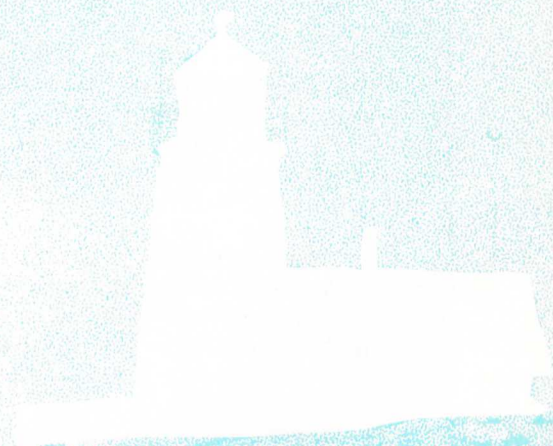


Volume 49, Number 1, January, 1979

Free Will Baptist

GEM

"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"



Ye are
the light of
the world. A
city that is set
on a hill cannot
be hid.

Matt. 5:14

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

Clarence Burton, editor

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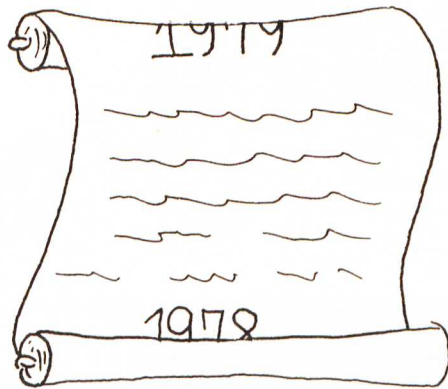
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Another Year To Live



by Richard Robinson

"He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well; and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down."

The year 1978 has passed with all that it has held for us. Have we only cumbered the ground or have we produced fruit for God? While we can't change the past, 1979 brings a new year to live and serve God. A year that we may be fruitful and live forever, or another year to be unfruitful and die.

We know this parable in Luke 13 is written primarily to the Jews of Jesus' day. It illustrates the unfruitfulness of Israel and her doom if she did not repent, accept, and produce fruit for God. But we can also see a challenge to all mankind to repent, accept, and serve God while there is time, or die unprofitable and be lost.

As a pastor, I encourage my congregation to be a witness to the lost. Even as I do this I am reminded that faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Has not the ground been broken and the seed planted? Everyone in the United States has an opportunity to know the Jesus of the Bible. The Bible is the best seller, there is nationwide TV coverage of church services, and in some areas a church on every corner. Yet in 1978 we have not seen our country return to the Lord.

We may need to check closer to home; have our local churches in 1978 produced fruit-bearing Christians? We as Free Will Baptists are proud of our fundamental, conservative interpretation and application of the Scriptures. You can see this very plainly in our National Associational Meetings. With all of the fundamental preaching, why are our churches only half full on Sunday night and less on Wednesday night? Why do we see some Free Will Baptist parents so slack in teaching their children in the way they should go? Why do many of our young adults

after marriage drop out of church or go to other denominations?

So likewise in our churches, as in the world, just knowing what to do doesn't assure the proper action. If 1979 is to hold for us as Christians a more productive year in winning the lost and seeing a crop of fruit-bearing Christians produced, we must look further.

What is the "spiritual fruit" we are looking for in a productive Christian's life? Someone will say, just have faith in Christ and live the best life that you can. This sounds good, but will it produce an adult Christian? The answer has to be "no"! Becoming an adult, well-rounded Christian is no more of an accident than becoming a well-rounded adult functioning in this world and being profitable to society is an accident. In our lives today, we have a push-button society. TV programs have their introduction, plot, and climax in thirty minutes to an hour. This is also reflected in the new converts to Christ. Many of the new converts want to be saved and become adult Christians without any pains of growth. So, when they find there is a lot of growing and serving between the altar and the grave, they become discouraged and are prone to give up. This may be our fault as pastors and teachers for preaching and teaching the pie in the sky and that Christ is the answer to all. Young Christians should be told to count the cost of discipleship, and that the Christian life is not a hundred yard dash, but it is an endurance race. Christ is the answer to peace and joy within. He is a present help in time of trials and heartaches, but the pressures of life will still come.

When we talk about fruit-bearing or becoming an adult Christian, we are talking about a time-consuming life of Bible study and application of the Word. This fruit can be divided into two groups. First, the "Fruit of the Spirit" found in Galatians 5:22, 23, which is the development of the inward man. An inward development is a growing process whereby we renew our minds daily to think on spiritual things. We should put them into practice until the good attributes of the Spirit become a part of us. This inward fruit-bearing brings forth a Christian who is lovable and loving. This type of spirit will manifest itself in people who can get along in one accord, and have true concern for the sick and the weaker brother. If the attitude of the believers is improved, there will be more progress made in the local church.

