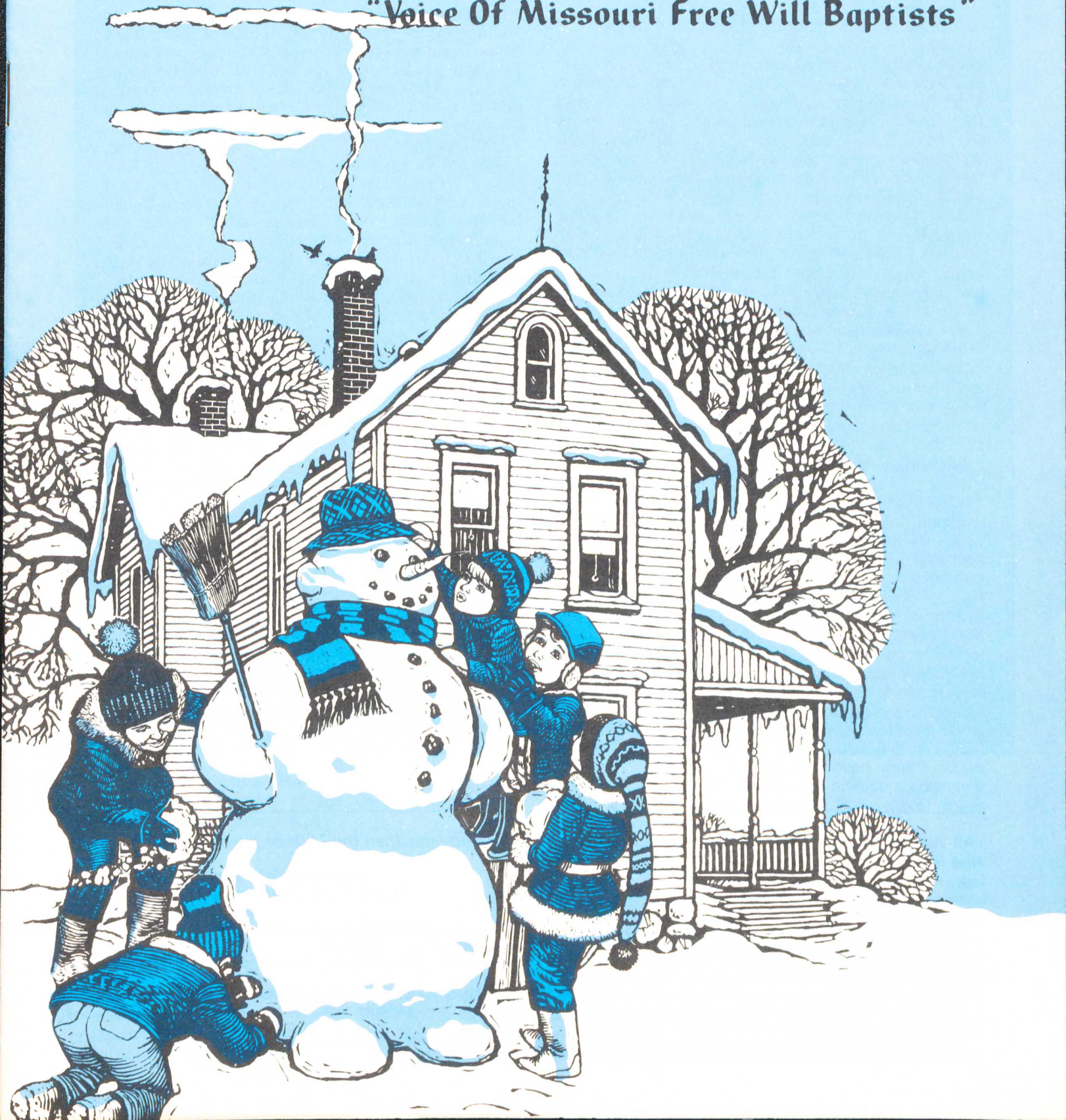


Volume 48, Number 1, January, 1978
Free Will Baptist

GEM

"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"



With Our Missionaries

The McLains write: "We are thankful for you and the way you are standing with us in our ministry. On June 10 we arrived in the states. Our destination was Kirksville, Missouri, and at the little airport was a group of family and friends to welcome us. But the plane schedule from Seattle was not quite what the travel agent had told us and we missed the commuter plane from Kansas City to Kirksville. So, the welcoming committee returned home without giving their welcome and we spent the night in Kansas City and came on in the next day. September found us quite comfortably settled in and Don entered Kirksville Senior High and Mary entered the Junior High. Jim began his deputational work and has been home very little since then. We hope he will be at home during the Christmas holidays Our account is still in the red. It is not because there has been a letdown in giving but the initial expense we incurred when we got home is tremendous. We want you to know we appreciate what you have done for us. We would like to get back to Japan on schedule next fall, but we will only be able to do this if we have the necessary funds and pledges. Pray for us."

The Filkins write: "Are you wondering what has happened to the Filkins? Well, we are wondering what will happen next. But God has promised to lead step by step and it is our business to follow. He makes no mistakes. Soon after school started, Howdy began having difficulty with his right knee. It was determined that there would be too much risk to have surgery done in Africa. Plans were made to return to the states. Robert and Judy Bryan were to fill in as dorm parents. The Lord blessed through surgery and we hope to return in time for our second trimester. Joan's mother is very critical with a rare type of leukemia. Continue to remember her

in prayer We want to thank you again for your faithfulness in supporting our ministry as dorm parents at Ivory Coast Academy. We need your continued support, both prayer and financial. . . . Pray for the Bryans. Pray that additional finances will come in. Pray for the 160 students at ICA. Pray for Howdy's recovery."

