.M.; Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, MOC; Barbara Lancaster, Chair; Goal: \$80,125

- **DUPLIN COUNTY**

Saturday, November 3, 6:00 P.M.; Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, MOC; Tommy Benson, Chair; Goal: \$21,275

- **JOHNSTON-WAKE COUNTIES**

Monday, November 5, 7:00 P.M.; Johnston County Agricultural Center; Howard F. Scott, Chair; Goal: \$56,300

- **CARTERET COUNTY**

Saturday, November 10, 6:00 P.M.; Sound View FWB Church; Ricky Benson and Edgar Pake, Co-Chairs; Goal: \$13,525

- **PITT COUNTY**

Monday, November 12, 7:00 P.M.; Elm Grove FWB Church; Jean M. Averette, Chair; Goal: \$38,675

- **WILSON COUNTY**

Tuesday, November 13, 7:00 P.M.; Daniels Chapel FWB Church; Johnny Sullivan, Chair; Goal: \$47,300

- **SAMPSON, HARNETT, AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES**

Thursday, November 15, 7:00 P.M.; Robert's Grove FWB Church; Ricky Warren, Chair; Goal: \$41,525

Coming Events

- **FallFest: Gloriana and Casey James**
October 12, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.
General Admission: \$20
George and Annie Dail Kornegay Arena
www.moc.edu/fallfest
- **MOC Symphonic Band Concert**
November 1, 2012 at 7:30 P.M.
Mount Olive Assembly Hall
Contact: Dr. William Ford, wford@moc.edu
or (919) 658-7818
- **Campus Visitation Day**
November 12, 2012
8:30 A.M. Registration
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
Contact: Admissions, (919) 658-2502
- **Founders Day**
November 13, 2012 at 11:00 A.M.
Rodgers Chapel
Contact: (919) 658-2502
- **16th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament**
November 16, 2012
Southern Wayne Country Club
12:00 P.M. shotgun start
Contact: Tim Woodard, (919) 658-7793
- **47th Annual Pickle Classic Tournament and Homecoming**
Friday and Saturday November 16-17, 2012
George and Annie Dail Kornegay Arena
Game times: 5:00 P.M. and 7:30 P.M.
Cost: Advance tickets \$15 for both days
or \$10 per day on game day
Contact: Tina Parks, (919) 658-7759
- **Christmas by Candlelight
Tree Lighting, Festivities, and Service**
November 27, 2012
Festivities: 5:00 P.M. MOC Campus
Concert: 7:30 P.M. at Mount Olive Assembly Hall
Contact: Chaplain Carla Williamson,
(919) 658-7749 or cwilliamson@moc.edu

Interested in attending MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE?

The Original Free Will Baptist Tuition Grant
can help you make that dream a reality!

Eligibility requirements include:

- full-time enrollment in the traditional program
- continuous membership at an OFWB church that supports the Convention of OFWB
- completion of FAFSA and OFWB application annually

The \$3,000 grant is renewable each year based on maintaining satisfactory academic progress and meeting all requirements.

Contact the Office of Admissions to learn more!

800-653-0854 • www.moc.edu

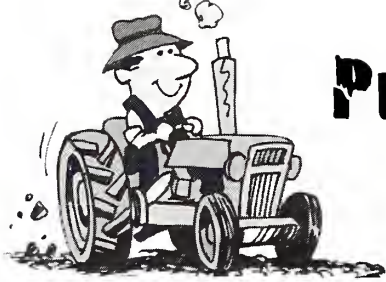


CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!



Pullin' for Sunday School

2 Day Truck and Tractor Pull

Friday, November 2, 2012 @ 7 P.M. (Mini-Tractors)
Saturday, November 3, 2012 @ 12 NOON (Trucks and Tractors)

**Sponsored by: Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry
Bethel OFWB Church Men's Fellowship**

Four Oaks Pulling Track (I-95 EXIT 87) • 659 Tetersville Road, Four Oaks, NC 27524

Cost: 13 & up—\$7 5-12—\$3 Under 5—Free

Sponsorship, Advertisement, and Application Form

The Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry is joining with Bethel OFWB Men's Fellowship and Bethel OFWB Church to sponsor a Truck/Tractor Pull to raise funds for the Outreach efforts of the Sunday School Ministry which include the LIFE Mobile Ministry, Camp Scholarships and Retreats for all ages.

Your church, auxiliary group, organization or individuals are invited and encouraged to support this event with your attendance and by purchasing a sponsorship ad. Business card size: \$25, Half page: \$50, Full page: \$100, and Back cover: \$200.

Submit your business card, ad copy for scanning or we will design your ad. Please make checks payable to OFWB Sunday School Ministry.

Mail payment to: Mary Dudley, P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

Deadline for ads is October 8, 2012.

For information, contact Mary Dudley at (252) 559-3327 or (252) 746-4963
or Jim Best at (919) 796-2775.

P.S. Concessions, Donations, and Manpower are always needed (Call us).

Sponsorship Information

Name of Business or Individual _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Business) _____ (Cell) _____

Ad Size (Check One): _____ Business Card: \$25 _____ Half Page: \$50

_____ Full Page: \$100 _____ Back Cover of Promotion Book: \$200

(Please attach business card of information as you wish it to be printed
along with your check payable to OFWB Sunday School Ministry.)

JOIN US FOR SOME FAMILY TIME AND FUN!



Pullin' for Sunday School

A 2-Day Event

SPONSORED BY:

Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry
Bethel OFWB Church Men's Fellowship

WHEN:

(Mini-Tractors)

Friday, November 2, 2012
7:00 P.M.—10:00 P.M.

(Trucks and Tractors)

Saturday, November 3, 2012
12:00 NOON—6:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

Four Oaks Pulling Track (I-95 Exit 87)
659 Tetersville Road, Four Oaks, NC 27524

COST:

13 and up: \$7 • 5–12 Years: \$3 • Under 5: Free

Proceeds will go toward the OFWB Sunday School Ministry's Outreach efforts that include: the LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone) Mobile Ministry, Camp Scholarships for children in need, Retreats and others.

For information, contact Mary Dudley at (252) 559-3327 or (252) 746-4963
or Jim Best at (919) 796-2775.

COME JOIN US FOR SOME FAMILY TIME AND FUN!

No Profanity, No Drugs, No Alcohol



Raper Endowment Sees a Bright Future for Free Will Baptists

By The Reverend Ricky Warren

In general, it seems, people are not very optimists these days. According to a Rasmussen poll conducted in August 2012, “Nearly half of U.S. voters continue to feel the nation’s best days are already behind them.” Unfortunately, when people lack a positive outlook, a negative “self-fulfilling prophecy” often emerges.

A negative “self-fulfilling prophecy” works like this, if many people believe the economy is going to experience a downturn, to the point that they begin to overly restrict their spending, the result will be that the economy will falter.

In like manner, if young people believe there is no future in the church, then their resulting disengagement or departure will jeopardize the future of the church.

A recent report from the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life showed that “more than one-quarter of American adults (28%) have left the faith in which they were raised in favor of another religion—or no religion at all.” Fortunately there are good people working to change that trend by ensuring a bright future for Free Will Baptists with the help of the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries.

In July of 2011, Donnie Lassiter, Chairman of the Foundation’s Board of Directors,

announced the creation of the W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Endowment for Charitable and Educational Purposes. Each year the Foundation’s Board of Directors will declare a distribution from the endowment to be used to advance the work of Free Will Baptists now and in the future.

It is fitting that an endowment fund with such an optimistic purpose carries the name of the Raper family. They have deep roots in the Free Will Baptist Church and they have devoted their lives to the success of the church and her

people. Dr. Raper grew up at the Free Will Baptist Orphanage and began serving as an ordained minister in the denomination in 1946. Mrs. Raper grew up attending Friendship Free Will Baptist in Jones County and was very active there as a young adult. After they were married in 1951, Dr. and Mrs. Raper devoted their lives to building Mount Olive College, a ministry of Original Free Will Baptists, in service to

the people and the future of eastern North Carolina where the denomination’s churches are principally located.

After 50 years of service to Mount Olive College, Dr. and Mrs. Raper worked to establish the North Carolina Foundation for

If young people believe there is no future in the church, then their resulting disengagement or departure will jeopardize the future of the church.

Christian Ministries, which was founded in 2005. The Foundation is an affiliated ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, with the mission of communicating the Christian faith by serving as a medium for charitable and educational purposes. Thus far, 44 named endowments, totaling \$2.4 million, have been established through the Foundation to benefit a variety of ministries and charitable causes.

One way the Raper Endowment will be a great benefit to the future of Free Will Baptists is by advancing the education of Free Will Baptist ministers. Each minister pictured below has, at some point, been a recipient of a scholarship given through The Foundation. As of this fall, 35 different ministers will have received scholarship support towards their education totaling approximately \$130,000. Such investment in the future of Free Will Baptists helps to reverse the trend created by fear and pessimism.

Negative “self-fulfilling prophecies” do not have to become reality. There are many good Free Will Baptists

who, like the Rapers, know the importance of creating a positive and hopeful environment in which the future can take shape. In such settings, people begin to believe the future will be bright and in response they begin to think, work, and give toward that future. The result will be positive “self-fulfilling prophecy” in which Free Will Baptists grow and flourish as God intended.

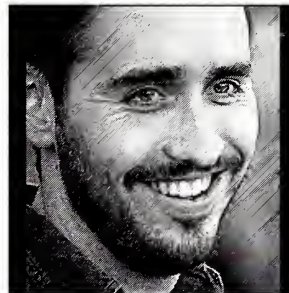
Those wishing to be a positive part of that future are invited to consider making a gift to the W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Endowment for Charitable and Educational Purposes or to any other endowment fund through the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 210, Mount Olive, NC 28365-0210. With gratitude for each gift given to the Raper Endowment, an acknowledgement card will be sent to the family. Because The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Christian charitable organization, all contributions to The Foundation are tax-deductible.



The Reverend
Fred Baker



The Reverend
Dustin Bannister



The Reverend
Marc Boswell



The Reverend
Calvin Heath



The Reverend
John Hill



The Reverend
Ronnie Hobgood



The Reverend
Ricky Warren



The Reverend
Brad Williamson

Psalms for the Soul

with Linda Herring

The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Psalm 26:2 says, "Examine me, O LORD..." Do you feel at times you are drifting off course? The story is told about a guy called Bill who telephoned his boss and said, "I believe you are looking for an experienced, talented, hard-working manager for your front office. I would like to apply for the job." The boss replied, "We already have someone in that slot and he is doing an excellent job. By the way, your voice sounds familiar. What's your name?" The guy replied, "It is me, Bill; I was just checking up on myself." You need to check up on yourself regularly. Hebrews 2:1 says, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them [drift]." That word drift should set off alarm bells. It does not happen overnight, but slowly you drift off course and end up in places you never thought you would be and places you may not be able to get back from. The Psalmist prayed, "Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide" (Psalm 26:1). Lord, test our motives and affections. Lord, cross-examine me. Do not let the stresses of the day steal our Psalm.



Linda Herring is married to Vernon Herring. They have two children, Amy and Vernon and three grandchildren, Jenna, Jared, and Noah. Linda is an active member of the White Oak Grove OFWB Church in LaGrange, NC. Linda leads a Bible study group, Circle of Friends. She has been a drama director of two dramas that she wrote. They Called His Name Jesus and The Book of Ruth. She is a resource for the OFWB Woman's Auxiliary. Her outreach ministry includes this column in TFWB, a radio broadcast by the same name (aired on WAGO 88.7 FM), and a weekly devotional article for the La Grange Weekly Gazette and The Sampson Weekly. She also has a devotion book printed by the Mount Olive College Press.



Printing is our Passion!

BOOKS • BROCHURES • NEWSLETTERS
BUSINESS CARDS • STATIONERY • BUSINESS FORMS
PEW CARDS • OFFERING ENVELOPES • TRACTS
CHURCH & WEDDING PROGRAMS AND MORE!

FULL SERVICE BULK PRINTING & MAILING

EVERY-DOOR-DIRECT FOR USPS

3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
252.746.9248 FAX
1.800.849.3927

JERRY GOFF, EXT. 226

WWW.FWBPRESS.COM

Woman's Auxiliary Convention of OFWB

Recognition of Individuals Choosing Christian Vocations

Nomination Form



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

In order to encourage and show appreciation for OFWB individuals who are choosing Christian vocations (full-time or bi-vocational), the Woman's Auxiliary Convention of OFWB will annually recognize all nominated individuals who meet the criteria. This recognition is designed for individuals of any age or gender entering a Christian vocation professionally rather than on a volunteer basis.

Christian vocations may include, but are not limited to:

- Camp ministry
- Youth ministry
- Chaplaincy
- Music ministry
- Senior adult ministry
- Deaf ministry
- Christian counseling
- Print media ministry
- Pastoral ministry
- Children's ministry
- Missions

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for recognition, individuals must: **a)** Have been in their Christian vocation for less than three full years, or within a year of graduation from an associate, bachelor, or master's level degree program in a Christian vocation field, **b)** Be a member of an OFWB congregation that supports the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, and **c)** Be employed or actively seeking employment in a Christian vocational field (full-time or bi-vocational).

Individuals of any age and gender who meet the criteria can be nominated by a member of a local OFWB Auxiliary. Completed applications must be received by the chair of the Christian Education Committee by January 1 of the award year.

Current Chair: **Dr. Deborah H. King**
 3707 Martha Lane North • Wilson, NC 27896 • dhking@nc.rr.com

PLEASE PRINT

Name of Woman's Auxiliary Member completing application: _____

Name of local auxiliary: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Name of Nominee: _____

Street: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____

OFWB Church Membership: _____

Christian Vocation Employer (if Applicable): _____

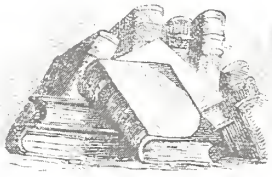
Undergraduate Degree: Institution: _____

Major: _____ Year: _____

Graduate Degree: Institution: _____

Major: _____ Year: _____

Please attach a brief narrative (150 words or less) describing why the individual chose to enter a Christian Vocation.



Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

Commitments of Red Letter Christians

Tony Campolo, *Red Letter Christians*.

Ventura, California: Regal Publishers, 2008. 240 pages. ISBN 13-978-0-8307-4529-6.

Book reviews in this column are *not* meant to reflect any theological or political positions.

Tony Campolo

As the associate pastor of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church in West Philadelphia, Tony Campolo is interested in religious and social realities in modern America. His book, *Red Letter Christians*, highlights the vision of Jesus as printed in the red-letter Bible where the words of Jesus in the New Testament were printed in red letters. The idea of the Red Letter Christians came to Campolo from a Jewish country-western disc jockey in Nashville, Tennessee (21). Campolo explains: "By calling ourselves Red Letter Christians, we are alluding to those old versions of the Bible wherein the words of Jesus are printed in red. In adopting the name, we are saying that we are committed to living out the things that Jesus taught" (21-22).

What are some of the commitments of Red Letter Christians? Campolo emphasizes these in his book: (1) Red Letter Christians believe that the Kingdom of God of Jesus is a new world order based upon a transformed people whose love of God is reflected in love of man. (2) Red Letter Christians believe in protecting the environment and avoiding war. (3) Red Letter Christians believe in moral compassion in the federal budget. (4) Red Letter Christians believe in a political leadership with spiritual vision.

The Kingdom of God As a New World Order

When Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of God, what did he mean? Campolo believes Jesus saw a new kind of society where people were transformed by God and then created a transformed society, one where

houses, food, work, and health care would exist for all. God's presence revolutionizes society so that people seek to create a system that reveals "God's justice" (35). What Christians must confront is the need for Christian authority to face power.

Campolo notes that Max Weber in his book, *The Theory of Social And Economic Organization*, defined power as "the ability to coerce or to impose your will on others" (37) while Christian authority becomes "the legitimate right in the eyes of others to expect the proposals" (37-38) to be embraced. Campolo stresses: "It is important to stress that for Christians, authority comes from sacrificing to meet the needs of others" (38). Jesus refused to use power in his choices, resisting the temptation to turn stones into bread or to "amaze the masses by jumping from one of the high towers of the Temple on Mt. Zion" (39), or to establish a political power on earth. Instead, Jesus promoted "authority" through "sacrifice" (39). Authority comes from serving the "needs of others in sacrificial ways" (40). Mother Teresa understood this. The doctor Elias Santana understood this as he served the poor in the Dominican Republic.

Protecting the Environment and Avoiding War

Campolo sees the protection of the environment as part of loving God's presence on earth. God's mandate to us is to care for God's creation" (55). Decisions about the environment become part of political debate, with the politician often making "decisions with the next election in mind" (55) while the statesman makes

decisions "with the next generation in mind" (56). Environmental care includes protecting "the Amazon region of Brazil" (48), studying the "increase of carbon emissions" (48) and its effect upon climate, encouraging recycling, developing energy alternatives to "fossil fuels" (51), protecting jungle plants, and solving problems of nuclear waste.

Avoiding war also becomes a part of loving God's earth and God's people. A general in the British army in Iraq asked Campolo: "When will you Americans learn that your security is more dependent on the friends you make than in the armies that you deploy?" (63). War has negative effects, Campolo insists, from 300,000 Iraqi civilians dying to a cost of \$232,000 a minute in Iraq (62-63). The embargo against Saddam Hussein harmed children while the threat of the terrorists has not decreased but increased.

Today the heated arguments between Palestine and Israel and Iran are alarming. The Zionist movement saw the Holy Land as their home. "In 1947, Palestine was partitioned into Jewish, Arab, and international areas, with the latter including Jerusalem and Bethlehem" (72). In 1947, some 600,000 Jews lived in the Holy Land while 1.3 million Arabs also lived there (72). The Israelis accepted the 55 percent of the Holy Land assigned to them in 1947 and declared themselves in 1948 an independent nation of Israel. Some 600,000 Palestinian refugees fled villages to Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip (72). War broke out in 1957, called the Six Day War. Israeli armies won and occupied the

Golan Heights, Gaza, the Sinai, the West Bank, and Jerusalem—taking land from the Palestinians in the 1947 allotment. By November 2005, the Israelis began to build a wall to separate Palestinians in the West Bank from land claimed by the State of Israel (74).

Hostilities continue, each side with its own views. The descendants of Abraham were promised the Holy Land with the Arabs as descendants of Ishmael, son of Hagar, and the Jews as descendants of Isaac, son of Sarah. Important is a roadmap to peace.

Moral Compassion in the Federal Budget

Campolo believes that “budgets are moral documents” (151) because where the treasure is, there also is the heart. What should our elected officials do with our tax dollars? Campolo believes Christians should be concerned about the needs of others, about the supplemental food programs, about low-income home energy assistance, about the Head Start program, about public housing, about education funding, and about entitlements. The issue of the “common good” (157) should be a part of the federal budget discussion. These domestic issues must become more a part of the discussion as we examine the amount of money in the federal budget that is spent on the military. Campolo notes: “In 2007, the U.S. spent \$528.7 billion on its military, while China spent \$49.5 billion and Russia spent \$34.7 billion. Our military spending was 11 times that of China’s and almost 16 times that of Russia’s (161). Where is justice, kindness, and humility in this expenditure? What do our budget priorities say about us as a nation?”

The federal budget also suffers from the growth of debt. How much can the U.S. borrow from China? Campolo notes:

“Foreign investors are buying up our debts and mortgages at the rate of \$850 billion a year” (171) in 2007. Think of the debt a year since 2007. Is there a moral necessity to create a balanced federal budget? Is there wasteful spending in the federal budget? What can Christians do about this?

