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Volume 45, Number 9, September, 1975

Free Will Baptist

GEM

"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"



A TRIBUTE TO THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM
See Page 3

Sunday School Attendance Averages 1974-75

Church	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July
Aurora	22	22	22			23	20	68				
Beacon, Raytown	75											
Berkeley, First	330	325	346	330	331	319	341	364				
Bethel, Festus	68	88	114	86	85	93	89	105	97	89	76	90
Central, K.C.	115	120										
Cooper Mines	105	90	83	79	81	74	73	85	79			
Cuba	74	83										
Desoto	138	142	176	144	137	144	136	144	146	153		
Evangel, Webb City	33	45	49	73	77	80	59	72	72	60	53	58
Farmington	179	209	239	207	191	191	203	283	253	228		
Fellowship, Flat River	332	341	390	340	341	333	315	366				
Flat River, First	124	135	135	126				148				
Fourth, St. Louis	179	160	167	161	162	150	154	224	191	174	132	148
Grace, Arnold	216	249	255	256	220							
Hazel Creek							30	56	52	49	44	44
Leadington	50	56	60	58	51	49	52	84	87			
Mine LaMotte	60	62	69		48	54	54	64	57	45	55	57
Myrtle	46	50	48	48	44	42	43	49	54	50	51	
O'Fallon	63	71	115	87	69	70	76	100	83	75	82	
Parkview, Desloge	75	81	86	81	82							
Richwoods	33	34	32	33	31	37	34	43	35			
Salem	37	35	37		32	35	36	40	41	34		36
South Fremont, Spfd.	82	89	92		89	83	85	82	90			
Southside, St. Louis	134	133	152	173	160	156			207			
Springfield, First	190	177	178	187	190	205						
Thayer	147	148	147	138	162	150	146					
Trinity, Bridgeton	171	190	192	217	208	215	218	240				
Twin Oaks	63	60	69	73	75	71	75					
Victory, Avondale	161	184	181	174		192			211	166	181	
Willow Springs	104	99	107	93	97	91	83					

Other churches are invited to send their Sunday school attendance averages for publication in the December issue. They should be in the hands of the editor by November 15.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Published monthly by the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists
Headquarters: 303 West Commercial, Lebanon, Missouri 65536

Publication and Business Office: 13 Tanglewood, Carl Junction, MO 64834

Andy W. Lay, editor.

Address all correspondence relating to the GEM, including subscription and mailing information, to the above address.

Woman's Auxiliary news may be mailed to Mrs. Kathy Lay, 13 Tanglewood, Carl Junction, MO 64834.

The sermons and articles published in the GEM represent the personal views of the authors and not necessarily the views and policies of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists or of the editor.

All items for publication must be in the hands of the editor no later than the 15th of the month preceding the issue month.

Subscription Rates: Single subscription, \$2.50 per year cash in advance. Church plan, \$2.00 per year consisting of five subscriptions or more. The

Church Plan will continue until it is canceled by the church.

Second Class Postage paid at Carl Junction, MO and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to the Free Will Baptist GEM, 13 Tanglewood, Carl Junction, MO 64834.

A Tribute to the Free Will Baptist GEM

PART I

by Leamon L. Killian

In beginning this writing on the growth of our Missouri state monthly periodical, the GEM, I trust our readers everywhere will hearken to the many facts I have gathered in the reading of almost 300 former copies.

I had said I would write a history; but, since I do not have all the former copies, I will strive to put forth an enlightening picture to our people of this most important newsletter.

There will be items of interest taken from early editions of the GEM. They will not always be in order chronologically, but they will be of benefit to GEM readers everywhere.

If our readers missed the August, 1972, issue, they missed a most complete "History of the GEM," written by Dr. Robert E. Picirilli of our Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. With the help of many, he has obtained every issue of our GEM except one. His writing of the historic facts of the GEM was exceptionally good. (Note: anyone desiring a copy of Brother Picirilli's article may have one by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to me at 8528 Palmetto Dr., Affton, MO 63123.)

