

Volume 46, Number 4, April 1976

Free Will Baptist

GEM

"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"

MISSOURI STATE OFFICERS AND BOARDS

State Promotional Secretary-Treasurer

Rev. Clarence Burton

P. O. Box 991

Lebanon, MO 65536

Moderator: Rev. James McAllister, Farmington

Assistant Moderator: Rev. William Evans, Kansas City

Clerk: Rev. Roger Harwell, Berkeley

Assistant Clerk: Rev. N. R. Smith, Joplin

General Board:

Rev. James Reed (Cave Springs Assoc.)

Mr. Charlie Hoover (Central Western Assoc.)

Rev. Cecil Campbell (Indian Creek Assoc.)

Rev. Jim Bundy (Greater Kansas City Assoc.)

Rev. Glen Jones (Laclede County Assoc.)

Rev. Murry Southwell (Liberty Assoc.)

Mr. Fletcher Riley (Northeast Assoc.)

Rev. Max Courtney (Mission Assoc.)

Rev. Len Gardner (Niangua Assoc.)

Rev. Vernon Maggart (Northwest Assoc.)

*Rev. Glenn Rehkop (Southeast Assoc.)

Rev. Floyd Arnold (Youth Camp Board)

*Rev. Cliff Bowman (Home Mission Board)

*Rev. Millard Sasser (Christian Education Board)

*Rev. Dale Smith (Sunday School-CTS Board)

*Members of the Executive Committee

STATE HOME MISSION BOARD

Rev. Cliff Bowman, Chairman

Rev. Elmer Turnbough

Rev. Don Lombard

Rev. Dale Skiles

Rev. Lawrence Thompson, Treasurer

3416 N. Bellefontaine

Kansas City, MO 64117

YOUTH CAMP BOARD

Rev. Floyd Arnold, Chairman

Rev. Lynn Wood

Rev. Charles Miller

Rev. Ken Goff

Rev. Keith Johnson, Treasurer

308 Oak Street

Thayer, MO 65574

SUNDAY SCHOOL-CTS BOARD

Rev. Dale Smith, Chairman

Mr. Richard Pointer

Rev. Tom Owens

Rev. Bud Hill

Rev. Kent Tallent

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Rev. Millard Sasser, Chairman

Rev. R. B. Spurgeon

Rev. Howard Bowers

Rev. Dennis Bowman

Rev. Andy Lay

National General Board Member from
Missouri: Rev. Andy Lay

Cover Art Prepared By Gil Mertz

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

Publication and Business Office: 303 West Commercial, Lebanon, Missouri 65536

Clarence Burton, 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 Shirley Bowden, 303 West Commercial, Lebanon, MO 65536.

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 Lebanon, MO and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to the Free Will Baptist GEM, P.O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65536.



A Testimony by Rev. Jim Mertz

It was nearly 16 years ago that I felt the love of God come into my heart. As a child, nine years old, I walked the aisle and accepted Christ as my Savior. Since that memorable experience, my life has been directed by the Master's hand. Little did I imagine that the Lord would call me into fulltime service and count me worthy to "preach the unsearchable riches of Christ Jesus."

When the church people found out that "little Jimmy Mertz" had announced his calling to preach, they were amazed to say the least. I am sure that they felt as the Psalmist David did long ago when he said, "This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes." I was young, inexperienced, and the very thought of standing in front of a crowd of people horrified me. During that time I was very quiet and unsociable and could not look anyone in the eye while I was talking to them. After a few months, I questioned if the Lord could really use me to preach. It was during my high school days, at the age of sixteen, that I really felt the touch of God on my shoulder. I felt as Isaiah the prophet when he turned and saw "the Lord high and lifted up." I told the Lord that I had turned my back on the world once and for all. I had come to know the significance of the words, "Here am I, Lord, send me."

As I think back to that experience, I thank the Lord unceasingly for calling me into His work and molding my life into His image. I am thankful that the Lord did not require talent, skill, great intellect, or popularity to be His disciple. As I have learned, God was looking for someone who would be willing to be used to bring glory to Him.

Since I have been preaching the gospel, I have felt day by day the increasing contentment that

comes by knowing that one is in the center of the will of the Lord. I have also been more thankful for the lives that have influenced me in the past. I was converted under the pastorate of Rev. Roger Reeds in 1959, and through the godly dedication of our youth sponsors, Chesley and Mae Hill, I came to know the reality of full surrender to God. As I grew in the Lord many people came into my life which are too numerous to mention. However, I could not feel satisfied without mentioning the greatest inspiration to me in the ministry, Rev. Bud Arnold. His life was matchless in untiring dedication to the work of the Lord. It was through his encouragement that I came to deeply appreciate the privilege of preaching the gospel.

