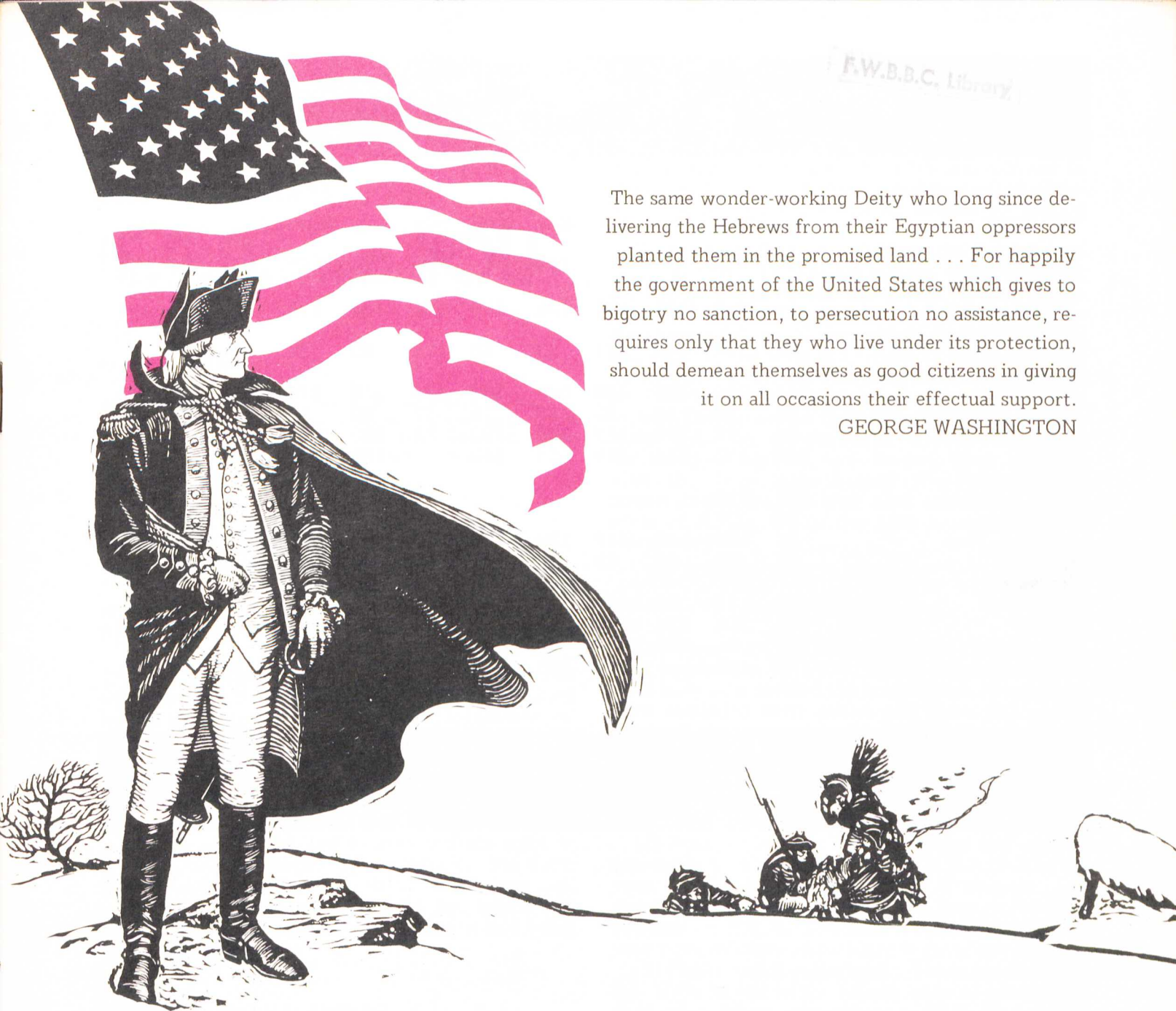


The same wonder-working Deity who long since delivering the Hebrews from their Egyptian oppressors planted them in the promised land . . . For happily the government of the United States which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection, should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.

GEORGE WASHINGTON



Volume 48, Number 2, February, 1978

Free Will Baptist

GEM

"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"

Sunday School Attendance Averages 1977

CHURCH	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Bethel, Festus	92	116		111	103		89	88	83	93	89	98
Byrd	23	44										
Calvery, Conway	56	116	131	147	135	119	116	138	122	133	124	124
Coppermines												
Cuba	67	94	62	74	83	88	88	89	81	82		
DeSoto												
Farmington	314	360	393	386	369	362	368	360	374	447	383	395
Kansas City, First	24	23	18	23	18	19	17	20	16	18	13	14
Kirksville	84	93	116	112	100	102	95	102	103	105		
Fourth	139	146	154	149	155	143		101	117	134		
Gray Summit									19	26		
Grant Avenue	101	126										
Leadington	50	77										
Lebanon, First	91	139	148	142	132	126	112	142				
Myrtle	43	52	60	69	60	54	58	52				
Parkview						82		74				
Richwoods	27	37	39	47	43	35	30	35	44	43	30	
Trinity	206	215	224	231	201	192	170	201	203	200	171	197
Twin Oaks	73	95	105	109	92							
Willow Springs	88	125		113	108	119	115	116	101	115	104	111

WHY NOT SEND IN YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGES TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GEM.

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

by Max Courtney

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.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT AND SOCIAL LIFE

HOW E.R.A. WOULD AFFECT REST ROOM FACILITIES, ETC.

