

Vol. 52, No. 6, November-December, 1982

Free Will Baptist

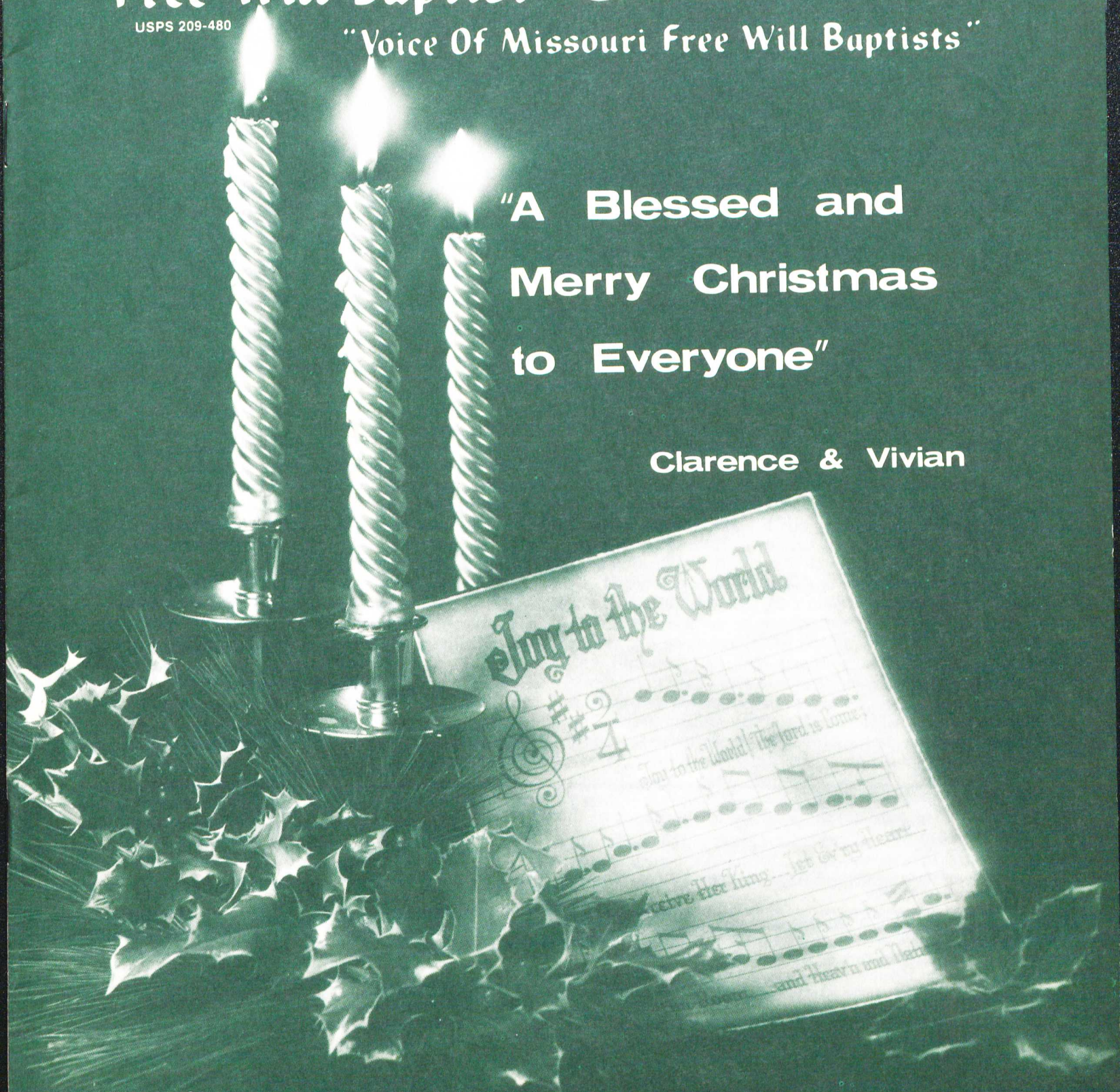
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GEM

"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"

**"A Blessed and
Merry Christmas
to Everyone"**

Clarence & Vivian



SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES 1981-82

CHURCHES	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.
Bethel	91	96	103	80	92	98	121	105	101	108	109	97
Buffalo	44	44	49	40	50	50						
Calvary, Conway	79	89	73	75								
Calvary, Fenton	233	179	172	141	149	232						
Central	82	80	86	84	97	109	108	89	76			
Copper Mines	80	78	75	60	68	71	77	81				
Cuba	68	64	66	52	70	69	62	69	71	65	73	78
DeSoto	160	158	154	136	158	158	174	157	136	148	144	
Farmington	852	720	689	608	671	744	765	670	646	624	679	697
Flat River, First	221	211	196	136	187	209	215	186	179	150	176	181
Fourth	110	110	113	80	102	105	92	90				
Fredericktown	170	146	143	121	140	159	191	204		168	169	173
Grace	259	182	212									
Grant Avenue	179	166	157	146	149	168						
Hannon	81	82	84	78	98	102	101	102	103	88	93	
Harmony	58	54	63	60	74	108	94	75	72	58		64
Hartville	80	85	89	72	86	95	94	92	90	94	91	93
Houston	62	61	59	51	57		62		72			
Marshfield	80	73	65	49	66	71	61	65	67	53	60	
Monett				121	148	152	168	152	143	125		143
Myrtle	56	48	50	44	50	50	59	58	45	59	50	45
O'Fallon	80	70	74	72	51	54	51	50	53	54	53	68
Parkview	59	58	57	50	59	58	56	55	55	45	45	47
Richwoods	37	40	35	26	26	44	66	60	50	54		
Thayer	161	154	162	134	149							
Twin Oak	70	73	78									
United W.P.			72	59	69	75	79		82	85	81	91
Victory	76	66	67	71	60	71	90	75	77	75	69	80
Willow Springs	94	104	107	77	90	91	90	98	94	97		91

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.

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.