Today, I find myself behind the pulpit of a fine, aggressive church in Lebanon. The folks have welcomed us wonderfully. We are looking forward, as we begin our ministry here, to seeing the Lord bless our people and advance His blessed kingdom. For, it is for this purpose that I have left loved ones, sacrificed a life of pleasure and ease, and have yielded my heart, my life, my all to this blessed ministry. I have never regretted one day that I have let Christ be the Lord of my life. I am living, working, watching, and waiting for that glorious day when the Church shall be presented to Jesus Christ and we shall receive the crown that fadeth not away.

Editor's note: Rev. Mertz is the new pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Lebanon. His former pastorate was in Florence, Alabama. He is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, in Nashville, Tennessee.

CHURCHES PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Special Sunday At Copper Mines Church

Sunday, February 29, was a special day—the fifth Sunday in the shortest month of the year. This is noteworthy; from 1826 to 1976 a span of 150 years there were only five of these years with five Sundays in February. There will be no more in the 1900's.

To commemorate this date, the Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church gave their Sunday offerings to Steve and Judy Lytle missionaries to Panama. The amount was \$320.00.

Mrs. Judy Lytle, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lindell Hovis. She and her family were members of the Copper Mines Church before moving to St. Louis and uniting with the Fourth Church. Judy has two grandmothers in the Copper Mines Church, Mrs. Edith Underwood and Mrs. Ester Hovis. Rev. O. D. Matthews is the pastor of the church.

Valentine Banquet at West Plains

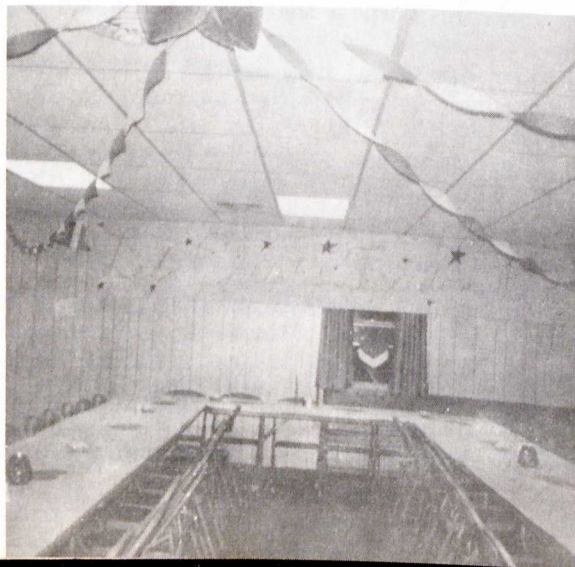
The young people of the First Free Will Baptist Church in West Plains sponsored a Valentine Banquet. Mrs. Ronnie Skiles writes: A bicentennial theme was used with the young people singing several patriotic songs and Rhonda Holman giving a presentation on "Great Men Who Pioneered Our Religious Freedom." A delicious ham supper was served.

The banquet was well attended and everyone enjoyed the fellowship and the program. Rev. Dale Skiles is the pastor.

Good News From Twin Oaks

Church reporter Madeline McFarland writes: Greetings to all our *Gem* friends. We are thankful

First Free Will Baptist Church of West Plains



for our state paper, the *Gem*, in that it brings us together throughout the state of Missouri.

February 1 was a wonderful day at the church. The Lord blessed with 93 in Sunday school and a full house for the worship service. Brother Truman Huffman and Brother Joe Pirtle sang a special to fulfil a promise. Brother Don Rouse is to sing a special if the goal of 100 is reached.

Following the morning service, a surprise birthday party was given for the pastor, Rev. Truman Huffman. It was well attended and everyone enjoyed the fellowship.

The mission of the Twin Oaks Church is to preach Christ; to let it be known throughout the community that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

The Jones Family

Rev. Stanley E. Jones, a former pastor, has, along with two sisters and three brothers, entered the ministry of evangelism. This family is widely known as the Singing Jones Family. The family presents the gospel through the ministry of gospel music and Evangelist Stanley Jones preaches a powerful message.

Brother Jones states this about this new ministry: "When God called Abraham to leave his home in Ur and journey to a land not known to him, it required faith. The Bible so clearly states, 'Without faith it is impossible to please God.' So, with our faith in God and His Word as our guide, the Jones family has started on a journey. What lies on this journey we are not sure. But we need only to know that He is pleased and that He walks with us as we labor for Him."

