

THE TENNESSEE ECHO Uniting Volunteers for Christ

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Number 1

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The National Association of Free Will Baptists adopted a program of stewardship called "The Together Way." This is a method of giving which embraces the total outreach of the denomination from the individual member

and the local church, and includes all of the associational, state, and national outreach ministries.

The Together Way Plan is based on the biblical premise that:

1. Stewardship responsibility embraces possessions, time, talent, body, mind, ministries, spiritual gifts and any other resource or facet of life given by God for the benefit of the individual, family, the church and all extended ministries of the Body.
 2. The ultimate purpose of all giving is to build up the Body of Christ and to preach and teach the gospel to all people.
 3. Giving as God has prospered is the privilege and duty of every believer as well as the local church.
 4. Each believer and local congregation should have the freedom to carry out stewardship responsibility as God leads them.
 5. Free Will Baptists united in the Together Way Plan can do what no individual, no one local church or any one extended ministry can do alone to carry out our worldwide stewardship responsibility.
- The foundation of stewardship education and prac-

tice begins with the family unit. Parents teach children the basics of stewardship: sharing, giving, caring for their bodies and minds, recognizing and developing talents.

The home introduces God's love to children and leads them to respond to that love. Through new education initiatives the Together Way Plan will help better equip parents and teachers to teach stewardship principles.

The church as a body builds upon the foundation laid by the family unit. Families give through the church; the church through the budget process oversees the stewardship of corporate giving. Each church gives to extended ministries through the state and national cooperative percentage method and/or through the designated giving method.

The Together Way Plan recognizes that the district and state ministries are worthy of support. The Plan will encourage families and churches to undergird their local association with regular gifts.

The Together Way Stewardship Plan starts with the family; continues with the church; the district and state ministries complete The Together Way circle that reaches around the world.

The Together Way plan calls for churches to underwrite the budgets of our national ministries through four special offerings each year:

- Foreign Missions in April
- Home Missions in November
- Free Will Baptist Bible College in December
- Rest of the Family Offering in September

Tennessee State Association Convention

The 56th annual session of the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists convened with Grace Free Will Baptist Church on November 8-10, in Memphis, Tennessee. Pastor Glen Poston and the people of Grace welcomed everyone and made them feel so glad that they had come. Grace Church had been a joint project of Tennessee Home Missions and the National Home Missions Department. This local church is now self-supporting and has a very attractive building and a large paved parking area. In addition to a great welcome, the Grace Church people sponsored the

Master's Men breakfast on Tuesday morning and provided a continental breakfast for everyone on Wednesday morning. The Grace people could not have done more in entertaining this state meeting.

The preaching was some of the best we've ever had. Pastor Ronnie Atkins of First Church, Erwin, brought the keynote message on Wednesday evening. He spoke on "When The Fire Is Fading," using II Timothy 1:1-7 as the text. He spoke especially to pastors, preachers, and other Christian workers. Paul Harrison, pastor of Cross

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Tennessee Women's Auxiliary Convention Proceedings

A total of 64 registered for the forty-eighth annual Tennessee Woman's Auxiliary Convention, November 9, 1993 at Grace Free Will Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee. Speakers Stan and Brenda Bunch, missionaries to Panama, developed the theme, "Throw Out The Life-Line." Eighty-six attended the fellowship banquet.

During the business session delegates endorsed the following Plan Of Work:

January:	Enlistment and Support
February:	Foreign Student Scholarship Fund
March:	Foreign Missions (Pre-Easter Offering)
April:	State Project (\$2,500 to West Knoxville Mission Building Fund)
May:	Free Will Baptist Bible College
June:	Tennessee State Home Missions
July:	WNAC Indebtedness Offering
August:	WNAC Emphasis
September:	Memorial Student Loan Fund
October:	Tennessee Home For Children
November:	National Home Missions (Pre-Thanksgiving Offering)
December:	Free Will Baptist Bible College Welch Library Offering

In further business the following officers were elected:

President:	Dawn Sweeney
Vice-President:	Rebecca Pugh
Secretary:	Anne Worthington
Treasurer:	Wanda Powell
Members At Large:	Varnell Gorenflo Margaret B. Hampton Gladys Haney
Field Worker:	Myrtle Reeds
Historian:	Mary Ruth Wiseheart

• Dawn Sweeney was also elected to serve on the WNAC nominating committee for a two year term.

