

EASTER



Volume 47, Number 4, April 1977

Free Will Baptist

GEM

"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"

Sunday School Attendance Averages 1976-77

CHURCH	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Bethel	109	94	90	100	99	107	106		114	110	92	116
Byrd									37		23	44
Copper Mines	83	83	81	83	85	95	84	73	74			
Cuba	112	120	112	105	116	105		121	97	95		
DeSoto	164	175	154	140	143	152	145	165	161			
Farmington	342	339	309	329		358	366	402	338	348	314	360
First Mission, Kansas City	34	24	25	28		19	23	30	32		24	23
Fourth	215	150	135	164	108	135	148	172	158			
Grant Avenue	116			113	121	103	127	134		119	101	
Hazel Creek	77	76	84									
Jones Chapel						101						
Leadington	81	82	74	68	67	69	74	74	78	79	50	77
Lebanon, First	181	165	156	164	143	137	152	152	154	134	91	139
Mountain Grove, First	274	282	251									
Myrtle	53	60	71									
Richwoods	31	34	30	31	30	33	35	32	41	32	27	37
Salem	48	37	32			32						
South Side	222	189	177	152	149	168						
Thayer	179			167		181						
Trinity	243	240	214	197	163	199	219	222	218	220		
Twin Oaks	91	94	80	89	82	96	101	103	95			
Victory	213	200										
Willow Springs	112	113	126	116	133	118	115	120	117		88	125

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

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

Clarence Burton, editor

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

Woman's Auxiliary news may be mailed to Shirley Bowden, 303 West Commercial, Lebanon, MO 65536.

The sermons and articles published in the GEM represent the personal views of the authors and not necessarily the views and policies of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists or of the editor.

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Subscription Rates: Single subscription, \$2.50 per year, cash in advance. Church Plan: \$2.00 per year consisting of five subscriptions or more. The Church Plan will continue until it is canceled by the church.

Second Class Postage paid at Lebanon, MO and at additional mailing offices. This magazine is published monthly.

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

Tithes Or Promises

by Leman Killian

Sometimes our churches are faced with the problem of income. That is the offerings will not take care of the expenses. Is it because the members do not realize what it takes to operate a church? Or is it possible they think the church should be able to grow without the needed financial help and giving? When the church offerings go up and down, one can't help but wonder if the Christians, who compose the membership, are true to His love.

Let's note in the Book of Malachi the promises of God to the ones that love and obey Him. Malachi 3:10 states, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." It surely is the will of God that every Christian should give at least a tenth of his earnings to the Lord through the church. The storehouse is the church. The devil will try to convince the believer that the church is not the storehouse, but, based upon the Scripture in First Corinthians 16:2, it seems rather clear that the church is the storehouse.

The local church and our state and national ministries are dependent upon the tithes and offerings. There must be the regular, systematic giving. I have talked to some people who have stated that when they got saved they made a promise that the Lord would receive a tenth of their income but later failed to keep that promise. Possibly someone reading this article may have done the same thing. Remember these words, "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay" (Ecclesiastes 5:4, 5). So, the church needs more than promises.

I know of a pastor who asked the church he was serving to try or test God for six months. This was a rather small church but they tried it and needless to say it worked.

The person that gives the Lord that which he should will not have to slide under the pew when

the preacher uses tithing as his subject. But rather, he will rejoice in the Lord because he is doing what the Lord wants the child of God to do. The Bible states, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). The Bible also states, "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:6, 7).

We should thank God for preachers that preach the whole counsel of God and remind the Christian that the tithe belongs to the Lord. Every pastor would like to see one hundred percent of his congregation tithe. If every Christian in our beloved denomination tithed, there would be no problem in meeting the needs of all phases of the Lord's work. This would result in a great revival in our denomination. God would pour out blessings that there would not be room enough to receive them.

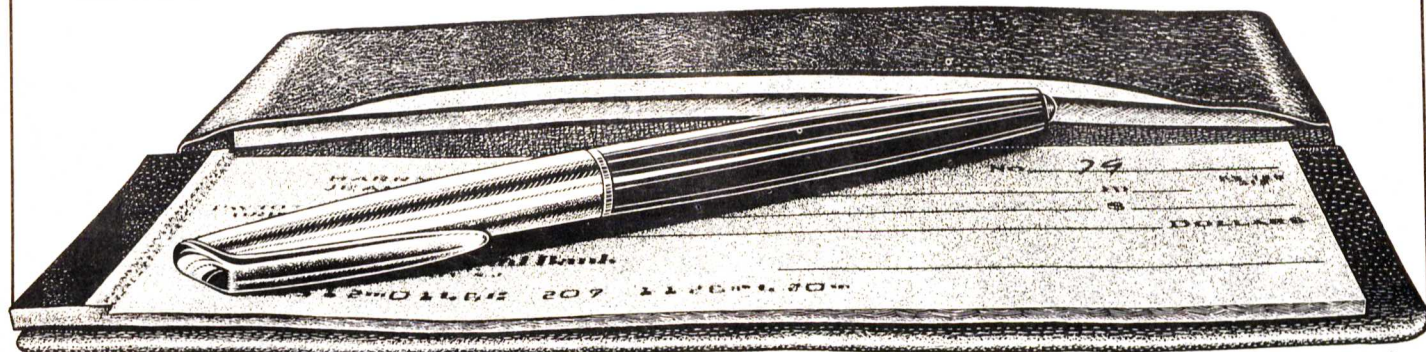
The words of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Great Commission amplify the needs of the church, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

