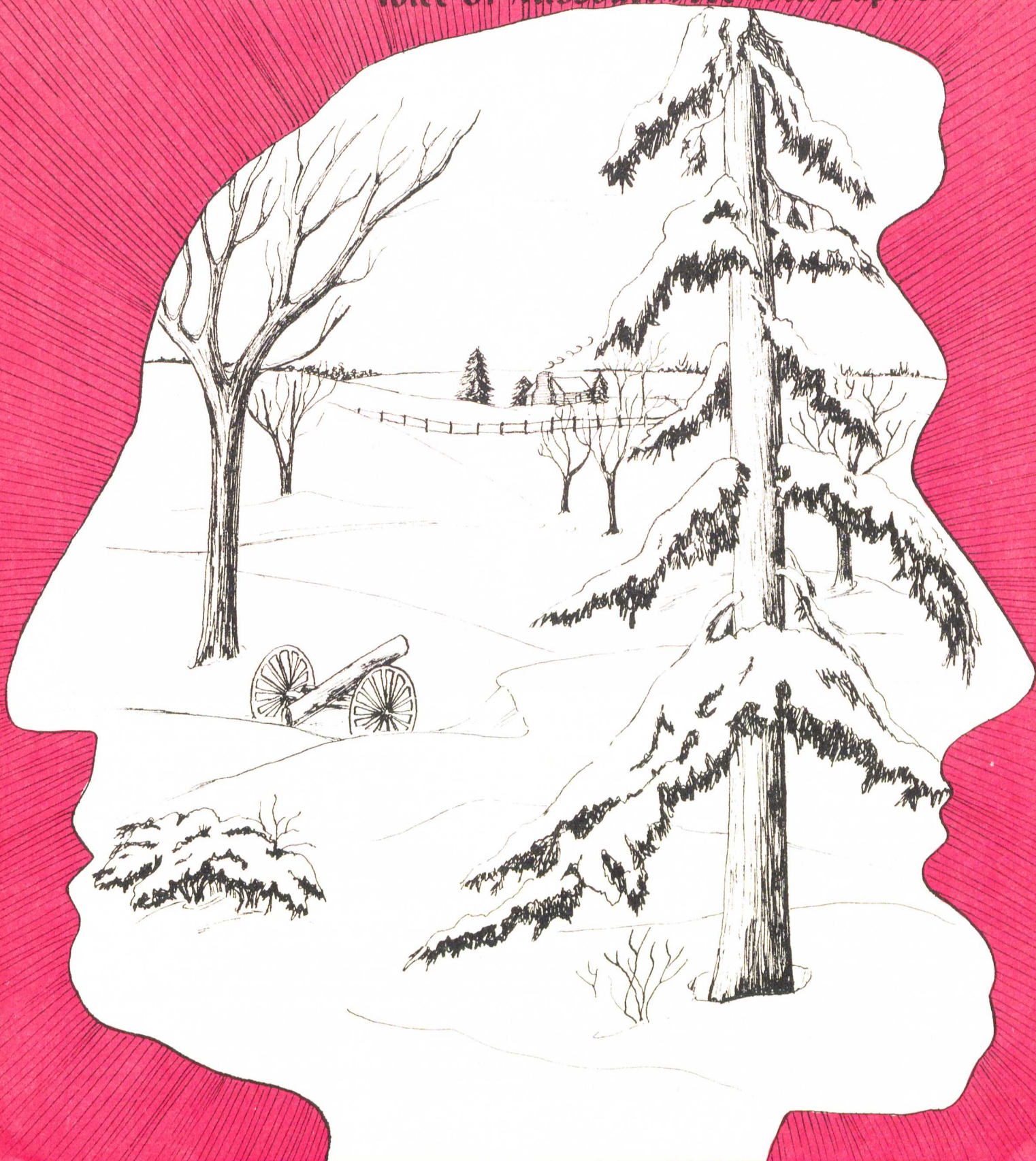


Volume 47, Number 2, February 1977

**Free Will Baptist**

# GEM

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





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Clarence Burton, editor

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# Accepting the Task

by Gary Elders

God has not mentioned in His Word the great hour nor the day when He will take His people away; therefore, let us approach this new year with great expectations and with thankful hearts that our Lord has given us this year. Let us use it to serve Him. We can learn by our mistakes and shortcomings from previous years. We can praise Him for His blessings and increases and then set new goals for the future.

Let us follow the example of a man by the name of Nehemiah. Ezra had led a group of captives from Babylon back to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls and the city in 457 B.C. Some men wrote a letter to King Artaxerxes I (Ezra 4:7-16). The work was ordered stopped, and the walls and gates were once more destroyed. It was in December of 445 B.C. that Nehemiah heard of this new affliction.

First, Nehemiah was filled with CONCERN to the point that his heart was broken. He spent many days in fasting and prayer for his people (Nehemiah 1:3, 4).

