

FREE WILL BAPTIST

F. W. B. B. C.
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Gem

June, 1973
Volume 43
Number 6



**Have You
Answered Your
Heart's Door
Lately?**

FWB and NAE

FREE WILL BAPTISTS have been involved in controversy over the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) for almost a decade. Most of that time our National Association of Free Will Baptists has been a member of the NAE. However, last July, the National Association in a close vote, decided to sever our relationship with the NAE. A majority of Missouri FWB's disagreed with the decision of the National Association; however, in our State Association in August voted to join the NAE as a State Association. (One other state has done likewise, the State of Oklahoma.) There is no question about Missouri's right to join the NAE or any other organization it desires to join. The State Association is autonomous and can be consorted by no other body.

It seems that Missouri's decision to join NAE has caused no little stir among FWB's in other parts of the country. We have been labeled "compromisers" by one southern evangelist. And it is rumored that there is a move on to refuse to seat Missouri's delegation at this summer's National Association. All this outside-the-state pressure is a most unfortunate thing, because it tends to cloud our objectivity as Missouri FWB's in looking at the NAE question. If there is anything that we can agree upon wholeheartedly in Missouri it is that we do not need someone from Mississippi, or Tennessee, or North Carolina or someplace else telling us what we should or should not believe. We are determined to decide that for ourselves, and decide we will.

Despite outside pressures Missouri FWB's need to take a good look at NAE. We need to know why we are either for or against the organization. We must not support NAE simply because someone else does or does not.

I am writing this editorial with a view to helping Missouri FWB's decide whether we are for NAE and wish to maintain our affiliation with her or whether we cannot support NAE's position, and must therefore, cease to be a part. I shall present the facts as I know them, but I do not claim to be an authority. I had hoped I could persuade others to write for the GEM on this subject, and asked different ones to do so, but none were both willing and able.

The anti-NAE people cite several reasons why they believe we should not belong.

1. THE PRINCIPLE OF SECONDARY SEPARATION.

"Secondary Separation" says that you may not have fellowship nor cooperate in the Lord's work with any Christian who has any type of fellowship or cooperation with liberals or unbelievers. For example, according to the secondary separationists, you could not have fellowship with a FWB preacher who worked in a local ministerial alliance in which there were liberal pastors as members. You could not fellowship with a man, though he be a Christian himself, if he cooperated in a city wide evangelistic campaign in which there were liberal churches or individuals cooperating in its promotion. On the lay level, you could not fellowship with a Christian who was a participant in any religious order in which there were unbelievers as members. Those who adhere to this line of thinking say we should not be a member in the NAE because some of the NAE members, though fundamental Christians themselves, are guilty of some of these things.

2. THEY EQUATE THE NAE WITH THE NCC. They say the NAE is a super-church organization like the National

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Andy W. Lay, editor.

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Council of Churches (NCC) that threatens to become the Apostate Church.

3. THEY SAY THE NAE SPEAKS FOR US. They fear that the NAE will take a stand in an area where we would disagree with NAE, and claim that all evangelicals (implicating us) stand this way.

4. THEY FEAR THAT NAE MAY BECOME (OR ALREADY IS) DOMINATED BY ADHERENTS OF THE "SOCIAL GOSPEL" OR THOSE OF A MORE LIBERAL THEOLOGICAL PERSUASION THAN OURSELVES.

The proponents of NAE, on the other hand, list several reasons why they believe the Association is worthy of our support.

1. THERE IS A NEED FOR A STRONG, UNITED, EVANGELICAL VOICE TO BE HEARD IN AMERICA. The National Council of Churches and its liberal proponents are being heard because they are big, engulfing tens of millions in their memberships. 200,000 Free Will Baptists cannot wield much influence by comparison. For example, if a pastor of a church with 30 members went to the City Council meeting in his home town to ask a favor of the council for his church and the councilmen did not know him, they would be much less apt to grant his request if he stood alone than if a representative of the Evangelical Church Fellowship of the town accompanied him. When the request of the one church were presented in the name of the Evangelical Church Fellowship representing 10 churches with a membership of 3,000, the council would obviously be more apt to comply. I do not imply that we are seeking political favors, but rather that we are seeking to promote godliness in our society. Many small denominations like us, though differing in comparatively minor points of doctrine, can wield a greater influence in our society standing together on such matters as maintaining religious freedoms in our public schools, maintaining the right of the astronauts to read the Bible from outer space if they so choose, standing against the ideologies of Madalyn Murray O'Hare and her like, etc. The NAE is a means of uniting our efforts with those of similar convictions in other denominational groups.

