

Free Will Baptist

Gem

November, 1973

Volume 43

Number 11

**Thanksgiving
In Three Dimensions:**

Past... What God has done for us.

Present... What He is doing.

Future... What He will do.

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and
not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise:
be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth
to all generations.

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*"Who shall tell thee words,
whereby thou and all thy house
shall be saved?" (Acts 11:14).*

THERE IS absolutely no doubt that Christ intended the gospel to be universal. He left this commission with us and it is not a choice, but a command. In Matthew 24:14 Jesus said, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations." In Matthew 28:19 He said, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations." In Mark 13:10 He stated, "And the gospel must first be published among all nations." In Mark

WHO WILL TELL?

by Rev. Max Courtney



16:15 Jesus said to His apostles, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Over and over again Jesus drilled into His apostles the importance of preaching the gospel in all parts of the world.

The Jews were very jealous of the Gentiles even to the point that Christian Jews had condemned Peter for preaching to them. Peter told the church at Jerusalem of his experience. He stated that an angel had stood before a Gentile and told him to send for Peter who would tell them how to be saved.

Now for a special purpose I want to put a question mark after verse 14 of Acts chapter 11, and I think we will be amazed to find that the meaning is not changed nor is it taken out of context. In turning this statement into a question it will allow us to ask ourselves a number of questions.

Who will tell the wicked of their ways? "When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity" (Ezekiel 33:8). Is there a need to tell them of their wickedness? If the wicked man is not told, he will die in his iniquity. So what! What does this mean?

In Matthew 13:49-50 Jesus states, "So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." In Matthew 13:41-42 He says, "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Does this leave any doubt as to the state of the wicked when they stand before the Lord in judgment? There is indeed a need to warn the wicked of their fate.

Is there an obligation to tell them of their wickedness? I think perhaps most folks realize that there is a need without realizing their obligation. If the wicked is not told of his wickedness and dies in his iniquity, we who fail to warn him will have to answer to God for our failure. In Ezekiel 33:8 God said, "...but his blood will I require at thine hand."

In 1 Corinthians 9:16 Paul confessed, "...for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" Necessity is laid upon Me. By whom? Paul had determined this with his opening statement in his letter to the church at Corinth. In 1 Corinthians 1:1 he wrote, "Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ THROUGH THE WILL OF GOD . . ."

"Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel." The same word is used to describe the condition of the world being judged by God for its offences in Matthew 18:7, "WOE unto the world because of offences!" The same word is used to describe a man who has become a stumbling block and caused someone to be misled in that same verse: "...but

WOE to that man by whom the offence cometh!"

The same word is used to describe the position of the hypocrite in judgment in Matthew 23:13, "But WOE unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" The same word is used again in verses 14 and 15 of that same chapter to describe a child of hell. Jude uses the word to describe the fate of idol worshipers in verse 11: "WOE unto them . . ."

I believe Paul knew the meaning of this word. I believe he was saying of himself and to us all, "The same fate awaits the one whom God has called into His service to carry the gospel if he fails in his calling as the fate of the offender, the false teacher, the hypocrite, the child of hell, or the idol worshiper."

In Ezekiel 33:9 our obligation is spelled out in no uncertain terms, "Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul."

Who shall tell the wicked the words of salvation? Is it necessary to tell people how to be saved? Is it necessary to tell them even though they do not want to be told? I realize these questions make me seem a bit naive, but recently I heard a minister state that he did not believe we had an obligation to take the gospel further than the pulpit of our churches. I recall a time when a number of my fellow ministers in the district where I was pastoring felt the same way.

Jesus taught that it is necessary to tell people how to be saved. In fact He felt it was so necessary that He taught it to His disciples with His last statement to them before going to His Father: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things . . ." (Matthew 28:19-20).

The Ethiopian eunuch stated the position of all unsaved people whether they are of our nation or another when Philip asked him, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" His answer was, "How can I except some man should guide me?" Can you imagine a world of lost people desiring understanding of how to be saved from their sins and no one to tell them? If you can, you are one, like Peter, willing to go where God directs you and in the manner He prescribes. If you cannot, you need to pause right here and confess your failure.

Paul stirred the hearts of the church at Rome with these words. "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

The last part of verse 14 of the eleventh chapter of Acts at first puzzled me: ". . . and all thy house shall be saved." How many times I as a pastor have been confronted with the question, "What can I do to get my family saved?" How many times have I

prayed with burdened members of my congregation about unsaved loved ones. Then as I searched for the deep meaning of this statement the Holy Spirit gave me the answer. In Acts 1:8 Jesus declared to His disciples, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." The man who is unwilling to take the gospel to his own family is not worthy to take it to the uttermost parts of the earth. We cannot be effective witnesses to the world until we have had an effect on our families. Now I don't mean to imply that you will always win them for Christ, but the effect of your witness should be great enough that they will have no doubt as to where you stand. Now Acts 1:8 doesn't state that you must FIRST witness to those around you (those in Jerusalem) as it is often preached, but your witness must certainly INCLUDE them.

Does my salvation assure the salvation of my family? The Bible declares it. In Acts 16:30-31 a man said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved AND THY HOUSE."

Common logic assures it. Whom does a child most want to be like? Watch little Susie put on mom's high heeled shoes and dress and stand before the mirror. What is she doing? Trying to be like mommie?

What is Johnnie doing when he puts on dad's hat, coat and shoes? (Dad, don't whip your son for smoking if he sees you do it . . . Don't be surprised to be called down town to bail him out for possession of liquor if he sees it in the refrigerator. I couldn't pass that up now, could I?)

In the younger years the child molds himself after his parents. What an opportunity to witness! Many times we lose our children because we pass up this opportunity. Many times young married people sacrifice their most precious possession for a few wild nights of "Livin' it Up" with the wild crowd instead of giving those precious children the early molding they need to bring them to Christ when they reach the age of accountability.