The outward fruit is bringing the lost to Christ or producing after one's own kind. This is best described in Matthew 28:19-20, the great commission, where believers are told to go into all nations teaching them God's plan of salvation through Jesus, and after they are converted, preparing them to follow after Him. This comes back to one's conversion becoming a life-changing experience which gives them the desire to go and tell others of what Jesus has done for them. Our debt to Jesus for our salvation should always be a driving force that keeps us taking the gospel to others.

What is the answer for a productive new year in the Christian's life? We can get some valuable advice for Christian growth in the fifth chapter of Hebrews.

The last four verses of this chapter teach that Bible knowledge is to be sought and Bible knowledge is to be put into practice. This is God's plan if we are to have a fruit-bearing, adult Christian. The principles taught in Hebrews five are to be accomplished in a growing process. These verses tell us to be unskillful in the Word is to be babes in Christ. We can say again, we send our children to school to be educated in the ways of our society. Yet, we expect Christians to be knowledgeable of the Bible and to apply its teachings to their lives without dedicated study. Could some of the lack of accomplishment in 1978 be because of unequipped saints?

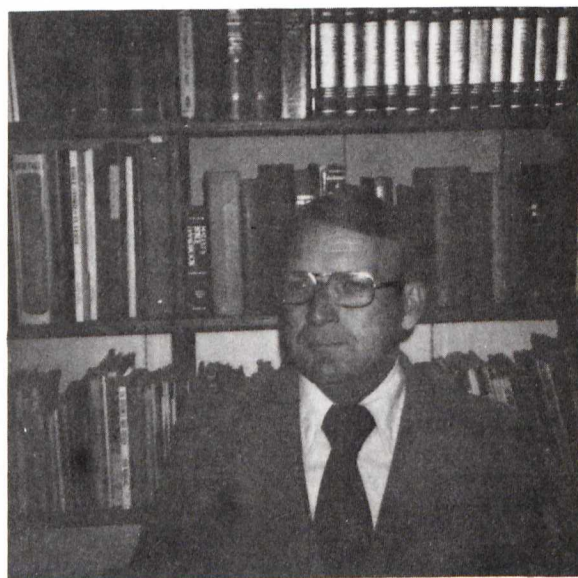
After the Christian becomes skillful in the Word, he must exercise its teachings in his life. Paul said, "Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine; continue in them." There is to be no room for a gap in the believer's testimony and life. "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." Do our lives line up with what we say we believe? There should be no difference between our opinion and our practice. Because if there is, our lives will add up to nothing on the spiritual scorecard.

To increase the number of Bibles in the homes of our church congregation is easy, but to see its truths put into practice is something else. One can be sure that we as Free Will Baptists have the right doctrine. So thank God we are more than half way toward a fruitful new year. Faithful preachers and teachers must teach and preach the practical works of James alongside the faith of Paul in Ephesians 2:8, 9, if we are to see the church grow in numbers and in fruit bearing Christians.

Christian brothers, we need to begin this new year by confessing our sins of commission and omission to God and accepting His gracious forgiveness. Make

right our shortcomings, and then, "forgetting those things which are behind," press forward with confidence and trust in the Lord.

We read where the month of January is named after the Roman god Janus who was depicted as a man with two faces, one looked back into the year that had passed, bearing traces of sorrow and fear; while the other looked ahead expressing hope, anticipation, and confidence. Let us not be like this Janus, looking back, but let us only have one face that looks forward to having a good year in the service of the Lord.



About the writer: Richard Robinson is the pastor of the Thayer Free Will Baptist Church. He serves on the Missouri State Association General Board as a representative of the Cave Springs Association. He is a graduate of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College and is active in state and national work.

SPRING ENLARGEMENT CAMPAIGN "ENLARGE YOUR VISION"

ENLARGE YOUR VISION is the theme for the 1979 Spring Sunday School Enlargement Campaign. This campaign will be of special value to the Sunday school which wants to promote not only a time of dramatic growth but also a time of spiritual growth for their students and teachers. Witnessing and missionary vision are stressed in this program of involvement.

The Spring Enlargement Campaign will begin March 4, 1979, and end March 25, 1979. Sunday schools in each division who experience the greatest percentage of gain over the thirteen weeks average attendance for September-October-November, 1978, will be declared winners and presented appropriate awards denoting first or second place.

Sunday schools will be arranged in accordance with the following table for competitive purposes.

