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Free Will Baptist

GEM

"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"



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The King and the Kingdom

by Winford Davis

Editor's note: There are several different views relative to eschatology. Some will agree and some will disagree with the views of the writer. As is stated on the inside cover of the GEM, 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.

That there is a spiritual kingdom in the hearts of men is granted. This article is set forth with no intention whatever of trying to disprove that fact. But we must bear in mind there is a vast, and distinct, difference between this spiritual heart enthronement and the coming millennial kingdom of our Lord; which kingdom will be the fulfilment of the following words of the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

During the mock trial given our Lord, Pilate, the Roman governor, asked Him as follows: "Art thou the King of the Jews?" All four gospel writers record this (Matthew 27:11, Mark 15:2, Luke 23:3, John 18:33, 37). The answer Jesus gave, as recorded by John, is a little more explicit than that recorded by any of the remaining three writers. Jesus answered, as given in John 18:37, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world." Going back to verse 36 Jesus had given him a previous answer, as follows: "My kingdom is not of this world." True, in the face of the rebellious attitude and unbelief of the Jews at that time, His kingdom could not be of this world. So, during this interim period, which we commonly call the Church Age, He is enthroned, when He comes in His second advent, to put down all rule, authority and power (1 Corinthians 15:24), and to take His rightful place upon the throne of David in Jerusalem (literally), neither at that time will His kingdom be of this world; that is, this present worldly sinful order and system of things. He did not say, "My kingdom is not of this EARTH," but He said, "My kingdom is not of this WORLD." So it isn't. Neither now, nor in His glorious kingdom to come, as so vividly prophesied by Zechariah in Zechariah 14:9, which says, "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one." In the example

prayer the Lord gave He admonishes us to pray thus, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth."

The Christ has never yet come into His full position of authority and power. And this is not stated with even the least intent of minimizing to any degree the miracle of our wonderful heartfelt salvation of the present. But go with us to the Book of Hebrews, chapter 2, verse 8, which says, "Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. BUT NOW WE SEE NOT YET ALL THINGS PUT UNDER HIM" Verse 9 says, "But we see Jesus." Yes, during this grace or Church Age, we are privileged at all times to look up by faith and see our blessed Lord, our sympathizing Savior, our redeemer, and our coming king. Sometimes we must see Him through tear dimmed eyes and from out of deepest sorrow; but by this strong eye of faith we can at all times see Jesus. Praise the Lord! According to Revelation 3:21 He is not at this time seated upon His own throne, quote, "To him that overcometh WILL I [future tense] grant to sit with me in MY THRONE, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." In this connection let us also consider Matthew 20:20-23, which says, "Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children [James and John] with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him." Verse 21 says, "And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. Verse 22 says, "But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. And verse 23 says, "To sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but IT SHALL BE GIVEN [future tense] to them for whom it is prepared of my Father."

It was prophesied over and over that He would be king. He said of himself that He was born to be king. The angel told the virgin Mary He would be king: "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:31-33). Some one asked the question, "How shall we reconcile the Scriptures by saying that the kingdom will last for one thousand years, while in this statement to Mary (and elsewhere) it is stated that to His kingdom there shall be no end?" The answer is clear when we read 1 Corinthians 15:24, 25, which says, "Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet." The nature, or quality, of the righteous reign shall never end: it will only change hands.

There are myriads of Scriptures worthy of note in this discussion, but we can only consider a comparative few. In Paul's writings to Timothy, 2 Timothy 4:1, he wrote, "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall

judge the quick and the dead at his appearing, AND HIS KINGDOM." Notice carefully that it says, AT HIS APPEARING AND HIS KINGDOM. In Acts 15:16, we read, "After this I will return, and build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up." It is clear in the context that what is meant by the words "after this" is after the taking out of the Gentiles a people for his name.

One of the most outstanding signs of the time in which we live is the clearcut evidence that the Gentile age is closing and at the same time the Jewish people are coming back into their own. The wild olive branches are being broken off and the natural olive branches are being grafted back in, as is so marvelously illustrated by the Apostle Paul in Romans chapter 11. The breaking off or the grafting in of the olive branches, as used illustratively in this chapter, whether wild or natural, has always depended upon either faith or loss of faith in Him who died for all. True, the Jews in their present return to the land of Israel are, in the main, (though there are many exceptions) returning in unbelief, but the day is coming, and surely ere long, when under the severe judgments of God during the approaching great tribulation period, the Jews will look up and acknowledge Him whom they pierced (Rev. 1:7).

