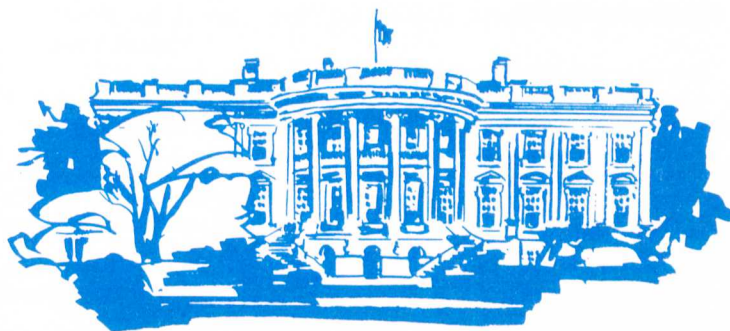
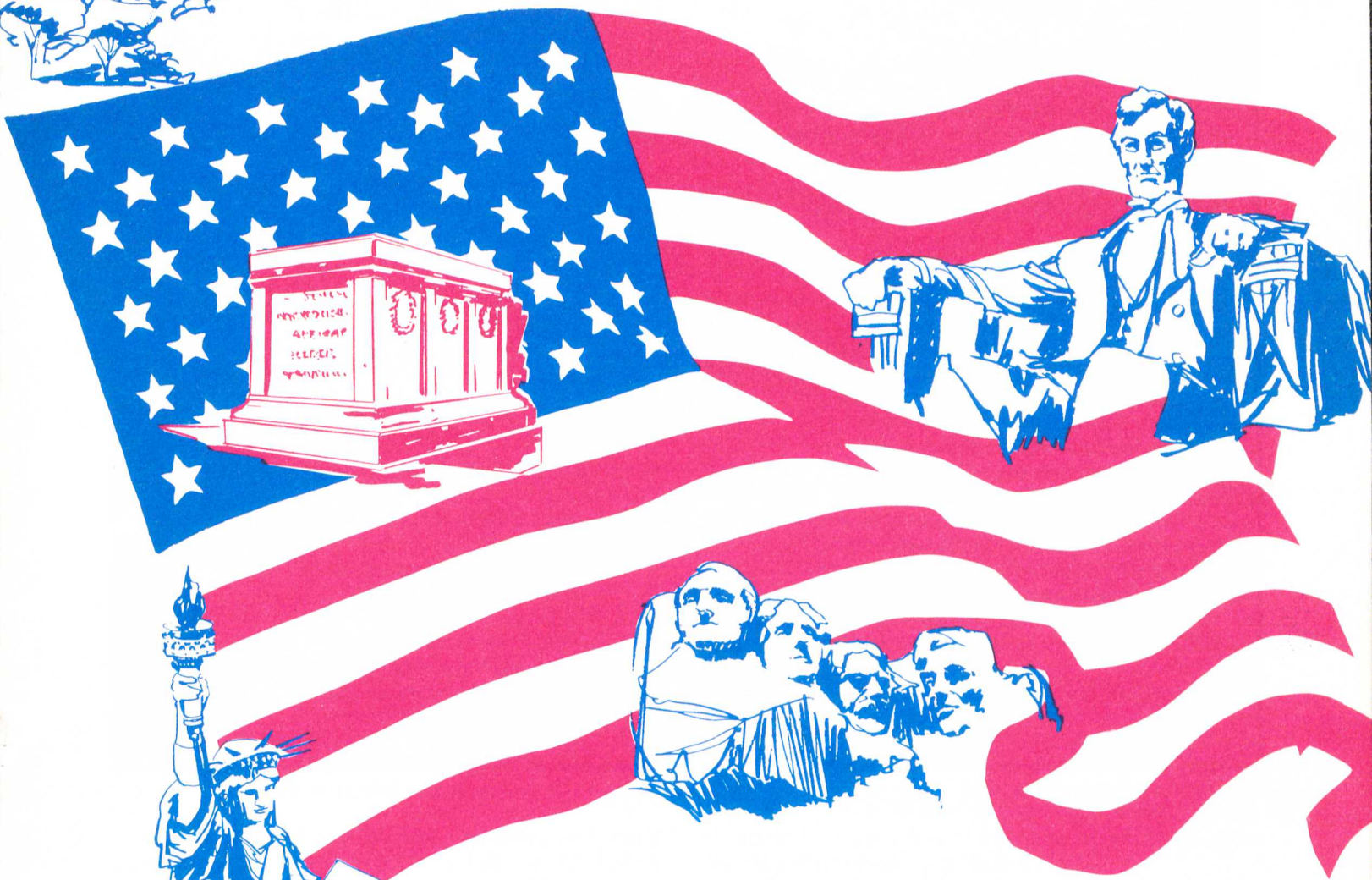


Free Will Baptist

# GEM

"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"

