

# ECHO

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## “Kids today have it so much harder than earlier generations!”

Phillip Morgan, Chair | Tennessee Christian Education Board | pmorgan@welch.edu

“Kids today have it so much harder than earlier generations!” is a common refrain we have all heard, usually followed by a list of the real and daunting cultural attacks on Christian truth-claims and morality. Certainly, the youth of today face a unique set of circumstances, but the challenges are perennial. As Solomon noted thousands of years ago, “there is no new thing under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

This continuity of experience is encouraging, because it assures us that whatever the unique circumstances, the pattern of spiritual warfare and path of sanctification remains the same from generation to generation. Our young people will battle the temptations of pride, greed, hate, envy, lust, gluttony, and laziness as Christians always have, through the word of God.

In Psalm 119:9-16, the Psalmist explains that the word of God cleanses our way, keeps us from wandering from God, and restrains us from sin. Further, God’s word is our delight, bringing us joy and all the wealth of a deepening knowledge of God. The profound depth and richness of God’s word should bubble forth from our mouths almost as an involuntary consequence of our affection for His revelation in Scripture and in the person of Jesus Christ. Considering the Psalmist’s instruction, we should:

- Meditate on God’s word daily
- Pray for submissive wills and reformed desires
- Allow God’s truth to influence all our decisions
- Gladly share God’s amazing work in our lives with others

This fall, the Tennessee Christian Education Board (TNCE) will be hosting the annual youth retreat November 13-15 at Mainstay Suites in Pigeon Forge. Our featured speaker, Derek Altom of Welch College, will be encouraging students to remain steadfast in the Lord through His word, focusing on Psalm 119:9-16 to highlight this abiding truth. For more information visit <http://www.tncelink.com/>.

### THE TENNESSEE STATE ASSOCIATION

Chris Dotson, State Director

2174 Le Conte Street

Morristown, TN 37814

(423) 523-2887



NOVEMBER 13-15

MAINSTAY SUITES  
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<http://www.tncelink.com>

# THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF Ministering in a Small Community

Pastor Noah Taylor | Evergreen Free Will Baptist Church | n.taylor@evergreenfwb.com

If you are a Tennessee Free Will Baptist, most likely you are ministering in the context of a small community. In recent years, there has been a renewed emphasis for small community churches – and for that I am thankful!

I pastor in the small town of Erwin, which is situated in a valley of the picturesque East Tennessee mountains. Erwin is a part of what is known as the “Valley Beautiful” and boasts a meager population of just under 6,000 people. Up until the time that I moved my family to Tennessee, I lived and ministered in metropolitan areas. I envisioned that I would spend my entire ministry in large cities, but God in His divine plan put me in a small town. To be honest, I do not know that I was all that excited about it at first, but I was willing to follow God’s plan, nonetheless.

In my time here in Erwin, I have fallen in love with small-town ministry! I want to remind you that small towns were a significant part of Jesus’ life and ministry as well. He was born in Bethlehem, which was not the epicenter of activity and commerce (Micah 5:2). When His family returned from Egypt, he was raised in the city of Nazareth, again, not a hip and trendy city, but rather an obscure village that was nestled amongst the hills (Luke 4:29; John 1:26). During His ministry, He intentionally preached and ministered in small towns and villages (Mark 1:38; Luke 13:22), and He sent out the disciples with the assumption that they would do the same (Matthew 10:11). In reading through the Gospels, it would be hard to miss the fact that Jesus had a heart for small towns and communities, and I believe that we should share in that love for our own communities.

I am afraid that, at times, we are conditioned to believe that small town ministry is somehow less significant than ministering in a larger context; but nothing could be further from the truth! I always remind ministers who are considering small town ministry that “in a small town you can have a big impact.”

Below are a few do’s and don’ts that I have learned by experience. These are not exhaustive, but they can serve as a guide as you navigate ministering in a small town.

## **Don’t be known for what you are against. Do be known for what you are for.**

As you know, in a small community it can be hard to build a positive perception of your church’s ministry – and very easy to lose it. Unfortunately, most often, we are completely unaware of what the perception of our church is. So, I would encourage you to survey people in your community about their thoughts and impressions about your church. Now, to be honest, this can be a humbling exercise, and you just may be surprised at the answers. I know I was!