The Pinkertons write: "Here we are back on the Ivory Coast and happy to be here. . . . Since we arrived on a weekend and nothing could be done about customs, we were able to make a quick trip to Bouake and see Jerry, Jr., and Tim. They were doing fine and seemed to be in the 'rut' of school once more. . . . How we thank the Lord for answered prayer regarding customs. Our baggage, plus the Crowsons and Alice Smiths, amounted to around 12,000 pounds. It all went through customs free! Last week Jerry was at Kpana, a couple hours away from Nassian, holding classes for 21 Christians. . . . The Lord willing, we plan to go to Bouake for the annual field conference. After the field council meeting we will be bringing Jerry, Jr., and Tim home to Nassian for their Christmas vacation. Our times with the boys are short but very precious. Please remember them and Howard in prayer. . . . The opportunities abound and the harvest is white. We need the Lord's continued guidance and your support through prayer. We are grateful for all your help through praying and giving."

The Maness Family writes: "We have been experiencing the many blessings of the Lord but the devil has certainly placed some great burdens before us. Our attendance and financial areas were down drastically during the summer months, especially compared to our step of faith. However, September and October have made it possible to offset these difficulties. But we need financial assistance. . . . The property tax may run over \$1,400 because of a mistake on the title deed when the transfer of property was made. The lawyers fee will be about \$300. The parsonage furnace has gone 'kerplunk' and a new one is necessary with the cost being between \$1,500 to \$2,000. We are grateful for the support that has come from Missouri but we do need help."

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

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THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (E.R.A.) AND YOU

by Max Courtney

What is the Equal Rights Amendment? The proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution in its true form is:

SECTION 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex.

SECTION 2. Congress shall have the power to enforce by appropriate legislation provisions of this Article.

SECTION 3. This Amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

Regardless of what you have heard by opponents or proponents of E.R.A., the above is a true statement of the Equal Rights Amendment. Even as an opponent of the Amendment, I must admit that it looks good and seems to be fair as it is stated. This is just the beginning of the misleading controversy surrounding the amendment. We, the American people who will be directly affected by this Amendment should it be ratified, must remember that after it becomes a part of our Constitution, we will be living with it the rest of our lives and our children and their children after us. For this reason, I feel it needs to be placed under the microscope of reason and carefully examined. It must be able to withstand such an examination. If it cannot, it should never become a part of the Constitution of the United States of America.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT AND THE AUTONOMY OF THE STATE AND COMMUNITY

The very first thing that appears in our examination is how E.R.A. will affect the autonomy of the states and/or the community. Each state and community, by provision of the Constitution of the United States, now has the right to make laws and to enforce laws within that state or community so



long as those laws do not conflict, oppose, or make void the Constitution of the United States of America. Following are some examples of how the passage of E.R.A. will affect that right.

HOW E.R.A. WILL AFFECT STATE AND COMMUNITY LAWS GOVERNING LESBIANS AND HOMOSEXUALS

In most of the states of the United States, laws are now on record and being enforced forbidding lesbians and homosexuals to legally marry, adopt children, teach in public schools, rent property against the will of the property owner, etc. Will the passage of the E.R.A. change this autonomy of the state and community to make and enforce such laws now in effect governing lesbians and homosexuals? Note the following examples:

EXAMPLE 1. Two lesbians apply for a marriage license under the present laws. The County Clerk of the counties in most of our 50 states would refuse such application. It is illegal in most of our states for lesbians to legally marry. Provisions for men and women to marry, of course, have been made, but no provision for two women or two men to marry each other has been made. Would E.R.A. affect these existing laws?

After the passage of the E.R.A., the same two lesbians apply for a marriage license. They are told that they do not meet the qualifications for marriage. They are both women. Now, E.R.A. is brought to bear. The County Clerk who refuses to grant the license to marry simply because both applicants are women is in violation of the Equal Rights Amendment. These women have been refused a license to legally marry simply because both are women. This infringes on the equal rights of the women under E.R.A. and each state will be obligated to abolish all laws that prohibit legal marriage

between two parties simply because of sex. The same would be true of two homosexuals who wished to marry.

EXAMPLE 2. Two homosexuals approach a landlord and express their desire to rent his property. If he refuses to rent his property to them because they are both men wishing to live together as a married couple, his decision would be upheld in most communities and states. The state or community now has the right to pass laws stating that two men cannot marry and live together in the same right as a married couple and such states and communities respect the rights of land owners to refuse to rent property to such people.

After the passage of the E.R.A., the same two homosexuals approach the same landlord and express their desire to rent his property. If he refuses to rent his property to them simply because they are both men who wish to live together in his rental property in the same right as a married couple, he would be in violation of the Constitution of the United States of America. The state and community in which his property is located would be compelled to abolish all such laws discriminating against people simply because of sex because such laws would be in opposition to the Constitution of the United States of America.

Under the same conditions as stated above, the recent controversial court battle in Dade County, Florida, would have had a different outcome. The Dade County laws would immediately become illegal and the officials in Dade County would be instructed to bring their laws in compliance with the Constitution.

