

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Volume 60, No. 4, April 1990

*"I will come again . . . that where
I am there ye may be also."*
John 14:3



Washing The Saint's Feet - A Church Ordinance Part II *by Reverend Vernon Long*

The real question we must answer is, **Did Christ instruct us to actually wash one another's feet?** Was the words of Christ in **John 13:12-17** just for the disciples, as some would argue? No, for in the Great Commission given to the disciples we find these words, **"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."**—**Matthew 28:20a** You will hear this same argument by those who do not want to live by Bible standards and excuse themselves — "That was to people in Bible times and does not apply to us." In applying **Matthew 28:20** to feet-washing, the question is this, Did Christ command His disciples to wash one another's feet? To answer this we must look at some key words in **John 13**. The Greek word translated "ought" (**v. 14**) is **ophilo**, which means **"to owe, be under obligation, bound, duty, should."** There are some 36 uses of this word in the New Testament, and why do most of the Bible scholars accept its meaning in these other passages, but will not accept its use in **John 13:14**, **"... ye also ought to wash one another's feet."** Another key word in **v. 14** is **"also"** (**kai**). The Greek text reads, **"... also ye ought to wash one another's feet."** Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words says this, "When **kai** means **"also"** it precedes the word which it stresses." Here it stresses **"also ye ought."** It is used again in **v. 15** stressing our duty to do as it says. The Greek text reads, **"... as I did to you, also ye should do."** There are a couple other words in **v. 15** which help to clarify the meaning of the verse. One of those words is **"example"** (**hupodeigma**), which means **"that which is shown, hence a figure, a copy; an example whether for imitation, John 13:15; or for warning, Heb. 4:11."** And the other word is the little two letter word **"as"** (**kathos**), which simply means, **"according as, just as, even as,"** according to **"Thayer's Greek Lexicon."**

I am in no way trying to convince anyone that I am a Greek scholar, as I am very far from that. But I believe if a Scripture verse is in question concerning its interpretation, then we should use the resources we have and go to the original language to get its meaning. That being the case, there is another enlightening point seen in the Greek tenses of the verbs used by Jesus in **vv. 14, 15 and 17**. In the Greek language there are two basic ways of stating the action that is to be continued or repeated. It is enlightening to note the **"washed"** (**v. 14a**) and **"done"** (**15b**) are first aorist active indicative verbs, which signifies the simple act of Christ. But you will find that **"wash"** (**14b**) and **"do"** (**15; 17b**) are present active, which signifies linear, or continuous action. So it is very clear in a closer study of these verbs that feet-washing is an activity to be repeated and continued in the church.

One other question to be answered is this, **What is the symbolic meaning of feet-washing as Jesus gave the example?** In Christ's lesson to the disciples, it does not symbolize the incarnation, but the observance of the ordinance does remind us of the incarnation (**John 13:4, 5**). When we observe it we are reminded of the great incarnation passage in **Phil. 2:5-8**, where we are reminded,

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Neither does it symbolize daily cleansing of sin, but as our Treatise says, it **"reminds the believer of the necessity of a daily cleansing from all sin."** (cf. **John 13:10, 11**) **I John 1:7**, promises the continuous cleansing of the blood of Jesus **"if we walk in the light, as He is in the light."** What is the symbolic meaning of feet-washing as Jesus gave it? I believe it is clear, that **we are to be humble servants one of another.**

Why do we as Free Will Baptists wash one another's feet? Because the only way we can follow Jesus' example and obey His teaching in **John 13:1-17** is to do as He did. That is, to perform a literal rite that has a symbolic meaning, and be sure we fulfill the symbolic meaning in our lives. If we do that, then people will know we are His disciples (**John 13:34,35**). The duty after understanding this Scripture is to do it as an ordinance and practice it in our daily lives. Christ **"loved his own"** (**John 13:1b**) and He **"washed the disciples' feet"** (**v. 5**). Without love, washing feet as an ordinance is in vain, but **"if ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them"** (**John 13:17**). Our Treatise says, **"It is the duty and happy prerogative of every believer to observe this sacred ordinance."**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Rev. Vernon Long served as a deacon in the church for a number of years. He later was called into the ministry, and as an ordained minister has served in Virginia, a Home Missionary in Tennessee and is presently serving the Leadington Free Will Baptist Church as pastor. He and the church he serves is very supportive of the State and National Ministries.

Calendar of Events

WORK DAY AT YOUTH CAMP

May 5

STATE YOUTH COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

Drury College, Springfield, MO, May 11, 12

SENIOR ADULT RETREAT

Stonecroft Conference Center, May 15, 16 & 17

MO. STATE CONVENTION, W.A. CONVENTION

Seminar: Examining The New Age Movement
Nelson Community Center, Lebanon, MO
June 4-7

YOUTH CAMP

Group I, Teens: June 17-22

Group II, Teens: June 24-29

Group I, Pre-Teens: July 29-August 3

Group II, Pre-Teens: August 5-10

NATIONAL CONVENTION, W.N.A.C., N.Y.C.

Phoenix, AR, July 15-19

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY RETREAT

Stonecroft Conference Center, August 24, 25

OCTOBER — REVIVAL TIME!

All items for publication must be in the hands of the editor *no later than the 10th of the month* preceding the issue month. Business Office: 202 West Commercial, Lebanon, Missouri 65536. Clarence Burton, Editor. Address all correspondence relating to the GEM, including subscription and mailing information, to the above address. 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. Subscription rates: Single subscription, \$4.50 per year, cash in advance. Church Plan \$4.00 per year consisting of five subscriptions or more. The Church Plan will continue until it is canceled by the church. This magazine is published monthly.

Senior Adult Ministries Board

Senior Adult Retreat

May 15-17, 1990

Stonecroft Conference Center — Branson, Missouri

Gospel Preaching and Special Music

COST: Couple - \$60.00; Single - \$50.00; 3 or 4 - \$25.00. **DRESS:** Casual

RETREAT SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 15

- 1:30 p.m. Registration
- 5:00 p.m. Evening Meal
- 7:00 p.m. Congregational Singing
Get Acquainted Time
Oklahoma Ministers Quartet
Message - Rev. Jack Richey
- 8:45 p.m. Snack Time

Wednesday, May 16

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast

You may use this day as you desire to visit the points of interest in the Branson area. **Please note: There will be a gospel singing with the Oklahoma Ministers Quartet from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.**

Lunch ?