Some opponents of E.R.A. are using as an argument that the right of privacy would be violated by the ratification of the E.R.A. and would necessitate all public places having rest room facilities to remove the MEN and WOMEN signs from the doors of such rest rooms. This is an absurd argument. I have been in churches and other places where there was only one rest room. These rest rooms were shared by both men and women and the right to privacy prevailed simply by the lock on the door. E.R.A. would not remove the "locks" from rest room doors. I think we should be logical and reasonable in our arguments and this is not being reasonable or logical.

HOW E.R.A. WOULD AFFECT OTHER SOCIAL ORDER

In 1973 New Mexico ratified the Equal Rights Amendment to their constitution by a 70% vote. The amendment took effect in 1974. By 1975 the Legislature of New Mexico had to revise over 50 state laws to bring them into compliance with E.R.A. The New Mexico school system was affected. A husband's legal and Biblical right to be the head of his household was removed. Community property laws were abolished and revised. The laws governing credit applications and lending and borrowing money were affected. If E.R.A. is passed, it will be up to the courts to rule on disputed laws, and courts will all be bound by the E.R.A.

The ratification of E.R.A. would seriously affect our social order in relationship to matters dealing with alimony, child support, and custody.

The effect of E.R.A. on social order and family rights is so severe that even noted lawyers will not

commit themselves to making statements on the effect of E.R.A. Needless to say, E.R.A. would take us in directions in social life that we never dreamed of. Each case would become a proof case in the Supreme Court. These social orders are now functioning well as they are. The 14th Amendment to the Constitution guarantees "equal protection of the laws." Why complicate matters further by passing another amendment?

If the laws that are now on the books were enforced under the present system, there would be absolutely no need for the E.R.A. If the family automobile fails to operate and we hand the mechanic a full set of repair tools, he just sits down and looks at the tools and refuses to use them, what do we do? Do we buy him another set of tools and set them before him? No, we make him use the tools he has. The answer to the problem faced by women is not in buying another set of tools. It is in making the mechanic use the tools he has. What is wrong with the 14th Amendment? Why add another amendment when, by their own admission, proponents of E.R.A. tell us the 14th Amendment isn't being used?

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

To become law, the E.R.A. must be ratified by 38 state legislatures by 1979. Thirty-four state legislatures have now ratified the amendment. (Some have since rescinded their action and there will surely eventually be some court battles over the right of a state legislature to rescind their action.) First, find out if your state has ratified the amendment. If not, here are some things you can do:

(1) Write your state representatives and senator expressing your opposition to the E.R.A. Follow up your letter with a personal visit if possible. Tell them how you feel. Insist that they state their position on E.R.A. You have a right to know how your representative and senator is going to vote.

(2) Plan anti-E.R.A. programs. Publicize the meeting. Write letters to the editors of local newspapers and voice your opposition to E.R.A. Let the community know where you stand.

(3) Find out the dates and places of pro-E.R.A. meetings especially those that are planned to indoctrinate congressmen and representatives who are now against E.R.A. Get a group together. Make "STOP E.R.A." badges and wear them to the meeting. Try and have a majority of anti-E.R.A. people at their own meetings. You will be surprised at the effect this will have on senators and representatives. We recently did this very thing in an adjoining county. The next day a public statement was made by one of the senators. He said, "I was opposed to E.R.A. when I went to the meeting. I am even more opposed to it now."

(4) If you don't care about E.R.A. and even if you would like to see it ratified, you don't need to do anything. Just sit where you are, and it will pass. It's up to you. Will you be one of the many who will have to say some time in the future, "I wish I had done something?"



Christmas Greetings from our Missionaries

Material for the January issue of the *Gem* must be sent in to the printer by the middle of December. Therefore the February issue is the first issue that is possible to carry these greetings.)

Merry Christmas from the Fulchers: They write: "For seventeen years the Fulcher family has had the privilege of serving the King and our denomination through foreign missions. We feel that many souls will have the privilege of worshipping the King this Christmas in Uruguay and Panama because you and others like you have prayed for us and supported us with your finances and made it possible for us to reach them with the gospel. We thank you in their behalf and from them and us may God bless you and yours."

Greetings from the Pinkertons: They write: "We appreciate hearing from many of you. Our furlough is now a blessed memory and we are glad to be back to the place God has called us to serve . . . For the time being we will be at our Free Will Baptist dormitory at Bouake as dorm parents. Jerry has started off with a bang, arriving at school with a case of hepatitis. Cure: 4 to 6 weeks in bed . . . Please pray for us that we might be a blessing to the students. Also, pray for Victor, one of the African pastors who will be taking care of the churches in the Nassian area during our absence. Our address until July 1978 is: P. O. 1171, Bouake, Ivory Coast."

"Christmas was a busy time as usual. The Christmas program included poems, a monologue, two choral readings, and a drama. The theme was 'What Can I Give to the Lord?' The program was presented in the Ipiranga and here. On January 1 a baptismal service will be held for seven candidates who have completed the preparatory classes. This makes a total of 17 in the past three months. Praise God for those who want to follow the Lord. Mission meetings, youth camp, and Vacation Bible School will fill up a great part of January. Thanks for your prayers and financial support. May God's richest blessings rest upon you."

Greetings from the Morgans: They write: "Another Christmas is here and for the fourth year in a row we find ourselves spending it with new friends in a new place. This time it is 3,000 miles away from our families. But we are overjoyed to be here in Albertville, France, and we realize that we are on the last leg of our journey to our field of labor. The Lord has given us several opportunities to reach out to the French since being here. We have handed out many tracts. Pray for Lynette and other Free Will Baptist wives that have started a Bible Club. The French (Catholic) children have been very open to the gospel. We love each one of you at home and we are praying for you. Write when you can and may you have a blessed New Year."

