

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Volume 60, No. 7, July 1990



“Focus On The Thayer Free Will Baptist Church”

History of Thayer Free Will Baptist Church

1954 - 1989

As a result of the interest and concern of the Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department, the Cave Springs Association, and other friends, today, 35 years later, stands this building on the corner of 4th and Oak Street in Thayer, Missouri.

The following history of the church was derived from the official church records.

The last two weeks in July of 1954 saw a revival held in a large tent on the ground where the back of the church now stands. Many souls were led to the Lord by the evangelists, Rev. Harry Beatty and Rev. Davie Combs.

On July 31, 1954, the organizational council of ordained ministers, who were Davie Combs, Joe Sisk, Jesse Rolan and Harry Beatty, assisted by seven ordained deacons, organized the Thayer Free Will Baptist Church with fifty-one charter members. Lorene Pohnert was elected clerk and Fred King the treasurer. Brothers J.W. Jewell, Otto Harrison and Fred King, ordained deacons, were selected to serve the church.

On August 4, of 1954, there arose the option to buy four lots (numbers 16, 17, 18, 19) in the park area of Thayer (this present location). Plans were then made to purchase these four lots at a cost of \$1,600 and then to build a Free Will Baptist Church.

On September 4, 1954, the sad misfortune of an accidental death by drowning took Bro. Harrison on to his heavenly home. Brother Jewell, because of his advanced years, was then made an honorary deacon. Three other deacons, Bros. Roy Underwood, Paul Clark and Fred King, transferred their membership into other local churches. Thus, Bros. Ben Pohnert and John Lau were placed on trial for deacons. At a Quarterly Meeting in April of 1956 they were recommended and ordained and served along with the trustee board which consisted of Willard Caldwell, treasurer, J.V. Holman, Johnny Bennett, Joe Archer and Ben Pohnert. These men, along with other laymen, composed the building committee that carried out the building program.

In October of 1954 the four lots were then purchased and the basement was started and completed. The first service in the basement was held on April 10, 1955. Before the basement was completed, the congregation used the Odd Fellow Lodge Hall for a place of worship. During this initial period of the church, Rev. Davie Combs and Rev. Keith Johnson served as part-time pastors. Rev. Claud Bryan, Grover Pingleton and Elza Simpson also filled the pulpit and assisted in every way possible.

On January 30, 1955, Rev. Harry Beatty was elected full-time pastor. Rev. Beatty accepted the charge and assumed full responsibility June 12, 1955.

The Woman's Auxiliary was organized on March 1, 1955. The women met in the home of Mrs. Minnie Brewer.

In December of 1955, the church adopted the National Co-operative Plan of support, giving tithes thereto from the general church tithes and offerings.

The year 1956 saw the church pews being bought, for \$77.78 per pew, through pledges. In October of that same year the oil furnace for the church was also bought through pledges.

The title brick for the outside of the church building was purchased in 1957. Like other items for the church, it was also bought through pledges.

A piano was purchased for the church, again by pledges, in April of 1958.

According to an article in the Free Will Baptist Gem, dated 1958, the membership of the church was 89 members who were active in Sunday School, League Service, Wednesday night prayer meeting, and an active Woman's Auxiliary and Master's Men. The church at that time had an estimated value of \$25,000, with actual indebtedness less than 20% of total valuation.

The church was honored to host the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists at the Thayer church in August of 1959.

The hardwood floor of the sanctuary was carpeted in August of 1960.

A parsonage for the pastors' families was purchased in 1968.

A radio program was started in February of 1971. It is still carried on Radio Station KALM at 9:05 a.m. Monday through Friday of each week.

From the Fall of 1972 to the Spring of 1973 saw the addition to the back of the church. It included three classrooms upstairs, three classrooms downstairs, the kitchen moved to the back of the basement, the sanctuary enlarged with a baptistry added, new carpet for the sanctuary, and 100 folding chairs for the classrooms (extra chairs and tables were bought by some families). Besides the money on hand, \$8,000 was borrowed from the Bank of Thayer to finish the project.

In 1973 the young people's group bought a church bus. Also that same year the church parking lot was rock chatted.