Campolo is in favor of a flat tax, because “with a flat tax, there would be no more loopholes or questionable deductions” (180). Campolo believes a flat tax “would provide so much more money for the federal treasury that it would then be possible for the government to spend much more to help the poor” (180). The flat tax would also allow for a downsizing of the Internal Revenue Service bureaucracy (180). Arianna Huffington is reported to have said: “I am looking for that person who has the poorest of the poor in mind when policies are developed” (181).

A Political Leadership with Spiritual Vision

The political leadership of the United States faces the problem of special-interest groups and campaign funding. Special-interest groups send their lobbyists to Congress and influence policies. Vice President Dick Cheney worked for Halliburton, the company that was given “contracts worth billions of dollars to assist in the rebuilding” (193) of Iraq. The Halliburton contracts were “given without competitive bids” (193).

Lobbyists also find ways to fill campaign coffers. Campolo would like to see limits spent on campaigns and a reduction in the time for political campaigns (199). Perhaps a “referendum” on “the ballot” (200) could call for new laws governing elections, the campaign financing, and the campaign time element. What would be best for the common good of Americans? How can there be a reduction in “the established, money-controlled election system” (201)?

What is needed in America is a political leader with vision, a statesman whose policies are for now and the next generation, a transformed person who seeks a world of peace and freedom from poverty. The leader would not lie (disinformation) but speak the truth of freedom. The vision of freedom becomes twofold: (1) “Freedom as liberation from forces that hinder us and others from becoming all God wills for each of us as part of the Kingdom” (206); (2) “Freedom to actualize his or her God-given potential and purpose in life” (206).

The leader of vision would embody the humility of Abraham Lincoln when he said of the Civil War: “My concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God’s side, for God is always right” (207).

The leader of vision needs to have a sense of “personal morality” (209) in avoiding “crony-ism, payoffs, and socially destructive partisanship” (209). The leader of vision must seek to do the common good. The British writer, Edmund Burke, warned: “All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing” (210). The leader of vision, in Campolo’s understanding, would examine trade rules, privacy issues, and social concerns with the common good in the forefront. Campolo refers to Philippians 2:12 which “reminds us to work out our salvation daily, with fear and trembling” (9222). In working out our salvation, Campolo turns to a new paradigm for learning—actions first influencing thinking. He notes: Praxis is the theory of learning that proposes that our actions condition our thinking every bit as much as our thinking influences our actions. It is the belief that intellectual reflection in the context of doing molds our consciousness” (217).



Pepper Worthington was born in Kinston, NC, and married an OFWB retired minister, Michael Gauker Warning, in 1996. The Rev. Warning served as pastor to Free Union OFWB at Sea Level, NC. She received her B.A. degree cum laude at Meredith College in 1965, her M.L.A. degree at Johns Hopkins University in 1969, and her Ph.D. with Phi Kappa Phi honors at the University of Maryland at College Park in 1976. She has been a professor of English at Mount Olive College since 1979. She is also currently the director of the Mount Olive College Press.

A *Sling* and a **STONE**

Significance in Christ as a Young Adult

with Marc Boswell

The Good Old Days

A beloved elderly saint from my home church was well known for saying, "I'll tell ya, the good old days weren't all that good." He would chuckle, shake his head, and go on to tell whoever was listening that he had no problem adjusting to some of the conveniences of modern technology, like air conditioning and indoor plumbing. He wasn't thoughtful before jumping on board a conversation that remembered fondly the "good old days," especially if those days were remembered as being necessarily easier or simpler times.

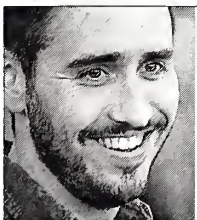
This gentleman's humorous and honest ability to tackle head-on the tendency of humans to view the past through rose-colored glasses always impressed me as a young adult. It made me feel that my generation (or "teenagers," or "young folks these days") weren't the sole source of either societal ills or decline in the church. More positively, it taught me that younger generations might just have something to offer and that some change isn't necessarily bad. He didn't have to come right out and say such things. Simply by challenging the logic that all things "modern" or new were to be shunned, he opened up a space for me to see both the past and the present as being a mixture of good and bad, progress and regress, virtue and vice.

The inclination of people to romanticize the past and tell about it in such a way that the bad parts are conveniently dressed up, ignored, or left out does no one any favors. Often, this cleaning up of the past seems harmless and innocent, but it can be, and many times is, dishonest, dangerous, and deceptive. It places a nearly impossible burden on the shoulders of young adults neither to accept the world they inherit nor to look for the presence of God's spirit in any of the cultural or societal goods that they encounter (and perhaps even enjoy). In other words, we're taught that it's our job to change the problems

of the present and get our society/church back to the pristine, cleaned-up, romanticized past of a former era. Likewise, we risk teaching our children and young adults how not to be in tune with the movement of God and the presence of Christ amongst us now, in our cultural setting, given the technologies and choices we have to face.

To state it differently, young adults don't live in Mayberry, and it should not be the responsibility of young adults to reconstruct Mayberry. We shouldn't be made to feel guilty or conflicted because we can't come up with solutions to teleport our society back to those days. This is where the wisdom of the elderly saint from my home church lingers in my mind. While "Mayberry" (I'm using the term metaphorically) seems like the "good old days," we have to ask how good they actually were. I'm not speaking so much about technological advances, but the conditions under which other human beings were made to live. Perhaps school children were able to be led in prayer by their teachers, but these same school children sat in racially segregated classes and school buildings. Perhaps crime rates were lower, but young adults could be murdered for simply being black and making a comment to a white woman (Emmett Till) or for trying to register African Americans to vote in the deep South.

The wisdom referred to above allows me to see both the desirable and the undesirable parts of our past with honesty, and it helps me to see both the desirable and undesirable parts of our present. Neither era is wholly good or wholly evil. And, most importantly, God was faithfully present in the world in "the good old days," and I have no doubt that God will continue to be faithfully present both today, tomorrow, and to the end of the age.



Marc Boswell is from Saratoga, NC, where he grew up as a member of Spring Branch OFWB Church. He is ordained in the Central Conference and currently lives in Richmond, VA, where he is working toward the completion of a Ph.D. in the fields of Theology and American Religious History at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary



All God's Children

SUBMITTED BY PAM BRAXTON

Children were the focus during August at Deep Run Church—our own children, children in our local community, and beyond. July 29 through August 1 the church's children flew through SKY Vacation Bible School. With appearances by aspiring pilot, Flash Skyrunner, the children and adults learned that everything is possible with God. No matter who you are, how you feel, what people do, what happens, or where you are, you can TRUST GOD! Rousing music accompanied by a band made up of church musicians, wild blue Bible adventures, and inspired leaders made this Bible school a great success. Numbers of children wanted to "do it again."

On August 7, a group from the church visited the Children's Home in Middlesex. Dianne Riley, Director of Church Ministries, took them on a campus tour, which included visits with children in several of the cottages. The church's Woman's Auxiliary has adopted a cottage per month for the second half of the year and during the visit the group delivered packages to the children in cottages chosen for July and August.

Also during August, the entire church collected school supplies for the schools in their area. On August 26, the church held a blessing of the backpacks for the children of the church and for the collected supplies. The deacons and pastor, the Rev. Josh Whitfield, delivered the supplies during the first weeks of school.



Young Missionaries

SUBMITTED BY KAY MANNING

On July 15, 2012, Kayla Pridgen, with her parents, Carl and Melinda Pridgen, and sister Starr, visited with Barnes Hill Church of Nashville, NC, where the Rev. Dick Singleton, Pastor of Barnes Hill Church, and John Manning, president of The Sunshine Club, presented Kayla, with a check in the amount of \$1,200.

Kayla Pridgen is the granddaughter of the Rev. Robert and Phyllis Langley currently of Okeechobee, Florida, and previous pastor of Barnes Hill Church. Robert and Phyllis are current members of Barnes Hill Church.

The Sunshine Club of Barnes Hill Church had a yard sale to help raise funds for Kayla. She is planning to go to Uganda, Africa as a missionary in August of 2012. To raise these funds, Barnes Hill had an adventure of a yard sale! Members donated items for the sale, and even a few non-members with wonderful hearts donated many items that sold well. It was hard work, but fun and for a worthy cause. This working together is what working for the Lord is all about.

The yard sale brought in \$741 and our giving members added to the total to make it an even \$1200.

Earlier this year, Barnes Hill Church also assisted another young missionary, Elizabeth Casey, daughter of Mac and Pam Casey of Rocky Mount, NC. Mac and Pam Casey are members of Barnes Hill Church. Elizabeth is currently a missionary in Kenya, Africa.

We love and wish both of these young people a safe and learning experience in their chosen way of serving the Lord.



On Sunday, July 15, 2012, 12 members of Saints Delight Church spent a wonderful afternoon in the bucolic setting of the FWB Children's Home. Dianne Riley provided a delightful tour.

Pictured from left to right are: Joe, Pat, Judy, Victor, Tammy, Greg, James, Walter, Winnie, Rebecca, Patricia, and Russ.

Life Membership Awarded

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE CUDDINGTON



The Woman's Auxiliary of Piney Grove Church of Kenly (Western District) presented the Life Membership Award on Sunday night, August 26, 2012, to Carol Tedder. Mrs. Tedder has been an active member of Piney Grove for 56 years. She served as a Sunday School teacher for more than 30 years and has been very active in the Woman's Auxiliary serving on the Benevolence Committee. Mrs. Tedder and her husband, Kenneth, reside in Lucama. She is the daughter of the late Naomi and Selby Vick, who were also dedicated members of Piney Grove. Auxiliary members spoke at the service of Mrs. Tedder's dedication as a Christian, daughter, wife, and mother. She was presented a Life Membership Certificate, the Woman's Auxiliary Pen, and the Life Membership Pen.



Riding for Jesus Event Held

The Riding for Jesus event was held on July 21 in Bladenboro and sponsored by Oak Grove Church.

Pastor Henry Ward thanked all of the neighboring churches that took part in the parade. About 80 participated. There were choirs singing and giving out Bibles.

Following the parade, there was fun, food, and fellowship at Oak Grove Church.

Pastor Buddy Seay, from Beaverdam Church, gave a wonderful message.

Ministers were Donnie Jernigan; Heath Conner; Pastors Henry Ward, Oak Grove; Jackie Strickland, Pine Level; James Howard Nobles, Mission Valley; Buddy Seay, Beavedam; J.L. Adams; and Freddie Edwards.



Homecoming at Christ Church

SUBMITTED BY ANN HILDRETH

The Rev. Eddie Hildreth officiated the morning worship service for Homecoming at Christ Church on Sunday, August 5. The title of his sermon was "The Rose of Sharon." The service was followed with a picnic style lunch with lots of fellowship. The following received Sunday School recognition pins for perfect attendance: Wayne Hicks (28 years), Curtis Stevens (37 years), Pat Hicks (22 years), Nancy Stevens (19 years), Janice Atkins (25 years), David Atkins (19 years), and Tim Stevens (1 year).

Did Your Relative Attend the FWB Seminary or Eureka College?

Most Free Will Baptists know that the denomination had two educational institutions that predated the founding of Mount Olive Junior College/Mount Olive College. The FWB Theological Seminary was chartered in 1896, opened in 1898, and closed in 1924. Eureka College was chartered in 1925 and opened in 1926. It closed in 1929 for financial reasons. Both institutions were in Ayden, NC.

The Free Will Baptist Historical Collection has several catalogs of the two schools, but their holdings are not complete. From the catalogs that are available, the list that follows are persons who attended one or both of the institutions. The staff of The Collection believes that other catalog years might be held by the families of these students. The Collection has catalogs for the years: Seminary: 1905, 1908-09, 1912-13;

1913-14; 1914-15; 1916-17; 1917-18. College: 1926-27; 19[27]-[28] (Both catalog covers bear same date of 1926-27, but they are for two different sessions).

If some of your relatives are listed as students, please see if you can locate any other catalogs which these students might have kept among family papers, etc. Please contact Gary Barefoot, Curator of the Collection, if you should find catalogs other than those listed (telephone: (919) 658-7827; e-mail: <gbarefoot@moc.edu>). Also, if you know that your relative attended either institution and their names are not listed, let that be known as well. The Collection is interested in compiling as complete a list of alumni as possible. As far as is known, there are no living alumni of either institution.

FWB Theological Seminary & Eureka College Students

(Names from available catalogs of both institutions: Part 4 of 4)

Name of Student	Hometown	Catalog Years	Name of Student	Hometown	Catalog Years
Smith, DeWitt	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917	Stokes, Mary Frances	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Smith, Esther Mae	Chicod, NC	1926-1928	Stokes, Owen	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915
Smith, Floyd	Ayden, NC	1905	Stokes, V. B.	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918
Smith, Harvey	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915	Strickland, Heber	Bell Arthur, NC	1926-1928
Smith, Huldah Marie	Chicod, NC	1926-1928	Strong, Ina	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Smith, Jasper	Ayden, NC	1905	Stroud, Lena	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Smith, Kirby	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913	Stroud, Lillian	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Smith, Leland L.	Wayne County, NC	1912-1913	Stroud, May	Lenoir County, NC	1912-1913
Smith, Larry W.	Ayden, NC	1905	Styron, J. C.	Carteret County, NC	1912-1913
Smith, Lester	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917	Styron, S. H.	Carteret County, NC	1914-1915
Smith, Marvin	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918	Suggs, Callie	Greene County, NC	1916-1917
Smith, Mildred	Ayden, NC	1926-1928	Sumner, Estelle	Bertie County, NC	1914-1915
Smith, Mrs. R. W.	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915	Sumrell, Annie Lee	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Smith, Ralph	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913	Sumrell, Bernadine	Ayden, NC	1905
Smith, Thelma	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915	Sumrell, Clarence	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Snead, Sanford	Johnston County, NC	1913-1914	Sumrell, Gay Nell	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Soften, Ruth	Lenoir County, NC	1913-1914	Sumrell, H. A.	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Spain, D. J.	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915	Sumrell, Howard	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Spencer, Tom	Pamlico County, NC	1916-1917	Sumrell, Jimmie	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Spruill, Ludia	Pamlico County, NC	1917-1918	Sumrell, Lottie	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Stancil, Minnie	Wilson/Johnston County, NC	1913-1914	Sumrell, Mittie	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Stephens, Roxie (Dead.)	Ayden, NC	1905	Sutton, Dorothy	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Stocks, Amos	Littlefield, NC	1905	Sutton, Eva	Ayden, NC	1905
Stocks, Harvy	Ayden, NC	1908-1909	Swain, Dallas	Jerry, NC	1905
Stocks, Howard	Ayden, NC	1908-1909	Swain, H. L.	Tyrrell County, NC	1912-1913
Stocks, Lawrence	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913	Swain, Julian	Tyrrell County, NC	1917-1918
Stocks, Mae	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914	Swain, Robert	Terrell County, NC	1912-1913
Stocks, Rosa	Littlefield, NC	1905	Swain, Wilbert	Tyrrell County, NC	1916-1917
Stocks, Sallie	Littlefield, NC	1905	Swain, Wilbert	Tyrrell County, NC	1917-1918
Stokes, Alma	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918	Talbot, Bertie	Munroe County, W. VA	1913-1914

Name of Student	Hometown	Catalog Years
Taylor, Alvah	Carteret County, NC	1912-1913
Taylor, Clyde	Lenoir County, NC	1913-1914
Taylor, Martha	Carteret County, NC	1912-1913
Taylor, Mrs. Paul	Pitt County, NC	1914 -1915
Tilghman, Lee	Ayden, NC	1905
Tingle, James	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917
Tripp, Beulah	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Tripp, Elias	Beaufort County, NC	1912-1913
Tripp, Hint	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917
Tripp, James	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Tripp, Jimmie	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918
Tripp, Lillian	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918
Tripp, Pearl	Ayden, NC	1905
Tripp, Robert E.	Beaufort County, NC	1916-1917
Tripp, Rubie	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Turnage, Athleen	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Turnage, Blancy	Ayden, NC	1905
Turnage, Henry	Ayden, NC	1905
Twiddy, Billie	Elizabeth City, NC	1926-1928
Twiford, Leo	Dare County, NC	1913-1914
Tyndall, C. A.	Speight's Bridge, NC	1905
Tyndall, Florence	Lenoir County, NC	1916-1917
Tyndall, Irving	Walstonburg, NC	1908-1909
Vandiford, Robert	Nashville, NC	1905
Vann, Bettie	Ayden, NC	1905
Vann, Bruce	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Vann, John	Ayden, NC	1905
Vann, Lewis	Ayden, NC	1905
Vause, George C.	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Vause, Julius	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Vause, Roxie Belle	Olanta, SC	1926-1928
Vause, Roxy	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Venters, Lester	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917
Venters, Lyman	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917
Vincent, Callie	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915
Wallace, Gertrude	Lenoir County, NC	1913-1914
Waller, Flora	Duplin County, NC	1916-1917
Waller, Flora	Duplin County, NC	1917-1918
Waller, H. S.	Duplin County, NC	1913-1914
Waller, S. J.	Duplin County, NC	1916-1917
Waller, Sadie	Lenoir County, NC	1912-1913
Warren, Gladys	Bruce, NC	1905
Warren, Mayme	Dunn, NC	1905
Waters, Vespta	Martin County, NC	1917-1918
Waters, W. F.	Tyrrell County, NC	1914-1915
Waters, Whitford F.	Pinetown, NC	1908-1909

Name of Student	Hometown	Catalog Years
Weatherington, Helen	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Weatherington, Walter	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Webb, Robert	Pitt County, NC	1912-1913
Webster, Henry	Beaufort County, NC	1916-1917
Weede, Mable	Plymouth, NC	1905
Weede, W. E.	Plymouth, NC	1905
Wellons, Fannie	Johnson County, NC	1917-1918
Wellons, Malissa	Micro, NC	1908-1909
Wells, A. A.	Johnson County, NC	1917-1918
Wells, Miss Cora	Duplin County, NC	1914-1915
West, Lou Belle	Dunn, NC	1926-1928
Wetherington, L. H.	Craven County, NC	1912-1913
Wharton, Charlotte	Pamlico County, NC	1917-1918
Wheeler, Redding	Speight's Bridge, NC	1908-1909
Wiggs, N. D.	Johnston County, NC	1913-1914
Williams, Alice	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Williams, D. R.	Lenoir County, NC	1912-1913
Williams, Ethel	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918
Williams, W. R.	Princeton, NC	1926-1928
Williams, William	Ayden, NC	1908-1909
Willis, J. W.	Carteret County, NC	1913-1914
Willoughby, Carrie	Bell Arthur, NC	1926-1928
Willoughby, Pearl	Pitt County, NC	1913-1914
Wilson, Herman	Pitt County, NC	1916-1917
Wilson, Katie	Pitt County, NC	1914-1915
Wilson, Mildred	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918
Windham, Andrew F.	Saratoga, NC	1905
Windham, Daniel A.	Saratoga, NC	1905
Windham, Ida	Saratoga, NC	1908-1909
Wingate, Joyner	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Woodard, J. Phillip	Columbia, NC	1908-1909
Woodard, Marcellus A.	Speight's Bridge, NC	1905
Woodard, Margaret	Pamlico County, NC	1917-1918
Woodard, S. N.	Tyrrell County, NC	1912-1913
Woodard, Wardie	Pamlico County, NC	1916-1917
Wooten, Ernest		1908-1909
Wooten, Herman	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Wooten, Inez	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Wooten, J. C.	Lenoir County, NC	1914-1915
Wooten, J. E.	Greene County, NC	1912-1913
Wooten, Robert	Green County, NC	1916-1917
Worthington, Franklin	Ayden, NC	1905
Worthington, H. T.	Ayden, NC	1926-1928
Worthington, Lucretia	Ayden, NC	1905
Wren, Roy	Pitt County, NC	1917-1918

HONEY-DO JOBS

Painting • 40 years experience • Carpentry • Rotten Wood Repair
 Power Washing • Gutter Cleaning • Restorations & Renovations • References are Available
 — FIX IT IF POSSIBLE —

Charles Petit

Home: (919) 553-5741; Cell: (919) 675-5896

2014 Penny Lane, Clayton, NC 27520

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU HAVE:

A new address, received damaged or duplicate copies, missed an issue, experienced any billing problems, or you want to renew or cancel a subscription. You may contact us by e-mail at: <amy@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (252) 746-6128 or (800) 849-3927.