Many times, people will associate your church with what they know you are against. That could be anything. Do not get me

wrong, you should be against some things, but you should be known for what you are for, such as the gospel, families, healthy marriages, evangelism, discipleship, and the list could go on. If your church is identified in the community for only what you are against, change that today!

## **Don’t attempt to compete with other churches. Do be the best church you can be.**

God made your church unique and has equipped your church to meet specific needs in your community. It is easy to look at other churches, especially larger churches, and feel the need to offer everything they offer or do everything as big or as extravagant as they do. Avoid this.

Instead, find what your church can do in your community to make an impact, and then do it with excellence. This could be a myriad of things, but make sure it matches the DNA of your church and meets a specific need in the community. Your community has spiritual and physical needs that you are uniquely equipped to meet! God put you there for that purpose! Be the church God created you to be. Then appreciate and pray for the ministries of other churches in your community.

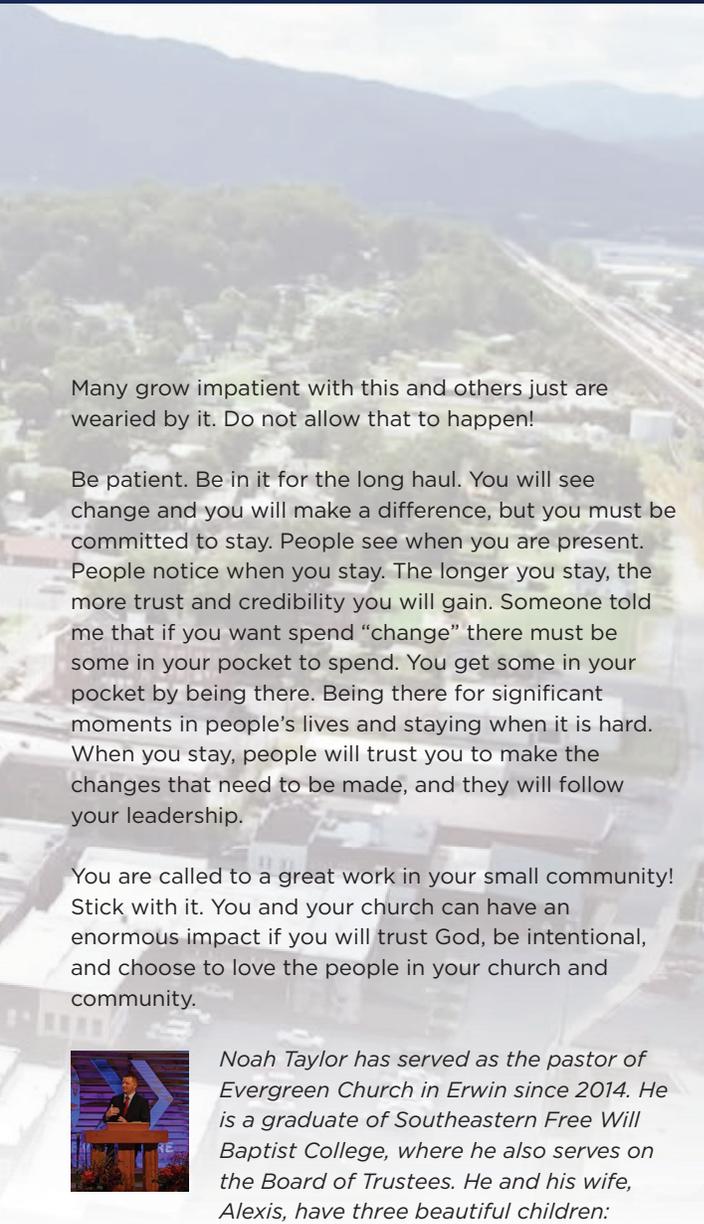
Don’t expect the community to invest in your events. Do invest in your community and the community’s events.

As a church leader, be a leader in the community. Be a resource to the community and the community’s events. For example, our church offered to help organize our town’s annual community Nativity Parade. We asked if we could help by providing music, sound equipment, costumes, etc. We, of course, did not ask for or want anything in return. We just wanted to help.

Over the years, this has fostered great relationships in the community, as well as sent a message to the community that we care! We have done this as often as is possible and it has proven to be extremely fruitful. Not only has it helped us reach people with the gospel, but it has sent a positive message to the community about our church. I am certain your community has a wide range of opportunities like this. Be there. Be visible. People notice when you are.

