

GEM

**THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST**

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54th Annual Session

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Phoenix, Arizona

July 15-19, 1990



PHOENIX CIVIC PLAZA

Theme: "Growing for God's Glory"



Ken Walker
Pastor
Second FWB Church
Ashland, Ky.



J. B. Varney
Pastor
Kirby FWB Church
Taylor, Mich.



David Joslin
Promotional Director
Arkansas State
Association



Jim Shepherd
President
Hillsdale FWB College
Moore, Okla.



Larry Powell
Pastor
Cofer's Chapel FWB Ch.
Nashville, Tenn.



Reports from the Churches

GRACE CHURCH, Arnold, MO — A name has been given to the Senior Citizens Group at the Grace Free Will Baptist Church, writes the reporter, Leamon Killian. The name is "Young At Heart." As it states, it is believing that by staying 'young at heart' the "Young At Heart" will never grow old. The group meets once a month for a program, dinner and fellowship. Rev. Rick Chapman, the associate pastor, meets with the group as well as with the Young Adults/Young Married.

The evangelist for the church Youth Revival was Rev. Toby Jenkins. It proved to be a very productive meeting for the youth.

Rev. Ernest Harrison served as the evangelist for the regular Church Revival. He won the hearts of the people and the Lord blessed in every service.



Glen Rehkop & Ernest Harrison

The Church Choir presented a beautiful Easter Cantata on Easter Sunday. It truly was a blessing to everyone.

The Free Will Baptist Bible College Choir presented a special service in March. That choir is something 'special.' The Lord blessed the entire program, and the ladies of the church prepared a delicious dinner for everyone at the service.

Rev. Eugene Waddell, director of Foreign Missions, was with the church in April and gave a good report of the Foreign Missions work. We can be thankful for our Free Will Baptist work throughout the world.



Eugene Waddell, Glen Rehkop & Rick Chapman

Our Sunday School continues to grow. Brother Cecil Nettles, the superintendent, gives God the praise. He recently expressed thanks to Richard Beatty for the banners he made for the March Sunday School campaign, "I Want That Mountain."

We are thankful for our pastor, Rev. Glen Rehkop, and his wife, Evelyn. They are doing a fine work in leading the church as we continue to grow spiritually and in number.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT ASSOCIATION, Hannibal, MO — The Northeast District Association met on April 21, 1990, at the Mission Church in Hannibal, Missouri, writes the church reporters, Kelly Epperson and Anita Mundle. Approximately one hundred twenty-seven was in attendance.

The action-packed day began with fine congregational singing, the reading of God's Word, and a time of prayer. Special singing was provided by a fine gospel singing group, The Durbins.

Following a brief business meeting, a dynamic message was delivered by Rev. Toby Jenkins.

When everyone had enjoyed a delicious meal, the Woman's Auxiliary met in the afternoon. Terri Blackburn, with the help of volunteers, took the young people on an excursion of downtown historic Hannibal.

The day was concluded with an inspiring message delivered by Rev. Don Anderson.

FIRST CHURCH, Rolla, MO — The First Free Will Baptist Church at Rolla has so much for which to be thankful, writes Judy McWilliams, church reporter.

The Lord has blessed with eight professions of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; nine have followed the Lord in the ordinance of Water Baptism; and four have rededicated their lives to the Lord!

The church has installed new siding, new windows, and other needed improvements at the church. We are so pleased and thankful for these blessings of the Lord.

Because of all these great things the Lord has done for us we want to thank everyone for their prayers and concern. Pray for us that we will continue to be faithful in our service for Him.

FIRST FWB CHURCH, Monett, MO — On Saturday evening, May 5, the ladies of The First Free Will Baptist Church of Monett and their special guests gathered in the beautifully decorated Fellowship Hall for the Mother and Daughter Banquet.

The guests were seated at tables covered in white. Baskets of lovely spring flowers decorated each table.

Janet Terry, auxiliary president, welcomed the ladies. Janette Smith asked the blessing on the food.

A buffet dinner consisting of ham, au gratin potatoes, green beans, corn, a variety of salads, hot rolls, butter, cake, coffee and tea was served by Mrs. Florence Voskamp.

Following the dinner, Janet Terry introduced Sally Walker, who led the ladies in singing "O How I Love Jesus," accompanied by JoAnn Thomas. Amanda Terry sang "Turn Me On." Lonna Pugh gave a short testimony in honor of her mother, Lorraine Wallen. Mary Fortney, guest from Springfield, sang "Thank You." JoAnn Thomas gave a testimony honoring her mother, Flossie Jones.

Mrs. Paula Dodson introduced the guest speaker, Linda Reeves, and presented her with a gift certificate. Linda and her husband, Steve, are missionaries to Spain. Linda spoke on "Leaving Christian Principals as a Heritage to our Children."

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.

Mrs. Alta Johnson was happy to have her two daughters, Mary Fortney and Elner Medlin, her granddaughter, Janet Terry, and great-granddaughters, Amanda and Laura Terry, present, making four generations to enjoy the banquet.

Sally Walker led in singing "Faith of Our Mothers." Dismissal prayer was offered by Opan Jeffreys.

Those attending were Pluma Cluck, Alta Powell, Opal Jeffreys, Nova Schwandt, Jean Phillips, Jewell Turner, Marion Whittaker, Marilyn Baker, Rena Brittenham, Mary Davis, Julie Terry, Sue Hood, Kristen Hood, JoAnn Thomas, Flossie Jones, Sally Walker, Denaze Walker, Lyla Salsman, Dortha Roller, Doris Weston, Sherry Gray, Paula Dodson, Dawn Dodson, Janet Terry, Amanda Terry, Laura Terry, Elner Medlin, Alta Johnson, Mary Fortney, Alice Carlson, Minnie Wright, Wonda Carlson, Annette Douglas, Trisha Douglas, Patricia Neuenswander, Glenna Swearingen, Robyn Swearingen, Lorraine Wallen, Lonna Pugh, Brandi Pugh, Jewell Davis, Kimberly Davis, Sallye Mallory, Sammie Beck, Carolyn Mackey, Jill Mackey, Kelli Mackey, Mary Brandt, Louise McCully, Brenda McCully, Gail McCully, Tara McCully, Janette Smith, Donnetta Smith, Bonnie Medlin, Nancy Thomas Pearl Worm, Tammy Thomas, Rose Thomas, Angelic Thomas, Essica Thomas, the guest speaker, Linda Reeves, and her mother from Tulsa, Oklahoma.



