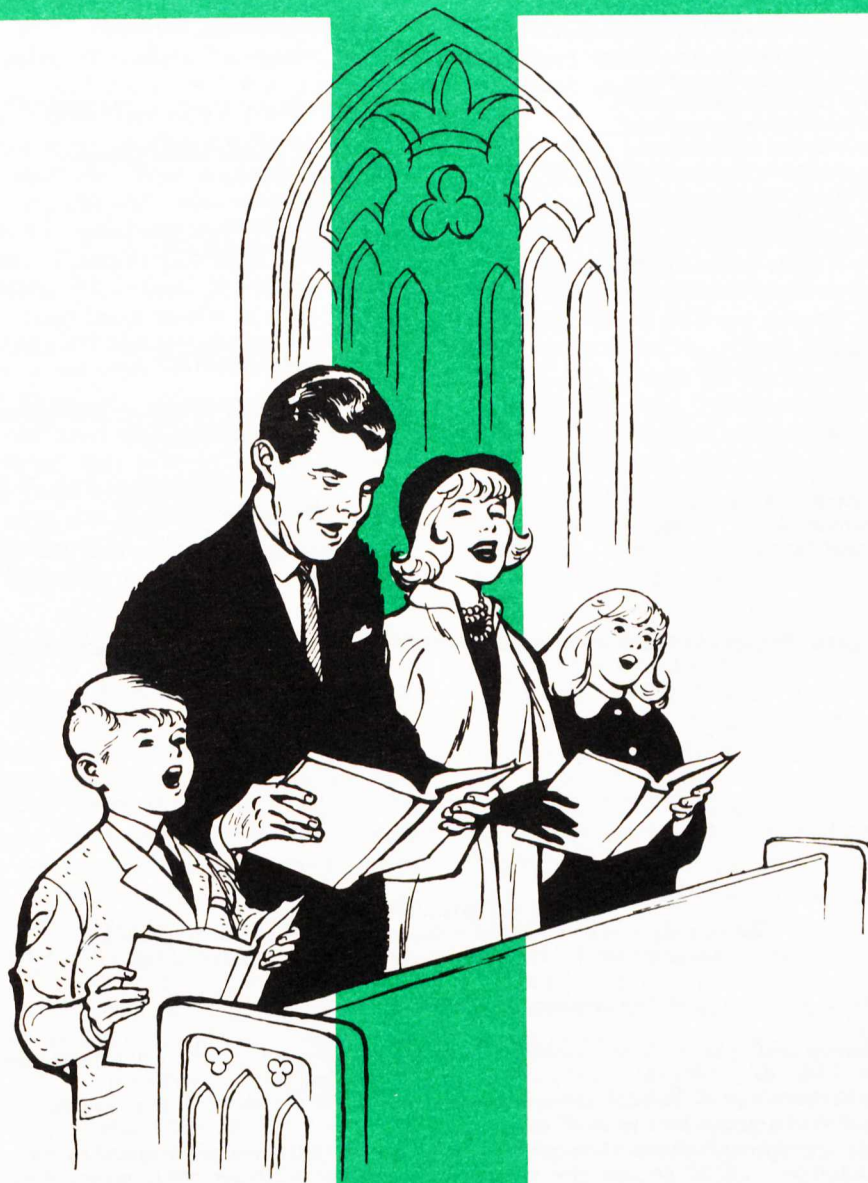


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Free Will Baptist

March, 1974
Volume 44
Number 3

Gem



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Andy W. Lay, editor.

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Pitch In

by Pastor Glenn Rehkop
Grace FWB Church, Arnold, MO

We see a great display of posters, bumper stickers, etc., with the inscription "Pitch In." The purpose is to promote ecology; thus, to work for a cleaner, more appealing atmosphere in which to live.

Picking up the thought from a somewhat different appeal, we too would like to present the challenging thought of "pitching in." The phrase is not uncommon to us. "Pitch in and help" is a phrase we hear quite often. The fact of more people pitching in and bearing their share of the responsibility in the church is a great need in most congregations.

In the Book of Numbers, chapter 32:1-26, the story is told of the children of Reuben and Gad who were content to stay on this side of Jordan because they liked the fine grass and grazing land of Jazer and Gilead. They said to Moses, "With your permission, we will stay on this side of the Jordan. We are satisfied with this side and do not care about going any farther."

Moses reprimanded them for their unthoughtfulness in verses 6 and 7: "Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here? And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the Lord hath given them?" It is amazing how many there are in our churches who are like the children of Reuben and Gad, willing to sit while the others go to war. It is a very discouraging thing to those who are faithful and who are willing to work and give their best in the Lord's service and have others to sit idly by.

As Moses admonished the children of Reuben and Gad by declaring: "Wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the Lord hath given them?" We should be very careful not to discourage the workers for God by our indifference, unthoughtfulness, and even laziness. It would probably shock us if we knew how many people who frequent the Lord's house are in love with the things on this side of the promised land and are unwilling to fight the good fight of faith and combat the devil so as to reach

that land that is fairer than day which the Lord has promised those who will live for Him and do His will.

May the Lord help us not to become satisfied with "this side" so as to lose sight of the Christian's goal and also forget the great commission of going into all the world with the gospel message.

Moses placed a challenge before the two tribes. He admonished them to pitch in and help fight the battles: "If ye will go armed before the LORD to war, and will go all of you armed over Jordan before the LORD, until he hath driven out his enemies from before him." They could have the land they desired. This is the challenge to our hearts today!

First: *Pitch in and work.* As Moses challenged the two tribes of Jacob to work with their brothers, so are we admonished to labor "together" in God's vineyard. "We are labourers together." If the people who make up the church will labor and pull together, victory can be as sure as it was with the people in Nehemiah's day. "They built the wall because they had a mind to work!"

Second: *Pitch in and pray.* If revival tarries and the blessings of God seem to never shower down upon our services, it is without doubt, because of the lack of prayer. Things can be accomplished through prayer that can be done by no other means. Jesus was not merely using idle words when He said: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." "If ye ask anything in my name and it will be given thee." "Pray without ceasing."

Third: *Pitch in and study.* "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." "The Word will keep us from sin or sin will keep us from the Word," is a cliché that remains true. Back to the Bible is a crying need for this hour! God help us to pitch in and search the Scriptures to find out what God would have us to do and how to go about doing it.

