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Free Will Baptist

GEM

"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"

Volume 45, Number 4, April, 1975

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AFRICA- Dream or Reality?

by Neva Thomas



"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas," rang loudly from the high school girls' dorm at Ivory Coast Academy as approximately forty students joined their voices together. The Christmas season was drawing nigh. The usual decorations were displayed and everyone was beginning to get into the spirit of Christmas. So what if it was one hundred degrees? We could still dream of snow! Why not go caroling? Of course, we always did at home. Why should our location make any difference?

So off we went, trudging through the dust in our sleeveless "winter" dresses to bring greetings and good wishes to friends on campus. What a joyous experience singing there under the palm trees in a strange but friendly land: Christmas! That's what it's all about! The good news is that because God loved He gave and that because Christ loved He came.

Christ loved? Yes, Christ loved the Africans. This thought lingered with me as we hurried across the lawn to sing to another dorm of students.

The dream of a white Christmas in Africa at I.C.A. (Ivory Coast Academy) was unheard of, and only a few months earlier my dream of visiting Africa and all my missionary friends seemed almost as unreal. Yet, there I found myself amid Africans, mud huts, market day, pet monkeys and snakes, dust, and heat, and I was enjoying every minute of it. Although I was surrounded by a completely different habitat, I had great difficulty believing that at last I actually had arrived in Africa and right then and there was at I.C.A. staying in our Free Will Baptist dorm. Those two weeks I spent at the school were precious times: reliving moments of joy with the Filkins, looking forward to seeing the Pinkertons and Palmers when they came to pick up their children for Christmas vacation, and meeting many new missionary friends working with other mission groups in as many as ten different African countries.

Those two weeks were busy ones. The students had their usual school activities plus final exams, Christmas play practices, and packing everything before leaving for vacation. I made myself right at home. There were soccer and basketball games to attend, nightly treats to be prepared for the boys, Christmas programs and parties to enjoy, dorm devotions each evening, and a Christmas supper to cook for nineteen hungry high school boys. Of course, I saved time for a dusty cycle ride, several trips to the market, games with Tim Pinkerton, writing postcards home, reading to Dale Filkins, and a visit to Bouake Zoo.

I shared some especially meaningful times by

going with some of the students to various places to witness. One Saturday I was able to go with David Filkins and Mark Bacon to a grade school in Bouake where they hold a Bible class each week. How eager the boys and girls were to see them. The following Sunday I visited a private girls' school and met an African girl, Debe. She is beginning to learn English and suggested that we correspond. Another real blessing came from visiting the Conservative Baptist missionary conference. Missionaries from several different groups made up the entire congregation. Never before had I been in such a meaningful communion service as that Sunday morning as we all joined hands and closed by singing "How Great Thou Art." Many different denominations and groups—yet all were bound together by one common goal.

I loved those two weeks spent there, but I was anxious and excited for the day to arrive when we would start up country to Doropo. For several years I had longed for a time when I'd be able to visit the Mileys in Africa.

The day finally arrived and off we bounced over the dusty, rough road. After a day's drive there it was . . . Doropo Free Will Baptist Church . . . a left turn and the mission station was in sight. And what a pleasant sight!

Those were happy moments. Still from time to time I had to stop and give myself a pinch. Was I dreaming? Or was I actually standing in the clinic filling pill envelopes?

Gradually I began to realize that I was in Africa, or at least somewhere besides home: There was no evening paper. No hot bath water. A kerosene lamp sat on the dresser in my room, and the air was filled with strange words I couldn't understand. I had already had so many new experiences and seen so many African sights, but I was eager to learn more of the African lifestyle. How sweet of Sandra Payne to offer to take us on a visit to the Lobi village across the road. That was my first time to step inside a mud hut. Nebo was so happy to see us and have her picture taken with her close friend, Debbie Payne. I was really beginning to dread leaving Doropo the next day and Nebo, taking my arm, pleaded with me to stay. That only made it worse.

Even though I hated to go so badly, still I was eager in a way, for our next stop would be Nassian to visit the Pinkertons. Wouldn't it be thrilling to hear Jerry preach again! This time it would be in Africa instead of behind the pulpit in my home church. I didn't realize what awaited me, however. Sunday morning worship service actually turned out

to be three services at three different villages. Due to my limited knowledge of French, it took me all three times to get one sermon and there were still a few points missing. The special music at the church at Nassian that Sunday was presented by the Filkins, Pinkertons, Wanda, and I in English. The Africans probably understood less of the song than I did of the sermon, yet they seemed to enjoy it.