Vol 46 No. 6 June, 1976





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Clarence Burton, editor

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

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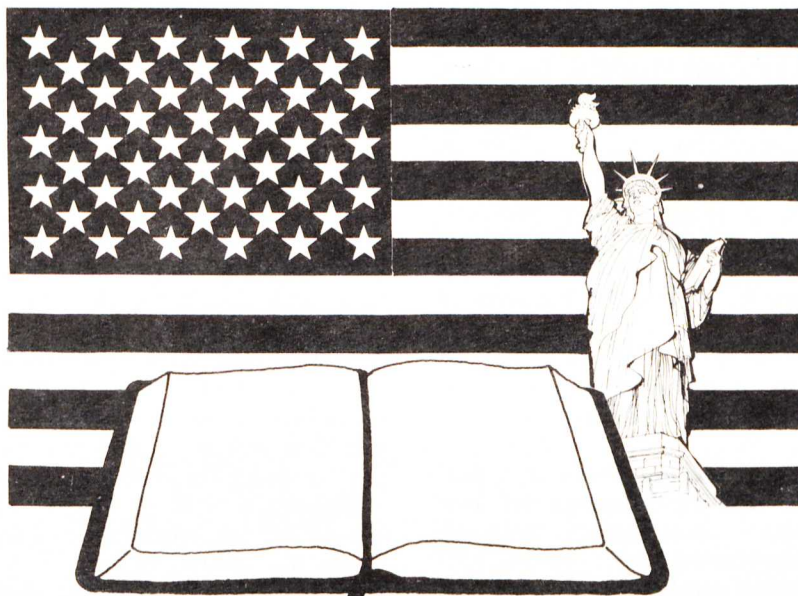
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# Righteousness Exalteth a Nation

*By Rev. Len Gardner*

Approximately 356 years ago, a group of people, having faith in God and believing His Word, yet unable to remain true to these beliefs and raise their children according to their beliefs where they were, decided to do something about these circumstances. They decided to move to a new country where they could worship God according to the teachings of His Word. The journey would not be easy, and there was no assurance that they would ever reach their destination; but they had rather be drowned in the depth of the sea than to be drowned by the flood of false doctrine that was flooding their homeland.

Their only hope was the God in whom they placed their faith. Trusting in Him they started their journey across a wide ocean in search of a new home. God was with them, and in 1620 they landed on the shore of a new continent. They left homes, possessions, and friends to come to this new world. Here they found none of these; but they did find the one thing they were seeking, freedom to worship God.

The struggle for survival was not easy, and many failed to survive; but with the help of God they established homes here in their new world.

It was from the descendants of these people, and others that came here for reasons of freedom, that the great nation of the United States of America was populated. With such a heritage as this no wonder it was the greatest Christian nation the world has ever known.

After 150 years of growth and freedom, the forces of Satan began to close in upon the people of this new world, trying to take from them the freedom that their forefathers had sacrificed and died for. The future of their children was in jeopardy, and men were again called upon to sacrifice, to suffer, and to die that future generations might enjoy freedom, and have freedom to worship God. Men suffered and died, and called

upon their God, and God gave them the victory. The victory came only by the help of God in answer to prayer; but God gives victory to those who trust in Him and are willing to sacrifice and suffer for His cause.

This was 200 years ago. This year, 1976, we celebrate the bicentennial anniversary of American freedom. Because of the sacrifice, the suffering, and the faith in God of our forefathers, we have enjoyed 200 years of freedom and prosperity.

During those 200 years there have been struggles, and at times sacrifice and bloodshed, but that faith in God has remained steadfast; and God has allowed freedom to remain. At one time we were engaged in a great civil war, as Abraham Lincoln said, "Testing whether this nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure." The nation did endure; because, although there was a disagreement over policies and principles, both sides still held to that faith in God upon which our country was established. It is that dedication to God that has kept the United States of America strong, and the strength of America will continue in proportion to the way we exercise our faith in God.

In 1 Samuel 15:17 God, speaking through His prophet Samuel, said: "When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?"

Our Lord said, "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased, and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" Luke 14:11.

When the United States of America was weak and humble before God, God exalted her to a great nation.

I say with humble heart that America has been the greatest Christian nation the world has ever known, and I am proud to be an American. I am truly thankful for our forefathers that sacrificed and died that we might live in this great nation. ➡



But I must also say, and with sad heart, that America is not now the Christian nation that it has been. There are still many good Christian people in America that trust in the Lord, and I believe that is why the Lord still blesses America. But, in general, the actions and attitudes of the American people are not as Christian as those of our forefathers.

That faith in God is growing weaker. We find more and more people even questioning the existence of God. I am sorry to say that we as Christians have failed to impress upon the people the reality of Christ.

Amos 6:1 says, "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came."

What America has been during these last 200 years was due to the accomplishments of our forefathers. What America is now, and will be in the years ahead depends upon you and me.

This year as we celebrate the bicentennial of the American Revolution, we again stand at the crossroads. The road that America takes now will determine her future. We must have revival now or it may soon be too late. I believe this year is the year for revival in America. I believe this year of 1976 will determine the future of America. We will either

turn back to God in 1976, or we will cross God's deadline and reap His judgments. This year is a year when the future of freedom and Christianity hangs in the balances. It is a time that we as Christians need to be much in prayer. It is a time to rededicate our lives to the Lord. The sincere prayer of our hearts should be that America might turn back to God.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land " 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Revival costs. It costs money; it costs time; it costs tears; it costs energy; it sometimes costs pride; but it is worth whatever it costs. Are we willing to pay the price for revival in America?

