

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES 1979-80

CHURCH	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.
Belton							32	33				
Buffalo	76	72	68	70	76	73	69	79	61	56	57	54
Calvary	104	106									64	62
Calvary, Fenton	150	117	105	109	106						110	
Cape Girardeau	95		76	81	71	78	73	80	66	69		
Central	54	63	54	54	50	50	58	52	47	55	67	68
Copper Mines	82	85	74	80	71	73	73	66	68	73		
Farmington, First	475	494	444	446	454	455	514	670			529	
Flat River, First	214	228	209	188	192	196	202	224	199	195	192	168
Fourth	231	187	155	146	157	138	133	122	139	133	137	143
Fredericktown, First		104	109	98	101	98	133	129	115	127	118	94
Grant Avenue	130	134	104	128	120	119	126	133	134		128	123
Gray Summit								17	10	12	11	
Houston	73	75	68	65	76	85	77	75	70	81	85	76
Kirksville, First	126	122	144	127	108	117	127	125	120	119	113	
Lebanon, First	120	125	120	128	101	111	116	119	104	104		
Marshfield	56	59	54	52	48	53	51	59	58	52	53	
Monett, First	134	138	120	126	117	130	134	156	159	136		
Mtn. Grove, First	316	266										
Parkview, Desloge		58					52	45	45	50	48	41
Richwoods	30	23	35	36	27	35	42	44	48	41	44	
South Side	131	107	95	91	90	82	83		84	98	82	
Terrill Road, Moberly	29	23	15	16	17	18	20	21	30		31	29
Oak Hill, St. Clair	59	57	45	52	49	38	55	74	64	66	64	55
Trinity	151	170	169	158	139	129	144	152	149	150	148	150
Twin Oak	80	87	83	82	78	68						
Victory, KC	94	70	68	75	62	67	60	64	62	72		
Willow Springs	105	98	100	100	100	98	100	98	103	112	105	88

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

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

Clarence Burton, editor

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

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

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

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

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

2

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



Royal Couples Crowned at Willow Springs

Willow Springs Free Will Baptist Church crowned their royal couples for 1980 on Sunday night, February 17. The youth King and Queen were Chris White and Cindy Bradshaw. The adult Royal Couple was Wayne Fry and Wanda Gladdis.





The couples were appointed by their Sunday school class. They received votes at a penny a vote. The Royal Contestants received a total of \$476.21. The money was given to the Home for Children in Greeneville, Tennessee.

The pastor, Reverend Bob White, said, "It thrilled my heart as I watched parents and grandparents respond in a last minute effort to help their favorite couple. After the crowning of the royal couples everyone enjoyed a banquet in honor of the newly elected royalty. The Activity Committee handled the preparation of the dinner.

Other couples that put forth a great effort for the honor were: Albert and Meg Middleton, Delbert Crewse and Delsie Hastings, Tony and Jenny Lawson, Keith Chapman and Missy Middleton, Brian Wilson and Tonya Heckman, Garrett Raney and Tabitha Hanna.

Salem Wins Attendance Contest

The pastor of the Salem Free Will Baptist Church, Reverend Gary Hutsell, writes that the church attendance is on the rise. The attendance has increased 32 percent in the last three months. Recently the church enjoyed a good fellowship with the First Church in Rolla by engaging in a 30-day attendance contest. The banner was won by the Salem Church with a slight win. Both churches experienced an increase in attendance. The Salem Church has experienced several conversions this past year.

At present the church is praying that the church bus will be available for use in April and the months to follow. We are trusting God for our needs.

Win Them One by One

Reverend Charles Miller reports that four students were enroute from Free Will Baptist Bible College to Missouri when they experienced a flat tire. A gentleman stopped, changed the tire, and before goodbyes were exchanged the young ladies had led the man to accept Jesus Christ as Savior! (I say amen!)

News From Belton

Reverend Bill Eden, pastor of the Belton Free Will Baptist Church, stated that the church has recently elected Brother Bob Keeler and Brother Frank Watson to serve on a probationary status for one year as deacons. Following the year of service, upon the recommendation of the church, these men will be ordained to serve as deacons in the Belton Church.

HILLSDALE HIGHLIGHTS

The students, faculty, and visitors that came to our 1980 Bible Conference were in for a treat. The preaching of Rev. Tom Marberry, Rev. Clarence Shepherd, Rev. David Sutton, and Rev. Buddy Drake was a tremendous blessing to our hearts. The special music was superb.

