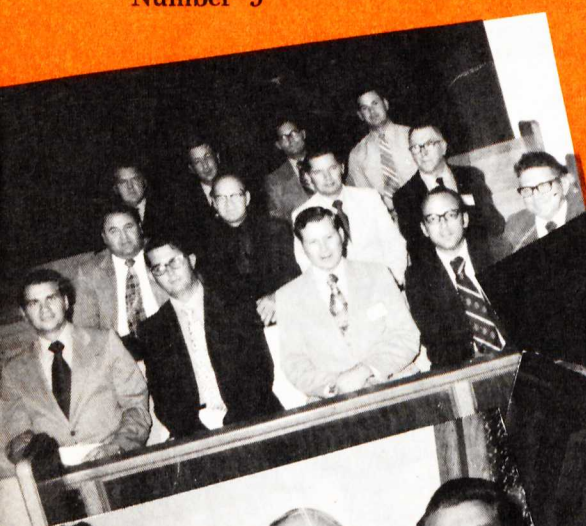


Free Will Baptist

September, 1973
Volume 43
Number 9

Gem



STATE
ASSOCIATION
IN REVIEW





Photo 1: The New General Board: left to right, row 1: Roger Harwell, James McAllister, Bill Evans, A. B. Brown, Harvey Hill. left to right, row 2: Melvin Knott, Cliff Bowman, Glenn Rehkop, Len Gardner. left to right, row 3: Bud Arnold, Max Courtney, Robert Sharry, Bob Dickey. Some members were absent when photo was taken.

Photo 2: State Promotional Secretary, Harry Beatty discusses the business with the Moderator for the session, Clarence Burton.

Photo 3: The Newly Elected State Associational Officers: Left to right: Clerk, A. B. Brown;

Assistant Moderator, William Evans; Moderator, James McAllister.

Photo 4: Newly Elected Free Will Baptist Bible College Alumni Officers of the Missouri Chapter: left to right: Vice President, Robert Sharry; Secretary, Dennis Bowman; President, Roger Harwell.

Photo 5: Francis Bowman and Anita Sparks look over the gifts the Auxiliary Convention gave Missionary Lonnie Sparks Family in a shower on Auxiliary Day.

Photo 6: Some of the Out-of-State Men Attending Our Association: left to right, row 1: Francis Boyle (Executive Church Bonds); Henry VanKluyve (Foreign Missions); Herman Hersey (Board of Retirement and Insurance); Gene Workman (National Executive Department). left to right, row 2: Fred Green (CTS Department); Robert Shockey (National Home Missions); Paul Kettelman (Free Will Baptist Bible College); Kenneth Lane (National Layman's Board); Jerry Rhodes (Hillsdale College); Roger Reeds (Sunday School Department); Lonnie DeVault (Oklahoma State Association).

Photo 7: Pastor Cliff Bowman receiving a plaque from Dale Skiles representing the State Home Mission Board. The plaque was for the Olivet Church's highest per capita giving to State Home Missions for the year.

Photo 8: Missionary Bill Fulcher makes a point, preaching in the Wednesday night Missionary Service.

Photo 9: Two of the National Men, doing their thing (jokingly).

Photo 10: Pastor Russell Johnson displaying the plaque presented to the Hannon Church for being the top giver to the State Youth Camp.

Photo 11: Pastor Lawrence Thompson receives a plaque in behalf of the Victory FWB Church, from Home Mission Board member, Dale Skiles, for being the top giving church to State Home Missions.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

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State Association In Review

SPIRIT

"This was the best Missouri State Association in 20 years." "The Spirit of God really prevailed in the business sessions." "The preaching was great." "A wonderful spirit of unity prevailed throughout the session." These are just some of the comments this editor heard describing the State Association which met in Monett, Missouri August 20-23. They were typical of what seemed to be the unanimous opinion of those attending the annual convention. Rev. Russel Spurgeon, Rev. Lynn Wood, Rev. Bob Francis, and Missionary Bill Fulcher certainly all preached in the power of the Spirit of God. The messages were unusually thought provoking and timely, as each carried out the convention theme: "Facing the Crises of the Church."

YOUTH

One hundred and fifty-five persons attended the Youth Banquet Monday night at the Silo Steak House. They were entertained by Greg McAllister and Andy Lay, singing non-sense songs, and by Bud Hill, Don Lombard, and Gary Fry who put on their, now famous, "Little Oscar" act. The youth, and many adults, had already filled the Monett Church auditorium, for an inspiring service, before the banquet, in which Rev. Kenneth Turner had presented the Gospel through magic, and Professor Don Heard, a layman from the Columbia Church, had given a challenging message.

BUSINESS

Both the General Board and the State Association body adopted a number of significant items of business:

1. It was decided to establish a Bible Institute program in the state, to begin offering classes in January, 1974. Two locations in the State will be chosen and FWB church facilities will be utilized for the institutes designed to offer college level training in Bible and Christian Service subjects for both laymen and ministers. The institutes will be extensions of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, and Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Oklahoma, and will offer all courses for college credit through the mother institutions.

2. It was decided to purchase the building housing Lebanon Bible and Book Store at 303 Commercial in Lebanon, where our State Association has operated the Book Store business for the past three years. The building was originally leased with the option to buy from two FWB laymen in the Lebanon Church. The General Board also decided to remodel the back part of the building to provide an office for the State Promotional Secretary, rest rooms, mailing rooms, Book Store Manager's office, and storage area. The total cost of the project is expected to be approximately \$3,600.

3. Free Will Baptist Bible College Library Wing Project was adopted unanimously by both the General Board and the State body. The project will underwrite the cost of construction of the newly completed Library Wing at the College for a total cost of \$125,000. The Bible College promotional men will be contacting every church in the state within the next few weeks to enlist their involvement in the project. Do not wait to be contacted, however. Begin making plans now to do your part for the success of the project.

4. An \$85,000.00 budget was adopted for the State Cooperative Plan. That amount will be divided among state and national departments according to the following formula:

State Home Missions	20.0%
State Promotional Department	15.0%
State General Fund	4.0%
State Youth Camp	5.5%
State College Commission	4.0%
FWB GEM	2.5%
State Sunday School—CTS Board	1.0%
Total State Departments	52.0%
Foreign Missions	13.0%
Free Will Baptist Bible College	9.0%
Hillsdale College	7.0%
National Executive Department	7.0%
National Home Missions	6.5%
CTS Department	3.0%
Board of Retirement and Insurance	2.0%
National Layman's Board	0.25%
Theological Liberalism Commission	0.25%
Total National Departments	48.0%

5. FWB GEM subscription rates were increased by 50¢ per subscription per year. This is primarily to compensate for the four additional pages added to the magazine, beginning with the April, 1973 edition. The increase will apply only to accounts coming due after August 1, 1973.

