

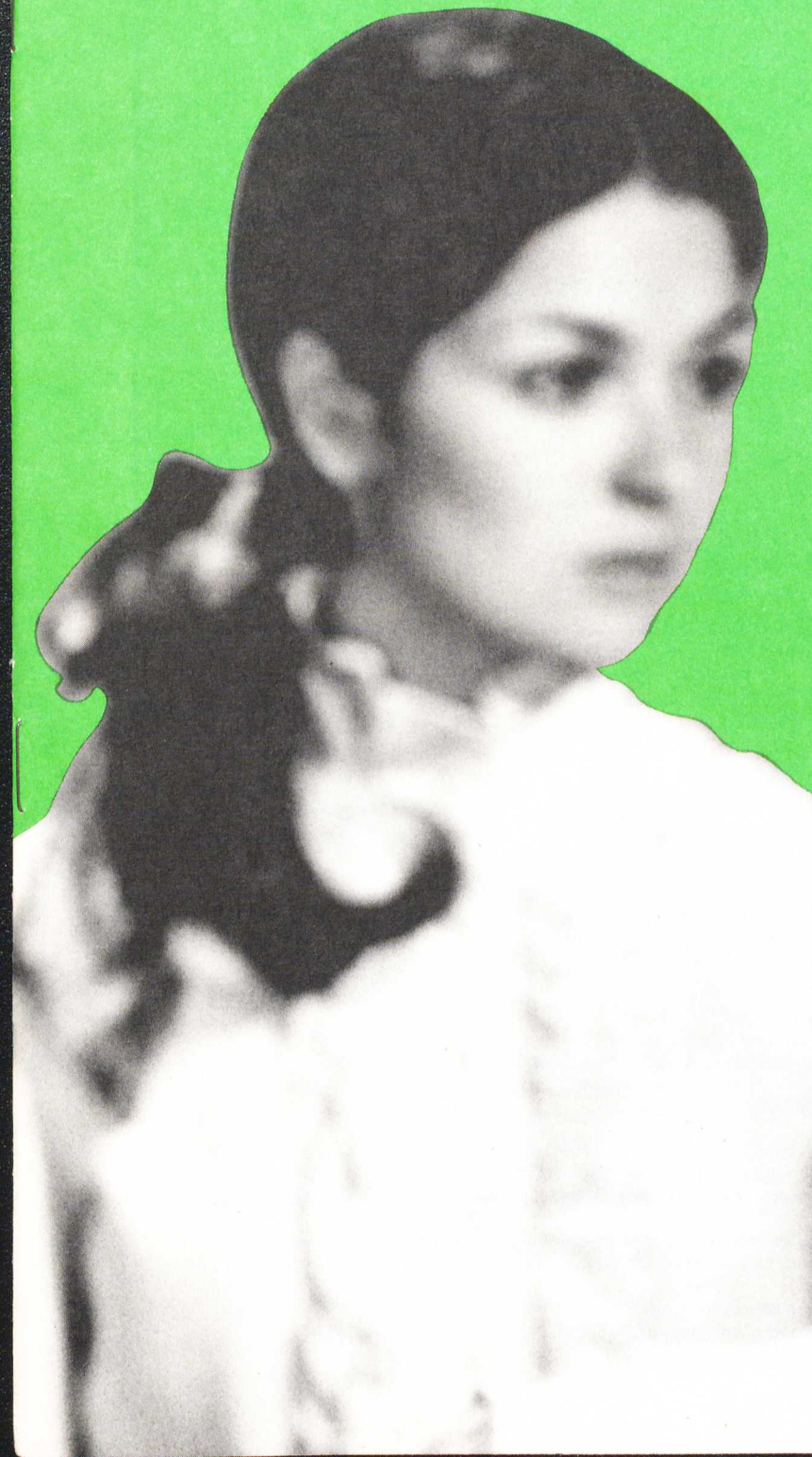
Volume 45, Number 8, August, 1975

Free Will Baptist

GEM

"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth (Ecclesiastes 12:1).



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POTPOURRI

by the Editor

Over the years that I have served as your GEM editor, I have accumulated a collection of brief articles, sayings, poems, etc. that I have laid back for use in the GEM. Most of them have come from church newsletters from our Missouri FWB churches. Some just got into the accumulation, from where I don't know.

Since I am nearing the end of my term as your GEM editor, I decided to clean out my file this month in lieu of a lead article. Brother Clarence Burton, our new Promotional Secretary, will be taking over the GEM sometime this fall or winter. The General Board gave him the option of assuming the GEM editor's job when he felt he was ready to take it on, since he is assuming several new areas of work, some of which are demanding his immediate attention.

