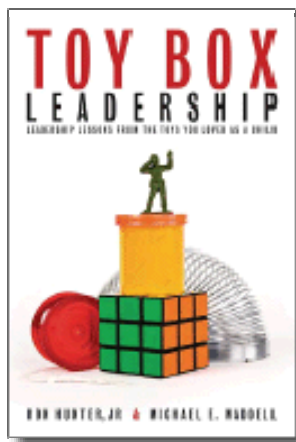


MENORAH

October A Monthly Publication of the Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists **2008**



By: Ron Hunter, Michael E. Waddell

Leadership Lessons from the Toys You Loved as a Child

Reach back into your childhood and recapture the leadership principles you learned from your favorite toys.

What can LEGOS teach you about building your business through connection? How can Slinky Dog demonstrate the value of patience when you're growing your organization? What has every little boy learned from his Little Green Army Men that he can use in business strategy? Whether you are an executive, a manager, or a parent, in *Toy Box Leadership* you will find the toy box a great place for lessons to successfully influence and lead others.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

Pastor Appreciation Month is a special time that congregations set aside each year to honor their pastors and pastoral families for the hard work, sacrificial

dedication and multiple blessings provided by these special people. It is scheduled in October, but can be held at any time that is convenient for the church. It is also important to remember that appreciation, affirmation and prayer support of our spiritual leaders is appropriate throughout the entire year.

The nature of the ministry provided by pastors and their families is unique. God has entrusted to them one of the most precious of assignments – the spiritual well-being of His flock.

Pastors and their families are under incredible pressures. Their lives are played out in a fishbowl, with the entire congregation and community watching their every move. That is why God has instructed us to recognize His servants.

Some suggestions for honoring your pastor and his family:

- Give your pastor a sabbatical – time away to study and be refreshed. This is not vacation time, but a time for spiritual renewal.
- Hold a special service in his honor – the congregation could share poems, songs and favorite memories during this service.
- Present him and his wife with a monetary gift.
- Have children carry a tub full of cards and gifts and give to the pastor and his wife.
- Give gift certificates.
- Write an article and send it to the Menorah honoring your pastor.
- Send the pastor and his family on a trip [a cruise would be great!].
- Pray for your pastor.
- Squelch gossip.
- Be faithful in attending all the services of the church.
- Make a video of people telling the pastor and his wife how their lives have influenced theirs and what they appreciated most about them.

And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and

admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. [1 Thessalonians 5:12-13]

&&&&

Quarterly Financial Report

General Fund, Bal. 5/1/08.....\$ 9,662.54

Income 3,269.38
 State Receipts \$ 2,469.38
 Church Registration 500.00
 Grand Rapids 2015 300.00
 Balance after receipts.....\$ 12,931.92

Expenditures\$ 16,241.04

Church Registrations \$ 4,400.00
 Minutes 215.19
 2015 National Association Deposit 3,000.00
 General Board Dinner..... 160.21
 2008 Michigan State Association 2,279.82
 --Speaker [honorarium, travel] \$ 750.00
 --General Board Dinner 616.60
 --Meeting Room Rental 913.22
 Honorariums 3,400.00
 --Moderator.....\$ 350.00
 --Clerk..... 350.00
 --Legal Counsel 750.00
 --Promotional Secretary..... 1,200.00
 --Treasurer 750.00
 Menorah [printing and postage]..... 1,612.00
 National Association [Moderator] 645.40
 Office expense 407.82
 Website 120.00

Balance, 7/31/08.....\$ -- 3,309.12

Promotional Office, 5/1/08.....\$ 1,992.41

State Receipts..... 1.050/80
 Balance after receipts.....\$ 3,043.21

Expenditures [honorarium and mileage].....\$ 1,313.00

Balance, 7/31/08.....\$ 1,730.21

Michigan Missions, 5/1/08\$ 4,300.13

Income 3,067.51
 State Receipts \$ 788.10
 MI Church Planting 85.89
 Free Will Baptist Home Missions..... 2,193.52
 Balance after receipts.....\$ 7,367.64