The Singing Jones Family is available for revival services or a service of gospel singing. Contact may be made by writing Evangelist Stanley E. Jones, Route 2, Box 154, Cabool, Missouri 65689. Telephone: 417-967-3537.

Freedom Church Gives Praise Report

Church reporter Frances Green writes: We just praise the Lord for what He is doing for the

The Singing Jones Family



Freedom Free Will Baptist Church in St. Charles, Missouri.

The church will be in revival services on April 18-May 2 with Brother Willard Sample from Tulsa, Oklahoma, serving as the evangelist. Everyone is invited to attend.

Anyone having relatives or friends in the St. Charles area, not attending services, is asked to contact the pastor, Rev. Gene McCully. Telephone number is 925-1360.

Central Western Association Makes Progress With Mission

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on January 31 in preparation for building a Free Will Baptist church in Stockton, Missouri. Rev. Lavelle Reeves is the missionary pastor of this new work.

The Central Western Association has been planning this work for quite some time. The first services were held in the pastor's garage. Following that a building was rented and is being used at present.

The site for the new building is an ideal one, located in the southern part of Stockton with a view of the beautiful Stockton Lake.

The Central Western Association consists of churches at Eldorado Springs, Hickory Grove, Greenfield, Independence, Webb City, Oskaloosa, and Verdella. There are two churches in Eldorado Springs. The Hannon Church is located at Hickory Grove. May the Lord bless and prosper this new work.

Fourth Church Reports Great Revival

The Fourth Free Will Baptist Church in Maplewood, Missouri, recently enjoyed a wonderful revival with Rev. Russell Johnson serving as the evangelist. The Latter Day Quartet presented special music for the services.

Leamon Killion writes: A Youth Revival turned into a revival for the entire church with twenty precious souls accepting Christ as Savior. Another revival is scheduled for April 5-11 with Rev. Charles Miller serving as the evangelist.

On Sunday, March 14, the church will observe its twenty-third birthday. There will be all day services with Rev. Max Courtney, a former pastor, bringing the morning message. Rev. Millard Sasser is the pastor.

A Wonderful Bicentennial Arrival

My name is Chad Steven Burton. I was born March 15, 1976. I weighed 9 lbs. 15 oz. and I am 22 inches long. My lucky parents are Rev. and Mrs. Steven Burton.

Editor's note: Congratulations Steve and Vickie!

State CTS Competitive Activities

Rev. Dale Smith, chairman of the Missouri State Sunday School and CTS Board, has announced that the State Competitive Activities will be held this year on Saturday, May 1, at the Grant Avenue Church, Springfield, Missouri. Pastors and CTS directors should take special note of this date.

State Association Motel Information

These motels are in the Bridgeton area. It would be well to make reservations early in preparation for the Missouri State Association.

Sands Motel

4630 N. Lindbergh
Ph. 314-429-4444

1 person	1 Double bed \$16.00
2 persons	1 Double bed 19.00

Motel Capri

3679 N. Lindbergh
Ph. 314-291-3994

1 person	1 bed \$14.00
2 persons	1 bed 16.00
3 or 4	2 beds 21.00

Ben Franklin

4645 N. Lindbergh
Ph. 314-426-7200

1 person	1 bed \$12.00
2 persons	2 beds 14.00

plus \$2.00 for each additional person
(no charge for children under 12 yrs.)

Holiday Inn North

4545 N. Lindbergh
Ph. 314-731-2100

1 person	1 bed \$20.00
2 persons	2 beds 25.00

Noah's Ark Motor Inn

1500 S. 5th, St. Charles
Ph. 314-925-0500

1 person	1 bed \$16.00
2 persons	2 beds 24.00

Note: These rates do not include tax. It is possible that some of these rates will increase by \$1.00, adjusting to the summer rate. When making reservations, it would be well to ask the rate.

The Sands Motel offers a meeting room in basement that accommodates up to 100. Charge of \$50.00 in the evening. Usually no charge if the group is staying there, for day meetings.

On The National Front

Corrected Home Mission Report

A recent report from the National Home Missions Office states that receipts from Missouri totaled \$29,712.04 instead of \$22,915.90, as previously reported. This places Missouri \$5,712.04 above its quota of \$24,000.00.

Dr. Johnson To Participate In World Congress

Dr. L. C. Johnson, president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, will direct and moderate a panel on Christian education at the World Congress of Fundamentalists in Edinburgh, Scotland, June 15-22. The World Congress is called the first meeting of its kind to cross denominational lines. Sponsors say it is for fellowship, instruction, and inspiration.