- 5:00 p.m. Evening Meal
- 7:00 p.m. Congregational Singing
Oklahoma Ministers Quartet
Message - Rev. Delbert Akins
- 8:45 p.m. Snack Time

Thursday, May 17

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Congregation Singing
Planning Session
- 10:00 a.m. Snack Time
- 10:30 a.m. Oklahoma Ministers Quartet
Message - Rev. Homer Young
- 11:00 a.m. Lunch
Bye Bye, the Lord Bless



OKLAHOMA MINISTERS QUARTET

For additional information, contact any of the Board members listed below:

Nathan Ruble, Chairman
2227 McCausland Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63143
Phone: 314-781-5921

Gary Sheets, Treasurer
3rd & Vanburen
Lebanon, MO
Phone: 417-532-6728

Gene Crewse, Secretary
Route 1, Box 59A
Mtn. Grove, MO
Phone: 417-948-2429

Glenn Murray
1110 Hickory
West Plains, MO
Phone: 417-256-6338

REGISTRATION FORM — SENIOR ADULT RETREAT

Please Print

Name _____ Home Phone (____) _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Church _____

Please return Registration Form to: **Senior Adult Ministries Board, 2040 Osage St., Lebanon, MO 65536 by May 1, 1990**



The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

Who's Stealing America's Youth Part III

The New Age . . . the term has recently become a natural part of our vocabulary. Its music is now being recognized on music award shows. Some of the world's most recognizable people proudly proclaim their association with the New Age belief. And, even some corporations encourage their employees to attend New Age motivational seminars. It seems like a whole new concept that is saturating our society. Actually, it is not new at all.

In fact, some New Age researchers claim a New Age concept was what influenced the first human disobedience to God — Adam and Eve were persuaded to believe that eating of the forbidden tree would make them as wise and powerful as God. The New Age believes **we are God** — we decide our own fate and destiny. This concept enables New Agers to justify abortion, claiming that a baby chooses to die, in order to pay for sins (such as murder) in a previous life.

The New Age is Satan's plan to achieve a one world order. He is trying to create a universal shift in consciousness in which each person rules himself. How are people falling for such a silly idea? Our society is rebellious against authority; however, the thought of "inner peace" in the universe is attractive to everyone. [Note: Christians, however, know true peace is found through Jesus Christ.]

Some Sunday School curricula is being sabotaged with New Age principles. Some public school teachers, who are themselves New Agers, are tampering with young children's minds by slipping their ideas into the classroom. God's promise to His people, the rainbow, has been distorted to be one of the representative symbols of the New Age. Toys, games, cartoons, comic books . . . the list goes on and on as to the outlets used to slip the New Age by children and their parents.

This is such a complicated subject, my one mere article could not possibly educate you, the readers, as to the ploys Satan is intending to use to enlist New Agers against the Christian. However, as Christians we can:

- 1) Pray — not only for strength and wisdom concerning how to handle the New Age, but for the New Agers that their eyes will be opened to the deception.
- 2) Study God's Word — know what the Bible says about these distorted ideas and pay attention to the contradictions. We know God and His Word are always right.
- 3) Read books and information on the New Age — make sure the authors and researchers are dedicated Christians and NOT members of the New Age or so-called "Christian New Age Movement."
- 4) Know the symbols of the New Age. We get used to seeing some of their symbols on television and may unknowingly identify with the New Age by using some of the same symbols.

Of course, this is just a beginning to being prepared to deal with Satan's deceptive plan. The bright spot in all this confusion is that God wrote the final chapter — the New Age **MAY** be successful for awhile, but we, followers of Christ, have already defeated Satan in **all** of his plans.

We Will Win!!

Recommended Reading:

How to Respond to the New Age Movement

by Philip Lochhaas

Missouri State Association Convention June 4 - 7, 1990 Lebanon, Missouri

These are available motels in Lebanon, with rates as listed:

Super 8 Motel, City Rt. I-44, 1831 Bus. Loop Phone 417-588-2574

Single Room Rates:

1 Person — \$28.69 + tax \$1.84 = \$30.53

2 Persons — \$33.19 + tax \$2.13 = \$35.32

Double Room Rates:

1-2 Persons — \$34.99 + tax \$2.35 = \$37.24

3 Persons — \$36.79 + tax \$2.36 = \$39.15

4 Persons — \$38.59 + tax \$2.48 = \$41.07

This includes 10% discount regular price

Rollaway — \$5.40 + \$.35 = \$5.75

Children under 12 years old, free

Coffee and doughnuts free every morning

Brentwood Motel 1320 South Highway 5, 2nd Exit 417-532-6131

1 Person — \$24.95 + tax = \$26.55

2 Persons

Queen — \$30.95 + tax = \$32.95

King — \$31.95 + tax = \$34.00

2 Persons

2 Beds — \$32.95 + tax = \$35.10

Extra persons — \$3.00 each

Free morning coffee

10% discount — Must tell you are with Missouri State
Free Will Baptist Convention.

Wyota Inn, East Bus. Loop 44 & I-44 417-532-6171

1 Person — \$34.00 + tax (tax is 6.425%)

2 Persons — \$40.00 + tax "

3 Persons — \$44.00 + tax "

4 Persons — \$48.00 + tax "

10% discount — Must tell you are with Missouri State
Free Will Baptist Convention.

This is the information, in writing, given to the State Office.

This is only three of many motels in Lebanon. If you plan to make motel reservations, I would suggest that you make them as early as convenient.

Out on a Broken Limb by F. LaGard Smith

(This is a Christian's response to Shirley MacLaine's New Age book, **Out on a Limb**)

Texe Marrs has a ministry in Austin, Texas, which deals with education people on the truth of the New Age. He has tapes, a video, and books whose titles include:

Mystery Marks of the New Age

Ravaged by the New Age (concerning children)



Reports from the Churches



BLACK OAK CHURCH, near Marshfield, MO — On Sunday, February 11, 1990, following the Morning Service the congregation of the Black Oak Free Will Baptist Church gathered in front of the church to dedicate A New Bell Tower and Steeple.

