

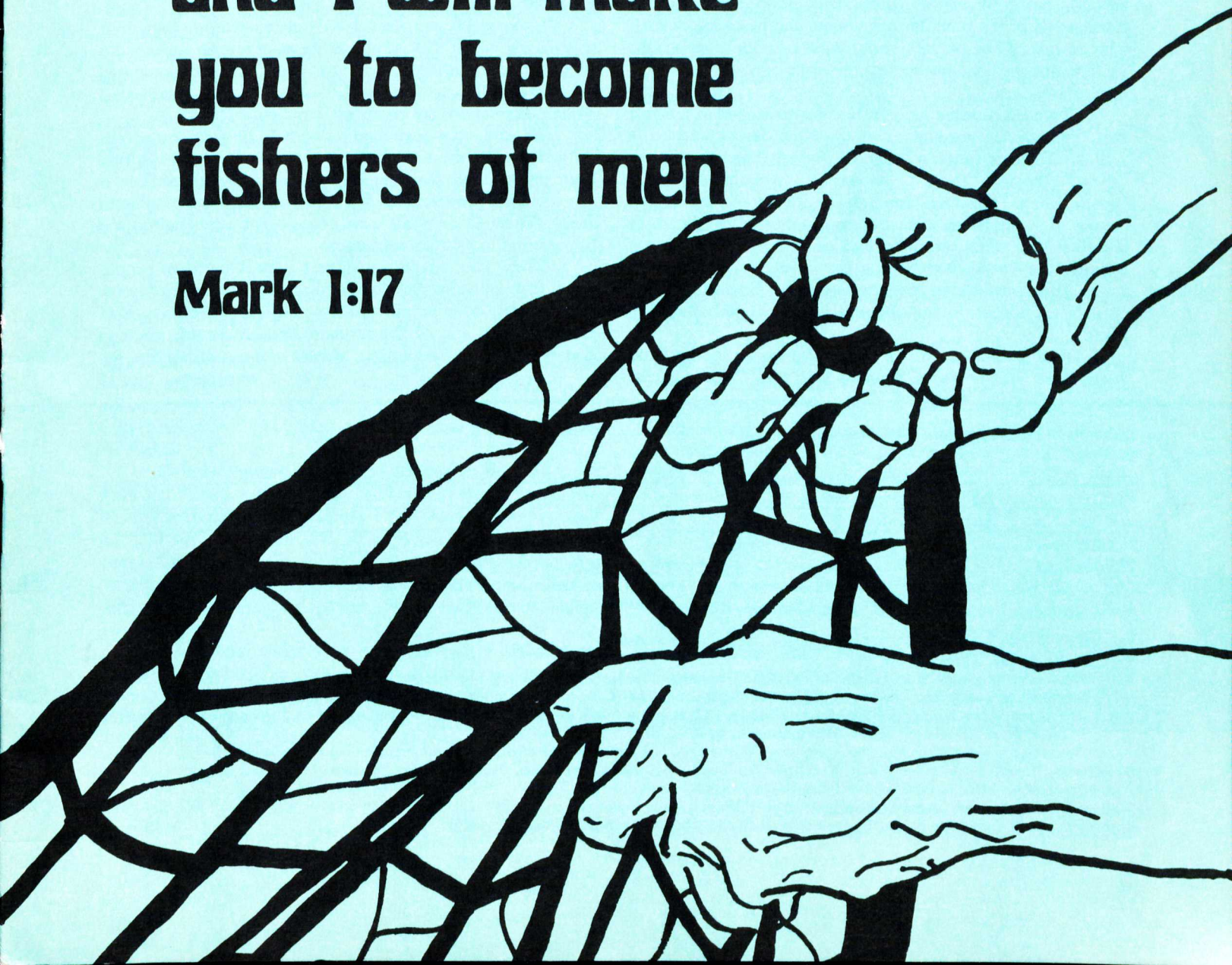
**FREE WILL BAPTIST**

July, 1973  
Volume 43  
Number 7

**Gem**

**... Come ye after me,  
and I will make  
you to become  
fishers of men**

**Mark 1:17**





# What About The Modern Translation?

I WAS RAISED by the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible. I love the King James Version. With the many new translations and paraphrases of the Bible on the market today, it would be confusing were there not a standard translation by which to compare the newer editions. I believe the King James Version should be that standard. Most of my Bible memorization has been from the King James Version. I always use the King James Version in the pulpit. When I use other translations or paraphrases I always identify them as such. Having established my loyalty to the King James Version, let me also say that there are some problems that many 20th century Christians have with the King James Version.

First of all, let us establish that our belief in plenary verbal inspiration of the Scriptures applies not to any translation, but to the original manuscripts of the Bible books. Since there are not many Greek and Hebrew scholars around, most of us are dependent upon some English translations of the Bible for our understanding of the original manuscripts. When we talk about good or poor translations, we are not casting any reflection upon anyone's view of inspiration.

The need of some modern translation is seen in the fact that some of the vocabulary of the King James Version is archaic. There is nothing holy nor sacred about the words, "shew," "thee," "thou," "knowest," "willeth," "doeth," "goeth," etc. They were common in the vocabulary of the people of King James' day. But languages change. Words at one time in popular use often lose or change their meanings through the years. Such is the case with the words listed above. They were common in conversational English in 1611, but are no longer in popular use in the English speaking world.

Other examples of the archaic language in the King James Bible are numerous. Romans 1:13 says, "Now I would

not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) . . . ." The word *let* in the 17th century meant hindered or prevented, thus Paul is saying he had intended to go and see them, but was hindered from doing so. We use the word *let* to mean permitted or allowed, which is an opposite of its earlier meaning.

Another illustration comes from I Corinthians 16:13b which in the KJV reads, "*Quit* you like men . . . ." The meaning, of course, is act like men, quite in contrast to our use of the word *quit*. An uninformed reader of the KJV might get an entirely wrong understanding of the Apostle's admonition in this passage. Other examples are the frequent KJV use of *suffer* to mean allow, as in " . . . Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me" (Matt. 19:14). The word *meet* means fit or qualified as in I Corinthians 15:9, "I . . . am not meet to be called an apostle."

I hasten to say, lest I be misunderstood, that your confidence in the KJV of the Bible need not be shaken. No Bible doctrine is affected by any of these passages. Compared to the 773,692 words in the KJV of the Bible the number of archaic expressions are comparatively few.

We who are accustomed to the KJV language have little difficulty with these expressions, as over the years we have been taught their meaning in terms we understand. Such is not the case, however, for our children who are beginning to study the Bible on their own or even for adults without a background in King James English.