Hillsdale Reports Successful Tour in Missouri

A recent report from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College states that eleven Missouri churches hosted the New Life Ensemble, the Harvesters Quartet, and the Sunlight Trio during the fifth weekend of February. The churches included: First, Monett; First, Mountain Grove; First, West Plains; First, Farmington; South Fremont, Springfield; Bethel, Festus; Berkeley; Victory, Kansas City; Grace; Southside; and First, Kirksville (a special benefit for James Crossgrove).

A wonderful spirit of cooperation prevailed with three churches giving their entire Sunday offerings. The weekend peaked on Sunday night at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Farmington. Following a service with all three musical groups, the church responded with a record offering to Hillsdale. The amount was \$2,200.00. Total gifts for the whole weekend came to almost \$5,000 in cash and over \$4,500.00 in faith promises.

Report On N.A.E.—N.R.B. Convention

Six ministers from Missouri attended the N.A.E.—N.R.B. Convention held in Washington, D. C. on February 22-26. These went as representatives of the Missouri State Association: Rev. Millard Sasser, Rev. Russell Spurgeon, Rev. Don Lombard, Rev. Andy Lay, Rev. Edwin Bowden, and Rev. Clarence Burton. The following report is from Brother Lombard.

"I appreciate very much this opportunity to share with you a few remarks concerning the National Association of Evangelicals and National Religious Broadcasters Convention held in Washington, D. C. A wonderful spirit prevailed throughout the convention of some 4,000 evangelicals. The theme, 'Let Freedom Ring,' was well developed by the speakers.

"There was something special for the opening service on Sunday evening. The president of the United States, Gerald R. Ford, gave a special address. Recounting the place God and the Scriptures had in the thinking of the Founding Fathers, President Ford said, 'We are taught in the Psalms that blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. I believe that very deeply. Looking back over 200 years we can see that America has always been a uniquely blessed nation, that we have had a very special role in the affairs of mankind.'

"In addition to the fine host of convention speakers there were several informative workshops held during the afternoon sessions. The workshops I attended and found most interesting were: Decency in Media, Organizing for Church Growth, and Training Laymen to Counsel.

"It was good to be able to cross denominational lines and join with other evangelicals in prayer and concern for the issues of both church and state. We surely need the Lord's blessings on our churches and our nation."

FOREIGN MISSIONS



CALL-A-THON

**SUNDAY
APRIL 18, 1976**

- Give your Sunday school offering
- Receive a special offering
- or
- Designate a portion of your total offering
- ... to FREE WILL BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSIONS

Call (615) 244-3470

to report your total.

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

Only totals reported by phone will be included in **Heartbeat**.

Send to:

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

FOREIGN MISSIONS

FOREIGN MISSIONS SUNDAY

FOREIGN MISSIONS SUNDAY

Promotional Secretary's Corner

by Clarence Burton

February was another fine month. The Lord is blessing for which we are so thankful. May the Lord bless the ones that are sharing in this ministry. May I again say thanks for the wonderful hospitality expressed to my wife and me by the good people of Missouri. Because every bit of space is needed for this issue, I am listing, without comment, places I have had the pleasure of visiting.

Sunday, February 1, Bailey Chapel, a.m. service
 Sunday, February 1, Marshfield, p.m. service
 Saturday, February 7, Indian Creek Quarterly
 Sunday, February 8, Berkeley, a.m. service
 Sunday, February 8, Grace, p.m. service
 Friday evening, February 13, Niangua Quarterly
 Sunday, February 15, New Hope, a.m. and p.m.
 N.A.E. Convention February 21-26.
 Sunday, February 29, Macedonia, a.m. and p.m.

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

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS FOR FEBRUARY 1976

Grant Avenue	\$280.12
South Side	232.00
Willow Springs	132.20
Hannon	148.00
Marshfield	70.14
Gateway	61.82
Cape Girardeau	137.44
Columbia	100.00
Columbia	90.50
Alton	41.13
Niangua	30.47
First Mission, Kansas City	84.58
Houston	132.12
Oskaloosa	35.33
Evangel	81.06
Faith	139.75
Salem	20.00
Rock Chapel	30.36
Pleasant Ridge	27.50
Baily Chapel	36.00
New Rock Springs	45.00
Berkeley	392.70
Grace	475.06
West Plains	224.60
Byrd	12.00
Freeman Chapel	84.27
Oak Hill Mission, St. Clair	69.80
Number One	28.90
Kirksville	30.00
Merl's Chapel	65.96
Merl's Chapel	41.85
Hartville	27.66
Verdella	85.08
Freedom, St. Charles	131.43
Marshfield	67.09
Macedonia Sunday school—Liberty Assoc.	10.00