Since I did not have the complete list of all editors who have served in making the GEM what it is today, I will copy these names from Brother Picirilli's history to be used as information:

Rev. B. F. Brown, January, 1929—June, 1939
Rev. John Rollens, July, 1939—January, 1944
Rev. C. B. Dees, February, 1944—April, 1946
Rev. B. F. Brown, December, 1946—August, 1947

Rev. Winford Davis, October, 1947—December, 1949

Rev. Lloyd Jeffries, December, 1949—June, 1955

Rev. Eunice Edwards, October, 1955—August, 1956

Rev. Albert Halbbrook, September, 1956—August, 1959

Rev. Roger Reeds, September, 1959—June, 1962

Rev. Bud Hill, July, 1962—September, 1969

Rev. Alton Loveless, October, 1969—September, 1970

Rev. Eddie Altis, October, 1970—September, 1972

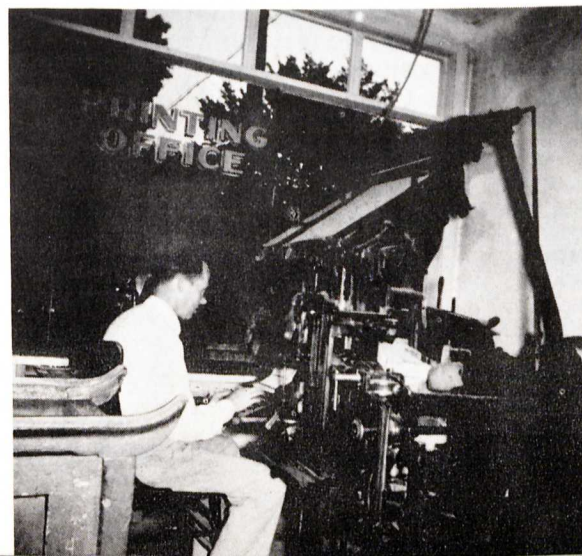
Rev. Andy Lay, October, 1972—present

Each and every one of these was indeed a dedicated, Spirit-filled, ordained minister of the gospel, using his talents in editing this most important denominational newsletter.

News for printing came from several states in the early years: Arkansas, Kansas, Texas, Tennessee, Michigan, as well as Missouri. News of yearly meetings, state meetings, and news of our Free Will Baptist churches was news of interest to our readers.

To correct an earlier error, the size of the first GEM was the same as the present, but the cost was

These two photographs of former GEM editor Lloyd Jeffries were taken in the spring of 1954.



\$1.00, instead of the present \$2.00.

There have been many, many good gospel messages by our ministers printed through the years. Some of the editorials were as messages from God's Word. We, of our state, can give thanks for each of our editors.

In the November, 1929, issue, Rev. B. F. Brown, in his editorial, wrote of "Man's Unerring Guide and Critic." He said,

The Bible is the only holy book in the world, being the message of the Creator, and should be guarded with jealous care, studied with diligence, and proclaimed to all mankind. We have newspapers, magazines, and books without number, all devoted to telling what the world is thinking and doing. Yet, we cannot know human life until we know what God says about it in the Bible.

Thank God for our Christian publications, enabling us to discern the "signs of the times." And thank God for our editors of the GEM. In getting the news that is sent in by our people, editing it, and getting it ready in time for publication, they have produced a real good Christian news magazine, written by Free Will Baptists, for Free Will Baptists everywhere. I am sure our readers everywhere can say, "It is the most looked for newsletter I have ever subscribed for."

If you are not a subscriber at present, then by all means, become one. As a member of the church, it is your duty to be a live member. Can you be a real live member of our denomination and not take the GEM?

In 1948 the "Every Church Family Plan" of subscriptions was begun. I believe the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church of Flat River, Missouri, was the first church to begin this plan. It was called "the ideal plan" by Rev. Winford Davis, editor at that time. It was recommended by the Publications Committee at the 22nd annual setting of the Missouri State Association which met near Kirksville.

This plan was for the many members of the local churches who could not afford it, or would otherwise not receive the GEM. It consists of the local church paying from the church treasury the subscription price for each member.

Let me recommend this to all the churches that do not now have this plan in action. I believe that every member would benefit in keeping up to date in the many phases of our state and national work.

I am enclosing two pictures I took in the spring of 1954 while visiting the Rev. Lloyd Jeffries, GEM editor. It was taken at the GEM office and printing establishment located in Monett, Missouri.

May God bless our readers everywhere.

CHURCHES PEOPLE AND EVENTS

JOPLIN FIRST CHURCH GROWING

Pastor N. R. Smith writes, "In the months of June and July we received 15 new members, baptized ten, and have witnessed a number of people saved and several others rededicating their lives. We averaged 86 in Sunday school for June and July and 100 and 103 in morning worship during those months. For the first two weeks of August we have averaged 101 in Sunday school and 123 in worship. We have been experiencing the moving of the Holy Spirit in every service with lives being touched. Our Sunday school attendance has come from the 50's in the past year.