Let us make this observation of the setting of the transfiguration experience, as given by three of the gospel writers; namely, Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Please turn with us to Matthew, chapter 17. To be found in this lesson are a number of the great, and deep, doctrinal truths of the Word of God. Among the several truths which are substantiated here is the long range prophetic truth of the coming glorious millennial reign of our Lord. Every element of the coming thousand year reign of Christ is portrayed in this lesson. In fact it is a picture of the kingdom in miniature. Verse 28, the last verse of chapter 16, is a passage over which some people stumble. They have difficulty understanding the consistent meaning of this passage. Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom." Going on into chapter 17, verses 1 and 2, we find this statement, "And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, and was transfigured before them." (Tradition says this was Mt. Tabor, while some say Mt. Hermon. The writer is inclined more favorably toward it having been Mt. Tabor.) Yes, after the short duration of only six days, the last verse of chapter 16 was fulfilled before the eyes of some who were standing in His presence when He uttered those futuristic statements. Matthew and Mark both state definitely that it was after six days. Luke is a bit indefinite as he says that it was "about an eight days after." He is not definite; but Matthew and Mark are definite. There is a great prophetic truth taught in the use of the term six days. Earth's prophetic week consists of seven one thousand year days (speaking, of course, as from the beginning of the six days work in Genesis first chapter). The seventh day is the earth's sabbath, her day of rest, quiet and peace under the

righteous rulership of the Prince of Peace. So, after the sixth one thousand year day, He will come in kingdom glory to take the reins of government, and, mind you, we are living now in the very closing hours of the sixth day. Very striking, isn't it? Bible numerology is a great study. You remember at the close of World War I the armistice was signed at the eleventh hour of the day, on the eleventh day of the month, the eleventh month of the year, eleven months after General Edmund Allenby took Jerusalem from the cruel Turks without having to fire a shot? Many living today recall that. Why all the elevens, you may ask? It was God's prophetic clock striking the eleventh hour of Gentile supremacy. Our Gentile age has been in the process of closing from that day until now.

We stated above that every element of the future kingdom of our Lord was portrayed in the Transfiguration of the mountain. (The term "*mountain*" in Scripture symbolism means "*government*.") Jesus was there, of course, in kingdom glory. Moses and Elijah glorified are representative of those who will enter the kingdom through death and through the translation of the saints (the rapture)—Moses having died and Elijah having been translated. Peter, James, and John, not glorified, are representative (for the moment) of Israel in the flesh in the future kingdom (Ezekiel 37:21-27). The multitude at the foot of the mountain (Matthew 17:14) are representative of the nations who are to be brought into the kingdom after it is established over Israel, (Isaiah 11:10-12) etc.

I would like to consider many more Scriptures, but space, I am sure, will not permit an article of any further length. However, allow us to make mention of the great parable in Luke, chapter 19; commonly called the parable of the ten pounds. It is given as the parable of TEN pounds simply because among many things taught in the parable is the fact of the postponement of the thousand year reign, and the work being turned over to the Gentiles for the duration of this the church age. The number ten in Bible numerology is the Gentile number. Hence ten pounds were delivered to the ten servants of the nobleman with the charge, "Occupy till I come." In the mean time the Jewish people have been in the diaspora (dispersion), receiving their seven times punishment, as mentioned three different times in Leviticus, chapter 26. A TIME in Bible numerics is 360; the length of a Jewish year. Seven time 360 years totals 2,520 years. This period of seven times punishment upon Israel had its beginning with the carrying away to Babylon in 606 B.C., and ended with the opening of World War I in A.D. 1914. You will notice this nobleman, who represents the Christ, went away to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. Then in verse 15, we read, "And it came to pass, that when he was returned, *having received the kingdom*." The favorable statements made by the nobleman in verses 17 and 19, "Have thou authority over ten cities" and "Be thou also over five cities," are kingdom language. Also we read, "And they lived and reigned [ruled] with Christ a thousand years" (Revelation 20:4). Note the thousand years is made mention of six times in Revelation 20. The first verse of this parable states the reason for Jesus

having given it," Because he was nigh to Jerusalem (their capital city), and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear." He was endeavoring to teach them that because of His being rejected by His own (the Jewish people) it was therefore necessary that the kingdom be postponed.

Some historian said the Lord came the first time when the world was most ready for Him. If that be true then, let us offer this question: Why then didn't the world more readily receive Him? Exactly the opposite is true. Instead of Him coming at a time when the world was most ready for Him, He came at a time when the world needed Him most. So it is going to be at His Second Coming. He will come at a time when the world will be needing Him as it has not needed Him since He went away. We say, if the world ever did need Him in all its history, it needs

Him NOW. This world is in tremendous need of the Theocratic Government of God. Christ, and Him only, will ever be able to bring us out of the sin and degradation into which we have fallen. We get hungry for that great day when will be fulfilled that precious beatitude spoken by our Lord, "Blessed are the meek: for they SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH." We get anxious for that time when He will come back to earth WITH HIS SAINTS (those having gone with Him in the rapture). This is so beautifully pictured in Revelation 19:11-16, when He will come to climax Armageddon with a name written on His thigh, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." So we say with John as in Revelation 22:20, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

About the writer: Rev. Winford Davis is pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Greenfield, Missouri

