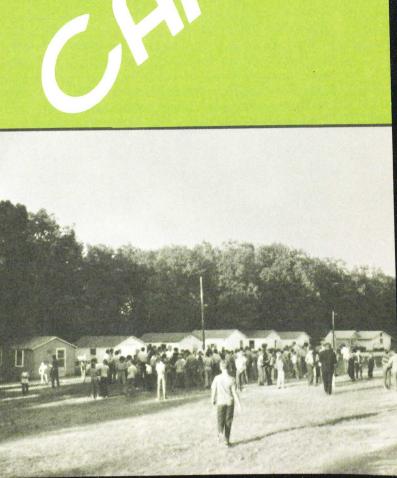
FREE WILL BAPTIST

May, 1973 Volume 43 Number 5

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Personal **Base** from the Editor.

Youth camp time is nearly upon us. It would be easy to take this important phase of our State Ministry for granted and assume that it will come off as smoothly this year as it has for some 26 consecutive years now. But this issue of the GEM is dedicated to inform Missouri Free Will Baptists that much work, prayer, and talent go into each Youth Camp session, and that if this year's sessions are as successful as they ought to be, some of the work, prayer, or talent will depend upon YOU.

I attended the Missouri State Free Will Baptist Youth Camp three different years as a camper. I have often said that those weeks at Youth Camp were the spiritual highlights of my youth. It was at our camp near Niangua in June of 1955 that I publicly announced my call into the ministry, and preached my first sermon (in morning devotions). But, I am just one of the literally hundreds of Free Will Baptist young people who have made a firm, life's commitment on that hallowed ground. More than 2,000 first time decisions have been made there! I suspect that more souls have been won to Jesus per dollar given at our Free Will Baptist Youth Camp, than in any other phase of our state or national work.

Successful youth camps do not just happen! There are the hours of mental and spiritual struggle spent by the Camp Board, made up of five busy pastors who give their time freely. There are scores of hours of preparation that go into the teaching and preaching sessions for each camp day. There is the sweat and the strain of the workmen who labor to keep up the camp grounds and buildings and all the equipment. We must not forget about the poor, old counsellors who, more often than not, doubles as a teacher, the evangelist, the play ground supervisor, a kitchen worker, or some other staff person. His role is ultra-vital, as he becomes a trusted companion and spiritual counsellor to searching young hearts. Though he may be making the largest contribution to the Kingdom of God of his entire lifetime, he does so often with no more than four or five hours of sleep per night, and that only after clearing the rocks out of his bed and the shaving cream out of his shoes.

Now, I wrote earlier that some of the success of the up coming Camp sessions may depend upon you. Just as is true of missions, you can PRAY, GIVE, and GO.

YOU CAN PRAY the victory for those who serve in these many capacities. Please pray! Eternal souls depend upon your praying.

AND GIVE. If the total operational cost of the camp were charged to the campers, only a small percentage of our young people would be able to afford to come: Therefore, only a nominal fee is charged the campers. The rest must come Free Will Baptists in our state who want to see this ministry continued. There may be young people in your church or community who cannot even afford the nominal amount charged by the camp. Maybe you, your church, or Sunday School class could pay their way. It might be cheaper to send them to camp than to risk the possibility of paying their way to reform school or jail in the future.

AND GO. Many of you can go to camp. We always need more counsellors. With three weeks of camp this summer instead of two as before, the need for counsellors will be even greater. There should be one counsellor from your church or association for each 10 campers you send. We usually have a special need for men counsellors. Do you hear me men? We need you to come with your wives as counsellors. Take a week's vacation and come. It might be the best vacation you ever spent.

Within this issue of the GEM you will find a camp schedule and more information about the time and place of FWB YOUTH CAMP-73.

THE EDITOR

Front cover designed by Mrs. Elaine Jay, Joplin, Missouri

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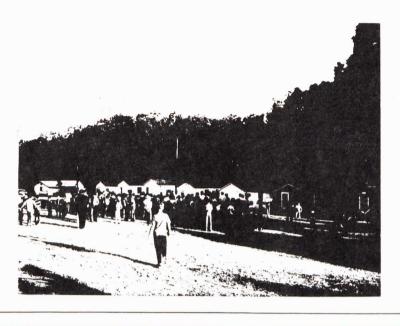
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What Has Youth Camp Meant To Me ?

The GEM ask two young people who have attended Youth Camp for several years what the Camp had meant to their lives. Their answers follow

KIRBY PHELPS, age 16, says: "To me, youth camp is GREAT!! To explain this I would not have enough time or space to write it, but I would like to express some of my own viewpoints on Youth Camp.

"I started going to Youth Camp when I was seven years of age. From that time to last June I have made a great number of friends. The great thing about it is that they are good Christian friends. We have a good time of fellowship and lots of fun.

"You also get to meet great adults. One I have met is a woman by the name of Mrs. Bigelow. She has had a bearing on my life since two years ago at youth camp, when I first met her. She is a fine Christian lady and was our teacher at one of the daily classes. She told me things that I thought would never be true, but some way or another they happened. From the bottom of my heart I thank her ever so much. At Youth Camp it seems as though everything is there. I feel that you are drawn closer to God. You are in a Christian environment and it really is a great place to 'get it all back together.' It would be a great thing if every Christian could visit or stay at Free Will Baptist Youth Camp. Kids, if you never have been there before. I hope to see you this year."