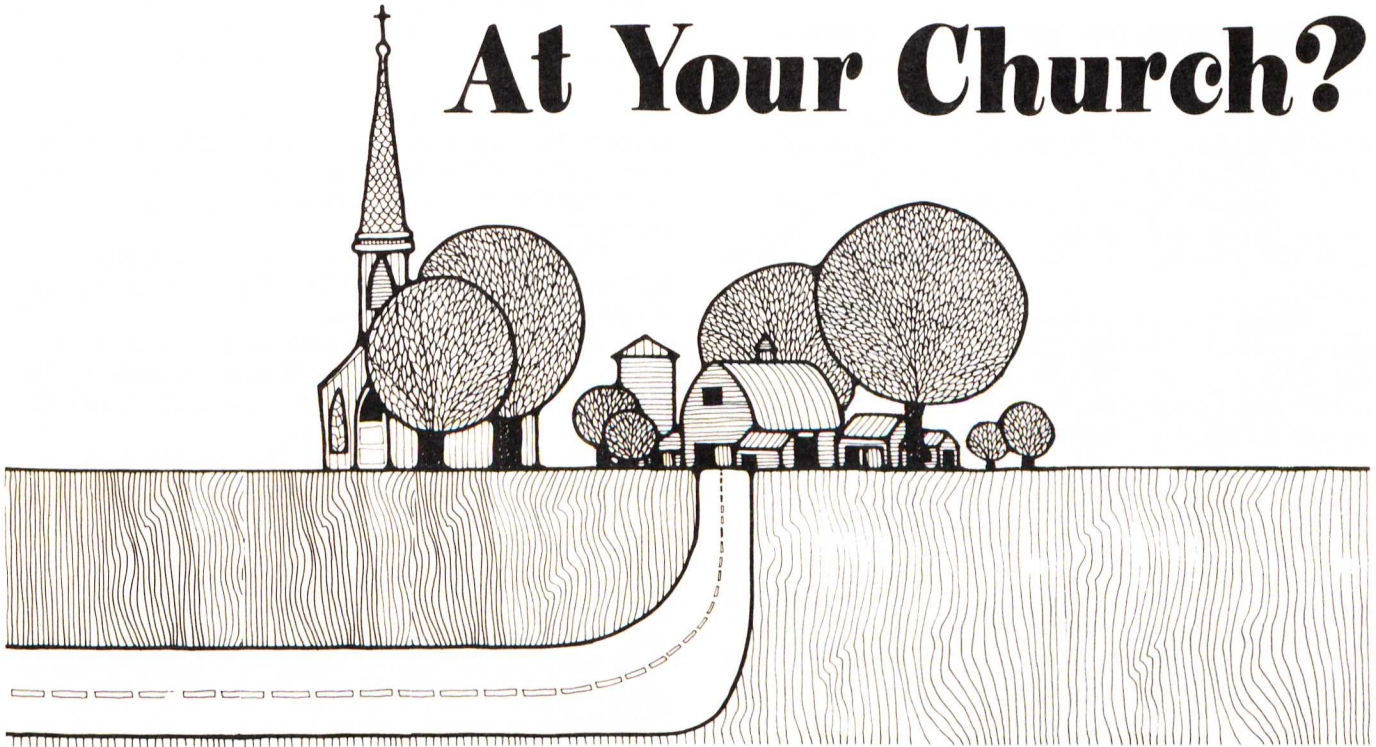
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Subscription Rates: Single subscription, \$2.50 per year, cash in advance. Church Plan: \$2.00 per year consisting of five subscriptions or more. The Church Plan will continue until it is canceled by the church.

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

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

Is The Grass Greener At Your Church?



By Clarence Burton

A pastor told me recently, "I would like to spend the rest of my life serving in my present pastorate."

A layman from the same church said to me, "We have the best pastor in our denomination. I hope he stays with us until the Lord calls us home."

That sounds like the grass is green at that church. What a wonderful combination—a happy pastor and a happy church!

What makes the grass green at a church? What can a church do to help the pastor reach his potential and ultimately lead the church in reaching its potential?

A fine layman from St. Louis, Missouri, said, "I want to help my pastor and my church reach the potential that God knows we can reach." This is the answer—concerned Christians working with concerned pastors.

There are several things that contribute to a pastor and church fulfilling God's plan and purpose as they work together. I shall mention a few.

Help Your Pastor Preach

Preaching is strenuous. It requires the whole man to deliver a complete message. Preaching is the communication of truth by man to men.

For the message to have compulsion, it must come from the preacher, not just through his lips and mind but out of his innermost being, his heart. There is a difference between an oration and a sermon,

between a speech and a sermon.

The preacher strives to perfect the art of speaking, but he is more than a Winston Churchill with words. He is a John the Baptist crying, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord . . ." The preacher in the pulpit must be so confident of his calling and so close to Christ that he can say in his heart, "I am God's man, preaching God's message."

Help your pastor do this. Pray for him as he preaches and give him your conscious attention.

If there is no prayer power in the pew, it will reflect in less power in the pulpit.

Recognize that the pastor is not likely to hit a home run every time he preaches. (After all the \$5 million-per-year superstars don't do it everytime.)

Some people have preconceived ideas about what a sermon should or should not do, and if it does not fit into their particular mold, it is a dud. Consequently, they leave the service feeling and perhaps saying, "The preacher gave us a dud today."

A preacher friend confided to me, "I have preached at this church for two years. I have not had one person express to me a remark of sincere appreciation for a sermon or anything I have said in a sermon."

This could be discouraging. How nice, when a person has been blessed, to express to the pastor appreciation for the message and the effort put forth in preparation and delivery.

Help your pastor preach by praying for him and expressing your appreciation for his ministry in and out of the pulpit.

Keep Good Attitudes

Then, you can help the grass stay green as you reflect a wholesome attitude toward the pastor and the entire church.

Attitude is important to the preacher. It is somewhat like a traffic light. It will flash "caution," "stop," and "go."

To be sure, it is not always necessary to concur with what the pastor proposes, but don't disagree with the proposal just because you don't want to agree.

The church should have a proper attitude toward changes the pastor may propose. It is not scriptural nor ethical to say, "We have not done it this way before and I know that it won't work." It might be well to change the program or procedure.

If the Apostle Paul had not proposed and made some changes in the missionary outreach, it is likely that we would never have heard about Jesus.

Pray with the pastor. Plan with the pastor, and as the Lord leads, don't hesitate to adopt changes that enhance the ministry of the church. This will help the grass to stay green.

The church should have the right attitude toward the pastor and the time he needs to spend with his family. This is important. I suspect that most pastors are neglectful in this area.

One of the reasons may be because of pressure from the pew. The pastor doesn't feel that he can take time from his personal duties to be with his family.

The churches I served encouraged me to spend time with my family for vacations, short family trips, and such like.

If it is true that "The family that prays together, stays together," the true sequel has to be "The family that plays together, stays together."

The Bible gives strong admonition concerning the family relationships. This can only be developed as the family spends time together.

The church should have the right attitude toward the pastor and his study time. This is a must. The pastor must be a man of the Book.

In order to teach mathematics, one must know mathematics. In order to teach music, one must know music. Likewise, he who is called to preach the Word must study the Word.

Consequently, it is essential that the preacher have time alone to study, meditate, and pray. Allow the pastor this time. It will enable him to have the Word overflowing out of his heart. What a refreshing thing for a pastor and the congregation.

The church should have the right attitude toward the pastor and his salary. Most pastors are reluctant to ask the church for a raise in salary and benefits. Some churches are slow in recognizing the need of the undershepherd and his family.

The churches I have served have been very kind to me. The church official board reviewed my salary every year and made appropriate recommendations to the church. The church responded with love and generosity.

Inasmuch as most folks are acquainted with wage increase, employee benefits and the cost of living, it should not be too difficult for the church to see the pastor's need. The church should respond to this.

The pastor's salary should express the importance a church places upon the spiritual leader in the community. A church that shows disrespect for God's messenger is in effect showing disrespect for the message.

The pastor who is able to meet his financial obligations will be more able to fully concentrate on his pastoral responsibilities.

When a church responds positively to the teaching of the Scripture to adequately support the minister, it will result in spiritual and numerical growth.

The Lord will bless as His people face and assume their God-given responsibilities.

Respect the Pastor's Family

Finally, but not least in importance is the relationship of the church to the pastor's wife and children. I say this with candor—the pastor's family have the same needs as any other man's wife and children.

The minister's wife must do the same housework, buy groceries, buy clothing, visit the dentist and doctor occasionally, encourage her husband, heal the children's hurts, and a multitude of other things.

Provide an adequate house in which to live (a parsonage or housing allowance). A survey made recently by a popular magazine indicated that the things most ministers dislike about the ministry is living in a run-down house.

