

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES 1987-1988

CHURCHES	AUG	SEPT	ост	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
Belton	48	40	43	44	46	43	47	50	45		31	31
Bethel	78											
Calvary Fellowship	175	190	227						263			
Cape Girardeau	54	67	65	80	64	63	68	66	58	53	58	46
Copper Mines	82	80	90	83	85	77	87	121				
Cuba	68	69	75	85	81	80	89	76	76	75	74	73
DeSoto	185	197		195	183	187	189	214				
Flat River, First	134	131	134	131	105	109	115				126	146
Grace	142	142	146	129					147		140	187
Hannon	74		74	71	74	74		74	78	75	77	79
Harmony	86	73	78	69	59	72						
Hartville	94		85	87	85	87	89	89	88		90	95
Houston	74	86	87	79	85	92	88	89	85	84	83	82
Jones Creek	14	15	15	17	15	17						
Lebanon, First	86	86	81	82	90	83	85	90	96	90	87	88
Myrtle	34	39	39	31	37	33	34	33	41	34	35	41
Neosho	78	74	72	82	87	90						
Parkview	62	64	73	76	69	70	69	79	77	69	69	63
Richwoods	43	59	42	52	45	46						
Rock Chapel	61	63	58	61	54	59	55	62	72	66	77	
Springfield, First								164	216	166	137	138
Thayer	151				128			141		137	129	
United, West Plains	81	90	87	95	87	95	87	108	99	118	115	108
Verdella	78	80	85	75	76	74	75	80			70	72
Victory, K.C.	60	65	60	54	52	55	65	96	66	66		
Waynesville	73	64	76	61	01							
West Plains, First	126	124	152	130	131	141	141	147	137	128	126	132
Willow Springs	78	82	80	76	73	63	68	69	70	65	74	62



by Stanley Jones

The New Testament Church enjoyed the blessings of revival and evangelism because they depended on the Spirit of God.

The Spirit of God gave power to speak. The servants of God who were involved in first century evangelism sought power to speak through prayer. They were not content to speak empty, dry sermons. They prayed for boldness to speak the Word (Acts 4:29). And their prayer was answered. They were filled with the Holy Ghost and "spake the Word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:31). The Spirit not only empowered them as they spoke but taught them what to speak (John 16:13; John 14:26).

The Spirit of God gave conviction. Men who heard Peter preach under the anointing of the Spirit were brought under conviction for their sins (Acts 2:37). John 16:8 makes it clear that conviction for sin is the work of the Holy Spirit. The messenger does not do this. It is the Spirit.

The Spirit of God gave assurance of salvation. On the day of Pentecost, Peter told those who would believe on Christ that God's gift to them was the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38, 39). The Spirit dwells within those who keep God's commandments (I John 3:24). The indwelling Spirit gives assurance of our relationship as Children of God (Romans 8:16, Galatians 4:6).

Successful evangelism is possible by the power of the Spirit (Acts 1:8). By Paul's own testimony his effective ministry was the result of the Spirit's power: "My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:" (I Cor. 2:4). It is the Spirit of God who strengthens the witness of the evangelist (Acts 5:30-32).

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

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.

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"Looking Out My Parsonage Window . . ."

How important are the early school years in the religious development of children? Studies show that the greatest potential for influencing Christian development is not with adolescents or adults, but with children and pre-schoolers. Churches should be aware of this potential and should beef up their programs to efficiently minister to this age group.

As primary and junior Sunday School teachers, what can be expected from these children?

1. By middle childhood, children begin to develop the use of the smaller muscles, and the concentration ability that allows for longer periods of intense work and play. Attention span increases so that the children can be interested in a continuing story, whereas earlier lessons were done in single episodes.

2. Language should be simple and direct when teaching—avoid big words. Don't ask THOUGHT questions like you might ask with a teen or other adult. Rather, ask FACTUAL questions based upon the lesson, or ask questions you could expect the child to know from personal experiences.

3. Children continue to reason concretely until about age eleven. Literal interpretation of the Bible and other authority sources, such as a book, preacher, teacher, etc., is to be expected during this age. As they grow older, their salvation experience will take on a deeper meaning, but at this age, the simple exhortation: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved," is more appropriate than some more abstract theological reasoning. Just state the simple facts.

4. Most children are quite cooperative during these years. They love contests and competitive activities. They are easily excited about class activities, promotions, etc. The Sunday School class can grow just by challenging these young students. They can bring in more children than one teacher can handle.

5. Hero worship is to be expected. Provide them with appropriate heroes... Bible characters, pastors, teachers, missionaries, outstanding Christian athletes, and Christian leaders in their community and nation. Also, remember your students watch every move you make. They know if you are there for the church services, and if you practice what you teach.

6. Play among children at this age level, be it Bible games, baseball, or musical chairs, is generally characterized by poor organization, heated disputes over the rules, lopsided scores, and accusations of cheating. Be ready to settle disputes. REMEMBER: Make rules simple, and state them in a positive manner when possible. Be firm, fair, and consistent in the application of rules.

In a nutshell, teachers can expect zip and energy, lots of petty arguments, more enthusiasm than the proverbial "barrel of monkeys", little minds that are highly impressionable, and souls ripe for the harvest.

If The Shoe Fits

As I was working in my garden the following thoughts went through my mind about Youth Camp. I have heard some comments that have bothered me the past few years. I hope this does not involve many and I hope that some of the comments may be classified as rumors.

