

THE ECHO Uniting Volunteers for Christ

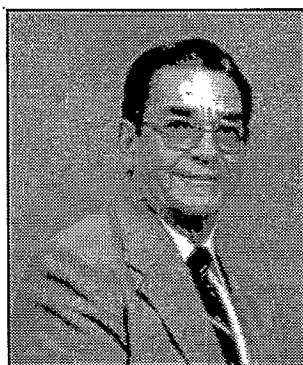
Volume 31

April - May - June 1998

Number 2

Former Missionaries Promoted

Four of God's choice servants have been called to their eternal home in recent days. **Brother Archie Mayhew** of Modesto, California, passed away on October 26, 1997. He and his wife, Sarah, served in Ivory Coast, West Africa, for seventeen years. Brother Archie later served for twelve years as a member of the Foreign Missions Board. Brother Mayhew leaves behind his wife Sarah and their children, Jerry D. Mayhew, Sheryl D. Alvernaz and Merry D. Roarabough, all of Modesto, California, and Dr. Larry D. Mayhew of Bowling Green, Kentucky, and five grandchildren. At the time of his passing, Brother Mayhew was pastor of the Modesto Free Will Baptist Church. The funeral was conducted by Brothers Tim Rolen and Don Robirds.



Many wonderful statements could be made in memory of Brother Mayhew. We give only two: Jim Dudley, a deacon in Dickson, Tennessee, says, "His commentaries about scriptural subjects will continue to minister now that he is gone." Eddie Payne served with the Mayhews in Africa, but he first encountered Archie at Free Will Baptist Bible College in the 1950's. "I quickly got the impression that school and business were just sidelines to his main pursuit. Archie loved God, the Scriptures and people. With well-worn Bible and a large cup of coffee, he was always either leading someone to Christ, discipling someone with endless hours of personal Bible study, or talking about the Lord and the Word."

Less than one month later, on November 20, **Brother Daniel R. Cronk** passed away in Nashville, Tennessee. He, along with his wife Trula, had served as missionaries to India for twenty-five years. Brother Cronk also served as Teacher of Missions at Free Will Baptist Bible College for nine years and as a member



of the Foreign Missions Board for fifteen years.

Brother Cronk is survived by his wife of fifty-two years, Trula; one son, Randall of Nashville, and one granddaughter. A memorial service was held at Horton Heights Church in Nashville by his pastor, Brother Terry Eagleton, and assisted by Mark McPeak, Dr. L. C. Johnson, and others.

Dan is best remembered in the words of his wife and friends. His wife Trula said: "He was generous, loving and kind. He loved his friends. He loved them with a commitment to love. He especially loved the men who mentored him when he was a young Christian and didn't even know John 3:16: Raymond Riggs, Dr. Linton C. Johnson, Robert Crawford, Paul Woolsey and others. He would never have tolerated any denigration of their virtues." Brother Cronk was recognized as a very learned missiologist as Dr. Robert Picirilli, academic dean at FWBBC, explains: "I think I can say without fear of contradiction that Dan Cronk was, indeed, the first missiologist in the Free Will Baptist denomination. A missiologist is more than just a missionary. It means several things. First of all it means Dan didn't just understand the practice of missions but also came to understand the theory and philosophy of missions. In other words, he became a student of missions and then, more than a student, a scholar in that subject."

Brother Don Sexton passed away in Elizabethton, TN on December 17. He and his wife, Billie, had served as missionaries in France from 1971 to 1979, when Don was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. After returning to the states, they continued to serve with distinction as special representatives of the Foreign Missions Department. After thirteen years in this position, Don felt it necessary to resign because of his health. Through his effort, the "Don and Billie Sexton Walk-A-Thon" in Tennessee became the most successful such effort



(continued on p. 2)

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in the entire denomination, raising approximately one million dollars for missionary support.

Brother Sexton is survived by his wife, Billie, one son, Kyle, of Elizabethton, and one daughter, Donna Clark, of Winston-Salem, NC. Funeral services were conducted at Valley Forge FWB Church in Elizabethton by Brothers Eugene Waddell and Rolla Smith.