Our monthly support is very good at this time. May I encourage you to continue to give. Remember an investment in the lives of young people will be the greatest investment you make.

The Missouri Teen Retreat will be April 18 and 19. We are looking forward to this new venture for us. Our On Campus Days will be April 25 and 26. The annual Ministers' Golf Tournament will begin at 9:00 a.m. on the 25th of April.

JOHN S. CRAFT FAMILY TRUST FUND

The JOHN S. CRAFT FAMILY TRUST FUND has been established for the benefit of Connie C. Craft and her four daughters, ages 7, 9, 12, & 14. Rev. John C. Craft was in a fatal automobile accident on January 8, 1980. He had been the pastor of Unity Free Will Baptist Church, Smithfield, North Carolina, since he and his family returned from the foreign mission field in Brazil in 1973.

Contributions to the trust fund may be sent to: JOHN S. CRAFT FAMILY TRUST FUND, P.O. Box 1333, Smithfield, North Carolina 27577.

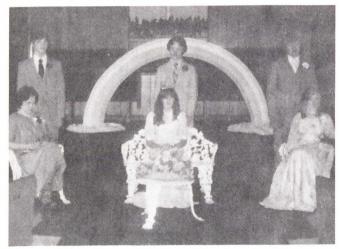
Personal contributions should be sent to: Mrs. Connie C. Craft, P.O. Box 2135, Smithfield, North Carolina 27577.

Sweetheart Banquet at Lebanon

The Young Christian Crusaders of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Lebanon, Missouri, held their annual Sweetheart Banquet on Saturday, February 16, using "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" as the theme. The festivities started at 12:00 noon with Jonna Gander singing the theme song "Over The Rainbow." Dinner was then served in the church basement. At 1:30 we gathered upstairs as Janice Ballard blessed us by opening the program singing, "He Was There All The Time." John Jones gave the devotion on "What Waits Over The Rainbow." Mark and David Brawley blessed us with the song, "A Love Of My Own." The highlight of the afternoon was the coronation of King and Queen for 1980. We had seven couples running this year to raise a total of \$501.46. Each couple worked very hard with second runner up Janice Ballard and David Brawley receiving 9,543 votes equaling \$95.43. First runner-up was Geri Chapman and Mike King receiving 11,911 votes totaling \$119.11. Queen and King are Sonja Patton and J. R. Sell receiving 14,198 votes or \$141.98. Votes are cast at a penny a vote and put into a combined fund for the Young Christian Crusaders. The Young Christian Crusaders would like to thank their church family and friends for their support.

A Love Offering was given to Carla Skiles in the amount of \$50.00.

The sponsors for the young people are Bruce and Connie Myers and Jackie and Debbie Fincher.



Lebanon Sweethearts

Greetings From the High Country

The Howard Bowers Family write: Just a line to let you know that we are all doing well and happy and healthy. We appreciate so much the contributions we receive from the folks in Missouri. We are thankful for the Ronnie Skiles family that moved to Pueblo, Colorado. They are a great help with the music and also in teaching. The address of the Bowers family is 1950 Mineola Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80915. The Niangua Quarterly Meeting met recently with the Cedar Ridge Free Will Baptist Church. The Lord blessed with a fine message by the pastor of the Hopewell Free Will Baptist Church, Reverend Tony Butcher, and a great time of fellowship. The moderator was Reverend Frank Linton and the host pastor was Reverend Bill Knapp. The Cedar Ridge Church has done considerable remodeling on the interior which has enhanced the beauty of the church.



Officers and pastors of Niangua Quarterly Meeting

Dear Bro. Burton,

Greetings from the island of snow—Hokkaido. We had a beautiful warm fall and part of the winter. Christmas was white, but that soon melted. Everyone was worried that there wouldn't be enough snow for the Snow Festival which comes the first week in February. It has been snowing almost daily the past few weeks. There is every indication that this will be a regular Hokkaido winter.

The new East Tsukisamu church, in which we are working, is really beginning to take shape. In August we rented a house for classes and activities. Sunday service began in September. There were very few of us who attended on those Sunday afternoons. We still have an attendance of about eight, but things look very promising for this year. We are working with Ben Abe, a young Japanese preacher. The church is very near his home. He plans to build a new building beside his home this summer. Ben and his future wife are working hard to establish the Lord's church in this part of the city of Sapporo. He will be ordained in April and they plan to be married in two years.