If the pastor's wife is unhappy, it will be difficult for him to be happy. No other public servant needs a stronger home base than the preacher. His days are long and his work is endless.

The grass will get dry in a hurry if this is neglected.

Remember the pastor's wife on special occasions. One pastor's wife stated that the church her husband served always remembered her on her birthday and wedding anniversary. She said, "It was something a little extra, and I loved the people for it."

Another pastor's wife mentioned that a retired couple in the church would "babysit" with the children one night each week.

Another pastor's wife was jumping with joy because the trustees were always available for needed repair and maintenance of the parsonage. She said, "If something needs fixing, they fix it."

These things help the minister's wife enjoy the labor of the church and this in turn will bless the pastor.

These things that I have mentioned reflect the love a church has for the pastor. They make the grass green. What a beautiful combination when the church loves the pastor and the pastor loves the church. This is God's plan for the local church.

(Continued on page 5)

Churches People And Events

Woman's Auxiliary Organized at Bethel

The Bethel Free Will Baptist Church at El Dorado Springs, Missouri recently organized a Woman's Auxiliary. Ten ladies were present for the organizational meeting and the Salad Supper.

Mrs. Hilda Nichols, wife of the pastor, was elected as the president. The women are looking forward to working together and for the Lord in this new endeavor.

Youth Revival at Desoto

Sister Sophia Ackerson, church reporter of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Desoto, Missouri, writes, the Lord gave us a wonderful youth revival. The youth were in charge of the services and did a wonderful joy. The choir was filled with the young people and they worked hard towards inviting folks to attend the services. Reverend Ken Petty was the evangelist. He is a committed Christian and a good speaker. Several decisions were made during the revival.

We are so thankful for our pastor, Brother Charley Miller. He is a wonderful leader and pastor. Pray for us at Desoto.

Requests for Names at Siloam Springs, Arkansas

Reverend and Mrs. Fred Warner, working with the Arkansas State Home Missions Board, have started a Mission Church in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. The church is named the Eastgate Free Will Baptist Church and is located on Highway 68 east. Brother Warner has requested the names of any Free Will Baptists living in that area. His address is P.O. Box 998, Siloam Springs, AR 72761.

(Continued from page 4)

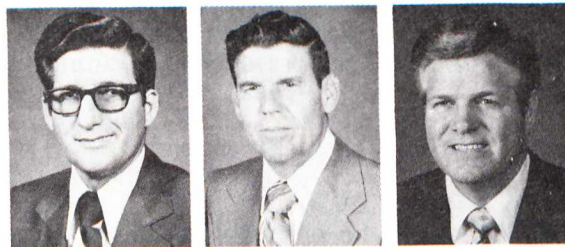
Remember the pastor is a physician without pills, a surgeon without a scalpel, and a lawyer without a license.

He visits the sick, performs weddings, consoles those who sorrow, buries the dead, admonishes those who sin, preaches at least three times each week, and tries to stay kind when chided for having an easy job.

Is the grass green at your church? If it isn't, it can be if each one will do his part.

This article originally appeared in *Contact* magazine. It is included here in response to a request that it be reprinted. Used with permission.

Great Evangelism Conference Scheduled at Farmington



The National Home Missions Department has announced that a Great Evangelism Conference on revival and church growth will be held at the Farmington Free Will Baptist Church, November 15-17. The pastor is Reverend Jim McAllister.

Beginning on Monday night the program will be packed with preaching, spiritual singing, and rejoicing in the Lord. Conference speakers will be Rev. Gordon Sebastian from Wilson, North Carolina; Rev. Don Pegram, full-time evangelist; and the Home Missions staff, Roy Thomas, Trymon Messer, and John Gibbs. Brother Gibbs will also be singing as well as others.

Every pastor, pastor's wife, young people, and many lay people are urged to attend. Some of the fastest growing churches are those whose pastors and people have gotten a new vision and new ideas from a good conference.

October 12, 1982

BIBLE COLLEGE CONVOCATION TO INAUGURATE GRADUATE SCHOOL

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE—Free Will Baptist Bible College will hold a special service on December 7, 1982, to inaugurate the new graduate school, according to President Charles A. Thigpen. The graduate school opened in August with nine ministers enrolled in a one-year program leading to a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS).

The convocation is scheduled for 8 p.m. and is to be held in the college's Memorial Auditorium. Dr. Robert Picirilli, dean of the graduate school, will bring the principal address, climaxing a program of blessing and challenge. President Thigpen will preside. Special music by the College choir and the Instrumental Ensemble is planned.

The graduate school's opening this year is the culmination of denominational plans begun in July 1976 by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Although the first program is for ministers, other programs are expected to be added as interest in graduate studies grows and as the need for more thoroughly trained workers increases.

The administrations hopes that Free Will Baptists across the denomination will pray for the new graduate school and that many will attend this special service.

The program is open to all friends of the school.

Smyrna Church to Celebrate 100th Anniversary

Mrs. Clara Breeden, member of the Smyrna Free Will Baptist Church, near Alton, MO writes that the church will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Sunday, November 7, 1982. It was organized the first Sunday in November, 1882, by Reverend A. J. Jones, with thirteen charter members. Aunt Delphia McCullough was the last of the charter members. She passed away May 7, 1958.

Services will be held Sunday morning with dinner at the church following the worship hour. In the afternoon there will be singing and a time for former pastors to speak. The oldest ministers that have served the church are Reverends E. E. Simpson and Davie Combs. The present pastor is Reverend Wayne Adrian. Brother Adrian is doing a fine work as pastor. We send greetings to all other churches and invite everyone to attend this anniversary service. We pray that the church will be doing God's will when He comes. Revelation 2:8, the Lord said to the church at Smyrna, "I know thy works and tribulations and poverty, but thou art rich . . ." Amen!

Youth Encampment Schedule for 1983

After much prayer and careful consideration in order that the attendance for the youth camp sessions might be more evenly distributed and more attention given to each session the following divisions have been made by the Youth Camp Board.

Group I This includes the following associations: Greater Kansas City, Northeast, Northwest, St. Louis, South Central, St. Francois, Southeast.

Group II Includes the following associations: Greater Springfield, Cave Springs, Mission, Liberty, Niangua, Bootheel, Central Western, Indian Creek, La cleda
Dates for 1983:

Group I	pre-teens	June 12-17
	teens	June 26-July 1
Group II	pre-teens	June 19-24
	teens	July 3-8

A New Camp Policy:

Because vandalism is increasing regarding the camp property—property that has been given for the work of the Lord and dedicated to Him, the following policy will be in effect and posted on the Youth Camp ground: Anyone caught defacing camp property will be immediately expelled, denied further use of the camp, and will be expected to pay damages done to the property.

Additional information regarding the new schedule and new camp policy may be obtained by calling or writing Reverend Ken Goff, Route 5, Box 239, Festus, MO 63028, phone, 314-937-3233, or Reverend Max Courtney, P.O. Box 84, Licking, MO 65542, phone, 314-674-3794.

Church Dedication for New Hope, Fredericktown



The New Hope Free Will Baptist Church, Fredericktown, Missouri held its dedication for its new building. The service was held on Sunday July 4, 1982.

The new brick building will accommodate approximately two hundred fifty with adequate educational space and a fellowship hall area. The church is located on highway 67 at the north edge of Fredericktown.