The girls' cabin at Youth Camp, in Niangua, Missouri, was built in 1974. That year also saw the making of a Church Directory. It included church members and also others attending from the congregation.

In 1979 the organ was purchased for the church.

1982 saw the pavement of the east parking lot and the purchase of a church van.

The north parking lot was paved in 1984.

The year 1985 saw a remodeling for the church. The front entrance was changed to include a large foyer with double doors leading into the sanctuary, and two rest-rooms were added also at the entrance. Another Church Directory was made that year.

In 1987 the parsonage was remodeled, which included extensive work on the kitchen.

This year the parsonage is also being installed with a central air and heating unit.

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.

Date Set For State Youth Conference

At this time, the church is debt free. As you could tell from this information, many people have worked long and hard to establish and build this church, so that we would have a beautiful place to worship the Lord.

Although many things have been accomplished in the past 35 years, we expect to see the Lord continue to bless the work in our church. We're not going to be satisfied where we are, but will keep pressing forward for the Thayer Free Will Baptist Church to be all it can be in this community.

The following are also found in the church records: 44 marriages, 20 babies dedicated to the Lord, 206 baptized, and 69 deaths.

The following pastors have served the church during the 35 years:

1954 - 1955	Keith Johnson
1955 - 1960	Harry Beatty
1960 - 1961	Everett Buchanan
1961 - 1964	W.H. Bostic
1964 - 1969	Grover Pingleton
1969 - 1972	Jerry Fields
1972 - 1975	Harvey Hill
1975 - 1977	Glen Hood
1978 - 1984	Richard Robinson
1984 - present	Cody Freeman

Charter members of Thayer FWB Church - 1954: Lawonda Archer, R.G. Beatty, Johnny Bennett, Nettie Bennett, Howard Bennett, Ina Bennett, Henry Betts, Parlie Betts, Minnie Brewer, Claude Bryan, Della Bryan, Willard Caldwell, Louise Caldwell, Patricia Caldwell, Evelyn Caldwell, C.W. Cantrell, Edith Cantrell, Paul Clark, Phyllis Clark, James Fuller, Beaula Fuller, Otto Harrison, Mrs. Otto Harrison, Lloyd Higgs, Louella Higgs, Mary Higgs, Rosalee Higgs, Betty Higgs, Clara Hollis, J.V. Holman, Maureen Holman, Leonard Janes, Faye Janes, Charlene Janes, L.A. Jewell, Betty Jewell, J.W. Jewell, Fred King, Willie King, Clifford McChugh, Sada Miller, Ben Pohnert, Lorene Pohnert, Donald Pohnert, Dolly Pohnert, Evert Reed, Mrs. Evert Reed, Ruth Reynolds, Rosa Talley, Ralph Underwood, and Helen Underwood.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This material was compiled by Ben & Lorene Pohnert. It was written and sent to the Gem by Delois Bennett.

Pastor Appreciation Day In September

September has not officially been designated as Pastor Appreciation Month — but it is a good time to show special appreciation to the pastor. For this servant of God whom God has spoken through the local church and called him to be your pastor, **DO SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR HIM AND HIS FAMILY**, as an expression of your love for him. The Lord has blessed those who have loved and cared for the servant of God (I Kings 17) and He will continue to do so.

Summer a bummer? Well, have no fear, relief is here. The third annual Missouri State Youth Conference is just around the corner!

This year's conference will be held at the Baptist General Assembly at Windermere on November 9-10. Eric Rochester, Assistant Director of Ministries for Kansas City Youth For Christ, will be joining us for our 1990 conference, "NO COMPROMISE!" Eric and his wife, Denise, have been involved with YFC for 10 years. He was in Eastern Europe this past spring for many of the historic events that took place this year and will be returning to Romania this fall. He also coordinates a week youth rally that is televised on KYFC in Kansas City. His experience and insights uniquely qualify him to speak to us about 'No Compromise.' Also, there will be a full-blown concert on Friday night from Samson and Higher Ground from Springfield, MO.