Most who would be honest with themselves would agree that much of the KJV sentence structure is awkward. One has only to compare a page of Old Testament history in the KJV with any of the modern translations to conclude that the modern translations, almost without exception, are

Continued on page 13

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by Rev. Charles Miller

# Is The Living Bible Really Alive?

**I**N THIS wonderful day of many new translations and revisions we can greet another new one with either dread or joy! Dread that people will become confused or joy that some will understand more perfectly what the Bible is talking about. For each new presentation of the Word of God will find its circle, large or small, of those to whom it will minister strength and blessing." Thus reads the first paragraph of the preface of the so-called "Living Bible."

This book is receiving great acclaim from one side of the nation to the other. Ministers are reading and preaching from it in their pulpits. Radio preachers are offering it to their listeners. Radio and television advertisements featuring well known personalities are praising it for its clarity. And many Free Will Baptists have laid aside the King James translation of the Scriptures in favor of this work without a question as to when it can be called the Word of God, as it is called in the preface, or whether it is nothing more than man's "private interpretation" (II Peter 1:20) of the revealed Word of God.

Several questions come to my mind as I read this supposed translation. Is the real message of the Scriptures preserved in this new work? Can we feel safe in recommending it to someone who has never read the Bible? Does it translate accurately the words of God himself, the prophets, Jesus Christ, and the Apostles? In short, is it really the "Living Bible?"

Well, the only way we can really determine the answers to these questions is to compare some very familiar passages of Scripture from the translation that brought revival to the world, the King James translation, with those of the Living Bible.

In the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 26, verse 28, after a powerful appeal by the Apostle Paul, Agrippa says, "Almost thou

persuadest me to be a Christian." However, in the Living Bible Agrippa says, "With trivial proofs like these, you expect me to become a Christian?" But if you really want to could the issue look at the English Version. "In this short time do you think you will make me a Christian?" So now the question arises, which of these statements are right? What did Agrippa really say? The safest course to follow, of course, is to accept the Word for Word translation of the King James Bible and reject the paraphrase of the Living Bible which is a private interpretation. The paraphrase leaves Agrippa cold and unmoved when in reality he was stirred to the depths of his soul. Is the Living Bible really alive?

Now let's move to another very familiar passage of Scripture found in the Gospel according to John, chapter 9. It concerns the man blind from his birth. We all know that Jesus made clay of His spittle and anointed the eyes of the blind man and told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam which he did and he came seeing. He was brought before the Pharisees who were so enraged by his testimony that they cast him out saying, "Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us?" But what does the Living Bible have these Pharisees saying? You probably won't believe it until you look for yourself. This is the quote. "YOU ILLIGITIMATE BASTARD YOU! ARE YOU TRYING TO TEACH US!" Now we realize that the Pharisees were not what they should have been before God but they did not say this! The King James translation is accurate and easy enough to understand. Such paraphrasing is completely without justification and it is dangerous to the Word of God and should be rejected. And again I ask, "Is the Living Bible really alive?"

Now let's go the I Samuel, chapter 20. King Saul has a burning hatred for David and seeks to kill him. Jonathan, Saul's son has vowed to protect David from his father's wrath. Saul knows of



Jonathan's great love for David and flies into a rage and in verse 30 says, "Thou son of the perverse rebellious confusion, and unto the confusion of thy wmother's nakedness?" Now this is an accurate translation of the words of Saul and can be understood by anyone. But the devotees of the Living Bible have Saul saying, "You son of a bitch! Do you think I don't know that you want this son of a nobody to be king in your place . . . ?" And they justify this paraphrase by saying in a footnote that this is the modern day equivalent of what Saul literally said. How can anyone justify such irresponsible paraphrasing? Can this so-called Living Bible be called the Word of God as it is called in their preface? Is the Living Bible really alive?

"There are dangers in paraphrases, as well as values," says the preface to the Living Bible. For whenever the author's exact words are not translated from the original languages, there is a possibility that the translator, however honest, may be giving the English reader something that the original writer did not mean to say. For when the Greek or Hebrew is not clear, then the theology of the translator is his guide, along with his sense of logic . . . . A prime example of this is found in Genesis, chapter 6, where "a explosion" took place upon the earth. It was at this time that beings from the spirit world looked upon the beautiful earth women and took any they desired to be their wives (Living Bible).

Here we have an example of the paraphraser's theology, but also an example of his lack of logic. I know that this is a point of doctrine with man, but there is no evidence anywhere in Scripture that "spirit beings from another world" or fallen angels ever cohabited with women who bore children by them. Although angels are referred to in the masculine gender, they are sexless (Mark 12:24, 25) and could only accomplish marriage and reproduction by possessing human bodies.

"Spirit beings from another world" in the Living Bible is rendered "sons of God" in the King James translation. This is the literal translation and should not be tampered with. The explanation is simple. The sons of God in Genesis 6 are the same as the sons of God in I John 3:2. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God . . . ." The sons of God here are the redeemed of Jesus Christ. The sons of God in Genesis 6 are those who "began to call upon the name of the Lord," Seth and his descendants (Gen. 4:26). These men who called upon the name of the Lord were physically attracted to worldly women. Then, as now, it was wrong and polygamy became a normal practice. This signaled the beginning of the end for the ante-deluvians as apostasy was the natural result of this relationship.

That everyone is entitled to his opinion about the Scriptures, we cannot deny. My interpretation may or may not be right. The opinion of the Living Bible's author may or may not be right. The danger in this work is that the "private interpretation" of the author is called the "Word of God" (preface). It

is no more the Word of God than the interpretations of any other commentator make upon the Word of God, excellent though they may be.

It is my belief that everyone who reads this Living Bible should compare it line for line with the Scriptures to see if the original meaning is retained. If a man is being quoted, he should be quoted accurately. For instance, in chapter 10 of Proverbs, under the heading of the proverbs of Solomon, a comparison should be made to see if Solomon's proverbs are retained or whether the author of the Living Bible has written some of his own under Solomon's name.

A good example of this is Proverbs 10:19. "In the multitude of words their wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise," says the King James Version. The same proverb in the Living Bible is rendered, "Don't talk too much. You keep putting your foot in your mouth. Be sensible and turn off the flow!"

And again in the King James Version, Proverbs 20:1. "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." The Living Bible says it this way, "Wine gives false courage; hard liquor leads to brawls; what fools men are to let it master them, making them reel drunkenly down the street."

In both of these cases good advice is given, but they are obviously not the proverbs of Solomon as they are translated in the Living Bible. So the question remains, can we call the "private interpretations" of men the Word of God? And really, can it be called the Bible?