Greetings from the Haases: They write, "It is good to be back to the work that the Lord has called us to do and to the work to which He has helped us establish in Rennes. Our hearts have been burdened to see so many indifferent and unconcerned about taking their responsibility in sharing Christ with their friends and neighbors. Our attendance is growing and we see signs of spiritual growth

in the lives of some of the people. We want to thank you for the part that you have had in our ministry. May God bless you for sharing with us. Please pray for these requests: That God will help us find a building next to our church for needed space; for the LeJouan family; and for Marie Jeanne Mazzela."

Seasons Greetings from the Bishops: They write, "Since our last letter we have received a new addition to our family. On October 24, at 1:37 p.m. God blessed our home with the arrival of a 7½ pound baby boy. His name is Jeffery Ryan. Dale has finished language school. He has begun a Bible study class in connection with an English class. Mr. Uemori, a deacon, helps with the class. Some of the members are open to the gospel. But there are those that are very indifferent. A prayer request: Because of the birth of a new baby and the drop in the value of the dollar, our account has fallen in the red. An example of the way the dollar has dropped is this: The work that it took \$100 to do two years ago will take \$149 now. We want to thank you for your prayers and support. Please continue to remember us."

Greetings from the Aycocks: They write, "The angels sang on the occasion of our Savior's Birth in Bethlehem and before the throne of the Father the angels continue to rejoice over one sinner that repenteth. The angels have continued to rejoice as Brazilians have believed on His name. More have been saved this year than any other since we have been in Barbacena. Fourteen were baptized last month in the baptistry of our new church which is under construction. Bobby is still suffering with his back injury. However, he is able to continue his church activities. Sue has suffered a lot with rheumatism in the past few months. At this time our thoughts go back to you. We are grateful for your friendship and the love we share mutually in the Lord. Thank you for having a part in our ministry by praying and giving."

Seasons Greetings from the Sparkses: They write, "We want to wish you a happy and blessed season. Our first anniversary service was celebrated on September 18 with a record attendance of 59 for the morning service. Also, we had our first baptism that day. Six were baptized. We are happy to have the Callaways join us here. They accompanied Anita back to Spain, who had, as you know, gone home with Paul to help him get settled in college. Anita has begun a biweekly ladies meeting which is well attended by the women of the church. You who are faithful in prayer and financial support are an indispensable part of our ministry. Thank you for standing with us."

Merry Christmas from the Paynes: They write, "We have applied for reservations for passage to the Ivory Coast, by way of a freighter, in June. All four of us are anxious for that time to arrive. Because the clinic has proven to be too great a physical load on Sandra, with her health problem, we plan to relocate this term in the village of Bouna. It is about 45 miles south of Doropo. We give praise to our great God for His goodness and provisions, and we are happy that He has burdened you to care about getting the gospel to the lost. Especially are we happy that He is using you to help us."



Points for Pastors

by Jim McAllister

For years I pastored and built evangelistic churches that won souls to Christ but never grew above 250 in Sunday school. The offerings were usually just what we had to have, so new programs and ideas for church growth had to be by-passed. It seemed that we had an open door at both ends of the church. They came in one door and made professions; and, while we rejoiced over that, others were slipping out the back door, never to be seen again.

I listened to church builders who told me that even Jesus considered keeping 25 percent of those reached as a good percentage. I could naturally accept this as a normal problem, one that could not be prevented.

However, when I moved to Farmington, I determined to make a stab at closing up that big back door, or at least slow it down to a trickle instead of a gush.

We began a follow-up program. Now many have used this type of program before, but I didn't know of anyone who did it quite the way we planned.

1. We had the follow-up weekly in the new convert's home.

2. It was one on one. No group lessons. This way the new Christian would not be embarrassed to ask questions.

3. One person was specially trained to do follow-up. He became a specialist in this field. The people learned to trust him and share their problems with him. (Note: Pastors, be sure this person is trustworthy.)

4. We continually keep revising our follow-up lessons. The needs of new converts will determine the lesson content.

5. We strongly urge every new member to take the follow-up. No one is exempt.

6. We are now developing a teen follow-up program.

7. We sold the idea to our church. They now believe in it. As a result we have cut our lost members' roll a lot. Instead of losing 50 percent or 75 percent we now retain over 75 percent of those won.

Not only that, we also find that our new members know much more about the Word of God. They are stronger church members and they are much better stewards. Follow-up works!

Let's Pray

The Executive Secretary of the National Association, Reverend Rufus Coffey, has asked me to encourage the people of Missouri to spend much time in prayer as we prepare for the National Association that will convene on July 17-20 in Kansas City, Missouri. Therefore, I am asking every moderator of District and Quarterly Associations and every pastor to ask for special prayer in behalf of this meeting of Free Will Baptists. This should be mentioned in our Quarterly and District Associations and in our weekly prayer meeting services. It would be well to ask some capable person to prepare a poster for display on the church bulletin board or some prominent place in the building. Let us pray that the Lord will give us one of the most wonderful associations we have ever experienced. Let us pray with this expectation!

Now, what I have stated relative to our National Association may I emphasize this same thing for our Missouri State Association, which will convene June 5-8, 1978. Let's pray and pray and pray!

Clarence Burton
Promotional Secretary

CHURCH EVANGELISM REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Rev. James McAllister



Church Staff



Place: First Free Will Baptist Church, Farmington, Missouri

Time: April 24-26

Program Personalities: Rev. Paul Thompson and three members of his church staff, Rev. Don Pegram, Rev. Bob Shockey, Rev. Roy Thomas, and Rev. James McAllister and his staff.

Rev. James McAllister, pastor of the Farmington Church, extends a cordial welcome for everyone to attend. The church is preparing and looking forward for people throughout Missouri and neighboring states to attend the conference.