We had already eaten a few African foods like guava jam, plantains, papaya salad, and couscous, but Sunday evening Carol had arranged a real treat for us—an African meal cooked by an African, Kuame, their translator.

Can't you just see me pounding enyams? Kuame thought everyone should have that experience at least once in his lifetime. I wasn't overly fond of this new meal, but I'd much rather sit down to enyams than another of the Africans' common meals—rat!

Too soon the car was reloaded and the seven weary travelers were again on their journey. This was vacation time for the Filkins family since school was out for a month. How kind of them to spend their free time showing us around Ivory Coast. It was my desire to see all our Free Will Baptist mission stations so our next stop was to be Laoudi-Ba, a chance to keep our promise to the Palmers to stop by and spend the night with them. Not only was I experiencing many firsts but the days had held firsts for the Filkins also. Together we had seen the Independence Day parade. Jody came along with us on what was her first visit inside a mud hut, and the next morning we would bid goodbye to the Palmers and experience another first—crossing the border into Ghana, Ivory Coast's neighbor to the east.

I can think of many things I'd rather do than go through all those check points and guard stops, but we made it. What a thrill to again be able to see a sign and read it in English, or to enter a shop and ask the price of an item and understand what the salesperson said. One thing that will always stand out in my mind about Ghana is the signs on the front of all the trucks. Some were just one word, like love, kindness, peace, etc. Others would have a short phrase like, "God is love." Still others challenged its readers with the Word of God, by using a Scripture text, like Psalm 23 or Psalm 91.

What did Psalm 91 really say? None of us could think right off hand, so the Bible was opened; and, as we rode down those dusty, bumpy roads, Jody read the chapter. I was sure this chapter was true for each day our missionaries must claim the protective hand of a great and powerful God!

Our visit to Ghana was short and soon we were back across the border. The next two days would be rushed and busy. There would be a short visit to two more mission stations: Goumere and Koun. A visit to the ocean, an attempt to change a flight schedule, and, probably hardest of all, getting everything packed back into my suitcases filled my last few hours in Africa. We were exhausted from our day's travel from Ghana, so rest was a welcome relief.

As I crawled into bed that night in Bondoukou, the drums and voices grew louder and louder. At last I was beginning to feel I was actually in Africa. But

the four weeks had flown by, and soon I'd wave goodbye to African soil. Thoughts and memories ran through my head! I was so tired, but how would I ever get to sleep with the drums beating so loudly? Oh, how weary the missionaries must grow as they repeatedly, day after day, night after night, encounter similar experiences.

Only a few nights before I had fallen asleep with the crackling of the brush fire roaring in my ears. Thinking of the fire and drums brought other thoughts into mind: the constant reminder that Christ died for the Africans and left Christians with the task of taking them the gospel. Each beat I heard could stand for an African soul doomed to die, but the fire could not begin to typify the eternal doom they faced without Christ.

Morning came and with it came the chance for another day for our missionaries to show these people the love of Christ. I've heard people ask if foreign missions is really worthwhile. Well, is it really worth it? Ask that question to Joseph or Kuame. Ask the missionary children who go out witnessing. Why waste time and money going to Africa? The answer came vividly into view for me. Fifteen Africans walked forward in Bouake at a street service and prayed. The service was different, the music strange, but our God is the same. One hundred and fifty boys and girls crowd into a little classroom after school to sing praises and listen to a Bible story, all anxiously awaiting just one little gospel tract after class. Two small African children climb into the missionary's car with white strangers and ride to school about twenty miles up the road, waving goodbye as they get out at school, all smiles, holding their Gospel of John and a piece of candy, which had communicated the missionary's love. Hold Suzanne, burning with fever, while Lorene Miley gives her a shot, and pray, "Lord, is it worth it?"

I watched the sun set between two palms my last night in Africa, and the questions seemed to cease for the answer was evident. Yes, it is worth it all. Many Free Will Baptist people have answered this question and are now serving the Lord not only in Africa, but around the world. We as Missourians should thank the Lord for the way He is using those from our area to help evangelize the world. This brings another question to my mind—what are we doing to promote missions and to help spread the gospel? We can't view the events that happen in the lives of our missionaries day by day and forget to pray for them or fail to support them. The burden we feel for lost souls should compel us to pray, to give and, if God leads, to go.

Look once more into the sinking sun and answer these two questions: Is it worth it? If so, what can I do to help?

Neva Thomas is a laywoman in the First Free Will Baptist Church of Kirksville, Missouri. A graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College and a bank employee, she took her vacation last fall and visited our Free Will Baptist mission stations in Africa.

