

Volume 46, Number 1, January 1976

**Free Will Baptist**

# GEM

**"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"**





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# BE PREPARED!

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# PLAN AHEAD!

*by Roy Pearson*

The New Testament describes the church as a building or temple where God dwells, a body whose life source is Jesus Christ, a brotherhood that loves one another, and a bride preparing herself for her wedding day. The church is not a building, a denomination, or a hierarchy. It is a living organism composed of all believers in Jesus Christ whether red, yellow, black, or white. To this living organism, Christ issued two commands, "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you . . . Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature [evangelism] . . . and teach all nations [make disciples—edification]." To accomplish this task, God ordained an organization—the local congregation. Why are some congregations accomplishing the task and others are not? The growing congregation is a prepared people who have a plan of action to accomplish their purpose.

## WHY PLAN AHEAD?

Our Heavenly Father is the example planner and designer. The universe reveals His master plan of creation. The Bible tells of His plan of redemption for man. From Genesis 1 through 11 the need of redemption is seen—there is man's creation, his sin, and his evil nature shown in the days of Noah and the Tower of Babel. From Genesis 12 through Malachi God selected the channel of redemption—Abraham and the nation of Israel. He predicted it through the prophets. The Gospels show how Christ fulfilled the prophecies and thus, purchased our redemption. Acts shows the proclamation of the redemption, the epistles explain it, and the Book of Revelation shows the consummation of it—the judgment of wickedness and reward of righteousness. When did God plan all of this? Ephesians 1:4,

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world . . ." God didn't let this happen by chance—He planned it carefully before the creation. If God is a careful planner why shouldn't we be?

God's plan for proclaiming His redemption reveals organization or planning. The local congregation is to be led by a bishop or pastor and served by deacons or elders. Each member of the congregation has a part in the ministry whether it be teaching, ministering, praying, or financial support.

Planning ahead brings glory to God, 1 Corinthians 10:31, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." Colossians 3:17 states, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." Matthew 5:16 states, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Everything a Christian does either influences a person to turn to Christ or reject Christ. Thus, it is imperative that the church use the best equipment and best personnel. The average Sunday school teacher spends less than one hour in preparation for teaching and usually misses 10 Sundays a year, comes ten minutes late, and then wonders why the church isn't growing. The average layman never studies his Sunday school lesson, never opens his Bible during the week, never prays except on Sunday, and never visits the sick—much less seek to win the lost. What a tragic testimony!

## HOW TO PLAN AHEAD

First, there must be a vision. Proverbs 29:18 states, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." A vision is a goal, an aim, or a purpose. The purpose



of the church is to evangelize the lost and edify the saved. These two go together. Evangelization without edification causes a stagnant church. A growing church grows in number as well as in spirit.

Without a vision, the people wander aimlessly. The church brings in bingo, raffles, rummage sales, and cake sales. It becomes selfish and more concerned with the ball team and bowling league than those who need Christian growth or Christ as Savior.

Second, a vision needs a foundation. There are three foundations for the Christian: Jesus Christ, His Word, and the Holy Spirit. A college professor once said, "One's theology determines one's philosophy which determines one's methodology." One's view of God will determine his thoughts and ideas and thus the methods he uses to accomplish his task. For example, a person may not believe Christ is virgin born; thus He will have a humanistic philosophy and his methods will usually be more social-oriented. He will preach, "Clean up the slums and you'll clean up the man." Today, we hear great emphasis on the Holy Spirit. In fact, many people worship Him more than Jesus. This wrong view of the Trinity leads to a philosophy of spontaneous services—just let the Spirit lead. Thus the methods will be unplanned—let things happen by feeling—if feeling is there—surely this is the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in order to obtain the right vision, a Christian must be convinced who Jesus is; and He can only do this in the Word and the Word can only be understood through the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Third, the proper foundation will lead to an examination of purpose and method. Why are we doing this? Is this method Christ centered? Would

He be pleased? Some people condemn our liberal friends for their sin, yet they practice "the end justifies the means." If it works, I'll try it! They will use any method to draw people so their attendance will be up! One church gave away free pizza, another church uses the drive-in worship service, another church served beer and hamburgers for communion services.