Fourth: *Pitch in and be faithful and loyal to God*

and His church. I read of a short statement that was inscribed on a grave marker. Very simply it stated: "He was faithful." What greater epitaph could one have on his tombstone than "He Was Faithful." What a need in our day for faithfulness in the church. The attitude of "letting George do it" has gone too far. If many folk were as slipshod and sloppy with their secular work as they are with the Lord's work, they could never hold down a job!

Hear me for eternity! We are all going to come face to face with the King of kings and the Lord of lords and give an account of our faithfulness. May it be said of us when this life is through and when we stand before the Eternal Judge, "He was faithful."

Fifth: *Pitch in with visitation and personal work.* Jesus' message to a man that had just been cleansed from his sins and had a multitude of devils cast out of him was: "Go tell thy friends what great things the Lord hath done for thee." He tells us to go into all the world. "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."

Look around you in the church. How many in the congregation that have come into the church by the way of the altars of the church have you been personally responsible for? Any? Every church needs workers; and the church that has a lot of personal workers, without exception, is a growing, soul winning church.

Then: *Pitch in and tithe.* Malachi 3, Matthew 23:23, 1 Corinthians 16, and many other Scriptures teach us how to support God's work. God did not bring into existence such a tremendous institution as the church without providing a method in which it should be supported or financed. If every member would tithe, every church could do those things that they would like to do for the Kingdom's cause very simply! However, because some choose to sit idly by and let others do the paying (and most usually, only a few carry the financial load of the church), the work is hindered and progress is slowed down drastically. Pitch in and pay according to the teaching of the Word for God said that He would "open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10).

Finally: *Pitch in and fill your responsibility.* "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me and for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none" (Ezekiel 22:30). No one can take your place of service. Your absence brings about a vacancy. Every professed Christian has a solemn obligation to fill his place of duty. God will require it of us. Moses told the children of Reuben and Gad: "If you will not go and lend a helping hand and fight the battles with your brothers . . . ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sins will find you out."

We will all be accountable to God for not pitching in and doing our share of the work that is to be done for Him and His church.

FORM LETTER FOR WRITING YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT THE GAMBLING ISSUE:

Dear Representative:

I am writing to you concerning HJR No. 59 by Representative Gray from Independence, and HJR No. 82 introduced by Representative Earl Schleff of Dellwood. These two bills seek to amend Section 29 of Article III of the State Constitution concerning the legalization of lotteries and gift enterprises plus pari-mutuel betting on horses.

Sir, I am opposed to these two bills for the following reasons:

1) When government-sponsored legal gambling is introduced, organized crime's illegal gambling flourishes. As former Attorney General Robert Kennedy said, "Organized gambling is the cornerstone of organized crime." Also this will allow more corruption like the State of Illinois has experienced.

2. The major proponents of these bills say look at the revenue it brings us.

a. In those states where there is legalized gambling, actually only .6 of one percent comes from gambling revenues. Of that revenue, at least 50 percent must be spent to promote it and administer it. This does not count the cost of more police and law control.

b. In those states that have legalized gambling the per capita tax is \$458 while those without average \$319. Plus, the average state debt in all of the gambling states averages 7.7 times greater than that of Missouri.

3) Legalized gambling has an adverse effect on business and industry. Did you know Nevada has the same number of manufacturing establishments it had in 1904? The Secretary of Commerce of Holyoke, Massachusetts, said, "Gambling losses prevent payment of bills."

4) According to Gamblers Anonymous, one out of every ten people who gambles in any way becomes a compulsive or addictive gambler.

Legalized gambling is an evil we can live without in Missouri. As former Governor Collins of Florida said, "Florida would be much better off with no pari-mutuel gambling. Once such an operation gets a foothold, it is almost impossible to get rid of it!"

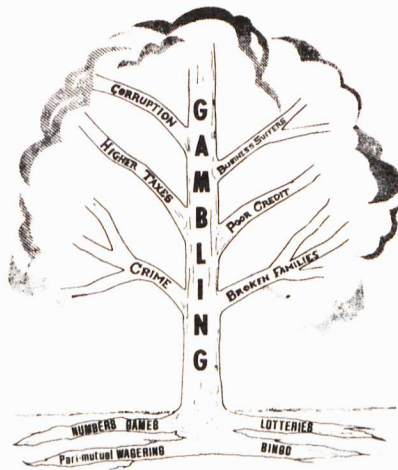
Therefore, sir, for these reasons I ask you to vote no on these two bills.

Thank you.

—copied from *THE BEACON* newsletter of the Southside FWB Church paper, St. Louis, Missouri

Taking A Chance

by Bob Francis



Edmund Burke said: "All that is needed for evil to triumph is for the good people to do nothing." I recently attended a meeting of the Christian Civic Foundation where I learned the following facts about gambling. I quote from Mr. C. R. Horne, Jr., and his book, *Gambling Facts Every Citizen Should Know*. 1. Gambling is the primary source of revenue for organized crime. Experience has proved that, when a government-sponsored system of legal gambling is introduced, organized crime's illegal gambling racket flourishes and is actually strengthened. 2. Gambling with its relationship to syndicated crime has been exposed as one of the major corrupting influences upon state officials, courts, and police. 3. In states which have legal gambling, income from this source is an insignificant percentage (less and 1% of their total budget). Taxes on a per capita basis in these states average higher than taxes in non-gambling states. Increases in costs for police, courts, and welfare more than offset the revenue from gambling. 4. Claims of increased business and industrial activity as a result of legal gambling are false and deceptive. Legitimate business actually suffers as a result of gambling. 5. Over four million people are gambling addicts. The number of people who gamble is greatly increased when gambling is legalized and when gambling becomes a government-sponsored enterprise. Thus, the number of people hurt is increased. Human weakness should not be exploited by government. Rather, government should do everything possible to resist such criminal exploitation.

I also learned that the Missouri Constitution, Article III, Section 39, states that the General Assembly "shall not have power to authorize lotteries or gift enterprises for any purpose and shall enact laws to prohibit sale of lottery or gift enterprise tickets, or tickets in any scheme in the nature of a lottery." This constitutional provision stands as the barrier to legalization of gambling in

the state in any form.