Advertising Rates

- Black/White—1/8 page (business card size) . . . \$30
- Black/White—1/4 page \$40
- Black/White—1/2 page \$50
- Black/White—3/4 page \$60
- Black/White—Full page \$70
- Full Color Centerfold—Left Side \$175
- Full Color Centerfold—Right Side \$175
- Full Color Centerfold—Both Sides \$325
- Full Color Inside Front Cover—Full Page. . . . \$150
- Full Color Inside Back Cover—Full Page \$150
- Full Color Back Cover. \$200
- Churches & Ministry Positions \$20
(maximum of 4 lines)

Ad prices are for single/first runs. There is a 25% discount on each additional run of same ad.

The printing of ads is contingent on the availability of space and we reserve the right to condense ad space as necessary. You will be charged only for the actual size used.

We reserve the right to refuse any material that is not consistent with our principles and practices as a Christian company and as a ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

These advertising rates are for, and advertising is permitted by, OFWB churches and auxiliary organizations, as well as qualified business organizations. These charges apply to any announcements, coming event listings, invitations, and registration forms. If you have any questions, contact the editor by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227. **There is no charge for feature article submissions from OFWB churches/members or news releases of recent OFWB church happenings.**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE INFORMATION

The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) **When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before.**

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Articles sent for publication should be sent in Microsoft Word or Macintosh Pages. Files sent in Microsoft Publisher, .PDF, or others cannot be used.

PHOTO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Your digital photos are more likely to be included in the publication if the following guidelines are followed:

1. Set digital cameras at the highest resolution possible. We realize that it takes longer to e-mail larger files, but print requires a higher resolution than the web.
2. When e-mailing photos, please send them one photo at a time. This ensures that there will not be any file compression and your photo will e-mail at the largest size. Please do not send photographs within the body of the article. Each photo should be sent in a separate e-mail in JPEG format. If there is more than one picture, note 1 of ?, 2 of ?, etc. in the subject line.
3. Large group photos typically do not work well. If taking photos of a group activity, submit several photos of individuals or small groups, and we'll select the ones to print.
4. Get in close—we like to see smiling faces. Only photographs that are close to the subject matter and are in focus reproduce well.
5. If possible, please include the names of all the people in each photo. Identify from left to right and from front to back.
6. Non-digital photos can be sent to our office. However, pictures will not be returned unless there is an appropriate self-addressed stamped envelope included!

ADVERTISING SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Ad materials should be sent in Microsoft Word or Macintosh Pages. Files sent in Microsoft Publisher, .PDF, or others cannot be used. Camera-ready artwork is generally not accepted. However, with prior approval, we will accept files in Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator (currently Adobe Creative Suite 3 or earlier).

You may submit items in any of the following ways:

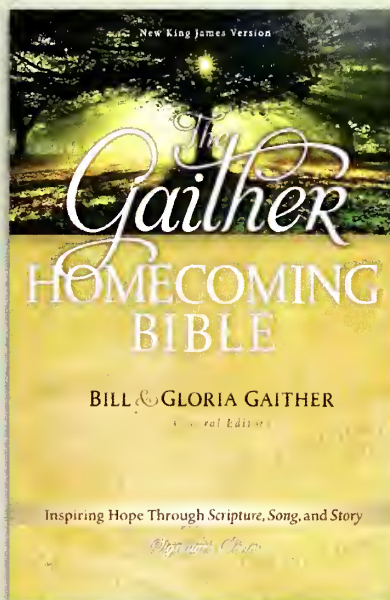
- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
P. O. Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513.



The Gaither HOMECOMING BIBLE

*Continuing the Gaither Legacy of Hope
through Scripture, Song, and Story*

Original poetry and insights from Bill and Gloria Gaither and exclusive devotional from 60 Homecoming artists, including The Hoppers, The Isaacs, The Booth Brothers, Mark Lowry, Ernie Hasse.



The Gaither Homecoming Bible will make the Bible come alive for those seeking truth in the twenty-first century, even for those who think they already know it. For years, Bill and Gloria Gaither have reached millions of people across generations with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Their music of joy, thanksgiving, and praise ushers people into the presence of God so that He can do His wondrous work in their lives. This Bible features inspirational and insightful Scripture devotions by the Gaithers and other favorite Homecoming artists; articles on beloved hymns, gospel songs, and Gaither classics and the inspiration behind them; original poetry by Gloria Gaither to enlighten and inspire; and quotes by greats of the faith, reflecting on the importance of music in the life of believers. This beautiful Bible features the New King James Version® (NKJV) and is one that readers will treasure for years to come.

Also Available

Leathersoft Dark Brown
Retail \$74.99 • ON SALE \$59.97

Leathersoft Dark Brown, Indexed
Retail \$84.99 • ON SALE \$69.97

Leathersoft Burgundy
Retail \$74.99 • ON SALE \$59.97

Leathersoft Burgundy, Indexed
Retail \$84.99 • ON SALE \$69.97

Bonded Leather Black
Retail \$74.99 • ON SALE \$59.97

Bonded Leather Black, Indexed
Retail \$84.99 • ON SALE \$69.97

Hardcover

Retail \$44.99 • ON SALE \$34.97

*For a Limited Time Only
While Supplies Last*



THOMAS NELSON
We Inspire the World



CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!



NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

A Foundation for the Future of Original Free Will Baptists



Helping Good People Do Good Things

A Vision for those preparing for Christian vocatio
for Original Free Will Baptists through the

W. Burkette and Rose M. Rape Endowment for Educational and Charitable Purposes

For more information on the endowments, contact the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries.
Please see our section inside.

*Footprints convey that someone has gone before us,
Leaving us a marked way;
And remind us that we also can leave a marked way
For those who come after us.*



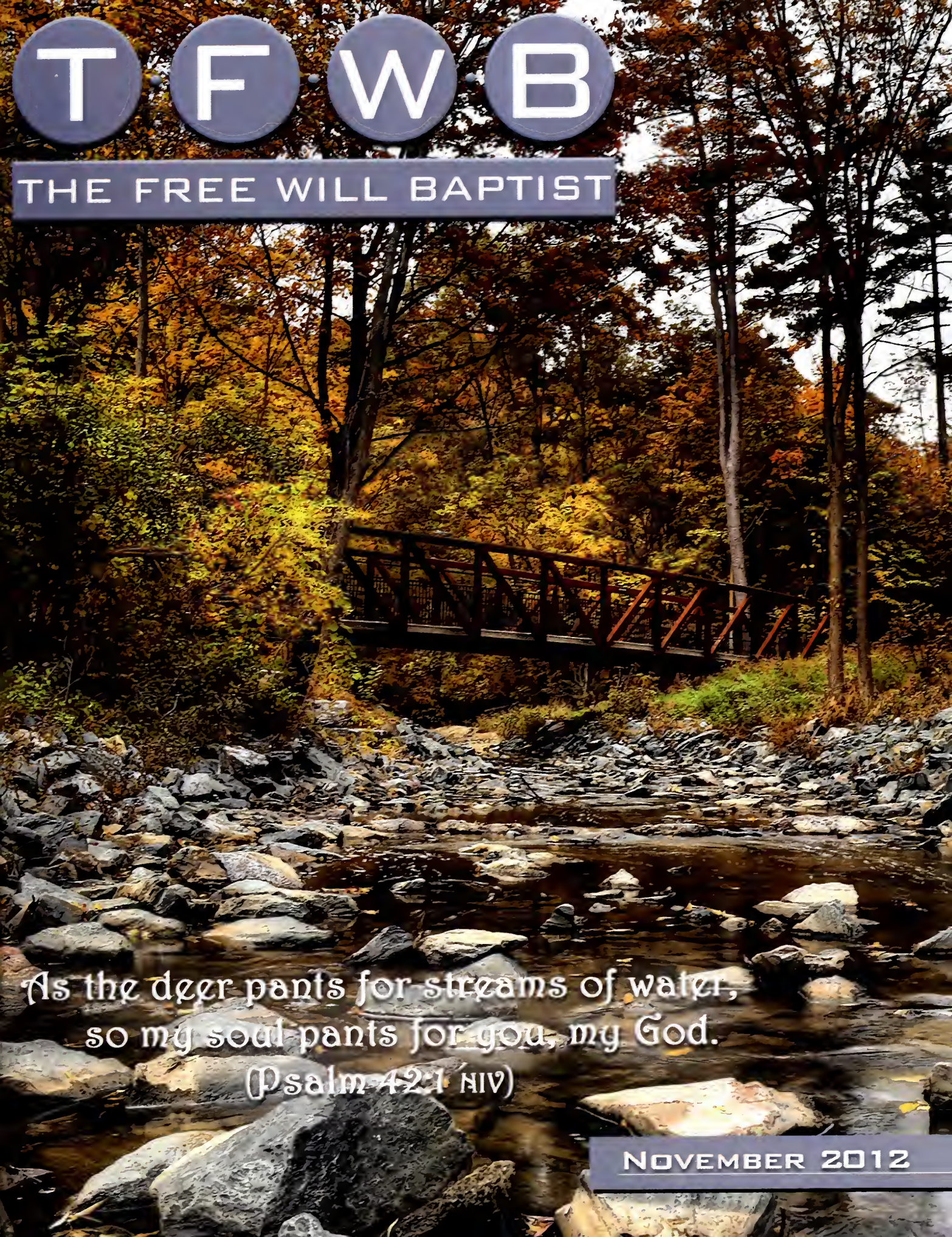
THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID 28513
USPS 2094-4000

DUKE UNIVERSITY
PERKINS LIBRARY
DURHAM, NC 27706

T F W B

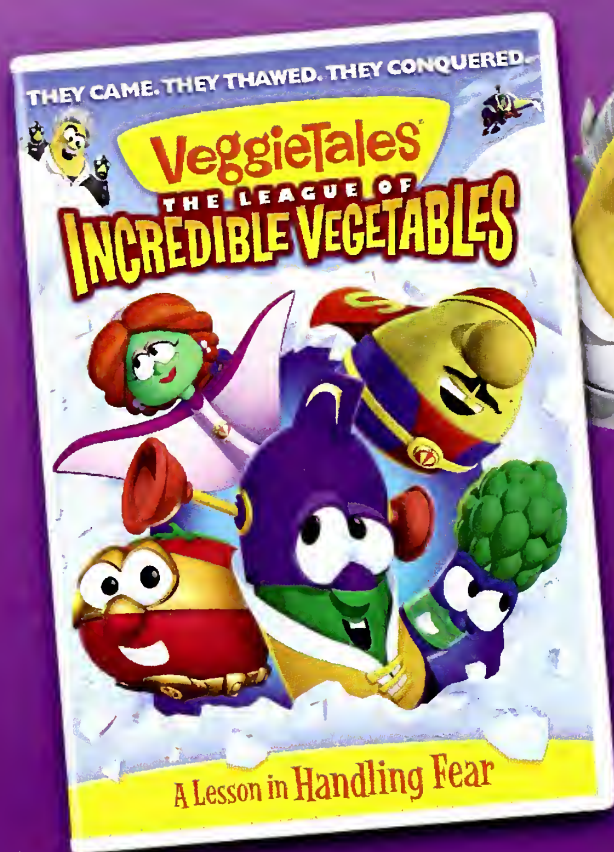
THE FREE WILL BAPTIST



As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.

(Psalm 42:1 NIV)

NOVEMBER 2012



**The League of
Incredible Vegetables
DVD**

Retail \$14.99
ON SALE \$11.97



Also Available:

- God's Super Hero Costume Set (sizes 2-4 & 4-6)
- League of Incredible Vegetables Character Play Set
- The LarryCopter • The LarryMobile • and More...

**Great for Christmas
Gift Giving!**



CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND 80JANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!

2012

November

Children's Home Month

The Original Free Will Baptist Monthly Planner

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 MOC Symphonic Band Concert Mount Olive Assembly Hall @ 7:30 P.M.	2	3
4 Daylight Saving Time Ends	5	6 Election Day	7	8	9	10
11 Veteran's Day	12 MOC Campus Visitation Day Lois K. Murphy Regional Center @ 8:30 A.M.	13 Founders Day Rodgers Chapel @ 11 A.M.	14	15	16 16 th Alumni Golf Tournament Southern Wayne Country Club @ 12 P.M.	17 47 th Pickle Classic Tournament and Homecoming Kornegay Arena 5 P.M. & 7:30 P.M. (Nov. 16-17)
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25	26	27 Christmas by Candlelight Tree Lighting MOC Campus @ 5 P.M.	28	29	30	

REFLECTIONS

A Guest Editorial

I Heard the Birds!

By The Reverend Mark Hobbs

The morning breeze kissed me as I stepped onto the porch and headed down the steps. My mission was one of love. I was to feed the mongrel cats my wife so dearly loves. Across the dew laden grass I trod. The white cat sprawled in front of me longing for a rub. The gray cat trotted toward the barn. Orange Man, a recent stray that shows up at feeding time, was perched on the maple log. Just across the fence in the pasture, I heard the bray of Old Earl, a donkey that likes to sing to his mate, Earleen. I really don't know their names; those are the names I declared must be theirs. Earl was braying and the cats stirred with more excitement the closer I got to the barn. I stopped in my tracks as I heard the rooster from across the woods announcing the sunrise. It was Sunday after all, and he must have stayed out late on Saturday night. It was about 8:00 A.M. and the sun had been up nearly two hours. Just as the rooster gave up on his morning announcement I heard a bob white singing. He was magnificent. A couple of doves joined in. Their cooing reminded me of the giant white doves I heard almost daily when I rode my bicycle or walked to work when I lived in Turkey. As I paused, I listened intently. I wanted to hear a whippoorwill. Occasionally, I can hear one singing at my house, mostly at night. I suppose I wanted to hear a whippoorwill because of what the whippoorwill singing calls to mind. Behind my father's house in the woods, they beckon. Hearing them always reminds me of being at my father's farm in the summertime when the garden was in full production and my father's tanned leathery

face and loving smile welcomed me home.

It was exactly six months ago today that my father died on a cold, windy, wintry afternoon; the day after Christmas. The earth glistened in a snowy white blanket. On this June morning, the day my three-week-old grandson was to be dedicated to the Lord during our morning church service, I suddenly felt chilled.

The cats encouraged me to continue to the barn to find the feed bucket; I longed to hear the divine music of the whippoorwill. I wanted to be mysteriously transported back to my childhood home surrounded by the parents of my youth. The doves kept singing, the cats continued meowing, and the donkey would occasionally lift up his head, look skyward, and bray. No whippoorwill called. I could not go home.

In an instant I felt the pain of loss and then I felt the excitement of joy. I was listening to an early morning symphony composed by God and orchestrated by His special musicians. They were telling me how beautiful the day was and how richly blessed my life has been. They reminded me of the changes that come in life and the words of a wise man, my father, who told me a few days before he died that, "Everything will be alright." As I continued to hear the choir from Heaven making its special music, I remembered the words of the psalmist, "This is the day which the Lord has made, [I] will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). I give thanks; I heard the birds!



Mark S. Hobbs, born to Shelton and Jane Hobbs of Smithfield NC, was nurtured in the Christian faith at Hopewell Church where he and Gracelyn married in 1980 and was ordained in November 1980 by the Cape Fear Conference. He graduated from Mount Olive College, Barton College, and Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest. After a five year pastorate at First Church, Rocky Mount, he served as an Air Force Chaplain for 20 years until retirement in 2006. He has served as pastor at Snow Hill Church and taught Air Force Junior ROTC at North Johnston High School since 2006. He serves on the Central Conference Ordaining Board, Chaplaincy Commission, and Free Will Baptist Press Board. His three children and two grandchildren are gifts from God.

Managing Editor
Darren Davenport
 editor@fwbpress.com

Production Manager
Jerry Goff
 jerry@fwbpress.com

Circulation, Accounts Receivable
Amy Stokes
 amy@fwbpress.com

Accounts Payable
Wallie Hargrove

Editorial Assistants
Dixie McLawhorn, Carlton Oakley

Graphic Designers
Jerry Goff, Amy Benson,
Nathaniel Ingram, Dixie McLawhorn

Production Team
Ronnie Jones, Ted Johnston,
Joshua Roundtree, Johnnie Stancill



www.fwbpress.com

President
Jeff Daughtry
 jeff@fwbpress.com

Vice President
Darren Davenport
 darrend@fwbpress.com

Board of Directors
 Frank Flowers (Chairman), Central
 Mike Scott (Vice Chairman), Eastern
 Royce Reynolds (Secretary), Albemarle
 Joe Ballance, Cape Fear • Kelley Smart, Central
 Nancy Hardee, Pee Dee • Mark Hobbs, Central
 Loydene Proctor, Western

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.

Subscription Prices: All subscriptions are payable in advance: 1 year (12 issues) \$18
 2 years (24 issues) \$32

A **Bundle Plan** (\$10 each) and an **Every-Family Plan** (\$14 each) is also available. Call or e-mail circulation or the editor for more details.

© 2012 *The Free Will Baptist* • All Rights Reserved.

The Free Will Baptist is edited and published monthly by the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc., 3928 Lee Street, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159. Second-class postage paid at Ayden, North Carolina (USPS 2094-4000).

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Free Will Baptist Press, P.O. Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513-0159.

FEATURES & COLUMNS

- 2** *Reflections: A Guest Editorial*
- 4** *Why I Am an Original Free Will Baptist*
- 15** *Pondering the Past with Celia Hales*
- 23** *Lesson Inner View with Adrian Grubbs*
- 31** *A Sling and a Stone with Marc Boswell*
- 32** *Psalms for the Soul with Linda Herring*
- 34** *Dr. Pepper's Book Corner*

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- 6** Children's Home
- 10** Minister's Program
- 12** Foreign Missions
- 16** Mount Olive College
- 24** Cragmont
- 25** Sunday School

ANCILLARY MINISTRIES

- 26** NC Foundation for Christian Ministries
- 28** Woman's Auxiliary

39 COMMUNITY CONNECTION

ON THE COVER

A beautiful representation of the fall season at Wilket Creek Park in Toronto, Canada.

Photography by Brian Ngo. Used with permission.