But first I want to praise our Youth Camp. I believe that it is one of the greatest missions fields in our denomination. Many hundreds of young people have accepted Christ as personal Saviour and several have answered the 'call' to special Christian service, the ministry and mission service. We take or send our children to Youth Camp to be made stronger in the Lord or if they are unsaved to hopefully accept Christ as Saviour during the camp session. It is a serious, but joyous experience.

I speak from experiences I had as a teenager. Some of the ones I learned to love and respect were Brother and Sister Reeves, Sister Eunice Edwards, Brother Harvey Hill and others. Boy, did we have fun but soul winning was taken seriously. Those beloved people were there to play and to pray with us, when we needed them, day or night. We even got serious enough to have 'all-night' Prayer Meetings for fellow campers that were unsaved. Praise the Lord they usually got saved because we cared. The Youth Camp at Niangua, to me, is hallowed ground. It is a place for serving God.

Our children started going to Youth Camp at the age of five, because I went as a sponsor. I helped in the kitchen and worked with small children. Now my grandchildren are attending. I am so thankful for the Missouri Free Will Baptist Youth Camp!

Now for some of the comments that have bothered me. I have heard that playing golf is taking the precious time of some of our adults and also shopping and other various activities has taken pastors and sponsors away from the campground when they may have been needed at Youth Camp. What if the children need spiritual help, when the pastor or sponsor is away? What if that homesick child needs a motherly or fatherly shoulder to cry on? Oh yes, there will be someone there but is it the someone who is responsible for that child, and the one that child really needs? If someone goes to Youth Camp to help, that one should go with a heart full of love, and be there to help.

I hope that this shoe fits no one. But may this serve as a reminder that our responsibility is to help the youth draw closer to the Lord. Let's pray and think about this. May God bless you all and help us to be serious in our work for the Lord.

Change In Back To Basics Conference Speaker

Dr. W.E. Dowell will be replacing Dr. Truman Dollar as one of the speakers at the Back To Basic Conference slated for September 26-28.

Mr. Dowell has a broad range of experience as a pastor and college teacher and administrator. Formerly president of Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, he is presently engaged in conference work throughout the country.



I Thessalonians 5:19 "Quench not the Spirit"

As the Apostle Paul was summarizing the duties of the church in the last chapter of this epistle, he made some profound statements. One of the outstanding is the verse I wish to share with you.

"Quench not the Spirit"

If we were to list, in order, the things that would bring death to the church, we would probably disagree as to their priority. But I believe that the thing which brings coldness and indifference and even death to our church services is the fact that we are quenching the Spirit, that will give heat, light and life to them.

I want to reverse the verse, without doing harm to it, "The Spirit, quench not". Now, let's look at the operation of the Holy Spirit in a church service.

Without the Spirit of God, the preacher would not be able to properly present Christ to the congregation. (I Cor. 12:3, John 16:13, 14). Without the Spirit of God a Christian would have no assurance that he or she is saved. In fact we are spiritually dead without the Spirit (John 6:63, Ro. 8:11). Without the Spirit there is no unity or peace (I Cor. 14:26, 32, 33). These are just a few of the things that show the operation of the Spirit in the church. To sum it up, we are dead without Him.

The second thing that this scripture implies, when it states "Quench not", is there can be interference or obstruction with the work of the Holy Spirit, Many things could be stated but I want to mention two which I read just recently that will put out a fire. The first is to withhold fuel from the fire, and the other way is to pour water or dirt on the fire. This is a good illustration of what we do to quench the Spirit in our church service. Sometimes we withhold from the service, that which we ought to be adding to it. Such as, singing in the choir, singing specials, listening to the preacher and saying 'amen' when he says something that deserves a verbal response. Then, sometimes water or dirt is poured on by carnal and worldly worship. That is things that are merely done for show, rather than true worship. Singing that is done for personal glory or entering into a Worship Service with hatred in the heart will hinder the spirit of the church service. Someone has said, "We must be warned against substituting a mechanical order for the work of the Spirit".

As I close this article I want to challenge each one to be reminded of the consequences of a Quenched Spirit. Do you remember King Saul was troubled and left alone. (I Samuel 16:14) Samson lost his strength, sight and service. Judges 16).

May we cry with David the Psalmist, "Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy Holy Spirit from me".



Youth Look by Ann Cochran

"How can I get my friends to be saved?" "What could I do to make my friends want to hear what I have to say about Jesus Christ and salvation?"

These are two of the specific questions asked to me during one of my classes at this summer's youth camp. Now that school is back in session, young people are seeing schoolmates and friends more frequently that summer prevented them from seeing as often. Unfortunately, many—if not **most**—are not Christians. While some Christian young people will work to see their friends saved, others will become weak and be dragged down by non-Christian peers.

So, what are the keys to seeing unsaved friends saved? With continual prayer being the most important factor, another very important element is example. Often times it seems that young people do not realize how much they, as Christians, are being watched. Unsaved peers view Christians' lives to see if there's anything in a Christian walk that would be worth changing their own lives for. They may watch to see who gets the glory for good things, done in your life, to see if a Christian is positive, friendly, and cheerful or instead filled with conceit, sadness, and emptiness, and they may test your commitment. Laughing at their dirty jokes, accepting their invitations to go to ungodly places and to do ungodly things, "going with the crowd" in many of their behaviors . . . these are ways your commitment to Christ may be tested and, if dealt with in this negative way, an unsaved person will see no reason to change his own lifestyle.

