

Greenfield, Mo.
Rt. # 2
Geller, John

GP55

FREE WILL BAPTIST

THE VOICE OF MISSOURI
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Gem



COOPERATIVE RECEIPT
FEBRUARY 1964

Beacon	\$87.00
Fellowship	75.00
Berkley	132.10
Overland	112.25
Cuba	24.53
St. Louis, South Side	39.00
Granby	10.00
O-Bethel-in Madison County	
Quarterly Meeting	25.00
Festus	40.20
Farmington	82.19
Kansas City Central	50.00
Carterville	11.97
Victory	67.59
Thayer	29.31
Jefferson City First	7.17
Parkview (Desloge)	72.20
Oak Grove (Bonds)	5.00
Monett	92.29
Mine La Motte	11.10
Kansas City Central	47.00
Hickory Grove	19.55
Copper Mines	32.57
West Plains	34.00

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THE PROMOTIONAL
SECRETARY'S CORNER

Beacon	74.21
Old Flat Sunday School	5.00
Total-----	\$1,186.23
DISBURSED:	
55% Nat'l Ass'n F.W.B.	652.43
1% Mo. Superannuation	11.86
4% Mo. Youth Camp	47.45
4 % Mo. F.W.B. Gem	53.38
7% General Fund	83.04
8 % Mo. Missions	100.83
20% Promotional Dept.	237.25
Total-----	\$1,186.23

Good messages and harmonious business sessions were features of St. Francis County Quarterly Meeting held at Farmington Church, February 1st. Preceded by youth rally Friday evening, with a fine group of youth in charge of the choir and devotional service. A gospel message with special youth emphasis was delivered by Rev. Robert Wilfong.

The 11:00 A.M. sermon was delivered by Rev. Dean Burpe. Time was given for Missouri Cooperative program, to which most of these churches contribute. Sunday, February 2nd, we enjoyed the worship service with Pastor Ervin Mills and Hurryville Church, in their beautiful new church. I was privileged to bring a mission sermon in this service. Also, glad to be with Pastor Weir and the Festus Church in the evening service and deliver the message there.

Pastor Bud Hill and the Monett Church hosted the Indian Creek Woman's Auxiliary and Quarterly Meeting February 4th. I was delegated to bring the 11 A.M. mes-



Rev. Harry Beatty
Promotional Secretary

sage and Rev. Teddy Davis delivered a challenging message in the evening service.

Mission Quarterly Meeting assembled with New Rock Springs Church, February 6th, with each of their churches duly represented. Five ministers delivered sermons during the day, and Moderator Rev. Carl Postlewait conducted a very harmonious business session, giving time also for our Missouri Cooperative Program.

I attended the week-end revival at Pleasant Ridge Church, doing promotional work. At the Garfield Church, Sunday, February 9th, I was privileged to bring the 11 A.M. message. Sunday afternoon I certainly enjoyed the rare occasion and good fellow-

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Vol. 33-No. 2 3

Cassville, Missouri

March February, 1964

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Organ of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists. Serving the church everywhere. Endorsed by National Association

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TERMS

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SINGLE SUBSCRIPTION BLANK
FOR THE GEM

Dear Editor:

Please add my name to the Gem Mailing List. I am enclosing \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____



Rev. Bud Hill, Editor
3100 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

GLEANNINGS

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FELLOWSHIP FREE WILL BAPTISTS BURN MORTGAGE

Sunday morning, January 5, the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church on Buckley Street, Flat River, had a "mortgage burning" as the church debt was paid.

The morning service included a responsive reading for the dedication of the church, with the church pastor, the Rev. James Earl Raper, leading, and the Church responding. The prayer of dedication was also by the pastor.

Frank Johnson, chairman of the Trustee Board, lighted the match to the mortgage, which was held by Marion Sherrill, chairman of the Deacon Board. The pastor, and members of the Trustee and Deacon Boards participated in the ceremony. The members of the Trustee Board are Marion Sherrill, Gerald Getz, Bill Turley, Bill Curcham, Robert Dodd, Tom Ward and Darrell Ragsdale. The members of the Deacon Board are Alonzo Baker, Frank Johnson, Marvin Milburn, Harold Wilfong, Vernon Horton, Tom Williams and Bob Bess.

The church trio, Wanda Ragsdale, Frances Ward and Doris Raper sang "Without Him I Could Do Nothing," accompanied at the piano by Sylvia Brooks. Following the morning service, a fellowship dinner was enjoyed in the church basement.

In 1946, under the leadership of the Rev. Melvin Bingham of Tulsa, Oklahoma, a few families of Free Will Baptist people met in the old Buckley Hall, 603 Buckley Street, and this group agreed to go into the organization of a church. Mr. Bingham served as pastor of the church for several months and the Rev. Sylvester Hand of Fredericktown was called to serve the church as pastor.

Easter Sunday of 1947, the Rev. Damon C. Dodd, who with his family had just returned from the Cuban Mission field, preached at the Fellowship Church and later conducted a revival. At the termination of the revival the church extended him a call to the pastoral care of the church and he accepted. Plans were soon underway for a basement building and were carried through. All during those days there were revivals and many days of prayer.

September 30, 1947, work was begun on the parsonage and the pastor and family moved in November 19. The first regular service was in the basement January 18, 1947.

Easter Sunday of 1949, the people moved into the new church auditorium. A revival began on the night of April 17 and the first candidates were baptized in the church's baptistry. Paul J. Clay was the first to be baptized.

Mr. Dodd resigned the pastorate on January 1, 1950, to accept a position with the Denominational Administrative staff in Nashville, Tennessee. The Rev. Mark Lewis (now deceased), was elected to the pastorate.

The Rev. Rolla Smith served as pastor of the church approximately seven years, 1952 through 1959. The Rev. Elro Driggers served as pastor from 1959 through 1960.

The present pastor, the Rev. James Earl Raper accepted the pastorate of the church in 1961.

SERMON of the MONTH

N "I Expect My Church To Be." Acts 4:13

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13.

"They marvelled." It seems that the early church had this same effect on every one. The world marvelled at this miraculous power they possessed; their gentleness; great bravery; the simple longing for unity with God and their complete unconcern for worldly fame or fortune. The attitude of the world toward the early church can be summed up by saying "They marvelled." And what a glorious statement "they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus." When the apostles were cast into prison "The angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak to the people all the words of this life. "Here is the mission of the church. Go, Stand and Speak the words of the eternal life.

I speak as a church member, not as a minister; and of the local congregation, not of the denomination; when I say that I expect my church to have certain qualities, and to offer my certain assurances if I am to be a member of that organization. I know that my church will be only what I make it, it will rise no higher than I lift it, and will give me only what I am willing to receive from it; but I insist that as a regular attending and supporting member, I have the right to expect my church to offer me the opportunity to serve my Lord to the utmost of my ability and desire.

In the next few minutes I hope to call to your mind four things that I feel will cause the world to marvel at the Church where I attend. As these are brought to your mind please remember that they are merely qualities that will better enable us to carry out the mission of the Church.

First, I want my church to be alive. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is not cisk nor is it corrupt as many are saying. The true Church of Christ is holy, reverent, healthy and spiritual. But although the church is healthy it very probably is asleep, yes even to the point of causing the world to think it is dead. Jesus brings life. He said "I come that you might have life." If we are to bring from spiritual death to glorious life those that are in sin, we must show some life ourselves. Life is a wonderful thing, and those who really enjoy life are enthusiastic about each new day and each opportunity for an adventure. I would that my Church would show more enthusiasm when it worships, and when it witnesses. No one wants to be around a corpse, no body enjoys going to a funeral. Lets show the world that the church has the abundant life and cause them to come to our church and receive food that will make them optimistic about tomorrow.