CHURCHES PEOPLE AND EVENTS



Mr. Kerry Lawson has been called by the Grant Avenue Church as full-time assistant to the pastor and youth director. He has been serving as youth director on a part time basis since last summer. Kerry and his wife, Marilyn, are from Mountain Grove and were members of the Willow Springs Free Will Baptist Church before coming to Grant Avenue. They both attended Free Will Baptist Bible College and Southwest Missouri State University and are able musicians.

Kerry's primary responsibility will be directing the youth work for the church. The young people of Grant Avenue Church go on a mission action tour each summer.

Kerry will also be assisting the pastor in general church duties. He plans to expand the youth activities to include more programs for the young people, as well as service ministries they will be involved in.

Ted Wilbanks is pastor of the Grant Avenue Church.



ORDINATION SERVICE AT FELLOWSHIP

October 30, 1977, will always be a special day to Mike and Carla Creech and their families and friends who gathered at the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Flat River, Missouri, to witness the "setting apart" of Brother Mike for the ministry.

The Executive Board of the St. Francois County Quarterly Meeting directed the service with Moderator James Barker presiding. Brother Grant Saverance (Brother Mike's pastor) preached the ordination sermon using Scriptures from 1 Timothy.

He exhorted him to pray, study and live a separated life unto the Lord and not to become discouraged. Reverend Carlton Lambert (Brother Mike's father-in-law) from Eldridge, Alabama, gave the charge, and Brother Tunis Creech (Brother Mike's father) led in the ordaining prayer.

Eighteen members of Mike and Carla's family made the journey to Flat River to join in this special day. Those attending were Reverend and Mrs. Carlton Lambert and son, Phillip (Carla's parents and brother) from Eldridge, Alabama; Mrs. Cecil Wall (Carla's grandmother) from Mount Hope, West Virginia; Mr. and Mrs. Tunis Creech (Mike's parents) from Troy, Michigan; three sisters and their families, Mr. and Mrs. William Basard, Troy, Michigan; Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Bronson of Aubrain Heights, Michigan; and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Goddard of Aubrain Heights, Michigan.

Mike and Carla joined the congregation at Fellowship Church in May, 1977. Both had attended the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. Brother Mike has assumed the position of associate pastor, director of Kiddie Kampus (the day care center sponsored by the Fellowship Church) and director of the bus and youth ministries of the church. Carla is working in the day care center, as well as assisting Brother Mike in the other areas of the church work. They are a dedicated, energetic young couple who have quickly won a place in the hearts of the church family. We pray that God's choicest blessings will be upon this young couple as they work for Him.

GROWING AT GRACE

by Bonnie Jane Adams

Excavation began on November 14, 1977, for the new addition to our church in Arnold. The Lord willing, we hope to see the completion of a larger sanctuary, more classrooms, bigger and better kitchen facilities, more rest rooms, and more adequate parking. The building program adds to the many responsibilities our pastor, Reverend Glenn Rehkop, now bears. However, he is not alone in this labor of love but has a very capable assistant pastor, Reverend Daryl Ellis. And we must not forget the many willing workers on the church boards and in the church. We pray that our loving Heavenly Father will bless us, direct us, and enable us always to present the Good News. With the new addition, we are trusting that we can bring in more of the lost from the fields of sin so that they might find a living Savior and be filled with a bubbling Christian love for everyone.

May I sum up a little news of our church.

We have two bus routes which average bringing 50 to Sunday school and church. During our worship hour we have an adult church, youth church (6-12), little church (4-5), wee church (3), wee church (2) and a nursery.

Our evening worship time was changed to 6:00 p.m. on January 8 with a large congregation attending to show their approval of the change in time.

Our church librarian, Glenda Greer and her staff,

help to enrich our lives with the printed word.

Our CFC sponsors, Dan and Beth Deatherage, gather their group together on the second Tuesday and last Thursday of each month. The young people rocked around the clock in rocking chairs and raised approximately \$300.00 for the children's film library and other church needs. Their retreat at Babler State Park, November 11-13, enriched the lives of all who attended. The sponsors and young people participated in a testimonial service, devotionals, prayer service, song service, hiking in God's beautiful land of the oldest hills, football, chess, charades, cooking, and cleaning. Those enjoying the retreat were Dan Deatherage, Butch Hovis, Mike and Teresa Shoults, Ronnie and Robin Hovis, Rhonda Bain, David Britton, Patti Denman, Denise Howard, Gary Huett, Ken and Kevin Long, Linda Vincent, and Renee, Randy, and Rodney Wray.

Christian enrichment classes have been taught on Sunday during the past year. Wednesday prayer meeting and Church Training Service, with Lee Roach as our director, help supply our spiritual food also.

The Highway 21 bus group enjoyed a hayride and wiener roast in the fall. They also helped Denise Lee Bailey celebrate her sixth birthday. The young people on the 21 bus gave a love demonstration with a surprise birthday party on November 14 for their bus captain (me). The bus we took skating was decorated beautifully. They gave me gifts and had a birthday cake and cupcakes, plus having the MC at the skating rink call me to the center of the floor for everyone to wish me happy birthday. "My cup runneth over" with joy and love as God gives me the strength to work with the young of today.

An outstanding event took place at our church on December 18 when our Christmas program was presented. The little ones added to the merriment with their recitations and songs, giving their own interpretation and rendition. The Primary Department took part in a mini cantata, "It Happened As The Angels Sang." Bible verses were recited by the Junior Department with Terri Vaughn as MC. Candles were lighted by members of the Intermediate Department as "The Light of the World Is Jesus" was played on a trumpet off stage by Daryl Ellis. The Intermediates explained the meaning of Christmas. The young people presented a skit, "Forgotten? No, Not One!" showing how Christians should remember the "young in heart" who are slowed down by the passing of years.

