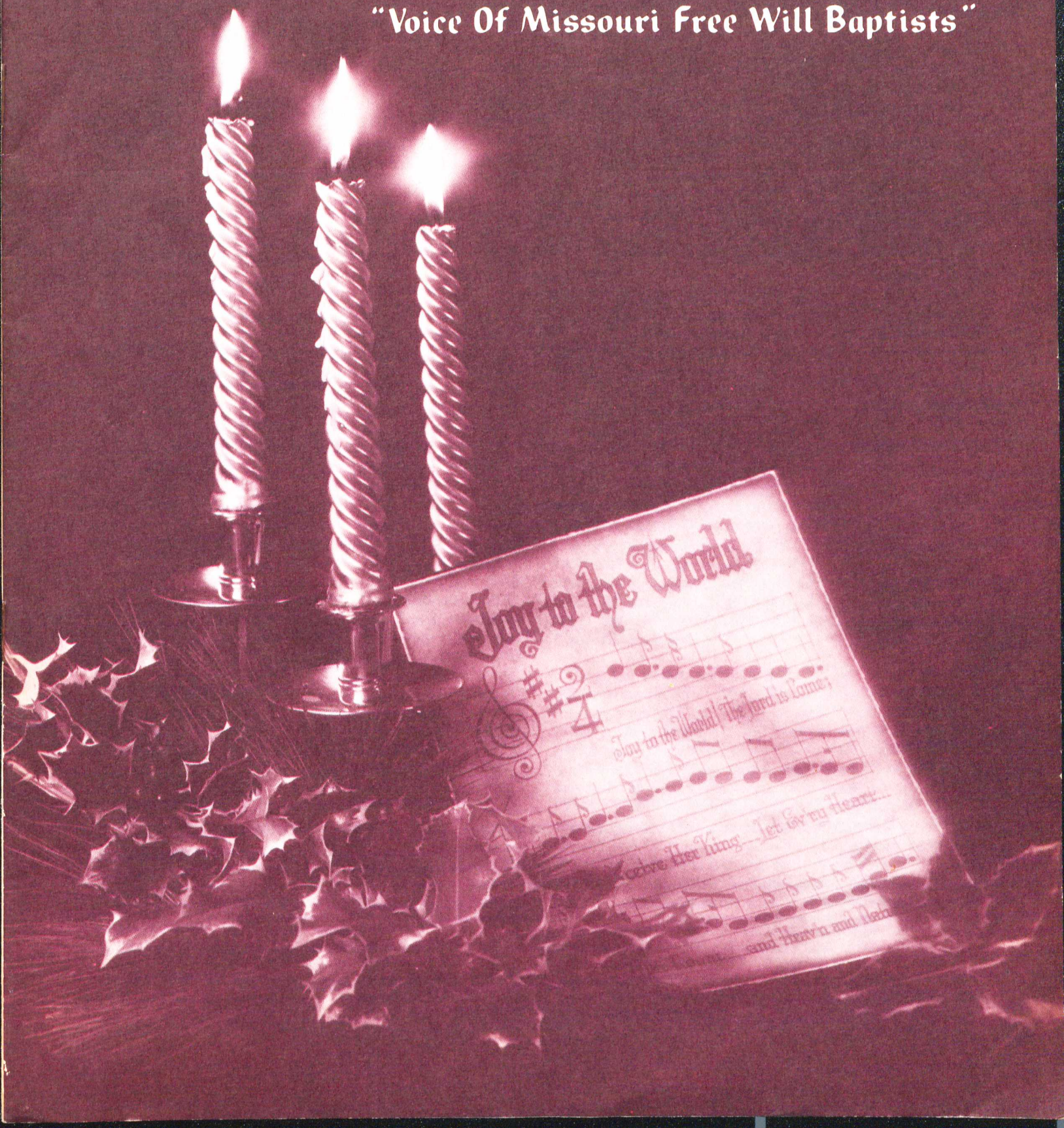


Volume 47, Number 12, December, 1977

Free Will Baptist

GEM

"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"