If you attended the first two Youth Conferences, you definitely want to be at Conference '90, because it will be the best! Even though Windermere has raised the cost to the Youth Ministries Board, your cost will still be just \$25.00. (By the way, due to the cost increase, T-shirts will cost \$5.00 again this year, but the Board **promises** that it will be a really different shirt this year. The Youth Ministries Board learns from its mistakes. Last year's shirts were quite an educational experience.)

Registration deadline is OCTOBER 1, so be watching the GEM in August for registration information. Remember, November 9-10, "NO COMPROMISE!"



Looking Out My Parsonage Window

by Ve Ann Tilson

Some words from an old hymn have been on my mind lately ... "GIVE OF YOUR BEST TO THE MASTER ... GIVE OF THE STRENGTH OF THY YOUTH . . ." How many of us can truly sing that hymn with a clear conscience??? Do we give our best, dress our best, work our best, etc.? Webster's Dictionary defines the term "BEST" in the following way: "In the most excellent or most suitable manner; in the highest degree."

According to Malachi 1:6, "A son honoreth his father, and a servant his master; if then I be a Father, where is Mine honor? and if I be a Master, where is My fear?" It is every Christian's obligation to fear and honor God. Yet, most of us would have a hard time saying with honesty: "Yes, I honor Him in the highest degree."

Consider the following questions:
A. Do you dress professionally for your job, but very casually for the

services of your local church?

B. Are you careful to be on time for work, but seldom are on time for church services?

C. Do you give so much of yourself to your work, etc., that other important aspects of the Christian ministry go wanting because you are "drained?"

D. Do you give of your best to speak of God's love and grace?

E. Is it easier to go to work with a headache, backache, cold, etc., than it is to go to church feeling bad?

F. Do you spend \$50.00 for a pair of tennis shoes for your son or daughter, but can't muster even \$5.00 for a missionary request?

I'm sure that most of us are guilty of failing to give of our BEST in many areas of life. As Bro. Ernest Harrison, Jr. stated at the State Association just recently: "Most of us give our prime time to our boss and our leftovers to the Lord."

God has given His BEST for us. Strive to "give of your best to the Master . . ."



Reports from the Churches



ORDINATION SERVICE AT PLEASANT HOME — On Sunday, June 3, 1990, an Ordination Service was held at 2:00 p.m. at the Pleasant Home Free Will Baptist Church. The church under the leadership of the pastor, Rev. Gene Crewse, ordained four men to serve as deacons. They are Pete Smith, Gerald Stillwell, Lloyd Sartor and Paul Harvey.

The afternoon service began with congregational singing. This was followed by Rev. & Mrs. Gene Crewse singing a beautiful special in song. Rev. Clarence Burton delivered the Ordination Message. He emphasized the importance of the biblical office held by the deacon. And, he stressed that the deacon is a 'problem solver,' 'a peace maker,' and 'a personal soul-winner.' The Ordination Prayer was led by Brother Davis, a deacon in the church.

The Ordination Service was a meaningful and memorable service for the ones being ordained and the congregation.



40TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED BY THE REHKOPS — On Sunday, May 20, 1990, at the Morning Worship service, the Grace Free Will Baptist Church surprised the pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. Glen Rehkop, in observance of the Rehkop's 40th Wedding Anniversary. The associate pastor, Rev. Rick Chapman, with the help of the good folks of the Grace Church planned the special event.

Several relatives and special friends gathered for the Morning Service. Rev. Clarence Burton, representing the Missouri State Association, expressed words of commendation to the pastor and his wife, Glen and Evelyn. He said, "This beautiful Christian couple exemplify the purpose and plan that God instituted in the wonderful plan of marriage. They deserve this special recognition from this fine church and friends of the church who have gathered for this occasion."

As an expression of love, Glen and Evelyn were given a beautiful "Church Names Quilt" and a "Money Tree."

A delicious dinner, served by the ladies of the church, was enjoyed by the large crowd gathered for the occasion.