VICTORY CHURCH VS FARMINGTON CHURCH

CHURCHES PEOPLE AND EVENTS

STATE ASSOCIATION THEME CHOSEN

The Executive Committee of the General Board has chosen the theme for the 1975 Missouri State Association: "For Such a Time As This." The relevance of the gospel message and the potential of our Free Will Baptist churches amid the turmoil of our generation will be developed by four speakers to be announced later.

A Sunday school workshop will also be included on the State Association agenda this year. The theme is provoking; the plans are exciting; and everyone's going to be there, we hope. Make your plans now to attend the Missouri State Free Will Baptist Convention at West Plains, August 18-21. Daytime services will be held in the auditorium of the Free Will Baptist church there; the evening services will be at the Holiday Inn.

PREACHERS' SEMINAR NEXT MONTH

A chance to hear Rev. Roy Thomas preaching to preachers, Rev. Bill Jones teaching the Word, and Rev. Francis Boyle speaking about "Budgets and Buildings" all at the same time would be a great opportunity, right?

That is exactly what is on the agenda for the Pastor's-Laymen's Seminar to be held at the State Youth Camp near Niangua May 19-21. And the seminar may be taken for college credit if you desire.

Every pastor and at least one layman from each church should plan to attend what could be one of the most fruitful retreats you have ever attended. Here is what two pastors said of the last such retreat at the Youth Camp.

"This was a real key session and should revitalize my entire ministry. My thanks to the Missouri College Commission and Hillsdale College for this seminar." (Bill Evans, pastor of Central FWB Church in Kansas City)

"The three days I spent in study, fellowship, discussion, and prayer will long be remembered as fruitful and rewarding days. May I say, "Thank you," to those who worked so hard to arrange this type of meeting. If a spring conference can be arranged, and the Lord willing, I'll be there!" (Roger Harwell, pastor First FWB Church of Lebanon)

Churches should consider helping their pastors and key laymen attend this vital meeting. The first session will begin at noon on Monday, May 19. The seminar will close at noon on May 21.

See you there!

This editor will not divulge who said, "Pray for a snow storm in Farmington," but Pastor Lawrence Thompson of the Victory FWB Church in Kansas City is in a contest with Pastor Jim McAllister of the First FWB Church of Farmington. The pastor whose church has the least people in Sunday school during the month of March must drive to the other's church and preach for him and shine his shoes. Maybe we will have a picture of that eventful day next month.

The value of this promotion is seen in the fact that on the first Sunday of the contest four persons were saved at the Victory Church and six were saved at the Farmington Church.

By the way, the statement, "Pray for a snow storm in Farmington," had the word "ha" after it.

SOULS FOR CHRIST AT TWIN OAKS CHURCH

"Greetings to co-workers and the GEM readers from the Twin Oaks Church. We are still in the soul winning business at our church, having had fourteen saved or rededicated in the last two months. Five of these joined our church on March 2. We are in a contest in Sunday school and our goal is to climb higher and gather in sheaves while it is day. We believe the Lord is coming soon and the harvest is ready to be gathered in. God's people should be up and about His business in winning the lost."

So writes the Twin Oaks' reporter, Madeline McFarland. She adds, "Remember us in prayer."

SOULS BEING WON AT GATEWAY

by Pastor Roy Pearson

The people of Gateway Church are doing what Paul said to do in 1 Thessalonians 5:16, "Rejoice evermore." The rejoicing is for the six people who were saved, the four who have joined the church, and the six who have followed the Lord in baptism recently.

The people are also rejoicing over the growth of the church—77 and 76 are new highs for Sunday school attendance. The average attendance for Sunday school was 61 in January and 63 in February.

The people are rejoicing over the St. Louis District Quarterly Meeting held at Gateway on January 26. One hundred sixty-one people filled the house of the Lord as God's Spirit moved upon the scene to make this one of the best quarterly meetings in years.

As the people rejoice, they are also anticipating the future. March has been designated as Church Emphasis Month. The month will include special services like children's night, when the children's church will take over the evening service. Talent night will be observed when each member of the congregation will get to use the talent the Lord has given Him, and communion and footwashing will be observed. The month will serve as preparation for

the revival April 6-12 with Pastor Russel Spurgeon of the Trinity FWB Church in Bridgeton.

OVER THE TOP AT EVANGEL

The Evangel FWB Church of Webb City had a missionary conference scheduled for last month. A goal of \$1,000 for missions over the next year was chosen, and the traditional thermometer was painted.