## **Don’t grow weary in the work. Do be patient and stay.**

Many that minister in a small community look at it as a stepping-stone for a seemingly “better” opportunity. Part of this is due to the incorrect mindset that bigger is always better. The other factor comes in when you realize that substantive change occurs at a slower pace in a small community.



Many grow impatient with this and others just are wearied by it. Do not allow that to happen!

Be patient. Be in it for the long haul. You will see change and you will make a difference, but you must be committed to stay. People see when you are present. People notice when you stay. The longer you stay, the more trust and credibility you will gain. Someone told me that if you want spend “change” there must be some in your pocket to spend. You get some in your pocket by being there. Being there for significant moments in people’s lives and staying when it is hard. When you stay, people will trust you to make the changes that need to be made, and they will follow your leadership.

You are called to a great work in your small community! Stick with it. You and your church can have an enormous impact if you will trust God, be intentional, and choose to love the people in your church and community.



*Noah Taylor has served as the pastor of Evergreen Church in Erwin since 2014. He is a graduate of Southeastern Free Will Baptist College, where he also serves on the Board of Trustees. He and his wife, Alexis, have three beautiful children: Brayden, Silas, and Maelee.*



## ADDICTION – AND THE FUTURE OF FAMILY MINISTRIES

Jim McComas, Executive Director  
Free Will Baptist Family Ministries | [jmccomas@fwbfm.com](mailto:jmccomas@fwbfm.com)

As I write this, the third of a scheduled series of four articles on drug and alcohol addiction, our country is currently dealing with the effects of a global pandemic. While the coronavirus is a profoundly serious problem in our country, **addiction is an epidemic that continues to kill tens of thousands year after year**, warranting the church’s utmost care and concern.

I recently took part in an addiction awareness event in North Central Ohio. One of the speakers, a representative of the Richland County Coroner’s Office, said the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the addiction epidemic in their area. Imagine addicts, quarantined at home with nothing but time on their hands. Then add to that situation stimulus checks sent by the government, and it is easy to see this recipe for disaster. **Their area had recently been hit with 15 overdose deaths in one day alone!**

I have shared with you in previous articles how drug addiction has affected my family, and how through those experiences, God has directed me to FWBFM. Furthermore, **most of the teens entrusted to our care are with us because of the effects of drug abuse in their family.** This places Family Ministries on the frontlines of this battle every day.

As we look to the future of FWBFM, it is my heart’s desire to do even more. That is the reason that we are actively pursuing approval from the State of Tennessee to get our East Tennessee campus back online as a drug and alcohol treatment facility. We still have our state licenses and are actively putting together **a treatment program, which we hope will be running before the end of the year.**

We encourage you to pray for the program and for all the young people who have been ravaged by the dreadful scourge of addiction. We promise to keep you fully updated on our continued efforts to minister to the most broken and vulnerable among us.

# 2020 NATIONAL CONVENTION

NAFWB

Due to COVID-19 the Convention will be available online only

## JULY 20-21

# HINDRANCES TO Church Health

## PART TWO OF A THREE-PART SERIES

Dr. Danny Dwyer, Administrator | ReKindle | [cdwyer143@yahoo.com](mailto:cdwyer143@yahoo.com)



Church health is fundamentally necessary for church growth. Just like there are hindrances to our physical health (poor diet, lack of exercise, diseases, etc.), there are hindrances to a church's spiritual health. That is the focus of these articles. The first hindrance addressed complacency, i.e., "We few in the pew" syndrome. But it is certainly not limited to complacency.

**The second obstacle to a church's spiritual health is even more serious and pervasive. It is the problem of un-repented sin.** There is no question that sin grieves the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30-32) and stifles His work in and through His people (Joshua 7:1-13; Jeremiah 5:25). When there is shared error or disobedience in a church these become collective sins. Church sins can include, but not be limited to, toleration of immoral actions by members (I Corinthians 5:1-13), grieving the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30-32), disrespect and mistreatment of Pastors (I Timothy 5:17-19; III Jn. 9-11), divisiveness (I Corinthians 1:10), et. al. Furthermore, we make a terrible mistake if we think we have no sins from which to repent. Sins of omission (James 4:17) are just as bad as sins of commission. **Unless there is confession and repentance, there will be no spiritual progress.** When this is the case, the church will remain unhealthy and even risk termination (Revelation 2:5).