Naboth told King Ahab, "The Lord forbid that I should sell the inheritance of my fathers."

We the people of the United States of America have a wonderful heritage. Let's keep it that way. That can only be done by humble, sincere prayer and faith in God, and dedicated Christian living.

About the writer: Rev. Len Gardner has pastored several churches in Missouri and has been active in the state work. He is presently serving as general board member of the Niangua Association.

## DESIGNATED GIVING

### FOREIGN MISSIONS

South Side FWB Church	115.00
Bill Fulcher	10.00
Joe Haas	10.00
J. Pinkerton	5.00
C. Hanna	5.00
L. Palmer	85.00
Merl's Chapel FWB Church	32.50
H. Filkins	32.50
Kirksville, First FWB Church	58.00
J. Pinkerton	51.00
H. Filkins	7.00
Mtn. Grove, First FWB Church	519.96
General Fund	95.00
Mike Cousineau	379.96
J. Pinkerton	5.00
Evangel FWB Church	57.00
H. Filkins	28.50
Lynn Miley	14.25
B. Fulcher	14.25
Bethel FWB Church	71.80
Rhodes	66.80
B. Fulcher	5.00
Gateway FWB Church	25.00
H. Filkins	25.00
Thayer FWB Church	52.00
Bishop	33.00
General Fund	19.00
New Harmony Sunday School	124.38
Dr. Miley	37.19
J. McLain	37.19
Call-a-Thon	50.00
Olivet FWB Church	80.00
B. Poole	20.00
J. Pinkerton	10.00
M. Willey	20.00
Lynn Miley	20.00
H. Filkins	5.00
L. Sparks	5.00
Hickory Grove FWB Church	27.45
Steve Lytle	27.45

West Plains FWB Church	60.00
General Fund	50.00
H. Filkins	10.00
Total amount for Foreign Missions	\$1,223.09

### NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Olivet FWB Church	30.00
Vergel Maness	25.00
L. Powell	5.00
First Mission Kansas City	17.50
Vergel Maness	17.50
South Side FWB Church	13.00
McCoy	2.00
V. Maness	5.00
J. Dunn	5.00
L. Powell	1.00
Mtn. Grove FWB	25.00
Vergel Maness	5.00
L. Powell	20.00
Bethel FWB Church	5.00
V. Maness	5.00
Total for National Home Missions	\$90.50

### HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Mtn. Grove First FWB Church	105.00
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### YOUTH CAMP

Olivet FWB Church	10.00
Mtn. Grove First FWB Church	10.00

### MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS

Fredericktown, First FWB Church	5.00
Poplar Bluff	5.00
Thayer FWB Church	59.00
Poplar Bluff	43.00
Owens—Union, Mo	16.00
Purdy FWB Church	5.00
Owens	5.00
Sedalia FWB Mission	25.00
General Fund	25.00
Houston FWB Church	50.00
General Fund	50.00
Total amount to Missouri State Missions	144.00



# CHURCHES

## PEOPLE AND EVENTS

### Good News From Grace

Mrs. Bob Denman, church reporter, writes that several things have taken place at Grace recently. The teens Sweetheart Banquet and Cornation was in February. The new queen for the year is Deneise Howard. The teens raised over six hundred dollars for a project at church.

The last Sunday in February was a very enjoyable day with the New Life Singers from Hillsdale College and lunch being served at church.

The revival services held in April with Brother Dale Skiles was a blessing to the church with several decisions and renewed interest in the church.

The church is thankful for the increase in attendance and trusts the Lord for His continued blessings. Rev. Glen Rehkop is the pastor.

### Special Mother's Day Service At New Life

The New Life Free Will Baptist Church at Licking, Missouri, enjoyed a special Mother's Day service on Sunday evening. Mrs. Sadie Miles, from Raymondsville, Missouri, was the special speaker and presented a very informative and interesting message. Mrs. Miles is a long time resident of that area and is well known for her love for the Lord. Her wit and humor always adds something special to her conversation.

The state promotional secretary and *Gem* editor, Rev. Clarence Burton, was present at the service and gave a report on the state work.

The service was a blessing to the church with the mothers forming the choir and directing the program. Mrs. Aline Hoylman is president of the Woman's Auxiliary.

The pastor, Rev. Max Courtney, gave a welcome report to the church regarding money that has been given in response to purchasing new church furniture. In just two months the people had responded with \$1,196.00.

The Lord is blessing the labor of the New Life Church. Rev. & Mrs. Max Courtney are laboring well with the church and enjoying a fruitful ministry.

Mother's Day at New Life



### Parkview Rejoices

Church reporter, Mrs. Leonard, states: "The Lord is truly blessing the Parkview Church. Since our last report nine people have united with the church, and on Sunday, April 25, the pastor baptized six people in the new baptistry." She also reports that Nick Leonard received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the Free Will Baptist Bible College and he and his wife will be moving to the Virgin Islands. He will be teaching in the Christian Day School that is a part of the Free Will Baptist work on the islands.