Division A over 500 average

Division B 400-500 average

Division C 300-399 average

Division D 200-299 average

Division E 150-199 average

Division F 100-149 average

Division G 50-99 average

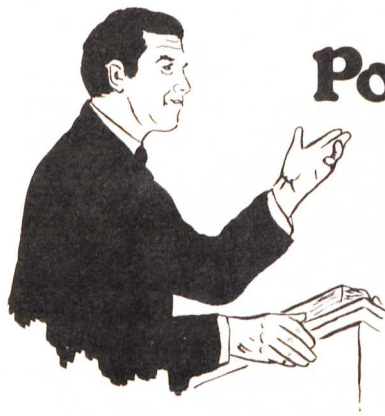
Division H under 49 average

THE PRESENT SIZE OF YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL DOES NOT HINDER YOU FROM BEING ELIGIBLE TO WIN IN YOUR DIVISION. Campaign materials are available from the Sunday School Department.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS CAMPAIGN, ENTRIES SHOULD BE IN OUR HANDS BY MARCH 2, 1979.

Pastoral Changes

Reverend Johnny Postlewaite to Columbia, First
Reverend Billy Van Winkle to South Side, St. Louis
Reverend John Turner to Fredericktown, First



Points for Pastors

by Jim McAllister

The church conference has proven to be a cancer on the soul of many churches and pastors. The business meeting can be a devisive tool of the devil or it can be a real blessing to the church. Which it will be depends on several things, not least of which is the attitude of the pastor.

I have heard many different opinions as to why the business meeting is a problem. Some will say, "Don't have any at all." But this would do away with our "sacred" congregational government. Someone else says "only have one or two or four per year," while others tell us to have them every month.

May I take the liberty of sharing my ideas with you? First, it doesn't matter whether you have one or twelve regular business sessions per year. The

number has nothing at all to do with the success or failure of the meeting.

Second, your attitude and the attitude of the congregation toward the business meeting is the important thing. If there is a sweet spirit in the church, it should carry over into the business meeting. However, if you view the meeting as a necessary evil, the church will do likewise, and this attitude starts everything off wrong.

Third, don't have business meetings on Sunday. I like to have them on Wednesday nights when the church members are usually present, but not so many visitors. Also, on Wednesdays we usually minister strictly to the church and this complements the church conferences. I don't like an extra night for conferences as few attend and church business should be ministered by the church body.

Fourth, preach an interesting and spiritual sermon, pray, and then have church conference. The sermon, singing, and praying should help get every one spiritually ready for business.

Fifth, have your business organized. Announce that all business should be presented to the deacon board or business committee for their monthly meeting. Have good, thorough reports, and give people ample time for discussion, but insist they stand, address the moderator, and be recognized before speaking.

Sixth, involve your board members in the presentation of business items and discussion.

Seventh, have frequent prayer before and during the business meeting and honor all reasonable suggestions.

If you follow these suggestions, your church conference should run smoothly and God should be exalted.

Sunday School Attendance Averages 1977-78

Church	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.
Bethel				125	120	102						
Calvary, Conway	124	121	111	110	120		115	104	131	134	118	
Copper Mines	84	77	86	92	74	85	91	78	89	85		
Cuba						71						
Farmington	395	389	414	458	509	444	460	429	438	438	474	
Fellowship										221		
Flat River, First					234	199	203	263	225	233	248	202
Fourth		134	145	193	181	185	147	126	177	175	163	193
Grace		194	197	207	214	190	179	158	168			
Grant Avenue	137	127	129	145	138							
Kansas City, First	13	14	16	12	17	16						
Kirksville, First	91	84	95	95	95	89	97	87	82	93	114	135
Lebanon		109	120	125	131	130	122	101	107	112	118	124
Myrtle	42	45	47	52		50	45	45	51			
Richwoods	36	25	28	33	32	33	36	27	30	33		
South Side		159	157	155	131	106	116					
Terrill Road (Moberly)							39	39	32	40		38
Trinity	197	175	180	183	171	172	168	148	140	171	173	
Twin Oaks	103	87	89	99	98	93	87	95	95	90	91	105
Verdella		60	63	73	80							
Willow Springs	104	111	93	110	110	95	100	108	107	109	119	104

CHURCHES PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Rock-A-Thon at Kirksville

The youth of the First Free Will Baptist Church at Kirksville sponsored a Rock-A-Thon on December 1, 1978. Through a tremendous effort by those that rocked—Cindy Linquist, Donna Green, Mary McLain, Chris Thomas, and Elaine and Emmanuel Bragg—there was a total of \$400.00 raised for the Missionary McLain Family. The young people along with the church are helping to raise the needed money for the McLains to return to Japan.

The pastor of the church is Reverend Gil Mertz.



Promoted to Glory

Memorial services were held October 13, 1978, for Brother Luther Curry. He united with the Mt. Pisgah Free Will Baptist Church in 1929. He served as treasurer of the church for thirty years and also served the church as a deacon for a number of years.

He was survived by his wife, Inez, two daughters, Mrs. Mable Adkisson and Mrs. Edna Richards, three sons, Donald, Arnold, and Larry.