After you have reached an unsaved friend and he's reached a point of needing your help in leading him to the Lord, it's necessary to have verses available to share the plan of salvation with your friend. Whether it's the "Romans Road to Salvation" (which I've included at the end) or another method, the message is the same—Jesus loves us and will save us when He's called upon. **Learn** the verses necessary to explain the plan of salvation; fumbling for a verse could dampen the Spirit. A pastor or youth minister will be more than happy to assist you should you have any questions or a need for help in soulwinning.

Because one never knows when he may be called upon to share the gospel with one who needs it, it is best to have a Bible handy at all times. Small Bibles in their complete form are available and perfect for purses, jacket pockets, or lockers.

With the Lord's help, soulwinning can be the most simple yet rewarding experience ever.

Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:8-10, Romans 10:13.



Concise Report From The National Convention, NYC And WNAC

September has been declared as Stewardship Month with the last Sunday being designated as National Ministries Sunday.

Registered almost 6,000 for the National Convention . . . Almost 900 for the WNAC and almost 1500 for the NYC . . . Adopted a \$10.4 million budget for 1989.

A record offering was received at the Wednesday Evening Service in the amount of \$23,133.00. This was divided equally between the Foreign Missions and National Home Missions work.

Authorized Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington to inform the government of Ivory Coast, West Africa and other governments involved that Lonnie Palmer is no longer affiliated with the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Board.

Honored former Moderator Bobby Jackson for 10 years of leadership. He was presented a plaque, a gold watch and Mrs. Jackson was presented a bouquet of flowers.

October 2, 1988 was set as Dedication Day for Rejoice, the New Free Will Baptist Hymnal.

Opposed the film "The Last Temptation of Christ". The film portrays Christ in a manner which is unbiblical and offensive.

Followed the leadership of two rookie moderators in Kansas City: National Association, Ralph Hampton and WNAC president, Mary Neal.

Praised the convenience of convention hotels, most of which were located within one block of the Convention Center.

Youth Groups gave \$15,205.69 toward the AIM For Urguar Bible Institute Project. The goal was \$10,000... Thirty-three winners in the NYC were from Missouri... At the Awards Ceremony on Wednesday Evening a special plaque was presented to Jack and Wanda Smith from Hartville, Missouri for numberless hours they have given to the Youth Activities. They have volunteered their services to assist churches in the competitive activities.

Directors from the National Offices praised Missouri for the splendid job in hosting the Convention.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I knew that by the help of the Lord and willing sincere workers we could do it. I think the Lord blessed with a great National Convention, WNAC and NYC. We love Him for this and each one who helped with this tremendous endeavor. Churches, People & Events



Calvary Fellowship Fourth Grade Class. Sponsors. and Hannibal Free Will Baptist Congregation.

A SPECIAL GIFT TO HANNIBAL MISSION

The Fourth Grade Class from Calvary Fellowship Church in Fenton, Missouri visited the Hannibal Mission on Sunday, June 12, 1988. The Sunday School Class had been studying missions and chose to help the missions project in Hannibal. Beginning in the Spring the class began saving pennies and presented this to the Mission in the amount of 48 pounds (\$116.50).

Peggy Rider, the class teacher, and her husband brought the group to Hannibal. Following the Morning Worship they enjoyed a picnic lunch with the church.

10TH YEAR HOMECOMING AT ROLLA

We are happy and excited at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Rolla, Missouri, writes Judy McWilliams, to be celebrating our 10th Year Homecoming.

All-Day Services will be held on Sunday, October 9, 1988. A former pastor, Rev. Dale Cochran, now in Hannibal, Missouri, will be the guest preacher for the Morning Worship. The service in the afternoon will feature the Glory Bound Singers. Other special singers will be singing also.

The church is located on the corner of Rhoades and Olive street. It is a small church but it is bursting with love.

The church invites all former members and everyone who would like to join in a day of worship and fellowship. Dinner will be served following the Morning Worship. The Sunday School Service begins at 9:45 a.m.

GOOD NEWS AT STOCKTON CHURCH

The pastor and wife, Bill and Loretta Ragsdale, write, Once again the Lord has blessed in a special way. For eight months we did not have a pianist. We are happy to say that we now have Brother Joe Page playing the piano.

On Sunday, July 4th, the Raines Family were special singers. They along with our folks provided special music. We dedicated our new organ, donated to the church by the Page Family. And to make this complete Mrs. Page plays the organ. The service concluded after a good time of fellowship, sharing home-made ice cream and watermelon. You can't have a better holiday!

REPORT FROM THE HAPPY FOLKS AT HAPPY HOME

We are happy to report a new pastor, Rev. & Mrs. Bob Epperson, who began their ministry with the Happy Home Church in September 1987. They have teamed up with the Associate Pastor, Brother Charles Peak. Brother Peak is a graduate of Hillsdale College.

The Eppersons came to us following eleven years service in the mission field at Fairbanks, Alaska. Due to health reasons Brother Epperson spent the past several years in recouperation.

The year 1987 was a revival year at Happy Home Church, with twenty-one professions of faith. This year continues to be electrifying with ten conversions and rededications. The church is experiencing a steady growth spiritually and numerically.

By instituting an effective visitation program, Brother Bob is anticipating great things as the Lord continues to stir the souls of the "Happy Folks".

Two important events at Happy Home will be the ordination of Brother Peak and studying the possibility of enlarging the sanctuary. The pastor knows, from being in two building programs, that the key to building is to realize the need. This comes by winning souls to Jesus and teaching them in the Lord.