"We have hired two intern pastors from Hillsdale FWB College to work with our youth during this school term. It is a privilege to participate in the Hillsdale Intern Program. Jim Smith and Russel Ray will be a blessing to us.

"David Reynolds, one of our young people, entered a trumpet solo in the Missouri State Music and Arts festival. There he earned a number 1 rating which made him eligible to enter the National competition in Dayton, Ohio, in July. There he received a superior number 1 rating and a gold medal and the first place trophy in the Junior Adventurer division. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reynolds.

"On Sunday night, August 10, our church surprised Cathern and me with a 25th Wedding Anniversary reception. After evening worship, the pastor started through the fellowship hall to his study and to his surprise, when he walked into the darkened area, he saw the candles burning around the cake. One hundred of the church folks were waiting to surprise their pastor and his wife. We were very appreciative of the thought that went into the reception, the cake, and the gifts we received."

David Reynolds



BETHEL CHURCH ENJOYING BLESSINGS OF THE LORD

Pastor Robert Sharpy writes, "The Lord has really been blessing us here. About ten have been saved, seventeen have joined the church, and I have baptized nine. We had Bible School last week and enrolled 85. The VBS average attendance was 74 and 116 attended the closing program on Sunday morning."

EVANGEL CHURCH SPONSORED BIBLE CONFERENCE

The Evangel FWB Church of Webb City sponsored a Bible conference last month, with Professor Leroy Forlines of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. Brother Forlines spoke on the subject, "Facing Our Problems in Today's World." The author of *Systematics*, Brother Forlines made a practical application of theology to everyday Christian living.

Pastor Andy Lay reports that the Bible Conference was a tremendous spiritual uplift to the more studious members of Evangel Church and a profitable conference to all.

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN POTOSI

by Mrs. Clio Hamby, Clerk

Divine Trinity FWB Church of Potosi is growing. Our Sunday school average is 39. We saw many souls saved and lives rededicated during our revival in July. Nine were baptized on Sunday, August 3. We have gained 15 new members in two months. We are so happy with our new pastor, Rev. Larry Bryant. The Lord is surely blessing his ministry here.

The church will have a dedication service on Sunday, August 31. Everyone is welcome.

KNOWN PASTORAL CHANGES

Rev. Glen Campbell to Kirksville
Rev. LaVelle Reeves to a new work in Stockton
Rev. Gary Elder to Hannon

CENTRAL WESTERN ASSOCIATION STARTS NEW WORK

The Central Western Association has recently hired Rev. LaVelle Reeves to begin a new Free Will Baptist church in Stockton. The Central Western project began more than two years ago when association leaders had a vision to see more new works begun in their area. They began by starting a mission fund and encouraging each of their churches to contribute to it monthly. With over \$4,000 in the treasury and believing God was leading Rev. Reeves to the area, the new work has now been born.

People knowing of prospects for the new church

in the Stockton area should notify Brother Reeves
c/o Rev. Bob Dickey, Rt. 1, Liberal, MO 64762.

OPEN AIR TABERNACLE REVIVAL AT PLEASANT GROVE

The Pleasant Grove FWB Church near Anderson sponsored a one week revival last month in their open air tabernacle on the church property. Rev. Andy Lay of Webb City was the evangelist. Several decisions were witnessed in the well attended meeting.

Rev. Lester Nutting is the pastor.

COOPERATIVE FUND RECEIPTS: JULY 1975

Monett	\$276.94
Gateway	22.00
Cabool	112.32
Liberty	130.00
Pleasant Ridge	20.00
Union Light	25.52
Cuba	63.65
Carterville	30.33
Low Ground	25.00
Salem	20.00
Thayer	94.85
Number One	41.93
Aurora	30.55
Verdella	79.40
Mt. Pisgah	62.00
Mountain Valley (Jan. through June)	259.93
Columbia	146.00
Olivet	130.00
Byrd	26.00
Hannon	130.00
Waynesville	55.00
Fordland	25.00
Hartville	31.50
West Plains	261.00
Faith (Lemay)	160.52
Bethel (Festus)	151.95
Berkeley	560.43
Leadington (May and June)	314.83
Fredericktown (April-May-June)	672.88
Pleasant Hill	15.00
New Life (Licking)	65.25
Mine La Motte	20.00
First Church, Flat River	753.61
Oskaloosa	302.00
Aulsbury	328.46
Waynesville	25.25
Rock Chapel	29.92
Copper Mines	80.00
Walnut Grove	54.00
Purdy	51.20
Sedalia	9.50
Independence	100.00
Happy Home	37.29
De Soto	370.00
Fourth, St. Louis	345.77
Farmington, First	310.69
First Mission, Kansas City	15.00
Cuba	54.42
Cabool	92.26
Belton	123.00
Alton	37.27
Willow Springs	141.56
Pleasant Grove	23.82
Divine Trinity	21.98
Total Fifty-four contributions	\$7,366.69