Second, he shared the blame of his people's sins and had genuine REPENTANCE (Nehemiah 1:5-11). This is what brings revival.

Inasmuch as he was the king's cupbearer, it was important that he be joyful in his presence and in the presence of any guest that he might have. If he wasn't, it could mean "his head." Nehemiah was so concerned about his people, there in Jerusalem, that he was sad in the king's presence (chapter 2).

Artaxerxes I questioned him about this. Nehemiah was afraid for his life but he found favor in the king's eyes and made a request of him: "If it please the king . . . send me unto Judah . . . that I may build it" (Nehemiah 2:5). This comes from real DEDICATION and love. So Artaxerxes I sent Nehemiah to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls.

Nehemiah went to Jerusalem and completed his task but it was not easy.

Let us, as we approach 1977, realize the task that lies before us. We need compassion and concern, repentance of our past failures, and determination to stand for God and to be used of Him. Your church and pastor needs your help. Would you be a Nehemiah or an Isaiah in saying, "Send me"?

Keep in mind that Nehemiah did not find his job easy. But he was determined to complete the task (2:17). He knew that the devil would try to hinder. In fact, nothing that you do for God gets done but that the devil tries to stop it. He also knew God was greater and on his side.

Nineteen hundred and seventy-seven can be a year that can glorify God and reap a harvest of souls if each one of us will say, "Lord use me," and then follow His leading.

About the writer: Rev. Gary Elders is the pastor of the Hannon Free Will Baptist Church. He and his wife Jackie have two children and have been serving the church approximately two years. Gary is involved and interested in both state and national work.



## **CHURCHES PEOPLE AND EVENTS**

### **Thayer Experiences Great Year**

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Thayer reports that a great year was experienced in the Lord. The Sunday school attendance averaged 164. There were twelve additions to the church and there were several professions of faith and rededications.

The youth of the church have been quite busy under the leadership of Curtis and Linda Barton. The teen choir with a membership of twenty-eight presented a special Thanksgiving and Christmas musical on December 12. The group sponsored a Watch Night Service with Brother Dennis Dotson and Brother Howard Bowers bringing the messages.

Plans for the new year according to the pastor, Rev. Glen Hood, include organizing a junior choir under the direction of Sister Jean Simers, assisted by Sister Barbara Cox. A missionary revival is scheduled for the first part of February with Jerry Pinkerton from the Ivory Coast.

The prayer of the church is that many people will be saved and become involved in following Him.

### **Winter Activities at South Side**

Sue Winchester writes, "Our Woman's Auxiliary sponsored a successful Christmas bazaar in order to help with the remodeling of the church kitchen.

"The church enjoyed a wonderful revival with Brother David Joslin serving as the evangelist. The Thanksgiving Banquet was held on November 20. Everyone enjoyed a good meal and the McFarland family presented an inspiring service of music and testimony.

"On December 18, a unique Christmas program of slides, singing, art work, and a puppet show was presented by the children's church. The following night a play was presented by the adults titled "Someone Stole Baby Jesus." Both programs exemplified the true Christmas spirit. The annual Christmas Eve candlelight service of reading the Christmas story, singing carols, and participating in the communion service added even a deeper meaning to the birth of Christ."

### **Report from Greater Kansas City District Association**

The Greater Kansas City Quarterly Meeting has requested that this report appear in the *Gem*. "The Greater Kansas City Association of Free Will Baptists is hereby on record as no longer recognizing Rev. Barry Hampton as a Free Will Baptist due to his doctrinal position regarding the baptism of the Spirit as a second definite experience after salvation."

### **Blessings at the Bethel Church**

The Bethel Church located at Festus, Missouri, reports a very good year for 1976. The Sunday school averaged 102. This was an increase of thirteen percent. The giving was up seventeen percent over the previous year. Several people made profession of faith in Christ and fourteen followed the Lord in water baptism. Also, eight people united with the church. At present four or five are awaiting baptism and approximately twelve are anticipating uniting with the church.

By way of enlarging the facilities of the church, seven new classrooms have been added, as well as a primary assembly area and two rest rooms. Also, the kitchen and fellowship area have been enlarged.

A bus ministry was recently started and a children's church for ages two through eleven. Three decisions for Christ were recently made in the children's church.

A record attendance was set in November with 120 for Sunday school and 140 for the morning worship. A special note of praise was that on Sunday one came forward and made his commitment to the ministry.

Pastor Robert Sharpy states, "We praise the Lord for all His blessings. It has been a rewarding year for the church and my family."

### **The Singing Jones Family Reports a Fine Year**

Evangelist Stanley Jones writes: "The past year, 1976, was a good year for the Jones Family in our ministry of evangelism. We have been privileged to carry the gospel from Tennessee to Maine and from Kansas to Virginia. In the past twelve months we have witnessed 138 souls who have made a public commitment of their lives to Christ. We have been able to contribute over \$450.00 to Missouri State Home Missions. May the Lord bless the ones who have supported this ministry. We are looking forward to great things from God this year."