To legalize gambling, pari-mutuel wagering on horses or dog racing, lotteries, or bingo, this state constitution would have to be changed by a majority vote of the people. Two propositions to so change the constitution have been introduced. One bill (HJR No. 59) introduced by Representative Gray from Independence calls for the legalization of games for religious, labor, civic, educational, and other service organizations. In addition, this bill would let the legislature make "such additional laws." This would pave the way for lotteries and pari-mutuel betting. Another bill introduced by Representative Earl Schleff of Dellwood seeks to amend the constitution by legalizing lotteries and gift enterprises for religious, veterans' service and educational purposes, and also provide for a Missouri state lottery and pari-mutuel betting on horses. This bill would provide that any money left over after cost would be used as the General Assembly sees fit. One ruse would have it to be used for mass transportation.

As has already been stated the constitution can only be changed by a majority vote of the people. The question of legalized gambling can be placed before the people in the next general election by one of two ways: (1) The legislature can pass one of these two bills and call for a vote of the people in the next general election, or (2) Voters can call for a referendum by petition. In order for this to happen, at least 5 per cent of those who voted in the last general election in 8 out of 10 congressional districts must sign the petition.

Should Christian people and the Church become involved in the opposition to legalized gambling in Missouri? Lycurgus M. Starkey, Jr., states in his book, *Money, Mania, and Morals*, "The Christian will refrain from the private practice and the public endorsement of gambling in any form, realizing that gambling is detrimental to the purpose of life as defined in Jesus Christ." Church participation in this campaign to oppose gambling need not interfere with the traditional ministries, such as worship, evangelism, etc. Involvement with the gambling issue is simply another ministry, vital and pertinent at this time to all members of the Body of Christ.

Well, if what you have said this far is true, pastor, how can I get involved? There are a number of answers to this question. Let me share some of them with you. 1. Our church will soon receive a free will offering to contribute toward the efforts of "Missourians Against Legalized Gambling" to defeat legalized gambling. You may contribute as God leads you to. 2. You can write or call your state senator or representative and tell him why you are opposed to the two bills which have been introduced to legalize gambling in Missouri. 3. You can pray. God still answers prayer.

In conclusion, remember Edmund Burke's words: "All that is needed for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing." Dear friend, don't hesitate—act at once!

GEMS AND MINERALS CROSSWORDS

by Rev. Max Courtney

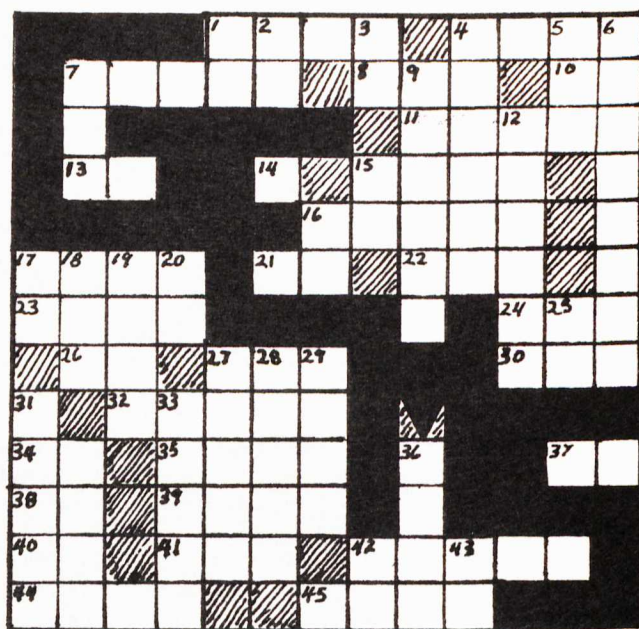
ACROSS

1. Zechariah 5:7 "There was lifted up a talent of _____"
4. Genesis 14:2 King of Sodom
7. Job 28:19 "The _____ of Ethiopia shall not equal it."
8. Psalm 147:17 "He casteth forth his _____ like morsels."
10. Order of Merit (Brit.)
11. Ezekiel 27:16 "... fine linen, and coral, and _____"
13. Matthew 21:19 "Let _____ fruit grow in thee."
14. One
15. Revelation 19:20 "burning with _____ stone"
16. Striped animal
17. Daniel 2:33 "His legs of _____"
21. John 19:18 "_____ either side one"
22. Peculiar
23. Matthew 7:26 One man built his house on it.
24. Organization of American States (abbr.)
26. Tellurium (abbr.)
27. Mark 12:4 "and at _____ they cast stones"
30. Ultimate (abbr.)
32. Blackboard or tile
34. Revelation 6:15 "_____ the dens and _____ the rocks"
35. Minerals
37. Radium (abbr.)
38. Isaiah 21:14 "brought water _____ him that was thirsty"
39. Jewel
40. Cadmium (abbr.)
41. Shaped like an S
42. Isaiah 50:7 "therefore have I set my face like a _____"
44. Belonging to her
45. Gemstone (usually green) that takes a high polish.

DOWN

1. Los Angeles (abbr.)
2. Ezra (abbr.)
3. Didymium (abbr.)
4. To gird about
5. Isaiah 40:20 "a tree that will not _____"
6. Revelation 21:20 "the twelfth, an _____"
7. Isaiah 1:25 "take away all thy _____"
9. Soot
10. Old Testament
12. Spongy substance used as tinder
15. Matthew 5:45 "that ye may _____ the children"
16. Zinc (abbr.)

