

THE TENNESSEE

ECHO Uniting Volunteers for Christ



Volume 27

April - May - June 1994

Number 2

The ECHO (USPS-909860) is a quarterly publication of the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists. Editorial office, 2404 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203. Second Class Postage paid at Nashville, TN. Dr. Charles A. Thigpen, Editor. Postmaster: Send forms 3579 to ECHO, 3606 West End Ave., Nashville, TN 37205.

An Open Letter to Tennessee Pastors

from Charles A. Thigpen, Promotional Director

Dear Brother Pastor:

On Tuesday night, July 19, 1994, a victory service is planned to celebrate paying off the indebtedness of the National Offices building. Tennessee's portion is \$78,557. Of this amount, we have raised \$22,514, leaving a balance needed of \$56,043.

Tennessee is the most fortunate state among Free Will Baptists. It is here in the Volunteer State that Free Will Baptist Bible College, Randall House Publications, and the National Offices are all located. This is a plus for us—no other state has these denominational facilities and institutions within their borders!

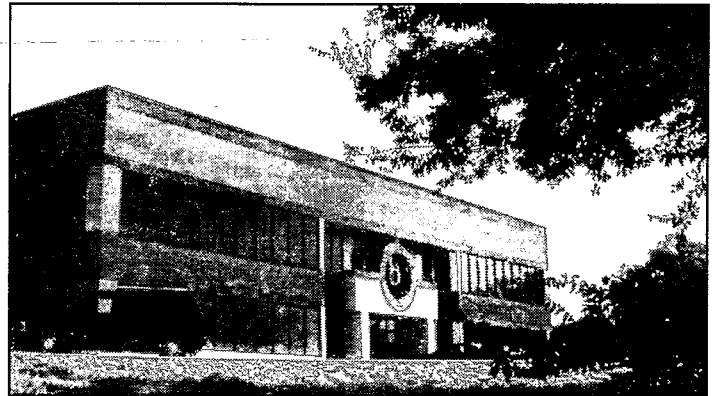
A few of our Tennessee churches and individuals have given toward this need. Dear Pastor, please lead your church in planning a special offering for this worthy cause. Or your church may elect to set aside a definite amount from the church treasury as the church's part.

A short video (12 1/2 minutes) has been prepared. Any pastor may request one without charge. This video will show your people the new building, the various departments which are housed there, and the vital role performed by the National Offices personnel in carrying out the functions assigned to the various departments by the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Please pick out any Sunday in June and raise your fair share toward this need. To involve the boys and girls of your church and Sunday School, "quarter folders" have been prepared—each folder, when filled, will hold five dollars.

You may request one of the videos and the number of folders that you need by writing (or calling):

Dr. Melvin Worthington, Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002
615/731-6812



Free Will Baptist National Offices Building

Even if you or your church have already given, please consider giving again. My wife and I have given \$1,000 but we are going to give another \$500. Please send your checks to Dr. Worthington earmarked for National Offices Building. If I may be of help to you, please let me hear from you.

Tennessee Gifts to National Home Office Building

Limestone Church	2000.00
Donelson Church	1873.00
Wooddale Church	1000.00
Liberty Association, Cookeville	1000.00
Shady Grove Church	573.00
East Nashville Church	500.00
Ashland City Church	400.00
Horton Heights Church	400.00
Sylvan Park Church	365.00
Cross Timbers Church	350.00
Heads Church	300.00
Harper Road Church	300.00
Richland Church	270.00
Canah Chapel Church	113.00
Cofers Chapel Church	75.00
Gifts From Individuals	<u>12,875.00</u>
Total To Date	22,514.00

Victory Church in Jackson, Tennessee



Victory Free Will Baptist church in Jackson, Tennessee was begun as a Home Missions project about 1967. But in the year 1990, attendance had dropped to around nine people. The Lord led the Terry Booker family to accept Victory Church as their pastorate. This meant that both Brother and Sister Booker would need to work at full-time jobs in order to serve Victory Church. In these three and a half years, all the indebtedness on the property has been completely paid off, the church building and parsonage have been completely refurbished, and attendance has greatly increased. The church and parsonage are situated on a three and a half acre tract of land directly across from the high school. Thank God for Pastor Booker and his family and the commendable work they have done in Jackson.