The Jones Family may be contacted at this address: The Jones Family Evangelistic Team, Box 304, Hartville, Missouri 65667. Telephone—(417) 741-7198.



### **Buffalo Church Wins Award in Christmas Parade**

Dale and Linda Lane with the youth department of the Buffalo Church prepared a float and entered



it in the annual Buffalo Christmas Parade. The religious theme was "A Bicentennial Christmas." The name of the float prepared was "Even After 200 Years America Still Needs Christ." The young people and their sponsors were awarded third place. Rev. John Andrews is pastor of the church.

### Twin Oaks Reports Progress

Madeline McFarland, church reporter, writes expressing thanks to the Lord for the progress at the Twin Oaks Church. The Sunday school attendance has gradually increased over the previous year. The average was 90. The building was enlarged giving more classrooms, more area in the lower level, and additional auditorium space.

The church enjoyed a fine Christmas program under the direction of Sister Jeanne Pirtle.

The Lord is blessing with professions of faith in Sunday school and in the worship services. Raymond Michales announced his call to the ministry. He is serving as Sunday school superintendent. Brother Bob Kemp, the former superintendent, and his wife Marie moved to Owensville, Missouri, where he is serving as manager of a local gas company.

The young children gave \$125.00 to the orphanage for a Christmas gift.

The prayer of the church is that it might be faithful to the Lord and be a true witness for Him. Rev. Truman Huffman is the pastor.

### Jones Chapel Church Reports Blessings

A New Year's Eve sing was held at the Jones Chapel Church. It began at 7:30 p.m. and continued through 12:00 p.m. The Ward Boys from Arkansas were the featured singers. Also, there were special singing groups from the church. The church enjoyed a very nice Christmas program on December 19.

The Sunday school average attendance for December was 107. Rev. Billy Joe Gentry is the pastor.

### Fellowship Conference a Success

The Fellowship Conference that met at the Trinity Church in St. Louis, Missouri, was blessed of the Lord. The snow and ice hindered many from attending, but representatives from North Carolina, Illinois, Virginia, Tennessee, and, of course, Missouri braved the weather and attended the two-day meeting.

These remarks were made concerning the meeting: "What sweet fellowship," "This is great," and "I think it would be well to have another Fellowship Conference next year."

Two spirit-filled messages were delivered. Dr. Billy Melvin used as his subject, "The Written Word of God." He stressed the fact that the Word is inspired, unchangeable, and infallible. Rev. Milton Worthington used as his subject, "One In Christ." He emphasized that our unity is found in Christ and

the more we love Him the closer it will draw us to each other.\*

The prayer time was a spiritual uplift. How refreshing to know that when Christians pray together it draws them together and differences that sometimes cause division are resolved in a "sweet hour of prayer."

The group meetings were very profitable. It is well for Christians to meet together and share burdens, problems, and joys in an atmosphere of relaxation—no business sessions, no resolutions—just meeting and sharing together.

As a result of the group-sharing sessions, it was concluded that a basis for Free Will Baptist fellowship is our Free Will Baptist Treatise. As was stated in one of the sessions, "The Treatise is that which held our forefathers together in their labors and efforts for the cause of Christ. This should be the basis of our fellowship today."

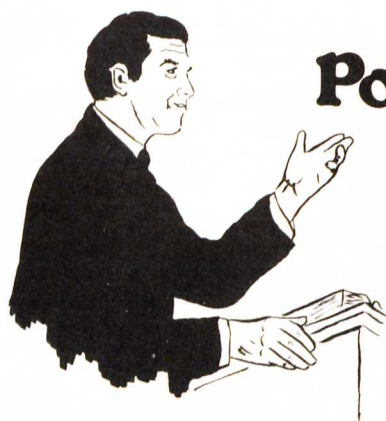
The conference surely helped each one to appreciate and have a stronger love for every child of God and for a lost world that needs Christ as Savior. As a result of the meeting, a greater appreciation and love was felt for our beloved denomination. Let us pray the Lord will bless us individually and as a group as we labor for Him.

A special thanks was given to Rev. Russell Spurgeon and the Trinity Church for a great job in hosting the conference.

\*Rev. Ted Wilbanks was used of the Lord in directing the musical program. It was a blessing.







# Points for Pastors

by Jim McAllister

The greatest and gravest responsibility in the world is that which God has placed on the preacher of the Word. Again read 1 Timothy 1:12. Paul rejoiced at his calling. The ministry is both a position of honor and a position of reproach; a position of power and a position of weakness; a profession but also a calling. This is God's business we are in, and let us not forget it for a moment. Nothing but our best will be accepted.