17. 2 Kings 10:15 "_____ thine heart right, as my heart?"
18. Rodent
19. Jeremiah 48:45 "crown of the head of the tumultuous _____"
20. Neodymium (abbr.)
25. Alabama (abbr.)
27. More than one of the animals in Leviticus 11:6
28. Details
29. 2 Samuel 11:8 "and there followed him a _____ of meat"
31. Isaiah 34:9 "Streams thereof shall be turned into _____"
33. Theatre or opera boxes
36. Matthew 2:11, one of the gifts from the wise men
42. Syllable used for fourth tone of a scale (Music)
43. That is



Answers on page 12

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS JANUARY 1974

Alton	.....\$	6.00
Garfield	.....	28.95
Myrtle (3 months)	.....	164.86
Hannon	.....	119.64
Kansas City FWB Mission	.....	66.00
Independence FWB	.....	61.00
Royal Oaks, K.C. (2 months)	.....	94.00
Victory (2 months)	.....	610.91
Merl's Chapel	.....	45.75
Aurora FWB Mission	.....	36.25
Carterville	.....	13.21
Buffalo FWB	.....	53.00
Pleasant Grove	.....	24.50
New Rock Springs	.....	35.00
Union FWB (Gladden)	.....	60.00
Willow Springs	.....	133.93
Cabool	.....	106.18

Salem	20.00
Mt. Valley	102.95
Grant Avenue	329.34
New Harmony Sunday school	18.68
Bethel of Festus	40.00
Mine La Motte	12.55
South Side	266.00
Berkley	300.00
Fourth	252.05
Viburnum	50.00
Fellowship	50.00
Leadington	129.60
Union Light FWB	55.10
Hickory Grove FWB	8.89
Mt. Grove, First	320.26
First FWB Church, West Plains	182.00
Beacon	252.31
Belton	181.00
Fordland FWB, Liberty Assn.	30.00
Number One FWB (Dec.)	26.14
Houston	105.00
A Cooperative Friend	2.99
Freeman Chapel (Nov.-Dec.)	139.26
DeSoto (Dec.)	300.50
Mill Creek (Oct.-Dec.)	80.28
Grace (Dec.)	604.96
Divine Trinity FWB, Potosi	54.90
Hurryville (Dec.)	93.25
Columbia FWB Church	94.00
Pleasant Ridge	38.00
Old Bethel, Madison Co.	18.00
Gray Summits (3 months)	119.00
Faith (Dec.)	182.03
Aulsbury Chapel	236.45
Rock Chapel (Jan.)	14.04
Pleasant Home	75.03
Gateway (Dec.)	19.45
New Home, Laclede Ass'n. (3)	41.00
Verdella	69.22
Lebanon, First FWB	700.00
Cabool FWB	115.40
Farmington First	263.90
Fredericktown First (3 months)	547.65
Fiat River First (3 months)	639.21
Pleasant Hill, Cave Sp. Assn.	10.00
Thayer FWB Church (Dec.)	108.79
Purdy First FWB	52.24
Richwoods FWB Church (3 months)	117.88
Central, Kansas City (Jan.)	120.00
Monett First	264.25
West Plains First FWB	134.30
Mine La Motte	19.40
Viburnum (Jan.)	50.00
Fourth FWB, St. Louis	310.90
Aurora FWB (Jan.)	24.70
New Rock Springs	28.20
Willow Springs FWB	102.62
Bethel, Festus	40.00
Fellowship	50.00
South Side	176.00
Berkley	300.00
Hickory Grove (Jan.)	8.15
Total eighty contributions	\$10,757.00

JANUARY 1974 COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS:

20.00% Missouri Missions	\$2151.40
15.00% State Promotional Dept.	\$1613.55
04.00% General Fund	430.28
05.50% Youth Camp	591.63
04.00% Missouri State College Commission	430.28
02.50% Gem	268.92
01.00% Missouri CTS & SS	107.57
52% seven Mo. Depts.	5,593.62

07.00% 7. % Hillsdale College	753.00
41% (8) National	4,410.37
	\$1,0757.00
13.00% Foreign Missions	1398.41
09.00% FWBBC	968.13
07.00% National Executive Dept.	753.00
06.50% Nat'l. Home Missions	699.20
03.00% Nat'l. CTS Dept.	322.71
02.00% Board of Retirement & Ins.	215.14
00.25% Layman's board	26.89
00.25% Theological Liberalism Commission	26.89
Total:	\$4,410.37
100% Total amount disbursed:	\$10,757.00

DESIGNATED MONIES THROUGH STATE OFFICE, JANUARY, 1974

Mountain Grove First Church (five accounts)	66.00
Hickory Grove FWB Sunday School (one account)	25.76
Hazel Creek FWB Church (two accounts)	20.00
Monett First FWB Church (Youth Camp)	30.00
Aurora FWB Church (five accounts)	48.00
Total	\$189.76

REPORT TO GEM

Missouri State Home Mission Giving: December 5, 1973 thru January 5, 1974

Thayer	\$ 19.00
Flat River First	23.00
National Home Missions	157.77
West Plains	40.00
Leadington	10.00
New Home	60.00
Grace	50.00
Hannon	117.97
So. Fremont	125.00
Fourth	55.00
Rock Chapel	20.00
Myrtle	12.80
Central	20.00
DeSoto First	25.00
Willow Springs	13.00
Low Ground	5.00
Monett First	75.00
Viburnum	25.00
Victory	224.40
Fellowship	38.00
New Rock Springs	11.33
South Side	6.00
Kansas City First	40.00
Parkview Ladies Mission	20.00
Parkview	15.00
Wanda Perryman	2.00
N.E. Mo. Assoc.	88.80
Mtn. Grove	5.00
Hazel Creek	10.00
Cooperative Receipts	2,151.40
Total	\$3,465.47

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

CHURCHES PEOPLE and EVENTS

MISSIONARIES VISIT NORTHEAST MISSOURI ASSOCIATION

by Rev. Archie Cooper

The annual missionary conference of the Free Will Baptists of Northeast Missouri was held January 24-28. Missionaries Howard Gage, Rev. and Mrs. Dock Caton, and Patsy Vanhook ministered to the six participating churches: Kirksville First, Hazel Creek, New Harmony, Lowground, Columbia, and Jefferson City.

A most inspirational time was shared by all attending. The information we received from the experiences of these missionaries and the challenge to our lives will long be remembered. In spite of adverse weather and roads which were not conducive to travel, the conference was well attended. A total missionary offering of \$1,015.00 was received.

\$1,573.00 TO FWBBC FROM MISSOURI

Missouri FWB individuals and churches gave \$1,573.00 to Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, during the month of December. \$971.00 of that was general fund giving with the First FWB Church of Monett being the leading giver with \$85.00. The First FWB Church of Farmington was the leading giver to the building fund for the month with \$50.00. Three alumni gave a total of \$20.00 to the alumni project during the month.

THANKS TO COURTNEY FOR CROSSWORDS

A number of GEM readers have expressed their thanks for the crossword puzzles that have appeared the last four editions. Though our printer has left the name off of the puzzles, this editor wants full credit to go to Rev. Max Courtney for the fine job in the crossword preparation.