Mirial Gainer, an associate missionary teaching in a college here, also is helping. She teaches a Bible class and through her influence one of her students, a young man, accepted the Lord and helps teach Sunday school.

April will be the start of many things for us. A new building begins. A new time schedule, Sunday morning worship, new Sunday school classes, and other things begin at that time in this church. We rejoice to see the Lord working in this place and in the lives of our fellow workers. Rejoice with us because you have been a vital part through giving and praying.

Thank you for your continual standing with us.

In Christ, The McLains, Jim and Olena The Bootheel Quarterly Meeting met recently with the East Prairie Free Will Baptist Church. The occasion was used for a twofold purpose. The East Prairie Church held its dedication service. Reverend Frank Giunta preached a challenging dedicatory message. Reverend Clarence Burton led the prayer of consecration. Special music was presented by Kirk and Pam Durbin and Karen Giunta. The moderator is Reverend Dale Blackwell and the pastor of the church is Reverend Brack Harrison. The church served a delicious dinner.



Frank Giunta, Harrison Brack and Dale Blackwell

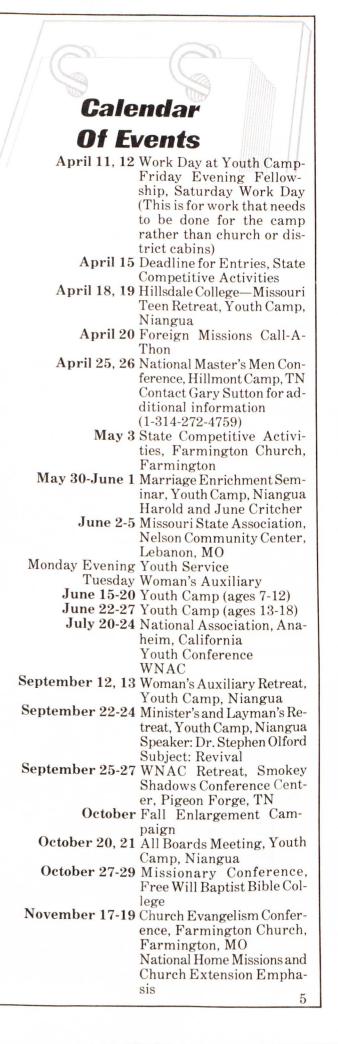


Kirk and Pam Durbin and Karen Giunta

A part of a resolution as adopted at the 38th annual convention of the NAE March 5, 1980

STRONG IN THE WORD TO SERVE IN THE WORLD

Great changes are in store for our world as we race into the decade of the '80's. Moral, social, political, and economic uncertainties characterize the times. Many are threatened by the possibility that Americans may lose a way of life, that the material abundance of our nation is fading, that the lights may (continued on page 9)



MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSION GIVING February 1980

Farmington
Oak Hill-Union 149.81
Houston 147.98
Grant Avenue 141.00
Eastern Gate
South Fremont
Mountain Grove
Pleasant Ridge
Friendship-Branson
Joplin
Leadington 650.00
Terrill Road9.00
Fordland
Flat River, First 100.00
Columbia
Fredericktown
Central
New Hope—Fredericktown
Buffalo
New Harmony
Thayer
Beacon
Myrtle
Coop. Receipts
Neosho
Grace
Mill Creek Young Adult Class
Parkview
Hannon
Sedalia 126.87
Olivet 100.00
Kay Matthews
Sue Matthews
South Side
Fourth
National Home Missions
Fellowship
Cuba
Marilyn Renfro
Total\$5,767.39

Secretary-Treasurer Rev. Lawrence Thompson 555 Columbia St. Clair, Mo. 63077

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS February 1980

18.50% Missouri State Home Missions \$2,871.93
16.00% Promotional Department 2,483.83
4.50% General Fund 698.58
5.50% Youth Camp 853.82
2.00% Christian Board of Education 310.48
2.00% Sunday School & CTS 310.48
5.00% Retirement Program 776.20
5.00% Retirement Center 776.20
2.00% Possible Purchase of Ret. Unit 310.48
6.00% Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College
33.50% National Association 5,200.54
Foreign Missions
Free Will Baptist Bible College
Executive Department
National Home Missions
Board of Retirement and Insurance
Layman's Board
Theological Commission
Total\$15,523.98

February has been another fine month! The response to cooperative giving has been very good for which we are thankful. We are a little ahead of the projected budget, and if we continue as we are we will meet the goal of \$170,000. Designated Giving which complements the tithe is also very good. So, let us thank the Lord for His leadership through the churches that support so faithfully His work.