2. THERE ARE MANY AREAS IN WHICH EVANGELICALS NEED TO COOPERATE. Had it not been for the NAE's efforts in Washington in the 1940's, it is quite possible that no church or individual, who was not a member of the NCC, would be allowed to buy air time on radio or television today. It is unlikely that any one small denomination could have turned the tide away from such exclusivism as did the NAE.

The NAE also fought for the rights of evangelical churches to place chaplains in the armed forces. That right would probably not belong to FWB's today had it not been for evangelical cooperation.

Through the NAE affiliate, the National Foreign Missions Association (EFMA) the unevangelized parts of the world are divided up among fundamental mission organizations to avoid costly duplication, and yet utilize every evangelical effort to reach the unreached.

3. IN NAE WE CAN HAVE THE STRENGTH OF

NUMBERS, STANDING WITH OTHER EVANGELICAL GROUPS WITHOUT LOSING OUR DENOMINATIONAL DISTINCTIVES. NAE does not propose to be a super-church. It is not a part of the ecumenical movement. It does not advocate merger with other denominations. I quote from "The Story of Evangelical Cooperation," published by the National Association of Evangelicals:

The purpose is not to eliminate the denominations, but to protect them; not to force individual churches into a mold of either liberal or radical sameness, but to provide a means of fellowship in cooperative witness; not to do the work of the churches, but to stand for the right of the churches to do their work as they feel called of God.

4. NAE STANDS WHERE FWB STAND. The NAE statement of faith, adopted in 1942 stands unchanged today. It reads as follows:

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.

2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

4. We believe that for the salvation of the lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

This statement was read in unison by the assembly gathered for the annual NAE convention May 1-3, 1973 in Portland, Oregon. Following its reading all the officers publicly signed their names to a document pledging to defend these truths and to keep the NAE true to the Bible.

There may be individuals in the NAE of questionable reputation or doctrine. But we are not immune from that problem in our own denomination, nor even in our local churches, but there is no question about the fundamental stand of the National Association of Evangelicals whether you look at the statement of faith or the accomplishments to her credit.

I hope each reader will weigh the facts known to him about this matter and come to his own conclusions. I have come to mine. I am for the NAE.

CHURCHES PEOPLE and EVENTS

TWO MISSOURI CHURCHES WIN NATIONAL HONORS IN SPRING ENLARGEMENT CAMPAIGN

The Fellowship FWB Church in Flat River and the First FWB Church of Joplin both won National honors in the Spring Enlargement Campaign conducted by the National Sunday School Department in March of this year. Fellowship Church had a 26.01% increase during the campaign over their previous quarters average, earning them second place in division "C". Their campaign average attendance was 407. The Joplin Church won first place in division "G" with a campaign average attendance of 139, a 101.45% increase.

Congratulations to both these churches.

PROGRESS NOTED AT DE SOTO

Pastor Charles Miller from the DeSoto FWB Church writes, "We are still praising God for His goodness to us. Our Sunday school enrollment now stands at 202, with an average attendance in April of 189. Souls are also coming to the Lord. Our new educational unit is well on its way to completion. This will add ten more Sunday school rooms and an assembly area. It should be ready for use in about 30 days. We had a record offering the month of April, \$3,200.00, for which we really praise the Lord."

THAYER CHURCH BREAKING RECORDS by Pastor, Harvey E. Hill

Just a few lines to let you know how God has been blessing the Thayer Free Will Baptist Church these past few months. We have broken all Sunday school attendance records two or three times the past few weeks. Easter Sunday we had a total of 208 in Sunday school and the sanctuary was crowded for the Morning Worship Service.

We have just about completed our new addition on our church which increases the seating capacity of our auditorium to 50 more. We have also added six new classrooms, a baptistry and new carpeting in the church. A new kitchen is nearing completion in the addition.

We have just closed a very successful youth

revival with the Rev. Bud Hill as the evangelist. Several were saved and there were several rededications. My how our young people worked for this revival and how Brother Hill did preach!

Our young people have a new project of raising funds to purchase a bus for the church. They have about \$750 in the treasury at this time. If any of you hear of a bus for sale, please let us know here at the Thayer Church for we would like to purchase one soon.

Please pray for us here and may God bless our many friends in Missouri. It is so good to be back in Missouri.



OLD FASHIONED DAY AT BERKELEY

Pictured above are Mr. and Mrs. Gary Walls and son, David, as they appeared at church on Old Fashioned Day. Their appearance was typical of the entire congregation of the First FWB Church of Berkeley on that recent Sunday. The activities of the day included a dinner in Fellowship Hall and a good time of fellowship. Brother Harry Beatty brought the evening message in the auditorium lighted by lanterns. Brother Walls reported that the attendance in the morning service was 475.

Rev. Clarence Burton is the pastor at Berkeley.