The pastor, Rev. Jack Day, and deacons Lloyd Clift, Carl Layman and Steve Letterman stood on the front steps as the Prayer of Dedication was prayed.

The church reporter, Mildred Layman, continues, The beautiful Bell Tower and Steeple was made possible by a gift in the will of Sister Georgia McNabb. Her husband and two children preceded her in death. Brother McNabb was a deacon in the church, and Mrs. McNabb served as church pianist for many years.

The Lord is blessing the church in many ways. The Sunday School is growing, and it was awarded the Attendance Banner at the Liberty Quarterly Meeting, which convened at the Gardner Church on March 3, 1990.

FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, Branson, MO

— Fruitful February has come and gone, but I must tell you about it, writes church reporter, Betty Kellerman.

One of the members, Brother Deckard, brought in three trees for the Sunday School promotion. On one tree a paper apple was tied showing the Sunday morning attendance; on another tree an orange was tied, showing the Sunday evening attendance; and on another tree was tied a pear, showing the Wednesday evening attendance. Rev. Bud Arnold, the pastor, preached messages on being fruitful for the Lord. The month of February was a "fruitful" month!

On Sunday, April 15, we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. What a wonderful thought! We are planning a Sunrise Service in addition to our regular Sunday services.

Our pastor will be attending a Pastor's Seminar in Indiana. We trust that he will be spiritually refreshed.



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY, Mtn. Grove, MO — "TO ALL WOMEN" — The Woman's Auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Mtn. Grove, has scheduled an All Night Prayer Meeting, Friday evening, April 27, 1990.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., and breakfast will be served Saturday morning at 7:00.

The program will include a lot of good music and special speakers, June Critcher, Donna Fay Wade (Oklahoma) and Joan Wood (Oklahoma). Bring your prayer requests for Prayer Time.

The dress is casual. Some may want to bring a pillow and light cover if you will need a time of rest.

Jewell Spurgeon, Woman's Auxiliary reporter, writes, Looking forward to seeing YOU.



WENTZVILLE MISSION, Wentzville, MO — Pastor Jim Mertz writes, On March 4, 1990, the Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church of Wentzville officially broke ground for their beautiful new building! It was truly an exciting day with 74 in attendance.

It is expected that the actual construction of the new building will begin in April, and is expected to continue throughout 1990. The church will be an 85 x 40 feet building with full basement and will seat about 170.

The ground breaking ceremony text was taken from I Chronicles 28:10, and after a few words of challenge we prayed a prayer of commitment. This was followed by a greeting from the Mayor of Wentzville, Lee Barton. The ceremony was concluded by the singing of "How Great Thou Art."

Project Gideon-300 is going great! Presently, we have 52 who have given or pledged towards the \$90,000 needed to build this building. We have \$12,000 on hand to get started. We have asked the Lord for 300 people, churches, Sunday School classes, Youth groups, Ladies Auxiliaries, etc. to give an offering of \$300 sometime throughout 1990. A beautiful commemorative plaque will be displayed in the entrance to our new church with the names of the 300. Will you be one of the "Chosen 300"? Whatever you would like to give towards the completion of this dynamic project, please send all offerings to:

"PROJECT GIDEON"

Missouri State Home Missions
Rev. Dale Skiles, Treasurer
3249 S. Pinehurst
Springfield, MO 65807

A special thank you to our new "Chosen 300's" who gave this past month:

Jim & Freida Hays
St. Francois Ladies Auxiliary
Bruce & Connie Myers
John Percival & Family
Teen Group - Lebanon
Raymond Myers
Norman & Ethel Edwards
1st FWB Church - Buffalo



Free Will Baptist State-Wide Singles Retreat

May 4 & 5, 1990

Days Inn

3600 W. 76 Country Music Blvd.

Branson, MO 65616

(417) 334-5544



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 4th, Friday

- 4:30 - 6:30 Registration/Days Inn Conference Center
- 7:00 - 8:00 General Session
- 8:00 - 8:15 Break
- 8:15 - 9:00 General Session
- 9:00 - 11:00 Open Activities Available:
 - Tennis
 - Mini Golf
 - Go-Carts
 - Group Fellowship
- 11:00 - 11:30 Time of Sharing
- 11:30 Free Time
 - Snacks Available

May 5th, Saturday

- 7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast/Conference Center
- 8:30 - 8:45 Devotion
- 8:45 - 9:45 Workshop for
 - Never Married
 - Single Again
 - Widowed
- 9:45 - 10:00 Break
- 10:00 - 11:30 Workshop/Panel Discussion
- 11:30 - 12:15 Lunch
- 12:15 - 3:15 Group Tours to:
 - Hatchery
 - School of Ozarks/Museum
 - Shopping (your choice)
- 3:15 - 4:30 Workshop
 - "Starting A Singles Ministry in the Local Church/District"
- 4:45 - 6:00 Gospel Concert
- 6:00 Departure

GUEST SPEAKERS

Rev. Mike Garner - Pastor of Trinity Free Will Baptist Church, Bridgeton, MO.

Rev. Garner will be speaking on the "Role of Singles in the Church" on Friday evening and presenting a workshop on Saturday addressing the needs of the widowed.

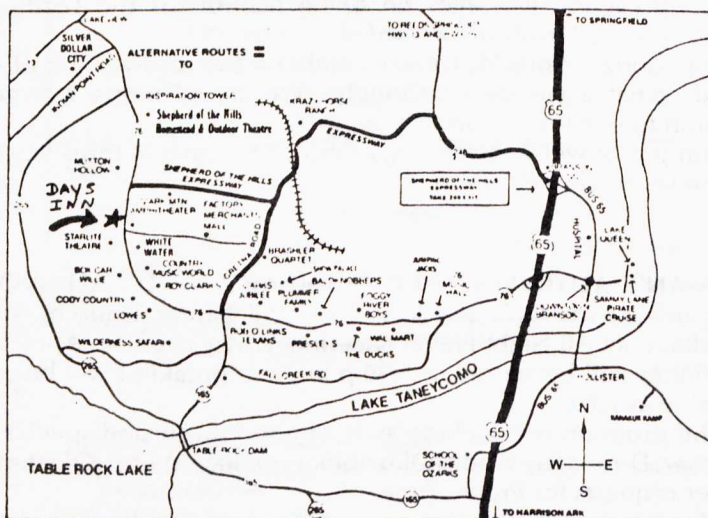
Rick Brown - Member of "Solid Gospel" singing group and a "single again" himself.