The missionary program would not be a strain on the local church if Christians of the church would obey the Lord in storehouse giving. Have you heard someone say after a powerful message from the Word of God, "Why does the preacher always talk about giving?" Well, I will tell you; if a person gives as he should, he will say "amen" to the message and thank God for it.

Let me close this by asking, "Tithes or promises?"

Are you robbing God?

About the writer: Brother Leman Killian is a member of the Fourth Church in St. Louis, Missouri. He is a very concerned and sincere Christian and very involved in the work of the Lord. He has written several articles for the *Gem* which have shown his love for our state and national work.



CHURCHES PEOPLE AND EVENTS



Ordination Service
for Dale Blackwell



Valentine Party at Hurryville

Mrs. Ted Cluck, church reporter, writes that the Hurryville Free Will Baptist Church, located near Farmington, Missouri, enjoyed a Valentine Party on February 12, 1977.

There were two kings and queens. The junior department queen was Miss Amy McMillian, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David McMillian of Flat River, Missouri, and the king was Harold Grindstaff, son of Mrs. Mae Grindstaff and the late Rev. Don Grindstaff.

The senior department queen was Mrs. Martha Barker and the king was Mr. Ted Cluck. Refreshments and games were enjoyed by everyone.

Rev. Allen Helms of Hillsboro, Missouri, is the pastor.



The Gospel Message
by the Magician

The children are amazed and the adults sit in awe as Brother Ken Turner presents the gospel message with "magic."

Diskie, the dove, is used very effectively in presenting Bible lessons. Rabbits are used along with many objects such as silks, water, milk, flowers, etc.

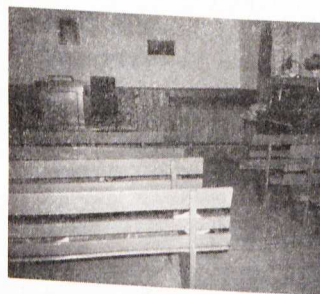
Brother Turner appeared on TV weekly for four years presenting his gospel program. He has also appeared in many churches and at the Missouri State Youth Camp. It is a ministry suitable for all ages and will bless and benefit any church.

Brother Turner is available for services and may be contacted at this address or telephone number: Rev. Ken Turner, 206 Euclid Avenue, Monett, Missouri 65608. Telephone—1-417-235-3704.

An impressive ordination service was held on February 12 for Rev. Dale Blackwell. The service was held at the New Rock Springs Church by the First Quarterly Meeting. Rev. Troy Burney, father-in-law, presented the charge and Rev. Mark Vandivort led in the ordination prayer.

Dale is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Blackwell of Lebanon, Missouri. His maternal grandparents are the late Clay Evans and Mrs. Irene Evans of Dixon, Missouri. His paternal grandparents are the late Mark Blackwell and Mrs. Martha Blackwell of Dixon, Missouri.

Rev. and Mrs. Blackwell are living in Dexter, Missouri, and attend the Free Will Baptist Mission in Poplar Bluff.



Homecoming Day Set at Amity Church

Mrs. Opal Hyde, church reporter, writes that the Amity Free Will Baptist Church has set Sunday, June 19, as the date for its homecoming service. An invitation is extended to all former pastors, members, and everyone that can attend. The church was organized in the year of 1895 and has had continuous services.

The church recently purchased new pews and carpeting. Also, the inside of the building was painted.

Rev. and Mrs. J. W. O'Neal are ministering to the church and Mrs. Hyde writes, "The church is very thankful for a fine pastor and family."

South Side Bids Farewell to Pastor

Sue Winchester and Sharon Poole, church reporters, write, "The day of February 27 was one of blessings and rejoicing; yet a little sadness was mingled in it too."

Brother Francis was in for a surprise when he walked back as usual to the choir room for perhaps the last time. No one was there! Suddenly marching into the auditorium came the choir members wearing the maroon robes (which will be used only for special occasions). It was historic.

Tom and Patty Barr had their new baby girl, Sharon, dedicated to the Lord. Brother Francis enjoyed this phase of his ministry. It seemed proper that this was a part of his special day.