EXAMPLE 3. All states would be instructed to remove all laws from their books that would discriminate against any couple who wished to adopt children if such laws state that a married couple is defined as "man and woman." This would lead to the future possibility of two married lesbians or two married homosexuals having the right to adopt children. It might take awhile and some controversial court proceedings, but the outcome is inevitable. Laws could not be in effect that discriminated against any person simply because of sex, and the laws of adoption would not be exempt from such reasoning.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT AND THE MILITARY

I recently attended a pro-E.R.A. meeting in which proponents of the E.R.A. presented their cause to a congressman and some representatives in Missouri who were openly opposed to E.R.A. These congressmen and representatives were invited to the meeting and each of the proponents was asked to present arguments on why E.R.A. would be good for our country and how opponents were wrong in their arguments. One of the male members of the group spoke of how the E.R.A. would affect the military. In his statement, he misleadingly stated that the military would not be affected by the ratification of the E.R.A. Strangely enough, this statement was true in the context of what he said, and this is what

we need to examine. This is the reason we need to be aware of the effects of the E.R.A. because such people are deliberately misleading people with half-truths.

HOW E.R.A. WOULD AFFECT THE MILITARY UNDER PRESENT LAWS AND CONDITIONS

At the present time the armed forces of America are maintained by volunteer personnel. As you know, the draft is no longer in effect. Naturally, under such laws and conditions, the military would be affected very little should E.R.A. be ratified. A young lady would be free to choose for herself whether or not she wished to enter a branch of the armed services. Certain minor changes would need to be made within the structure of the military to bring such situations in compliance with the E.R.A. but such changes would be of a minor nature. There has recently, however, been some very serious thought by officials of the government on reinstating the draft to maintain the military personnel quotas.

HOW E.R.A. WOULD AFFECT THE MILITARY SHOULD THE DRAFT BE REINSTATED

Should the decision to reinstate the draft as a means of maintaining quotas of military personnel, there would be a drastic change in military procedure under the provisions of the E.R.A. (It should be noted here, in all fairness, that under certain conditions the government could make provisions to draft young women to the armed forces if such need should ever arise. This would be a remote possibility, however, and only if we were to engage in all-out war and could not supply the needed personnel by drafting men. Then, and only then, could Congress pass laws providing for the drafting of women.) If the E.R.A. is ratified, no such emergency would be needed and no such law would be required to draft women into the armed forces. They would automatically be drafted along with the men. There would be no exceptions. The same procedures would be followed and applied to both men and women. A woman would not, nor could not, be exempted for any reason that would not also apply to a man. She would be called for examination when she became of age and, if qualified, would be drafted. Deferment would be considered for both women and men alike. No exceptions would nor could be made.

Under our microscope of reason, E.R.A. would drastically affect the military, and for one to say it wouldn't would be absurd.

(To be continued next issue)

About the Writer: Rev. Max Courtney is the pastor of the New Life Free Will Baptist Church in Licking, Missouri. He is serving as clerk of the Mission Association and is a member of the General Board and Executive Committee of the Missouri State Association.

From the Desk of the Promotional Secretary

by Clarence Burton



I like the month of November. It is the month that we give a special day for "Thanksgiving." Of course we should be thankful every day and as the Apostle Paul stated, "In everything give thanks." But it is well that we set aside this special day when we can recall, "From whence we have come and anticipate where we are going," and give God thanks for His wonderful, countless blessings. Inasmuch as this will be in the January issue, it may be well to consider this question: Where are we going? (The November report has to come out in the January issue because the December report is not complete before the deadline for the *Gem* publication.)

Where are we going? The General Board met on Tuesday, November 1, and was presented some interesting and informative information from the various boards and committees. It may be that the Missouri State Association is in the process of making some major decisions, or at least giving some serious consideration to these decisions. Perhaps there is a need for a giant step. We must make certain that we are not afraid of any "giants." But, if we go forward with the same confidence as did David, we shall accomplish that which we believe is of the Lord. I am truly thankful for the spirit of unity and the love that is evident in our Missouri State Association. I am also thankful for the spirit of optimism that is reflected in discussions concerning our state work. But it should be thus, and with the Lord being our Shepherd we know that, as we follow Him, we shall make the right decisions and do those things He leads us to do.

The General Board met in the new promotional office. I am sure that everyone is thankful the office is adequate for the General Board meetings and of course for the Executive Committee and state boards. The moderator, Rev. William Evans, had several items presented to the board. These items were weighty and deserved considerable discussion. The moderator handled these discretely and responsibly. Following that meeting on Tuesday, I began revival services with Rev. James Barker and the Leadington Church. It was very enjoyable being with the folks at the church, visitors, and the pastor and his wife, James and Geneva. The Lord blessed

with a fine revival and I shall always remember the warm spirit that was felt in the church.

On the next Saturday I was with the Indian Creek Association which met with the Jones Chapel Church. This association is moving forward. It is now giving considerable support to the Cooperative Plan and the designated giving is very good. We will be hearing from them in our CTS competitive activities and other areas of our state work. The host church and pastor, Rev. Billy Joe Gentry, served well. The moderator, Rev. Cecil Campbell, always does a fine job. On the next Sunday I was with the First Church in Mountain Grove. The pastor, Rev. Lynn Wood, was in revival services with Rev. Gary Fry in Florida. We certainly enjoyed being with the folks at Mountain Grove. The church is well organized and correlated with the functions of the state and national work. The church choir will bless you and make you want to preach. Rev. David Huett, the youth minister, has a good youth program for the church. This church is one of the strong supporters of cooperative and designated giving. Then near the end of that week, November 17 and 18, I met with the National Sunday School Board in Norfolk, Virginia. Rev. Dale Burden, a member of the board, suggested that we meet at the Fairmount Church for our fall meeting. This church has quite an operation. I was able to see Rev. and Mrs. Lonnie Skiles, Missourians now living in Norfolk. They are on the church and school staff. On the following Sunday I was with Rev. and Mrs. Danny Martin and the First Free Will Baptist Church in Cuba. Danny and Brenda are enjoying a fine ministry with the church. It was a pleasure being with them and having good fellowship in the Lord. We know several people in the church and they always enable us to experience a good time in the Lord.