Statistics prove it. Men like J. Edgar Hoover recognized the importance of a Christ-centered life to rightly develop a child. Ask law enforcement officers who deal with juveniles. You'll find that the overwhelming majority will tell you that the child who is interested in church and Sunday school seldom becomes interested in crime. That the child who has his name on the church book seldom gets it on the police blotter.

Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved? Who will tell them if you, the Church, the Bride of Christ, refuse?

Rev. Max Courtney, is pastor of the Free Will Baptist church in Cabool, Missouri. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the General Board of the Missouri State Association.

IN MEMORY OF CORPORAL JACKIE MONTGOMERY

*who was a member of the Cabool FWB Church,
and other FWB young men
who lost their lives in service
for their country.*



THE FOLLOWING unfinished letter was found in the personal belongings of Corporal Jackie Montgomery. It was intended for his pastor and the members of the First FWB Church of Cabool, Missouri. It was returned to his mother, Mrs. Cleo Montgomery of Cabool following his death from battle wounds suffered in South Vietnam May 1, 1968.

Rev. and Mrs. Payton Smyers:
Members of the Church:

It is dark and I am near my foxhole on guard.

There are flares exploding steadily so I can see enough to write a little.

I got a letter from home last week. Mom said the church always remembers us in their prayers. Due to the situation here I can tell you that there are no words I can find to express my appreciation for those prayers.

I have seen many pastors change over in that church. I remember when the roof seemed a hundred feet high and when I had to stand on tiptoes to see over the altar. It has always been my church.

The people there I have seen come and go, old and young and I knew them all. And now I must thank all of you for remembering me.

There is one thing I would like to mention here. When you pray do not only ask God for safety strength and courage, but always remember to thank Him for that which he has already given us. Everyday is Thanksgiving here. Every hour is Thanksgiving here. There are no atheists. I have met one man with agnostic views but he is new and has not yet seen action. I'm sure he will change. For those back there who believe God is dead, send them here for awhile. You run into God every time you turn around.

Our Easter services were well worth telling about. We were camped in a graveyard. We had no chaplain so our squad got together for a brief service. We read of the resurrection and then we prayed. It was very short and very simple but I will never forget it.

The news from home has been of interest to us. The hope of peace talks, the president's decision not to run for re-election, but deepest feeling came from the news of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. I was under a poncho with three Negroes when we heard the news. We discussed it not as three Negroes and one white man but as four men. One made the remark that if the people back home could only see how we live together, work together, care for one another over here then there would be no consideration given to color.

Another incident which seemed remarkable to me occurred shortly after I arrived here. My fire-team leader, a large colored man from St. Louis, and I were on observation post near a school for students of Buddah. One student walked over to Baines and holding their wrists together pointed and laughed at the difference in color. Then he pointed at my wrist without laughing. Bains pointed to his own hand and said "Negro." He then pointed at my hand and said, "Caucasian." The Vietnamese student looked a little confused. Then, Baines held our wrists together and said, "Both Americans." The student understood this. The simple words were perfect. I even seemed to understand a little better myself.

It is for us all that I hope you will pray. And if there are any among you who refuses to pray for a man because of his color then write and tell me. I will pray for him.

I have listened to the words of you people for 20 years, and in every case I was able to profit from them. I am not a preacher, but if you will allow me

to say a few words about things which I have learned here I would feel better. I know now that I always have taken the finer things of our life for granted. There is little freedom here. After dark anyone who moves in rural areas is suspected of being VC and they are responded to accordingly. It is a cold way of doing it but is necessary. There is little electricity. The village huts have no windows or doors. Seldom do you see floor other than dirt. The sanitation problem is tremendous. It seems that all of the things we understand as necessities at home are no more than a distant hope for these people. They are kicked from house to house taking refuge anywhere, as the war goes on around them. The VC move into a village. The people move out. We move in and obliterate the village. That is the common sequence.

Our town of Cabool has been well represented in this war. We have suffered but we have suffered little in contrast to some places. We ask you to stand behind us. You hold the greatest most effective weapon in this war. That is prayer. Remember us. There are many who seldom hear from home. I have been lucky—friends and relatives have written regularly. But for these who seldom hear from home I wish there was something you could do just to let them know you are thinking of them. Not only the church but the entire town should join together in support. We think we are doing the right thing. Your encouragement would confirm our beliefs.

And for those who question our right of being here I ask, did the dough boys have the right to fight in Europe in 1917? Did we have the right to respond to the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941? Did we go wrong in defending Korea in the early 50's? The question is not whether we have the right. The question is do we have the responsibility. Isolationism is dangerous for a major power. I believe we have the responsibility.

Before long we will all be returning home, God willing. Again you people will be interrupted in your night's sleep by the loud noise of screeching tires on the pavement. You'll again become annoyed and disgusted with this younger generation. It is true we are lively in our youth but remember we are young. Call us down when we need it. We don't deny we often need it.

But here in Vietnam you never hear anyone say "Why me?" We understand why. It is our time to live. We are the ones now who are responsible. Please remember when we come home that it is our time to live and I will guarantee we all will live better for we have seen a life without freedom.

And also in your prayers please remember all the boys in uniform regardless of location. There are many who fail to receive proper credit for their work only because they are not here. Without them our work here could not possibly function. Remember them for they do as much as we do.

Thus ended the unfinished letter that was found on the body of Corporal Jackie Montgomery after he was mortally wounded by small arms fire. What a

testimony of his godly upbringing in a Free Will Baptist home and church! His, mother, Mrs. Cleo Montgomery, lost her husband in a car accident when Jackie was only 3 years old. She raised Jackie and his five brothers and sisters alone, with the help of the Lord. What a testimony of one of our churches and its pastors through the years who were used of the Lord to instill in Jackie a faith so radiant even in the very face of death. Jackie was saved in a revival meeting conducted by Rev. Max Courtney in the Cabool FWB Church while Rev. Owen Solodine was the pastor. As mentioned in the letter, Rev. Payton Smyers was his pastor while he was in Vietnam, and conducted Jackie's funeral service.