State Association Report

BROTHER AND SISTER BEATTY HONORED

Retiring promotional secretary, Rev. Harry Beatty and his wife, Lucille, were honored last month in the Wednesday night service of the State Association at West Plains. They were presented a book of letters of appreciation from pastors in the state, an engraved plaque as a reminder of the dates of Brother Beatty's service as promotional secretary, and 41 feet and 6 inches of checks representing love offerings from more than 55 churches. The total amount of the retirement gift was \$2,500.00

The Beattys' two sons, Kenneth from Oklahoma and Gordon from Florida, surprised their parents by arriving in West Plains in time for the service, unannounced. The four Beattys treated the State Association to two gospel songs during the reception following the evening service.

After the presentations were made Brother Beatty said, "We are retiring so far as the promotional work is concerned, but so far as the ministry is concerned, we'll not stop until we go beneath the clay." Mrs. Beatty scolded the FWB women in the state saying, "You all have spoiled my husband." She jokingly said Brother Beatty was harder to live with after being treated so cordially in his travels. But on the serious side she said she would be glad to have him home more.

Nearly 500 people attended the reception in honor of the man one pastor referred to as "Mr. Free Will Baptist" in the State of Missouri. No doubt all would agree that the plaque presented Brother Beatty summed up his ministry in one word: FAITHFUL.

The Beattys hold checks totaling \$2500.



BUSINESS

State Association business went smoothly, demonstrating a growing maturity among Missouri

Free Will Baptists.

A Board of Christian Education was created to follow up the work of the College Commission which has been in existence for the past three years. The primary function of the new board will be the oversight of the Missouri Bible Institutes in the state. Members of the board are Millard Sasser, chairman, Dennis Bowman, secretary/treasurer, Howard Bowers, R. B. Spurgeon, and Andy Lay.

The State's by-laws were officially changed to accommodate the change in time of meeting of the State Association to the first week of June. The change will take effect next year when the association will convene June 8-10 at the Trinity FWB Church in Bridgeton. The 1977 session will meet in the Kansas City area.

RESOLUTIONS

An anti-abortion resolution was passed unanimously as was a pro-capital punishment statement. The Women's Lib movement was deemed "contrary to Scriptural teachings" in a third resolution.

The State Association voted to continue membership in the National Association of Evangelicals upon the recommendation of the representatives who attended the 1974 NAE convention. The NAE report stated that the preaching at the NAE convention was "powerful, moving, evangelistic, and practical." The business sessions were described as "as open . . . as one of our state associations." The benefits Missouri Free Will Baptists stand to derive from NAE membership were outlined as follows:

- 1) Assistance in understanding the issues and legalities involved in higher education and Christian Day Schools.
- 2) Help in training for evangelism.
- 3) An outlet for New Testament type social action.
- 4) Access to the national political scenes that we could not have as a separate unit.
- 5) An avenue of active involvement in opposing the increase of liberalism.

In a note of warning the committee reported, "The historical and first hand evidence indicates that any organization designed for promoting truth and righteousness, unless carefully attended, will often turn in the opposite direction. With this in mind, we as Missouri Free Will Baptists need to keep a close and constant surveillance of the philosophy and direction NAE travels."

Four ministers were nominated for NAE Commissions; our promotional secretary, Rev. Clarence Burton was nominated to the NAE Executive Committee, and, as last year, money was budgeted from the State General Fund for a contribution to NAE.

ELECTIONS

Jim McAllister and Bill Evans were reelected as moderator and assistant moderator. Roger Harwell was elected clerk; N. R. Smith, assistant clerk. Elected to the general board were: James Reed, Max

Courtney, Len Gardner, Fletcher Riley, Vernon Maggart, Glen Rehkop, Charlie Hoover, Cecil Campbell, and Murry Southwell.

New members of the Youth Camp Board are Keith Johnson and Charles Miller. New members of the Sunday school—CTS Board are Dale Smith and Kent Tallent.

The newly elected executive committee of the general board are: Jim McAllister, Bill Evans, Roger Harwell, Glen Rehkop, Cliff Bowman, Millard Sasser, and Dale Smith.