The following Sunday we experienced something new. A relatively new mission adopted the Cooperative Program before the service was dismissed. Rev. Johnny James called the Gray Summit Mission into conference and a vote was taken relative to adopting the unified plan of support. The vote was unanimous to adopt the Cooperative Plan of Support. Amen! We appreciate Rev. and Mrs. Johnny James and family. They are working diligently to see this work go forward for the Lord, and the Lord is blessing their efforts. I met with the Youth Camp Board at the state office on the following Monday. This board has a great responsibility and it is endeavoring to expand and extend the youth camp program.

The Lord blessed in November! We are now a little ahead with our giving for the projected budget. We thank the Lord for this. We trust that we shall be able to meet the goal by March 31, 1978. Everyone benefits from cooperative giving because everyone shares in the allocations.

Please remember the ministries for which I am laboring with in prayer. I know that the Lord is blessing, for Christian people are praying. If I may be of any help to you, please let me know.

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

CHURCHES PEOPLE AND EVENTS

A Harvest of Activities at South Side

Sue Winchester, church reporter, writes that the month of October was a busy one. Starting with October 2, the Lloyd Durbin Family was with the church for an afternoon and evening program of gospel singing and preaching. Revival services were held with Rev. Lawrence Thompson serving as evangelist. Several decisions and rededications were made that week.

On October 17 there was a combination Halloween and skating party at Ron's Roller World.

The church experienced a very deep sorrow in the death of Brother Glenwood Turnbough. He was called to be with the Lord on October 19. He will be greatly missed by the church.

The Sunday school averaged 175 for the month of October during the enlargement campaign, Forward To Victory.

The Woman's Auxiliary sponsored a Senior Citizen's banquet on November 11. Brother Jim Spindel was ordained as the newest deacon on November 13.

Several young men, including Mark Tallent from Free Will Baptist Bible College, held a series of services December 2-4.

Blessings at First Church in Springfield

The First Free Will Baptist Church in Springfield is experiencing showers of blessings from the Lord. In a recent revival with Rev. Danny Talbot, there were several saved and several rededications. On Sunday evening before the revival services started, two precious people were saved. The church feels that these decisions for Christ have been a definite answer to prayer.

On Sunday, November 22, the Singing Harbingers presented special singing and the Lord blessed with a wonderful day. Before the day was over there were three professions of faith, one rededication, and four uniting with the church. Then a family of five united with the church. Seventeen people have united with the church within three months. The young people are very faithful in working with the visitation program and have a beautiful testimony for the Lord.

Brother John Freeman announced his call to preach the gospel during the revival and preached his first sermon following the close of the revival. He is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Herschel Freeman. This family is dedicated to serving the Lord.

The church has a regular visitation program and two families have begun working with the bus ministry. The pastor, Rev. Mike Hutsell, stated

"Even though I have gone through a time of severe sickness, the Lord has given my wife and me so many blessings since coming to the First Church and we thank Him for everything."

The church adopted the Cooperative Program of Support on November 28. The pastor requests that anyone having friends or relatives living in Springfield please contact him and he will make visits relative to the church.



Master's Men at Work in O'Fallon

Gary Sutton, program chairman, writes, "In July, 1977, the men of the First Free Will Baptist Church of O'Fallon, Missouri, met and organized a Master's Men Chapter, with the assistance of the pastor, Rev. Donald Lombard.

"Since we organized we have had many opportunities for fellowship, such as a fall camp-out in September and a layman's breakfast. The regular meeting time is the first Tuesday of each month.

The Master's Men are involved with the work of the church. The group enjoyed a day of work and fellowship following a breakfast and had charge of the morning worship. Brother Harrison Yeakey delivered the message."

Sutton continues, "At present we are participating equally in the bookshelf and toolshed projects and sponsoring a drive for articles to make up Christmas baskets to distribute to needy families in the community. The installation service was held on November 13, as a part of the Sunday evening worship. The officers installed are: president, Bob Allen; Secretary-treasurer, Harrison Yeakey; Chorister, Joe Hill; and Program Chairman, Gary Sutton. In addition to being president, Brother Allen is also the State Senator for Master's Men in Missouri. He and I are looking forward to traveling to other areas of the state to promote Master's Men chapters."



Mt. Olive Church Organized

On November 18, 1977, the Mt. Olive Free Will Baptist Church was organized. The church is located approximately four miles west of Doniphan, Missouri, on Highway 142. Rev. Dale Skiles and Rev. James Lee Reed from the Cave Springs Association participated in the organizational service.

Rev. Bill McClintock writes that a groundbreaking service was held on December 4, 1977, for the new group. When the new building is completed and is

occupied by the church, the official name of the church will be the Lingo Free Will Baptist Church. If anyone has friends or relatives living in that area, it would be well to contact Brother McClintock. His address is: Route 1, Box 446, Ellington, Missouri 63638.

Fair Grove Church Organized

On Sunday, December 11, 1977, the mission located at Fair Grove, Missouri, was organized into the Faith Free Will Baptist Church. There were 25 people that became charter members of this new work. Reverend James Crawford was elected as the pastor, having served the church during its period as a mission. Mrs. Karen Hyder was elected as clerk and Mrs. Carol Anderson was elected as church treasurer.