Second, I want my church to be alert. An alert people is an informed people. Hundreds were killed on Pearl Harbor because they were not informed of the danger of attack; a few weeks ago over 1000 people were destroyed in Italy when a dam broke, hurling millions of tons of water down upon them. They were not informed of the dangers so they were not alert to the need for inspection and caution. An alert church is one that is informed of the dangers of sin and of the need for advancement. An alert church is one that is aware of the biblical teachings concerning the awfulness of hell, and the joys of heaven. We

need to be alert to the destruction that awaits those who do not accept Christ as Savior, both for those who have heard and refused to heed, and for those who have never heard that Christ holds us responsible for our failures to extend the Gospel for the salvation of others.

Third, the church must be aggressive. Satan is aggressive, he is working overtime promoting every scheme possible to destroy souls; Catholicism is aggressive, from a small minority group in the american colonies they have grown to be four times larger than the largest protestant church in America; Communism is possibly the most aggressive force in the world to day, its chain of slavery has captivated one-half the world's population and continues to reach for more. In the midst of the most aggressive attack by the devil in history against the Church of Christ the people of God need to aggressively advertise, promote, emphasize and to boldly inform the world of the absolute necessity of accepting Christ and living daily for Him. We need to aggressively attack the elements of sin in our society, and renounce sin in every form. There is a line drawn today between the liberal and the conservative church, and if you will look closely you will find a keen line drawn between the aggressively attack the elements of sin in our society, and renounce sin in every form. There is a line drawn today between the liberal and the conservative church, and if you will look closely you will find a keen line drawn between the aggressive, progressive church and the stagnant dying church. The growing church is attacking sin and offering a solution to this worlds problem. Yes, it will be called fanatic, but it will cause the world to marvel at its growth and rejoice at the salvation that it offers. Lets stop hiding our churches, our bibles and our witness. Let us boldly proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

Fourth, I want my church to accomplish. The bible clearly teaches that the church is to evangelize, to teach, to train and to spread the word. I want my church to accomplish its mission. It must support missions, have a well organized sunday school, well trained teachers and enthusiastic leaders. I demand that it be evangelistic, that souls are saved at the alters, new converts must unite with my church and follow the Lord in baptism. My church must train its members for christian service and then give them a job to do. While the Church is teaching, training, and evangelizing, it must also be growing. I insist that my church be a thriving progressive church.

Yes, I expect my church to be alive, alert, aggressive and accomplishing its mission. When I stop and consider though I suppose I am just about the same as everyone else. Every member of my church expects the same from the church, but what are we doing to make our church the kind we desire it to be. After all, to a sleeping man everything is dead; to an uninformed person, everyone is ignorant; the stagnant pond refers to the aggressive, flowing river as a showoff; and the failure



JAMES McALLISTER
Pastor of the Central Free
Will Baptist Church of
Kansas City, Mo.

always has a ulterior reason for the successful mans accomplishment. I say that today each of us needs to cry out "O wretched man that I am" and commit our energy, talent, ambition, money, and will to Christ and His Church. Let us look on the Fields, take up our cross and follow Jesus, be faithful unto death. 1 Cor. 4:2 states "Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful". Faithfulness on my part will assure success in our labors for Christ.

MASTER'S MEN MEET

The St. Louis District Masters Men Association held their Annual Meeting for election of officers Sunday afternoon February 16th at the South Side Free Will

Baptist Church.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: President-Bro. Ray Burch, Overland Church; Program Chairman-Bro. Harold Baldwin, South Side Church; Membership Chairman-Bro. Ralph

Mertz, South Side Church; Sec'y & Treas.-Bro. Chesley A. Hill, South Side Church; Corresponding Chairman-Bro. Fred Paul, South Side Church; Activities Chairman-Bro. Kronk, Faith Church; Choristers-Rev. Lonnie Skiles, Faith Church.

Plans are under way to help organize Masters Men Chapters in some of the churches in this area who presently have none. Activities are also being planned to increase interest in our District M.M. meetings. Pray that our men will become interested in the Lords work and will accomplish great things for Him this year.

EVERY CHURCH FAMILY PLAN OUR GOAL: 2,000 SUBSCRIPTIONS 100 CHURCHES

The Every Church Family Plan is the best plan ever used by Free Will Baptists to keep their membership informed. It is currently being used by the Gem and our national magazine Contact. The plan is simple. The church clerk makes out a list of the names and addresses of all the families in the church. (Be sure each home is represented on the list.) This is sent to the Gem editor and he adds the names to the mailing list of the Gem. As the Gems are sent out the editor bills the church for the amount of copies sent out to their members. Names may be added or dropped at any time. The plan remains in effect until the church requests that it be discontinued. It does not expire. By using this plan every family in every church that subscribes to the plan will be informed of denominational activities. This is the best plan for your church. Why not use it? Here is a list of the churches who are currently active in the Every Church Family Plan:

Fellowship Rev. James Earl Raper
Amity Rev. Gordon Heckendorn
Black Oak Rev. Melvin Nelson
New Lebanon Rev. Glen Jones
Leadington Rev. Robert Wilfong
Copper Mines Rev. Willard Darnell
Myrtle Rev. Dale Skiles
Kirksville Rev. Leland Horton
Overland Rev. Harry Asher
Berkeley Rev. C. H. Burton
Farmington Rev. E. D. Hellard
Verdella Rev. Winfred Davis
Richwoods
Old Bethel Rev. Ronnie Graham
Mt. Zion Gower Rev. Ralph Cook
South Side Rev. Al McFarland
Thayer Rev. W. H. Bostic
Carterville Rev. Harry Sterling
Fredericktown Rev. Bob Jones
Pleasant Grove Rev. Robt. Williams
Martinstown Rev. Kermit Crooks
Hannon Rev. Lester Nutting
First, Flat River Rev. Gene Norris
Alton Rev. Millard Ehrhardt
Trinity, St. Louis Rev. R. B. Spurgeon
Salem Rev. H. T. Dann
Mt. Olivet, Blue Eye Rev. Gary Terrell
Grace, Arnold Rev. John Land
Faith & Hope Rev. Bill Price
First Church, Aurora
Springfield Rev. Henry Long
Cabool Church, Cabool Rev. Ray Middleton
Jefferson City Church Rev. Earl Irish
Mt. Zion, Thayer Rev. Joe Sisk
Sunny View, Lebanon Rev. Bill Eden
Mt. Zion, Cuba, Mo. Rev. Selph Jones
Willow Springs Woman's Auxiliary
Granby Church Rev. O. T. Allred
Joplin Church Rev. Ted Davis
Rock of Ages Church, Denver, Colo.