BUDGET

A 70,000 dollar budget was adopted by the body for the State Cooperative plan for the nine month year (due to the new fiscal year ending March 31). Fifty-two percent of the co-op money will stay in the state while forty-eight percent will go toward the support of regional and national ministries.

AWARDS

The State Youth Camp board presented a plaque to the First FWB Church of Mountain Grove for the most money given to the Youth Camp. Lynn Wood is the pastor of that church.

The State Home Missions board presented three plaques: highest per capita giving award went to the Olivett FWB Church in Marshall where Cliff Bowman is the pastor; the most-money-given plaque went to Victory FWB Church in Kansas City where Lawrence Thompson is pastor; and the most money given to the perpetual loan fund was from the Olivett FWB Church Woman's Auxiliary.

The State Sunday school-CTS Board honored Bob Clay as the superintendent-of-the-year. Mr. Clay is Sunday school superintendent of the First FWB Church of Farmington.

Every comment heard by this editor in reference to this year's state association was a positive one. The spirit of the services was good. The preaching was good. The attendance was good. The accommodations were good. (Much credit is due Pastor Dale Skiles and the First FWB Church of West Plains.) We will have more about the state association next month.

Designated Money Given Through the State Office, July 1975

Hazel Creek FWB Church	
State Home Missions	\$10.00
State General Fund	10.00
Sedalia Mission	
State Home Missions	25.00
Olivet FWB Church, Marshall	
Six Foreign Missionary accounts	80.00
One National Home Missionary account	5.00
West Plains FWB Church	
Foreign Missions	227.25
Total Designated money	\$357.25



Please pray for and keep in touch with all our home and foreign missionaries whose home state is Missouri. They are:

Howard and Joan Filkins (Home until December)
B P 1171
Bouake, Ivory Coast, West Africa

Dr. and Mrs. LaVerne Miley (Home on Furlough)
Mission Protestante Evangelique
B P 20
Bouna, Ivory Coast, West Africa

Lynn and Ramona Miley (Scheduled to leave for Africa soon)
P. O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 37202

Jerry and Carol Pinkerton
B P 407
Bondoukou, Ivory Coast, West Africa

Jim and Olena McLain 062
Misono 11-6
Toyohira ku,
Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan

Bill and Glenda Fulcher
Apartado 6931
Panama R. de Panama

Rev. and Mrs. Vergel Maness (going to Wilmington, Delaware)
P. O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 37202

Rev. and Mrs. Leland Horton (Home missionaries to Des Moines, IA)
4148 E. 29th St.
Des Moines, Iowa 50317

FROM THE HORTONS IN DES MOINES COMES THIS CORRESPONDENCE . . .

"Progress has been made during the month of July. The mission was blessed with record attendance; new homes were represented in our services. We thank God the church has been well accepted in northeast Des Moines.

"A revival meeting is scheduled for August 20-24 with Brother Dean Dobbs of Dothan, Alabama. Please pray with us for divine blessing upon the meeting.

"Your faithfulness in faith promise commitments has kept our family on the field and has also given you the privilege of sharing in the accomplishments here in Des Moines. Before many months we hope to have a self-supporting work here. Thank you for your support.

(signed) The Hortons

On The National Front

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION STAND ON OFFENSIVE TELEVISION PROGRAMMING

The following resolution was adopted by the National Association in Dayton in July. "Whereas, the gross moral depravity portrayed in many TV programs is utterly degrading and lacking in redeeming social values; and whereas filthy language, rape scenes, and murders occur with disgusting regularity on TV; and whereas there is now evidence for a causal link between watching TV violence and subsequent aggressive behavior by the viewer; BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: that the National Association of Free Will Baptists hereby express its firm conviction that television programs which degrade sex, glorify violence and deny moral decency have no place on the airwaves. We strongly oppose programming which undermines the moral values and ideals of our great nation. We urge all FWB members to enthusiastically express appreciation to producers, networks, and sponsors for morally wholesome TV programs. And we call upon FWB members to vigorously oppose the showing of offensive movies on TV through letter writing to the Federal Communications Commission, legislators, local station managers and sponsors, and through selective buying practices and selective viewing."

FROM FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Missourians gave \$1,374.25 to the Bible College in July. The largest single gift came from the First FWB Church of Farmington: \$192.84.

The school announces plans for the annual Pastor's Conference to be held this year November 3-6. Seminars on preaching, public service, promotion and publicity, church outreach and issues will highlight the conference.