THE CULT OF BLAMING OTHERS

from Trinity Church Newsletter

When Adam and Eve were confronted by God with their disobedience, they tried to avoid accepting responsibility for their behavior. Adam accused his wife, and Eve pointed her finger at the serpent. This attitude did not cease in the Garden of Eden. The children of Israel used the transgressions of their parents as an excuse for their own wrongdoing—but God declared, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." (Ezekiel 18:4)

Today the practice of "passing the buck" is more widespread than ever. One journalist has stated that self-pity is a common national disease—people feeling sorry for themselves and blaming others for their condition, hoping to find some reason why they are not accountable for their behavior.

"I am to blame" are four small words we hesitate to use,
But God holds us responsible for sins we freely choose.

YOU FORGOT MY SOUL

from Grace Church Newsletter

You lived next door to me for years.
We shared our dreams, our joys and tears.
A friend to me you were indeed,
A friend who helped in time of need.
My faith in you was strong and sure.
We had such trust as should endure.
No "words" between us ever rose,
Our friends were like—and so, our foes.
What sadness, then, my friend, to find
That after all, you weren't so kind.
The day my life on earth did end,
I found you weren't a faithful friend.
For all those years we spent on earth,
You never talked of second birth.
You never spoke of my lost soul,
And of the Christ who'd make me whole!
I'm lost today eternally,
And tell you now my earnest plea.
You cannot do a thing for me,
No words today my bonds will free.
But, do not err, my friend, again,
Do all you can for souls of men.
Plead with them quite earnestly,
Lest they be cast in hell with me.

THE DEVIL'S BEATITUDES

1. Blessed is the church member who expects to be invited to his own congregation, for he is an important member.
2. Blessed are they who are too tired to go to church on Sunday night, for they are my best workers.
3. Blessed is the deacon who frequently misses church, for he setteth the example I want other members to follow.
4. Blessed are they who go home after Sunday school, for they cause many empty pews at the worship service.

5. Blessed are they who receive higher incomes but give the same amount to the church as they have always given, for they make the budget of the church harder to reach.

6. Blessed are they who find fault with everything the church does, for they shall help make the church weak in this community.

7. Blessed are they who do not go to church on Wednesday night, for they cause the world to say, "The church is failing."

8. Blessed are they who find fault with the minister, for they help make life miserable for him.

WHAT IS THE TITHE?

1. **SCRIPTURALLY** it is a **LAW**. "Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase" (Deuteronomy 14:22). "And Moses gave . . . as the Lord commanded" (Numbers 31:41).

2. **MATHEMATICALLY** it is a **TENTH**. "I will surely give the tenth" (Genesis 28:22). "The tithe shall be holy unto the LORD" (Leviticus 27:30).

3. **MORALLY** it is a **DEBT**. "Yet ye have robbed me" (Malachi 3:8). "These ought ye to have done" (Matthew 23:23).

4. **ECONOMICALLY** it is an **INVESTMENT**. "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:20). "Give, and it shall be given unto you" (Luke 6:38).

5. **SPIRITUALLY** it is a **BLESSING**. "I will . . . open . . . the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10).

FOR WANT OF A NAIL

For want of a nail . . . the battle was lost. For the want of a faithful Sunday school teacher, only eternity will reveal what has been lost, but following are some true illustrations:

In 1915 Leon Trotsky, noted leader of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, attended Sunday school in Chicago with a friend. The teacher did not arrive to teach his class that morning and, unfortunately, had not notified anyone of his intention to be absent. Trotsky walked away from that Sunday school class and, as far as is known, never attended another one. Two years later, he was intensely engaged in the Russian Revolution which brought the Communist regime to power.

Joseph Stalin, who caused so many millions of people to die, was sent to study to be a priest in the Russian church. It had become so worldly and corrupt that he rebelled and turned to Communism as a way of life.

Mahatma Ghandi, who was the leader of millions in India, studied Christianity when in England but rejected it because Christians didn't live up to the teachings of Jesus.

Two teenagers grew up in Dallas, Texas. Both were rough and troublesome. A faithful Sunday school teacher contacted one of them every week for a year. Another teacher felt he did not need that type boy in his class. The first was saved and is now Florida Baptist's Secretary of Evangelism. The other

assassinated President John Kennedy.

Here in America a young Chinese studied for four years and was graduated from one of our colleges. The churches did not invite him to attend, and many people ridiculed him. He went back to China bitter against Christianity and became the Prime Minister of Communist China.