Garfield Rev. Howard Bowers
Neosho
Mine La Motte Rev. John Long
Union Light Rev. O. D. Matthews
Bethel Rev. Davie Combs
Mt. Pisgah
Fourth, St. Louis
Twin Oaks Rev. Truman Huffman
Victory Rev. Glen Rehkop
Mill Creek Rev. Lloyd Durbin
Beacon Rev. Woodrow Matthews
First, Kansas City Rev. Alice Dickey
Merl's Chapel Rev. Otho Boyd
Oskaloosa Rev. Ronald Clifford
Jones Chapel Rev. Robt Duck
Pleasant Ridge, Urbana Rev. Len Gardner
New Harmony Rev. Mildred Gilliam
Grant Ave. Rev. O. T. Dixon
First, Monett Rev. Bud Hill
Aulsberry Chapel Rev. Dean Burpo
Lebanon Rev. Dale Jones
Mountain Valley Rev. Homer Smith
Liberty Rev. Cleo Covington
Desloge Rev. Jesse Webb
Meremac Heights Rev. Hugh Stodgsdill
Festus Rev. Chester Weir
Pleasant Hill Church Rev. Owen Harvell
Macedonia Church Rev. Selph Jones
First Church, Greenfield Rev. Lowell Martin
Hickory Grove Rev. Ralph Cook
Northside Rev. Frank Giunta
Hazel Creek Rev. Cletus Nichols
Cuba Rev. G. J. Pingleton
Marshfield Church Rev. Wm. Reeves
Pleasant Ridge, Alton Rev. A. T. Warren
Lead Hill, Mansfield Rev. Chas. Findley
Viburnum Church Rev. S. A. Hand
Central Church, Kansas City . Rev. James McAllister
Cedar Ridge Rev. Maynard Moore

Millville, New Brunswick,
Canada
February, 1964

Dear Friends:

This past month has been a cold month, but we have had a rather mild winter thus far compared to the previous one. It looks now as if spring might come earlier this year.

The most outstanding blessing this month was to see our young people take active part in "Youth Week." Two of our oldest teens gave the sermons, January 26, one in the morning and the other at the evening service. I do wish you could have been here and heard them speak. It is evident that the league programs have contributed greatly to their spiritual development. At times we become discouraged; but when our young people who have been saved within the past year and a half give their testimonies and continue to be so faithful in their service to Christ by the lives they live, we find a source of real strength.

On Sunday night, January 12, at the Cloverdale Church a young teenage girl was saved. She along with many others are praying and are showing a real concern for the salvation of their parents.

The greatest need in our area now is for adults to trust the Lord as Saviour. As has already been pointed out, the young people have responded wonderfully to the gospel; but almost all the parents of these teenagers are lost without Christ. Pray with these teenagers that their parents will come to know Christ too.

The first week in March, Jackie and I with our two oldest girls will be going to Missouri for some missionary conference. Pray for the work here while we are away. Please pray that God will use us in these areas to present the needs. We plan now to return the first of April from the Bible Conference at Nashville, Tennessee.

Only as we trust the Lord will he meet our every need. Pray for us to face the

challenges ahead.

In His Service,

Rev. and Mrs. Mack Owens

Psalms 25:4, 5

712 North Barton Street
Arlington 1, Virginia
February, 1964

Dear Fellow-Laborer:

We can but begin with praise for the Lord! My, how good He is! Our plans are to be in our church for our first service February 9. (Because of the weather we have had a delay.) This will be a long awaited moment for our people. All of us thank God and YOU for standing by us in prayer and financial support that this day might be realized.

One young lady awaits baptism in the new church and three new members were added to the church in January. By far the greater part of my time this past month was spent working on the church. I have dug ditches, finished concrete, worked as a painter, as a carpenter and a general do-it-all man. Who would have thought that all this would fall lot to a preacher? I thank God that He could use me even in these capacities.

Now an item of mutual interest, I'm sure. We have been praying for a young man, with real potential, but who is a skeptic. I should have said, who was a skeptic. He had his ideas, and they were far removed from God's. Still, this boy is being shaken by the Holy Ghost. He now comes to church often and is visibly moved. Last Sunday he met me after the service and asked if he could come by my home for counseling. Oh, how this thrilled my heart. He has come a long way. I believe the Gospel to be just as powerful today as when Paul preached! Don't you? Well this young man is on the way. We

have not won him yet, but we feel the victory is just around the corner. His need is your ministry and mine. Let us covenant together to win him for Christ. As a young intellectual his conversion may well affect other college youth. They need Christ as well. Pray much about this.

All of us here thank you for your faithfulness. You are winning souls and furthering Christ's Kingdom through us. Isn't it a wonderful ministry to share?

The year 1964 should be the biggest in history of this church. Our combined prayers and support will make it so.

Remaining.....

Yours because His,

The Walkers - Washington, D.C.

4841 Colfax
Lincoln, Nebraska
February, 1964

Greetings from Nebraska:

We wish, first of all, to express our sincere thanks to those who have faithfully prayed for us during my wife's illness. We are glad to report that both mother and baby are doing fine. This certainly is a real definite answer to prayer.

We are now in the middle of winter here, but our attendance has not suffered too greatly. However, we have had four families to move out recently and two large families are moving next month. Both are families which we have seen come to Christ recently. These things are always discouraging, but we know the Lord will use them wherever they go.

There is a very definite prayer request here in Nebraska. There is an independent church in Beatrice, Nebraska, which has expressed an interest in joining our denomination. Brother Wade Jernigan will be here with me in Lincoln for a week in February for a revival and at that time we hope to come to some definite arrangement with them. Pray that God's will will be done.

I also feel that there is a strong possi -



THE MISSION FIELD

bility for a church being started in Omaha, the largest city in Nebraska. Pray earnestly about these things with us.

Yours in Christ,

Lewis and Kathleen Perry

MISSOURI

Receipts for January, 1964

Lehman R. Riggs, St. Louis	\$ 5.00
Mrs. Olga Helsley, Hartville	30.00
Southside FWB Church, St. Louis	58.76
Finis Sorrell, Myrtle	2.00
WNAC, Hqts.	10.58
Mt. Pisgah Church, Cabool	5.00
First FWB Church, Fredericktown	20.00
Co-op, Hqts.	279.09
New Rock Springs Church, Cabool	10.28
First FWB League, Monett	4.00
Willow Springs FWB Woman's Aux., Mountain Grove	4.00
Grant Ave. FWB Young Adults League, Springfield	5.00
New Harmony S.S., Greentop	19.65
Union Light FWB Church, Patton	10.00
First FWB Youth Group, Kirksville	2.00
North Side FWB Church, St. Louis	34.44
Mrs. Floyd Luney, Cassville	5.00
Bessie Yeley Circle, Monett	5.00
Louis Wilhite, St. Ann	2.00
Louise Thomas, Greentop	1.00
Mr. & Mrs. Estel Beeson, Cassville	10.00
Willow Springs FWB Ladies Aux., Mountain Grove	3.00
Mrs. Mary Fyr, Monett	10.00
Overland FWB Church Adult Bible Classes, Overland	50.00
Coon Creek Church, Hartville	26.43
Clifford Altis, Independence	15.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$627.23

February, 1964

Dear Friends:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Please forgive us for being so late this month with the letter. We have been so very busy we just have not had time before.

On February 7, 1964, we had our first graduation of the Bible Institute. We had five boys and 2 girls to graduate. This was truly a happy time for us. As we



HAWKINS CORNER CHURCH
New Brunswick, Canada

begin to see fruits of 4 years of labor. Our hearts rejoiced as we saw them off to their fields of labor. Some on the bus, others on the train. As we saw them go we see Free Will Baptist reaching into new parts of this country. We ask you too, to remember them in prayer, as they meet the problems of the field.