Brother Terry Booker, pastor of Victory Church, was born and reared in Memphis, Tennessee. His family attended First Free Will Baptist Church in Memphis. Brother Booker is a certified public school teacher. He graduated from Memphis State University with a B.S. degree in Secondary Education. He and Sister Booker have two children, Tracey and Joshua.

Pastor Booker had pastored four churches before coming to Victory Church in Jackson. He pastored New Lebanon Church in Mississippi, Hamilton Church in Alabama, Cross Timbers Church in Tennessee, and Martin Hill Church in Mississippi.

.....

Coming Events

- FWBBC Commencement.....May 12
- State CTS Competition-FWBBCJune 3-4
- National Association of FWB-Little Rock, AR.....July 17-21

Bill Gardner— Tennessee Moderator



Bill Gardner, pastor of Fellowship Church in Antioch, Tennessee for the past seven years, was elected Moderator of the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists at the last annual meeting. Brother Gardner and his wife Joann have three children: Deborah (Mrs. Marvin Mouser), Becky (Mrs. Brad Drace) and Matthew (who is married to the former Tonya Williams).

Brother Gardner is an alumnus of Free Will Baptist Bible College and was born in Norfolk, Virginia. He has served churches in North Carolina, Indiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Dawn Sweeney, President Tennessee Women Active for Christ



Dawn Sweeney was elected president of TWAC at the November meeting in Memphis, Tennessee. She succeeds Marjorie Workman, who served for two years. Dawn graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College. After spending ten weeks in Ivory Coast, Africa, she took the additional courses at Tennessee State University in Nashville so that she could qualify to become a Registered Nurse.

She served as a Free Will Baptist missionary in the country of France for three years. After returning home, she was employed by the Children's Home in Greeneville, Tennessee for eighteen months as a house parent. Since then she has been employed at Holston Valley Hospital in Kingsport. For the past two years she has been the Tennessee Field Worker for TWAC. Dawn was recently appointed to be the first full-time Field Representative for the Trula Cronk Home for Children. She is available to come to your church or organization to represent the home. She will also help plan major projects for the Home. She may be reached at 615/639-9449 or 615/357-5420.

"Let Us Rise Up and Build," Nehemiah 3:18

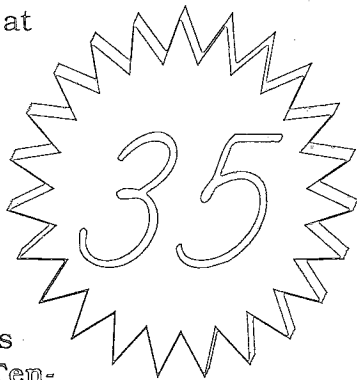
I want to talk to you about our Building Fund. Across from our land there is a beautiful rolling hill with trees at the top and an incredible view. When we bought the land, I prayed that there would be beautiful subdivision there someday, well, my prayers have been answered. They are cutting the roads in now and landscaping in preparation for 26 homes. I like to go up there and sit on top of the hill and pray. I can drive up there now. I can see three subdivisions that are being built. And I can just picture our beautiful church building down below me on that busy, busy road. And then I choke back the tears when I think about the fact that we just don't have the money. We have about \$12,000. **NOW IS THE TIME TO BUILD!** I feel like I have brought these precious people to the banks of the Red Sea. Now we need a miracle! And I have nowhere to turn but to you. Please help us!

We estimate the cost of building to be about \$35 per square foot, especially if we get some volunteer labor. I know you would like to be able to say that you bought a square foot of the beautiful church in West Knoxville.

You can buy three feet at the bargain price of \$100. If you are a pastor or leader in your church, please present this to your congregation and ask them to set aside \$1 each day for a month and five days to buy one foot. This is our mission work in Tennessee. Let's get it done!