The proper foundation will discover five purposes for the church: worship, witness, educate, minister, and apply Christian principles to all areas of life. Every method should be tested according to these purposes. If the event or method does not scripturally fulfill the purpose of the church, it should not be used.

## THE RESULTS OF PLANNING

One word can describe the results of organization and planning—GROWTH!!

There will be people saved because the church—the living body—is doing what Christ commanded. There will be Christian maturity because the people are being fed meat and are enjoying every meal. As a result, the church will grow. Each one will win one and will teach one. God grant us men and women with a vision—a vision that plans ahead!!

by Roy Pearson, Pastor  
Gateway Free Will Baptist Church  
St. Louis, Missouri

## Missouri State Home Mission Giving: November 5 through December 5, 1975

Olivet	225.00
Cuba	13.19
Purdy	22.00
Houston	113.86
Salem	10.00
West Plains	540.00
South Fremont	124.00
Bethel—Festus	97.25
St. Louis Qtly. Mtg.	200.00
Gateway	185.15
Laura Magnuson	10.00
Rock Chapel	20.00
Neosho	10.00
Grace	63.67
Farmington	58.80
Pleasant Hill	30.72
Byrd	19.00
Walnut Grove	26.54
Royal Oak	66.00
Berkeley	50.00
Myrtle	111.44
Viburnum	57.69
DeSoto	50.00
Columbia	5.00
Thayer	202.23
Central	20.00
Cotton Creek	32.00
Fourth	22.89
Randall Tate	50.00
Rev. Russell Johnson	10.00
Flat River, First	53.10
Fellowship	50.00
Hurryville	61.00

Northeast Association	63.67
St. Francois Co. Qtly. Mtg.	180.00
Hannon	109.00
Independence	10.00
Victory	169.84
Buffalo	92.26
Sedalia	20.00
Cooperative Receipts	1,748.98
Total	5,004.28

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

## COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 1975

20.00% Missouri State Home Missions	\$1,748.98
16.25% Promotional Dept.	1,421.04
04.00% General Fund	349.80
05.50% Youth Camp	480.97
02.50% Gem	218.62
01.75% Sunday School & CTS	153.04
02.00% M.B.I.	174.90
07.00% Hillsdale	612.14
13.00% Foreign Missions	1,136.83
09.00% FWBBC	787.08
07.00% Executive Department	612.14
06.50% National Home Missions	568.41
02.50% CTS	218.62
02.50% Retirement and Insurance	218.62
00.25% Laymens Board	21.86
00.25% Theological commission	21.86
Total Disbursements	\$8,744.91
The Lord has blessed with another good month for which we are thankful!	



# A Tribute to the Free Will Baptist GEM

(Part III)

by Leamon Killian

The Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists met with the West Plains Church in August, 1975. This was the best association I have attended. My wife and I went as elected delegates from the Fourth Church. We certainly enjoyed the fellowship of God's people and doing business for the Lord. I thought of this verse of Scripture, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." (Psalm 133:1)

I had the privilege to meet and talk with Rev. Andy Lay, the past editor, and Rev. Clarence Burton the present editor. I thank God for these who have been faithful in fulfilling their obligation as editor. I am thankful for the *Gem*.

One of the reports most looked forward to each month is the report of progress written by the promotional secretary and treasurer. Brother Beatty wrote these reports for many years. He retired from the work of promotional secretary and treasurer last June. I should like to go back a few years to the beginning of this work.