Sister Mable "Mom" Willey passed away on January 16, 1998, at the home of her daughter, Barbara Moehlman in Bryan, Texas. She is also survived by one son, Tom Willey, Jr., seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Sister Willey and her late husband, Thomas Willey, Sr. had served as missionaries to Panama and Cuba. For sixteen years the Willeys operated the Cedars of Lebanon Seminary, training hundreds of men and women as pastors, Bible teachers and missionaries.



After Brother Willey was called to be with the Lord in 1968, Sister Willey began an extensive ministry of her own. An excellent speaker, she was in constant demand for missions conferences, women's seminars and retreats, including meetings in Japan, Brazil and Europe. In 1970 she joined her son, Rev. Tom Willey, Jr., who was now a missionary in Panama. While in Panama, Mrs. Willey began a ministry with professional women which included the wives of the highest levels of the government of Panama and the diplomatic corps. In 1977, Mrs. Willey became one of the first former U.S. religious missionaries allowed to return to Cuba for a visit. During the following 15 years, Mabel returned to Cuba on six occasions. The most memorable being in 1988 when the government allowed the reopening of the Cedars of Lebanon Seminary and the last visit was in 1992 for the 50th anniversary of the Free Will Baptist Churches in Cuba.

Funeral services were conducted for Sister Willey at the Ebenezer Free Will Baptist Church in Miami, Florida, on January 24, 1998. Those participating in the service were Eugene Waddell, General Director of the Board of Foreign Missions; Jose Rodriguez, John Moehlman, Dr. Mary R. Wisheart, Benito Rodriguez, Don Robirds and others.

Pastor and Teacher Training Scheduled

On May 22-23, Evangelical Training Association and a group of Tennessee and Southwest Virginia ministers are sponsoring a regional seminar at First Free Will Baptist Church in Elizabethton, Tennessee. The teacher will be **Robert J. Morgan**, pastor of Donelson FWB Church in Nashville. Brother Morgan will teach *Beyond A Reasonable Doubt*, a book on Christian evidences which he wrote for Evangelical Training Association. This seminar should be taken by every pastor, minister, church officer, Sunday School teacher in every church and teens and college students.



First FWB Church of Elizabethton is Brother Morgan's home church, where he grew up under the ministry of Brother Winford Floyd. *Beyond A Reasonable Doubt* seminar will use as the text, the book by the same name. Each participant will receive a copy of the book together with additional handout materials.

The seminar will begin Friday night, May 22, with registration at 6:30 p.m. and instruction from 7:00-10:00 p.m. On Saturday, May 23, registration is at 8:00 a.m. with teaching from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with lunch provided by the host church. The cost of the seminar is \$20 advance registration or \$24 at the door. Students are \$10. Registrants are invited to bring an unsaved friend at no extra charge (the friend will receive a free book and syllabus.) Group discounts are available. Those completing the course will be eligible to receive one ETA course credit. For registration and additional information call ETA at 800-369-8291 Ext. 3, or write to ETA, Box 327, Wheaton, IL 60189. The e-mail address is evtrain@aol.com.

Joining ETA in bringing this seminar to East Tennessee is an area steering committee made up of Rev. Dexter Brummit, Toe River Association; Rev. Jim Cox, Tennessee Board of Christian Education; Dr. James Kilgore, Family Ministries; Larry Laughlin, Union Association; Rev. Phillip Poston, Host Pastor and Appalachian Association; Rev. Greg Sergeant, South East Virginia, and Dr. Charles A. Thigpen, Promotional Director for the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Rev. Jonathan N. Thigpen, president of ETA, has written about this seminar, "Aside from personal faith in God, is there any evidence to substantiate the claims of Christianity? What about Jesus Christ—was He more than just a man? And, the Bible—is it more than just an interesting piece of literature? You be the judge! The Beyond Reasonable Doubt Seminar will take you step-by-step through the well-documented evidence. Whether a strong believer, someone who struggles with doubts, or a skeptic, Robert Morgan's clear and powerful teaching will help you reach a verdict that could very well change your life! This seminar is an absolute must for any teenager or college student who is in a secular environment and for those who seek to minister to them." (Editor's Note: Pastors, please plan to attend this outstanding teaching opportunity. Urge all of your teachers and church leaders to attend. Your church should consider paying part or all of the cost for those from your church. Give a special invitation for high school and college students to attend. I assure you, I plan to be there!)

Cross-Cultural Missionaries in Nashville, Tennessee

A New Step Forward for Free Will Baptists!