I am counting on you. You have always been there for us. I have bathed this letter in prayer. Before you forget, close your eyes and ask the Lord what He would have you do. I'm sure He will let you know. And I'm sure you will be glad you gave. Thank you for your gift and your prayers. I love you!

Gerald Fender
11321 Birch Springs Drive
Knoxville, TN 37932



Seventeen Tennessee Students on Dean's List at Free Will Baptist Bible College

"A" Honor Roll

Jill Goodfellow — Nashville
Chris Sass — Nashville

"B" Honor Roll

Seniors
Lisa Duncan — Nashville
Anthony Edgmon — Nashville
Dawn Wenning — Nashville

Juniors

Brandon Bell — Nashville
Lisa Edgmon — Nashville
Carrie Summar — Nashville
Jennifer Workman — Nashville

Sophomores

Jodie Chilton — Nashville
Edwin Franks — Newport
Jennifer Hampton — Nashville
Shay Hood — Greeneville

Freshmen

Kelly Goodfellow — Nashville
Wally Jones — Mt. Juliet
Allison Page — Springfield
Barbara Roehl — Nashville

News from Randall House Publications

The tenth revision of the Treatise of Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists is now off the press. This is the first revision in eleven years. This revised edition now includes all the changes the National Association of Free Will Baptists has adopted since 1981. There are also some minor changes in the organization of the material.

Randall House Publications has signed an agreement with the Christian Purchasing Network which entitles your church to purchase products at a considerable savings. We are highlighting chairs and copiers. For more information call Randall House Publications at 1-800-877-7030. We can also arrange a free copier demonstration in your church.

1993 Sexton Walk-A-Thon for Foreign Missions

On behalf of our foreign missionaries we wish to express our deepest appreciation to all of you who participated in the 1993 Walk-A-Thon. Your expression of love for our missionaries and the Lord's work has truly been overwhelming. May God richly bless each of you. The current total is **\$117,000**. The following is a list of churches and the amount raised by each:

Limestone	6,701	Union Hill	1,000
Valley Forge	4,839	Friendship	973
Parker Chapel.....	4,831	West Knoxville Mission	876
Wooddale.....	4,777	Dunbar's Chapel.....	850
First-Johnson City	4,000	St. Joseph Chapel.....	833
Faith-Knoxville	3,523	Valley View	812
Community Chapel.....	3,450	Berea.....	750
Eastern Star	3,115	Upland	750
First-Sparta	3,001	First-Dickson.....	725
Forest Grove	2,700	Carlisle	705
Victory	2,414	United-Dickson.....	635
Glamorgan Chapel-VA	2,209	Middle District-NC	601
Liberty-Millington	2,135	Calvary-Nashville	573
Bethlehem	2,089	Piney Grove	500
First-Greeneville	2,034	Union-Greeneville	456
Piney Flats.....	2,010	Stoney Point	431
Peace	2,000	Ivy Heights-NC	424
Mt. Carmel	1,976	Macedonia	404
First-Church Hill	1,809	Morgan Branch.....	400
Burl's Chapel.....	1,802	Van Hill	399
Pine View.....	1,658	Union Street	380
Shady Grove-Whitesburg	1,632	Bethel.....	378
Fairview-Hampton	1,592	Upper Gap Creek	361
Fellowship-Kingsport	1,555	Grace-Memphis	360
Union Chapel	1,500	St. Paul-NC	360
New Home	1,496	Dry Creek	355
Richland	1,454	West Greene	300
First-Oak Ridge	1,415	Grassy Creek.....	299
Midfield	1,375	Goshen Valley.....	288
Burbank	1,363	Hilltop-SC.....	272
Ashland City.....	1,362	Faith-Johnson City	267
First-Portland	1,359	Pyburn	244
Unicoi.....	1,318	Oak Hill	230
Fall Branch	1,278	Vale	210
East Nashville.....	1,235	Roan Street	205
Southside	1,200	Heads	201
Phipp's Bend	1,158	First-Springfield	183
Sunset.....	1,147	Magnolia	160
First-White Pine.....	1,035	Horse Creek.....	125
North Memphis	1,025	Van Hill	125
Greystone	1,006	The Y	105
Bethany	1,000	Bridges Chapel	100
Fairview-Heiskell	1,000	Little Doe	100
First-Mt. City	1,000	Odom Chapel-NC	100
First-Smithville	1,000	Good Springs	75
Keensburg.....	1,000	Cedar Chapel	60
Milligan	1,000	Pine Grove	42
Randall Memorial	1,000	Immanuel	40