One of the featured speakers will be Dr. John Rawlings, pastor of the Landmark Baptist Temple, Cincinnati, Ohio. Other seminar participants will be Rev. James Murray, Rev. Billy Morris, Rev. Dale Burden, Mr. Jim Bowman, Rev. Irvin Hyman, Rev. Dennis Wiggs, Rev. Guy Owens, Rev. Frank Davenport, Rev. Randy Cox, Rev. Dave Joslin, Rev. Tom Malone, Rev. Leroy Welch, Rev. Luther Gibson, Rev. Keith Kenemer, and Rev. James McAllister, our own state moderator from Missouri.

The college is providing meals and lodging on campus for pastors for \$15. Reservations must be made in advance.

OCTOBER 5 COMMITMENT DAY FOR OPERATION PARTNERSHIP

FWB church leaders are urged to help erase the indebtedness on the National Office Building by designating October 5 as Commitment Day on behalf of Operation Partnership.

The target date for reaching Operation Partnership's \$150,000 goal is June 1, 1976. A special mortgage burning is planned for the National Convention in Tulsa in July, 1976.

Churches may choose another Sunday in October to observe as commitment Sunday should the October 5 date cause a conflict.

Operation Partnership materials are available by writing Dr. J. D. O'Donnell at P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

JULY 1975 COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

20.00% Mo. Missions	\$1,473.33
15.00% Mo. Promotional Dept.	1,105.00
05.50% Mo. Youth Camp	405.17
04.00% Mo. State College (M.B.I.)	294.67
04.00% Mo. General Fund	294.67
02.50% Mo. Gem	184.17
01.00% Mo. CTS & S.S. Depts.	73.67
52% seven Mo. Depts.	3,830.68
07.00% Hillsdale College	515.67
41% Eight Nat'l. Depts.	3,020.34
13.00% Foreign Missions	957.67
09.00% F.W.B. Bible College	663.00
07.00% Nat'l. Executive Dept.	515.67
06.50% Nat'l. Home Missions	478.83
03.00% Nat'l. CTS Dept.	221.00
02.00% Dept. of Retirement	147.33
00.25% Layman's Board	18.42
00.25% Theological Comm.	18.42
100.00% Total Disbursements	\$7,366.69

**SUPPORT
MISSOURI
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PLAN**

Promotional Secretary's Corner

by Rev. Clarence Burton

We have moved. We moved Saturday, July 26. If you haven't experienced a move recently, you may have forgotten the "experience." When you see Vivian, my wife, ask her about the thrill of moving. I must say that we surely had a lot of good help. We were blessed with several fine folks who helped. We shall be eternally grateful. May the Lord bless them for their kindness.

Inasmuch as we have just moved, we have not visited any quarterly meetings, yearly meetings, or local churches. (It was stated at the General Board meeting that I would not be expected to do any field work until my work terminated at the Berkeley Church.) My work thus far has been processing the mail.

I plan and I am looking forward to being with the Greater Kansas City Quarterly Meeting on Friday evening, August 1. The next day, Saturday, August 2, I plan to be with the Liberty Annual Association. The following week I will visit the Indian Creek Association which will meet with the Purdy Free Will Baptist Church. Then I will meet with the Southeast Yearly Meeting, August 9. This meeting will be held at the Grace Free Will Baptist Church in Arnold, Missouri. This will be a good start.

I look forward to the fellowship and the privilege of promoting the Lord's work plus sharing what the Lord is doing in our state.

The *cooperative giving* for July has been rather favorable. It could be better, and I trust it will be for the month of August. However, I am aware the attendance and tithes and offerings are a little below average during the vacation months. Let's cooperate together and make the future months good months for the Lord in *cooperative giving*.

I have a request. Will you pray for Vivian and me as we endeavor to serve the Lord in this new ministry. We want to give 100% of ourselves. We trust we shall be faithful in our service to the Lord and to you our co-workers in the Lord.

We surely appreciate the very fine work Brother Beatty has done and we pray we shall continue to build on his labor. May the Lord continue to bless this fine servant.

We shall be looking forward to receiving your checks each month. Pastors, as you watch the giving of the church you are serving, this ministry involves concern for the church's giving. As you encourage the members of your church to give, may I encourage you to support the *cooperative plan* which supports every phase of the Lord's work.

May the Lord bless everyone as you labor for Him.

Please send all cooperative gifts to me at P. O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65536.



Which Way Are You Going?

By George Enke

"For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." John 17:19

"Do you remember, when Jesus was sitting with His disciples at the Last Supper, how He lifted up His voice and prayed, and in the midst of His prayer there came these wondrous words: 'For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified'?"