Before the dinner a love offering was received for the Francis family. Brother Art Kossman presented the offering in behalf of the church. Each member of the family gave a brief speech.

The Believers Quartet with Brother Finis Barr added to the festivities of the day with special music for the morning service and in the afternoon.

In closing the article the reporters write, "Farewell to a real man of God and his family. May God be with you until we meet again."

Richwoods Church Reports Blessings

Mrs. Junior Lewis writes, "The Richwoods Church is doing well. The Lord is blessing, especially with a fine group of young people. The youth usually go skating once each month along with other activities. The Lord has also blessed with some very

fine and dedicated teachers. They are Polly Reed, Ann Griggs, Betty Sohn, and Dianne Voyles."

Snow and Miracles

"The first word of my title made the month of January almost uneventful, but we were thankful that most services were still held," writes Sue Winchester, church reporter for the South Side Church.

Two men from the church have felt a touch from God. Rev. Loy Smith was hit by a reckless driver while repairing his car. Some thought he would never walk again. But God in answer to many prayers touched his body, and a few weeks ago he walked inside the church auditorium with two canes. Brother Glenwood Turnbough was stricken with leukemia of the bone shortly after Thanksgiving. Prayers went up continuously for him. He has suffered pain and agony much of the time and lay at death's door. But, he is still alive. We thank God for hearing and answering prayer.



Points for Pastors

by Jim McAllister

The preacher is a steward of God and a servant of the church. He is the undershepherd over the flock. He is constantly on duty, subject to a call at any time. Because of his position and the fact that he usually lives in a church-owned parsonage adjacent to the church, he has little privacy. Everybody considers him to be working for them. Despite the fact that he and his family are on display, they do require some privacy and they must be allowed to have a personal life.

The preacher's HOME AND FAMILY. Acquaint the church with your need for reasonable privacy. Establish some order for your life, meals, bedtime, and worktime. Be sure they know how you want to be approached. It will be better that your people preface your name with "Brother" when addressing you as pastor, rather than just a flat Jim or Harry. Some prefer to address the preacher as "Pastor" and that is good. Preacher, you had better not throw away your family. God will not excuse that. Spend time with your family. Every pastor looks back with dismay at his failure here. Don't complain about church problems in front of the children. This will

cause them to reject future full-time Christian service and may even turn them from Christ.

The preacher's FINANCES. Don't love money or things. This is a pretty hard statement, isn't it? But you'd better whip this "root of all evil" now. Pay your bills on time; don't get into debt; have insurance; and don't do business with your church members. If you want the church to trust you in financial matters, take care of your own business first.

The preacher's PRIVATE DEVOTIONS. Commune with God daily in such a manner that your heart will be warmed, your fears removed, and your faith increased.

The preacher's MANNERS AND ETIQUETTE. Some of our preachers act like barbarians. They show no respect nor manners at all. "Man looks on the outward appearance." Watch how you dress, act, talk, sit, stand, address people, visit in homes, and conduct yourself. Buy a good book on etiquette and read it.

The preacher's PROPRIETY. Don't visit women alone; don't even drive across town with a young woman by yourself; and don't get the habit of touching women. Don't gripe about your church and salary; don't knock your denomination; and don't become lazy. There are many temptations along the way that can, if allowed, defeat the preacher. Space limits the list here. Use some judgment, brother.

The preacher's TIME. Attend all social, business, and devotional meetings of the church. Set aside time daily for study and devotions. Make at least 40 visits per week and read 50 good books each year. Observe office hours, and answer all correspondence promptly. "Buy up the time."

Promotional Secretary's Corner

by Clarence Burton

I read sometime ago a story about a town miser who had a reputation of never having given to any charitable cause. He always found some excuse or objection for not giving.

One day, following a Memorial Day service, several of the people in the community thought it would be well to erect a nice fence around the cemetery. A representative of the cause went to the miser and made the usual appeal. As usual the miser refused with this comment, "There is no need to put a fence around the cemetery, because those outside do not want to get in and those inside are unable to get out." Could this be the thinking of some who do not give or give very little to support the cause of Christ? I am in the fold; my family is in the fold, so why get concerned about anyone else? But how can the Christian be satisfied unless he is concerned and busy endeavoring to lead as many people to Christ as possible! Jesus said, "Go ye." The Apostle Paul said, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." As the song states, "Men are dying, souls are crying." We must win them at any cost! The Apostle Paul asks this question, "And how shall they preach, except they be sent?" Every church should give full prayer and financial support (as much as possible) to the pastor, and the pastor in turn should lead the church in full prayer and financial support of the state and national ministries.

I pray that it might be said of the Free Will Baptists of Missouri as it was of the churches of Macedonia that we gave as the grace of God manifested itself through us, reflecting and proving the sincerity of our love for the Lord. I trust this can be said of us as we meet at the next Missouri State Association in June.