Tennessee State Association Financial Report December-February

Income	
Appalachian Assn.	
Keensburg	\$50.00
Watauga Valley	175.00
Grace	95.67
Appalachian Assn.	53.51
Cumberland Assn.	
Bethlehem	166.50
Brandon's Chapel	566.50
Calvary	214.96
Cofer's Chapel	225.00
Cross Timbers	50.00
Cumberland Assn.	818.11
Donelson	1,668.58
East Nashville	75.00
Friendship	45.00
Good Springs	158.95
Head's	207.88
Loyal Chapel	25.00
Southern Quarterly Conf.	114.00
New Hope	50.00
Trinity	99.00
Western Quarterly Conf.	100.00
Liberty Assn.	
Cookeville	150.00
Liberty Assn.	136.77
Northeast Assn.	
Union Street	150.00
Union Assn.	
Bethany	20.00
Church Hill First	300.00
Fellowship	150.00
Forest Grove	75.00
Limestone	125.00
Union Assn.	469.94
Others:	
Home for Children	225.00
Individuals	50.00
Total Income	\$6,810.37
Total Expenditures for December, January, and February	\$7,284.83

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

Progress Report on Mark & Donna Thomas

Mark Thomas, who grew up in Woodbine Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, and his wife Donna, report progress in their home church in Greeley, Colorado. The congregation has land and a first unit building, and are hoping to build some Sunday School rooms this spring. The congregation which numbers in the 50's and 60's in attendance has experienced several conversions and rededications this past year.



However, this has not been without problems. The city of Greeley has refused to grant a building permit for additional Sunday School rooms unless the church donates part of its land to the city. Also, Mark and Donna's three year old son Jonathan was born with cerebral palsy and is unable to walk or talk.

Another problem of great concern to Mark and Donna is the fact that support for their missionary account has dwindled until it is in danger of going into the red unless additional funds are raised. The National Home Missions Department is asking the supporters of Mark and Donna to please be faithful in their support until the work in Greeley can become self supporting. Send your gifts designated for the "Mark Thomas Account" to the National Home Missions Department, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37001-5002.

Dr. Reeds Retires

For 32 years, Dr. Reeds has carried the mantle of responsibility for the Free Will Baptist Sunday School Department. In honor of his labor of love for our denomination, we would like to create a Book of Remembrance for presentation to him upon his retirement. In order to make this a successful venture we need your help. If you have been blessed through his ministry, would you write him a personal letter telling him about the blessing. Your letter will be included in a special Book of Remembrance that will be presented April 26, 1994. Please send your letter to: Carolyn Lane, Randall House Publications, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.

S.O.S. Means Show Our Support

by Robert J. Morgan

Lance Corporal Ron Tull shivered in the cold of a Saudi Arabian night and thought of his Savior. It was January 29, 1991, and danger lurked around him like a sinister shadow. He prayed for safety, then abruptly stopped. "No, Lord, I'm not asking you to spare my life. But if I live through this, I'll know it's only by your grace."

Suddenly his radio crackled, "This is Racon! Thirty Iraqi tanks coming over the berm!" Tull scrambled his troops, dropped into his tank, adjusted his headset, and charged into the blackened desert at 50 miles an hour. Snatches of the Twenty-third Psalm shot through his mind like tracer bullets.