Sunday School Attendance Averages 1976-77

CHURCH	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Bethel, Festus	114	110	92	116		111	103		89	88	83	93
Byrd	37		23	44								
Calvary, Conway	111	114	56	116	131	147	135	119	116	138	122	133
Coppermines	74											
Cuba	97	95	67	94	62	74	83	88	88	89	81	82
DeSoto	161											
Farmington	338	348	314	360	393	386	369	362	368	360	374	447
Kansas City, First	32		24	23	18	23	18	19	17	20	16	18
Kirksville			84	93	116	112	100	102	95	102	103	105
Fourth	138		139	146	154	149	155	143		101	117	134
Gray Summit											19	26
Grant Avenue		119	101	126								
Leadington	78	79	50	77								
Lebanon, First	154	134	91	139	148	142	132	126	112	142		
Myrtle	46	65	43	52	60	69	60	54	58	52		
Parkview								82		74		
Richwoods	41	32	27	37	39	47	43	35	30	35		
Trinity	218	220	206	215	224	231	201	192	170	201	203	200
Twin Oaks	95	98	73	95	105	109	92					
Willow Springs	117		88	125		113	108	119	115	116	101	115

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

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Clarence Burton, editor

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The Story that Never Grows Old

by Clarence Burton



“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (*And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this *shall* be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by

the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them” (Luke 2:1-20).

There is no story that has so stirred the heart of humanity as the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. Every year as we celebrate in a special way the birthday of our Lord, born of the virgin, Mary, it brings renewed excitement and joy. I suppose the story has been told more than any other story, and yet it is still full of charm. Men tell it in all lands, and they joy over it as if it were an event of yesterday. It is new at every Christmas, and it presents a beautiful opportunity to share the good news of the birth, the life, the death, the resurrection, the ascension, and the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us note some things about this beautiful miraculous event. *The place.* The first Christmas service was not held in a church building, nor in a temple or synagogue, but rather out of doors in a building or shed used to shelter cattle.

The woman. Her name was Mary. She had been selected as the woman to give birth to the Christ-Child. The unusual thing concerning the pregnancy of Mary was that she had not conceived of Joseph but of the Holy Spirit of God. This was explained to Mary by the angel Gabriel as to how this would take place. “And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS” (Luke 1:31). Then Mary asked the question in verse 34, “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” The angel gives the answer in the following verse. “And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee

shall be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). I believe this, and every person that has made profession of faith in Christ believes this. Do I understand all about it? No. I accept it as a miracle of God; I accept it by faith. It is just as simple and profound as that. God said it and I believe it.

The man. His name was Joseph. He knew that Mary had not conceived of him. This is the reason the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream and said, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 1:20). One may read in the two previous verses that Joseph and Mary were engaged and Mary was pregnant.

The Baby. His name was given to Him before He was born: "Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). This is what man and this is what the world needed—a Savior. Someone has written: "The world did not need an advisor, even though Jesus gave proper advice; the world did not need a reformer, even though Jesus brought about some needed reforms; the world did not need an organizer; what the world needed was a Savior." What beautiful words from the angel that announced, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Is He your Savior? If He isn't it is simply because you have not recognized Him and trusted Him as such. He said, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

I heard this story some time ago. A young boy

was looking out the window of his bedroom one cold, winter day. Snow had fallen the night before and everything was covered with millions and millions of snowflakes. A little bird was trying to perch on the ledge of the window but with the snow being so deep it dared not. It appeared that it was trying to get inside the house by flying to the window and almost hitting it then flying away. The little boy began trying to tell the little bird about the barn and that it could find shelter and food in the barn. Of course, the bird could not understand the little boy. The father, who was a minister, was sitting in the living room and hearing his son talking decided to investigate and find out who the son was talking with. The father stopped outside the bedroom door watching the boy trying to talk and gesture to the little bird. Then he heard the little boy say, "If I could just be a bird for a little while I could show you how to get to the barn." The father paused for a moment and thought, "That is exactly what God did for man." In order that He might show us the way to Heaven and how to live He entered the human race in the Person of Jesus Christ. He came to seek and save that which was lost!

If you have never received Him as your Savior, will you do it today? The Golden Text of the Bible states, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

What a wonderful, beautiful Christmas this Christmas will be if you know the Christ of Christmas.



Points for Pastors

by Jim McAllister

As a pastor my obligations are to reach the unreached with the gospel; refute error as taught by the liberals, cults, and even doctrinal errors as taught by conservative churches; fight sin and build the church numerically; and yet express Christian love to a lost world by treating other pastors with respect and honor. We find ourselves in an almost impossible situation. To accomplish all these things we must set some priorities.

FIRST, reach the unreached. That is, be primarily

concerned about winning the professed unsaved, those who actually admit they are sinners.

SECOND, teach your church doctrine. Teach it in a positive manner. By doing this you aren't fighting other churches but actually "defending the faith." Teach the church doctrine on the Holy Spirit, security of the believer, and the second coming of Christ. Teach by promoting your own doctrine, not by attacking other churches. Now we are not referring to the cults. Expose them, but don't attack the conservative, Bible believing church.