REV. AUBREY DEAN BURPO GOES TO BE WITH THE LORD

The Reverend Aubrey Dean Burpo of Route 2, Farmington, Missouri died on April 24, 1973 at the Bonne Terre Hospital at the age of 43. Rev. Burpo was the son of Mrs. Ethel Kite Burpo of Route 3, DeSoto, Missouri and the late Aubrey Burpo. He is survived by his wife Juanita of Flat River, Missouri.

Most of Brother Burpo's ministry was spent pastoring in Texas. Because of ill health he retired in June of 1972, but had been very active in the ministry of Fellowship FWB Church in Flat River.

37 SAVED AT VICTORY CHURCH IN APRIL

The Victory FWB Church at Avondale reports 37 persons making salvation decisions during the month of April. In addition, 48 persons rededicated their lives to the Lord and 18 united with the church. We rejoice with the congregation at Victory for this good report.

Rev. Lawrence Thompson is the pastor.

KNOWN PASTORAL CHANGES

Rev. Glenn Murray from Cabool to Doniphan.

Rev. Max Courtney from Salem to Cabool.

Rev. Rolla Smith from Savannah, Georgia to Grant Avenue in Springfield.

Rev. Frank Giunta from Jefferson City to Portsmouth, Ohio.

Rev. George Bryant from Hartville Church to Jefferson City.

Rev. Don Davis has resigned the Purdy Church.

502 IN SUNDAY SCHOOL AT FELLOWSHIP

The Sunday school attendance record at the Fellowship FWB Church in Flat River was 449, until Easter Sunday, this is. On Easter a new attendance record was set with 502 present for Sunday school. And that is not the only way the Fellowship Church is growing. They have had 35 baptisms so far this year (at the end of April), and many decisions for Christ. 334 persons rode four buses to their Sunday school in a recent Sunday, with one bus bringing in 105, one 98, and another 88, all in one week. Fellowship also has a daily radio broadcast. Rev. Ken Doggett is the pastor.

"DISCIPLESHIP: THE CHURCH'S RESPONSIBILITY" THEME OF 1973 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

"Discipleship: The Church's Responsibility," is the theme of the 37th annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists to convene at the Macon Coliseum, Macon, Georgia, July 9-12.

Some 4,000 representatives from across the denomination will meet in devotional, workshop and business sessions. The 1973 theme is a follow-up of the 1972 theme, "Soul-winning: The Church in Action." It was chosen to depict that the Church's responsibility extends beyond the point of conversion.

Variations of the theme will be the focus of the six main addresses during the four day convention. Six Free Will Baptist pastors have been chosen to deliver these messages. They are the Rev. Galen

Dunbar, First Church, Hazel Park, Michigan; the Rev. James Denton, Hilltop Church, Fuquay, North Carolina; the Rev. Bob Ketchum, Owasso Church, Owasso, Oklahoma; the Rev. Claudia Hames, First Church, Bakersfield, California; the Rev. Don Pegram, First Church, Newport News, Virginia; and the Rev. Kenneth Doggett, Fellowship Church, Flat River, Missouri.

Some 40 exhibitors from all phases of Christian ministry and service including the eight national departments will be available to acquaint delegates with new materials and developments.

Reservations for housing during the national meeting are being handled by a central housing agency. Special rates have been secured for those affiliated with the National Association. Available accommodations with prices and the appropriate reservation forms are contained in both the April and May issues of CONTACT Magazine, the official denominational publication.

The National Association is composed of 200,000 Free Will Baptists in some 2,250 churches located in the United States. Some four thousand ministers and lay leaders from across the country and a representation of missionaries from several foreign countries are expected to be in attendance at the convention.

A FREE WILL BAPTIST IN POLITICS?

A member of the Hazel Creek FWB Church near Kirksville, Missouri recently won his third election to the Kirksville R-III school board. Though the office is non-partisan, school board elections in the Kirksville area have been among the most contested political races.

Don Riley, whom his pastor, the Rev. Archie Cooper, describes as "a good man and a faithful Christian," has been a Free Will Baptist for more than 15 years. He served as a Trustee Board member at the Jewell FWB Church, near Kirksville, and later as a Sunday school teacher. His wife, Gladys, has also taught Sunday school and has been one of the principal musicians at their church. Don and Gladys have four children at home and a married son and

Rudy, Don, Gladys, and Renee Riley



grandchild.

Asked what got him into politics, Don replied, "I believe it is a Christian's responsibility to get involved in public areas where changes need to be made. We need more Christians in public offices."

Don's Christianity is no secret. His life radiates Jesus Christ. "Some of the Board members' language changes when Don comes on the scene," one knowledgeable observer said. "They know him to be a Christian, and respect him for it." The voters confidence in him was shown in his recent victory, as he received more votes than any incumbent candidate in recent years.