In the September issue, 1960, there is an interesting article about an item of business brought before the Missouri State Association. Item 4 of the business committee's report is as follows: "Whereas, the Missouri State Association has grown in numbers, and whereas, the financial status has been strengthened through the cooperative plan of support, and whereas, the potential is unlimited, and whereas, the Great Commission of our Lord is, Go ye, we your business committee feel that the time has come when the Missouri State Association should make a great effort to fulfilled the Lord's commission. Therefore, we recommend that this body elect a study committee to study the feasibility of a fulltime promotional worker, whose duty would be to promote the entire program of our state and national work."

Surely, it was after much prayer and deep study, that the committee recommended to the Missouri State Association that a promotional worker be elected.

Rev. Harry Beatty was elected to serve as the first promotional secretary in 1961. And, from the very beginning, the cooperative plan of giving began to grow. He was faithful in visiting churches throughout the state, promoting this plan of giving, that promoted the Lord's work. As I read again some of the reports given by Brother Beatty, I was reminded of his faithfulness to this cause. But the state was for the cooperative plan from the beginning. When it was recommended to the Missouri State Association, which met in Fredericktown, there was not one vote in opposition. Surely, this indicates, that God was in this plan to support His work. I have always favored this plan for giving. And, through the years I have

helped promote it. What better way to support a worldwide ministry.

Through the pages of the *Gem* we have been able to know of the visits made by the promotional secretary, to churches, quarterly meetings, yearly meetings, state associations, national associations and special services.

Cooperative giving has grown over the years. At the last state association the \$90,000 goal was almost met. Brother Beatty has led the state of Missouri to the top. The Missouri State Association stayed at the top until 1974. This has encouraged other states to give and share in a worldwide ministry.

The *Gem* was faithful in showing the financial reports. Certainly, it was a blessing to all to read and follow. But, it was a greater blessing to hear Brother Beatty give his report. They have been called "Hallelujah and Victory" reports. Surely, they were.

It was only proper that something special be done to recognize Brother and Sister Beatty for the work they had done. At the close of the Wednesday evening service, of the state association, special recognition was given. Rev. Andy Lay presented them with fifty-eight checks, stapled together, reaching across the platform. Churches and individuals had responded because they loved. God bless you Brother and Sister Beatty. You have been an inspiration and help to many.

Pastors, churches let me challenge you to support and keep on supporting the Cooperative Plan. Give at least one-tenth to help support the Lord's work through our denomination.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Beatty





## **CHURCHES PEOPLE AND EVENTS**

### **MISSOURI BIBLE INSTITUTES**

The Missouri Bible Institutes will begin second semester classes the week of January 12, 1976. Institutes will be held in four areas—Liberal, Mountain Grove, Leadington, and Kansas City. (The one in Kansas City will be on a seminar basis, with leadership as its subject.)

The cost for college credit is \$25.00 per semester hour or \$50.00 for each course, plus \$10.00 registration fee for new students. The cost for taking the course without college credit is \$12.50 per semester hour or \$25.00 for each course plus \$5.00 registration for new students.

The institute is designed to help Free Will Baptist ministers and laymen who desire college level training that they may be more effective servants of the Lord. The institutes have proven to be helpful and practical.

Missouri Bible Institute is an extension school of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Oklahoma. The Christian Education Board of Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists supervises the institutes in Missouri.

### **FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY AT CARTERVILLE**

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Carterville observed its fiftieth anniversary rededication service on Sunday, November 23, 1975. Rev. Kenneth Turner, a former pastor, delivered the morning message. A basket dinner was enjoyed during the noon hour.

At the afternoon service several former pastors gave brief testimonies. Also, letters were read from former members expressing their fond memories and love for the church. It was noted by the pastor, Rev. Tommie Carlson, that of the eighteen former pastors

and himself, twelve were still living. Special music was given by the Morland Family.