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS July, 1976

Pleasant Hill	\$15.00
Hurryville	85.38
Hurryville	123.65
Byrd	16.24
Bailey Chapel	26.00
Alton	37.00
Number One	26.81
Houston	138.13
Oak Hill-Union	102.77
Berkeley	392.16
Grant Ave.	379.51
Pleasant Ridge	22.75
Salem	20.00
Hannon	132.00
Bethel	158.74
Old Bethel	30.00
Grace	525.90
Rock Chapel	27.09
Berean	80.00
New Rock Springs	60.00
Farmington	648.12
Faith	156.68
Olivet	175.00
Freeman Chapel	91.01
New Life-Licking	65.25
New Prospect	10.75
Indian Creek Assoc.-Joplin Church	80.12
Mountain Grove, First	387.74
Mountain Grove, First	368.97
Coppermines	100.00
Divine Trinity	31.56
Thayer	160.90
First Mission, Kansas City	62.75
New Harmony Sunday school	5.23
Verdella	78.50
Waynesville	20.00
Marshfield	91.18
Carterville	24.52
Pleasant Home	118.31
Cabool	107.01
Cuba	74.04
Trinity	325.00
Mill Creek Sunday school	35.29
Mill Creek	54.07
Mountain Valley	191.20
Happy Home (Ava)	39.17
Leadington	564.07
Calvary Fellowship	326.00
Aulsbury Chapel	256.36
Sikeston	73.53
Fourth	381.75
Beacon	100.00
Fellowship	50.00

DeSoto	375.00
Pleasant Grove	15.47
El Dorado Springs	5.00
Union, Success	60.00
Black Oak	10.00
Richwoods	94.93
Sedalia Mission	47.38
Kirkville	30.00
Bailey Chapel	30.00
Oskaloosa	49.68
Central	120.00
Alton	42.65
New Harmony Sunday school	5.54
Parkview	50.00
Houston	119.05
Union Grove-April-May-June	265.00
Total Cooperative Receipts	\$8,972.91

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSION GIVING JULY 5 through AUGUST 5, 1976

Berkeley	\$25.00
Salem	10.00
Malden	120.00
Hannon	132.00
Purdy	6.00
Rock Chapel	20.00
South Fremont	150.00
Olivet	225.00
Myrtle	78.45
Grace	25.00
Berean	40.00
Neosho	5.00
The Jones Family	291.15
Flat River First	36.91
Kingsway	25.00
Columbia	5.00
Fellowship	23.00
Central	20.00
Fourth	30.00
Sedalia	20.00
Houston	50.00
St. Louis Dist. Qtr. Mtg.	42.31
Poplar Springs-Iuka, Ms.	10.00
Waynesville	10.00
Oklahoma State	150.00
Cooperative Receipts	1,794.59
Total	\$3,345.41

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Kansas City, Mo. 64117

THE
NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT
OF EVANGELISM

Presents

Church Evangelism Conference

September 27-29, 1976

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
303 West Columbia
Farmington, Missouri

Theme:

"INCREASING YOUR ATTENDANCE TO 300"

Home Missions Director Robert Shockey
Associate Director Roy Thomas
Host Pastor Jim McAllister

*Special seminar for women, "*Coping with Children, Cottage, Companion, Church, and Community*" will be taught by Mrs. Roy Thomas on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

*Special music throughout the Conference:
Farmington Church Choir
Oklahoma Ministers Quartet
Jones Family

CHURCH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

Monday:

6:00 p.m. Registration
7:00 p.m. Congregational singing,
John Smith, Director

Presiding Roy Thomas
Introduction and welcome Clarence Burton
Music Farmington Choir
Message Trymon Messer

8:00 p.m. Congregational singing
Offering
Music Oklahoma Ministers Quartet
Message Connie Cariker

Tuesday:

9:00 a.m. Congregational singing
(Women's Seminar, Pat Thomas)

Music Oklahoma Ministers Quartet
Seminar "Your church can grow,"
Trymon Messer
9:45 a.m. Seminar
"How West Tulsa Has Grown," Connie Cariker
10:30 a.m. Fellowship time
11:00 a.m. Worship

Congregational singing
Special Music, Jones Family
Message, Bob Shockey
12:00 noon Lunch
1:30 p.m. Seminar
"Organizing to Grow," Jim McAllister
2:15 p.m. Seminar
"Growing Through Promotion," Bob Shockey
3:00 Seminar
"Conserving Growth," Wesley Bigelow
3:45 Fellowship time

Tuesday evening:

7:00 p.m. Congregational Music
Announcements
Jones Family Singers
Message, Roy Thomas
Congregational singing
Offering
Farmington Ensemble
Oklahoma Ministers Quartet
Message, Connie Cariker

Wednesday:

Women's Seminar, Pat Thomas
9:00 a.m. Jones Family Singers
9:45 a.m. Seminar
"Growth through soul winning,"
Trymon Messer
Seminar
"Ministering to all ages,"
Connie Cariker
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
11:00 a.m. Congregational singing
Oklahoma Ministers Quartet
Message, Jim Walker
12:00 noon Lunch
1:30 p.m. Seminar
"Growth through the Bus Ministry,"
Bob Shockey
2:15 p.m. Seminar
"Providing and paying for space for Growth,"
Jim McAllister

NEW ACTIVITY PACKET READY

Activity materials which involve the pupil in coloring, cutting, pasting, folding, etc., have been developed for use with children four to eight years of age. These materials are especially designed for correlation with existing Children's Church Guides.