THIRD, build your church by establishing a strong program of evangelism, sweet Christian fellowship, doctrinal stability, and interesting services for all to enjoy. If the sermons are interesting and exciting, music is enjoyable, and fellowship is sweet, people will come to your church. When they come, they will like what they find and return.

By doing these things, you will not have much difficulty with other pastors. If they get angry with you, be sure it's because of jealousy and not because of unchristian-like conduct on your part.

We are, in a sense, talking about building an image for ourselves and our church in the community. This image must be one of evangelism, love, fellowship, doctrinal stability, and yet one of ethics. God help us to be of the mind of Christ.

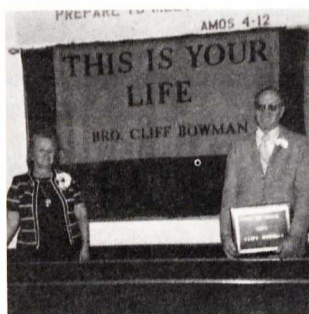
CHURCHES PEOPLE AND EVENTS

This Is Your Life—Cliff Bowman

On Friday evening, October 28, 1977, the Woman's Auxiliary of the Greater Kansas City District Association and the Olivet Free Will Baptist Church held a surprise "This Is Your Life" program for Rev. Clifford Bowman, pastor of the Olivet Church. What a surprise and what an enjoyable evening! From the time Rev. Lawrence Thompson said, "This Is Your Life, Brother Cliff Bowman," until the final amen, everyone shared with the Bowmans a panoramic view of their lives since they professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The family and guests were introduced by the master of ceremonies, Rev. Bill Evans. The first guest was a comic character portrayed by Mrs. Helen McAllister. (This was reminiscent of some youth camp experiences.) Then there was Brother Bowman's family, beginning with his wife Frances, his son Dennis, his daughter Cathy, his daughter-in-law Jeanne, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vic Bowman. Following these were friends: Rev. and Mrs. Cleo Covington, Rev. and Mrs. Frank Cunningham, Dwight Cunningham, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Bilger, Loretta Bowman, Rev. and Mrs. Jim McAllister, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Collier, Mrs. Margret Wantland, Marlene Ray, Rev. and Mrs. Ed Vincent, Rev. and Mrs. Jim Stovall, Bill Fisher, Bill Swearington, Rev. and Mrs. Harry Beatty, and Rev. and Mrs. Clarence Burton.

There were several out of town guests other than those appearing on the program. They were Rev. and Mrs. Archie Cooper, Rev. and Mrs. Leslie Dirk, Rev. and Mrs. Jim Mertz, Rev. and Mrs. Edwin



Bowden, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Bandy, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rythem, and several children of the out of town guests. Of course there was a great number from the Olivet Church and many friends from the Greater Kansas City District Association. Brother Dennis Bowman estimated the crowd at over 400.

As the program unfolded it was evident that Rev. Clifford Bowman had touched and influenced the lives of many, many people. The testimony of friends and family gave evidence that the Lord had used this servant to preach His Word and minister to His people. Testimonies of some that could not attend were given by tape (Rev. Glen Rehkop and Missionary Bill Poole) and by letter (Rev. Rufus Coffey).

There were two presentations made to Rev. Bowman. Mrs. Audrey Bigelow, director of the program, presented an appropriate plaque; and Bill Fisher, member of the Olivet Church, presented a This Is Your Life Scrapbook. As a footnote to the beautiful and meaningful program, Rev. Dale Skiles sang one of Brother Bowman's favorite popular songs, "Old Shep."

Following the program, everyone enjoyed refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Mrs. Thomas, a member of the Olivet Church, prepared a delicious and beautiful cake made as a miniature Olivet Church. This was served along with other tasty food.

This feeling is felt and expressed by everyone: May the Lord grant this servant many more years of service for the Master.

Thanks for Response to Youth Camp Need

Mrs. Frances Bowman writes: "I want to personally thank each church and individual that contributed towards the purchase of a lawn mower for the youth camp. Surely everyone is glad to have a part in this endeavor and to share in a very worthwhile project. The following is a list of contributors: Olivet Church, \$25.00; Sedalia Mission, \$25.00; Viburnum Auxiliary, \$25.00; West Plains, \$25.00; Hartville Auxiliary, \$25.00; South Fremont, \$25.00; William Cruse, \$25.00; Stockton Mission, \$25.00; Rock Chapel, \$100.00; Mountain Grove, \$25.00; Hazel Creek, \$25.00.

