

*"For by him  
were all things  
created"*

(Colossians 1:16)



Volume 46, Number 3, March 1976

**Free Will Baptist**

# GEM

*"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"*



# Sunday School Attendance Averages 1975-76

CHURCH	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Aurora	20	68										
Berkeley	341	364										
Bethel, Festus	89	105	97	89	76	90	85	84	97	86	88	
Calvary Fellowship	52	54	54	52	34	48	55	69	67			
Copper Mines	74	73	85	79								
DeSoto, First	136	144	146	153	138	133	150	162	160	152		
Evangel, Webb City	59	72	72	60	53	58						
Farmington	203	283	253	228	230	211	126	256	301	264	266	275
Fellowship, Flat River	315	371	338	286	300	303	301	307	310	307	325	
First Mission, K. C.							62		81	66	52	43
Flat River, First		148										
Fourth, St. Louis	150	154	224	191	174	132	148					
Fredericktown, First									99	114	125	110
Grace, Arnold									244	234	224	
Grant Avenue, Springfield										108	108	109
Hazel Creek	30	56	52	49	44	44	41	56	62	45	50	50
Leadington	52	84	87									
Mine La Motte	54	64	57	45	55	57	54	50	54			
Mtn. Grove, First	238	271	285	265	284	264	266	278	289			
Myrtle	43	49	54	50	51			54	55			
Lebanon, First										61	62	
O'Fallon	76	100	83	75	82					155	147	149
Oskaloosa	31	31	29	29	29	25						
Richwoods	34	43	35	39	35	36		39	33	35		
Salem	36	40	41	34		45	45	48		43	39	38
South Freemont, Springfield	85	82	90									
South Side, St. Louis	180	206	207	177	157	170	174	186	180	190	192	
Thayer	146											
Trinity, Bridgeton	218	240	228	189	198	160	185	227	235	222	224	
Twin Oaks	75											
Victory		211	166	181				183	175			
Willow Springs	83	95	97	99	91	92	96	95				165 90

Note: It was decided at the State Association that Sunday school averages will appear in the *Gem* once each quarter, rather than monthly. Please send your Sunday school averages to P. O. Box 991, Lebanon, Missouri. 65536

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

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Clarence Burton, editor

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# A Sabbath Controversy

by Dale Smith

God's Word is the guide and standard which He has preserved for all men throughout the centuries. Every believer must turn to it for guidance in making decisions that affect each portion of his life. For, it is when we turn and find His solution to the problem that we will be able to find a spiritual footing and thus declare our immutability. However, during these recent years the quest for popular opinion seems to preempt the commentary from God's Word. In essence, it is more important to have "majority" rule than rules sent from above. These opinions are being expressed and they are urging others to ignore God's dictates and to act according to "autistic thinking"; that is, to think according to one's needs or desires which tend to be indulged in self-gratification without necessary regard to what is reality. Such actions can be introduced into various topics but the one under consideration is the observance of the Lord's Day.

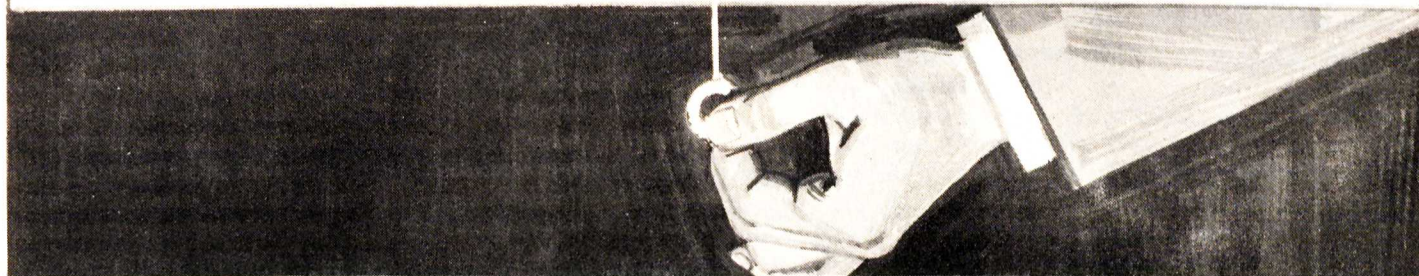
As recently as January 20, 1976, in the state capitol, a ballot was taken and the results showed that 97 were *against* and 53 *for* the repeal of Missouri's Blue Law. Offhand that may not stir the coals of righteous indignation, but it certainly does have a bearing on God's kingdom here. The Blue Law has for twenty years forbidden the opening of most stores on Sunday. The conflict is apparent as the question was asked, "Shall the state of Missouri allow all and any stores to operate business in every county on Sunday?" The response to this was filled

with human innuendo and religious controversy. Let us examine some of the feelings expressed and attempt to correlate them to the Bible and Christian living.