Granby	40.00
Mine La Motte	20.00
Thayer	128.35
Olivet, Marshall	130.00
Niangua	41.36
Sedalia Mission	19.00
Belton	102.00
DeSoto	450.00
Berean, Independence	84.00
Mtn. Grove, First	351.99
Mtn. Grove, First	364.88
Lebanon, First	260.00
Purdy	60.00
Hopewell	31.91
Twin Oaks	250.00
Copper Mines	120.00
Fordland	25.00
Farmington	61.06
Farmington	496.18
Cuba	41.88
Leadington	138.57
Fourth	252.00
Hurryville	90.82
Willow Springs	132.22
Monett	226.13
Purdy	77.00
Houston	162.24
Number One	32.00
West Plains	223.60
Grant Avenue	371.53
Faith	182.53
Cabool	96.03
Parkview, Desloge	50.00
Fellowship, Flat River	50.00
A Friend	60.00
Total Cooperative Receipts	\$8,924.20

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 1976

20.00% Missouri State Home Missions	\$1,784.84
16.25% Promotional Department	1,450.18
04.00% General Fund	356.97
05.50% Youth Camp	490.83
02.50% Gem	223.11
01.75% Sunday School & CTS	156.17
02.00% MBI	178.48
52%	\$4,640.58
07.00% Hillsdale College	624.70
13.00% Foreign Missions	1,160.15
09.00% Free Will Baptist Bible College	803.18
07.00% Executive Dept.	624.70
06.50% National Home Missions	580.07
02.50% CTS	223.10
00.25% Laymens Board	22.31
00.25% Theological Comm.	22.31
41% National Association of FWB	\$3,658.92
Total Disbursements	\$8,924.20

We are thankful to the Lord for another fine month. May the Lord bless those who are faithful in sharing in this ministry.

DESIGNATED GIVING THROUGH STATE OFFICE

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS

Gateway FWB Church Tom Owens Acct.	\$5.00
Thayer FWB Church	183.00
General Fund	106.00
Tom Owens	32.00
Poplar Bluff	45.00
Sedalia Mission General Fund	20.00
Mtn. Grove First FWB Church General Fund	7.50
Total	\$215.50

HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Thayer FWB Church	\$100.00
Mtn. Grove	173.00
Total	\$273.00

FWBBC

Thayer FWB Church	\$100.00
-------------------	----------

MISSOURI STATE YOUTH CAMP

Thayer FWB Church	\$100.00
Oliver FWB Church	\$10.00
Total	\$110.00

GREENEVILLE CHILDREN'S HOME

Mtn. Grove First FWB Church	\$15.00
-----------------------------	---------

FOREIGN MISSIONS

South Side FWB Church	\$110.00
J. Pinkerton	10.00
B. Fulcher	10.00
J. Haas	5.00
L. Palmers	85.00
Gateway FWB Church	\$25.00
H. Filkins Acct.	25.00
New Harmony Sunday school	\$32.12
Dr. L. Miley	16.06
J. McLain	16.06
Evangel FWB Church	\$25.00
H. Filkins	12.50
Lynn Miley	6.25
B. Fulcher	6.25
West Plains FWB Church	\$214.00
General Fund	194.00
H. Filkins	20.00
Kirksville FWB Church	\$33.00
J. Pinkerton	31.00
H. Filkins	2.00
Merl's Chapel FWB Church	\$34.00
Bobby Aycock	34.00
Thayer FWB Church	\$327.20
General Fund	300.00
Bishop	27.20
Olivet FWB Church	\$80.00
J. Pinkerton	10.00
L. Sparks	5.00
Filkins	5.00
M. Willey	20.00
Bobby Poole	20.00
Lynn Miley	20.00
Mtn. Grove, First FWB Church	\$280.00
General Fund	170.00
Tom Willey	100.00
J. Pinkerton	10.00
Total Foreign Missions giving	\$1,160.32

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

South Side FWB Church	\$15.00
Russell	3.00
Dunn	5.00
McCoy	2.00
Maness	5.00
First Mission Kansas City	\$15.00
Vergel Maness	15.00
Low Ground FWB Church	\$10.00
L. Horton	10.00
Thayer FWB Church	\$200.00
General Acct.	200.00
Olivet FWB Church	\$30.00
Larry Powell	5.00
Vergel Maness	25.00
Mtn. Grove First FWB Church	\$47.50
General Fund	7.50