State Association In Review

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolution was adopted unanimously: "Whereas a demand has recently been made of the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, by members of the 'Gay Liberation Movement' for official recognition, funding, and meeting space.

"Be it resolved that a letter signed by the Clerk and Moderator be sent to the Governor of the State, the President of the University of Missouri, the Chancellor of Schooling, the Dean of Students, and members of the Board of Curators apprising them that delegates representing 145 Free Will Baptist churches in the State of Missouri voted during the annual session of the Missouri State Association to strongly urge the Board of Curators not to yield to the demands of the Gay Liberation Movement for official recognition.

"Be it further resolved that chapter one of Romans be cited as a passage that clearly sets forth the terrible ramifications of such abnormal behavior as homosexuality and that 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 be cited to show that there is a remedy for such practices.

"Be it further resolved that the contents of this resolution be considered for your use as an open letter to be mailed by you to your local newspaper."

ELECTIONS

Moderator: Rev. James McAllister
Assistant Moderator: Rev. William Evans
Clerk: Rev. A. B. Brown
Assistant Clerk: Rev. Ken Doggett
General Board Members from District Associations

Rev. Melvin Knott (Northeast)
Rev. Max Courtney (Mission)
Rev. Len Gardner (Niangua)
Rev. Vernon Maggart (Northwest)
Rev. Glenn Rehkop (Southeast)
Rev. Dale Jones (Greater Kansas City)

Youth Camp Board

Rev. Lyn Wood (5 year term)
Rev. Clarence Burton (3 year term)
Rev. Ken Goff (1 year term)

State Home Mission Board

Rev. Elmer Turnbough (5 year term)
Rev. Don Lombard (4 year term)

State Sunday School—CTS Board

Rev. Jim Bundy (5 year term)

Hillsdale College Board of Trustees

Rev. Andy Lay (6 year term)

Executive Committee of the General Board

Rev. James McAllister
Rev. Bill Evans
Rev. A. B. Brown
Rev. Glenn Rehkop
Rev. Roger Harwell
Rev. Max Courtney
Rev. Melvin Knott

MISSIONS

The Wednesday night missions offering totaled \$326.00 and was divided equally between the Jim McLain and the Bill Fulcher missionary accounts. The project to raise \$3,000 for the Fulchers and McLains accounts fell short of the goal, at least at State Association time. Something over \$2,000 had come in by the end of August. Churches that have not contributed to this special state project are asked to do so as soon as possible. Send offerings for this project to Rev. Clarence Burton, 8914 Springdale, Berkeley, MO 63134.

PLACEMENT

The 1974 session of the Missouri State Association will meet at the First FWB Church of Flat River, Missouri, hosted by the Southeast Association. In 1975 we will go to the Thayer FWB Church in the Cave Springs Association.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

The State Woman's Auxiliary meeting, held on Tuesday of the convention week, offered a variety of spiritual blessings, challenges, and business. President Brenda Evans presided as the convention adopted State Projects of raising \$1,000 to purchase a 16mm projector for the Sparks in Spain, and raising \$1,000 for the perpetual loan fund for the State Home Missions emphasis in February. The annual Woman's Retreat is planned for September 16-17, 1974. The newly elected officers are: President, Sandy Smith; Vice President, Barbara Harwell; Secretary, JoAnn Wood; Treasurer, Hazel Hutsell; Field worker, Lucille Beatty; members at large, Brenda Evans, Francis Bowman, and Jean Francis.

Inspiration for the Woman's Auxiliary Convention was provided by a skit entitled, "Above All the Shield of Faith" featuring JoAnn Wood, Helen McAllister, Kathy Lay, Brenda Evans, Barbara Harwell, Bonnie Doggett, and Lucille Beatty. Also ministering spiritual blessings were Missionaries Lonnie and Antia Sparks who spoke at the Worship Service and the Banquet respectively. Mrs. Oletha Parsons brought the afternoon devotional.

LABELED LIBERAL

by Rev. A. B. Brown

The following article arose out of what the writer, as a pastor, feels to be a definite need among Free Will Baptists in general. Having been classified as a "Liberal" by some good and sincere Christians who disagreed on matters of practice and not theology there seemed to be a demand for clarification on the use of terms. The following will be a brief and admittedly inadequate description of what a liberal is (theologically) and some mistaken ideas of what a liberal is.

Liberalism (sometimes called modernism) is a result of attempts to harmonize Christian theology with elements of the so-called "new learning," which rests primarily upon the following two pillars. First is philosophical idealism which is basically the idea of evolution. Or to say it differently, that man and his religion evolved and that both are good and continuously getting better. Sin is therefore discounted or redefined until it is meaningless. Man (by implication) becomes the master of his own fate. And—up until two world wars—liberalism, in general, believed it was possible for this not-so-depraved man to establish a Utopia in the here and now without any help from outside himself.

The second pillar of Liberalism is the universal application of the scientific method to every field of knowledge. Thus, truth becomes that which can be validated by the scientific method. And—since it is scientifically impossible to have a virgin born Christ it therefore becomes necessary to redefine the doctrine of the virgin birth. The same is true of the Biblical miracles of Christ. Obviously, to the liberal, science (until very recently) has been a sacred cow. When a man donned a white coat and a cap and made pronouncements (theoretical or factual) in the name of science they were quick to retreat and redefine if the pronouncement conflicted with their theology. In passing it should be emphasized that the Bible and Science are in harmony without any explaining away of difficult portions. One must distinguish between an established scientific fact and theory. He must also recognize the limitations of the scientific method in that it does not and cannot be applied to the area of supernatural. Its dependence upon the law of uniformity carries with it tremendous implications, especially in the area of evolution.

In summary, liberalism is the desertion of the historic Biblical Christian faith in an attempt to make Christianity acceptable to the modern, enlightened, (but unregenerate) twentieth century mind. In so doing it has denied the inspiration and inerrancy of the Scriptures. For example, the first five books of the Bible were not written by Moses. They were written by several people and later collected and woven together into a narrative by a redactor. They also (according to liberalism) contain

manifold contradictions. The deity of Christ is denied. Christ becomes to the liberal a mere man who reflected that spark of divinity present within all men more clearly than other men. The virgin birth is denied; the substitutionary atoning death of Christ is vehemently rejected. The bodily resurrection and second coming are also denied. The Christian religion is explained as being the result of the evolutionary process from polytheism to monotheism. Therefore everything must be explainable from the human viewpoint and through natural process without the intervention of the supernatural. Or God is in essence no longer present in History.

With this brief critique of what liberalism is, and with the understanding that there is a difference between disagreement over theology and practice or conduct, it should be clear in the beginning that practice or conduct and theology can never be separated. One's conduct always affects his theology and one's theology (if he has any) will always affect his conduct. In other words, if an individual becomes liberal in his daily life he will soon alter his theology (doctrine) to justify his actions. And, if one has any theology, it will also govern his actions. It is true that orthopraxy and orthodoxy go hand-in-hand.