The packet contains five sets of thirteen different pieces of handwork, thus each packet will contain

enough handwork for five children. The cost is \$2.00 per packet or a cost of only \$.40 per capita per quarter.

Packet No. 1 is ready for the fall quarter Children's Church Guide, Book No. 1. Packets for the three remaining quarters are being developed in time for shipment as needed.

Mrs. Myrtle Reeds, Primary-Junior editor for the Sunday School Department, is responsible for the development of these new aids.

CHURCHES PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Rev. Frank Linton Available For Revival Services



Rev. Frank Linton recently resigned the pastorate of the Hopewell Free Will Baptist Church. Brother Linton served as pastor for twenty-seven years. Following his resignation, the Lintons made an extended trip to several churches in the western part of the United States.

Brother Linton is now available for revival services. He preaches the Word with power, compassion, and sincerity. His experience in the ministry and his knowledge of the Free Will Baptist work enables him to be a blessing to any church.

He may be contacted at this address and telephone. Rev. Frank Linton, Route 1, Box 7, Tunas, Missouri 65764. Telephone: 417-993-4975

First Church in Flat River Burns Mortgage Note

Church reporter, Brenda Houhn writes: The Lord has blessed in a wonderful way and we give Him the praise!

First of all we thank Him for the ones who have made profession of faith. Also, we are grateful for the ones who have followed the Lord in water baptism.

Secondly, we are grateful for the beautiful plaque awarded the First Church in a recent Sunday school convention. The church was represented with the largest attendance.

Thirdly, we are thankful that we paid the mortgage note, for remodeling, in just two years. The note was set for a longer period of time.

How great is our God!

Homecoming and Centennial Date Set At Hickory Grove

The Hickory Grove Free Will Baptist Church will be observing its 100th anniversary on Sunday, October 10. This will be homecoming day with basket dinner at the church.

The church was organized in a log cabin building on October 6, 1876, with 17 charter members. They were: John L. Stephens, Mary Stephens, Coleman J. Fudge, Louisiana Fudge, Fannie Stephens, Ellen Moul, P. S. Ryle, Margaret A. Ryle, Orlando Lozier, Opasura Lozier, John Moul, Anna E. Moul, Thomas

W. Haydon, John W. Stephens, Matilda Stephens, and James Wilson. Rev. J. K. Lacy was the first pastor.

Everyone is extended a cordial invitation to attend the services and a special invitation is extended to relatives of the charter members.



Old-Fashioned Day At Twin Oaks

The Twin Oaks Free Will Baptist Church enjoyed an Old-Fashioned Day at the church on July 18 with an attendance of 96. All services were held out of doors.

Bob Kemp, Sunday school superintendent, was assisted by Rosemary Kemp, secretary, and song leaders Bob Thebeau and Jeanne Lunsford. Roy Thomas and Jeanne Pirtle were in charge of the Sunday school classes.

Church reporter, Mary McFarland, writes, "There were many colorful long dresses and old-fashioned bonnets. Many of the men wore overalls and some of the people walked over four miles, and made it on time!"

The pastor, Rev. Truman Huffman, delivered the morning message, dressed in overalls. Special singing was presented by different groups from the church, and a bountiful dinner was enjoyed in the shade of the trees in the front yard.

In the afternoon there was special singing and Rev. Huffman read a history of the church. Special honor was given to one of the charter members Emma Martin.

It was a wonderful day for members and friends who gathered once again at the "little white church" that stands by the side of the road. May it always be a lighthouse to those who pass by.

Rev. E. E. Simpson Honored At Special Service

The Pleasant Ridge Free Will Baptist Church was host to the Cave Springs Association, Sunday, July 18, for the purpose of honoring Rev. E. E. Simpson. Brother Simpson has been a faithful minister in service for the Master for over forty-seven years.

Brother Simpson delivered the morning message with his Scripture reading from Hebrews chapter 11. The subject was "The Faithful Patriarchs Of Old." The message was very stirring and spoken with authority. The congregation was moved deeply.

Rev. Virgil Blankenship presented a beautiful plaque on behalf of those present as a token of appreciation for the ministry of this wonderful



soldier of the Cross. Many of his relatives were present. Some of the daughters and granddaughters sang a special in his honor.

A fellowship lunch was served at the church with the special service being held in the afternoon. Approximately twenty ministers, many deacons, and a host of friends from various churches were present. Testimonies were given telling of the help and kindness shown by Brother Simpson through his many years of Christian service.