February was a good month. The Lord is continuing to bless and we are so grateful! It looks as if we are going to meet our budget for cooperative giving, and it feels so good to meet a goal when it has been set. May the Lord bless every pastor and every layman who give support to this important ministry. The entire state and national work benefits from this unified plan of support. I pray the Lord will continue to bless it for His glory. Another church began support of the cooperative plan—the Shiloh Church in the Cave Springs Association. May the Lord bless the fine people of the church and the pastor, Rev. Clark Stephens, for this new endeavor for the Lord.

I shall list the places I have had the privilege of visiting during the month of February. May the Lord bless the kindness and warmth expressed to me. I know that I will always be indebted to the wonderful people of Missouri for their fine Christian hospitality.

Sunday, February 6

Beacon Church (Without a pastor at present. This is a fine church. Rev. Jim Bundy had a good ministry at this church.)

Saturday, February 5

Greater Kansas City Association

Rev. Dennis Bowman, moderator

Saturday, February 12

Indian Creek Association
Rev. Jim McCully, assistant moderator

Sunday, February 13

Conway Church

Rev. Bill Knapp, pastor

Sunday, February 13

Mt. Vernon Mission

Rev. Jim McCully, pastor

Friday, February 18

Niangua Quarterly Association

Rev. Frank Linton, moderator

Sunday, February 20

Harmony Church (near Seymour)

Rev. Denzil Dalton, pastor
Buffalo Church

Sunday, February 27

Rev. John Andrews, pastor
Happy Hill Church

Sunday, February 27

Rev. Joe Fulkerson, pastor

Will you continue to remember this ministry in prayer? The Lord is blessing and we are so grateful. I pray He shall continue to bless and bless as we work and labor for Him. I feel as did the psalmist when he said, "O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

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

Missouri State Registration Form	
Name	_____
Address	_____
Church Delegate	_____
	Name of Church
Signed	_____
	Pastor or Church Clerk

Motels in Springfield:

Colonial Motor Lodge	3501 W. Sunshine	1-417-831-6000
Lamplighter Motel	1772 S. Glenstone	1-417-881-4414
Mt. Vernon Motor Lodge	2906 S. Glenstone	1-417-881-2883
Battlefield Inn	2814 S. Glenstone	1-417-883-4455
(These are approximately 3 miles from the church.)		
Sheraton Inn	3333 S. Glenstone	1-417-883-6550
(approximately 6 miles from church)		
Howard Johnson	2610 N. Glenstone	1-417-866-6671
(approximately 8 miles from church)		
Holiday Inn	2700 N. Glenstone	1-417-865-5511
(approximately 8 miles from church)		

There are many other motels and hotels in Springfield. These are suggested for people that may not be familiar with the Springfield area.

Restaurants, cafes, and lunchstands are almost too numerous to mention.

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS February 1977

20.00% Missouri State Home Missions	\$1,937.92
16.25% Promotional Department	1,574.55
4.00% General Fund	387.58
5.50% Youth Camp	532.93
2.50% Gem	242.24
1.75% Sunday School & CTS	169.57
2.00% MBI	193.79
52% Seven State Departments	5,038.58
7.00% Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	678.28
13.00% Foreign Missions	1,259.64
9.00% Free Will Baptist Bible College	872.07
7.00% Executive Department	678.27
6.50% National Home Missions	629.83
2.50% CTS	242.24
2.50% Retirement & Insurance	242.24
.25% Laymen's Board	24.22
.25% Theological Commission	24.22
41% Eight National Departments	3,972.73
Total Disbursements	\$9,689.59

Let us thank the Lord for another fine month. The giving reflects the weather which affected the attendance.

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS February 1977

Mill Creek	\$ 59.41
Mill Creek Sunday school	38.00
Malden	72.93
Berkeley	441.42
Purdy	87.11
Mt. Pisgah	32.00
Sedalia	22.35
Fellowship	50.00
Alton	50.40
Number One	39.79
Oskaloosa	23.78
South Side	304.00
Kingsway	76.37
Macedonia Sunday school	10.00
Cape Girardeau	118.70
Bailey Chapel	18.00
New Harmony Sunday school	5.89
Houston	80.17
DeSoto	400.00
Grace	532.44
Walnut Grove	192.19
Pleasant Ridge	17.25
Mine La Motte	20.00
Marshfield	140.42
New Rock Springs	17.50
Freeman Chapel	82.24
Kirksville	30.00
Byrd	14.42
Oak Hill—Union	236.20
Hannon	166.50
Monett	293.10
Belton	303.00
Hartville	28.89
Lebanon, First	345.00
Olivet	175.00
Berean	135.00
West Plains	281.55
Beacon	341.77
First Mission, Kansas City	75.76
Rock Chapel	29.61
Granby	30.65
Verdella	102.71
Calvary Fellowship	313.65
Viburnum	15.00
Waynesville, First	35.75
Grant Avenue	393.20
Thayer	102.51
Copper Mines	100.00
Fredericktown, First	141.02