Dr. Joseph Ange delivered the dedicatory message, Reverend Jim McAllister led in the prayer of dedication, and Reverend Clarence Burton led in the antiphony.

Rev. David Kirby, pastor of the church, welcomed the congregation, recognized the mayor of Fredericktown, an alderman, other guests, and made appropriate remarks concerning the purpose and goal of the church.

Columbia Church in Review

Charles Edwards, member of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Columbia, Missouri writes that the church began as a National Home Missions project in the summer of 1968. Reverend and Mrs. Mark Vandivort began the mission work with a prayer meeting in the parsonage living room. There were four adults and eight children present. The first

formal church service was held the second Sunday of September, 1968. Charter membership was held open until November 1968 at which time eleven people officially began the church.

In the fall of 1976, the Vandivorts resigned and moved to Flagstaff, Arizona to begin another National Home Missions church. On October 1, 1976, Reverend and Mrs. Kent Tallent assumed the pastorate of the church. They served until August 1978. On November 1, 1978 the present pastor, Reverend and Mrs. John Postlewaite assumed the pastorate of the church.

Since 1968 there have been 143 members of the church as well as many others that enjoyed the fellowship of the church. At present there are thirty-five active members and twenty-seven inactive members. There have been people from at least twelve states of the United States and three foreign countries that have worshiped in the church family. Currently there are two charter members with the church.

The church began by remodeling a garage into a small chapel. In 1969 an addition was built onto the garage. The existing building was constructed in 1974 with approximately seventy-five percent of the labor donated. The property was purchased and additions made at a total cost of approximately \$56,000 with a current market value of twice that amount.

Reverend John Postlewaite states that many people have been saved as a result of the ministry of the church. It serves not only as a local church but ministers to many that have gone from the church to foreign countries.

November is NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS MONTH and November 21 is HOME MISSIONS SUNDAY. At this time there are 20 National Home Missionaries whose accounts are in the red, causing a record deficit totaling over \$26,000. The Department is appealing to every Free Will Baptist to send a special gift to help wipe out these deficit accounts. Every person sending a gift of \$25 or more designated to these deficit accounts will receive a pocket-size *King James New Testament* like those the Home Missions staff members use in soul winning. Send your gift to National Home Missions, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

In His Service,

Roy Thomas
General Director

Rejoicing at Hazel Creek



Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church built in 1982.



Hazel Creek Union Church built in 1896.

Mrs. Karen Sponsler from the Hazel Creek Church, Kirksville, Missouri writes, Praise the Lord, our dreams have come true. It was with mixed emotions that our group of Free Will Baptists held our first service in our new building on Sunday evening, September 12, 1982.

This meeting held special meaning in all our hearts because this was the first service in the Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church building. For over fifty years our group of Free Will Baptists have been meeting in the Hazel Creek Union Church building, built in 1896. For several years we talked about and prayed about building our own building, and in 1982 we did something about it. Now we are rejoicing with these rich blessings of the Lord.

In April of 1980 we stepped out on faith and began a building fund. The Lord was with us in this step of faith and each week we saw the fund grow until we decided it was time to start the building.

Our pastor is Reverend Tom Drake, who is a man of God and preaches it like it is. He has led us through many decisions concerning our church, and the Lord has blessed these decisions.

I pray that we will always praise the Lord for His blessings and reflect through our lives how wonderful it is to be a Christian.

Report from Harmony Church in Kansas City

Mrs. Rachel Leclere, church reporter, writes, We praise the Lord for the good blessings that He has given to us. We had Vacation Bible School with a good average attendance of 71 for the five nights. Brother Terry Brown, a fine director, served with several fine teachers and the Lord blessed with a wonderful Vacation Bible School. The children enjoyed a good time of Bible study and fun time. The commencement service was held on Sunday morning to a full house.

Brother and Sister Judy Brown, teachers for the Teen Class are being used of the Lord to guide and train the young people. The Sunday school picnic was well attended with plenty of good food and great fellowship. A teacher's seminar was taught by Reverend Eton of the Victory Church.

The church enjoyed revival services with Reverend Roger Harwell serving as the evangelist. There was one rededication and much interest in the services. Brother Arlo Starnes had a new group each evening that provided special music. We ask that everyone continue to remember our church in prayer. We want to please the Lord in our labor for Him.

WHY CHOOSE A CHRISTIAN COLLEGE?

- 1) Know yourself
- 2) Separation from home and family
- 3) Testing of beliefs

As the strains of the recession fade, or as mortarboards are joyously flung into the sky, a question begins to assert itself in the mind of the high school graduate: What now? Where do I go to college if I decide to go?

Many Christian young people have grown up in church hearing horrible stories about the sinful atmosphere in the major universities. They are only the horns of a painful dilemma, for in many young people's minds there are only two choices: secular college or no college.

This is very sad, for there are many fine Christian colleges today. Even if a young person has decided what his goal in life is and what school can best educate him for that goal, he should consider the Christian college for three reasons.

First, any college that you attend will force you to learn more about yourself. No matter how well a young person knows himself, it is with the context of home and high school, family and friends. College is an entirely different matter. Faced with a new environment, surrounded by many unknown people, forced to prove himself in this new place, the new college student begins to ask, "Who am I?" One of the reasons for a high suicide rate among college-age young people is an inability to answer this basic question of identity.

At a Christian college however, this rocky road to self-knowledge may be smoothed somewhat. No

man separated from God is a complete personality. At the Christian institution of higher learning, the proper faculty and staff help guide the student through the difficult passage from adolescence to adulthood.

That new environment that was referred to is another reason for seriously considering a Christian college. For man, college is the first time that they have actually been separated from family and friends. The setting that the college student places himself in can determine whether his Christian growth is retarded or enhanced. While a secular university may offer excellent educational opportunities, chances are that its dormitory life will be ungodly, its faculty humanistically oriented, and the atmosphere worldly. There was a time when certain values and morals were considered right in and of themselves. For example, until very recently it was considered good to tell the truth. This was reflected in truisms such as "Honesty is the best policy." But in the last twenty years, a new movement has emerged. It's teachings were first voiced by the French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre and his countryman, writer Albert Camus. Both of these men were existentialists who taught that there is no concrete code of behavior for man. Their teachings, and the ideas of those who followed them, have become the guiding light for American higher education. Young people are taught that right and wrong are subjective standards devised by man, not the immutable laws of an omnipotent God. It is a small wonder then that Christian young people, many of whom have never been confronted with these ideas before, become unsure of their faith at a secular university.

The young Christian should choose a Christian college not only because it propagates his beliefs, but it will teach him why those beliefs are true. Blind faith is worse than no faith at all. The Christian who does not understand his doctrine is like a soldier with no bullets in his rifle. Christians need to understand their faith, and one of the best places to learn about it is at a Christian college.

Last, the friends and contacts one makes during college are enduring. One or two friendships from the high school may last, but most of them will fade quickly. College, however, is another matter. During college you not only attend classes with your friends, you literally live with them. The friendships thus made are deep and lasting. Where better to make them than a Christian college?

Christian colleges are not utopias. They are prey to the same problems that afflict any institution of higher learning. But the learning experience and spiritual guidance they offer are worth a long, hard look by any Christian young person. They are there for us. We must use them.

About the writer: Mike Walker is a student at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. He is an outstanding student and is actively involved in the activities of the college. His home church is the First Free Will Baptist Church in Mtn. Grove, MO.

Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College



Fall enrollment shows slight gain over 1981. There are one hundred sixty-eight enrolled for the Fall semester according to Dan Arnold, registrar. This is an increase of three.

Dr. Cecil Sanders, Dean of Men and Instructor, received his Doctor of Theology degree from Trinity Theological Seminary in August. Congratulations are expressed to Brother Sanders upon receiving the degree. Dr. Sanders has a B A from Free Will Baptist Bible College, B A from Arkansas Tech University, TH M from International Seminary. He has pastored churches in Arkansas and Tennessee. Dr. Sanders is an asset to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College as Dean of Men and instructor in the Bible department.

The annual Hillsdale Missionary Conference is scheduled for November 1-3, according to Shirley Combs, director of missions.

Three native Oklahomans the Jerry Banks, Japan; the Earnie Deeds, Brazil; and the Eddie Paynes, Ivory Coast will be speaking in chapel and evening services and lecture in classes.

There are twenty four enrolled from Missouri. Front row: left to right David Brawley, Charles Peak, Mike Parrot, Mark Brawley, Ulen McClary, 2nd row Stacey Hampton, Carla Skiles, Mary Ball, Verla Dockins, Lori Strickland, Mary Williams, 3rd row Denise Miller, Angela Jordan, Belinda Letterman, Tresa Dickey, David Filkins, 4th row Stephanie Drawheim, Dwayne Lampkins, Terry Rivers, Curt Holland.

Not present when picture was taken:

Sheila Burnett
Robert Francis
Cyndee Walker
Scott McCully

Dear Brothers in Christ:

As Senator for Master's Men in your state, I have long felt the need to contact each church as to the possibility of starting new Master's Men Chapters

across our state.

Missouri has long been noted for her drive and enthusiasm in the cause of Christ and in helping our Free Will Baptist denominational activities to exist and prosper. Now we have the opportunity to see a program which will help our men unite and grow in service to our Master, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a channel of service which can exist at all levels of our denomination—National, State, District, and Local. My desire is to see our Lord's work done as He outlined in Matthew 28:19, 20, and Acts 1:8. I feel the Master's Men can help all of us grow and learn how to more effectively serve our Lord, our church, and one another.

It is our duty to be ever searching for the best means by which we can accomplish our goals.

Please, prayerfully consider your part in helping to activate men to service and feel free to contact me for any information concerning Master's Men, and its unique plan.

God Bless you and your work for our Lord. Please let us hear from you. Your prayers will be appreciated.

Remembering you in Our Service
to the Master,

Gary L. Sutton, Sr.
Missouri State Senator for Master's Men

GLS/ps

A Letter from Charolette Tallent

(This letter is in response to a concerted effort in Missouri to raise the needed money and support for Charolette to return to France.)

Dear Friends of Missouri:

France Here I Come! Leaving for France in two days is possible because you overwhelmingly responded to the cash and faith promise needs on Sunday, July 11, Charolette Tallent Day. As the Foreign Missions Office shared with me that all financial needs were met and departure possible one verse came to my mind. "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding ABUNDANTLY ABOVE ALL that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

I anxiously look ahead to the future as we reach souls for Christ in Lorient, France. An average of 20 are now attending services. Pray for us concerning wisdom in the location of a building which might serve as our church and new ministries.

From the bottom of my heart THANK YOU for both your past and future prayers and financial support as we serve Him together in France.

Yours in France,
Charolette Tallent

(Editor's Note: I am thankful for every church and individual that responded to this need. By working together we were able to accomplish a needed goal. May the Lord bless every gift and giver. Charolette returned to France in August.)

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS
August 1982

18.50% State Home Missions	\$3,367.60
16.00% Promotional Department & Gem	2,912.52
4.50% General Fund	819.15
5.50% Youth Camp	1,001.18
2.00% Christian Board of Education	364.06
2.00% Sunday School & CTS	364.06
7.00% MO State Retirement Village	1,274.23
5.00% MO State Retirement Program	910.16
6.00% Hillsdale FWB College	1,092.19
11.00% Foreign Missions	2,002.36
8.00% FWBBC	1,456.26
6.00% Executive Department	1,092.19
6.00% National Home Missions	1,092.19
2.00% Board of Ret. & Insurance	364.06
.25% Layman's Board	45.51
.25% Theological Commission	45.51
Total	\$18,203.23

The Lord has been so good. He continues to work through His faithful servants and churches to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. What a privilege to share in this wonderful work. May He continue to bless that which is given to Him because we love Him and enjoy laboring for the cause of Christ.

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS
September 1982

18.50% State Home Missions	\$3,445.65
16.00% Promotional Department & Gem	2,980.02
4.50% General Fund	838.13
5.50% Youth Camp	1,024.38
2.00% Christian Board of Education	372.50
2.00% Sunday School & CTS	372.50
7.00% Missouri State Retirement Village	1,303.76
5.00% Missouri State Retirement Program	931.26
6.00% Hillsdale FWB College	1,117.51
11.00% Foreign Missions	2,048.76
8.00% FWBBC	1,490.00
6.00% Executive Department	1,117.51
6.00% National Home Missions	1,117.51
2.00% National Board of Ret. & Insurance	372.50
.25% Layman's Board	46.56
.25% Theological Commission	46.56
Total	\$18,625.11

Let us continue to give thanks to the Lord for the way He is blessing the State work. May the Lord bless the faithfulness of His people.

MISSOURI DESIGNATED GIVING
August & September 1982

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Pleasant Ridge	\$40.00
McLain	\$20.00
General Fund	20.00
Mtn. Grove	\$499.50
Tallent	\$207.00
General Fund	187.50
Turnbough	75.00
Cousineau	20.00
Gibbs	5.00
Owens	5.00
O'Fallon	\$86.10
Tallent	\$86.10
Columbia	\$231.15

Tallent	\$108.52
McCullough	5.00
Inscoe	10.00
Filkins	10.00
Miley	10.00
McLain	65.00
General Fund	22.63
Faith, Fair Grove	\$50.00
Tallent	\$50.00
Fredericktown, First	\$150.63
Tallent	\$120.63
Turnbough	30.00
Hannon	\$237.50
Pinkerton	\$50.00
Filkins	50.00
Lytle	50.00
Miley	35.00
Tallent	33.00
Hanna	19.50
Olivet	\$150.00
Poole	\$45.00
Sparks	30.00
Inscoe	45.00
McLain	15.00
Pinkerton	15.00
Indian Creek Ass'n.	\$385.00
Tallent	\$150.00
Morgan	95.00
Banks	20.00
Haas	10.00
Cousineau	10.00
Webb	100.00
South Side	\$530.46
Tallent	\$490.46
Filkins	40.00
Leadington	\$330.00
Lytle	\$40.00
Turnbough	50.00
Filkins	40.00
Pinkerton	40.00
Eagleton	40.00
Miley	40.00
McLain	40.00
Hanna	40.00
Springfield, First	\$196.55
Tallent	\$196.55
Monett	\$587.00
Dickens	\$ 20.00
Tallent	555.00
General Fund	12.00
Black Oak	\$31.50
Webb	\$15.25
Sturgill	16.25
Grant Avenue	\$866.00
Hersey	\$285.00
Pinkerton	115.00
Tallent	300.00
Haas	145.00
General Fund	21.00
Victory, Alton	\$32.02
Tallent	\$32.02
Neosho	\$79.11
Caton	\$49.11
Cousineau	10.00
Wode	10.00
McLain	10.00
Victory, K.C.	\$115.00
Tallent	\$115.00
Marshfield	\$60.00
Tallent	\$60.00
Kirksville	\$60.00
Pinkerton	\$60.00
Sedalia	\$10.25
Tallent	\$10.25
Thayer	\$20.00