Church reporter, Sammy Beck, gives this history of the church. The Carterville Church was organized in 1925, with the first service being held on Easter Sunday. The congregation first met at the Old Jackson schoolhouse. In 1925 the building was donated to the church and moved to 300 Hall Street. Services were held in the building until 1934. Inasmuch as the church was growing it was necessary to build a larger building. Today the building is completely modern with adequate Sunday school rooms, central heat, plexiglas stained windows, and a wooden cross that reflects the message of the church. The church is actively involved in state and national work.

### **GREAT BLESSINGS AT GRACE**

The latter part of October was revival time at the Grace Free Will Baptist Church. There were several professions of faith, rededications, and everyone was spiritually blessed. Rev. Robert Francis, pastor of the Southside Free Will Baptist Church, was the evangelist. There were several baptized following the revival.

Mrs. Bob Denman, church reporter, writes, Thanksgiving was celebrated with a feast prepared by the ladies of the church.

The Woman's Auxiliary held their annual Christmas party in the home of Alma and Pat Pollard. A wonderful program was enjoyed and secret pal gifts were exchanged. The church extends Christmas blessings for everyone. Rev. Glen Rehkop is the pastor.

### **LIBERTY ASSOCIATION HAS ORDINATION SERVICE**

The Liberty Association held an ordination service at the afternoon session, December 6. The service was held at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Springfield, Missouri. Rev. Eddie Day, from the First Free Will Baptist Church in Lebanon and Rev. Larry Hyder from the Macedonia Free Will

First FWB Church of Carterville



L-R Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Day and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hyder





Baptist Church, near Marshfield, were ordained. Rev. Henry Long gave the charge and Rev. Jack Day led in the ordination prayer. The service was very impressive. Mrs. Jim Crawford presented the special music.

## PARKVIEW CHURCH GIVES SPECIAL THANKS FOR THE BIBLE

Mrs. Leonard, church reporter for the Parkview Free Will Baptist Church, reports the Lord has been blessing with wonderful services. There have been several rededications. A Thanksgiving service was held to especially thank God for His Word. Some Bibles brought to the service dated back to the 1800's. A young convert was especially thankful for the Bible given to her. Rev. Guy Leonard is the pastor.

## ORDINATION SERVICE AT UNION GROVE

An ordination service was held November 30, 1975, at the Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church of Norwood, Missouri. The pastor, Brother Jim Ragsdale, began the service with prayer by Brother Russell McDaris and congregational singing by director Nadine Locke and pianist Naomi Gray. Special singing was given by the Guiding Light Gospel Group.

The ordination message was preached by Brother Ragsdale, using as his Scripture Acts chapter six. Brother and Sister Jack Chadwell were presented to the congregation and Brother R. E. Helsey gave the charge to dedication and service using as his Scripture 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Brother Ronnie Turner directed the ordination service of prayer and laying on of hands. Present for the ordaining committee were ministers: Jim Ragsdale, R. E. Helsey, Odra Fletcher, Ronnie Turner, and Russell McDaris. Deacons: Harold Dake and Fred Ussery.

## COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS FOR NOVEMBER 1975

Fellowship	\$50.00
Beacon	100.00
Willow Springs	122.12
Hartville	31.32
South Side	223.00
Faith	201.75
Macedonia	8.00
Olivet	130.00
Lebanon	800.00
DeSoto	390.00
Merl's Chapel	63.24
West Plains	215.75
Salem	20.00
Berkeley	382.80
Hannon	142.00
Alton	40.18
Fordland	25.00
Number One	27.76
Union F.W.B.	60.00