"I believe serving in this position has helped my Christian testimony," Don observes. "It has opened many doors of witness to my life. I've prayed a lot about it, seeking the Lord's will for my life. It was just a miracle of God that I got elected."

The voters respect for Christian integrity and Christian principles helped bring that miracle about, for the third time in this election. Don, who is a farmer and sells crop insurance, is now beginning his seventh year on the Kirksville R-III School Board, having served previously on a rural school board for nine years.

How does his family feel about his being in politics? "It is a constant pressure on our home, especially during election campaigns," Gladys replies, "but I am proud of my husband's accomplishments and glad that he is doing what he can to improve our community."

So be careful when you speak in generalities about politicians. You may be talking about a Free Will Baptist!

BURTON AND SPURGEON TO NAE CONVENTION

The Rev. Clarence Burton, moderator of Missouri State Association and the Rev. Russel Spurgeon, state clerk, attended the National Association of Evangelicals' annual convention in Portland, Oregon May 1-3. Part of their report from the convention is included in this issue of the GEM. More observations will be made by them at our State Association and the General Board meeting prior to the State Association.

FILKINS' COMMISSIONED AND DEPARTED

The auditorium of the First FWB Church of Kirksville, Missouri was the scene of an impressive service May 16, according to many observers. The Howard Filkins Family was formally commissioned for service in the Ivory Coast, Africa by their home church.

Participating in the service, in addition to representatives from most of the churches in the Northeast Missouri Association, were Rev. Reford Wilson, General Director of FWB Foreign Missions;

Rev. Andy Lay, pastor of the Joplin FWB Church, and Rev. Melvin Knott, pastor of the Kirksville Church. Miss Margie Mollick and Dr. and Mrs. Ray Tubbs provided the special music.

Having departed New York on May 28, the Filkins are now in Abidjan, Ivory Coast where they will study the French language for six weeks, after which they will move to Bouake and the Ivory Coast Academy where they will serve as dormitory supervisors for missionary children. You may write to the Filkins' at the following address during the months of June and July at B.P. 8020, Abidjan-Cocody, Ivory Coast, West Africa. After August 1 their address will be B. P. 1171, Bouake, Ivory Coast, West Africa.

The Filkins' said, "Tell all the good people of Missouri a great big 'thanks' for all they have done for us to help us get to the field. And tell them not to forget us while we are in Africa."

MOUNTAIN GROVE VOTES TO BUILD

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Mountain Grove recently voted unanimously to proceed with a building program. The building committee consists of Leroy Housley, Jesse Walker, Hurse Smith, Jack Dale, and Gale Lockwood. Details of the building program will be included in a future issue of the GEM.

Rev. Len Wood is the Pastor.

GRACE IS GROWING

The Grace FWB Church in Arnold is reported to be growing in the Lord's work by the church reporter, Mrs. Bessie Baldwin. They recently concluded a revival meeting with Rev. Jim McAllister of Monett, Missouri, which was a real blessing to the church. They have purchased two more buses for Sunday school work, and have a successful Junior Church program conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Huett, with many others helping with the work.

The growth of the church is attributed to the effective visitation programs on both Thursday nights and Saturday afternoons.

Rev. Glenn Rehkop is the pastor of the Grace Church.

YOUTH CAMP MONEY SHOULD NOW BE SENT TO BOWMAN

Rev. Frank Giunta has recently accepted the pastorate of the First FWB Church of Portsmouth, Ohio. He has been working with the Missouri State Home Mission Board at the Capitol City FWB Church in Jefferson City for the past two and a half years. Rev. George Bryant will be going as the mission pastor to Jefferson City.

Brother Giunta was also the treasurer of the State Youth Camp Board. You should now send your Youth Camp offerings to Rev. Dennis Bowman, 2104 James Downey Rd., Independence, Missouri 64057.

Brother Giunta writes to GEM readers, "I want to thank each one who has supported this work and encourage them to continue their support, both with prayer and finances."

FOUR MISSOURIANS GRADUATE FROM FWBBC

Commencement Exercises at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee on May 17 saw 75 degrees and other awards given by the school. Four Missouri students were among the recipients of the Bachelor of Arts degrees: Wesley Bigelow from Raytown; Garry Matthews from Raytown; Leonard Tallent from St. Louis; and Don Turner from Flat River.

FIVE NEW COUPLES APPROVED BY NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS BOARD

The National Home Missions Board, in session May 7-9 in Nashville approved five couples for Home Missions services: Rev. and Mrs. Karel J. Smith, approved for Albuquerque, New Mexico; Rev. Edward Wayne Green and his fiancée Miss Linda Brooks who are to be married in August, were approved for work in Clovis, New Mexico; Rev. and Mrs. Timothy Hackett were approved for summer work in Torrington, Wyoming; Rev. and Mrs. Gary Watson, approved for Hawaii; and Rev. and Mrs. John D. Hollis for a joint state and national project in Illinois.