Expenditures\$ 4,975.30

Close Hispanic Ministry \$ 4,807.74
 Lodging..... 90.06
 Mileage..... 77.50

Balance, 7/31/08.....\$ 2,392.34*

* MI Church Planting Reserve \$ 329.11

Youth Fund, 5/1/08.....\$ 1,424.93

Income 21,785.16
 State Receipts \$ 525.00
 Camp Fees 20,610.00
 Food/Milk Refunds 349.76
 NYC Fees 300.00
 Balance after receipts \$ 23,210.09

Expenditures..... \$ 14,939.04

2008 Camp \$ 14,364.04
 --Awards..... \$ 168.00
 "Bull" 875.00
 Check [NSF] 130.00
 Deposit 1,000.00
 Food/Milk..... 1,859.57
 Honorarium [Missionaries] 450.00
 Honorarium [speaker; travel] 700.00
 Kitchen 819.08
 Rental 6,189.90
 Supplies..... 1,232.49
 Tee Shirts 940.00

MI Youth Conference – room rental 200.00

National Youth Competition 375.00

Balance, 7/31/08\$ 8,271.05

Christian Education, 5/1/08.....\$ 4,746.78

Income [state receipts] 262.70
 Balance after receipts 5,009.48

Expenditures..... \$ 0.00

Balance, 7/31/08\$ 5,009.48

Master's Men, 5/1/08.....\$ 1,500.61

Income [state receipts and fees] 422.63
 Balance after receipts 1,923.24

Expenditures [Golf outing]..... 585.00

Balance, 7/31/08\$ 1,338.24

Minister's Retreat, 5/1/08\$ -- 1,807.89

No activity

Balance, 7/31/08\$ -- 1,807.89

Funds Received and Disbursed

Fellowship District Association\$ 19,229.80

State Association \$ 1,324.44
 National Together Way 1,174.99
 International Missions 5,345.49
 Home Missions 8,876.38
 Other Ministries 2,578.50

Liberty District Association.....\$ 15,731.37

State Association	\$ 623.65
National Together Way.....	569.50
International Missions	8,519.31
Home Missions	4,047.91
Other Ministries.....	1,971.00

Metropolitan District Association.....\$ 0.00

New Hope District Association.....\$ 1,602.50

State Association	\$ 230.00
National Together Way.....	335.00
Home Missions	1,000.00
Other Ministries.....	37.50

West Michigan District Association . \$ 19,915.19

State Association	\$ 1,621.28
National Together Way.....	2,867.91
International Missions	2,376.00
Home Missions	12,950.00
Other Ministries.....	100.00

Wolverine District Association\$ 28,228.68

State Association	\$ 1,454.64
National Together Way.....	2,001.32
International Missions	15,469.92
Home Missions	7,814.53
Other Ministries.....	1,488.27

Other Ministries

Alabama Children’s Home	\$ 1,084.50
South Carolina Children’s Home.....	988.50
Free Will Baptist Family Ministries	1,124.00
Free Will Baptist Bible College.....	1,473.19
Southeastern FWB College.....	197.19
MI Church Planting	85.89
Free Will Baptist Executive Office.....	200.00
Church Registrations	500.00
Grand Rapids 2015	300.00
Free Will Baptist Master’s Men.....	222.00

Free Will Baptist Foundation Accounts

Bedford Endowment.....	\$ 183,127.90
Grand Rapids 2015	18,214.08
Michigan Missions Trust	6,781.30
Youth Fund	5,745.83

&&&&&

**FWBBC Shuffles Bible Department
Personnel**

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College made two major shifts within the Biblical and Ministry Studies Department this summer, according to

President Matt Pinson. Old Testament professor Dr. Garnett Reid was named chair of the department, succeeding former chair Ralph Hampton who retired in May 2008. Dr. Kevin Hester was appointed program coordinator for Biblical Studies.

President Pinson said, “This is an important move for the college and for the Biblical and Ministry Studies Department. While we lost 50 years of leadership when Brother Hampton retired last spring, I’m thankful that we had well-prepared men in Dr. Reid and Dr. Hester ready to step up professionally and continue the excellent work in Bible and Ministry. Both men are FWBBC alumni, and they have more than 30 years of collegiate teaching experience between them. They have the respect of the entire college family.”