Also on February 9, Arminda, the girl who has stayed with us for the past 4 years was married, she married the pastor in "El Canelito". Then we had the problem of getting them settled in their work. We took them there on February 12. The work is amazing in this mountain area. My heart rejoiced and was thrilled on Wednesday night as I saw the little church filled with people. There wasn't room for another person. All the children sat on the floor, the older people sat on the few benches, and the young people stood up. They are a wonderful people. They love the Lord with all their hearts. The women of the church there have bought 1,000 adobes for the church, the church has purchased 2,000. Our Woman's Aux. here in Monterrey has donated \$1,000.00 pesos or \$80.00 dollars for the church. So, soon they will have a larger place to worship. Also remember this work in prayer and the pastor and Arminda, that they will be able to see the church grow and prosper in the Lord.

We have begin another Mission. It is in the mountains. It is in Penuelo, a village about 10 miles from El Canelito. The mountains are full of people who have never heard the gospel. They are a hungry people, ready for the gospel, the time is so short. Sometimes I wonder how many we will be able to reach before He comes.

We have also begin construction on the

new school property. As we have told you before, the church in North Belmont, N.C. sent money for a cottage. So we have begun this cottage. That is all the money we have to begin with. But we have faith in God that when this cottage is built there will be money for another one. This is a great prayer request we have at present. Please make this a matter of prayer. If we are to have school this fall, we must have the buildings.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank you for everything you have done for the work here in Mexico. We have been on the field 5 years and 3 months. Time has passed swiftly. As I think back over these past years my eyes are filled with joy as I think of the many blessings God has bestowed upon us and the work here. As I see my 3 children running and playing I see one of the greatest blessings of my life. To us (of course) they are the most beautiful children in the world. Danny now 5 years old, is beginning to ask all sorts of questions. Like "how come I wasn't born in the states?" As I take him in my arms, and hold him close I have tried to explain to him how God in His love and mercy gave him to us. Again as I see the church filled on Sunday morning, I remember when everyone of them was saved. As I hear our choir sing "Amazing Grace" my heart is again thrilled. As I go to the mountains or to the coast and visit the other Free Will Baptist works, I again see fruits of Missions. All the pastors have been saved under our ministry. You too, have labored here with us, in prayer and financially. If you had not sent the money, we could not have worked. You have been so wonderful, we have no words to express our ap-

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WOMANS AUXILIARY



Mrs. Peggy Davis

SEND ALL ARTICLES TO

Mrs. Ted Davis

Rt. 2, Box 275C

Joplin, Missouri

"AWAKE - AROUSE - ARISE"

We are now approaching the Easter Season of 1964. The first was, of course, when Christ arose from the grave, to complete His task for our salvation.

Christ was not raised by some accident, or by mistake but on a direct purpose of God the Father. It was in the exact manner and time as foretold by the ancient prophets and directed by the merciful, loving heart of God.

Now ladies, I've said that to say this. If in the first Easter,

God was concerned with the exactness of time (which He was), we are assured that today He is as much or even more so, concerned with our time.

NOW is the time to awake to our needs:

*Pre-Easter Week of Prayer

*Easter Sunday - Mission Sunday

*Offerings sent to Missionaries

Now is the time to be aroused to meet our National, State, District and Local needs.

*Talk to all the ladies in your church to work and be in your Auxiliary and to help share your burden. (Your burden is deep enough to share with another, isn't it?)

Now is the time to arise.

*Yesterday is Gone

*Tomorrow may never come

*And today is not waiting on anyone.

MISSOURI STATE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

Secretary-Treasurer's Report for July 1, 1963 thru

January 31, 1964

The following is a list of Woman's Auxiliares and the amount received from each Auxiliary.

Total amount received from Auxiliaries for all accounts -

Thayer	\$ 64.10
Myrtle	37.00
First FWB, Flat River	9.00
Willow Springs	31.20
Hazel Creek	54.96
Victory	36.00
Grant Avenue	124.33
New Harmony	31.05
Kirksville	79.06
Fellowship	45.00
Farmington	42.00
Fredericktown	20.00
West Plains	10.00
First FWB, Kansas City	26.00
Indian Creek Association	72.39
Mountain Grove	278.09
Flat River - GTA	5.00
Copper Mines	16.00
Northeast Mo. District	16.57
St. Louis District	232.64
Central Western District	198.85
Missionary offering at State Meeting	128.02

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$1,557.26

This amount was received for the following accounts:

Tithes	\$ 93.88
Representation Dues	100.70
Student Loan Fund	35.88
Co-Labor	104.33
State Home Missions	47.11
National Home Missions	154.23
National Foreign Missions	26.96
State Project - Land in Uruguay	108.35
State Project - Land in Hawaii ('63-'64).....	641.75
Miscellaneous Accounts*	244.07
*Carlisle Hanna	\$ 30.00
Luther Sanders	133.02
Lonnie Palmer	10.00
Arthur Billows	9.00
Students in Mexico	3.00
Shirley Walker (FWBBC)	10.00

Aileen Calvary	10.00
Uruguay Fund	5.00
Orphanage	5.00
Youth Camp Well	26.00
Bro. Jim Miller	3.05

\$244.07

TOTAL \$1,557.26

The amount of \$641.75 given to the State Project - Land in Hawaii was received as follows:

Grant Avenue, Springfield	\$ 55.18
Fellowship	35.00
Mountain Grove	160.25
Kirksville	28.00
Fredericktown	20.00
Hazel Creek	22.00
Willow Springs, Mtn. Grove	27.00
Myrtle	20.00
Thayer	20.00
West Plains	10.00
Farmington	42.00
New Harmony	18.00
First FWB, Kansas City	26.00
Victory	41.23
Beacon	26.20
Verdella	10.00
Oskaloosa	10.00
Central	7.70
St. Louis District	5.00
Indian Creek Ass'n	58.19

TOTAL \$641.75

The goal set at the Missouri State Woman's Auxiliary Convention for our State project - Land in Hawaii, is \$1,000.00. The amount received thru Jan. 31, 1964 is \$641.75 leaving a balance of \$358.25 to be received by June 30, 1964 if we are to reach our goal. Will you help us reach this goal?

ATTENTION ALL WOMAN'S AUXILIARIES!

Please send the name and address of all your officers, including the office they hold, to the State Secretary-Treasurer, Hazel Hutsell, 534 West North St., Mountain Grove, Mo. 65711.

This information is needed in connection with the Resolution passed at the State Woman's Auxiliary Convention. For more information, see the Resolutions as listed recently in the GEM.

Your prompt attention in submitting your list of officers to this office will be appreciated.

AUXILIARIES REPORTING - FEBRUARY, 1964

Southside, St. Louis, Mo.
 Avondale, Victory FWB
 Lebanon, First Church
 West Plains, Mo.
 Flat River, Mo., First Church
 Kirksville, Mo.
 Thayer, Mo.
 Grant Avenue, Springfield, Mo.
 First Church, Springfield, Mo.
 Flat River, Fellowship
 Lebanon, Mo., Lynn Street
 Joplin, Mo., First Church

ATTENTION - ALL AUXILIARY MEMBERS!

Make plans NOW to attend the State Auxiliary Workshop, convening April 21, 1964, at the Grant Avenue Free Will Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo. We would like to have every auxiliary in the State represented at this meeting. Ideas, methods, and spiritual emphasis will be given to help auxiliaries better accomplish their goal - "to help the church teach and support missions."

Mrs. J. E. Williams
 State Study Course Chairman
 Raytown, Mo.