REV. DENNIS BOWMAN, now a Missouri Pastor, writes, "Youth Camp has meant a great deal to me for a long time. The first year I attended Youth Camp meant a week away from the folks with nobody to tell me what to do besides getting up at 6:00 A.M. and doing calisthenics, etc. At first, all I was interested in was how long I could play ball or swim. I'm sure I was a nuisance to the preacher, for while he preached I sat on the back row and threw rocks and talked to others. However, the Lord used the preacher and the messages were interesting enough to get my attention long enough for me to see my need of Christ as my Saviour. During this first Youth Camp I came to know Christ as my Saviour. After that camp came to mean more to me than just games. I looked forward to the great Christian fellowship and the opportunity for learning. It was also a time of sharing with others of like faith things that we had done or situations we had faced. This gave us strength to go home and continue to witness. I feel the informal atmosphere at Camp gives opportunities to witness that otherwise would never be possible. I remember the prayer times we would have before bedtime. Many times we would hear members in our group pray for others in the group, and it would give a spirit of concern that is not usually found elsewhere. The week at Youth Camp is a week totally saturated with the Gospel and instruction in Christian living. I remember one service several years ago where I believe 75 first time decisions were made in one single night. Camp meant to me a place where you could expect the unexpected all the way from your pastor being thrown into the pool to the most wayward of kids having a life-changing experience with the Lord. Youth Camp meant a lot to me then, but today it means even more as I realize the tremendous effect it has had on my life. It is my prayer that our State FWB Youth Camp will continue to be the great place it has been in the past and that even more decisions for Christ and His service will come as a result in the future. I pray that Camp has meant as much to you as it has to me. Words can't really express it. All I can say is, "TRY IT: YOU'LL LIKE IT!"

Editor's Note: Kirby Phelps is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Morton Phelps and a member of the Free Will Baptist Church of Mountain Grove, Missouri. He is active in all phases of his church's activities and high school sports. Rev. Dennis Bowman is the pastor of the Independence, Missouri mission -church. He is also a member of the State Youth Camp Board, and the son of Rev. and Mrs. Cliff Bowman.

Why A Youth Camp?

by Rev. Glenn E. Murray, Chairman of the State Youth Camp Board

TRAIN UP a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6). It is a full-time job to teach and train our children and to raise them the way the Lord wants us to. One week of Youth Camp a year isn't nearly enough spiritual training for them, but let's briefly cover a few days at camp. First our main concern is the spiritual teaching and training that our children receive. Our Missouri State Youth Camp has real dedicated men and women teaching these boys and girls the Bible. You may say, "I teach my child at home and they go to church every Sunday." There's more to living a Christian life than going to church every Sunday. Young people need to be with other young people making new friends, sharing experiences of their Christian life with others. If you've never been in one of the evening services at the Camp, you should plan to attend one this year. One of the greatest blessings you'll ever receive is seeing those young people fall upon the altar and pour their hearts out to the Lord. There's lots of those kids that never hear about Jesus except at camp. Those that come to camp as Christians leave feeling closer to the Lord and with a desire to serve Him more. There are those that are unsaved when they come, but receive the Lord as their personal Saviour and leave a different person. I'm sure several of these young people have gone back home and witnessed to their unsaved parents. To some parents, Youth Camp is just a "baby sitter" for a week for their children. To them, their children's spiritual welfare doesn't matter one way or the other, but the sponsors, directors, and all the helpers at camp have a concern and a desire to help these as well as the others. Some of our ministers and missionaries have felt the Lord's calling them to a special work at Youth Camp.

Youth Camp isn't just for the young people. We adults get as much enjoyment and as many blessings as anyone does. It does take a lot of hard work physically and lots of praying and real dedication to make the camp what it should be. Youth Camp isn't a place to take a vacation and sit on a stool of do-nothing. It is a place to go for a week and get away from the rat race of the daily grind; but there's work for everyone to do. We adults need the Christian fellowship as well as the young people. At camp is the only place we get to fellowship with some of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Youth Camp isn't just classes where they study the Bible, and preaching services in the evening. We do have recreation time such as swimming, playing ball, and other activities. This year we play to have more. The Lord wants us to have good clean fun. Boys and girls

need to learn to get along with each other. We hear so much today about our young people running with the wrong crowd. If we can teach them to choose nice young Christians to run with and be their friends, they can have so much influence on the unsaved. It is so hard for our young people today. We have five children of our own. Two of them are teenagers, and I know it's hard for them to stand up and be a witness at school or wherever they are. We really blame too much on our youth of today. Really, if we'll search we'll see that a lot of the problems come from parents. We do have people that "knock" camp. I don't know where they get their ideas to be against camp. Possibly they've never even been there and they really don't know what they're talking about. Just because they never had the opportunity to attend a session of camp when they were younger, they probably feel our generation today doesn't need one. I feel if you have the genuine love of God and the spiritual welfare of the children at heart, you would want them to get all the Bible teaching they could. Of course, it takes money, and when you mention the "pocketbook" that's where some people draw the line. Many spend more on gum, cigarettes, candy, etc. than they would ever think about giving to the Lord's work.

The Lord has really blessed over the years that the Youth Camp has been in operation. It was started in 1946 with a dozen or so campers attending the first session, sleeping in the caretaker's house anywhere they could find a place to sleep. It has grown to around 900 campers enrolled last year for the two one-week sessions. We have a nice modern eight room caretaker's cottage with two baths, a tabernacle that will comfortably seat around 500, a kitchen, dining hall, a modern first aid station (Parrot Memorial). We have over 40 cabins, a refreshment stand, swimming pool, and recreation grounds.

There have been around 2,500 souls saved over the years the camp has been in existence. This is one of the best reasons I know of why we need a Youth Camp. Scores of ministers and missionaries and special Christian workers have been called from among the campers who have attended.

We plan three one week camps this year for our own FWB Campers. Two additional weeks the camp will be rented to another evangelical group. The Board is considering other possibilities of utilizing the camp grounds to its full potential. We would like someday, to see camps in session from June through August. Please pray for all of the endeavors of the Youth Camp Board.

Last April a banquet was held in honor of Brother and Sister Bill Reeves, who retired as camp caretakers, which is the positions they had held since the beginning of the camp in 1946. We feel God has led a dedicated capable man and his family to come and fill this position, which is a lot of work and responsibility. Please pray for Brother Pinkney Askren and his family.



Senior Week (Grades 10-12) June 11-15 Junior High Week (Grades 7-9) June 18-22 Elementary Week (Grades Kindergarten-6)

All campers and counsellors for all weeks of camp are requested to arrive on Monday morning of your week. Only emergency provisions will be made for anyone to stay at the camp on Sunday nights, where it is impossible for them to come on Monday morning.

The camp rules and daily schedule will be the same this year as previous years. The camp fee is also unchanged: \$10.00 per camper, per week. This amount includes a charge for insurance covering accidents occuring during the week and travel to and from the camp.