"If your church has not sent in its promised amount, please do so as quickly as possible in order that the balance on the mower can be paid. Send to: Frances Bowman, 625 N. O'Dell, Marshall, Missouri 65340."

Revival at First Church El Dorado Springs

Mrs. Mildred Kicenski, church clerk, writes, "The First Free Will Baptist Church of El Dorado Springs, Missouri, just closed a two-week revival with Rev. Elwood R. Perry serving as the evangelist. His messages from the ageless King James Bible were very timely and helpful to the church. The church had circle prayers each night for the salvation of the lost and that the Lord would open doors to reach the unsaved. Following the revival, Brother Perry was asked to assist the pastor in baptizing three converts who made professions of faith on Monday

after the revival services had closed. Rev. Morgan Walker is the pastor."

Promoted to Glory

Mrs. Parzettie E. Reagan, member of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Fredericktown, Missouri, went to be with the Lord on Thursday evening, October 13, 1977. Sister Reagan had been ill for several months. Until the time of her illness, she had been a faithful and active member of the church. She will be missed by the family and her many friends. She was 84 years old.

Have We Sung Your Favorite Hymn Lately?

The First Free Will Baptist Church in Joplin included in its church newsletter a place to select three favorite hymns. These selections are given to the music director and used for the Sunday evening service. This gives everyone a chance to sing and hear his favorite hymn. Rev. N. R. Smith is the pastor. (Editor's note: I like that.)



Homecoming at Verdella

The Verdella Free Will Baptist Church recently held its first homecoming celebration on Sunday, October 2, 1977. The church celebrated 85 years of Christian service.

There were four former pastors present for the special service. They were Rev. Lowell Martin, Rev. Winford Davis, Rev. Finnis Johnson, Rev. Hollis Walker, and the present pastor, Rev. Leroy Blankenship.

The message for the morning service was delivered by Rev. Finnis Johnson. A basket dinner was enjoyed in the fellowship area of the church.

Special singing was presented in the afternoon by The Foundations from Springfield, Bob and Barbara Hopkins from Liberal, The Nutting Family from Webb City, and Ronnie Talbot from Liberal. The former pastors and friends gave testimonies at the afternoon service.

The Sunday school participated in the Enlargement Campaign and enjoyed an increase of 32 percent. The attendance record has been broken twice during the past two months with an attendance of 106 and 107.

The church enjoyed a fine revival with Rev. Glen Rehkop serving as the evangelist.

Included in the picture are two charter members of the church, Sister Janie Fast and Sister Lena Stacy.

In Memory of Rev. Albert Tucker

Reverend H. Albert Tucker of Rivermines, Missouri, died on July 24, 1977, at the Farmington Community Hospital. Memorial services were held at the Sparks Chapel in Flat River on Wednesday, July 27. Reverend Grant Saverance, pastor of the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church where Tuck was a member, officiated. Ordained pastors from the surrounding area served as honorary pallbearers. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Blanche Bennett Tucker, three children, Sterling Tucker of Miami, Florida; Anna Mae (Mrs. Al) MacFarland of Arnold, Missouri; and Alvin Ray (Sonny) of Rivermines, Missouri. Thirteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren also survive Reverend Tucker.

"Tuck" was ordained into the ministry on December 13, 1944, and served as pastor at the Richwoods and Womack churches. He served as supply pastor to a number of churches. He was retired from the St. Joseph Lead Company where he worked for a number of years. He remained faithful and active in his home church up until a few days before his death. He was secretary of the Executive Board of the St. Francois Quarterly Meeting for a number of years.

He will be missed not only by his immediate family but by a host of friends and his church family at Fellowship. The following poem was written as a tribute to him by one from his church family.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF "TUCK"

Heaven's gates swung open wide
And bade dear "Tuck" to come inside.
He left behind this world of sin and strife
To embrace the joys of eternal life.

For now he's met His Savior and Friend
And heard the angelic voices blend.
No more sorrow will crease his brow
Nor pain will cause his head to bow.

He's meeting friends from all around.
Contented smiles everywhere abound.
Sweet peace is theirs forevermore—
For they have entered Heaven's Door.

The message that he leaves, I'm sure,
Is one of love, so sweet and pure.
"Come on, dear friends, and never fear
For Jesus and I are waiting here."

by Betty M. Reeves

Promoted to Glory

Don Allen Thomas was called home to be with the Lord on October 25, 1977. Death came as a result of an airplane accident.