### Building At Stockton Nears Completion

Rev. and Mrs. Lavelle Reeves are shown standing in front of the nearly completed building at Stockton, Missouri. Brother Reeves states that the building will be in use, hopefully, by July. The new building will compliment the beautiful site located near the Stockton Lake. This mission project is a work of the Central Western Association.

### Rock Chapel Church Made Of People and Faith

Rock Chapel, the name tells what the building is made of. It doesn't tell what the church is made of—people and their faith. Also, their hard work, devotion to worship, and concern for youth. All are a part of the story of Rock Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. The church is located on E Highway between Norwood and Hartville. The church was organized September 24, 1938. The first worship services were held in the old Owens School House.

The members of the church believed from the start that the future of the church and the community depends on the character and strength of the youth. Therefore, Rock Chapel has had one of the most complete programs for young people of any church in the area. It has paid dividends for the church, with a continuing membership and a willing congregation.

In the summer of 1975 the church employed its first fulltime pastor, Rev. Howard Bowers. The Bowers family moved into a sixty-five foot mobile home on the spacious, park-like church ground. Editor's note: The above article is an excerpt from a community paper. This church has a fine history and is continuing to do well as Rev. and Mrs. Bowers enjoy a fruitful ministry.

Rock Chapel Free Will Baptist Church





## Michael Robertson With The Lord

Erma Austin of Pleasant Grove (Cope) Church writes: Michael Robertson, age fifteen, went to be with the Lord March 21, 1976. He was a very active member of the Bible Bowl Team at the time of his death and had always been involved in competitive activities at the church.

Michael was a victim of cancer, having had a leg amputated April 15, 1975. He had been an active Christian since April, 1972. He talked freely of going to be with the Lord and living in a place of no sickness.

The church will greatly miss this one whom the Lord called home but will find comfort in knowing he is happy in the Savior's care.

Funeral services were conducted at the church March 25, 1976.

## The Singing Jones Family

Evangelist Stanley Jones writes: "To be saved is a wonderful experience. But one of the greatest joys of being saved is seeing someone else saved too." Brother Jones continues by telling about a boy who made an attempt to steal some of their equipment and was later saved in one of their services. He stresses this thought: Only Jesus can change a life and make it clean and right with God.

The Singing Jones Family extends an open invitation to everyone to attend their services as they travel from place to place. They may be contacted by this address and telephone: Route No. 2, Cabool, Missouri or 417-741-7198.

## Glorious Day At Cuba Church

Easter Sunday, April 18, was a glorious day at the Cuba Church. The church reporter mentions several reasons. A new attendance record was set in Sunday school with 143, and 174 attended the morning worship. The Sunday school superintendent and the pastor had to eat chicken and sing "I'll Fly Away" sitting on the roof of the church. It was evident the Lord blessed in the services and is continuing to bless the church. Reverend Grover Pingleton is the pastor and Brother Bob Luke is the superintendent.

Cuba Free Will Baptist Church



## Hillbillies and Older Americans

Sue Winchester of the South Side Church submits this title and article. A contest was recently held to increase the CTS and prayer meeting attendance. The CTS and prayer meeting groups had two captains, one for the "homefolks" or blues, and one called the "kinsmen" or the reds. As a finale to this endeavor a hillbilly social was held. Each person was asked to dress in "Hillbilly garb." The "homefolks" team won. The highlight of the evening was a yawning contest and a pot and pan band under the direction of Maestro Francis.

At a later date the Woman's Auxiliary sponsored a banquet for the "Older Americans" of our church. The pastor, Reverend Robert Francis, brought an excellent devotion using the story of the twelve spies who went into Cannan.

So many times the elders of a church may not be "shut-in" but they may feel "shut-out." The South Side Church does not want this group to feel their work is finished. Remember us in prayer that we may continue to minister to the needs of our community.

## Special Days At Fellowship

Mrs. Betty Reeves church reporter writes: Homecoming Day at Fellowship was just a little preview of the "Great Homecoming" which we are all looking forward to. In looking back over past years, it was on March 16, 1946 that seventy-five people gathered in an old store building on Buckley Street in Flat River, Missouri. Their purpose was to begin a church. Now some thirty years later a church is dedicated to the purpose of preaching and teaching the Word of God.

On Homecoming Day there were three hundred forty-two present for Sunday school. At the morning worship letters were read from former pastors, and Reverend Stanley Outlaw delivered the morning message. Lunch was served in the educational building and the Froud Trio presented special music for the afternoon service. Also, the "original" girls chorus presented several songs, along with the "Choraliers." A group of primary boys and girls sang and gave recitations.

There were nineteen charter members present for

Charter Members of Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church





both morning and afternoon services. These are not included in the picture but were present: Eugene Brooks, Glenda Sherrill, Norma Ruth Williams, and Edna Ruth Meyers.

The church recently elected Reverend Grant Saverance from Timmons ville, South Carolina, as pastor.