Missionary Lynn Miley was the principal speaker for the three-day meeting, but the climax came when, at the close of the Sunday morning service, the Director of Deputation, Rev. Henry Van Kluyve, challenged the Evangel folk with the faith promise plan of giving. When the faith promise cards were all in and tallied, the thermometer could not begin to register the response. \$368.50 per month was promised on faith, making the total projection for the year \$4,534.

Pastor Andy Lay writes, "The reviving effect of this missionary conference was as great as any revival meeting we have had. Praise the Lord for a people that loves souls."

GROWTH AT COPPER MINES

by Marie Graham

Copper Mines FWB Church reports good services each time we meet. We have a large group of youth in all our services, for which we are very thankful.

We had a special missionary service February 14. Missionary David Cochrane and a native missionary worker from Old Mexico were a challenge to us.

AREA WIDE SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS SEMINAR PLANNED FOR MAY 31

An unusual Sunday School Workers' Seminar has been planned for May 31, 1975. It will be held at the South Fremont Free Will Baptist Church in Springfield, Missouri. Rev. Wayne Wagner is the pastor.

This seminar will include workshops, study groups, and discussion groups on each of the following areas of work within the Sunday school:

Toddlers and Cradle Roll
Beginner Department
Primary Department
Junior Department
Teen Department
Adult Department
Sunday School Superintendents
Bus Workers
Children's Church
Visual Aids and Equipment.

In addition to the areas listed above Rev. Roger Reeds will be with us. He will be speaking to us all about the common goals of the entire Sunday school and also teaching three sessions from his book *PUPIL PROFILES*. Rev. Reeds is our National Sunday School Director. The sessions are so arranged that one may take part in more than just one

area of the Sunday school ministry. There is something in this May 31 Sunday School Workers' Seminar for every person involved in the Sunday school.

The speakers for the seminar are Missourians who, just like you, are involved in their Sunday school classes and related ministries each week. They are Free Will Baptists of Missouri who are faced with the problems of Sunday school work and growth. They "sit where you sit."

This May 31 seminar is an effort of the Sunday School and CTS Board of our State Association to help each Free Will Baptist, regardless of the size of the church he is a part of in Sunday school ministry. In this seminar you can learn what others, who work in the same age group you work in, are doing.

What about the cost of the seminar? Yes, there are expenses to such an effort as this. No, there is not any charge to attend the seminar. Yes, we will receive an offering to help meet the expenses of the seminar.

Once more, the seminar will be held at the South Fremont Free Will Baptist Church in Springfield, Missouri, on May 31, 1975. It will begin at 9:30 a.m. The seminar will feature special workshops for the particular age group or area you are working with in your Sunday school and related ministries. Rev. Roger Reeds from our National Sunday School Department will be present to teach and speak to us about the united goals of the Sunday school.

Pastors, go right now and mark your calendar for this date, May 31. The Sunday School and CTS Board is looking forward to seeing you and your Sunday school staff join the Springfield area churches for this unusual day.

Sunday School and CTS Board
Millard C. Sasser

MISSOURI STATE CTS MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL

The Missouri State CTS Music and Arts Festival will be held May 3, 1975 at the Rock Chapel FWB Church north of Norwood, Missouri. The purpose of the festival is to provide an outlet and challenge for our youth in addition to, or in lieu of, the competitive events. There are two main goals that we try to reach. First, to recognize and involve talented and performing young people, and to discover and encourage those with talent to get involved.

Recognition will be given to each winner of the various categories. The participant in each category that receives the highest No. 1 rating at the state festival will represent the State of Missouri at the national competition in Dayton, Ohio in July.

The various categories are as follows:

- No. 1 Vocal solo
- No. 2 Vocal ensemble (Maximum of six)
- No. 3 Youth choir
- No. 4 Instrumental solo (other than keyboard)
- No. 5 Instrumental ensemble (maximum of six)
- No. 6 Keyboard

- No. 7 Oral communication
- No. 8 Creative arts
- No. 9 Creative writing

Category No. 7 includes: extemporaneous speaking, dramatic reading, original oration, poem recitation, declamation.

Category No. 8 includes: sculpture, painting, drawing, ceramics, poster.

Category No. 9 includes: poetry, short story, newspaper, song, essay, play or skit.

In categories 7, 8, and 9 all material must be subject to the spiritual standards and good taste as determined by the State CTS Board.

The entry requirements are as follows:

1. Each participant must be a member of and in good standing with the local CTS group of the church he regularly attends.

2. Four levels of competition are provided for members of the Adventurers for Christ (completed grades 4, 5, or 6 in school during the year preceeding the National Youth Conference); Heralds for Christ (completed grades 10, 11, or 12); and Ambassadors for Christ (ages 18-24).