The pastor of the church, Reverend Morris Akers, conducted the memorial service and stated in his remarks that the church would surely miss this faithful servant of the Lord. Special music was rendered by the church choir.



Fine Report From Twin Oaks

I am so happy to share the blessings of the Lord with our co-workers in the state of Missouri and enjoy hearing from the churches in the printed page of the *Free Will Baptist Gem*, writes church reporter, Madeline McFarland. The Lord is blessing with fine attendance in all the services. The visitation is on the move and we have witnessed the results of this by professions of faith in the home and some have rededicated their lives and committed themselves for Christian service.

The Lord has given Twin Oaks Church some fine young teachers and two young men have announced their call to the ministry of preaching the gospel. The church is blessed with a fine group of singers. The people of the church work hard at the home church during revival and they also help other churches. With so much sin in the world and so many temptations, we can be proud of our young people, and of course all ages, for each age has its place in the work of the church.

The church can be especially thankful for one who has helped in so many ways. Without him to lead and direct through the preaching and teaching of the Word, the church would not be experiencing a steady growth. This one is our pastor, Reverend Truman Huffman. We thank God for him.

We are thankful for the elderly of the church. There are three couples with 50 year anniversaries. They are: Brother and Sister W. D. McFarland, Brother and Sister Claude Lee, and Brother and Sister Ray Thomas. We request the prayers of God's people that we will be faithful in serving Him. The Christmas program was presented December 16.

Old-Fashioned Day at Cape Girardeau

After having the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday evening, November 15, followed by communion and feetwashing, the First Free Will Baptist Church of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, had its annual Old-Fashioned Sunday. Ladies in old-fashioned bonnets, dresses and aprons, and men in old-fashioned suits and bib overalls sporting moustaches and beards, made for an interesting congregation. Kerosene lamps and an old-fashioned pump organ tied it all together. The morning worship ended on a joyful note with five youth and two adult conversions. The program included a viewing of antiques on display at 5 p.m. at which time refreshments were served. At 6 p.m. there was a gospel singing in which all groups in the church participated. The note of joy continued through the evening worship and was climaxed with another soul saved. Church reporter, Fay Wilkins, states, "The church has much for which to praise the Lord."



Farewell Party for the John McAllisters

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Monett, Missouri, gave a farewell party for Mr. and Mrs. John McAllister. The McAllisters moved to Lebanon, Missouri. The pastor Dr. Jim Davis and the church expressed their appreciation to this couple who labored faithfully for over nine years as members of the church. They were presented with a beautiful silver platter as an expression of the Sunday school class and the church. Brother McAllister was serving as teacher of "The Truth Seekers," one of the adult classes. Pictured is the Sunday school class (Orlie Phillips a member not included in picture) and the McAllisters at the party.



On The National Front

Nashville, TN—Fifteen young people and sponsors from two churches in Missouri attended Welcome Days at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tenn., November 30-December 2. They were part of a group of 172 from 37 churches in 13 states that visited the campus for the occasion. Those from Missouri who attended are:

Calvary Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church, Fenton

Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Norris
Miss Arlene Avery
Miss Denise Woodham
Miss Sue Reese
Miss Mary Talley

DeSoto First Free Will Baptist Church, DeSoto
Rev. and Mrs. Charles Miller
Mr. and Mrs. James Parker
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Moss
Miss Jane Berry
Miss Martha Mouser
Miss Kelly Parker

They were treated to special choir and drama programs, attended classes, slept in the dormitories and enjoyed a number of special features planned just for them by officials of the college. The cost was only \$7.50 per person.

How did they like it? Here are some comments:

"These few days here have made me to start to seriously consider coming to the Bible College next year."—Kelly Parker

"I really enjoyed being able to visit."—Martha Mouser

"The people are really nice and care about you; they're really interested in meeting you as much as you are meeting them."—Jane Berry

A spring Welcome Days will be held at Free Will Baptist Bible College April 12-14, 1979. Attendance is limited to those who are high school juniors and seniors, or older. Space is limited so early reservations will receive preference if the limit is reached.



HILLSDALE HIGHLIGHTS

GREEN STAMPS FOR HILLSDALE

A project to collect S&H Green Stamps to purchase a van for Hillsdale is under way. Bill Campbell, member of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Tulsa, will direct the program.

The van will be used by the promotional groups and for student activities.

Campbell, secretary-treasurer of Arctic Circle Free Will Baptist Missions, collected stamps for the purchase of an airplane for Bob Carr, missionary to Alaska. Now, he wants to do "Something Special" for Hillsdale. He hopes to collect the 5,000 books of stamps needed to purchase a van by Easter.

You can help. Mail your green stamps to Bill Campbell, 8913 East 56th Street, Tulsa, OK 74145.