Three new fields were approved for mission work. They are Yuma, Arizona; Spokane, Washington; and Des Moines, Iowa. The Board also approved the whole Caribbean for Home Mission work.

The following recommendations were approved by the board during the May meeting. 1) to change the name of the "Institute of Uro," or "The Institut of Gold," to the new name of "Free Will Baptist Institute of Mexico." 2) That lay couples be encouraged to go to the field with the missionary couple, and pay them six months to one year, so they will have time to secure work. Let them do itinerate work to raise the six months to one year's support. Applications and approval will be handled the same as missionary appointees. 3) That we devise a plan to raise \$500,000.00 for a loan fund to be used by the board to buy property and to build the first unit for those missionaries who desire this. The loan to be paid back by arrangements with the board and the mission church.

Missouri's giving to the National Home Missions Board during the month of April totaled

\$1,182.15. The top giving church for the month was the Grant Avenue Church in Springfield, giving \$118.80.

FROM THE SEXTONS IN FRANCE

The Don Sextons, missionaries in France, write, "We appreciate the gift from some Missouri churches. It is an encouragement to us to know we have friends there." The Sextons report that they will be out of school soon (language study) and plan to move to the same area where the Dan Merks are working.

Don writes, "I preached at our two churches in French last week and I praise the Lord that I feel more liberty each time I bring a message."

The Sexton's address is: Donald Sexton, 19 Rue de Chene Creux, 44400 Reze, France les nantes.

Missouri State Home Mission Giving: April 5 thru May 5, 1973

First Church, Kansas City.....	\$169.00
Mr. Hammock	5.00
South Fremont Church	15.00
Bethel Woman's Aux.	10.00
Madison Co. Qtly. Mtg.	75.00
Mill Creek Church	15.00
Copper Mines Church	7.00
Victory Church	143.74
Willow Springs Church	15.00
New Home Church	60.00
First Church, Monett	75.00
Thayer Church	21.00
First Church, DeSoto	40.00
Kenneth Mason	25.00
Kenneth Perryman	4.00
Woman's Aux. Belvoir, N.C.	2.00
Grace Church	25.00
Olivett Church	135.00
New Rock Springs Church	10.00
Vernon Mason	50.00
Belton Church	68.00
First Church, Fredricktown	20.00
South Side Church	5.00
Hannon Church	45.85
First Church, West Plains	20.00
Parkview Church	20.00
Myrtle Church	6.57
Salem Church	10.00
Fourth Church	85.78
Fellowship Church	76.75
Mine LaMotte Church	10.00
Mona Chrisman	2.00
Aurora Church	11.14
Hazel Creek Church	5.00
Cooperative Receipts	1,417.15
Total	\$2,704.98

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

Promotional Secretary's Corner



Friday evening, April 6, I delivered the introductory sermon in Madison County Quarterly Meeting held with O'Bethel Church at Patton, Missouri. Rev. Bill Adkisson, the Cape Girardeau Mission pastor, delivered the sermon Saturday morning. Both services were well attended. Their Quarterly Meeting gave a special offering to the Filkins Missionary Family who are going to Africa. Several folks purchased Bibles from our portable Lebanon Bible stand. Time was given for Missouri Coop too.

Mine La Motte Church hosted the Youth Rally Saturday night. The youth from the various churches rendered the entire program. Sunday morning, April 8, I delivered the sermon in Twin Oak Church. Pastor Truman Huffman reports souls have been saved in their regular worship services there recently. Sunday evening, April 8, I delivered the sermon in Bonne Terre Mission. The interest there is good. Pastor Umfleet reports the mission has purchased land and proposes to build as soon as possible.

April 8-15 Rev. James McAllister preached one week revival in Grace Church, Arnold, Missouri. Some were saved and several rededicated themselves to the Lord's service, especially among the teen age group.

Sunday morning, April 15, I was privileged to bring the message in our Senior Citizens Day service in the Southside Church. We enjoyed a real good service. Their Sunday school attendance reached the best record for this year. Some Junior boys were saved in the Junior Church assembly. Victory Quartet rendered a gospel singing service Sunday afternoon. Pastor Francis was satisfied with the results of the day's services.

St. Louis Quarterly Meeting assembled with Trinity Church Saturday, April 21. Rev. Allen Helm delivered the sermon. Other ministers giving devotionals between business sessions were Rev. Dann and Rev. Eugene Davis. I gave the Missouri promotional program Saturday morning. The services were good, but the attendance very light. The church reports indicate several souls were saved in the past three months.