The Grace Church Ensemble gave their first performance under the direction of Daryl Ellis. We are very proud of our instrumentalists—flutes: Diana Highley, Jeanette Liley, Renee Wray; trumpets: Rodney Combs, Mike Nettles, Doug Roach, Randy Wray; clarinets: Brenda Bowling, Rich Shoults; trombone: Terry Radke; percussion: Jon Highley; tenor sax: David Britton. The ensemble played, "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful."

AND THEN "The Dream," a play written by our own Wanda Huett, was a breathtaking experience. Fans blew over dry ice to produce vapors to transform the scene into a dream of a young woman, Denise Howard, searching for the Baby Jesus. The audio and recording of words and

appropriate music with the perfect lighting enhanced the various scenes. The search was made in the manger with Mary and Joseph being portrayed by Teresa and Mike Shoults. Scene 3 showed the search continuing with the star—Julie Lee; a little lamb—Patti Denman; a shepherd boy—Rich Shoults; and the king—Kevin Long. "The Little Drummer Boy" record was heard as Rodney Wray acted out this part. Scene 5 took us to a toy shop where Teresa found Santa Claus—Mike Vincent, Mrs. Claus—Janet Hovis, Christmas tree—Richard Trent, dolls—Barb Combs and Regina Nettles, robot—Gary Huett and Rhonda Bain and Rodney Wray each a jack-in-the-box. The jingle of bells was heard as Lisa Leonard, Renee Wray, Linda Vincent, and Karla Huett became beautiful Christmas bells. Even the angels—Karmin Collins, Gina Humphrey, Diana Highley, Linda Pogue, Teresa Allen, Karen Allen, Faye Crutchfield, and Darlynn Huett—couldn't help in the search. An elderly minister, Ken Long explained to Teresa that Jesus is no longer a baby but lives and can live in our hearts. Each one who helped in the writing and presentation of this play should be commended because every viewer received a wonderful blessing and a deeper insight of our relationship with Jesus if we know the joy of having Him as our Savior.

A new PA system was purchased and installed in December.

A paper drive will be held on the third Saturday of each month to help supplement the bus program. The Highway 21 bus route will be canvassed which will give us a greater opportunity to invite others to Grace Church.

Love loaf banks were distributed in October and Love Loaf Breaking Day took place on January 8. The money will be used to feed the hungry of the world and go to mission stations in our denomination.

Rev. Ken Goff was the evangelist for our revival which was held in October.

Rev. and Mrs. Harry Beatty are missed in the Arnold area and at Grace Church since they moved to West Plains.

CONFESSION TIME: I failed as a church reporter in '77 but with the Lord's help I hope to bring you news from Grace Church each month in '78. SMILE! GOD LOVES YOU! MARANATHA!

ATTENTION:

Church treasurers and pastors The Missouri State Association year ends March 31, 1978. In order for cooperative and designated giving to be included in this year's total receipts, they must be sent to the state office by March 31. Please make note of this in order that your giving will be reflected in the state treasurer's report to the Missouri State Association.

New Hope Church Purchases New Property

The New Hope Free Will Baptist Church of Fredericktown, Missouri, recently purchased 2½ acres a short distance outside the city of Fredericktown. This is the old Catherine School property. The people of the church have renovated the building and it is being used for the Sunday school and church services. The parsonage mobile home has been moved to the church property.

The pastor, Reverend Edwin Baine, reports that the church has a church extension ministry at the Madison Memorial Hospital. The service is held each Sunday morning. The average attendance is 13.

Time

My name is Time.

I haven't always been and I won't always be,
but right now I'm on the move, measuring out
life.

Men wait for me, submit to me, fear me,
but no one can stop me . . . except God.
He is in control, and He says I'm running out.
When I stop, eternity will keep right on going . . .
and it will be too late for repentance . . .

Too late for getting right with God
through Jesus Christ His Son.

Just "forever" left for tears and regrets.

Now is the day of salvation.

My name is Time and I'm on the move.

I'm taking you with me . . . into eternity.
God says, "Now is the accepted time!"

copied—

Trinity Baptist Newsletter



Ordination Service at Twin Oaks

The Southeast Missouri District Association held an ordination service for Reverend Raymond Michaels while in session at the Twin Oaks Free Will Baptist Church on January 7, 1978.

Rev. Lloyd Durbin, pastor of the Mill Creek Church, gave the young minister the ordination charge and Reverend O. D. Matthews, pastor of the Copper Mines Church, led in the prayer of consecration.

In the photo, Reverend Truman Huffman, pastor of the Twin Oaks Church, is standing with Reverend and Mrs. Michaels. The Union Light Church recently called Brother Michaels to serve as pastor.



TRINITY CHURCH COMBATS HUNGER THROUGH UNUSUAL SHARING

On Sunday, November 20, the final day of a 10-week-long project to combat hunger, families of the Trinity Free Will Baptist Church, 12143 Old St. Charles Rd., Bridgeton, Missouri, broke open more than 200 "Love Loaves," spilling out hundreds of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters.

The Love Loaf project was initiated by the church as a means to help feed starving people in the world's disaster areas. Families in the church had placed the Love Loaf containers on their dinner tables as prayer reminders of the project and members of the family were encouraged to contribute coins toward famine relief.

Sunday's Breaking Ceremony yielded over \$1,200.00. According to Reverend Spurgeon, the pastor, the proceeds will be used to fight hunger in disaster areas of the world through two organizations. The church sent 50 percent of the money to the Foreign Missions Department of the National Association of Free Will Baptists and 50 percent to World Vision International, originator of the Love Loaf program for emergency relief work.

Pastor Spurgeon said, "The program was successful because it gave our church families a new awareness of world need as well as an opportunity to do something about it. It costs World Vision only \$15 to feed a hungry family of five for a month, so we have a feeling that we have done something important."