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS February 1980

Columbia	.00
	.00
Grace	.00
Mtn. Grove, First	.71
Victory, Alton	00
Royal Oak	.00
Eastern Gate16.	73
South Side	20
Calvary Fellowship1,536.	.81
DeSoto	.00
Cabool	47
Monett	20
Cabool	.06
Bailey Chapel, Tunas	.00
Beacon	.84
Farmington	.00
South Side	.38
Sikeston	.00
Fellowship	.00
O'Fallon	.00
Number One	.00
Kirksville	15
Fredericktown, First	.00
Parkview	43
Belton	37
Happy Home, Ava 108.	55
Pleasant Ridge, Urbana41.	00
Lebanon, First	98
Cedar Ridge	42
Hurryville	82
Houston	50
Mill Creek 109.	12
Verdella	89
Viburnum	00
Sedalia	30
Macedonia, Niangua14.	00
Friendship, Branson	50
Mt. Zion, Thayer	89
Olivet	00
Purdy	00
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Rolla
Cuba
Waynesville 140.20
Waynesville
Waynesville 163.00
Cope
Mt. Zion, Gower
Way Side
Bismark
Gospel Light
Willow Springs 150,65
New Rock Springs
Eastern Gate
Monett
Buffalo
Myrtle
Hannon
Gray Summit
Low Ground
Low Ground
New Harmony
Total\$15,523.98

MISSOURI DESIGNATED GIVING February 1980 FOREIGN MISSIONS

FOREIGN MISSIONS
Mtn. Grove, First \$92.00
General Fund \$65.00
Mike Cousineau
Charolette Tallent
Eastern Gate
Archie Mayhew
South Sido #100.00
South Side
Charolette Tallent \$193.00
Howard Filkins
Monett \$108.00
Jerry Banks
General Fund
Kirksville, First \$63.00
Howard Filkins \$10.00
Jerry Pinkerton
Aulsbury Chapel \$50.00
Jerry Pinkerton
Howard Filkins
Plopent Pidre Hul
Pleasant Ridge, Urbana \$20.00
General Fund \$10.00
Jim McLain
Lebanon, First \$27.00
General Fund\$1.00
Charolette Tallent 1.00
Clint Morgan
Jerry Pinkerton
Olivet\$45.0
Bobby Poole \$25.00
Lonnie Sparks10.00
Jim McLain
Hannon \$173.25
Howard Filkins \$50.00
Jerry Pinkerton
Charolette Tallent
Bill Fulcher
Stove Lyttle 21.00
Steve Lytle
Jim McLain
Leadington
Howard Filkins\$7.00
Walnut Grove \$10.00
Lynn Miley \$10.00
Merl's Chapel \$42.50
Bobby Poole \$42.50
Thayer\$5.00
Jerry Pinkerton\$5.00
Black Oak \$27.50
Larry Inscoe \$27.50
Oak Hill, St. Clair \$27.07
General Fund \$27.07
New Harmony \$77.74
Lynn Miley \$38.87
Jim McLain
Fourth
Steve Lytle

Charolette Tallent10.00
Columbia \$72.00
Jerry Pinkerton\$5.00
General Fund2.00
Lynn Miley
Jim McLain
Howard Filkins
Charolette Tallent
Joe Haas
Myrtle \$95.82
Jim McLain \$55.82
Lynn Miley
Total\$1,283.88

STATE YOUTH CAMP

Mt. Pisgah\$5.00
Mtn. Grove, First \$40.00
Lebanon, First Dining Hall Enlargement \$16.67
Branson Dining Hall Enlargement \$10.00
Olivet \$10.00
Faith \$10.00
Low Ground Dining Hall Enlargement \$25.00
HannonDining Hall Enlargement \$15.00
Hartville \$60.00
General Fund \$10.00
Dining Hall Enlargement \$50.00
Thayer \$10.00
Willow Springs \$10.00
New Rock Springs \$10.00
Eastern Gate \$245.57
Dining Hall Enlargement
Total \$467.24