Rick will be presenting a workshop to the "Single Again" (divorced) on Saturday.

Rev. Rick Chapman - Associate Pastor of Grace Free Will Baptist church in Arnold, MO.

Rick, unmarried, will be addressing the "Never Marrieds" on Saturday, as well as leading the panel discussion on "Starting a Singles Ministry in the Local Church/District."

Solid Gospel - A southern gospel singing group based in St. Louis, MO. They will be in concert on Saturday evening. This group is made up of a combination of never marrieds and single again.



Youth Camp Board

It Won't Be Long . . . Camp Begins Soon

Excitement is certainly building as Camp Niangua prepares for another summer of camp ministry. The staff workers have already started preparing for the four fantastic weeks that Missouri Free Will Baptists offer the youth of our great state.

For thousands of young people over the years Camp Niangua has certainly been a great place of remembrance in their lives. Preachers, missionaries, as well as many other areas of Christian workers, can trace their calling to the grounds of this camp. As a result of this we feel that Missouri Free Will Baptists have something to be excited about.

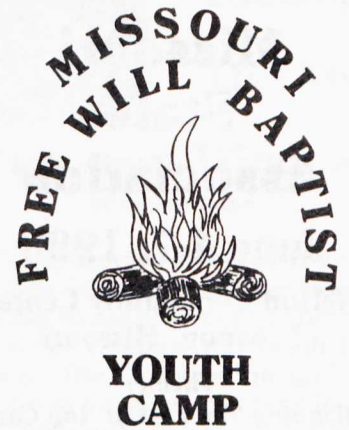
We are anticipating having more than 1300 register at Camp Niangua this summer over the four weeks that camp is in session. The first two weeks of camp are June 17-22 for Group I, and June 24-29 for Group II. These two weeks are for the teens.

Our evangelist for Group I will be Brother Tim York. He is a full-time

evangelist and is the president of Evangelism Today, Inc. He is from Louisa, Kentucky. Some of you will remember Brother York as our evangelist for one week of camp last year, and we are very happy to have him back this year.

The evangelist for Group II of Teen Camp will be Brother Ken Dodson. We are glad to have Brother Ken back in our state doing a wonderful job at the Monett Free Will Baptist Church. He really needs no introduction as he is known by most people across our state. Brother Ken is also serving on our Youth Camp Board.

The Pre-Teen weeks of Camp will be July 29-August 3 for Group I and August 5-10 for Group II. The evangelist for both weeks of Pre-Teen Camp will be Rev. David M. Harrison of Chattanooga, TN. Brother Harrison is a former missionary and pastor and is now involved in the Tell the Children Crusade ministry. Pre-Teen camp is for the ages of 7-12.



As always, as camp season approaches, we have many needs that we offer to you as prayer requests, asking you to pray with us that God might supply the needs. Just a reminder to you that May 5 will be work day at Camp Niangua. Anyone that could volunteer their services that day would be appreciated. In the May issue of the **Gem** we will have the printed registration forms as well as more information about Camp Niangua 1990.

Dale Blackwell
Board Secretary

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES 1989-90

CHURCHES	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
Belton	51	45	47	39	54	51	49	58	45	45	54	53
Calvary Fellowship	254	233	201	193	194	194	203	259	201	190	232	
Cape Girardeau	45	45	48	47	39	38	35	39	39	60		61
Central	105	90	96	91	96	90	105	105		110	112	
Copper Mines	89	87	85	87	75	91	80	76	68	66	72	80
Cuba	77	60	69	66	65	63	58	79	65	68	72	
DeSoto			189	180	183	183	194	197	193	192	187	179
Farmington	381	323	302	313	300	312	321	333	337	310	325	352
Flat River, First	174	143	147	135	131	130		154	133	152	151	
Hannon	102	81	94	73	72	83	77	94	81	85	91	86
Harmony	77		62	56		61	57	69		68		
Hopewell											44	40
Hartville	100	97	91	93	77	85	90	92	82	90	94	
Houston	83	89	87	83	74	76	73	77	82	76	86	
Lebanon, First	87	94	86	86	89	85	91	98	99	89	84	93
Myrtle	37			37	41	36	35			36	34	34
O'Fallon												44
Parkview	61	61	55	54	50	55	62	65	61	60	61	
Richwoods	46											
Rock Chapel	65	63	60	59	62	65	57	69	69	59	65	68
Springfield, First	155	146	130	129	138	125	126	136	133	121	135	123
Thayer					122	129			133	128		133
United, West Plains	164	128		158	145	132	162			174	180	172
Victory, K.C.	95	70	66	63	65	70	70	71	61	57	65	
West Plains, First	129	116	111	112	124	141	131			135		
Willow Springs	79	66	67	66	65	69	77			62	68	58

The above is only a partial listing — there are 170 Free Will Baptist churches in Missouri. Every church is encouraged to send its Sunday School averages in each month to be listed in the above report.

Make Plans To Attend Missouri State Association

June 4-7, 1990

**Nelson Community Center
Lebanon, Missouri**

Theme:

***Winning The Lost At Any Cost*
Luke 15**

Monday, June 4, 1990

10:30 a.m. Executive Committee

1:00 p.m. General Board

7:30 p.m. Evening Worship Service

Tuesday, June 5, 1990

9:00 a.m. General Board

9:00 a.m. Mo. State Woman's
Auxiliary Convention

2:00 p.m. "The New Age Movement"

7:30 p.m. Evening Worship Service

Wednesday, June 6, 1990

9:00 a.m. Morning Agenda Begins

1:30 p.m. Afternoon Agenda Begins

7:30 p.m. Evening Worship Service

Thursday, June 7, 1990

9:00 a.m. Morning Agenda Begins



Points for Pastors

by James McAllister

In one state 16 of 80 churches are under the control of the Mission Board. Some of them are in cities of 100,000 people and all of them are in cities of at least 5,000 people. Really, opportunities abound, but the churches are still in the last gasps of death. Why? Well, look at the three reasons I gave in the last issue, and add laziness by the pastor and congregation to that; add the lack of evangelistic vision; add ignorance of growth principles; and add ignorance of simple pastoral and church growth methods. But what can be done? How can we remedy this plague?