Two constitutional changes were made during the business session:

- By-Laws - Article V - Fees and Reports
 - Section 1: Ten dollars and twenty-five cents per active member shall be paid yearly to the Tennessee Woman's Auxiliary Convention for membership and convention representation. An additional one dollar for each local auxiliary shall be paid for TWAC minutes.
 - Section 2: Local auxiliaries, in sections of the state where there is no district convention, shall send ten dollars and fifty cents to the Tennessee

Woman's Auxiliary Convention for membership and convention representation.

2. Constitution - Article 1 - Name
This organization shall be known as Tennessee Women Active For Christ

Recording Secretary Anne Worthington reported that 47 auxiliaries reported with 779 paying dues to date.

In further business, delegates also voted to raise \$2,500 for West Knoxville Free Will Baptist Mission Building Fund as the project for the coming year.

Delegates also voted to give \$500 each from the treasury to the Paul Creech account and WNAC General Fund.

Further, delegates voted to give Stan and Brenda Bunch \$350 from the treasury, plus the \$410.00 morning offering, making the amount \$760.

Dr. Mary Wiseheart, WNAC Executive Secretary/Treasurer reported that Tennessee women gave \$5,412.83 to the WNAC office in 1992.

Dr. Wiseheart reminded everyone of the National Convention in Little Rock, July 18-19. She also reminded everyone of the National Retreat at Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina September 15-17, 1994. October 20-22, 1995 is the date for the retreat at Glorieta, New Mexico.

The Sunday School Revival

By Dr. Roger C. Reed

For years now, I have been privileged to conduct these meetings in over three-hundred Free Will Baptist Churches. The usual structure of the meeting is to begin on Friday night. I preach messages on the Sunday school. During the day on Saturday, I conduct workshops on the process of teaching, teaching methods, and Sunday school growth.

I plan to continue holding these Sunday School Revivals. I believe there is a need for them. Sunday school attendance has been declining for the past twenty-five years. How tragic! The Sunday school is one of the best methods man has ever devised for evangelism and edification. My prayer is that we will have a revival of Sunday school interest that could lead to a revival in our churches. I do not mean to imply that a Sunday School Revival will solve all of your problems, but it could be a start in the right direction.

*If you are interested in having a Sunday School Revival in your church, please contact Dr. Reeds at:
Randall House Publications
(615) 261-1221 or 1-(800)-877-7030.*

An Interview With Winston Sweeney



Please share with us information about your background.

I was born in Scott County and reared in Dickinson County, Virginia. These counties are located in the coal field country of Virginia. My mother was a Christian, but my father was not. In fact, several years ago, I had the privilege of baptizing my father, after his conversion.

Tell us about you conversion, call to preach, and your early life after your marriage.

I was converted at the age of 14 in a revival sponsored by Methodists, Baptists and Free Will Baptists at McClure, Virginia. I was married when I was 19 years of age to Jewel Addington. My wife's father, J. W. Addington, was a Free Will Baptist preacher in Southwest Virginia.

How many children and grandchildren do you have?

I have one daughter, Dawn. She is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College and is a registered nurse. She has served as a foreign missionary in Africa. She is at home now and serves as a field representative of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home here in Tennessee. We have two sons, one in Pennsylvania and the other in California. We have three grandchildren.

Tell us about your education.

In addition to studies at Graham Bible Institute, I have taken external studies from Moody Bible Institute and Free Will Baptist Bible College. *(Both Brother and Sister Sweeney are Honorary Members of the Alumni Association of Free Will Baptist Bible College.)*

What churches have you pastored?

I have pastored only 3 churches, two in Virginia and one in North Carolina, and the present one in Kingsport, Tennessee. It has been my privilege to pastor Fellowship Free Will Baptist for thirty-four years.

What is your philosophy of evangelism and soul-winning?

I believe in a strong evangelistic emphasis, personal witnessing and a revival meeting approach. I hold a goodly number of revivals--most of which are of about four days in length.

Tell us about your devotional life, prayer, and Bible study.