Why I Am an Original Free Will Baptist

By George Thomas

————— *A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches...* (Proverbs 22:1). —————

In the some over three years I have officially been an Original Free Will Baptist I have attended the State Conventions, Sunday School Institutes, fellowship meetings, annual conference meetings, lectures at Mount Olive College, and ministers organization meetings, as well as local church meetings. On several occasions invitations came and were graciously accepted to preach for pastors who had to be away from their church. As a result of this involvement, I have met at the very least a few hundred Free Will Baptists. Without exception the reception has been cordial and welcoming. Invariably, however, the reception has included an emphatic statement something to the effect of “I was born and raised an Original Free Will Baptist” or “I have been an Original Free Will Baptist all my life.” At the last Sunday School Institute, a friend introduced me to three members of one of the churches in the Western Conference. Immediately following an exchange of names, one announced “I have been a Free Will Baptist all my life. A second one in the group said, “Me to.” The third one started to pronounce his “Me to,” but cleared his throat and said, “Not me, I am not dead yet.” When it appears that a response is necessary, my most frequent response is “I was not born and raised an Original Free Will Baptist, I am an Original Free Will Baptist by choice.” In fact, I was an Original Free Will Baptist before I joined an Original Free Will Baptist Church; my membership did not come by birth, but by choice. It is a good and honorable thing to be able to say “I have been an Original Free Will Baptist all my life” as long as we consciously or unconsciously do not assign second class membership to the late comers.

A friend said recently that he was raised an Original Free Will Baptist, therefore believes what Original Free Will Baptist’s believe. My situation is quite different. My beliefs are not determined by my Original Free Will Baptist membership; rather, my Original Free Will Baptist membership is determined by what I believe. In our time together this morning, I am going to share with you a part of my testimony, the part that has to do with the reasons I am an Original Free Will Baptist and, encourage you to address this question personally in the days to come.

First, and foremost, I am a Christian, one who was saved, is being saved, and will be saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. There is no greater identity than that. The role of a denomination in the life of a Christian is to provide a means for serving the Lord more effectively. In responding to popular culture that encourages lack of commitment, avoiding personal and corporate responsibility, lack of discipline, and rejection of authority, many churches are calling themselves

non-denominational, a term that all but defies explanation. To denominate means to number, name, label or otherwise identify. Adding the word “non” in front then means to not number, name, label, or identify. In spite of what popular culture approves, names and labels, when accurately applied, are very useful. Let me illustrate: I have a pastor friend who frequently with great passion proclaimed from the pulpit that the name over the church door or on the sign in front of the church did not make any difference, and did not mean anything. After losing several families to the Jehovah’s Witnesses, he went to see one of the families and inquired as to why they joined the Jehovah’s Witnesses, and did they not realize they were a cult with seriously flawed doctrine. The response he received was: “You have been saying for years the name over the door does not make any difference.” A name, when accurately applied, matters.

Another case in point is a rapidly growing church a few miles northwest of here that has what I call a generic name; that is a name that could be applied just as easily to the local car wash or hardware store as to a church. Anyway, the ministerial staff conducted a survey of members to determine why they chose to attend this particular church. The members were asked to write three reasons on the survey form and return it. The top two reasons, by a wide margin, were: entertaining music and interesting programs. More revealing than what is on the list is what is not on the list. The message preached from the pulpit did not receive enough votes for honorable mention. Names, when accurately applied, matter. I do not know what some non-denominational or generic named churches stand for, but I know what Original Free Will Baptist stands for.

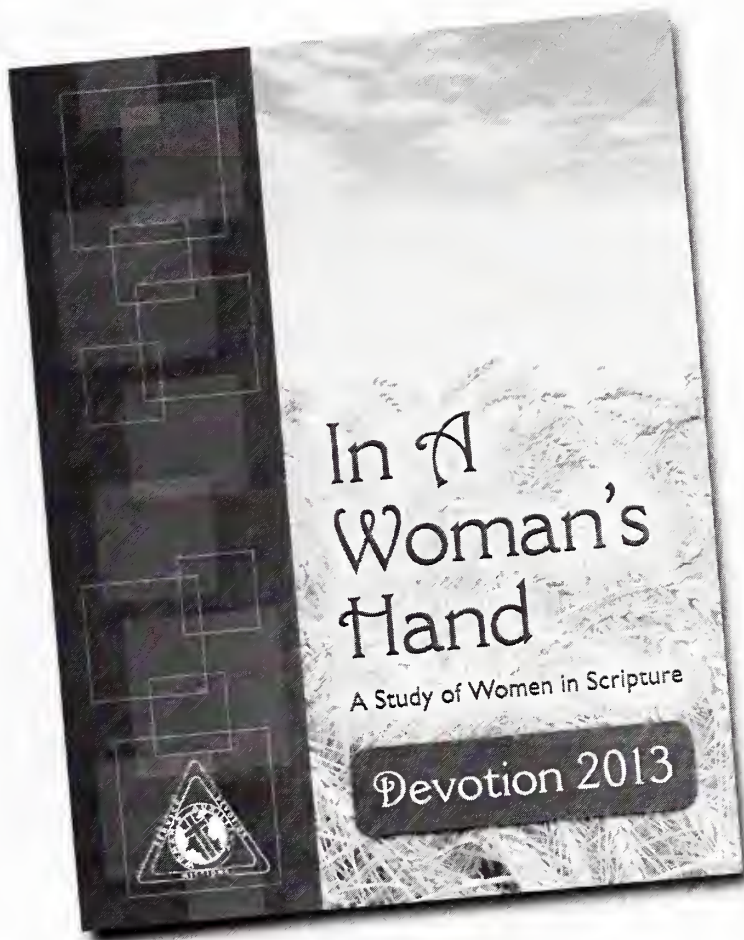
So, why am I an Original Free Will Baptist?

1. I am an Original Free Will Baptist because I know that Original Free Will Baptist doctrine is biblically based and sound.

There are two ways of formulating doctrine. One is to examine Scripture and formulate doctrine based upon what Scripture says and teaches. This is the most difficult way. It requires a lot of prayer for understanding, intensive study of the Bible, examination of the different literary forms found in the Bible, the role of oral tradition in preserving the story, a lot of prayer for understanding, a knowledge of the historical and cultural context of the time, as well as familiarity with the political and economic institutions. Oh, and did I say a lot of prayer for understanding?

article continued on page 14

Now Available



Devotion 2013:

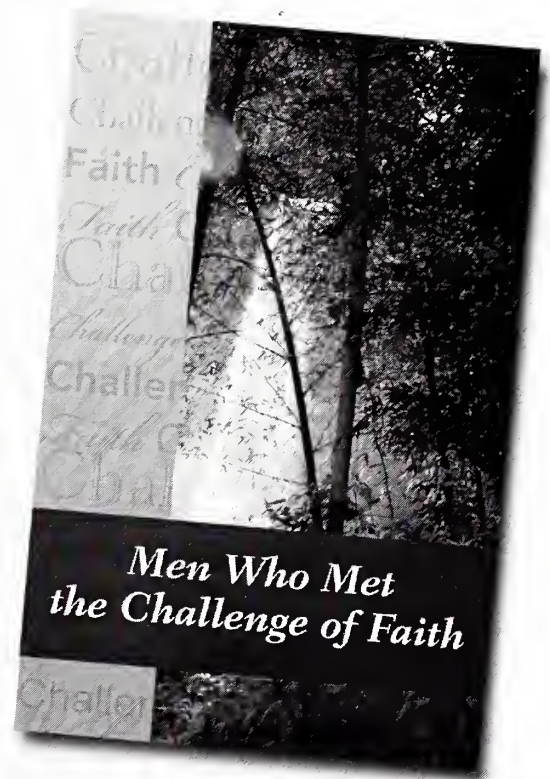
In A Woman's Hand
A Study of Women in Scripture

\$7.99 each

Men Who Met the Challenge of Faith

The New 2013 Layman's League Bible Study

\$6.99 each



CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!



CARE Model Training

As a childcare agency we strive to establish and implement practices that are in the best interest of the children we serve. We have chosen the CARE Model to help young people reach their full potential.

The purpose of implementing the CARE (Children and Residential Experiences) Model approach is to bring our agencies current practices closer to well-researched best practices in residential care and to help our agency achieve congruence between all levels of staff in order to improve how the Free Will Baptist Children's Home works as a whole. There are six basic principles of CARE, Developmentally Focused, Family Involvement, Relationship based,

Competence Centered, Trauma Informed, and Ecologically Oriented.

One of the core challenges for residential group care organizations is to achieve congruence throughout the agency in serving the best interest of the children who reside at The Home. There are always competing interests including resources, children's needs, staff needs, and placing agencies needs. Creating conditions for change is designed to support safe environments, strong programmatic elements and a wide variety of treatment programs and interventions that are trauma-sensitive and developmentally appropriate.

The Home has staff who are trained CARE facilitators who are responsible for initial training of new staff and ongoing support. Darla Raper, Case Manager, and Sandra Dedeaux, Children's Service Worker just completed instructing a class in early October. They are both committed to the Care Model principles, and Sandra had this to say, "I am glad to see staff using the CARE Model Principles and building relationships with the children."

Each employee is trained on the CARE Model principles and encouraged to demonstrate them in their daily activities. Providing a home in which children can thrive is dependent on the quality of the environment and the interactions among the adults and children who live, work, and play here.



Building Relationships

Campus Visitors

August and September were busy months with the start of school and new routines to settle in to. Many of our church friends came by to drop off school supplies, share meals, and bring other needed supplies. These expressions of kindness helped smooth out some of the “bumps in the road” for the children and staff during the back to school transition.

Prior to school starting back Victoria and Kayla Wilder, daughters of George Wilder and Valerie Worrell, had their mom bring them by The Home for a brief visit. Kayla, the youngest had decided she wanted to help provide supplies for the children at The Home. She collected useful items from home and then stopped by the store to purchase additional school supplies for The Home. It was such a blessing to hear the sincerity in Kayla’s voice as she explained her purpose for gathering the supplies. Thanks girls for helping us out.



Victoria and Cayla Wilder

Elizabeth Clark and children from Kinston Church visited The Home to bring a gift to help with school supplies for The Home. Instead of spending the money on “Book Bag Blessings” to fill their backpacks as they have done in the past, they decided to bring the money that would be used at their church to help fill the

backpacks for our children. They also toured the campus and met some of the children.

Barbara and Kim Brewer from Community Church of Weldon, NC along with friends Mack and Peaches Clippard visited The Home recently delivering four well filled backpacks for some of our new children who came after school began. These back packs were made possible through funds from the Vacation Bible School at their church.

Selma Church visited The Home to share a wonderful dinner of fried chicken and all the trimmings that the kids enjoy including mac & cheese, butterbeans, broccoli casserole, and red jello with strawberries to name just a few, plus homemade cakes, and sweet tea. YUM!

Members of the Layman’s League of New Sandy Hill Church, Bailey, shared a delicious meal of turkey barbecue, coleslaw, boiled potatoes, green beans, rolls, and several delicious desserts. Everyone enjoyed the meal and fellowship, and we can’t wait for them to come back again, especially with some of that homemade coconut cake and another huge banana pudding. YUM!

On behalf of the staff and children of the Free will Baptist Children’s Home, thanks for sharing.



Elizabeth Clark and children presenting check to Dianne Riley, Director of Campus Ministry.



Members of Community Church, Weldon



Members of Selma Church ready to serve



Members of New Sandy Hill Church, Bailey, Layman’s League sharing a meal with The Home.

Church Ministry

On September 26 the church ministry team sponsored "See you at the Pole" (SYATP). The staff and children gathered at the flagpole at 4 P.M. for a prayer service. The pastor gave a brief overview of the purpose and the history of SYATP. Opportunity was given for everyone to participate with responsive Scripture reading and an opportunity to pray.

Prayers were offered up for family, friends, personal needs, physical needs, relationships, teachers, principals, staff, residents, our country, our government, and other personal requests.

The Home's children and staff joining together for prayer with campus minister Richard Cuddington, at See You At the Pole.



Needs List

- Twin Size Comforters (bright colors, geometric shape designs, or solid)
- HD Cookware
- Blankets
- Bath Towels and Bath Cloths
- Alarm Clocks
- Umbrellas
- Food Storage Bags (gallon size)
- Luggage
- Hair Brushes (soft bristle) and Combs
- Craft Supplies (latch hook, paint sets, puzzles)
- Hard Plastic Drinking Glasses (16 ounce)



— Christmas Sponsorship —

In just a few short months we will celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. We call this time of year The Christmas Season, a time to remember the birth of Christ, a time of celebration with loved ones and friends, and a time of sharing gifts.

Many of our children cannot remember Christmas as a happy time or even remember a special Christmas gift. For them Christmas is just another day. Past Christmases have been filled with uncertainty, violence, abuse, and neglect. We strive to replace those memories of uncertainty with joyous ones, and help them experience the joy and excitement of the Christmas celebration My staff and I are very fortunate to be able to witness the joy of seeing so many children have the opportunity to receive the blessings of Christmas, Christmas joy for the first time. They receive presents, and experience the love of others, and we teach them the story of the Savior's birth.

Many of you were faithful in your giving to our Christmas Sponsorship program last year, and by doing so some children had their first joyous Christmas. I ask each of you to consider

helping our children have a wonderful 2012 Christmas by participating in our Sponsorship Program.

We begin our preparations early to make this a time that will be remembered...a time with presents for every boy and girl and a time for love and sharing so each child can remember their Christmas at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home and all of the love they were shown. We can't make these things happen without your help. You make Christmas a joyful experience for the children we serve by contributing \$100 for each child you would like to sponsor. Simply complete the sponsorship reservation form below and return it to us by December 3, 2012.

Please accept my wishes to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday season, and my sincere thanks for your help and continued partnership with this child care ministry.

Yours, For *His* Children,
Gary Lee, MBA
President/CEO



Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Inc. Christmas 2012 Sponsorship Reservation Form

Sponsor: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of Children We Would Like to Sponsor: _____

We Do Not Wish To Participate This Year: _____

REMARKS: _____



Empty Pockets, Full Heart Spreading Cheer at Christmas

Jimmy D. Brown of Manila, Arkansas relates this story of Christmas.

Jimmy and his parents, along with his little sister, were out shopping for decorations for their home. They exited their vehicle and, as they approached the entrance to the store, they heard the bell and saw the brightly colored Salvation Army man. Jimmy quickly asked his parents for some change to put into the collection bucket. They gave him 94 cents... three quarters, a dime, a nickel and four pennies, to be exact. He went to the collection container and dropped the dime, nickel and pennies in the container, **BUT HE HELD ONTO THE THREE QUARTERS**, thrusting them into his pockets.

His parents found out later about his deceit and were, needless to say, very disappointed. Disappointed to the point of being angry. He was punished and, I might add, learned his lesson. Through the remaining years of his childhood, Jimmy's parents gave him much change during the holidays to donate to the Salvation Army. Each time he would place the money into the container, and each time his parents would ask him, "Are your pockets empty?"

When I think of that account from long ago about a little boy bearing the name of Jimmy, I think about you and I today bearing the name of Christ.

As Christians, do we keep back part of our offerings? Not just in the monetary aspect of it, but what about in our time, talent, and service? Do we give all that we have in those areas? You see, in my life, if I am not careful, I sometimes find myself giving God the dimes, nickels and pennies of my life, while holding onto the quarters. If I am not careful, instead of giving all I can give of myself for the Lord, I find myself "keeping back part."

You know, that thought process applies to all areas of our lives. Prayer and Bible study...are we giving ourselves fully to it? Service...have we surrendered all? That special burden the Lord has laid on our hearts recently...have we kept any quarters? What about our faithfulness and commitment...is it given

in pennies and nickels?

Believer, Christ's call has always been to give it all. He wants us to hold nothing back, but rather to place it all in His container. He desires so greatly for you and me to give ourselves wholly and completely to Him.

This time of year reminds me of that story and it reminds me of THE story—that God held nothing back and gave His very best, His only Son. Shouldn't we give our very best to Him? And so, I'll leave you with this question for you to consider this Christmas...

...Are your pockets empty?

This story reminded me of those men who have served our churches over the years and have given unselfishly of themselves to the work of God's Kingdom here on Earth. In giving of themselves to the ministry of the Free Will Baptists they have emptied their pockets in terms of energy, effort, and devotion. They have given the full measure of themselves in service.

The Christmas season will soon be upon us and all over the world people will be celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. This is a special time of year and we all look forward to sharing time with family and friends. Part of our joy comes from giving and remembering others with gifts, cards, and the greetings of the season.

It always warms your heart to receive a card or greeting from friends that you have known through the years but no longer see on a regular basis. As time passes our lives change and we move from one place to another but it is always good to keep in touch with people we have known through the years to let them know that we have not forgotten them or the memories we share.

Remember Them!

Over time some the ministers who have faithfully served your church have changed pastorates and are no longer an active part of our church family. Many of

The Christmas season will soon be upon us and all over the world people will be celebrating the birth of the Christ Child.

these men continue to work hard in their capacities as pastors while others who, because of advancing years or disability, have retired from the pastoral ministry.

These are the men that preached the revivals, officiated at our marriage ceremonies, baptized our children, and conducted the funerals of our parents. Now many of them are unable to attend the Conference meetings or the Convention and we have lost touch with them.

Each year the Minister's Program acknowledges these men who have given so much to our people and churches during Operation Christmas Cheer. During this season the Minister's Program sends Christmas greetings to all ministers age 65 and over along with a monetary gift in the amount of \$150. While the Minister's Program sends the gift, we make it clear that it is the generosity of God's people that makes it possible. This program reaches over 100 ministers at a cost of over \$15,000 to the Minister's Program.

Who Makes this Possible?

You do! It is our churches and other organizations within the church that make this program a reality. However, last year approximately 30% 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.

What Can You Do?

This program is not self-funding and we depend on churches, Sunday School Classes, Auxiliaries, Layman's Leagues, individuals, and youth groups that take the time to ask members if this is the type of program that they would like to support. The generosity of Free Will Baptists is well documented and a small gift of \$150 can make the season a little brighter for those who have served.

Your gift helps make a difference during this season to men who have served over the years. Please contribute \$150 or more to help sponsor at least one of these men who have served so well. 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 during this special time of year to sponsor two or more ministers. 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



Printing is our Passion!

BOOKS • BROCHURES • NEWSLETTERS
BUSINESS CARDS • STATIONERY • BUSINESS FORMS
PEW CARDS • OFFERING ENVELOPES • TRACTS
CHURCH & WEDDING PROGRAMS AND MORE!

FULL SERVICE BULK PRINTING & MAILING

EVERY-DOOR-DIRECT FOR USPS

3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
252.746.9248 FAX
1.800.849.3927

JERRY GOFF, EXT. 226

WWW.FWBPRESS.COM



Because of Your Generous Support

BALCHICK, BULGARIA

BY TEZDJAN MURTAZOVA

September 9, 2012 was a grey and cloudy day. Visiting the families of disabled children that day, I plead to pray for the family of Silvia, from Bobovets, which is 20 kilometers from Balchik. She is a 12-year-old now, suffering from severe diabetes since five. As the oldest of three sisters, she takes care of the household after school. Her mother is mentally not stable and her father, Georgy, had a heart attack the morning I visited them.

I asked Gergina, the mother, "What is going on, why are you weeping?" She said, "My husband got ill this morning, my daughter brought him to the hospital with the donkey car and...he is so sick. We have not eaten yesterday and today. I have a debt to the shop, therefore the shopkeeper is no longer giving us food on credit. I send my three daughters to the trash place to check for some food, but the men there did not allow them to enter the garbage place saying 'the trash place is for our families, not yours.' They came home empty handed."

I assured her that God loves her, and after all the troubles this day He is going to bless them. She did not believe it at first, but later she praised the Lord and wept, this time out of thankfulness.



Silvia (second from left)



Their home is without water and electricity. They have no wood for the winter. Because of your generous support, I was able not only to help for the immediate needs, but encouraged them with the hope that God cares.

Please pray for this family, so that the Lord's eyes will be upon them, so that He will provide.