Entry fees are as follows: categories 1, 4, 7, 9, \$5.00 for each participant. Categories 2 and 5, \$10.00 each ensemble; Category 3, \$25.00 each choir.

If anyone wants more information concerning the festival they may contact: Rev. Bud Hill, Rt. 3, Box 95, Mtn. Grove, MO 65711, or phone 417-926-5780.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM HARVEY HILL

Dear GEM Readers:

It has been such a joy to me to have been back in Missouri for the past three years. I have truly enjoyed the fellowship of my fellow-ministers in this great state. I praise God for what Missouri is doing for God and for our denomination. I also praise God for such a wonderful church as the Thayer FWB Church which I have had the privilege of pastoring for the past three years. There is some of the very salt of the earth in this church and I am happy God gave me the privilege of being their pastor.

My health has been bad for the past year; and, since I have reached retirement age and after much much prayer, I have resigned the church effective March 30 and will go into semi-retirement in Auburndale, Florida. Our address will be 122 Shelton.

My prayers will be with this great state work, and my wife and I desire your prayers as we make this move. Come visit us if you are down Florida way, for we would be happy to have you. May God bless you.

(signed) Harvey E. Hill

SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGES TO BE PUBLISHED IN JUNE

The Sunday school attendance averages are now

being published in the GEM once per quarter. They will be published again in the June issue. If you would like your Sunday school attendance published, please have them in the hands of the editor by May 15.

CREDITS FROM LAST MONTH'S ARTICLE

We inadvertently failed to publish the credits for the article, "A Second Look at Calvary," by Rev. A. B. Brown in last month's GEM. They are as follows: Most of the medical description came from an excellent article by a medical doctor—C. Truman Davis, M.D., M.S.—"The Passion of Christ From a Medical Point of View." Other helps came from *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, *Unger's Bible Dictionary* and James M. Stalker's *The Trial and Death of Jesus Christ*.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

April 25-26: Hillsdale College Junior-Senior Day
May 3: State Youth Competitive Activities at Rock Chapel Church, near Mountain Grove;
 Youth Camp Work Day
May 18: College Day for Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville Tennessee
May 19-21: Pastors'-Laymen's Seminar at Youth Camp.
May 31: Sunday School Workers' Seminar at South Fremont FWB Church, Springfield.
June 9-13: Youth Camp for high schoolers
June 16-20: Youth Camp for junior high schoolers
June 23-27: Youth Camp for elementary children
July 13-17: National Association of Free Will Baptists annual convention in Dayton, Ohio
August 18-21: State Association at West Plains

COOPERATIVE FUND DISBURSEMENTS, FEBRUARY, 1975

20.00% Missouri Missions	\$1,070.00
15.00% Mo. Promotional Dept	802.50
05.50% Mo. Youth Camp	294.25
04.00% Mo. General Fund	214.00
04.00% Mo. State College Comm.	214.00
02.50% Mo. Gem	133.75
01.00% Mo. C.T.S. & S.S. Depts.	53.50
52% Seven Mo. Depts.	2,782.00
07.00% 07% Hillsdale College,	374.50
13.00% Foreign Missions	695.50
09.00% F.W.B. Bible College	481.50
07.00% Nat'l. Executive Dept.	374.50
06.50% Nat'l. Home Missions	347.75
03.00% Nat'l. C.T.S.	160.50
02.00% Board of Retirement	107.00
00.25% Layman's Board	13.38
00.25% Theological Commission	13.37
41% Eight Nat'l. Depts.	2,193.50
100.00% total disbursed	\$5,350.00

On The National Front

FROM THE PINKERTON'S IN IVORY COAST

Excerpts from a recent newsletter follow . . .

"God's blessings on those good Missouri folks. We are out of the red!!! First time since I can't remember when. Many churches and individuals that we had never heard of responded to the need. We are very grateful.

"Mom and Dad Pinkerton are in Koulango study. It would be compared with, 'Run, Dick, run.' 'See Dick run.' However, here it would be 'Yako eats peanuts. Yako ate one peanut. Yako ate one peanut today'" Now you can see why language study is also a matter for prayer.

"Tim's next surgery is still undecided. Please continue to pray with us."

FROM THE McLAIN'S IN JAPAN

Excerpts from a recent letter follow . . .

"Thank you for continuing to send the GEM to us. We read it like a letter from home. Don and Mary too read it with interest. It helps so much to keep up with what is happening at home so we don't feel completely isolated.