OBITUARY

from Fellowship Church Newsletter

It is with deep regret we announce the passing of one of our members. His going was not sudden, but little by little he dwindled away. Just a few months back he was active in church taking part in all our services and he seemed to have so much power, then this dreadful disease got hold on him.

I remember his first bout with it; it was on a Wednesday night. I didn't know he was sick, but after a couple of Wednesday nights, I knew our brother was ailing. Then in a few weeks, our brother grew worse. He began having attacks on Sunday nights and at first his attacks only kept him from choir practice, but the illness grew worse and the spells longer and he would not attend on Sunday night at all.

I knew by then that chances of recovery were slim. Then a certain thing happened to make me realize that our member would not be with us long. He became partially paralyzed. That is, when he started to reach for his wallet or checkbook for the Lord's tithe, he could not lift the offering out and into the plate. So, hurting him so much to give, he completely quit giving at all.

I watched him as he grew so weak that he would not even lift his eyes from his TV up to Heaven to pray; and, although he struggled for a short time on Sunday morning, he was unable to respond and has passed away from among us.

BUT NOT ON SUNDAY NIGHT

from Congregational Crusader, Knoxville, TN

I always go to church each week,
Yea, if the weather's right;
I go every Sunday morning,
But not on Sunday night.
I like to hear the preacher preach,
My soul it does delight;
I like this on Sunday morning,
But not on Sunday night.
I thrill to sing the songs of Zion,
Sometimes with all my might;
I do this on Sunday morning,
But not on Sunday night.
I love the church that Jesus bought,
And I believe it's right;
I'll see you next Sunday morning,
But not on Sunday night.
I know some day that I must die . . .
It fills my heart with fright;
Let it be on Sunday morning,
But not on Sunday night.

SOME SOMBER THOUGHTS

from *The Link*

One of the greatest writings of history is *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, written in 1788 by Edward Gibbon. Most significant in Gibbon's masterful treatise is the setting forth of five basic reasons why the great society of Rome withered and died. They were:

1. The undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.

2. Higher and higher taxes, and the spending of public money for free bread for the multitudes and free circuses for the populace.

3. The mad craze of the people for pleasure; sports becoming more exciting, more brutal, more immoral.

4. The building of great armies and armaments, when the real enemy was within—the decay of individual responsibility.

5. The deterioration of religion; faith fading into form and losing vital touch with life; losing power to guide the people.

Any perceptive person will immediately recognize the fact that every one of these tragic conditions experienced in the society of Rome is being repeated in our society today. History is very definitely being retold. We are already well along the road to the decline—if not the fall—of our own nation.

IS AMERICA'S TIME RUNNING OUT?

from *Trinity FWB Church Newsletter*

The average age of the world's great civilizations has been 200 years. These nations progressed through this sequence:

From bondage to spiritual faith
From courage to liberty
From liberty to abundance
From abundance to selfishness
From selfishness to complacency
From complacency to apathy
From apathy to dependency
From dependency back to bondage.

We will soon be celebrating America's 200th birthday . . . but, the cycle is not inevitable.

THE SPACE PROGRAM AND THE BIBLE

Mr. Harold Hill
President of Curtis Engine Co.
Baltimore, Maryland
Consultant in Space Program

I think one of the most amazing things that God has for us today happened recently to our astronauts and space scientists at Green Belt, Md. They were checking the position of the sun, moon, and planets out in space where they would be in 100 years and 1000 years from now. We have to know this so we don't send a satellite up and have it bump

into something later on in its orbits. We have to lay out the orbit in terms of the lift of the satellite and where the planets will be so the whole thing will not bog down! They ran the computer measurement back and forth over the centuries and it came to a halt. The computer stopped and put up a red signal, which meant that there was something wrong either with the info fed into it or with the results as compared to the standards. They called in the service department to check it out and they said, "It's perfect." The IBM head of operations said "What's wrong?" "Well, we have found there is a day missing in space in elapsed time." They scratched their heads and tore their hair. There was no answer. One religious fellow on the team said, "You know, one time I was in Sunday school and they talked about the sun standing still." They didn't believe him, but they did not have any other answer so they said, "Show us." So he got a Bible and went back to the Book of Joshua where they found a pretty ridiculous statement for anybody who has "common sense." There they found the Lord saying to Joshua, "Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee." Joshua was concerned because he was surrounded by the enemy and if darkness fell they would overpower them. So Joshua asked the Lord to make the sun stand still. "That's right." The sun stood still and the moon stayed . . . and hastened not to go down a whole day. The space men said, "There is the missing day." Well, they checked the computers going back into the time it was written and found it was close but not close enough. The elapsed time that was missing back in Joshua's day was 23 hours and 20 minutes—not a whole day. They read the Bible and there it said *about* (approximately) a day. These little words in the Bible are important. But they were still in trouble because if you cannot account for 40 minutes you'll be in trouble 1000 years from now. Forty minutes had to be found because it can be multiplied many times over in orbits. Well, this religious fellow also remembered somewhere in the Bible it said the sun went backwards. The space men told him he was out of his mind. But they got out the Book, and read these words in 2 Kings 20: Hezekiah, on his death bed, was visited by the prophet Isaiah, who told him that he was not going to die. Hezekiah did not believe him and asked for a sign as proof. Isaiah said, Do you want the sun to go ahead ten degrees? Hezekiah said, It is nothing for the sun to go ahead ten degrees, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees. Isaiah spoke to the Lord and the Lord brought the shadow ten degrees backward. Ten degrees is *exactly* 40 minutes! Twenty-three hours and 20 minutes in Joshua, plus 40 minutes in 2 Kings make the missing day in the universe. Isn't that amazing? Our God is rubbing their noses in His truth!