Jackie's testimony in this letter has literally gone around the world. President Lyndon B. Johnson had the letter called to his attention and was moved to write Jackie's mother, "General Johnson, the Army Chief of Staff, sent me a copy of the letter your son Jackie wrote to his pastor and church members before he died.

"I was deeply touched by the letter—saddened because a boy like Jackie has died, but heartened by the affirmation of faith that he expressed so well."

The Commanding General of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, wrote: "I have read with the deepest of feelings and inspiration the unfinished letter which your son wrote in Vietnam, and which you forwarded to me through Chaplain Burns. I have been so deeply touched by your son's deep, religious feelings; by his clear understanding of our national obligations; by his deep appreciation of the moral and social changes which our nation must face, and by his clearly evident courage, that I have already read this letter aloud to several assemblages of officers, soldiers, and civilians. One group was composed of leading business men, as well as newspaper and radio men, from Wisconsin who had come to Fort Leonard Wood to observe the training of the 84th Division here. They were so impressed by your son's letter that I was asked to read it again so it could be broadcasted by radio in Wisconsin. I was pleased to do so, for I think it can be an inspiration to people of all walks of life and of all ages.

"I have also sent a copy of both your letter, and your son's, to General Harold K. Johnson, Chief of Staff, United States Army, for I know that he will be personally grateful for your son's inspiring words and for the sacrifice he has made for his country."

The American Freedom Foundation also gave Jackie's letter circulation. Many newspapers covered the story and as a result Jackie's mother has received numbers of letters from all over the country expressing their appreciation for Jackie's testimony.

We can rejoice as Free Will Baptists that the Lord has used one of our own to bear such a profound testimony to the world. We need also to see in this the opportunity that is ours in all of the young lives to whom our churches minister. May we do so with a renewed sense of urgency, for Jackie Montgomery's sake.

CHURCHES PEOPLE and EVENTS

NEW CHURCH ORGANIZED

Faith Chapel Free Will Baptist Church was formally organized on September 9, 1973, in what was formerly the Howell Valley Community Church, West Plains, Missouri. Rev. Clark Stephen was elected by the congregation as pastor of the new church.

Rev. Donnie Morris preached the organizational message using Isaiah 9:6-7 as his text. Other ministers participating in the service were Rev. Noah Miller, Rev. Howard Bowers, Rev. Davie Combs, and Rev. Charles Hollis.

There were 15 charter members who elected the following officers: Clerk, Donna Cline; Treasurer, Hattie Sims, Deacon, Troy Sins.

KNOWN PASTORAL CHANGES

Rev. Ernie Hale from Myrtle FWB Church to Seminole, Texas.

HERMAN MILEY PROMOTED TO GLORY

Mr. Herman Miley, father of Free Will Baptist missionary, Dr. LaVern Miley, was promoted to glory last month. Brother Miley was a faithful deacon of the Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church near Kirksville, Missouri. Pastor Archie Cooper conducted the memorial services.

101 IN SERVICES AT JEFFERSON CITY

Pastor George Bryant reports that they had 101 persons attending their morning services on October 14 at the Capitol City FWB Church, in Jefferson City.

Their Bible School was conducted the last week of August and averaged 71 in attendance. The Bible School closed with a commencement service and church picnic, according to Mrs. Eva Southern, the church reporter.

MISSIONS SEMINAR CONDUCTED AT TRINITY

Rev. J. Reford Wilson, director of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions conducted a one day missions seminar at the Trinity FWB Church in Bridgeton, Missouri. Answering such questions as: What do missionaries do when they are not out witnessing? How do you learn a language where there is no school to teach it? How much and what kind of training do I have to have to go to the mission field? What kinds of missionary openings are there today? and How do I know if I am being called to be a missionary? Brother Wilson was used of God to challenge hearts for missions at the Trinity Church.

CABOOL CHURCH EXPERIENCES REVIVAL

Pastor Max Courtney writes, "The First FWB Church of Cabool, Missouri, would like to report a very successful revival with Evangelist Andy Lay. God poured out His blessings and several came forward at the invitation during the services to rededicate their lives to Christ.

"Thank God for the spirit of revival. May it sweep our beloved denomination from coast to coast rekindling fires that have long ceased to burn, warming hearts that have long been cold."

IS EVERYONE ON YOUR GEM CHURCH PLAN THAT SHOULD RECEIVE THE GEM?

Churches often fail to keep their GEM mailing list up-to-date by adding to the list names of new members, shut-ins, college students, and service men. If the GEM is good for anyone in your church (and we believe it is) then it should be good for all your members.

Some churches are solving the mailing list problem by just ordering a bundle of GEMS to be sent to the church where members can pick them up at service time, rather than trying to keep up with all the address changes as members move.

Please check your subscription list (the GEM office will send you one if you do not have yours handy) and make sure it is up-to-date.

560 ENROLL AT FWBBC: 20 OF THEM MISSOURIANS

Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, enrolled a record number of students again this fall. Of the 560 students who enrolled, 173 are ministerial students and 52 are missionary students.

Registering at Free Will Baptist Bible College from Missouri were, Diane Louise Chapman from

Marshfield, Marilyn Gale Combs from Manchester, Daniel Eugene Deatherage from St. Louis, Joe Wayne Garrison from Myrtle, Fred Green from Springfield, David Franklin Hogan from St. John, Paul Eugene Irish from Springfield, Nicholas Jay Leonard from Desloge, Paula Jean Leonard from Desloge, Leon Clarence Miller from Fredericktown, Carol Sue Rich from Mountain Grove, Gary Lynn Satterfield from Kansas City, Jacqueline Lyn Stephens from De Soto, Sandra Lyn Summers from Desloge, Robert Kent Tallent from St. Louis, Yvonne Howard Thigpen from Arnold, Jeffrey Allen Turnbough from Viburnum, Jimmy H. Turnbough from Viburnum, James Vernon Ward from St. Louis, and Ladonna Gail Ward from St. Louis.

