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## FREE WILL BAPTIST

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**O**ur nation today stands in our gravest time of peril from the standpoint of survival. For our nation to come through this dangerous time, we must be strong spiritually and seek the guidance of God. We must be sure, as Lincoln so aptly said a century ago, not only that God is on our side but, more importantly, that we are on God's side."

—Senator Strom Thurmond

# Personal from the Editor



*Ed Note: Sometimes what I would like to say are so well expressed by another that I choose to use their material. This devotional article is from material by Edwin R. Chess, Chaplain, Major General, USAF. It expresses my thinking and is so well said by Chaplain Chess.*

In 2 Kings 6 we find the account of a most interesting event. Elisha had become a popular theological professor. He had so many students that additional classrooms and dormitories became imperative. From all sides rose the students' complaints: "Master, the place where we dwell with Thee is too straight for us!" We've got to have more room. Something must be done.

It was decided a short time later to launch out upon a building program. The plan was to erect the necessary housing through student labor. Each man was given a special assignment: some to fell and dress the timbers; others to lay the stone foundations; and still others to take care of the more exacting details of the construction. They found a suitable location near the river Jordan. Now it happened that one

of the students felling a tree overhanging the stream, struck such a mighty blow that the axe head broke from the handle and dropped into the waters below.

Undoubtedly the student made immediate efforts to recover the tool, but in vain. The thing was unquestionably lost. Time was being lost, too, in the attempted recovery and time was at a premium. The student's concern was the greater because, as he said to Elisha, "Alas, Master—it is borrowed!" It wasn't even mine, and now I shall have to pay for it!"

The man of God lost no time in responding to the lad's urgent need, and asked, "Where fell it?" The student led him to the stream and the exact spot was pointed out to him. Thereupon, Elisha set about teaching his students a great object lesson—one we need to learn and remember. It probably accomplished more than many classroom lectures would have done. Elisha gathered the students about him, cut down a stick, and cast it into the stream where the axehead had fallen. The silvery head of the prophet bent in earnest supplica-

tion. And then it was that the wonder happened—"The iron did swim!" God through the instrumentality of Elisha, had accomplished what was humanly impossible. With divine assistance the prophet managed to bring about what others judged would be foolish even to attempt.

This is the great truth the Lord would have us learn and apply in our own lives. That is one of the chief reasons why this particular account has been included in the body of the inspired Scriptures. Making iron swim, accomplishing the impossible! We have but to look into history, both sacred and secular, for countless illustrations.

In the famous Hall of the Great at Chicago University there are bronze plaques showing the heads of the Twelve Greatest Men in History—men who had a profound influence on the history of the human race. One of these bears the name-plate: St. Paul, the Apostle and Martyr.

That isn't really surprising; he belongs in that group. This man, frail in health, poor in this world's goods, handicapped by the persistent rumor that he had turned his back upon his own people—this man, shipwrecked at times, flogged mercilessly and cast half-dead into dungeons, became the greatest missionary the world has known! He laid his own divided life at the foot of Christ's cross where it found happy completion.

And the secret of it all? How explain the fashion in which St. Paul confronted the apparently insurmountables and re-

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## THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

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## CHURCHES PEOPLE and EVENTS

One of Missouri's well-known pastors, Rev. Vergel Maness, is now pastoring the Bloss Memorial Church in Washington, D.C. Brother Maness began his ministry when he announced his call to the Grace Church, Arnold. After serving the year as a licensed minister, he was ordained to preach the Gospel and served first at the Salem Church. Lemay Faith Free Will Baptist Church and First Church, Waynesville were fruitful ministries for Brother Maness. Pastor Maness requests the prayers of all in Missouri for he is convinced it will be through "much prayer and fasting" that that area can be won for the Lord. Frank Giunta served as evangelist in a spring revival with seven accepting Christ as Lord, three rededications, and one uniting with the church. On the closing night of the revival four were baptized.

Brother Maness writes, "The Bloss Memorial Free Will Baptist Church is just at the back gate of the beautiful Arlington Cemetery. When you are visiting in Washington, D.C. area you are only minutes away and less than two miles from the church when standing at the Lincoln Memorial. Take the Lord with you on your vacation and worship with us in D.C. The church is listed in the phone book and the pastor's name: 703-527-7040."

Youth of Trinity Church presented the drama "Wake To Thunder" Easter Sunday. This contemporary treatment of the old, old story by Don Fearheiley attracted well over one hundred people to the evening service.

The play depicts the loneliness of a young woman who turned on God when her sister (a devoted Christian) died. In compelling terms the author points out that one need not be separated from God—the Easter message.

The cast included Nelda Chatman, Jean and Carol Spurgeon, Cindy Willman, Mike Matthews, and Doug Osborn. Other teens in charge of publicity and properties were Vickie Chatman, Anita Gaines, Sandra Mobley, Jan Ott,

Collene Osborn, and Jeanine Smith. Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hampton directed the production with special assistance from Mr. J. L. Case.

Hampton stated, "the response of those who viewed the play has re-assured me of the place of drama in the local church. It is an excellent means of attracting the lost to our services. Unsaved who possibly would not come to listen to a sermon, sit on the edge of their seats during a well-written, well-produced play."