Carlos Rubio has been approved as a Joint Project/Associate Missionary with the Tennessee State Home Missions Board and the National Home Missions Board. After graduating from Free Will Baptist Bible College, Brother Carlos headed a Spanish ministry in a North Carolina FWB church for four years.

He is presently pastoring a Spanish congregation, Iglesia Bautista Libre Getsemani, in Nashville, Tennessee. Carlos and his wife, Sarah, and son, Christopher Josiah, make a precious team for the Lord. They will truly win your hearts with their message and testimony.

Brother Rubio plans to continue his work with the Nashville church. He will also be participating in mission conferences and plans to be available to help in establishing ministries for the Spanish-speaking people throughout the state of Tennessee and other areas as well.

If you would like to contribute to Brother Rubio's account, or if you would like to have him come and speak to your congregation or perhaps help with a Spanish ministry in your church, please feel free to contact: Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.



Being a Good Samaritan

East Tennessee recently experienced some of its worst flooding ever. One of the churches severely damaged was St. John's FWB Church at Roan Mountain. After the flood waters began to recede, some of the members came to assess the damage and begin the difficult task of cleaning up. While the work was being done, two men stopped to survey the damage. They looked at the outside of the church and then came inside, where the members were hard at work. One of the strangers asked a few questions and then took out his checkbook, wrote a check and gave it to one of the workers, who immediately expressed thanks for their kindness and for the check to help with the clean-up. As the men left, the members unfolded the check—which was for \$2,500 and signed by Franklin Graham—son of the famous evangelist, Billy Graham. Franklin Graham is truly a practicing "Good Samaritan."

Beulah Teague With The Lord

Sister Beulah Watts Teague, wife of Brother W. Horace Teague, retired pastor, departed this life on January 24, 1998. She had been in declining health for some time. She is survived by her husband of sixty-one years, Brother W. Horace Teague. Together they had pastored many churches in Middle and East Tennessee and one church in Michigan.



She is also survived by two sons, Harold R. and wife, Norma, of Longview, Texas and Jim M. and wife, Evelyn, of Chuckey, Tennessee, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. The funeral service was held in Newport, Tennessee with Dr. Charles Thigpen officiating. Interment was led by Doyle Pruett on January 28, 1998.

Sister Teague will be remembered as a faithful and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was always a gracious and caring hostess and a lover of people. As long as her health permitted, she worked with the women and children of the various churches where they served.

Attention High Schoolers!

WHAT?	Stewardship Essay Contest
SPONSOR?	The Together Way Plan
WHO?	The contest is open to all Free Will Baptist students in grades 9 through 12.
SUBJECT?	The subject of the essay must be on some aspect of Christian stewardship.
LENGTH?	Must be 400-600 words.
JUDGED?	Essays will be judged on the development of the theme and its practical application. Punctuation and grammar will also be considered.
AWARDS?	1st Place \$100 2nd Place \$50 3rd Place \$25 The first place essay will be printed in <i>Contact</i> magazine.
WHEN?	All entries must be postmarked before July 1, 1998.
ADDRESS?	Must be mailed to: Essay Contest The Together Way Plan P.O. Box 5002 Antioch, TN 37011-5002

From My Heart

by Dr. Charles A. Thigpen

You will note that we report in this issue of Echo that four former missionaries have recently gone to be with the Lord. Also, others have closed out their overseas ministry after several decades of faithful service. My question to you is, "Where are the replacements for these?" So many churches and associations devote little attention to reaching and challenging the youth. Vacation Bible School could be a vital means of winning boys and girls to Christ and teaching them God's Word—but many churches have totally abandoned VBS. Evidently they look upon it as "just too much trouble."

Also, such a small percentage of our young people go to youth camps. In earlier days, many came to know Christ at summer youth camp—and many surrendered their lives to do God's will. Many answered the call to the ministry or the mission field at youth camp.

The need is *critical*—the laborers are few. Each pastor and church should give focused attention to this great need. We should all remember our Lord's words, "The harvest is truly great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest." (Luke 10:2)



**Free Will Baptist Bible College
is still
your best investment!**

Trustees appoint Bible College Relocation Director

Free Will Baptist Bible College's trustees have asked **Roy Harris**, the college's Stewardship Development Director, to direct a capital campaign to finance the college's relocation to a new campus, according to President Tom Malone.