Rev. Charles Hollis, pastor of the Pleasant Ridge Church, writes, "Brother Simpson has been a real asset to me, as a member of the church. His love is manifested each time he speaks. He is unable to drive because of poor vision and spends much time caring for his invalid wife. May the Lord continue to bless this servant of the Lord."



Sister Melba White Promoted To Glory

Sister Melba White, a lifelong resident of Clinton County, was involved in an automobile accident nearly three months ago. She was hospitalized until her death. Sister White was a member and ordained minister of the Mount Zion Free Will Baptist Church.

She professed faith in Christ at an early age and served the Lord as a faithful Christian. She traveled extensively through the state of Missouri in service for the Lord. For the past several years she has cared for her invalid mother and aging father. After their passing she became engaged in practical nursing.

Services were held at the Mount Zion Church with Rev. David Homan officiating.

Twentieth Anniversary At Grant Avenue

Pastor Ted Wilbanks has announced the Grant Avenue Free Will Baptist Church will be holding twentieth anniversary services, Saturday evening and Sunday, October 16 and 17. Everyone is invited. Program plans will be forthcoming.

Rev. John Long Promoted To Glory

Services were held for Brother Long on July 28 at the Parkview Free Will Baptist Church with Rev. Glen Rehkop and Rev. Guy Leonard officiating.

Brother Long had been in the ministry for forty-three years. He pastored several churches in the Lead Belt area and was the pastor of the Parkview Church when the new building was built. He was a faithful servant of the Lord.

He is survived by his wife Myrtle and six children, all of whom are active in the work of the Lord. One son, Vernon, is a minister.

Reverend Long was a member of the St. Francois Conference and held church membership with the Parkview Free Will Baptist Church.

Remodeling Completed At The Parkview Church

The remodeling on the church building is completed, writes church reporter, Cleo Leonard. A new baptistry has been installed, the choir loft enlarged and the pulpit area extended. The entire church has been painted and several classrooms carpeted.

Missionaries Eddie and Sandra Payne and children had services with the church on August 8. Rev. Homer Willis will be the evangelist for revival services October 4-10. Everyone is invited.

Freedom Church Announces Special Service For Building Fund

Matt Frienon of the Freedom Free Will Baptist Church is arranging a gospel singing on Saturday evening, October 2, at 7:30 at Lindenwood College auditorium in St. Charles, Missouri. There is no admission. However, an offering will be received with the proceeds going to the Freedom Church building fund. Rev. Bill Samples from Tulsa, Oklahoma, will bring a brief message. Everyone is invited.

The church is still thanking God for the seven who made profession of faith at the revival in April and the ones who followed the Lord in water baptism. The baptismal service was held at the Cuivre River.

Special Recognition Given To the Askrens

On Thursday evening, August 12, the last week of Youth Encampment, the Youth Camp Board presented a clock-radio to Rev. and Mrs. Pinkney Askren and family. This was given as an expression of appreciation for the faithful service the family has rendered in caring for the camp the past four years. Rev. Bud Arnold, youth camp board chairman, stated, "Rev. and Mrs. Askren and their family have served faithfully and effectively. They shall be missed and difficult to replace." Brother Askren's health necessitated the retirement.



LIBERTY WITH A FRENCH TWIST

The date, July 4, 1976, was one all Americans will long remember. There were various ways of celebrating the Bicentennial, but some forgot about one of our most cherished liberties, freedom of worship. God, who gives the truest form of liberty, should have been a vital part of the celebration. We, at Southside Church, celebrated the morning of the fourth with a time of reflection centered around the theme of Liberty. It was a simple, patriotic service without much fanfare. If it had been more, then it would have overshadowed the Cross, the Christian's "Statue of Liberty." That evening, Rev. Harvey Hill, former pastor and "historical" figure in the founding of our church, gave an excellent devotional and a bit of spiritual "pep talk." Following that service, we enjoyed the fellowship during an old-fashioned ice cream social. There's nothing better (or more fattening) on a muggy evening than homemade ice cream.

The last Sunday of the month we were privileged to have the Haas family and some of their French church members. It was like a live missionary slide. I may not have been able to understand the French language, but the glow on the French couple's faces was evidence that Christ lived in their hearts. Many who witnessed the same at the National Association could perhaps describe it differently. As I sat in the service that morning, these thoughts entered my mind. In 1884 France gave to America the historical Statue of Liberty. In more recent years, America, through the divine calling of God, has given to France some fine consecrated men and women who are sharing the greatest gift, the good news of Christ. This gift has a far greater significance and a much higher price was paid.

May we ALL continue to cherish the liberty Christ died to give to us by sharing the gospel with the less fortunate.

Sue Winchester, Church Reporter

Plan For Financing of National Association In Kansas City, 1978

The following plan was adopted by the Missouri State Association at the recent 1976 session.

We propose that the needed funds (\$5,000) be raised on an associational level with the following goals for each association: Cave Springs—\$425; Central Western—\$425; Indian Creek—\$600; Greater Kansas City—\$600; Laclede County—\$100; Liberty—\$400; Mission—\$800; Niangua—\$125; Northeast—\$150; Northwest—\$50; St. Louis District—\$500; St. Francois—\$500; Madison—\$400.