Let Your Light So Shine

SALTILLO, MEXICO

BY THE REV. ANTONIO ESCOBAR

The Cristo Viene (Christ Cometh) Free Will Baptist Church held Vacation Bible School to teach the children the great promises that the Lord has for all their lives. This was conducted by Wendy Rangel and San Juanita Tinal. During these days, there was sharing of the great love of God to more than 50 children. Many of these children were hearing the Gospel for the very first time. They come from families that are not Christian. This has been a great privilege for the church to touch their minds and hearts with the Living Word of our Lord. We are praying that these children will be the light that the Lord will use so that their families will come to know Christ as their Savior.

The ladies in charge of this department are doing a great work of follow-up, so that these children will keep



active in the church. We believe that if the children are evangelized and know Christ as their Savior, we will have better families and a healthy church. I give thanks to the Lord for using us to bless these children and their families. May we truly be that shining light!

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

Feeding Program

The Original Free Will Baptist International—Last Days Ministry

P4, TAMBO, ILIGAN CITY, PHILIPPINES

BY MARIDEL OMADLE

The Original Free Will Baptist Church—Last Days Ministry here in Iligan City was blessed to have a weekly feeding program with the children in the community. Thanks to the kind hearts of our sponsors. We cater to the 40 children (ages 2–11) in Barangay San Roque and 28 children (ages 2–11) in Barangay Sto. Rosario, Iligan City.

The program always starts with a singing of praise and worship songs followed by the Bible stories and memorizing of biblical verses. It was very fulfilling to see the young children responding to the spiritual activities. They were able to learn many biblical and moral lessons which they applied to their everyday lives. Aside from the feeding, we also distributed

school supplies to the school-aged children. These school materials help them as some of the children rarely afford to buy school supplies for themselves.

Then unfortunate incidents happened to us when typhoon Sendong hit our place. It was at this time that the program was temporarily withheld. Some of our children and their families were displaced including us. Until recently we resumed the program. As expected, the children and their parents were very happy to see us again. They were as enthusiastic as ever because they will learn many new things.

The program was spearheaded by Mrs. Maridel Omadle assisted by our able and very supported parents.



Vacation Bible School 2012

Villa Reyes OFWB Church

SAN NARCISO, QUEZON, PHILIPPINES

BY EMMANUEL ABANTO

“Train up the child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). This verse from the Bible penetrated the heart of Villa Reyes OFWB Church as they prepared to conduct their Vacation Bible School. Their theme was, “I Can Serve God.” The community, especially the parents, warmly accepted the event by allowing their children to be enrolled in the Vacation Bible School. In addition, the dwellers of the community believed that their children can acquire knowledge and a good attitude that can help them to be God fearing members of the family and the community as a whole. Thank God, because their expectations have been met through the help of Pastor Danilo B. Abanto and Sister Susan D. Basingil, and of course the teachers: Emmanuel C. Abanto (as principal), Edmar C. Abanto, Dearly Ann F. Abanto, Marlon C. Abanto, Venus C. Abanto, Rudelyn E. Puyos, John Paul E. Puyos, Jecel Calosor, who were devoted enough in nurturing the heart and mind of the children. The



Chairman of the village, Villa Reyes, San Narciso, Quezon, Hanson Blanca attended the graduation ceremony and gave the welcome address. He gave positive thoughts and commended our church for conducting such worthy activities. In addition, Pastor Danilo B. Abanto challenged everyone to serve God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength. There were 61 children and 17 youth who successfully finished the course and promised that they will enroll again next year. Praise God for His great provision and His faithfulness to those who are willing to do His will.

A second way is to begin with what one believes and then search the Scriptures for verses that support that belief. This is the easier way. It does not require the vigor of intensive study, but it can easily lead to seriously flawed or false doctrine giving rise to cults and false religions.

Original Free Will Baptist doctrine stated in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)* is clearly a reflection of what Scripture teaches on these subjects. The Scripture passages are provided. I encourage you to read, study, and analyze them for yourself utilizing the aids that are available and verify this for yourself. A name, when accurately applied, matters.

2. I am an Original Free Will Baptist because I believe that Original Free Will Baptist doctrine and ordinances are consistent with the belief and practices of the New Testament Church.

Our primary source for study of the New Testament Church is the Acts of the Apostles. Some information is provided in the Gospel according to Luke, but Acts is more thorough in telling the story of the beginning and early development of the Church. Study of this history of the early Church reveals a community of believers holding firmly to a shared faith, expressing themselves in community worship, breaking bread in remembrance of their Lord, washing each other's feet as a demonstration of their commitment to servanthood, baptizing new converts as a symbol of the forgiveness of their sins and the beginning of their new life in Christ, struggling in the face of strong opposition and, at times, persecution to hold firmly to the teachings of the apostles with respect to matters of faith and belief, and recognizing and confronting false teachers. Adherence to the doctrine and ordinances of the New Testament Church is an important part of what it means to be Original Free Will Baptist. A name, when accurately applied, matters.

3. I am an Original Free Will Baptist because I believe that the history and tradition of Original Free Will Baptists of the General Baptist Heritage is an honorable one and is based on an accurate understanding of history.

I will not take the time to review that history in detail, but refer you to *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*, by Dr.

Michael Pelt. The trials and tribulations of our Free Will Baptist forefathers as they held firm to their faith and biblically sound doctrine are well documented. Paul Palmer and others labored tirelessly to build a church in America that had as its primary objective proclaiming the gospel of salvation to all who would accept Jesus the Christ as their Lord and Savior, and to provide a means of discipleship and support through the forming of churches, associations, conferences, and the like.

The Free Will Baptist witness encountered great opposition from the Calvinists who insisted that Jesus died only for the elect, not for all that would believe and accept Him. Many churches were led astray by the false doctrine of the Calvinists. The ranks of Free Will Baptist churches and conferences were successfully raided by the Campbellites who chose to build their ranks by sowing seeds of disunity and raiding other organizations and churches for members. Through all of these great challenges, and many more, great men and women of faith held firmly to their biblically sound doctrine and kept alive the Free Will Baptist witness. We owe a great debt of gratitude to these champions of the faith. Ours is a goodly name. A name, when accurately applied, matters.

4. Why am I an Original Free Will Baptist?

In sum, first and foremost, I am a child of God who has been saved, is being saved, and will be saved by faith alone through grace alone. It is not by birth or family tradition that I am an Original Free Will Baptist—it is by choice. My beliefs were and are not determined by what I read and study in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists*, or by what I have been taught in an Original Free Will Baptist Church, I am an Original Free Will Baptist because Original Free Will Baptist doctrine and ordinances are consistent with what I believe. As stated earlier, from the standpoint of doctrine, I was an Original Free Will Baptist before becoming a member of an Original Free Will Baptist Church. I am an Original Free Will Baptist because ours is an honorable heritage that has weathered the storms of the adversary and kept the faith. What is your story? Why are you an Original Free Will Baptist? Your witness and your advocacy of the faith, at least in part, depends upon your answer.

Original Free Will Baptist is an honorable name. A name, when accurately applied, matters.

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches... (Proverbs 22:1).

Pondering the Past

with Celia Hales

A Songbird and the Sun (An Allegory)

Note: I wrote this fantasy when I worked as an editorial assistant at the Free Will Baptist Press, but it has never been published and I have now revised it a bit. A departure from my usual columns, I hope that you will find inspiration in this brief story about the Sun and the Son.

Once upon a time, there was a Mama bird and a Papa bird, and five little baby birds. God was good to this little family, although troubles not unlike human ones did beset these birds from time to time. The father bird was old and weak, and he could not completely carry his share of the family responsibilities. The mother bird tried valiantly to fill in, and she did so with great courage and no small amount of labor—labor that in turn weakened her also. One by one, the baby birds were encouraged to leave the nest; gently the Mama bird pushed them to the ground until of the five, only one was left. The Mama bird hesitated a moment, for he was a frail creature, smallest of her brood. So for a brief time, the littlest bird was left alone in the sunshine of the nest, alone to soak up the Sun's healing rays and to reflect with satisfaction on his protected state. But always there was the loneliness, the awful loneliness.

Finally the day arrived when the littlest bird could no longer be a part of this sheltered environment. He had grown up, and must, like all the others, find his way to the grassy plot below his nest. So the Mama bird pushed, and tumble down the littlest bird did.

The littlest bird shook himself a bit, and then he instinctively sought to flap his wings. He tried once, he tried twice. One wing moved well, but the other hurt dreadfully.

What could be done now? There was nothing that the mother bird could do; her days of help were ended. Alone on the ground, the same, familiar surge of loneliness crept upon the littlest bird. He would have cried, if birds could cry. With

nothing else to do, however, he look up and observed from new angle his one friend of all time, the Sun. He noticed the shadows that played along the grass as people walked by. A butterfly flitted in his view, and with a faint stirring in his heart, the littlest bird realized that the world was indeed a rather pretty place to make a home. Slowly at first, then more strongly, feeling rose up in the littlest bird's breast, and he felt like singing. The song was more exquisite for the suffering and the loneliness he had known. The song was a poem, a beautiful, lilting poem—for the littlest bird had acquired talents that his older brothers and sisters knew little of.

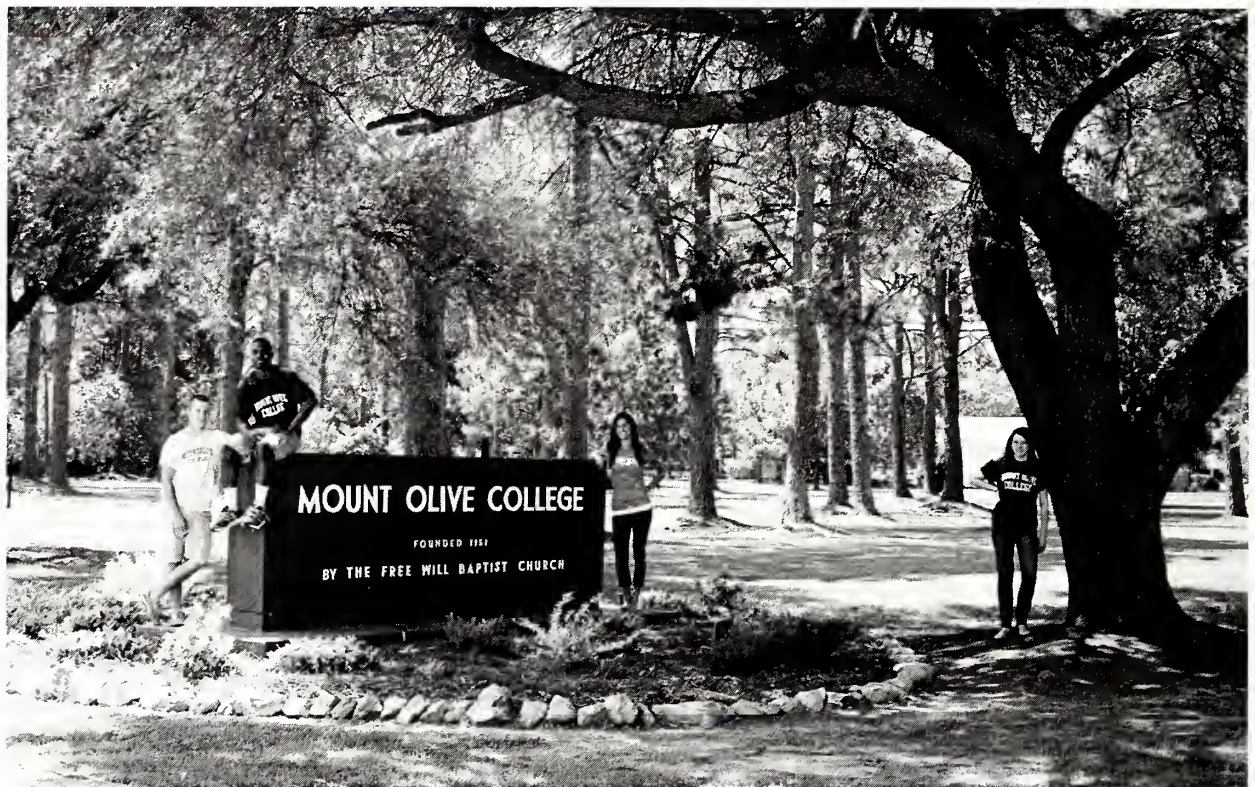
Finally, at the end of a long day, a sweet little girl, enjoying being out with the Sun shining down on her also, saw the littlest bird. The little girl gently picked him up and noticed that he was on the lawn, seemingly unafraid of her, because he could not fly! She knew a broken wing when she saw it. And so she gently picked up the littlest bird and took him to her house to see if she might heal his broken wing. And her kindness and gentleness and love succeeded well, but not enough for the bird to fly away. Always there was the scar of the broken wing—the image of a bird pushed too soon from the nest. He had, seemingly, been pushed without love of any kind. But the Sun had always shown on him, whether he was in the nest or on the lawn.

The song of the littlest bird was beautiful all the more, for the early loneliness had found a way of expression. And the littlest bird had a new friend in the little girl. He song was Love, and, as he sang, always the Sun looked down upon him. Rather than a liability, the broken wing had made him strong at the broken place. And the Sun had proved to be friend to the littlest bird as well as the little girl who sought to heal him.

The Sun is shining down on us, too—but the most Love comes from the Son.



A former religion librarian at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Celia now lives with her husband Paul in Oxford, Mississippi. She was previously employed at both the Free Will Baptist Press and Mount Olive College.



MOC Listed as "College of Distinction"

Mount Olive College has been recognized as a "College of Distinction" by an online guide that puts the spotlight on the "hidden gems" of higher education.

Mount Olive College is one of six colleges and universities in North Carolina recognized by the website <collegesofdistinction.com>, which is designed for prospective college students, their parents, and high school counselors. The schools listed on the website are judged in four areas: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant communities, and successful outcomes. Featured schools take a holistic approach to admissions, consistently excel in providing undergraduate education, and have a truly national reputation.

Schools listed in the guide are nominated by high school counselors. Selection is based on information gleaned from college admissions experts, administrators at other colleges and high school counselors, and on data involving classroom size and other key statistics.

This is the second year that Mount Olive College has been included on the list. President Philip P. Kerstetter said, "I am pleased that, once again, Mount Olive College has been recognized as a College of Distinction. Our mission is to

transform the lives of our students through their educational experiences here, and it is rewarding to know that others recognize the great things that are happening at Mount Olive College."

In its section profiling Mount Olive College, the guide says that "Mount Olive College has become one of the most unique and fastest growing colleges in North Carolina. The College offers rigorous academic programs, over 40 undergraduate majors, experienced faculty, small class sizes, and Division II athletics with a winning tradition. Grounded in the liberal arts, Mount Olive College helps individuals realize their creative potential while preparing graduates for professional careers."

Offering dynamic college profiles and easy-to-use search tools, the website includes tips from high school guidance counselors, essays from college students, presidents, and other members of campus communities.

Tyson Schritter, executive editor of the guide, said, "Schools selected as Colleges of Distinction create well-rounded graduates and are among the very best in the country. While each school is one-of-a-kind, they all share a common theme: they are all a great place to get an education."

Educational Opportunities at MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

High School students—make plans now to attend **Visitation Day at MOC** on November 12, 2012, at 8:30 A.M. in the Murphy Regional Center. This is your day to learn all about what you need to prepare for college admission and paying for college. Professors will be present to answer questions about your career plans and academic major. Admissions, Financial Aid, and Athletics officials will be available to discuss scholarships and other details. Contact <admissions@moc.edu> or call (800) 653-0854 to make your reservations. Parents and family members are invited, too.

Apply now for fall 2013: High school seniors—Mount Olive College invites you to complete your college application now. Apply online at <www.moc.edu>. Applications for spring 2013 and college transfer applications are also being accepted. Call (800) 653-0854 if you have questions.

Take the Test: Many students are getting ready to take the ACT or the SAT at this time in their high school careers. Mount Olive College requires the SAT or ACT from all applicants who are under 21 years of age. We accept either test, and we look for the highest score, or combination of scores, regardless of how many times a student takes the test/s. See your high school guidance counselor or contact us at <admissions@moc.edu> for a schedule of test dates.

RN to BSN: Applications are being accepted for the RN to BSN program. The next session start will be spring 2013. To qualify for admission, students must be licensed RNs. To learn more about this program, contact Joy Kieffer, Nursing Program Coordinator, at <jkieffer@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854.

Teacher Education Programs with Licensure: Mount Olive College is now offering teacher education programs with licensure in the following areas: Early Childhood, Elementary Education, Physical Education, Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Music, and Agriculture. Contact Dr. Tommy Benson, education chair, at <tbenson@moc.edu> with questions.

Coaching Minor: Students who are interested in this program can contact Dr. Burt Lewis at <blewis@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854.

One-Night-a-Week Programs for Adults: One-night-a-week college programs for adults are available at Mount Olive Evening College, New Bern, Jacksonville, Washington, Wilmington, and Research Triangle Park. The tuition cost for these programs is offered at a reduced rate. Complete the free online application at <www.moc.edu>. Learn more about these programs by clicking on the location nearest your home or workplace. Multiple start dates are available each semester, so ask about these convenient programs and how you can complete your degree. Call 1-800-NEW GOAL. You will be connected to the location nearest your home. Financial aid is available.

Christmas by Candlelight: Tuesday, November 27 @ 5 P.M. See the campus transformed into a winter wonderland, with pre-event activities including an ice skating rink, picture snow globe, and carriage rides. Luminaries will be placed in honor and in memory of loved ones with funds raised going to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. A festival of lessons and carols will be held at the Mount Olive Assembly Hall beginning at 7:30 P.M. Music will be provided by the MOC music department and local choirs.



CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT



NOVEMBER 27, 2012

Pre-event Activities • 5:00 PM • Mount Olive College Campus

Mount Olive College will be transformed into a winter wonderland for the fourth annual Christmas by Candlelight service. Attendees will be treated to a variety of pre-event activities including an ice skating rink, picture snow globe, and carriage rides. Again this year luminaries will be placed in honor and in memory of loved ones with funds raised going to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

Christ Centered Service • 7:30 PM • Mount Olive Assembly Hall

Guests will enjoy a Christ-centered service patterned after the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, a traditional English evening service, which began in Cambridge in 1918. The service, located at 207 Wooten Street, will include nine Scripture lessons, tracing salvation history; each reading will be followed by a carol. Music will be provided by the Mount Olive College Music Department and other local choirs.