Pinkerton	\$10.00	
Tallent	10.00	
Fourth		\$388.98
Stan Bunch	\$ 78.98	
Lytle	290.00	
Tallent	20.00	
Low Ground		\$10.00
McLain	\$10.00	
Evelyn Crossgrove		\$10.00
McLain	\$10.00	
Berkeley		\$160.00
Tallent	\$30.00	
Deficits Accts.	40.00	
Filkins	60.00	
Lytle	30.00	
Friendship, Branson		\$50.00
Tallent	\$50.00	
Bethel		\$45.00
Tallent	\$20.00	
General Fund	\$25.00	
Jones Chapel Women's SS Class		\$40.00
Jones Chapel Church		\$27.50
Tallent	\$67.50	
New Harmony		\$62.64
Miley	\$31.32	
McLain	31.32	
Myrtle		\$136.58
Tallent	\$136.58	
Trinity		\$192.85
Filkins	\$ 10.00	
Morgan	105.00	
Wode	10.00	
McLain	60.00	
Tallent	7.85	
Harmony, K.C.		\$100.00
General Fund	\$90.00	
Turnbough	10.00	
Joe & Patsy Braddy, Lebanon		\$5.00
Filkins	\$5.00	
Warren Linvingston		\$5.00
Filkins	\$5.00	
Beacon		\$1,495.61
Coscia	\$ 290.00	
Filkins	1,076.63	
Pinkerton	20.00	
Tallent	84.98	
General Fund	24.00	
Houston		\$80.00
Tallent	\$80.00	
Aulsbury Chapel		\$120.00
Pinkerton	\$60.00	
Filkins	60.00	
Freeman Chapel		\$399.31
Pinkerton	\$399.31	
Fordland		\$30.00
Tallent	\$30.00	
Martinstown		\$60.00
Sparks	\$20.00	
Richards	20.00	
McLain	20.00	
Rock Chapel		\$10.00
Tallent	\$10.00	
Faith Chapel, West Plains		\$10.00
McLain	\$10.00	
Total		\$8,206.24

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS
August & September 1982

Mtn. Grove	\$175.33
Lewis	\$10.00
General Fund	3.75
Vandivort	60.00
Maness	76.58
Norris	25.00

O'Fallon	\$94.00
General Fund	\$39.00
Fulcher	50.00
Adkisson	5.00
Columbia	\$42.62
Vandivort	\$25.00
General Fund	17.62
Mt. Pisgah	\$150.00
Vandivort	\$50.00
Maness	50.00
Lewis	50.00
Warren Walls	\$10.00
Manness	\$10.00
Fredericktown, First	\$161.00
Shockey	\$40.00
Pegram	39.00
Barron	72.00
Lewis	10.00
Olivet	\$60.00
Maness	\$60.00
New Rock Springs	\$200.00
Vandivort	\$200.00
South Side	\$20.00
Fulcher	\$55.00
Maness	15.00
Leadington	\$155.00
Maness	\$65.00
Vandivort	50.00
Fulcher	40.00
Rolla	\$100.00
Vandivort	\$100.00
Wolf Creek	\$20.00
Vandivort	\$20.00
Flat River, First	\$51.00
General Fund	\$33.00
Odell	3.00
Norris	15.00
Grant Avenue	\$28.50
Mexico	\$ 4.00
Maness	22.50
Vandivort	2.00
Victory, K.C.	\$28.00
Ross	\$10.00
Maness	10.00
Russell	8.00
Marshfield	\$60.00
Odell	\$20.00
Maness	40.00
Joplin	\$50.00
Weatherford	\$50.00
Thayer	\$88.00
Maness	\$68.00
Highway Helpers	20.00
Berkeley	\$155.00
Fulcher	\$80.00
General Fund	50.00
Maness	15.00
Lewis	10.00
Bob & Glenda Keith	\$20.00
Vandivort	\$20.00
United, Lemay	\$137.06
Maness	\$68.53
Fulcher	68.53
Myrtle	\$144.44
Maness	\$89.44
General Fund	35.00
Evangelism	20.00
Harmony K.C.	\$10.00
Maness	\$10.00
Low Ground	\$10.00
Vandivort	\$10.00
Bethel	\$35.00
General Fund	\$25.00
Maness	15.00
Warren Livingston	\$40.00
Long	\$25.00

Maness	15.00	
Terrill Road		\$30.00
Fulcher	\$30.00	
Fordland		\$20.00
Lewis	\$ 5.00	
Maness	15.00	
Roger Ross		\$5.00
Maness	\$5.00	
Rock Chapel		\$10.00
Maness	\$10.00	
Monett		\$20.00
Lewis	\$20.00	
Total		\$2,129.95

YOUTH CAMP

August & September 1982

Mt. Pisgah	\$ 20.00
Hannon	30.00
Olivet	20.00
New Rock Springs	35.00
Hartville	20.00
Fellowship (sale of Jones Records)	30.00
Leadington	40.00
Thayer	20.00
Lebanon, First	100.00
Willow Springs	20.00
Bethel, Festus	25.00
Myrtle	44.00
Faith, Lemay	20.00
Aulsbury Chapel	20.00
Total	\$444.00

RETIREMENT & INSURANCE

August & September 1982

Grant Avenue	\$2.00
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BOB CARR & HANIFORD ACCOUNTS

August & September 1982

Grant Avenue	Bob Carr	\$20.00
Harmony K.C.	Haniford	10.00
Total		\$30.00

GREENEVILLE CHILDREN'S HOME

August & September 1982

Sedalia	\$16.15
Myrtle	10.17
Total	\$26.32

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

August & September 1982

Mtn. Grove, First	\$155.00
Leadington	40.00
Grant Avenue	20.00
Joplin	50.00
Total	\$265.00

HILLSDALE FREE WILL BAPTIST COLLEGE

August & September 1982

Mtn. Grove	\$ 60.00
Hannon	100.00
Joplin	30.00
Monett	31.54
Grant Avenue	18.00

Willow Springs	40.00
Houston	4.00
Total	\$283.54

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS

August & September 1982

Beacon	\$ 65.00
Parkview	4.00
Farmington	100.00
Cooperative Receipts	7,179.84
Grace	50.00
Pleasant Ridge	20.00
Mtn. Grove, First	3.75
Wayne Wagner	30.00
Indian Creek Ass'n.	55.74
Nat'l. Home Missions	5.00
Leadington	80.00
Rock Chapel	191.95
Monett	15.00
Victory	64.00
Joplin	50.00
Thayer	3.00
Berkeley	180.00
Bethel	75.00
New Harmony	53.51
Myrtle	36.00
Houston	18.17
Olivet	450.00
Mt. Zion, Thayer	20.00
Mill Creek Adult SS Class	20.00
Aulsbury Chapel	20.00
Central	30.83
Sedalia	125.60
Oak Hill	4.05
Total	\$8,950.44

