



The

PLUMBLINE

a publication of Virginia Free Will Baptist

June-August 2013

**This issue especially
focusing on Virginia's
Promotional Office**

**THE WORK BEGINS
WAYS TO BE USED
STATE CONVENTION
FAST-SNACKER SUPPORT
WHY A PROMOTIONAL OFFICE?**



The Work Begins

After getting the new website up and going *and* after my signing of the official “contract” as Virginia’s full-time promotional director *and* after a wonderful state convention where the delegates so graciously encouraged us, **THE WORK BEGINS!**

The task which Virginia Free Will Baptists have commissioned for this office is ever before me; but “my sleeves are rolled up”, and I am ready for the challenge and the work. Truly, I am excited about the future because of the potential for advancing so many of our Free Will Baptist causes in Virginia.

I’m also extremely grateful for the good spirit I sense among our pastors across the state. This kind and cooperative spirit will surely help us all make a difference for our Lord and our cause. I understand as much as anyone that the effectiveness of the promotional office will only be as good as the cooperation we all have for that which matters to us all. This position is more than a job to me; I believe in the importance of our Free Will Baptist heritage and doctrine, and I truly love and appreciate being associated with Virginia Free Will Baptists. Our purpose is greater

than any one of us individually and this work more important than one man’s vision and efforts. This full-time office now exists because of the grace of our Lord, because of the vision of the pastors in our state, and because of the graciousness of those who have helped to fund it. But our work is not complete; it is just beginning.

Given that the grace and power of our Lord is needed, there are two distinct areas that will help the promotional office be sustained and effective. First, you must see this role as useful to you. I am dedicated to building a promotional office that serves our pastors, local churches, and associations. I sincerely want to be your servant in ministry; I am here to help in any way I can. Look throughout this edition of *The Plumblin*e to consider different things I am doing and can do to help local ministries. Please take advantage of these helps whenever possible. Also, please contact me to meet some need in your church.

Second, for the promotional position to be sustained and effective, pastors and churches across the state must support its work. Support for this depart-

ment is not sustaining someone who hibernates in an office somewhere; it is encouraging and supporting a “circuit-riding preacher” who goes from the ocean to the mountains and all points in between. I will not fail to “be on the road” if you will place me there. Now is the time for this promotional ministry, and now is the time for your support both prayerfully and financially.

I look forward to working for you and with you all.

—Bruce Barnes

WAYS YOU CAN USE THE PROMOTIONAL DIRECTOR

Revivals *Evangelistic, Church, Sunday School, Family*

Seminars *Sunday School, Youth & Children's Ministry,
Junior Church, Puppet Ministry*

Conferences *Evangelism, Church Growth,
Men's Conference, Special Topic*

Music *Singing and Guitar Instrumentals*

Retreats *Family, Couple's, Men's, Pastor's*

Children's Ministry *Crusades, VBS, Gospel
Illusion & Object Lessons*

**Call Brother
Barnes for a
service in your
church.**

757-407-1183

THE 75TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

The convening of the 75th annual session is now over, but a new era for Virginia Free Will Baptists is just beginning. This meeting realized a historical event with the promotional director signing a full-time contract with the association. Dr. Bruce Barnes, having served the association part-time for the past three years, will begin full time duties as of July 1. With the oversight of the executive board, Brother Barnes has set out to raise funds for the promotional office while also serving the diverse needs of the association.

The theme for this year's meeting was "Discipleship." The speakers developing this topic were Brent Patrick, "Enemies of Discipleship"; David Mizzell, "Essence of Discipleship"; Richard Barnes, "Essentials of Discipleship"; and Marty Puckett, "Examining Discipleship." Two seminars were held on Thursday afternoon: Bruce Barnes on "Discipleship through the Sunday School" and David Womack (from Randall House Publications) on "Discipleship Tools." Don Hellms brought the Friday morning devotion. The messages will be uploaded soon to the state website.

This year's meeting was graciously hosted by Harrisonburg Free Will Baptist Church which is pastored by the state's moderator, Paul Collins. Going out of its way, the church provided wonderfully for the needs of the convention and each attendee. A hearty "Thank You!" goes to the entire Harrisonburg church family for making the conference a wonderful event for everyone. It was also a blessing for the conventioners to witness God's blessing on this mission work's success and to see the beautiful facilities that Free Will Baptists have raised up in Harrisonburg. Brother Paul and his family have done a terrific job in establishing this work.



**HISTORICAL
MOMENT FOR
VIRGINIA FREE
WILL BAPTISTS**

In the executive board meeting, Dr. Bruce Barnes signs the contract as Virginia's first full-time promotional director.





Support Virginia's Promotional Office ... Be a
“Fast-Snacker”

*For just a little sacrifice each week
you can make a big difference.
Read below!*



Support the Virginia promotional office by “fasting a snack” each week! By this small contribution, you can send Brother Barnes across Virginia to help pastors, associations, churches and missionaries. We’re looking for 350 people who will “FAST” the price of a cola and candy bar each week (\$10.00 per month). The sacrifice for each is small, but the benefit for Virginia Free Will Baptists is huge!

Perhaps you have the means of supporting the promotional office in a more significant way. Brother Barnes would welcome your committed, monthly gift to aid the work of Free Will Baptists in Virginia.

You can become a “Fast-Snacker” by signing up and donating online. Go to www.vafwb.org and look for the donation link; you can manage your own one-time gift or monthly draft. If you prefer not to give online, go to the website “Contact Us” page and send him an email to let him know of your desire to support the promotional office. You can also call him (757-407-1183) or send him a letter at the following address.