This afternoon we go to a nearby suburb for our weekly home meeting there. We have a children's class and a women's class. We teach a little English and have a Bible study for the women and a Sunday school type program for the children. The women are studying Mark. Last week we had the verse about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and that it was one sin God could not forgive. They wanted a thorough explanation. That is one thing I can't clearly explain in English to people with a little Bible knowledge, let alone try to explain it to people with very little idea of Christianity and in another language! The Japanese pastor came in and did some explaining, but then we realized that what they were really most interested in was the person of the Holy Spirit—who He was and what He does. As an example our pastor gave his personal testimony how as a college student he was against Christianity and didn't intend to become a Christian even though his sister had prayed for him for years and he was attending meetings at the new church in Sapporo. Then one night the Holy Spirit convicted him in such a way that he saw his sinful condition and had to repent and ask the Lord to save him. Then our hostess gave her testimony that she had attended church and read the Bible for 10 years without being able to believe or understand. Until the Holy Spirit dealt with her, she could not yield her heart to the Lord. It was a wonderful class. The women really listened with interest. Now we pray that the Holy Spirit will use the words they read from the Bible each week and touch their hearts."

FROM THE CHILDREN'S HOME IN TENNESSEE

"Homecoming Day will soon be here. It is May 10 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. We invite you to attend if possible. The Home will provide lunch. The afternoon is open to tour the campus. Last year over 600 people attended.

"We now have 27 children. Our average capacity is 32 with the buildings we presently use. To properly work with the children, maintain a reasonable work load for the staff, and do quality work in the training of the children, we must concern ourselves with proper working conditions.

"Pray for us, come and see us, and may God richly bless you for your support of this child-care ministry. We received from Missouri in December, 1974, \$1,887.26 and \$1,014.91 in January, 1975." Free Will Baptist Home for Children
Rt. 10, Box 327
Greeneville, Tennessee 37743

"OPERATION PARTNERSHIP" MOVING FORWARD

Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, campaign coordinator for "Operation Partnership" and moderator of the National Association, recently announced that over 250 Free Will Baptists have been enrolled as members in Gideon's Army. The goal of Gideon's Army is to enroll at least 300 volunteers who will agree to enlist at least 10 people, churches, Sunday school classes, or other groups to pledge \$50.00 or \$5.00 a month for 10 months in an effort to reach the campaign goal of \$150,000. This amount is needed in order to retire the indebtedness on the National Offices Building. By so doing a sizeable sum of interest will be saved and each of the departments now housed in the National Offices Building will be relieved of the cost of renting floor space.

In order to reach the campaign goal, 3,000 people are needed to give \$5.00 monthly for 10 months or a one-time gift of \$50.00. Dr. O'Donnell stated several individuals and churches have already sent their money.

"The attitude of those contacted has been very optimistic," according to Dr. O'Donnell. "There seems to be an eagerness to relieve the national departments of this debt."

Anyone desiring information concerning this denominational campaign may write to Operation Partnership, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

FROM NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Rev. Robert Shockey, General Director, has visited four Home Mission fields this month, Larry Russell, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Sunny Wenning, St. Croix, Virgin Islands; Larry Powell, San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Ron Wood, Globe, Arizona. All

(continued on page 10)

Promotional Secretary's Corner

by Rev. Harry Beatty



The yearly meeting of the Greater Kansas City District assembled with the Victory Church. Most of their churches were represented, though the attendance was light due to the icy weather. Rev. Bill Jones of Hillsdale College delivered both the afternoon and evening messages February 1. I gave the Missouri promotional program to which each of their churches contribute regularly. Some people purchased Bibles from our Missouri Bible Stand.

February 2, by the invitation of Pastor Evans and Central Free Will Baptist Church, I was privileged to bring the Sunday morning sermon. Their attendance was real good and there was response to the altar call. Several new families have affiliated with their church since Pastor Evans assumed charge about one year ago.

Sunday evening, we visited Olivet FWB Church. Pastor Cliff Bowman delivered the evening sermon and six people were saved in this service. Pastor Bowman reports that 36 souls have been saved there during the past quarter. Several of them have affiliated with the church.

Wednesday evening, February 5, I visited Houston FWB Church prayer meeting. I gave the Scripture reading and devotional part of the service. Pastor Turnbough reports recent converts have joined the church.

Thursday, February 6, twenty-two churches sent delegates to Mission Quarterly Meeting which assembled with Cabool Church. Rev. Tom Owens preached the 11:00 a.m. sermon and Danny Martin the 2:00 p.m. sermon. I gave Missouri promotional program. Rev. Russell Stout delivered the message between business sessions. Old Mexico missionaries, Hilarino Gonzilea and Dave Cochran gave their testimonies and sang some gospel songs in the Spanish language. Mission Quarterly Meeting gave \$150 offering through our National Home Missions Department to the Mexico work.