Isn't our God wonderful? Even the days are counted and credit given. It amazes me what man can do with a computer—we can even detect a day missing out of space and time. But what amazes me even more is the God who makes that day "disappear." If your God is this mighty—hadn't you ought to be working for Him and with Him?

CHURCHES PEOPLE AND EVENTS

CUBA CHURCH WALK-A-THON

The Cuba, Missouri, FWB Church recently sponsored a walk-a-thon for the Library Wing Project of Free Will Baptist Bible College. More than 25 walkers participated, raising a total of \$492.86 for the Missouri project. The accompanying photographs show the participants, old and young.

Rev. Grover Pingleton is the pastor at Cuba.

MYRTLE CHURCH GROWING

In the face of summer-slumping churches and pastors whining over attendance and offering figures, Mrs. Bernice Cantrell, clerk of the Myrtle FWB Church writes, "We had six members join our church today and two last Sunday. Pray that we will grow spiritually and win souls for the Lord. We are happy with our pastor, Brother Russell Johnson, though we did hate so much to lose Brother Stovall."

GARY ELDER AVAILABLE

"I am available to pastor or to be assistant pastor. Please feel free to contact me at 1825 Woodrow, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901, or call 785-7362." (signed) Rev. Gary Elder.

ROLLA SMITH TO FOREIGN MISSIONS POST

Rev. Rolla Smith, originally from the Mountain Grove, Missouri, area, was elected last month by the Foreign Missions Board of the denomination as the General Director of that department, a position which he held more than thirteen years ago.

Brother Smith has subsequently resigned the Grant Avenue FWB Church in Springfield where he has pastored for the past two years. He will be moving to Nashville, Tennessee, to assume his new job this month.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM BROTHER LEAMON KILLIAN

Dear Editor and GEM readers everywhere:

Several months ago I offered to write a history of our state paper, THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM. I never realized, at that time, how much research work would have to be done in order to fulfil my obligation. But the Lord has blessed and very soon I will be starting what I hope will be an interesting tribute to our GEM.

I asked our present editor, Rev. Andy Lay, to announce my intent in the GEM and to ask the help of our people in gathering together former copies of the GEM. The response of GEM readers was tremendous! To God be the glory!

Although my time for reading is very limited, I have been able to read close to 300 back issues. I have thought, What a blessing it has been to go back through the years to get the background for my writing! It has indeed been a blessing to read and see the many departments of our state and national denominational work being promoted through the pages of this great monthly paper.

Missouri is to be richly commended for the beginning and the continuation of this most-looked-forward-to monthly newsletter.

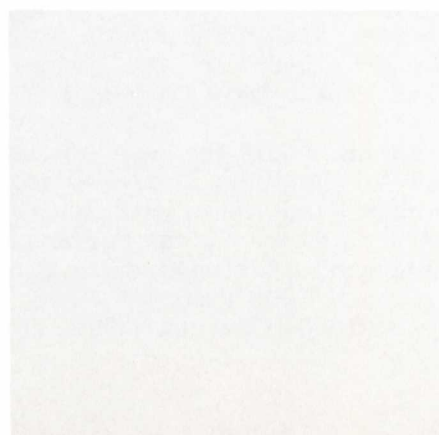
I want to introduce myself to the readers of the GEM everywhere. I am no stranger to many people of our great state, having been a part of our denomination since 1938.

I found Jesus at an old-fashioned altar of prayer in the Copper Mines School House, which was being used for all services of the Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church, near Fredericktown, Missouri, in July, 1938. Rev. J. L. Yancey was the pastor. I married the former Mildred Hovis on September 15, 1940.