Coming Events

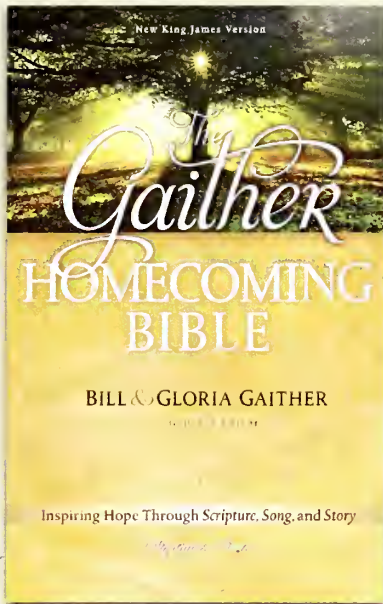
- **MOC Symphonic Band Concert**
November 1, 2012 at 7:30 P.M.
Mount Olive Assembly Hall
Contact: Dr. William Ford
<wford@moc.edu> or (919) 658-7818
- **Campus Visitation Day**
November 12, 2012
8:30 A.M. Registration
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
Contact: Admissions, (919) 658-2502
- **Founders Day**
November 13, 2012 at 11:00 A.M.
Rodgers Chapel
Contact: (919) 658-2502
- **16th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament**
November 16, 2012
Southern Wayne Country Club
12:00 P.M. Shotgun Start
Contact: Tim Woodard, (919) 658-7793
- **47th Annual Pickle Classic Tournament and Homecoming**
Friday and Saturday November 16-17, 2012
George and Annie Dail Kornegay Arena
Game times: 5:00 P.M. and 7:30 P.M.
Cost: Advance tickets \$15 for both days
or \$10 per day on game day
Contact: Tina Parks, (919) 658-7759
- **Christmas by Candlelight
Tree Lighting, Festivities, and Service**
November 27, 2012
Festivities: 5:00 P.M. MOC Campus
Concert: 7:30 P.M. at Mount Olive Assembly Hall
Contact: Chaplain Carla Williamson,
(919) 658-7749 or <cwilliamson@moc.edu>



The Gaither HOMECOMING BIBLE

*Continuing the Gaither Legacy of Hope
through Scripture, Song, and Story*

Original poetry and insights from Bill and Gloria Gaither and exclusive devotional from 60 Homecoming artists, including The Hoppers, The Isaacs, The Booth Brothers, Mark Lowry, Ernie Hasse.



The Gaither Homecoming Bible will make the Bible come alive for those seeking truth in the twenty-first century, even for those who think they already know it. For years, Bill and Gloria Gaither have reached millions of people across generations with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Their music of joy, thanksgiving, and praise ushers people into the presence of God so that He can do His wondrous work in their lives. This Bible features inspirational and insightful Scripture devotions by the Gaithers and other favorite Homecoming artists; articles on beloved hymns, gospel songs, and Gaither classics and the inspiration behind them; original poetry by Gloria Gaither to enlighten and inspire; and quotes by greats of the faith, reflecting on the importance of music in the life of believers. This beautiful Bible features the New King James Version® (NKJV) and is one that readers will treasure for years to come.

Also Available

Leathersoft Dark Brown
Retail \$74.99 • ON SALE \$59.97

Leathersoft Dark Brown, Indexed
Retail \$84.99 • ON SALE \$69.97

Leathersoft Burgundy
Retail \$74.99 • ON SALE \$59.97

Leathersoft Burgundy, Indexed
Retail \$84.99 • ON SALE \$69.97

Bonded Leather Black
Retail \$74.99 • ON SALE \$59.97

Bonded Leather Black, Indexed
Retail \$84.99 • ON SALE \$69.97

Hardcover

Retail \$44.99 • ON SALE \$34.97

*For a Limited Time Only
While Supplies Last*



THOMAS NELSON
We Inspire the World



CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!



A Cross & Crown Open



Saturday, Dec 12
Serving Wassenaar

20% off Regular
10% off Sale Price
(some exclusions apply)

The first 40 customers at each store
The Purpose of Christmas by Rick Warren
(a \$17.99 value)



The Voice Bible
Genuine Leather
Special Edition
(\$99.99 value)



Grace
by Max Lucado
(\$24.99 value)

Register for these Door Prizes (available at each location)



own CHRISTmas House

ember 1, 2012

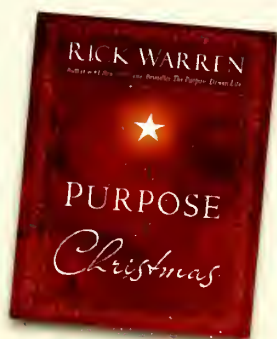
and Cookies

iced Merchandise
ed Merchandise

(see store for details)



re can receive
Warren for \$5

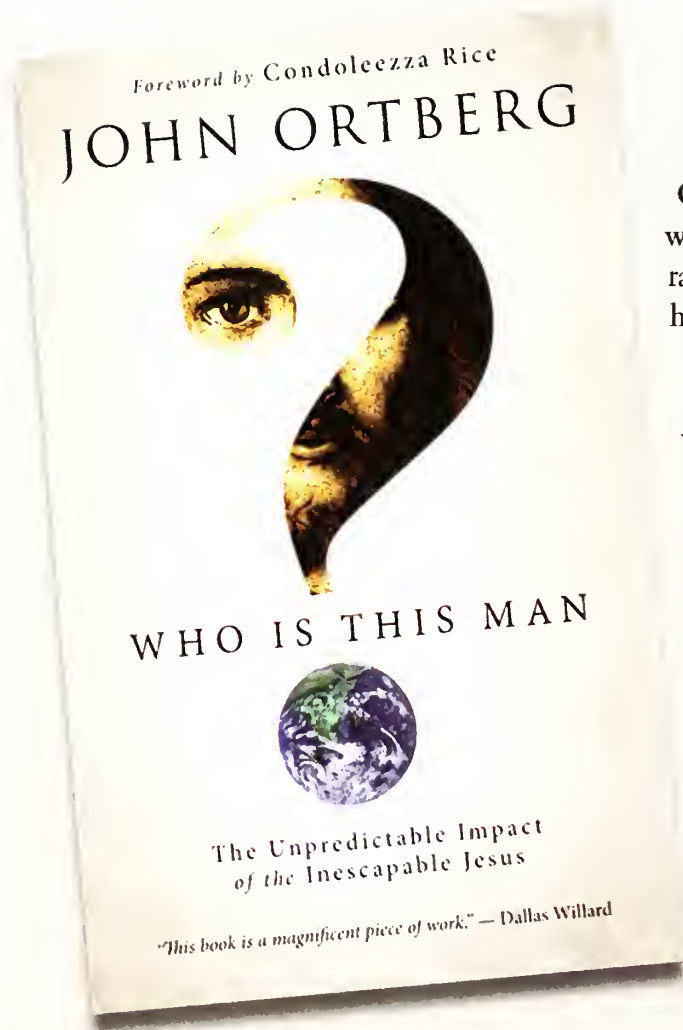


CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!



Who Is This Man?

by John Ortberg

On the day after Jesus' death, it looked like whatever small mark He left on the world would rapidly disappear. Instead, His impact on human history has been unparalleled.

Jesus' impact on our world is highly unlikely, widely inescapable, largely unknown, and decidedly double-edged. It is unlikely in light of the severe limitations of His earthly life; it is inescapable because of the range of impact; it is unknown because history doesn't connect dots; and it is doubled-edged because His followers have wreaked so much havoc, often in His name.

He is history's most familiar figure, yet He is the man no one knows. His impact on the world is immense and non-accidental. From the Dark Ages to Post-Modernity He is the Man who won't go away.

And yet...you can miss Him in historical lists for many reasons, maybe the most obvious being the way He lived His life. He did not loudly and demonstrably defend His movement in the spirit of a rising political or military leader. He did not lay out a case that history would judge His brand of belief superior in all future books.

His life and teaching simply drew people to follow Him. He made history by starting in a humble place, in a spirit of love and acceptance, and allowing each person space to respond.

His vision of life continues to haunt and challenge humanity. His influence has swept over history bringing inspiration to what has happened in art, science, government, medicine, and education; He has taught humans about dignity, compassion, forgiveness, and hope.

Retail \$22.99 • **ON SALE \$17.47**

While Supplies Last/For a Limited Time



CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!

Lesson *Inner View*

A deeper look inside this month's lessons from the OFWB Foundation Curriculum and commentaries based on the International Sunday School Lessons.



The Sunday School lessons for November are from the Acts of the Apostles and is the third unit in this study of "A Living Faith." The theme for this month asks the question, "Where Does Faith Take Us?" We are studying the last three chapters in Acts, which tell of Paul's journey to Rome, the heart and hub of the civilized world. By following only three disciples this quarter, we see the Church reaching out with the Gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth, as Jesus commanded in Acts 1:8.

Before we launch into Chapter 26 we should read the previous chapters, starting with Acts 19:21, to understand why Paul was in prison and was escorted to Rome under military guard. First, we note that it had been a long desire of Paul's to carry the Gospel to Rome and beyond (Acts 19:21; 23:11; Romans 1:10; 15:22–25). Secondly, before heading to Rome he had to complete three bits of unfinished business: (1) return to Antioch to end his third missionary tour (the church at Antioch was his sponsor [Acts 13:2–3]); (2) go to Jerusalem to deliver the collection for the poor from the churches in Asia and Europe (Romans 15:25–27;

1 Corinthians 16:1–4; 2 Corinthians 8–9); (3) go to the temple to complete a vow (a temporary Nazirite vow) (Acts 18:18; 21:22–24).

To complete their vows they had to go through seven days of purification, make the required offerings, and shave their heads. While Paul and the four Christian brothers were in the temple for purification, Jews from Asia arrived, accused Paul of taking a Gentile into the temple (which he did not do), stirred up a mob, and dragged Paul out of the temple to stone him. A Roman cohort was stationed nearby at Antonia; they responded to the commotion and took Paul into protective custody. The military commander, Claudius Lysius, learned of a plot to assassinate Paul and transferred him under heavy guard (200 soldiers, 70 cavalry, and 200 spearmen) at night to Caesarea, the palace of Governor Felix. No charges could ever be substantiated, but Felix kept Paul in prison for two years, expecting a bribe for Paul's release. Felix was recalled to Rome and replaced by Festus. When King Agrippa II of Syria came to pay respects to the new governor, he was invited to hear Paul's case to help

determine the charges to be sent to Rome, since Paul as a Roman citizen had appealed his case to the Emperor.

Paul was then placed in the custody of Julius, a centurion in the Augustan Cohort (stationed in Syria), for transport to Rome. The voyage was quite eventful; winter travel was treacherous and slow; they encountered stormy seas and even survived shipwreck. Throughout this ordeal Paul remained true to his faith.

Each of us is where we are today because of many choices we have made along the way. We make those decisions based on our faith (what we believe about God, ourselves, and the world). If our faith is in finance, then the decisions we make will lead us in one direction; but if our faith is in Christ Jesus, then our choices may take us in another direction. If we believe that all humans are God's creatures, then we will choose to relate to others differently than if we believe they are inferior to us. Paul's faith took him to Rome where he was able to share his faith with many along the way, both small and great. Where is your faith taking you?



H. Adrian Grubbs, Jr., was born in Dade City, Florida, to the Rev. Herman A. and Lillian Kinard Grubbs. The family moved to Mount Olive, NC, in 1959. Adrian was ordained in the Eastern Conference in 1963 and has served eight churches. After a 30-year pastorate at Deep Run OFWB Church he retired in 2007 because of vocal problems. Grubbs has served the denomination as President of the Sunday School Convention, Moderator of the Eastern Conference, member of the Eastern Conference Ministerial Examining Board, and is currently on the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees. Adrian and Jo Ann have one son, two daughters, and six grandchildren.



A Roaring Summer's End

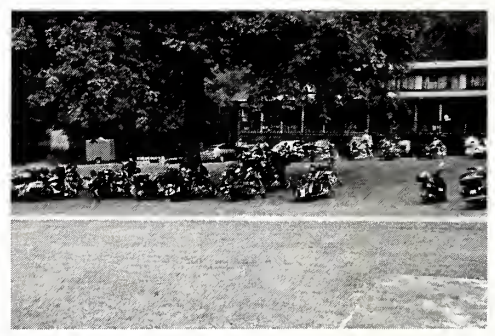
For the fourth year the Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA) has chosen Cragmont as the site for its state rally in September. It is a true pleasure to serve these Christian men and women. We had the roar of motorcycles and the laughter of motorcyclists from the boy's dorm to the main building and everywhere in between. These wonderful people teach a valuable lesson: Christian love and service comes in all sizes and in all types of vehicles.

From Roar to Relaxation

September also brought Cragmont the first of our Senior Weekday Retreats. Tee's Chapel Seniors came in with a little less roar than the CMA but just as much excitement. They enjoyed rocking on the porch, soaking in the mountain scenery, and embracing some adventures. It gave all impressions of being a wonderful "get away" from the "flat lands." Maybe your seniors should give it a try!

Women, Too!

Emanuel Women's Retreat came to visit for its annual fall retreat. Other conference centers in the area provide retreats, but Cragmont also offers outstanding Christian renewal weekends. Four times each year our OFWB women invade Cragmont for a time of Christian instruction and refueling. Consider coming to revive your Christian commitment.



A Star-Lit Christmas is arranged for November 30–December 2. Nothing can give a brighter beginning to the Christmas season than an adventure-filled weekend at Cragmont. Join us for wonderful entertainment activities, a little early Christmas shopping, a bus full of laughs, and a "star bright" weekend.

Christmas at Cragmont. If your holiday is shaping up to be a little lonely and bleak, consider coming home to spend Christmas with your Cragmont family. Your Cragmont family invites you to join us free of charge for one or more days of Christmas week (December 23–30) and for Christmas dinner on the 25th.

And there's nothing that can compare to **New Year's Eve and Day** in the Mountains.

D6 Conference

Frisco, Texas



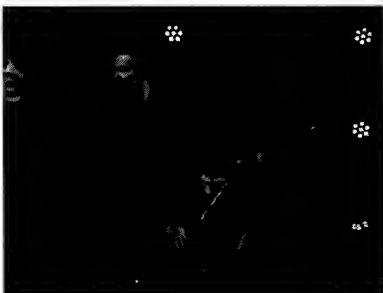
BY GAIL HEATH

The theme for this year's D6 Conference was "ABIDE," based on Scripture from John 15:4-5. You may wonder what the connection between Abiding in Christ and family ministry is, but as we learned, this is where family ministry begins. As Richard Ross put it, "Faith at home practices led by spiritually lethargic parents, lead to spiritually lethargic children." We as leaders must equip our parents and help them as we raise up the next generation and teach them that they must have Christ as the center of their lives and in all they do. Fred Luter said that "our kids can never be what they never see" and "it is obvious to our kids and to everyone around us if the word of God is evident in our hearts and in our homes." He went on to say that "we cannot isolate our children from the world but we can insulate them with the word of God." Pete Wilson reminded us that God never gave anyone an easy task. Just look at Abraham, Moses, Joshua, and many others. This task of "family ministry" and raising the next generation is not an easy one, especially with all of the distractions our families and children face today, but we must not forget that God tells us that we are not alone. If we will "draw nigh to Him,

He will draw nigh to us" and He will abide with us. We can accomplish the task with His help and with the right training. This is where conferences like D6 come in. This conference is a wonderful tool that has been sponsored by Randall House Publishing along with help from others like Focus on the Family for the last four years. With speakers like Dennis Rainey and Doug Fields, among many others, there is a ton of wisdom to be gained from conferences such as D6. "Family Ministry" is a team effort, but when we truly ABIDE in Christ and keep Him as the center of our ministry and teach our parents and children that they, too, must ABIDE in Him, we can raise the next generation to be followers of the one and only Living God, and His son Jesus Christ. We will then have children who will pass on a Godly heritage that we have instilled in them.

The next D6 Conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky in October of 2013. This should be more affordable for the people of our denomination for traveling. We hope that your church will take advantage of this great training. Look on our website <www.ofwbsundayschool.org> in the near future for more information as it becomes available.

we cannot isolate our children from the world
but we can insulate them with the word of God



Sean Mc Dowell



The Skit Guys



Megan Heath enjoying D6 along with her dad, Tim and Lynda and Mike Williams

P.O. Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513 • (252) 746-4963 • www.ofwbsundayschool.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY



Lasting and Significant Ways of Saying “Thank You”

By The Reverend Ricky Warren

And although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.

—From Edward Winslow of the Plymouth Colony

Introduction

Many have been taught by a wise parent, teacher, or mentor the importance of appropriately saying “thank you.” Expressing gratitude with sincerity for an act of kindness shown by another is a gesture often overlooked in our hurried, informal world today. But, when employed well, the practice is still as powerful a tool for good as ever before.

With the advent of modern communication, there are more quick and easy ways to thank someone than ever. Sending an email or a text, making a phone call, or even clicking “like” on a person’s computer profile are all ways of acknowledging the many kindnesses that are extended every day. For greater kindnesses, the time honored thank you note is still appropriate and, due to its scarcity, it is perhaps even more effective than in the past. But, when one’s appreciation is extremely deep, when the value of one’s kindness is immensely great, or the impact of one’s act of generosity is profoundly positive, great care and thought in how one says “thank you” is called for. This is never truer than when our thanksgiving is directed toward God as our benefactor.

Thanksgiving is a time when many will give thought to the things for which they are thankful. Certainly, many will rightly express their thankfulness to God for the blessings of home, family, health, and material comfort. However, every American learns the story of how the first Thanksgiving observed by the Pilgrims at Plymouth Colony was quite different.

The First Thanksgiving

The origins of the American Thanksgiving Day began in 1620, when a group of 102 English Separatists set out in search of religious freedom by sailing for America aboard the Mayflower. This group’s efforts to escape persecution of the King and the Church of England occurred on a nearly parallel

course with the efforts of John Smyth and Thomas Helwys, the Separatists who began the General Baptist movement in England, from which the Free Will Baptist Denomination traces its heritage today.

The Pilgrims landed in late December of 1620 and endured a colder than anticipated winter for which they were not prepared. About half of the group died that winter, and in the spring the survivors planted crops and began to make more suitable provisions. In early autumn of 1621, they followed the English custom of celebrating their successful harvest with a festival, which lasted for three days and included the local American Indians who had been a great help to them.

The Pilgrims certainly gave thanks to God during the celebration, but they did not call that harvest festival a thanksgiving. To them, a day of thanksgiving was a more solemn, reflective, religious observance. The first recorded occurrence of a purely religious day of giving thanks was held by the Pilgrims in 1623 in response to rainfall, for which they had been praying, that had ended a terrible drought. The religious day of thanksgiving and the harvest festival eventually evolved into a single event, and, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln instituted the tradition of an annual national Thanksgiving Day every fourth Thursday in November.

Modern Thanksgiving

Modern Christians in America could learn from the example of the Pilgrims. Though there is much to celebrate with the festivities of family, food, and football on Thanksgiving Day, perhaps there is also much to be thankful for in a separate, more reflective observance.

As a group, modern Free Will Baptists have a lot in which to be thankful. Our heritage has been preserved by vigilant ministers, laypeople, and educators. Our



homes, churches, and communities have advanced well beyond the poor rural context of their origin. Free Will Baptist ministries are continuing, despite economic adversity, through the generosity of our people. Free Will Baptists have a lot to be thankful for and many are seeking creative ways to express that gratitude. However, like the Pilgrims, many Free Will Baptists today find resources are limited, so a gift from their “abundance” requires some creativity. The North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries has assisted many good people in finding creative ways to say thank you from their own unrecognized “abundance.”

Creative Ways of Saying “Thank You” When Cash Is Limited

One resource that is generally in abundance is time. For each person there is 24 hours in a day. If used creatively, time can be used to say thank you in meaningful ways. Benjamin Franklin said, “Remember that time is money...waste neither time nor money, but make the best use of both.” The Foundation can provide the method to turn time into monetary resources that can be used to express gratitude through a permanent legacy. Here are a few creative ways The Foundation can assist you in expressing gratitude in a significant and lasting way even if cash resources are limited.

Endowments—Through The Foundation, individuals, organizations, churches, etc. may establish an endowment—a pool of money that is never spent while its earnings are used to permanently support the causes that are important to the donor. With a small initial contribution now along with regular contributions over time, anyone can establish an endowment as a means of saying thank you.

Direct Funding of a Scholarship—Each year The Foundation awards over \$25,000 in scholarships to assist students preparing for service as a Free Will Baptist minister. Cash gifts of any size are welcomed and give donors the satisfaction of expressing gratitude by touching lives for successive lifetimes through the work of effective Free Will Baptist ministers.