Praise God! He has really been blessing the Olivet Church in Marshall. The attendance has grown so large thru 1971 and the first months of 1972 that more room has to be made to accomodate the increase. The church is now in the process of building a new addition to the back of the present building. A Sunday School annex, a large dining area, and space for the Children's Church will be included in the new addition. Pastor and Sister Bowman rejoice with the Church at Marshall that God is so good and supplies all the needs of His people. Where there is a vision, truly there is a blessing from our Lord.

The new pastor of the Hannon Free Will Baptist Church is Rev. Dennis Mays, who comes to Hannon from a three year pastorate at the First Church in Purdy. Rev. Mays assumed his duties with Hannon Church May 7. A native of El Dorado Springs he has been engaged in the ministry the past six years. He has studied at Central Missouri State at Warrensburg and South Missouri State in Springfield. Brother Mays and the church requests the prayers of

Missouri Free Will Baptists as he begins his full-time duties with the Hannon Church.

Wayne Fast was ordained into the ministry, Sunday, April 16, at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Kansas City. He has served as pastor there since February. The ordination sermon was brought by Rev. Woodrow Matthews, pastor of the Beacon Church, Raytown. He spoke on "The position, the person and the purpose" using 1 Timothy 3:1 and 1 Corinthians 1:21. Sister Alice Dickey gave the charge and Rev. Bob Dickey, pastor of Oskaloosa Church led in the ordination prayer. The ordaining council was: Rev. Woodrow Matthews, Rev. Bob Dickey, Sister Alice Dickey, Deacon Kenneth Mason, and Deacon John Rhodes. The service was held on Brother Fast's forty-third birthday. Rev. Fast is the son of Mrs. Paul Fast of Liberal.

God's blessings continue to be with the DeSoto Church as evidenced by souls being saved, baptized, and added to the church. Their strength lies in a dedicated Christian membership who are willing to work for the Lord. Brother Jack Morris is now serving as Sunday School Superintendent and actively leads the Sunday School toward new growth and areas of service.

A clipping from a recent *WENATCHEE (Wa) WORLD* gives a success story of a former Missourian. Rev. Milan Ruble started a mission work in quarters owned by the Grange now called the Valley Free Will Baptist Church. Recently they were able to purchase the Old Wesleyan Church, originally built by the Grace Lutherans. The building was in sound condition and members of the congregation have volunteered the time to repair and paint as well as the \$5,000.00 necessary for the down payment. Attendance is nearing the 200 mark. It is good to hear how God meets the needs of His people everywhere.

## MEDITATIONS . . .

Let the words of my mouth, and  
the meditations of my heart, be  
acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my  
strength and my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

### God Is Not Dead

I found God in the morning  
As the sun came over the hill,  
Reflecting in its radiance  
The warmth HIS love instills.

I saw HIM in the garden  
When the flowers burst into bloom,  
For in each of the lovely bouquets  
God's love sent forth its perfume.

I heard HIM as the birds were singing  
In nature's heavenly choir,  
And the music told a story  
That God is always where you are.

I felt HIM in the wind's strong gale  
As it dashed the waters high,  
And this is proof enough indeed  
To know my God will never die.

—Helen Barnett

New Harmony Church, Greentop

He is apt not to go to heaven who is  
content to go alone.

Recon him a Christian indeed who is  
not ashamed of the Gospel nor a  
shame to it.

God is our refuge and strength, a  
very present help in trouble.

—Psalms 46:1

We are, because God is.

—Swedenborg

Heaven ne'er helps the man who will  
not act.

—Sophocles

It is pleasant to die, if there be a  
God; and sad even to live if there be  
none.

—Marcus Aurelius

(Continued from page 2)

peatedly accomplished what was  
thought impossible? Here is his own  
answer: "I can do all things *through*  
*Christ* who strengtheneth me."

Or study a history of the Church in  
her infancy. Was there ever a task  
apparently more impossible than that of  
turning a world from paganism to Chris-  
tianity and attempting to do so through  
the efforts of twelve men—men without  
fame or reputation, wealth or nobility,  
or any of those things which we today  
insist are so necessary for the success of  
a venture? And not only that. These  
twelve had everything against them:  
organized society, popular opinion, and  
that which is worst of all, a calloused  
indifference. Was there ever a more  
hopeless, more unpromising venture?  
But away they hurried, these ambassa-  
dors of the Crucified yet triumphant  
Christ. And their accomplishment—a  
genuine miracle.

To back still further to ancient times  
and this truth shines forth: with God's  
help Moses did the impossible time and  
time again. And we in our day shall do  
no less—if we only learn this secret of  
strength. Suppose now we make the  
application to our own lives. Take those  
difficult battles which engage us day by  
day. The temptations that so easily  
beset us. We must do constant battle  
against them, or our religion is a farce  
and our profession a mockery! You  
know what those sins are. Think for  
example of the sins of the tongue—  
cursing and swearing.

Frederick the Great once held a  
banquet to honor his tried and proven  
generals. It was one of those stuffy and  
elaborate military affairs, and these  
were rough old soldiers. As often hap-  
pens in such a company, profanity and  
frequent abuse of God's name punctu-  
ated the conversation. At length one of  
the greatest of Frederick's generals—he  
had stood silently apart for a while—  
approached the monarch and said,  
"Sire, your Majesty knows that I would  
defend him to the death, that I have  
never swerved from duty and would  
undertake any task assigned to me.  
But," he continued, handing Frederick  
his sword, "I would have you sever my  
head from my body before I allow the

name of my God to be blasphemed  
further." The king was so impressed he  
forbade any use of the divine name  
except with reverence.