The puzzles have capitalized on Bible themes as well as Free Will Baptist history and doctrine. If you, as a reader, appreciate the crossword puzzle features in the GEM, why not write Brother Courtney a note of thanks. His address is Cabool, Missouri 65445.

EVANGEL CHURCH EYES GOAL

On December 30, 1973, members of Missouri's newest FWB mission-church, the Evangel FWB Church of Webb City, were challenged by their pastor, Rev. Andy Lay, to set a goal of how many souls they would try, with God's help, to win to the Lord in 1974. Each member was asked to write down on a piece of paper the number of souls he would attempt to win during 1974. After the papers were collected and the numbers tallied, 149 souls were claimed. The pastor then added one more soul to his number, making the church's goal for the year 150 souls. That seemed like a pretty ambitious number, but the folks at Evangel began to pray and work toward meeting that goal.

Now, six weeks into 1974, 15 souls have made first time decisions at Evangel Church; three new families have begun attending regularly; and a record 66 attended the worship service February 10.

Evangel Church requests the prayers of Free Will Baptists across the state for their continued soul winning efforts.

DESOTO DEDICATES NEW BUILDING

The FWB Church of DeSoto recently had dedicatory services for their new educational wing. Rev. Bob Shockey, General Director of the National Home Missions and Church Extension Department, was on hand to preach the dedication message.

Mrs. Sophia Ackerson, reporter for the DeSoto Church, wrote, "It was a wonderful day in the Lord. A large crowd attended. The Lord blessed in a wonderful way and everyone was happy saying it was good to be in God's house this day."

Rev. Charles Miller is the pastor.

GRACE CHURCH IS GROWING

The Grace FWB Church of Arnold, Missouri, reports steady growth. Gleaning from *The Link*, Grace's weekly newsletter, we find these statements:

"We have been having one of the most severe winters in many years. However, we are thankful for the good services we have enjoyed in spite of the weather. On a recent week, the buses did not make their routes because of the ice. Yet, we had 202 for Sunday school." The same issue of *The Link* reported three decisions in adult church the previous Sunday and two decisions in youth church. In addition to the three decisions for salvation in the adult church there were five who united with the church as members.

The growth of Grace Church is also revealed in the income of the church over the past three years: 1971—\$30,638; 1972—\$39,523; 1973—\$45,555.

We rejoice at growing FWB churches, like the Grace Church in Arnold. Rev. Glenn Rehkop is the pastor.

HORTON CONTINUES ITINERY

Rev. Leland Horton, a native Missourian who pastored in our state for many years, has moved his family to Des Moines, Iowa, where they are beginning a new FWB work. Brother Horton is still on itinerary raising his support under the auspices of the National Home Missions and Church Extension Department. In January he was in Arkansas, in February in South Carolina, and during most of March he will be in Indiana.

The Hortons' address is 2314 E. 39th St. Court, Des Moines, Iowa 50317. If you have friends or relatives living in the Des Moines that would be prospects for this new work, please write to Brother Horton so he can contact them.

YOUTH CAMP STOVE PROJECT COMPLETED

*by Rev. Dennis Bowman,
Member State Home Mission Board*

To all our great friends of Missouri State Free Will Baptist Youth Camp, we wish to thank you for your support of the stove project. Thanks to you we can have homemade rolls this year without rust from the stove ruining them. Our cooks will be very much relieved to know they can turn a burner on and not fear that it will go out. They will be able to prepare many meal items that they have not been able to prepare in the past.

Stoves are only a link in the work to get kids to Camp and to see them saved, but if that link were gone we would have no hope. May God bless you each and every one. Because of you we can feed their bodies and have an opportunity to feed their souls.

In His Service,
Missouri State FWB Youth Camp Board
Rev. Bud Arnold, Chairman
Rev. Dennis Bowman, Secretary/Treasurer
Rev. Lynn Wood
Rev. Clarence Burton
Rev. Ken Goff

NATIONAL MINUTES MAILED OUT

Copies of the 1973 minutes of the National Association of Free Will Baptists were mailed from the Executive Office in November and December to quarterly conference clerks.

Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey stated that the minutes were being mailed directly to each associational clerk so that they may be distributed more rapidly and widely. This method of distribution has been well received for the past two years.

Any interested Free Will Baptist may obtain a copy at the next meeting of his district association.

REPORT FROM FOURTH CHURCH ST. LOUIS

by Mr. Leamon Killian

Fourth Church continues to grow in spirit and in number. The Sunday school now has four departments; and with two large buses carrying almost capacity numbers, the Sunday school is having continual growth. Brother Louis Willhite is the general superintendent. The fourth quarter average was 140.

The CTS had an average attendance for the fourth quarter of 79, and we do give thanks for our Church Training Service. This, the training part of the church, is sometimes neglected by most of our churches today. But at Fourth it is as important as our other departments. Trained Christians are badly needed in our churches today. Many teachers, ministers, and other officers got their first training in the Church Training Service. So it is most essential for Christian service.

Our prayer meetings continue to be good spiritual meetings. We have always had real good attendance in this midweek service. A church that is on fire for God will show it by the number in prayer meeting.

The Woman's Auxiliary continues to grow in the way that is pleasing to God. They give of their means to missions and other phases of denominational giving.

Fourth Church, as a whole, with all departments, praying and worshiping together have brought about a deep spirit of revival. Mere words cannot tell of the many, many blessings we have received in the past several weeks.

The youth of the church have shown their love of the Master in rededicating and giving their lives to Christ for Christian service. They stand ready at all times to pray, to sing, and to lead other young people to the throne of grace.

Sometimes we hear it said, "The young people are our church of tomorrow." But we feel that our youth are a part of our church of today and will be tomorrow also.

The forth and fifth Sunday evening services are for Youth Night Services. The choir is made up of our youth, and a young minister is usually the speaker. During the past several services our youth have played the main part in coming and praying for souls around the altar. Through their prayers mothers and fathers have found Christ, backslidden church members have returned to rededicate their lives to Jesus, and the church has been so lifted up that God has been pleased.

Rev. Millard Sasser, our pastor, stated a short time ago, "A little bit of Heaven has been seen in our services."

I thought of this Scripture, "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and he shall dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe

away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:3-4).