I spend about 20-25 hours of Bible Study and reading every week. I try to "bathe" whatever I do in prayer. Every day of my life is begun by asking God to let me do nothing, say nothing, see nothing, and think nothing contrary to His will that day. That is

my sincere heart's desire.

What about your radio ministry?

I have had a weekly, thirty-minute, radio broadcast for over 26 years. This is a part of our church's outreach.

What advice would you give to a young pastor?

1. Treat everyone alike; do not show partiality.
2. Be a leader, but not a dictator. Develop a true pastor's heart.
3. Be alert and active; do not be lazy.
4. Let your people know that you love them--stay sweet in your spirit.
5. Develop a diversified ministry. Have a genuine interest in all phases of the church's ministry--strong preaching, Sunday school, youth program, Woman's Auxiliary, music, and prayer meeting.
6. Support the denominational program--foreign missions, home missions, and the Bible College.
7. Be active on the quarterly meeting, associational, state, and national level. Attend the meetings and be a vital part of each.
8. Be faithful in visiting your people in the hospitals. *(Brother Sweeney suggests that such visits be brief, usually less than 10 minutes. Be cheerful, encouraging, and uplifting.)*
9. All real "prospects" should be followed up.

"Convention" Report cont.

Timbers Church spoke at the Bible Conference session. He spoke on "God Has Spoken To Our Situation" and used Isaiah 61:1-3 as the text. The other Bible Conference speaker was Robert Hobbs, pastor of the Wooddale Church. He spoke on "Mentors Of Ministry" using II Corinthians 6:1-13 as a text. On Tuesday evening, Jerry Booker, pastor of Victory Church, spoke on "Christ's Humiliation and Ours." On Wednesday morning, retired pastor Carson Whitaker spoke on "Salvation And Its Reward." from John 14:1-6.

The music was under the direction of Dr. Charles Hampton, Registrar of Free Will Baptist Bible College. He was assisted by Kevin Justice and instrumentalists, Sara Poston, Rebecca Pugh, and Winona Riggs. The special music was just wonderful and was directed by Rebecca Pugh. On Monday night, the singing was provided by FWBBC Alumni from the Memphis area. Choirs from the Memphis Free Will Baptist churches combined to sing for the state meeting on Tuesday evening. Special thanks to Rebecca Pugh and all the singers who assisted her.

Visiting delegations were present from the Toe River Association and the Jack's Creek Association. One local church--Keystone Free Will Baptist church of Johnson City--was received into membership in the State Association. The name of the Children's Home was changed to the Trula Cronk Home For Children--A ministry of Free Will Baptists.

Tennessee State Association Directory

INCOME

Appalachian Association	
Grace, Johnson City	\$ 250.83
Keensburg	100.00
Watauga Valley	250.00
Appalachian Assoc.	28.27
Central Association	
Faith	100.00
Cumberland Association	
Bethlehem	166.50
Brandon's Chapel	429.60
Calvary	280.25
Cross Timbers	50.00
Cumberland Assoc.	806.79
Donelson	229.74
Dunbar Chapel	75.00
East Nashville	75.00
Friendship	45.00
Good Springs	251.59
Head's Church	113.21
Hendersonville	200.00
New Hope	50.00
Trinity	85.00
Western Conference	75.00
Liberty Association	
Cookeville	150.00
Liberty Association	151.82
Northeast Assoc.	
Union Street	150.00
Union Association	
Bethany	35.00
First, Church Hill	200.00
Fellowship	150.00
Forest Grove	75.00
Limestone	100.00
Union Association	492.00
Johnson Chapel	77.28
Others	
Home For children	225.00
Individuals	710.00
State Association Dues	4710.00
Registration Fees	495.00
State Association offerings	457.81
Total Income	11,860.69
Total Expenditures for September, October, and November	10,497.24

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.

Moderator:	Bill Gardner
Assistant Moderator:	Terry Eagleton
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• Coming Events •

Mark Your Calendar

Executive Committee Meeting at FWBBC	January 17
FWBBC Bible Conference	March 6-10
Welcome Days - FWBBC	March 31-April 2
State CTS Competition - FWBBC	June 3-4

THE TENNESSEE

ECHO

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