Vergel Maness	20.00
Larry Powell	20.00
Total	\$317.50

Missouri State Home Mission Giving: February 5 through March 5, 1976

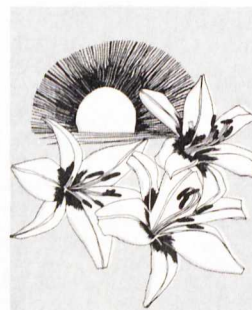
Thayer	\$121.00
Farmington-Calvary Class	25.00
Union—Oak Hill	50.00
Naomi St. Cin	2.00
West Plains	70.00
Grace	25.00
Cotton Creek	25.00
Salem	10.00
Independence	20.00
South Fremont	182.00
Berkeley	25.00
Neosho	5.00
Sue Cockman	10.00
Cuba	4.00
Myrtle	58.75
DeSoto	60.00
Central	18.40
Fourth	37.89
Fellowship	25.00
Monett	18.00
New Home	10.00
South Side	10.00
Olivet	225.00
Hannon	84.00
Purdy	11.00
Houston	53.21
Cooperative Receipts	1,784.84
Total	\$2,970.09

Secretary-Treasurer

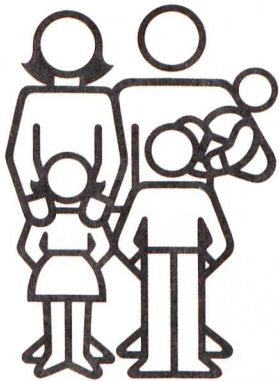
Rev. Lawrence Thompson
3416 N. Bellefontaine
Kansas City, Mo. 64117

FILKINS MISSOURI SPECIAL ACCOUNT

Pleasant Ridge FWB Church	\$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
New Harmony	131.00
Black Oak	28.50
Eastern Gate	100.00
Liberty	104.00
Total	\$830.20



Hope we not in this only,
Christ Himself has made it plain,
None who sleep in Him shall perish,
And our faith is not in vain!
Not in vain our glad hosannas,
Since we follow where He led,
Not in vain our Easter anthem:
"Christ has risen from the dead!"



The Christian Home For This Hour

by Millard C. Sasser

The home is a divine institution. God established the home. The home, the family belongs to God. He determined its inner structure. God appointed for it its purpose and its goal. By divine permission, a man and a woman may cooperate with God's purpose and thus establish a home. But the home remains God's establishment. And "except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it" (Psalm 127:1).

Every other institution in our society, including the society itself, will rise or fall according to the strength, morality, and spirituality of the home. The theme for this sermon is: The Christian Home for This Hour. We are living in a time when the home is being challenged from many areas. What is the possibility for a Christian home in this our day?

Paul the apostle said in 2 Timothy 3:1-4: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God."

These crippling, condemning, killing maladies are diseases of our society. Our generation is experiencing trial marriages, contract marriages, plural marriages, communal promiscuous living, pornographic conduct, premarital and extramarital sexual activity, and homosexual-hogwash.

Our cities are being bombed, burned, and buried.

Our churches are constantly bombarded with the struggle for decency in dress, conduct that is Christian, appearance that appeals to the nobler dignity of man, habits that are heavenly, and faith that is a fact and not a fairytale.

Our society is beginning to smell of a polluted, poisonous, putrefying morality.

I ask, why? The answer will show that these problems are directly related to the home problem. Many Christians have not allowed Christ to be in charge of the government of their homes. We need Christ as the Head of our homes—not just the "Honored Guest."

About the writer: Rev. Millard Sasser is the pastor of the Fourth Church in St. Louis, Missouri. He is a graduate of the Missouri Baptist College. Brother Sasser is active in both state and national work. He is serving as chairman of the Board of Christian Education. This timely message was preached at the Missouri State Association last year.

The National Association of Free Will Baptists in Dayton, Ohio this year (1975) directed the National CTS Board to prepare a set of guidelines for dress and conduct at our National conventions. This direction began as guidelines for the youth involved in the National Youth Conference and finally included all who attend the National Associations. I am concerned about Christian dress and conduct. I believe that Christians ought to have dress and deportment that is Christ honoring. And there must evidently be a need for such guidelines for our national conventions at this time. But, oh hear me, the very fact that such a need exists is a sad commentary on the death-grip that is already strangling the life out of the homes across our denomination. It reveals the fact that the "death-nail" has been driven in Free Will Baptist Christian homes. If our adults were coming from homes that were truly Christian, they would not have to be whipped into line in dress and conduct at our national conventions, or anywhere else. If our Free Will Baptist youth came from homes where Christ reigned as Head and Lord of the homes, they would know that they are to dress and behave everywhere in a Christlike manner. We have said to ourselves that our homes are dying because Christ and His principles have been forsaken at home. We need revival in our homes!