Dr. Reid has taught at FWBBC since 1982, specializing in Old Testament. Dr. Hester joined the Bible faculty in 2003; he also teaches History courses. They are regular presenters at theological and educational forums.

Reid writes the “Intersect” Bible study column in *ONE Magazine*, the bimonthly denominational publication. Hester recently published his first book titled *Eschatology and Pain in St. Gregory the Great: The Christological Synthesis of Gregory’s Morals on the Book of Job*.

Provost Greg Ketteman said, “Dr. Reid and Dr. Hester possess leadership qualities such as biblical scholarship, a commitment to holy living, outstanding classroom presentations, a demonstrated love for the students, and loyalty to Free Will Baptist doctrinal positions. The mantle has passed to these fine men with an educational vision and a drive to build on yesterday’s strengths.”

In his role as department chair, Dr. Reid will oversee administration of the department including planning, budgeting, advising, and supervision. In addition, he will provide information for public relations, represent the college as needed, and participate in professional groups.

Dr. Hester’s duties as program coordinator for Biblical Studies include oversight of curriculum in the department. Biblical Studies is one of four major divisions in the department—the others being Pastoral Ministry, Missions, and Christian Education and Youth Ministry.

&&&&&

**Continue to Pray for Our
Missionaries**

Greg Floars Account	\$ 4,060.26
Jeff Isaacs Account.....	\$ 4,289.07



Team Church Michigan

- Saturday, October 11, 2008
- Kirby Free Will Baptist Church
- Flat Rock, Michigan

Over 20 Workshops Available

TEAM Church is designed for your specific ministry and age appropriate areas. This workshop-filled event equips, inspires, and trains Christian workers for service in God's kingdom.

Guest Speaker: Rodney Cox ●



Rodney Cox is president and founder of Ministry Insights International with a mission to Transform Relationships Globally. He is co-author of the book series *Leading From Your Strengths* and the creator of assessments such as *Leading From Your Strengths*, *Marriage Insights*, *Family Insights*, and *Position Insights*. His assessments and foundational concepts in the areas of strengths and differences have helped tens of thousands take their retreats, seminars, and coaching to the transformational level.



UPDATED SCHEDULE

Saturday, October 11, 2008

Registration.....	8:00 a.m.
Opening Session—	
Rodney Cox.....	8:30
Session 1	9:30-10:20
Break	10:20-10:30
Session 2	10:30-11:20
Lunch	11:30
Session 3	12:30-1:20
Break	1:20-1:30
Session 4	1:30-2:20
Closing Session—	
Rodney Cox	2:30-3:30

REGISTRATION

Early Bird Discount Register by September 16, 2008

\$34	Individual registration
\$32	2-9 people from same church
\$29	10+ people from same church (Lunch is provided.)

Pre-Registration ends September 16, 2008. All registrations after this date will be \$36 per person.



Team Church Michigan

Team Church, a Ministry of Randall House
National Association of Free Will Baptists
P.O. Box 17306/ Nashville, TN 37217
Phone 615-361-1221/ 1-800-877-7030. Fax 615-367-0535/ www.randallhouse.com

Saturday, October 11, 2008 Kirby Free Will Baptist Church, Flat Rock, MI

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM (make as many copies as you need!)

Attendee's Name (First & Last) _____

Address: _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Church Name _____

Church Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Check main area of interest: Early Childhood Elementary
 Teen Adult Admin/pastor

Registering as (please check only one)

- Individual (\$34 per person before September 16)*
- Part of church group of 2-9 people (\$32 per person before September 16)*
- Part of church group of 10 or more (\$29 per person before September 16)*
- All registrations after September 16 are \$36 per person*

*The conference price includes registration and lunch.

Amount Enclosed _____

Mail registration form and check to TEAM Church, Randall House. PO Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217. Fax 615-367-0535. Call 1-800-877-7030 for more information or e-mail: teamchurch@randallhouse.com

The Summit

[Youth Leadership Retreat]

October 17-18, 2008

Water's Edge Campground and Conference Center

4171 Woodland Drive, Howell, MI 48855

Speaker: Heath Hubbard

[Free Will Baptist Bible College]

Cost: \$60.00

Register by 7:00 p.m. on the 17th

Register by calling 734.231.0397 or email

myouthalive@yahoo.com

This is a great event for teenagers, inviting them to join the story of God instead of simply starring in their own story. Heath Hubbard from Free Will Baptist Bible College will be preaching, there will be worship, food, team-building games, and much more. Please don't forget linens & toiletries for this event, & remember that there will be no Friday night dinner due to the weekend beginning @ 7pm that night.