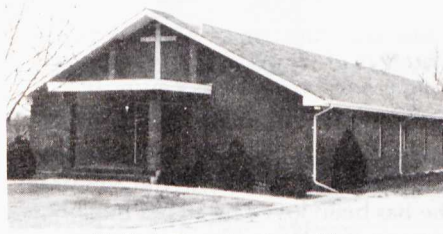
Caleb Junge, Heath Housley,

Darwin Householder & Nathan Melton

ROCK CHAPEL CHURCH, Norwood, MO — The pastor, Rev. Gary Mitchener, writes, The Lord continues to bless the work of the Rock Chapel Free Will Baptist Church.

Recently four young men made profession of faith in Jesus Christ and followed Him in the ordinance of Water Baptism. They are: Caleb Junge, Heath Housley, Darwin Householder and Nathan Melton.

Brother Mitchener continues, We thank and praise God for these. Our prayer is that there will be many more!



United Church - Front View



United Church Addition - Back View

UNITED CHURCH, West Plains, MO

— The United Free Will Baptist Church continues to grow, writes Sandy Morris, church reporter. Because of the blessing of the Lord the church added an addition to its present facilities. The 2,280 sq. ft. addition enlarged the sanctuary, provided additional classrooms, and gave a much more spacious fellowship hall in the lower level.

On March 25, 1990, Roll Call Sunday, with an attendance of two hundred sixty, the United Church held a Dedication and Note Burning Service. Our desire was to dedicate the beautiful and accommodating building to the Lord. The church has a desire to share the good news of Jesus Christ to the entire community, and to provide a place where we can meet for teaching, preaching, singing and fellowship in the Lord.

The Lord has spared us the problems that sometime occur when a church gets in a financial strain. We have been able to pay the indebtedness and pursue other projects that have been presented to the church. For this we are truly grateful.

Although we enjoy this lovely building, it remains our foremost desire that we shall always follow the will of the Lord and work together with the Body of Christ.

Pray for us that we shall always be spiritually healthy and involved in the ministries that honor the Lord. A warm welcome is extended to everyone to visit and worship with us as we serve our Lord.

FIRST CHURCH, Mtn. Grove, MO

This is a follow-up on the Woman's Auxiliary All-Night Prayer Meeting, writes Jewel Spurgeon.

Sixty-seven women from across the State of Missouri gathered at the First Free Will Baptist Church for the All-Night Prayer meeting. The meeting began with dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Friday and ended with breakfast at 7:00 on Saturday morning. The guest speakers were: June Critcher, TN; Mary Lou Bullard, MS; Donna Faye Wade, OK; and Lucille Beatty, West Plains, MO.

The theme for the program, "Heaven Night," was evidenced by those who attended. It was a time of praise and prayer. The annual meeting will be held next year at the regular time - the last Friday night in April. Everyone is welcome.

Rev. Gary Fry is the pastor of the Mtn. Grove Church.

HAZEL CREEK CHURCH, Kirksville, MO

— On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 3, 1990, Sister Ethel Thompson was honored by the Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church as Mother of the Year.

She was presented with a beautiful corsage, and the following poem, written by Maizie Sevits, was read. At the close of the Morning Worship, every mother was presented with a lovely flower.

The guest preacher, Rev. Clarence Burton, used as his subject "A Special Mother." Rev. Tim Campbell is the newly elected pastor of the church.



Sister Ethel Thompson

"ETHEL, OUR LOVING FRIEND"

On May 26, 1905, in the McKim District Adair County, State of Missouri On a farm owned by Bill Newcomer A little new-comer came to live Who truly was a Newcomer.

Bill and Generva Mikel Newcomer Were delighted to have her come to stay. They gave her the name of Ethel And she's called that to this day.

'Tho the Sevits boys called her Edsel And their mother calls her Effel Peffel

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To 'most every one else
She's known as "Sister Ethel."

Brothers Oscar and Georgie,
Gracie Minnie and Nellie May
Looked forward to having her join in their
play,
Roaming the hills with them carefree and
gay.

When she was only nine months old
She lost her mother and Georgie, her
brother.

Aunt Adelma, her mother's sister, married
her dad.

The children now had a dear step-mother.

She grew up on the farm going to McKim
school.

She first attended Greentop Methodist
Church to learn the Golden Rule

Then came to Hazel Creek Free Will
Baptist by foot, or horse and buggy or
sleigh.

They didn't miss many services — always
found a way.

When the love bug bit her
She knew the course to pursue
She took her time to look the field over well
For just any man would never do.

She found a tall, dark, handsome man
Who was gentle and quiet as a mouse.

Jim Miller tied the knot in October of '41
And they took up residence at the New-
comer house.

A few years later on an Easter Day
March 29 of '48, a visitor came to stay.
Little Ernest Lee came as a surprise
Soaking wet, he was about 3 lb. size.

When they lost Will she left the farm
And has lived at 1503 North Franklin Street.
She has been loved by all her neighbors
Because she is very kind and so sweet.

Ever true to Free Will Baptist doctrine
Ethel sent Ernie to Bible College at Nashville.
Like Hannah she gave her first born son
Because she knew it was God's will.

Ernie took Lila Hiatt to a party one night
Cupid shot his arrow and they embarked
on married life.