There is another temptation frequent  
and strong at times—that of cheap, easy,  
and meaningless sex. The temptation is  
great and no mistake. And to indulge is  
made so convenient, so easy. Nobody  
seems much concerned, "if you do or  
don't". It is passed off as just another  
case of "everybody else is doing it." But  
never forget—the pay-off comes. Inevit-  
ably. Most dramatically and pointedly  
the Scripture puts it this way: "The end  
of such a man is destruction . . . an  
abhorring of all flesh."

How battle against that temptation?  
How overcome when the fires of passion  
burst into fierce flame? Young Joseph,  
far from his home in Egypt, adopted the  
right strategy. The Egyptian temptress  
had put an urgent, detaining hand on his  
sleeve; but he pulled himself free, say-  
ing, "How can I do this great wicked-  
ness and sin against God!"

He stood in reverential awe of that  
God who had loved him so, whose  
mercies and protection he had enjoyed  
during the bitter and dangerous mo-  
ments of life, the God to Whom he  
owed everything he was or possessed.  
To this God he turned for strength with  
which to resist the temptation. And the  
divine help was not wanting!

One backward glance. What if you  
have gone astray in time past, and in a  
moment of weakness succumbed to  
temptation? What then? What if you  
have been guilty of malice or sudden  
anger, of abusive speech or blasphemy,  
of unfaithfulness or impurity? Is there  
hope of cleansing, another chance to  
begin anew? Or is it too late?

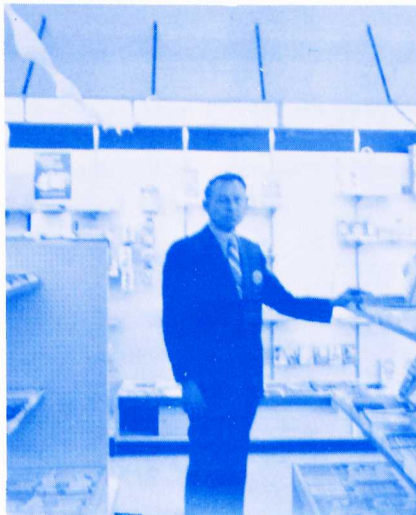
There is help—the only hope we  
know: the Christ of Calvary, dying there  
long ago, with soldiers at the foot of His  
cross, dying for our sins and those of  
the world. In Him there is forgiveness of  
sin for every penitent soul among us.  
Through the power of His atoning death  
we have peace with God. In His strength  
we can be "more than conquerors."  
With His might undergirding us, we  
can—make iron swim! The power of  
God accomplished that which is impos-  
sible through human strength.

# Grand Opening For Missouri State Book Store

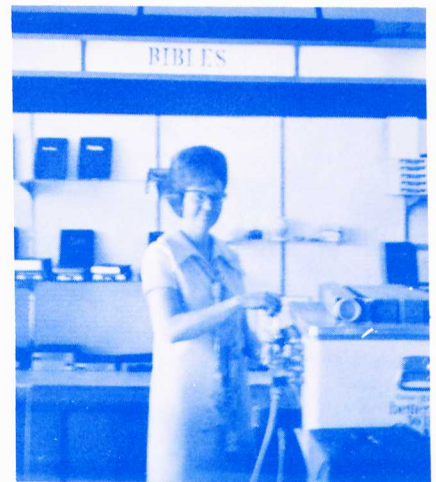
May 6 was the grand opening of the Missouri State Association Book Store. It is called the Lebanon Bible and Book Store and is located at 303 West Commercial—the main street—in Lebanon. Those attending the grand opening were very favorably impressed as we feel other Missouri Free Will Baptists will be as they have occasion to go to the store. The store front is clean and attractive and shall later boast a sign above the awning to extend out from the building and help identify the Book Store.



Brother Dale Underwood is the Book Store manager. He reports that the Book Store is doing well. Sunday School literature sold through the store has exceeded expectations, walkin trade in Lebanon is picking up, and Missouri Free Will Baptists are now ordering DVBS materials from the Book Store, so the venture has proved financially sound.



Rev. Boggs works part time in the Book Store when Brother or Sister Underwood cannot for some reason be present he maintains the store. He also aids in packaging and mailing the Sunday School literature. We are sorry but the picture of Sister Underwood was blurred so badly it could not be used. Those who do not know her will just have to visit the store to meet her.



Sister Harwell helped serve those who visited the grand opening. Pastor Roger Harwell and the Lebanon Church have been an invaluable aid in the establishing of the store.



Sister Bowman, Sister Harwell, and Sister Burton are examining a book in this picture of the display area of the store. It is attractive, well stocked, and inviting. Missouri Free Will Baptists can take justifiable pride in the store and should say a much needed thank you to those who have worked so hard to make it possible.

Do remember that DVBS materials can be ordered from the Book Store. Information relative to the Daily Vacation Bible School materials and order blanks will be sent upon request. The address in Missouri for Sunday School, DVBS materials, Bibles, and religious articles for the total church program are available at Lebanon Bible And Book Store; Box 645; Lebanon, Mo. 65536.