### Successful Revival At Niangua

Revival services were held at the Niangua Free Will Baptist Church April 21 through April 28. A very successful revival was reported with sixteen conversions and rededications. Brother Michael Hutsell was the evangelist, The Liberty Boys Gospel Group sang nightly. Brother Ernie Holiday is the pastor.

### Missions and Evangelism Conference, September 27-29

The Missouri State Home Missions Board in connection with the National Home Mission and Church Extension Board has scheduled a Missions and Evangelism Conference September 27-29. Services will begin on Monday evening and continue through Wednesday noon. This conference will be held at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Farmington, Missouri. Special workshops will be held for the Sunday schools with goals of 100, 200, 300, and 400. (It has been noted that these specific goals have been given little attention, with the emphasis on a much higher goal.) One of the featured speakers will be Rev. Connie Cariker, pastor of the West Tulsa Free Will Baptist Church. More information will be forthcoming. Rev. Jim McAllister is pastor of the Farmington Church.

### COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS April 1976

Oskaloosa	\$19.00
South Side	281.13
Central	120.00
Shell Knob Mission	43.66
Macedonia Sunday School	8.00
Merl's Chapel	54.35
Joplin (Ind. Creek Assoc.)	101.15
Kirksville	30.00
Mtn. Grove, First	361.61
Berkeley	421.34
Number One	38.46
Pleasant Ridge	22.90
Mine La Motte	27.00
Grace	623.00
Flat River, First	1,044.55
Salem	20.00
Gospel Light, Bonne Terre	62.52
Byrd	16.00
Marshfield	80.82
Belton	250.00
Hopewell	44.90
Gateway	69.40
Pleasant Hill	15.00
Lebanon, First	370.00
Hannon	164.00
DeSoto	475.00
Norman	26.00
Aulsbury Chapel	228.65
New Harmony Sunday School	5.43
O'Fallon	60.77

Pleasant Home (Mission)	133.28
Central	150.00
Evangel (Feb. & March)	203.62
First Mission Kansas City	80.43
Olivet	130.00
Cuba	88.89
Happy Home	29.86
Carterville	34.09
Bailey Chapel (Niangua Assoc.)	29.00
New Life, Licking	65.25
Copper Mines	100.00
Mill Creek Sunday School	36.90
Mill Creek Church	51.74
New Home, Falcon	27.00
Hickory Grove	37.98
Leadington	153.05
Rock Chapel	24.27
Verdella	97.95
Cabool	124.28
Fourth	325.94
Freedom, St. Charles	123.58
Richwoods	152.18
Columbia	120.00
Calvary Fellowship	261.51
Central	120.00
Willow Springs	140.29
Beacon	100.00
Sedalia Mission	36.32
Monett	238.56
West Plains	221.90
Bailey Chapel (Niangua Assoc.)	34.00
Waynesville	88.00
Alton	44.50
New Harmony	6.15
Parkview	50.00
Bethel	175.36
TOTAL COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS	\$8,920.52
We are grateful as always for the blessings from the Lord.	
Please make checks to and mail to Missouri Association	
of Free Will Baptists, P. O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65536	

### MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSION GIVING: April 5 through May 5, 1976

Myrtle	54.26
South Fremont	316.00
Berkeley	50.00
Grace	50.00
Salem	20.00
Neosho	5.00
Rock Chapel	40.00
DeSoto	100.00
Evelyn Cheatham	10.00
Mo. State Woman's Aux.	158.84
Oak Hill	25.00
South Side	5.00
St. Francois Co. Qtly. Mtg.	90.00
O'Fallon	30.00
Purdy	11.00
Fellowship	23.00
New Home	10.00
Fourth	27.13
Central	20.00
Victory	40.50
West Plains	70.00
Cape Girardeau	13.85
Berean	20.00
Olivet	225.00
Hannon	92.00
Fredericktown	5.00
Thayer	59.00
Sedalia	25.00
Houston	50.00
Cooperative Receipts	1,784.10
Total	3,429.68

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



## On The National Front

Nashville, Tenn.—United States Congressman, John B. Conlan of Arizona will join three Free Will Baptist preachers in addressing the 40th annual session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, July 11-15 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The theme: Fanning the Flames Of Freedom.

The format for this year's conclave includes some changes. Registration for the national convention begins on Sunday afternoon. The National Youth Conference is also advancing its registration one day to Saturday, July 10, beginning at 1:00 p.m. This move is necessary since the youth competitive activities will begin on Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Tulsa's Mayo Hotel will serve as the headquarters for the convention. A complete listing of hotel-motel accommodations being utilized for this meeting will appear in the April and May issues of the *Contact* magazine.

Advance tickets for all meal functions of the National Association except the Youth Banquets may be obtained by using the request form which is given in the May issue of the *Contact*.