Then it happened. *Whump! Boom!* The explosion threw Tull's tank into the air like a tin can hit by a shotgun blast. Bomb fragments ripped into his back. A fire flashed through his vehicle, flames licking at his clothes and body. Shuddering, plummeting explosions hurled him from the wreckage like a rag doll. He staggered to his feet, looked back at his slaughtered troops, then fell facedown in the sand.

Lance Corporal Ron Tull had been hit by *friendly fire*. A heat-seeking missile shot from a U.S. Air Force A-10 Fighter had fastened onto the wrong tank, killing seven Marines and seriously wounding Tull.

It happened more than once. In all, friendly fire was responsible for at least 35 of the 148 American deaths in the Gulf War.

It's horrible to wound one's own.

Last year in Louisville as delegates to the National Association of Free Will Baptists left the arena, some were laughing, some talking, others lingered in vacation clothes eager to return home. But huddled near the entrance, a group of missionaries was weeping, clinging to each other, wounded by friendly fire.

They had given their lives for overseas service, leaving hearth and home to serve at substandard salaries in foreign cultures, there with their families to be poured out for God.

What had happened?

Friendly fire. What has it done to our missionaries?

Emotional Pain

It has hurt them. Listen to this testimony: "I

went through months of depression. There were days when it was all I could to drag myself out of bed....The source of the depression was the deep hurt I felt that was with me 24 hours a day. I returned to the States and went to Link care for counseling."

Another wrote, "This thing has consumed us, taking inordinate amounts of time and energy. Sometimes we feel as though we don't have energy to go on."

A Free Will Baptist visitor recently left Europe deeply troubled by the levels of hurt radiating through our missionary team. "They were in great turmoil because they didn't know from one month to the next whether they would be fired, or brought home, or asked to resign. My wife and I noticed this was occupying 95% of their waking hours, and it was just making nervous wrecks of them. It will take years for their inner wounds to heal. Really, it would be good for them to take a long furlough—two or three years—to get their emotions worked out."

Family Trauma

Even worse, friendly fire hurts the MK's. "My kids will never be Free Will Baptists when they grow up," one missionary told me. "They've already said they want no part of a group that treats its own like this."

Then she added, "What do you think that does to me?"

Eugene Waddell explains, "Often a missionary works his way through the hurt and resentment only to discover that his loved ones aren't able to easily overcome the ill-will. Children in homes under attack tend to feel like 'if this is the way God treats His servants, I'm not sure I want to be involved in ministry.'"

One of the grandparents told me, "The children have been affected even worse than the parents. When a child sees his parents attacked like that, it leaves scars that may never heal."

Recruiting Disaster

Taking it a step further, a Free Will Baptist Bible College professor, after talking extensively to missions students, observed, "Last year's conflict has caused many of them to be very, very skittish, if not skeptical, about going out with our mission. It's causing many of them to look more seriously

at other sending agencies. Some students still remain more or less committed to Free Will Baptist missions, but they're determined to be more vocal and assertive than previous generations. This has left them very angry, with a sense of righteous indignation for our overseas workers."

Destroyed Trust

Another by-product of friendly fire is the irreparable damage inflicted on mutual trust between sent and senders. One of our European staff shared from his heart, "This problem has come close to crippling any real advance in field council operations and seriously eroded the confidence I have in our denomination. It's at an all-time low right now, and I have a wait-and-see attitude. I'm holding things very lightly indeed."

A retired missionary noted, "They'll probably have trouble trusting anyone stateside now. For the majority of the missionaries in France and Spain, it's going to take a long time for trust to be rebuilt."

After extensive conversations with many of our African missionaries, I'll vouch for the accuracy of that statement. Falsely accused several years ago, they were hauled before a special denominational committee for assessment—and assumed guilty by many until proven innocent. The lasting effect? They're very guarded now about revealing their hearts. They speak very cautiously about complex missiological issues, afraid some stray, misinterpreted word repeated out of context might bring another firestorm.