First, every preacher must be absolutely sure beyond the shadow of a doubt that God is calling him to this church before ever accepting it. You can know — you must know.

Second, the old preacher must be sure that God wants him to leave. There can be no room for doubt. Church experts say start up and close out ministry require at least 18 months of a pastorate. Therefore, you should take at least 9 months to be sure God is through with you here. Never look back once you have resigned.

Third, the new pastor should consider the old pastor and his ministry. Respect him. Love him. Promote him to the people. Here are some musts for the new pastor:

1. Don't fix what isn't broken.
2. Don't be guilty of feeding your ego.
3. Never put the old pastor down.
4. Respect his ministry and don't change things until the church demands it.
5. Don't make premature changes.
6. Spend the first year visiting, preaching, learning to love the people, and winning souls. Changes will take care of themselves.
7. Remember, no two churches are exactly alike. Don't expect the old methods to necessarily work here.
8. Work hard.

Fourth, the church and board must work to learn to love the new man. Don't belittle the previous pastor. If you do, you will anger his friends and followers. It is unnecessary — he isn't here anymore. If you don't hurt his influence, the people will soon forget him and turn to the new pastor. Work with him; accept his differences; allow him to make mistakes.

One thing in conclusion. You loved the previous pastor — you never wanted him to leave. You would like for things to continue as they were. But they won't. He has resigned. Now you have a new pastor. He is different. You don't like the difference. What do you do? Ask God to help you love him. Follow his leadership. Cooperate with him. Remember, God's church is more important than your good feelings and good times. Keep God's church first. Never do anything to harm the church. It will take a lifetime to get over it.

Essentials of Evangelism

by Stanley Jones

When Does The Church Need Revival (continued from February issue)

The church needs revival when its vital signs of life are weak as the church at Sardis. This church was trying to show signs of life; but, going through the motion of a spiritual life is not necessarily living a true spiritual life.

Formalism and outward performance is not a safe gauge to check our spiritual pulse. This church had not fulfilled its commitment to God. They had not remained true to the gifts and privileges afforded them. They were called to repent and to revitalize their near-death existence.

The church needs revival when it must be reminded of its opportunities of service, as the church at Philadelphia. God gave them an open door, but they failed to take advantage of it. How many open doors do we have to witness, serve, and reach men? They were reminded to take advantage of their opportunities before another stepped in to claim the reward of service.

The church needs revival when it is plagued with a half-hearted, self-satisfied attitude, as the church at Laodicea. Perhaps this church was satisfied with their present attendance and Christian growth. They seemed to have found security in their large church budget. But Christ rebuked the church and called them to repentance. He promised if any one of them would allow Him in, He would fellowship with him.

Do we need revival?

The Beauty of Biology

by Pam Hudson

The Bible states "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)

The theory of evolution is embraced by the world largely because it denies the existence of a more intelligent being than man, God. As a Christian, the idea of a Supreme Being, creating the universe, is central to our belief. When the existence of God is challenged, we have a problem, and rightly so. In this mini-series of articles

we want to approach this problem from a Christian perspective, as to the plan and purpose God has shown through the study of Biology.

What did Darwin, a proponent of evolution, propose? Is the entire proposal supported by facts or is some of the proposal merely an extrapolation (an unsupported theory)? Often times the advocates of evolution will lump together the factual evidence with the speculative aspects of evolution in order to gain greater acceptance. John Huxley, one of the world's leading evolutionists, is quoted as saying at the Darwin centennial that "evolution of life is no longer a theory: it is a fact and the basis of our thinking. We do not intend to get bogged down in semantics and definitions."

May I ask, How could a clear definition of evolution "bog" down a discussion? Was there something to be gained by ambiguity? Or was he afraid that only a part of evolution would be accepted? I suspect that he was afraid.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Pam Hudson holds a B.A. in Science Education with a minor in Biology, and was graduated with a Masters Degree in Natural Science from Oklahoma University. She is a former student of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College and served on the faculty teaching Science and Education. Presently she is on the faculty at Crowder College teaching Biology. Her husband, Rev. Bob Hudson, is serving as pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Neosho, Mo. Pam has a beautiful Christian testimony, and her love for God and the Bible will be reflected through these mini-series "The Beauty of Biology."

Minute Meditation

by Gene Crewse



"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?"

Psalms 85:6

In recent days this familiar verse has taken on a new meaning to me. It seems the Psalmist has realized a relaxation among God's people or perhaps a depletion of spiritual energy. He asks God to restore them to their former state so they might again rejoice in His mercy. He may also be

saying to God, "We have depleted our spiritual strength, please restore it so our lives may be enjoyable again." What I want to share in this article is that we need a restocking of our spiritual shelves.

Some time ago after a holiday weekend, I went to a grocery store to pick up a few items. The milk was almost all gone, the bread shelf was empty and other familiar items were missing. If you were to walk into most churches or look into the hearts of most Christians, I'm afraid you would find what I found in the grocery store - some very familiar items missing.

In the next few months I will be sharing some of the things that are noticeably missing from the shelves of our spiritual lives that need to be re-stocked. There is a depletion of our stock that needs a repletion so that we might have a completion of His joy in our hearts.

This verse is saying to me, "Lord, there are some necessary items noticeably missing. Please restock them so I can be what I should be."

Remember also, "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

NOTE:

Churches That Operate A Church Van/Bus

This information has been passed on to the Gem from one of our Free Will Baptists who works in a License Bureau office. On October 26, 1986, Congress passed The Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act. This law requires each state to meet the same minimum standards for Commercial Driver Licensing. You must have a CDL to operate a vehicle designed to transport 15 persons (including the driver). This law includes Church Bus Drivers.

To get a CDL, all bus drivers must pass a knowledge and skill test. Pastors need to call 1-800-827-5325 to get their drivers on "The Operators Who Need CDL File." Information needed will be the driver's name, address and license number, in order that the office in Jefferson City may contact them as to when they need to test. The license bureau worker stated, "The deadline is not next week, but it should be given attention in the near future."