Verlin Anderson Update

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

These past few weeks have been all about transition for us: leaving Cote d'Ivoire and settling into a Nashville home; enjoying one last nuclear family vacation; settling two children into college this fall; completing our International Missions reorientation and training; Verlin attending the National Association; services and youth camp in Florida; and hours preparing for services this fall and spring, all while finishing overseas business.

The last week in Cote d'Ivoire was intense. Signed papers released the Doropo clinic property definitively to the complete management of a Free Will Baptist NGO; renters were interviewed and approved to occupy mission property; distribution criteria for funds earmarked to build church buildings in Abidjan were discussed; and an education committee decided to open the Bouna Bible Institute for training in residence rather than modular sessions this fall. After our return to the USA, we facilitated these tasks while helping our brothers over the phone finish others. Do you get the idea? Ivorian brothers are assuming the reins of control and responsibility of numerous ministries, slowly and surely. When our CHE team left for this one-year stateside assignment, we participated in the first planned and complete absence of missionary personnel for Cote d'Ivoire in the past 50 years.

Change is never easy, but it happens as we grow and accomplish what the Lord asks of us. One change in our lives together is the implementation of the newly approved funding missionary structure for International Missions. For details, check out www.fwbgo.com/funding or www.onemag.org. The transition on January 1, 2010 will require patience and hard work together to implement and maintain. Pray with us that this change will speed new missionaries to the field and ease financial concerns for existing missionaries. The harvest is great, and growing, where we serve; the need for workers greater than ever.

In the mean time, there is much to do. God willing, our family returns to Africa the summer of 2009. Our account must erase a \$25,000 deficit and develop a \$15,000 balance. We also need to add \$3500 of monthly support. The problem is the dollar being 45% weaker versus the CFA franc of Cote d'Ivoire (tied to the Euro) than in 2001. Our 2001 and 2009 budgets are nearly the same in CFA, but our responsibilities have *greatly* increased. There is no more budget trimming to do. Personal funds have floated several expenses for the last two years, as we hoped for a strengthening dollar and tried to keep ministry going. For the first time in eleven years our account has entered into the red and stayed there. As a result, there are days of hard work and travel ahead, but always with an abiding confidence in our God. He provides for what He wants to see done. Trust with us as we watch Him "make a way where there seems to be no way."

Thank you for all you have done to enable us to share the gospel in Africa all these years. We hope to see many of you in person and report the exciting things happening in CHE and other ministries in Cote d'Ivoire. Our next update will include a service schedule for upcoming months.

Jehovah-Jireh,
Verlin, Debbie, and Corbin Anderson

&&&&

MISSION: NORTH AMERICA OFFERING November 23, 2008

Free Will Baptists have always understood that in order to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth, we must develop a strong base of support in North America.

Throughout most of the early days Free Will Baptists promoted a *National Home Missions Sunday*, one Sunday each year devoted to Home Missions.

The name later changed to the *Home Missions Thanksgiving Offering*, and again to the *Benjamin Randall Offering*.

After many years, the offering day is undergoing another change. Beginning in 2008, the name of the offering will be **MISSION...North America**. We continue that great tradition and provide an opportunity one Sunday each year for Free Will Baptists across North America and around the world to give to help support the total program of National Home Missions. We truly appreciate the support, prayer and financial, received for the ministries of the department in previous years, and we ask for your continued support. If we all do what we can, great things can and will be accomplished in the mission work of the Lord. The world truly is at the house next door. Winning the lost is still the number one priority.

Help us to continue in the footsteps of many great men and women before us who understood the importance of planting churches and winning souls in North America. It has been important to Free Will Baptists for more than 200 years and it is still important today! Please remember—

**MISSION: North America Offering
November 23, 2008**

&&&&



My pastor was recently preaching and used the illustration that sharks must keep swimming to stay alive. Though I have a lot of faith in him, I needed to research this for myself. So I went to the internet, and we know everything on the internet is true, right?