Those arguments against the Blue Law were mixed and varied. Those promoting the repeal were led by a Kansas City Democrat, Representative Phillip Scaglia, who said, "Missouri is facing one of the most imminent tax increases if we do not repeal the law. The state is *losing millions* in taxes because people are going across the borders." Still another person said, "I think the law is archaic and was suited to the time it came into law, but I think our *religious values have changed*. I don't think we should live by horse and buggy rules." Others presented reasons that ranged from "I think it would help the *fuel crisis*" to "I don't think we should have it because the *neighboring states don't*." As if to finalize opinions, one lady interviewed said, "I belong to the Seventh Day Church of God and our day of rest is Saturday and Sunday is *my only shopping day*." This is but an overflux of reason and a scoping of the range into which the arguments fall. In summary the basic tenets seem to be finance, convenience, religious relevancy, and peer pressure.

The proponents of the retention of the Blue Law have also been varied and divergent. Yet, Representative Fred Lynn of Springfield, Missouri, is an example of those followers of Christ who warn

## CLOSED ON SUNDAY





"that if it (the Blue Law) is repealed, it would continue a slow erosion of faith, a lack of reverence and responsibility to the Lord's Day, and to the Higher Being, God." The real issue that comes forward is not to repeal or retain but whether to obey God's law or to ignore it for what men desire to be convenient, financial, or popular. Samuel, God's prophet and servant, admonished his people and cried forth, "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." He emphasized that God is more pleased with the gift of "obedience" than any other form of offering. For God's children to obey and hearken to His will is the apple of His eye.

It is not very relevant to be dogmatic on spiritual issues in our society. However, I think it is about time we once again re-evaluated the guidelines of God's Word and then humbly *obeyed* just what it says. Our world is filled with every person's commentary and gospel prudence so that we have been filled with men's gospel and not God's good news. Let it be known that God is explicit about "hallowing the sabbath." In Exodus 31:15 we are told to "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." A list of similar references can be found in Exodus 34:21; 35:3; Nehemiah 10:31; Isaiah 56:2; 58:13; Jeremiah 17:21; Ezekiel 44:24 and many others. The doctrine of Free Will Baptists maintains "the divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God." Let it suffice to say that our denomination proclaims the hallowing of the Lord's Day. It is not always observed but that does not destroy the fact that God expects such obedience. The Christian is a person who endeavors to observe the sacredness of the Lord's Day in obser-

vance of what God has done in saving him and for the worship and thanksgiving which He so richly deserves. It is not what is convenient, popular, or relevant but rather what God has ultimately declared as proper and important. I feel we should take our place among those in opposition to the repealing or any such action that would destroy the importance of the Sabbath Day. It would be worthwhile for you to consider being that someone who will spearhead a drive in the community to bombard the congressional men with the opinions of evangelical Christians. If the church and state have separated, it is because too long we have ignored our moral responsibilities. True, we are citizens, but we are also the salt that is here to preserve the earth. This is the hour for the children of the Kingdom to arise and promote the Lord's desires.

After I have said these things, the reader may be wondering why I have chosen to speak out concerning an issue that has already failed in its challenge. But the battle is not completely final for there is still a remaining option attached to the bill that will allow, possibly, each county to vote individually about the Blue Law. The repeal of this law would be one more step away from God and detrimental to the saving of lost souls. It challenges all of us to be ready to stand unmoveable against these inroads of wickedness. If you share our convictions, won't you help, as we seek to promote God's righteousness here while the opportunity is available?

About the writer: Rev. Dale Smith is pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Monett, Missouri. He was on the faculty of the Hillsdale Bible College before moving to Monett. Mr. Smith is chairman of the Missouri State Sunday School and CTS Board.

### Missouri State Home Mission Giving: January 5 through February 5, 1976

Myrtle .....	76.10
Union Light .....	24.00
Salem .....	10.00
Naoma St. Cin .....	2.00
Cuba .....	4.00
South Fremont .....	144.00
Hazel Creek Woman's Auxiliary .....	6.00
Rock Chapel .....	40.00
Berkeley .....	25.00
Thayer .....	100.00
Grace .....	25.00
Farmington .....	130.48
O'Fallon .....	20.00
Fellowship .....	23.00
Bethel—Festus .....	30.39
Hannon .....	74.00
South Side .....	15.00
Fourth .....	23.82
Rev. Dale Skiles .....	37.41
Central .....	20.00

Independence .....	15.00
Houston .....	59.00
Victory .....	155.00
Columbia .....	10.00
Olivet .....	225.00
Flat River, First .....	21.41
DeSoto .....	55.00
St. Francois County Quarterly Meeting .....	195.00
Purdy .....	11.00
Mission Association .....	400.00
Mountain Grove .....	12.50
Sedalia .....	20.00
Gateway .....	5.00
Merl's Chapel .....	22.75
Joe Braddy .....	5.00
Hazel Creek .....	10.00
Monett .....	11.00
Cooperative Receipts .....	2,513.62
Total .....	\$4,576.48

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

NOTICE: The Missouri State Association year ends March 31. Please send cooperative and designated checks as quickly as possible following this date in order that the receipts may be included for this year.



## COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS FOR JANUARY 1976

Farmington	\$523.48
Old Bethel	30.00
Niangua	66.52
Number One	31.40
Houston, First	121.21
Bailey Chapel	32.70
West Plains, First	208.05
Black Oak	30.00
Macedonia Sunday school	10.30
Willow Springs	146.67
Pleasant Grove (Cope)	36.60
Alton	56.58
Oak Hill, Union	75.16
Monett	279.18
Hurryville	94.00
Grant Avenue	273.52
Mine La Motte	22.98
Pleasant Hill	15.00
Byrd	18.50
Myrtle	233.45
Grace, Arnold	641.91
Gateway	15.00
Indian Creek Association—	
Merl's Chapel	49.40
Olivet, Marshall	130.00
Berkeley	344.16
Beacon	100.00
Fellowship	50.00
O'Fallon, (Oct.-Nov.)	60.79
Cape Girardeau	167.28
New Rock Springs	56.00
Victory	153.37
South Side	215.00
Bethel	165.75
Fredericktown, First	648.79
Salem	20.00
Columbia	145.50
Pleasant Ridge	35.00
Hannon	128.00
Central	120.00
Belton	150.00
Faith	131.21
Union Light	28.75
Freeman Chapel	82.97
Hickory Grove	45.72
Verdella	106.75
Sedalia	16.58
Cuba	42.60
First Mission Kansas City	96.00
Victory	83.60
Hartville	25.67
Purdy	60.00
Pleasant Home	111.40
DeSoto	450.00
Waynesville	75.00
Fordland	25.00
Hopewell	28.18
Mtn. Grove, First	451.33
Mtn. Valley	151.86
Evangel	74.64
New Life	65.25
Aulsbury Chapel	219.21
Thayer	120.33
Trinity, Bridgeton	260.00
Mill Creek (Oct.-Nov.-Dec.)	163.39
Mill Creek Sunday school	17.64
Carterville	20.18
Kirksville	30.00
Rock Chapel	37.15
Byrd	5.00
Copper Mines	85.00
Flat River, First	931.88

Lebanon, First	600.00
Leadington	125.05
Happy Home	28.33
Fourth	278.00
Richwoods	122.11
Cabool	96.25
Central	120.00
Farmington	542.28
Independence	104.00
Buffalo	78.42
Monett, First	239.96
Bethel	162.85
Waynesville	74.00
Pleasant Grove (Cope)	22.87
Beacon	100.00
Mill Creek	50.59
Fellowship	50.00
Parkview, Desloge	50.00
Total Cooperative Receipts	\$12,588.25
ck. correction	-20.11
	\$12,568.14

## COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS FOR JANUARY 1976

20.00% Missouri State Home Missions	\$2,513.62
16.25% Promotional Department	2,042.32
4.00% General Fund	502.73
5.50% Youth Camp	691.25
2.50% Gem	314.20
1.75% Sunday School & CTS	219.94
2.00% Missouri Bible Institute	251.36
52% Seven State Depts	\$6,535.42
7.00% Hillsdale College	879.77
13.00% Foreign Missions	\$1,633.86
9.00% Free Will Baptist Bible College	1,131.13
7.00% Executive Dept.	879.77
6.50% National Home Missions	816.93
2.50% CTS	314.21
2.50% Retirement & Insurance	314.21
.25% Laymans' Board	31.42
.25% Theological Commission	31.42
41% National Association of Free Will Baptists	\$5,152.95
Total Disbursements	\$12,568.14

This is the first month of the year 1976. The Lord has blessed with an especially fine month. As was mentioned last month, December was closed a week early. A part of this month's receipts is a result of that. We are grateful to the Lord for His blessings.

## Cooperative Giving Shows Increase

Rev. Rufus Coffey, executive secretary of the National Association, recently announced that the Cooperative Plan made a record increase of 20 percent in 1975. During the past 10 years cooperative giving has been showing a noticeable increase. Rev. Coffey offered several reasons for this:

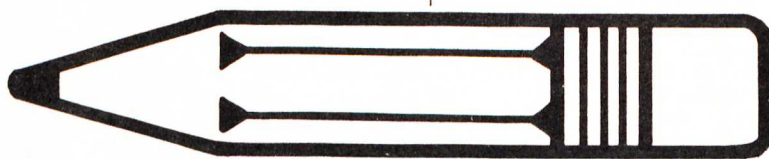
1. The effectiveness of this unified method to provide basic support for total denominational ministries;

2. More widespread promotion of this plan on the state and national levels;

3. Confidence in the denomination as a whole. Fears that the Cooperative Plan would become an uncontrollable monster *have been proven to be a myth*. Oklahoma remains in first place as number one contributor. Missouri lost first place two years ago. (Editor's note: Missouri, let us gain first place again.)



# FOR THE YOUTH



## Dreams Come True

*by Ted Wilbanks*

The greatest examples for Christian living for teenagers (as well as adults) are found in the Bible. Young men and women from the beginning of time have faced the same basic problems, and these examples can be most valuable for the teenagers living in the twentieth century.