Looking Out My

Parsonage Window

by Ve Ann Tilson

Today's society gives **good** motherhood its greatest challenge ever. At no time in history has peer pressure upon our children and youth been greater. The "information age" that we live in has given our families vast sums of knowledge, facts of all kinds, but generally fails to give us any accurate understanding of this deluge of knowledge. In the words of Solomon, "He that increaseth knowledge (apart from the perspective of God's wisdom), increaseth sorrow" (Ecclesiastes 1:18b). No wonder then that so many youth today are swimming in the river of despair.

Numerous other factors have joined forces in our times to make **good** motherhood a more difficult task. The large percentage of mothers working outside the home and the general breakdown of the family structure (including separation and divorce), are just a couple of those forces that make good motherhood more difficult.

Mothers, it is important for us to understand that:

1. Good mothers are no accident.
2. Good mothers make home a priority.
3. Good mothers understand that "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."
4. Good mothers honor God and promote spiritual development in the lives of their children.
5. Good mothers are not perfect, but they strive to develop their own potential.
6. Good mothers conquer laziness.
7. Good mothers are good listeners in the home, as well as good leaders.
8. Good mothers know when to compromise and when to stand their ground.
9. Good mothers love unconditionally.
10. Good mothers discipline their children as needed.
11. Good mothers may not have begun as good mothers, but have determined by the grace of God to change that, and become a good mother.
12. Good mothers deserve the honor of their families (Proverbs 31:28).

Phoenix, Arizona	National Convention	July 15-19, 1990
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Cutoff Date:
Received by
June 15, 1990

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NAFWB
Housing Bureau
505 N. Second Street, Suite 300
Phoenix, AZ 85005

YOUR NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE: (WK) _____ (HM) _____
CREDIT CARD TYPE _____ CC# _____ EXP _____
ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

HOTEL REQUESTED (Please indicate 1st and 2nd choices.):

HOTELS	Choice	Single	Double	Triple	Quad
Hyatt Regency Phoenix (Headquarters)		\$60	\$60	\$60	\$60
Sheraton Phoenix (NYC Headquarters)		\$56	\$56	\$62	\$62

TYPE OF ROOM REQUESTED:

SINGLE/1 PERSON _____ DOUBLE/2 PEOPLE _____

TRIPLE/3 PEOPLE _____ QUAD/4 PEOPLE _____

NUMBER OF BEDS IN ROOM

PLEASE LIST ROOM OCCUPANTS:

[illegible]

Financial Information

FEBRUARY 1990

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50%	Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$ 4,620.73
17.50%	Exec. Off. & Gem	4,370.96
3.50%	General Fund	874.19
8.50%	Youth Camp Bd.	2,123.04
2.50%	Youth Ministries Bd.	624.42
2.50%	C.E. Board	624.42
2.50%	Sr. Adult Ministries Board	624.42
5.00%	Mo. State Retirement Program	1,248.85
30.50%	Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	7,617.95
	Foreign Missions Board	
	National Home Missions Board	
	Same Allocation:	
	Free Will Baptist Bible College	
	Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	
	Executive Department	
	Rayman's Board	
	Radio & TV Commission	
	Theological Commission	
	Historical Commission	
	Board of Retirement & Insurance	
	1% Calif. Christian College	
9.00%	State Office & Bookstore Bldg.	2,247.92
Total		\$24,976.90

We thank God for His blessings on the faithful churches that are so consistent in supporting this unified plan

of support. We are blessed beyond measure, for which we are thankful!

The allocation for National Ministries goes undesignated for this year with FWBCC & Hillsdale receiving an equal amount. C.C.C. will continue to receive the 1%.

FEBRUARY 1990 RECEIPTS
COOPERATIVE

Carthage	\$ 85.00
Fredericktown, First	398.39
Thayer	399.00
Oak Hill, Union	288.75
Overland	106.86
Purdy	515.17
Mt. Zion, Gower	24.20
Fourth	185.00
Farmington	1,127.56
Hannon	370.08
Lebanon, First	428.27
Unity	268.43
Houston	281.18
Heritage	59.08
Kingsway	225.44
Springfield, First	485.20
New Home	91.52
Calvary Chapel	93.25
Hopewell	198.00
Parkview	360.00
Oak Hill, Fredericktown	73.43
Mtn. Grove	727.45

Lingo	43.00	Copper Mines	160.87
Lingo	57.00	New Life, Licking	147.75
Rock Chapel	333.69	Freeman Chapel	250.32
Mine La Motte	47.80	Terrill Road	87.38
Bootheel Ass'n	13.17	Grace	500.00
Mt. Zion, Thayer	39.38	Koshkonong	146.00
Happy Home	124.46	Rolla	76.20
Lone Star	53.62	Friendship	198.76
Sedalia	90.10	United	532.73
Bailey Chapel	75.00	Bethel, El Dorado	43.98
Calvary, Conway	165.67	Grant Avenue	640.45
Harmony	469.00	Tyrone	56.14
Hurryville	209.52	Farmington	1,816.61
Flat River, First	382.43	Olivet	800.00
Pleasant Home	239.76	Viburnum	142.86
Cope	33.40	Kirksville	10.71
Bethel, Festus	312.00	Pleasant Hill	54.62
Mt. Pisgah	245.00	Jones Chapel	161.80
Trinity	787.03	Pleasant Grove	95.26
Stockton	100.90	Neosho	142.50
Victory, Alton	134.00	Faith & Hope	39.57
South Fremont	301.00	Wolf Creek	367.06
Faith, Lemay	25.00	West Plains, First	413.00
Monett	537.84	Mt. Zion, Thayer	58.84
Riverview, IA	294.10	Macedonia	20.00
Potosi	52.11	Kingsway	205.10
Hartville	308.44	Victory Hill	78.46
Belton	326.65	Overland	126.19
Verdella	224.73	Fourth	230.00
Pleasant Ridge	80.00	Calvary Chapel	107.56
Eastern Gate	293.00	Cabool	291.42
Leadington	360.00	New Rock Springs	89.00

Verdella	177.04
Calvary, Conway	160.39
Salem	30.00
Mill Creek	203.90
Oak Hill, Fredericktown	74.63
Lingo	45.00
Myrtle	201.13
Carthage	100.00
Number One	38.65
Joplin	516.44
Joplin	358.03
Cape Girardeau	657.28
Total	\$24,976.90

HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$ 30.00
Hannon	50.00
Grant Avenue	8.00
Farmington	84.58
Calvary Fellowship	35.75
Total	\$208.33

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Carthage	\$ 117.00
O'Fallon	70.00
Thayer	45.00
South Side	200.00
Hannon	400.00
Sedalia	617.63
Lebanon, First	75.00
Houston	86.02
Greater K.C. Dist.	2,617.33
Parkview	164.00
Mtn. Grove	297.28
Blue Springs	90.00
Rock Chapel	169.00
Flat River, First	86.48
Pleasant Home	70.73
Bethel, Festus	95.00
Mt. Pisgah	200.00
Trinity	173.05
Oak Grove	65.00
Nita Akeman	10.00
Monett	600.00
Belton	414.00
Verdella	778.83
Pleasant Ridge	30.00

Southeast Dist.	25.00
Leadington	235.00
Freeman Chapel	416.80
Shelva Hart	20.00
Grace	27.00
United	61.09
Grant Avenue	284.46
De Soto	300.00
Farmington	140.00
Olivet	200.00
Viburnum	214.00
Kirksville (In Memory of Russell Wellman)	22.50
Kirksville	25.00
Calvary Fellowship	678.32
Neosho	372.50
Faith & Hope	31.00
New Testament	70.00
West Plains, First	25.00
Richwoods	64.00
Fourth	80.00
Myrtle	88.00
Joplin	70.00
Niangua	158.00
South Fremont	50.00
Total	\$11,129.02

FWBBC

Thayer	\$ 25.00
Leadington	20.00
Freeman Chapel	150.00
Grant Avenue	50.00
De Soto	35.00
Farmington	175.00
Calvary Fellowship	35.75
Total	\$490.75

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Carthage	\$ 7.00
Thayer	117.00
Hannon	5.00
Lebanon, First	5.00
Parkview	38.00
Mtn. Grove	125.00
Blue Springs	15.00
Rock Chapel	184.35
Flat River, First	15.00

Pleasant Home	10.00
Bethel, Festus	25.00
Mt. Pisgah	75.00
Trinity	85.00
South Fremont	37.00
Monett	15.00
Belton	10.00
Verdella	30.00
Southeast Dist.	25.00
Leadington	29.00
Farmington	100.00
Fred Clayton	10.00
Buffalo, First	50.00
Grace	125.00
United	65.00
Grant Avenue	30.00
De Soto	200.00
Farmington	35.00
Viburnum	98.00
Kirksville	5.00
Faith & Hope	31.00
New Testament	30.00
Wolf Creek	10.00
West Plains, First	5.00
Richwoods	25.00
B. Keith	10.00
Myrtle	123.00
Joplin	25.00
Total	\$1,832.35

JOHN McCURE ACCOUNT

Thayer	\$ 12.00
Monett	30.00
Verdella	20.00
Grace	30.00
Kirksville (In Memory of R. Wellman)	22.50
Kirksville	5.00
Unity	57.62
Total	\$177.12

MISSOURI HOME MISSIONS

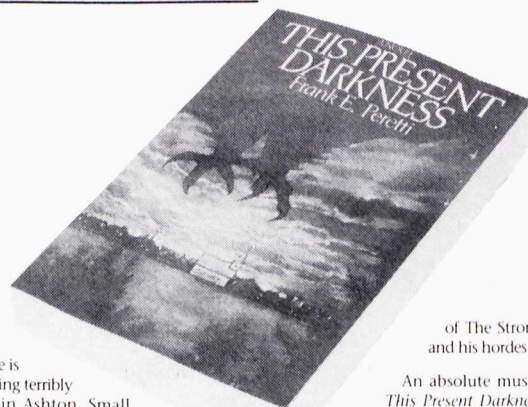
Carthage	10.00
Thayer	45.00
O'Fallon	20.00
South Side	35.00
Oak Hill, Union	15.00

Hannon	185.04
Lebanon, First	15.00
Greater K.C. Dist.	523.46
Mtn. Grove	7.00
Flat River, First	86.48
Bethel, Festus	40.00
Trinity	50.00
South Fremont	57.00
Monett	75.00
Belton	25.00
Pleasant Ridge	10.00
Leadington	85.00
Grace	35.00
J.W. Rader	25.00
United	46.09
Grant Avenue	118.30
De Soto	50.00
Farmington	45.00
Viburnum	26.00
Calvary Fellowship	173.82
New Testament	10.00
West Plains, First	5.00
Richwoods	10.00
Fourth	10.00
Buffalo, First	300.00
Myrtle	62.00
Joplin	50.00
Total	\$2,250.19

YOUTH CAMP

Thayer	\$ 30.00
Hannon	15.00
Mtn. Grove	10.00
Bethel, Festus	25.00
Mt. Pisgah	10.00
Trinity	14.00
Hartville	10.00
Verdella	20.00
Leadington	20.00
Buffalo, First	50.00
Bethel, El Dorado	15.00
De Soto	50.00
Olivet	50.00
Calvary Fellowship	39.00
New Rock Springs	10.00
Myrtle	32.00
Total	\$400.00

This Present Darkness.



There is something terribly wrong in Ashton. Small town newspaper editor Marshall Hogan and young pastor Hank Busche desperately need answers. With extortion and fear in the air, long time residents, one by one, are leaving Ashton. *Their businesses, homes, and lands are all being sold to the same international conglomerate.* Then, the brutal suicide of Hogan's estranged predecessor and a bizarre New Age college psychology class attended by his daughter at the local college provide timely clues.

Meanwhile, the host of heaven are watching, unseen, by mortal or demon eyes. Waiting . . . for the colossal confrontation they all knew would erupt with the coming

of The Strongman and his hordes . . .