The fact remains, however, that there are large areas of practice or conduct which are left up to Christian discretion and not covered by the Scriptures. Hence, nothing in the Bible states that the Sunday morning worship hour should be at 11:00. That is left up to discretion. If worship services were more effective at 9:00 then God would be more pleased with a 9:00 service than the traditional 11:00 a.m. service. For those who are interested, the 11:00 a.m. services came about in America as a result of an agricultural society without modern transportation. The 11:00 hour gave farmers time to milk, feed and drive a team often several miles to church.

The point is, what would happen in the average Church if someone suddenly suggested moving the services up to 8:00 a.m. Or, if the bulletin suddenly included a prelude, a responsive reading, the doxology, the apostle's creed and a postlude (all of which are good). In many circles the responsible person would almost immediately be termed as a "liberal." However, it should be emphasized that no Scriptural principles or truths have been violated. The only principle violated is that of habit. Someone has dared to do something differently from the way it has always been done. He is not a liberal; he is progressive. Some folk never realize that just because it has always been done that way does not mean at all that it is the best way. Tradition is not sanctified.

It might also be well to note at this point that change just for the sake of change is not being suggested. Neither is change just to be different being advocated. What is being advocated is progress. The church of Jesus Christ should always be ready to re-evaluate and adapt where and when it is necessary as long as the Scriptures are not violated. The point is that change should first of all be judged by the Bible. Does the proposed change conflict with Biblical principles? If so, then it is wrong. But if it is not in conflict with Biblical theology then it should be judged on its merits, and not rejected just because it is different from the way Grandmother and Uncle John always did it.

The second area where one is often wrongly classified is in the area of being different. Although closely related to the discussion above it still demands separate treatment. This is especially true in the areas of dress and life-style. The man wearing the pink shirt with the purple tie could well be a consecrated conservative evangelical Bible believing Christian. Once again the Bible says nothing of the color or shirt or tie to wear. But in some people's mind one who is liberal in dress is liberal theologically. Biblically, clothing should, for the most part, be judged on the basis of their suggestiveness and not style and color. In other words, clothing is in violation of Biblical truths when it is designed to appeal to the lower nature of the opposite sex. It is not wrong just because it is different—even if it is on a Hippie.

The area of a different life-style applies especially to people living and moving in a strata of society above one's own. Thus, if the other person lives in a more restricted neighborhood, drives a bigger car, and attends the large church where Dr. So and So is pastor, he is liberal. However, in reality he might be very orthodox in every way. And, in passing, it is also not true that just because a church is a large church it is liberal. The largest Churches in America today are some of its most fundamental churches. Once again, a person is not liberal because he is different unless that difference violates the Word of God.

The third area of conduct which often leads to confusion and wrongly applied labels is that guilt by implication. For example, liberals are known for their social gospel. They are socially concerned. They have taken strong and vocal stands against many social ills of today. A good illustration of this is their voice for minority groups. The evangelical Christian ought to also be concerned and active in dealing with social ills and injustices. It is a matter of emphasis. The church is *first* to evangelize and edify and *then* comes social action. But preaching against segregation does not make one a liberal. He is only preaching the Bible. The important truth to be recognized is that there are some areas of agreement between liberalism and Christianity and because a genuine Christian takes a stand which happens to parallel liberalism in some areas does not make him a liberal. It was disturbing to note in a

Free Will Baptist publication (not a denominational publication but individual) of this year that an individual was being ostracized because he preached socialism and integration. The Bible nowhere states that the American form of government is God's sanctified choice. This is not to say that the writer accepts socialism. It is agreed that the present form of government, although fraught with many deficiencies, is the best form man has produced so far. But, that still does not make it the only form for a Christian. There are many brands and degrees of socialism. It is admitted that some are extremists. However, socialism in general needs to be condemned Biblically and not simply because it is not the form of government one prefers.

And integration cannot be condemned Biblically. It is interesting that the first great missionary Church had as one of its Board Members a black man. In Acts 13:1 one of the prophets or teachers in the church of Antioch was "Simeon that was called Niger" who was a dark complexioned man. The Bible is color blind. God made "of *one blood* all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth" (Acts 17:26). Again—one should not be condemned by implication merely because he agrees with liberalism in certain areas.

The fourth and final area is that of guilt by personal association with liberals. This will be referred to as guilt by association. It is admitted that this is a complex issue. It is also admitted that the Bible speaks to the point. But it must also be recognized that there are great differences of opinion as to the exact point of separation or degree of separation demanded in the Scriptures. This is the issue between fundamentalists today and the new evangelicals. Fundamentalists in general have understood the Bible to mean complete separation and therefore refuse any dealings with liberalism. The new-evangelicals have adopted a policy of *infiltration* instead of *separation* from liberalism. The discussion is complex and will be dealt with in more detail in a later article. So at the risk of oversimplification the following principle is stated as a guideline. One should at all times to all people reflect a genuine Christian attitude. He should never by voice or implication take any action which would in any way imply that he condones liberalism. It is one thing to reflect a Christian attitude and quite another to get involved in a cooperative effort with liberalism which communicates to them and the world that liberalism and Christianity march under the same banner; they do not.

So, in conclusion Brethren, let us be careful about how we label people. Let's be sure that if we apply the label to an individual that it is based upon the fact that his theology is corrupt or liberal and not because we disagree with him on matters of practice, many of which are left up to Christian discretion.

About the writer: Rev. A. B. Brown is the pastor of the Bethel Free Will Baptist Church of Festus, Mo.

YOUTH IN YOUR CHURCH

To many young people today, the church has lost its relevancy. "Why go to church? Nothing happens but the same old stuff, time after time," they say. As a result, many promising young people depart on paths unknown, seeking to find a meaning and cause that is alive and worthwhile. Many paths are tried but all lead nowhere. The devil prowls these paths seeking the disillusioned, the easily persuaded, and those whom he can trick with his beautiful, promising lies. These are deceived by men and women under Satan's control who come teaching "the doctrines of men," the Charismatic movement, the occult, and other devices designed to destroy the child of God and to keep others away from Him permanently. There is a definite problem confronting us and of necessity we must examine the causes. Fault may only lie in two areas, the youth or the church.