God gave them three boys, Bryan, Brent
and Bryce

Keeping up with the boys sometimes
gives them a harried life.

You couldn't take the country out of Ernie
Even tho he became a city dweller
He now farms south of town
And is still a country feller.

The grandsons remember Grandma's fried
chicken and macaroni and cheese
Don't forget the rice, and pass the potatoes
and gravy, please.

Between meals when they were hungry,
as growing boys always seem
They made themselves a sandwich, white
crackers with a graham cracker in
between.

Lila's favorite is Ethel's tangy lemon pie
with meringue so high.

Ernie doesn't seem to care what kind just
so it's plenty and it's PIE.

Ethel was a faithful, tireless worker for the
Lord.

Going to the state and local associations
faithfully each year.

For 32 years she was clerk of the Northeast
Association.

With minutes always complete and
accurate, written in long hand and
very clear.

Her philosophy is "it's better to wear out
than rust out"

And "Early to bed and early to rise"

That they dressed 100 chickens to deliver
by store opening was no surprise.

Like the perfect church her labor with
laundries

Is without a wrinkle or a spot
She labors no matter how she feels
When she's well and when she's not.

She never strove for fortune
She never strove for fame
But as she labored in His vineyard
She has acquired a very good name.



Olivet Christian Academy

Six students and three sponsors from Olivet Christian Academy in Marshall, Missouri, attended the Missouri State A.C.E. Competitive Activities on April 16-19, 1990, at Rocky Mount Youth Camp near Eldon, Missouri. They were in competition with approximately 350 other students from A.C.E. (Accelerated Christian Education) in about fifty possible areas of competition.

O.C.A. students won first place medals in the areas of: Female Quartet (Melinda Armstrong, Shannon Ballew, Shelly Ryther, Tara Scott); Female Trio (Melinda Armstrong, Shannon Ballew, Shelly Ryther); Famous Speech (James Armstrong); Poetry Recitation (Shannon Ballew); and 100 PACE Award (Tara Scott).

The following areas of competition brought second place medals: Radio Program (James Armstrong, Melinda Armstrong, Shannon Ballew, Randy Hansen, Shelly Ryther); Illustrated Storytelling (Tara Scott); Famous Speech (Randy Hansen); Essay Writing (Melinda Armstrong); Soccer Kick (James Armstrong).

Third place medals were earned for: One-Act Play (Melinda Armstrong, Shannon Ballew, Randy Hansen, Shelly Ryther, Tara Scott); Photography (Randy Hansen); Female Duet (Shannon Ballew, Shelly Ryther); Mixed Duet (James Armstrong, Melinda Armstrong).

Rev. Tom Malone New President FWBCC

Rev. Tom Malone, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Florence, Alabama, has accepted the position as president of Free Will Baptist Bible College. He becomes the fourth president of the college. He resigned the church he serves on Sunday, April 15. He is scheduled to join the college administration in mid to late June.

As he approaches this new ministry, Rev. Malone says he is excited and challenged. "I want students who are excited about Jesus and doing the will of God," he says. One of his ambitions is to work closely with Free Will Baptist pastors. "I want to say to them, Free Will Baptist College is here to help you," he added.

Dr. L. C. Johnson became the college's first president in 1942 and served for 34 years. Rev. L. R. Ennis served the college as president for two years. Since 1979, the college has been led by Dr. Charles Thigpen.

Essentials of Evangelism

by Stanley Jones



THE YOUTH LOOK

In All Thy Ways

by Ann Poletti

Two basic beliefs are a must if evangelism is to be effective. One, sin is serious. Two, salvation affects the penalty and practice of sin.

Let me share with you a brief excerpt from an article by Leroy Forlines called "Morals and Orthodoxy".

"If evangelism is to be more than cheap, easy believism, those who present the gospel must be convinced that God takes sin seriously and that we must take sin seriously. A view of sin must be presented that makes the gospel necessary. There must be a view of sin that produces conviction. Conviction is more than a mere admission of the guilt of sin. It is a heartfelt realization of the fact that sin is wrong and makes a person worthy of spending eternity in hell. It is a heartfelt realization of the fact that nothing less than the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ will satisfy God for our sins. It is a heartfelt realization of the need of divine grace to change us through the new birth.

Light views of sin may be adequate to get some people to make a confession, but light views of sin are not adequate to bring conversion."

"It is true that salvation is not by works. It is a gift. The question we need to ask is: What is this free salvation that is not by works? It is a salvation that consists of both justification and sanctification. It consists of the forgiveness of sins and a change of attitude toward God, holiness, and sin. If sanctification is a part of salvation, and it is, it is absurd to think of a person being saved without having moral fruit produced in his life.

We cannot get people saved by getting them interested in a free ticket to Heaven, without interest in a changed life here below. To do so is cheap, easy believism. It does not result in salvation."

CONGRATULATIONS!

Many of you recently reached a great milestone in your lives — graduation! Whether it was high school, college, or another type of graduation, the graduation ceremony ended and suddenly a new phase of life was beginning. Maybe more schooling lay ahead, possibly a job, or maybe marriage — the options were many but one thing was certain . . . life would change in many, many ways.

This is a time in life when having God near is **very** crucial. Experts say that transition (even positive transition) is a contributing factor to stress. Without God, this happy time in your life could easily turn out to be one of the most nerve-wrecking ever.

But isn't this much like the Christian life? We work hard, go through many changes and reach different milestones in the Christian life, yet — like learning — it doesn't stop here. **And**, at **any** point, we become easily defeated without God right there with us.

It seems so sad that the changes of graduation often mean an end to many close walks with the Lord. In many cases, the fact that there's not a parent around anymore to remind one to attend church, or an increased workload may push Christ away. In everyday life, people sometimes deny the Lord's help by turning Him away in the valley or by forgetting Him on the mountain top. All of these cases are when we need Him most.