Please pray that we will remain humble before the Lord and that Brother Bob's feet will stay on the ground, as he continues to minister in the Ava area.



Reverend & Mrs. Bob Epperson

Divided Devotion

by Darrell Strain

Scripture: Mt. 6:22-24

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

While teaching a group of older teenagers at Freewill Baptist Youth Camp, a few years ago, one of the group posed a question. "Why is it, that while I'm at youth camp, it is not so hard to think right and live right; and then when I go home I have such a struggle?"

Our SAVED young people, as well as other age groups, have a terrific struggle trying to live in this present world with all its ATTRACTIONS and DIS-TRACTIONS.

Pressure to conform to standards of society, be they fashion, music, speech, actions, or other behavioral patterns are extreme! This is especially hard to cope with by people who are not yet mature mentally and are physically mature—these who are not mature spiritually and who have not developed a proper mental concept of themselves from a Bible point of view. A proper self image comes as the person see themselves from the Biblical perspective. Pressure to become something which puts us at odds with God's plan for our life brings frustration, which in turn brings anger, then conviction, sometimes physical pain and always mental anguish. It's time for one of two things to happen. REPENTANCE which brings blessings or REBELLION which brings greater problems.

As I've thought about the question asked by the teenager I'm convinced the problems presented apply to myself and to others of all age groups. I see the same types of pressure exerted on different ages and sadly have drawn the conclusion that we believe that we can be divided in our devotion.

Devotion, Jesus said was a matter of Love, Service, And Commitment. It is not a matter of the lip service. Jesus asked the question on one occasion, "Why do you call me Lord and do not the things I say?" Another time Jesus said that it was not those who just said Lord, Lord, who would enter into heaven. It is impossible, according to the scripture, to be devoted to two masters. This is especially clear when we consider that the two masters spoken of are at extreme poles, and the gap between the two cannot be closed or brought closer together.

Our minds may be capable of comprehending many things and storing much information. We may wear many hats in our work life, but Jesus said we are not capable of being devoted to two MASTERS. When our devotion is divided we are really drawn away from Christ to Satan. The devil may be, and I'm convinced is, willing to share your devotion; however God is not willing to play second fiddle to anything or anyone. The Scripture states that God is a jealous God. In fact the very first thing God commanded of the ten commandments is that we are to have no other Gods... not even an image.

What happened at Youth Camp that contributed to the "being able to think and act right?" First there were some important things, that did NOT happen. I list here some of the more important things that come to mind.

- 1. We did NOT feed ourselves on the world's music.
- 2. We could NOT watch the world's entertainment. (NO T.V. or VCR's)

- 3. We did NOT program our minds with the world's literature.
- 4. We did NOT dress in the revealing fashions of the world.
- Then there were some things that we did.
- 1. We sang the songs that glorified CHRIST
- 2. We prayed often.
- 3. We listened and feasted on the preached Word of God.
- 4. We read the Word of God often.
- 5. We fellowshipped and played with Christians in a supervised, spiritual atmosphere.

Now all of the things in the first list were prohibited by the camp rules (for good Bible reasons). All of those things divide our devotion.

Now all of the things in the second list help us develop sound spiritual vision and PREVENT our devotion from being divided. The scripture states that we should speak to ourselves in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

You may say, or at least think ... Preacher, I don't see anything wrong with most of the things in the first LIST. After all most of us enjoy doing some of those things and besides that God put these things here for our enjoyment. Then I suppose you think that God put the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden for the enjoyment of Adam and Eve. It's the same type of reasoning that if followed to a logical conclusion would have you arrive at a view which will divide your devotion.

That's the very problem that besets the average church member, be they teen or adult ... Rebellion and pride. No one can tell me what to do! This world has so much to offer and God can just wait or have what's left over. DIVIDED DEVOTION means spiritual death!

We live in a society that's caught up in a "fun kick" that the scripture predicts would happen. In II Timothy Chapter 3 Paul tells about a people who would love themselves (that is have a wrong self image from a Bible point of view) more than they loved God. "I've got to have my fun", is a phrase that you often hear. Don't you go telling me that God wants me to cut back on my pleasures. Let me ask you; where are your treasurers? That's where your heart will be!

Listen dear friend, the reason your heart is not in the Lord's work is because that is NOT what's important to you. YOU HAVE NO TREASURE THERE!

Why is it that you get all excited about the world's music, dress, movies, literature, etc.? The answer is really simple. That's where your treasure is . . . your devotion is divided.

An old country preacher said one time that he drank all of the intoxicating liquor that he wanted to drink. Then he went on to say that he did not any longer want to drink ANY because God had FIXED HIS WANT TO! That's what we need. We need our "want to" fixed. We need our vision single—our devotion fixed so that our treasures are the correct side of eternity.

Dear friend, when your life is summed up and the bottom line is written, what will be important? What will count? Where will you want your treasure?

ABOUT THE WRITER: Darrell Strain is serving as pastor of the Royal Oak Free Will Baptist Church. He is also on the faculty of the Alton School System. Darrell has served in various positions in the Free Will Baptist Denomination and is supportive of the State and National ministries. **Youth Camp Memories**



















A bouquet of flowers & a money gift presentation to Mrs. McCurry by Jim Mertz.









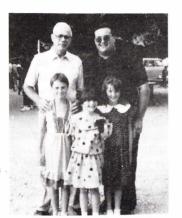


















Additional photos in next issue.