Joseph was a young man who allowed God to work in his life, and, as a result, he became mightily used of God. The key to Joseph's success is found in his submission to the **DIVINE DISCIPLINE**.

As a teenager Joseph was a dreamer. In Genesis we read of the dreams that Joseph had that made him hated by his brothers. Dreams alone never lead to success. Dreams without discipline become nightmares. You cannot substitute dreams, even noble dreams, for honest achievement.

If your dreams are in the will of God and if you let God discipline you the way He did Joseph, then your dreams will come true and God will use you for His glory.

The first discipline God used in the life of Joseph was that of **SERVICE**. At home Joseph had been his father's favorite. He was proud, pampered, and did not have to work. Because of his dreams and this special treatment by his father, Joseph was hated by his brothers.

Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and became a servant in Potiphar's house. He now learned what it was to serve others. You must take orders now if you want to experience a promotion from God in the future.

Joseph was learning that he was not nearly so important as he thought he was. Yes, Joseph had to go to work, but this was God's plan of preparation for him. The Bible says, "The hand of the diligent shall bear rule; but the slothful shall be under tribute."

The second discipline was that of **SELF-CONTROL**. As a servant in Potiphar's house, Joseph was subject to the temptations of Potiphar's wife to be immoral. He had to decide if he was going to remain pure and true to God, or give in to the lust

of the flesh. He did not give in, and as a result was falsely accused.

If Joseph was to be used of God later in life, he had to control himself. The man who cannot control himself will never be able to control others.

When Joseph was placed in a situation of temptation, he ran for his very life. Paul gave young Timothy this advice when he told him to "flee youthful lusts." There may be times when you must literally run from temptations.

Joseph's flight from sin brought the next discipline into his life, that of **SUFFERING**. He was falsely accused because he would not yield to sin, and had to go to prison. In prison he learned patience. (He was there 2 years.) He learned to wait God's time. This was difficult for Joseph, but God was working His plan in the life of this teenager.

Your determination to remain true to God may bring suffering into your life; but, as you patiently wait God's time, you will see His perfect will. "Be ye followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

The discipline of **SERVICE** taught Joseph humility. The discipline of **SELF-CONTROL** taught him to be pure and God-controlled. The discipline of **SUFFERING** taught him patience.

It took God 13 years to prepare Joseph for service. Because of his faithfulness to God, he became a ruler in Egypt and was used to deliver his people and family from ruin.

God used Joseph because he obeyed and was faithful. His dreams came true because they were in God's will, and he allowed God to mold him when he was a teenager. God will do this for you.

About the writer: Rev. Wilbanks is the new pastor of the Grant Avenue Free Will Baptist Church. He has served on the faculty of Hillsdale College and Free Will Baptist Bible College. He is presently serving as secretary of the National Church Training Service Board. His experience and background qualify him as a writer for this page.



## DESIGNATED GIVING THROUGH STATE OFFICE

### FOREIGN MISSIONS

Sedalia	\$20.00
Gen. Acct.	\$20.00
New Harmony Sunday school	30.70
Dr. Miley	15.35
Jim McLain	15.35
West Plains	60.00
Howard Filkins	10.00
Gen. Acct.	50.00
Gateway	25.00
Filkins	25.00
Merl's Chapel	21.75
Filkins	21.75
Olivet	80.00
Howard Filkins	5.00
Mabel Willey	20.00
Bobby Poole	20.00
Lynn Miley	20.00
Jerry Pinkerton	10.00
Lonnie Sparks	5.00
South Side	90.00
Joe Haas	5.00
Lonnie Palmers	85.00
Hickory Grove	26.72
Steve Lytle	26.72
First Mission Kansas City	5.00
Gen. Acct.	5.00
Mtn. Grove, First	95.00
Jerry Pinkerton	5.00
Tom Willey	60.00
General Acct.	30.00
Evangel	130.00
Howard Filkins	65.00
Lynn Miley	32.50
Bill Fulcher	32.50
Total for Foreign Missions	\$584.17

### FREE WILL BAPTIST

#### CHILDREN'S HOME GREENEVILLE

Fredericktown, First	\$17.02
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### HILLSDALE FREE WILL BAPTIST

#### COLLEGE

Mtn. Grove	\$165.00
Gateway	15.00
Total for Hillsdale	\$180.00

### MISSOURI HOME MISSIONS

Mtn. Grove, First	\$12.50
General Acct.	12.50
Sedalia Mission	20.00
General Acct.	20.00
Gateway	5.00
Owens' Acct.	5.00
Merl's Chapel	22.75
Owens' Acct.	22.75
Joe Braddy	5.00
Poplar Bluff Mission	5.00
Hazel Creek	10.00
General Acct.	10.00
Monett	11.00
General Acct.	11.00
Total for State Home Missions	86.25

### NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Gateway	\$6.00
Vergel Maness' Acct.	6.00
Olivet	30.00
Vergel Maness	25.00
Larry Powell	5.00
South Side	15.00
Larry Russell	1.00
McCoy	4.00
Vergel Maness	5.00
Jesse Dunn	5.00
First Mission K. C.	25.00
Vergel Maness	25.00
Mtn. Grove, First	77.50
Leland Horton	35.00
Vergel Maness	15.00
Larry Powell	20.00
General Acct.	7.50
Total for National Home Missions	\$153.50

### FREE WILL BAPTIST YOUTH CAMP

Olivet	\$10.00
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## On The National Front

### Free Will Baptist Bible College Announces Conference Speakers

Speakers who know both pastoral ministry and Christian education will speak at Free Will Baptist College's 1976 Bible Conference, March 14-18, according to a recent release from FWBBC. The speakers are Dr. Wade Jernigan, Rev. Randy Cox, Dr. L. C. Johnson, and Dr. Charles Thigpen.

The conference will begin Sunday evening and close at noon on Thursday. Music will be provided by the Music Department, and the Speech Department plans to present a play, "Simon, The Leper." A special program is being planned for visiting young people. The Alumni Association will meet during the conference.

### National Home Mission Receipts Up

In 1975 according to a recent release by the National Home Missions Department, total receipts amounted to \$528,150.49. This was an increase of \$50,297.84 over 1974. Missouri gave \$22,915.90 toward its quota of \$24,000.00. National Home Missionaries reported a total of 885 conversions. Eight churches sponsored by the National Home Missions Department became self supporting in 1975. Seven new missionaries began their work in 1975. The department hopes to enter ten states where we have no churches. The quota for 1976 is \$608,500.00. Missouri's quota is 24,000.00.



# CHURCHES PEOPLE AND EVENTS

## Parkview Reports

The Parkview Church reports that Brother Ed Sirclum, senior deacon, was promoted to glory February 11, 1976. He was loved by all who knew him in the local church, quarterly meeting, and state activities.

Cleo Leonard, church reporter, states that the church is experiencing a gradual growth with souls being saved and people uniting with the church.

## News From Fellowship Church

Mrs. Betty Reeves, church reporter, states that after 4 years of hard work, growth, fellowship, and some heartaches, the people of Fellowship Church bade farewell to Rev. Ken Doggett and his family, Bonnie, Renee, Mark, and Gary. During Brother Doggett's ministry the church grew spiritually and numerically with souls being saved, rededications, and some experiencing spiritual growth. As the church sows the seed it will result in some being saved while others will not. The church is thankful for the ministry of Rev. and Mrs. Doggett and their family. The family will always hold a special place in the heart of the Fellowship Church family.

Rev. Larry Stevens of New Bern, North Carolina has been recently elected to serve as pastor of the church. The church is continuing to work and is looking forward to Brother Stevens' arrival. Rev. John Rogers of Fredericktown is blessing the church with fine gospel messages.

## Special Day At Cuba Church

On February 1, 1976, Sunday school began as usual at 10:00 a.m., but the day did not end until 9:00 p.m. What a day! The fine women of the church served lunch during the noon hour, and again they served for the evening meal. Everyone enjoyed the Sunday school and the message delivered by a guest minister Rev. Dave Wydman. Special singing was presented by several groups: The Glory Echoes; The Happy Hearts; The Bouse Family; and the Radford Family. The church reporter states that the attendance is growing with the need for a larger building. Rev. Grover Pingleton is pastor. The church feels that Rev. and Mrs. Pingleton are working faithfully and giving strong leadership to the work of the Lord in Cuba.

## Promoted to Glory

Rev. George Miller of Fredericktown, Missouri, was promoted to glory on January 27, 1976. He was 72. Burial services were held January 30, with Rev. Truman Huffman and Rev. O. D. Matthews officiating. Brother Miller has pastored churches in North-east and Southeast Missouri.

## Oskaloosa Church Especially Thankful For Young People

We thank the Lord for all His blessings and especially our young people, writes Mrs. Viola Bussone, church reporter. Many wonderful events happened the past year. The Youth Banquet was a special event, with the crowning of king and queen and two young people made professions of faith. Special Easter services, with meetings held in various churches and a lot of special singing blessed everyone. Two people were baptized in May. Youth Camp was a blessing in June and a young lady was saved in July. Brother Phillip Munn was ordained as a deacon.

A Halloween party was enjoyed in the fall, and in November the Lord blessed with a fine revival. A very impressive play was presented at Christmas entitled "The Christmas Rose." The Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet were enjoyed several times during the year.

## Olivet Church Continues To Grow

The Olivet Church is continuing to grow. Church reporter Daisy Harper writes two recent things reflect this growth. A contest, "Fruit Bearing" yielded over 400 names of people visiting the church during the contest. The winning team was given a party and three individuals were given Bibles as a reward for their special effort. The second thing that reflects the church is growing—a wonderful revival. Rev. Dale Skiles, a wonderful man of God, preached faithfully, "Thus saith the Lord." There were many professions of faith and rededications. The attendance for the last night of the revival was approximately 350.