A verse comes to mind when I think about the changes in a graduate's life — but it's one **every** Christian needs to claim as his or her formula for success: "In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:6

Sewa Egnonam

by Carol Pinkerton

Missionary, Ivory Coast, West Africa

It was the usual hot afternoon. Silas and I were standing out on the porch under the grass roof when he saw her walking toward the Foyer (reading room). "I've never seen anyone like her," he said. "She doesn't have a Bible at home so she comes here to read. She always brings a scrap piece of paper with her and takes notes."

Sewa is just a young school girl dressed in the checkered uniform. There are many like her all over the country. Yet, she is different! There is a desire to learn, a thirst for knowledge . . . so, she comes quite often to the Foyer where she finds material and people to help. During these visits we have become better acquainted. Her father is a carpenter. Her mother does not live here. She has two older sisters and a younger brother. When I asked her age, she replied as any eager-to-be older child would, "Next year I'll have 11 years!" I asked if she ever memorized Scriptures. She gave me a piercing look, picked a Bible up from the table and asked me to find Isaiah 41. She stood beside me watching until I found the correct reference, then she began. She quoted the first 20 verses from memory. She rattled the words off like a freight train, ending with a huge smile on her face! She said she chose this passage because of the promise found in Verse 10.

I gave Sewa a paperback copy of the Gospel of John asking her to memorize parts of it. The following day she recited John 1:1-5. Each time she came she had added five more verses. Everyone is amazed to hear her recite . . . such talent!

Christmas came and she wanted to memorize the story of the birth of Christ from the Gospel of Luke. She did! She was also impressed by a poster in the Foyer listing the names of Christ — so she memorized it too!

Mrs. Agnes Frazier, Nashville, Tennessee, heard about Sewa and her abilities. She sent money so Sewa could have a Bible of her very own. To this point of time Sewa has memorized the first three chapters of John. I wish Mrs. Frazier and you

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could have been at the Foyer when Sewa received her Bible. The smile on her face will not be forgotten. She gently reached for the Bible; her hands touching and her fingers rubbing this new treasure. We wrote the date and her name on the front cover, saying it was a gift from Mrs. Frazier hoping that nobody would ever take it away from her. She promised to read every day and share with others. With a firm handshake and a "Merci" (thank you), she walked away from the Foyer a very happy young girl.

Sewa. She is just a little girl! One of the many who come into the Foyer. Thank you for giving her, and others, the opportunity to learn more about Jesus. You have a part in this single-purpose (drawing others to Jesus Christ), multi-hase (books, cassettes and personal witnessing) ministry. We too, say "Merci".

My Testimony

by Shane Shockley

"Grace be unto you and peace from God the Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ."
(Gal. 1:3)

My name is Shane Shockley and I live in Lebanon, Missouri. I am 17 years old and a recent graduate of the Unity Free Will Baptist Christian Academy. I want to give a brief Christian testimony.

I was saved at the Unity Free Will Baptist Church. At that time, Brother Mike Hutsell was the pastor. Less than a year following my profession of faith in Christ, I was called into the ministry. Shortly after that I preached for the first time. The Lord blessed with one person accepting Christ as Saviour and another came for rededication. The Lord has blessed with many opportunities to preach, and He has truly blessed in some of the services.

I love the Lord with all of my heart and soul, and I am willing to preach the gospel anywhere He leads. It is truly great to be able to share my testimony with the readers of the *Gem*. And, if you know Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you are my brothers and sisters in the family of God.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Shane is one of the fine young preachers in Missouri. He has a clean and clear testimony. He is anxious to preach the gospel and he has been very effective, especially with young people.

May 8, 1990

Dear Friends,

God is so good and we are thankful that He is alive and working in all our lives during this year of 1990!

In our last newsletter we mentioned that life here was returning to "normal". That has remained true for the most part.

- Since February our children have not missed a day of school because of political problems. That is quite a change!

- At church we have been able to plan and **carry out** activities without sudden interruptions. Whereas for some two and a half years, revivals had to be canceled, service times changed and many planned events postponed. The uncertainty bred unconcern and apathy. We are thankful we are seeing a change.

- For the first time since our return to Panama in 1987, we feel safe when we leave our home. We praise the Lord for these positive changes in Panama!

Things are not and will never be perfect. There are still many problems in the government, so don't stop praying for Panama!!

I suppose the word that would describe the first half of 1990 is "busy". It has been catch-up time and everyone here has been extremely busy.

From The Lytles

Missionaries to Panama

The first weekend of March was "Woman's Retreat time". Dr. Mary Ruth Wisheart joined 73 Panamanian women in a special time of fellowship and enrichment. This was our second retreat and the comments were all positive and you often heard the expression, "It gets better every year!"

The third week of March was spent by most of our churches in Vacation Bible Schools. In Betania we had an enjoyably exhausting week with some 70 active youngsters, several of whom received Christ as Savior.

Bible Institute classes were in full swing by the end of January. This quarter we have 35 students and five teachers. Steve also taught an intensive study in the interior for some ten students from Las Tablas and Parita.

Our annual Senior Citizen's dinner was held in April. Thank God for our elderly! It was a privilege to pay honor to these very special people.

We celebrated our missionary conference April 25-29. We were a bit disappointed that we had not met our faith promise goal set last April, but we were thankful that in the midst of the worst economic crisis in Panama's history, Betania F.W.B. Church gave

\$1,734.00 to the cause of world missions! We renewed our promises and the week proved vital in challenging everyone to have a heart like God's heart.

Some upcoming events and prayer requests we would like for you to remember are:

1. Revival meeting - May 13-18.
2. Baptism - May 20.
3. Four visitation teams who are trying to reach our entire neighborhood.