The Mission Association presbytery ordained ministers John Andrews and William Austin into the gospel ministry. Pastor Courtney and Cabool Church did a fine job hosting, making use of their new two story church building and facilities.

Saturday, February 8, eight churches reported with delegates or letters to Indian Creek Quarterly Meeting held at Jones Chapel FWB Church. Rev. J. McCulley preached the 11:00 a.m. message and Pastor Gentry the 2:00 p.m. message. The Jones Chapel young people's quartet rendered thirty minutes of gospel singing. The Indian Creek churches are arranging special foreign and home missionary rallies in each of their churches in the near future. I

gave the cooperative program and some people purchased Bibles from Missouri Bible Stand.

The Macedonia FWB Church is observing their centennial anniversary this year. Pastor Cecil Campbell and the church gave me the privilege of bringing the gospel sermon Sunday morning, February 9. Other visiting guests in this service were 36 young ladies representing Future Home Makers group from the Purdy High School. Some of them are members of Macedonia Church. We enjoyed a good service.

Pastor Dale Smith and Monett Church invited me to deliver the Sunday evening sermon. Pastor Smith reports some have been saved in the past few weeks. We enjoyed another good service with them.

Saturday, February 22, St. Louis District youth from eight churches participated in the preliminary CTS competitive activities. Participants ranged from two-person teams to an entire choir. Trinity Church's youth choir, under the direction of David Hellard, concluded the service with a thirty-minute concert. Visiting members of the Harvester's Quartet of Hillsdale College also rendered some numbers. This service was held in the South Side FWB Church.

Saturday night the Harvester's Quartet held special services at Gateway FWB Church.

February 25 we journeyed through about 12 inches of snow to Lebanon with the Executive Committee to help plan the program and select the speakers for our 1975 annual convention, which will convene August 19-21 in West Plains.

February cooperative receipts were \$5,350, from 50 churches. This is a good average per church. We are about \$4,000 behind schedule at this eight-month point. I challenge each church in the state to adopt the cooperative plan, or send an offering. Let's go over our projected goal.

COOPERATIVE FUND RECEIPTS, FEBRUARY, 1975

Fellowship	\$50.00
Willow Springs	107.40
Victory	444.94
Beacon	100.00
Independence	68.00
K.C. First Mission	96.00
Olivett (Jan.)	130.00
Number One	26.05
Mt. Pisgah	44.00
Faith	162.64
Byrd	15.00
Garfield (Jan.)	23.90
Fordland	25.00
Salem	20.00
New Rock Springs	30.00
Carterville	21.49
Pleasant Ridge	20.90
Cuba	34.42
Hurryville	85.75
Viburnum	90.37
Verdella	58.24
Marshfield (Dec.-Jan.)	87.83
Pleasant Home	100.90
Mt. Valley (Oct.-Dec.)	135.99
Belton	79.00
Berkeley	377.50
Royal Oaks	48.00
Thayer	88.13
Hickory Grove (Jan.)	16.70
Central, Kansas City (Feb.)	120.00
Rock Chapel (Feb.)	19.55

Prudy, First	32.37
Copper Mines	105.00
Farmington, First	359.84
Cabool	104.70
Mtn. Grove, First	411.56
Happy Home	19.30
Mine La Motte	28.76
De Soto, First	235.00
Merl's Chapel (Jan.)	41.48
Victory	309.04
Gateway	18.00
Leadington	105.65
Divine Trinity, Potosi (Feb.)	20.00
Fourth	209.17
South Side	204.87
Houston, First (Feb.)	106.30
Garfield (Feb.)	20.91
Beacon	100.00
Evangel (Feb.)	99.50
Aurora	70.45
Pleasant Grove	15.14
A Cooperative Friend.	5.26
FIFTY CHURCHES SENT	\$5,350.00

**Missouri State Home Mission Giving:
February 5 through March 5, 1975**

Berkeley	\$100.00
Myrtle	37.00
Mrs. James Miller	5.00
DeSoto, First	80.00
Grace	25.00
South Fremont	108.00
Hartville	5.00
Olivet	200.00
Fellowship	25.00
Cuba	8.50
Salem	10.00
Aurora	30.25
New Rock Springs	20.00
Willow Springs	8.00
Byrd	10.00
Rock Chapel	20.00
Central	20.00
Victory	210.50
Mine La Motte	20.00
Cabool	30.00
Mtn. Grove, First	8.25
Low Ground	5.00
O'Fallon	10.00
Houston	50.00
Fourth	35.46
Pleasant Home	20.55
Cooperative Receipts	1,070.00
Total	\$2,171.51

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

**DESIGNATED GIVING THROUGH THE STATE
OFFICE FEBRUARY 1975**

Kansas City First FWB Church	\$15.00
Olivett FWB Church, Marshall	90.00
Pleasant Home Church (Mission Assn.)	20.55
Hickory Grove Sunday School	7.82
Mtn. Grove First FWB Church	102.75
Merl's Chapel FWB Church	40.72
Total designated giving	\$276.84

(continued from page 8)

report victory in their works and the blessings of the Lord on their churches.

