

THE TENNESSEE

ECHO

Uniting
Volunteers for Christ 

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Tribute to Reverend and Mrs. Raymond Riggs

For the past nine years, Raymond and Winona Riggs have served as the promotional director team for Tennessee Free Will Baptists. Their ministry has included preaching, evangelizing, promoting, singing, playing the organ and piano, writing and editing, planning programs and retreats, counseling, visiting, advising, and encouraging. They have travelled thousands of miles and conducted hundreds of services as they promoted both state and national work in Tennessee.

Under their leadership, support for state and national ministries has increased. For instance, in 1990 Tennessee's share in the gift goals for National Association ministries was \$730,902. But the actual gifts amounted to \$1,047,198. This represents an increase in giving of more than 43% of the suggested goal! This placed Tennessee as the number one state in national support. Certainly, part of the credit for this goes to Brother and Sister Riggs.

Brother Riggs' ministry has been long and colorful. He was ordained to the gospel ministry by the Social Band Association in Arkansas in 1938. That same year, he served as the church planter and first pastor of the Highland Park Free Will Baptist Church (now the Central Church in Royal Oak, Michigan.)

After an outstandingly successful pastorate at the Highland Park Church for sixteen years, he resigned to become the first full-time Director of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions (after having served in this capacity on a part-time basis). During his six years in this position, the foundation and basic philosophy were laid for the present foreign missions outreach. It was under his direction that the ministry was enlarged in India and Cuba, and the missions thrust was begun in Africa and Brazil. For many years Brother Riggs served as a member of the Foreign Missions Board, when he was not employed as the director. Perhaps there is no one man among us who has done more for the outreach of the gospel to the "regions beyond" than Brother Riggs. To many of us, he will be "Mr. Foreign Missions" as long as he lives.

In 1959, Brother Riggs organized and pastored the Bethany Free Will Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia. In 1967, he returned to the Central Church in Michigan for nine years, making a total of 25 years of pastoral ministry there. Other pastorates included Cookeville Church in Cookeville, Tennessee and the Good Springs Church, just north of Nashville. He entered full-time evangelism and promotion in 1982.

Brother Raymond and Sister Winona have made an excellent team, both musically and otherwise. During their pastorates, Sister Riggs was a very effective musician. She also held various other offices, such as youth director and church secretary.

The Riggs' have six children, all of whom attended Free



Will Baptist Bible College. All four of the sons are ordained. Charles Riggs is an ordained deacon and minister of music, Dr. Kenneth Riggs is Chairman of the Teacher Education Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College and is pastoring Sylvan Park Church in Nashville. Randall Riggs is pastoring the Bethany Free Will Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia, and Stephen is serving the Foreign Missions Department as a missionary to France. The daughters are both active in local churches. Ramona works for National Business College in Roanoke, Virginia and Patsy works at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville. Patsy's husband, Bill Daniel, works for the Home Missions Department of the National Association.

The Riggs' have eighteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild. One grandson is a pastor and one is a medical doctor.

Other items of interest:

- * Brother Riggs is the son of a Free Will Baptist minister.
- * Sister Riggs is the daughter of a Free Will Baptist minister.
- * The Riggs' have been married for 55 years.
- * Since 1942, Brother Riggs has held an office or has been employed by a department of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.
- * At the present time, Brother Riggs is the Tennessee representative on the General Board of the National Association.
- * Brother Riggs led in the founding of the Liberty Association in the Cookeville area.
- * The Riggs still carry on an effective evangelistic ministry: State Side Evangelism, P.O. Box 49334, Algood, Tennessee 38501 (615/537-9697)

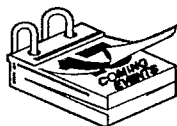
TENNESSEE STATE ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS

- * 209 registered (95 ministers, 21 delegates, 9 deacons, 84 visitors).
- * Free Will Baptist Bible College President, Tom Malone, spoke on "How to Save Yourself" (1 Timothy 4:16).
- * "Christian Education Board" is the new name of the CTS/SS Board
- * Eddie Hopkins and Ezra Walker were honored for service to Free Will Baptist Home for Children.
- * Foreign Missions Walkathon giving totaled \$124,303. Individuals and churches were recognized for raising \$500 or \$1,000.
- * Raymond and Winona Riggs were honored for outstanding promotional service to Tennessee Free Will Baptists.
- * Dr. Jack Williams preached on "How Things Could Be" (John 1:41, 42).
- * Brother James Bowers spoke on Psalm 85:6, "Wilt Thou Not Revive Us Again?"
- * Reports were given from every department of the National Association.
- * A visiting delegation of ministers were present from the Toe River Association.
- * Bible Conference speakers were Brother D. C. Byrd, who spoke on "Ask For the Old Paths" (Jeremiah 6:16) and Brother Leroy Forlines, whose topic was "Achieving and Maintaining Spiritual and Moral Victory."
- * In 1992, we will meet at the Cookeville Church in Cookeville and in 1993 at the Grace Church in Memphis.

THANKS TO DONELSON CHURCH

The 54th session of the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists was hosted by Donelson Free Will Baptist Church, November 12-14, 1991. The spacious and lovely facilities of the Donelson Church provided ample space for board meetings, Woman's Auxiliary meeting, the Bible Conference, the Woman's Auxiliary banquet, and the state meeting proper. The pastor, Brother Rob Morgan, and the people of Donelson are to be thanked for being gracious, kind, and loving. The spirit of Christian hospitality was shown by the friendliness of the Donelson members, the beautiful flowers and plants, and the helpful hands that met our every need.

Many thanks, Brother Morgan, to you and your people.



IMPORTANT DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDARS State CTS Competition

Date: June 5-6

Place: Free Will Baptist Bible College

Cumberland District Woman's Auxiliary

Place: Horton Heights Church, 9:30 a.m.

Date: Saturday, January 5
(snow day, if needed, February 1)

Topic:

"How the New Age Movement Affects Your Home"

TENNESSEE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS

A total of 82 registered for the 46th annual Tennessee Woman's Auxiliary Convention, November 12, 1991, at Donelson Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee. Speakers Mary Wisheart, Gerald Fender and Laura Thigpen developed the theme "Reaching the Young Woman: Teachers of Good Things."

Delegates were encouraged as the treasurer reported that \$1,295.30 had been received for the state project, which was \$1,500 for the Gerald Fender account.

Delegates endorsed the following Plan of Work:

- January: Enlistment and Support \$5.00 per auxiliary (\$2.00 for state and national minutes and \$3.00 for TWAC support).
- February: Foreign Student Scholarship Fund
- March: State Project—\$1,500 for WNAC office furniture
- April: Foreign Missions (Pre-Easter Offering)
- May: Free Will Baptist Bible College 50th year celebration
- June: Tennessee State Home Missions
- July: Eunice Edwards Loan Fund
- August: WNAC Emphasis
- September: Memorial Student Loan Fund
- October: Tennessee Home For Children
- November: National Home Missions (Pre-Thanksgiving Offering)
- December: Optional

Dr. Wisheart reported that a total of \$37,144.08 has been received for the Eunice Edwards Fund. This is \$12,855.92 short of the goal of \$50,000 by December 1991. However, \$35,000 of this has already been given to help build the first Free Will Baptist church building in Spain.

Dr. Wisheart reported that in 1990 Free Will Baptist Women gave through WNAC and directly to the missions departments to missions and missions objectives a total of \$520,626.53. That is \$47,112.16 more to missions and related projects than in 1989. Tennessee gave a total of \$26,913.37 and was first in giving to the Co-Laborer Fund and fourth in giving to the Emphasis Offering.

The Woman's Auxiliary Banquet was a great success. Food Sales of Tennessee, represented by Tim Helton, provided the delicious food, which was prepared and served by the Donelson Woman's Auxiliary together with the Donelson teenagers. A gift of \$322.09 was given to the Millington project from the banquet proceeds.

Three Tennessee women won in the Creative Arts Contest. Nancy Harris, Whitesburg, won second place in "Plays." Fannie Ruth Henderson, Greeneville, won second place in "Poetry." Anne Worthington won first place in "Programs."