4. The salvation of Senora Lucia. Steve and I meet regularly with her for Bible study. She lost her home and all her possessions during the invasion. She is quick to admit that it was the Lord who spared her life and He must have a purpose in doing so. Pray with us that her eyes will be opened to the truth of the Gospel.

Our boys are fine. They grow about an inch a day — at least it seems that way to me. Ha! Last day of school will be May 24th!

Yes, God is good! We praise Him for His many blessings! We praise Him for you and your faithfulness to give of your finances and pray earnestly for us and the many requests we send you. May God bless you richly.

In His care,
Steve and Judy Lytle
Apartado 6-728
El Dorado
Panama, Rep. de Panama



Looking Out My Parsonage Window

by Ve Ann Tilson

Summer is in the air. Flowers blooming, birds singing, days warmer and children (and teachers) counting down the final days of the school year. With summer, comes some events I look forward to all year long. One of these being our Free Will Baptist State Youth Camp. "Are you crazy?" you might ask. "How could anyone look forward to cold showers, homesick children, living out of a suitcase and sleeping in hot cabins?" My answer is simply, "I do."

Youth camp is such a special time and place for me for several reasons. I was saved at the Oklahoma State Youth Camp 27 years ago. It is something I'll never forget and I'm reminded of each year, as children and adults walk the aisles of our Missouri State Youth Camp. Alter services are very special and something you will discuss for weeks.

I've also met many dear friends at Camp that I will treasure for a life time. I think of them often throughout the year and know that if I needed something, they'd be ready to help.

It's a time you can be surrounded by other Christians with little interference from the outside world. A time for sharing burdens and blessings from the past year, and for receiving encouragement for the future.

Youth Camp is also a place you can find people who are excited about Christ and willing to work for Him. Camp directors don't have to beg for help, because those sponsors who come to camp are ready to volunteer to lend a hand.

You may come home exhausted, but spiritually refreshed and ready to face the world. I'm counting down the days until camp. How about YOU? If you've never attended our Missouri State Youth Camp, "TRY IT! YOU'LL LIKE IT."

In The Footsteps Of The Messiah

Twelve Missouri residents from the Monett First Free Will Baptist Church and the Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church recently returned from an eleven day teaching tour of the Holy Land. Rev. & Mrs. Marion Rosenthal of Orlando, FL, were the tour guides. Rev. Rosenthal is a converted Jew that has made over fifty trips to Israel.

Making the trip from the Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church were Rev. Lee Neill, Darlene Neill and Claude Cluck. Those from the Monett First Free Will Baptist Church were Rev. Ken Dodson, J.L. Phillips, James Arnaud, Bill Medlin, Elner Medlin, Gary Baker, Charles Smith, Janette Smith, and Orlie Phillips who made the arrangements for the trip.

The group left Kansas City on Monday, March 26, flying to New York where they were met by the Tour Guide and thirty-four remaining members of the tour. The group flew by Israeli Jet nonstop to Tel Aviv, Israel, reaching Tel Aviv Tuesday, March 27, about 4:00 p.m. After checking into the hotel on the Mediterranean Sea, they then took a walking tour of Tel Aviv, which is the largest city in Israel.

The next day began with visiting the ancient cities of Joppa and Caesarea. It was from this city Paul did much of his preaching. The group then made their way to Haifa, Israel's sea gateway, then on to Mt. Carmel for lunch. It was on this mountain that the prophet Elijah had the contest with the prophets of Baal. At the close of the first full day in Israel the journey ended at the Tiberias Plaza Hotel on the Sea of Galilee. The group spent the next three nights here, traveling out each day to different areas. One of the interesting places visited was the "Valley of Jezreel" where Gideon and 300 soldiers routed the Midianites. "Jezreel" is where the final battle of Armageddon is to be fought, according to Revelation 16:13-16. They then moved on to Megiddo at the south edge of the Jezreel Valley. This area has been extensively excavated, revealing twenty cities built on the ruins. The next stop was Nazareth, the city of Annunciation of Jesus' Birth to Mary. This is where Jesus spent much of his childhood. The final stop was at the Jordan River where John The

Baptist, baptized Jesus. Six of the local group were baptized here.

Other highlights included a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee, swimming in the Dead Sea. The group was privileged to take a plane ride, flying very low to view the country from the air. They also crossed the border into Egypt and spent one night on the Red Sea.

Of course Jerusalem is the ultimate part of every Christian's trip to the Holy Land. Here the group stayed at the beautiful, new Hyatt Regency Hotel for five nights. Jerusalem is where Christ spent his last few days with His disciples. Here they toured Gethsemane, Jaffa Gate, Temple Mount, Calvary, The Garden Tomb, and The Mount of Olives where Jesus ascended into heaven. This is the place that He will return at His Second Coming. It was with great joy they viewed the cross through an empty tomb, as Jesus was not there, for HE HAS RISEN!

On their free day J.L. Phillips and James Arnaud toured some of Israel's top Dairy Farms. They reported their methods and production are superior to that in the United States.

Israel is a beautiful country about the size of the state of New Jersey. It is amazing to see how the Lord has blessed the Jewish people with beautiful crops in the desert. Life for the Jew is hard as they are surrounded by nations that would like to destroy them. Much of their income must go into military equipment for protection.

It was a joy to meet several of God's chosen people, who have accepted Jesus as their Messiah. The ultimate highlight of the trip was meeting ZVI Greengold and his family of believers.

Greengold was ten years old living in Poland when the Second World War began. His parents, brothers and sister all lost their lives. He managed to escape and ended up in Israel as a young man. Greengold played an important part in the Yom Kipper War of 1973. He single-handedly destroyed sixty Syrian tanks. Such exploits are reminiscent of Old Testament heroes.

The group returned home agreeing that their lives had been changed and the Bible had taken on new meaning.

Winners Of The 1990 Missouri CTS Competitive Activities

These winners will represent Missouri at the National Music & Arts Festival in Phoenix, Arizona, July 15-19, 1990.