Pastor McFarland and the Gateway Church

presented their Easter Cantata, entitled, "JESUS" Sunday evening, April 22. They rendered a fine program.

Friday afternoon, April 27, we attended the funeral service of Rev. Dean Burpo, held at the Flat River Fellowship FWB Church. Many friends were present to pay their last tribute of respect. We extend Christian sympathy to Brother Burpo's family and loved ones.

St. Francis County Quarterly Meeting assembled Friday night, April 27 and Saturday, April 28 with Flat River First Church. Ministers preaching messages were Ken Dodson, Friday, and Earl Ames, Saturday. Each of their churches represented with delegates. Moderator Goff granted time for our Missouri Promotional program Saturday morning. Each of their churches give to this program regularly. They reported some good revivals and souls were saved in this first quarter. Some new Christians plus others purchased Bibles from the Bible stand.

Niangua Yearly Association convened with Hopewell Church, Tunas, Missouri, Saturday evening, April 28 and Sunday the 29th. Ministers delivering sermons were Robert Long, Cleo Covington, and Brother Beatty. I gave our Missouri promotional and cooperative progress report. Some of their churches contribute annually and others monthly to this program. Communion and Feet-washing concluded the day's services.

Pastor Willie Bennett reports several souls have been saved in Waynesville Church recently, including some military service men. I was privileged to bring the Sunday evening sermon there April 29. The attendance was good. The interest, in general, is high.

Fifty-six churches contributed \$7,558.12 this month to the cooperative plan. Thus, for 10 months we have received \$63,000.00, plus. This being true, we are a comfortable \$5,000.00 ahead of projected schedule. Thanks Brethren.

Harry Beatty,
Promotional Secretary and Field Worker
2244 Tenbrook Road
Arnold, Missouri 63010

Are You At Your Post Of Duty?

by Rev. Bob Francis,
pastor of the Southside FWB Church, St. Louis
copied from THE BEACON,
Southside's church paper.

Ezekiel 3:17 "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the Word at my mouth, and give them warning from me."

The United States government has spent billions of dollars to erect radar stations in order that we might have some advance warning of an enemy attack on our country.

Men of our armed services are charged with the responsibility of manning these stations that the nation might be warned. The appearance of an unidentified flying object causes a "scramble" in the "Ready Room" of the Strategic Air Command. Stand-by fighter pilots rush for their aircraft and quickly take off to intercept the intruder. Bomber pilots rush to bombers loaded with bombs to retaliate if the intruder proves to be an enemy of our country.

The people in America can sleep soundly with the assurance that others stand *at the post of duty* constantly scanning the radar scopes lest a sneak attack be made upon their home land. Our security depends largely upon their being faithful *at their post of duty*.

God selected and placed Ezekiel in charge of a spiritual radar station among the Jewish exiles who had been carried into Babylon as the captives of Nebuchadnezzar. In calling him a watchman into the house of Israel he was to fill a spiritual role that had its counterpart in the defense of the city or the nation. In the ancient world people built high, thick walls around the cities to protect themselves from

enemy attack. Usually, the city, or at least that portion of it that was the refuge in time of trouble, was located on the highest part of a hill or mountain. At strategic points on the wall, watch towers were built. Watchmen were placed in these towers to keep the entire countryside under surveillance. The watchman was charged to watch and listen and blow a blast on the trumpet to warn the people when there was any evidence of danger. To be derelict in this duty was to experience severe condemnation from superiors.

There are some striking similarities between God's commission to Ezekiel and our Lord's commission to His disciples. Christian witnessing to the unsaved is not optional. It is an obligation upon every follower of Jesus Christ.

Jesus spoke words to His disciples which have significance for us today. They are as binding upon us today as they were on the day when they fell from His lips. Jesus said, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

This Scripture teaches us that as each individual Christian bears a witness to the unsaved he becomes the means whereby one can experience the forgiveness of sin. For us to be careless or indifferent or silent is like the watchman during the day of Ezekiel who ignored the presence of danger to his country. These words of Jesus to Christian watchman are universal in scope and continue to be binding upon us. In so far as a witness for Christ is concerned, *are you at your post of duty?*