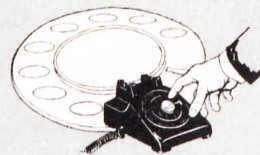
The National Home Missions Board has granted the Rev. Fred McCoy family, missionaries to Puerto Rico, a leave of absence for personal reasons. Please pray for this family as they make adjustments for this indefinite stay in the states.

Call-a-thon Sunday April 20, 1975

—Give your April 20
Sunday school offering
—Receive a special offering
or

—Designate a portion
of your total offering

... to FREE WILL BAPTIST
FOREIGN MISSIONS



And don't forget to call

615 244-3470

to report your total.

(Call between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.
in your time zone.)

Send to:

**FREE WILL BAPTIST
FOREIGN MISSIONS**
P. O. Box 1088
Nashville, Tennessee 37202



Woman's Page

Kathy Lay, Editor

DON'T FORGET . . . our year is getting closer to an end and our offerings are still behind our goals for 1975. Our February goal was \$1,000 for the Perpetual Loan Fund and Home Missions. It's still not too late to send in an offering to our state treasurer. Our yearly project for the Lynn Miley family also has a goal of \$1,000. Let's go way over on each of these this year. HELP! HELP! HELP! The executive committee of our state auxiliary is looking into the possibility of preparing something for our nation's centennial, 1976. We need any information you Co-Laborers may have on our state work from its earliest date. If you know of something or have access to some material that might be helpful, please send it to: Kathy Lay, 13 Tanglewood Dr., Carl Junction, MO 64834.

GET INVOLVED . . . NOW

Ladies of Missouri, now is the time to get involved for your own sake, your children, and your country. The so-called Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) needs your opposition in voice and letter. Let's get our ladies acquainted with the real facts about ERA. Write to your senators and congressmen and let them know that you as a WOMAN are opposed to this amendment. Rep. Leonor K. Sullivan of St. Louis, the only Missouri woman to serve in Congress, is an outspoken opponent of ERA, believing it "to be harmful to the status of women and the family." Senator Mary L. Gant of Kansas City, the only woman to serve in the Missouri Senate, also is totally opposed to ERA. The fate of ERA in Missouri will be decided in the Senate. Senator Richard M. Webster reported recently that he has received 103 communications in support of ERA and more than 10,000 in opposition to it. Was yours in that? If not, don't wait any longer. NOW IS THE TIME TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. The campaign for the ERA has attempted to mislead the public by claiming that ERA is needed to deal with job discrimination and to end laws that discriminate solely by sex. "That campaign is a fraud," claims Senator John D. Schneider of St. Louis County. According to Sen. Schneider, "The reason the amendment is wrong is that it dictates that never, under any circumstances, can men and women be treated differently—no matter how important the reason. It would destroy the concept of the family."

God created woman to be a helpmate, not an independent individual. If the ERA is passed we won't be "winners"; we'll be the losers. Who wants to be an equal with her husband? I'd rather change my baby's diaper any day than to change a roll of ammunition in a machine gun. I'd rather clean up a dirty house for a smile and a kiss than to get a \$.15 raise because I am a good employee.

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET INVOLVED,
LADIES (Titus 2:5).



"Janitor's Prayer"

Dear God, hear this poor janitor's plea,
And send one of your angels down here to me;
To keep watch o'er the door as each service starts,
And to remind them again as each one departs.
That a mat's by the door, and a rug is within,
To enter in muddy shoes is surely a sin!
It wouldn't take much—just a scrape or a scuff,
Just to shake off the grass would even be enough.
Sometimes I get tired when I think of the mess
That they all seem to leave with each forward step;
They come all dressed up in furs and in ties,
And never seem to notice their trail up the aisles.
So lend me an angel, Father, I pray,
To guard the door—and never from it stray;
So that when I am absent, he'll remind those there
To please wipe their feet, for their janitor cares.

by LaDonna Weaver (age 21)
Hannon FWB Church

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