QUARTERLY MEETING

A "Prayer Retreat" was enjoyed as the quarterly meeting in January of the St. Francois County Women's Auxiliary Quarterly Meeting which was at the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church. The organ prelude was by Wanda Ragsdale; prayer by Joyce Webb; reading of the Word by Jerry Wilfong, program chairman. Serenity of the Soul was also by Jerry Wilfong. A beautiful duet, "Breathe On Me" was sung by Norma Williams and Doris Raper.

A pause to pray was enjoyed in smaller prayer groups with leaders being Effie Matthews, Eunice Miller and Edith Keeney.

A county study course was discussed and the study will be "The Larger Stewardship," at the First Free Will Baptist Church, led by Eunice Edwards.

A social hour with refreshments was enjoyed.

Jean Blakeley, Secretary

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer was sponsored by the St. Francois Women's Auxiliary Quarterly Meeting, Friday, February 14, at the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church. The theme was "So Sahl Ye Be My Disciples."

The area pastors, the Rev. Gene Norris, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Flat River; the Rev. Everett Hel-lard, pastor of the Farmington Free Will Baptist Church; the Rev. James Earl Raper, pastor of the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church of Flat River; the Rev. Jesse Webb, pastor of the Parkview Free Will Baptist Church of Desloge; the Rev. Bob Wilfong, pastor of the Leadington Free Will Baptist Church, presented the program.

BUSY FOR THE LORD

Whenever I think of the Women's Auxiliary of the South Side Free Will Baptist Church four words come to my mind - "Busy for the Lord".

I would like to tell you about two of our officers. The first is our Personal Service Chairman, Oirtress Kellerman. She is always thinking of other people. Each month she has something planned in her benovolence activities that touches the heart of someone.

During November we sent cookies and candies to the boys at bible college. In December, she put out a plea for canned goods. Baskets were prepared for the needy at Christmas. We also sent cookies and candies to our service men. In January underclothing was purchased for the children at the orphanage. In an executive meeting held on January 21 plans were laid out for five months. Each month trying to help someone in need.

OUR BIBLE SCHOOL
Rev. L. C. Johnson, President

The Free Will Baptist Bible College opened its second session on September 8 with a capacity enrollment of thirty students coming from seven different states. Our present facilities are about taxed to the limit. Up until the present time we have sixteen men students and fourteen lady students. The students make up one of the most congenial and high type groups that you find in any school this size in America. The Lord has wonderfully blessed us in sending to the College just the students we believe He would have here. We are looking forward to this year being a great year in our school work.

Everyone of the last year students are back in school along with seventeen new students. We still have room for a very few more students and if you would be interested in enrolling immediately, we will make some special provision to accept you.

There are quite a few who have already made inquiries concerning entering for the second semester's work. If you are contemplating coming for the last term of this year's work, the earlier you let us know the better it will be in order that we may make the necessary arrangements.

Address all inquiries to the Free Will Baptist Bible College, 3609 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Hannan, Missouri

The church year of the Hannan Free Will Baptist Church has ended for 1942-43 with perfect harmony existing in the church with all debts paid.

We were very much surprised and grieved when Rev. Cecil Campbell, who had pastored the church so faithfully and efficiently for four years, tendered his resignation to accept the Flat River Church for full time. This church is near the Mississippi River and is one of the outstanding churches of the Missouri State Association.

Rev. Campbell and family are loved by the church and community of Hannan. Our prayers and good wishes go with them for a happy successful year in their new field of labor.

The church feels very fortunate in securing Sister Lowell Martin of Greenfield, Mo., as pastor for the ensuing year. We are acquainted with her and her success as pastor and evangelist and know she will be self-sacrificing to her work with us.

The local association of this district

Echoes from the Past

From Old Copies of
FREE WILL BAPTIST GEMS

State Meeting Minutes

Pictures

Sermons

has also completed the year's work.

The association convened with the Independence church near Stockton, Mo., August 17, in a four day session. The delegates privileged to attend, report it to have been the best association they were ever in. Upon arrival they found a church prepared in every way to entertain the association.

Food in abundance with a plenty of ice was on the ground. A World War I cook was hired to prepare three meals daily. Good beds were enjoyed in many homes.

As they sat together in Godly council, brotherly love existed through the entire business sessions.

The congregational singing and many specials portrayed wonderful talent, seldom found in any church.

The devotional services were soul inspiring. A middle aged man knelt at the altar and was wonderfully saved. The house was full at all sessions especially at the preaching hours.

The ten ministers present gave such sweet out pouring of the Spirit through their sermons. On Thursday night Rev. Winford Davis preached on Missions, which was a masterpiece. He gave an opportunity for those that would yield their lives to any work the Lord laid on their hearts to do. Nine people bowed at the altar for consecration of which four were from the Hannon church.

An offering for missions was taken which amounted to \$101.50.

This association will ever be a sweet memory with all that attended. They bade each other goodbye to meet next year with the Waggoner church, also near Stockton.

A number of our members will attend the State Association, which convenes with the church in Monett, Mo., Sept. 13-17.

Mrs. L. C. Wade, Reporter

PLEASANT RIDGE CHURCH
Urbana, Missouri

On the 26th of July our revival meeting at the Pleasant Ridge Free Will Baptist Church near Urbana, Mo., started with Sister Marie Thomas Hyatt as evangelist, accompanied by her husband. The services continued for two weeks with good interest.

We had street services in several of the towns near by, with the aid of the public address system.

The last night of the meeting there were eight precious souls came to the altar and prayed through to victory. There were six added to the church and seven baptized. There are others to come in later.

Bro. and Sister Hyatt are fine young people with their time and talent in the



FROM THE BOOK SHELF

service of the Lord. We can highly recommend them as good servants of the Lord.

Frank Linton, Pastor
Tunas, Mo.

ROCK OF AGES CHURCH

The New "ROCK OF AGES" Free Will Baptist Church located at 18th Avenue and Clarkson Street, Denver, Colorado, has set February 5th, as the date for the church to be organized and set in order as the second Free Will Baptist church in the state of Colorado. We are looking forward to organizing a conference in Colorado soon. The channel has been opened and God is answering prayer. At the present time we are also praying for other missions to open in Colorado. We have a request from Pueblo, Colorado, to begin the work there and just as soon as our church is organized we will begin to extend our services to other cities under the guidance of the Spirit.

Help us in praying that more preachers and workers will get the work in Colorado on their hearts and will come and help establish churches for the salvation of lost souls.

SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

NASHVILLE, TENN.--Dr. Julian A. Bandy, President of Toccoa Falls Bible Institute, Toccoa Falls, Georgia, and Dr. Bill Rice, Evangelist from Murfreesboro, Tennessee, will be guest speakers at the annual Bible Conference to be held April 5-9 at Free Will Baptist Bible College, President L. C. Johnson has announced.

From page 7

preciation. We trust through our monthly letters you will be able to feel the blessings of God upon the work here also. May God continue to bless you as you labor for Him at home and also on the field. Remember any time you can, we will be thrilled to have you visit us. Our home is open to all. Vacation time is coming, why not take a vacation in Mexico? Just be sure to write us before coming. One or two things could happen; first, we may not be home, as we travel in the summer, and next, you may not find our home.

God bless you is our prayer.

Arthur and Jenell

DAWN OF DEVOTION \$2.95
Sarah Anne Jepson. "A dawn of devotion is essential to the spiritual development of every Christian." Daily readings for a year. 50-2045

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Behold, "I am a charge of the hallowed Israel; unto t

devotional readings

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WHAT'S THAT?