These fine students and the many pastors and Christian workers in our state who have gotten part or all of their training at Free Will Baptist College certainly make the importance of the Library Wing Project even more urgent to Missouri Free Will Baptists. The State Association voted in August to attempt to raise \$125,000 to underwrite the cost of the newly constructed Library Wing. If your church has not yet committed herself to a portion of that project, please do so soon.

DESOTO MOVES INTO NEW EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

Mrs. Sophia Ackerson writes from the DeSoto FWB Church, "Our dear Lord is so good to us in Desoto. This coming Sunday we are moving into our new classrooms to begin our new quarter. We have 10 new classrooms and a basement. They are beautiful. Some of our classes will be divided and have new teachers. The dear men of our church have worked and sacrificed and prayed for all these things. We give God the glory and thanks for all these needs being supplied. We will be fixing our parking space next with asphalt. Pray for us."

Rev. Charles Miller is the pastor.

MISS HAZEL HUTSELL TO CHILDREN'S HOME

Miss Hazel Hutsell, formerly of the Mountain Grove First Church, and treasurer of the State Woman's Auxiliary Convention, began her duties as a secretary of the Free Will Baptist Home for children in Greeneville, Tennessee, last month. She will certainly be missed by Missouri Free Will Baptists as she has been active in both the State Auxiliary Convention and the State Association.

MOUNTAIN GROVE CHURCH AMONG 10 TOP GIVERS TO HILLSDALE

The Oklahoma State Association meeting in

McAllister was the setting for a presentation made to Rev. Lynn Wood, pastor of the Mountain Grove FWB Church. The award was presented by officials of Hillsdale College in Moore, Oklahoma, to the Mountain Grove Church for being the tenth top giver of all Free Will Baptist churches during the past year.

In a letter from Rev. Jerry Rhoades to the Mountain Grove Church, he wrote, "We appreciate what you and your church have done, and your commitment to the cause of Christ through Hillsdale is an inspiration to everyone."

FROM THE McLAINS IN JAPAN

We want to express our thanks to the people of Missouri who stood behind us in a real way to help us leave on schedule. We appreciate all of you.

Upon our arrival in Japan we spent a few days visiting the Herseys and Waids then came on to Sapporo. Right now we are living in a two-room apartment we have sub-let from a boy and he is living in the church balcony (where we were living). We have spent days looking at houses. They are either too big or too small, or they are not in a good area. Too, they are all too expensive!!! Our car is not in running condition, and cannot be fixed. Inflation here is as bad as in the states. Too, our dollar is worth 30% less than it was. I paid \$3.00 for a little over a pound of hamburger. A ground meat 40% pork and 60% beef runs \$1.40 a pound. Eggs are around 90¢ a dozen and gasoline is about 86¢ a gallon.

But we are glad to be here. We are depending upon your prayers to uphold us. There is a real need here and the Lord has a work for us.

In Christ,

(signed) The McLains 062
1-6 Higashi Sapporo
Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan

FROM THE FULCHERS IN PANAMA

Once again we greet you from Panama. We arrived back here on August 24. It is good to be back "home" and into our work again.

We enjoyed our three month furlough in the States very much. We appreciate what all the folks in Missouri did for us while we were home and continue to do for us.

We have been pleased with the condition of the church in Agua Buena. We are thankful for the work Brother Jerry Griffith did this summer in our absence. Our Sunday school attendance is staying over 100 every week. Things are at a low ebb right now in San Juan, due to not having had services in that area for several weeks. We hope soon to be

having good services over there on Saturdays.

Please remember these two prayer requests: 1. Another vehicle. Our request for a window van, or small bus to be used in our work has been approved. Therefore, we ask that you pray that the Lord would supply the money needed to purchase this needed bus. 2. A house. We feel we would be to an advantage to either move right into the Agua Buena community or else into town. At present there are no houses available to rent in the Agua Buena area. Pray that the Lord would lead us in this matter and give us the very house where we ought to live in order to best serve Him. Rent is terribly high in Panama. It is very unlikely that we will find a house under \$300 a month.

Yours to Serve,

Bill and Glenda Fulcher
Apartado 6931
Panama 5, Panama

FROM THE CARRS IN ALASKA

We want to thank each of you again for your continued support and prayers. We received some nice gifts and letters from many of you this summer and we appreciate your thoughtfulness. Maybe now that we are entering the long nights and winter months, we'll have time to be more regular on our newsletters. Please remember us in your prayers, and the Lord willing, we hope to see some of you in Wichita next July. God Bless each of you.

Love, in Christ,
Bob, Shirley, Debbie, Robert Carr

MISSOURI'S NATIONAL GIVING FOR SEPTEMBER

Missouri individuals and churches gave \$999.96 to Free Will Baptist Bible College during September, 1973; \$769.96 to the General Fund; \$185.00 to the Building Fund; and \$45.00 Alumni gifts. The leading church for the month was Fellowship Church in Flat River which gave \$55.00 to the Building Fund.

National Home Missions giving from Missouri for September totaled \$1,533.60. The leading church was South Fremont in Springfield which gave \$110.00. Missouri has now contributed \$14,783.94 to National Home Missions for the year, lacking only \$2,216.06 to reach our quota of \$17,000.00 for the year.

15 BAPTISMS AT GRACE CHURCH

The Grace FWB Church in Arnold, Missouri,

reports 15 baptisms last month. Most of the candidates were saved in Grace's Junior Church which averages 90 per week in attendance. Three red, white, and blue buses now are in operation in the city of Arnold bringing folks to church and Sunday school at the Grace FWB Church.

A \$100,000 addition to the church plant at Grace is now under consideration.

Good revival services were reported recently with Brother Lawrence Thompson of Kansas City as the evangelist. There were several decisions made during the meeting.

Rev. Glenn Rehkop is the Pastor.

OOPS, GOOFED!

The announcement in last month's GEM attempting to correct an error only made it worse. The announcement read, "We have had two address changes in a row for the treasurer of our State Home Missions Board. All State Home Missions money should be sent to Rev. Dennis Bowman, 1932 Belmont, Independence, MO 64057."