BIBLE MEMORIZATION

Grade 1 Amber Jones
Grade 2 David Mitchener
Grade 3 Heath Housley

South Fremont
Rock Chapel
Rock Chapel

SWORD DRILL

Grade 4 Nathan Nance
Grade 5 Brian Scott
Grade 6 Thaddeus Fry

South Fremont
Calvary Fellowship
Mountain Grove

BIBLE TIC TAC TOE

Jamie Rolandi, Amy Coxen,
Stacy Epperly, Jessica Hatch

Hartville
Rock Chapel

BIBLE BOWL

Shawna Helsley, Steven Moore

MUSIC & ARTS

VOCAL SOLO

Learner Laura Terry
Adventurer Amber Maggard
Herald Jonathan Wilson
Crusader Jessica Fry
Ambassador Sally Walker

Monett
Beacon
Beacon
Mountain Grove
Monett

VOCAL EMSEMBLE—DUET

Adventurer Justin Fulbright & Brian Scott
Crusader Monica Brown & Melanie Thomas

Calvary Fellowship
Carthage

VOCAL EMSEMBLE—TRIO

Crusader Jessica Fry, Heather Dean & Rachel Jones

Mountain Grove

VOCAL EMSEMBLE—QUARTET

Adventurer Beacon Girls Quartet

Beacon

CHORALE

Adventurer Monett Adventurer Chorale
Combination Hartville Chorale

Monett
Hartville

INSTRUMENTAL SOLO—STRINGED (BOWED)

Adventurer Adrian Beck
Crusader Diane Walls

Joplin
Berkeley

INSTRUMENTAL SOLO—WOODWINDS

Adventurer Annette Henderson
Crusader Nicki Howe

Hartville
Hartville

LARGE INSTRUMENTAL EMSEMBLE

Crusader Mountain Grove Handbell Choir

Mountain Grove

KEYBOARD SOLO—MANUAL

Learner Shea Bassham
Adventurer Amanda Terry
Herald Gayla Smith
Crusader Diane Walls
Ambassador Marcus VanDorn

Carthage
Monett
Mill Creek
Berkeley
Hannon

ORAL COMMUNICATION—EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEECH

Crusader Philip Ledgerwood

Harmony, KC

ORAL COMMUNICATION—DRAMATIC SELECTION

Herald Selena Simpson
Crusader Philip Ledgerwood
Ambassador Betsy McMillin

Hartville
Harmony, KC
Monett

ORAL COMMUNICATION—POETRY

Learner Randy Stephens
Herald Mitchell Walker
Ambassador Dawn Dodson

Calvary Fellowship
Mountain Grove
Monett

ORAL COMMUNICATION—PROSE

Adventurer Annette Henderson

Hartville

ORAL COMMUNICATION—INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE

Learner Brooke Davis
Adventurer Rebecca Hughes

Hartville
Hartville

ORAL COMMUNICATION—DRAMATIC DUO

Crusader Kyle Baker & Carlisa Bowers

Thayer

ORAL COMMUNICATION—SKITS

Herald JMJ Productions
Crusader Monett Crusader Skit
Ambassador Monett Ambassador Skit

Mountain Grove
Monett
Monett

CREATIVE ARTS—GRAPHICS

Learner James Wilson
Ambassador Tammi Brinkhoff

Beacon
Carthage

CREATIVE ARTS—TEXTILES

Ambassador Kelly Shilling

Carthage

CREATIVE ARTS—PHOTOGRAPHY, BLACK & WHITE

Crusader Tim Clegg

South Fremont

CREATIVE ARTS—PHOTOGRAPHY, COLOR

Learner Joshua Hill
Crusader Shawn Hill

Fordland
Fordland





Minute Meditation

by Gene Crewse



"By Him, therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name." Hebrews 13:15

The next element that needs restocking on our spiritual shelves is praise. Charles Spurgeon once said, "Praise is the rent which God requires for the use of his mercies, then shall we rob God? Shall we withhold that in which He delights? Does not God give us abundant cause to praise Him continually?"

Because of Christ's atonement, there is an obligation upon us for continual thanksgiving and praise. There should be a confidence in our praise because He is worthy of our praise and because our hearts have been cleansed by His blood.

We should also praise Him with continuance. We have freedom from the limitation of time and place. We don't necessarily need to be with someone or in a certain place. We have been made priests and kings and can offer the sacrifice of praise for ourselves anywhere and anytime.

As with most sin, the failure to offer the sacrifice of praise can be linked to unbelief. A.W. Pink said, "Calling into question the promises of God quenches the spirit of worship, doubt snaps the strings of our harps, unbelief is the deadly enemy of praise."

This element is of great importance and can be noticed immediately if it is not present. Also, it is easy to tell if it is an off brand and not the real thing.



Sunday

First you go to church, and then
 You sit and listen from beginning to end.
 After church you can talk to your friends,
 Sometimes about the love that God always sends.
 After that it'll be time for lunch,
 Talking and eating in a little bunch.
 Teasing, laughing and joking around,
 Being careful not to make much sound.
 Then all of the kids usually go out,
 And with the puppy we'll run about.
 He's getting big, the puppy is,
 One of these days he'll run over us kids.
 By the time Mom and Dad say we have to go,
 None of us really want to, ya know.
 It's time for church again,
 What a Sunday it has been.
 When, at last you fall asleep,
 The memories of Sunday, you will always keep.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Katie Cook, age 13, is one of the fine young people that attends the Pleasant Ridge Church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES 1989-90