We served with the following pastors at Copper Mines: Reverends J. L. Yancey, S. A. Hand, Woodrow Matthews, Glenn Rehkop, and Willard Darnell. Due to the closing of the plant of my employment, we moved to St. Louis in January, 1965, and joined the Fourth FWB Church there.

We have served with the following pastors at Fourth Church: Reverends H. T. Dann, Johnnie Land, and the present pastor, Millard Sasser. God has been good to us through the years, for which we give thanks. Serving God to the utmost has been and is, our continual calling. We have never shirked a position we have been asked to undertake, always striving forward in the upbuilding of God's Kingdom.

Participants of Cuba, Missouri, FWB Church walk-a-thon.



We give thanks for Rev. Sasser for being a pastor led by God, doing the many works a pastor has to do, meeting and conquering each challenge that invariably comes forth from his ministry to his church, and leading his people onward to higher heights and deeper depths in the Lord's work. Our church is fortunate in having Rev. Sasser as their pastor.

In my next letter I hope to begin what I shall call, "A Tribute to the Free Will Baptist GEM." It may take several writings to complete the story of the GEM as I see it. I ask our editor and GEM readers everywhere to bear with me in the writing of this *epistle*, if it can be called such, and pray that God might lead me to put forth an interesting story that will be enlightening to one and all.

Thank you and God bless you all.

(signed) Leamon Killian

MISSOURIANS AT THE NATIONAL

There was a good representation of Missouri pastors and laymen at the National Association last month in Dayton, Ohio. Among those gaining recognition were Rev. Rolla Smith who was elected to the position of General Director of the Foreign Missions Department. Rev. Bill Evans of Kansas City was reelected to the Board of Retirement and Insurance, and Rev. Andy Lay of Webb City was reelected to the National General Board. Former Missourian Rev. Alton Loveless was elected to the Sunday School Board.

Two Missouri youth took honors in the Music and Arts Festival of the National Youth Conference: David Reynolds of Joplin won first place in the Junior Adventurer instrumental solo, playing his trumpet. Cleta Welch won first place in the Ambassador division of the non-oral communications competition.

KNOWN PASTORAL CHANGES

Rev. Roger Harwell from Lebanon, First to Berkeley, First.

STUDENTS TO MSSC

Anyone knowing of Free Will Baptist young people who will be students of Missouri Southern State College in Joplin this fall, are asked to inform Rev. Andy Lay, 13 Tanglewood Drive, Carl Junction, MO 64834, of the students' names and Joplin addresses.

CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS (as this GEM goes to press)

Poplar Bluff Mission
Kirksville, First
Lebanon, First
Hannon, near Liberal
Grant Avenue, Springfield
Neosho, First



MANESS ON ITINERARY

Rev. Vergel Maness is presently on itinerary preparatory to going as a joint project worker for the National Home Mission Board and the Maryland State Association to Free Will Baptists' 41st state, Delaware. Brother Maness, native of Missouri and a former pastor in our state, will be moving to the city of Wilmington.

FROM THE PINKERTONS IN IVORY COAST

Excerpts from a recent letter follow . . .

"The next months promise to be busy ones. This Monday I am taking four of our Koulango preachers to Abidjan to record some more broadcasts. They have a program which comes on each Thursday over ELWA. The following Thursday evening we start a series of services hopefully lasting two weeks in each of our three villages. Finding two-week stretches where there is nothing interrupting is going to be difficult.

"Under doctor's recommendations, we are going to wait until we return home to have Tim's next surgery. It will probably be done in Nashville, if we can arrange it through the mission to get in contact with a plastic surgeon. This has been such a long drawn-out process; but, thank the Lord, Tim does not seem to be a bit self-conscious about his scars. His headaches seem to have let up, but he still has one occasionally."

COOPERATIVE RECEIPT: June, 1975

Byrd (May)	\$19.00
Garfield (May)	26.21
Monett, First (May)	221.49
Fordland (May)	25.00
Buffalo (May)	72.78
Salem (May)	20.00
Number One FWBC (May)	25.20
Pleasant Ridge (May)	30.00
Freeman Chapel (Apr. & May)	154.68
Kansas City, First Mission	120.00
Olivet	130.00
Royal Oaks (May)	75.00
Verdella (May)	77.80
Berkeley (May)	396.16
Hannon (May)	134.00
Purdy, First (May)	51.24
Mt. Pisgah (May)	40.00
Grant Avenue (May)	397.45
Rock Chapel	27.48
Black Oak (3 months)	30.00
New Harmony Church & SS	16.84
Farmington, First	353.86
Merl's Chapel (Apr. & May)	84.37
Happy Home	24.23
Thayer	113.87