Four words should describe the preacher. **PREACH.** He is first a preacher. Preach evangelistically, doctrinally, and preach against sin. Paul preached this way and he could tell the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:26, "I am pure from the blood of

all men." **PASTOR.** Pastoring includes counseling, personal witnessing, visiting the sick, leading the church, promoting your denomination, teaching the people, and leading them in worship. Three things are necessary to make a pastor successful: a calling from God, a reverential love for Christ, and a deep love for your people. **PARENT.** Carefully read 1 Timothy 3:1-7. A pastor's children *should* set the pattern for the other children of the church. Don't win the world while you lose your own family. You don't have to give your children to the devil in order to give your life to the Lord. **PATIENCE.** Read 2 Timothy 4:5 and 1 Thessalonians 2:2. People are going to talk about the preacher. Remember how Miriam and Aaron attacked Moses? Some will do the same to you. "Be blameless." That tears out their fangs. You can't hurt a man who is "blameless." Patient is a word that must describe you, preacher. Learn to be patient with those who disagree with you and actually rebel against you. Patience is a fruit of the Spirit and certainly should be learned early by the preacher.

There are some definite rewards for the preacher of the Word. You will see souls saved from sin, lives rescued from Satan's clutches, Christians grow in the Lord, and God's church grow; and you will help appreciative people. Like Paul you can know, "There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:8).

## MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSION GIVING DECEMBER 5 through JANUARY 5

Berean	\$20.00
Hannon	233.00
South Fremont	.85.00
Rock Chapel	.20.00
Oak Hill	25.00
Martha Baker	10.00
Grace	23.00
Myrtle	74.60
West Plains	140.00
Central	40.00
Copper Mines	20.00
South Side	5.00
Sedalia	44.55
Fourth	31.32
Thayer	36.00
Nancy Fogerson	20.00
Mountain Grove	319.00
Bethel	75.00
Cooperative Receipts	1,834.71
Total	\$3,056.18

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

## COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS December 1976

20.00% Missouri State Home Missions	\$1,834.71
16.25% Promotional Department	1,490.70
4.00% General Fund	366.94
5.50% Youth Camp	504.54
2.50% GEM	229.34

1.75% Sunday School & CTS	160.53
2.00% MBI	183.48
52% Seven State Departments	4,770.24
7.00% Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	642.65
13.00% Foreign Missions	1,192.56
9.00% Free Will Baptist Bible College	825.62
7.00% Executive Department	642.15
6.50% National Home Missions	596.28
2.50% CTS	229.34
2.50% Retirement & Insurance	229.34
.25% Laymen's Board	22.93
.25% Theological Commission	22.93
41% Eight National Departments	3,761.15
Total Disbursements	\$9,174.04

This month is closed early inasmuch as the National Association year ends December 31.

## COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS December 1976

Cape Girardeau	\$132.95
Number One	20.15
Willow Springs	204.19
Purdy	117.00
Fredericktown, First	208.06
Grant Avenue	312.41
Beacon	347.29
Carterville	27.56
Macedonia	15.85
Byrd	11.96
New Harmony Sunday school	4.77
South Side	292.10
Malden	67.65
Faith	120.43
Berkeley	329.89
Hartville, First	34.52
Joplin	86.97
Merl's Chapel	71.86



New Prospect, Shell Knob	13.33
Freeman Chapel	86.75
Alton	79.38
Oskaloosa	67.70
Bethel, Festus	192.00
Grace	492.00
DeSoto	400.00
First Mission, Kansas City	66.95
Bailey Chapel	23.00
Oak Hill, Union	372.92
Kirksville, First	30.00
Mill Creek	52.70
Myrtle	79.00
Sedalia Mission	27.74
Pleasant Ridge	21.25
Marshfield	109.41
Kingsway, Springfield	44.82
Belton	300.00
Viburnum	92.93
Hannon	107.00
Olivet	175.00
Farmington (Sept.-Oct.-Nov.)	2,124.90
Rock Chapel	26.66
Berean	91.00
Copper Mines	120.00
West Plains	245.00
Buffalo	129.95
Black Oak	10.00
Hopewell	63.85
Thayer	108.54
Waynesville, First	39.50
Central (Nov.-Dec.)	240.00
Leadington	192.38
Verdella	101.67
Pleasant Grove (Cope)	100.00
Mountain Grove, First	341.10
Total Cooperative Receipts	\$9,174.04

This month is closed early, inasmuch as the National Association year ends December 31.