Our teens and young people today have a problem that has been in existence for years. Jesus Christ comes to us offering eternal life in exchange for our lives here on earth. He offers salvation in place of damnation. We readily accept Jesus as our Savior, for who wants to pay the price of his own sin? But when it comes to accepting Christ as our Lord also, we balk. We are not willing to allow Christ to rule in our hearts. The reason many young people find the church unable to supply their needs, lies in the fact that they are not allowing Christ to do all in their lives that He wants. When we dedicate a church to the Lord we don't say "Okay, Lord, You can have the sanctuary, and we'll just keep the class rooms, thank you." We dedicate the whole building to the Lord. Just as foolish is the idea that we can only give ourselves halfway to God. As long as young people continue to control their own lives, the problems will continue to exist.

This dilemma is expressed in the Christian folk song.

I tried everything form A to Z,
But nothing I tried would ever work for me.
I looked everywhere for something to hold,
But I was left standing out in the cold.
My friends, my parents, the people I knew,
They all tried to help me find the way through.
They did all they could do, and then some more,
But no one could help me open the door.

But then Jesus came along and He took away my strife,
Cleansed my heart completely and gave me new life.
I no longer worry and search from day to day,
Because Jesus came along and showed me the way.

Now I've got friends who were just like me
And I've tried to reach them, tried to set them free.
Some don't want to listen; others want to learn
That Jesus is the only one to show them where to turn.
The answer now, it's plain to see
It's walking and talking, just Jesus and me.
I'm no longer lonely, I've found someone to share
All my burdens and my troubles, He really cares!

The fault, however, does not lie on the youth completely. The Church is at fault too! There are many in our churches who are really interested in the youth and their problems. Too many times these are outweighed by people with the attitude that youth are only to be endured until they reach adulthood, that they are capable of doing nothing of any value, and that they should be seen and not heard. This attitude not only harms the people who hold it but, more important, hurts the youth of the church.

We as a church have a responsibility to our youth. Part of that responsibility lies in the area of Christian Education. Public education has at its disposal millions of dollars yearly, all the latest advances in education and other related fields. There are laws that require children to attend school. We live in an age that is sold on education. We as a Church must be sold on education too: Christian Education to prepare our youth to face life and to live it successfully.

The benefits of Christian Education are wide and varied. Some are long range and may never be consciously observed. The immediate benefits, however, are more than enough to warrant the effort required.

If our youth are trained from childhood in the value of the church and the necessity of total dedication to God, they are much more likely to find that the church will meet their needs as they become adults. Christian Education, the training of our youth, is not merely a good program to engage in, it is our duty. The Bible instructs us to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

In keeping with the idea of responsibility, it is necessary that the youth be given responsibility in the church itself. One of the best ways to mature as a Christian is to put our faith to work. Working in the Church is a good opportunity for youth to exercise their Christian skills. Too often we expect our young people to grow and be able to work for the Lord when we never give them opportunities to work in the place most available to them. Let's give our youth jobs in the church. They are looking for involvement. Let's provide it.

God intends for us as Christians, both young and old, to work together for the furtherance of His Son, our Savior. When problems arise, such as the disillusioned youth, let's both, youth and adults alike, examine the situation and find solutions to our differences. Failure to do so can only be a victory for the devil.

Editor's Note: Rev. Gary Fry is the Minister of Youth and Christian Education at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Mountain Grove, Missouri.

CHURCHES PEOPLE and EVENTS

FORMER MISSOURIAN BEGINS NEW WORK IN COLORADO

Rev. Lavelle Reeves and his family, formerly of Missouri, now reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where they are beginning a new Free Will Baptist work. Their first services in Colorado Springs were held on July 1. Fourteen were present. The third Sunday in July there were 19 present and one man was saved. The Reeves report that they now have five complete families coming, three of which were already Free Will Baptists. They ask the prayers of GEM readers that they may see a strong Free Will Baptist work established in Colorado Springs. Their address is 2851 Casden Circle, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909.

FESTUS CHURCH GROWING AND BUILDING

The Bethel FWB Church in Festus, Missouri, reports many souls having been saved in recent months and several entire families having joined their church. They have also had many young people to make first time decisions.

The Bethel Church is relocating, having purchased a piece of property on which to construct a new building. They have also purchased a new parsonage into which Pastor and Mrs. A. B. Brown have already moved.

A new church bus has also been purchased, according to church reporter, Mrs. C. H. Black. She writes, "Pray with us that we will get our building completed and filled with new converts, not for our glory, but for the building of God's Heavenly Kingdom."

REV. DUAINÉ HANSON TO CALVARY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

The former assistant pastor of Faith FWB Church in Lemay, the Rev. Duaine Hanson, has been called as the pastor of the Calvary Fellowship FWB Church in Fenton, Missouri. The church reporter, Mrs. Linda Luster, reports an increase in their Sunday school attendance during June and July.

On August 12 Calvary Fellowship had an all day service celebrating their first anniversary at their

new location, 1811 North Highway 141. Two singing groups, the Gospel Proclaimer's Group and the Gospel Links, with Mr. Ned Templeton, provided the afternoon program.

A youth choir has recently been started at Calvary Fellowship, under the direction of Mrs. Jo Ann Bowlin.

FAITH HAPPENINGS

Several activities have been spiritual highlights of the summer months at the Faith FWB Church in Lemay, Missouri. Rev. Johnnie Land conducted a revival which was a real blessing to the church, according to Faith's reporter, Ms. Jean James. Several singing groups aided in the revival effort: the Thennon Quartet, the Rose of Sharon Trio, Ned Templeton and the Gospel Links, the Soul Winners Quartet, the Overland Trio, and Faith's Gospel Singers.

Saturday night before Father's Day the Ladies' Auxiliary honored all the Fathers of the Faith FWB Church by sponsoring a Gospel Song Service with the Victory Trio, from Ferguson, Missouri. Following the singing the Auxiliary hosted a cake and coffee fellowship.

"One Golden Rod" is the name given to Faith's gold and white church bus. Plans are being made for a second bus.

Rev. Bud Arnold is the Pastor of Faith Church.

VANDIVORT ON THEOLOGICAL LIBERALISM COMMISSION

Last month's GEM carried an article, "Missouri at the National" in which was listed the Missourians elected to National positions. We unintentionally omitted Rev. Mark Vandivort's name, who was elected to the Theological Liberalism Commission. Sorry about that!

PARSONAGE ENLARGED AT RICHWOODS

The Richwoods FWB Church recently enlarged the parsonage occupied by Rev. Roy Dedmon and family. The church is enjoying having their pastor with them all the time, according to reporter, Mrs. Junior Lewis.

The Church's annual Homecoming was held the first Sunday in September.

BLESSINGS AT TWIN OAKS

"God is still blessing here at Twin Oaks with good attendance in all services and souls being rededicated unto the Lord. Services are very spiritual and the presence of God is being felt among our people. We are glad to report there is unity and true fellowship in our church and that is the reason for our many blessings." So writes the Twin Oaks reporter, Ms. Madeline McFarland.