The organizational service was well attended with several churches from the Liberty Association being represented. Rev. Danny Talbot delivered a challenging and helpful message. Rev. Jack Day presented the Bible; Rev. Edward Climer read the church covenant; and Rev. Lester Lemmons led in the prayer of consecration. Rev. Clarence Burton served as director for the service.



Voices in the Wilderness

This singing and evangelistic team is the Walter Simpson family. They are members of the Wilderness Free Will Baptist Church. They have sung in several churches in Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Mrs. Frances Simpson, composer, arranger and pianist, states concerning the name, Voices in the Wilderness, "We feel that this world is a wilderness of sin and, although we are in it, we are not wandering around but just passing through. We are on our way to the Promised Land! Our goal is to invite and persuade as many as possible to go with us."

Rev. and Mrs. Simpson and their children may be contacted at this address: Voices in the Wilderness, Star Route, Fremont, Missouri 63941.



This is Your Life— Jack and Freda Day

The Black Oak Free Will Baptist Church had something special on their Homecoming Day this year. At the afternoon service the church surprised

the pastor and his wife with a "This Is Your Life" program. Carl Layman served as master of ceremonies. Rev. and Mrs. Jack Day were presented appropriate corsages by the church at the beginning of the program. Following this presentation, several people appeared before the microphone located in one of the Sunday school classrooms. Among these were the pastor's mother and father. She recalled some childhood experiences. A former pastor, Rev. Marion Allsman, related some interesting and amusing facts concerning Jack's call to the ministry. A deacon of the Niangua Free Will Baptist Church, Brother Emmett Cummins, read Psalm 23 and commented that this was the Scripture used by Jack for his first sermon. This was preached at the Niangua Church. Several members of the Black Oak Church participated in the program relating experiences that occurred during Brother Jack's ministry.

This is a brief resume of Rev. Day's life and ministry. He was born on May 26, 1934. He attended school at Pack and Niangua. He and Freda Mae Sell were united in marriage on May 21, 1955. He made profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ in July, 1961. He served as Sunday school superintendent of the Niangua Church for several years. He announced his call to the ministry on April 24, 1968. He has served as moderator and assistant moderator of the Liberty quarterly meeting, on various committees, and at present is serving on the Executive Committee. The records at Black Oak show that he has baptized 44, held 13 weddings, and conducted six funerals at Black Oak and 31 at other places.

Mrs. Freda Mae Day, Jack's wife, has been very active in their ministry. She has directed and taught in Vacation Bible School, taught in Sunday school, and helped in planning and presentation of Christmas programs and many other helpful activities. She is thought of as a wonderful pastor's wife.

The church at Black Oak is grateful for Rev. and Mrs. Day's ministry. It is the prayer of the church that the Lord will continue to bless as they labor together for Him.



Sunday, December 11, was a special day at the New Life Free Will Baptist Church in Licking, Missouri. It marked a milestone in the history of the church. Organized in 1972, the church began to grow under the ministry of Rev. Tom Owens. A slow, but constant growth has continued and now the church enjoys capacity congregations on many Sundays. In 1974, using the perpetual loan fund, the church built their present building. After the building was finished, and collateral was established, the church was able to borrow money from the local

bank and pay back their loan. On Sunday, December 11, the church met to burn the mortgage celebrating the termination of their indebtedness. In 43 months the loan had been paid in full.

Rev. Tom Owens, former pastor and founder of the work at Licking, was the guest speaker in the Sunday service. Many of the charter members were there along with other friends and well-wishers. God gave a great service. Reverend Owens brought an inspirational message. Brother Harold Price, chairman of the Board of Trustees, spoke on the early history of the church, presenting the mortgage to Brother Chuck Barker who accepted it on behalf of the church. Brother Barker, chairman of the Advisory Board, spoke on the progress of the church. Brother Barker presented the mortgage to Reverend Max Courtney, present pastor of the church, to be burned. Brother Price lighted the candle and Reverend Courtney burned the mortgage while reading Psalm 150.

Pray for the work at Licking. We now have plans to begin Phase II of the building program in the early spring. The church is set up on a three phase building program covering a 15-year period. Phase I has been completed in record time. Phase II will consist of the building of a basement 80' X 38' that will house seven classrooms, two rest rooms, a kitchen, and fellowship hall. This unit is to be completed and paid for in the next five years. Phase III will be an auditorium 80' X 38' built on the basement. This unit will be connected to the present unit. The furniture recently purchased by the church will fit in the plans for the new unit. The air conditioning system recently purchased and installed will be adequate for the entire building. Phase III of the unit is to be completed and paid off within five years of the time it is started, completing the fifteen-year program.

When you are in Licking, please stop by and say hello. The pastor's phone number is 314-674-3794. We thank God for His many blessings and His wonderful works.

Report from Moberly Mission

The newest Free Will Baptist Church in Missouri will be having its first Sunday service on January 1, 1978. Pastor David Kirby announced the 10:45 service on December 6 to the *Gem*. Brother Kirby is a native of Nashville, Tennessee. He is the son of a former Missouri pastor, Rev. Fred Kirby, who pastored in Flat River and Mountain Grove. The mission pastor has been preaching for 10 years and has pastored two churches other than the time he spent in Cape Girardeau as interim pastor. Reverend Frank Giunta arrived in August to assume the pastorate there. Brother Kirby, a graduate of FWBBC, has in the past also served as a music and youth director and assistant pastor in Cordova, Alabama.