Delegates elected the following officers:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| President | Marjorie Workman |
| Vice President | Rebecca Pugh |
| Secretary | Anne Worthington
3308 Timber Trail
Antioch, TN 37013
615/367-4505 |
| Treasurer | Trula Cronk
5709 Vine Ridge Drive
Nashville, TN 37205
615/356-9063 |
| Field Worker | Dawn Sweeney |
| Members-at-Large | Varnell Gorenflo
Gladys Haney
Myrtle Reeds |
| Historian | Mary Wisheart |

EDITOR'S REMARKS

My duties as Promotional Director for Tennessee Free Will Baptists will begin on January 1. You may help in the effectiveness of this office by sharing in several ways.

1. Please pray that the Lord will give me wisdom in this new undertaking. This is a different "hat" from any that I have worn before. I am very aware of the fact that "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it . . ." (Psalm 127:1).
2. I call on the Clerks of Quarterly and District meetings to inform me of items of general interest. Please let me know of pastoral changes, times and places of meetings, and other matters of special interest to our people.
3. Information regarding local church news should be sent in by the pastor or someone whom he designates (who is dependable!). Such things as soul-winning activities, spiritual development, church growth, ground-breaking, building completion or dedication, record attendance, and such like, should be reported.
4. State officers, boards and organizations should keep us aware of progress, programs, and activities.

TENNESSEE HOME MISSIONS

This has been a tremendous year for Tennessee Missions. Because of your involvement, we now have three more good works in our state.

Gwen and Rebecca Pugh have done well in Millington and the church will be debt free and self-supporting in January.

Glen and Sarah Poston have a solid congregation and beautiful new facilities in Memphis. They will be on their own this spring. Our main effort goes now to paying off the property in West Knoxville. Gerald and Gail Fender and our mission have five beautiful acres of land in a high-growth area. The land cost \$105,000, and we lack only \$39,000.

Let us pay it off so we can get a new building on this impressive site. Send your contribution immediately for the West Knoxville Land Fund to Rev. Wayne Wagner, 3156 Heads Church Road, Cedar Hill, TN 37032.

UPPER CUMBERLAND CRUSADE

Six district associations with more than 70 churches sponsored the second annual crusade at the Cookeville church, December 2-6. Several hundred people attended nightly. Speakers were Robert Shepherd, Gary Norton, Bobby Greene, Connie Cariker, and Puerto Rico Home Missionary, Miguel Vera.

Gifts to the mission ministry in Puerto Rico were raised before and during the crusade. The Western Division of the Stone Association gave \$5,400, presented by Brother Dow Allen. Brother David Crowe presented a check from all of the others for \$13,156.80. Additional gifts brought the total to approximately \$20,000.

The climax was a giant youth rally on Saturday night.

Brother Raymond Riggs said, "The preaching was fervent, the music was wonderful, and fellowship was tremendous!"

Plans are being made for the third crusade in December 1992.



CHILDREN'S HOME

MOTHER'S DAY GIVING FOR CHILDREN MAY 10, 1992 DATE APPROVED AND SET

The Tennessee State Association gave an extremely warm reception to the latest report from the Free Will Baptist Home for Children. The State Association approved the request to establish an annual fund raising campaign for the FWB Home for Children. This annual project will be held each Mother's Day, beginning May 10, 1992.

MOTHER'S DAY GOAL \$30,000

Funds will go to support our newly established emergency shelter. Our shelter is providing emergency care for children for 30 days or less. During this time we have the opportunity to meet the immediate physical needs of children and evaluate their emotional needs as well. GOAL: to give each child security and stability; for most, it may be the first time. This time of evaluation allows us to determine how we can help the child when at all possible and find placement in our group home facility. This time of adjustment also helps them to become acquainted with their new surroundings and lifestyle. To ask children to come from a possibly violent background or one where there has been no one to supervise their behavior and to live in a house full of eight other children where guidelines are set is very traumatic. They come to us alone, scared, and very angry for the way they have been treated. We are seeing some very positive results since opening the shelter and establishing the evaluation/adjustment period.

We need your commitment to this campaign. Please plan now. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 615/639-9449. We would love to answer your questions.

