

The ECHO

Uniting Volunteers for Christ

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ON THE MOVE

by Roy Harris, Advancement Director, FWBBC

When a college contemplates relocating and moves forward with that process, there are tons of emotions that flood the hearts and evoke questions in the minds of those who love and support that institution. Here are the questions most frequently asked:

Is there serious interest in the purchase of our present campus? Yes. A number of parties are seriously interested in purchasing our present campus. We have received formal offers to purchase the campus and it may be sold by the time you read this.

What is the asking price for our present campus? An appraisal of our present facilities was conducted a few weeks ago at the request of and underwritten by a potential buyer. The results of that appraisal were considered and a price of \$14,325,500 was set.

When will we actually begin construction?

If things continue on course, we should receive our building permits from the city in June and begin construction shortly after the National Association in July.

What will be built first? The front entrance area will probably be the first to be developed. It is very visible on US 41-A and will be a nice presence to assure both our constituents and our neighbors that we are moving forward with the construction. The Free Will Baptist Bible College Alumni Association has taken the entrance area on as its new project at a cost of approximately \$100,000.

Are we still on target to move in and begin classes by August 2002? Yes. Our goal is to complete the construction, make the transition from the old campus to the new one, and

begin classes on the new site in August 2002.

Are there potential problems that could slow down or stop the process? There are two very important things that must happen or the process could be delayed. First, the sale of the present campus is essential. The equity derived from the sale figures heavily into the financial undergirding of the new campus. Second, the Relocation Campaign must generate the funds needed above the monies received from the sale of the old campus.

What can be done to help? Prayer is the most important thing that can be done to help the process. If God does not build the house, the work is in vain. Pray that the campus will be sold and at a price we must have in order to continue our forward momentum. Pray that God will continue to impress His people to help undergird the process financially.



The chapel at the new campus

A lot can happen in 12 months and a lot has happened since April of

last. The Missionary Tech Team formally accepted our project. They took on the design process of our new campus. We approved the Collegiate Georgian design style accented with brick, stone and columns. We revamped the master plan to locate the core campus around a picturesque lake. We met with our new neighbors and received a standing ovation of support for the project. Floor plans were finalized and detailed blueprint development was begun.

• Many churches and individuals have made commitments toward the project. **Heads FWB Church**, in Cedar Hill, Tennessee, is one such church. Pastor **Wayne Wagner** and his good people were challenged to consider making a \$25,000

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commitment to be paid over five years. They accepted the challenge last spring. They began working on the commitment and completed the \$25,000 gift in one year—four years ahead of schedule.

- A businessman, a good friend of the college, made a \$25,000 commitment last fall and completed this gift by the end of December. He felt impressed by the Lord to increase the commitment to \$100,000.

- The South Georgia Association set a goal of \$150,000 to be raised for the relocation effort.

- The Kentucky Relocation Campaign Steering Committee set a goal of \$250,000.

It has been amazing to watch God's involvement in this process. His presence and direction have been clear as this massive undertaking has moved forward one step at a time. He already sees the completion of this great endeavor. He is the sovereign God who is in control and devises His own plans. He is the omnipotent God who possesses all power and resources to complete any project that He begins. He is the omniscient God who knows His plan and sees the end from the beginning.

From the Editor: *Every Free Will Baptist church should share generously in this new campus. Head's Church has set a wonderful example for us to follow. In addition, there are individuals who have been blessed by the Lord financially and should give to this worthy cause. For many years, Tennessee Free Will Baptists have given more to national ministries than any other state. My prayer is that we will do the same to the college at this crucial time.*

—Charles A. Thigpen

DATES TO REMEMBER

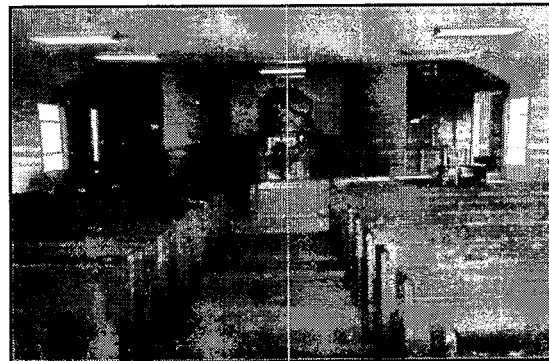
July 16-20	Free Will Baptist National Convention - Anaheim, CA
Aug. 15-17	Union Association The Oaks at FWBFM
Aug. 18-19	Toe River Association Locust Gap
Sept. 9	West Tennessee Association Liberty
Sept. 15-16	Tennessee River Association Solitude
Sept. 22-23	Liberty Association First, Albany, KY
Oct. 7	Northeast Association New Life

NEW CHURCH AT CHATTANOOGA

One of our pastors, **Brother David Kell**, is beginning a new work in Chattanooga. At present, we have no church in Chattanooga (we have one church in Hixson and one in Soddy Daisy). A church building with all the furnishings is being purchased for \$30,000 (the asking price had been \$80,000). This church will be in the Liberty Association—and they recently gave \$1,000 toward this purchase. Please pray for Pastor Kell and send him a check to help in this purchase.