A Pastors and Workers Conference has been planned for January 8-10, 1979. Subjects and speakers include: "Church and Personal Budgeting," Herman Hersey; "Journalism in the Local Church," Jack Williams; and "Spiritual Uplifting Through The Word," Bob Shockey. The conference will begin Monday evening at 7:00 and end Wednesday at noon.

From the Desk of the Promotional Secretary

by Clarence Burton



I began the month of November with revival services at the South Fremont Church in Springfield. The revival began on Wednesday evening and continued through Sunday evening. I enjoyed being with the pastor and his wife, Reverend and Mrs. Wayne Wagner and the folks at the church. The Lord blessed with fine services and I certainly enjoyed the fellowship. Reverend Ronald Creech, director of development at Free Will Baptist Bible College, was with us for two of the evening services and we worked with him in southwest Missouri in promoting the Library Wing project that was reaffirmed at the past Missouri State Association. We enjoyed the fellowship and working with this endeavor.

The Youth Camp Board met at the state office on Monday, November 6. (I carried an article in the November issue of the *Gem* regarding the meeting and the needs of the camp.) The Lord has truly blessed the ministry of the Youth Camp and we need to give it our full support. The following Saturday I met with the First Quarterly Meeting of the Mission Association. Reverend and Mrs. Howard Bowers and the Rock Chapel Church hosted the meeting in a wonderful way. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship, the preaching, and the delicious dinner. This church is enlarging its facilities. The building program will accommodate an enlarged auditorium, additional classrooms, and a larger dining and kitchen area. It is always good to see a church make progress.

We had a beautiful experience on Sunday, November 12. The occasion was a service dedicating our grandson, Joshua Michael Burton, to the Lord. We certainly enjoyed being with Steve and Vickie and the church they serve, the Elnora Free Will Baptist Church. That evening we were with the warm and friendly folks at the Wolf Creek Church. Reverend and Mrs. Helsley always make us feel so welcome. The singing at the church is always uplifting and it helps the preacher get the urge to preach. Vivian and I enjoyed fine fellowship with the Helsleys following the service and Ruth had some "goodies" that were very delicious. The following weekend I had the privilege of being with hospitable people at the First Church in Sikeston. It is always a pleasure to be with the young pastor and his wife, Reverend and Mrs. Dale Blackwell. They have just begun their ministry with this church and it looks as if they will have a fine ministry. That Sunday evening I was with Reverend and Mrs. Lester

Davis and the Cabool Church. This was the first time I had the privilege of being with the church. The building is beautiful and very accommodating. The Davis family is enjoying a fruitful ministry at Cabool.

The last Sunday in November it was our privilege to be with the Happy Home Church. Reverend and Mrs. Raymond Haden are serving this church and doing a fine work for the Lord. What a joy to worship with people who love the Lord and enjoy working for Him. This church, along with others I have mentioned, is giving full support to the cooperative program. It is evident the Lord is blessing the ministry of the church. Vivian and I enjoyed a delicious dinner with the pastor and family and the fellowship with the Lord's people is always wonderful.

November ended with a trip to Nashville and a meeting with the Sunday School and Church Training Board. The merger is working very smoothly and it seems to be accomplishing its intended purpose.

The Lord is blessing His work in our denomination and it is evident that He is blessing the state ministries. We are grateful for this! My prayer is that we shall continue to labor together realizing that through our love and unity the world can take knowledge that we have been with Jesus, and that by His grace we shall serve Him until He calls us home. What a thrill to serve the Lord and share in preaching the gospel at home and throughout the world. Let us continue to serve Him and by faith believe that He will enlarge His work through us as we give to Him that which belongs to Him, the tithes and offerings.

By way of reminder please make all checks payable to (earmark designated) Missouri State Association. Please mail to the state office: Missouri State Association, P.O. Box 991, Lebanon, Missouri 65536.

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSION GIVING NOVEMBER 5 through DECEMBER 5, 1978

West Plains	\$ 70.00
DeSoto	200.00
Grace	31.00
Oak Hill	5.00
New Life	14.10
Flat River, First	100.00
Myrtle	56.92
Nat'l Home Missions	30.44
South Fremont	122.00
Fourth	33.93
Houston	53.75
Olivet	250.00
Lebanon	30.50
Columbia	5.00
Thayer	4.00
Pleasant Ridge	10.00
New Harmony Sunday school	24.42
Hazel Creek	10.00
Cooperative Receipts	2,660.73
Total	\$3,711.79