A Word From Our Missionaries

The Jim Mertz Family in Wentzville:

Thank you for your concern, your prayers and your faithful giving that inspires me... The work is progressing well at Crossroads in Wentzville for which we are so thankful. But I do have some distressing news. My account is over \$5,000 in the 'red'. This has reached a critical stage and something must be done as quickly as possible, to relieve this deficit. Your financial support is desperately needed. Anything that you or your church can do to help will certainly be appreciated!

The Dale Cochran Family in Hannibal:

In May we purchased 7 1/2 acres just outside the city limit. The property included a house which was renovated in June. On July 3rd we were able to hold our first service. Construction has been steady on the sanctuary. On Saturday, July 9th, volunteers from several churches helped set the trusses and roof the building. What a blessing to have fellow Christians willing to labor together. The Hannibal Church will soon be a reality because of your faithful support, both prayfully and financially.

The Jim Williams Family in Carthage:

The vision that burned in my heart that I shared with you in the past is becoming a reality, as we see a solid Free Will Baptist Church forming in the city of Carthage Since our beginning we have witnessed over 125 saved and more than 70 baptized. At present we are averaging about 69 on Sunday Morning and folks at the altar most every week... Our son Dennis has surrendered to preach the gospel. He is in charge of the Youth Department... Our daughter, Denise, and her husband, Chris, have begun working with the pre-teens. Tami, our daughter, graduated from high school and is planning for college this fall. All of these have been a tremendous blessing to the church . . . My goal was to be totally self-supporting in 5 to 7 years. And, we are right on target. We have made everyone of our payments, including a \$1,000 a month building payment, sending \$400.00 a month towards my salary to the Home Missions Board and giving outside the church about \$200.00 a month ... However the bad news is my salary account is in the 'red' about \$4,000.00. This is the first time for this. I know that everyone is under a heavy burden and for this reason I have hesitated to make this request but I do need financial help. Whatever you can do to help in this will greatly be appreciated. Be certain to earmark it for the Jim Williams or Carthage Account.

The Howard Gwartney Family in Mesa, Arizona:

You'll never know how much we appreciate your faithful prayers and financial support for our work in Arizona. We have good news to report; in spite of the fact that we have lost several families recently, the Lord is enabling us to reach some new ones. Not only that but it has been tremendous to see the Lord meet our young church's financial need. My voice is getting progressively worse. Please remember this in your prayers ...

The Mark Vandivort Family in Flagstaff, Arizona:

Our April high attendance of 53 broke a 4 year record. We can only squeeze about 10 more people into our rented chapel. Pray that soon we will have the money to build our own building. The 53 people do not reflect our total ministry. We minister to many outlying areas and many have moved out of this area, to whom we have ministered. To help you pray - 1. We are receiving designated support through the National Home Missions Department. 2. Our family income from all sources is below minimum needs for expenses. 3. Mark has been seeking full time employment for some time. 4. Our church owes \$25,000.00 on our land. Currently we have \$23,000.00 in our building fund. 5. About 1/2 of our congregation is Indian, which is a fast growing segment of Flagstaff's population. Our vision to establish a strong soul-winning Free Will Baptist Church in Flagstaff is still clear.

The Vergel Maness Family in Vineland, New Jersey:

The church is under construction! We have the floor finished, and are preparing to do the wall framing... Our attendance is on the rise in every service except Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting. This is because of the work schedule of many people. Our finances have been climbing, and there are many encouraging signs of growth in the church. Please accept my deepest appreciation for your faithful support. Our support has been down a little on a monthly basis and my account is in the 'red' about \$2,000.00. We need your special offerings in order that this deficit can be erased ... Please pray for our health and safety as we work in the construction of the church building and pray that souls will continue to be saved.

And a recent word from The Don McDonald Family in Japan:

Announcing the birth of Leah Katherine McDonald, born May 29, 1988, in Tokyo, Japan. Weight: 7 lbs, 12 ozs. and Length: 10.5 in. (The parents and grandparents are doing fine!) Donnie is diligently working on his final graduation speech for language school . . . Continue to pray with us about the financial situation in Japan. Our account is not in the 'danger zone' but our support has slipped some in the past few months. With a deflated dollar and increased expenses, any loss of support is reason to pray. We surely do thank each one who has been so faithful in giving that we may serve in Japan. A praise item—Donnie received his Master of Arts degree from Columbia Graduate School of Bible and Missions ... Thanks again for your prayers. We have really felt the influence of them in recent days.

Missions Conference At Southeastern

Southeastern Free Will Baptist College is hosting its sixth annual Missions Conference on November 13-15, 1988. The speakers for the conference include Rev. Tim Hackett, missionary to Bloomington, Indiana; Rev. Danny Dwyer, Southeastern; Rev. Phil Ange, pastor, Jefferson Road Free Will Baptist Church, Sumpter, South Carolina and Rev. Rick Bowling, missionary to Montevideo, Uruguay. While attending the conference you will have a chance to tour Southeastern's new campus.

President Wade Announces Retirement Plans

The Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College Board of Trustees announced the early retirement of President Edwin Wade, effective June 30, 1989. President Wade cited his personal health situation and the demands of the postition as reasons for his resignation. The effective date is to allow sufficient time to conduct a search, select a new president and provide an orderly transition.