Did you hear that sound? Sounded like a lot of turkeys gobbling to me. Seems to be coming from the direction of Northeast Missouri. Sure enough, it is turkeys gobbling - 186 of them. The Youth Groups of N. E. Mo. make them of pine cones, pipe cleaners, raisins, and cupcake papers; mounted them on a card with a Thanksgiving scripture and presented them to the Nursing Home patients of Kirksville and Greentop for their Thanksgiving trays.

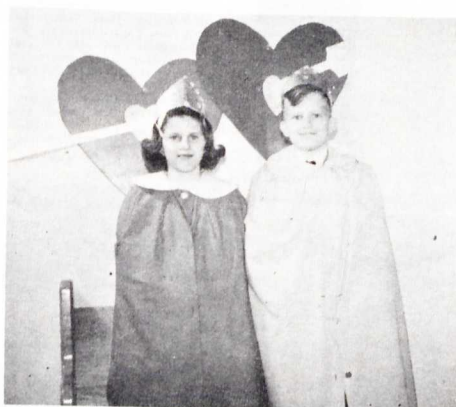
What are those other sounds we hear coming from that direction? Must be the voices of these same groups singing Christmas carols for the same patients at Christmas time.

"I was sick, and ye visited me." Matt. 25:36.

LOOT OUT!

Watch out or you'll get hit by that arrow! There are several pointed your way! Oh, no, those are just paper ones decorating the walls of the Wendell Sevits' home and they are pointed at those red hearts, anyway. The decorations helped the Y.P.A. and the G.T.A. of the Hazel Creek Church with their Valentine party. While it was snowing and blowing outside, hilarity raged inside with the "hearts" battling the "arrows" for the candy treats. Mrs. Gladys Riley and Mrs. Sevits were kept busy with game after game. Ask the girls what they think of the beauty shop the boys managed. Tee-hee. After singing choruses about the love of God, hearts of black, red, and white were used to tell the story of salvation. Cake, fruit salad, and chocolate were served to fourteen young people and five adults.

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Proverbs 17:22.



The king, Gary Jeffreys, and the queen, Elaine Lemens, of the Valentine Banquet at the Monett Church.

BIBLE BOWL

After fifteen months of studying; worrying, and preparing for our Bible Bowl Contest, it was over Friday night, January 24, 1964.

To begin with, there were eight churches, but finally was eliminated down to three. We are proud that our church was one of those three.

As you know, Trinity won first place. They received a beautiful trophy. We were very depressed about losing, but deep down we were all proud of the boys from Trinity.

Today it seems so hard to get our youth into the churches, especially boys, and to get them to take up their time in order to study God's wonderful word. It is something to really be proud about, whether we lose or win. We feel that they deserved to win as much as anyone did.

Southside came in second place. We were also proud of them for using their time to study God's word. They fought a good fight right up to the very last.

Our team came in third place. In a sense we feel we didn't lose completely. We might have lost the game, but what we have learned about God's glorious word we pray we will never lose. Sure, we wanted to win, but someone had to lose.

We would like to thank all the wonderful men who helped our contest and Youth Rally to be as wonderful as it was. We know they put forth a lot of time and effort to keep the youth in our church. We thank them for caring enough about the young people of our church to give them a youth meeting. We would like to thank everyone for coming, and we hope in the future, our youth rallies can continue to be as good as the previous ones.

We know that everyone was richly blessed, and hope they will continue to be.

Yours in Christ,

Imogene Burns
Ernestine Burns
Sharon Burns
Gary Waller

Meramec Heights FWB Church
Valley Park, Missouri

G. T. A. BANQUET

The G.T.A. of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Monett enjoyed Valentine's Day by having a Valentine banquet in the church basement on Saturday night, February 15. Those present enjoyed an excellent dinner topped with ice cream and cherry pie. During the night's activities

a king and queen were selected from the members of the G.T.A. The king was Gary Jeffreys and the queen was Elaine Lemens. All of those present expressed that they had a very enjoyable time. The sponsor of this group is Sis. Rosalee McCully.



The boys and girls attending the Valentine Banquet at the Monett Church.

YOUTH CAMP PROJECT

For the past two months we have tried to get \$50.00 to build a back stop on the new ball field. Thus far we have received \$26.32. We need about \$25.00 more to complete this project. If possible, let us all get together and make this project a success. I know that we have twenty-five people in our state that will send just one dollar this month to complete this project. Let's do it.....

The following are the ones that have contributed to this project:

Howard G. Barr	\$ 2.50
Junior GTA Berkeley Church	1.00
Monett Church	11.82
Mrs. Guy B. Ford, Joplin	5.00
Carterville League	1.00
Laura Belle Barnard Circle, Monett	5.00
	<u>\$26.32</u>

From page 2

ship with Rev. H. C. Crase and his fine family, celebrating his 99th birthday at his home near Couch, Missouri. This elderly worthy man of God, has been a minister of the gospel, in the fellowship of the Free Will Baptist Church, for sixty nine years. Isn't it good that Missouri Free Will Baptist Superannuation Department has a program through which to make even a small gift, to honorably retired ministers like this?

February 13th-14th. State Promotional Workers, Denominational Paper Editors and State Mediators, met in a semi-annual meeting at the Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. We received current information and new challenges from each department of the National Association. The meeting was climaxed in worship and fellowship Thursday even-

ing at the Horton Heights Free Will Baptist Church with Rev. J. R. Welch bringing the communion message. All participated in Communion and Washing of the Saint's Feet.

February 19th. Pastor Frank Giumta, of the North Side Free Will Baptist Church invited me to bring the message and further explain the Cooperative Plan in their mid-week prayer service. Devotional services, group singing, and panel discussions were highlights of the St. Louis District Sunday School Convention held at Trinity Free Will Baptist Church, February 22nd.

April 23rd-25th. We are looking forward to the Regional Sunday School Training Work Shop session to be held with the Berkley church under the direction of the National Free Will Baptist Sunday School Department. We solicit and encourage all Sunday School workers to attend and par-

CHARITY And CHILDREN

Greetings to our Missouri friends from the Free Will Baptist Home for Children, Greeneville, Tennessee. We appreciate the contributions that many of you made to make 1963 a wonderful year, full of God's blessings. Some of you support our work regularly, and we are especially grateful for this, for without regular monthly support our work is impossible.

The primary purpose for our Home is to win our lost dependent girls and boys to Christ, and to teach them the value of living a dedicated Christian life. This is done through daily devotions in each cottage, regular church attendance and participation in church activities such as the choir, Y.P.A. and G.T.A. Also each Wednesday evening a child evangelism class is conducted for the children through the fourth grade. The older ones attend the regular prayer meeting.

The new year has begun and many opportunities challenge us. We are striving to clear a \$20,000 indebtedness immediately, so that we can actively begin a building program which is needed desperately now! Will you join with us in prayer that the Lord will work through this people that these needs may be met as He wills?

Some of you have approached us about different projects that groups or individuals can adopt. Below are some things

that need immediate attention:

1. Curtains for several cottages.
2. Paint for redecorating rooms.
3. Floor coverings which average \$50 - \$100 each.
4. Playground equipment.

More important than a special project would be for individuals and churches to make regular monthly contributions to the work. If you are interested in a project, contact us and we will be happy to give you the details. Send your contributions and correspondence to Free Will Baptist Home for Children, Route 9, Greeneville, Tennessee, 37743.

We invite each of you to visit us at your convenience. We desire your daily prayers for our work.