STATE HOME MISSIONS

STATE HOME MISSIONS
Columbia\$5.00
General Fund\$5.00
Fredericktown \$23.00
Branson \$23.00
Pleasant Ridge \$10.00
General Fund \$10.00
Lebanon, First\$7.00
General Fund\$7.00
Fordland \$20.00
Branson \$20.00
Flat River, First \$100.00
General Fund \$100.00
Terrill Road, Moberly \$19.24
General Fund \$14.24
Branson
Hazel Creek \$20.00
General Fund \$20.00
South Fremont \$159.50
General Fund \$107.50
Branson
Thayer\$6.00
General Fund\$6.00
New Harmony \$38.87
Moberly \$38.87
Low Ground \$10.00
Branson \$10.00
Rock Chapel \$100.00
(Sent Direct) Terrill Road, Moberly
Total \$418.61

HILLSDALE FREE WILL BAPTIST COLLEGE Monett

Monett	\$26.15
Mtn. Grove, First	\$30.00
Willow Springs	\$10.00 \$CC 15
Total	\$00.15

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

FREE WILL BAPTIST HOME FOR CHILDREN
GREENEVILLE, TENNESSEE
Myrtle\$5.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS
Mt. Pisgah \$95.00
Howard Bowers \$60.00
Mark Vandivort
Mtn. Grove, First \$57.00
Howard Bowers \$57.00
Monett, First \$75.00
General Fund \$50.00
Howard Bowers
Bob Thomas
Fredericktown, First \$119.00
Howard Bowers \$119.00
Olivet \$15.00
Vergel Maness \$15.00
Fordland\$6.00
Howard Bowers\$3.00
Vergel Maness
Flat River, First \$120.00
General Fund \$120.00
Bethel \$14.00
Vernon Long \$14.00
Rock Chapel \$35.00
Howard Bowers
Leadington\$5.00
Howard Bowers\$5.00
Thayer \$62.00
Howard Bowers \$62.00
Oak Hill, St. Clair \$15.40
General Fund \$15.40
Wolf Creek \$20.00
Mark Vandivort \$15.00
Howard Bowers
Fourth \$12.00
Vergel Maness \$12.00
Columbia
Mark Vandivort\$5.00
New Rock Springs \$61.00
Mark Vandivort \$34.00
Howard Bowers
Monett \$60.00
General Fund \$30.00
Howard Bowers
Bob Thomas
Myrtle
Howard Bowers \$61.50

DDDD WILL DADTIGT HOME FOD CHILDDEN

Motels in Lebanon, MO.

Bell Motel City Rt. 66 Phone: 1-417-532-6111

1 Dbl Bed	1 person	\$15.00
1 Dbl Bed	2 persons	16.00
2 Dbl Beds	2 persons	19.00
2 Dbl Beds	4 persons	21.00
3 Dbl Beds	6 persons	24.00
Clover Leaf Motel		

Clover Leaf Motel 2nd Exit I-44 Phone: 1-417-532-6131

1 Dbl Bed	1 person	\$10.00
1 Dbl Bed	2 persons	13.00
2 Dbl Beds	2 persons	15.00
2 Dbl Beds	4 persons	18.00

Holiday Inn City Rt. 66 at I-44 Phone: 1-417-532-7111		
1 Dbl Bed 1 Dbl Bed 2 Dbl Beds Children 19 and under free	1 person 2 persons 4 persons	\$25.00 28.00 32.00
Munger Moss Motel City Rt. 66 Phone: 1-417-532-3111		
1 Dbl Bed 1 Dbl Bed 2 Dbl Beds	1 person 2 persons 4 persons	$\$11.00 \\ 14.00 \\ 24.00$
*Shepherd of the Hills Motel City Rt. 66 Phone: 1-417-532-2133		
1 Dbl Bed 1 Dbl Bed 2 Dbl Beds w/Hide a Bed	1 person 2 persons 5 persons	\$18.00 20.00 27.00
White Sands Motel City Rt. 66 Phone: 1-417-532-3128		
1 Dbl Bed 1 Dbl Bed 2 Dbl Beds 2 Dbl Beds 3 Dbl Beds	1 person 2 persons 2 persons 4 persons 6 persons	$$12.00 \\ 14.00 \\ 16.00 \\ 20.00 \\ 26.00$
*Wyota Motel City Rt. 66 Phone: 1-417-532-6171		
1 Dbl Bed 1 Dbl Bed 2 Dbl Beds 2 Dbl Beds Children 12 and under free	1 person 2 persons 3 persons 4 persons	$$20.00 \\ 25.00 \\ 28.00 \\ 32.00$

*Best Western

There are other motels in Lebanon. This is only a suggested list. These are rates for June, 1980. It would be well to mention, when making reservations, that you are with the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Most motels have roll-a-way beds for an additional \$2.00 to \$4.00.