The Camp Board reports that some new activities will be on this year's camp agenda: 1) Handcraft will be available on a voluntary basis; 2) Sing around the campfire after nightly services; 3) Weiner and marshmallow roast after one service; 4) A movie after one service; 5) A backwards banquet after one service; 6) A "genuine" treasure hunt; 7) A band will be organized, so bring your musical instruments; 8) A snow cone machine and a popcorn machine will enhance the snack shop; 9) Horseback riding will also be available (we think).

Teachers for the various weeks are as follows:

SENIOR WEEK: Subject: Foundations of Christian Growth. Teachers: Rev. Don Lombard; Rev. A. B. Brown; Rev. Robert Sharry.

JUNIOR HIGH WEEK: Subject: Foundations of Christian Growth. Teachers: Rev. Melvin Knott; Rev. Ted Davis; Rev. Clarence Burton.

ELEMENTARY WEEK: Teachers as follows Kindergarten: Mrs. Mary Ann Owens 1st Grade: Mrs. Tommy Ann Sharry 2nd Grade: Mrs. Peggy Adkisson

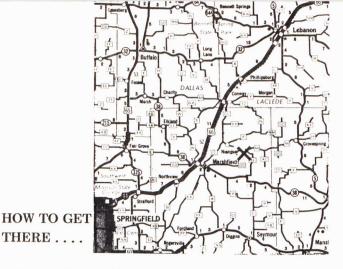
3rd Grade: Mrs. Elaine Skiles and Mrs. Maxine Wagner

4th Grade: Mrs. Karen Stevens and Mrs. Peggy Davis

5th Grade: Mrs. Helen McAllister 6th Grade: Mrs. Peggy Giunta

"The Great Keneto", master magician, will be featured one day only during the Junior High and Elementary weeks of camp this year. His picture appeared in the April, 1973 issue of the Free Will Baptist GEM. All the children and young people will want to see this entertaining and enlightening program.

COME ONE COME ALL. COME TO FWB YOUTH CAMP-73!



The "X" on the map shows the approximate location of our State Youth Camp. It is located about one mile east of Niangua, Missouri on County road "M". A large sign on the highway marks the entrance to the camp.

Daily mail service to the camp makes it possible for you to write your children and them to write letters home during the week. The address is simply, Free Will Baptist Youth Camp, Niangua, Missouri 65713. The Camp's phone number is (417) 473-3796.

MEET YOUR YOUTH CAMP BOARD

These five men are elected by the State Association, each for a five year term, one term expiring each year. They are the trustees of our camp grounds and are charged with its maintenance. They hire the caretaker of the property and supervise his activities. Also among their duties is the planning of the Youth Camp sessions, the Camp Meeting Days, and the Ministers' Retreat. For each of these camps, they plan the schedule, select the program personnel, and make arrangements for the meals and dining hall staff. Theirs is also the responsibility of making and enforcing the camp rules.

Rev. Glenn E. Murray, Chairman: The father of five children. Has been preaching for 13 years. Pastors the Cabool FWB Church.

Rev. Frank Giunta, Secretary, Treasurer: The mission-pastor of the Jefferson City, Missouri work. Originally from St. Louis. Father of two children.

Rev. Lynn Wood: Has pastored FWB Churches in Oklahoma, Arizona, and Missouri for a total of 19 years. Presently the Pastor of the First FWB Church of Mountain Grove, Missouri. Has served as the Director of Promotions for the Hillsdale FWB College and as moderator of the Oklahoma State Association of FWB's. Rev. Wood has four children. *Rev. Dennis Bowman:* A 1969 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, pastoring his third church, a State Home Mission project in Independence, Missouri. Has attended our State Youth Camp 14 of the past 18 years.

Rev. Floyd (Bud) Arnold: Presently pastoring the Faith FWB Church of Lemay, Missouri. Father of two children.

Pray for each of these men.

LOST IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

by Rev. Len Gardner

ND HILKIAH the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord." 2 Kings 22:8a

Solomon had built a marvelous temple, or, house of the Lord. It was a place for the people to meet to worship the Lord. The Lord had promised to be with the people and bless them if they would worship and obey him. The people rejoiced at the dedication of the Temple. What a joy it was to have a place to worship God.

However, after a period of time, the people gradually began to be less concerned with the worship of God in His Temple, and began to worship idols. They became worldly and sinful. Then during the reign of Manasseh and his son Amon, who were wicked kings, it seems that the house of the Lord was completely forsaken. This was a period of about fifty-five years.

Then when Josiah became king he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and began to repair the Lord's house. It was at this time that they found the book of the law in the house of the Lord. From this it would sound like our title should be FOUND IN THE LORD'S HOUSE, but before this book of the law was found, it was first lost, so that is what I want to talk about here. This book of the law was right in the Lord's house where it was supposed to be, and yet it was lost. It was lost because the Lord's house was forsaken. The people had been led into idolatrous worship, and had forsaken the Lord's house.

Now with these things in mind, I would like to mention some things that are lost in the Lord's house today.

GOD'S WORD IS LOST IN THE LORD'S HOUSE TODAY

It was God's Word that was lost in that day, and God's Word is one thing that is lost today. It doesn't matter how faithful a preacher is in preaching God's word, it is lost to many people because they are not in the Lord's house to hear it. God's word cannot reach those who do not hear it, so it is lost in the Lord's house.

Then many preachers preach to please the people, or preach a social gospel, and are not true to the Word of the Lord, so God's Word is lost in this way. Many people, after hearing the Word of the Lord, do not heed it's warning, therefore the Word of the Lord is lost in this way. The fowl of the air devour the seed that is sown.

FELLOWSHIP IS LOST IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

It is hard to find preachers, or churches of the same denomination that can fellowship with each other and work together. Now I am not talking about fellowshiping with devils. The Bible teaches that we should not have fellowship with devils. I am talking about little petty differences and jealousy that keeps people from having fellowship together. Preachers are jealous of one another. Churches are jealous of one another. Fellowship is lost in the Lord's house.

VISION IS LOST IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Solomon said, "Where there is no vision the people perish." Today the church (God's people) have lost their vision and people are perishing. God's people need to get a vision of Heaven, one that will seem so real that the things of this world will seem as nothing to them. We have become so interested in the things of this world that we have lost our vision of Heaven.