# THE ALTAR

## What It Is, And Why We Need It

**W**HILE READING a book on prayer by one of the nations well-known evangelists, I came across the statement that the altar has no place in the plan of salvation, and that if a church has an altar it is best not to use it. In fact, the author spent several pages trying to prove this by the Bible. For there is no verse, no example, no parable, no scripture whatsoever that substantiates this absurd belief. It is sad that an evangelist would not know the value of an altar from personal experience. I'm thankful that there is a day that I can look back upon when I know that God for Christ's sake pardoned my sins, and when His Spirit bore witness with my spirit that I became a child of God. This took place at an altar of prayer. I'm thankful that many times since then I have had the privilege of joining in prayer with others around an altar. However, you do not have to take my word about the altar. For if we openly study the Word of God, we find that the altar should play an important role in Christian churches today. It is my prayer that this tract may be used to make people aware of the importance and value of having and using the altar.

### WHAT THE ALTAR IS

The altar, as meant here, is not the place of sacrifice used under the law as found in the Old Testament, neither is it the communion table found in most Christian churches today. But the altar of which we speak is what some people commonly term the "mourners bench", or some form of bench at which people can kneel and pray. For this reason it is called an "altar of prayer". The Encyclopedia Britannica defines an altar as "the name given to a surface at or on which sacrifice is offered . . . . Where an altar is used it is set apart as holy and regarded as a place of contact with the deity . . . ." Strictly speaking, an altar is anywhere you meet

with God, whether at home, in your car, on the job, or wherever. But we are writing of altars within the church. That is, a particular bench, usually at the front of the church, at which Christian and sinners alike can "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb. 4:16). Most churches today do not have such an altar, and most church members are apparently unconcerned about it. I therefore submit the following reasons why we need the altar. May you read with an open heart, to "consider the work of God." (Ecc. 7:13).

### WHY WE NEED THE ALTAR

1. The altar is a place for sinners to pray.

The Bible says in Romans 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Because of the fall of Adam, all men are born into sin. We are all sinners. Under the law, the blood of animals was sacrificed to atone for sin. But today, in the dispensation of grace, the sacrifice has already been made for us, the blood has already been shed. This sacrifice was Jesus, the Lamb of God. For us to be saved, for our sins to be washed away, His blood must be applied to our heart. This is a supernatural work of grace, which only God can perform. Although we cannot understand how the Lord saves us, we can understand what we must do to have this "born-again" experience, without which we cannot enter heaven.

The Holy Spirit makes us aware of our lost condition. And when, through the Holy Spirit, a man realizes that he is yet dead in his sins, that he is clothed in garments of unrighteousness that are as filthy rags in the sight of God, that he stands before God guilty, and sentenced to everlasting damnation, does it not stir the soul as it did Isaiah when he saw the glory and holiness of God, and cried out saying, "Woe is me, for I am undone?" Or does it not prick the heart as it did the people at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, saying "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Does it not make us want to confess our sins (1 John 1:9), knowing that "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Rom. 10:13). Indeed, every church needs someplace where sinners can confess their sin and find peace with God. That someplace is the altar. A place of sacrifice, a place of atonement, a place of contact with the deity. But our altars have been taken away, our place of prayer removed. And in doing so, the church has lost its power with which to win souls and to labour in love for Him. Additional Bible references: Ps. 51:5; John 6:44, 3:3; 1 John 2:2; Eph. 1:7; Rom. 10:9-14; Acts 2:38, 3:19, 17:30.

2. The altar is a place for Christians to take their burdens to the Lord.

Every Christian has burdens upon their heart. They have certain cares, needs, fears, worries and other

things resting upon them. For those faithful few who plod this old world, carrying burdens for themselves and for others, Jesus says "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28). We are to come unto him, and what better place is there than at an altar of prayer, a place set apart for just such a purpose? Many times burdens have been lifted, hearts encouraged, the path made easier, the way made clearer, when Christians would present themselves before the throne of grace at an altar of prayer. Philippians 4:16 says, "Be careful for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." We are to let our requests be made known unto God in every thing. Thank God for the altar, where Christians have the happy privilege of meeting with the most High God. The altar is not only a place to leave our burdens, but is also

3. A place for Christians to receive strength in helping to overcome certain habits, sins, or other faults in their lives.

There is no one that is perfect. No matter who they are, nor how long they've been in the way, every Christian has faults in their lives. There are countless times in every day when temptations arise, or trials come. Sometimes Christians give way to these temptations which Satan puts before them. Many times there is one pet sin or habit in the life of a Christian for which they need help to overcome. Paul had a thorn in the flesh for which he had constant struggle with. Sometimes Christians commit an out-right sin. When this happens, the believer is exhorted to confess his sin (1 John 1:9) seeking forgiveness from God. Oh, how many Christians cannot get their prayers answered because of sin in their lives! How many Christians lack power to win souls and to administer the gift which God has given them, because of sin in their lives! And how many Christians are content to go along day after day, continuing to sin, missing God's blessings and lacking His peace, only because they neglect to bow before Him, confessing their failures. "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord." (Is. 1:18). So "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb. 4:16). How Christians need to bow at an altar way of prayer, and receive help from God. But when there is no altar within the church, the people likewise neglect to come before God, and as a result we are as the church at Laodicea, neither cold nor hot but lukewarm ready to be spued from the mouth of God. The command was out to that church and today to all others like it to "be zealous therefore, and repent." (Rev. 3:19). May God help us to do just that!