It's true! The problem is with their gills. They must keep water flowing over the gills to get the needed oxygen to keep them alive. So they swim with their mouth open to get the water flow. Another problem sharks have is that they don't have a swim bladder. Without a swim bladder, when they stop swimming, they sink. Is anyone feeling sorry for the sharks yet?

So what has this to do with this message? At Master's men we are constantly trying to move forward. Trying to keep afloat, trying to keep breathing. I am often asked why we do so many things. The answer is easy, we don't want to sink. As I travel around our denomination I see so many of our churches that have stopped moving forward. There is no life left in them and they are sinking. The worst part is that the

members don't see it. They are happy just resting on the bottom.

Unfortunately, that seems to be the attitude with many about Master's Men. There are many that don't see the need for a men's ministry in their church. They don't see that Master's Men could get their men moving and bring new life and excitement. Will Master's Men be the answer to all their problems? I'd like to look on the internet and find a yes, but we know better than that. But, it can start your men moving and perhaps get something started that others can get behind.

Let me ask you this question. If some of the men in your church got excited about being at church, do you think it could have an effect on the rest of the church?

Let us help you!

Kenneth Akers

Operation Saturation

September 27, 2008

with

Home Missionaries Tom and Pam Jones

For more information

Call the office @ 1-877-767-8039 or check out the website

Master's Men 2009 Deep South Golf Tournament

Meadow Links at George T. Bagby

State Park

Ft. Gaines, GA

Date: March 25, 26, 27, 2009

&&&&

District Meetings, November 1

Fellowship District, 9:30 a.m.

**Liberty District, 9:30 a.m. – North
Warren FWB Church**

3003 Chicago Road, Warren, MI 48092

Rev. Rick Locklear, Moderator

Rev. George Johnson, Pastor

**West Michigan District, 9:30 a.m. –
South Haven Community FWB Church**

1045 E. Wilson, South Haven, MI 49090

Rev. William Hughes, Moderator

Rev. Gordon Edwards, Pastor

Homecoming - Pastor Appreciation

Sunday, October 5, 2008

Dinner served following morning services

**Special Music - Northmen from Fort
Wayne, IN**

Rouge Free Will Baptist Church

221 Ford Wyandotte, MI 48192

Reverend Danny Slater, Pastor

(734) 246-5668 for information

Sunday School - 9:45 AM

Morning Worship 11:00 AM

Dinner

2:00 PM - Special Service

No evening service

&&&&&

U.S. News & World Report Ranks FWBBC Among America's Best Colleges

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College received notification in mid-August that the institution is ranked among “Best Baccalaureate Colleges” (South Region, Third Tier) in *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2009 edition of *America’s Best Colleges* guidebook, according to President Matt Pinson. Highlights of the college rankings will be published in the September 1, 2008, issue of *U.S. News*.

President Pinson said, “We are so pleased to be ranked among America’s best colleges in this prestigious national study. This is another confirmation to our alumni and denominational constituency that their investment in FWBBC has produced exceptional dividends in the academic marketplace. I hope this report encourages more potential students and their parents to look at FWBBC first when considering a college.”

The “Best Baccalaureate Colleges” category where FWBBC is ranked includes 319 institutions that focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs in the liberal arts, and in professional fields such as business, nursing, and education. The colleges in this category are ranked within four geographic regions: North, South, Midwest, and West.

The *U.S. News* rankings offer the opportunity to judge the relative quality of institutions based on widely accepted indicators of excellence: peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving, and more.

FWBBC received particularly high marks in four strategic areas—percent of classes with under 20 students (84%), student/faculty ratio (9/1), freshman retention rate (69%), and graduation rate (41%).

Provost Greg Ketteman said, “Our inclusion in *U.S. News’s* list of best baccalaureate colleges indicates that by several important measures, including our standing with peer institutions, FWBBC continues to provide high quality college education for our students and our denomination.”

This is the first time FWBBC has been ranked in the annual *America’s Best Colleges* guidebook. More information is available about the rankings and methodology at:

<http://www.usnews.com/articles/education/best-colleges/2008/08/21/about-the-rankingsmethodology.html>.