Recent activities at Twin Oaks were a work day when the men did some needed repairs and the women provided a basket dinner for them at noon, a surprise anniversary dinner for Rev. and Mrs. Truman Huffman, Mr. and Mrs. Don Rouse, and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Lee. The CTS group provided a full size cake for that occasion. A Sunday school contest in which the Bible Class was proclaimed the winner also sparked summer interest at Twin Oaks.

The Church gave a house warming party for Mr. and Mrs. Roe Miller recently, and a revival meeting with Ken Goff as the Evangelist was planned for August. The Twin Oaks Church asks the prayers of GEM readers.

Rev. Truman Huffman is the pastor.

COMMISSION STUDIES CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL POSSIBILITY

The St. Louis District Quarterly Meeting established a Sunday Commission in their July meeting, to investigate the feasibility of launching a Christian Day School in the St. Louis area. Rev. R. B. Spurgeon, Rev. Robert Francis, Rev. A. B. Brown, Rev. Rob Pearson, and Rev. Harry Asher are the members of the commission.

NEW BUILDING NEARING COMPLETION AT DESOTO

The Desoto Church reporter, Mrs. Sophia Ackerson writes, "We are all busy working hard for the Lord. Our new addition is about finished. Our Bible School will start Monday, August 6". Desoto also reports the blessings of God upon their work in many ways.

Rev. Charles Miller is the pastor.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

A 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration will be held for Rev. and Mrs. William Reeves, former caretakers of the Youth Camp, at their home, one mile east of Walther Park, on Berry Dairy Road, Desoto, Missouri, on September 23.

A family dinner will be served at noon, with open house following from 2:00 P.M. until 5:30 P.M. All friends and relatives are invited to attend. Those unable to attend but wishing to send cards

may send them to Rev. and Mrs. William Reeves, Route 4, Box 8 B, Desoto, MO 63020.

Free Will Baptist Denomination Experiences Record Gains

Several months ago the prestigious paper *Wall Street Journal* reported from an independent survey that Free Will Baptists are among the denominations in America experiencing rapid growth.

The distinction has been further confirmed by the annual statistical reports to the national convention from member associations in 39 states. Statistical reports reveal a net increase last year of 15, 729. This increase reflects an annual growth rate of 8%. The largest numerical gain in 20 years, it boosts the denomination's total membership to 214,003.

Reports at this year's convention, held in Macon, Georgia, also revealed a net increase of 49 new churches during the past year. The Department of Home Missions and Church Extension has set a five-year goal to establish 50 new churches per year.

"It is our aim to see our denomination double its membership during the next ten years," stated Rufus Coffey, Executive Secretary. "With this tremendous harvest of souls during the past year, it is evident that by God's grace we can see this goal reached."

Executive Secretary Coffey further observed that he "attributes this phenomenal growth to a renewed thrust in evangelism." It is also significant, he noted, that the growth pattern is not limited to any single section of the denomination, but it reflected an overall increase in the 39 states where the 2300 Free Will Baptist churches are located.

In the wake of this evangelism explosion the Executive Secretary calls upon the denomination to give sincere thanks to God for such a remarkable growth. He further urges pastors and laymen not to let up in their soul winning endeavors.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE QUARTER CHANGE

For years we have recognized the four quarters in the Sunday school curriculum cycle as January, February, March for first quarter, April, May, June for second quarter, etc.

A few years ago every denomination except our own made a change to a different quarter cycle. This change has worked a hardship on us in that we are not able to serve you as well as we would like. In order to eliminate the difficulties involved, the Free Will Baptist Sunday School Board has voted to make the curriculum cycle change effective with the *third quarter, 1974 Sunday school materials*.

This is how the change will be put in operation. *Third quarter, 1974 lesson materials* will contain

only eight lessons. These lessons will go through the months of July and August. A 25% discount will be allowed from the regular cost of materials for this short quarter.

The new quarter system will not be called first, second, third, and fourth. They will be seasonally labeled as follows:

Fall Quarter—September, October, November

Winter Quarter—December, January, February

Spring Quarter—March, April, May

Summer Quarter—June, July, August

There are a number of advantages to this arrangement.

First—It starts off with the fall quarter, the time when most churches begin a new and elect new officers and teachers.

Second—It permits us to avoid the Christmas mail rush in shipping curriculum materials to you.

Third—It will cause the Easter lesson to fall within the same quarter every year.

Fourth—It will enable us to provide you with up-to-date take home papers.

Fifth—It will bring us in line with the curriculum cycle adopted by every other independent and denominational publishing house.

How will the change affect you? It will be necessary for you to place your order for fall quarter, 1974, materials in time to receive them before September 1, 1974. It will enable us to serve you in a more efficient way with faster mail service because we will avoid the Christmas mail rush.

GREETINGS FROM THE GREENEVILLE CHILDREN'S HOME

There is never a dull moment at the Free Will Baptist Home for Children, Greeneville, Tennessee. Life here is interesting, exciting, and rewarding. God has given us a dedicated staff to carry on the work. This kind of ministry can only be enjoyed by those who feel led of the Lord to do it.

At the present time there are 37 children at the Home. The three newest children in the Home are Ivan and Billy Joe Kennedy, from Clinchport, Virginia, and Viva Widner, from Johnson City, Tennessee. The newest additions to our staff are Rev. and Mrs. Rashie Kennedy, from Winston Salem, North Carolina.

We are grateful to the many friends of the Home who so faithfully support us. There are many ways you can help as an individual or as a church. Pray for the staff, and for the selection of new staff as needed. Pray for the salvation and spiritual growth of the children. Send an offering to the Home regularly. Consider sponsoring a child. Those interested may write for information on this. We can use trading stamps and coupons. Those interested in helping with these may write for descriptive information.

One church or individual cannot do it all, but

everyone can do something. All of us working together can meet the needs of the Home. Thank you for what you have done, and God bless you for what you will be doing.

James Earl Raper, Superintendent
Free Will Baptist Home for Children
Route 10, Box 327
Greeneville, Tennessee 37743

FROM THE FILKINS IN IVORY COAST

Excerpts from their July form letter read, "We are so grateful for all the support from those of you on the homefront. There was so little time to do itinerate work, but the Lord blessed through call-a-thon and the individuals and churches responded generously—making it possible to arrive on schedule. Do pray for us for the following items:

"*Monthly Support*: We did not have time to get the needed amount raised, but feel confident God will supply this need.

"*French Study*: so we can communicate with the African workers at school and in the market.

"*Crates*, that will arrive (soon we hope) and for the customs agent to be lenient.

"*Spiritual strength, wisdom, and patience* to minister to the needs of these precious young lives that will be entrusted to us.

"May God bless our people at home and send a spirit of revival to all our hearts, that together we can accomplish the task of evangelizing the world."