## MISSOURI DESIGNATED GIVING December 1976

### MISSOURI STATE YOUTH CAMP

Oskaloosa	\$10.00
Thayer	10.00
New Rock Springs	10.00
Olivet	10.00
Mountain Grove, First	30.00
Total	\$70.00

### MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS

Thayer	\$36.00
T. Owens	\$6.00
General Fund	1.00
Poplar Bluff	29.00
Nancy Fogerson	\$20.00
Dale Smith	\$20.00
Mountain Grove, First	\$319.00
Dale Smith	\$319.00
Bethel	\$75.00
Dale Smith	\$75.00
Robert Sharry	\$10.00
Perpetual Loan Fund	\$10.00

### HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Mountain Grove Church	\$105.00
Total	\$105.00

### FOREIGN MISSIONS

New Harmony Sunday school	\$36.02
Dr. LaVerne Miley	\$18.02
Jim McLain	18.02

South Side	\$126.00
Charolette Tallent	\$36.00
J. Pinkerton	5.00
L. Palmer	85.00
Merl's Chapel	\$35.25
C. Hanna	\$35.25
Kirksville, First	\$395.80
J. Pinkerton	\$220.41
H. Filkins	59.39
Dr. L. Miley	116.00
Thayer	\$80.50
General Fund	\$33.00
D. Bishop	40.50
J. Pinkerton	7.00
Olivet	\$80.00
B. Poole	\$20.00
T. Willey	20.00
Lynn Miley	5.00
J. Pinkerton	20.00
H. Filkins	5.00
L. Sparks	5.00
J. McLain	5.00
Walnut Grove	\$10.00
Lynn Miley	\$10.00
West Plains, First	\$75.10
H. Filkins	\$10.00
General Fund	65.10
Black Oak	\$40.25
General Fund	\$40.25
Mountain Grove, First	\$148.00
General Fund	\$110.00
J. Pinkerton	5.00
Tom Willey, Jr.	30.00
Dennis Teague	3.00
Total	\$1,026.92

### NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION

South Side	\$10.00
V. Maness	\$10.00
Olivet	\$30.00
Leland Horton	\$30.00
Mountain Grove, First	\$75.00
Leland Horton	\$70.00
L. Powell	5.00
Total	\$115.00







## On The National Front

### Report from Executive Secretary

Amazing! Fantastic! Terrific! These are some of the words used by representatives from eighteen state associations in describing the M.I.N.D. Motivational Seminar conducted by the guest speaker, Mr. Jack Lannom, for the annual Leadership Conference. The state leaders present for the conference had the privilege of hearing Mr. Lannom in two sessions.

Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey introduced the conference theme, "Toward New Horizons," in his address on opening night. Free Will Baptists leaders developed the theme in presentations concerning new horizons in fellowship, Sunday school growth, state leadership, national ministries, evangelism, and personal outlook.

The conference is sponsored annually by the Executive Office of the National Association of Free Will Baptists for state and national promotional workers in cooperation with the various national departments. The sessions were held at Camp Hillmont, which is located near Nashville at White Bluff.

*Note:* The 1976 Minutes of the National Association of Free Will Baptists have been printed and mailed to associational clerks. If any clerks fail to receive the minutes for their associations, they should contact the Executive Office, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

### Dr. Homer Willis of Evangelism Unlimited Writes:

"I have shared with you before my great burden to see the Free Will Baptist Church planted in the English speaking nations of the world; and with your prayers and support, I hope to have some meetings this year in Great Britain and/or Australia. All of the many English speaking nations are mission fields, and there is no language barrier to those who will go and minister to them.

"I will have some time available this year for Discipleship Revivals; these are five day meetings with the church people. God blessed these meetings last year."

### Free Will Baptist Bible College Reports

Eight students finished semester examinations in mid-December and completed the semester with a

straight "A" average. Another 91 students maintained a "B" average for the first half of the school year. Listed are the ones from Missouri: Senior: Verlon Long, Festus, Missouri; Juniors: Richard Greenup, Columbia and Alvin Hook, Lee's Summit, Missouri; Sophomore: Mike Wilhite, St. Louis, Missouri.

Student witnessing by the students in Nashville has been described by Dr. Joe Ange, as "Interest on Fire." The results of this during the first three months of the school year were nearly 1,000 messages preached, over 6,000 dealt with about their souls, and nearly 800 recorded decisions.

Missouri is still running ahead on giving to the general fund but the Missouri Project has not met its quota.

### With Our Missionaries

The Pooles write: "We want to express our deepest appreciation for the concern, interest, love, and hospitality to everyone. We are looking forward to returning to Brazil. We are especially thankful for the care and concern the Lord has given the church. Please pray for the following: revival in our churches in Brazil, laborers (both national and American), Geneva's dad who is in the hospital, \$12,000 needed in our account by July, and our future ministry in Ribeirao Preto."

The Sparks write: "Thank you so much for your support and prayers for the work here. We are happy in Alcala. Please pray for the following: the weekly Sunday morning services, the Lord's provision for an adequate place to hold services, the help of another missionary family, the new contacts, the literature program, and the boys and their witness in school."