The only thing wrong with the announcement was that it should have said STATE YOUTH CAMP BOARD instead of STATE HOME MISSIONS BOARD. So, let me try again . . .

State Youth Camp money should now be sent to Rev. Dennis Bowman, 1932 Belmont, Independence, MO 64057, and State Home Missions money should still be sent to Rev. Lawrence Thompson, 3415 N. Bellefontaine, Kansas City, MO 64117.

And by the way, this announcement was not just so you would have their addresses straight, but so you would send them money!

REPORT OF GIFTS TO THE YOUTH CAMP KITCHEN PROJECT:

Desoto FWB Church	\$ 50.00
Black Oak FWB Church	25.00
Verdella FWB Church	29.00
Central FWB Church	40.35
Thayer FWB Church	66.30
Houston FWB Church	17.00
Ladies' Auxiliary of Waynesville	5.00
F. D. Johnson	5.00
Flat River First FWB Church	53.75
Olivet FWB Church	168.00
Mr. Gary Bandy	.06
First FWB Church of Cuba	21.00
Mrs. Grover Pingleton	5.00
Betty Luke	1.00
Willow Springs FWB Church	55.00
Kenneth Turner	2.00
Total to date	538.46

Send offerings for this project to
Mrs. Francis Bowman
625 N. Odell
Marshall, MO 65340

Try your knowledge of the Bible and Free Will Baptist history out on this new GEM feature, a cross word puzzle, prepared by Rev. Max Courtney.

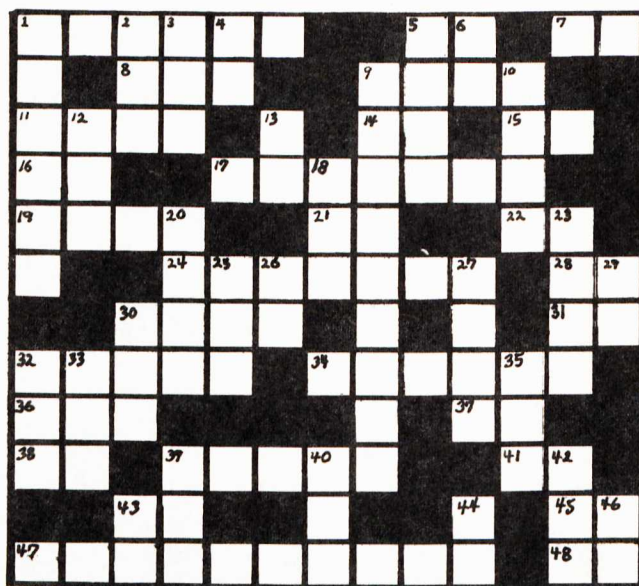
CROSSWORD PUZZLE 1

ACROSS

1. Last name of one of the first Free Will Baptist preachers in America.
5. Fourteenth word in Matthew 5:44 (K.J.V.) concerning returning good for evil.
7. Air Force (abbr.)
8. A cereal grass (*Avena Sativa*) cultivated for its grain.
9. Jesus commanded a man, "Stretch forth thy _____." (Luke 6:10)
11. "Thou knowest my _____ setting" (Psalm 139:2)
14. Anno Domini (Abbr.)
15. Bachelor of Arts (*Artium Bacclareus*)
16. Each (Abbr.)
17. Northern State where some of the first Free Will Baptist churches in America were founded.
19. Greek Mythical goddess of discord
21. Epistle (Abbr.)
22. Alternating current
24. Last name of man who founded the first Free Will Baptist Bible College in America.
28. The form of a before an initial vowel sound.
30. A house built on it will not stand. (Matthew 7:26)
31. Round out (Abbr.)
32. Raised platform or floor
34. Last name of verteran missionary family
36. International Harvester Corporation (Abbr.)
37. Long Range (Abbr.)
38. In the way or manner indicated (Matthew 5:16)
39. "Though thou wash thee with _____" (Jeremiah 2:22)
41. Morning
43. Granting or supposing that . . .
45. A city near Bethel (Joshua 7:2)
47. Name of villages near Jerusalem (Nehemiah 12:28)
48. Doctor (Abbr.)

DOWN

1. Galatians 4:5, "To _____ them that were under the law"
2. John 13:7, "What I do thou knowest not _____"
3. One of the twelve tribes of Israel
4. Jesus used this preposition in Matthew 5:34 concerning swearing.
5. Part of a pedestal
6. To be saved, one must believe _____ the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 16:31)
9. Some of the first Free Will Baptist churches in America began here in New _____.



ANSWER TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 12

10. Known or available information
12. Used to propel a boat
13. Objective case of the pronoun I
18. Religion (Abbr.)
20. To cause to sink or sway
23. Alice and Phoebe _____, U.S. poets of 1800's.
24. To move from side to side (Jeremiah 18:16)
25. Being a single unit
26. Olive Drab (Abbr.)
27. "... they shall _____ as lions' whelps." (Jeremiah 51:38)
29. To answer in the negative
30. Strategic Air Command
32. Sister (slang)
33. Short for though
35. The period of time to which anything belongs.
39. National Farm Organization
40. Cheer
42. What Festus said Paul was in Acts 26:24.
43. A personal pronoun of the third person
44. General issue
45. Advertisement (Abbr.)
46. Ireland (Abbr.)