With love in Him,
Howard, Joan, Dan, Dave, and Dale
Filkins

MILEY'S HOME FOR VACATION

The LaVerne Miley family was in the states during the month of August. They came on vacation, not furlough, primarily to be home for LaVerne's parents' 50th Wedding Anniversary, and to see their children and grandchildren. They returned to their work in the Ivory Coast on September 5.

A recent news letter from the Mileys to the Missouri State Association said, "We appreciate your recent contribution and thank the Lord for your every faithfulness. May He bless you in your ministry for Him."

MILLION-DOLLAR BUDGET APPROVED FOR BIBLE COLLEGE

A million-dollar 1973-74 operating budget was approved for Free Will Baptist Bible College July 11 by the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Macon, Georgia. The budget, actually \$1,068,000, is the first one for the school surpassing the million-dollar milestone. This includes anticipated

general fund gifts of \$275,000, but does not include the approximately \$200,000 that the school's Office of Development expects to raise during the year.

Missouri contributed \$1,448.25 to the College's Development Program in the month of June, for a total of \$26,766.63 given from our state to the Development Program since its inception. Since August, 1965, a total of \$1,757,736.39 has been given to the Bible College's Development Program by the denomination.

HILLSDALE GRANTED FOUR YEAR ACCREDITATION

Beginning with the academic year 1973-74, Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College will be an accredited baccalaureate degree granting institution of higher learning. For the past three years, Hillsdale has been a Junior College only, offering the Associate of Arts degree. In recent communication, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

granted the privileges of offering the "bachelor" degree. Now, students receiving their four year of bachelor degree can transfer to other senior colleges or universities to work on graduate (masters and doctorate) degrees as though they were transferring from a state or regionally accredited institution.

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS GIVING DOWN

Missouri individuals and churches alone gave \$998.50 to National Home Missions in July. The greatest contribution from our state was from the Monett Church, which gave \$158.00. As you consider the "regions beyond," do not forget National Home Missions.

\$1,141.61 was given to the Bible College by Missouri individuals and churches in July. The largest contribution was from the Fellowship Church in Flat River, in the amount of \$50.00.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES 1972-73

Church	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
Aurora	17	21	42	64	66	62	51	47	62	52			
Copper Mines	87	113	90	92	81	84	77	76	85	91	77		
Cuba	95	95	87	93	82	84	93	91	88	98	80	85	
Desoto	123	129	127	144	136	145	157	178	189	189	159	159	143
Farmington	118	121	137	150	136	145	125		155	161	139	139	
Fellowship, Flat River	303	332	379	333	311	324	328	370	407	390	322	310	
Flat River, First	131	138	140	141	124	130	146	140	178	215	159	149	150
Fourth, St. Louis	115	114	124	135	140	136	135	145	154				
Grace, Arnold				227	206	175		223	241	255	194	209	189
Jefferson City							38	39	43	40	36	31	34
Joplin, First	67	72	80	75	68	64	74	119	139	116	106	100	102
King's Way, Springfield		50	55	59	56	55	60	65	64	66	67	61	68
Kirksville							111	112	117	114			
Leadington	105	100	98	110	100	97	76	51	59	63			
Lebanon, First	136	142	162	167	143	149	153	156	160	166	144	143	134
Mine LaMotte	59	44	32	42	36	31	36	43	42	51	46	55	
Monett, First	182	204	223	219	211	203	196	209	219	207	198	219	
Mountain Grove, First	261	245	264	266	255	240	246	284	263				
Mrytle				51	48	56	47	53	63				
O'Fallon							53	64	72	72	70		
Parkview, Desloge	84	98	95	93	93	94	96	98	90	106	97	83	83
Richwoods							23	28	34	35	40	34	
Salem		32	33		35	39	39	46	42	39	41	40	37
South Fremont, Spfd.	66	70	79	78	68	73	67	75	77	75	71		
Southside, St. Louis	102	118	150	153	138	149	133	144	156	154	144	130	132
Springfield, First							180	228	212	231	200		
Thayer	143	149	154	148	144	151	116	157	153	181	149	159	173
Trinity, Bridgeton	162	178	180	191	180	186	172	171	194	200	160	153	159
Twin Oaks, Fredericktown	47	48	55	46	48	51	50	53	55	51	71		
Victory, Avondale	110	145	173	212	152	184	173	171	181	174	165	155	138
Willow Springs	103	95	100	109	86	84	77	88	94	94	95	91	

Other churches are invited to send their Sunday school attendance averages for publication.

JULY 1973 COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS:

O'Bethel	\$ 15.00
Faith	153.39
South Side	177.20
Jones Chapel	30.00
Salem	20.00
Rock Chapel	19.40
Freeman Chapel	56.25
Pleasant Ridge	47.00
Mill Creek	132.75
Purdy, First	20.00
Thayer	99.32
First, West Plains	141.00
Royal Oak	37.75
Belton	133.00
Olivett	140.00
Independence	50.00
Pleasant Home	66.07
Happy Home	26.65
Verdella	54.90
Copper Mines	70.00
Leadington	156.00
Aulsbury Chapel	168.84
First, Flat River	647.63
Berkley	374.40
First, Monett	220.42
Merl's Chapel	47.59
Aurora	41.45
First, Mt. Grove	1,085.41
Trinity	130.00
Richwoods	122.95
Houston	54.00
Fourth	266.00
New Home	43.96
Bonne Terre	45.00
Mt. Valley	109.69
First Church, DeSoto	174.00
First, Farmington	265.07
Grace	381.81
Bethel, Festus	40.00
Total Receipts	5,863.90

JULY DISBURSEMENTS: 1973

18.75% Missouri Missions	\$1,099.49
15.00% Promotional Dept.	879.60
04.00% General fund	234.56
05.50% Youth camp	322.51
05.00% Gem	293.19
01.00% Missouri C.T.S. & S.S.	58.63
02.50% Lebanon Bible Store	146.60
52.25% Seven Depts.	3,034.58
04.00% Hillsdale College	234.56
13.00% Foreign Missions	762.30
10.00% F.W.B.B.College	586.39
09.00% Executive Dept.	527.75
07.50% Nat'l Home	439.79
02.50% Nat'l C.T.S. Dept.	146.60
01.50% R.E.A.P.	87.95
00.50% Theological Com.	29.32
00.25% Laymens Board	14.66
43.75% (8) Nat'l Depts.	2,594.76
100% Disbursed	5,863.90

Harry Beatty, Promotional Secretary & Treasurer

ATHEIST O'HAIR MEETS HER MATCH

Madalyn Murray O'Hair, who is billed as the worlds' greatest infidel and atheist spoke at a college in Ohio. About 350 students and faculty gathered to hear her views on religion. In her speech she proceeded to take religion apart. She lambasted the clergy and all church officers. She harassed all believing students and professors, and she harangued the foolish thinkers who believed what they read. She made a laughing stock of those who trusted in prayer and mocked the citizens of America as stupid to believe in anything religious.