The Board of Trustees, Hillsdale students, alumni and all supporters of the college wish to express deep gratitude for the years of faithful service Brother Wade has rendered. His consistent Biblical approach to administrative responsibilities and his exemplary lifestyle have exerted a great influence upon the Christian lives of the students, faculty, staff and associates of Hillsdale College.



Susan Keesling

FWBBC Alumni Meeting in Missouri

The officers of the Free Will Baptist Bible College Alumni in Missouri held a reception for alumni and friends of FWBBC. The meeting was held at the Missouri State Association in Mountain Grove, following the Wednesday evening service.

Rev. Jeffery Gaskins, president of the alumni association, writes, The reception was well attended and the folks were served cake, coffee and tea by the vice president, Nathan Ruble, secretary/treasurer, Susan Keesling and himself.

The officers were reelected to serve for another year and the next meeting date is for the Missouri State Association in June 1989.

FWBBC Ends Year In The Black

A sharp increase in the number of donors and gifts enabled the Free Will Baptist Bible College to close the 1987-88 school year in the black. Gifts during the last six-months of the 1987-88 fiscal year were 25% higher than for the same period in 1986-87. Mr. Sass says, "Gifts during the last half of the year have, indeed, been miraculous". The college has done its part to operate in the black by keeping spending within bounds. Deepest thanks to every church, pastor and individual whose prayers and support have made it possible for the college to close the year in the black, writes the Free Will Baptist College.

Fall Enlargement Campaign Theme

"Lift Him Up" is the theme of the 1988 Fall Sunday School Enlargement campaign for October. Rev. Fred Hall, pastor of the East Nashville Church, authored the campaign which is based on Isaiah 6:1.

The campaign will begin on Sunday, October 2 and end Sunday, October 30. Each Sunday will feature a special emphasis.

Week One — Lift Him Up Through Commitment Week Two — Lift Him Up Through Submission

Week Three — Lift Him Up Through Praise

Week Four — Lift Him Up Through Service

Week Five — Lift Him Up Through Faithfulness

Campaign materials are available from Randall House Publications, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.

State Association

































Leading Questions Is Released

Leading Questions, a Free Will Baptist Discipleship Manual, has been published and released by Randall House Publications. This manual, written by Rev. Greg McAllister, pastor of the New Life Free Will Baptist Church in O'Fallon, Missouri and moderator of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, deals with leading a person to Christ and teaching him or her Christian Doctrine, Christian Living, Evangelism and Leadership. McAllister shares what the discipler is to do and say. One of the greatest strengths of the workbook is that it gets the new convert into God's Word immediately.

Reflections of Family Life

When we first married things were just fine, I had done her a favor by making her mine.

The next few years were not quite as much fun, There were questions in her mind as to what she had done.

Was marrying me a wise thing to do? At such an early age her happy times were through.

The bad times came after a few years, We learned much together and cried many tears.

We both made mistakes, and threw several fits, But I'm glad we didn't, just call it quits.

As I look back over the years, my how time has flown. Through three kids and many trials, my how we have grown.

I love her more now, than I thought ever could be, But there is pleasure in knowing, that she also loves me.

I am glad that I chose her to be my sweet wife, And I'll commit myself to her the rest of my life.

By Gene Crewse, to his wife Dottie

EDITOR'S NOTE: This poem was written at the Family Life Seminar held at Stonecroft. The speaker, Joe Grizzle, asked the men to write a poem to their wives.



For the new pastor, knowing when to start making changes and where to start can be a dilemma. He must be very careful less he touch someone's sacred cow. One of our leading pastors said, "If you are going to attack a sacred cow, go for the jugular vein." That sounds funny but believe me it isn't that easy. In the first place, it isn't easy to determine what is and is not a sacred cow.

Second, it's hard to know who the sacred cow belongs to. So it's not easy to know where to start making changes.

I've discovered that the best place to start is with the least offensive. Make a list of all the changes that need to be made, then choose the one that will disturb or offend the least number of people.

In the years I have pastored and moved to a new pastorate, I have determined that usually the least offensive area that almost always needs to be changed is in the area of ushering. Most folks consider ushering to be very unimportant. So they don't get upset when changes are made there.

I disagree. I believe a church can grow to a certain point without good ushers, but it can grow faster and larger with good ushers. So after a few months I start changing the method of ushering. I usually select a group of the best men in the church, set a meeting time, train the men, then install them as a well organized team that ushers the people into the service, hands out bulletins and hymn books, receives the offering and generally takes care of the needs of the congregation.

By this time we have made our first change and it has been a huge success. The next change will go easier.

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COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS JUNE 1988

UDITE 1000
18.50% Mo. State Home Missions \$ 5,037.12
17.00% Executive Office & Gem 4,628.70
3.50% General Fund 952.99
6.50% Youth Camp 1,769.80
1.75% SS & CTS Board 476.48
1.75% CE Board 476.48
6.50% Retirement Village
(Senior Adult Ministries) 1,769.80
5.00% Mo. State Ret. Program 1,361.38
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & California
Christian College \$8,304.43
24.00% Foreign Msn\$ 1,993.06
19.00% Nat'l. Home Msn 1,577.84
18.75% FWBBC 1,557.08
18.75% Hillsdale 1,557.08
14.00% Executive Dept 1,162.62
2.50% Layman's Board 207.62
.50% Radio & TV Com 41.52
.50% Theological Com 41.52
.50% Historical Com 41.52
.50% Board of Ret. & Ins 41.52
1.00% Calif. Christian College 83.06
9.00% State Office Building 2,450.49
Total

This year 1988 is one half gone. The month of June was a good month for giving and it was a good month for a spiritual uplift. The Missouri State Association and two weeks of our four weeks of Youth Encampment took place in June and both events were blessed of God. We continue to thank God for faithful pastors and churches.