&&&&&

Free Will Baptist Bible College Enrolls 313 Students

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College enrolled 313 students from 23 states and four foreign countries for the 2008 fall semester, according to Dr. Greg Ketteman, Provost. While enrollment statistics indicate a robust student body, the numbers are somewhat lower than last fall’s enrollment of 324.

Dr. Ketteman said, “In the past two years we have graduated 147 students (69 in 2008 and 78 in 2007), which means we have a healthy retention and graduation rate. It also means we must enroll and retain more new students in order to grow. This year’s 30% increase in new student enrollment is generating a lot of excitement on campus. This is an impressive group of young adults, and we are encouraged to see them pursuing God’s will for their lives here at FWBBC.”

At press time September 24, the college reported 182 dormitory students, 66 commuter students, 18 Adult Degree Program students, 15 online students, and 32 Lifetime Learning students. Officials set the full-time student equivalency at 258. Ninety-nine students are enrolled in ministry-related fields.

By classes, they include 57 seniors, 56 juniors, 62 sophomores, 104 freshmen, 33 non-degree/part-time

students, and one special student. There are 143 women and 170 men in the student body.

Explaining that he expects final registration figures to rise, Dr. Kettelman said, "Enrollment for our new Online Degree Program and the Adult Degree Program will continue through mid-semester. We are still enrolling new students in both programs, since enrollment takes place throughout the fall term due to each program having multiple modules. We project a total enrollment of 325 students for the fall term."

&&&&

Great Retreat!

Great teaching, great fellowship, and great food [although the smoked pork, beef, and salmon were a little over-cooked] were enjoyed at the 2009 Fall Minister's Retreat. Dr. Garnett Reid used the book of Isaiah as the basis for his teaching.

September 27-29 are the dates for the 2009 Retreat. Dr. Grady McMurtry will be our guest speaker. He is a creation scientist.

&&&&

Obituaries

Mrs. Sheila Kincer, wife of our Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance Agent Wallace Kincer, died at their home on August 17, 2008. She and her husband are members of the New Covenant Free Will Baptist Church.

Rev. Teddy W. Thrasher

June 03, 1943 - September 14, 2008

Rev. Ted W. Thrasher, 65, of Warren, died Sunday, September 14, 2008 at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital in Warren. He was born June 3, 1943 in Rector, Arkansas.

Mr. Thrasher was united in marriage to Anna Pichla on September 17, 1982 in Warren. He retired from the Chrysler Warren Stamping Plant on August 31, 1994 where he worked as a hi-lo driver for over 30 years. He was the pastor of the Waltham Avenue Baptist Church in Warren where the church was his life and "he never knew a stranger."

He is survived by his wife, Anna; children, **Steven** (Sharon) **Thrasher** of Warren, Brian Thrasher of Hazel Park and Amy (Tim) Barron of Wisconsin; sister, Veda Mae Caveness of Arkansas; and grandchildren, Steven, Emily, Thalia and Alexi. He was predeceased by his brothers James, Delmar, Leroy, Denzel and Junior; and a sister, Lois Fielder.

Congratulations, Tecumseh

Good things are happening in Tecumseh under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Gene Hurley. The attendance has increased for both Sunday and Wednesday night services, souls are being saved, baptized and joining the church. Pastor Hurley has been at the church for almost a year.

&&&&

Don't Forget to Register for SnowBlast! – January 16-17, 2009



&&&&

GRACIAS!

Tim, Kristi, Alejandro and Ana Johnson

September 28, 1998

We can't believe it's finally here! Today we will get on a plane and head to Spain. After answering God's call to missions, we began our deputation and traveled to churches to share our vision. We've raised our support.

We've found prayer partners. We've packed up our apartment and sold everything. All that's left is to say good-bye to our families and friends. It will be hard, but we go with the assurance that we are doing God's will.

September 28, 2008

We can't believe it's finally here! Ten years in Spain.

Ten years of being a part of God's work in this part of the world. Who could have known the journeys we would take or the ministries we'd be involved in?

We've taught classes, preached sermons, sung songs, prayed with believers, attended baptisms, taught English, attended Field Council meetings...the list

could go on and on. But one thing stays the same...many of you who were praying for us ten years ago are still praying. We feel honored and humbled to be your servants to share the Gospel with Spaniards. We're looking forward to the next ten years!