As I pen these lines my heart goes out to the many, many souls that yet wander about in the darkness of sin, always striving for something and never entirely finding it. It is for these that we continue to pray.

May God bless you all.

SOUTH FREMONT MOVES INTO NEW BUILDING

The South Fremont FWB Church in Springfield has recently moved into their new building. "We now have twice the auditorium space that we had," writes Mr. Richard Pointer. "We have converted part of the old auditorium into class rooms. The Lord has really blessed our work."

The South Fremont Church's Sunday school averaged 80 in January. Rev. Wayne Waggoner is the pastor.

MOUNTAIN GROVE CHURCH MOVING FORWARD

From the Mountain Grove FWB Church's weekly newsletter, *The Harvester*, we note the financial progress of this congregation.

"During the first six weeks of 1971 our average weekly offerings were approximately \$600. During this period we had a Missions Revival, and gave over \$1,100 to Foreign Missions, but our regular weekly giving was about \$600. The first six weeks of 1972 was approximately \$700 per week; 1973 was about \$760 per week. The first six weeks of 1974 has averaged about \$900 for the general fund. The special account for the new building has been about \$100 per week in addition to the general fund.

Also from *The Harvester* we learned that the First Mountain Grove Church recently had a Chili Supper sponsored by The Son's Light and Power Company Youth Group. The cost to attend was 1¢ per pound of your weight.

Rev. Lynn Wood is the pastor; Rev. Gary Fry is the assistant pastor.

MISSOURI BIBLE INSTITUTE IN ARNOLD ENROLLS 39

by Rev. Clarence Burton, Teacher-Registrar

The people have responded very well to the Missouri Bible Institute in the St. Louis-Flat River area. A total of 39 have enrolled. The students and faculty seem very enthusiastic and there is a wonderful spirit of fellowship. As one student stated, "I appreciate the institute and feel it is

meeting a definite need. I am glad to be one of the first ones to attend."

The students come from varied backgrounds. The ages vary from teens to middle age. The occupations vary from factory workers, clerks, pastors, and housewives to high schoolers. All are attending for one purpose—to be more effective servants for the Lord.

It seems the Lord is pleased with this endeavor and is blessing. Let us pray for His continued blessings and leadership as we follow Him.

TWIN OAKS CHURCH ACTIVE

by Reporter Madeline McFarland

We at Twin Oaks FWB Church report good services in all departments, and the church is growing under the fine leadership of our pastor, Rev. Truman Huffman, Sunday School Superintendent Bob Kemp, CTS leaders, Rosemary Kemp, Jeannie Lunsford, and Raymond Michael.

Prayer meeting is conducted by different leaders using the Bible as our textbook for studies. Recently Rev. Huffman used his deacons, Brother Joe Pirtle, Glen Lunsford, and Robert Kemp, to speak from his pulpit on Sunday nights, and we enjoyed some very good messages.

On February 9 we enjoyed a wonderful valentine banquet with 26 attending. The adult king and queen elected were Glen Lunsford and Debbie Phillips. From our younger group, Steven Rouse and Donna Rouse were elected king and queen. Games were enjoyed by all and a bountiful meal was served by the young folks.

We thank God for a church where God still rules and blesses His people. May ours always be God's church.

BUS MINISTRY AMONG MISSOURI FWB

by Richard Pointer, Member State SS—CTS Board

How effective is the bus ministry among the churches in our state work? The State Sunday School and CTS Board would like to know the extent of the bus ministry in the state in order to plan for activities related to our buses in our Sunday schools.

If you have a bus ministry in your church, would you please send a letter to Richard Pointer, 1945 South Weaver, Springfield, MO 65807, telling me about this work.

Some information that is needed is:

1. Number of buses
2. Number of riders per bus
3. Number of bus workers
4. Number of souls saved from this ministry.



WILLIAM TUCKERS HONORED BY OVERLAND CHURCH

Mr. and Mrs. William Tucker of Piggott, Arkansas, were honored recently by a host of friends and relatives on the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary at the Overland Free Will Baptist Church where they are charter members. A reception was held in their honor after the service on Sunday evening, November 3. Their pastor is the Rev. Harry R. Asher.



FULCHERS PURCHASE BUS

The accompanying photo shows the bus purchased by missionary Bill Fulcher in Panama. The money that was raised by the Executive Committee of our State Association last fall for the Fulcher's account helped buy this bus.

The Fulcher's work in Panama is doing very well. The Lord is blessing with an increase in attendance and souls being saved. The Fulchers just recently moved to a location which puts them closer to their work. They are enjoying the new location for they feel it has brought them into closer contact with their people.



BIBLE COLLEGE DRAMA GROUP TO TOUR MISSOURI CHURCHES

Eight Missouri FWB churches will host the Bible College's Evangel Players when they bring their program of Christian drama to the state March 22-28. Services are currently scheduled in the following churches:

Fri., March 22—Berkley First, Berkley, MO
Sat., March 23—Thayer Church, Thayer, MO
Sun., March 24 (AM)—Mtn. Grove Church,
Mtn. Grove, MO

(PM) So. Fremont Church, Springfield, MO
Mon., March 25—Monett First, Monett, MO
Tues., March 26—Kansas City First,
Kansas City, MO

Wed., March 27—Kirkville First, Kirkville, MO
Thurs., March 28—Farmington First,
Farmington, MO

The program is divided into two portions. In the first, players present James Weldon Johnson's "The Creation," "Go Down, Death," and "The Judgment," all based on sermons from America Negro folk literature. Albert Johnson's "World Without End" depicts the closing days of Jesus' earthly ministry and the power of His resurrection in the lives of His disciples.

The services are sponsored by the Bible College's Office of Development. Director of Development Jack Paramore will be accompanying the group.

The services are evangelistic and people are encouraged to bring unsaved friends to the services for this dramatic presentation of the gospel. Information on the times for individual performances can be obtained by contacting the local pastor.

THANKS FROM NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

by Rev. Roy Thomas

The National Home Mission Department would like to thank the people of Missouri for what you gave to home missions in 1973. Thirty states

exceeded their quotas. Your state was one of these. You gave \$19,463.29 to National Home Missions, which was \$2,463.29 over your quota and \$4,861.03 over what you gave in 1972.

The total income to National Home Missions in 1973 was \$382,330.20, which was \$106,330.20 over our quota. The reason for this was an increase in missionary personnel (we now have 43 couples) and an increased awareness of the need for home missions on the part of our people.