DATES FOR THE MISSOURI STATE ASSOCI-ATION are June 2-5. This includes the Youth Service on Monday evening and the Woman's Auxiliary on Tuesday. go out. A beleaguered sense of an old order dying grips people. Bitter moral issues—abortion, experimental sexual mores, altered family structure trouble the nation. Inflation, the energy crisis, the arms race, and the Middle East dilemma bring no cheer.

The National Association of Evangelicals has a message for this hour. God is still in control! The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is alive! God's Word—the Bible—is relevant to this day.

The family is a divine institution which God established with the first man and woman, an institution for all time.

The divine institution of the Church was established by Christ as His body in the world. He has no alternative to the Church, no provision for a second choice, no other options as His instrument on earth.

God has spoken and speaks today to the Church, the family, the nation, and the world through His Word. That authoritative Word is the inspired revelation of God to man, the infallible rule of faith and conduct.

Ministers are called upon to "preach the Word." Individuals are called upon to study the Word. Parents are called upon to instruct their children in the Word. The nation is called upon to obey the Word. The power of God is linked to the sharing of God's Word.

Christ left a mandate for the Church—"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

The gospel of God's redeeming grace in Christ is the answer to the anxieties and dilemmas that plague today's society. The Church must proclaim and explain the gospel with unflagging zeal. The mission is to present to every person a viable option translated into the medium of his understanding so that he will know what he is accepting or rejecting.

Every convert should be a witness and every church a center of evangelism. Total commitment and total involvement constitute the New Testament pattern. History indicates that when the Church is committed to the Scriptures, it is most effective in the contribution it makes to individuals, to the nation, and to the world.

Points for Pastors



by Jim McAllister

Organizing for revival can be a blessed experience, or if done in a sloppy and unprepared manner, it can be a very discouraging and disastrous event.

First, organize your philosophy concerning this revival in your church. I really think everything should be written down. So the philosophy of the church, the philosophy of the Sunday school, and the philosophy of the church concerning revival, though all the same, should be written down and promoted as well as explained to the people.

Second, organize the method for setting up revival. The pastor should be allowed the freedom of setting the time for revival, and selecting the evangelist. He knows better than anyone else the needs of the church, and he also knows which preachers can best meet these needs at a specific time. Naturally he will make occasional errors. He is human. But he will make fewer mistakes than if a board, committee, or congregation votes on the when and who of revival.

Third, organize the music, organize the promotion, organize the prayer meeting, organize the visitation, organize the financial part of revival, and organize the entertainment of the evangelist. Such things as ushering, nursery, and parking should be well organized in advance. Another important matter is to organize for altar services. Train workers for the altar and be ready and expecting people to come to the altar.

If all these things are planned in advance, they will not become difficult matters, detouring our attention from prayer and burden over souls. We need to have free minds so we can listen, pray, witness, and visit during revival. Prior organization will provide this opportunity.

Essentials of Evangelism

by Stanley Jones

It has been my observation that the music we use in an evangelistic meeting can either help the meeting succeed or hinder the meeting's effectiveness.

Be selective. Use only congregational and special music that complements the evangelistic atmosphere. If possible, discuss in advance the type of songs to be used with the pastor, music director, and evangelist. Normally it is not wise to take requests from the congregation during the service.

Be prepared. During an evangelistic service is the wrong time to teach the congregation a new song. The only exception to this rule might be a theme song and then the choir and music director should have already learned the song well. Use congregational music that can be sung with enthusiasm and strength because of its familiarity. All special music should be rehearsed in advance and approved by the music director.

Have variety. Music is not a "fill in" for "dead spots" in the service. It should provide for expression of true worship. Since there will be a variety of people present, there should be a variety of music to meet their individual needs. The music should alternate between congregation, choir, and special selections.

Be organized. Use a qualified music director to oversee the music. By qualified, I mean one who understands the part music plays in an evangelistic service and can effectively lead the people in this area of worship. Too long of a song service will put the evangelist under unnecessary pressure and highlight the singing instead of the Word. It may also weary the people. The music director should not "preach" before each song. This tends to lessen the effectiveness of the sermon. The special music should not be a premature climax for the service. This all but destroys the weight of the message from God's Word. The invitation song should be sung without announcing the page number. Use a song familiar to everyone or use the choir to sing during the altar service.