DeSoto, First	300.00
Copper Mines	90.00
Carterville	20.75
O'Bethel	25.00
Waynesville, First (2 weeks)	61.00
Beacon	100.00
Calvary, Conway	192.00
Union FWBC, Gladden (June)	60.00
Willow Springs	107.22
Martinstown FWBC	60.00
Columbia FWBC	109.00
Central, KC Dist. (June)	150.00
Gospel Light, Bonne Terr. (3 mos.)	96.39
Hurryville (June)	70.00
Hickory Grove (3 mos.)	33.53
Pleasant Home	108.10
Fellowship	50.00
Pleasant Grove, Cope	22.93
Houston, First (June)	160.00
Fourth, St. Louis (June)	244.63
Grace (June)	518.05
Southside, St. Louis (June)	320.91
Mill Creek Church & SS (3 mos.)	193.19
Mine LaMotte (June)	23.12
Kansas City, First Mission	145.00
Grant Ave. Springfield (June)	349.43
New Rock Springs (June)	50.00
Evangel FWBC Webb City (June)	149.54
Alton	13.04
Garfield (June)	40.54
Myrtle	181.95
Buffalo (June)	121.58
Freeman Chapel (June)	88.75
Divine Trinity, Potosi (June)	31.26
Merl's Chapel (June)	62.44
Harry Beatty, A cooperative friend	33.99
Total 62 contributions	\$7,050.00
12 months receipts	\$87,375.33

DESIGNATED MONIES SENT THROUGH STATE OFFICE IN JUNE, 1975

Kansas City, First Mission	
One account	\$15.00
Olivet Church, Marshall	
Seven accounts	95.00
Merl's Chapel	
Two accounts	118.00
Promotional Secretary's long distance phone calls for six months	60.00
Evangel Church, Webb City	
Three accounts	188.75
Hickory Grove Sunday school	
One account	17.82
TOTAL	\$494.57

JUNE COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

20.00% Mo. Missions	\$1,410.00
15.00% Mo. Promotional	1,057.50
05.50% Mo. Youth Camp	387.75
04.00% Mo. General Fund	282.00
04.00% Mo. State College	282.00
02.50% Mo. GEM	176.25
01.00% Mo. CTS & SS	70.50
52% Mo. seven depts.	3,666.00
07.00% 07% Hillsdale College	493.50
41% eight Nat'l Depts.	2,890.50
TOTAL	\$7,050.00
13.00% Foreign Missions	916.50
09.00% FWBBC	634.50
07.00% Nat'l Executive Dept.	493.50
06.50% Nat'l Home Missions	458.25
03.00% Nat'l CTS Dept.	211.50
02.00% Bd. Retirement & Ins.	141.00
00.25% Layman's Board	17.62
00.25% Theological Comm.	17.63
100% Total Amount Disbursed	\$7,050.00

On The National Front

OPERATION PARTNERSHIP GOING WELL

Ten percent of the goal of \$150,000 in Operation Partnership (a project to pay off the indebtedness of our National Offices Building in Nashville, Tennessee) has been reached in actual gifts as of June 10, according to an announcement by Campaign Coordinator J. D. O'Donnell.

The flow of gifts, as much as \$1,000 some weeks, is very heartening to all who are working in the campaign. However, we need to be reminded that this is just the beginning.

Individuals, churches, and church groups who have not pledged or paid to Operation Partnership are urged to do so as soon as possible. Either send your gift or pledge to your local Gideon's Army representative or mail to Operation Partnership, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

CTS IS THE FAMILY PLACE!

A fall promotional campaign is being sponsored by the National CTS Department, entitled, "CTS Is the Family Place!" Churches are urged to make plans now to take part in the September promotion. Registration must be in the National CTS office by August 12. Send today for your complete promotional kit containing posters, stickers, progress charts, ideas, and instructions for only \$3.00. CTS is not just for the youth of our denomination; CTS is for all ages—CTS is the Family Place. Churches are urged to help project this image by participating fully in the fall campaign.

COLLEGE DAY SUCCESS

by Bert Tippet

Missouri Free Will Baptists raised over \$8,300 for Free Will Baptist Bible College in a state-wide College Day, May 18. Twenty-seven churches sent gifts to the college's Office of Development as part of the special drive.