Beyond this, consider the negative impressions created in our international churches toward those stateside whose posture toward the field is to continually scrutinize, criticize, and demoralize.

Financial Troubles

Another crippling result of friendly fire is the dwindling of a missionary's support base. Most missionaries struggle to stay on the field even under prosperous conditions. When dump-trucks of question marks fall atop their names, it becomes even tougher. "I feel very keenly the agony of this," Waddell said. "When donors have their confidence eroded, they tend to withhold their funds until the missionary is cleared. That really hurts. I know how that hurts."

The immediate result? Our European missionaries are struggling to climb out of a hole that has fluctuated from \$60,000 to \$100,000.

Disrupted Ministries, Lost Souls

Undoubtedly, the most tragic result of friendly fire is the collateral damage inflicted on the national church and the foreign harvest. Waddell agonizes over "...the necessity to use valuable time in ways that are not priority functions of our calling. Instead of focusing on evangelization, we're consumed with clearing up complex, unnecessary misunderstandings."

A Spanish missionary agrees. "The hardest thing was that all our attention was diverted from what we were there to do. Every day some new rumor or crisis required our attention. The work suffers, even affecting the nationals because we're so preoccupied they feel they aren't important anymore."

The harvest, meanwhile, withers.

John and Jude: The Balance

The books of 3 John and Jude are across the page from each other, and both have something to say about all this. Often, Jude says, extreme measures must be taken to "contend earnestly for the faith."

But among Bible-believing, conservative, committed Free Will Baptists, the more frequent admonition needs to be the one across the margin—John's advice to faithful Gaius about the traveling missionaries of his day: *It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans...You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.*

How can we do that?

We can pray for them.

We can reassure them, writing notes of encouragement to each European missionary in the coming months.

And we can GIVE, making a serious attempt to erase their deficit accounts, *sending them on their way in a manner worthy of God.*

After all, we have a world to win, multitudes to reach, and a harvest to gather. Let's not spend our ammunition on one another...

...for there's nothing friendly about friendly fire.

Show Our Support

The purpose of the S.O.S. program is to encourage and bring healing to our European missionaries.

"Bear ye one another's burden and so fulfill the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..." Matt. 28:19

The objective of S.O.S. is to involve as many Tennessee Free Will Baptist churches as will participate in: PRAYER, COMMUNICATION, and FINANCIAL support.

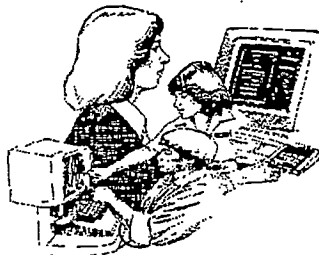
PRAYER: To intercede to the Father on behalf of our European missionaries, asking that HE grant them (and the national churches) recovery from their recent distress. To pray for at least one of our European missionaries, by name, at least once a week, in a public service.

COMMUNICATION: To encourage our missionaries by making the effort to communicate our support for this joint ministry between us, the

sending church, and them, the sent ones. We will take the time and make the effort to communicate at least once during this year with at least two of our European missionaries. This may be accomplished by Air Mail, E-Mail, or telephone. The thrust of the communication is to let them know that we, the sending church, have not forsaken the global aspect of the ministry.

FINANCIAL: Each church is asked to receive special S.O.S. offerings. In the course of the year, we want to send \$100,000 to Foreign Mission's Special S.O.S. account. This will be designated to eliminate all European deficit accounts. Quarterly updates will be sent to every participating church.

Editor's Note: This "Show Our Support" thrust was adopted by the Tennessee State Association in November. It is not to take the place of the Don Sexton Walk-A-Thon for Foreign Missions, but it is intended to add to and supplement that drive.



B.S. in Business Administration You can get it at Free Will Baptist Bible College!

Write for a free brochure:
Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

**Call toll free:
1-800-76-FWBBC**

THE TENNESSEE

ECHO

3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205-2498

The ECHO
Second-class Postage
paid at
Nashville
Tennessee
USPS 909-860