To avoid the possibility of delaying action until the last year, we also offer the following suggestions:

1. That the Promotional Secretary act as the collection agent.
2. That as funds are collected they be placed in a separate savings account for this purpose.
3. That each association at its next regular meeting accept the project and begin the drive to

reach its goal.

Committee Members: Andy Lay, Millard Sasser, and William Evans

Winners In National Youth Conference As Reported By CTS Department

Three National first place winners from the First Free Will Baptist Church in Joplin, Missouri, were announced at the awards service in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Winning in the division of second grade memorization was Theresa Covey. In the instrumental division, David Reynolds won for the second consecutive year for his presentation of a trumpet solo. Mark Hutchings received the top honor for his creative art.

Runners-up from Missouri were: Sherry Curtis, Pleasant Grove Church, Hartville, was second runner-up in the vocal solo. Angela Phelps, Grant Avenue Church, Springfield, was first runner-up in the piano. Leta Welch, First Church, Mountain Grove was first runner-up.

Congratulations!



Theresa Covey



David Reynolds



Mark Hutchings

Rev. Carey Watkins Extends Ministry

Brother Watkins has announced his entry into evangelism, Family Life Conferences, and Christian school consultation. He states, "This announcement has been on my heart for over one year now and, since I have submitted to the Lord's leading, I am excited and anxious to begin."

He may be contacted at this address: P.O. Box 31, Garner, North Carolina 27529.

IMPORTANT! The National Home Missions Department is presenting a Church Evangelism Conference, September 27-29, 1976, in the First Free Will Baptist Church of Farmington, Missouri. The theme for the conference is "Increasing Your Attendance to 300." Speakers will be Rev. Robert Shockey, Rev. Roy Thomas, Rev. Connie Cariker, Mr. Trymon Messer, Rev. Jim Walker, Rev. Jim McAllister, Rev. Wesley Bigelow, and also Mrs. Pat Thomas, who will be presenting a special women's seminar during the mornings.

*Editor's note: Anyone having relatives or friends in Rolla, Missouri, is asked to contact Rev. Dale Smith.

Please notify the *Gem* office when you change your address!

Promotional Secretary's Corner

by Clarence Burton

July 1976! This has been a special month because of the bicentennial we are observing in America. I am glad that I am an American. I love to see Old Glory and hear the Star Spangled Banner. America needs a new awareness of patriotism and the moral and spiritual need is great. But, I can pray and work towards helping my country be what it should be.

The cooperative giving in July was above last year but a little below the needed monthly average of \$10,000. It seems the offerings are a little lower during the summer months. Consequently, this is reflected in cooperative and designated giving. I trust the fall, winter, and spring months will compensate for the slackness during the summer. Also, I am praying that some churches that are not supporting cooperative giving will begin.

These churches and missions recently began this unified plan of support: First Church in Sikeston, Malden Mission, Macedonia (Indian Creek Assn.), Shell Knob Mission, Mt. Vernon Mission, and the First Church in El Dorado Springs. Also, the Sedalia Mission increased its cooperative giving to 15 percent in response to the increase of our Missouri state budget. May the Lord bless these! Hopefully, more churches will do as the Sedalia Mission. In order that we reach the goal of \$120,000 it is necessary that cooperative receipts increase. We are trusting the Lord for this.

On Saturday, July 3, I was with the Cave Springs Quarterly Meeting. Rev. and Mrs. Doyle Williams and the Pleasant Hill Church served as host to the meeting. They had made adequate provisions. This was a good meeting with good preaching by Rev. Glen Hood and Rev. Davey Combs.

It was a privilege to be with Rev. and Mrs. Glen Hood and the Thayer Church on Sunday, July 4. We enjoyed being with these fine folks. The Lord is blessing the labor of the church. This church shares completely in cooperative and designated giving. That Sunday evening, Vivian and I were with the Walnut Grove Church and Rev. and Mrs. Charles Gowers. This church has one of the most beautiful locations in the Cave Springs Association. We surely enjoyed the fine fellowship. This church is giving full support to our unified plan of giving.

On Sunday, July 11, we were in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the National Association. The Lord blessed from the beginning to the last amen. This was a great convention. (A report is given in this issue of the *Gem*.)

The following Sunday, July 18, I was with Rev. and Mrs. Steve Stidham and the Willow Springs Church. This church is remodeling inside and outside. Also, the church has built a beautiful new parsonage. I appreciate the complete support this church gives cooperative and designated giving. That Sunday evening I was with Rev. and Mrs. Ken

Rogers and the Houston Church. The Lord blessed with a good service. This church has been a good supporter of cooperative and designated giving.

On Saturday, July 24, I met with the St. Louis District Quarterly Meeting. Rev. and Mrs. Roger Harwell and the Berkeley Church served as host to this meeting. They always take care of everything well. It was enjoyable being with the church and quarterly meeting I worked with for twelve years.