On Sunday, February 15, the church held a dedication service. The new pews, pulpit, chairs, and flower stands were dedicated to the Lord. The pulpit was given in memory of Sister Caroline Eddie, the flower stands in memory of Sister Bessie Rogers and Sister Dora Crawford, and the chairs in memory of Sister Ada Lyles. The Olivet Church is a testimony that Christ lives and the mission of the church is to be a gospel witness for Him. Rev. and Sister Bowman are working faithfully as pastor and wife. The Lord is blessing their labor as they lead and work with the church.

## Response to "Filkins- Special Missouri"

Pleasant Ridge .....	20.70
Merl's Chapel .....	70.00
Mansfield .....	50.00
Union Light .....	100.00
Thayer .....	101.00
Pleasant Grove .....	25.00
Cedar Ridge .....	100.00
* Lebanon, First, W.A. ....	137.00
* (Not given through State office.)	
Total .....	\$603.70



## Student Seriously Injured In Auto Accident

On January 10, 1976, James Crossgrove, a student at Hillsdale College, was seriously injured in an automobile accident as he was returning to school. He was admitted and remained a patient of a hospital in Kirksville, Missouri, for over a month. The cost incurred was over \$25,000.

Rev. Kent Tallent writes, "Inasmuch as the family did not have enough insurance to cover the cost, the Northeast Association of Free Will Baptists held a James Crossgrove Benefit Night. The New Life Singers from Hillsdale and Rev. Boyd Halford, a local singer, donated their services for this benefit. All proceeds received were placed in a James Crossgrove Fund at one of the local banks. Every Christian has been asked to remember James in prayer."

If any church or individual can give a contribution it should be sent to Rev. Kent Tallent, Route no. 2, Kirksville, Missouri or Rev. Glen Campbell, 506 West Elizabeth Ave., Kirksville, Missouri. Checks should be made payable to James Crossgrove Medical Fund. The Crossgrove family are members of the Low Ground Free Will Baptist Church.

## TNT Workshop at Bethel

A Teach and Train Workshop, sponsored by the Missouri State Sunday School and Church Training Service Board, will be held at the Bethel Church in Festus, Missouri, March 19, 20. Program personalities include: Ruthann Hall, H. D. Harrison, Catherine Henry, J. D. O'Donnell and Myrtle Reeds. The workshop will begin Friday evening and continue until Saturday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Rev. Bob Sharry is pastor of the church.

## Music Seminar at Farmington

A Music Seminar will be held at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Farmington, April 9, 10 and May 14, 15. Rev. Ted Wilbanks, former music teacher at Hillsdale College and Free Will Baptist Bible College, will be the instructor. Rev. Jim McAllister is the pastor.

## Pastoral Changes

Troy Burney to New Home  
from Viburnum  
Glen Hood to Thayer  
from Midland, Texas  
Floyd Arnold to Hartville  
from Faith, Lemay  
Ronnie Graham to Cape Girardeau  
from Hurryville, Farmington  
Ted Wilbanks to Grant Ave.  
from Oklahoma City  
Jim Mertz to First, Lebanon  
from Florence, Alabama  
Keith Johnson to First, Blytheville, Arkansas  
from Thayer  
Bud Hill to First, Chipley, Florida  
from Willow Springs

# Calendar of Events

March, April, May, June, July, August 1976

### March:

- 6—Liberty Quarterly Meeting
- 14-18—Bible Conference—FWBBC
- 19—TNT Sunday School & CTS—Bethel, Festus
- 25-27—North East Association

### April:

- 3—Cave Springs Quarterly Meeting
- 9-10—Madison Co. Quarterly Meeting
- 12-16—WNAC Pre-Easter Week of Prayer
- 13—Indian Creek Bi-Annual Woman's Auxiliary Meeting
- 16—Board of Christian Education Meeting
- 18—Foreign Missions Call-a-Thon
- 18—"Big Day" Sunday—for Sunday School
- 23-24—St. Francis Quarterly Meeting
- 23-24—Harmony Quarterly Meeting
- 24—St. Louis District Quarterly Meeting
- 26—May 2—Missionary Conference—Indian Creek

### May:

- 1—Work Day-Youth Camp
- 7—Greater Kansas City Quarterly Meeting
- 7-8—South East Missouri Yearly Meeting
- 8—Indian Creek Quarterly Meeting
- 14-15—Cave Springs Yearly Meeting
- 14-15—Niangua Yearly Meeting
- 29—Laclede Co. Quarterly Meeting
- 30—Central Western Quarterly Meeting

### June:

- 5—Liberty Quarterly Meeting
- 7-10—General Board Meeting  
Sunday School & CTS Youth Service  
Missouri State Woman's Auxiliary Convention  
Missouri State Association,  
Bridgeton, Missouri
- 20—Board of Retirement Offering

### July:

- 3—Cave Springs Quarterly Meeting
- 9—Madison Co. Quarterly Meeting
- 11-15—National Youth Conference  
WNAC  
National Association of Free Will Baptists,  
Tulsa, Oklahoma
- 23-24—Harmony Quarterly Meeting
- 23-24—St. Francis Quarterly Meeting
- 24—St. Louis Dist. Quarterly Meeting
- 25-30—1st Week of Youth Camp
- 30-31—North West Association
- 31—Liberty Association

### August:

- 1-6—2nd Week Youth Camp
- 8-13—3rd Week of Youth Camp

Note: The Youth Camp dates are changed. This was necessary because of the date change for the Missouri State Association. The Youth Camp Board hopes this will not affect the enrolment for the camp sessions.