Your quota for 1974 is \$22,000. We are praying for your success.

There are yet 11 states and 27 capital cities without the witness of Free Will Baptist churches. With your continued prayer and financial support we will enter these soon if the Lord tarries.

BIBLE CONFERENCE AND SUMMER SCHOOL

Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, has two events on the spring calendar that will be of interest to Missouri FWB.

The Annual Bible Conference will be held March 17-21. Rev. Billy Morris and Rev. Melvin Worthington will be the featured speakers.

The 1974 Summer School Session will be held May 20-31. Ten courses in Bible study and local church ministries will be offered. Up to three semester hours can be earned. Total cost for the two-week course, including tuition, room and board, is only \$132 for the student taking the full 3-hour load.

For more information, write: Free Will Baptist Bible College, 3606 West End Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37205.

OPEN LETTER TO FREE WILL BAPTISTS

*by Rev. Bob Shockey, General Director
National Home Missions*

The challenge of the new year comes to us with a new and fresh impact. As we view our nation and world, I am sure you are aware of the fact that we stand in need of a spiritual and moral awakening.

We are praying that throughout North America where Free Will Baptists are serving that we will take as our motto to "win more in '74." Let's join together to make every Free Will Baptist Church a place where the action is—not action for action's sake but "action in soul winning" and "sharing the Word of God." Our Home Mission team has been challenged to be a part of this action for souls and sowing the Word in '74.

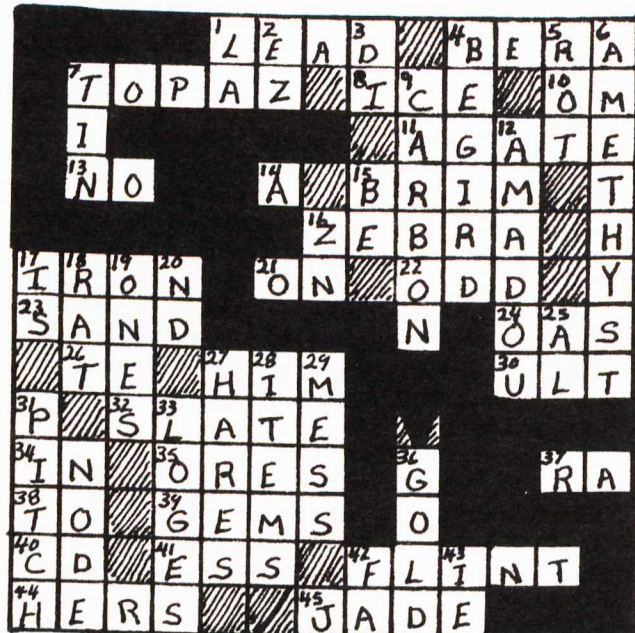
Our Home Mission Board plans to place special emphasis high on the list of concern on evangelism in the local church, lay evangelism, and pioneer

mission areas. We definitely feel the need of an accelerated program that focuses on evangelism that deepens the spiritual life and strengthens our personal witness.

We are anticipating that 1974 will see more and more home missionaries. This past year has pushed our "task force" in missions to its highest level. Our churches have increased their support to an all-time high, and we believe that the outstanding gains in 1973 give us greater hope of being able to increase the missionary force this year with capable men of God who will be able to get the job done for the Lord.

As we look back across 1973 we want to give God all the praise and glory for what He has done; and then we want to "thank you" for your prayers, your confidence, expressions of encouragement, and your financial support. We are looking forward to the challenges of 1974 and rejoice in the privilege of serving the Lord today. We look upward to God and trust Him for wisdom, for compassion, for courage, and for strength and for grace to fulfil our mission in the months ahead.

Devotedly yours,
Robert Shockey
(1 Samuel 12:23a)



Answers to puzzle on page 6

Promotional Secretary's Corner



by Rev. Harry Beatty

Illinois Promotional Secretary, Rev. Gene Norris, and Brother Beatty journeyed together to Hillmont Camp, White Bluff, Tennessee, for our annual Promotional Men's meeting, January 2-4. Forty state promotional men, moderators, state clerks, editors, and the directors from seven National Association Departments as well as the National Moderator were present to conduct panel discussions and share time on the two-day program. Rev. Reford Wilson delivered the sermon and devotional each appointed time. Rev. Coffey was the master of ceremonies. California Christian College President, Dr. Wade Jernigan, was special speaker for two services. This was an excellent time of fellowship, information, and sharing of God's Word in spite of the ice storm which covered the hills and highways.

On Sunday, January 6, I participated in the all-day service with DeSoto FWB Church. I shared in the church dedication and gave commendations for their sharing in the world-wide ministry of the Word. They are in the top twelve in Cooperative Giving in Missouri State. The church was begun less than eight years ago and has now furnished and completely finished three phases of their building project, including the Sunday school annex, which was the occasion for this day's services. Best of all they have won many souls for the Lord who have been added to their congregation. The Sunday school average is approximately 160. Rev. Bob Shockey preached the 11:00 a.m. sermon and the dedicatory sermon at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Charles Miller, each deacon, each trustee, each Sunday school worker, and the entire laity and visitors joined hands

while standing in a circle that encompassed the church aisles and solemnly dedicated the two-story Sunday school annex. Rev. Loyd Durbin's family was on hand to render special singing for the dedication. The DeSoto Church choir and quartet also rendered special songs.

The same Sunday evening I shared the preaching service with Rev. Don Grindstaff in Divine Trinity FWB Church of Potosi, Missouri. This was a good service too. They are now fully realizing the loss of their last pastor, Rev. Logsdon. Brethren, pray that God's man will soon be led to this work. Please note that the church continues to participate in Missouri's Cooperative Plan of giving.

On January 8 I journeyed with the State Youth Camp Board to Niangua and assisted them in planning their program for 1974, selecting camp directors, teachers, and evangelists as well as speakers for the minister's workshop May 13-15. We all appreciated the hospitality of camp caretaker, Rev. Askren. Another ice storm came and everybody stayed Tuesday night in the caretaker's home.

On Tuesday, January 15, I met with seven members of the Missouri State Association Executive Committee and others from the Lebanon Bible Store and assisted them in preparing the 1974 Missouri State Association yearly meeting program to be held in Flat River First Church August 19-22.