And perhaps we should look to some of the words of Jesus himself. The crucifixion of our Lord draws near. It is time to observe the passover. The disciples came to Jesus and asked Him where they should prepare to eat the passover. Jesus answered, "Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples" (Matt. 26:18 KJV). But what does the "Living" Bible say? "Go into the city and see Mr. So-and-So . . . ."

Now the reason for paraphrasing is for clarity they tell us. Is the paraphrase more clear or is it changed for the sake of change? One thing that stands out, as the Living Bible is read, is that the depth, the power, and the beauty of the King James Version of the Bible is lost in the so called Living Bible.

If the Living Bible is used at all it should be used as any other commentary is used. That is to get another man's opinion of certain Scriptures. It should never be used as the Word of God for indeed, it is not. It is the author's opinion, theology, and logic that has guided this work to completion.

If you don't believe it, "Go into the city and see Mr. So-and-So!"

*Rev. Charles Miller is the pastor of the Desoto Free Will Baptist Church.*



# Visitation Is God's Plan

I just finished reading the June issue of the *Gem* which contains one of the most convicting stories I have ever read. You can find this story on the Woman's Page, page 11, and I will guarantee that you will receive a real blessing as you read it. In fact, it could cause a real change in your life.

I met Andy Lay the other day at the Youth Camp at Niangua, Mo. I told him that I would like to write an article for the *Gem* regarding a program that is close to my heart. I was talking about the future. However, after reading the article about Kim I knew I couldn't wait.

God furnished his church with a plan to win souls. A plan that cannot and does not fail. This plan is person to person evangelism. Whether it is by way of a sermon, a personal testimony, an article in a magazine, a book, a televised church service, a radio program, a gospel tract or telling a friend about Jesus, it is all part of God's one and only plan.

This is what makes our visitation programs so very important. These programs are not something that somebody just pulled out of the air. There are verses and verses of Scripture that tell us to go out and visit. God knew what He was doing when He told Peter to build the church upon the rock. He told us how in Romans 10:14, 15. these two verses appear to ask a series of questions. However, some questions do not need an answer.

In this day and time, people are being led down the garden path by every sales pitch they hear. We have the only news that really counts and if we don't spread it around, no one else will. The Communists and the Liberals do not wait on anyone to do their job. Are they effective?

The Bus Ministry is one of the most effective ministries that the Free Will Baptists have for reaching the lost. In Victory Church, Avondale, Mo., alone, we have had over 200 decisions since September 1, 1972. The majority of the decisions have come from the Bus Ministry. This means that someone has gone out and invited approximately 160 children and adults to come to our church, picked them up at their home on Sunday mornings, brought them to the church where they heard about and accepted Christ. Or they led them to Christ in their own home. This didn't just happen overnight. People are dedicated to this job.

There are over 200,000,000 people in these United States. The majority of them are not going to church anywhere. A great many of them have never been offered a choice of Heaven or Hell.

Let me give you two examples that have given me a great love and dedication for the Bus Ministry.

For several months, our pastor, Rev. Lawrence Thompson, called on a family in a suburb of Kansas City. The children were riding our van to church faithfully. However, every time the pastor went by the house, the father would disappear until after the pastor left. One day this man encountered some problems that he could not handle himself. He remembered a pastor that had been concerned about his children and went to see him one Saturday afternoon. At the church, in the pastor's study, he bowed and gave his heart to Jesus. Twenty-nine days later, Jerry Ellis went to meet our Lord by way of an automobile accident **BUT HE WAS SAVED.**

One Saturday afternoon, one of our teenagers, who was out on bus visitation, knocked on the door of a little house and asked the lady who answered the door to ride our bus to church. She accepted and as a result, she, her 68 year old husband, her 39 year old blind daughter and her 7 year old adopted grandson were led to Christ and baptized. Less than eight months later, her husband, Phil Van Norman, went to meet our Lord after a long seige of terminal cancer **BUT HE WAS SAVED.**

The little girl in the story simply told her doctor that she asked Jesus to stop the pain . . . the pastor was simply faithful to his calling . . . the teenager simply invited the lady to church . . . **HAVE YOU LET GOD USE YOU LATELY?**

If I may be of assistance in helping your church establish a Bus Ministry or if I may help you in establishing any type of visitation program, please write to me at the following address:

Mr. Ted Blubaugh  
5108 NE 46th St.  
Kansas City, Missouri 64117  
or  
c/o Rev. Lawrence Thompson  
3416 N. Bellefontaine  
Kansas City, Missouri 64117  
or  
call A/C 816-454-0485

Some Christian friends and myself are preparing a visitation training program which can be presented to your church in the near future. We hope that you will call on us.

Ten Blubaugh is a layman in the Victory Free Will Baptist Church, Avondale, Mo.



# ***Our Tribute To Rev. Homer E. Willis, General Director, Board Of National Home Missions 1956-73***

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by Mark and Louise Vandivort

A young couple paid a visit to Bro. Homer Willis' office seeking guidance and more information about New England. It was the unforgettable spring of 1960. God had spoken to Louise and me through a prayer request from New England during missionary prayer band at Free Will Baptist Bible College. As a result we were to experience three rewarding and fruitful years ministering for the Lord in New England.

On one occasion during our New Hampshire ministry we were quite discouraged—we were out of money. A letter came from the Home Mission office. Bro. Willis had written a short note and added a Scripture reference in his neat handwriting. After reading the Scripture verse, we got on our knees to pray. God supplied the need! I know now that Bro. Willis was probably praying for us and felt impressed to write a note of encouragement. Later I was reminded of the incident during the five years I worked with Bro. Willis as Field Secretary and then as Assistant to Director. During those five years, I experienced kneeling with Bro. Willis in prayer to God for the needs of the National Home Mission ministry.

Bro. Willis believed that if we let our Free Will Baptist people know the needs of Home Missions they would respond. The record shows the result!

A well known characteristic was his practice of keeping a "close watch on the funds", a characteristic I was to learn to respect and appreciate. To my knowledge Bro. Willis never over committed the Home Missions Board for money they did not have or had not been approved in the

budget. It was my experience that he would do what he said he would do. He operated on the safe and sound principle of "cash and carry." Bro. Willis held the firm conviction that money should be allocated to the ministry for which it had been designated as long as the person or ministry represented the interest of the Board of Home Missions.

The General Director was equally at home with the young, aged, a Kentucky farm family, or the socially elite. I recall the tremendous response of the youth as he spoke at the Ohio State Convention a few years ago.

On occasions Bro. Willis would express the burden of his heart for a Free Will Baptist church in the Virgin Islands. On missionary night during the 1967 National Association at Jacksonville, Fla., Bro. Willis counseled with a young couple, Larry and Wanda Powell, who had responded to the missionary invitation. I remember clearly the joy and enthusiasm as the General Director shared the news with the office staff.