CHURCHES	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Belton	47	39	54	51	49	58	45	45	54	53	62	
Calvary Fellowship	201	193	194	194	203	259	201	190	232			72
Cape Girardeau	48	47	39	38	35	39	39	60	60	69		
Central	90	96	91	96	90	105	105		110	112	121	
Copper Mines	87	85	87	75	91	80	76	68	66	72	80	
Cuba	60	69	66	65	63	58	79	65	68	72		
DeSoto	189	180	183	183	194	197	193	192	187	179	213	
Farmington	302	313	300	312	321	333	337	310	325	352	404	381
Flat River, First	147	135	131	130		154	133	152	151		179	151
Hannon	94	73	72	83	77	94	81	85	91	86	102	90
Harmony	62	56	60	61	57	69	62	68	73	74	84	78
Hopewell									44	40	49	
Hartville	91	93	77	85	90	92	82	90	94			
Houston	87	83	74	76	73	77	82	76	86	73	73	77
Lebanon, First	86	86	89	85	91	98	99	89	84	93	102	97
Myrtle		37	41	36	35			36	34	34	36	
O'Fallon										44	40	40
Parkview	55	54	50	55	62	65	61	60	61	64	70	70
Rock Chapel	60	59	62	65	57	69	69	59	65	68		
Springfield, First	130	129	138	125	126	136	133	121	135	123	134	128
Thayer			122	129			133	128		133		125
United, West Plains		158	145	132	162			174	176	180	190	203
Victory, K.C.	66	63	65	70	70	71	61	57	65			
West Plains, First	111	112	124	141	131			135	113	123	125	
Willow Springs	67	66	65	69	77			62	68	58		67

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.

Financial Information

APRIL 1990

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$ 4,092.22
17.50% Exec. Off. & Gem	3,871.02
3.50% General Fund	774.21
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	1,880.21
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	553.00
2.50% C.E. Board	553.00
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board	553.00
5.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	1,106.00
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	6,746.64
Foreign Missions Board	
National Home Missions Board	
Same Allocation:	
Free Will Baptist Bible College	
Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	
Executive Department	
Layman's Board	
Radio & TV Commission	
Theological Commission	
Historical Commission	
Board of Retirement & Insurance	
1% Calif. Christian College	
9.00% State Office & Bookstore Bldg.	1,990.82
Total	\$22,120.12

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 FWBBC & Hillsdale receiving an equal amount. C.C.C. will continue to receive the 1%.

APRIL 1990 RECEIPTS

COOPERATIVE

Blue Springs	\$ 130.00
Columbia	75.00
Rolla	96.83
Stockton	113.60
Hannibal	80.00
Thayer	531.00
Hannon	390.12
Houston	280.03
Hartville	287.12
Conway	183.68
Salem	60.00
Cope	25.30
Wilderness	265.40
Black Oak	184.82
Eastern Gate	374.00
Hopewell	149.00
Bethel, Festus	360.00
Mine La Motte	47.95
New Hope	18.60
Springfield, First	651.20
Lebanon, First	471.38
Union Light	343.00
Bailey Chapel	60.00
Parkview	369.00
Potosi	82.56
Mill Creek	227.42
Joplin	336.58
Pleasant Ridge	100.00
Beacon	440.00
Liberty	245.13
Sedalia	48.38
Royal Oak	79.00
Happy Home	95.67
Faith, Lemay	25.00
Pleasant Grove	79.92
Flat River, First	523.05
Kirkville	9.71
Lone Star	39.10
Trinity	789.99
Freeman Chapel	187.90
Leadington	400.00
Cabool	301.03
Olivet	800.00
Rock Chapel	290.48
Terrill Road	90.00
De Soto	780.00

New Life Fellowship	391.99
Waynesville	83.23
Heritage	70.68
Oak Hill, Union	398.35
Mt. Pistah	198.00
Belton	247.37
Mtn. Grove, First	708.62
Farmington	1,737.89
Friendship	338.50
Riverview, IA	307.30
Oak Grove, Norwood	107.28
Pleasant Hill	42.73
United	720.13
Copper Mines	181.93
Hurryville	119.75
Pleasant Home	173.84
West Plains, First	485.25
Carthage	100.00
Faith & Hope	44.65
Neosho	71.25
Wolf Creek	285.23
Jones Chapel (2 mo.)	305.24
Grant Avenue	603.82
Lingo	53.80
Grace	500.00
Bethel, El Dorado	42.34
Harmony	329.00
Central	660.26
Macedonia	20.00
St. Francois Ass'n.	16.50
Old Bethel	181.00
Unity	356.00
Cape Girardeau	664.24
Total	\$22,120.12

MISSOURI HOME MISSIONS

Scott City	\$ 122.00
Columbia	35.00
Thayer	125.00
Hannon	195.06
Fordland	49.00
South Side	15.00
J.W. Rader	25.00
Bethel, Festus	35.00
Macedonia	25.00
Lebanon, First	15.00
Esther Bates, Parkview	5.00
Joplin	10.00
Pleasant Ridge	10.00
Flat River, First	129.62
Viburnum	13.00
Eastern Gate	25.00
Trinity	40.00
Richwoods	15.00
Leadington	85.00
De Soto	50.00
Oak Hill	15.00
Belton	35.00
Farmington	65.00
United	12.20
West Plains, First	5.00
Calvary Fellowship	138.82
Carthage	5.00
New Testament	10.00
Grant Avenue	140.63
Grace	25.00
Central	20.00
Total	\$1,495.33

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Blue Springs	\$65.00
Columbia	25.89
Thayer	45.00
Hannon	470.12
Houston	32.90
Fordland	159.93
South Side	230.00
Carl Layman	10.00
Bethel, Festus	65.00
New Hope	10.00
Parkview Mission Group	50.00
Macedonia	10.00
Lebanon, First	75.00
Parkview	234.14
Joplin	35.00
Pleasant Ridge	30.00
Beacon	970.00
Sedalia	31.82