Use the calendar on the back cover as a reminder.



by Clarence Burton

The year 1976 began with a fine month for *cooperative giving*. The Lord is blessing and blessing. The beautiful thing about the Cooperative Plan is—the more that comes in always means that more is going out. It is a pleasure to issue checks to the various departments of our state and national work. There is a good feeling that comes from sharing in a world-wide ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ. May the Lord continue to bless the churches that share in this ministry. What a thrill to see churches and missions adopt this plan. Recent ones are: Hopewell, Tunas; Bailey Chapel, Tunas; Oak Hill, St. Clair; Freedom, St. Charles; Sedalia Mission; and Parkview.

This is my prayer, that every church will know the joy that comes from sharing in this ministry.

The year began for me at a watch-night service. We were with Rev. and Mrs. Russell Spurgeon and the folks at the Trinity Church. These folks plan quite a night for New Year's Eve. Something is planned for every age and everyone enjoys it. It is an exciting church that is growing and exerting a good influence in the community. This church is supporting cooperative and designated giving.

On the following Saturday I met with the Cave Springs Quarterly Meeting. Rev. and Mrs. Paul Clark and the Hickory Grove Church were host to the meeting. The meeting was well attended and we were blessed with two fine sermons from Rev. Dale Skiles and Rev. Glen Hood. (Rev. Hood recently accepted the pastorate of the Thayer Church. We are glad to have this family in Missouri.) The church served a delicious dinner and the moderator Rev. Clark Stephens did his job well.

On the first Sunday of 1976, Vivian and I attended her home church in Myrtle, Missouri. It is always a joy and blessing to be with these folks. Rev. and Mrs. Russell Johnson are enjoying a fine ministry with the church. This church supports cooperative and designated giving well.

I attended a Church Evangelism Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on January 5-7. It was a wonderful conference. (An article concerning this was carried in last month's issue.)

On the following Saturday I attended the Madison County Quarterly Meeting. Rev. and Mrs. Truman Huffman and the Twin Oaks Church hosted the meeting. This church is rendering a very effective service in the community and is a fine supporter of cooperative and designated giving. Rev. Ronnie Graham delivered a challenging message at the worship service. The moderators, Rev. Bud Statler and Rev. Don Grindstaff, handled the program well.

On Sunday, January 11, I enjoyed being with Rev. and Mrs. J. W. O'Neal and the Amity Church. We enjoyed fine fellowship and the church went on the Gem Family Plan.

On Friday evening, January 16, I attended the Mid-West Regional Sunday School and Church Growth Seminar at the Beacon Church. The Sunday School and CTS Board is rendering a beneficial service by offering help to our churches throughout the state. On the return trip home Vivian and I visited with Dennis and Jean Bowman, Cliff and Francis Bowman, and Mark and Louise Vandivort.

We certainly enjoyed visiting with these dedicated families. A praise item: I was privileged to make a home visit with Brother Cliff Bowman and he led a man to accept Christ as Savior. That's always wonderful!

On Sunday, January 18, I was with Rev. and Mrs. John Andrews and the Buffalo Church. There was a warm sweet spirit in the service. The Andrews are having a fruitful ministry and the church is involved in cooperative and designated giving.

On the following Tuesday I went to St. Clair to be with Rev. and Mrs. Tom Owens. This was a beautiful experience. We knocked on a lot of doors, made visits in the evening, saw a lady rededicate her life to the Lord, and gained some good prospects. Tom and Mary are doing a very fine work for the Lord. I predict this will be one of our strong churches someday. This mission is already supporting the Cooperative Plan. It is receiving, but it is also giving. May the Lord bless everyone of our fine home missionaries.

I went from St. Clair to St. Louis for the St. Louis District Quarterly Meeting. Rev. and Mrs. Bob Francis and the Southside Church hosted the meeting. It was handled beautifully. Bob and Jean are having a fine ministry with a growing church. The church supports cooperative and designated giving very well. The morning message was delivered by Rev. Roger Harwell. It was an impressive and helpful message. Rev. Russell Spurgeon is quite capable as moderator. This was my home area and it is always a pleasure to be with them.

On Sunday morning, January 25, I surely enjoyed being with Rev. and Mrs. Ronnie Graham and the Cape Girardeau Church. Ronnie and Sheron are doing an effective work in that city and it is evident the work is doing well. This church-mission supports cooperative and designated well. That evening I had the pleasure of being with Rev. and Mrs. Denzil Durbin and the Sikeston Church. This is a very active church and I enjoyed getting better acquainted with the Durbin family. This is a very fine area for Free Will Baptists. Both Sikeston and Cape Girardeau churches went on the Gem Family Plan.