JUNE 1988 RECEIPTS COOPERATIVE AND DESIGNATED

Oak Hill, Fredericktown \$	
Sedalia	
Southside	
Cope	
Myrtle	213.70
Number One	52.80
Faith, Lemay	25.00
Hopewell	196.00
Walnut Grove	72.55
Royal Oak	113.00
Merl's Chapel	131.89
Hannon	286.33
Rolla	51.59

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Harmony	
one Star	
Pleasant Ridge	90.00
Happy Home	147 51
Potosi	214 00
Bailey Chapel	75.00
Viburnum	205 13
Bethel, Festus	640.00
Hazel Creek	372.75
Black Oak	185.64
Union Grove	202.16
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Lebanon, First	574.08
Fordland	430.60
	258.51
Olivet	400.00
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Springfield, First	7.56
Rock Chapel	5.58
Victory, Alton 22	0.00
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Mill Creek	6.46
Mill Creek 27	7.54
Berean 1	5.00
Victory Hill	0.00
Copper Mines	9.68
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	5.77
New Life Fellowship	4.00
Seymour 23	9.00
Cuba	9.54
United, W.P.	9.55
New Harmony 1	3.31
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Grant Avenue	6.69
Wilderness	5.00
Central	7.73
Leadington	0.00
Pleasant Hill	0.53
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Oak Hill, Fredericktown	3.95
Hartville	3.32
Crossroads	3.00
Mill Creek	0.0
Stockton	9.35
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Total	7.67

YOUTH CAMP

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Union
Fordland 43.06
Trinity 80.51
Bock Chapel
Grant Avenue
Pleasant Home 22.00
Eastern Gate 51.00
Total
10(a)

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS JULY 1988

00111000
18.50% Mo. State Home Missions \$ 3,894.96
17.00% Executive Office & Gem 3,579.15
3.50% General Fund
6.50% Youth Camp
1.75% SS & CTS Board
1.75% CE Board 368.45
C 50% Detimenent Village
6.50% Retirement Village
(Senior Adult Ministries) 1,368.49
5.00% Mo. State Ret. Program 1,052.69
30.50% Nat'l Ministries, Hillsdale & California
Christian College 6,421.42
24.00% Foreign Msn \$ 1,541.14
19.00% Nat'l, Home Msn 1,220.07
18.75% FWBBC 1,204.01
18 75% Hillsdale
14.00% Executive Dept
2.50% Layman's Board 160.54
.50% Radio & TV Com
.50% Theological Com 32.11
.50% Historical Com
.50% Board of Ret. & Ins
1 00% Calif Christian College 64.21
9.00% State Office Building 1,894.84
Total

Out of the depth of my heart I say with the Psalmist "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad!"

JULY 1988 RECEIPTS COOPERATIVE AND DESIGNATED

COOPERATIVE AND DESIGNATED
Tyrone\$ 38.60
Rolla
West Plains, First
Southside
Mine La Motte
Riverview, IA 268.21
Lebanon, First 537.54
Hannon 257.63
Grace 885.00
Carthage 60.00
Hopewell 138.00
Merl's Chapel 116.80
Columbia 50.00
Union Light 317.70
Royal Oak 91.00
Bailey Chapel 41.00
Springfield, First 512.51
Houston 225.91
Lone Star
· 172.112 [16] ·

Seymour 113.00 Rock Chapel 301.47 Joplin 432.09 Belton 225.70 Fourth 119.00 Fordland 339.89 Thayer 330.00 Victory, Alton 147.00 Mt. Zion, Gower 53.90 Parkview 350.00 Fredericktown, First 364.00 Union Grove 162.00 Pleasant Ridge 69.00 Hurryville 146.40 Viburnum 168.80 Faith, Lemay 25.00 Black Oak 138.19 Sedalia 122.01 United, W.P. 662.18 Terrill Road 363.37
New Harmony 13.23 Richwoods 376.00 Olivet 400.00 Macedonia 20.00 Alton, First 225.00 South Fremont 777.00
Leadington 400.00 New Home 89.22 West Plains, first 259.82 Copper Mines 327.86 Grant Avenue 587.57 Trinity 665.50 Flat River, First 690.60 Oak Hill, Union 168.46 Hickory Grove 31.45 Mt. Pisgah 189.00 Verdella 234.76 Verdella 164.75 Hapy Home 142.62 Wolf Creek 224.60 Pleasant Home 322.28 Pleasant Hill 44.42 Marshfield 179.59 DeSoto 818.00 Cabool 245.23 Indian Creek 453.69
Mountain Grove 963.49 Freeman Chapel 296.11 New Rock Springs 86.12 Salem 30.00 Grace 669.00 Lingo 43.00 Cuba 249.36 Neosho 142.50 Faith & Hope 74.24 Willow Springs 228.16 Unity 2290.07 Cape Girardeau 290.68 Total \$21,053.82 YOUTH CAMP
Parkview 20.00 Fordland 20.00 Thayer 30.00 Victory, Alton 25.00 Olivet 25.00 Calvary Fellowship 39.00 Buffalo, First 50.00 Trinity 10.00 Mt. Pisgah 10.00 Verdella 20.00 DeSoto 50.00 Mountain Grove 10.00 New Rock Springs 10.00 El Dorado Springs, Bethel 15.00 Willow Springs 10.00 Total \$379.00
HILLSDALE COLLEGE Hannon \$ 50.00 Thayer 30.00 Calvary Fellowship 35.75 Grant Avenue 8.00 Total \$123.75 FOREIGN MISSIONS \$123.75
West Plains, First 60.75 South Side 229.50 Lebanon, First 105.00 Hannon 287.63 Brent & Cindy Thompson 50.00 Grace 19.00 Carthage 15.00 Merl's Chapel 100.00