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

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

November 1978

Purdy	\$ 150.00
Number one	37.91
Bailey Chapel	26.00
Way Side	85.00
Houston	168.00
Cope-Pleasant Grove	27.93
Poplar Bluff	65.00
Lebanon, First	336.00
Community	30.19
Gray Summit-June-Oct.	203.48
Cape Girardeau	300.00
Verdella	145.14
Royal Oak	34.00
Faith, Lemay	83.00
Sedalia	144.76
Kirkville, First	237.16
De Soto	500.00
Mill Creek Sunday School	32.55
Mill Creek Church	70.72
Columbia	50.00
Victory, Alton	145.00
Grace	751.00
Hannon	257.00
Grant Avenue	308.00
Salem	25.00
Rolla	64.00
Calvary, Conway	393.00
Mt. Vernon	89.27
Rock Chapel	206.50
Beacon-Sept. & Oct.	677.51
Mtn Valley	187.74
Thayer	112.78
Pleasant Ridge	48.00
Sikeston	150.20
Olivet	200.00
Viburnum	15.00
Malden	81.92
Happy Home, Ava	59.85
Mtn Grove, First	480.54
Oak Hill, St. Clair	311.19
Cuba	53.93
Hartville	187.89
Cabool	106.76
Highland	42.00
Fredericktown, First	246.03
Walnut Grove	96.85
Waynesville	215.00
Mt. Pisgah	55.00
West Plains, First	238.00
New Harmony SS	6.87
Copper Mines	125.00
Granby-Aug.-Oct.	85.62
Independent United Free Will Baptist-Lemay	30.00
Leadington	264.22
Berkeley	394.19
Hopewell-Sept.-Oct.	219.70
Macedonia SS	14.50
Thayer	163.07
Calvary Fellowship	507.73
Black Oak	10.00
Wolf Creek	162.66
O'Fallon	434.00
Marshfield	120.85
Mt. Zion-Thayer	53.00
Kingsway	274.00
Fellowship	50.00
Houston	155.00
Verdella	92.23
Purdy	130.50
Fourth	363.00
Willow Springs	173.90
Cope-Pleasant Grove	21.49
Belton	157.32
Liberty, Phillipsburg	160.00
El Dorado Springs, First	5.00
Lebanon, First	301.00
Pleasant Hill	43.06

Faith, Fair Grove	105.57
Farmington	1,005.77
Parkview	121.25
Total Cooperative Receipts	\$14,382.30

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

November, 1978

18.50% Missouri State Home Missions	\$2,660.73
16.00% Promotional Department	2,301.16
4.50% General Fund	647.20
5.50% Youth Camp	791.03
2.00% Christian Board of Education	287.65
2.00% Sunday School & CTS	287.65
5.00% Retirement Program	719.11
5.00% Retirement Center	719.11
58.50%	\$8,413.64
6.00% Hillsdale College	\$ 862.94
11.00% Foreign Missions	\$1,582.06
8.00% Free Will Baptist Bible College	1,150.58
6.00% Executive Department	862.94
6.00% National Home Missions	862.94
2.00% CTS	287.65
2.00% Board of Retirement & Insurance	287.65
.25% Layman's Board	35.95
.25% Theological Commission	35.95
35.50%	\$ 5,105.71
Total Disbursements	\$14,382.30

November is Thanksgiving Month. It is a time when we give special thanks to the Lord for His blessings. We thank Him especially for His blessings on this ministry.

MISSOURI DESIGNATED GIVING

November 1978

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS

Lebanon, First	\$30.50
Gen. Fd	\$30.50
Columbia	\$ 5.00
Gen. Fd	\$ 5.00
Thayer	\$ 4.00
Gen. Fd	\$ 3.00
Owens	1.00
Pleasant Ridge	\$10.00
Gen. Fd	\$10.00
New Harmony SS	\$24.42
Moberly	\$24.42
Hazel Creek	\$10.00
Gen. Fd	\$10.00
Total	\$83.92

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Columbia	\$ 10.00
Mark Vandivort	\$10.00
Thayer	\$ 11.00
Mark Vandivort	\$11.00
Olivet	\$ 80.00
Bill Adkisson	\$50.00
Mark Vandivort	25.00
Vergel Maness	5.00
Mtn. Grove, First	\$ 15.00
Mark Vandivort	\$15.00
Oak Hill	\$ 17.25
Bob Francis	\$17.25
Mt. Pisgah	\$ 25.00
Mark Vandivort	\$25.00
Fordland	\$ 10.00
Mark Vandivort	\$10.00
Wolf Creek	\$10.00
Mark Vandivort	\$10.00
Fourth	\$ 18.00
Bob Francis	\$ 6.00
Vergel Maness	12.00
Lebanon, First	\$68.10