Brother Thomas was born September 12, 1939, near Liberal, Missouri. He made profession of faith in Jesus Christ under the ministry of Rev. James McCully. He was ordained to serve as a deacon of the Hannon Free Will Baptist Church while Rev.

Grover Terry was serving as pastor. He served as teacher of the Young Married Class and was treasurer of the recent building program. He will surely be missed by his family and many friends.

He is survived by his wife Irene and two teenage daughters, Vickie and Denise.



Ordination Service at Gray Summit

Rev. Johnny James was ordained to the ministry on Saturday night, November 5, 1977, at the Gray Summit Mission. Brother James is serving as pastor of this work.

The ordination message was delivered by Rev. H. T. Dann, with the challenge and charge being given by Rev. Kenneth Dodson. Others that assisted in the ordination were Rev. Wayne Adrian, Rev. Jim Ives, and Brother Louis Wilhite.

The church reporter writes further, "The Lord blessed on October 9 at the homecoming day service with an attendance of 57 and seven that made profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Rev. Leroy Blankenship delivered the message at the morning service. Approximately 140 attended the afternoon service.

"The mission has increased each month in attendance. These figures indicate the growth: Average attendance—August, 17; September, 26; and October, 32. Rev. Johnny James, pastor, requests the prayers of Christian people that the Lord will continue to bless this work for the Lord. Brother James delivered the message for the Community Thanksgiving Day Service, which was held at the Methodist Church in Gray Summit."

DeSoto, Missouri
October 25, 1977

Youth Camp Treasurer's Report from April 1 to September 30.

Here is a list of those churches, individuals, and the Woman's Auxiliary contributing to the Youth Camp for the first six months from April 1 through September 30.

Macedonia Sunday School	\$60.00
Oskaloosa	70.00
Myrtle	126.16
Union	60.00
Hazel Creek	30.00
Fredericktown	120.00
New Home	60.00
Hannon	90.00
Central, K. C.	50.00
First Mission, K. C.	30.00

Grace, Arnold	120.00
Cuba	70.00
Verdella	60.00
New Rock Springs	70.00
Rock Chapel	60.00
Willow Springs	50.00
Fourth Church	60.00
Berean Church	20.00
First, DeSoto	120.00
New Life	60.00
Faith	60.00
First, Mountain Grove	60.00
Olivet	60.00
Thayer	60.00
Parkview	20.00
Oak Hill	10.00
WOMAN'S AUXILIARY	306.27
INDIVIDUALS	
Bob and Ann Cook	210.00
Verda Jones	25.00

For the Camp Board,
Charles Miller

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF O'FALLON HOLDS DEDICATION OF NEW SANCTUARY AND EDUCATION FACILITIES

On October 16, 1977, the First Free Will Baptist Church of O'Fallon, Missouri, dedicated to the glory of God a 40' by 70' additional sanctuary space and educational facility to a present existing 40' by 60' building.

Rev. Clarence Burton, Promotional Secretary of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, brought the dedicational message. Others who assisted in the service were Rev. Russell Spurgeon, pastor of Trinity Church, and Pastor Donald W. Lombard.

The church began as a Missouri Home Mission Project in O'Fallon during the spring of 1966. In June of 1967, it was organized into a church with 23 members. It was during 1970 that the church grew to a membership of 53 with a Sunday school average of 60, which deemed it necessary to build a new auditorium. It was under the leadership of the present pastor, Donald W. Lombard, that the church broke ground in January, 1971, for the first unit of building with seating capacity for 225. The building



was occupied in August, 1971, and dedicated in October of the same year. Again the church in meeting continuing growth, broke ground on September 22, 1976, for a second building program which included a 40' by 70' addition to be added to the present 40' by 60' building. This new addition included both additional sanctuary space as well as educational space. The seating capacity was increased to 450. The new building addition was completed in the summer of 1977 and was dedicated to the glory of God on October 16, 1977. Church membership now stands at 195.

Rev. Donald W. Lombard, native of Southwest Missouri, is serving as pastor of the church. He and his wife, Carolyn, have served the church for the past seven and one-half years.