Alejandro and Ana Johnson on their first day of school back in Spain

&&&&



Online registration is now open for

The D6 Conference!

[Register](#) by October 1 for significant savings (that's just six days from now).

The vision of [The D6 Conference](#) is to champion a movement of parents connecting with their kids spiritually to transfer their faith and life values. Leaders, ministers and parents who attend *The D6 Conference* will be equipped with real tools, ideas, and strategies to connect parents with their kids.

Featured speakers for this groundbreaking event are:
Jim Daly - President of Focus on the Family
George Barna - Founder of the Barna Group & Best Selling Author
Darren Whitehead - Youth Director at Willow Creek Community Church
Angela Thomas - Author of *My Single Mom Life*
Fred Stoeker - Best Selling Author of *Every Man's Battle* & the *Every Man's Series*
Tim Hawkins - Comedian
John Trent & Kurt Bruner - Strong Families
Dave Ramsey - Radio and TV talk show host, financial counselor and best selling author
And more to come!

[Register Online Now!](#)

&&&&

A Note From Becky Riggs

Dear Friends,

I had just left a meeting that I had downtown when Steve called and said that Ghislaine had come by and wanted to speak with me. He said that she and her husband were getting a divorce. I was stunned and immediately my gift of being able to worry about anything and everything kicked in. That night I did not sleep well and I also lay awake imagining ways to do bodily harm to someone and still live according to the principles of God's Word. So last Thursday, with a bouquet of flowers in hand knowing that it may be a while before she gets another one, I went over to her house and spent four hours listening, laughing, sympathizing, sharing with Ghislaine. For a long time I just listened as everything spilled out - her resentment, bitterness, sadness and yes, her love for her partner of 30 years. We talked about our faiths. She is a nominal Catholic but if she prays, it is to Mary

Michigan State Association



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

because she has a nice face. Jesus is not even in the picture. I told her that she reminds me of someone who goes into the store of "faith" with her shopping cart and picks out only those aspects of world faiths that please her. She takes it all home and mixes it in a big pot and makes up her own personal faith. The thing about it is, is that she absolutely agreed with me. I returned home very introspective -- wishing I didn't stumble over my words in French (of course, why should that surprise me because I do that in English), sad that I fell short of really communicating with her my deepest feelings about my faith in Christ and love for her, and wondering if her spiritual eyes will ever be opened to the truth.

Later that evening I was talking on the phone to a friend and MK who lives about an hour north of here. I was telling her all about my visit. I said, "Christy, how do we reach people? There is such a big gap between what we understand about Christ and the truth revealed in His Word and what people believe. How do we bring people to a point where finally they understand". She said "You just love them. You are there for them when they need you". Then she shared verses that she had just read that spoke about the fact that it is Christ who accomplishes things in His own time.

After hanging up I realized that my interaction with Christy is what we as Christians are suppose to be doing regularly. The conversation was natural. She was not talking down to me and trying to be "spiritual". It was normal for her to share those verses because the reading of God's Word is a normal part of her life. I had been admonished and encouraged in love and it felt wonderful.

So, I wanted to share these thoughts with all of you guys. Please pray for Ghislaine. You can imagine what a difficult time she is going through right now. Pray that somehow in the midst of all her hurt that she may come to Christ. Pray for me, that I will do a better job about staying saturated in God's Truth so that I in turn can admonish and encourage someone. Thank you, God, for Christy. Though she does not realize it, she was your channel to speak to me.

We love you all.
Becky

&&&&

**Michigan State Association
of Free Will Baptists
May 14 – 16, 2009**

**Michigan Youth Conference
May 15 – 16, 2009**

[Location will be determined by the General Board]

&&&&

The Michigan Free Will Baptist *Menorah* is a monthly publication of the Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists, Rev. Ron Helms, Moderator; Rev. Joseph Jones, Assistant Moderator; Rev. Allen West, Clerk; Rev. Jeff Isaacs, Assistant Clerk; Mr. William Ferguson, Treasurer; Rev. Steve Thrasher, Assistant Treasurer; Rev. Gene Norris, Promotional Secretary. News items may be sent to gnorris101@comcast.net.