4. The altar is a place for Christians to completely surrender themselves to God.

James, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, commands all Christians everywhere to "sub-

mit yourselves therefore to God." To submit ourselves to God means to turn everything over to Him; our will, our self, our possessions. It means to pray as Jesus did "Not my will, but thine be done." Yet there are many who say they are Christians that do whatever they want to do, without ever thinking to ask the Lord what was His will, or what He wanted done. There are many who forsake the house of God on Sunday to go to the lake or visit Grandmother, or whatever else they find to do, and yet claim they're followers of Christ. Is such a life surrendered to God? There are many whom God wants to use as preachers, deacons, singers, Sunday school teachers, missionaries, prayer warriors, and personal soul winners, but cannot because they won't obey the urgings of the Spirit. Christians need to be surrendered to the Lord. Just as Abraham layed his son upon the altar, we need to lay ourselves upon the altar, holding nothing back. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Rom. 12:1). Sometimes its hard to say yes to the Lord. It takes prayer, it takes help from the Holy Spirit, and there is no better place to receive such help than at an altar of prayer. Surely you will agree that we need the altar!

5. Kneeling at an altar teaches humility.

For anyone to stand tall in the eyes of God, they must humble themselves before Him. Humility is something which all Christians need. The more humble that Gods children are, the more they are going to accomplish for Him. In James, chapter four, verse six, we find the statement, "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." Therefore he says in verse ten to "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." Today we have fancy church buildings which are made for the eye to look upon, we have lovely paintings and sculptures within the church. The furniture is of the very best craftsmanship, and the carpet is luxurious. Everything is for the pleasure and beauty of man, and we are proud of it. That's just it, we are too proud. We are too proud to wear anything but the best of clothes to church, and if we don't have them, we don't go. We're too proud to kneel and pray in church. We're too proud to say amen or hallelujah or to shout the victory. Why, it might embarrass us. God forbid! Do you not realize that if you're ashamed to shout the victory, then you don't have the victory? We need the altar. We need people who are willing to kneel and pray, alone or before all. We need pastors who continually invite Christians as well as sinners to the altar. We need churches where it's neither unusual nor out of place for amens to be heard and victories shouted over. But when the altar is taken out, so is the humility; and when the humility goes, so does the victory. It's merely a step toward a backslidden and lukewarm church.

## 6. Using the altar creates unity within the church.

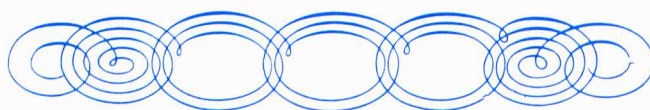
You have all heard the saying, "The family that prays together stays together." Is this not also true with the church? After all, the church is composed of brothers and sisters in the Lord. Yes, the church that prays together stays together. Paul says in 1 Cor. 1:10, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement." Paul here is exhorting the Christians to have unity within the church. Yet how much strife and discord fill our churches today. Christians carry grudges against one another, some get mad because they don't get their own way, others quit because they disagree over some trivial matter. But when this happens, we know that there has been a lack of togetherness in prayer. There is a special meaning, a special feeling, a special spirit when Christians unite together in prayer. And where Christians pray together there is a bond that cannot be broken—the bond of unity. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Ps. 133:1). Amen!

## 7. The church itself should be a house of prayer.

In Isaiah 56:7 we find these words, "Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people." And again in Matt. 21:13, "My house shall be called the house of prayer." We see here that the church, or house of God, is a house of prayer. But what is a house of prayer that has not an altar? What is a house of prayer that has not a special place to pray? And what is a church if the members do not pray? We need the altar in the church if it is to be a house of prayer. Amos says "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion." (Amos 6:1). Who are those that are at ease? It's the churches who say "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing." There are the same churches who have taken away the altar, because they didn't need it any longer. But "knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Truly, if we have not an altar, we are "weighed in the balances and art found wanting."

Then will I go unto the altar of God . . . Ps. 43:4

*Ed. Note: Rev. Mays is the former pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Purdy and began full-time pastoral duties with the Hannon Church Sunday, May 7. Thank you Pastor Mays for this sermon.*



## SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGES, 1971-72

	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Central										120	128	135	120
Copper Mines	99	95	91	95	100	90	91						
DeSoto	91	85	84	91	100	106	125	114	105	100	115	142	
Farmington	143	117	119	112				122					
Fellowship									192	203	217	271	
Fredericktown	151	147	139	115	130	139	145	137	152		153		194
Fourth										112	122	148	
Lebanon, First	162	139	177	127	144	189	189	152	150	137	150	186	153
Monett, First	183	161	163	166	181	211	211	188	201				
Mine LaMotte	52	37	37	47	35	40	39	41	45	35	43	58	46
Myrtle							57	56	57	48	55	56	
Parkview	127	104	96	98	103	99	105	95	93	86	94	94	100
Salem	48	46	40	34	39	39	40	44	43	44	46	42	41
Springfield, First			199	184	207	213	196	202					
Thayer				131	133	132	133	136	139				
Trinity	196	170	159	192	146	181	215	186	190	169	178	227	197
Victory	106			97	105	111	117	105	97	110	125	130	126
West Plains, First	139	128	134	126	130	149	150	148	151	137	141		151
Willow Springs	103	96	97	100	99	98	97	96	104	88			
Happy Hill										77	81	76	85

## MISSIONS NEWS

National Home Missions giving from Missouri for April, 1972 was \$1,084.57. This makes a total for the year of \$4,031.63 leaving a balance of \$12,968.37 to fill our quota for 1972.