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSION GIVING OCTOBER 5 through NOVEMBER 5, 1977

Hannon	\$ 324.00
Olivet	225.00
DeSoto	150.00
Flat River, First	90.30
Grace	92.00
Rock Chapel	55.00
Myrtle	128.52
Berkeley	25.00
New Harmony	16.65
Martinstown	15.00
Hazel Creek	105.00
Kirksville	93.24
Central	81.07
Thayer	59.52
Gospel Light	26.37
Mountain Grove	2.50
Merl's Chapel	7.58
Fourth	59.36
Fellowship	15.00
Cooperative Receipts	2,465.71
Total	\$4,177.82

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

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS October 1977

Hannon	\$ 161.00
Belton	144.00
Macedonia Sunday school	13.65
Poplar Bluff	13.27
Beacon	275.36
Viburnum	30.00
Faith	108.00
Pleasant Grove (Cope)	21.15
Grant Avenue	300.00
Pleasant Ridge	32.39
Sedalia	32.32
Fordland	158.15
Low Ground	25.00
Malden	88.39
South Side	280.31
Berkeley	402.36
Number One	33.78
Mt. Pisgah	60.00
Olivet	175.00
Bailey Chapel	25.00
First Church, Kansas City	62.34
Byrd	29.17
Community	41.55
Community	36.83
New Rock Springs	50.00
The Jones Family	178.50
Kirksville	30.00

Lebanon, First	237.00
Cape Girardeau	166.76
Trinity	325.00
Kingsway	36.60
Hurryville	78.50
DeSoto	450.00
O'Fallon	347.00
West Plains, First	243.00
Grace	495.00
Dexter	55.86
Hopewell	73.65
Freeman Chapel	73.68
Purdy	88.11
Hartville	122.66
Pleasant Hill	26.24
Merl's Chapel	42.32
Jones Chapel	396.12
Joplin	236.31
Richwoods	142.67
Fredericktown, First	208.22
Pleasant Home	110.68
Aulsbury Chapel	284.00
Community	38.48
Farmington	875.45
Faith, Fairgrove	150.00
Bethel, Festus	176.00
Verdella	111.95
Coppermines	105.00
Calvary, Conway	125.00
Belton	161.00
Poplar Bluff	18.98
Oak Hill, Union	215.74
New Life, Licking	65.25
Wolf Creek	92.00
Leadington	220.93
Cabool	82.54
Mountain Valley	238.04
Black Oak	10.00
Buffalo	81.10
Thayer	131.74
Carterville	35.40
Marshfield	93.20
Cuba	64.43
Mountain Grove, First (August-September)	801.74
Mine La Motte	22.80
Fellowship	50.00
El Dorado Springs, First	5.00
Fourth	362.00
Faith, Lemay	129.46
Poplar Bluff	25.32
Myrtle	184.65
Willow Springs	205.13
Mt. Pisgah	63.00
Pleasant Ridge	42.28
Monett	298.03
Total Cooperative Receipts	\$12,328.54

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS October 1977

20.00% Missouri State Home Missions	\$2,465.71
16.25% Promotional Department	2,003.39
4.50% General Fund	554.78
5.25% Youth Camp	647.25
2.00% GEM	246.57
2.00% Sunday School and CTS	246.57
2.00% Christian Board of Education	246.57
52%	6,410.84
7.00% Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	863.00
13.00% Foreign Missions	1,602.72
9.00% Free Will Baptist Bible College	1,109.58
7.00% Executive Department	862.99
6.50% National Home Missions	801.35
2.50% CTS	308.21
2.50% Retirement and Insurance	308.21
.25% Laymen's Board	30.82
.25% Theological Commission	30.82
41%	5,054.70
Total Disbursements	\$12,328.54

Let us thank the Lord for a wonderful month.

MISSOURI DESIGNATED GIVING October 1977

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

South Side Church	\$168.00
Bob Francis	\$168.00
Olivet Church	\$50.00
Leland Horton	\$50.00
Thayer Church	\$2.00
Mark Vandivort	\$2.00
Bethel Church, Festus	\$25.00
Bob Francis	\$20.00
Dale Smith	5.00
Mountain Grove, First	\$146.50
Mark Vandivort	\$94.00
Leland Horton	50.00
General Fund	2.50
Columbia Church	\$15.00
Mark Vandivort	\$15.00
Lebanon, First Church	\$12.00
General Fund	\$2.00
Bob Francis	10.00
Total	\$418.50

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS

Gospel Light Church	\$26.37
General Fund	\$26.37
Hazel Creek Church	\$50.00
General Fund	\$50.00
Thayer Church	\$33.00
General Fund	\$1.00
Tom Owens	2.00
Poplar Bluff	30.00
Mountain Grove, First Church	\$2.50
General Fund	\$2.50
Total	\$111.87

MISSOURI STATE YOUTH CAMP

Olivet Church	\$10.00
Faith Church	10.00
Thayer Church	10.00
Fourth Church	10.00
Total	\$40.00