The Pinkertons write: "We are making plans to return to the Ivory Coast next August. Jerry is away from home most of the time now preaching, giving thanks for our support, showing slides, and in general making known the needs of the missionary. It is our prayer that God will bless for His glory and the burdens will grow whereby we will be able to return and share with the Africans the message of Jesus Christ."

### Home Missions News Release:

*Six new National Home Missionaries will begin work January 1! Rev. Jesse Dunn, former Home Missionary to Boise, Idaho, will go to Salem, Oregon, to begin the second Free Will Baptist church in that state.*

*Rev. Robert Helms, pastor of Hazel Dell Free Will Baptist Church, Sesser, Illinois, will go to Evansville, Indiana.*

*Rev. J. D. Norris, pastor of Good Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Pleasant View, Tennessee, will*



begin a church in Tallahassee, Florida.

*Rev. Wallace Hayes*, pastor of Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee, will be a joint project worker in Lebanon, Tennessee.

*Rev. Bob Francis*, pastor of South Side Free Will Baptist Church, St. Louis, Missouri, and former National Home Missionary, will return to St. Paul, Minnesota.

*Rev. Tom Street*, pastor of a Community Church in Hillsboro, Ohio, will replace *Carl Cooper* in Wheeling, West Virginia, who had to resign because of ill health.

Each of these will begin itinerate January 1 and go to their respective fields as soon as their support has been raised. Offerings should be sent to National Home Missions, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202, designated for the desired missionary.

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## Promotional Secretary's Corner

by Clarence Burton

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December let us know that winter had arrived! (But as I write this article in January the temperature is just above zero. I would like to see some of those 30 degree days again.) This has been a great winter for those who like lots of snow and ice. A few days ago as I was driving to a quarterly conference the scenery was beautiful with the sun glistening off the snow and the ice-covered trees. It was a perfect picture of a winter wonderland. However, I am looking forward to spring and summer.

Today I was meditating on a verse of Scripture that I have read many times, James 1:22, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." This is interesting when we get the real impact of this verse. The Bible states that the one who hears and does nothing is deceiving himself. It is tragic for a person to be deceived by others, but there is something especially pathetic about the individual who is guilty of self-deception. That is precisely what one does to himself when he hears the Word of God taught or preached and continues to do exactly what he was doing before he heard.

Someone has said, "Many churches have in them those who are content to listen as long as no action

is required." It doesn't cost anything to listen, but it requires time and energy to get involved. This is true in our state and national ministries. It isn't enough just to give our nod of approval. There must be a personal and church involvement. How wonderful it would be if every Free Will Baptist church in Missouri would become involved in supporting cooperative and designated giving. This would bless in a twofold way. It would give every church a feeling of being a part of the whole family, and that would share in the blessings that comes to those who share in fulfilling the Great Commission.

The December receipts were very fine considering the month closed a week early. This was done because the National Association ends its year December 31. Consequently, most of our December receipts will be included in the 1976 receipts.

My itinerant began December 4 with the Liberty Quarterly Meeting which met at the First Church in Waynesville. Rev. and Mrs. Murray Southwell and the church did a fine job hosting the meeting. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship, the preaching, and the good meal provided by the church.

On December 5, it was my privilege to be with the Rev. and Mrs. Tom Owens and the folks at the Oak Hill Church-Mission. They were celebrating their first anniversary. The Lord is blessing this ministry with fine attendance and the tithes and offerings averaged over \$500.00 per week for the month of November.

I met with the State Executive Committee on Friday, December 10.

It was a joy to be with Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Scott and the Poplar Bluff Mission on Sunday, December 12. Jerry and Waynelle are striving to build a work for the Lord. Let's pray for this fine Christian family and their ministry in Poplar Bluff.

On the Sunday before Christmas I was with my home church in Lebanon. I appreciate this church, the pastor, and church family. This church presented a live nativity scene on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings. It was under the direction of Mrs. Gloria Engberg, a member of the church. It was awarded first place for religious scenes in Lebanon and was seen by a large number of people.

On the last Sunday in December, I was with the Kingsway Church in Springfield. This church has recently started giving some support to cooperative giving. Rev. and Mrs. Gene Terry are having an effective ministry. It is always enjoyable to visit with them and the church.

As I look back over December, I thank God for the privilege of celebrating the birthday of my Savior Jesus Christ again, the memories of visiting with friends and relatives, and the joy of knowing that someday we shall be with the Lord and all those we love forever and forever.

I want to express my thanks again to the Lord for His blessings on the state ministries. This labor is so important. It is personal in its relationship and yet wide in its effectiveness. May the Lord bless every pastor, church, and individual Christian who is helping in this endeavor.