The next day, Sunday, July 25, I certainly did enjoy being with Rev. and Mrs. Charles Miller and the De Soto Church. This church has become one of the strong churches in Missouri. The Lord blessed with a warm service. These folks are near the top in cooperative giving and give well to designated giving.

The first week of Youth Camp began July 25. I taught two fine groups. The Lord has surely blessed Free Will Baptists with a wonderful group of young people. I am sure everyone is thankful for the Missouri State Youth Camp and the blessings many of us have enjoyed together.

The Northwest Association met July 30-31 and it was an enjoyable experience meeting with them. Rev. and Mrs. Vernon Maggart and the Freeman Chapel Church served as host. The provisions were very adequate. It was a good time of fellowship and worship on Friday evening and Saturday. The Freeman Chapel Church is supporting both cooperative and designated giving.

May I again express my appreciation for the response to this ministry. We can reach our goal if we labor together. This must be a unified effort; each pastor and church sharing in this together. It should be shared in its responsibility by everyone for every phase of the Lord's work benefits from it.

If I may be of any help to you, please let me know and I shall be glad to be any assistance.

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

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS: July 1976

20.00% Missouri State Home Missions	\$1,794.59
16.25% Promotional Department	1,458.09
4.00% General Fund	358.91
5.50% Youth Camp	493.52
2.50% Gem	224.32
1.75% Sunday School & CTS	157.02
2.00% MBI	179.46
52% Seven State Depts.	4,665.91
7.00% Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	628.11
13.00% Foreign Missions	1,166.48
9.00% Free Will Baptist Bible College	807.57
7.00% Executive Dept.	628.10
6.50% National Home Missions	583.24
2.50% CTS	224.32
2.50% Retirement & Insurance	224.32
.25% Laymen's Board	22.43
.25% Theological Commission	22.43
41% National Assoc. of FWB	3,678.89
Total Disbursements	8,972.91

Foreign Missions designated for July 1976

Olivet	\$80.00
Bobby Poole	20.00
Mabel Willey	20.00

Howard Filkins	5.00
Lonnie Sparks	5.00
Jerry Pinkerton	10.00
Lynn Miley	20.00
Mountain Grove, First	705.00
General Fund	92.50
General Fund Call-a-Thon	410.00
Tom Willey	60.00
Lynn Miley	5.00
Dennis Teague	5.00
Tom Willey	20.00
Panama Work	15.00
General Fund	97.50
New Harmony Sunday school	32.26
Dr. Miley	16.13
J. McLain	16.13
Thayer	26.75
Dale Bishop	26.75
Walnut Grove	10.00
Lynn Miley	10.00
Black Oak	60.32
Fred Hersey	60.32
Kirkville, First	48.00
J. Pinkerton	36.00
Filkins	12.00
New Harmony Sunday school	38.06
Dr. L. Miley	19.03
J. McLain	19.03
Total Designated giving to Foreign Missions	\$1,039.00

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS DESIGNATED GIVING July 1976

Olivet	\$30.00
Virgil Maness	25.00
Larry Powell	5.00

Mountain Grove, First	32.50
Leland Horton	15.00
Virgil Maness	15.00
General Fund	2.50
First Mission, Kansas City	15.00
V. Maness	15.00
Total given to National Home Missions	\$77.50

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS DESIGNATED GIVING July 1976

Mountain Grove, First	2.50
General Fund	2.50
Thayer	56.00
General Fund	9.00
Poplar Bluff	33.00
T. Owens	14.00
Richwoods	7.00
General Fund	7.00
New Home	10.00
Tom Owens	10.00
Total Designated giving to Missouri State Home Missions	\$75.50

HILLSDALE FREE WILL BAPTIST COLLEGE DESIGNATED GIVING July 1976

Mountain Grove, First	\$266.00
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FREE WILL BAPTIST YOUTH CAMP DESIGNATED GIVING July 1976

Olivet	\$10.00
Mountain Grove, First	20.00
Thayer	10.00

NEWS RELEASE

The 40th annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, July 11-15, attracted over 6,000 delegates and visitors from 32 states, 7 foreign countries and 1 territory to the windy canyons of downtown Tulsa.

The bicentennial convention meeting under the patriotic banner, "Fanning the Flames of Freedom," was one of record attendance and record offerings. Final tabulation reveals 4,580 registrants, the largest delegation ever to register for a National Association. In keeping with the convention's being a family occasion, both the denominational women (WNAC) with 1,021 registrants and the youth (NYC) with 2,362 participants held simultaneous conferences. Many of the youth did not register for the national meeting proper.

There were 5,739 in attendance for the Wednesday evening missionary service, the largest crowd ever recorded present in a single service of the National. A record missions offering of \$10,439.00 was received that night following the challenge for workers by the Reverend Robert Shockey, general director of the Home Missions Department.