Houston	125.31
Pleasant Ridge	20.00
Carterville	40.75
Mtn. Valley (July-Aug.-Sept.)	162.89
Evangel	73.45
Independence	74.00
Belton	108.00
Farmington	513.59
Mtn. Grove	369.80
Cape Girardeau	95.78
Freeman Chapel	73.26
Sedalia	23.50
Rock Chapel	25.19
Marshfield	74.46
First Mission, Kansas City	113.00
Thayer	121.22
Cuba	44.07
Purdy	62.00
Pleasant Home	112.23
Hurryville	104.35
Bethel, Festus	151.10
Verdella	85.25
Byrd	9.75
Grant Ave.	269.27
Gospel Light—Bonne Terre	42.57
Cabool	116.54
Central, K. C.	270.00
Copper Mines	100.00
Happy Home	27.23
Leadington	258.10
Fourth, St. Louis	286.60
Niangua	54.72
Monett	223.30
Gateway	18.00
New Harmony Sunday School	19.44
Pleasant Grove (Cope)	25.89
Oskaloosa	57.38
Columbia	125.00
Lebanon	1,170.00
Pleasant Hill	15.00
New Rock Springs	50.00
Total Cooperative Receipts	\$8,744.91

## DESIGNATED GIVING THROUGH STATE OFFICE

Mtn. Grove F.W. B. Church	
Foreign Missions—Two accounts	\$45.00
National Home Missions—Two accounts	40.00
Hillsdale F.W.B. College	170.00
Low Ground F.W.B. Church	
National Home Missions—One account	5.00
Evangel F.W.B. Church	
Foreign Missions—Three accounts	125.27
West Plains F.W.B. Church	
Foreign Missions—Gen. Fund	60.00
Olivet F.W.B. Church	
Foreign Missions—Six accounts	80.00
National Home Missions—Two accounts	30.00
Gateway F.W.B. Church	
Hillsdale F.W.B. College	45.00
Mo. State Home Missions	5.00
National Home Missions—One account	12.00
Foreign Missions—One account	25.00
Sedalia F.W.B. Mission	
Mo. State Home Missions	20.00
Buffalo F.W.B. Church	
Mo. State Home Mission (Union, Mo.)	92.26
Merl's Chapel F.W.B. Church	
Foreign Missions—One account	41.75
New Harmony Sunday School	
Foreign Missions—Two accounts	46.56
First F.W.B. Mission Kansas City	
Foreign Missions—Gen. Fund	25.00
One Foreign Missionary account	45.00
Total Designated Money	\$912.84



## On The National Front

### SPECIAL NEWS FLASH— FILKINS RETURN TO IVORY COAST

Howard, Jo Ann, Dave, and Dale left the United States December 28 for the Ivory Coast, Africa. The Filkins have been uncertain about the date of their return because of their financial need. They said, "To be able to return at the scheduled date is an answer to prayer." The need for them to return at that time was twofold.—The Ivory Coast Academy, where they serve, begins its second semester and the Pinkertons, who have been filling in for them, will be able to return to their village ministry.

A step of faith was taken in returning the Filkins to their field of service. The financial need remains. One church has given \$1,500; another has committed itself for \$1,000 between now and June. If 60 churches would respond with \$100 this need would be met. This money could be sent to the state treasurer marked "Filkins-special Missouri" or sent to the Foreign Missions Office in Nashville. Let's respond to this need in January or February!

### MIDWEST REGIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH GROWTH SEMINAR

The Missouri State Sunday School and CTS Board in connection with the National Sunday School Department is sponsoring a Sunday School and Church Growth Seminar at the Beacon Church in Raytown, Missouri. The dates are January 16 and 17. The seminar will begin Friday evening, 7:30. Saturday morning the service will begin at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Roger Reeds and Dr. Elmer Towns will be the speakers. A registration fee of \$3.00 per person or \$15.00 per church will be charged to help defray the expenses. Rev. Jim Bundy is the host pastor.

Dr. Roger Reeds



Dr. Elmer Towns



### NATIONAL PASTORS' CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

Free Will Baptist College's recent National Free Will Baptist Pastors' Conference in Nashville was applauded as a great success by college personnel and visitors. More than 1,000 students, faculty-staff members, pastors, and other guests from 22 states justified the billing of the meeting as a national conference.

The program for pastors was singularly practical. It dealt with subjects such as financing of revivals and other special meetings, preparing sermons that will minister to all segments of the congregation, how to conduct an effective and efficient public service, and advice on various outreach ministries.