DESIGNATED GIFTS TO CHILDREN'S HOME, GREENEVILLE

Gospel Light Church	\$52.74
Mountain Grove, First Church	20.00
Total	\$72.74

FOREIGN MISSIONS

South Side Church	\$175.00
Charolette Tallent	\$170.00
Jerry Pinkerton	5.00
Gospel Light Church	\$26.37
General Fund	\$26.37
Olivet Church	\$95.00
Bobby Poole	\$40.00
Jerry Pinkerton	10.00
Mabel Willey	20.00
Lynn Miley	10.00
Howard Filkins	5.00
Lonnie Sparks	5.00
Jim McLain	5.00
Belton Church	\$15.00
Dr. Miley	\$15.00
Kirkville, First Church	\$95.23
Howard Filkins	\$66.23
Jerry Pinkerton	29.00
Kingsway Church	\$46.60
Joe Haas	\$46.60
West Plains, First Church	\$60.00
Howard Filkins	\$10.00
General Fund	50.00
Thayer Church	\$109.14
Jerry Pinkerton	\$96.14
General Fund	8.00
Dale Bishop	5.00
Bethel, Festus	\$40.00
Charolette Tallent	\$15.00
Jerry Pinkerton	12.00
Archie Mayhew	13.00
Black Oak Church	\$34.50
Carlisle Hanna	\$34.50
Mountain Grove, First Church	\$120.00
Bill Fulcher	\$10.00
General Fund	85.00
Dennis Teague	25.00
Columbia Church	\$86.00
Total	\$902.84

HILLSDALE FREE WILL BAPTIST COLLEGE

Mountain Grove, First Church	\$30.00
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From the Desk of the Promotional Secretary

by Clarence Burton



Someone has said, "October is the month God chose to display His beautiful symphony of colors." What a beautiful time of the year!

This has been a fine month for cooperative giving. It is reflective that the Lord is blessing His work. May the Lord bless every pastor and church that is so faithful in supporting this unified plan of giving. The giving for October more than compensated for the deficit in September. We thank God for this and

pray that He shall continue to give to us out of His abundant resources.

I was reading a passage of Scripture sometime ago that spoke to my heart. It was 2 Corinthians 9:6-10. Here are some of the verses. "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.... Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for *your* food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness." These verses simply state that as we give to God He meets our needs. The God of Elijah is still the same today. When the prophet put himself at God's disposal, his needs were met, even though the land was plagued with a famine. David testified, "I have been young and now I am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread." Jesus spoke to His disciples and said, "When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing" (Luke 22:35).

So, we can see that God commits himself to meet our needs; and, more than that, He multiplies our resources. Note, "Now he that ministereth seed to

the sower both minister bread for *your* food, and multiply your seed sown." It is obvious from this verse that God is responsible for the measure in which these resources are multiplied for the promise is clear; "He multiplies the seed that is sown." Jesus affirms this when He states, "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

This must not be our motive for giving but our Lord offers assurance that giving is not a one-way street. *It is the road that leads to and opens the door to God's abundant and immeasurable resources.* Several examples could be given of men in this century whose resources have multiplied because they gave with the right measure and they were motivated with the right motive. But these Scriptures will never mean to us everything that they can mean to us if we do not believe them and put into practice that which we are instructed and encouraged to do.

It was my privilege to be with these pastors and churches in October. Inasmuch as there are articles in this issue of the *Gem* relating to some of these visits, I shall just mention these by name. I was with the Mt. Vernon Church and Pastor James McCully on October 2; First Church in Lebanon with Pastor

Jim Mertz for the morning service and Niangua Church with Pastor Ernie Holiday for the evening service on October 9; met with the Youth Camp Board on October 10 and the Nursing Home Committee the following day, October 11; O'Fallon Church for Sunday morning and the Dedication Service in the afternoon with Pastor Don Lombard, and the Trinity Church with Pastor Russell Spurgeon for the evening service; met with the St. Francois Quarterly Conference, Pastor Guy Leonard, moderator, in the morning, and the St. Louis District Conference, Pastor Russell Spurgeon, moderator, in the afternoon on October 22; Rolla Mission, with Pastor Dale Smith for the morning service and Pastor Steve Burton and the Salem Church for the evening service on October 23; First Church Waynesville with Pastor Murray Southwell on Sunday, October 30. I was very glad to be able to attend and participate in the "This Is Your Life" for Rev. Cliff Bowman on Friday evening, October 28.

Again, may I say, thanks for the response to our state work and ministries. May the Lord bless you for your faithfulness. Remember this work in your prayers. Thanks again for the kind and wonderful hospitality. I shall never forget this kindness.