D. Bruce Barnes
4846 Kempsville Greens Parkway, #303
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

A FULL-TIME PROMOTIONAL DIRECTOR, WHY?

Why is there a need for a full-time promotional director for Virginia and what might be accomplished in it? The work of the promotional director is to serve the needs of all Free Will Baptists in Virginia, and that includes the pastors, associations, missionaries, and local churches. He also helps fulfill the directives of the executive board to work in behalf of the state's churches and associations. This is an office for coordination, organization, and administration but even more for preaching, communicating, training, evangelizing and encouraging. The director travels the state as a "circuit rider" ministering to the needs of local Free Will Baptist brethren.

Hasn't Virginia existed without it until now? Yes,

but the advancement of our message, our doctrine, and our cause here and beyond will be significantly aided as we move to unite for greater strength. The director does not hold this position to tell pastors what to do; rather, he serves his brethren to be a resource, a pastor to pastors, an encourager, an advisor, and a counselor.

The office of the promotional director is simply that of a service center. It exists to serve. When you support the promotional director both with financial gifts and prayers, you enliven the lives and ministries of other Free Will Baptists in Virginia. When you involve him to serve your ministry, you help fulfill the purpose of the office but also you help your own ministry in the process.

CALLING ALL CHURCHES

Support for the promotional office is two faceted. As presented on the left, one level of giving is for 350 people to become "Fast-Snackers." The other level of support needed is 35 churches in Virginia to place the promotional department in their yearly budgets for an average of \$1,000.00. Not every church can give that much, but others might be able to do a little better. We are looking for an average of this amount from at least 35 churches.

With these two approaches to fund-raising, Virginia can build and sustain a full-time promotional office. The value is that of having a man who will serve the needs of all Free Will Baptist pastors, churches, and associations in Virginia. It is possible, and these next twelve months are the time to meet this challenge.

Pastors, please consider and plan now for placing the promotional office in your church's budget. The budget might be set for this year; however, prepare for it in the next year. Also, please let us know of your intent. It will help us to account for our needs in that next year. All that you do will be appreciated!

GIVING ONLINE

You can now give to the Virginia Promotional Office online for a one-time gift or through a monthly draft. The funds can be debited from your account, or you may use a credit card for support. Full giving reports are automatically available to you as well as your giving history. You can also fully manage your account and change your giving at any time. Using this portal for monthly giving is convenient for you and helpful for us. Your support is greatly appreciated!

"MUSICAL DEVOTION"

Each Friday morning, a new "Musical Devotion" debuts; and it can be found at the bottom of the state's website home page. Brother Barnes provides an original arrangement of a Christian hymn or song on his guitar along with a visual presentation of the words. After its completion, a short statement of devotion on the song's theme is presented for the day's meditation. These are brief selections with just one verse of the song; these are usually less than two minutes long. Check it out each week at www.vafwb.org.

ORDERLINESS

by Bruce Barnes

Imagine trying to find a book in a library which has no book-keeping system. The frustration of finding the needed information would drive one to conclude that orderliness is particularly useful for everyday life. Not only is order needed in secular instances but also in God's work! Therefore, God's people must be orderly people.

God's people must be orderly because God is orderly, and His creation proves it. He has established the world under precise physical laws which are irreversible and binding in every situation. God has also put His entire universe on a fixed pattern. For example, people can chart heavenly bodies according to God's exact time table; NASA depends on it. In 1 Corinthians 14:33, the Scripture says that God is not the author of confusion; if not, He must be the cause of orderliness. God also speaks through Paul in verse 44 saying, "Let all things be done decently and in order." Additionally, God's holiness declares order. It is inconceivable that anything less than perfect order could remain in the presence of the holiness of God. When Lucifer sinned and interrupted heaven's order, God cast out the object of the disunity.

God's people must be orderly because Satan is confusion. In reference again to 1 Corinthians 14:33 and since God is not the author of confusion, it must be assumed that Satan is the author of that confusion.

Of course, this is the primary tool used by Satan in trying to stop the work of God. For example, the Bible says that assurance of salvation will be obvious because the Christian loves the brethren. Consequently, harsh feelings between Christians and a lack of the love expressed are nothing short of a Satanic attack to break fellowship and order within Christendom. The slanderer wants dissension among the believers. Over and over Satan uses and continues to use this tool in his attempt to achieve his goal, the defeat of God and the order that God would bring to individual lives and to the world.

God's people must be orderly because the Christian testimony is at stake. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 14:23, speaks concerning the unbelievers' response to speaking in tongues. The idea is that the confusion of the service could cause the unbelievers to consider the Christians as insane. Why should unbelievers listen to confused and disorderly people? Therefore, the responsibility, which lies upon the Christian, is paramount because of the ramifications of the witness he gives. The eternal destiny of a person may very well hang upon the small string of one's Christian testimony. Orderliness in the life of the believer will let the lost know that Christianity is something that is reasonable, practical, needful, and desirable.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

A refurbished website for Virginia Free Will Baptists is now online. Take a few moments to stop by (www.vafwb.org) and see the improvements. You can find all of our churches, pastors and state leaders online with links to their addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and websites.

Also, make a friend request to my Facebook, follow me on Twitter and subscribe to the YouTube Musical Devotions. Let your friends know too! The importance is not about me but about getting more people tied to information that concerns the Virginia Free Will Baptist Association. The more people who tie into the information that is there, the more they will involve themselves with the work overall.

—Bruce Barnes



Support the Virginia Promotional Office by becoming a "Fast-Snacker"!