The years I spent working with the General Director were meaningful years. I am convinced that we should direct much prayer to God for the executives and office staffs of our various denominational ministries.

Thank you Bro. Willis, for giving and sharing, for serving and caring. We anticipate your continued valuable service in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*The Vandivorts pastor the Columbia, Mo. Free Will Baptist Mission.*



# CHURCHES PEOPLE and EVENTS

## FWBBC PROJECT IN STATE DELAYED

On May 29, 1973 the Executive Committee of the General Board of the Missouri State Association met in a called meeting at the State Book Store in Lebanon. The issue confronting the Committee was the promotion of the Free Will Baptist Bible College's project in the state to raise \$125,000 for the College's new library wing. The committee met in response to some confusion about the College's action relative to an article published in the EVANGEL by Evangelist Van Dale Hudson. Hudson's article calls Missouri Free Will Baptists "compromisers" because we have joined the National Association of Evangelicals and it advocates that churches withdraw from the State Association. Following is a chronological order of the events related to this matter and the State Executive Committee's action at each step.

1. College officials approached some of Missouri's pastors about the feasibility of the Library Wing Project in the state.
2. Hudson's article condemning Missouri's affiliation with the National Association of Evangelicals was published in the January issue of the EVANGEL.
3. College officials met with the State Executive Committee and proposed that Missouri adopt said project. The Executive Committee passed the following resolution "M/S/C to approve tentative letter stating the Executive Committee had responded favorably to the idea of the project in allowing the College to attempt to raise the funds for the project in our State." Note: the Committee did not obligate the state to raise the money but simply gave individual approval for the College to attempt this project.
4. Some Missouri pastors received reports that copies of Hudson's article had been placed in all student mail boxes at FWBBC.
5. Missouri's state officers wrote College officials inquiring if the distribution of Hudson's article had been done with the approval of the College administration and if Hudson's article represented the view of the College's administration and/or the promotional department. The reply was that the distribution of Hudson's article in student mail boxes was done without the administration's knowledge and when the mistake was discovered the articles not yet picked up by students were removed. College officials apologized to Missouri's officers for the

error and stated that though they were in harmony with Hudson's views in regard to the NAE they did not agree with his accusations that Missouri Free Will Baptists had voted for compromise, and etc. This explanation was accepted by Missouri's state officers.

6. A letter was sent from the Bible College promotional department to all Missouri pastors, with the approval of the State Executive Committee, announcing the launching of the Library Wing Project in the state.

7. This next event created a serious, confusing situation. The April issue of Hudson's magazine published an excerpt from a letter written by the head of the College's Development Program stating, "I want to commend you for your article in the January issue of THE EVANGEL on Missouri and Oklahoma joining the NAE. It hits the issue squarely and I thank God for your firm stand . . . compromise is too costly." This statement conflicted with previous statements made by this man.

8. A copy of another letter from the College Promotional Man to Hudson, was sent to all Missouri pastors. This letter stated, "To say that Missouri's vote to retain membership in NAE is a vote for compromise is an incorrect appraisal of the matter in my opinion." It went on to state that he would personally oppose any effort at this year's National Association to refuse Missouri a seat in the voting body.

9. The Executive Committee met on May 29 and adopted the following resolution, "Be it resolved that we advise the Bible College officials that all promotion of the Missouri Project be postponed until after the National Association in July, and that it only be resumed with the approval of the Missouri Executive Committee."

It is the hope of the Executive Committee that the Bible College does, in fact, disagree with Mr. Hudson's controversial article and that there is no support at the Bible College for the idea of not seating Missouri's delegation at the National Association, and that when the air is cleared on this matter Missouri can enthusiastically endorse the project to underwrite the Library Wing. The Executive Committee will meet following the National Association in Macon, Georgia at which time the future of the Library Wing Project will be announced.

## KNOWN PASTORAL CHANGES

Rev. Fred Harris to Purdy FWB Church.  
Rev. Don Davis to Neosho FWB Church.

## WINNERS OF STATE COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES ANNOUNCED

The State Competitive Youth Activities were



held May 19 at the Rock Chapel FWB Church. There were four divisions of competition: Bible Tic-Tac-Toe, Bible Bowl, Sword Drill, and Declamations, all sponsored by the State Sunday School—CTS Board.

Tic-Tac-Toe winners were as follows: First place: Pleasant Home Church (Letha Taylor, Leslie Wood, and Dorothy Rich). Second place: Mountain Grove Church (Melinda Dean, Robin Hurtt, Keith Kutz, Tommy Walker). Third place: Trinity Church (Bobby Herron, Anita Gaines, Bonnie Whitelock, Neal Jordan).

Bible Bowl winners were as follows: First Place: Grant Avenue Church (Debbie Nivens, Dean Allen, Kathy Allen, Robin Case). Second place: Rock Chapel Church (Mike Housley, Sandra Carmon.)

Sword Drill winners were as follows: First place: Grant Avenue Church (Mark Brawley). Second place: Grant Avenue Church (Stacy Hampton). Third place: Mountain Grove Church (Scott Wood).

Declamation winners were as follows: First place Adventurer Division: Mountain Grove Church (Pam Hurtt). Second place in Adventurer Division: Mountain Grove Church (Paulette Harker). First place in Herald's Division: Pleasant Home Church (Letha Taylor). First place in Crusader's Division: Pleasant Home Church (Dessie Macomber).

Congratulations to all the winners. First place winners in each division will represent Missouri at the National Competition in Macon, Georgia, July 9-10.

#### **STATE COMPETITION FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS AND TEACHERS**

The State Sunday School—CTS Board is sponsoring a Superintendent of the Year contest and Sunday School Teacher of the Year contests this year. They will be recognized at the State Association in Monett, Missouri August 13. Pastors wishing to obtain application blanks may do so by writing to Rev. J. Mark Vandivort, 3316 Rock Quarry Road, Columbia, Mo. 65201.

#### **WELCOME SOUTH FREMONT CHURCH TO THE GEM FAMILY PLAN**

The newest member of the GEM's Church Family Plan is the South Fremont FWB Church in Springfield. Welcome CP 121! The Pastor is Rev. Wayne Wagoner.

#### **GREETINGS FROM O'FALLON**

The Lord has truly blessed the FWB Church of O'Fallon, MO Since the beginning of the year. Many

have joined the church and many decisions have been made for the Lord. 15 new members were received in April and May.

In February the church held a Valentine's Banquet with 60 in attendance. In March the church adopted a budget four times as large as the budget two and a half years ago. The church also sends offerings to Foreign Missions every third Sunday.

During the Spring Enlargement Campaign the Sunday school attendance record was broken, with 87 in attendance. The Sunday school now averages in the 70's and 80's and the Morning Service attendance runs in the 90's and 100's.