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



# Woman's Page



Shirley Bowden, editor

In November of 1976, Mrs. Barbara Harwell, our state secretary, moved with her husband, Roger, to Haskell, Oklahoma, where Roger had accepted the pastorate at the Haskell Free Will Baptist Church. We would like to take this time to thank Barbara for the excellent job she did as our state secretary. Although Barbara has left the state, she will be remembered for all the contributions she made while serving in our state auxiliary work.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

All local secretaries and treasurers should have their yearly reports ready to be sent to the district secretaries and treasurers by April 1. The district secretaries and treasurers should then compile their reports and send them to the state secretary and treasurer by April 15. This will enable them to process the reports and send the final report to the promotional secretary. Action was taken at the last state convention in June of 1976 to have the Auxiliary reports included in the Digest of Reports from the state work. Please remember these dates so that our reports can be included in the final report.

The report for the state secretary should be sent to Shirley Bowden, P.O. Box 991, Lebanon, Missouri 65536. She will be acting secretary till the state meeting. The reports from the treasurers should be sent to Blanche Wisheart, Myrtle, Missouri 65778. If there are any questions please contact these two women.

## PRAYER REQUEST FOR FEBRUARY

- \* Patsy VanHook as she labors in France
- \* The Lonnie Sparks and Doc Catons in Spain
- \* The Jim Combs in Brazil
- \* Dale and Judy Smith as they begin the new work in Rolla, Missouri

If you would like to keep up with the missionaries, you can get *Heartbeat*, which is the Foreign Mission Magazine, and the *Mission Gram*, which is the Home Mission Paper. The address for both publications is P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. These publications are free and carry the latest news of the missionaries.

## HELP

If you have news from your local or district auxiliaries, or if you have written a poem, or an article and would like to have it appear in the Woman's Page, please send the information to Shirley Bowden, P.O. Box 991, Lebanon, Missouri 65536. We have a lot of talented women in our state, and we would like to hear from you.

## BOOKS WORTH READING

Now that winter has come and brought along with it a lot of snow, this would be a good time to do some of that reading we had been putting off. Below are several books that can be read.

- Fragrance of Beauty* by Joyce Landorf \$1.75
- Joyce, I Feel Like I Know You* by Joyce Landorf \$1.75
- East Wind* by Ruth Hunt (This is about a lady who spent years in death camps and prisons in Russia and Germany.) \$6.95
- To Have and To Hold* by Jill Rench \$1.75
- Let Me Be A Woman* by Elizabeth Elliot \$5.95
- Papa's Wife* by Thyra Terre' Bjorn \$1.25
- Papa's Daughter* by Thyra Terre' Bjorn \$1.25

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Hanna's Handy Helpers (State Project)

Balance brought forward, December 1	\$512.74
Purdy	10.00
Bethel (West Plains)	30.00
Fredericktown	10.19
Fourth	8.50
South Side	4.70
Farmington	54.00
Balance as of January 15, 1977	\$630.13

### Missouri State Home Missions Loan Fund

Balance brought forward, November 1	\$233.88
Bethel (Festus)	12.50
Grace	3.79
Purdy	5.00
Fourth	4.25
South Side	2.35
Farmington	22.00
Balance as of January 15, 1977	\$283.77

### National Home Missions Loan Fund

Balance brought forward, November 1	\$233.88
Bethel (Festus)	12.50
Grace	3.79
Purdy	5.00
Fourth	4.25
South Side	2.35
Farmington	22.00
Balance as of January 15, 1977	\$283.77



"Little children, keep yourselves from idols" (1 John 5:21). These words penned by the beloved Apostle John might cause us to wonder and question just a little bit. And yet, since they are a part of God's Holy Scriptures, we know that they are true. Since we do know that they are true, it is up to us to study and to learn the lesson that God would have us to learn from this particular passage. Does an idol have any place in the life of a Christian? Ideally, no! But then most of us as Christians are not ideal Christians. Unfortunately, some don't seem to be even striving for the ideal. Most Christians would be appalled at the idea of bowing down before an idol. The image that pops into our minds is of an African bringing a sacrifice to a pile of stones or to a tree, or perhaps a man from the Orient bowing to a statue of Buddha. To a Christian, such an idea is absurd. But since 1 John was written to Christians and in this verse John warns Christians of the danger of idols, there must be some danger of Christians having idols in their lives. So let us think about it and heed the warning of John.