Prior to any restoration of the Lord's work historically, there was deep contrition and confession of sins (Nehemiah 1:4-11; Daniel 9:1-19). The Lord's counsel to spiritually unhealthy churches included their need to repent (Revelation 2:5, 16, 21; 3:3, 19). **Any authentic assessment of the spiritual health of a local church must ask the question, "Does our present condition show evidence of past sins for which we need to repent?"** Such a question expresses a true desire for renewal of the Lord's favor. God blesses a contrite spirit with His presence and redeeming grace (Psalm 34:18). Therefore, there must be repentance before there can be a restoration of spiritual health in a church.

*Editor's note: In the fall edition of the Echo, Dr. Dwyer will be addressing what may be the number one hindrance to a church's spiritual health: the pastor.*



*Danny Dwyer, Ph.D., is the senior pastor of Rock Springs Church in Charlotte. He taught Pastoral Theology and Biblical Studies at Southeastern Free Will Baptist College before returning to his family homeplace in Tennessee. He is currently administrator of ReKindle, the NAFWB's church revitalization ministry.*

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World Missions Offering

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2020 OFFERING GOAL:  
\$650,000

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— 2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4 —

**TN** TENNESSEE FREE WILL BAPTIST

**NOVEMBER 9-11, 2020**



# The Challenges of POSTMODERN MINISTRY

Rebecca Dotson | Peace Free Will Baptist Church  
rebecca.dotson@welch.edu

At a time when we have been blessed with the most advanced technologies, which provide resources unimaginable, the church should be bursting at its seams with energy and ideas, and, well ... people. However, ministry in today's postmodern culture is difficult and more challenging in many aspects than at any time in recent history.

Due to the prevalent thought that there is no universal truth, **evangelism must begin first by trying to lay a common foundation where there is none.** One pastor put it this way: "The plethora of available teachings at a few keystrokes that contain a wide variety of ideas much of which is not biblical is something I have found to be challenging. So, we not only have to combat the convert's ignorance of the gospel, but also that which he has learned incorrectly." He also shared, "People don't want to put in the time; they want it right now and are not willing to make the effort over decades to become the person Christ wants them to be."

**Another challenge we face is the competition mentality** that exists between churches. Some of our smaller churches find themselves unable to measure up to larger churches that have more financing to fund activities, programs, and the positions needed to facilitate them.

**This is another issue: we must battle for time.** Many individuals do not want to volunteer their time for the work of the Lord. Depending on the size of the church and the amount of work needing to be done, perhaps these positions are valid for compensation, but not all churches are able to afford it. Also, everyone is so busy with their own plans, such as social events and hobbies, that people live and work to play and provide for their excessive lifestyles. Whatever is left over is then given to God, whether in money or time.

**The way we minister in today's culture is different than how it has been effectively done in the past.** It seems that the more formal the class or activity, the less interest there is. Perhaps instead, setting a weekly time to meet with an individual for discipleship over coffee and breakfast, with a journal in hand, rather than a class notebook, would be more appealing to those we are trying to reach today. Walt Mueller explains that "postmoderns are especially interested in the intimate community found in small groups," and that "a small group serves as a place to be vulnerable and real while examining the claims of Christ or pursuing spiritual growth."

Personally, I have seen the truth of this. Around three years ago, I was burdened to begin a "College and Career" class. I commandeered the loft area of our church and redecorated it in an eclectic coffee shop style, with small tables and chairs, a trendy area rug, and all things one might need to create the coffee of one's dreams. Everyone even brought in their favorite mug to put on the cool rack over the Keurig. I would make or pickup breakfast,

and I spent hours poring over my lesson and using media presentations, adding in music or appropriate video clips.

I kicked off the class with a fall cookout at my house, where we had hot dogs, homemade chili with all the fixings, homemade cider, and games. We had lots of interest, and a large majority of the targeted persons within our church came to the cookout, as well as to the first class or so. **However, the more formal Sunday School class soon dwindled down to just the few who were previously faithful, with the majority of everyone else only showing up to cookouts or other activities at my home.**

Also, during this time, I hosted a new convert class for several young ladies. The basic underlying pattern was the same: I provided breakfast and welcomed each young woman the first time with a gift bag containing a journal, journal pens, our devotional book, and a bookmark. At one point, I had as many young ladies coming to this as I had in my Sunday School class.