As the meeting was about to break up, from the back of the auditorium there came a tiny voice of a little college girl. She spoke quietly, and her voice was filled with compassion.

"Mrs. O'Hair, I am happy you came to speak to all of us here at our college tonight. We have listened with attention to your tirade on our beliefs. We thank you for showing all of us what an atheist is. We express gratitude for your challenge to our faith. We appreciate your concern for us, but now in turn we must be ever grateful for your visit because now and forever we have been strengthened in our Christian beliefs by listening to you tonight. We really feel sorry for you. I thank you because I know you have strengthened our faith in our Church, in our religion."

The speaker of the evening was flabbergasted. It seems it was the first time she couldn't say anything. The applause for the young girl's response was deafening.

—copied from the Victory FWB Church NEWS-LETTER Goldsboro, North Carolina



HIS HANDS

He has no hands but ours, you know
To carry out His plans.
No lips but ours to tell the world
That He has died for man.

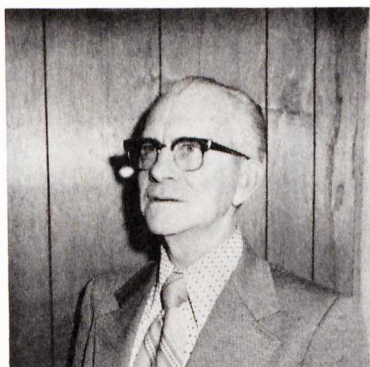
So will you ask the Saviour now
About His plans for you.
For He may have a task for you
That no one else can do.

Whether it be in fields afar
Or at your very door
He'll give to you the strength you need
To do His every chore.

—by Ruth Capps
Contributed by Esther Hediger



Promotional Secretary's Corner



by Rev. Harry Beatty

In response to an invitation from Pastor Hill and the Thayer Church I delivered the Sunday morning sermon there July 1. Two persons affiliated with their church in the service. Pastor Hill has baptized some new converts in their new baptistry which was installed in their sanctuary expansion building project recently. Thayer Church began their church bus ministry this month and set a new Sunday school attendance record, with 181. They are moving forward filling their new annex and sanctuary.

Mrs. Beatty and I attended the National Association July 8—12 in Macon, Georgia. We participated in the National Woman's Auxiliary Convention and the National Association proper, along with the many Missouri delegates present. We enjoyed the choirs from the various states rendering special singing, the preaching of the Word, and the Christian fellowship in general.

While in that part of the country we spent the weekend following the National in Tampa, Florida with our son, Gordon and family. Sunday morning, July 15, I delivered the sermon in the First Free Will Baptist Church of Tampa. Rev. Paul Thompson is their new pastor. Both their Sunday school and church are on the increase.

July 20-21 I attended Northeast Association, held with the Kirksville Church. Speakers during this annual meeting were Archie Cooper, Jim and Olena McLain, Mark Vandivort, Vernon Maggart, and layman Lynn Frazier. I gave the Missouri promotional program and sold some Bibles from the Lebanon Bible Store. Sunday morning I delivered the sermon in the Low Ground Church. Rev. Kermit Crooks is their pastor. The same evening I delivered the sermon in Columbia Church. Brother Vandivort witnessed two adult people saved in their morning service. The construction of their new sanctuary is well under way.

Bethel Church in Eldorado Springs hosted Central Western Association July 24-26. Ministers speaking at designated times were B. Gentry, L. Thompson, and R. Sharry. Brenda Spruill spoke for the Woman's Auxiliary. I gave the Cooperative Program and sold several Bibles from the Bible stand.

Friday evening, July 27, and Saturday, the

28th, I attended North Western Annual Association, held with Mt. Zion Church near Gower, Missouri. Rev. Maggart delivered the sermon Friday evening and I preached Saturday noon. I also gave the Cooperative program. Sister Melba White delivered the concluding sermon.

July 29 Pastor Maggart and Freeman Chapel Church invited Brother Beatty to be guest minister for their fifth Sunday services. I gave the Cooperative Program too. They have several new converts in their congregation.

Sunday evening I delivered the sermon in Olivett Church in Marshall. One junior boy was saved in the service. Pastor Bowman and Olivett Church continue to win souls for the Lord.

Thanks to 39 churches who sent July Cooperative Funds in the amount of \$5,863.90.

Missouri State

Home Missions Giving:

July 5 through August 5, 1973

Alton Church	10.00
Thayer Church	13.00
First Church, Monett	76.00
Hannon Church	51.85
New Home Church	30.00
Olivet Church	150.00
First Church, Flat River	39.77
Rock Chapel Church	20.00
First Church, Fredricktown	25.00
Mine LaMotte Church	10.00
First Church, Mtn. Grove	22.25
Wanda Perryman	4.00
Grace Church	25.00
First, West Plains	20.00
Northeast Mo. Association	88.80
So. Fremont Church	7.50
Bethel, Festus	5.00
W.N.A.C.	43.00
Central Western Ass'n	29.00
Myrtle Church	6.16
Leadington Church	6.00
Tom Blubaugh	12.50
Bethel, Eldorado Sprgs.	78.60
Hartville Church	5.00
First, DeSoto	25.00
Vernon Maggart	75.00
Sonlight Missionary Conf.	20.00
New Rock Springs	9.00
Fourth Church	60.85
Low Ground Church	5.00
Madison Co. Qtly. Mtg.	75.00
Mill Creek Church	15.00
Copper Mines Church	14.00
Fellowship Church	32.00
Victory Church	150.76
South Side Church	10.00
Parkview Church	15.00
Salem Church	10.00
Aurora Church	8.63
Hazel Creek Church	5.00
Cooperative Receipts	1,099.49
Total	2,408.16

Secretary—Treasurer

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



by Mrs. Robert Reeves,
reporter for the Fellowship FWB Church
Flat River, Mo.

"And the lord said unto the servant,
Go out into the highways and hedges,
and compel them to come in,
that my house may be filled."

(Luke 14:23)

Children are very dear and important to Jesus. Many times in the Scriptures, when we hear Jesus speaking to or about children, He speaks with great love and compassion. He used a child to illustrate to His disciples that if they were to be big or great in the eyes of God, they would have to humble themselves and become small in their own eyes and in the eyes of the world. He told them that the only way we could make it to Heaven was by becoming as a little child. He also gives a solemn warning that we should be very careful how we treat little ones, for if we shall offend or hurt one of these little children, we shall be punished very severely.