Non-Cash Donations—If cash is not available, other types of gifts may be accepted by The Foundation. These may include, but are not necessarily limited to automobiles, equipment, real estate, stocks, bonds, life insurance, etc. Within IRS guidelines, such non-cash assets can be considered tax-exempt donations just like cash donations.

Bequests—Another creative way to express gratitude in a significant and lasting way is through bequests—gifts by will or trust. The Foundation can assist a person now with such planned giving for the future so that one can rest assured that even in death their charitable wishes will be carried out.

Charitable Gift Annuities—A charitable gift annuity with The Foundation provides a guaranteed income for the lifetime of one or two people in exchange for an initial cash donation. The initial gift is tax deductible and a portion of the annual distribution payments to the original donor is considered tax-free income. A charitable gift annuity is ideal for someone with cash on hand who needs to protect their assets, secure a guaranteed income, reduce their tax burden, and leave a lasting legacy.

Direct Funding of the Foundation—Supporting The Foundation itself is an ongoing way of saying thank you. Through a one-time direct gift to The Foundation or through an annual pledge, gifts of any amount can be used to ensure that good people are helped to do good things well into the future.

Conclusion

There are many creative ways to express gratitude and doing so in a lasting and significant way through The Foundation need not be out of reach of anyone. The ideas listed here are only examples; there are countless other ways that can be tailored to each person’s wishes and needs. For more information on saying “thank you” in a lasting and significant way, even if cash is limited, please contact the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 210, Mount Olive, NC 28365-0210. Because The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Christian charitable organization, all contributions to The Foundation are tax-deductible.





Cornerstone 2012

BY WANDA DAUGHTRY AND BRENDA BEST

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).

Nestled up close to Cragmont's huge crackling fireplace while chatting and rocking with family and friends is a must for fall seeking vacationers. Vibrant hues of red, orange, and gold remind us of God's sovereignty. But it was not that many weeks ago that the whole world was glued to televisions, computers, or other electronic devices to track another kind of gold during London's 2012 Summer Olympics.

Going For Gold

Athletes testified time and again of sacrificial determination to reach their goals. As Christians, we share the same virtues of self-discipline, self-denial, and have to be purpose driven with our eyes on the goal. Just like them, tears of joy or sorrow at the finish line will be realized.

For the 74 women (10 first-timers) that attended the Cornerstone Conference at Cragmont during the opening week of the Olympics, stories of sacrificial commitment to service prevailed. Through the Great Commission, we are all called to service. Think for a moment about the person(s) that purposed themselves so you would know Christ. We all have a higher calling through the Great Commission.

Serving Joyfully

Michelle Hamm, from Antioch OFWB Church, Wayne County, and singing group H.I.S. (His in Song) led the conference with zeal, enthusiasm, and just enough randomness to keep us all on the edge of our seats. We were forewarned by McLinda Edwards

who laughingly jumped at the chance to introduce her sister. Michelle and McLinda, along with Gail Lancaster, shared their musical talents throughout the conference.

While an education major at East Carolina University, Michelle embraced Matthew 28:19-20 with that same zeal through Campus Crusade. Even though she was willing to go to the uttermost parts of the world, God's plan was for her to go to the uttermost parts of her community. When asked why she chose teaching as a career, she replied that God has called us all to serve. "For me, the greatest opportunity of serving is reaching children."

Michelle has been in education in Wayne County for 20 years. Even though she knew she had answered God's call by serving exceptional students in the classroom, she desired to make a greater impact on more students. For the past three years, Michelle has mentored over 500 middle school students as the assistant principal of Brogden Middle School in Dudley, NC.

Being Challenged

But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand. (Isaiah 64:8).

Through an interactive classroom setting, Michelle brought the Great Commission to life using the acronym S.E.R.V.I.C.E. While being surrounded by the majestic mountains of Cragmont, women of all ages examined their own missions to serve. We are all molded by the hand of God for a purpose. Through the firing process or refining of our lives, we are no longer porous, but glazed through salvation for strength in our journey.



Satisfied and Content: (1 Samuel 1:1–8) Hannah was sorrowful in her petition to the Lord, but being satisfied that God knew best, she was content to wait. As brought out by Linda Herring, writer of “Psalms for the Soul,” Hannah wanted a son, but God wanted a profit.

Encouraged and Lifted: (1 Peter 3:8–9) “...be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous” (v. 8). We are to have compassion one for another. The promises proclaimed throughout God’s word are for good.

Ready to Work: (James 1:19–27) “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only...” (v. 22). We each hold the missing part of a masterpiece. When challenged to find the needs of our communities and to meet those needs, testimonies of women, young and old, joyfully proclaimed how they are privileged to minister to the shut-ins, widows, children, the hungry, and even the incarcerated.

Virtuous: (Proverbs 31) “Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies” (v. 10). Our testimony and integrity are our greatest legacy.

Infused with His Spirit: (Galatians 5:16–26) “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance...” (v. 22–23). When God flows through us, we affect other people.

Completely Trusting: (Esther 4:12–17) “...and who knoweth whether thou are come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (v. 14). With God we have still waters beyond the wake.

Ever Shining God’s Love: (Matthew 5:14) “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.” We will leave a legacy. Will ours be positive or negative? What will my answer be when asked, “did I choose to love?”

We concluded our conference with a challenge to be a prayer servant for our nation and our leaders.

“...ye shall receive power” (Acts 1:8). True Service is out of love. True Servants are obedient. True Servants rejoice in Persecution. Praise in persecution receives great joy.

Answering the Call

The week of being challenged to find and answer our call to service began each morning with devotions by Melinda Edwards. Becky Jo Sumner taught the evening Bible Study of Christ being the Good, Great, and Chief Shepherd through Psalm 22–24. Kathy Hayes, along with pianist JoAnn Parrish, thematically led music with great zeal. John Williams, Director of Cragmont Assembly, gave an update on the summer camps and future plans. He reported that he, along with his staff are pleased to serve us through “Martha” hospitality throughout the year. The Rev. Harold Jones, Director of OFWB International, led the Thursday night mission service.



Oldest camper Mazie Williamson from Goldsboro Church and her daughters Connie Sasser and Debra Clarkson.

Michelle Hamm and husband Kelly live in Saulston with their two cats. Michelle or Melinda Edwards can be contacted for H.I.S. (His in Song) bookings through Facebook.



The Emmanuel Retreat at Cragmont September 7–9, 2012

BY SHERYLL WOOD

For most of us, the name “Emmanuel” brings to mind Christmastime readings from the first chapter of Matthew, “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us,” or the seasonal hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” However the women who travel each September to the Woman’s Auxiliary sponsored Emmanuel Retreat don’t have to wait for December to remember that the name Emmanuel means “God with us” (Matthew 1:23). They enjoy the sweet fellowship of gathering with other believers for a time of renewal; and the truth of God being with us somehow seems even stronger at Cragmont. Since the first Emmanuel Retreat was held in 2008, many participants have returned each year for the special blessing found at this conference.

With the theme “Model for Commitment” and the key verses being Hebrews 12:1–2, the group gathered after dinner on Friday evening for “get acquainted” activities led by Director May Pittman. Everyone received a “Smiley Face” to help us remember to

share smiles with each other throughout the weekend (and throughout our lives). Dining hall refreshments gave everyone a time to develop new friendships and renew old ones before heading back to the main building for a good night’s sleep (or more late night visiting!). Our evening rest was made even more pleasant due to the individual room air conditioning units that had recently been installed.

Saturday morning devotions, based on the story of the potter’s hands in Jeremiah 18:1–6, were led by Karen Parker, who reminded us to be thankful for all the wonderful things our hands have done by the time they are lined with age.

The Bible Teacher for the weekend was Rose Williams, who explored three biblical models of commitment: Ruth, Esther, and Daniel. She urged us all to learn what commitment looks like through studying these individuals, and to apply that knowledge through a renewed personal commitment to God. She reminded us that each of us have our own talents, pointing out that before she became a math teacher, she thought everybody loved math—she had not seen her math aptitude as a talent from God. She encouraged us each to step forward

like Ruth, Esther, and Daniel and DO something, pointing out that fear of being criticized immobilizes many people, and that the only sure way to avoid criticism was to “do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing.” Rose not only shared these biblical lessons about commitment with the group, but also brought personal gifts to distribute as door prizes, including hand embroidered items, her own published cookbook, and home-made grape hull and pear preserves.

Throughout these morning sessions, the group enjoyed the enthusiastic singing led by Sharlene Creech, and the talented accompaniment by pianist Gail Heath, who blessed us not only with her music but her constantly cheerful smile as she played. With the afternoon free, individuals visited at Cragmont, shopped in Asheville, or even took time out for a short nap. Saturday night found the group back together in the chapel for the Sunday School lesson taught by Cragmont’s own Becky Sumner, followed by a reverent circle of prayer requests and group prayer for those petitions.

Our Sunday morning service gave us one last time to worship together, including the opportunity for Cragmont manager John Williams to tell us about Cragmont’s current plans and needs, and to deliver the morning message. After a time of individuals sharing what the weekend had meant to them, the group departed for home, spiritually refreshed and determined to be more committed Christians.

The OFWB Woman’s Auxiliary sponsors four Cragmont retreats each year with 2013 dates as follows: Morning Star Retreat (April 5–7), Dayspring Retreat (June 5–8), Cornerstone Retreat (July 28–August 2), and Emmanuel Retreat (September 6–8). Director May Pittman and Registrar Joan Little make each conference a special treat for those attending. Plan now to join us for one or more sessions next year, and be sure to check the January issue of *The Free Will Baptist* or the Auxiliary website <www.womansauxiliaryofwb.org> for a list of scheduled speakers and registration forms.

A *Sling* and a **STONE**

Significance in Christ as a Young Adult

with Marc Boswell

Giving Thanks

Ten years ago, I accepted a call from God to pursue a vocation of ordained ministry. As with many people who have experienced such calls, I was rather convinced that God could do much better, if, that was, God actually was even being serious. It happened at our annual fall revival, under the preaching of the Rev. Todd Sutton, at Spring Branch Original Free Will Baptist Church. With the guidance and help of my home congregation, my pastor, the Rev. Walt Tyndall, and many other ministers, family members, professors, and friends along the way, I continued to discern this call and how it would play out in my life. In many ways, I'm still pursuing and discerning my calling even today.

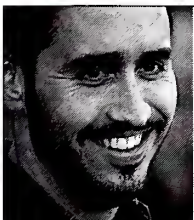
Since my young adult years unfolded in the midst of this process (ages 18–28), and in light of Thanksgiving, I ask myself, What do I give thanks for about these years as a young adult? Can I name the experiences and relationships that have helped me through these years of young adulthood? What would I encourage others to do because I, as a young adult, found them to be meaningful, helpful, and full of grace?

Three things immediately come to mind. First, I will always give thanks for the way that my pastor and home church gave me opportunities to work, to serve, to preach, and to be in leadership positions at a time when, to be honest, I had little idea of what I was doing. My first sermon was terrible. It was heartfelt and sincere, which goes a long way, but it looks very little like anything I would do today. I had my somewhat rebellious streak (which I still have), and I brought all of the enthusiasm that a young adult has to certain issues that concerned me. Nonetheless, and despite any differences, I know beyond the shadow of a doubt that most of the people

that loved me as an 18-year-old still love and support me as a 28-year-old. That type of unconditional love and support, regardless of performance or opinion, is something every young adult needs.

Secondly, I give thanks for the adults whom I have seen stand up for what they believe in, regardless of the fact that their opinion put them in the minority or left them in an uncomfortable spot. One person in particular, Mrs. Joyce Jones, from my home church, will always stand out in my memory for her witness to the justice and compassion of Christ. Others have similarly spoken out, even when speaking out was hard, because they were certain in their conviction that to do such a thing was the Christian thing to do. To all older adults, it's not just a cliché that children and young adults are watching your actions and listening to your words. We do. Even if young adults want to be their own person, they still watch the adults around them as they figure out what that might look like.

Lastly, I'm grateful for those older adults who simply thought it was worth their time and energy to be involved in my life. This sounds simple, but as I grow older and as my obligations grow more numerous, I realize the commitment and selfless nature of those who invested time and energy towards being a companion, a mentor, and friend. They didn't have to do this, yet they had the vision to know that such endeavors were worthwhile and certainly a meaningful thing to do. I'll be the first to say, young adults need those types of friendship and collegiality from older adults. I'm grateful for all those who have invited me to share my life with them in such a way, and I realize now it was me who has learned from them as they shared their lives with me.



Marc Boswell is from Saratoga, NC, where he grew up as a member of Spring Branch OFWB Church. He is ordained in the Central Conference and currently lives in Richmond, VA, where he is working toward the completion of a Ph.D. in the fields of Theology and American Religious History at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Psalms for the Soul

with Linda Herring

The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Here are two important things to remember when you are making an important decision: (1) Believe that God is directing your steps, because He is. Psalm 37:23-24 says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand." God did not say you would not stumble. He just promised to pick you up, dust you off, correct you when you need it, and keep working with you. (2) Realize that God can bring good out of bad situations. "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). In every success story, you will find struggles and setbacks. You will also find tenacious faith that refuses to give up. Do you know that God is working in your life? He is working with you, and He is working through you. Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm.



Linda Herring is married to Vernon Herring. They have two children, Amy and Vernon and three grandchildren, Jenna, Jared, and Noah. Linda is an active member of the White Oak Grove OFWB Church in LaGrange, NC. Linda leads a Bible study group, Circle of Friends. She has been a drama director of two dramas that she wrote, They Called His Name Jesus and The Book of Ruth. She is a resource for the OFWB Woman's Auxiliary. Her outreach ministry includes this column in TFWB, a radio broadcast by the same name (aired on WAGO 88.7 FM), and a weekly devotional article for the La Grange Weekly Gazette and The Sampson Weekly. She also has a devotion book printed by the Mount Olive College Press.

Shopping Spree

"Come Shop 'Til You Drop"

Saturday, November 17, 2012 • 9 A.M. until 2 P.M.

Little Rock OFWB Church

6115 Little Rock Church Road • Lucama, NC

Admission: \$2

(which will enter you into a raffle
for a \$50 credit card/gift card!)

Breakfast will be sold by the Men's Fellowship
Hot dog lunch will be sold by REFLECT Youth Ministries
Vendors will include: Perfect Pool & Patio Torches, 31, the
Pastor's Pen, Avon, ET's Creations, and many, many more!

There will be lots of handmade fall and Christmas crafts,
wreaths, jewelry, pottery, baked goods, scarves,
and much, much more!

Proceeds go to Trinity Circle for missions
and projects throughout the year.

For more information, call (252) 239-0361. For a vendor
application, e-mail <littlerocktrinitycircle@hotmail.com>.



Annual Layman's League Convention!

Monday, December 3, 2012

Black Jack OFWB Church

2972 Black Jack-Simpson Road • Greenville, NC

Supper will be served at 6 P.M.

Meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M.

The host church will provide an interesting program
and speaker with an informative business session
afterward. This convention will be held along with
the Central Conference's regular quarterly meeting.
All layman and Layman's Leagues of all churches and
conferences are invited and encouraged to attend.
Let's make this a time of renewal in service to Christ!

The Journey to Bethlehem

December

16 & 17

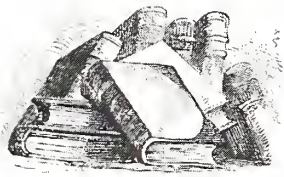
Both shows start at 7pm

Seating will begin at 6:30pm



La Grange First Free Will Baptist Church
802 South Caswell Street

For Reservations, contact Virginia Holmes
by December 13th at 919-920-3356 - 252-566-9195



Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

Despair, Sin, and Faith

Søren Kierkegaard, *The Sickness Unto Death*.
(Translated with Introductions and Notes by Walter Lowrie)

New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1941; reprinted 1954. Original publication in Danish in 1849. pp. 141–276.

Book reviews in this column are *not* meant to reflect any theological or political positions.

Danish Christian theologian Søren Kierkegaard (1813–1855) was interested in confronting nineteenth-century rationalism with its emphasis upon *explaining* the existence of God rather than *believing* in God as the first step of faith. Factual proofs do not bring the individual to a certitude of God, because it is only through faith, an inward reality, which establishes a relationship with God. Kierkegaard writes that the “particular individual” (216) whether a “man, woman, serving-maid, minister of state, merchant, barber, or student” (216) exists as an individual “before God” (216). Writing his book, *Sickness Unto Death*, in 1848, Kierkegaard himself saw the year 1848 as his “most fruitful year” (135). His title echoes Robert Burton’s *Anatomy of Melancholy* published in 1621 under the pen name Democritus Junior. Kierkegaard uses the pseudonym Anti-Climacus for his book, *The Sickness Unto Death*, published in 1849.

What is the Sickness Unto Death?

Kierkegaard sees the sickness unto death as *despair*—what others from Burton on have called melancholy. But despair to Kierkegaard involves a synthesis—man’s infinite self and finite self or soul and body being responsible, conscious, and willing to relate to God or not willing. Either there is a relationship with God or there is a “disrelationship—that is—despair” (149). God as spirit relates to the eternal in man. Man cannot get rid of the eternal within himself, cannot have death as an end of the eternal within, so man despairs when his self is “intolerable to him” (152) and he cannot “get rid of himself” (152). Kierkegaard writes: “To despair over oneself, in despair to will to be rid of oneself, is the formula for all despair” (153). The eternal within is a power that is stronger and reveals that man “cannot consume his self” (153), cannot eliminate himself because eternity has made “a demand upon him” (154). The highest demand made upon man is “that he be spirit” (155). Despair becomes “a sickness of the spirit” (157).

For Kierkegaard, the self is a conscious relationship of infinity and finiteness, a relationship perceived by relating to God. The self exists in the “process of becoming” (163) more infinite by

relating to God (163). Finiteness becomes the “limiting factor” (163) while infinity becomes “the expanding factor” (163). Kierkegaard insists: “The self is in sound health and free from despair only when, precisely by having been in despair, it is grounded transparently in God” (153). The one thing needful is to have “spirituality” (166).

Despair comes to the self when the finite—the world, reputation, business, wife, family, job, children, goods—takes over the self and the lack of infinitude becomes an indifferent reality. Less spirit; more body. Despair of finiteness emerges; becoming more infinite has been lost in what might be called “worldliness” (168). Finitude limits the infinite. Then man must face possibility—“whether he will believe that for God all things are possible—that is to say, whether he *will believe* (171). The fight of faith becomes the belief that “for God all things are possible” (171). The antidote to despair is *possibility*, for with God all things are possible every instant” (173). Destruction exists, but so does possibility. Philistinism, fatalism, and determinism all reflect the “parrot-wisdom of trivial experience” (174) and the loss of spirit. Once the self becomes conscious of the loss of spirit, despair enters the consciousness.

Kierkegaard compares the soul-body synthesis to a house. When a man prefers to live in the cellar, he prefers his bodily, sensual life at the expense of his spirit (176). Man becomes unconscious of his spirit and lives under the delusion that the body is enough until the body fails and the “enchantment” (177) is broken. Kierkegaard views this unconsciousness of spirit as a grave unconscious despair: “In unconsciousness of being in despair a man is furthest from being conscious of himself as spirit” (178). *Aesthetic enjoyment* of art, knowledge, and crafts of the world may point to enjoyment but not to *three realities*: (1) consciousness of the self as spirit, (2) consciousness of the self existing before God as spirit, (3) consciousness as “grounded transparently” as God as spirit (179). These three realities may make a movement forward “whereby a self infinitely accepts its actual self with all its difficulties and advantages” (188) as he wills to be himself grounded in the consciousness of his relationship with God as spirit and himself as spirit.