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

August 1982

Viburnum	\$ 30.00
Pleasant Ridge	43.00
Mtn. Grove, First	530.95
Farmington	1,150.00
Hopewell	118.00
Number One	23.32
Parkview	182.84
Mt. Zion, Gower	64.83
O'Fallon	301.76
Columbia	50.00
Mt. Pisgah	71.00
Royal Oak	26.00
Purdy	145.00
Faith, Fair Grove	116.53
Victory, Alton	95.00
Fredericktown, First	401.00
Mine La Motte	15.00
Hannon	206.00
Belton	155.82
Tyrone	30.16
Tyrone	27.82
Olivet	250.00
Eastern Gate	22.00
St. Francois District Ass'n.	21.00
Olivet	250.00
New Rock Springs	97.00
Hurryville	119.25
Hopewell	118.00
Buffalo	148.17
Mill Creek	120.27
Union Grove	105.30
United, West Plains	100.00
Merl's Chapel	57.25
Hartville	141.82

Grace	642.00	Springfield, first	282.00
South Side	264.64	Royal Oak	31.00
Sedalia	70.00	Belton	190.59
Cabool	212.77	Beacon	527.22
Macedonia	15.00	Beacon	557.93
Neosho	60.00	Beacon	541.77
Rock Chapel	243.68	Terrill Road	77.00
Verdella	262.74	Rolla	111.00
Rolla	103.21	Fredericktown, First	385.00
Lebanon, First	325.71	United, West Plains	100.00
Wolf Creek	187.88	Victory, Alton	149.00
Calvary, Conway	325.50	Hurryville	151.78
Gray Summit	100.50	Fordland	394.00
Flat River, First	525.49	Macedonia	25.00
Byrd	22.00	Mine La Motte	25.00
Mt. Zion, Thayer	31.08	Friendship, Branson	75.12
Monett	391.41	Eastern Gate	15.00
Black Oak	10.00	Pleasant Ridge	50.00
Grant Avenue	346.14	Byrd	39.65
Poplar Bluff	15.66	Grace	760.00
Leadington	365.22	Marshfield	218.42
Calvary Chapel	214.60	Liberty	160.00
Marshfield	139.47	Calvary Chapel	303.29
Copper Mines	160.55	Freeman Chapel	144.45
Mtn. Grove, First	490.80	Martinstown	63.00
Joplin	256.50	Union Grove	112.21
Sedalia	55.60	Olivet	250.00
Thayer	322.45	Neosho	60.00
Farmington	1,150.00	Twin Oak	400.00
Buffalo	148.00	Leadington	436.60
Low Ground	61.05	Seymour	54.33
Pleasant Hill	24.65	DeSoto	600.00
De Soto	500.00	Faith, Lemay	100.00
Seymour	44.28	Cape Girardeau	59.64
El Dorado, First	5.00	Happy Home	129.00
South Fremont	350.00	Cabool	250.89
Berkeley	388.65	Mt. Zion, Thayer	37.07
Viburnum	15.00	Hopewell	163.00
Willow Springs	299.37	Joplin	398.05
Hazel Creek	273.90	Merl's Chapel	65.08
Bethel	489.00	Cape Girardeau	54.22
New Harmony	9.60	Waynesville	68.44
Flat River, First	814.31	Koshkonong	33.00
Trinity	686.38	Sunnyview	46.50
Koshkonong	88.00	Waynesville	92.83
Cuba	204.99	Hannon	269.00
Myrtle	194.28	Wolf Creek	229.59
Harmony, KC	345.00	Rock Chapel	377.39
Faith, Fair Grove	171.74	Copper Mines	130.46
Gray Summit	103.13	Monett	481.48
Fellowship	100.00	Pleasant Hill	33.42
Cope	39.12	Black Oak	10.00
Interest cobo acct.	176.19	El Dorado Springs, First	5.00
Total	\$18,203.23	Union Light	160.80
		Myrtle	151.32
		Thayer	276.20
		Parkview	162.69
		New Rock Springs	109.18
		Harmony, K.C.	277.00
		Willow Springs	211.58
		South Fremont	450.00
		Jones Chapel	397.39
		Houston	171.09
		Beacon	456.38
		Fordland	265.12
		Cape Girardeau	76.29
		Beacon	601.61
		Farmington	1,150.00
		Old Bethel	132.61
		Interest/Combo Acct.	140.85
		Total	\$18,625.11

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS September 1982

Bailey Chapel	\$ 60.00
Parkview	193.21
Grant Avenue	576.90
New Rock Springs	122.37
Mill Creek	167.11
Houston	154.36
Freeman Chapel	89.70
Mt. Zion, Gower	84.70
Kingsway	100.00
Number One	26.00
South Side	304.28
O'Fallon	415.82
Lebanon, First	409.31
Mt. Pisgah	117.15
Walnut Grove	90.00
Hartville	199.67

Points for Pastors

by Jim McAllister

What can keep a church from dying? I want to list a few things that will, in my opinion, keep the church, any church, even your church from dying.

First, quit caring who gets the glory. Our carnal natures require glory and praise. Let all the glory go to the Lord. Don't require any for yourself. That will save a lot of churches.

Second, learn how to build a church. Pastors can attend seminars, conferences, our Farmington Pastor's School, read books, and listen to tapes. There are many ways to learn how to build a growing church. Laymen need to get interested also.

Third, preach sermons on growth. Be convinced growth is God's will then set out to convince God's people that God's church must grow.

Fourth, pay the price for growth. It costs to build a growing church. A pastors' wife must pay the cost of staying home many nights alone while her husband is out building a church. Some woman might say, "I won't do it." Then my dear lady, you will keep souls out of Heaven. Because a dying church will not give birth to very many souls.

Pastors must pay the cost of loneliness. The cost of financial loss will be evident. Sacrifice is the name of the game if you will build a growing church.

The layman must also pay the price. That price will include work, money, prestige, time, and praise. The price is high if you want to build a growing church.

Fifth, plan, build, study, prepare, and win souls. You must promote to reach people. You must build to have room for those you reach. You must study to have a message for those who come. You must be prepared if you will continue to minister to the masses. You must be a soul winner if you will see the birth of lost souls into the family of God.

Sixth, set up a one-on-one follow-up course and teach every new convert.

Seventh, go back through all these articles as well as the book "Points for the Pastor and His People" and review all that has been said.

Eighth, pray, preach, plan, prepare, and practice what you preach. Be a Bible student. Be a prayer warrior. Be a door knocker. Be a soul winner. Be a compassionate man of God. Pay the price and be assured of success.

From Our Missionaries:

The O'Dell Family in Montana: We were refused entrance to the regular place where we held our Sunday services but the Lord has opened another door and as a result of changing places we have had several families promise to attend our mission church. Pray the Lord will convict these to follow through with their promises. We need your prayers that we

shall be able to enter homes and effectively witness for Christ. We thank you for your concern as evidenced by your prayers and financial support for us in Great Falls.

The Long Family in Tennessee: It is with grateful hearts we write you who continue to be faithful in your prayers and giving to our work in Jackson, Tennessee. God continues to work in hearts as we visit and pray here in this community. As we reported last month our account is in the red. We trust that if you are behind in your monthly faith promises that you will catch up and help us get out of the red.

The Turnbough Family in Spain: The Lord has graciously answered all our previous prayer requests. Our things got here safely, with no custom charges; we had a safe trip and found an apartment a short time after arrival; the value of the dollar was up enabling us to be able to purchase necessary items. We sincerely give praise to the Lord for His manifold blessings, for He has surely been good to us. We ask you to pray for grace and strength; our witness here, our health and safety, homesickness, and our financial support.