STATE ASSOCIATION ELECTS TWO NEW MEMBERS

The FWB Home for children is very appreciate of the hard work and interest that our two retiring board members, Rev. Ezra Walker and Rev. Eddie Hopkins, have put forth on behalf of the Home for Children. They will be greatly missed at our meetings. We are, however, very excited about the two new board members elected to the Tennessee State Association meeting. Welcome Mr. Don Lane of Clarksville, Tennessee, and Mr. Jim Foster of New Johnsonville, Tennessee. We look forward to working with you as we see continued growth and advancement in God's child care ministry.

Canah Chapel, Erwin, TN, donated a new refrigerator to emergency shelter. Rev. Kenneth Winningham, pastor.

1991 YEAR IN REVIEW

- Increased licensing to care for 42 children, up from 32.
- Reached full capacity 42 children as of December. A waiting list has begun.
- Opened an emergency shelter. The only one in Greene County.
- Began a working allowance program. The start of a larger goal: Independent Living Skills.
- Major remodeling of cottages has begun.
- Farm maintenance, livestock, and agriculture programs begun.
- Equestrian program in the developmental stages (10 horses now maintained).
- Basketball teams formed for girls and boys.
- Conversion of manual record system to personal computer system.

TENNESSEE FINANCIAL REPORT

Appalachian Assn.	\$194.78
Berea	10.00
Bethlehem.....C.....	222.00
Bethany.....U.....	15.00
Brandon's Chapel.....C.....	461.79
Central Assn.	100.00
Church Hill First	100.00
Cookeville	150.00
Cross Timbers.....C.....	50.00
Cumberland Assn.	1,249.05
Donelson.....C.....	186.69
Dunbar Chapel.....C.....	75.00
Faith-Central Assn.	100.00
Forest Grove.....U.....	75.00
Friendship.....C.....	45.00
Head's.....C.....	96.31
Hendersonville.....C.....	200.00
Horton Heights.....C.....	20.00
Johnson's Chapel.....U.....	85.57
Keensburg.....A.....	75.00
Liberty Assn.	263.01
Limestone.....U.....	175.00
Monterey.....L.....	50.00
Home for Children	225.00
Northeast Assn.	280.00
New Hope.....C.....	50.00
Richland.....C.....	57.91
Sparta First.....U.....	46.85
Trinity.....C.....	86.00
Watauga Valley.....A.....	150.00
Wooddale.....U.....	224.24
Melvin Worthington.....C.....	75.00
Union Street.....NE.....	150.00
Union Assn.	1,339.59
Valley Forge	25.00
West Tennessee Assn.	100.00
State Assn. Registration Fees	575.00
State Assn. Offerings	397.06
Ministers Benevolent Fund	525.00

Total Receipts for
September, October, and November \$8,305.85

Thank you for your support. 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.

National News

Home Missions

A Very Urgent Prayer Request!

Not enough money came in to National Home Missions during September, October, and November to meet the missionary and staff payroll. Some Home Missions staff members in Nashville have not been able to deposit their salary checks because there were not enough funds in the bank to cover them. The Home Missions Department has no debts, but it is simply that the Department has had to spend \$125,000 more than it has taken in. As of November 1 the home missionary deficits totaled \$91,087.04 and the Home Missions General Fund is \$133,054.59 in the red. These are the largest deficits Home Missions has ever had! The matter is so critical that something must be done to remedy this situation. The National Home Missions Department is asking all Free Will Baptist individuals and churches to give generously and consistently to help erase the large deficits. Send gifts to National Home Missions, Post Office Box 5002, Antioch, Tennessee 37011-5002.

Roy Thomas, General Director

Foreign Missions

There is good news and bad news from the foreign missions department. The good news is that 70 people made professions of faith recently in an evangelistic campaign in Tanda, Ivory Coast!

More good news: Thanks to our faithful partners in Tennessee the Sexton Walk-a-thon broke another record-- \$124,303! These much-needed funds will help keep our Tennessee missionaries on the field.

The bad news is: Because of severely deficit accounts, four missionaries from other states may be forced to come home and regather their support-- the Baileys, the Owens, the Teagues, and the Wests. The foreign missions board recently instructed the general director to bring any missionary home when his/her deficit exceeds \$8,000. Overall, we estimate that our expenses will exceed our income during 1991 by \$278,000.

We are especially grateful for Tennessee's strong support for foreign missions. Pray for all our people to follow your example.

Eugene Waddell, General Director

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