**SEPTEMBER COOPERATIVE:
1973 & 1974 allocation:**

Aurora	36.00
Viburnum	50.00
Grace	350.43
Bonne Terre Gospel Light FWB	15.00
Willow Springs Church	103.15
Union Grove S.S. & Church	175.00
Royal Oaks FWB Church	107.00
Beacon	192.24
Salem	20.00
First FWB Mission	
Kansas City (adopted)	25.60
First FWBC West Pl.	145.47
Garfield	22.23
Hannon	105.85
Verdella	52.74
Central K.C.	270.00
Pleasant Ridge	41.80
Number One	25.70
Farmington First	243.77
Leadington	109.86
Freeman Chapel (2 mos.)	124.09
Olivett	130.00
Faith	119.96
Thayer	100.65
Independence	44.00
Victory	258.39
Belton	86.00
De Soto First	182.00
Berkley	357.74
Black Oak (3 months)	30.00
Mt. Grove First	300.42
Houston	106.00
Twin Oaks Church	200.00
Marshfield	40.10
Calvary Conway (readopted)	104.00
Purdy First	58.50
Merl's Chapel	47.37
Monett First	231.12
Copper Mines	95.00
Rock Chapel ... Sept.	20.04
Grant Avenue—Springfield	251.17
Lebanon First	400.00
Hickory Grove	12.53
New Rock Springs	40.75
Cabool	101.06
Waynesville (4 Mos.)	418.62
Willow Springs	97.55
Grant Ave.	331.64
Number One	25.54
Carterville	22.08
New Harmony S.S. (3 mos.)	21.30
Viburnum	50.00
Bethel of Festus	40.00
O'Bethel FWBC	20.00
Mine La Motte	12.25
Fellowship	50.00
Fourth	242.62
South Side	257.74
Total received:	\$7,122.07

Cooperative September Disbursement:

20.00% Missouri Missions	\$1,424.41
15.00% State Promotional Department	1,068.31
04.00% General Fund.	284.88
05.50% Missouri Youth Camp	391.71
04.00% State College Commission	284.88
02.50% Gem	178.05
01.00% Missouri C.T.S. & Sunday School	71.22
52% seven Mo. Depts.	3,703.46
48% out of state	
13.00% Foreign Missions	925.87

09.00% Free Will Baptist Bible College	640.99
07.00% National Executive Department	498.55
06.50% National Home Missions	462.93
03.00% National C.T.S. Department	213.66
02.00% Board of Retirement & Insurance	142.44
00.25% Layman's Board	17.81
00.25% Theological Liberalism Comm.	17.81
Total	\$2,920.06
07.00% Hillsdale College (regional)	498.55
100% Disbursed	\$7,122.07

Harry Beatty—Promotional Secretary and Treasurer

WOULD YOU?

I try to think before I speak
Lest something I should say
Would cause someone as weak as I
To stumble, lose his way.

I try to live my life as though
Each day was all the time I had,
For I know someone's watching me
And what I do, if good or bad.

I also know that all are judged,
And I wouldn't ever want it said
That someone else's life was lost
For following in a path I led.

—Lena Sprague

Contributed by John Scott, Cabool

THE WONDERS OF HIS GRACE

His joy—how unspeakable!
His mercies—how sure!
His peace—passing knowledge;
His love—holy, pure;
His guidance—how perfect!
His will—only sweet;
His assurance—so precious,
His atonement—complete
His compassion—so tender,
His faithfulness—great;
His comfort—sustaining,
His help—never late;
His power—omnipotent,
His truth giving light;
His presence—transforming,
His was—ever right!

—copied

THE TITHER'S SURPRISE

The Christian who begins to tithe will have at least four surprises:

1. At the amount of money he has for the Lord's work.
2. At the deepening of his spiritual life which he will feel.

3. At the ease of meeting his own obligations with the nine-tenths, and at the preparation this gives to be a wise steward over the remaining nine-tenths.
 4. At himself for not adopting the plan sooner.
- Copied from the Trinity FWB Church Newsletter

State Home Mission Giving Sept. 5 thru Oct. 5, 1973

Thayer	\$ 7.00
Copper Mines	7.00
Central	40.00
Willow Springs	16.28
Alton	10.00
Olivet	150.00
Grace	25.00
Rock Chapel	20.00
So. Fremont	259.27
Mine LaMotte	10.00
Viburnum	25.00
Victory	145.90
Waynesville, First	4.76
New Rock Springs	12.00
DeSoto, First	25.00
Low Ground	5.00
Verdella	20.00
Hartville	5.00
Monett, First	78.34
Cooperative Receipts	1,424.41
Total	\$2,289.96

Secretary Treasurer

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

Designated Giving Through the State Office

Springfield, South Fremont FWB Church (3 accounts)	\$377.77
Aurora FWB Church (7 accounts)	59.50
Buffalo FWB Church (1 account)	46.90
Mountain Grove, First Church (2 accounts)	16.00
Hickory Grove Sunday School and Church (1 account)	9.81
Total for the month	\$509.98

Outside giving to all departments may be sent to
Rev. Harry Beatty
2244 Tenbrook
Arnold, MO 63010

HIT ME AGAIN

In old colonial days ministers were quite adept at delivering lengthy sermons. It was on such an occasion that a pastor, already having preached about an hour and ninety minutes, noticed one of his members sleeping. Embarrassed, he motioned for an usher. The usher located the sleeping man and, taking a long stick with a rabbit's foot attached to the end, gently tapped him. The man snored on. The usher tapped him again, but a little firmer. The man continued to enjoy slumber. By this time the usher's face was red with embarrassment and it was then

that he soundly whacked the gentleman's head. The man slumped from the pew and onto the floor.

Thinking he had really injured the man, the usher knelt at his side only to hear him mutter, "Hit me again, I can still hear him."

WHEN IS ONE A BACKSLIDER?