The churches of the St. Francis County Quarterly Meeting, nearly all of which cooperated in the campaign, raised nearly \$5,300 by combining their efforts in a youth Walk-A-Thon, as well as receiving special offerings. Jack Paramore, Director of Development for the college, noted that he and FWBBC professor Milton Crowson had met with members of the St. Francis Quarterly Meeting in an effort to see the College Day promoted in all of their churches. He credits the outstanding results to this special group effort. "We want to make this same approach

to every quarterly meeting across the state, if possible," Paramore says. "I plan to try to personally attend every one."

All funds from the May 18 College Day will be applied to the \$125,000 Missouri Project to underwrite a new wing added to the college's Welch Memorial Library. To date, the state has given \$38,233 on the project.

Gifts from the following churches have been recorded from the Missouri College Day campaign:

CHURCH	AMT. GIVEN
Aulsbury Chapel	\$164.50
Berkeley	500.00
Columbia	68.00
Copper Mines	230.00
Cuba	492.86
DeSoto, First	1,000.00
Farmington, First	1,009.82
Fellowship, Flat River	591.43
Flat River, First	589.30
Gospel Light	61.80
Grace, Arnold	439.00
Grant Avenue	449.00
Gray Summit	242.50
Houston, First	100.00
Hurryville	286.55
Independence	20.00
Leadington	215.00
Lone Star	24.75
Monett, First	70.60
Myrtle	25.00
New Harmony S.S., Greentop	15.00
New Hope, Fredericktown	106.00
Olivet, Marshall	250.00
Parkview	144.50
St. Louis, Fourth	500.00
Viburnum	528.92
Willow Springs	200.00
TOTAL	\$8,324.53

FALL ENLARGEMENT CAMPAIGN "COUNT ON ME, LORD"

COUNT ON ME, LORD is the theme of the 1975 Fall Enlargement Campaign. This enlargement campaign is of special value to the Sunday school which wants to promote not only a time of dramatic growth, but also a time of spiritual growth for students and teachers alike. COUNT ON ME, LORD stresses the importance of getting involved in God's work *now*, while there is still time. It involves a personal commitment on the part of the entire Sunday school staff and enrolment. It seeks to give a vision of the great harvest of souls all around us who need to be reached for Christ.

Sunday schools are separated into the following categories for competitive purposes.

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

The Fall Campaign will begin on Sunday, October 5, and continue through Sunday, October 26, 1975.

Sunday schools in each division who experience the greatest percentage of gain over the thirteen weeks' average attendance for March-April-May, 1975, will be declared winners and awarded appropriate plaques denoting first and second place.

THE PRESENT SIZE OF YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL DOES NOT PREVENT YOU FROM BEING ELIGIBLE TO WIN IN YOUR DIVISION. Campaign materials are available from the Sunday School Department. *Each entry blank must be accompanied by an order for enlargement materials of at least \$10.00. Please order early.*

YOUR ENTRY BLANK AND ORDER SHOULD BE IN OUR HANDS BY OCTOBER 3, 1975.

Missouri State Home Mission Giving: June 5 through July 5, 1975

Thayer	\$24.00
Grace	25.00
Rock Chapel	20.00
O'Fallon, First	10.00
Myrtle	15.87
Hannon	67.00
Byrd	10.00
Aurora	23.00
South Fremont	125.00
Olivet	225.00
Southside	1.00
Willow Springs	10.00
Mo. State Wo. Aux.	209.49
Union Light	33.00
Copper Mines	20.00
Central	40.00
Victory	205.16
West Plains, First	70.00
Fourth	35.92
Columbia	5.00
Mine LaMotte	10.00
Independence	15.00
Houston	65.00
Fellowship	25.00
Cabool	30.00
Coop. Receipts	1,410.00
TOTAL	\$2,729.44
Secretary-Treasurer	

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



Promotional Secretary's Corner

by Rev. Harry Beatty



I journeyed with Rev. Vergel Maness to Copper Mines FWB Church on his Delaware National Home Missions itinerary Monday night, June 2. I delivered the gospel message in his stead because he had minor throat irritation. Brother Maness explained the Delaware project and received the faith promise support.

Southside's pastor, Robert Frances, spent a few days in the hospital, so I filled the pulpit for him both services on June 8. There was good attendance and good services. Their cooperative giving this year places them in the top ten in Missouri State. They continue to win people for the Lord. Southside is also the top ranking church in the past twenty-five years in sending forth full-time Christian workers into God's vineyard, both men and women.

We had a fine service at the DeSoto First Church on June 15. DeSoto First is also in the top ten in cooperative giving. Pastor Miller and the church continue to win souls to the Lord. The Sunday school attendance is averaging about 170.

The same Sunday evening I preached in Fellowship FWB Church. Pastor Ken Doggett and the

church continue to win people for the Lord, thus both the church and Sunday school attendance are growing. They average over 300 in Sunday school. We enjoyed another good service there. Their church participates in cooperative giving, plus designated missionary support direct to the missionaries through the National Association.