God can use a good music program to increase the effectiveness of the evangelistic meeting or we can stumble carelessly through a few ill-prepared songs and cause the people to be distracted from the evangelistic aim of the meeting. 9



by Jean Jenkerson

As I was trying to get some thoughts for a subject for this devotion, God reminded me of a song I used to sing when I was a junior in Sunday school:

O be careful little eyes what you see, There's a Father up above, looking down in tender love, O be careful little eyes what you see.

The other verses were about the ears, lips, hands, and feet. So I decided to search the Bible for God's Word on these subjects.

"O be careful little eyes what you see." Isaiah 33:15, 16 says, "He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly... that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; He shall dwell on high" How does one shut his eyes from seeing evil when it is on every hand? It's on the streets of our very own town; in our very own neighborhood. You can't turn on the television without seeing filth. You can cut your viewing down to news only and still the off-color commercials for the next show come blasting at you during every station break. Pornography abounds. I'm not personally bothered by it, but I know those people who work at large companies, especially in the city, are surrounded by it. So what is the answer? I have no good solution, other than to keep your mind on Jesus, letting Him crowd out all the evil.

Then the Bible warns against looking in lust or envy or jealousy. How we look at things affects us. Looking back can hinder our Christian progress. Genesis 19:26 says, "But his [speaking of Lot] wife looked back from behind him and she became a pillar

10

of salt." Looking back not only hindered her progress, it stopped it! That is what will happen to us if we don't turn loose of our sinful past. We must release it all; if we don't, God is not pleased. Jesus said in Luke 9:62, "... No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." I've never plowed, but I know from those who have that you must put your eye on a goal and keep it there or your furrow will be crooked and not too useful. So it is with life; we must get our eyes on Jesus, not looking back or in other directions, or we'll not live a life pleasing to God. Look ahead to what God has in store for the faithful and obedient—eternal life!

Looking at difficulties will also hinder or depress us. In Matthew 14:29, 30 it tells of Christ bidding Peter to walk to Him on the water. Peter did fine until he saw the boisterous wind and began to sink. But just as Jesus was waiting to help Peter with His outstretched hand, He stands ready to help us through our difficulties. We need to remember that promised help and claim it.

What about the positive side of using our eyes? Romans 12:15 says, "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." Show sympathy; show concern. Rejoice for another's blessings. Weep for the unsaved. Psalm 126:6 says, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." This verse speaks to me. It tells me to weep for the unsaved, but also to bear precious seed. The two joined together will win the lost. Then when that precious soul is saved, rejoice!

What is the best direction to look? Upward, Christ-

ward. Psalm 121:1 says, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." In Acts 7:55 we read that Stephen "... looked up ... and saw the glory of God, and Jesus" How marvelous that we serve a *living* Savior!

Finally, watch for Christ's second coming. It is very near. Are we ready? Be careful,eyes, what you see.

The song goes on: Be careful little ears, what you hear. Since the Bible warns against gossip, talebearing, backbiting, and the like, we must assume that the listener is as guilty as the speaker. We must walk away from this kind of conversation, as well as offcolor, or plain dirty, jokes. We must close our ears to false prophets. First John 4:1, 2 warns to "... try the spirits whether they are of God" How? "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God." Close your ears to those who teach anything less, or different.

Listen for signs of sadness or depression in others. This might be the very chance to witness about Christ's love and compassion. Finally, listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Listen, then take heed, and you won't go wrong. Be careful ears, what you hear.

O, be careful little lips what you say (or tongue or mouth). I've already mentioned, but it bears repeating, that the Bible warns against talebearing, gossip, speaking evil. "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles" (Proverbs 21:23). I've been hurt, and I'm sure I've hurt others by not controlling the tongue. Okay, we fail, we slip, we make mistakes. Then use your mouth for apology, say I'm sorry. "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another" (James 5:16).

Be careful what goes *in* the mouth. Stay away from liquor, drugs, and tobacco. Not only do these things harm your body, they do great harm to your Christian witness.

On the positive side, let your mouth be filled with laughter, and tongue with singing because the Lord hath done great things (Psalm 126:2). Sing, teach, encourage, and praise. My husband can tell you that praise works. The more he compliments, the harder I try. The more I cook, and unfortunately, the more we eat! First Thessalonians 5:11 says, "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another" Witness. And above all, pray. We must keep in touch with God to know His will. And once in a while, don't use the mouth at all—"Be still and know that I am God."