Food, medicine, and vitamins will be sent immediately to the hungry in disaster areas of the world because of the church Love Loaf program.

Pastoral Change:

Richard Robinson from First Church, Corning, Ark. to First Church, Thayer, Mo.

Two Missouri Students on Dean's List

According to the registrar of the Free Will Baptist Bible College, two Missouri students, Alvin Hook and Richard Greenup, made the "B" Honor Roll for the first semester of the 1977-78 school year.

MISSOURI DESIGNATED GIVING December 1977

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Kirksville	\$107.38
Jerry Pinkerton	\$21.00
Howard Filkins	81.38
Jim McLain	5.00
Gateway	\$25.00
Howard Filkins	\$25.00
New Harmony Sunday school	\$30.10
Dr. Miley	\$15.05
Jim McLain	15.05
South Side	\$120.00
Steve Lytle	\$30.00
Charolette Tallent	85.00
Jerry Pinkerton	5.00
Olivet	\$95.00
Lonnie Sparks	\$ 5.00
Howard Filkins	5.00
Lynn Miley	10.00
Bobby Poole	40.00
Jim McLain	5.00
Mabel Wiley	20.00
Jerry Pinkerton	10.00
West Plains	\$77.00
General Fund	\$50.00
Bill Fulcher	27.00
Bethel	\$13.50
Charolette Tallent	\$5.00
Jerry Pinkerton	8.50
Kingsway	\$116.80
General Fund	\$72.80
Joe Haas	44.00
Merl's Chapel	\$34.00
Dr. Miley	\$34.00
Thayer	\$25.00
Dale Bishop	\$ 5.00
Jerry Pinkerton	20.00
Walnut Grove	\$10.00
Lynn Miley	\$10.00
Total	\$653.78

"In the October receipts \$80.00 was inadvertently attributed to the Columbia Church that should have been attributed to the Lebanon, First, with the allocation as follows:
Jerry Pinkerton account, \$40.00 and Clint Morgan account, \$40.00."

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS

New Harmony Sunday school	\$15.07
David Kirby	\$15.07
Kingsway	\$34.00
General Fund	\$34.00
Thayer	\$14.00
Kirby-Moberly	\$11.00
General Fund	1.00
Tom Owens	2.00
Total	\$63.07

MISSOURI STATE YOUTH CAMP

Parkview	\$10.00
Faith	10.00
Olivet	10.00
Thayer	10.00
Total	\$40.00

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Black Oak	\$33.50
Bob Francis	\$33.50
Olivet	\$55.00
Vergel Maness	\$ 5.00
Leland Horton	25.00
Mark Vandivort	25.00
Bethel	\$10.00
Bob Francis	\$10.00
Thayer	\$8.00
Mark Vandivort	\$8.00
South Side	\$127.00
Bob Francis	\$127.00
Total	\$233.50

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Bethel	\$45.00
Total	\$45.00
Bob Carr from Merl's Chapel	\$10.00

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS December 1977

Mt. Pisgah	\$ 46.00
Royal Oak	23.00
Mill Creek	41.35
Fellowship	50.00
Macedonia Sunday school	11.75
Malden	85.22
Monett	265.58
Waynesville	96.25
Kirksville	30.00
Black Oak	10.00
Alton	60.79
Sedalia	63.32
Oskaloosa	39.62
Purdy	101.00
Gateway	50.00
Faith	173.19
Belton	163.00
New Rock Springs	45.00
New Harmony Sunday school	4.83
Poplar Bluff	18.00
South Side	265.66
The Jones Family	159.59
Freeman's Chapel (Oct. & Nov.)	175.86
Lebanon, First	388.00
Berkeley	377.76
Pleasant Ridge	35.35
Number One	29.73
Pleasant Grove-Cope	12.31
Hannon	143.00
Rock Chapel	202.04
O'Fallon	383.00
DeSoto	400.00
Central-(Oct. & Nov.)	450.00
Pleasant Hill	26.25
Happy Home	58.00
Bailey Chapel	18.00
Olivet	200.00
Fredericktown, First	180.88
West Plains, First	238.00
Fordland	127.08
Shiloh	16.60
First Mission, Kansas City	62.60
Faith, Fair Grove	56.00
Verdella	113.51
Moberly	10.50
Bethel	185.00
Hartville	117.81
Grace	456.00
Byrd	21.93
Hopewell	72.25
Berean	92.00
Mine La Motte	42.50
Buffalo	160.08
Farmington, First	897.18
Merl's Chapel	59.50
Copper Mines	125.00
Joplin	222.30
Mt. Vernon	90.80
Leadinton	216.35
Carterville	22.40
Marshfield	85.57
Wolf Creek	119.20
Houston	109.25
Thayer	129.68
Walnut Grove	92.10
El Dorado Springs, First	5.00
Twin Oaks	350.00
Parkview	50.00
Beacon	324.65
Total Cooperative Receipts	\$9,554.17

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS December 1977

20.00% Missouri State Home Missions	\$1,910.84
16.25% Promotional Department	1,522.55
4.50% General Fund	429.93
5.25% Youth Camp	501.60
2.00% Gem	191.08
2.00% Sunday School and CTS	191.08
2.00% Christian Board of Education—MBI	191.08
52%	4,968.16
7.00% Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	668.81
13.00% Foreign Missions	1,242.04
9.00% Free Will Baptist Bible College	859.88
7.00% Executive Department	668.79
6.50% National Home Missions	621.03
2.50% CTS	238.85
2.50% Retirement and Insurance	238.85
.25% Laymen's Board	23.88
.25% Theological Commission	23.88
41%	3,917.20
Total Disbursements	\$9,554.17

This month of December is closed out early in order to meet the deadline for the National Association Office fiscal year. Consequently, the total receipts are less than normal.