The trustees met on campus in early December and asked Mr. Harris to assume the responsibility of raising \$5-\$6 million in cash and commitments in a three-year drive to move the Bible College to a 123 acre site outside of Nashville. As Director of Advancement, Mr. Harris will supervise all fund raising for the college, but will have the specific responsibility of raising money to build the new campus.

Trustees also asked **Tim Campbell**, the college's Director of Alumni Affairs, to replace Mr. Harris in the Stewardship Development Office. He will work under the direction of Mr. Harris and is charged with raising the college's \$1.1 million annual operating fund.

The relocation campaign was formally launched in March during the college's spring Bible Conference. The college already owns the property to which it plans to move. The property has been underwritten by gifts and commitments to the "Claim the Land" campaign, which Mr. Harris directed.

Due to Mr. Campbell's move, the college is presently searching for a new Director of Alumni Affairs.

Bible College Searching for Youth Ministries Teacher

FWBBC is looking for a teacher in youth ministry and Christian Education. Experience and appropriate education are required. Any person interested should send a resume and written testimony to:

Dr. Robert E. Picirilli, Academic Dean
3606 West End Ave.
Nashville, TN 37205
Telephone: 615-844-5235
E-mail: repic@fwbbc.edu

Bible College Students Lead 104 to Christ

John Murray, who serves as Christian Service Director at Free Will Baptist Bible College, reports that students led 104 people to Jesus Christ during the fall semester.

As the semester closed before Christmas, Mr. Murray reported that students preached 471 times, taught 766 classes, and dealt with 1,195 people about their spiritual needs. In addition to those who were saved, students witnessed 158 other decisions and distributed 2,930 tracts. All FWBBC students engage in some form of Christian service as part of their training at the college. This includes ministries in churches, jails, nursing homes, the Nashville Union Mission, and numerous other activities.

Changing America's Families, One Child at a Time

Can you imagine that a child would rather say that their parents are dead than say that their parents simply don't want them? And yet, for many children, this heartbreaking statement is a way of life.

We face a crisis in America. More and more children are being devalued and discarded as easily as unwanted trash. The numbers of abused and abandoned children are rising so quickly in our country that experts cannot even keep up with the numbers. Fortunately, Free Will Baptists have been given an opportunity to change some of these awful circumstances.

Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, located in Greeneville, Tennessee, would like you to participate in their outreach to abused and abandoned children. FWBFM encourages churches and individuals to make a special donation during the month of May, known as their "Mother's Day Offering."

The P.A.T.H. Shelter serves children coming out of emergency situations; that is the children who were living in unsafe environments or with dangerous people. Being a short-term house (the children only stay from one day to thirty days), FWBFM's shelter touches the lives of hundreds of abused children each year. God is to be praised that many have come to know Christ as Savior while at The P.A.T.H. Shelter.

Make the difference in the life of a hurting child. Send in your donation today. Now is the time for all of us to reach these children for the sake of Christ who died for them. We can't possibly change every life, but we can change some.

Free Will Baptist Family Ministries
90 Stanley Lane • Greeneville, TN 37743 • 423-639-9449

Tennessee Young People to Visit Mission Fields

Several Tennessee students are involved in various mission trips this summer:

Team Cuba:

Leah Chamberlain, Limestone FWB Church, Limestone.

Team Japan:

Misti Beem and **Natalie Crowson**, Cofer's Chapel FWB, Nashville, and **Daniel Brown**, Fellowship FWB Church, Nashville.

Summer Missions Apprentices:

Bethany Crowson going to Spain and **Allysa Hampton** to Brazil from Cofer's Chapel, Nashville; **Katrina Smith** going to Brazil from Franklin FWB Church, Franklin. **John Buchanan** from Liberty FWB Church, Chuckey, will be part of the Central Asia Team.

Each student must raise between \$2,400 and \$3,000 for his trip. If the Lord impresses you to help financially, send your check earmarked for the student by name to: Foreign Missions Department, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002

All of us can pray for these young people—for their safety, their health and especially for their witness to others. Surely from among these God will call some of them to be the missionary replacements that we so desperately need.

Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists Treasurer's Report December-February 1998

INCOME

Appalachian Assoc.	
Grace	\$163.72
Keensburg	100.00
Appalachian Assoc.	64.20
Central Assoc.	
Crossville	100.00
Faith	50.00
Central Assoc.	50.00
Cumberland Assoc.	
Ashland City	287.71
Bethel	153.52
Bethlehem	120.00
Brandon's Chapel	557.63
Cumberland Assoc.	658.47
Donelson	851.20
Dunbar Chapel	75.00
East Nashville	75.00
Friendship	30.00
Good Springs	376.64
Heads	160.67
Hendersonville	200.00
Mt. Zion	25.00
Oakwood	50.00
New Hope	150.00
Pardue Memorial	200.00
Richland	105.89
Sylvan Park	75.00
Trinity	117.64
Waverly First	50.00
Woodbine	150.00
South Central QM	85.51
Western QM	100.00
Liberty Assoc.	
Cookeville	150.00
Liberty Assoc.	217.82
Northeast Assoc.	
Union Street	150.00
Union Assoc.	
Bethany	40.00
First, Church Hill	650.00
Fellowship	150.00
Forest Grove	75.00
Limestone	75.00
Loudon	25.00
First, Newport	150.00
First, Oak Ridge	211.93
Shady Grove	150.00
Unicoi	75.00
Union Assoc.	385.90
West Greene	100.00
Toe River Assoc.	
Berea	36.00
FWB Family Ministries	
Individuals	82.50
National Fees	255.00
Total Income	445.00
Total Expenditures	8,606.75
	9,174.11

Thank you for gifts to support the State Association work. All checks should be made payable to the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists and sent to E.B. McDonald, P.O. Box 685, Ashland City, TN 37015

—E.B. McDonald, Treasurer

Dates to Remember

April 2-4

Welcome Days, FWBBC

April 25-26

Tennessee CTS Competition, FWBBC

April 26

World Missions Offering, Foreign Missions Dept.

May 10

Mother's Day Offering, FWB Family Ministries

May 14

Commencement, FWBBC

May 22-23

Sunday School Seminar, First FWB, Elizabethton

July 12-16

National Association of Free Will Baptists, Tulsa, OK

Tennessee Foreign Missions Giving in 1997

by Gene Waddell, General Director, Foreign Missions Dept.

My heart overflows with gratitude when I think of how gracious God has been to us. One of God's special blessings is the generosity of the Free Will Baptist people of Tennessee. During 1997 you gave \$786,605.45! This was \$71,605.45 more than the faith goal our board had set. Tennessee was one of only 20 states that reached their goals. All I can say is "PRAISE THE LORD" and "THANK YOU."

We appreciate every gift from every church and every individual. However, we wish to give special recognition to the following churches which led the way in your state:

Donelson FWB Church, Nashville	\$69,623.52
Limestone FWB Church, Jonesborough	47,141.29
Cofer's Chapel FWB Church, Nashville	36,849.75
Fellowship FWB Church, Kingsport	25,229.46
Cross Timbers FWB Church, Nashville	21,549.43
New Hope FWB Church, Joelton	17,021.51
Bethlehem FWB Church, Ashland City	16,618.80
First FWB Church, Church Hill	14,063.50
Forest Grove FWB Church, Knoxville	13,296.05
Good Springs FWB Church, Pleasant View	11,158.28
Wooddale FWB Church, Knoxville	9,692.30
First FWB Church, Erwin	9,543.14
Shady Grove FWB Church, Clarksville	8,788.11
Cookeville FWB Church, Cookeville	8,197.40
Shady Grove FWB Church, Whitesburg	7,844.00
Heads FWB Church, Cedar Hill	7,417.50
Richland FWB Church, Nashville	6,692.33
Faith FWB Church, Knoxville	6,621.50
East Nashville FWB Church, Nashville	6,556.00
Olivet FWB Church, Clarksville	6,241.16
Heritage Baptist Church, Johnson City	6,100.00
First FWB Church, Newport	6,085.00
Horton Heights FWB Church, Nashville	6,001.00
Burbank FWB Church, Elizabethton	5,955.00
Community Chapel FWB Church, Talbott	5,886.52
Fellowship FWB Church, Antioch	5,739.85
First FWB Church, Greeneville	5,330.59
Keystone FWB Church, Jonesborough	5,198.00
Valley Forge FWB Church, Elizabethton	5,011.14

National Offices Building

Tennessee's Portion
\$78,557

Completely underwritten thanks to you!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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