Opposite of Sin is Faith

What is the *origin* of sin? Socrates saw *sin as ignorance* (219), but Socrates begins with ignorance, then sin is failure to know the good because of ignorance. Socrates's emphasis is upon the intellect, upon "unfruitful knowledge" (221), upon what Kierkegaard calls "the intellectual categorical imperative" (221). What Socrates fails to take into account is the role of the "defiant will" (220) which establishes *sin in the singular, sins in the plural* to follow. Socrates spoke of a republic, of a new social order, of a new religion—all based on an understanding. What Socrates lacks in Kierkegaard's understanding is the "transition from having *understood* something to the *doing* of it" (224). Christianity begins with the origin of sin "in the will, thus attaining the concept of defiance" (224). The *transition* from understanding to doing needs faith—which is the opposite of sin. The defiant will in sin confronts the faith which believes. Belief is first. Kierkegaard writes: "As thou believest, so it comes to pass; or, As thou believest, so art thou; to believe is to be" (224). Socrates could not assert that "a man knowingly does what is wrong" (225), because as a Greek, Socrates claimed, "When a man does wrong, he does not understand what is right" (225). In short, to Socrates "he who does not do the right thing has not understood it" (226). Christianity pushes back from *not understanding* to *not willing* to do the right thing (226). A man wills to do wrong even though he understands what is right. Sin becomes singular—a will to do what is not right. Faith is a belief and cannot be explained in rational debates. Faith is the opposite of sin, because faith believes in "the essential continuity of the eternal by being before God in faith" (236). Sin as a defiance of the will is a permanent

condition, with particular sins as evidence of the defiant will. Sin is a state of being just as faith is a state of being in believing "in the consistency of the good" (238) but aware at all times of the defiant will and its grave danger in threatening the eternal within by detaching the self from the good.

Faith's Acceptance of Repentance and Grace

Goethe's Mephistopheles in *Faust* despairs in his sin of defiance, refusing to accept repentance or grace, because he wills the wrong. Shakespeare's Macbeth also wills the wrong and thereby loses all repentance and grace. Kierkegaard writes about the consciousness of the self in knowing Christ in six stages: (1) ignorance of having an eternal self, (2) knowledge of having an eternal self, (3) human conception where the goal is man, (4) a self face-to-face with Christ, (5) the more consciousness of the eternal self with Christ, the more self, (6) Christ becoming the goal and measure of the self.

For Kierkegaard, sin is not thought but the defiant will. He notes that sin "is a characteristic of the individual" (251) and the individual's will. Once consciousness of the relationship to God, the individual must face his own will in fear and trembling before the "grounded" transparency of God (262). Faith becomes an act of the will to choose the spiritual, the eternal, the good as revealed to the self by God as spirit and by God as the ground of spirit. Though the defiant will always exists, it really does not once repentance, forgiveness, and grace become real to the "inmost soul" (261). Let God be born again and again and again.



Pepper Worthington was born in Kinston, NC, and married an OFWB retired minister, Michael Gauker Warning, in 1996. The Rev. Warning served as pastor to Free Union OFWB at Sea Level, NC. She received her B.A. degree cum laude at Meredith College in 1965, her M.L.A. degree at Johns Hopkins University in 1969, and her Ph.D. with Phi Kappa Phi honors at the University of Maryland at College Park in 1976. She has been a professor of English at Mount Olive College since 1979. She is also currently the director of the Mount Olive College Press.



CHURCH & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Dr. Ken Benton, a Licensed Minister, is seeking an interim pastoral position and other pastoral work as needed. Please e-mail <drbenton2@gmail.com> or call (919) 395-5336.

Former Boy Scoutmaster Honored



SUBMITTED BY MARLENE J. EVERETT

On July 2, 2012, we received a call from Irving, Texas from Wayne Brock, a former Kinstonian. He asked if this was the residence of the Jack Everett that was a Boy Scout Master at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Kinston in the 1960s. After being assured that he had the right Jack Everett, he invited Jack and his wife (Marlene) to go to Phoenix, Arizona in August to the National Boy Scouts of America Convention, so Jack could be present at the Banquet where Wayne would give his acceptance speech as Chief Executive Director of the National Boy Scouts of America, the highest professional rank in the organization. Wayne received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award and Order of the Arrow Distinguished Service Award while in Jack's Explorer Scout Troop. He graduated from the Explorer Scout Troop in 1966. That is the last time Jack had heard anything about Wayne. There were about 40 boys in his troop at that time. Jack was so honored to hear from Wayne after nearly 50 years had gone by without hearing from him or seeing him. Jack said Wayne was a good leader in the scouts; he was not surprised when he read about his achievements as a professional in the Boy Scouts. He received his bachelor of music education degree from East Carolina University and began his career in 1972 as a district executive in New Bern, NC and then served on the staff in Knoxville, Tennessee.

He also served as Scout executive in Athens, GA; area director in the Southern Region; Scout executive in Orlando, FL; Southern Region director; and assistant Chief Scout Executive.

His remarks were based on thanking the Volunteers for their work in Scouting. He told the story of a Scoutmaster who came to visit him when he was Scout executive in the Northeast Georgia Council. The Scoutmaster started off by saying, "I'm sure you've heard this story many times before. Five years ago, my son joined the Boy Scouts. A few months after he joined the Scoutmaster quit—and they couldn't get anybody else to be Scoutmaster—so I volunteered. Last night was my last night as Scoutmaster. My son has earned his Eagle Award and is no longer active in the troop. So I decided it was time for me to step down. But there's something that's been troubling me and I just needed to tell someone. During my tenure as Scoutmaster, I can't remember a time when one of the boys thanked me for being his Scoutmaster."

Wayne said, "That got me to thinking, 'Did I ever thank my Scoutmaster?' I can't remember." When you are a boy, you don't appreciate what adults do for you. They are adults; they're supposed to do that. Then the Scoutmaster went on to say that none of the parents had thanked him either.

Wayne said, That really made him feel bad. "I don't know if my parents ever thanked my Scoutmaster or not." But then this fellow said something that made me feel really, really bad. "No one in this office had ever thanked him, either."

Wayne went on to say, "I'm pleased to say that with me tonight is my Scoutmaster, Jack Everett. This is the first time we've seen each other since I graduated from the troop in 1966. Please join me in thanking my Scoutmaster, Jack Everett."

That was a proud moment for Jack. The spotlight was put on him and he got about a five minute standing ovation. After the banquet, I think all 3,000 or more attendees at the banquet rushed over to shake Jack's hand.

Being a volunteer Scoutmaster, Sunday School teacher or youth worker is hard work and costly, but knowing you have touched the life of a child for a lifetime, makes all the effort and expense worth it all. We, as parents, should never forget to thank the volunteers that work with our children. We need to teach our children to thank the adult volunteers for all they do for them. Just a simple "Thank You" means so much.

Jack is a Deacon and an active charter member of Westside Free Will Baptist Church at 1205 Lynn Drive, Kinston. The Rev. Michael Woolard is Pastor.



Craig Hill

The Young At Heart Sunday School Class of Westside Church in Kinston recently enjoyed lunch in the Family Life Center. Mr. Craig Hill, son of member Mrs. Donnie Hill, was the guest speaker.

“Making Every Day Count” was Mr. Hill’s topic. He said, “This was one of my constant private messages I used to drive me each day during my career in education. I realized as a teacher and coach that I often would get a second chance to do something better, but I quickly discovered that the students under my care, whether it was in my role as teacher, coach, or administrator, often only got one chance to get information or learn a skill that would be used as a building block for future knowledge or skills. I knew if I did not help them get it right the first time often they would fall behind. Every day counts and time is our most precious commodity.

Making Every Day Count

SUBMITTED BY GAIL ROGERS AND MARLENE EVERETT

Making every day count includes building relationships with the people in our lives and placing a priority on the practices and values that we know are aligned with our faith. Recently I took Matthew, my seven-year-old grandson, to the beach. We rode our bikes on the bike path at Emerald Isle to play miniature golf. As we were finishing it began to rain. As I looked into the eyes of that seven-year-old boy, I knew what he was thinking. ‘Granddaddy, I have never ridden my bike in the rain, can we ride in the rain?’ So off we went. Rain fell in buckets. I could not have been any wetter if I were in the ocean. I didn’t want to ride in the rain but this time I realized that if I moved out of my comfort zone, an opportunity to build a memory to endear a relationship was unfolding. It didn’t take much; it seldom does to reach out to another person. I know this class often reaches out. I am often in my mother’s home when calls and visits from the church come. I hear her talking on the phone and I know she has been to visit someone from this church. Continue to build those relationships. In your service to others you will find joy in life.

In my 30 years in education I have seen the best and worst of human interaction. I have been in homes of children that have been shot and left to die in the streets. I have seen students rally to support their fellow

I realized that if I moved out of my comfort zone, an opportunity to build a memory to endear a relationship was unfolding. It didn’t take much; it seldom does to reach out to another person.

students in ways that are difficult to describe. I have witnessed students making mistakes and students overcoming obstacles that could have limited them, yet they reached the highest level of achievement in academics, athletics, and performing and visual arts. I have also witnessed students openly displaying their faith in ways that I seldom see adults. One of my favorite verses in the Bible is ‘Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...’ (James 4:8 NJKV). I like to paraphrase and add the following: ‘Craig, draw near to God today and He will draw near to you today.’ By keeping the faith daily I know that I have a better opportunity to ‘Make Every Day Count.’”

Ms. Rachel Lovick and Mr. Melvin Woodard are the teachers and the class enjoys a luncheon every quarter.

Making every day count includes building relationships with the people in our lives and placing a priority on the practices and values that we know are aligned with our faith.



Board of Trustees at the Note Burning.

Homecoming at New Sandy Hill

On Sunday, October 7, more than 110 people gathered at New Sandy Hill Church to celebrate its annual homecoming.

The Rev. Charles Petit, a former pastor currently serving at Lanwood Chapel Church, delivered the homecoming message. His message was titled "Homecoming," and The Rev. Petit asked the question, "are you looking for a homecoming with Jesus?" Prior to the message and lunch, singers ranging in ages four years to 70 or more years shared in presenting the music. It was a great day of fellowship.



The Rev. Charles Petit delivering the Homecoming message.

On the first Sunday night in September, another celebration was held at the church, a ceremonial Note Burning to signify the retiring of the church debt previously held for paving the parking lot, enclosing the breezeway, adding an office, and other miscellaneous additions such as a drive-thru shelter.

Additionally, revival was held in mid-September at the church. The Rev. Roger Hill from Powhatan Church held the services. Special music was shared each night of the service from our church members, as well as special music from the Rev. Hill and his wife, Ginger. We were reminded that revival must begin within each of our hearts, and it doesn't have to end just because a series of services is over.

To God be the glory for the things He has done. He continues to bless New Sandy Hill in so many ways, and we wanted to share the good news.



Tyler Bunn providing special music.

Pastor Honored

The Rev. Gene B. Britt was honored on Sunday, September 9, 2012, at Wooten's Chapel Church for his faithful and dedicated service as an ordained OFWB Minister for 40 years. His wife, Betty Britt, and their family were also honored for their support of his ministry.

Some of the highlights of the service included a reading of one of his favorite passages of Scripture, Psalm 139, and the poem "Heaven's Grocery Store"; a presentation of a special engraved plaque; and a time of testimony, praise, and thanksgiving. A luncheon was held immediately following the service in which all in attendance congratulated and showed their appreciation of Pastor Britt.



*The Rev. Gene B. Britt,
and wife, Betty Britt*

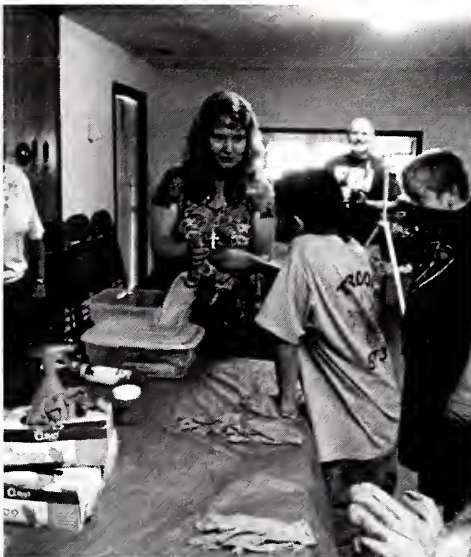
The Rev. Britt was ordained in 1971 by Riverside Church of the Cape Fear Conference. He served as a Licensed Minister to Lanwood Chapel at Smithfield. He was called and ordained by the First Church in Smithfield on September 10, 1972. He has also served Johnston Union at Clayton (twice), New Sandy Hill at Bailey (twice), Selma Church at Selma and Rose of Sharon at Bear Grass.



*The Rev. Gene B. Britt
and Ms. Helen Barbour, Secretary, Ladies Auxiliary*

The Rev. Britt is a graduate of Mount Olive College and attended Carter Bible College. Early in his ministry, along with his wife and two sons, he worked as the Director of Campus Life at the Children's Home in Middlesex. He has served on the Board of Education and the Executive Committee of the Cape Fear Conference as well as Secretary of the NC Ministers Association.

God's Big Event



SUBMITTED BY VICKI PARKER MEDLIN

The event at Covenant Church in Hope Mills was a wonderful Saturday morning event in which both children and the adults experienced first hand the wonder of "God's Big Event," as everyone learned about how wonderfully and uniquely we are made for the exact purpose God has intended for us. The event was led by Miss Jane (Jane Poole) who is a children's missionary who has dedicated her life to telling children about God. We were blessed to be able to lead one young man to Christ during the event which was held on Saturday, September 22.

Come with us to Israel

MAY 21–30, 2013

We invite you to join us in Israel to celebrate the Jewish roots of our faith in Jesus Christ, God's Son, Yeshua the Messiah.

- We'll visit Bethlehem where He was born.
- We'll sail on the Sea of Galilee where He stilled the storm.
- We'll pray in the Chapel of the Beatitudes, where Jesus preached His "Sermon on the Mount."
- We will kneel at the Rock of Agony in Gethsemane, where He prayed.
- We'll view Golgotha, where He died.
- We'll celebrate the Lord's Supper and His resurrection outside the empty Garden Tomb!
- Couples can renew marriage vows at Cana of Galilee!
- You can be baptized in the Jordan River and also float in the Dead Sea if you'd like.
- We'll see the locales of stories from the Old Testament and learn how geography is still shaping modern Israel.

Our tour will enhance your biblical knowledge so that you will forever after read Scripture with different eyes.

All this will be done in warm fellowship with other believers from many different parts of the United States. We'll sing praises to the Lord every day as we travel through the land of the Bible. We'll also laugh a lot!

We promise you an unforgettable journey that will deepen your faith and increase your joy. Don't miss this special pilgrimage with us!



Blessings, shalom, and love...

Wayne and Ruth Cotton West

For a complete brochure with further information contact:

Wayne and Ruth Cotton West

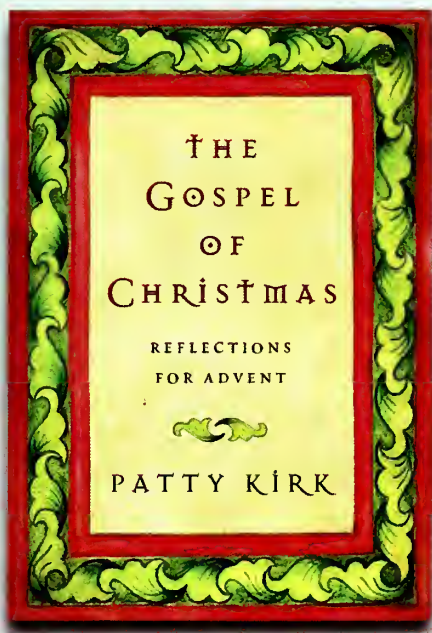
116 Rothsville Station Rd. • Lititz, PA 17543

(717) 625-3207 • Email: wwrcw@gmail.com



CHURCH & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Hickory Chapel Church, Ahoskie, NC, is seeking a full-time pastor. Interested persons may contact Sandy White by phone at (252) 395-1025 or by e-mail at [<bands@gate811.net>](mailto:bands@gate811.net).



THE GOSPEL OF CHRISTMAS

REFLECTIONS FOR ADVENT

A child yearns as at no other time in the days leading up to Christmas.

That yearning doesn't entirely go away as we grow older. It still lingers in the backs of our minds. We imagine that Christmas is mainly for children and our adult lives don't stop in the way that children's lives stop on Christmas morning, so we don't give ourselves time to notice the yearning. But it's there—hope mingled with anxiety about what lies ahead.

In *The Gospel of Christmas*, Patty Kirk helps us get in touch with our muted hopes and fears and reminds us that they are met and given their resolution in the coming of Christ, which Christmas celebrates and Advent anticipates, and all our lives prepare us for.

Retail \$15.00 • **ON SALE \$11.97**

For a Limited Time Only/While Supplies Last

 **INTERVARSITY PRESS**
Heart. Soul. Mind. Strength.

25 DAYS OF ADVENT

NIV once • a • day

Prayer and Anticipation are Now in Season: 25 Devotions for Advent

Beginning on December 1, this Once-A-Day Christmastime devotional booklet takes you through the entire Advent season with thoughts on the person of Jesus: His involvement at the creation of the world, His life in the Gospel accounts, and who He is today. Along the way you will meet and examine the lives of various individuals involved in the incarnation, and during the week of Christmas examine the response to this miraculous and gracious event, both in Heaven and on Earth.

Written by Dr. Kenneth Boa, president of Reflections Ministries, these 25 devotions offer select Scripture passages that allow readers to gain a fuller perspective on Jesus' presence throughout the Bible. In addition, each devotion provides thoughts and questions for meditation, along with a prayer for each day, making them perfect for your own personal, family, or small-group use.

The 25 days of reading are broken out as follows: *The Old Testament presence of Jesus: who He was at creation, where He shows up in other parts of the Old Testament, and more. *The people associated with the Nativity: Zechariah and Elisabeth, Mary and Joseph, John the Baptist, Herod, and the Magi. *The specifics and the people directly involved in the nativity: the shepherds, the angels, and the baby Jesus himself. *A Christmas reading that points ahead to His ministry, His passion and His rule as King



Paperback: **Just \$2.99**

For a Limited Time Only
While Supplies Last

 **ZONDERVAN**



CROSS & CROWN
3928 LEE STREET
AYDEN, NC 28513
252.746.6128
1.800.849.3927

CROSS & CROWN
VERNON PARK MALL
(BESIDE BELK)
KINSTON, NC 28504
252.527.2843

CROSS & CROWN
GLENBURNIE PLAZA
(BEHIND BOJANGLES)
NEW BERN, NC 28562
252.638.6193

Spreading the Word. For Life!



NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

A Foundation for the Future of Original Free Will Baptists



As we approach the 2012 Thanksgiving season, The Foundation would like to give thanks to all who have contributed to The Foundation since 2005. Your continued support to The Foundation provides a means whereby Original Free Will Baptists have an opportunity to advance the work and mission of the Church.

— *Helping Good People Do Good Things* —

For more information on the endowments, contact the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries. Please see our section inside.

*Footprints convey that someone has gone before us,
Leaving us a marked way;
And remind us that we also can leave a marked way
For those who come after us.*



PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID 28513
USPS 2094-4000

DUKE UNIVERSITY
PERKINS LIBRARY
DURHAM, NC 27706

021 R1 P 1316
10/02/13 33357

D03231010A