"Is there anything in all the teachings that man has had from the lips of God that is nobler, that is more far-reaching than that—to be my best not simply for my own sake, but for the sake of the world? You can help your fellowmen—you must help your fellowmen; but the only way you can help them is by being the noblest and the best man that is possible for you to be."

—Phillips Brooks

A preacher friend of mine once told of a missionary that God had called to work in Indonesia. He was a fellow Christian, a good devoted man, except for one thing—he had a known sin in his life.

Now this man had sin in his life, and probably the only two who knew about it were himself and God. But like so many professing Christians today he didn't feel the need to set himself right with God. Most likely he thought no one else would ever find out, so he could take his time about going to the Lord with his shortcoming. But as he entered his first church in that foreign country, he was heading for an open shame.

What he hadn't taken into consideration was, that maybe, just maybe, someone else could tell that he had sin in his life. This was just the case, and still is the case in Indonesia.

The missionary, who was probably "God Called," entered the Indonesian church, showing himself as a devoted Christian, giving as a testimony that he was there to preach the word of God, to lead people to Jesus, and show them the Christian way to live. He walked up to the minister of that church, shook his hand, and met him as one Christian meeting another. He then waited to be introduced to the congregation.

The minister introduced him very politely and in a friendly manner, then, he proceeded to tell the congregation that this missionary that he had just introduced, who was there as an example of Christ, had a known sin in his life.

Well, this was surely a shock to the missionary, but he was probably already thinking of a way out of this accusation. To cut his victory short the minister went on to tell the congregation exactly what the sin was and that he thought the missionary should get himself right with Christ.

Now you say to yourself that this is impossible; but, believe it or not, it is a true story. It seems that most of the men that are native to that country, who have been saved, and are called to the ministry, have a gift of like manner. (The main gift, I believe,

is their God given faith.)

As Jesus said in Matthew 17:20—"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

We see here in the above story two different directions for a Christian life. The life that has its foundation built on sand, and the life that has its foundation built on solid rock, (Jesus Christ).

The missionary was actually on a downward path from Christ, on life's sinking sand. Why? Because of five immediate things which the worldly would do.

First, he had sin in his life. Now many Christians and some ministers that I've met (I'm sorry to say for their sakes), don't believe that one sin will send them to hell. But let us take a look at the word of God for the true answer to this. If we can't take the word of God to mean exactly what it says, *every word*, then why take it at all? God's word is literal and final, even as the Bible is described in the Free Will Baptist Treatise—"The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice."

Now from God's own word comes the answer to the question, Will one sin make you fall from grace?

Second Corinthians 5:10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

And Ecclesiastes 12:14 says: "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

So through God's word we see we will be judged of everything, whether it is good or bad. We could quote many verses pertaining to this, but as Christians we all need to study this subject and be sure in our own hearts, just where we are headed.

We can see a few examples of what one sin can do by just glancing at a few *true* stories in the Bible. Such as, why didn't Moses, God's chosen man in Old Testament times, get to go on into the "Promised Land"? The answer is simple, because at one time, he didn't sanctify the Lord before his people.

Why did the people tie bells and a rope around the priests before they went into the innermost part of the Tabernacle? Because if the priest had any sin at all in his life, then God would strike him dead when he entered. So when the bells stopped ringing, he was considered dead and pulled out by ropes. If God couldn't look at His own Son when he was on the cross, (because it stood for sin), then how much more must it disgust Him when a mere mortal man has sin in his life, and he arrogantly comes before the Almighty God thinking he has hidden it from Him? This ought to tell each and every one of us something.

Then finally in Acts chapter five, why did Ananias and his wife Sapphira both die? Because, as Peter said, they had lied unto God. Oh, it was just a little lie, but they received their reward. I wonder where they are now?

So, we have seen one of the missionary's down-

ward steps because of his one sin.

His second step was that he thought he could deceive others. This is a striking resemblance to Ananias and Sapphira. Just as Peter knew of their sin, so the Indonesian preacher knew of the missionary's sin. God does not let sin go unnoticed in anyone's life.

Thirdly, he thought that he could cover up his sin before God, and in this action he was almost putting himself on the same pedestal as the devil did when he said in his heart "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God." Isaiah 14:13.

In other words the missionary thought he could outdo God and stay one step ahead of Him until he himself was ready to make things right, which brings us directly to his fourth downward step.

He was telling himself that he had plenty of time in which to be repentant of his wrong. But once again we go to God's word in Proverbs 27:1 which says: "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring."

We see here, God telling us that "now is the accepted time." He should not have waited, and neither should we if we know the wise thing to do, which is to be clean before God.