Pastors' wives, too, found the meeting beneficial. Their program, "For Women Only" filled time allotted to it on Tuesday and Wednesday morning. The speakers, which included pastors' wives and ladies associated with the Bible College, challenged the guests to critically examine their attitudes toward God, themselves, and others.

There were seventeen pastors and other visitors from Missouri.

### ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Promotional workers, state moderators, and national department directors met December 2 through 5 at Hillmont Camp, near White Bluff, Tennessee. The meeting was an Annual Leadership Conference for promotional workers.

Rev. Rufus Coffey, executive secretary, laid the foundation for the conference with his subject, Decade of Advance.

The following topics were presented by state and national workers: Advance through Soul-Winning, Advance through Leadership, Advance through Communications, Advance through Stewardship, Advance through Christian Education, and Advance through Awareness of Issues. Mr. Marvin Keener, guest speaker, discussed: goal setting, achieving goals, and public relations.

Directors of the national departments gave a brief summary of their respective departments and presented needs and goals.

Rev. Clarence Burton, promotional secretary of Missouri, stated this regarding the conference, "This is the first leadership conference I have attended. It is great. The conference is stimulating, challenging and helpful. This type of conference will satisfy a real need in our work."

### AWARD FROM CTS DEPARTMENT TO FIRST CHURCH MOUNTAIN GROVE

In a recent campaign, "CTS Is The Family Place" the First Free Will Baptist Church of Mountain Grove, was rated fourth in the top ten churches. This rating was based on the largest per capita giving to the National CTS work. Rev. Lynn Wood is the pastor.



## HILLSDALE COLLEGE TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGED

Hillsdale Free Will Baptist Bible college has requested that a change of their telephone number be published. It is—1-405-794-6661.

## PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE WILKINSONS

The Wilkinsons, missionaries to Brazil, have made

these special prayer requests.

1. Pray that our funds will be raised and our return will not be delayed.

2. Pray that Kevin and Kimberley will be led as to what they should do about schooling.

3. Pray for the youth activities in Brazil. Many have made profession of faith in Christ and several have enrolled in Bible schools.

# Promotional Secretary's Corner

by Clarence Burton

I feel as did the Psalmist when he said, "Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good." He surely is!

As I recall the visits I made—the fellowship I enjoyed and the privilege of preaching the gospel many times and many places—I thank the Lord for the joy of knowing Him and laboring with His people.

November was another fine month for *cooperative giving*. It is a blessing to see churches begin this ministry of giving and to see the faithfulness of the churches that are consistently supporting the state and national work. A dear Christian told me some time ago that he was glad the church he attended and supported was faithful in cooperative giving because he felt he was sharing in a worldwide ministry for Christ. I am so thankful for the response of our pastors and churches, and I am praying that every church will experience the blessings of sharing in this ministry.

The first Sunday in November we were with Rev. and Mrs. James Crawford and the Cedar Hill Church. He is a fine pastor working with a group of fine people. That evening we were with the Niangua Church. Rev. and Mrs. David Perryman are serving this church. I commend this church for recently adopting the cooperative plan of support. They are giving well. It was raining outside that evening but there was a warm, friendly spirit on the inside.

The following Monday I began revival services with Rev. and Mrs. Steve Burton and the Verdella Church. (Steve is my son.) The Lord gave a special joy and blessing in this revival. There is a unique blessing to be with your son in revival. The Lord blessed with professions of faith and rededications. This is a wonderful church, and they are supporting the cooperative work well.

During that week I visited the Mission Quarterly Meeting. Rev. Lynn Wood and the Mountain Grove

Church hosted the meeting. Everything was taken care of very well. What a beautiful new educational building the church is enjoying. The building is two-story, fully carpeted, central heat and air, and has a library that is accessible to the entire church. This church is one of the strong and leading churches in our state and national work. Because of car trouble, I was only able to attend the morning worship hour. Brother Lynn Wood preached a very fine and challenging message. It was a pleasure to meet several of the ministers and lay people in that area. Rev. R. E. Helsey serves well as moderator.