The Lord is continuing to bless this labor for the salvation of souls. We are so grateful for this.

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSION GIVING DECEMBER 5, 1977 through JANUARY 5, 1978

Joplin	28.00
Olivet	250.00
Hannon	143.00
Fellowship	15.00
Rock Chapel	60.00
St. Francois District Home Missions	130.00
O'Fallon	86.91
Myrtle	56.79
West Plains	70.00
Houston	58.18
Berean	10.00
Flat River, First	75.25
South Fremont	115.00
DeSoto	100.00
Grace	130.00
Farmington	4.00
New Harmony Sunday school	15.07
Kingsway	34.00
Thayer	14.00
Martinstown	13.70
Cooperative Receipts	1,910.84
Total	\$3,319.74

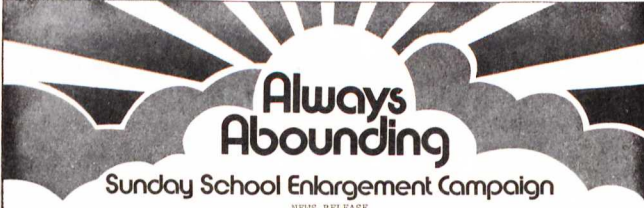
Secretary-Treasurer
Rev. Lawrence Thompson
3416 Bellefontaine
Kansas City, Mo. 64117

Sunday School Enlargement Campaign

The Missouri State Sunday School and CTS Board will again be sponsoring a Sunday school enlargement campaign in connection with the National Sunday School Department this spring. The enlargement campaign will take place in the month of March. The entry deadline will be February 28, 1978. We will again have the different divisions, and the winners will be announced at the State Association meeting in Flat River, Missouri, in June.

In the next several weeks your church or pastor will be receiving an entry blank. Please fill in the information requested and mail it to Mr. Richard Pointer, 1945 South Weaver Ave., Springfield, Missouri 65807. If you wish to purchase any campaign material, please purchase it through our National Sunday School Department in Nashville, Tennessee.

There will be a \$5.00 entry fee. We hope that each and every church will participate in this Spring Enlargement Campaign, because no one is a loser. We will all win and we will see our churches grow and souls won to the Lord. Plan now on becoming involved and making the month of March the best ever in your church's history.



Always Abounding

Sunday School Enlargement Campaign

NEWS RELEASE

January 1, 1978

Dear Brother Pastor:

Let's get an early start on the annual Spring Enlargement Campaign. Here are the basic facts:

TITLE: "Always Abounding"

THEME VERSE: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" 1 Corinthians 15:58

CAMPAIGN DURATION: Four weeks - March 5-26, 1978

CAMPAIGN LOGO: The symbol for this campaign, is the rising sun, has been adopted for two reasons: (1) The context of the verse which has been selected for the theme verse is the resurrection. The rising of the sun each morning speaks symbolically of the resurrection. (2) The rising sun also speaks of the coming of the Son of Righteousness, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is hoped that the symbol selected will constantly remind those participating in the campaign of the resurrection and the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

KEYS TO SUCCESS: Information Cooperation Prayer Promotion Competition Follow-up

The campaign will organize competition on the basis of average Sunday school attendance during the Fall quarter, 1977 as follows:

Division A over 500 average	Division E 150-199 average
Division B 400-500 average	Division F 100-149 average
Division C 300-399 average	Division G 50-99 average
Division D 200-299 average	Division H under 49 average

The present size of your Sunday school does not prevent you from being eligible to win in your division. Campaign materials are available from the Sunday School Department. Entry blanks must be postmarked no later than March 4, 1978. PLEASE ORDER YOUR MATERIALS EARLY. Today is not too soon!

Sincerely in Christ,
FREE WILL BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
L. D. Harrison
H. D. Harrison
Director of Sales and Promotion
BDH/hm
Enclosures

"... Always abounding in the work of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

From the Desk of the Promotional Secretary



by Clarence Burton

December is the last month of the calendar year. The year 1977 has been a good year. Of course, I suppose we should be able to say with the Psalmist concerning the year, as well as a day, "The Lord hath made it and I will be glad and rejoice in it." The month of December is closed out early in order to meet the deadline for the National Association Office fiscal year. Consequently, the total receipts are less than normal. But, we are still a little ahead of the projected budget. We are thankful for this, and we know it is because the Lord's people are responding to this wonderful plan to support every phase of His work. If a church is reluctant to adopt this ministry for fear it will drain the treasury, it might be well to do what I heard a pastor encourage his congregation to do. He said, "Trust God!"

Have we learned to count on the promises of God? There is only one thing that keeps a person from benefiting from the promises of God: refusal to believe them. An illustration: A check is a man's promise to pay. It depends on the signer's name, his integrity, his word. When you have confidence in a man, you take his check as readily as cash. Then, you endorse it and cash it. The money is there!

The Bible is full of tremendous promises God has made. Back of these is God's name, God's integrity, and His resources! They are like checks made out to the believer. Take any of these checks, fill them out, and cash them at the bank of Trust and Faith. His resources will not run dry nor will they get close to it. Let's do what the preacher said, "Trust God!"

We need the space this month; therefore, I will make my report brief. I had the privilege of being with these in the month of December. On Saturday, December 3, I was with the Liberty Quarterly Meeting. The following Sunday I was with Reverend and Mrs. J. W. O'Neal and the Amity Church, I met with the Bootheel District Association at the Malden Church the following weekend. Vivian and I had a wonderful visit in the home of Rev. and Mrs. Dale Blackwell, pastor of the Malden Church. On Sunday, December 11, we were with the Willow Springs Church. The pastor's wife, Mrs. White, had lost her father. (We expressed our sympathy to this fine family.) That afternoon I was with the Fair Grove Mission that was organized into a church. Rev. and Mrs. James Crawford, the pastor and wife, are working diligently with this new work.