In light of these opening remarks which point out in some measure the sickness of our society, I want to deal with my subject: "The Christian Home for This Hour" from four points of view.

- I. In light of the priorities of the world, what should be the priorities of the Christian home?
- II. The guiding principles of the Christian home in light of the principles which guide our age.
- III. The personalities of the Christian home in light of the trends of today.
- IV. God's promise to the Christian home.

THE PRIORITIES OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME

This world system is built around a pressure to succeed. The first priority of this age appears to be "success," a success spelled out in the following ways: First, our success is measured by our accumulation of things—the kind of houses in which we live, the kind and number of automobiles that deck our drives, the amount of our incomes and our stocks and bonds. Folks who reveal a goodly amount of the weak and beggarly things of this world are considered successful.

Secondly, one's success is measured by his educational attainments.

Again, one's success is measured by the degree of his fame and popularity. This world system calls for

the most prestigious person.

The top priority of this world system is "success" measured by its own standards. The sad thing is that such a philosophy demands "success" at any price. What, then, should be the priorities of the Christian home?

The very first priority for the Christian home should be that of making sure that each member of the home is a Christian. No Christian parent or youngster should ever be satisfied until every other member of the family is saved.

But, some will ask, what is a Christian? Paul said, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [or, new creation]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Again in Galatians 2:20 the same apostle declares, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." As Paul continues his description of a Christian, he pens the words of Philippians 1:20b, 21: "So now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." The Christian, then, is a person who has allowed God, through Jesus Christ, to make him into a new person and who is allowing Christ to be "all and in all" in his life. The Christian home that is indeed Christian from the Biblical view is that household of persons—father, mother, sons, and daughters—who have allowed Christ to live and rule as Lord in their home. They are allowing Christ to rule as Lord of their attitudes, actions, thoughts, and deeds and Lord of their social and spiritual home life. Such a home has come to the place that Christ is no longer the "Honored Guest" in their home—He is Head! He is Lord!

Making sure that each family member is a Christian must be top priority for our Christian homes.

Some other priorities for the Christian home of our times are found in Genesis 18:17-19. That day as our Lord graced the road leading from Abraham's tent to the city of Sodom He observed Abraham and saw in him some things of eternal importance to all peoples of every generation. Hear the Scripture:

"And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."

First, we see that Abraham honored God's Word in his home. One of the great priorities for the Christian home for our time is that of teaching and honoring God's Word within the home. Paul reminded Timothy, "That from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

In this hour when righteousness is run down, the Bible blasted, holiness hounded, godliness goaded,

the Christian home needs to revere and honor God's Word. In this age when our youngsters are taught that truth is relevant, the Bible is a fairy tale, and Christ is a myth, the Christian home needs the inerrant, infallible, inspired, eternally true Bible for its anchor, compass, and power-source. The Christian home must recognize the Bible as "what, thus saith the Lord," and abide in it.

Again, we note that Abraham worshiped in his home. The Christian home must honor the church in the home. The context of Genesis 18 indicates that Abraham had a place of worship. The Christian home needs to honor the church in at least three areas: (1) By faithful attendance in the church services. (2) With her tithes. (3) With her talents. Oh that Christian parents would expect God to call their children into His service!

I am taking the following verse out of context. However, I believe that it has in it a principle for the Christian home today. Paul, in writing to Philemon concerning Onesimus, referred to the "church in thy house" (Philemon 2). The Christian home ought to possess such a spirit of Christ that it would have in it the sweetness of the body of Christ. If this is so, the house of God will be honored and revered. The Christian home needs to place the church as a top priority in her structure.

Another priority of the Christian home is that of making sure the home is Christian. If that sounds like a useless play on words, hear me out. There are homes where the parents and all the children are all professed Christians; however, from them come persons who are not willing to accept the importance of the Bible and its doctrines; the church—or God's order for the church. Parents who endeavor to have a truly Christian home will teach their children that reverence in the church is right. They will also teach that cooperation with the church leaders is godly and honorable.

A fourth priority for the Christian home is prayer. Our society, communities, government, and our children need to know the value of life-changing, circumstance-changing, earth-rending, Heaven-moving prayer. If children of Christian parents are to mature as God-fearing, Christ-honoring, Bible-believing adults, parents must make such praying a priority in the home.