Columbia
Kirksville
Houston
Parkview
Rock Chapel
Union
Fourth
Fordland
Monett
Thayer
United, W.P
New Harmony
Grant Avenue (VDS) 143.40
Olivet
South Fremont
Leadington
West Plains, First 19.00
Viburnum
Grant Avenue 382.37
Trinity
Calvary Chapel
inter rogan
Verdella
Leadington
Pleasant Home 120.88
Marshfield
DeSoto
Calvary Chapel 25.00
Neosho 200.00
Faith & Hope 95.30
New Testament
Freeman Chapel 336.37
West Plains, First 615.00
Grace
New Testament
Jean Francis
Niangua
Sedalia 19.52
Carl Layman 10.00
Carl Layman
Total
Total
Total \$7,236.04 NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS \$221.04
Total \$7,236.04 NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS
Total \$7,236.04 NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS \$221.04 Mission, Lebanon \$221.04 Unity 15.00 Hannon 10.00
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Southside																	\$	190.00
Riverview,	IA																	21.80
Unity																		30.00
Hannon .		•																128.82
Grace	• •	•		•				•		•								35.00
Carthage		•				•		•		•					•			. 5.00
Columbia	• •	•	•	•														. 9.25
Union Ligh	nt	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•						18.00

Joplin 15.00 Belton 25.00 Fourth 10.00 Fordland 74.00 Thayer 20.00 Pleasant Ridge 10.00 J.W. Rader 25.00 Sedalia 19.52 United, W.P. 28.22 New Harmony 66.18 South Fremont 145.00 Leadington 10.00 Calvary Fellowship 116.45 West Plains, First 19.00 Grant Avenue 9.00 Trinity 40.00 Oak Hill, Union 11.00 Leadington 80.00 Greater Springfield Ass'n 115.32 Marshfield 17.99 DeSoto 50.00 Faith & Hope 95.33
Mountain Grove, First
Grace 95.00
Faith & Hope 84.88
Total
FWBBC
Parkview\$ 10.00
Thayer 25.00
Calvary Fellowship
Leadington
DeSoto 35.00
Total
ADVANCE CELEBRATION
Unity
Oak Hill, Union
Rock Chapel
Union 15.0
Fordland
Cabool 52.6
Grant Avenue
Trinity
Pleasant Home 17.0
Total



Sponsored by Randall House Publications

Six Categories

1-Exegesis/Sermon	4-Tract
2—Short Story	5-Play/Skit
3—Poetry	6-Book

\$10.00 Entry Fees

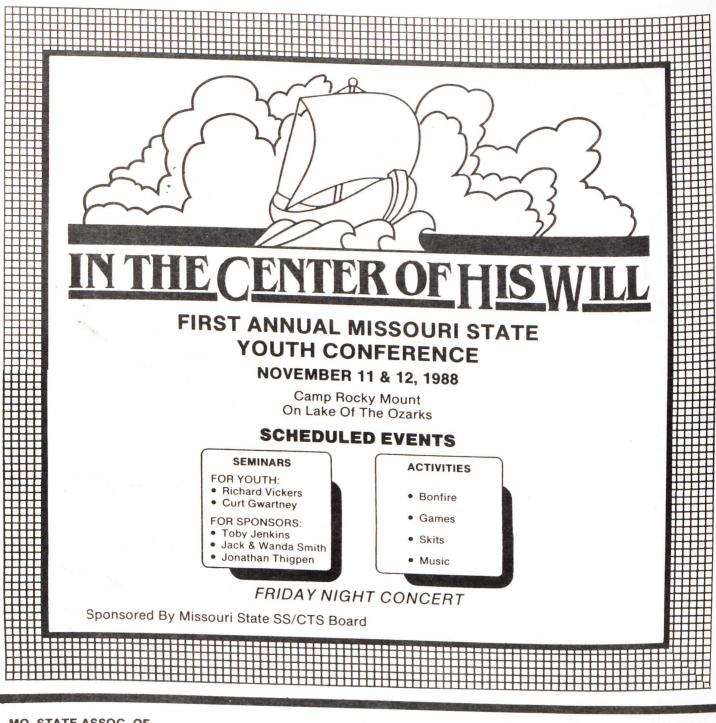
Cash Awards Earn \$25—\$250

New Book Entry Requirements— Opportunity for Royalty Contract

Entries received from July 1, 1988 to *deadline* June 1, 1989.

Write for rules of entry to:

Rev. Harrold D. Harrison, Writers' Contest Director P.O. Box 17306 Nashville, TN 37217



MO. STATE ASSOC. OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS 303 West Commercial Lebanon, Missouri 65536

NON-PROFIT BULK RATE U.S. POSTAGE PAID INDEP., MO. 64050 PERMIT NO. 331

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

3

HARROLD HARRISON P.O. BOX 17306 NASHVILLE TN 37217