They loved it, and we were able to reach out to a couple of young women with Catholic backgrounds. Following the first classes, several of the ladies said they would love to keep doing it, addressing different topics. **Interest, however, had waned by the end of the study, as other commitments and scheduling conflicts pulled the young ladies away.**

Several in both classes came away enriched and encouraged, which made both efforts worthwhile, but the lack of long-term commitment and **the consumer mentality that resulted in my providing everything proved most challenging.** I asked a friend about this cultural shift, and he replied that "apparently discipleship studies are going to have to be done in daily, bite-sized pieces as opposed to extended study sessions." He even told me about a college program that has taken their traditional coursework and modified it into a smartphone-based app that delivers information in short, concise segments, which can be done between appointments or during a commute to work. The same could probably be done by the church for a specific study or class. However, this does not satisfy the desire for close relationships, nor does it foster the opportunity for connections that people need.

**We are being forced to try new methods that are biblically sound and tailor them to suit the needs and capabilities of each church.** Whatever we do, listening, showing an earnest interest in and love for our people, and being vulnerable and transparent, willing to learn alongside those we minister to, will allow the love and concern of Jesus to shine through, resulting in gaining souls for heaven.



*Rebecca Dotson and her husband, Chris, make their home in Morristown, where she serves on staff at Peace Church. There she leads worship and ministers to college and career students.*

## CHOSEN FOR THIS CHAPTER IN **HISTORY**

Debi Paramore, Vice President  
Tennessee Women Active for Christ  
paramored@pcsstn.com

***“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord,  
and whose hope the Lord is.” Jeremiah 17:7***

In the chaos of COVID 19 and as we watch sadly as cities burn in our nation, we must ask where our hope is. We see there is no hope apart from the Lord. We must trust solely in Him. He is still on the throne. Our confidence belongs only in Him.

As we pray for our nation and our leaders for wisdom in this hour, let us be reminded of our personal responsibility to be an encourager in the name of Christ. As believers we must exercise kindness and healing in the Lord’s name in our circle of influence. There is much to worry us, yet we know that God will not leave us or forsake us. He has promised He will be with us. We are His.

We may not be as comfortable in our lives as we were a few months ago, but praise God we are still here. We have limitations in ministry brought on by the pandemic, but God will enable us and give us ideas to aid us as we extend our borders and continue to work in His name.

So, no matter what, “Onward Christian soldier.” Do not give up. Look up! He sees where we are and what is happening in this world. We were chosen to live out this chapter in history. May God be glorified in our lives individually as we continue to serve. Our reaction in faith and hope in Christ is what the world must see. We must live it outwardly, boldly, with full confidence in the God we serve.



## WNAC **ACTION ITEMS**

### ENCOURAGEMENT & PRAYER:

Cards and letters may be mailed to:  
Dr. Mary Ruth Wisheart, c/o Marsha Harter,  
958 Currey Road, Nashville, TN 37217

### CHALLENGE:

Our challenge is for each ladies' group to raise \$500 for the 2021 Women's Nationally Active for Christ Convention in Memphis. Gifts may be sent in the enclosed envelope.

### MISSIONS:

We have selected the 24/7 Church in Kodak as our mission project. Our goal is \$5,000 for the support of Pastor Chad Kivette and his team. Gifts may be sent in the enclosed envelope.

### RETREAT:

Our 2021 Retreat is scheduled for  
September 16-18 at Music Road Hotel,  
Pigeon Forge.

## ECHO WEEKLY

A no-cost weekly  
email resource for  
Tennessee Free  
Will Baptists



Trending Articles  
News from Mountain City to Memphis  
Updates From Ministry Partners  
This Week in Church History  
(((Resound))) Worth Repeating  
Quote of the Week  
Etcetera

**REGISTER TODAY: Text TNFWB to 84576**

# Tennessee State Association

MARCH 1, 2020 - MAY 31, 2020

## APPALACHIAN ASSOCIATION

Appalachian Association.....	\$135.40
Doran Addition FWB Church - Kingsport .....	460.00
First FWB Church - Elizabethton.....	900.00
First FWB Church - Johnson City.....	2,664.00
Grace FWB Church - Johnson City.....	1,702.00
Liberty Fellowship - Johnson City.....	600.00
Marbleton FWB Church - Unicoi .....	2,250.00
Watauga Valley FWB Church - Elizabethton .....	125.00

## CUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION

180 FWB Church - Clarksville.....	3,674.02
Ashland City FWB Church.....	2,750.00
Berean FWB Church - Fairview .....	487.00
Bethel FWB Church - Ashland City.....	13,745.50
Bethlehem FWB Church - Ashland City.....	8,399.00
Brandon's Chapel FWB Church - Bumpus Mills...	884.00
Cane Ridge FWB Church - Nashville.....	1,730.01
Cofer's Chapel FWB Church - Nashville.....	12,751.30
Corner Stone FWB Church - Murfreesboro .....	531.00
Cross Roads FWB Church - Lawrenceburg .....	600.00
Cross Timbers FWB Church - Nashville.....	6,419.91
Donelson Fellowship - Nashville.....	20,797.06
Dunbar Chapel Church - Indian Mound.....	75.00
Faith FWB Church - Columbia.....	105.88
First FWB Church - Dickson.....	90.00
First FWB Church - Waverly.....	600.00
Good Springs FWB Church - Pleasant View ..	4,739.86
Hendersonville FWB Church.....	4,264.00
Hurricane Chapel FWB Church - Dickson .....	275.00
LaVergne FWB Church .....	1,355.00
Loyal Chapel FWB Church - Columbia .....	600.00
Miller's Chapel FWB Church - Charlotte .....	1,066.00

Oakwood FWB Church - Woodlawn.....	2,390.00
Olivet FWB Church - Clarksville.....	1,632.54
Pleasant Hill FWB Church - Dover.....	240.00
Richland FWB Church - Nashville.....	2,299.42
United FWB Church - Dickson .....	2,771.87
Victory FWB Church - Springfield.....	922.00

## LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

Cookeville FWB Church.....	3,000.00
Crossville First FWB Church.....	1,811.32
Taylor's Seminary Church - Cookeville.....	1,600.00

## MOUNTAIN EMPIRE FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship FWB Church - Kingsport.....	4,290.00
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## SMOKY MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION

Hardin Valley FWB Church - Knoxville.....	75.00
Valley View FWB Church - Loudon.....	2,958.36
Wooddale FWB Church - Knoxville .....	1,515.89

## TOE RIVER ASSOCIATION

Friendship FWB Church - Hampton .....	50.00
Morgan Chapel FWB Church - Hampton.....	900.00

## UNION ASSOCIATION

Union Association.....	9,795.00
Bridgeport FWB Church - Newport .....	1,300.00
Community Chapel FWB Church - Talbott .....	150.00
Eastern Star FWB Church - Jonesborough .....	1,626.00
Fellowship FWB Church - Limestone.....	100.00
First FWB Church - Newport.....	200.00
First FWB Church - Surgoinsville.....	295.00
Harris Memorial FWB Church - Greeneville.....	1,072.00

Jackson Chapel FWB Church - Mosheim .....	300.00
Kingsley Ave. FWB Church - Chuckey.....	150.00
Limestone FWB Church .....	1,200.00
New Home FWB Church - White Pine .....	500.00
Oak Grove FWB Church - Greeneville.....	5,115.24
Peace FWB Church - Morristown .....	3,210.00
Phipps Bend FWB Church - Surgoinsville.....	586.00
Union Chapel FWB Church - Chuckey.....	400.00
West Greene FWB Church - Mosheim .....	172.35

## WEST TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION

West TN Association .....	1,000.00
Faith FWB Church - Oakland .....	300.00
Victory FWB Church - Jackson .....	1,245.00

## OTHER CHURCHES/ORGANIZATIONS

Bethel FWB Church - Kinston, NC.....	4,220.87
Cumberland Chapel - Rock Island, SC.....	100.00
Faith Baptist Church - Jefferson City.....	1,000.00
Forst Valley FWB Church - Springfield, MO ..	1,500.00
Governor's Crossing.....	106.60
Grace For The World - Dickson .....	9,150.00
Hawkins FWB Church - Alex.....	500.00
McMinnville First FWB Church.....	460.00
Valley Forge FWB Church - Elizabethton.....	1,350.00
Victory FWB Church - Springfield.....	929.00

## MISCELLANEOUS

Individuals.....	8,160.25
Spring Retreat.....	1,050.00
Re-Imbursement.....	250.00
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$196,694.43</b>
<b>Total Expenditures .....</b>	<b>\$231,444.98</b>

*Thank you for your gifts to support the State Association work. All checks should be made payable to Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists and mailed in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.*