### SPEAKERS:



**JOHN B. CONLAN**  
U.S. Congressman  
Arizona



**WINFORD FLOYD**  
Pastor,  
First Free Will Baptist Church  
Elizabethton, Tennessee



**ROBERT SHOCKEY**  
General Director,  
National Home Missions Dept.  
Nashville, Tennessee



**WADE JERNIGAN**  
President,  
California Christian College  
Fresno, California

### CTS Offers New Quarterly Magazine

Teen Encounter a new quarterly magazine for junior high teens will be offered for the 1976 summer quarter. The new magazine will contain thirteen weeks of programming material, as well as feature articles of special interest to young teens. The magazine will sell for \$1.00 with a separate leader's guide selling for \$.60.

### Free Will Baptist Bible College Graduates Eighty-Four

The largest graduating class in Free Will Baptist Bible College history received degrees in commencement exercises May 13. Dr. Bill Jones, president of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, delivered the commencement address and Rev. Ronald Creech, promotional director for North Carolina, preached the Baccalaureate Sermon.

The following students from Missouri received degrees; Bachelor of Arts, Diane L. Chapman, Marshfield, Missouri; Ken Fox, Kansas City, Missouri; Nicholas J. Leonard, Desloge, Missouri; and Charolette A. Tallent, St. Louis, Missouri. The Christian Worker's Bible Diploma was presented to Yvonne H. Thigpen, St. Louis, Missouri.

### COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS APRIL 1976

20.00% Missouri State Home Missions	\$1,784.10
16.25% Promotional Dept.	1,449.58
4.00% General Fund	356.82
5.50% Youth Camp	490.63
2.50% Gem	223.01
1.75% Sunday School & CTS	156.11
2.00% MBI	178.42
52%	\$4,638.67
7.00% Hillsdale College	624.44
13.00% Foreign Missions	1,159.67
9.00% FWBBC	802.85
7.00% Executive Department	624.44
6.50% National Home Missions	579.83
2.50% CTS	223.01
2.50% Retirement and Ins.	223.10
.25% Laymen's Board	22.30
.25% Theological Commission	22.30
41% National Association of FWB	3,657.41
Total Disbursements	\$8,920.52

### The Laborers Are Few

By Diane Evans

The laborers are few for the task of our Lord,  
Few seek true peace, and take up the sword.  
So many are lost and wandering about,  
Stumbling thru life, knowing only fear and doubt.  
Someone must help these scattered sheep;  
Who being lost must surely weep.  
We must tell them the wonderful story of love,  
How Jesus left His home from above.  
If we could help them to know the love of God,  
Let them see Calvary's road that Jesus trod.  
Then another soul can be won to the Lord,  
And the soul winner shall receive his reward.  
Though the harvest be plenteous and the laborers be few,  
God can use each one if to Him we'll be true.



# Promotional Secretary's Corner

by Clarence Burton

April is the first month of another year for the Missouri State Association. The Lord surely blessed the past year and we trust His blessings on this ministry throughout this year. How wonderful to be able to claim the promises of God and know that He will not fail to keep each one.

Let us remember that this ministry is one in which the entire state can and should share. It is only as we give and labor together that we can reap the full benefit of our united efforts. May the Lord bless the churches that are so faithful in sharing in this united plan of support; may each church continue to give and increase the giving that more souls can be brought to Jesus and that more churches can be established for the glory of God.

As always, the churches I visit are so warm and friendly. I thank the Lord for the many fine pastors and church families. How wonderful to be able to fellowship in the Lord and to enjoy a bond of unity that is made possible through the Holy Spirit. May the Lord bless the faithful pastors and churches throughout the state and throughout our denomination.

Inasmuch as there is a lot of church news for this issue of the *Gem* I will list without comment the churches I have had the privilege of visiting.

Saturday, April 3, Cave Springs Quarterly Meeting  
Sunday Morning, April 4, Norman Church  
Sunday Evening, April 4, Byrd Free Will Baptist Church

Saturday, April 10, Madison County Quarterly Meeting

Sunday Morning, April 11, Mill Creek Free Will Baptist Church

Sunday Evening, April 11, First Free Will Baptist Church, Fredericktown

Friday, April 16, Christian Board of Education

Easter Sunday, First Free Will Baptist Church, Lebanon

Saturday Morning, April 24, St. Louis Quarterly Meeting

Saturday Afternoon, April 24, St. Francois Quarterly Meeting

Sunday Morning, April 25, Verdella Free Will Baptist Church

Sunday Evening, April 25, First Free Will Baptist, Joplin

Again, may the Lord bless this work as we share in a worldwide ministry for Him.

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

# A Woman Named Sarah

by Wilma Barr

How I admire Sarah! I see her as a beautiful, elegant princess (as her name suggests), an intelligent and gracious lady. She loved her husband very much and had a deep abiding faith in God. Sarah was surrounded with luxuries, servants, and an exciting social life. But when God called Abraham to leave his homeland, his kindred, and comfortable way of life, Sarah willingly went with him. It seemed that she shared his faith in God in that she was willing to go, not knowing where but believing that God was able to keep His promise. It was quite a promise. Abraham was to be the father of a great nation and yet at this time he and Sarah had no children.

How many of us would be willing to make such a drastic change in our lives? If a move is made it usually means a better job with a more comfortable way of life for the family. It is usually upsetting to the children and, of course, to mom and dad, but the future house and neighborhood has already been selected and this helps to soften the hurt of moving. To be sure most moves today would not compare to the move Abraham and Sarah were asked to make.