Finally, when he had all these other things behind him, he did the worst thing yet, he put off asking for the help of Christ. Many Christians think that it is a disgrace for them, once they have accepted Christ, to ever get on their knees and ask Jesus to help them overcome their weaknesses, or to forgive them for their human sins. But it is not!!! Even Paul said, "I die daily." Paul knew he had weaknesses, and he knew the only way to overcome them was to die daily, (in Christ), to submit himself to Christ, and ask for help in his weakness and his temptations.

This is one of the main troubles with Christianity today. Just as the missionary wanted to see souls won to Christ, so is the thought of all Christians. But how many of us, brothers and sisters, are completely like the missionary? How many of us want to lead souls to Christ, and want to see them, once they are saved, grow in Christ? How many of us want to be examples for them? Before we want these things, we had better want ourselves clean and perfect before an all-wise God.

We can never do God's work with a shadow on our own testimony. We ourselves need to be in God's perfect grace before we can see the fruits of our labor come into being.

We all want revival, and praise God for revival!!! But we can't really have a true revival until we begin with ourselves. Our hearts need revival first, then our family and church. With these in tune to God's will, we can branch out in our town, state, country, and world. Praise God!!!

Let us all endeavor as one big family (God's family), to do the perfect will of God. God will win in the end, but, won't it be wonderful, if we're all on His side?

Rev. Enke is a member of the First FWB Church of Monett and is pastoring the Shell Knob FWB Mission.

Woman's Page

Kathy Lay, Editor

The State Woman's Auxiliary Convention was outstanding, as attested by those who attended the convention last month in West Plains. The banner stating the theme: SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL typified the fellowship, the business sessions, the play, the message by missionary Howard Filkins, and the banquet where Joan Filkins was the speaker.

The response to the shower for the Howard Filkins family was good. Joan writes: "Dear friends: How good it is to be back home again for a short time and share with you what the Lord has been doing at Ivory Coast Academy. We are so grateful for the many things you have been doing for us. A special thanks for the clothing shower from the Woman's Auxiliary at our state meeting. Also we were thankful for the opportunity to share in the services with you. With clothing prices so high, the shower will be a tremendous help."

"We will be visiting many of our churches during the next three months. If anyone would like us to come for a service, please call us at 816-665-1161 as we are scheduling our own meetings since our stay is short."

With grateful hearts,
Howard, Joan, and family



We will have more from our state auxiliary convention next month. Meantime don't forget...

STATE WOMEN'S RETREAT

September 15-16, 1975

Missouri State Youth Camp,
near Niangua

Cost: \$7.00 per person

Theme: "Woman in the Modern World"; Scripture: Luke 10:41; Theme song: "Make Me a Channel of Blessing."

Music director: Barbara Harwell

Pianist: Carolyn Smith

Guest Speakers: Cleo Pursell and Shirley Thomas

MONDAY

9:30 Registration: Blanche Wisehart

10:00 Worship in song: Barbara Harwell

Welcome: Sandy Smith, state president

10:15 Devotion: Lucille Beatty

10:30 Get Acquainted Time

11:00 Worship in Song

Prayer

Special Music: Bonnie Doggett

Guest Speaker: Cleo Pursell,

"Serving as a Leader of our Women"

Lunch break

1:30 Singing and Prayer

Special Music: Charlene Kessling

"Serving as a Career Woman," Sandy Smith

"Serving as a Mother," Brenda Evans

"Serving as a Pastor's Wife," Frances Bowman

"Serving as a Grandmother," Braxine Evans

Swimming and recreation

5:00 Supper

7:00 Chorus Time

Prayer

Special Music: Jean Francis

Special Speaker: Cleo Pursell, "Serving Alone"

Benediction

Funtime: Marshall Auxiliary and
Kansas City District

TUESDAY MORNING

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Singing

Prayer

Devotion: Mary Hill, "But One Thing
Is Needful"

"Serving With a Handicapped Child,"

Shirley Thomas

"Serving on the Mission Field," Joan Filkins

Sharing Time

Special Music: Trio, "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

Lunch

semi-annual

MINISTERS' SEMINAR

October 6-8

at Free Will Baptist State Youth Camp

Speakers include:

Bill Jones, president Hillsdale FWB College

Malcomb Fry, General Director National CTS Department

Cost:

\$16.00 to audit

\$26.00 if taken for college credit

(Those figures include room, board, and insurance)

Theme:

Spiritual Leadership

CHURCHES SHOULD CONSIDER SENDING THEIR PASTORS