Brother Kell says: "God is still working in our lives and I believe now without any reservations that the will of God for us is to organize a new work in Chattanooga. We have been given 60 days to raise the funding necessary to purchase this property. I am asking my friends to pray about this important matter with me. Prayer is the one thing we need most, because God has the funds necessary to finance this project. The new work will be incorporated as **Signal Hills Community Fellowship**, of The Original Free Will Baptist. I will file the necessary forms with the Tennessee Secretary of State next week to incorporate."

Send your gifts to: David Kell, 1419 Marrick Drive, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379.



Signal Hills Church — The Sanctuary

OLIVET CHURCH DEDICATES NEW BUILDING

Olivet FWB Church, Clarksville, recently completed a multipurpose building. The dedication service was May 21, 2000.

The members of Olivet Church voted unanimously to name the new building "Parham Hall," after Richard and Florence Parham. Having been members and supporters of Olivet Church for many years, the Parhams felt that giving to the Lord and His house was very important. Mr. Parham went to be with the Lord in December 1992, and Mrs. Parham joined her husband and the Lord about two days after the dedication of the new building. The Parhams have been the largest single contributors to the building fund.

Parham Hall consists of four large classrooms on the second floor, two large restrooms, a very large kitchen, and a 65' x 40' fellowship hall with a half basketball court on the first floor. The building was designed to match the original church building.



The folks at Olivet worked together in unity to see this project completed and are very thankful to the Lord for His blessings. **Brother Willard McCarroll** is the pastor of Olivet FWB Church.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. JONATHAN THIGPEN

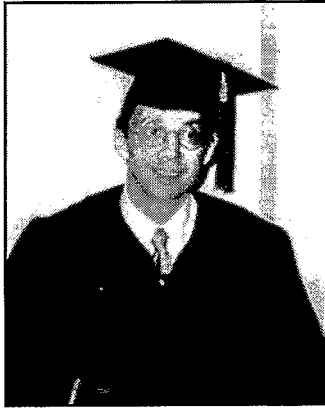
Saturday, May 6, 2000, Jonathan Thigpen was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Educational Studies at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. Jonathan is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Charles A. Thigpen of Nashville.

In addition to the Ph.D. degree from Trinity, he holds a B.A. in Bible from Free Will Baptist Bible College and the Master of Religious Education degree from Temple Baptist Seminary in Chattanooga.

Dr. Thigpen is an ordained Free Will Baptist minister, and has ministered in a variety of positions: as a pastor, youth worker, denominational publishing executive, seminar leader, college professor, curriculum writer and editor. —Jonathan became president of ETA in December of 1992. A dynamic communicator, Jonathan shares a passion for training and equipping others to effectively teach the Word of God.

Jonathan N. Thigpen serves as president of the Evangelical Training Association in Wheaton, Illinois. The 70-year-old organization ministers internationally, promoting Christian education among evangelical institutions. In addition to serving its membership of about 200 seminaries, colleges, universities and Bible institutes, ETA publishes a wide range of lay leadership training materials for local churches. Since 1930, ETA has distributed over 3.6 million textbooks and over 85,000 college and seminary graduates have been awarded ETA diplomas.

Dr. Thigpen resides in Wheaton with his wife Yvonne and 18-year-old daughter Jessica. Yvonne E. Thigpen has served as Director of Educational Ministries at ETA since 1990. The Thigpens have ministered together in conventions and training workshops across the country. They



are active in College Church in Wheaton, where Jonathan teaches adults and Yvonne directs the third grade Sunday School department.

All of us in Tennessee sincerely congratulate Dr. Jonathan Thigpen for earning his doctoral degree—but even more for the blessing, inspiration and challenge he is to all of us who know him. He has touched many lives as he served our



Dr. Jonathan Thigpen, his wife Yvonne and their daughter Jessica

denomination's NYC; as he taught as a professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College; as he wrote and served as editor at Randall House Publications; as he pastored, preached revivals and youth meetings; and in his present ministry as president of Evangelical Training Association. Jonathan, we love you! Your life and preaching have encouraged us all to give the Lord our best in every undertaking.

Editor's note: As many of you know, our son, Jonathan, has ALS, better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. He has had this disease for several years now and the ravages of the disease are very evident. At this moment he carries on a full-time ministry for ETA. Please, please pray for him and for his wife Yvonne and their daughter, Jessica.

MISSIONARY NURSE APPOINTED FOR JAPAN

by Shannon Little

I am a nurse in the pediatric intensive care unit at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, and I am a lifelong member of **New Hope FWB Church** in Joelton, Tennessee.