### National Home Mission Board

Reverend E. B. Ledlow, Field Missionary of the National Home Mission—Church Extension Board, National Association of Free Will Baptists, released the following information at Nashville on May 16, 1972.

The National Home Mission Board met here in Nashville, Tennessee, May 8-10, 1972. The Board Meeting was attended by all board members. It was a very successful meeting with much accomplished.

Ten new couples are being approved for missionary work in North America. These will be going to the field over a period of the next two years. Three are approved for immediate work following internship and/or itinerary work. Six of these couples' applications were accepted for review within one year due to their educational status. They will finish Bible College in May 1973. One couple was deferred until they could meet with the board.

Reverend and Mrs. David Mc Daniel were approved as missionaries to Billings, Montana. They will serve internship at Faith Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, North Carolina. They hope to be on the field by early 1973.

Reverend and Mrs. Reynold Flippo, Phil Campbell, Alabama, were approved for the South-

west—possibly Albuquerque, or Clovis, New Mexico.

Reverend Nedo Eaddy was approved for Chaplaincy. The other applicants expressed a desire to go to Massachusetts, Colorado, New Orleans, the Northwest, and Hawaii.

There was an increase of \$46,617.43 in gifts to National Home Missions in 1971 over 1970.

The new budget for the year 1973 is \$276,000.00. This is a faith budget, and we are trusting the Lord to help us reach this amount.

We have expanded our office space in the national office building. The Field Missionary now has a really nice office. It is listed "Home Mission Field Office", room five, down the hall from the front office.

Preparations for a new Home Missionary Manual is underway. We hope to have this prepared and ready in the next few months.

A new tract is being prepared along with survey sheets and follow-up lesson sheets. These will be ready by the National Association.

We are preparing a brochure on the bus ministry. This tract will explain how to begin a bus ministry and how to maintain such a ministry. Also, an article on the bus ministry will be published in each issue of *Mission-Grams* for the next six months.

The National Home Mission Board has asked Reverend Bob Shockey to prepare a brochure on "General guidelines for internship training". This is going to prove very helpful to new missionary appointees. In the future all appointees will be required to serve an internship if they do not have sufficient training and experience before applying to the Board for mission work. Churches and pastors to be used for missionary internship will be designated by the National Home Mission Board.

The National Home Mission Board has postponed indefinitely the training school for missionaries and appointees that was to be held at the Free Will Baptist Bible College the week of August 14-18.

Reverend Kenneth Walker, Home Missionary to Mobile, Alabama, has undergone surgery recently. He is doing well, but will be confined to bed for two full weeks. Pray for Brother Walker and his church.

Reverend Jerry Barron is going to purchase property and a lovely church building in Guadalajara, Mexico. This is an answer to prayer. Praise the Lord for this milestone in the work there.

The National Home Mission Board has approved a joint-project with Kansas State Mission Board. The new work will be in Emporia, Kansas.

Reverend Jerry Barron reports that of the three people he asked you to pray for to be saved; two of these have been saved! One is an eighteen year old nursing student; the other, a young housewife. Praise the Lord for answering prayer!

Our missionaries reported 42 people saved, 19 rededicated, 976 homes visited, 501 other contacts, and one young man called to preach during the month of April.

The Missionary work is going well in all our fields, but our missionaries need your prayer support and also, your financial support. There are four deficit accounts at present. They are: Reverend Bob Duncan—\$712.57; Reverend Johnnie Hale—\$1,445.39; Reverend Jim Nason—\$425.10; and Reverend Mack Owens—\$323.72.

April was another record month for Home Mission giving. Free Will Baptists gave \$26,567.34. May the Lord bless you as you give to this worthy cause. Thank you for helping to make April another record month in giving.

### URGENT PRAYER ITEM

Miss Lorna Merrill, recent graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, was critically injured in a bus accident at Bean Station, Tennessee, near Knoxville, Tennessee.

Miss Merrill was a summer missionary to Puerto Rico in 1970. She was also planning to spend this summer in Brazil, and was on her way to a speaking engagement to raise her support when the

accident occurred.

She is in St. Mary's Hospital in Knoxville, Tennessee. The extent of her injuries is not yet known. Please be much in prayer for her.



Missouri  
State Home Mission Giving:  
April 5 - May 5, 1972

Hannon Church	37.58
Belvoir Woman's Aux., N.C.	2.00
Belton Church	7.00
Sr. Dept. First Ch.	
Fredericktown	25.00
First Church Flat River	42.00
First Church St. Joseph	13.59
Coppermines Church	14.00
Fourth Church	23.00
Willow Springs Church	13.00
Cuba Church	3.00
Oklahoma State Assoc.	5.00
Mona Chrisman	1.00
Mine LaMotte Church	10.00
Faith E. Lovelace	5.00
First Church Joplin	88.00
First Church Monett	27.00
New Home Church	40.00
Myrtle Church	14.77
First Church O'Fallon	5.00
Leadington Church	24.00
Fellowship Church	62.00
Rock Chapel Church	20.00
Low Ground Church	5.00
Thayer Church	48.00
Parkview Church	21.00
First Church DeSoto	20.00
Grace Church	10.00
Salem Church	10.00
Hazel Creek Church	5.00
First Ch. Mtn. Grove	36.00
Cooperative Receipts - April	1,129.80
	\$1,766.74

To Jefferson City Building Fund:	
First Church Waynesville	32.00
Belton Church	7.00
First Church Farmington	11.50
	\$50.50

Secretary-Treasurer  
Rev. Lawrence Thompson  
3416 N. Bellefontaine  
Kansas City, Mo. 64117

## A Word From Your Pastor

Did you know that we have idol worshippers in the United States? Well, Americans don't name their false gods and call it religion like the heathen do, but they render service to the same gods by giving of their time and means to them.