Children are very important to the people of Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Flat River, Missouri. Anything or anyone that was important to Jesus must be important to His followers. As we tried to extend our ministry for Jesus in our area, it became apparent that there were many children in our area that were not attending Sunday school and Church. Many of these children had parents who did not go to church and so did not see the need of sending the children. Many of these children were from homes that had great physical needs but their spiritual needs were of even greater importance. In an effort to reach these children, the church began its Bus Ministry in 1968. A great number of these children had never attended church, so it became our job to teach them about Jesus and the Bible, but also of the other things also, such as how to behave in church (a lesson that needs to be learned by many of our own children that have been in church all their lives), how to treat the Hymn books, etc.

A Ministry Among The Children

Under the leadership of our Pastor, we began a Junior Church Ministry to most effectively teach these children. This proved to be a difficult work and there were many discouragements along the way. Then in early 1972, under the enthusiastic leadership of Pastor Ken Doggett, the work began to prosper and another bus was added to carry the children to church. Through the work of some very dedicated Christian workers, under the leadership of God, the work prospered and in June, 1972, a third bus was added to our fleet. The first Sunday that the third bus was in operation, they were filled. We at Fellowship Church believe in the Bible and we took as our motto the verse found in the Gospel of Saint Luke, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." Our Bus Workers spend many hours each week going out door to door, asking those whom they meet "Do you go to Sunday school?" The answer many times, they have found is "no." It has been necessary to divide our Junior Church and so now we have both a Primary Church and a Junior Church and in this way we can more effectively tell the truths of the Bible, the Plan of Salvation on a level that each child can understand. We use many ways to present the Gospel to these young souls. Songs, choruses, flannelgraphs, chalk talks, and object lessons are all being utilized to present the Plan of Salvation and to tell these young ones about our wonderful Lord. In the past months, we have seen a "Harvest of Souls" won to the Lord in this ministry and we praise Him for it. As workers, in this ministry, we have learned to rely upon God for our needs. When we needed more workers and it seemed that they were not available, we would ask God to provide them and He has done just that. He hasn't failed us yet. It is exciting to sit back and watch as the Lord takes over and provides those things that we cannot do for ourselves. We would challenge others to begin this type of ministry. Go out and find those that others seemingly do not want, those who have nothing to give financially or socially to your church, bring them in, wash their faces if they need it, provide a dress or a shirt or a pair of shoes if they need it, teach them about Christ and soon you will have a soul to present to the throne of Christ. Live a Christian life before them and show them there is a better way to live, but most of all "Love them for Christ's sake."

BIRTHDAYS . . . John Fulcher, Oct. 2 (11); Apartado 6931, Panama 5, R.de Panama; Carol Pinkerton, Oct. 6, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202; Larry Miley, Oct. 28, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202; ANNIVERSARY: Laverne and Lorene Miley, Oct. 30, Mission Protestante Evangelique, B P 20 Bouna, Ivory Coast, West Africa; Jim and Olena McLain, Oct. 18, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202. BIRTHDAY: Donnie McLain, Oct. 5 (12) Same address.

A Missouri Co-Laborer, Mrs. Sandy Smith, of Farmington, was a winner in the WNAC Creative Writing Contest. She was awarded third place in the program division.

"A Rose and Me" was the title of her program. It is an allegory using a rose to show how women can experience consistent Christian growth.

Sandy is active in WA in her area. She has served as St. Francois District President 2 years and was elected Field Worker for '73-'74. She is also the president of the Farmington Auxiliary.

A SPECIAL THOUGHT . . .

My God is no stanger in a faraway place . . . He's as close as the wind that blows across my face . . . It's true I can't see the wind as it blows . . . But I feel it around me and my heart surely knows . . . That God's mighty hand can be felt every minute . . . For there is nothing on earth that God isn't in it . . . The sky and the stars, the waves the seas . . . The dew on the grass, the leaves on the trees . . . Are constant reminders of God and His near-ness . . . Proclaiming His presence with crystal-like clearness . . . So how could I think God was far, far away . . . When I feel Him beside me every hour of the day . . . And I've plenty of reasons to know God's my friend . . . And this is one friendship that time cannot end.

Rites For Miss Prayer Meeting

Miss Faithful Prayer Meeting dies after short illness. She passed away at Neglectville in the State of Half-heartedness. She was born many years ago in the midst of revival fires, and lived a notable and profitable life until recent years.

For some time Miss Prayer Meeting had been confined to her home because of business engagements, fatigue and a tired, all in feeling. These symptoms were always much more noticable on prayer meeting nights than on any other night. She was also troubled with coldness of heart, stiffness of knees, weakness of will power and loss of appetite for spiritual food.

At one time Miss Prayer Meeting was a member of every church and dearly loved by all the members. Her many friends visited her weekly for years, and she greatly helped all who came to her—besides by their coming to her each week, she reached out and helped their unsaved loved ones and friends find spiritual help.

She leaves to mourn her loss, many churches, preachers, and a lost world, many who are the church members' loved ones and friends.

The remains will be left to the judgment of

God, where the Searcher of all things will inquire into the cause of her untimely death. It is suspected that the desire for riches, the love of pleasure and the unconcern for the things of God will be found the main cause of her death.

Pallbearers who carried Miss Prayer Meeting from the church to her grave, were as follows: Mr. I. M. Indifferent, Judge Goodenough, Mr. Will. U. Keepitgoing, Mr. Ben Coldwater, Mr. U. R. Careless and Mr. Yousta Nevermiss.

The flower girls were: Mrs. Yousta Nevermiss, Miss Ida Betterwent, Mrs. Ben Coldwater and Mrs. Under Stirring.

The flower girls and pallbearers were all distant friends of Miss Prayer Meeting. Burial was in the Coldheart cemetery in the New Down Hill addition.

Word has been received that, shortly after the death of Miss Prayer Meeting her two sisters, Miss Sunday Night Meeting and Miss Revival Meeting, also passed away. Burial was also in the Coldheart Cemetery.

—Reprinted from the February, 1952 issue of the FWB GEM at the request of "An Old Soldier of the Cross."

WILL MISSOURI ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE?



Can Missouri Free Will Baptists underwrite Free Will Baptist Bible College's new Library Wing? At \$125,000, there's no doubt that it's a whopping big project. In fact, it's one of the biggest ever attempted by any group of Free Will Baptists in any state!

But Missouri Free Will Baptists have not been known as Johnny-Come-Latelys. When there was a job to do, we've always been right in the middle of it, working with the best of them.

And this job is an important one. What is a college without a library? The Bible College outgrew its original library building and had to add a new wing, completing it early this year. Now, about 140 students per day have been using it proving its worth.

But some are wondering if Missouri will accept this great challenge. You and I know we can handle it. But neither of us can do it alone. It'll take the best from all of us.

So, let's grab this new challenge by the horns and show 'em that 13,000 Missouri Free Will Baptists are equal to any challenge!



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE
3606 WEST END AVENUE NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37205