In January, I was approached concerning an opportunity to serve the Lord in Japan as a school nurse. At the request of the Hokkaido International School in Sapporo, the Free Will Baptist Japan field council has officially invited me to serve on staff for the 2000-2001 school year. I prayerfully considered the opportunity and felt the Lord was leading me in this direction. I met in May with the candidate committee of the Board of Foreign Missions and was approved to serve as the school nurse. The position also includes some teaching responsibilities.

My position will allow the headmaster to waive the tuition of two missionary children who attend the school. This will significantly ease the financial burden of the career missionary families who serve the Lord full-time in Japan.

I need to arrive in Japan by the end of July to prepare for the beginning of classes in August. I am in the process of securing support, and I need to raise \$30,000, which will cover my airfare and monthly income.

Your financial support is important, but I really need your prayers. The children at the school speak English fluently, but outside of school I will be confronted with the Japanese language, which is extremely difficult. Also, I will be away from my family for a year, something I have never experienced before. Most importantly, I want to be an effective witness for Christ.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how God may want you to be a part of my ministry in Japan. I am grateful for this incredible opportunity for an overseas missions ministry, and I look forward to hearing how you may want to share in this experience with me.

Please send all contributions earmarked for "Shannon Little" to Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Add this missionary nurse to your church's prayer list.

GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW CHURCH BUILDING

Plans are well underway for a beautiful new church facility to be built on the banks of Hurricane Creek in McEwen. Bro. **Tim Farris**, pastor, and the congregation of Hurricane Chapel FWB Church held groundbreaking ceremonies along with Homecoming 2000 on May 21. The church has bought and paid for five-plus acres of land one mile from their present location in McEwen. "We have outgrown our present facilities and are in need of more seating, parking and fellowship space," said Bro. Farris.



L-R: Keith Buchanan, associate pastor; Tim Farris, pastor; Hiram Gentry, deacon; Lonnie Tummins, Jr., deacon; Frankie Tummins, deacon

The new facility will offer a much larger sanctuary, more parking, a larger fellowship hall as well as a separate children's church area.

Please pray for the church as they move into the next phase of the project.

FROM MY HEART

by Dr. Charles A. Thigpen, Editor

It burdens me that we have those in our beloved denomination who seem to delight in being "troublemakers." God declares that He hates "he that soweth discord among brethren" (Proverbs 6:19). When a fellow Christian makes an error in judgment or when he does wrong, are we justified in publicizing such information? Our Lord gives us very clear guidelines for confronting the weaker brethren. If a brother has "ought against thee," the person is to go to that brother and "first be reconciled to thy brother" (Matthew 5:23, 24).

Our Lord also makes clear the approach to take "if thy brother shall trespass against thee." He is to "go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone." In the vast majority of cases, such problems will be solved in this way. There are two additional steps given if the first approach is unfruitful (Matthew 18:15-17). We are under divine obligation to pursue this approach.

When, oh when, will preachers learn that God has called us to "feed sheep." We are not called to "throw rocks at them" or at other preachers. May God help all of us to remember that Paul said that we should endeavor "to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3). Also, our dear Lord taught us, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9).

TENNESSEE STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS TREASURER'S REPORT March, April, May 2000

INCOME:	
Appalachian Association	
Grace	213.36
Johnson City First	400.00
Keensburg	75.00
Watauga Valley	165.00
Appalachian Association	100.00
Central Association	
Crossville	100.00
Cumberland Association	
Ashland City	525.56
Bethel	172.51
Bethlehem	120.00
Brandon's Chapel	551.00
Calvary	258.00
Corner Stone	338.00
Cross Timbers	75.00
Donelson	1,035.75
Dunbar Chapel	75.00
East Nashville	75.00
Fellowship	964.77
Friendship	45.00
Good Springs	222.97
Heads	183.40
Hendersonville	200.00
Miller's Chapel	1,421.00
New Hope	300.00
Oakwood	75.00
Richland	56.61
Sylvan Park	237.33
Trinity	184.00
Waverly	75.00
Western Quarterly	50.00
Woodbine	300.00
Liberty Association	
Cookeville	150.0
Liberty Association	542.24
Union Association	
Bethany	30.00
Church Hill	550.00
Community Chapel	150.00
Fellowship	150.00
Fairview	20.00
Forest Grove	75.00
Harris Memorial	89.00
Limestone	75.00
Loudon	25.00
Oak Ridge	231.14
Shady Grove	150.00
Unicoi	75.00
West Greene	75.00
Wooddale	181.88
Tennessee River Association	
Flatwoods	25.00
Toe River Association	
Berea	100.00
WNAC	55.00
Individuals	280.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$11,523.52
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$20,281.65

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 sent to E. B. McDonald, P.O. Box 685, Ashland City, TN 37015.

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