Then God's people need to get a vision of hell; one that will make hell seem so real that we can't rest, realizing that people are going there.

Then we need a vision of lost souls. Do you realize that today many are lost and on their road to hell? Do you realize that Christ gave His followers the obligation to warn them, and to compell them to come in? Today God's people have lost that vision.

THE BURDEN FOR LOST SOULS IS LOST IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Amos said, "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion". Amos 6:1

Jeremiah was called the weeping prophet because he had a burden for the people. God had shown Jeremiah what was going to happen to the people because of their sins, and we hear Jeremiah crying out, "Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughters of my people". Jeremiah 9:1

As Paul looked on the city of Athens, his heart was stirred because he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. He saw the need, and he had a burden for the people. As a result of that burden many were saved. If we had a burden for the lost today, many of them would be saved. God's people are so satisfied with self that they have little burden for anyone else. They are at ease in Zion.

POWER HAS BEEN LOST IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Elijah had power to call down fire from Heaven. Elisha had power to raise the dead. Paul had power to shake a deadly serpent from his arm and feel no harm. Many of the saints of old had power to pray down revivals. Why don't God's people have power to pray down revivals today? Isaiah said, "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you." Isaiah 59:2

Jesus told his disciples they could not cast out devils because of a lack of faith. Matthew 17:20 I believe there are two reasons why Christians today have lost their power, (1) sin in their lives, and (2) lack of faith.

FAITH HAS BEEN LOST IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Jesus said, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Matthew 17:20

The eleventh chapter of Hebrews tells of the faith of many of the Old Testament saints, and what they accomplished by faith. Then Jude says, "Contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints." I believe God wants us to contend for, or plead for faith like Abraham had when he offered up Isaac, or like Noah had when he built the ark, or like Elijah had when he challenged the prophets of Baal for a contest and said, "The God that answers by fire, let him be God". If we had this kind of faith today we could see the power of God working. I believe God wants us to pray for faith, and continue to pray for it until we receive it.

JOY IS LOST IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Jesus said, "There is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth." There is also joy among God's people when a sinner repents. What joy we could have if we would meet God's condition for revival and see sinners saved. We have been denied this joy because of failure to meet God's conditions as set forth in II Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land."

Paul says to the Thessalonians, "Ye are our glory and joy."

David prayed, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation." Today we need to pray, restore the joy of thy salvation. Those that carried Israel captive required of them a song, but they said, "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" They had lost their joy. Today God's people have lost their joy. Jeremiah said, "Stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls."

INFLUENCE, OR TESTIMONY IS LOST IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Israel was at one time a testimony to the world of God's power. Other nations looked upon them and saw the power of their God as he dealt with them. But Israel lost that testimony through sin.

After the resurrection and ascension of Christ, the early church had a great influence upon the world. Even their enemies accused them of turning the world upside down with their doctrine. Their enemies were afraid the whole world was going to follow them. The church at one time influenced the world, but now the world influences the church. Influence, or testimony has been lost in the Lord's house because of sin.

SOULS ARE LOST IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

First, souls are lost because of a lack of conviction. They see no difference between the church member and the people of the world. Church members are not living a separated life as God expects of them. When the world sees no difference in church people and the people of the world they are not convicted of sin.

Next, some are convicted, but turn away from God's spirit because God's people show very little interest in them.

Next, many souls are lost because they have been misled, and have joined a church without being born again. Christ said, "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." St. John 3:3 Church membership cannot save anyone. Baptism cannot save anyone. Even ordination cannot save anyone. A person may be ordained a deacon, or a minister, but if he is not born again he is just as lost as the drunkard, or the harlot. Once a person is deceived and joins a church without being born again, then it is hard to win him to the Lord. So souls are being lost in the Lord's house.

After the book of the law had been lost in the Lord's house many years, it was found again. When it was found, it brought conviction, change, revival, and rejoicing.

I have mentioned here nine things that are lost in the Lord's house today; God's Word, Fellowship, Vision, Burden, Power, Faith, Joy, Influence, and Souls. Let's pray that these may again be found in the Lord's house. Let's not only pray, but let's search for them, and find them, and help others to find them in the Lord's house.



Editor's Note: Rev. Len Gardner is the pastor of the Free Will Baptist church at Macks Creek, Mo. He serves on the General Board of the Missouri State Association, as the Niangua Association's representative.



NEWS FROM GRAY SUMMIT FWB CHURCH

The Gray Summit Church reports steady growth in their Sunday school, with a present enrollment of 51. Their Spring revival effort saw 24 souls saved. The revival was conducted by Rev. Charles Miller of Desoto, Missouri, and was preceded by a week of prayer in which the Holy Spirit really began to move upon the congregation, according to the Pastor, Rev. Hugh Stogsdill. Several additions to the church were made after the meeting closed.

MYRTLE CHURCH HAS GUEST SPEAKERS

Rev. Harry Beatty, a former pastor of the Myrtle FWB Church, presently the Promotional Secretary of the Missouri State Association recently brought the message at the Myrtle Church. Rev. Richard Shade, from Mountain Home, Arkansas conducted a three night Bible study in March, which, according to the church reporter Mrs. Bernice Cantrell, was enjoyed by everyone and was very enlightening. Brother Shade is scheduled for a revival meeting with the Myrtle Church in May.

Also the Victory Quartet of Granite City, Illinois conducted a sacred concert at the Myrtle Church recently.

GREETINGS FROM THE REEVES

The GEM office recently received correspondence from Mr. and Mrs. Bill Reeves, the retired caretakers of our State Youth Camp. They report that they are still active in the Lord's work, though hindered by ill health. Writing of a recent trip to the Youth Camp, their home for 24 years, Mrs. Reeves writes, "We were so happy to see all the improvements in the Youth Camp cottage. Rev. Askren and family are doing a good job there. The paneling and furnace sure improved looks of the cottage. It also proved to us that God knew best when he said 'Time to move out folks, and let younger folks take over.' "

The Reeves are much loved saints among us Missouri Free Will Baptists. We will always appreciate deeply their contribution to our State Work. They ask an interest in our prayers.