Brother Kirby has been on itinerate since October for the purpose of raising support for the Moberly work, traveling over 3,400 miles and preaching in 17 Missouri churches. He, along with his wife Vickie (a native of Benton Harbor, Michigan) and two-year-

old son Bryan, moved to Moberly to begin the work there on November 9. There had been three Bible studies conducted as of December 6, with an average attendance of eight in attendance and an average offering of \$35.00 per week.

The new work will be renting the facilities of the local Seventh Day Adventist congregation on Sundays, as well as for a mid-week service. A great deal of publicity will be utilized, as well as personal contacts, to make the Moberly area aware of this new work. The mission pastor requests that anyone who knows of prospective families or individuals within 15 miles of Moberly please contact him in order that he may make proper contacts.

Your prayers are desired by Brother Kirby and the people. If you wish to communicate with him his present address is 705 Harrison Street, Moberly, Mo. 65270. The phone number is (816) 263-8567.



SPIRITUAL WARMTH IN WINTER

After the Christmas activities are over, the long winter months of January and February stretch out ahead. Pastors, perhaps, begin to ask, "What now?" Attendance drives and special campaigns are abandoned until spring. Revival meetings, too, are not scheduled due to the possibility of bad weather. What do you do to help keep your church spiritually warm and active during these cold days when it is so hard to draw a crowd of visitors and new faces?

Why not use this time to *train* and *excite* your own faithful people with an Evangelism Retreat? A two-day spiritual retreat with your own church family held right in your own church. The Jones Family Evangelistic Team will help you plan a meaningful conference that would add a new log to the spiritual fire.

Here is our suggestion in a nut shell. Pick any Friday and Saturday in January or February that would be best for your people. During this time, we would have praise services where the family would help excite and stir your people through song. In connection with these services, there would be classes in personal soul winning that would train your people for a more effective outreach in the months ahead.

Don't let your people get cold this winter. For spiritual warmth, plan an Evangelism Retreat. Do it now, while it is still fresh on your mind.

Write:

The Jones Family Evangelistic Team
Box 304

Hartville, Missouri 65667

or Call:

(417) 741-7198

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

November 1977

Kirksville	\$ 30.00
Lebanon, First	295.53
Hurryville	95.00
Byrd	24.90
New Harmony	7.47
Pleasant Grove (Cope)	28.47
Macedonia Sunday school	16.15
Hartville	141.40
Bailey Chapel	28.00
Parkview	50.00
Alton	79.18
Royal Oak	39.00
DeSoto	550.00
South Side	393.84
Rock Chapel	277.17
Sedalia	88.62
Berkeley	526.46
Kingsway	50.80
Grace	648.00
Olivet	200.00
Kansas City, First	77.41
Malden	98.57
Mountain Grove, First	388.17
Viburnum	15.00
Mill Creek Sunday school	33.10
Mill Creek	55.90
Calvary Fellowship	405.07
Fair Grove	62.60
Fredericktown, First	294.46
Number One	41.00
Poplar Bluff	14.92
Purdy	92.00
Happy Home	67.30
Hannon	163.00
Oskaloosa (September-October)	67.66
Bethel	239.00
Merl's Chapel	65.79
Mt. Vernon	87.07
Berean	200.00
Belton	157.00
Cuba	61.20
Waynesville	115.00
Waynesville	116.40
Houston	116.00
Houston	184.21
Gateway	61.00
West Plains, First	304.00
Fordland	161.62
The Jones Family	245.41
Shiloh (October)	22.35
Shiloh (September)	13.32
New Rock Springs	55.00
O'Fallon	609.00
Verdella	102.22
Beacon	443.64
Pleasant Hill	35.91
Joplin	326.51
Calvary Conway	125.00
Leadington	239.18
Coppermines	115.00
Thayer	79.98
Fourth	420.00
Hopewell	94.89
Grant Avenue	464.49
Wolf Creek	129.58
Buffalo	127.38
Liberty	150.00
New Home Falcon	69.94
Marshfield	113.98
Farmington	1,048.43
Myrtle	91.93
Cabool	87.89
Poplar Bluff	16.00
Oak Hill, Union	183.26
El Dorado, First	5.00
Viburnum	15.00
Parkview	50.00

Willow Springs	158.31
Carterville	40.95
Wayside, Willow Springs	54.00
Total Cooperative Receipts	\$13,047.99

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

November 1977

20.00% Missouri State Home Missions	\$2,609.60
16.25% Promotional Department	2,120.30
4.50% General Fund	587.15
5.25% Youth Camp	685.02
2.00% Gem	260.96
2.00% Sunday School and CTS	260.96
2.00% Christian Board of Education	260.96
52%	6,784.95
7.00% Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	913.37
13.00% Foreign Missions	1,696.23
9.00% Free Will Baptist Bible College	1,174.32
7.00% Executive Department	913.36
6.50% National Home Missions	848.12
2.50% CTS	326.20
2.50% Retirement & Insurance	326.20
.25% Laymen's Board	32.62
.25% Theological Commission	32.62
41%	5,349.67
Total Disbursements	\$13,047.99

We praise God from whom all blessings flow!