The Fulcher Family in Texas: Praise the Lord for twenty-one Spanish speaking people in attendance for our first service here in Houston, Texas. Glenda had five boys in her children's Sunday school class and I had sixteen adults. All twenty-one stayed for the morning worship. It is evident that we need much prayer and some sizeable gifts to carry on this ministry. We are thankful and encouraged. We believe you can and will help us pray and give to see the Spanish work established among Free Will Baptists.

The Poole Family in Brazil: We are back in Brazil and happy to report the blessings of the Lord. Things have happened that could be used to discourage us but instead we hope to use them to grow spiritually. Our hearts are thankful for making it possible for us to return to the field by the money that you have given and by your prayers. Also, for the privilege of being first of all, Christ's and then your representative in this great country of Brazil.

The Lytle Family in Panama: So much has been happening that we scarcely know where to begin. It is our prayer that this letter will enable you to rejoice with us at God's goodness and blessings in the ministry here and in our lives and motivate you to intercessory prayer on behalf of urgent needs which confront us. Remember to pray for our health and safety. Our church was robbed in July as thieves took over \$300.00 worth of items. The home of one of our families was also robbed while they were in Sunday school. Please accept our thanks for all your support and prayers. May God bless you.

Elaine Allen in the Ivory Coast: I just want to thank you for helping me stay and labor for the Lord in the Ivory Coast. Without your gifts I could not do it. Pray that I might learn the language well that I can share the message of Christ with these in their own tongue.

The Haas Family in France: Thanks to all the dear folks in Missouri for your faithfulness to our account. May God bless you.

Revival Time At Fellowship

The Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church enjoyed revival-time Sunday, October 17 through that week. The Lord blessed in a wonderful way with six professions of faith and some rededications. The services were well attended by the membership of the church and visitors. Reverend Wayne Phillips is the pastor and Reverend Clarence Burton, promotional director of the Missouri State Association, served as the evangelist.



The photo shows Brother Elwood Ragsdale, music director, and the members of the choir.

Randall House Releases Chapel Messages

Chapel Messages by Dr. L. C. Johnson was released at the National Association in July which convened in Fort Worth, Texas.

These 15 sermons were delivered at Free Will Baptist Bible College over a period spanning from 1965 to 1981.

These hard-hitting, practical, down-to-earth messages will challenge and bless all who read them. The author's inimitable style and delivery come through forcefully. His South Georgia rural rearing, homespun wisdom, and real life experiences bring light, vitality, and practicality to the front.

You will be benefited, blessed and brightened by these sermons.

Some of the titles are: *How To Tame A Lion*, *Bulldog Tenacity*, *Straight Talk To Girls*, *Fret Not But Trust*, *Marriage*, *Walk In The Spirit*, *Proper Use Of Our Bodies*, *Combating Christian Philosophy*, and *Meditations On Psalm 112*.

This paperback volume sells for \$3.95.



This photo shows the music director and members of the Pleasant Home Free Will Baptist Church choir. (This photo was intended to be used with the Pleasant Home Church story, in an earlier issue of the Gem.)



NASHVILLE, TN.—Weekend Sunday School Revivals are now available to our Free Will Baptist Churches according to Dr. Roger C. Reeds, General Director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Dr. Reeds will do the preaching and teaching himself and draw upon his more than thirty years of experience in the ministry. Twenty of these years have been spent as the Director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department.

Dr. Reeds will discuss such subjects as, "The Heritage of the Sunday School," "Building A Sunday School With E's," "The Greatest Command in The Great Commission," "The Mandate To Witness," "Methods of Teaching," "Leads on Leadership," etc.

The suggested time for the meetings is from Friday evening until Sunday morning. Special workshops can be conducted during the daytime hours on Saturdays. Dr. Reeds also suggests that he teach a Sunday school class on Sunday mornings. He prefers to present the message of his book, *Biblical Graphics*, at this time.

If any of our church are interested in such a meeting they may call Dr. Reeds at 1-800-251-5762 or 615-361-1221. You may write to him at Box 17306, Nashville, Tn. 37217. Bookings will be accepted as Dr. Reeds' schedule permits.

Most Sad and Sacred events of my life.

written by Grace Royster

When I was a child of seven years
I began to realize I was lost,
But I didn't understand the way
Nor how to count the cost.

But within a few years later
I was so burdened with sin,
I prayed to God for forgiveness
and He saved my soul from sin.

I was so happy and content
I felt so light and gay,
I never thought of the trials
Nor rough places in the way.

Of course I made many mistakes
But to the Lord I'd go,
Asking forgiveness again,
So in His grace I'd grow.

While I was yet quite young
Somewhere in my teens,
I met a man named Dee Royster,
He was a boy of my dreams.

Our courtship was several months
But it seemingly just fled,
For we were very much in love
And soon were in Holy Matrimony wed.

We were so very happy
and life seemed so sweet
neither of us realized
so many obstacles we'd meet.

The Lord, we said we'd follow
The Bible we did read
so we were soon baptized
and joined the Free Will Baptist creed.

At times we missed the right way
Failed where we hoped to gain,
but love was always with us
and gave us more happiness than pain.

When our home was blessed
with a sweet infant child
we were made to rejoice,
but for such a little while.

The death angel came one day
and took our baby boy home,
He was too good and pure,
In a sinful world to roam.

Our hearts were almost broken
We were so miserable and sad,
But the Heavenly Father knew best
If it were all we had.

Through sorrows and tribulations
Or whatever was the test,
We depended on the Lord
And tried to do our best.
Later when our home was blessed
With a girl, then another boy,
We thought our troubles were past
And all would be peace and joy.

But soon we both became burdened
The cause: we really didn't know,
until after prayer and fasting
A little light began to glow.

We realize it was from God
And must be the divine call,
For my companion to preach,
The gospel to one and all.

Now all the preachers knew
And so do their wives,
The sacrifices and hardships it takes
to preach to human lives.

But the Lord, we said we'd follow
So this was another test,
And we had learned from experience
That He always knew best.

We both, in our weak way
Tried our mission to fulfill.
Oftimes in the valley below,
Sometimes on top of the hill.

For ten years the Lord blessed his labor
With many new-born souls,
And Christians trying harder
To reach the Heavenly goal.

Then the death angel came again
This time far-worse than before,
He came for the beloved preacher,
His work on earth was o'er.

Oh, we were grief and stricken,
And pierced to the bone
to think the most beloved
had to be taken home.

Just when he was needed most
By wife, daughter, and son
Our hearts were crushed in sorrow
To be left in this world alone.

Ministers, friends, and relatives
Tried to console and cheer,
But the greatest comfort I found
Was in my Saviour dear.

He seemed so near and loving
And Heaven much more bright,
Since our Dee was up there
Just taken out of my sight.

I struggled on through weary days
And many sleepless night
To follow his instructions
To lead the children right.

Now they to womanhood
And manhood have grown
Living for the Lord
In homes of their own.

Since then I've lost a sister,
Father and mother dear,
And I am ready and waiting Lord,
I don't want to stay down here.

Speed the time, I pray
Till we all shall meet again
To be together forever
Around the great white throne. *Amen.*

Editor's Note: This poem was sent to the Gem by Mrs. Ellen Middleton. Mrs. Grace Royster, the writer has gone to be with the Lord.