O, be careful little hands what you do. I am afraid we are destined to using our hands for work. And we are told to do whatever we do for the glory of God. Proverbs 21:25 warns, "The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour." And Proverbs 6 tells us to consider the way of the ant, how it labors and gathers in for the winter. I have long been convinced that one of the major ills of our economy is the fact that very few people will put out the work for which they were hired to do. Work; it's godly.

Don't use your hands to steal—large or small. I could relate a story to you of how a customer of the store where I work was, without a doubt, stealing from his employer, and I have all the facts to prove it. When I became outraged and approached my boss, all I got was a shrug and a "we would lose his business if we said anything." After I had expended all this energy on righteous anger, seemingly for nothing, I thought surely there must be a lesson in it for me of some kind. And there was. I determined right then that I must *never* be guilty of the same thing, not even to the taking of a rubber band, or an envelope, or a stamp. After all, in God's sight, stealing is stealing, in any form. Watch your hands.

And I must mention this: Be careful of the giving (or taking) of your 'hand' in marriage. If you want to save yourself a lot of troubles and trials, follow God's command not to be unequally yoked together with an unbeliever.

Use your hands to give tithes and offerings, a wave or greeting, a friendly handshake, a hug to the bereaved, a pat on the back for a job well done. Or even if it wasn't well done, for the willing effort. My husband has used his hands for many months lifting an invalid neighbor from his bed to a wheelchair every day to give the man a little relief. All these things seem like such little things, but I know the Lord is pleased with them. Read in Mark 14:3-8 about Mary anointing Jesus' head with oil. Some protested, but Jesus said to let her alone, that she had done a good work. In verse 8 he says "she hath done what she could" That's all He expects—to do what we can.

O, be careful little feet where you go. Proverbs 1:10, 15 says, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path." Where is their path? To places of worldliness, where sin is more apt to be found. The best rule I know is not to go anywhere you wouldn't want to take Jesus with you. Instead, let your feet take you to nursing homes to visit the lonely; to hospitals to visit the sick. Yes, the pastor makes his rounds regularly, but what about us? My dad visits a man in a nursing home regularly, and this is the highlight of the old man's week. Such a little effort for such an appreciated service. Let your feet take you to homes or other places where you might get the opportunity to witness. And especially let them take you to church. "Let us go into the house of the Lord" (Psalm 122:1). There you will find renewed strength for the coming week, the joy of fellowship, and the spirit of worship due our Savior. Watch your feet.

I have often thought of what would be worse to be without, of these things I've mentioned, and I always conclude that I would hate worse than anything to lose my eyesight. I just feel I could get along without a foot, or hand, or my hearing. But oh, no eyesight, a dreadful thought! So it is, friend, spiritually. To be blind spiritually is a tragedy. To be blind is to be lost. In the account of Paul's conversion in Acts 26, God explains to Paul that He has appeared to him for the purpose of making him a minister to the unsaved, "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins..." (verse 18).

Be careful, eye, that you see!

About the Writer: Jean Jenkerson is an active member of the Leadington Free Will Baptist Church. This devotional was given at a Cottage Prayer Meeting. May it enable us to be more effective servants of the Lord.

1

THE FIELD IS THE WORLD

"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields"-John 4:35

World Population: 4.2 billion

- -Approximately 3 billion of these people have not been reached with the gospel.
- -80% of these can only be reached by cross-cultural missionary effort.
- -Only 3.6% of the world is Evangelical Christian.
- -Free Will Baptists have 97 adult foreign missionaries under appointment one for every 2,383 members reported.

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest."—Matthew 9:38

U.S. Population: 215,300,000

- -4,525 ordained FWB ministers labored in the U.S. in 1978.
- -\$31,460,563 was spent on local causes in 1978 by the 2,437 FWB churches reporting to the National Association. This is in addition to that spent on home missions.
- ... God loveth a cheerful giver."—II Cor. 9:7

Foreign Missions Giving:

- -\$1,554.908 was given by FWB in 1978 to reach OTHER NATIONS.
- -Since 1970, giving by FWB to foreign missions has increased by 15.7% annually.
- -In the same period, field prices have soared by approximately 26% annually.

APRIL IS FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH Pray and Give Faithfully

CALL-A-THON SUNDAY IS APRIL 20, 1980