Merl's Chapel	27.27
Joplin	139.35
Rolla Mission	11.65
Leadington	179.50
Happy Home	42.06
Buffalo	71.60
Carterville	22.00
El Dorado, First	5.00
Community	18.83
Community	34.38
Fourth	366.00
Union Grove	210.00
Jones Chapel	142.36
Black Oak	10.00
Liberty	114.00
Fellowship	50.00
Oskaloosa	27.81
Willow Springs	152.83
Cabool	83.22
Faith	183.90
Cape Girardeau	213.82
Parkview	50.00
Cope	28.22
New Harmony Sunday school	4.75
Shiloh	28.67
Malden	77.49
Purdy	109.00
Kingsway	42.90
Monett	284.34
Poplar Bluff	7.40
Cuba	48.59
Lebanon, First	280.00
Total Cooperative Receipts	\$9,689.59

MISSOURI DESIGNATED GIVING February 1977

FOREIGN MISSIONS

South Side	\$178.61
Lonnie Palmer	\$85.00
Charolette Tallent	31.00
Bill Fulcher	5.00
Jerry Pinkerton	57.61
New Harmony Sunday school	\$67.10
Dr. LaVerne Miley	\$33.55
Jim McLain	33.55
Walnut Grove	\$10.00
Lynn Miley	\$10.00
Kirksville	\$102.83
Jerry Pinkerton	\$33.00
Howard Filkins	69.83
Black Oak	\$27.00
Jim McLain	\$27.00
Lebanon, First	\$553.00
Clint Morgan	\$241.50
Jerry Pinkerton	241.50
Dr. LaVerne Miley	5.00
Jerry Banks	10.00
Charolette Tallent	5.00
Patsy Van Hook	10.00
Lonnie Sparks	40.00
Olivet	\$80.00
Bobby Poole	\$20.00
Mabel Willey	20.00
Jerry Pinkerton	20.00
Howard Filkins	5.00
Lonnie Sparks	5.00
J. McLain	5.00
Lynn Miley	5.00
Thayer	\$434.01
Dale Bishop	\$ 16.00
Jerry Pinkerton*	418.01
West Plains	\$106.00
Howard Filkins	\$10.00
General Fund	96.00
Merl's Chapel	\$100.50
Carlisle Hanna	\$90.50
Lynn Miley	10.00

Bethel	\$24.25
Jerry Pinkerton	\$24.25
Total	\$1,683.30

*Jerry Pinkerton \$250.00
(did not come through state office but requested to
appear in *Gem*)

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS

New Home	\$20.00
Tom Owens	\$20.00
Hazel Creek	\$10.00
General Fund	\$10.00
Thayer	\$243.00
Poplar Bluff	\$ 38.00
Tom Owens	5.00
General Fund	200.00
Bethel	\$42.00
Perpetual Loan Fund	\$30.00
Dale Smith	12.00
Monett	\$5.00
Dale Smith	\$5.00
Lebanon, First	\$20.00
Tom Owens	\$20.00
Total	\$340.00

HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Thayer—Broadhurst Fund	\$200.00
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FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$200.00
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MISSOURI STATE YOUTH CAMP

Thayer	\$210.00
Olivet	10.00
Total	\$220.00

MASTER'S MEN

Lebanon, First, Master's Men to "Tool Shed Project"	\$10.00
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NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Olivet	\$30.00
Leland Horton	\$30.00
Bethel	\$5.00
Vergel Maness	\$5.00
Total	\$35.00

MISSOURI STATE GENERAL FUND

Hazel Creek Church	\$10.00
Merl's Chapel	\$49.00
Tommie Carlson (Jerome, Idaho)	\$49.00

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS GIVING FEBRUARY 5 through MARCH 5, 1977

O'Fallon	\$ 179.00
South Fremont	110.00
DeSoto	100.00
Olivet	225.00
West Plains	70.00
Grace	88.00
Victory	47.00
Oak Hill	94.06
Rock Chapel	70.00
Farmington	151.50
Berean	20.00
Cape Girardeau	15.00
Fellowship	23.00
Fourth	35.42
Hurryville	30.00

New Home	20.00
Hazel Creek	10.00
Thayer	243.00
Bethel	12.00
Monett	5.00
Lebanon	20.00
Berkeley	38.00
Cooperative Receipts	1,937.92
Total	\$3,543.90

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

Pastoral Changes:

Rev. Albert McFarland has accepted the pastorate
of the Gateway Church, Concord Village, Missouri
Rev. Kenneth Dodson has accepted the pastorate
of the Fourth Church in Maplewood, Missouri.