SHOCKEY NAMED NEW NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS DIRECTOR

Rev. Robert L. Shockey has been appointed by the National Home Missions Board as the new director of the department, effective June 1, 1973. He replaces Rev. Homer Willis, who has served in that position for the past 17 years.

Brother Shockey is originally from the State of Kentucky and is a graduate of the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. He has pastored churches in Tennessee, Alabama, and Kentucky. He served as Promotional Secretary for the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension for three years and traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands promoting Home Missions and Evangelism.

AN INVITATION TO MONETT

by Pastor Jim McAllister

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Monett, Missouri is happy to welcome the 1973 Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists to our town and to our church. We will do everything possible to make this a most enjoyable convention for all our good Missouri Free Will Baptists.

Eating places are limited, but close to the church. We have three motels in Monett: The Plaza Motel; The Econo Motel, and the Lakeland Lodge. You may write to any of these for reservation. We suggest you arrive early Monday, August 13, get your motel, attend the General Board meeting Monday afternoon and the Youth Service Monday night. There are motels in Aurora just 12 miles from Monett. A limited number of people can be kept in homes.

The State Convention will be held in the new 500 seat sanctuary of First Free Will Baptist Church. The building will be very comfortable and we trust the spirit of our convention will be sweet. Come expecting a great blessing from the Lord.

So welcome Free Will Baptists come one and come all to this year's Missouri State Convention of Free Will Baptists.



HERSEY BECOMES FULL-TIME DIRECTOR OF RETIRMENT BOARD

The Board of Retirement and Insurance of the National Association announces that Herman L. Hersey will become full time director of their department beginning in June. He has acted as director on a part-time basis for the past four years. During this time the retirement plan has grown to 237 participants with assets over \$200,000.00.

A new thrust of the Board's operation will be a ministry to senior adults and the establishment of a retirement village for Free Will Baptists. Details of this ministry will be announced soon.

The Rev. Mr. Hersey has been pastor of the Garner Free Will Baptist Church, Garner, North Carolina, for eight years. The church recently bought 12 acres on a main highway and the first unit was completed last year.

Every Free Will Baptist Church is asked to send a special offering to help establish this new department. Send it to Board of Retirement and Insurance, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. The department's offices will be located in the Sunday School Department building now occupied by Church Training Service at 1134 Murfreesboro Road in Nashville.

GOT OUR ADDRESSES STRAIGHT?

Some of our Missouri Free Will Baptists are apparently still confused about whose address is whose. There are five different addresses for five different departments of our state work. It will expedite transactions in each department if you will be sure you send the right material to the right address. They are as follows:

Promotional Secretary and State Treasurer (handles the Cooperative Fund) Rev. Harry Beatty 2244 Tenbrook Arnold, Missouri 63010

Lebanon Bible and Book Store (handles the Sunday school literature) 303 West Commercial Lebanon, Missouri 65536

Free Will Baptist GEM (including the Woman's Page) 2301 Connecticut Joplin, Missouri 64801

Missouri State Home Mission Board c/o Rev. Lawrence Thompson 3416 N. Bellefontaine Kansas City, Missouri 64117

Missouri State Youth Camp c/o Rev. Frank Giunta 1212 East High Jefferson City, Missouri 65101





STATE YOUTH COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES MAY 19, AT ROCK CHAPEL

Free Will Baptist youth in the state planning to enter Bible Bowl, Bible Tic-Tac-Toe, Sword Drill, or Declamation competition are reminded that this year's contests will be held on May 19 at the Rock Chapel FWB Church near Mountain Grove, Missouri. Each church may enter as many contestants in each event as they wish, according to Sunday school— CTS Board member, Eddie Altis. Registration forms should have been received by all churches in the state by now, Altis announced.

Participants are reminded that national rules will apply, including the rules about dress. Registration will begin at 9:30 A.M. on the 19th. Competition will begin at 10:00 A.M.

Winners of the state competition will represent Missouri at the National Youth Conference in Macon, Georgia, July 9-12.

The accompanying pictures show some of last year's contestants.

PROPERTY PURCHASED FOR A NEW CHURCH NEAR POTOSI

Regular church services were begun the second week of April of this year by a group of Free Will Baptists in the Potosi, Missouri area. They have purchased property on State Highway no. 21, about four miles north of Potosi. Mid-week prayer services had been held in the home of Brother Donald Strauser for sometime prior to their getting possession of their new property.

This group of Free Will Baptists consisting of Mrs. Ada Strauser and family, Mr. Donald Strauser and family, and Rev. and Mrs. Lesley Logsdon request the prayers of GEM readers for their church.

DOES YOUR PASTOR PARTICIPATE?

"In looking over the life insurance policy holders we were shocked to discover that only 21 pastors are participating," writes Rev. Herman Hersey, Director of the National Department of Retirement and Insurance. "The reason is obvious. The average pastor's salary has not kept pace with the rising cost of living. He simply cannot afford it—yet most pastors do not have adequate life insurance. The church should assume this responsibility, or at least pay one-half the premium.

Those 45 years and younger have a \$10,000 program and a \$5,000 is available to those over age 45. Here are some examples of the low monthly rates: Age 25-\$3.48; Age 30-\$3.94; Age 35-\$4.72; Age 40-\$6.34; Age 45-\$8.78; Age 50-\$8.18; and Age 55-\$11.20.

These rates are based on \$2,000 whole life with the balance in one year renewal term insurance. Life paid-up at age 65 is available at slightly higher rates. Send us the birthdate of your pastor for details. The life insurance is offered as a supplement to our retirement plan. Both are essential. Will you see that your church participates? Write to: Department of Retirement and Insurance, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tn. 37202.

SWEARENGIN ADDRESSES MARSHFIELD YOUTH

Rev. Bill Swearengin, pastor of the Lone Star FWB Church, addressed a recent Youth Fellowship Meeting at the Marshfield FWB Church. Special music for the meeting was by the Burke Family. "The spirit was good and the message was a challenge to young and old alike," reports Rev. Raymond Askren, the youth director of the Marshfield Church. GEM readers are asked to pray for the youth of this area.