I met with the Executive Committee of the Missouri State Association on Monday, December 12. The following Sunday, Vivian and I were with the Grant Avenue Church. The church choir under the direction of the pastor, Reverend Ted Wilbanks,

presented a beautiful cantata. We had a delicious dinner prepared by the pastor's wife, Kay Wilbanks. What a cook! The last Sunday in December we were with our home church in Lebanon. It is always enjoyable to hear our pastor, Reverend Mertz, preach. I closed out the year with the Cave Springs Association which met with Clifton Church. That association has a house full for every Quarterly Conference. Perhaps we should ask the moderator, Reverend Clark Stephens, the secret.

May I thank you for what you have done for the cause of Christ through our state and national ministries. Oh, the number of people and churches that are blessed by this faithful support! May the Lord bless you for everything you have done. Then, may I say thanks for real, genuine, Christian kindness you have shown to me. What wonderful love we can share together in the Lord.

Please continue to remember these ministries in prayer. Please make all checks payable to Missouri State Association and mail to P. O. Box 911, Lebanon, Missouri 65536

NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL HOME MISSIONARIES

The Bob Francises from Minnesota write: "We have noted your faithfulness over the last few months as you have given to our account. We are grateful for your gifts. Your gifts have enabled us to give our full time to the establishing of a local Free Will Baptist Church in Minnesota.

"While we do not have a large attendance (less than 20), we are meeting people daily that are interested in our ministry. We have had several inches of snow and below zero temperature readings; yet we have had our best month in attendance in November.

"We are thankful that you have made it possible for us to tell others about Christ and the Free Will Baptist Church in Minnesota. With your prayers and support we will endeavor to establish a self-supporting Free Will Baptist church in this area. Our family would like to thank you for your faithful prayers and support. Merry Christmas and God's blessings be on all during the year."

The Hortons from Iowa write: "A very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to those we love and see each day, and to others loved far away. To all good friends who mean so much, and with whom it's a joy to keep in touch."

The Summersons from Illinois write: "The Faith Free Will Baptist Church of Milan, Illinois, is now a few weeks old. Our opening service was on October 16 with 49 present. Our attendance since then has remained in the 40's with one exception. Our offerings are averaging \$178 per week. God's hand is upon the work here and we are excited. We are in need of another building. Please pray concerning this and for ones that we believe are very interested in salvation but thus far have not responded. Also, pray that we will raise the needed money for a down payment on property. Thank you for your faithful support. Without it we could not labor here. We will someday share in the rewards."

Woman's Page



Shirley Bowden, editor



LOCAL AND DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

On October 4, 1977, eleven members of the Oak Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Union, Missouri, met to organize and elect officers for a Woman's Auxiliary. The following women were elected: Mary Ann Owens, President; Elaine Stringer, Vice-President; Annie Richardson, Secretary and Treasurer; Jo Ann Stahlman, Mission Prayer Chairman; Sandy Thacker, Mission Study Chairman; and Mary Oswald, Mission Action Chairman. The first project of the auxiliary was to make hospital packets for the unsaved. These consisted of tracts and other interesting articles directed to winning the lost.

The auxiliary asks that other auxiliaries remember them in prayer since this is a new endeavor for the majority of the members. (This article was submitted by Anne Richardson, Secretary/Treasurer.)

The Merl's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church hosted the Thanksgiving Day of Prayer with six churches participating. The welcome was given by Mrs. Lizzie Tayler of Merl's Chapel with the response given by Mrs. Ruth Henderson of the Macedonia Church. Mrs. Sharon Keeling, of Merl's Chapel, gave the devotional from Psalm 92:1-5. She brought out that Thanksgiving was begun when God told the Israelites to bring the fruits into the storehouse and how they gave thanks to God for their food. She also shared with the women that the

first Thanksgiving holiday was proclaimed in the United States in 1863.

The program was given with the following women presenting various topics: Social Life, by Mrs. Dimple Harris of Purdy; Religion, by Sharon Henderson of Macedonia; Population Growth, by Mrs. Alta Powell of Monett; and Responsibility, by Mrs. Eugene Clark.

The group enjoyed a playlet, Spiritual Dinner, given by Mrs. Ruth Myers, Joyce Phillips, Ruby Reed, Elnore Medlin, Mrs. Ruth Henderson, and Helen Brown.

It was agreed by the women to back Anita Bryant and to send a letter to her. Anyone wishing to send a letter to her can write, Anita Bryant, 4682 N. Bay Road, Miami, Florida 33140.

The Pre-Easter prayer service will be held in Monett on March 26, 1978, at the First Free Will Baptist Church. (This article was submitted by Mrs. John McClune of the Merl's Chapel Church.)

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING DATES AND INFORMATION

- * Money for the Loan Fund should be to Blanche Wisehart *no later* than March 25, 1978. The other projects should be to her no later than April 25, 1978.
- * Due to the expense of the National Woman's Auxiliary being in Kansas City, the State Woman's Auxiliary is asking that \$3.00 per member be given to meet these expenses. The money should be to Blanche Wisehart by June 25.

TOTALS FOR STATE PROJECTS

	GOAL	RAISED
* Perpetual Loan Fund	\$2,000	\$153.44
* Francis to the Field	\$2,000	\$350.75
* Pinkerton on Wheels	\$2,000	\$647.97
* Missouri National Convention Expense	\$2,000	\$ 21.35

IF YOUR AUXILIARY HAS NOT GIVEN TO THE ABOVE PROJECTS YET, PLEASE ENCOURAGE IT TO DO SO.