MISSOURI DESIGNATED GIVING

November 1977

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Fourth Church	\$314.24
Steve Lytle	\$207.24
Bill Fulcher	50.00
Jerry Pinkerton	25.00
Charolette Tallent	32.00
Lebanon, First	\$90.00
Clint Morgan	\$45.00
Jerry Pinkerton	45.00
Oak Hill Church	\$15.50
Jerry Pinkerton	\$15.50
Thayer Church	\$10.00
Jerry Pinkerton	\$5.00
Dale Bishop	5.00
West Plains, First Church	\$180.00
General Fund	\$170.00
Bill Fulcher	10.00
Gateway Church	\$25.00
Howard Filkins	\$25.00
Walnut Grove Church	\$10.00
Lynn Miley	\$10.00
Mountain Grove, First Church	\$120.00
General Fund	\$120.00
Bethel Church	\$51.53
Earnie Deeds	\$28.03
Charolette Tallent	15.00
Jerry Pinkerton	8.50
Kingsway Church	\$60.80
Joe Haas	\$60.80
Olivet Church	\$95.00
Bobby Poole	\$40.00
Jim McLain	5.00
Mabel Willey	20.00
Jerry Pinkerton	10.00
Lynn Miley	10.00
Howard Filkins	5.00
Lonnie Sparks	5.00
South Side Church	\$135.00
Charolette Tallent	\$120.00
Bill Fulcher	10.00
Jerry Pinkerton	5.00
New Harmony Church	\$45.36
Dr. L. Miley	\$22.68
Jim McLain	22.68
Kirksville Church	\$124.06
Howard Filkins	\$83.06
Jerry Pinkerton	38.00
Jim McLain	3.00
Total	\$1,276.49

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Oak Hill Church	\$20.64
Bob Francis	\$20.64
Beacon Church	\$51.00
General Fund	\$51.00
Lebanon, First Church	\$2.00
General Fund	\$2.00
Fourth Church	\$104.00
Bob Francis	\$102.00
Vergel Maness	2.00
Thayer Church	\$9.00
Mark Vandivort	\$9.00
Bethel Church	\$25.00
Bob Francis	\$20.00
Dale Smith	5.00
Waynesville Church	\$12.00
Bob Francis	\$12.00
Mountain Grove, First Church	\$12.00
Mark Vandivort	\$12.00
Olivet Church	\$55.00
Vergel Maness	\$ 5.00
Leland Horton	25.00
Mark Vandivort	25.00
South Side Church	\$182.50
Bob Francis	\$182.50
Fourth Church	\$48.00
Bob Francis	\$ 9.00
Vergel Maness	39.00
Total	\$521.14

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Olivet Church to Library Wing	\$250.00
South Side Church to Library Wing	100.00
Total	\$350.00

HILLSDALE FREE WILL BAPTIST COLLEGE

Belton Church	\$100.00
Mountain Grove, First Church	799.53
New Home Church	174.75
Total	\$1,074.28

MISSOURI STATE YOUTH CAMP

Parkview Church	\$20.00
Thayer Church	10.00
Fourth Church	10.00
Mountain Grove, First Church	30.00
Olivet Church	25.00
Total	\$95.00

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS

Byrd Church	\$68.50
General Fund	\$68.50
Thayer Church	\$36.00
General Fund	\$ 3.00
Poplar Bluff	30.00
David Kirby	1.00
Tom Owens	2.00
New Harmony Church	\$22.67
David Kirby	\$22.67
Total	\$127.17

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

Beacon	\$ 120.36
Sedalia	101.29
Joplin	25.00
Farmington	20.00
West Plains	70.00
Houston	74.00
South Fremont	133.00
Flat River, First	72.82
Grace	55.00
Berean	32.00
Olivet	250.00
Kansas City, First	26.00
Myrtle	56.45
Rock Chapel	55.00
Victory	35.00
Bethel Woman's Auxiliary	65.00
Fourth	59.29
Calvary Fellowship	25.00
O'Fallon	35.00
Byrd	68.50
Thayer	36.00
New Harmony	22.67
Cooperative Receipts	2,609.60
Total	\$4,046.98

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

Important Dates

Regional Conference on Evangelism
First Free Will Baptist Church, Farmington, Missouri
Date: April 24-26

Special speakers:

Rev. Paul Thompson and three members of his staff from Columbus, Ohio
Rev. Don Pegram from Newport News, Virginia
Rev. Bob Shockey and Rev. Roy Thomas from Nashville, Tennessee

Deadline for Entries in CTS State Competitive Activities—April 15, 1978.

Competitive Activities at First Free Will Baptist Church, Joplin, MO—May 6, 1978

Missouri State Sunday School and CTS Rally—June 5, 1978, Flat River, MO
Missouri State Woman's Auxiliary Convention—June 6, 1978, Flat River, MO
Missouri State Association—June 6-8, 1978, Flat River, MO

Youth Camp Dates:

June 11-16, first week
June 18-23, second week
June 25-30, third week

My Testimony

Joyce Nutting Bollinger



I was brought up in a Christian home. My father has been a minister for 23 years. My great desire in life had been to go just as far into the music world as possible. It seemed glamorous and fascinating to see singers and musicians on stage and off stage in their sparkling clothes and their exciting way of life.

So, I began following this way of life. I got a job singing in supper clubs. It did not take long to realize how empty and meaningless this could be. Instead of being glamorous and exciting to me, it began to show me teenage alcoholics, dope heads, prostitution, broken lives, and other sin in its ugliness. I began to wonder what I was doing working around things such as this. This was so different from the sheltered life I had lived at home. I remembered how peaceful it was to come home and enjoy one of Mom's home cooked meals, then to lie down, relax and appreciate the feeling of a Christian home.