FWBBC PROJECT LAUNCHED IN THE STATE

Evangelist Jack Paramore, the Director of the Expansion Program of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee announced that a project is being launched in Missouri to attempt to raise \$125,000 to pay for the New Library Wing recently completed on campus. Rev. James Mc-Allister, pastor of our Monett Church has agreed to serve as the project chairman in the state. The official goal is to have one third of the total amount raised in cash and pledges by State Association time.

It is hoped that every Free Will Baptist Church in Missouri will do something toward this project. The present 24 students from Missouri enrolled at the Bible College and the many Missouri pastors and laymen who have gotten part or all of their training there give us good reason to give the project our best.

AURORA MISSION CELEBRATES FIRST BIRTHDAY

A basket dinner at noon, an afternoon service with Rev. Jack Paramore from Nashville, Tennessee preaching, and the McAllister Family from Monett singing, highlighted the first anniversary of the Aurora, Missouri Mission. There were 72 in Sunday School that day and 63 in the preaching service, according to Pastor Robert Sharry.

"We are looking forward to the next year", Pastor Sharry writes. "We hope to at least double our attendance." The mission's Sunday school averaged 43 for the first year of their existence, and 58 for the last six months.

GRAY SUMMIT YOUTH ENJOY A VALENTINE PARTY





The youth at the Gray Summit Church enjoyed a Valentine party in the church basement, sponsored by the Sunday school teachers and the Pastor's wife, Mrs. Stogsdill.

The Primary Class is pictured making a Valentine corsage for each of their mothers. The teacher is Mrs. Helen Bryant.

The Junior Class is shown painting plaques, while their teacher, Floyd Haley looks on.

The Teen Class had their picture taken during refreshment time. A big surprise for them was the large Valentine pictured in the background, on which was a small valentine made from a baby picture of each teen present. The pictures were obtained from the teens' mothers by Mrs. Stogsdill without the class knowing it. Brother Larry Bryant, the class' teacher, had the privilege of guessing which picture belonged to each of his class members.



SUMMER CONVENTIONS

With summer time comes not only Youth Camp but State and National Conventions as well. The 1973 National Convention will be held in Macon, Georgia, July 8-12. The National Youth Convention is held similtaneously in the same city as the National Association. Every Free Will Baptist Church should plan to represent by sending their Pastor and one lay delegate.

The 1973 Missouri State Association will be held at the Monett FWB Church August 13-16. Again, every one of our churches shouls represent at this convention.

DESOTO CHURCH BREAKS SUNDAY SCHOOL RECORD

"The Lord is blessing richly in Desoto FWB Church," writes the church reporter, Mrs. Ackersen. "We have started construction of our new addition, consisting of 10 classrooms. Pray the Lord will continue to bless His work here through the Free Will Baptist efforts."

The Sunday school attendance at Desoto reflects the Lord's blessings. Their March, 1972 Average was 142. March, 1973 they averaged 189, with a record breaking attendance on March 28, of 222.

Rev. Charles Miller is the Pastor.

JOPLIN CHURCH WINS SECOND PLACE IN NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTEST

The Joplin FWB Church has been informed that they won second place in Division G of the Spring Enlargement Campaign sponsored by the National Sunday School Department in March of this year. They had a 139 average attendance in Sunday School during the campaign which was a 101% increase over their last quarter's average.

Mr. Bob Howard is the Joplin Sunday School Superintendent. Andy Lay is the Pastor.

MAYS RESIGNS HANNON CHURCH

Rev. Dennis Mays has resigned his pastorate at the Hannon FWB Church near Liberal, Missouri. The Church has asked that any minister interested in coming as a full time pastor to the Hannon Church contact Mr. Charlie Hoover, Rt. 2, Liberal, Mo. 64762.

THE NEWS OF YOUR CHURCH

This space could have been given to printing the news of your church, had you sent it in. Let us know next month and you can read about your church in the GEM. Remember, the deadline for news to be received by the editor is the 15 of each month.



Promotional Secretary's Corner



by Rev. Harry Beatty

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Mrs. Glen Rehkop in the loss of her mother, Mrs. Hovis. Along with several other families from our Grace Church, we attended her funeral held in Fredericktown, Sunday afternoon, March 11. A large crowd from several churches attended this memorial service.

Mine La Motte FWB Church experienced a soul saving revival March 4-11. Rev. James Barker delivered the evangelistic message each evening. I visited the final service Sunday night. Pastor Lloyd Durbin was well pleased with the results of the meeting. A retired military service man plus other young people were saved through this meeting. The Mine La Motte congregation remodeled this land mark church building, put in new pews, pulpit and altars. Best of all souls have been saved at these altars and are taking up the mantle of some of their elders who have recently gone home to be with the Lord.

March 24 the Cave Springs Ministers' and Deacons' meeting assembled with Wilderness Free Will Baptist Church in Oregon County. Rev. Charley Gower and I delivered the 11:00 A.M. message. Fifteen ministers plus the laymen attending shared the discussion of the selected Bible subjects during the course of the day. I was permitted to give the Missouri cooperative program too.

Sunday morning, March 25 I shared with Pastor Ernie Hale and Myrtle Church in worship and preaching of the Word. Myrtle Church shares consistently in the spreading of the Gospel through the Missouri Cooperative Plan of support.

Again, March 31, 20 churches of the Cave Springs Association assembled for their regular Quarterly Meeting with Wilderness Church. Rev. Hill and Strain shared the Gospel preaching hour. I gave the Cooperative Program and sold a few Bibles from Lebanon Portable Bible Stand. The church served a good dinner in the community building nearby. Saturday night I visited a Youth Revival with Pastor H. Bowers in the Byrd Church. Their church has won the parents of some of their young people to the Lord recently. Sunday morning I gave Rev. Davie Combs a helping hand in the preaching service in Koshkonong Church. They gave cash offering to the Cooperative Fund. They have several new converts there also.

March Cooperative Receipts from 60 contributors total \$5,495.00. Thus, we are ahead of projected schedule \$3,300.00. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and bless you, Brethren.