Another priority for the Christian home is that of teaching children godliness and right values of life. Let us be done with this nonsense of leaving the teaching up to a non-Christian society. Let us again recognize that our children are an eternal gift from God and thus teach them clearly the Biblical principles of life. Let us be done with these atheistic, anti-Christian philosophies that degrade humanity to a sub-human level. Let Christian homes stir themselves to teach their children that we are created in the image and likeness of God and thus are to live lives of godliness and dignity. Listen, mothers, it doesn't really make that much difference how much money you make but it does make an eternal difference whether or not you have the time to be a godly mother and teach your sons and daughters godly living. Teaching our children is a top priority for the Christian home.

CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE

Woman's Page



Shirley Bowden, editor

O'Fallon Auxiliary

The O'Fallon Auxiliary is one of the new Woman's Auxiliaries in the state. When the Auxiliary was organized, they had 24 charter members. President Carolyn Lombard reports that they are now having 25 attend their meetings and that each woman enjoys the Auxiliary.

Fordland Auxiliary

The Fordland Free Will Baptist Church recently organized a Woman's Auxiliary. They are reporting a growing interest in the meetings and have joined the Mission Woman's Auxiliary District.

Let's pray for these two new Auxiliaries that God would bless these new auxiliaries and the work they are doing.

Southside Auxiliary

Mission Action Chairman Sue Winchester writes, "Within the past year our Auxiliary has more than doubled in members. With the Lord blessing us so, we may have to stop meeting in different members' homes as we had only started doing as of late. We've enjoyed sweet fellowship and each woman, I believe, has experienced a closer walk with God. Though we do our regular giving through the W.N.A.C. Gift Plan, we do have a monthly project which either emphasizes missions or a benevolent work. Due to giving, caring, and sharing in the Lord's work, we feel God is definitely getting the glory and is blessing our efforts. It's been thrilling to see God at work in our Auxiliary and through our President, Patty Barr, who has been a real asset in our Auxiliary's growth. We have launched out on several extra projects recently seemingly on faith alone and God has enabled us to do more than we thought possible. I could list the accomplishments if space permitted, but just let me sum it all up this way: Our Auxiliary is growing by doing, and only by total cooperation of each lady and faith in God are we able to do. If *Your* Auxiliary seems to be at a stand-still, try the following: *pray, work, and leave the rest to God.* He'll bless you beyond your imagination. Continue to pray for us that we'll see even more done for the glory of God this year."

PROJECTS AUXILIARIES MAY HAVE

STATE CAMP

(1) Need playground equipment, such as swing sets, etc.

(2) Teaching aids such as visual aids

For further information contact Rev. Bud Arnold, Chairman of Youth Camp Board.

Secretaries and treasurers, your reports need to be in by April 15 since this is a short year. Please get these in on time so that they can be ready for our State Secretary and State Treasurer. Again the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the State officers are being listed.

President
Sandy Smith
Rt. 3, Box 283
Farmington, Mo. 63640
Telephone No. 314-756-4815

Vice President
Helen McAllister
305 W. Columbia
Farmington, Mo. 63640
Telephone No. 314-756-5426

Member at large
Francis Bowman
625 O'Dell
Marshall, Mo. 65340
Telephone No. 816-886-2980

Treasurer
Blanche Wisheart
Myrtle, Mo. 65778
Telephone No. 417-938-4272

Field Worker
Lucille Beatty
2244 Tenbrook Rd.
Arnold, Mo. 63010
Telephone No. 314-287-2969

Secretary
Barbara Harwell
8914 Springdale
Berkeley, Mo. 63134
Telephone No. 314-522-9996

Member at Large
Jean Francis
4744 Minn.
St. Louis, Mo. 63111
Telephone No. 314-352-7970

Member at Large
Ruth Thompson
3416 N. Bellefontaine
Kansas City, Mo. 64155
Telephone No. 816-454-2559

CHECK NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE FOR THE
STATE CONVENTION PROGRAM

01 372090CF653RV0
G COMP
REV R OCFEY
653 RIVER ROUGE
NASHVILLE TN

C 3*****
76093

37209

MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION June 7-10

Trinity Church
12143 Old St. Charles Rock Road
Bridgeton, Missouri

Day Services
Trinity Church

Evening Services
Pattonville School Auditorium

Speakers: Rev. Tom Owens
Rev. Dale Smith
Dr. Bill Jones
Rev. Ken Goff
Rev. Ken Riggs
Youth Service, Monday Evening

Note: Two Special Things For Wednesday Evening

1. Every Church bring a bus load. Goal, 1,000 Let's set a record for our State Association.
2. Every Church bring an offering for the Union—St. Clair Mission (Oak Hill). Let's have a record offering.