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

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

by Debbie Hays

When I think of Christmas, I naturally think of being home with my family and loved ones and of sharing the great tidings of joy, peace, and goodwill by the remembrance of our Savior's birth.

Gazing at all the beautiful decorations of Christmas throughout our home, I see the one that has been my favorite from the time I could comprehend the real meaning of Christmas. It is the small ceramic figures of the nativity scene that is located on the mantel of the fireplace. When I look at each figure, I reenact the Christmas story in my mind as if my family and I were there watching it occur.

We visualize a weary man and woman walking up the path of a village inn asking for a place to spend the night. The innkeeper shakes his head no; but when seeing the women, with a radiant glow who is nearing the end of her pregnancy, he points to a wooden shed filled with animals as a place of shelter for the couple.

That night a wonderful thing happened! The woman gave birth to her firstborn son. By looking at the glow of the stars in the sky, we could tell that it was much more than just a firstborn. The stars shone so brightly that the sky radiated like fire casting the land with lights of day. Angels from heaven appeared to bring their symphonious praise of our Savior's birth! He was wrapped in a blanket and laid in a manger of hay.

Shepherds of a nearby field were awestruck by the angels who had appeared among them telling the good news. They ran hastily to the scene, praising God for the wonders they had witnessed.

Three astrologers from the East were guided by a star to Bethlehem, where the Christ child was born. They praised Him with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

My family and I joined many others who had assembled there bringing their gifts of joy, peace, and goodwill. We all joined hands singing praises unto the Lord, proclaiming that each year on the same day the birth of Jesus Christ would be celebrated by the giving of gifts and by showing love to one another.

This time of year is nearing for all Christians to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, by showing kindness to others by their love in Christ. This constantly reminds us that the time of His return will be a time of joy, peace, and goodwill for those who believe.

About the writer: Debbie Hays is a member of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Lebanon, Missouri. At present, she is a sophomore at S.M.S.U. and is majoring in a two-year general secretarial program. Debbie has always been very active in church and school activities.



Woman's Page



Shirley Bowden, editor

BIRTH OF THE BABY

(Luke 2:1-17; Matthew 2:1, 11)

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his expoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east. . . . And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had

opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

In the Scriptures just read, we find a lot of excitement over the birth of a baby. However, this was not *just* a baby, but the Son of God, who had come to earth for a special purpose. On the night when Jesus was born, His birth was announced to men who had heard that one day God would send His Son as a Messiah for them. For hundreds of years, the "faithful" had awaited for the Messiah. Now it was being announced across the sky, "Glory to God, a Saviour is born." These shepherds did not sit and discuss if this was really the promised Messiah, but the Scriptures say they came with HASTE. Upon arriving at the stable, they found the child and His mother and Joseph. God had kept His promise. Here was the Son of God. The shepherds, after seeing Jesus, left and went to tell others of the marvelous birth. We, as Christians, should look at the example set forth that night many years ago and make haste to tell others of the wonderful birth of the Messiah. We have all of the modern means of getting the message to the world. Let's make this Christmas one of getting the word out that Jesus has come, that He died on the cross to save the world from their sins. The list does not stop with just the visitation of the shepherds. The Bible also says that Jesus also had three other visitors after he had moved from the stable to His home in Bethlehem. Three men came from the East to bring Him gifts. They gave the most valuable possessions they had when they presented the gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Today we can give the most valuable possession we have to Jesus, and that is our whole being. Too many times, we hold back and do not give God our complete selves. Sure, we want forgiveness from our sins, but we still sometimes want to keep our own wills and not completely surrender to the Lord. This Christmas, let's take inventory of our lives and see if we are holding back on God. If we are, what better time of the year than now would it be for us to completely surrender everything to God. He did when He sent the most precious gift to mankind almost two thousand years ago.

IF YOUR AUXILIARY WOULD LIKE A PROJECT FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, THE FILKINS CAN USE THE FOLLOWING AT THE MISSION SCHOOL.

1. Powdered sugar (packaged in the plastic bags)
2. Brown sugar (packaged in the plastic bags)
3. Dream Whip
4. Any good reading books that the students could read.

These can be sent to Shirley Bowden, P. O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65536. She will be taking them to Nashville in March, so they will need to be sent by the end of February.

Seasons Greetings

GEM
RALPH STATEN
RT 4 LEEPER BLAKE CIR BOX 7425
KIRKSVILLE TN 37914



To Everyone

A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

Clarence & Vivian