A Revival was held May 6-11 with Rev. Clarence Burton of Berkeley FWB Church as the evangelist. There were several decisions during the meeting.

Rev. Don Lombard is the Pastor.

#### **BLESSINGS AT LICKING by Mrs. Mary Ann Owens**

There was a sweet, sweet Spirit in our midst. We were all rejoicing in the fact that we had had 11 people to join our church that Sunday morning. And now in this evening service the Pastor had announced a testimony service. One new convert gave his testimony how every time he had started to take a drink the Lord was convicting Him, and how he had afterwards been saved in the men's restroom at work and had come our humming "Amazing Grace" and "Almost Persuaded," the latter of which had been sung at church the Sunday before. Another woman told how God had saved her life and had given her another child which was a miracle baby. One man, with much love, told how much the example of his girlfriend (who was now his wife) had influenced his Christian life. One woman, with much praise and power, told how God had cleansed her of a sin and had taken away the guilt and shame after one of their babies had died. Another told how God had saved her life to take care of her children. Most of us were moved to tears.

There we were, brothers and sisters in Christ, openly confessing what Christ had done for us, trusting in the love of God and the love of fellowmen to understand and not condemn. The lights in the adjoining room where we normally met were out due to a fault in the switch, and we were meeting in a hot and crowded kitchen of a lodge hall, over the drug store. To most of the people in town it was just another warm, still Sunday evening, but to us inside the building, a very powerful meeting was taking place—the meeting of souls and minds with love, the love of God himself.

#### **THAYER BEGINS BUS MINISTRY**

Pastor Harvey Hill writes, "Our young people



have now purchased a bus and we will begin a bus ministry. Please pray that God will bless in this new venture."

#### **CONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY AT DESOTO**

Mrs. Sophia Ackerson, reporter of the Desoto FWB Church, writes that construction is under way on the new educational addition. She reports the blessings of God on the work in Desoto.

#### **HICKORY GROVE WITHOUT A PASTOR**

Mrs. Iris Jones, the Clerk of the Hickory Grove FWB Church near Harrisonville, Mo. writes, "We are in need of a pastor for our church. We are a small country church. Our church has a nice educational building added on to the auditorium. If any minister is interested in helping out in serving the Lord with us, would he please contact Mrs. Iris Jones, Rt. 3, Box 212, Harrisonville, MO. 64701

Our sympathy to the Hickory Grove Church in the loss of one of their deacons, Mr. Joe Cockrell, who passed away March 24, 1973.

#### **7% FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS AVAILABLE FROM VICTORY CHURCH**

The Victory FWB Church in Avondale (a suburb of Kansas City) continues to report good progress spiritually and materially. Decisions reported during the month of May were: five saved, 14 rededications, and six additions to the church.

Ground was broken last month for a new church plant consisting of 11,712 square feet of floor space, costing approximately \$150,000.00. Executive Church Bonds, Inc. of Nashville, Tennessee, is conducting the issuing of \$150,000 worth of first mortgage bonds in four denominations: \$250, \$500, \$1,000, and \$2,500. These bonds, maturing over the next fourteen and one half years, are secured by the church property and the building to be constructed. Anyone interested may write for prospectus to Pastor Lawrence D. Thompson, 3416 N. Bellefontaine, Kansas City, MO 64117 or call (816) 454-2559.

#### **McLAIN'S DEPARTURE AT HAND**

Missionaries Jim and Olena McLain write from Kirksville, Missouri, "Our reservations are made for us to leave August 26. Our cash is still short by about \$5,000. The people of Missouri have stood by so faithfully, even though we haven't had many services in Missouri."

The GEM encourages churches and pastors

who have not already done something for the support of the McLains to soon do so. Olena is a Missourian.

#### **THE FILKINS' WRITE FROM THE IVORY COAST**

Dear Ones in Missouri:

It is 3:15 p.m. here so I guess you are in Sunday school as there is five hours difference in time. We went to church here on the compound and worshiped with Africans, French, Scottish, Swiss and Americans. It was a good feeling although the man who preached was Scottish and he of course preached in French. After one week in school we were able to catch a few words. This compound is Bible Mission Evangelist. There are some here who work on literature and make tapes for ILOWA, which broadcasts out of Liberia. Our neighbors are quite a mixture but Christian. It is nice here. The temperature is about 68 to 90 degrees. It rains one day in three, but does not get muddy. We ride taxis to school. You should try to tell someone where you want to go in French when you do not know French or where you are!

We should get our car by the 20th, a Puegeot 404 wagon with three seats. The Puegeot is about the size of your falcon. We are learning to buy groceries. Meat is not too terribly high. 2.2 pounds of good hamburger is \$2.70. A chicken is \$2.00. Fillet of beef is \$3.00 for 2.2 pounds. A can of lunch meat is 70¢. Bread is cheap, as is bananas, coconuts, pineapples and mangoes, so you change some of your likes and you get along.

Not too far from us here is the Hotel Ivory, and it is really something. It is sort of a model of many. It is as beautiful as I have seen and has a nice swimming pool, a bowling alley, ice skating rink, and beautiful landscaping. We took LaVern and Lorene there for a meal before they went back up country. Dan is there with them.

It is real peaceful here and we are enjoying this lazy way of life. We wish you could come by sometime. Dave has spent some time this afternoon with some Africans who like to play the guitar and sing. I went over awhile ago and sang "Amazing Grace," "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" and some other Christian songs with them. They are students and speak a little English.

Give our regards to all there and we do appreciate all you have done and your prayers.

Until then,  
(signed) The Filkins

#### **THE PINKERTONS WRITE FROM SWITZERLAND**

Dear Friends in the State of Missouri:

Greetings again from the Pinkertons. God has



been so good to us in giving us faithful friends in the Lord who pray for us and regularly help to supply our needs. Once more we want to say Thank You for all your efforts on our behalf.

We have enjoyed a week's visit with the Aldridges. They stopped by here on their way home for furlough. Our hearts have been made to rejoice as we have heard what God has been and is doing in Africa. Also, needless to say, their report has made us even more anxious to get on to Africa. There are so many needs and so few to help. When we arrive in Ivory Coast we will be going to the Nassian station where the Cousineau's have been. They will be home on furlough. Our boys will be in the school at Bouake beginning September 12. The Filkins will take our place as their parents. It seems impossible that they are already there studying and preparing for their task.

The Lord has provided us a mission field here in Switzerland. Many of the students in our classes are unsaved. Last Friday I had a long discussion with a girl in my class who does not believe God exists. She is from Germany. There is another fellow from Japan who professes to be an atheist. Last term there was a Canadian couple who had never heard of God's simple plan of salvation. There are many others like these in our school, students from all over the world who have never heard the Gospel. Please pray for them and our witness to them.

