

# The PLUMBLINE

November—December 2014

a publication of Virginia Free Will Baptists

## RECENT SUCCESSSES

*GRACE Outreach is now working in six churches in Virginia, and each is reporting immediate success. More church members are becoming involved in the church outreach program, and visitors are attending because of the efforts made through this program.*

*Check out the video on the state website to see if this program could work for you.*

*Call the promotional director for more information about establishing this program in your church!*

## TEXT-GIVING IS NOW AVAILABLE

*We now have another easy way for giving to the Virginia Promotional Office! Donations can be made by texting 757-269-9769.*

*In the message box of your phone, put the amount you wish to give. Once you send the text, you will receive a text back with a one-time registration (only about 5 lines of information). When you submit the information, that's it! The donation is complete.*

*The next time you wish to donate through text, you will not have to complete the information again. This text number and all donations come through the same secure gateway of our online supporters.*

## Little Is Much When God Is In It

We've probably all heard the phrase from the chorus, "Little is much when God is in it." It is indeed a reminder that God can take just a little and make great things from it. Examples of this are all throughout Scripture. God took Gideon's three hundred and defeated thousands; Jesus took one lad's lunch and fed the multitudes; and just a little faith as the grain of mustard seed is promised to accomplish great and wonderful things.

As a Fast-Snacker, you are contributing a little each month through your support, but what you are helping the promotional office accomplish is huge! Please

never think that what you are doing is insignificant. I want you to know that you are helping bring encouragement to your brethren across Virginia. I truly wish you could see what I get to see. I am around the pastors in the associations across

**Fast-Snacker  
support is making a  
difference!**

the state when they stand and publically express what it means to have a representative from the state association present at their meetings. I get to hear back from the pastors when they tell me how much the prayer prayed for them

means or how a postcard of care and concern brought encouragement at a moment of need.

Yes, I get to do these things, but it is your provision that allows it to take place. Quite simply, I could not do what I do without your doing what you do! You are investing in this office so that such things would take place, and what you are investing in is working! "Thanks!" to all of you.

We still have a little ways to go before the promotional office is fully supported, but your continued support is getting us closer all the time. Thank you for your faithfulness to this work!



*This church is Bowen Chapel Free Will Baptist Church sitting on the top of a mountain in Duffield. Rev. William O. Bowen is the pastor. It takes a little while to get there, but the great time of fellowship with the pastors and people of the Sunbright Quarterly Conference are well worth the trip!*

*See pictures of this and other churches where I have visited at [facebook.com/vafwb](https://www.facebook.com/vafwb).*

## An Increasing Need for the Brightening Light

Spiritual darkness is encroaching more and more into American society. For decades now, America has "preached" humanism and secularism so thoroughly that even our Christian heritage is being rewritten nationally. As spiritual darkness has been prevalent in other parts of the world, we are now experiencing an encroaching shadow over our nation.

Additionally, the rising influence of Islam, and especially the violent expression of it, works to dim the light of truth. Some hide the truth for concern of "offending" Islamists or in fear of inciting Jihadist reprisal. Many hope there will be peace for

their silence, but they fail to realize that error prevails where truth is absent.

Where is the answer? Darkness dissipates in the presence of light. Jesus is the light of all truth, and with Jesus in our hearts, we have light to share with the world. Darkness will prevail only where the light recedes. In every place where we reveal the light, not only will darkness flee but that light will become a beacon for others to find the light of truth themselves.

Our efforts in revealing and spreading the gospel must be consistent. There is always an increasing need for the brightening light.

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## What Your Promotinal Office Support is Accomplishing

- 16,000 miles of travel since June to help our churches & associations
- Establishing GRACE Outreach in six churches with each testifying of increased involvement & attendance
- Providing counsel, advice, and encouragement to multiple pastors
- Edifying churches & associations through Sunday school seminars and evangelism revivals & training
- Seeing people saved: A young lady just this past month came to know Jesus as Savior.
- Getting important information to local churches & associations that will help us all face the challenges ahead concerning our biblical stand on homosexuality and same-sex marriage.
- Helping churches that are looking for pastors

## Upcoming Events

**NOVEMBER 1:** Buchanon Quarterly Conference, Harmony Quarterly Conference, Northern Virginia Quarterly Conference (Calvary FWB Church, Rochelle, VA), Southwest Virginia: West Wise Quarterly Conference

**NOVEMBER 2:** Five-Year Celebration for Pastor Stanley Waddell's ministry at Woodland Heights Free Will Baptist Church, Martinsville. Dr. Bruce Barnes will be the special speaker, and dinner will be served afterwards.

**NOVEMBER 9:** GRACE Outreach will be presented and established at Free Will Baptist Church of Roanoke. Rev. Mark Lewis is the pastor. Dr. Bruce Barnes will preach Sunday morning on the church's need to be involved collectively in the Great Commission. The program will be explained Sunday evening, and people will sign up then to get started.

**NOVEMBER 14-15:** The East Coast Ladies Retreat will be held at Gateway Free Will Baptist Church. More information about the event can be found on Gateway's website: [www.gatewayfwbchurch.com](http://www.gatewayfwbchurch.com). Look for the ECLR tab.

**NOVEMBER 23:** Dr. Barnes will be preaching at First Free Will Baptist Church, Richmond. Continue to pray for the church as they seek a new pastor. Also continue to pray for their former pastor, Rev. James Bullock. Pray that God will help him in his recovery.

**DECEMBER 7:** Dr. Barnes will be preaching the AM service at Friendship Free Will Baptist Church in Bristol. Rev. Tony Woods is the pastor.

**DECEMBER 12:** The John Wheeler: Southwestern Quarterly Conference will be held at Cornerstone Free Will Baptist Church, Bristol, TN.

**DECEMBER 13:** The John Wheeler: Northeastern Quarterly Conference will be held at Adwolfe Free Will Baptist Church, Marion, VA.

## Is Your Theology Practical?

Over time, people have pursued the study of theology from various perspectives and for specific purposes. Among these approaches are theologies termed Biblical, Black, Confessional, Constructive, Contextual, Covenant, Dogmatic, Ecumenical, Ethical, Federal Vision, Feminist, Historical, Liberal, Mystical, Natural, Normative, Pastoral, Patristic, Philosophical, Post-liberal, Postmodern, Practical, Process, Reformed, Scientific, and Systematic.

Of course, many Bible college students are especially familiar with Systematic Theology because of that course within their academic discipline. However, when the course is over, grade is recorded, and the degree hangs on the wall, "Is Your Theology Practical?"

The study of theology is the study of God, and any study concerning Him needs to find its place in practical, daily living. In fact, study that merely fills the head without practical application to life is wholly impractical. God never intended His Word to be "head-filler." James expresses it clearly when he says,

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

James' emphasis is on a "religion" (one's expression of faith) which is applied in a practical way. May we all fall under the conviction of living out a very practical theology: simply studying the Bible and doing what it says!