CELF	68.10	
Rock Chapel		\$ 95.00
Gen. Fd	\$55.00	
Leland Horton	10.00	
Bob Thomas	30.00	
Total		\$359.35
FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE		
Columbia (MO Project)		\$5.00
Fordland Church for Jack Dinwiddie		
		\$10.00
HILLSDALE FREE WILL BAPTIST COLLEGE		
Willow Springs		\$ 10.00
Mtn. Grove, First		\$127.00
Total		\$137.00
YOUTH CAMP		
Faith, Lemay		\$10.00
Flat River, First		\$10.00
Thayer		\$20.00
Olivet		\$10.00
Mt. Pisgah		\$ 5.00
Fourth		\$10.00
Clark & Clobell Deeds		\$25.00
Total		\$90.00
WOMAN'S AUXILIARY Vandivort Vehicle Fund		
Leadington Church		\$577.79
FOREIGN MISSIONS		
Lebanon, First		\$ 52.00
Charolette Tallent	\$22.00	
Jerry Pinkerton	15.00	
Clint Morgan	15.00	
Columbia		\$ 29.00
Charolette Tallent	\$20.00	
Jerry Pinkerton	5.00	
Gen. Fd	4.00	
Kirksville, First		\$ 28.00
Jerry Pinkerton	\$28.00	
Hannon		\$ 128.00

Jerry Pinkerton	\$25.00	
Lynn Miley	25.00	
Steve Lytle	25.00	
Charolette Tallent	25.00	
Carlisle Hanna	28.00	
Thayer		\$ 56.50
Gen. Fd	\$27.50	
Jerry Pinkerton	24.00	
Patsy Van Hook	5.00	
Pleasant Ridge, Urbana		\$ 20.00
Jim McLain	\$10.00	
Gen. Fd	10.00	
Olivet		\$ 95.00
Bobby Poole	\$40.00	
Mabel Willey	20.00	
Jerry Pinkerton	10.00	
Lynn Miley	10.00	
Howard Filkins	5.00	
Jim McLain	5.00	
Lonnie Sparks	5.00	
Mtn. Grove, First		\$ 150.00
Gen. Fd	\$150.00	
Oak Hill, St. Clair		\$ 7.50
Jerry Pinkerton	\$7.50	
Walnut Grove		\$ 10.00
Lynn Miley	\$10.00	
West Plains, First		\$ 253.85
Gen. Fd	\$243.85	
Howard Filkins	10.00	
New Harmony SS		\$ 48.84
Dr. LaVerne Miley	\$24.42	
Jim McLain	24.42	
Aulsbury Chapel		\$ 50.00
Bill Fulcher	\$25.00	
Jerry Pinkerton	25.00	
Fourth		\$ 144.00
Steve Lytle	\$93.00	
Charolette Tallent	16.00	
Bill Fulcher	25.00	
Jerry Pinkerton	10.00	
Parkview		\$ 18.12
Lavern Miley	\$4.53	
Carlisle Hanna	4.53	
Bill Fulcher	4.53	
Norman Richards	4.53	
Total		\$1,090.81

A Letter from the Francis Family in Minnesota

Dear Friends,

The snow and cold temperatures of another winter have found their way to Minnesota again. I thought for a while that we might escape it, but no such luck. I am looking at about 13 inches of snow with light snow still falling and the temperature is 3 degrees above zero. Even though we knocked on about a 1,000 doors this summer, it makes me wish that we would have worked just a little harder. It is impossible to do door-to-door visitation in this kind of weather. We are certain of one thing—God knows what He is doing and it is right.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas season is one of my favorite times of the year. We had much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving Day, and as we joined hands in a prayer of thanks around our table this year, we thought of our many friends who were praying and giving in order that we might be a

witness for Christ and Free Will Baptists in Minnesota. You may not believe it, but there have been many times that your face has been brought to my mind and I have thought about those good times of fellowship and times of service that we have had together while I was traveling to raise my support for Minnesota. Believe me, we think of you often.

May I just once again express my appreciation to you for your faithfulness to give and pray. Our family wants to wish to each of you a great Christmas in Christ and our prayer is that God will bless you.

Sincerely,

The Francis Family

Note: Reverend George C. Lee has announced that he and his sisters have prepared, in a very attractive manner, a message by his father entitled "Why I Am A Free Will Baptist!" The messages are available upon request by writing Brother Lee at 1806 Wayne Memorial Drive, Goldsboro, North Carolina 27530. Everyone writing is requested to send a self-addressed stamped envelope.

NEWS RELEASE

Herman L. Hersey, Director of the National Board of Retirement and Insurance, announced October 13, 1978, that the assets of the denomination's pension plan exceeded one million dollars.

The funds represent deposits of 450 missionaries,

pastors, and denominational employees together with the deposits of 34 separate trust funds of individuals, churches, and denominational agencies.

Director Hersey says, "We are thankful our laity see the need to provide adequate retirement benefits for those who serve us. We expect many more churches to become part of this program."