There are only six weeks of our final term left, which, to us seems impossible. Carol's folks will be here in July for a visit, then it will be off to Africa. There are many details connected with leaving Switzerland so please pray that all will go smoothly and that everything will be taken care of in the Lord's time.

In Christ's love,  
(signed) The Pinkertons

#### FORMER GEM EDITOR GOES TO BE WITH THE LORD

Rev. C. Ben Dees, of Desloge went to be with the Lord on May 19, 1973. He was 70 years old. At the time of his death he was filling pulpits as interim pastor wherever needed. Among the churches he had pastored are: Aulsbury Chapel, Wortham, Desloge, Union Light in Bollinger County, Aurora, and Monett. He was a former editor of the FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Christine Eden Dees, of Desloge, two children, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by Rev. Elmer Turnbough and Rev. Ralph Hastings at Flat River.

#### ORA A. GATES PASSES

Mr. Ora A. Gates, 86, of Kirksville, Missouri

died at his home April 27, 1973. He was a Free Will Baptist deacon and had been active both in district and state associational work. He was a charter member of the First FWB Church of Kirksville. Pastor Melvin Knott of the Kirksville Church officiated at the Memorial Services. Burial was in the Novinger, MO. cemetery.

#### FALL ENLARGEMENT CAMPAIGN

"Follow Me" is the theme for the 1973 Fall Enlargement Campaign sponsored by the National Sunday School Department of our denomination. This program is designed to help build Sunday school attendance and bring growth to the church.

Sunday schools will be arranged in accordance with the following table for competitive purposes.

Division A—over 500 average  
Division B—400-500 average  
Division C—300-399 average  
Division D—200-299 average  
Division E—150-199 average  
Division F—100-149 average  
Division G— 50-99 average  
Division H—Under 49 average

Sunday schools in each division who experience the greatest *percentage* of gain over the thirteen weeks average attendance for April, May, June, 1973 will be declared winners and awarded appropriate plaques denoting first or second place. It is a four week program designed to begin October 7 and continue through October 28, 1973.

The present size of your Sunday school does not hinder you from being eligible to win in your division. Campaign materials are available from the Sunday School Department. October 5, 1973 is the deadline for entry.

Let us have some Missouri churches in the winners' circle!

#### MISSOURI OVER THE TOP IN FWBBC GIVING

Ranking fourth in the nation in general fund giving to Free Will Baptist Bible College, Missouri again this year went over her suggested quota. At the close of the fiscal year of the college Missouri had given \$16,883.14 or \$383.14 over the suggested quota of \$16,500.00. This amount was \$417.27 more than the state gave last year.

30 Missouri churches and individuals gave a total of \$2,610,76 to National Home Missions during the month of May, 1973. The top giver for the month from the state was the Mountain Grove FWB Church, which gave \$250.50.

\$7,950.89 went to the Foreign Missions Department with a Missouri postmark during the month of April.



# PROGRAM FOR THE SIXTIETH SESSION OF THE MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS AUGUST 20-23, 1973 First Free Will Baptist Church Monett, Missouri

## MONDAY, August 20

7:30 P.M. The State Sunday School—CTS Board  
has charge of the program  
9:00 P.M. Youth Banquet the Silo Steak House,  
No. 60 Highway.  
Theme: "Youth Facing Crisis"  
Cost: \$2.50 each  
Write for reservation. 200 person capacity.  
Rev. Jim McAllister  
107 Sycamore  
Monett, MO 65708

Music Director ..... Mary Fortney  
Organist ..... Jo Ann Thomas  
Pianist ..... Pearl Denton  
President ..... Brenda Evans  
5:00 P.M. Auxiliary Dinner  
Mrs. Anita Sparks, Speaker  
7:30 P.M. Convening of the State Association  
Theme: "Facing the  
Crises of the Church"  
Convention Music  
Director ..... Rev. Andy Lay  
Welcome ..... Jim McAllister  
Response ..... Lawrence Thompson  
Moderator's Message.. Clarence Burton  
Keynote Message:  
"The Crisis of the  
Community"... Rev. Russel Spurgeon

## TUESDAY, August 21

10:00 A.M. General Board Meeting  
9:30 A.M. Woman's State Auxiliary Convention  
Theme: Rise Up Ye Women At Ease  
Verse: "Rise up, ye women that are at  
ease; hear my voice, ye careless  
daughters; give ear unto my  
speech." Isaiah 32:9  
Opening Hymn  
Welcome ..... Helen McAllister  
Response ..... Jeanie Bowman  
Song "I Gave My Life For Thee"  
Congregation  
Skit: "Give Him First Place"  
Seating of Delegates  
10:45 A.M. Recess  
11:00 A.M. Congregations Sings  
Solo ..... Mrs. Jean Francis  
Message ..... Rev. Lonnie Sparks  
Offering for Missions  
12:00 Noon Recess for lunch  
1:30 P.M. Congregation sings  
Special Music  
Devotional Time . Mrs. Oletha Parsons  
Business Session  
Adjournment

## WEDNESDAY, August 12

9:00 A.M. Devotional ..... Rev. Melvin Knott  
Business  
11:00 A.M. Presiding ..... Rev. Millard Sasser  
Message: "The Crisis of  
Evangelism" ..... Rev. Lynn Wood  
1:30 P.M. Devotion..... Rev. Harvey Hill  
Business  
7:30 P.M. Presiding ..... Rev. Clarence Burton  
Message: "The Crisis of  
Missions" ..... Rev. Bill Fulcher

## THURSDAY, August 23

9:00 A.M. Devotional..... Rev. Vernon Long  
Business  
11:00 A.M. Presiding ..... Rev. Johnny Land  
Message: "The Crisis of the  
Ministry"..... Rev. Bob Francis  
12:00 Noon Final Adjournment



# SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES 1972-73

CHURCH	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Aurora	20	17	21	42	64	66	62	51	47	62	52	
Copper Mines	100	87	113	90	92	81	84	77	76	85	91	77
Cuba	93	95	95	87	93	82	84	93	91	88	98	80
Desoto	125	123	129	127	144	136	145	157	178	189	189	159
Farmington	113	118	121	137	150	136	146	125		155		
Fellowship, Flat River	266	303	332	379	333	311	324	328	370	407	390	322
Fredericktown	152	157	150	161	169	168	157					
Flat River, First	130	131	138	140	141	124	130	146	140	178	215	
Fourth, St. Louis	123	115	114	124	135	140	136	135	145	154		
Grace, Arnold					227	206	175		223	241	255	194
Gray Summit								50	43	50		
Joplin, First	62	67	72	80	75	68	64	74	119	139	116	106
King's Way, Springfield			50	55	59	56	55	60	65	64	66	67
Kirksville								111	112	117	114	
Leadington	105	105	100	98	110	100	97	76	51	59	63	
Lebanon, First	164	136	142	162	167	143	149	153	156	160	166	
Mine LaMotte	40	59	44	32	42	36	31	36	43	42	51	46
Monett, First	186	182	204	232	219	211	203	196	209	219	207	198
Mountain Grove, First	268	261	245	264	266	255	240	246	284	263		
Myrtle	58				51	48	56	47	53	53		
O'Fallon								53	64	72	72	70
Parkview, Desloge	87	84	98	95	93	93	94	96	98	90	106	97
Salem	35		32	33		35	39	39	46	42	39	41
South Fremont, Sprfd.	76	66	70	79	78	68	73	67	75	77	75	71
Southside, St. Louis	113	102	118	150	153	138	149	133	144	156	154	
Springfield, First								180	228	212	231	200
Thayer	130	143	149	154	148	144	151	116	157	153	181	149
Trinity, Bridgeton	181	162	178	180	191	180	186	172	171	194		
Twin Oaks, Fredericktown		47	48	55	46	48	51	50	53	55	51	71
Victory, Avondale	126	110	145	173	212	152	184	173	171	181	174	
Willow Springs	99	103	95	100	109	86	84	77	88	94	94	95

Other Churches are invited to send their Sunday school attendance averages for publishing.

## What Is Your Goal?

The road is very rough  
There are stones in the way  
Keep pressing on my child  
Each moment of the day.

You want a path that climbs  
And walk there for a time,  
It may be hard to bear alone,  
Make the way of the Lord your own.

Content at last to travel  
My burden grew less sore  
And I remembered long ago,  
He went that way before.

The goal is set before me,  
By His grace I trust to reach  
The eternal home in Heaven  
And all my life complete.

—by Laphema E. Herrell  
member, Oskaloosa FWB Church



# MAY COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS 1973

Pleasant Grove (Cope)	\$26.56
Garfield	28.39
Parkview	50.00
Hurryville	97.00
Mine La Motte	17.92
Fellowship	50.00
South Side	250.90
Grace	444.75
Willow Springs	107.50
Hannon	80.70
Independence—Apr.	58.00
Victory	402.27
F.W.B., West Pl.	159.60
Hickory Grove	13.87
Salem	20.00
Beacon	283.28
Number One	28.29
Marshfield—Mar. & Apr.	115.43
Faith	143.35
Pleasant Ridge	41.60
DeSoto, First	241.00
Berkley	480.53
Aurora	45.25
Carterville	41.40
Kirksville	60.00
Houston	90.00
Verdella	58.77
Belton	136.00
Gray Summits	83.00
Twin Oak	200.00
Merl's Chapel	\$44.05
Jones Chapel	30.00
Thayer	91.20
Rock Chapel	32.91
Copper Mines	80.00
Farmington, First	\$200.61
Happy Home	34.98
Purdy, First	21.68
Mt. Valley (3 months)	100.40
Leadington — Apr.	128.95
Bethel, Festus	40.00
Lebanon, First	200.00
Parkview	50.00
Fellowship	50.00
South Side	183.20
Hurryville	82.60
F.W.B., West Pl.	134.50
Fourth	315.11
Hickory Grove	13.41
Pleasant Grove	19.08
New Rock Springs	34.00

Total \$5,742.04

## MAY COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENT:

18.75% Missouri Mission	\$1,076.63
15.00% Promotional Depart.	861.31
04.00% General Fund	229.68
05.50% Youth Camp	315.81
05.00% Gem	287.10
01.00% Missouri—S.S. & C.T.S.	(\$) 57.42
02.50% Lebanon Bible Store	143.55
52.25% Seven Missouri Depts.	\$2,971.50
04.00% Hillsdale College	\$229.68
13.00% Foreign Missions	\$746.47
10.00% F.W.B.B.College	574.20
09.00% Executive Department	\$516.79
07.50% Nat'l Home Missions	\$430.65
02.50% Nat'l. C.T.S. Dept.	143.55
01.50% R.E.A.P.	86.13
00.50% Theological Com.	28.71
00.25% Laymen's Board	14.36
43.75% Eight Nat'l Depts	\$2,540.86
100.00%—Total Disbursed	\$5,742.04

## Missouri State Home Missions Giving: May 5—June 5, 1973

Robert Dugger	12.00
Copper Mines Church	7.00
Grace Church	25.00
Myrtle Church	9.08
Rock Chapel Church	40.00
Victory Church	317.92
Cuba Church	8.00
Woman's Aux. Belvoir, N.C.	2.00
First Church, DeSoto	20.00
Leadington Church	10.00
Olivet Church	150.00
First Ch., Fredricktown Sr. Dept.	25.00
Mine LaMotte Church	10.00
Fourth Church	71.04
First Church, West Plains	20.00
Parkview Church	20.00
Thayer Church	13.50
Low Ground Church	10.00
New Rock Springs Church	6.00
Fellowship Church	92.45
First Qtly. Mtg. Mission Assoc.	150.00
Willow Springs Church	16.00
Aurora Church	14.00
South Fremont Church	147.00
Cooperative Receipts	1,076.63
Total	2,272.62

## Secretary—Treasurer

Rev. Lawrence thompson  
3416 N. Bellefontaine  
Kansas City, Mo. 64117

## YOUTH CAMP FINANCE REPORT MAY, 1973

New Rock Springs	\$6.50
Pinkney Askren	8.41
Willow Springs	10.00
Myrtle	9.08
Purdy, First	21.68
Rock Chapel	20.00
Mountain Valley	50.00
Total receipts	\$125.74
Balance carried forward	\$3,108.54
Accounts payable	\$1,648.18
Total on hand	\$1,586.10

## Frank Guinta, Treasurer

All Youth Camp funds should now be sent to Rev. Dennis Bowman,  
2104 James Downey Road, Independence, MO. 64057

Continued from page 2  
more readable and easier understood. I have sat through entire Sunday school classes, Prayer meetings, and Bible studies where the whole discussion was involved with filtering through King James English, never getting down to the spiritual truth being taught in the passage.

The King James Version, then, while precious to most of us, is really nothing more than another English translation of the Bible—a modern translation at that. However, it was "modern" in 1611. As interesting as it may seem to us, it was hotly opposed by many Christian leaders of the day. The *Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary* says, "It did not win immediate universal acceptance, taking almost 50 years to displace the Geneva Bible in popular favor."