# The Unified Ministry Plan of Support

MARCH 1, 2020 - MAY 31, 2020

## INCOME:

180 FWB Church - Clarksville.....	\$999.00
Appalachian Association.....	135.40
Berean FWB Church - Fairview .....	437.00
Bethlehem FWB Church - Ashland City.....	1,860.00
Brandon's Chapel FWB Church - Bumpus Mills...	494.00
Cane Ridge FWB Church - Nashville.....	431.91
Cofer's Chapel FWB Church - Nashville.....	2,500.00
Corner Stone FWB Church - Murfreesboro .....	190.00
Cross Roads FWB Church - Leoma .....	600.00
Cross Timbers FWB Church - Nashville.....	272.38
Donelson FWB Church - Nashville .....	3,733.35
Faith FWB Church - Columbia.....	105.88
Faith FWB Church - Oakland .....	300.00
Fellowship FWB Church - Kingsport.....	150.00
First FWB Church - Elizabethton.....	900.00
Friendship FWB - Hampton.....	50.00
Good Springs FWB Church - Pleasant View .....	2,578.15
Hardin Valley FWB Church - Knoxville .....	25.00
Jackson Chapel FWB Church - Mosheim .....	300.00

Liberty Fellowship - Johnson City.....	600.00
Loyal Chapel FWB Church - Columbia.....	600.00
New Hope FWB Church - Joelton .....	2,175.00
Oak Grove FWB Church - Charlotte .....	148.00
Oak Grove FWB Church - Greeneville.....	131.09
Oakwood FWB Church - Woodlawn.....	50.00
Phipps Bend FWB Church - Surgoinsville.....	186.00
Richland FWB Church - Nashville.....	974.95
Union Chapel FWB Church - Chuckey.....	400.00
United FWB Church - Dickson.....	2,541.87
Valley View FWB Church - Loudon.....	30.36
Victory FWB Church - Jackson .....	495.00
West Greene FWB Church - Greeneville.....	172.35
Wooddale FWB Church - Knoxville .....	1,515.89
<b>TOTAL INCOME.....</b>	<b>\$26,082.58</b>

## DISTRIBUTIONS:

State Office .....	\$9,654.83
Scholarship Fund .....	1,043.30
Minister's Retirement Fund .....	1,304.13
TN Home Missions.....	1,956.26
TN International Missions.....	326.08
Family Ministries.....	2,934.34
TN Christian Education.....	717.32
TWAC.....	260.82
TN Master's Men .....	260.82
National Together Way .....	5,998.97
International Fellowship .....	65.26
National Convention Fund.....	521.65
Appalachian Association.....	49.06
Cumberland Association.....	620.74
Smoky Mountain Association.....	47.14
Toe River Association.....	1.50
Union Association.....	35.68
West Tennessee Association .....	23.85
Church Revitalization Fund.....	260.83
<b>TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS .....</b>	<b>\$26,082.58</b>



Know of someone who might enjoy reading

# ECHO

Text their name and address to: (423) 523-2887



## Developing Your Church's MISSION STATEMENT

Charley Carmack | [edcarmack@yahoo.com](mailto:edcarmack@yahoo.com)

What is leadership? Leadership is the ability to motivate a group of people toward achieving a common goal. In churches, this involves evangelism, church growth, and equipping people to serve. How do we focus on these objectives? Positive leadership begins with the development of a mission statement. This statement is essential in focusing the energy and assets of the church toward achieving their goals.

How do we develop a mission statement? It is helpful to ask the congregation where they believe the church should focus its attention in ministry. This can be accomplished by developing a questionnaire. Next, appoint a committee to evaluate the information on the questionnaire. When completed share with the congregation the results of the questionnaire and ask for their input. When this is completed, narrow the vision statement to one or two realistic goals with measurable results.

How does a mission statement benefit the church? First, it gets everyone involved in the decision-making process. Second, it helps people to focus on shared common goals. Third, it allows the church to allocate resources to achieve shared goals. Fourth, it aids the church in the hiring of pastoral staff and in the recruitment of volunteers who know what the church wants to achieve. Anything that does not aid in achieving the goals of the mission statement; whether it be personnel, time or resources should not be allowed to hinder the mission of the church.



*Charley Carmack is a retired Free Will Baptist pastor, whose ministry has focused on helping struggling churches establish a firm biblical foundation. Charlie and his wife, Ellen, make their home in Greene County, Tennessee.*