One of the common religions in our land is nature worship. Forgetting the true God and His worship, people flock to the woods, lakes, and open air to worship the sun-god, the water god, and other nature deities. They take the day which should be devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ and devote their time, energies, and money to the enjoyment of these gods.

Another religion in America is ancestor worship. Now there is nothing wrong with visiting with friends and relatives. But when this takes place of the service of Jesus Christ in your life and when these activities become dearer than Christ to you, it is a form of idolatry. Did not Jesus say, "He that loveth father and mother more than me is not worthy of me"? (Matthew 10:37).

The old god of mirth has been revived in our land in the American pleasure god. Now recreation and enjoyment of life are good things. They are blessings from the hand of God. It is only when these things displace the true God and Jesus Christ in our lives and begin to dominate our lives that they become idolatrous.

All of these gods are related. They are gods which pamper our own self-satisfaction. The religion of Jesus Christ calls for self-denial. The gods of the world appeal to man's self. Again Jesus said, "He that taketh not his cross and followeth after me is not worthy of me."

Examine your life. Are you an idolater? Do you keep the first

commandment which says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me"? Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength" (Mark 12:30).

*Ed Note: Borrowed from the Grant Avenue Newsletter. Thank you Pastor O'Donnell.*

### WINNERS OF STATE SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTEST

#### Division A - 200 and above

1. Fellowship Church, Flat River
2. Grace Church, Arnold

#### Division B - 150 through 199

1. First Church, Lebanon

#### Division C - 100 through 149

1. First Church, Flat River
2. First Church, Fredericktown

#### Division D - 50 through 99

1. South Side, St. Louis
2. Hurryville Church, Farmington

#### Division E - 49 and under

1. Capitol City, Jefferson City
2. Belton Church, Belton

(Conclusion—Promotional Secretary's Corner)  
Ridge Church near Urbana. Licensed minister Bill Knapp delivered the evening message, Brother Beatty the 11:00 a.m. message on Sunday and Rev. Ralph Douglas the Sunday afternoon message. The services closed with the Lord's Supper. According to the annual reports each church gained new members. Sixty percent of this Association contribute to the Cooperative fund.

I visited the Waynesville Church Sunday evening. Their new pastor is Rev. Willie Bennett. Pastor Bennett reports some have been saved and added to the congregation.

April receipts were real good. Commendations to sixty churches sending April Cooperative moneys. We have reached the \$50,000.00 mark making us \$5,000.00 ahead of schedule toward our goal.

# Woman's Page

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM SPRING RETREAT

This year the Missouri Woman's Auxiliary Spring Retreat registered 84 women. Everyone had a great time. Due to illness in the Jones family, Joy Jones was unable to attend, but the ladies were blessed to have Lonnie Palmer, veteran missionary to Africa, as their speaker. During the retreat the ladies took a special offering for Brother Palmer to help purchase an airplane to use in his missions work.

The following remarks were heard after retreat: "It was tremendous" . . . "I'm so glad I came" . . . "I can hardly wait until next year" . . . "I'm glad I had my electric blanket" . . . "I hope next year's is just like this" . . . "I'll bet my house is a mess, but I wouldn't have missed this" . . . "Does any one want to buy some cole slaw?" . . . "The singing was beautiful" . . . "I received such a blessing I wanted to cry" . . . "I wish \_\_\_\_\_ could have come".

As you can see by the above statements you really missed something if you didn't attend the 1972 Spring Retreat. Many talents are discovered, new friendships formed, and burdens lifted. It's too late for this year, but start planning now for Retreat 1973. Don't miss another one.



Here's how we stand on our giving . . .

### STATE PROJECT

Beacon Aux. K.C. . . . .	21.08
Verdella . . . . .	10.00
Gateway, St. Louis . . . . .	26.00
Hannon . . . . .	50.00
Myrtle CTS . . . . .	25.00
Indian Creek District . . . . .	46.75
St. Louis District . . . . .	156.30
Willow Springs . . . . .	17.22
Lebanon . . . . .	200.00
Mtn. Grove . . . . .	479.29
Total . . . . .	\$1031.64

REMEMBER: our goal is \$2,000.00

### VANDIVORT MEDICAL EXPENSES

Cuba Auxiliary . . . . .	14.31
St. Louis District . . . . .	79.91
Hannon . . . . .	25.00
Indian Creek District . . . . .	89.94
Waynesville . . . . .	15.00
Macedonia . . . . .	50.00
N.E. Mo. District . . . . .	50.94
Thayer . . . . .	19.70
West Plains . . . . .	13.00
Mission District . . . . .	294.54
Total . . . . .	\$552.33

A missionary was one day watching a Hindu temple being built. Said he to a workman, "How much will this cost?"

To this question the reply came, "We don't know, Sahib. This is a temple for our god, and we never count the cost."