I wonder how many men have been cheated out of the best God had for them because they did not listen to God's "go." And, how many more because their wives said, no. Yes, I admire Sarah because she was willing to let Abraham be the man God wanted him to be, even though it meant a sacrifice on her part.

The speaker, at a retreat I attended, asked us, "Have you ever looked at yourself in the mirror and thought, my nose is a wee bit too long, or my eyes should be just a little bit larger—I look pretty good but . . . ." Of course everyone nodded yes. (Scouts honor, men, I'm sure as you shave that handsome face each morning, you've had a very similar thought.) Then the speaker said, "Oh really? You think God made a mistake. Perhaps you could improve on His work." I said that to say this. I believe that one of the greatest needs among Christians today is to see ourselves as we are and accept that which we are as God's creation. Then, allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us and direct us to do the work God wants us to do. We must give to God our talents, recognize our failures, and be willing to share our faith in Christ with everyone with whom we come in contact. We must love Him more than comfortable new homes and shiny new cars. Surely we believe that one lost soul is more precious than the world's material goods. Don't get me wrong. I believe God wants His children to enjoy life, but we should not cheat ourselves out of the



best God has for us. The best comes from knowing, loving, and serving Him.

Yes, I admire Sarah. I admire her for her faith and for the fact that she recognized she could make mistakes. (I can identify with her on that, can't you?) She made a mistake in thinking God would not give her a child as He had promised. She tried to get ahead of God and it created some problems, as it usually does. But before we get too critical of Sarah, let's remember that it had been many years before that God had made the promise to Abraham and both he and Sarah were getting older. Sarah had to learn patience. She did. And, at the appointed time, God kept His promise and gave to them the child He promised. Yes, God always keeps His promise. He always has and He always will.

It took a lifetime, a long lifetime, but I believe that Sarah finally became the woman God intended and planned. How many of us (yes Christians) will

waste a lifetime never bothering to try to be the person God wants us to be? I believe a good way to begin is to use Ephesians 5:19-33 and 6:1-4 as instructions from God to guide our family relationship. This is a must before we can become the person God wants us to be. I say bah-humbug to Woman's Lib!!

We should be thankful that we are who we are and we should be willing to use the talent and ability that God has given to us as a means of being a witness for Christ. God can and will use our efforts to accomplish His will and purpose in each one of our lives. Let's just let Him do it! (Ephesians 4:11-16, Living Bible).

About the writer: Wilma Barr is a housewife and mother of two girls. She is employed part-time as an instructor in computer programming. The Barr Family are members of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Berkeley.

***"But as for me and  
my house, we will  
serve the Lord"*** (JOSH. 24:15)  
*(Except Henry)*

In the home of a devout Christian father hung this motto: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15). The motto was most meaningful to the father. He prayed daily that each one of his children would be saved. In time, each child was genuinely converted except the oldest son. He persistently refused to come to Christ. As the father and son sat alone one day in the room where the motto was displayed, the father said, "I cannot and will not be a liar any longer. You are a member of my household. You reject Christ, and will not serve Him. I must add the following words to the motto: 'Except Henry!' It hurts me to do this, my boy, for I dearly love you and yearn for your conversion!" The tender concern of the father so touched the son that he knelt and prayed the salvation-bringing prayer: "God be merciful to me a sinner!" Then the home was unanimously Christian!

—W.B.K.



# Woman's Page



## NEWS FROM A LOCAL AUXILIARY

A Mother-Daughter Banquet was held May 10, at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Lebanon, Missouri. The theme of the banquet was "Mothers Through History," with the fellowship hall being decorated in red, white, and blue. Mrs. Edna Rabe made four cakes in the shape of the American Flag, and the men of the church served as waiters. The program was in two portions. The first portion was a historical look at some of the mothers in American History who had an influence on their children or on American History. The second portion of the program was given by Mrs. Joan Hart. In her part of the program she showed how certain Biblical women had influenced their children. She and her daughter Mila Jo, sang "I'm Something Special," by Bill Gaither. At the close of the program three flower arrangements were given to the oldest, youngest, and the mother with the most children. The Auxiliary also presented our outgoing president, Mrs. Barbara Call, with an Open Bible. The picture below are the ladies who were in the program. They are: front row, Stacey and Kathy Florence, and Melinda and Leigh Anne Engsberg. Back row left to right: Pansy Shannon (Betsy Ross), Debbie Fincher (Dolly Madison), Vivian Burton (Martha Washington) Janet Florence (Nancy Lincoln), Beth Florence (Eleanor Roosevelt), and Gloria Engsberg (Colonial Woman).