The 1976 convention launched a probing investigation into the feasibility of entering the post-collegiate educational arena. Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, who was reelected to his sixth term as moderator, appointed a 5-man Graduate Studies Committee with instructions to submit a comprehensive report at the 1977 session in Detroit.* Subsequent action by the body endorsed a similar study already underway by the Board of Trustees at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. The

Bible College thrust will focus on establishing a graduate school of religion while the Graduate Studies Committee is mandated to broaden its research and include seminary data as well.

Resolutions denouncing homosexuality and sexual promiscuity swept unimpeded across the convention delegation. Another strongly worded resolution criticizing the amoral and humanistic philosophy of some public schools won ringing approval. The same resolution urged the establishing of more Christian schools by churches as well as encouraging those who remain in public education to exert their Christian influence in shaping the direction of the public schools.

Departmental budgets totaling 5.23 million dollars were given unanimous approval.

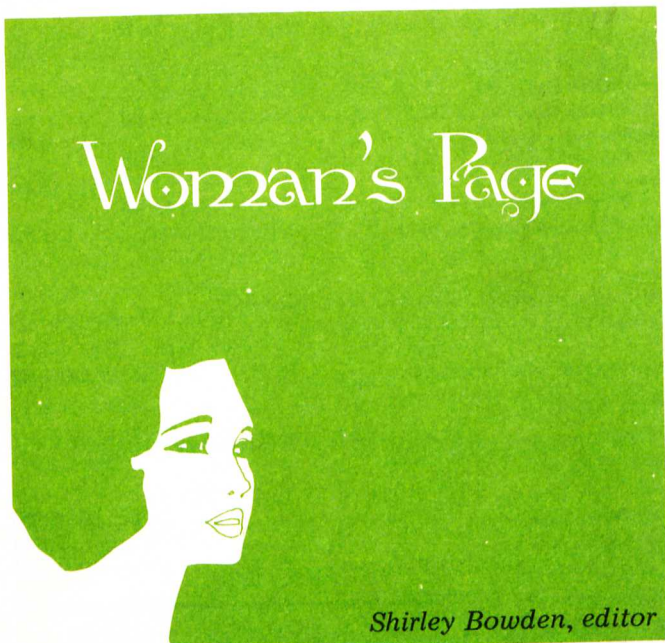
The "25-Year Challenge" was issued to delegates by Dr. Roger Reeds, director of the Sunday School Department. Citing a denominational Sunday school enrollment of 200,000, Reeds introduced the challenge with the motto, "From 2 to 1 by 2." This plan calls for Free Will Baptist rolls to burgeon from 200,000 to one million in enrollment by the year A.D. 2000!

The body accepted the invitation from the North Carolina State Association to meet in Charlotte for the 1979 session. California Free Will Baptists will host the 1980 meeting at Anaheim.

The 1977 convention will be in Cobo Hall in Detroit, Michigan, July 17-21. Delegates will travel to Kansas City, Missouri, for the 1978 conclave.

*Rev. Millard Sasser, pastor of the Fourth Church, St. Louis, Missouri was appointed to this committee.

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WNAC REPORT

The Woman's National Auxiliary Convention unanimously passed a resolution opposing abortion on demand during the 41st annual session in Tulsa, July 13, 1976. In other business the women voted to extend membership to the auxiliaries of Mexico. Attendance at the annual WNAC Fellowship Dinner surpassed all previous years with 960 hearing Dr. LaVerne Miley, medical missionary to the Ivory Coast, speak. Our Executive Secretary, Cleo Pursell, reported to the body that this arm of the church saw an increase in membership and gifts to missions during 1975.

STATE PROJECT AND PERPETUAL LOAN FUNDS

Auxiliaries, our State Treasurer, Blanche Wisheart, reports that the funds for our State project and the National and State Loan Funds are coming in good. She reports that the slogans suggested "Hanna's Handy Helpers," and "Loan Fund" are being used and this is helping her to process the money. Thank you for the cooperation!

"BOOKS WORTH READING"

During the past six years, many books have been written on the home, the Christian family, being a woman, and prayer. The following books are being suggested for your own reading or can be used as study courses for your auxiliary.

The Fragrance of Beauty by Joyce Landorf
 Paperback \$1.50 (Leader's guide available at 95¢)
Ms. Means Myself by Gladys Hunt Paperback \$1.50
 (Leader's guide available at 75¢)
Love, Honor and Be Free by Maxine Hancock
 Paperback \$1.50
The Christian Family by Larry Christensen
 Paperback \$2.45 (Study guide available at 95¢)

Home Can Be A Happy Place by Knofel Staton
 Paperback \$1.50 (Instructor's book \$1.75)
What Happens When Women Pray
 by Evelyn Christenson with Viola Blake
 Paperback \$1.75 (Leader's guide available at 95¢)
Dare To Discipline by Dr. James Dobson
 Paperback \$2.95
What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women by Dr. James Dobson Hardback \$5.95

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State Officers



Woman's Bicentennial Choir