One of the American idols or "ideals" as we might prefer to call them is the phenomenon of hero worship. In the secular world, our people find their heroes in the sports field, in the political arena, in the music world, or in movieland. Most of us seem to think that as long as these heroes are reasonably honest and upright men that this hero worship is not so bad, perhaps even good. Some feel that it gives the young person something to strive for, someone to look up to. This hero worship seems to be a natural instinct for humans, and Christians are not immune to it. If we would use Jesus as our Hero, our Pattern, then we would make it all right. But most seem to think that would be impossible and so we choose someone that we know and work our way up to being like Christ. Most of the time we choose a fellow Christian as our ideal (idol). Perhaps we have chosen someone who has had a great influence on our becoming a Christian or one who has helped us to grow and mature as a Christian. In our mind, we elevate him; he is near perfect. He can do no wrong or, at least, not very much wrong. Is this hero worship wrong? It is a very dangerous practice (I've found out the hard way!), for no human being can live up to our mental picture of him. Somewhere along the way, he will falter and fail, and you will be the one that is hurt. But being human and not willing to admit our mistakes, we pick up our little mental image, dust it off, polish it

a little bit, and place it back on the pedestal of our heart. There he sits until once again our ideal fails and down comes our image. We have laid ourselves open to hurt again. Being hurt, Satan steps in and tempts us to give up or to become cynical. Then we go to the other extreme and become a faultfinding Christian. Our faith in our fellowman is virtually destroyed, and, if we are not careful, we will drift away from Jesus. What is the solution to this problem? A close, working relationship with Jesus is the surest way to come out the victor in such a situation. (By a working relationship, I mean, "talking to Jesus and then listening to His answer!") Keep in mind that the most dedicated Christian has human failings, and no one will always live up to your expectations. Love him when he does; hold him up in prayer when he does not. But most of all, keep him in his proper place. Make your IDEAL—JESUS. Place Him on the pedestal of your heart. You will fail Him from time to time, but He will never fail you. You can save yourself a lot of heartaches and tears by heeding the warning of John—"Little children, keep yourselves from idols."

About the writer: Mrs. Reeves is a member of the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church. She is active in the Woman's Auxiliary and church activities.

#### A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Lord, as I begin this brand new year,  
 Let me feel Your presence so near.  
 Let my life have meaning  
 For Lord, on You, I'll be leaning.  
 Let me not be burdened down with life.  
 Help me to cope with any strife.  
 Open my eyes that I can behold,  
 A brand new vision to me unfold.  
 Train my ears to ever hear,  
 And make Your directions very clear.  
 Consecrate my lips that they may speak  
 To those who are lost or like me are weak.  
 Take my mind, cleanse it of worries and fears,  
 And help me to trust Thee more through joy or tears.  
 Let my hands busy ever be,  
 That I may not sit idly by feeling sorry for me.  
 Let my feet be used for Thee, too,  
 To go and do something for You.  
 All in all, Lord, use me, every part,  
 For I love You with all my heart.  
 This should be easy, because You've  
 done so much for me—  
 Showing mercy and grace so boundless and free.  
 Guide me, Lord, and to me give  
 The strength that, one day at a time, I can live.  
 In closing, I must thank You for answering  
 Every prayer in times past,  
 And for lightening every burden which on You  
 I've had to cast.  
 Pressing on toward meeting You and loved ones in  
 Heaven,  
 Stay continuously by my side as I try to serve You  
 in 1977.

Sue Winchester  
 South Side Church



GEM  
REV RONALD CREECH  
BOX 277 E DURHAM STA  
DURHAM NC 27703

COMP

Missouri Bible Institute spring semester begins week of March 1

Missouri State Competitive Activities

Date: May 7

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Grace Church, Arnold, Missouri

Missouri State Association, Youth Service, and Woman's Auxiliary

Date: June 6-9

Place: Springfield, Missouri

Day Services: Grant Avenue Church

Evening Services: Kickapoo Auditorium

Missouri State Youth Camp

Date: Elementary Week—June 12-17

Intermediates—June 19-24

Senior—June 26-July 1

Note: The elementary week is first rather than last.

National Association of Free Will Baptists

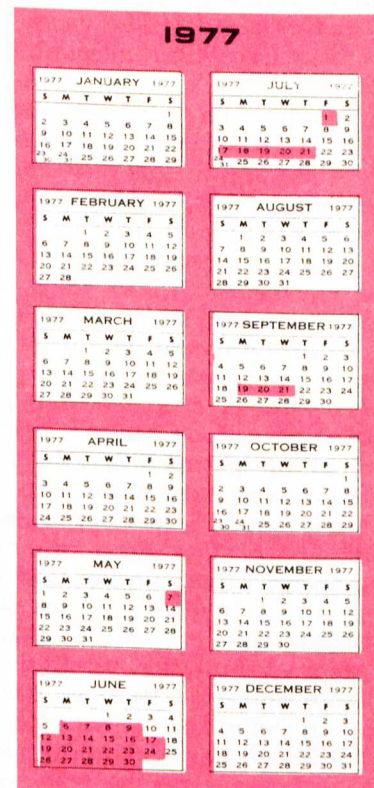
Date: July 17-21

Place: Detroit, Michigan

Pastor's and Layman's Conference

Date: September 19-21

Place: Missouri State Youth Camp



*All Treasurers please note:* The Missouri State Association year ends March 31. Please send all Cooperative checks and designated giving checks to the promotional secretary as quickly as possible following the last Sunday in March.