Flat River, First	104.62
Viburnum	107.00
Eastern Gate	335.09
Kirkville	25.00
Oak Grove	65.00
Nita Akeman	10.00
Trinity	168.50
Richwoods	62.00
Freeman Chapel	356.12
Leadington	230.00
Olivet	100.00
Rock Chapel	159.00
Terrill Road	40.87
De Soto	300.00
New Life Fellowship	20.00
Mt. Pisgah	200.00
Belton	150.36
Mtn. Grove	282.00
Farmington	165.00
Oak Grove, Norwood	71.52
United	22.21
Pleasant Home	45.27
West Plains, First	197.00
Calvary Fellowship	768.32
Carthage	52.00
Faith & Hope	20.87
Neosho	486.61
New Testament	70.00
Grant Avenue	626.38
Calvary Chapel	324.00
Grace	20.50
Central	147.00
Shelva & Lelia Hart	40.00
Oak Grove Aux. (Cabool)	64.71
Lebanon, First	246.67
Sedalia	316.13
Niangua	65.00
Total	\$9,015.05

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Blue Springs	\$ 5.00
Columbia	20.88
Thayer	187.00
Hannon	20.00
Fordland	10.00
Bethel, Festus	25.00
Parkview Mission Group	20.00
Lebanon, First	5.00
Parkview	104.34
Joplin	15.00
Flat River, First	15.00
Viburnum	53.00
Eastern Gate	115.00
Kirkville	5.00
Leadington	115.00
Rock Chapel	134.00
De Soto	200.00
New Life Fellowship	20.00
Mt. Pisgah	25.00
Belton	55.36
Farmington	130.00
Oak Grove, Norwood	35.76
United	45.00

Pleasant Home	5.00
West Plains, First	2.00
Faith & Hope	20.88
New Testament	20.00
Wolf Creek	10.00
Grant Avenue	240.66
Calvary Chapel	108.00
Fred Clayton	10.00
Buffalo, First	50.00
Grace	125.00
Central	134.50
Lebanon, First	73.33
Total	\$2,204.71

HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$ 30.00
Hannon	50.00
Beacon	75.00
Farmington	84.58
Calvary Fellowship	35.75
Grant Avenue	8.00
Central	24.00
Total	\$307.33

JOHN McCLURE ACCOUNT

Thayer	\$12.00
Grace	30.00
Total	\$42.00

FWBBC

Thayer	\$ 25.00
Parkview	10.00
Freeman Chapel	50.00
Leadington	20.00
De Soto	35.00
Farmington	175.00
Calvary Fellowship	35.75
Grant Avenue	50.00
Central	24.00
Total	\$424.75

YOUTH CAMP

Thayer	\$ 30.00
Hannon	15.00
Fordland	20.00
Hartville	10.00
Bethel, Festus	25.00
Parkview	10.00
Trinity	14.00
Leadington	20.00
Olivet	50.00
De Soto	50.00
Mt. Pisgah	10.00
Mtn. Grove	10.00
Calvary Fellowship	39.00
Buffalo, First	50.00
Merl's Chapel	15.00
Bethel, El Dorado	15.00
Total	\$383.00

NOTE: In the March Gem the Designated Gifts for Youth Camp showed \$355.00 from New Home Church. It should have shown that it was a Memorial Fund in memory of Vencie Long.

Calendar of Events

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY RETREAT

August 24, 25
Stonecroft Conference Center

ALL BOARDS MEETING & SEMINAR

"HELPING THE SMALL CHURCH GROW"

September 24, 25
Camp Mo-Kan, near Independence, Mo.

MO. STATE YOUTH CONFERENCE

November 9, 10
Camp Windemere

OCTOBER — REVIVAL TIME!



Points for Pastors

by James McAllister

I have had the privilege of serving my denomination in many positions. I know what it is to serve on denominational boards, hold positions such as state moderator and as a college president, and receive honor. This is important because of what I am going to write about in this column for the next few months.

I love the Free Will Baptist church. I appreciate its ministry, and I feel honored that the church I love and my peers in the ministry would honor me as they have. I totally reject those who belittle men such as California's Executive Secretary, Nuel Brown, and Missouri's Executive Secretary, Clarence Burton, and others who are giving their life to denominational ministry.

I do believe the highest full time ministry is pastoring the local church, but never let it be said that I would belittle anyone who feels called from the pastorate to a denominational service or position.

Just as God gives the pastor to the

local church, He gives denominational leaders to help the local church and pastor succeed. We need our leaders. Let's pray for them and support them.

Pastor, if you believe God expects the church member to support the church pastor, then you best promote that by setting an example of supporting your denominational leaders. It pays! So let's do it!

The Beauty of Biology

by Pam Hudson

May I suggest that before you read this article that you read Genesis 1:20-27.

We are what we are because of DNA, our blueprint. DNA works very much like the plans for a house. If you want to build a house with 1,000 square feet, you need house plans for a house that is 1,000 square feet. If you decide to change the location of the bathroom, you change the plans. But if you want to build a house with 1,500 square feet, you have to change the house plans.

God has a DNA for each species of His creation. And this reproduces

after its own. When a "new" type of corn arises, it comes from corn and is still corn. Evolutionists say that the extra DNA "spontaneously generated" (life forming unexplained). This idea, that species will become more complex on their own, is Macroevolution.

Macroevolution is dependent on the ideas of the early Greeks: spontaneous generation. (The idea that maggots "grow" out of raw (dead) meat. Or that mice will "spring" from a pile of dirty rags. We know that maggots come from eggs laid by flies on the meat and that the mice come from a pregnant mouse that slips into the pile of rags to have her babies.) Even Charles Darwin spoke of "life being breathed into one or more forms by the creator." Karl von Nagell, a leading evolutionist, is quoted as saying, "To deny spontaneous generation is to proclaim a miracle." Scientists have tried over and over unsuccessfully to duplicate Spontaneous Generation and get life (or even just a small fragment of DNA that would mean something). But to no avail.

The creationist believes that the Creator gave to each species a unique blueprint. And, that each reproduced after 'his own kind'.

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