WHEN GOD PLACES A BURDEN UPON YOU, HE PUTS HIS ARMS UNDERNEATH

.... (Deuteronomy 33:27)

## PROMOTIONAL SECRETARY'S CORNER

**T**HE MADISON County Quarterly Meeting assembled with Copper Mines Church Friday evening, April 7 and continued thru the 8th. Rev. Darrell Mills delivered the evening sermon and Rev. John Rogers preached Saturday morning. Each of their nine churches was represented by delegates. We welcome O'Bethel's new pastor, A. Long, into our fellowship. He comes to us from a church of similar faith and practice. Brother Beatty gave the Promotional program. Seventy-seven percent of their churches support it consistently.

I filled the pulpit in Berkeley Church Sunday morning, April 9.

Fredericktown Church conducted revival services April 13 thru 19 with a former pastor, Rev. Ben Scott, serving as evangelist. Several souls were saved and added to the church during this meeting. Sunday, April 16, Fredericktown observed their fiftieth anniversary with an overflow crowd in attendance. Former pastors participating in the services were: Rev. S. A. Hand, Brother Beatty, Evangelist Ben Scott, who delivered the principal sermon, and the present pastor Rev. Jimmy Bundy. Congregational singing with the special singing from the church was a blessing to all in attendance. Fredericktown Church is an ideal church in support of God's cause. She stands among the top twelve churches in Missouri Cooperative giving.

To encourage the Leadington Church and Pastor Hensley, I visited with them Sunday evening, April 16, and delivered the evening sermon there.

Rev. Ken Goff preached the evangelistic messages in Grace Church's revival, April 19 thru 23. Five souls were saved as a result of

these meetings. Grace Church hosted the St. Louis District Quarterly Meeting April 22. Rev. Johnny Land delivered the 11:00 a.m. sermon. Most of our churches were represented by delegates. Brother Beatty gave the Cooperative report. Sixty-four percent of the St. Louis area churches support the program each month. One new minister was licensed, one ordained minister was received and yearly certificates were issued. One new organization, Russell Boulevard Church, was received into our fellowship—the entire membership of the church and the pastor Rev. Ralph Hastings. Their place of worship is located at 1202 Russell Street, a very needy spot for a gospel witness. April 22, I visited the Russell Boulevard Church's revival. Pastor Hastings is doing most of the preaching. Their work is only one year old, but they have rescued scores from sin and iniquity already.

Sunday evening, April 23, I visited Pastor Dann and the Bible Free Will Baptist Church, hoping to encourage them in the Lord. Pastor Dann reports some have been saved there recently.

Saturday, April 29, Harmony Quarterly Meeting assembled with Happy Home Church, Ava. Each of their churches was represented by delegates. The pulpit committee selected Brother Beatty to preach the 11:00 a.m. sermon and Dr. J. D. O'Donnell to preach preceeding the afternoon communion service. Every one participated in both the communion and feet washing services.

The Niangua Annual Association convened Saturday evening, April 29 and continued thru Sunday, April 30, at the Pleasant

### COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS, APRIL 1972

Alton	\$ 10.00
Number One	23.04
Bethel, Eldorado Springs	44.29
Willow Springs	87.63
Hurryville	91.10
Beacon	162.52
Fredericktown	536.90
Gray Summits	13.12
Marshfield	25.92
Pleasant Ridge	33.75
Hannon	75.16
Belton	117.00
Olivett	120.00
Gateway	15.00
Merl's Chapel	58.27
Garfield	19.10
Royal Oaks	61.80
Grace	280.58
Granby	6.89
Happy Home	25.00
Verdella	60.07
Capitol City	88.37
Cuba	117.56
Grant Avenue	240.56
Berkeley	341.27
Union Grove	100.00
Neosho	62.10
St. Joseph, First	26.59
Columbia	39.74
Pleasant Home	47.15
Aulsbury Chapel	103.25
Flat River, First	415.61
Cartersville	37.10
Houston	91.00
Leadington	124.10
Mill Creek	137.40
Fourth	231.13
Byrd	10.00
Pleasant Hill (Cave Springs)	10.00
Copper Mines	72.00
Richwoods	147.60
Cabool	86.86
Bethel, Festus	40.00
Farmingington	220.70
Oskaloosa	29.14
New Prospect S.S.	135.90
Monett	207.28
Lebanon, First	343.00
Hickory Grove	19.53
Rock Chapel	26.38
New Home	92.50
Fellowship, Flat River	50.00
Victory	191.47
DeSoto	120.00
Hurryville	88.50
Olivett	140.00
South Side	204.00
Cedar Ridge	\$46.05
designated 10%	5.11
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$6,365.09</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	
17.75% Missouri Missions	\$1,129.80
16.00% Promotional	1,018.41
04.00% General Board	254.60
04.00% Book Store	254.60
03.50% Youth Camp	222.78
05.50% GEM	350.08
01.00% Sunday School & C.T.S.	63.65
00.25% Superannuation	15.91
52.00% 8 Missouri Departments	\$3,309.83
03.00% Hillsdale College	190.95
00.50% Theological Commission	31.84
00.50% Layman's Bd.	31.84
01.50% R.E.A.P.	95.48
03.00% C.T.S.	190.95
07.00% Church Extension	445.56
09.50% Executive Dept.	604.68
10.00% FWBCC	\$636.50
less designated	5.11
13.00% Foreign Missions	\$827.46
plus designated	5.11
45.00% 8 National Depts	\$2,864.31
100.00% Total Disbursed	<b>\$6,365.09</b>