Ray C. Turnage
Superintendent



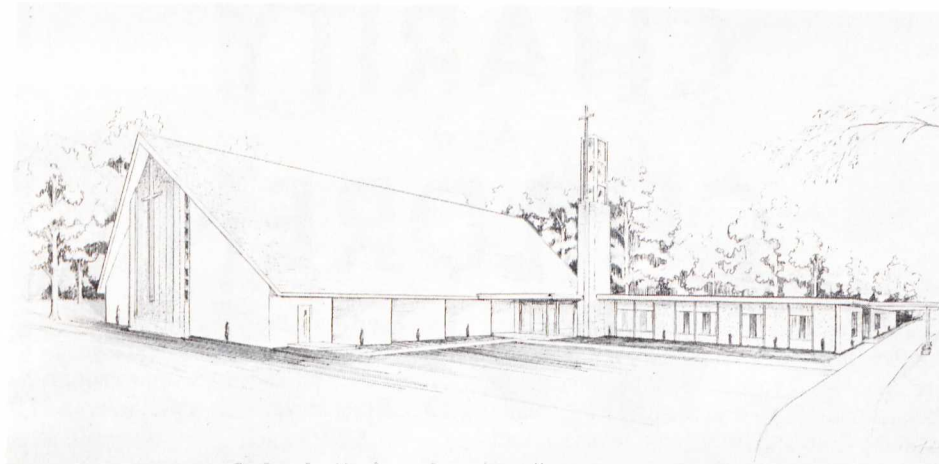
ticipate in this training session and purchase Sunday School literature produced by this department and distributed from our headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee. Cooperative receipts were low for February, brethren let's rally and go over the top for the Lord.

Harry Beatty,
Promotional Secretary



ALL articles must be in by the 24th of each month to get in the next month's Gem. They should be sent to:

FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM
3100 MT. PLEASANT AVE.
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Joplin, Missouri
Rev. Ted Davis, Pastor
Phone: MA 3-4468

THE CONGREGATION of First Free Will Baptist Church, Joplin, Missouri, voted a Resolution and Trust Agreement on January 6, 1964, authorizing the church to issue bonds in accordance with the plan suggested by Executive Church Bonds, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee.

The church was organized in January, 1953 with sixteen charter members. They purchased property at the corner of 18th Street and Virginia Avenue, where a new auditorium was erected in 1957. The church has had a steady growth over the past ten years with a present membership of about one hundred. Last year the annual budget was \$10,000.00, with a weekly income of about \$135.00. The Congregation has outgrown the present facilities and have purchased property at Connecticut and 23rd where new worship and educational facilities will be constructed.

It is the opinion of Executive Church Bonds, Inc., that the church is conducting its business on a sound financial basis and that these bonds constitute a valid, legally issued obligation of the church, secured by its full faith and credit.

The church has agreed with the issuing agent, through a Resolution and Trust Agreement on file to deposit weekly into a special sinking fund account in the First National Bank of Joplin, Joplin, Missouri, the sum of money required to pay the interest and principal as the same becomes due.

Members, friends and business acquaintances are invited to invest in the Lord's work.

HELP BUILD A HOUSE OF WORSHIP BUY BONDS!

PASTOR RESIGNS

Since coming to the State of Missouri, I have met a number of Laymen, Deacons and Pastors, and I have enjoyed the fellowship with each one. And I have enjoyed being in the State meetings, Youth Camp work and also enjoyed working with the Home Mission Board of the State.

I have resigned as pastor of the Thayer Free Will Baptist church and will be moving to Russellville, Arkansas April 1st to take up my pastoral work. May the Lord continue to bless the good work that you are doing.

OFFICERS AND TEACHERS MEET

The Mill Creek Free Will Baptist Church Sunday School Officers and Teachers meet the last Thursday night of each month to discuss ways of improving their Sunday School and to help it grow. This group meets at the various homes of these offi-

cers and teachers. There is a feeling of accomplishment among the officers at the end of each of these meetings.

FELLOWSHIP MEETING

A very successful Fellowship meeting was held at the Sunnyview Free Will Baptist Church near Lebanon, Missouri on February 11 with twenty-five ministers of different faiths participating. They were as follows: Brothers Ellis Cravens, Eddy Pierce, Glynn Jones, Don Machern, Dave Starnes, Guy Hutsell, Fred Wynn, Lester Lawler, Bill Bennett, Jeff Bennett, Dale Broyles, Edd Rubles, Charley Finley, Roy Jones, Lynn Gardner, also Bro. Cross, Bro. Grimes, Bro. Kermit Bass, Bro. Leonard Keys, Bro. Weaver Hensley, Bro. James Lansdown, Bro. Chatman, Bro. Hank Taneyhill, Sister Vinita Broyles and the pastor of the host church, Bro. Bill Eden. The services were filled with good singing and preaching.

OVERLAND SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

There were twenty seven who received the perfect attendance awards from our Sunday School for the year of 1963. There was a special presentation of diplomas and pins to those who so faithfully earned them presented by our Sunday School Superintendents Bro. Dick Koss and Bro. Gerald Renner. Our Sunday School has been on the increase due to the faithfulness of these dedicated men who are willing to serve the Lord. We are in the process now of adding five new Sunday School class rooms and we pray that by the time this year has passed the Lord be willing, we will be able to present the Perfect Attendance Awards to twice this many. We thank the Lord especially for these faithful ones who came through ice and snow, sun or rain to be present at their post of duty. May the Lord Bless them as they labor for Him in this new year.

GOOD USE OF BUS

The Mill Creek Free Will Baptist Church near Fredericktown, Missouri made good use of their church bus when they loaded it up and set out for the Madison County Sunday School Convention held at the Union Light Free Will Baptist Church. During the program of the Convention the special number from this church was given by the Juniors of this church. The Church feels very proud of this job and other jobs done by their Juniors.



A LONG TIME FREE WILL BAPTIST MINISTER-99 YEARS OLD

Rev. H. C. Crase celebrated his 99th birthday February 9th, 1964. He has been a Free Will Baptist minister for 69 years and spent most of his long life in Oregon County, Missouri. He has preached the Word of God in six different states and had lots of difficulty in life, but he was steadfast in what he believed about the Bible. He still is in fairly good health and gets around some.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Rev. Jess Webb, Pastor
Parkview Free Will Baptist Church, Desloge, Missouri

It is one thing to be a Sunday School teacher and quite another to be an effective, successful soul winning Sunday School teacher. Successful teachers are more in demand than ever before. Effective Sunday Schools grow more rapidly because they insist on spirit-filled, well-trained teachers and leaders.

No Sunday School is really a "School" unless it has teaching teachers and learning pupils. Trained teachers are important. They are more successful. They do a better job.

Of all people who should study, the teacher heads the list. He cannot be a good teacher unless he is a constant learner. When he ceases to learn, he ceases to teach. Unless the teacher himself studies, the teacher cannot inspire others to study. If pupils are to drink "fresh water", the teacher must tap new reservoirs of teaching materials, teaching methods, and teaching aids. Most important he must maintain a close personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ through prayer and diligent daily study of God's Word.

Sunday School teachers who are well prepared can teach with confidence and authority. Much heed then, should be given to lesson preparation. I often hear the question, "When should I begin to prepare my Sunday School lesson?" Some of course always wait until Saturday night or Sunday morning. This certainly is not the way of the successful Sunday School teacher. An unprepared teacher cannot hold the interest of his class because he does not have enough information to attract the attention of the scholar. A teacher who has not devoted much time in preparation never deceives the members of his class no matter how young they may be. An empty water pitcher cannot satisfy the thirsty soul; neither can empty clouds give spiritual rain. If the teacher has not filled his own soul with the truth, his disciples will go away empty. "Study to show thyself approved..."