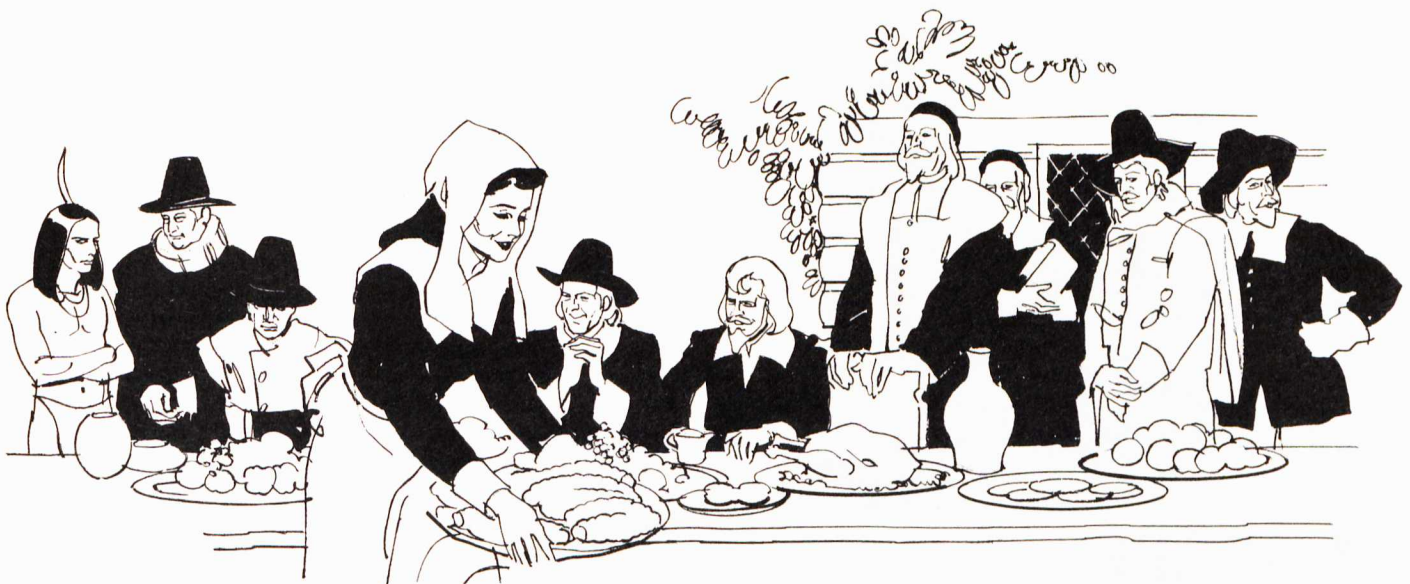
... A person does not backslide all at once. Usually, it is gradual and unnoticed. Here are some telltale signs:

1. *He forgets to read his Bible.* Previously, it had a vital place in his life. Now he cuts himself off from spiritual nourishment. He is too busy.
2. *He ceases to pray.* No longer does he ask God to help solve his problems, supply wisdom and guidance, bless others, and forgive sins. God being thus ignored, seems farther away.
3. *He begins to criticize others.* He tries to ease his conscience by saying that others are as bad as he is. He finds fault with the preacher and criticizes the church leaders.
4. *He no longer feels he should win people to Christ.* He does not bring others to church because he reasons, "nobody else does."
5. *He becomes irregular in attending church.* The preacher affords him no comfort in his downward walk so he reasons he gets more satisfaction doing other things.
6. *He stops giving.* He has to meet his bills. Besides, he isn't going to support the church when it has too much already.

by Dr. Luther Thompson, Richmond, Virginia
copied from the *Trinity Church Newsletter*



ANSWERS TO PUZZLE No. 1



SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES 1972-73

Church	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
Aurora	64	66	62	51	47	62	52	30	26	19	26	
Berkeley, First								302	296	289	316	323
Bethel, Festus							83	80	86	96	79	
Copper Mines	92	81	84	77	76	85	91	77				
Cuba	93	82	84	93	91	88	98	80	85		78	72
Desoto	144	136	145	157	178	189	189	159	159	143	158	150
Farmington	150	136	145	125	155		161	139	139	131	129	132
Fellowship, Flat River	333	311	324	328	370	407	390	322	310	277	298	384
Flat River, First	141	124	130	146	140	178	215	159	149	150	149	
Fourth, St. Louis	135	140	136	134	145	154	143	112	110	125	123	
Grace, Arnold	227	206	175		223	241	255	194	209	189	220	202
Jefferson City				38	39	43	40	36	31	34	43	51
Jones Chapel				81	74	86	83	84	86	86	91	101
Joplin, First	75	68	64	74	119	139	116	106	100	102	101	95
King's Way, Springfield	59	56	55	60	65	64	66	67	61	68	56	
Kirkville				111	112	117	114	112	103	101	95	
Leadington	110	100	97	76	51	59	63		62	60	59	
Lebanon, First	167	143	149	153	156	160	166	144	143	134	119	191
Mine LaMotte	42	36	31	36	43	42	51	46	55	43		37
Monett, First	219	211	203	196	209	219	207	198	219	209	200	
Mountain Grove, First	266	255	240	246	284	263						
Myrtle	51	48	56	47	53	63	52	50	48	45	52	54
O'Fallon				53	64	72	72	70				
Parkview, Desloge	93	93	94	96	98	90	106	97	83	83	87	96
Richwoods				23	28	34	35	40	34	36	30	31
Salem		35	39	39	46	42	39	41	40	37	49	43
South Fremont, Spfd	78	68	73	67	75	77	75	71		77		
Southside, St. Louis	153	138	149	133	144	156	154	144	130	132	130	
Springfield, First				180	228	212	231	200				
Thayer	148	144	151	116	157	153	181	149	159	173	152	152
Trinity, Bridgeton	191	180	186	172	171	194	200	160	153	159	157	184
Twin Oaks	46	48	51	50	53	55	51	71				
Victory, Avondale	212	152	184	173	171	181	174	165	155	138	160	164
Willow Springs	109	86	84	77	88	94	94	95	91	94	95	

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

Promotional Secretary's Corner

by Rev. Harry Beatty



The Thayer FWB Church conducted a one-week revival meeting with Rev. Terry Forrest preaching the evangelistic message each evening. The meeting closed with their annual home coming service. Sunday, September 9. I attended the three final services and delivered the homecoming sermon Sunday afternoon. Several gospel singing groups and individuals participated in these services. Some souls were saved through this revival effort. Pastor Harvey Hill and the church continue to win people for the Lord and to fill their newly enlarged sanctuary too.