On The National Front

REV. SANDERS RESIGNS PASTORATE IN HAWAII

The Sanders write, "Greetings from Hawaii! This is our first letter of the year and it seems this is going faster than usual. We trust it is a good year for all. It certainly promises to be a year of adventure and excitement for the Sanders' family. Some of you have already heard and others have not, but I have resigned the church here in Hawaii. My family and I will be returning to the mainland. God was definite in His leadership almost eighteen years ago when we came to Hawaii, and we feel that He is just as definite now in leading us away. As the Lord has led we are confident He will continue to lead in the days ahead.

"We do want to take this opportunity to express our deepest heartfelt thanks and appreciation to each and everyone of you for your faithful prayer and financial support through these many years. We now have a good, well established local congregation with an attendance that ranges from 130 to 150 per Sunday and material property valued at more than one half million dollars, situated in one of the most beautiful parks in Hawaii."

MCLAINS PLAN TO ARRIVE IN LOS ANGELES JUNE 10

The McLains write from Japan that it is with mixed emotions they prepare for their furlough. They state, "We are tired and need a rest and a change. Yet we see opportunities opening like we have never seen before and there is a desire to stay."

They also state, "While the time is short and the

opportunity great, the work will not stop when we leave. The Lord said, 'I will build my church.' Our field of service will be changed for a time, but the furlough time is also part of the work of the Lord assigned to us."

In closing they state, "Thank you so much for your being a part of the Lord's work here in Hokkaido by giving to our account and by your prayers for us."

Home Missionary *David Bigger* has purchased 3.4 acres of land in a choice location in Ponca City, Oklahoma. Plans are under way to begin construction of the first unit of their church plant this spring.

Charles Harris, Lakewood, Colorado, has leased with option to buy a church building only eight years old in an excellent location. Their first Sunday in the new building resulted in the attendance being doubled.

The Home Missions church in Billings, Montana, where Missionary *Frank Cousineau* pastors, just concluded their first revival with 8 conversions, 17 rededications, and 98 in Sunday school. Free Will Baptists can be proud of the beautiful property and the precious people of the Billings Church.

The First Free Will Baptist Church, Emporia, Kansas, became self supporting March 1, 1977. The work was begun by Missionary *Bobby Clyatt* June, 1972. Missionary *Jim Summerson* assumed the work September, 1974. Both of these men are to be commended for a job well done.

Roy Thomas
Associate Director

MICHIGAN FREE WILL BAPTISTS HOSTING NATIONAL CONVENTION

NASHVILLE, TENN.—Free Will Baptists return en masse for the second time to the Great Lakes area of Michigan and specifically to Cobo Hall in Detroit for another session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Meeting July 17-21, 1977, one week later than previous convention sessions, representatives from the 40 states where the denomination has active congregations will hear reports from all national boards and commissions, establish policies for suggested adoption by local bodies, make plans to further the Kingdom's work through the denominational outreach in the next year, and fellowship around the Word.

"Triumphant in Christ" has been chosen as the 1977 convention theme. Numerous workshops and seminars designed to offer helps to Christian workers in the local church are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday of the convention. Business sessions will follow on Wednesday and Thursday.

It was in 1963 that 23 Free Will Baptist churches in Michigan hosted the 27th session of their national convention. The task of hosting this 41st annual denominational gathering will be shared by 5,194 members of 52 churches which are members of the 4 associations comprising the Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Representatives of the state association are

serving on the local Steering Committee to assist national convention personnel. The planning and implementation of each national meeting is the responsibility of the National Executive Office.

Meeting simultaneously with the National Association is the National Youth Conference. Attendance for the Sunday night keynote service of NYC '77 is expected to draw near the record number of 4,245 present in 1976. Over 2,000 of those in attendance were young people.

The Woman's National Auxiliary Convention will have their annual one-day conclave Tuesday, July 19.

The National Association of Free Will Baptists is comprised of nearly 2,500 congregations who have voluntarily chosen to join together in an endeavor to extend the witness of the local church throughout the world. The objectives of the National Association are implemented through eight departments which serve the needs of the local churches from offices in Nashville, Tennessee.

A TRIBUTE TO DAD

by Wanda Huett

On December 6, 1976, my father, Mr. Alvin Denton of Farmington, Missouri, passed away. Daddy had been very sick for several weeks. At his request we let him remain at home instead of in the hospital. What a blessing. Does that sound strange to you? The closeness, joy, laughter, and love in that house may never be found again. Such peace and harmony in our family was something we shall never forget.

Those last few weeks it seemed that Daddy was able to bring out the best in all of us. He became as a little child and we had to take care of him as such. He made us laugh with his cute little remarks and actions. When he could no longer talk, he communicated with his eyes or a nod of his head.