Youth Camp Report

Receipts:			
Bob Dickey	.....	\$ 65.00	
Thayer	.....	10.00	
First, Mountain Grove	.....	10.00	
First, Mountain Grove	.....	20.00	
Missouri Co-op Giving	.....	415.70	
New Home	.....	10.96	
Olivett	.....	10.00	
Verdella	.....	10.00	
Hannon	.....	15.50	
Grant Avenue	.....	30.00	
Myrtle	.....	6.57	
New Rock Springs	.....	12.39	
Bethel	.....	10.00	
Pleasant Home	.....	15.00	
Pinkney Askren	.....	5.35	
First, Purdy	.....	18.50	
Thayer	.....	10.00	
Willow Springs	.....	10.00	
First, Monett	.....	30.00	
Hazel Creek	.....	30.00	
Total Accts. Receivable	.....	\$744.47	
Balance Carried Forward	.....	\$3,634.02	
Sub Total	.....	\$4,378.49	
Less Accounts Payable	.....	\$1,269.95	
Balance	.....	\$3,108.54	
Frank Giunta, Treasurer			
Missouri Free Will Baptist Youth Camp			
Please send Youth Camp offerings of the future to:			
Rev. Dennis Bowman			
2104 James Downey Rd.			
Independence, MO 64057			

April, 1973 Cooperative Receipts:

Koshkonong	\$10.00
Pleasant Hill	10.00
Byrd	10.00
Beacon	184.60
Alton	10.00
Bethel, Festus	40.00
Parkview	50.00
Flat River, First	647.89
Waynesville, First	234.83
Mt. Grove, First	233.02
Salem	20.00
Pleasant Ridge	36.00
Fredericktown, First	427.06
Myrtle	203.35
Verdella	47.85
Hannon	108.92
Olivett	130.00
Aurora	51.00
Leadington	153.98
Hickory Grove	11.61
Jones Chapel	20.00
Pleasant Home	62.13
Faith	146.89
Grace	357.60
Victory	313.20
Neosho	50.00
Belton	93.00
Aulsbury Chapel	113.63
Hurryville	101.00
Oskaloosa	125.00
Bonne Terre Mission	45.00
Thayer	88.90
Houston	119.00
Trinity	130.00
Farmington	215.11
Purdy, First	18.50
Merl's Chapel	56.98
Bethel, Festus	40.00
Desoto, First	146.00

Prospect Sunday school	150.00
Monett, First	212.84
Copper Mines	60.00
Berkeley, First	369.33
Granby	15.61
Freeman Chapel	66.55
Union Grove Sunday School	100.00
Happy Home	24.00
Cabool	138.09
Carterville	27.40
Lebanon, First	400.00
Fourth	250.85
New Home	38.10
Richwoods	110.33
Cuba	110.63
New Rock Springs	48.00
Monett, First	275.98
Grant Avenue	298.36
100% Total disbursed	\$7,558.12

APRIL COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENT 1973

18.75% Missouri Missions	\$1,417.15
15.00% Promotional Dept.	1,133.72
04.00% General fund	302.32
05.50% Youth Camp	415.70
05.00% Gem	377.90
01.00% Mo. S. S. & C.T.S.	75.58
02.50% Lebanon Bible Store	188.95
52.25% Seven Missouri Depts.	3,911.32
04.00% Hillsdale College	302.32
13.00% Foreign Missions	982.56
10.00% FWBB College	755.81
09.00% Executive Department	680.23
07.50% Nat'l Home Missions	566.86
02.50% Nat'l C.T.S. Dept.	188.95
01.50% R.E.A.P.	113.37
00.50% Theological Com.	37.80
00.25% Laymen's Board	18.90
43.75% Eight Nat'l. Depts.	\$3,344.48
100.00% Total amount disbursed	\$7,558.12

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES 1972-73

CHURCH	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Aurora	26	20	17	21	42	64	66	62	51	47	62	52
Copper Mines	87	100	87	113	90	92	81	84	77			
Cuba	102	93	95	95	87	93	82	84	93	91	88	98
Desoto	125	125	123	129	127	144	136	145	157	178	189	189
Farmington	129	113	118	121	137	150	136	146	125		155	
Fellowship, Flat River	275	266	303	332	379	333	311	324	328	370	407	390
Fredericktown	163	152	157	150	161	169	168	157				
Flat River, First	123	130	131	138	140	141	124	130	146	140	178	
Fourth, St. Louis	126	123	115	114	124	135	140	136	135	145	154	
Grace, Arnold						227	206	175		223	241	255
Gray Summit									50	43	50	
Joplin, First	65	62	67	72	80	75	68	64	74	119	139	116
King's Way, Springfield				50	55	59	56	55	60	65	64	66
Kirksville									111	112	117	114
Leadington	112	105	105	100	98	110	100	97	76	51	59	63
Lebanon, First	163	164	136	142	162	167	143	149	153	156	160	166
Mine LaMotte	43	40	59	44	32	42	36	31	36	43	42	
Monett First	192	186	182	204	232	219	211	203	196	209	219	207
Mountain Grove, First	262	268	261	245	264	266	255	240	246	284	263	
Myrtle	57	58				51	48	56	47	53	53	
Parkview, Desloge	92	87	84	98	95	93	93	94	96	98	90	106
Salem	39	35		32	33		35	39	39	46	42	39
Southside, St. Louis	102	113	102	118	150	153	138	149	133	144	156	154
Thayer	134	130	143	149	154	148	144	151	116	157	153	181
Trinity, Bridgeton	204	181	162	178	180	191	180	186	172	171	194	
Twin Oaks, Frederickton	44	47	48	55	46	48	51	50	53	55		
Victory, Avondale	120	126	110	145	173	212	152	184	173	171	181	174
Willow Springs	99	99	103	95	100	109	86	84	77	88	94	