Olivett Belton Hannon Viburnum Marshfield (2 mo.) Copper Mines . Rock Chapel Old Bethel FWB Fourth . New Rock Springs Black Oak Disbursements 15.00% Promotional Dept. 05.50% Youth Camp 05.00% GEM 52.25% Seven Missouri Depts. 2843.66 13.00% Foreign Missions 09.00% Executive Dept.

00.50% Theological Com. 27.48

100.00% Total disbursed \$5495.00

00.25% Laymen's Board

Cooperative Receipts March 1973

219.15

130.00

106.00

90.16

87.81

60.00

21.53

. . 84.00

15.00

42.90

30.00

2.87

824.25

302.23

274.75

714.35

494.55

13.74

Monett First

Kirksville

Salem

Uomańs

Kathy Lay, Editor

"I had the meanest mother in the world," writes a housewife, now raising a family of her own. "While other kids ate candy for breakfast, I had to have cereal, eggs and toast. When others had cakes and candy for lunch, I had to eat a sandwich. But at least, I wasn't alone in my sufferings. My sister and two brothers had the same mean mother as I did.

"My mother insisted upon knowing where we were at all times. She had to know who our friends were and what we were doing. She insisted if we said we'd be gone 1 hour, that we be gone 1 hour. I'm really ashamed to admit it, but she actually struck us, when we disobeyed. That poor belt was used more on us that it was to hold up Dad's pants. Now you see how mean she really was.

"We had to wear clean clothes and take a bath. The other kids always wore their clothes for days. We reached the heights of insults because she made our clothes herself, just to save money.

"The worst is yet to save mends" to be in bed by nine o'clock each evening. We couldn't sleep till noon like our friends. My mother had the nerve to break the child labor law. She made us WORK. We had to wash dishes, make beds, learn to cook and all sorts of cruel things.

"She always insisted upon our telling the truth, the whole truth, even if it killed us . . . and it nearly did. By the time we were teenagers she made our life unbearable. None of this tooting the horn of a car. She made our dates and friends come to the door to get us. I never had the chance to elope to Mexico. I forgot to mention, while my friends were dating at the mature age of 12-13, my old fashioned mother refused to let me date until the age of 16. That is if our date was to a school or church function.

"As the years passed, first one and then the other of us was put to shame. We graduated from high school. With mother behind us, talking and demanding respect, none of us was allowed to be a drop out. My mother was a complete failure as a mother. Out



of four children, a couple attained higher education, none of us has ever been arrested, divorced, or beaten his mate. My brothers served time in the service of our country. And whom do we blame for the terrible way we turned out? Look at all the things we missed. We never got to march in a protest parade, nor take part in a riot, burn draft cards, and a million other things. She forced us to grow up into educated, honest, God-loving and fearing adults.

"Using this as a background, I am trying to raise my children. I stand a little taller and I am filled with pride when my children call me mean. Because, you see, I THANK GOD, He gave me the meanest mother in the world." (Proverbs 31:28) —writer unknown—

It's that time again. The end of another year is upon us. Everyone wants to know what your auxiliary did last year, so let's get those reports in ON TIME. Send them to SEC. JoAnn Wood, P.O. Box 464, Mtn. Grove, MO 65711; TREAS. Hazel Hutsell, 534 West North, Mtn. Grove, MO 65711.

BIRTHDAYS: Bill Fulcher, May 6, Susan Fulcher, June 12 (1969), Apartado 6931, Panama 5, R de Panama; Timothy Pinkerton, June 30 (1963), Anniversary: May 27 Jerry and Carol Pinkerton, Institute Emmaus, 1806 St. Legier, Switzerland ...They're leaving the last of May. Have you sent your recipes and offerings to Joan Filkins? A little bird told me that Joan (who is very musical, along with the rest of the family) would sure like to have a piano. Let's see what we can do about that.

	Youth Camp 1
Coca Cola Co	\$160.00
	30.00
Hannon	
	10.00
Union	
Verdella Bob Dickey	
New Rock Springs	

Youth Camp Financial Report for March

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	rant Avenue	
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	Total Receipts \$4,076.68 al. Carried Fwd. 443.21 Sub Total \$3,633.47	
	al. Carried Fwa	
	Sub Total	
	alance as of the	

Frank Giunta, Treasurer Missouri State Free Will Baptist Youth Camp 10.00

July 8-12 Macon Coliseum Macon, Georgia



FEATURES

The 37th annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists will be hosted "southern style" by the 11,478 members of the Georgia State Association in historic Macon . . . The format of this annual conclave has been changed to include two additional times of worship making a total of six inspirational messages to be delivered to the 4,000 anticipated delegates and visitors . . . An emphasis will be made to involve a greater number of laymen in the activities of the convention . . . There will be something for everyone: competitive activities for youth, a participating workshop on church extension for pastors and laymen, a Sunday school seminar, a W.N.A.C. sponsored session stressing an increased missions outreach in the local community . . . Banquets for the youth, pastors, Woman's Auxiliary members, alumni of Free Will Baptist Bible College . . . Breakfast meetings for the laymen, National Music Fellowship members . . . Exhibits from the national offices as well as other Christian ministries . . .

CONVENTION THEME

"Discipleship: The Church's Responsibility"

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE: P. O. BOX 1088 NASHVILLE, TN. 37202

SPEAKERS

GALEN DUNBAR Pastor, First FWB Church Hazel Park, Michigan

JAMES DENTON Pastor, Hilltop FWB Church Fuquay, North Carolina

BOB KETCHUM Pastor, Owasso FWB Church Owasso, Oklahoma

CLAUDIE HAMES Pastor, First FWB Church Bakersfield, California

DON PEGRAM Pastor, First FWB Church Newport News, Virginia

KENNETH DOGGETT Pastor, Fellowship FWB Church Flat River, Missouri





100

Dunbar

Ketchum



Hames



Pegram

Doggett

Missouri State Home Mission Giving March 5 — April 5, 1973

First, Kansas City 40.06
Victory Church
Willow Springs Ch
Wanda Perryman
New Home Church
Ina Davis
Woman's Aux. Belvoir, N.C 2.00
Alton Church
Myrtle Church
Hannon Church
Hurryville Church
First Ch. Fredricktown
Salem Church
Olivet Church
Leadington Church
First, Monett
First, Mtn. Grove
Grace Church
Bethel Woman's Aux
Mona Chrisman
South Fremont Church
Girardeau Mission
Twin Oak Primary S.S. Class