The following Sunday, November 16, I certainly enjoyed being with Rev. and Mrs. Ken Goff and the First Church in Flat River. The Lord blessed with a wonderful service, which is reflective of the ministry Brother Goff is experiencing. The church is a strong supporter of cooperative giving. That evening it was a privilege to be with Rev. and Mrs. Earl Ames and the Aulsbury Chapel Church. The auditorium was pleasantly filled and the Lord blessed with a fine service. One of the members mentioned to me, "Brother Ames is a worker." The church reflects that he is. The church shares all the way in cooperative giving.


The following weekend I began revival services with Rev. and Mrs. Nathan Ruble and the Fordland Church. What a blessing! The church is making noticeable progress with the foundation for a new auditorium already laid. This church is also involved in cooperative giving.

The next Saturday evening, November 29, we met with the Pleasant Ridge Church and the Niangua Quarterly meeting. Rev. and Mrs. J. D. Hackler serve this church. What a fine pastor and family. This church supports the state and national work and there will be more support from some of the other churches. Brother Frank Linton always does well as moderator. Brother Bill delivered a fine message.

The following Sunday we were with Rev. and Mrs. Wayne Wagner and the South Fremont Church. It was a joy being with these folks and sharing with them our labor for the Lord. Brother Wagner is a very compassionate and dedicated pastor.

The Lord has blessed and I am thankful. Remember this ministry in prayer that it will accomplish that which is pleasing to the Lord. Please make your checks payable to Missouri State Association and mail them to Missouri State Association, P. O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO. 65536.





# *Make a Joyful Song Unto God*

*by Jim Mullen*

"Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious." Psalm 66:1, 2

These are the words of the world's greatest songwriter, the psalmist David. David was a lover of music and as a youth was skilful with the harp. He probably had long hours of practice as he watched his father's sheep.

Singing is mentioned in other places in the Bible. At the Last Supper they sang a hymn, probably one of the Psalms. In the jail at Philippi, Paul and Silas sang at midnight. Later, writing to the church at Colosse, Paul wrote, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Down through the history of the Christian Church, singing has had an important role. The fathers of the reformation, Luther, Wesley, and others, gave us hymns that are still used today. It was not until the middle of the nineteenth century that gospel songs as we know them came on the scene. These were used extensively during the great revival years at the turn of the century. They gave power and enthusiasm to evangelistic meetings of that day, and still do today.

Music is one of the greatest forces on earth. It is used to sell everything from soup to soap. It affects us mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

One can feel a surge of patriotic pride when "The Star Spangled Banner" is played. The weary feet of the foot soldier becomes stronger and more steady to the beat of a drum or a lively march tune played by a brass band. The effect is just as great in the spiritual realm.

The spiritual effect is a combination of all three. When we hear sacred music our emotions of joy, grief, sorrow, remorse, and conviction are stirred. "A simple strain from a remembered hymn of untainted youth has sometimes melted a brazen heart and reconstructed a wrecked life." (Edwards)

Aileen Calvary, missionary to Japan, tells of how one man's heart was melted by a song. He was the father of one of the young men in the church. The youth of Japan are much easier to win to Christ

than the elders. This is easy to understand if you imagine your son or daughter bringing home a buddist monk, trying to convert you. Of course the difference is the power of the Holy Spirit. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me" (Acts 1:8a). She and some others were guests in this young man's home. They took the opportunity to witness, read the Scriptures, and pray. Many prayers and much concern had already been shown for him before the visit, but nothing seemed to move or convict him to accept Christ. Apparently everything had failed and there was nothing else to do but leave, when for some reason she felt impressed to sing a song. They sang the first stanza of that lovely song most of us have known from youth, "Down at the Cross, where my Savior died, down where for cleansing from sin I cried, there to my heart was the blood applied, glory to His Name." Tears began to flow from the man's eyes and his heart was melted as the Holy Spirit convicted him of his sins.