Pastor G. Leonard and Parkview FWB Church hosted St. Francis County Quarterly Meeting on Friday evening, January 25, and on Saturday, January 26. Special solos and congregational singing were featured throughout the day. I gave a report on the Cooperative Program and commended co-operating churches. A film based on Psalm 19 was shown. The attendance was real good.

Pastor F. Arnold and Faith Church were host to St. Louis District Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, January 26. Most of our churches were represented with delegates. I delivered the sermon and gave the cooperative allocations report too. Several purchased Bibles from our Lebanon Bible Stand. A special designated missionary offering was received for the account of Charolette Tallent, a future student missionary to France. Other important items passed, including allocation of funds to repair the St. Louis District men's cabin on the State Youth Camp grounds.

Missouri Bible Institute for the east section of the state of Missouri began January 24 at Grace FWB Church in Arnold, Missouri. Thirty-nine students enrolled, so they are off to a good start.

A good motto: "Let's do more in 1974." In pleasing God "abound more and more" (1 Thessalonians 4:1).

Thanks to 80 churches for \$10,757.00 in Cooperative Funds sent in. Thanks, brethren, this is the largest cooperative check ever to be issued through the Missouri State Treasury. Seven month's receipts are \$49,379.20. Thus, we are less than \$200 under schedule toward our \$85,000 yearly goal. To God be the glory!

AT DAY'S ENDING

Is anybody happier because you passed his way?
 Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?
 The day is almost over, and its toiling time is through.
 Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word of you?
 Can you say tonight, in parting with the day that's slipping fast,
 That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?

Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said?
 Does the man whose hopes were fading, now with courage look ahead?
 Did you waste the day, or lose it? Was it well or sorely spent?
 Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?
 As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God will say,
 "You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?"

by John Hall
 contributed by Mrs. Voiley Lay, Kirksville

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES 1972-73

Church	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan.
Aurora	51	47	62	52	30	26	19	26				
Beacon, Raytown	72	67	86	85	80	71	96	79	78	77	81	81
Berkeley, First				302	296	289	316	323	342	347	348	
Bethel, Festus			83	80	86	96	79					
Copper Mines	76	85	91	77	87	86	95	87	80	74		
Cuba	91	88	98	80	85		78	72	82	72	71	72
Desoto	178	189	189	159	159	143	158	150	156	161	149	155
Evangel, Webb City											44	46
Farmington	155		161	139	139	131	129	132	142	134	138	
Fellowship, Flat River	370	407	390	322	310	277	298	384	432		391	
Flat River, First	140	178	215	159	149	150	149					
Fourth, St. Louis	145	154	143	112	110	125	123	133	147	132	141	164
Grace, Arnold	223	241	255	194	209	189	220	202	240	238	232	
Jefferson City	39	43	40	36	31	34	43	51		56		
Jones Chapel	74	86	83	84	86	86	91	101	90			
Joplin, First	119	139	116	106	100	102	101	95	94	95		
King's Way, Springfield	65	64	66	67	61	68	56	70	79	90	90	80
Kirksville	112	117	114	112	103	101	95	99	101	105		
Leadington	51	59	63	65	62	60	59	43	46	50	47	
Lebanon, First	156	160	166	144	143	134	119	191		125		128
Mine LaMotte	43	42	51	46	55	43		37	43	44		
Monett, First	209	219	207	198	219	209	200	196	240	208	195	
Mountain Grove, First	284	263	269	299	256	248	265	267	283	265	276	
Myrtle	53	63	52	50	45	52	54		47	46	49	
O'Fallon	64	72	72	70	53	50	60	65	82	78		
Parkview, Desloge	98	90	106	97	83	83	87	96	100	100	98	78
Richwoods	28	34	35	40	34	36	30	31	30	26	33	
Salem	46	42	39	41	40	37	49	43	45	40	44	
South Fremont, Spfd	75	77	75	71	74	72	77	83	76		80	80
Southside, St. Louis	144	156	154	144	130	132	130	130	126	140	127	
Springfield, First	228	212	231	200	195	176	174	196	208			
Thayer	157	153	181	149	159	173	152	152	156	144	157	156
Trinity, Bridgeton	171	194	200	160	153	159	157	184	174	179		
Twin Oaks	53	55	51	71	58	59	56	59	57	55	58	52
Victory, Avondale	171	181	174	165	155	138	160	164	233	210	188	189
Willow Springs	88	94	94	95	91	94	95	98	100	96	93	

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

Woman's Page



I got up early one morning
And rushed right into the day,
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn't take time to pray.
Problems just tumbled about me and
Heavier came each task—Why?
Doesn't God help me? I wondered
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty, but
The day toiled on gray and bleak,
I wondered why God didn't show me
He said, "But you didn't seek."
I tried to come into God's presence
I used all my keys at the lock,
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning
And paused before entering the day
I had so much to accomplish
That I had to take time to pray.

NOTES AND NEWS . . . It's still not too late to send your offering for the Perpetual Loan Fund. Our goal: \$1,000. REMEMBER . . . Our yearly project is to raise money for a projector for the Sparks. PRAY for your State Board as they begin planning our State Program and Fall Retreat.

Have you ever had "one of those days" when it seems like every thing is a complete disaster? Recently on "one of those days" at my house I came across this article which made me stop and think: "Here is the story of a man who was almost a failure. In 1831 he failed in business. In 1832 he was defeated for the state legislature. In 1843 he lost again in a bid for state legislature. In 1846 he was defeated for congress. In 1848 he failed to receive enough votes to become a senator. In 1856 he was defeated for vice president. Suppose this man had fallen under these defeats.

In 1860 this man, Abraham Lincoln, was elected president of the United States. Under the stress of the war years he became one of the greatest leaders in history. And those who knew him said he preferred to be defeated rather than compromise any of the high principles to which he had committed himself through the years." "The Lord shall be thy confidence" (Proverbs 3:26).

Rev. A. P. Bailey

Recently a 7-year-old told me that he had "finally figured out a way to take care of the devil." He continued to say that the devil had been trying to make him do things and believe things he knew were not true. So he said, "When the devil told me not to believe in God because he wasn't real I just said . . . 'Well if God isn't real, then neither are you!'"

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 - Church and Associational report forms
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