We were able to share with him the joys, laughter, and, oh yes, the pain. Maybe that is the reason we felt the closeness that we had one with another. Those walls were filled only with love and willingness to do what we could do to make Daddy comfortable and happy.

Let me mention how I was affected by this. I had been at a spiritual low for a very long time because I thought God had failed to keep a promise. The few weeks we took care of Daddy my thoughts were only of him with no more selfish thoughts of myself and no more wanting to know why things had gone wrong. I was learning once again the joy of doing something for someone else. Like so many of us in this busy world, I had become so involved in my own little world that I had forgotten about others. Daddy opened my eyes and heart to the nice feeling of doing something for others.

I am so thankful for the privilege of taking care of Daddy during his last days on earth. It's an experience I will never forget. I know that through his illness and death Daddy really "touched me."

About the writer: Mrs. Wanda Huett is a member of the Grace Church in Arnold, Missouri. Wanda has written a very timely and thoughtful article.

Woman's Page



Shirley Bowden, editor

aries to share with them a Pre-Thanksgiving day of prayer service. This grew to include other auxiliaries of the district and now these fellowships are held before Thanksgiving and Easter and have grown to include all the auxiliaries in the Indian Creek District. The last fellowship prayer service was held in November at the Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church near Purdy. The women presented an interesting program followed by an inspirational Thanksgiving message by Rev. Opal Jeffreys. At noon the ladies enjoyed a delicious luncheon and a time of fellowship. The next meeting will be held at the Jones Chapel Church on April 5 (Tuesday) and will be a combined Pre-Easter day of prayer and the district meeting. The officers of Indian Creek and the women of the Jones Chapel Woman's Auxiliary extend a hearty welcome to each woman to share in this time of fellowship.

(Mrs. Jo Ann Thomas is the district secretary for the Woman's Auxiliary in the Indian Creek District and is an active member in the Monett Woman's Auxiliary.)

BERKELEY CHURCH INAUGURATES THEIR FIRST LADY



by Linda Walls

Our pastor's wife, Mrs. Hope Van Winkle, was honored with a candlelight inaugural service at the February meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary at the Berkeley Free Will Baptist Church, St. Louis, Missouri. The theme of the service was "One In The Spirit."

Mrs. Van Winkle was presented roses by her family. Special inspirational music included "You Can Never Outlove the Lord" by Mrs. Marilyn Jones and "Come Holy Spirit" by Mr. and Mrs. Ron Scott. A devotion on love, given by Mrs. Wilma Barr, was a real blessing. Our president, Mrs. Laverne Matheny, administered the oath of office to our first lady who pledged to serve the Lord to the best of her ability. Mrs. Van Winkle delivered a challenging and inspirational inaugural address.

A unity candle was lit by Mrs. Van Winkle and Mrs. Matheny signifying our desire to be one in the Spirit, united with God. All twenty-five ladies present participated in taking a pledge, similar to the first lady's, lighting candles and singing "We Are One In The Spirit."

After a short business meeting we presented Mrs. Van Winkle with valentines containing our favorite Bible verses on love.

Mrs. Linda Walls is the program chairman for the Berkeley Auxiliary.

PRE-EASTER DAY OF PRAYER



by Jo Ann Thomas

A few years ago the Purdy, Missouri, Woman's Auxiliary invited the Monett and Macedonia auxil-

LOCAL AUXILIARY NEWS



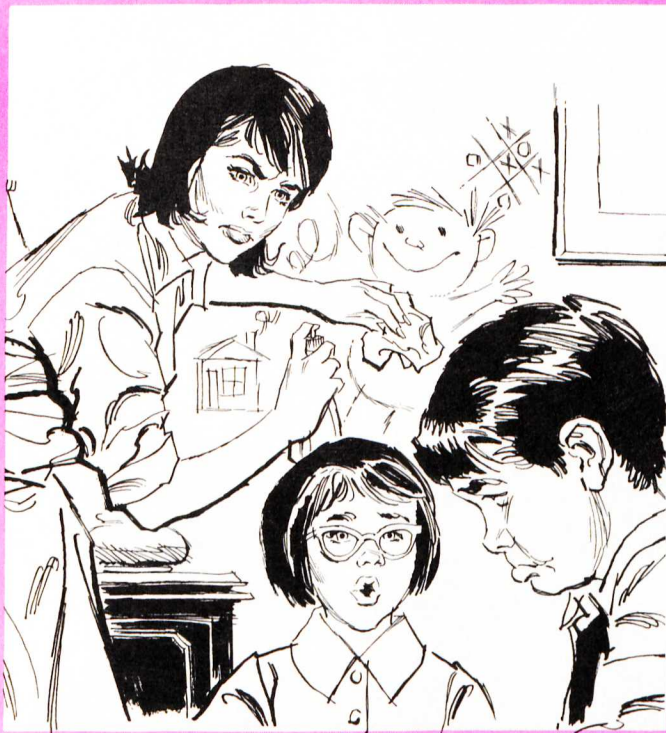
The Faith, Hope, and Charity Auxiliary of Monett, Missouri, has been very busy. In November, the auxiliary members took pumpkin tarts and relish trays to a local nursing home. While at the home, they held a service with the residents. In December several of the ladies went to visit a member of the church who lives in a nursing home. He was presented with a cash gift enabling him to purchase Christmas gifts for his family. A large box of linens was sent to the Children's Home in Greeneville, Tennessee. A Valentine Party was held in February which brought in over \$200 in linens, appliances, and flatwear for the Missionary Provision Closet. One hundred dollars was also sent to purchase books for the library at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee.