But I continued the supper club route. One tour took my band to Toledo, Ohio, the place Danny Thomas began his career. While in Toledo, I called home to see how my three-year old twins were doing. Mother told me in as kind a way as possible that the children missed me and it would probably be best that I be with them. They would listen to my records and sit in front of the record player and say "Momma, Momma, I love you." Then they

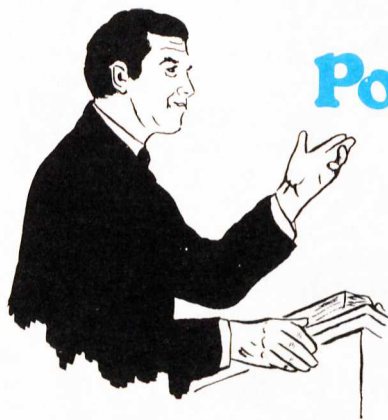
would kiss the records as if they were me. As I listened to Mother tell me these things, I began to cry and I told her that I was coming home.

I came home and was only there a short while when I received a call to come back to Caesar's Palace. Even though something inside of me said, "Don't go," I felt that I needed the money. I moved in with the folks and sang in Joplin. While at home, I watched my Dad as he would go to church, preaching the gospel and laboring for the Lord. I knew that a short time later I would be singing in a club. I could hardly sit across the table from him and Mom, for I knew it was breaking their hearts.

Finally, one Sunday morning, after losing twenty pounds under the weight of guilt and conviction, I walked down the steps of my folks' place and I began to think of the wreck I had made of my life. I had come out of a family of ministers and missionaries and my life had been lived so differently. I had, in effect, turned my back on what I had been taught. So I began to pray and ask God's forgiveness. I unloaded all my cares upon Him and asked that He give me happiness once again. I must have prayed for two or three hours.

The Lord did forgive and He has blessed my life. He has given me a Christian husband and three beautiful children. I shall sing His praises until He calls me home. I want to do so much for Him because He has done so many wonderful things for me. What a wonderful Savior!

About the writer: Mrs. Bollinger is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Lester Nutting. She gave this testimony when the Nutting Family Trio presented special music at the anniversary service for the Hannon Church.



Points for Pastors

by Jim McAllister

The midweek prayer service should be the "Hour of Power" for the church. Instead it is often the weakest of services on the schedule. In this column we will discuss the prayer life in the local church. In order to make this the "Hour of Power," we must plan and promote as well as pray for this service.

One Sunday in early December, 1975, I received a call from one of our fine young men who had suffered a back injury and was not able to attend services that day. He asked me to come by his home. When I did he appealed to me concerning a burden God had laid on his heart to begin a Sunday morning prayer meeting for the unsaved and the backslidden. Naturally, I approved and then Archie Parrish began what has proven to be one of the most

effective tools in the growth of our church. He calls it "The Early Bird Prayer Meeting" and he meets with about 18 people. (Everyone is invited.) Every Sunday morning a brief devotional thought is given with the sharing of burdens and then prayer. A prayer list is maintained and nearly 400 unsaved or backslidden people are now being prayed for. In 18 months nearly 80 of them have been saved or rededicated. Try this!

Another source of prayer power we use is a pastor-deacon prayer meeting every Sunday morning between Sunday school and the morning worship. We meet in the pastor's study and pray for the immediate service. One of the deacons is in charge of this prayer service. This has been very profitable. I strongly recommend it.

At the Wednesday night prayer meeting, we sing gospel songs and the pastor preaches a sermon to the church. Our attendance averages over 150 each week. We usually close the service with an altar of prayer. Our people enjoy the midweek service and, as the records show, they attend. We have a great deal of variety. Special speakers and subjects add variety. The teen, intermediate, junior, and primary groups meet for devotions, choir practice, CTS competitive activities, and extra courses, such as a girls' charm course or soul winning.

The prayer meetings of our church pay off in sweet fellowship, Bible learning, power in the church, souls being saved, and growth. So can yours.

GEM COMP
CONTACT MAGAZINE
PO BOX 1088
NASHVILLE TN 37202

Woman's Page



Shirley Bowden, editor

A Woman's Auxiliary was organized at the Kingsway Free Will Baptist Church in Springfield, Missouri, on November 22, 1977, with 19 women present. Officers were elected as follows: President, Mary Latimer; Vice-President, Susie Morelock; Secretary-Treasurer, Chris Willoughby; Mission and Program Chairman, Susan Terry; Mission Action Chairman, Donna Terry. Mission District Field Worker, Sister Vivian Burton, was present for the installation of officers.

The Mission Action project for December was a box of personal items for Sister Lona Kirk, an elderly member who has been sick for some time and is no longer able to attend services.

SOUTH SIDE AUXILIARY HONORS SENIOR CITIZENS

On November 11 the Woman's Auxiliary at South Side honored its senior citizens with a banquet and special program. Our "younger" women brought and served the food to some 25 deserving elders of our church. We had some visitors like Brother and Sister Benjamin from Wichita, Kansas, who were visiting with our pastor and wife that weekend. Everyone enjoyed the meal despite the fact that most of our better cooks are senior citizens, and they didn't get to cook.

Following the dinner, a program of singing and devotional was led by Sister Sue Winchester. During the program, a special presentation was made to Sister Mae Hill in appreciation for her past work in the church. Though Mae may not be as active today, she still touches lives with her glowing testimony. The plaque presented to her was a complete surprise which made the occasion very touching. Rev. Terry (who claimed he wasn't a senior citizen but just came so he could bring his wife) brought a challenging devotion to our elders.

Toward the end of the evening, a time of testimony was on the program. It was wonderful to hear different ones express their love for God and talk of all the years they've lived for God and not regretting it.