My advice then, is keep your King James Version handy. Use it as your primary study Bible, but use the modern translations along with the King James, for a better understanding of difficult passages.



# Promotional Secretary's Corner



by Rev. Harry Beatty

Delegates and ministers from 21 churches attended First Mission Quarterly Meeting, Thursday, May 10 held with Mt. Grove First FWB Church. Ministers preaching at designated times were Glen Murray, Carl Postlewait, F. Wynn, Max Courtney and Tommy Owens. I gave the Cooperative program and sold a few Bibles from Lebanon Portable Bible Stand. Their churches reported several souls had been saved in the past three months. They issued an ordination certificate to one new incoming minister and gave a designated gift to the new work being launched in Licking, MO.

I attended Oak Grove revival Thursday night. Their evangelistic preacher is Gene Terry. Several have been saved in this revival meeting.

Indian Creek regular Quarterly meeting convened Saturday evening, May 12 with Purdy FWB Church. Pastor Don Davis gave the evening devotional. Two quartets, The Morlan's and The Messengers, both from Macedonia Church rendered the special gospel singing. Time was given for our Missouri Promotional Program and Cooperative Report, during the business session.

In response to an invitation from Pastor Sharry and the Aurora Mission, I delivered the Sunday morning sermon there May 13. They have some new people in their congregation who were saved in their recent revival meeting. The same Sunday evening I visited Cuba Church and delivered the sermon there. Pastor Pingleton reports souls have been saved there recently too.

Independence FWB Mission hosted the Greater Kansas City District Yearly Meeting May 19 at 2:00 P.M.. Each of their seven churches represented with delegates. The afternoon sermon was delivered by a young minister named Satterfield. A brief business session and our Missouri Promotional Program followed. The church served supper during the intermission. Evening session reconvened at 7:00 P.M. The pastor of Beacon Church, Jim Bundy, delivered the evening sermon. Their annual reports

indicated souls were saved and an increase in church membership in the past 12 months.

May 12 I delivered the Sunday morning sermon in Belton Church. Pastor C. T. Christensen baptized some new converts Sunday evening. Their church is growing, thus the church approved a Sunday school basement annex to their present church to be constructed. The new structure will be 48' X 80'.

Sunday evening, May 20, I visited Pastor Giunta and the Capital City congregation and delivered the evening sermon there. They have some new families in their congregation too. July 1, Brother Giunta assumes charge of his new pastorate in Ohio. Rev. George Bryant will take charge of Capital City Church in Jefferson City.

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of the late Rev. C. B. Dees. 13 Free Will Baptist ministers, and many friends attended the memorial service May 22 held in Leadington Church. Rev. Turnbough and Pastor Hastings conducted the service.

Friday evening, May 25 I attended the church organizational meeting of Bonne Terre Mission, conducted by the St. Francis County Mission and Executive Boards. Rev. Turnbough chaired the meeting and Rev. Brown preached the organizational sermon. 16 charter members joined the church and Rev. Don Umfleet was elected as the Pastor.

We extend Christian sympathy to Mrs. Davie Combs and their family in the loss of their father Claud Huff. Rev. Harvey Hill and I conducted his funeral service May 29 in Shiloh FWB Church near Alton, MO. Interment was in Shiloh cemetery.

We received 51 cooperative checks in May, totaling \$5,742.04. This is the eleventh month and we are less than \$1,000.00 from our annual projected goal of \$70,000.00. Thanks to every individual and church participating.

Remember to send all cooperative gifts to me at 2244 Tenbrook, Arnold, MO. 63010.



# Woman's Page

Kathy Lay, Editor

## ONE WOMAN'S OPINION

Dear Co-Laborers: Each year as we meet for our retreat, we experience a degree of panic because the goals set at our state convention are so far from maturing. I'm sure it was the same this year, and as the executive committee met following the retreat our hopes were expressed that the money would come "pouring" in.

Are you aware that the adopted goals were to raise \$1,500 for the McLains Micro-Bus plus \$1,000.00 for the perpetual loan fund for the Home Missions Board? This is only a drop in the bucket in comparison to the projects of some other states and I feel our Missouri women will come through yet. Sister Brenda Spruill told us our National Office is still operating in the red, so please pray about these needs and give as you feel led of God.

God blessed our retreat in spite of the bad weather. Do plan to attend our State Convention in August and the National in July. Let's utilize our time while we have it, for there will come a time . . . and then what??? So, ladies of Missouri, let's get together and meet those goals: \$1,500 for a Micro-bus to be used in Japan, and \$1,000 for our Home Missions work. WE CAN DO IT.

God's richest blessings on you,  
One-woman-to another woman,  
Your State Field Worker,  
Lucille Beatty

(Send your offerings and reports to: Hazel Hutsell,  
534 W. North, Mtn. Grove, MO. 65711)

## IN OUR HANDS . . .

When a boy or a girl thrusts his small hand in yours, it may be smeared with chocolate ice cream, or grime from patting a dog; and there may be a wart under the right thumb or a bandage around a finger. But the most important thing about his hands is that they are hands of the future.

These are the hands that someday will hold a Bible or a Colt revolver, play the church organ or spin some gambling wheel, gently dress a leper's wounds or tremble as uncontrolled by an alcoholic mind.

Right now that hand is yours. It asks for help and guidance. It represents a fullfledged personality in miniature to be respected as a separate individual whose day to day growth in Christian adulthood is YOUR responsibility.

—copied—

NEWS . . . The Hazel Creek Ladies Auxiliary honored the elderly ladies of the church with a special service. Each guest was pinned with a corsage and treated to a program from the book of Esther. Sister Lizzie Filkins was crowned "Queen For A Day". Mrs. Filkins was the oldest auxiliary member and the grandmother of Olene McLain, missionary to Japan, and Howard Filkins, dorm parent in the Ivory Coast.



Left to right: Lola Filkins, Lizzie Filkins, & Olene McLain

ANNIVERSARY: Bill and Glenda Fulcher, August 2 since they will be in the States for the summer, mail to P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN. 37202.

Home should be a retreat to which a son or daughter can return in triumph or defeat, in victory or disgrace, and know that he will be loved.

HOW SAD . . . If you missed our Spring Retreat you really missed a time of spiritual refreshment. Don't miss out again by failing to attend our State Association this year at Monett, Missouri, Tuesday, August 21. The speakers will be Lonnie and Anita Sparks. Plan now to attend. Remember you already missed:

Good Food



Good Friends



Good Fellowship





COMP  
GEM FREE WILL BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL D  
BOX 1088  
NASHVILLE TN 37202

# **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. Bob Francis**

**August 20-23**

**THEME: "FACING THE CRISIS OF THE CHURCH"**