The auxiliary consists of twenty women with the meetings held in the members' homes. The goal set by the auxiliary is to teach the women about missions, supporting the missionaries through sacrificial giving. The necessity of a faithful prayer life is also stressed. Mrs. Naman Lombard is the president.

CORRECTION!



In the February issue of the Woman's Page, the secretaries and treasurers were asked to make their reports out earlier. PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: The local secretaries and treasurers should have their reports sent to their district secretaries and treasurers no later than April 25. The district secretaries and treasurers should then have their reports sent to the state secretary and treasurer no later than May 1. Please get these to the respective people by these dates. Report forms will be sent to the secretaries and treasurers.



THE PRODIGAL SON, PARAPHRASED

A certain man had a wife and three children. The wife, becoming dissatisfied with being a mother and doing housework and coveting the money and material belongings of her neighbors, said to her husband: "Secure for me the Social Security number that falleth to me; divide unto me thy wardrobe of trousers; and I will go out into the world and seek a man's job." With reluctant heart, the husband granted her desire and divided his wardrobe.

Not many days later the wife donned slacks and with a toolbox took her journey far across town and secured a man's job. She made big wages but she

associated with the wicked and listened to the vulgar stories that they told. There was a mighty spiritual famine in the land, and she grew lean in her soul.

The children turned loose at the mercy of the neighbors, soon forgot they had a mother. But the husband fondly remembered how it was in the home when the wife had been there and wished she would return. He dined on cold lunch meat while the wife tried in vain to fill her stomach with the husks of the cheese and crackers that fell from the vending machine, and no man gave unto her the respect due a lady. One day at rest period as she sat engulfed in cigarette smoke and smutty stories, she came to herself. She said to herself with remorse, "Here I sit surrounded by vulgarity having sacrificed the respect due to a lady. At home is my deserted husband and roaming the streets unrestrained are my children. The money I make seems so small when compared to the peace of mind and soul that was mine before I left home."

In vain she did try to smother her conscience with thoughts that she was contributing to the family's economic welfare. However, it was in vain because she said to herself, "I will arise and go to my husband and say to him, 'Husband, I have sinned against Heaven in neglecting you and the children in this way. I am no more worthy to be called thy wife nor mother to thy children. Make me thy hired housekeeper.'"

So she gathered her tools and started home. While she was still a long way off, the husband saw her and ran and clasped her in his arms and the wife said, "Husband, I am no more worthy to be called thy wife, nor the mother of thy children." But the husband said to the children, "Run and bring hither a dress and the best apron. Rush to the market and get a steak off the fatted calf, and let us have a hot meal once more. For this thy mother was lost but is found, so rejoice and be merry." (See Proverbs 31:10-28.)

(This article was sent in by Mrs. Doyle Davis. She is a member of the Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church.)

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR MARCH AND APRIL

*Rolla Smith, director of the Foreign Missions Department

*Robert Shockey, director of the Home Missions and Church Extension Department

*Jerry and Janice Banks, missionaries to Japan

*Doc Catons and Lonnie Sparks in Spain

*Joe Haas family, missionaries to France, now home on furlough

*The Steve Pryor family. Mrs. Pryor had brain surgery on March 15. The tumor was benign but was very large. The family has no hospitalization insurance and the estimated cost is over \$40,000. A trust fund is being set up for them.

Again we will list the addresses for the *Heartbeat*, the Foreign Missions Magazine, and the *Mission Gram*, the Home Mission Paper: P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. Remember that the publications are free and carry the latest news about your missionaries.

REMEMBER THE STATE PROJECTS

Remember that the year will be closing shortly; therefore, we need to be busy in getting the money in for the "Hanna's Handy Helpers" and for the Perpetual Loan funds. Be praying what God would have you do as an auxiliary member to help the projects in being reached.

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

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NOTE THESE SPECIAL DATES AND PLACES:

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

Workday Youth Camp—May 14

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