On Friday evening, June 20, I journeyed with Evangelist C. Gower to Liberty Church revival in the Cave Springs District. They have witnessed eight souls saved already in one week of meetings.

On Saturday, June 21, sixteen ministers, some deacons, laymen, and laywomen attended Cave Springs Deacons' and Ministers' Conference. Morning topics were opened by Rev. J. W. King, and Rev. W. Stogsdill. Noon sermons were by Rev. Russell Johnson and Rev. Charles Hollis. Rev. Rolan delivered the afternoon sermon. I gave a devotional and the cooperative report.

On Sunday morning, June 22, I delivered the message on the Free Will Baptist Hour broadcast on the Thayer radio station, for the radio pastor, D. Strain. That Sunday morning at 11:00 I shared with Pastor H. Ogden and Shiloh Church preaching the Word. They have enlarged their sanctuary and added some new classrooms in recent months. We enjoyed a good service at Shiloh.

June cooperative receipts were \$7,050. The total for 12 months was \$87,375.33. This year eight churches officially adopted the Cooperative Program. Four new works gave an offering to it. Thanks to 91 churches and two individuals for what has been received. Although we are behind the projected goal, we are in fine shape to start a new fiscal year.

I bid everyone God's speed, as this report terminates my term. Keep faithful and true, brethren! Maranatha!



Give to Christ Your Youthful Years

A Sunday-school teacher became deeply concerned for the conversion of a teen-age girl in her

class. Lovingly and earnestly she spoke to the girl on the all-important subject—her soul's salvation. The girl listened respectfully. She decided against Christ, saying that in later years she would give consideration to her relationship to Christ. The teacher went away with a sad heart. On her way home, she thought of a novel plan to impress on the girl the unfairness of giving her youthful years to sin and then turning to Christ for forgiveness. Stopping at a florist's shop she bought a dozen beautiful roses. She kept the roses in the florist's box for several days. Then she sent them to the girl. The girl was elated to receive the gift until she opened the box and saw the faded and wilted flowers. "Some practical joke has been played on me," she said disgustedly.

Shortly thereafter the teacher called on the girl again. The girl told her about the faded roses she had received. "I sent them," said the teacher. "When you chose not to give Christ your youthful years, you decided to present to Him later a life faded and withered like those roses!" The girl answered, "Teacher, I see it. It will not be that way. I will give myself to Christ right now and live for His glory."

—W.B.K.



Woman's Page

Kathy Lay, Editor

GOOD NEWS & BAD NEWS

First, the GOOD NEWS . . . PRAISE THE LORD, we exceeded both of our Missouri State Auxiliary projects this year. The State Home Missions project totaled \$1,090.68. (Perpetual Loan Fund . . . \$587.69 and State Home Missions \$502.99) Our State Project for the Lynn Mileys totaled \$2,466.45. This amount includes the sacrificial love offering from the Greater Kansas City District. The response was wonderful, ladies, and the Lord will richly bless for the way that you have given.

Now for the BAD NEWS How sad that only 6 districts and 5 local auxiliaries reported to our state treasurer. And out of those groups approximately \$4,500.00 was sent direct to the national and our poor treasurer didn't get to have the blessing of being a part of that. I know our treasurer, and I know it broke her heart to have to report that so much money was not sent to her but instead, on to the national. Ladies, let's get together and remind our district and local treasurers to send their reports, offerings, and whatever, to our state treasurer this year: BLANCHE WISEHART, Myrtle, MO 65788. She can have the money in and out to the proper

channel the same day; if you remember to mark it exactly for the area it is to go into. PRAISE THE LORD for what we did report and let's labor together this next year and report all of our giving through our state office.

If you hurry, you may still be able to make it to the State meeting at West Plains. Start planning for our Retreat. You won't want to miss it this year. Watch for more information in coming issues of the GEM.

IT WORKS THIS WAY . . .

The more you give, the more you get;
The more you laugh, the less you fret;
The more you do unselfishly,
The more you live abundantly,
The more of everything you share,
The more you'll always have to spare,
The more you love, the more you'll find
That life is good and friends are kind;
For only what you give away,
Enriches you from day to day.

Unknown

ATTEND

MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION

August 18-21
First FWB Church of West Plains

THEME: "This Is the Hour"

SPEAKERS: Rev. Harrold Harrison
Mrs. Joan Filkins
Rev. Charles Miller
Rev. Millard Sasser
Rev. Rufus Coffey
Rev. Elmer Turnbough