Bock Chapel Church
Rock Chapel Church
Copper Mines Church
viburnum Church
122 00
First, Farmington
Fourth Church
Thaver Church
Thayer Church
Low Ground Church
Calvery Church
First, West Plains
childri Light Church
new Hock Springs Church
E OO
Parkview Church
First, Waynesville
First, Waynesville
First, Flat River
thine La Motte Church
1 020 21
Total

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES 1972-73

CHURCH Copper Mines	Apr 102 103	May 87 102	June 100 93	July 87 95	Aug 113 95	Sept 90	Oct 92	Nov 81	Dec 84	Jan 77	Feb	Mar
Cuba Desoto Farmington	$\frac{133}{132}$	$\begin{array}{c} 125 \\ 129 \end{array}$	$\frac{125}{113}$	$\begin{array}{c} 123 \\ 118 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 129 \\ 121 \end{array}$	$87 \\ 127 \\ 137 \\ 250 \\ 250 \\ 370 \\$	$93\\144\\150$	82 136 136	$84\\145\\146$	$93 \\ 157 \\ 125$	$\frac{91}{178}$	189
Fellowship Fredericktown	187 194 125	$275 \\ 163 \\ 123$	$266 \\ 152 \\ 130$	$303 \\ 157 \\ 131$	$\begin{array}{c} 332\\ 156\\ 138 \end{array}$	$379 \\ 161 \\ 140$	$333 \\ 169 \\ 141$	$\begin{array}{c} 311 \\ 168 \\ 104 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 324 \\ 157 \\ \end{array}$	328	370	407
Flat River, First Fourth, St. Louis	$\begin{array}{c}135\\151\end{array}$	$125 \\ 126$	$123 \\ 123$	$131 \\ 115$	$138 \\ 114$	$\frac{140}{124}$	$141 \\ 135 \\ 207$	$124\\140$	$\begin{array}{c}130\\136\end{array}$	$\frac{146}{135}$	$140\\145$	$\begin{array}{c} 178 \\ 154 \end{array}$
Grace, Arnold Gray Summit	77	65	62	67	72	80	$\frac{227}{75}$	206 68	$\frac{175}{64}$	50	$223 \\ 43 \\ 110$	$\begin{array}{c} 241 \\ 50 \\ 120 \end{array}$
Joplin, First King's Way, Springfield		00	02	01	50	55	59	56	64 55	$74\\60\\114$	119 65 119	139
Kirksville Leadington	$\begin{array}{c} 114 \\ 153 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 112 \\ 163 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 105 \\ 164 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 105 \\ 136 \end{array}$	$\frac{100}{142}$	$\begin{array}{c} 98\\ 162 \end{array}$	$\frac{110}{167}$	$\frac{100}{143}$	$97\\149$	$\frac{114}{76}$ 153	$112 \\ 51 \\ 156$	
Lebanon First Mine LaMotte Monett First	$\frac{56}{210}$	43 192	$\begin{array}{c} 40\\186\end{array}$	$59\\182$	$\frac{44}{204}$	$\frac{32}{232}$	$\begin{array}{c} 42\\ 219 \end{array}$	$\frac{36}{211}$	$\frac{31}{203}$	$\frac{36}{196}$	$\begin{array}{c} 130\\ 43\\ 209 \end{array}$	219
Monett First Mtn. Grove, First Myrtle	$\frac{1}{280}$	$\begin{array}{c} 262 \\ 57 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 268 \\ 58 \end{array}$	261	245	264	$\frac{266}{51}$	255 48	$\frac{240}{56}$	$\frac{246}{47}$	$\frac{280}{284}$	$\begin{array}{r} 210\\ 263\\ 53\end{array}$
Parkview, Desloge Salem	$\begin{array}{c}100\\41\end{array}$	92 39	$\frac{87}{35}$	84	$\frac{98}{32}$	$\frac{95}{33}$	93	93 35	94 39	96 39	98 46	00
Southside, St. Louis Thayer	$\frac{98}{148}$	$\frac{102}{134}$	$\begin{array}{c} 113 \\ 130 \end{array}$	$\frac{102}{143}$	$\frac{118}{149}$	$\begin{array}{c} 150 \\ 154 \end{array}$	$\frac{153}{148}$	$\frac{138}{144}$	$\begin{array}{c} 149 \\ 151 \end{array}$	$\frac{133}{116}$	$\frac{144}{157}$	$\frac{156}{153}$
Trinity, Bridgeton Twin Oaks, Fredericktown	$\begin{array}{r} 197 \\ 54 \end{array}$	$\frac{204}{44}$	$\frac{181}{47}$	$\frac{162}{48}$	$\begin{array}{r}178\\55\end{array}$	$\frac{180}{46}$	$\begin{array}{c} 191 \\ 48 \end{array}$	$\frac{180}{51}$	$\frac{186}{50}$	$\begin{array}{c}172\\53\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 171 \\ 55 \end{array}$	194
Victory, Avondale Willow Springs	$\begin{array}{c}136\\125\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 120 \\ 99 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 126\\99\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 110 \\ 103 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r}145\\95\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 173 \\ 100 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 212 \\ 109 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c}152\\86\end{array}$	$\frac{184}{84}$	$\begin{array}{r}173\\77\end{array}$	$\frac{171}{88}$	

Other churches are invited to send your Sunday School attendance averages to us for publishing

Opportunities for Young People

YOUTH CAMP -73

At Free Will Baptist Youth Camp, near Niangua, Missouri.

1. Senior High Week June 11-15

2. Junior High Week June 18-22

3. Elementary Week June 25-29

Swimming, volleyball, softball, horseshoes, archery, horseback riding, hiking, handcrafts, plus good Christian fellowship and instruction. All for just \$10.00 per camper per week. See details inside this issue.





STATE COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

May 19, Rock Chapel FWB Church near Mountain Grove, Missouri 1. Bible Bowl 2. Bible Tic-Tac-Toe 3. Sword Drill 4. Declamations Winners represent Missouri at the National Youth Conference in Macon, Georgia, July 8-12.