As one digs into the golden treasures of truth hidden away in the Bible, lights of blessings will fire his soul, kindling his enthusiasm so that he will expectantly look forward to sharing these gems with his class the next Sunday. Immediately his teaching will lose dullness and gain a sharp edge through personal blessing.

So the teacher should begin to study

his next Sunday's lesson at least a week ahead of time. I would suggest to begin on Sunday afternoon previous to the Sunday the lesson is to be taught. The process of preparation includes five steps.

First, the teacher must kneel and pray for Holy Spirit guidance and revelation as he searches the Scriptures. Only as God reveals the truth will the Bible be understood. The carnal man cannot comprehend the things of God; they are revealed only by the Spirit of God.

The second step, is the initial acquaintance with the Scripture portion to be studied and taught. Read it through many times. Then use your Sunday School quarterly to gain the basic interpretation of the text.

It now becomes important to learn the Biblical background of the lesson. If your lesson text contains only portions of

a chapter, be sure to read the entire book and learn the context of the lesson. A text without a context becomes a pretext. Learn the Biblical background of your lesson.

Next in order, search into the historical background of the lesson. Use all the materials available. Such as commentaries, etc.

Finally, be sure that you understand the meaning of every word and sentence in the lesson. Search out the meaning of each word until it is familiar. After you have thoroughly studied your lesson and have become familiar with all the truth related to it, your next task is planning your method of presentation.

There are various methods of teaching which are particularly useful for reaching special age groups. The lecture method

SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGES FOR 1963-64

	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May
Fellowship, Flat River	183	179	175	175	178	176	175				
Leadington	49	50	49	58	57	52	56				
Farmington	82	89	99	114	109	105	100				
Liberty-Phillipsburg	82	74	75	73	77						
Berkeley City	228	243	283	282	307	300	289				
Richwoods	54	55	61	61	57	49	48				
Kirksville	62	68	78	78	74	70					
Grant Ave., Springfield	140	163	163	177	168		175				
Hazel Creek	54	55	59	59	52	40	50				
Mine La Motte	31	27	29	37	31	31	24				
First Ch. Flat River	109	111	121	125		115					
Overland Church		138	140	159		143	145				
First Ch., Mtn. Grove	348	339	357	337	324		319				
Desloge	104	106	105	104	110	103	98				
Thayer	108	101	98	93	100	93					
Grace, Arnold	111	144	143	165	139						
Mill Cr. Ch., Fredericktown							45				
Union Light	109	117	114	109	104	106	109				
First Church, Springfield	162		199		202	169					
Sunnyview Church						46	46				
Joplin	107	98	98	96							
Pleasant Ridge, Urbana	24	29	32	34	34						
Central, Kansas City	59	63	65	102	84	75	79				
Hannon	66	62	62	58		47					
Mill Creek Church, Myrtle	75			67	74	67					
First Church, Monett	116	125	133	131	130	125	126	139			
Garfield-Couch	40	47	42	40	42	41					
Salem	32	46				29					
Victory	65	76	89	100	113						
First Church, Fredericktown		151	151	170	157	155	151				
Copper Mines	88	95	88	88	81	80					
Meramec Hgts., Valley Pk.		29	30	26	29	30	26				
Beacon Ch., K.C.			84	96	92	87	97				
Alton					95	85	98				

Letters from our Readers

414 1/2 Park Avenue
New Boston, Ohio
January 27, 1964

Free Will Baptist Gem
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Bro. Hill:

I have been wanting to write to you for some time, but somehow failed to do it. I have been receiving the "Gem" for quite a few months. I do not know who sent it, but I am very grateful, and wish to say thank you to the one who did it. I enjoy reading the F.W.B. Church magazines and keep up with all the news.

You probably read where I have been retired. It was upon my request, for I am over the usual age limit, and I feel that I can do more for the Lord here in Ohio than I have been doing in Miami.

I arrived home December 19th. I am waiting for an apartment in Wayne Hills in Portsmouth, Ohio, which gives a good reduction on rent to low salaried people. It is a nice place to live and is not far from our little F.W.B. Church which is not very big, and can use all the help it can get. I have felt that the Lord would have me go there.

I probably won't take regular work, for I don't want to be tied down to one place. I am hoping that I can visit some of the churches and help to stimulate interest in

missions.

I hope to have a greater prayer ministry. I hope to be able to keep in contact to the different needs.

I felt badly at leaving all my Cuban friends, but I felt also that God was leading me here, and that I was not making a mistake in doing so.

I write regularly to our Mexican pastor in Nogales, Mexico and I pray for the work there. I regretted it very deeply when I was taken away from there. I had planned to spend most of my time in Mexico, but live in Arizona. It is a comfort to know that the pastor, who was the first convert under my ministry there, is now giving his entire time preaching the gospel not only once or twice a week, but every day. He says my letters help him so much, and I am glad that I can be of some help. I'll try and keep my Spanish from being rusty through my Spanish correspondence.

Home Mission is going to give me half of the salary I received. Bro. Willis said we would need to keep this need before the people. I told him that I would have to have extra also, for I can't live on the \$60, for I need to have a place to live, and with food so dear, and I have to have medicine, and other expenses, but I am trusting the Lord for all of that.

In my more than 27 years of mission life He has never failed me once, and I know He never will for He has promised to do it and His promise can not be broken.

I started this letter in order to have my address changed and didn't know I was going to write all of this, but I suppose that is my failing. Long letters with lots of details, so I hope you will make all of

this a matter of prayer.

No more for now and the Lord bless and keep you is my prayer.

Yours in Him,

Bessie Yeley

New Bern, North Carolina
February 19, 1964

Dear Bro. Hill:

We always look forward to getting the Gem each month. We seem so far away from home and all our friends there.

If you have space in the paper you may insert this fact:

Will be available for pastoral services for the coming year. Write P. O. Box 1006, New Bern, N.C. 28561.

Keep up the good work and may God bless you and yours.

Sincerely,

Cecil H. Campbell

may at times be used for adults. The success of the question and answer method depends upon the ability of the teacher to guide the pupil and mainly stay on the subject. Children enjoy the story-telling method; so do adults. Whatever method you may decide to use vary it from Sunday to Sunday. Variety will assist you in holding the interest of your pupil.

Carefully select good illustrations to spice up the teaching of your lesson. Be sure they are appropriate and that they actually illustrate. An illustration is a window to let the light shine in. Use these to interpret the Scriptures into everyday life.

Know the purpose of the lesson. Have that purpose as your one goal and drive home all related facts like darts at a target, until the point is indelibly impressed upon the minds of your pupils.

Be sure to present salvation every Sunday. Invite your pupils to accept Christ as their Saviour. It behooves us to repeat again and again the true Bible plan of the new birth in order to counteract false teaching on this important subject. Remember your main objective is the salvation of your scholar. Win him to Christ.

Remember if you are properly prepared, you will enjoy teaching. You will look forward to each Sunday morning; and the more information you have to impart the more anxious you will be for Sunday morning to come!

Look for the next article from your Sunday School and League Board, it will be by Rev. Albert McFarland, pastor of the South Side Free Will Baptist Church, St. Louis, Missouri.

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