## Reports From District Auxiliaries

In February, the St. Francois District Auxiliary met at the Fellowship Church in Flat River, Mo. The



program was entitled "CHRISTMAS IN FEBRUARY" and a Christmas theme was carried out in the decorations and refreshments. A special song sung by the Woman's Ensemble from the Farmington Church was entitled "Sounds of Love." Mrs. Mary Grieshaber presented an object lesson as she trimmed a Christmas tree. She explained how each ornament could be used to tell the Christmas story. The main thought was "unless you see the Cross overshadowing the Cradle, you have lost the true meaning of Christmas." A slide presentation of scenes from the life of Christ were spotlighted during the program with a cross placed where a shadow fell across the scenes. Speakers from the churches presented the life of Christ from the announcement to Mary until His return. As the last slide was shown of Christ returning in the clouds of glory, a trumpet blast was played. The State Home Missions Offering was presented by each Auxiliary in a Christmas decorated form. The Fellowship offering was made by Mrs. Janet Bailey. She made a money tree and placed it on red velvet encasing it in an antique white picture frame. The base of the tree was a \$20 bill with the body of the tree being made of folded \$1.00 bills. The star was a silver half-dollar, the balls were shiny quarters, and the tinsel was made of polished copper pennies. The next meeting will be held in May at the Fredericktown Church.

The St. Louis District Woman's Auxiliary met Tuesday evening, March 23, at the Grace Free Will Baptist Church in Arnold, Missouri, for a very special program honoring a very special lady. Mrs. Jean Francis, district president, compiled the program, "Tribute to a Gracious Lady" in honor of Mrs. Lucille Beatty. Mrs. Wilma Barr served as the program emcee. Words of praise and honor were paid to Mrs. Beatty by Audrey Mungel, Miriam Wilhite, Sue Winchester, Barbara Harwell, Jean Francis, and Mrs. Beatty's pastor, Rev. Glenn Rekhop. At the close of the program, a plaque was presented to Mrs. Beatty which reads as follows: "In appreciation to a Co-Laborer (Lucille Beatty) for her dedication and faithful service to the St. Louis District Woman's Auxiliary, March 23, 1976."

## STATE TREASURER'S REPORT

Fill Filkins's Workshop	
Balance as of May 1, 1976	\$2,082.43
Perpetual Loan Fund	
Balance brought forward April 10, 1976	\$2,980.36
Mtn. Grove Aux.	5.00
Willow Springs Aux.	1.00
Farmington Aux.	2.00
Fellowship Aux.	25.64
Grace Aux.	3.00
O'Fallon Aux.	20.00
Central Aux.	153.35
Purdy Aux.	5.00
Total as of May 1, 1976	\$3,195.77



# The Free Will Baptist Gem

Looking back through many years,  
It was nineteen twenty-nine,  
The Lord led through His people,  
A newsletter to refine.  
Missouri Free Will Baptists  
Through the blessed will of Him,  
Voted a publication  
It was, "*Free Will Baptist Gem*."

The *Gem* was something special  
As each reader would denote,  
T'was news from Free Will Baptists  
Individuals were the ones who wrote.  
Our editors had talent  
And they edited the news;  
A forthcoming revival  
Or a missionary's views.

A pastor's blessed message  
Always something to behold,  
There on the written pages  
Of the *Gem* it was retold.  
Our missions were promoted  
Financial reports given,  
And as we read the message  
They gave a touch of Heaven.

T'was in nineteen thirty-five  
Our first missionary went  
Over there to India  
Laura Belle Barnard was sent.  
And the *Gem* told the story  
On its pages there to see  
She sailed across the ocean  
To help set the people free.

Brother and Sister Willey  
Heeded the Master's Call,  
And down to Cuba traveled  
To preach God's Word to all.  
Through the years others followed  
Miles and miles both far and near,  
They helped to spread the Gospel  
Relieving hearts filled with fear.

Oh yes, there were many facts  
That were published in the *Gem*,  
Our Free Will Baptist Youth Camp  
In Niangua did begin.  
The children came to study  
God's Word was for them all,  
The power of the Master  
Gave to all the Freedom Call.

And there was Brother Beatty  
A preacher tried and true,  
Was called to serve Missouri  
In a chore he loved to do.  
The Co-op Plan of Giving  
Needed someone of acclaim,  
To promote Co-op giving  
And of this he did proclaim.

The Family Plan was started  
T'was a successful venture,  
Each church paid the subscription  
Gave the price for each member.  
So that all could read its pages  
And be more informed you see,  
All the printed facts written  
Of the news of Missouri.

One hundred and two churches  
Are on the Family Plan,  
There's yet forty eight churches  
And I say, "Please try this plan,"  
For its one of God's blessings  
To enjoy yes one by one  
For on its many pages  
Tells the work that's being done.

I thank the Blessed Master  
For these moments spent with Him  
For His help in this tribute  
To the Free Will Baptist *Gem*.  
Without Him I am nothing  
But with Him I'll surely win  
With this I close this tribute  
To The Free Will Baptist *Gem*.

"God Bless You All"

Leamon Killian

Editor's note: Brother Killian wishes to express his thanks to those who have cooperated with him in preparing these articles for the *Gem*. He will return material sent to him as quickly as possible. He expresses his personal appreciation to the editors of the *Gem* for their help and for the fine work in supplying a need to the Free Will Baptists of Missouri. He wrote this poem on New Year's Eve and gives it as his final tribute to the *Gem*. May the Lord bless you, Brother Killian.