The Valley and the Mountain

by Raymond Haden, Pastor Happy Home Church

I was living in a valley; sin is the name by which it's known.
I had lots of friends and neighbors, but I was very much alone.
Let me tell you of this valley; it was long and it was wide.
And when the storms of life roared thru it, there was no place to hide.
There were bluffs on either side of it, rock walls straight up and down,
And a sea down at the mouth of it, far across and no way down.

Yes, I was living in sin's valley of disappointment, fear, and doubt.
And then one day I realized, I knew no way out.
Well, the more I thought about it, the more it seemed to me.
That there had to be a better place, for folks like us to be.
So I started out of a searchin', looking for this valleys end.
I had heard some talk about it, but so far I'd never been,
To the place where hope looks upward, where you can really lift your head,
Where the mountain leaves the valley, and where doubt and fear are dead.

Well, I finally found that mountain, and when I knew where it was,
I thought, this is worse than ever, I'll just turn and go on back,
'Cause that mountain looks to rugged, and that hillside looks too steep.
But a voice then seemed to tell me, "Stop and think and count the cost.
Don't go back down in that valley; build an altar and take your cross.
Think of all those who've done it; Hebrews 11 tells of some.
Paul said, 'It's a race,' and won't it; this mountain can be overcome."

Then the voice I knew was Jesus said, "I'll help you if you'll try.
I'll never leave nor forsake you; it was for you I came to die."
Then I felt a power within me, that I'd never felt before,
A new desire and determination that makes me reach for more and more.
I want to climb a little higher, each and every passing day.
My valley home is far behind me; I'm on this mountainside to stay.
I see others as I travel, some going up and some going down.
I wonder what lies out before me, that made the others turn around.
God said, "My grace is all sufficient, I'll supply your every need."
Dear God, just hold my hand and guide me; I'll try to follow where You lead.

Each cloud must have a silver lining, one side is dark, the other bright,
And when my mountain climb is over, there'll never be another night.
I want to sit beside the river, that flows from where my Saviour reigns.
I want to wear my brand new body, that has no scars and feels no pain.
I want to talk to all those people, who thru the Bible I have known.
But best of all I'll see my Jesus, and He will say, "Raymond, Welcome Home!"

MISSOURI FREE WILL BAPTIST
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CTS BOARD:

Rev. R. Kent Tallent, Chairman
Box 189
Buffalo, MO 65622

Mr. Richard Pointer, Treasurer
1945 S. Weaver
Springfield, MO 65807

TO ALL INTERESTED IN CTS COMPETITION:

Mark your calendar now! The State CTS competition will be held May 5, 1979 at the Trinity Free Will Baptist Church, 12143 Old St. Charles Road, Bridgeton, MO promptly at 9:30 a.m. All contestants must be preregistered by April 15, 1979 to be eligible to compete.

As you begin preparing for the state competitive activities, keep in mind that the Dress Code for the National CTS competition is still effective. The Missouri State Association at the June 1978 meeting directed the State Sunday School and CTS Board to enforce the guidelines used at the National competition in the state competition. On October 9, 1978 the General Board of Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists defined the term "PARTICIPANT" as anyone involved in any manner in the competition, including judges, coaches, accompanists, and entrants. ANY AND ALL "PARTICIPANTS" MUST COMPLY WITH THE DRESS CODE. ANY "PARTICIPANT" NOT COMPLYING WITH THE DRESS CODE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

I. DRESS CODE

A. All clothing should meet Biblical standards of modesty (1 Timothy 2:8-10):

1. All male participants in NYC competitive activities should dress in a manner that complements, protects and enhances their masculinity; and all female participants should dress in a manner that complements, protects and enhances their femininity.

2. Dress should always be in good taste and should reflect high concern and appreciation for modesty. All clothing should be loose fitting; no tight pants on men or boys; no tight dresses, skirts, blouses, or sweaters on ladies or girls.

*a. Boys are to wear suits or slacks. Tank tops and T-shirts are unacceptable.

*b. Girls or ladies are to wear dresses which shall extend to the knee or longer. Dresses must not be low cut or revealing in style or material.

B. All participants should groom and attire themselves in such a fashion that would not be offensive or show tendencies if conforming with the unholy fashions and patterns of the world (1 Corinthians 11:14, 15):

- *1. The boys shall groom their hair so as to follow natural hairlines without covering the ears or extending to the eyes or collar.
- *2. Hair styles for girls should not be in accord with male fashions.

(*Adopted by the National Association of Free Will Baptists during the forty-first annual session, July 17-21, 1977, in Detroit, Michigan.)

We trust that this information will be helpful in preparing your young people for State CTS competition. If you have any further questions, please direct them to the chairman of the board, Rev. R. Kent Tallent (Phone (417) 345-2713).

GEM
RALPH STATEN
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KIRKSVILLE TN 37914
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