The Ministers' Retreat held at Missouri Camp Grounds September 10-12 was very uplifting. Pastor Ruedell Smith, from Purcell, Oklahoma, was the principal messenger. The preaching and fellowship both were real good.

Sunday evening, September 16, Mrs. Beatty and I visited Desoto First FWB Church and I delivered the evening sermon. A real good attendance was present.

Pastor Miller reported that souls were saved in their altar service Sunday morning. Several others in the past few weeks have been saved also. In less than seven years the Desoto Church has completed a three-phase building project. The outside walls of the entire building are now finished with red brick. Their cooperative giving has increased each year also.

Cave Springs ministers' and deacons' meeting assembled with Baily Chapel Church near Alton on Saturday, September 22. Previously assigned Bible topics were discussed. Rev. Garland Barton and Charles Gower shared the preaching time at noon. I was given time to explain the new allocation of Missouri cooperative funds during the afternoon service.

Saturday night I visited the Pleasant Ridge Church. Pastor Virgil Blankenship invited me to preach the evening sermon. Several other ministers were present for this service.

Sunday morning, September 23, I went with Pastor Ehrhardt to Garland Church and delivered the sermon there. Garfield Church consistently supports Missouri Cooperative Plan of giving. The same Sunday evening I shared with Pastor Tommy Owens and the congregation at Licking. One young man was saved in the service. Another had been saved that morning. The first phase of their new church building is moving forward. It is located on Highway 63. The congregation is presently worshipping in the new building.

Saturday, September 29, Laclede County Quarterly Meeting assembled with Sunnyview Church. Ministers delivering messages were Darrel Starnes, Glen Jones, Elder Starnes, Joe Fulkerson, and Brother Beatty. I also gave the cooperative program report.

Rev. Jeff Bennett delivered the introductory sermon in Niangua Quarterly Meeting, meeting Saturday evening, September 29. They assembled with New Prospect Church near Buffalo, Missouri. Time was given for our Missouri cooperative program. Pastor Mancel Cline delivered the Sunday morning sermon. The conference adjourned with the noon service.

I visited the Gray Summits Church Sunday evening, September 29. One of their young ministers, Patrick Martin, delivered the sermon. Pastor Stogsdill baptized two recent converts Sunday afternoon. I explained the 1973-74 allocation of Missouri Cooperative Funds. They have supported from their inception.

55 churches contributed \$7,122.07 for September. We need to average this amount each month to reach Missouri's projected annual goal of \$85,000. Please observe that two churches adopted the Cooperative Plan of Giving in September.

Woman's Page



MEET OUR CO-LABORERS ON THE MISSION FIELD

NEWS . . . The Myrtle Auxiliary recently held their emphasis program and also sponsored a tupperware party for the missionary provision closet. A \$50.00 order was sent from this auxiliary. Mrs. Ernie Hale is president . . . **NEED A PROJECT???** The possibilities are too many to mention, but here are just a few that you might like to use . . . Redecorate a room at the Children's Home (\$25.00) . . . Purchase a washer or dryer for the Children's Home (\$250.00) . . . Save stamps or coupons for them also . . . New stoves for our state youth camp (\$1,200 and this is a **MUST** before we can have camp next year) . . . **FEBRUARY** is State Home Missions emphasis for the perpetual loan fund (goal \$1,000) . . . **YEARLY** project is a 16mm projector for the Sparks in Spain (goal \$1,000) . . . These are just a very few possibilities . . . Ladies, let's make this year our biggest for outside giving.

A dear old saint of the Lord who was known widely for her use of the term, "amen," was asked on one occasion why she used it. "Just what does 'amen' mean?" asked a curious friend. The sincere lady replied, "In most cases it means just this to me: 'Yes, Lord, I'm with it, and I'll stand my share of the expenses.'" "What do you mean when you say it at the end of your prayers?" she was asked. "When I say 'amen' at the end of a prayer I mean just this: 'God, I'm working with you that this may be true, but I'm willing to receive any one of your three replied—yes, no, or wait.'" "

LORD TEACH US TO PRAY LIKE THIS DEAR CO-LABORER . . . Luke 11:1

Each month we will try to introduce you to one of your co-laborers in Christ in this column. If there is someone you would like to have mentioned, let your editor know.

This month I would like you to meet and pray for Joan Filkins. Joan and her husband Howard and 3 boys are lay missionaries in the Ivory Coast. Here Joan is "mother" to about 20 teen-aged boys, all missionary children. You can see already that she will have quite a busy schedule. As a dorm parent Joan's duties will be many, so pray for her especially this month. Pray for her physical strength, spiritual needs, mental needs, and financial support. Already their crates have been delayed and one of the boys from the dorm was killed in an accident.

Joan has been active in Hazel Creek and Kirksville churches and has served as auxiliary president—local and district, and has been on our state board, so she is truly a co-laborer.

I have known Joan for several years, and there is no one I know of that I would rather have taking care of my children than the Filkins. Their home was always open to young and old alike. Only eternity will reveal what a real influence her life has been. All the time I've known "Jody" Romans 8:23 has been her testimony. Even through the death of her son Doug, Joan could smile and say "All things work together for good. . . ." I know the Lord has a purpose in this too." Pray for Joan this month and let her know that you care . . . birthday, November 7, anniversary, December 25. Address: B.P. 1171 Bouake, Ivory Coast W. Africa

The stars shine over the earth . . . The stars shine over the sea . . . The stars look up to a mighty God . . . The stars look down on me . . . The stars have lived for a million years . . . A million years and a day . . . But my God and I shall love and live . . . When the stars have passed away.

—unknown

GEM
REV RONALD CREECH
BOX 277 E DURHAM STA
DURHAM NC 27703

COMP

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS MONTH

Two Missourians serving for National Home Missions:

Rev. James McAllister, Board Member

Rev. Leland Horton, Church Extension working in Des Moines, Iowa

Send your special Home Missions offerings to

Home Missions
P. O. Box 1088
Nashville, Tennessee 37202