Twenty years earlier he had heard that song at a street meeting. It was the only gospel song he had ever heard, and for twenty years the seed of the gospel had been buried in his heart. Hearing it again, his emotions were stirred, his heart melted to the wooing of the Holy Spirit, and he gave his heart to Christ. Of course it was no accident that that was the song they sang that day, "And, lo, I am with you alway," even in Japan. Truly we can sing from the heart, "Glory to His Name."

This brings to mind another thought. There are many so called gospel songs that do not give the proper honor and reverence to the Name of Jesus. Many today try to make Him sound real folksy. True, He is the dearest Friend; true, He loves us as no other can love us, and has a personal interest in our every need. He gave His life in a cruel and despicable death on the cross; but when He said "It is finished," He meant exactly that. Now according to Philippians chapter two verses 8, 9, 10 Christ has been given a name which is above every name and at the name of Jesus every knee should bow.

Now, the Jesus I love and sing about is not wearing sandals, walking on the water, or working in a carpenter shop. He is best described by John the revelator, "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God." (Revelation 19:11-13) Then, John states in verse sixteen that His name is KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

When we stand and sing in our worship services, let us as the psalmist said, "Sing forth the honour of his name; make his praise glorious." Also, as the Apostle Paul stated, sing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

*Jim Mullen is the music director  
of the First Free Will Baptist  
Church of Berkeley, Missouri.*





# Woman, 5 Page

Shirley Bowden, Editor

## News from the Local Auxiliaries

On December 2 the New Life Woman's Auxiliary of the Monett Free Will Baptist Church sponsored a community Christmas Bazaar. It was the climax of a three month effort that involved every member. For two months, and then some, they met together on successive Mondays and worked diligently from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A part of the day's activities was a salad luncheon that developed into a high part for each meeting. Items that were placed on sale were varied with tree ornaments, stockings, terrariums, card holders, flower baskets, and crocheted items leading the way. Working feverishly to meet the deadline, there were moments of laughter, praise, skullduggery, and just plain fun among the group. At the conclusion of the work sessions every member expressed a great joy and sense of unity in being able to contribute their talents to the Lord. The benefits of such a time together cannot be altogether seen in the amount raised but shall always be remembered in each heart. The results were praiseworthy as they raised over \$260.00 for their missionary fund.

(The New Life Auxiliary was organized in September, 1974, and has as its officers: Judy Smith, President; Ruth Meier, Vice-President; and Barbara Corbett, Sec.-Treasurer.)

The First Free Will Baptist Auxiliary of Lebanon held a tea December 9 at the church. The purpose of the tea was to introduce the "Golden Age Group." The ladies making up the new group are those 65

and over. Each member of the auxiliary drew a name of one of these ladies, and will be responsible to bring her to the Auxiliary meetings and to the functions of the church. A great time of fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended. A book review *The Hiding Place* was given by the pastor's wife, Rose Mertz. The Auxiliary also had a Christmas project with proceeds going to the Howard Filkins account. Each member of the church that wanted to send Christmas cards to other fellow members were asked to bring the cards to the church and the postage to be given to the Filkins account. At the time of this writing, over \$100.00 had been given with more expected by the last Sunday of December.

## State Treasurer Report from Blanche Wisehart

Monies received for the  
Perpetual Loan Fund Acct.

October 31 balance	\$292.51
South Side Aux.	13.60
Bethel Aux. (Festus)	1.64
Sikeston FWB Church	100.00
November 30 balance	\$407.75

Co-Labourers, the new year of 1976 is just beginning. Let us endeavor to do more for the cause of Christ this year. Attainable goals have been set for our two State Projects. Let's exceed these! The Word of God tells us that "with God all things are possible."



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