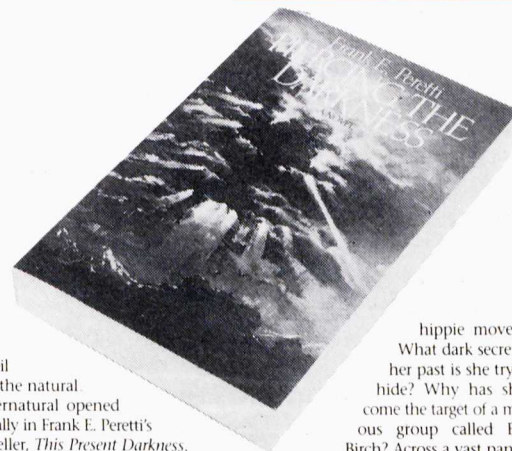
An absolute must read, *This Present Darkness* is a rare, inspired view into the life-and-death spiritual struggle between good and evil, angels and demons. Not since the *Screwtop Letters* has there been such an unveiling of the forces of darkness and a call for God's people to pray. Over a half-million well-worn copies of this phenomenal book are currently in print!

Frank E. Peretti is a frequent speaker and storyteller at seminars, conferences and churches throughout the U.S. and Canada. He has also authored *The Cooper Family Adventure Series* — four books for 8-12-year-old readers, and *Tilly*, an amazing story of reconciliation and changed lives.

\$8.95, TRADE PAPER, 376 PAGES — PLUS TAX & \$1.00 SHIPPING

Available from:
Lebanon Bible & Book Store
200 W. Commercial, Box 991
Lebanon, MO 65536
417-532-9516

Piercing the Darkness.



The veil between the natural and supernatural opened dramatically in Frank E. Peretti's #1 best-seller, *This Present Darkness*. Now there's *Piercing the Darkness*, and it's happening all over again.

The reader is once again brought face to face with a titanic spiritual struggle between the Hosts of Heaven and Satan's hordes. The story unfolds against the pastoral rural backdrop of tiny Bacon's Corner with an attempted murder, a case of mistaken (or is it covered-up?) identity, and a lawsuit orchestrated by a national organization against a struggling Christian school. The action-packed plot centers around Sally Beth Roe, a young loner and left-over from the 60's

hippie movement. What dark secret from her past is she trying to hide? Why has she become the target of a mysterious group called Broken Birch? Across a vast panorama of heart-stopping action, Sally Beth Roe's journey reveals the dramatic power of the Cross, while offering a beautiful picture of God's forgiveness — from even the most tragic sins — for all who will freely receive it.

Frank E. Peretti is a frequent speaker and storyteller at seminars, conferences and churches throughout the U.S. and Canada. He has also authored *The Cooper Family Adventure Series* — four books for 8-12-year-old readers, and *Tilly*, an amazing story of reconciliation and changed lives.

\$9.95, TRADE PAPER, 442 PAGES — PLUS TAX & \$1.00 SHIPPING

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Missouri State Home Missions Board

Free Will Baptist Church Of Carthage

A lot of excitement, renewed enthusiasm, and encouragement have surfaced in your Mission work in Carthage, Missouri, as we have jumped into this year with **both** feet and a determination to complete the work God has called us here to do, and you sent us to do. I thank God for **your faithful support and prayers over the past six years.**

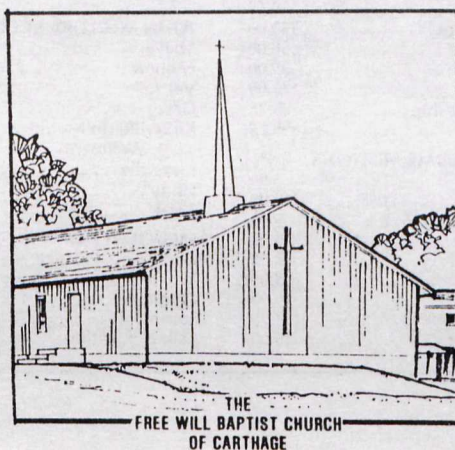
During the year of 1989 our average attendance was 61 in Sunday School, 73 in Morning Worship, 43 on Sunday evening, and 31 for Wednesday evening's mid-week "Hour of Power and Prayer." We had 20 saved and a larger number of rededications.

As I shared my burden in my last newsletter, our biggest hurdle to become totally self-supporting in 1990 is our large building payment (about \$1000 per month). It was necessary to go in debt \$92,000 to build the facility we needed and now have. (Pictured above, it has a market value of around \$130,000.) We praise the Lord for it.

We are directing our church into our annual Spring Enlargement Campaign under the banner of **"MARCHing To Victory in Carthage, Missouri."** For us to accomplish this goal we need **YOUR** further help. We are trusting God to lay a burden on the heart of at least 100 churches, auxiliaries, youth groups, and individuals to commit in helping by making **one building payment** during this year of 1990. (Idea***challenge the youth and auxiliary to raise 1/2 of the payment and the Church **match** it with 1/2.)

We have also challenged our own folks to raise at least \$10,000 for our building pay-off during the year.

* I have designated March 25, 1990, as VICTORY SUNDAY, and



would like to have your response for this special commitment at least by card to our Church before that Sunday. The funds may be sent during the year either directly to our Church or to the State Home Missions Board, c/o Rev. Dale Skiles, 3249 S. Pinehurst, Springfield, MO 65807. **Please be sure to earmark it for the**

Carthage "MARCHing to Victory" fund.

Please pray with us during this very "special year" and ask the Lord what **you** and **your Church** can do; then drop it in the mail to us.

We appreciate all you have already done for your work, and we pray for God's richest blessings for you and for His guidance in all efforts.

If you have any questions, or would like for me to schedule a missions service with your Church, please call me at **417/358-4113** or **358-3080**. Our mailing address is **P.O. Box 578, Carthage, MO 64836**. I always enjoy hearing from you.

In His Service,
Jim Williams
Your Missionary to
Carthage, Missouri

NOTE: This article was not received in time to go into the March GEM. A commitment to help can be made in April or May.

Dear Bro. Williams,

Yes, I trust God to supply the means for you to count on me to help our Mission in the **"MARCHing To Victory"** campaign in the following ways:

- _____ We will pray faithfully for you and the Church in Carthage.
- _____ We are enclosing a **one time gift** to pay off the building debt. \$1000.
- _____ We will endeavor to give a one time gift of \$1000 during this year for the building.
- _____ We will endeavor to give 1/2 payment during this year for the Carthage debt. (\$500)

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

CHURCH NAME _____ ZIP _____