Woman's Page

Kathy Lay, Editor

In case you're wondering if Vacation Bible School and Youth Camps are really worth the time they take, here is a true story to help you see just what can happen:

One evening, during Vacation Bible School, Kimberly was playing in our back yard. She was barefooted and stepped on a small wire which became imbedded in her heel. We took her to the hospital for treatment. On the way she prayed and asked Jesus to ease her pain. By the time all the papers were completed, the doctor had removed the small wire, bandaged Kim's foot, and we were on our way home without knowing what had actually transpired in the emergency room.

Early the next morning the phone rang. To my surprise, the doctor was calling. He asked if we knew what had actually happened in the emergency room. At first, I was fearful of some additional medical problems, but the following story was revealed.

When the doctor put Kim on the emergency table she told him she had prayed and asked Jesus to take away the pain. This intrigued the doctor and he asked Kim who Jesus was. She proceeded to tell him that Jesus came to die for sinners and if you ask Him to come into your heart you can go to Heaven instead of Hell. She then asked the doctor if he had ever done this. He replied that he had not, so Kim told him she could help him pray and ask Jesus to come into his heart if he wanted to. So, there in the emergency room, the doctor, with the help of a little 5½ year old girl, gave his heart to Christ.

God's timing was perfect: This was the last night of duty for the doctor. The next day he and his wife were leaving on a retirement trip around the world. I asked Kim why she hadn't told us what had taken place, and she said it didn't matter, God knew about it and that was enough.

The next morning the phone rang. It was the nurse who assisted the night before in the hospital. She said she was not saved and she tried to close her ears to what Kim was telling the doctor, but she was so convicted she had to talk to Kim. I called Kim to the phone and she led the nurse to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Several weeks later, the doctor called from Europe to tell Kim he had led his wife to Christ as well as two Europeans he met. Later he called to say he had helped 13 people find Christ since he had left the states. He and his wife decided to stay in Switzerland and work with people there in telling everyone about Christ. Only God knows the complete end of this story, and can't you see how God uses insignificant people and events to accomplish His Eternal plan.

(Copied from C.E.F. News)

A Father's Pledge



... I accept my responsibility in the partnership of parenthood

... I will give my wife the honor due her position and all my love to support her task as a mother.

... I will be sensitive to our children and their special needs

... I will offer gentle guidance toward pathways of useful service

... As God gives me strength, I accept my duty to earn a living for my family

... But more than this, to provide a home for the soul, a retreat from rush, conflict, and hurt, a place warm with love, security, trust

... I will take time to live, to be a real member of my family, to spend with them those hours which show their importance to me

... I will give spiritual leadership to my family. I will be a true follower of Christ

IN WORD AND DEED I WILL ENDEAVOR ALWAYS TO BE AN EXAMPLE WORTH FOLLOWING. I BOW AND THANK GOD FOR HIS GRACE AND STRENGTH AS I MAKE THIS PLEDGE.

God is like—Bayer Aspirin,

He works wonders.

God is like—Ford,

He's got a better idea.

God is like—Dial,

He gives you 'round the clock protection.

God is like—Coke,

He's the real thing.

God is like—Pan Am,

He makes the going great.

God is like—Scope,

He makes you feel fresh.

God is like—Hallmark Cards,

He cares enough to send the very best.

BIRTHDAYS . . . Susan Fulcher, June 12 (4) Apartado 6931 Panama 5, R. De Panama . . . Jim McLain June 24, 1314 E. Washington, Kirksville, Mo 63501 . . . Tim Pinkerton (10) Institute Emmaus, 1806 St. Legier, Switzerland.

PROBLEMS? Have any? Everyone does. Try something new. Thank the Lord for them. Thank Him that it's the awfulest thing you've ever been through. Thanking the Lord releases HIS POWER to do something about your PROBLEM, it shows you trust Him. Try it. It's Scriptural: 1 Thess. 5:18.

MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION

**First Free Will Baptist Church
107 Sycamore — Monett, Mo.**

We Urge Every Church to Attend!

**Speakers: 1. Lynn Wood
2. Bill Fulcher
3. Russel Spurgeon
4. Frank Giunta**

August 13-16

THEME: "FACING THE CRISIS OF THE CHURCH"