On Monday on my return trip I visited with Rev. Bill Adkisson in Poplar Bluff. Bill is quite excited about that work and the invitation for a Free Will Baptist work in Malden and East Prairie. It seems there is a great potential for Free Will Baptists in that entire area.

On January 30, I had the privilege of meeting with the Harmony Quarterly Meeting. Rev. and Mrs. Bob Chatman and the Lone Star Church hosted the meeting. They did it well. Rev. Forrester delivered a fine message on Friday evening, and Rev. Bud Dedmon served well as moderator.

Again, I want to mention, January was a very fine month. Let us thank God from whom all blessings flow. I pray that He will continue to bless this ministry. It is His work. I trust that every pastor and church sharing in this work of faith and labor of love will rejoice in that each one is having a part in a worldwide ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Please make all checks payable to and mail to Missouri State Association, P. O. Box 991, Lebanon, Missouri 65536.



# Woman's Page



Do It Well

Shirley Bowden, Editor

by Helen McAllister

Several months ago, I heard a precious Christian lady make a statement that went something like this, "I wish just once I could have enough confidence in myself to get the courage to do a job and know I had done it well." I could really identify with her. I knew exactly how she felt. I have often made myself do a specific thing just to prove to myself that I could do it. But, oh, the anguish that went with it.

Recently I have done quite a lot of reading, collecting thoughts in order to teach a study course in our auxiliary. One of the books I read was *What Happens When You Meet You?* by Fred Renich. In it, he made this statement, "Only as you start where you are, fully accepting yourself as you are, can you start to become what you should be. Since God loves and accepts the real you, decide to love and accept that very same person, the real you."

To me, that was just so many words when I first read it, but I started to think on it, and suddenly it began to make sense. Just about everyone of us probably faces this same problem. We are afraid of failing or that we don't measure up. All God asks us to do is to be obedient. We need to realize that it doesn't make God any difference whether we "measure up" to someone else. He wants us to be ourselves, use the talents he has given us, and leave the rest up to Him.

Now I know every woman has different abilities. Some have more than others. I don't mean to sound boastful, but I do know there are some things I do well. So do you. These are the areas in which God can use us best.

At this time, due to the short year, we are running behind in our state projects. So, ladies, let us pledge together to serve God in our respective auxiliaries this year. We have work to do and goals to meet. Let's "do well."

*Helen McAllister, Farmington, is the State Woman's Auxiliary Vice-President.*

## News Items and Things to Remember

- The State Projects are running behind. Since this is a short year, we need to get these projects completed as soon as possible.

- A plaque will be awarded at the state meeting in June to the auxiliary contributing the most money to the Perpetual Loan Fund.

- Mark your calendars now for June 8, 1976. The Woman's Auxiliary Convention will convene at the Trinity Church in Bridgeton, Missouri. Because the program will be centered around the bicentennial theme, our ladies are asked to dress "old fashioned" for the day service and the evening service. More information on the state convention will be in the next issue.

- Dues are \$1.50 rather than \$1.25 for each auxiliary member.

- September 13, 14 has been set as the date for the State Woman's Auxiliary Retreat. If you were unable to attend last year, you missed a blessing. Make plans to attend this year! The retreat will be held at the State Youth Campground.

- Ladies, Help! We have many ladies who can write articles, poems and songs. Why not share these with other co-laborers across the state? Send them in so that they can be printed in the page that has been set aside for the ladies. Share what your auxiliary is doing with other auxiliaries. If your church does not have an auxiliary and you have written articles, please go ahead and share them with the rest of us!

State Treasurer's Report  
from Blanche Wisehart.

Perpetual Loan Fund Balance	
as of Feb. 1, 1976	\$577.88
Filkins' Acct. Balance	
as of Feb. 1, 1976	\$722.30

ATTENTION AUXILIARIES! ALL RECEIPTS FOR THE PERPETUAL LOAN FUND NEED TO BE IN TO OUR STATE TREASURER BLANCHE WISEHART BY MARCH 20.

## MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION JUNE 7-10

Monday Evening	Youth Service
Tuesday	Woman's Auxiliary
Tuesday Evening	Missouri State Association
Wednesday	Missouri State Association
Wednesday Evening	Missionary Service (Anticipate 1000 attendance)
Thursday	Missouri State Association

Day services to be held at Trinity Church. Evening services to be held at Pattonfield Field House.



GEM CP OCT  
 REV RALPH STATEN  
 RT 6 WOODALE CHURCH RD  
 KNOXVILLE TN 37914


# Remember These Dates!

SEE CALENDAR OF EVENTS ON PAGE 9



## MAR

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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## JULY

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Due to an error in publishing the February issue of the *Gem*, the month of June was omitted from the Calendar of Events. Since the publisher is responsible for this, we, therefore, take full responsibility for this error. Please accept our humble apology for failing to note this mistake.