The Beauty of Biology

by Pam Hudson

What is the evidence that evolutionists use to "back-up" their belief in macroevolution? (Remember this word that was used in last month's article?) Many point directly to the fossil evidence in macroevolution as direct "proof." Still, most scientists agree that the fossil record is imperfect for several reasons: (1) Not all organisms have bones or other hard parts that are easily fossilized; (2) Many (probably most) organisms were not in circumstances that led to a quick burial, and therefore decayed; and (3) Most fossils remain undiscovered.

Even so we do have a considerable amount of fossils to study. If we look closely at what fossils tell us, we have considerable support for a time of special creation, rather than evidence to show that all life "evolved" from lower forms. For example, land plants appear in fossil records long before the algae that they are considered to have "evolved" from. Animal fossils are even more erratic. Even prominent evolutionists agree that, "there is little logical order in time appearance . . . that most new species, genera, and families, and that nearly all new categories above the level of families appear in the record suddenly, and are not led up by any known, gradual, completely continuous transitional sequences."

Faced with the choice of faith in highly improbable events, or, faith in God's Word, creationists choose God's Word. Creationists, aware of the lack of sufficient fossil evidence to connect man to animal ancestors, believe that man is not genetically related to other forms of animal life. Animals were made after their own kind and man was made in the image of God. The fact that man possesses many of the same characteristics common to all life (made of cells, carry on respiration, etc.) implies a Common Designer, rather than a random evolvement. God created organisms with similar features, because they would share the same earth. He also allowed for variations to appear to allow organisms to take advantage of those environmental changes.



Senior Adult Ministries Board Report

Ministering To Older Adults — Training Seminar

*Sponsored by the Missouri Senior Adult Ministries Board and
the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement*

Stonecroft Conference Center

September 18 - 20, 1990

Tuesday 12:30 p.m. to Thursday 12:00 noon

COST: \$35.00. This Seminar is designed for the Pastor and the Senior Adult worker in the local church. In order to hold the cost to \$35.00 per person, it will be necessary to have two people per room. You may wish to come with someone or we can assign you a roommate. The cost includes your room for two nights, meals, and snacks.

DRESS: Casual

DIRECTIONS: Approximately 45 miles south of Springfield, Missouri on Highway 65, (four miles south of Branson) turn right on 265 and stay left one mile to Center.

PROGRAM AND PERSONALITIES

TUESDAY EVENING:

Message - "The Challenge of Ministering to Older Adults"
Rev. Herman Hersey, Director, Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement

WEDNESDAY MORNING:

"The Theology of Aging" (The Bible Basis for Ministering to Older Adults)
Dr. Thomas Marberry, Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College

"Managing Grief" (Ministering in Death) — Rev. Paul Davis, AARP

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON:

"What AARP Can Do For Your Church" (Resources and Helps Available) — Rev. Richard Vestal, AARP
"Developing the Local Church Ministry to Older Adults", Part I — Rev. Herman Hersey

WEDNESDAY EVENING:

Film - "Helping the Older Adults to Plan Their Estates" — Rev. Bill Evans, Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement

THURSDAY MORNING:

"Retirement Planning" — Ray Lewis, Business Manager, Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement
"Developing the Local Church Ministry to Older Adults", Part 2 — Rev. Herman Hersey

For more information, contact any of the Board Members:

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PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS PORTION TO: Senior Adult Ministries Board, 2040 Osage St., Lebanon, MO 65536

Name: _____ Church Name: _____

Address: _____ City, St., Zip: _____

**A \$5.00 non-refundable deposit is required. Please return by September 1, 1990.
Make Checks Payable To: MO. F.W.B. Senior Adult Ministries Board**

Important Information For Retirement Participants

(Copied from "At Your Service" March
1990 Board of Retirement & Insurance)

Withdrawing Funds At Retirement

"Some participants have misunderstood when Employer (Church) Funds may be withdrawn. The funds are available at death, disability, or retirement. The problem has arisen over when the retirement takes place. In Article IX the trust agreement states that retirement can be no earlier than age 62. Some have assumed on reading the first part of the opening sentence that the employer funds are available at age 62 whether retired or not. The remainder of the sentence and the context of the entire Article make it clear that retirement must take place before any distribution, whether cash or annuity, can be made.

"The Article further states that after eight years past age 62 (or age 70) a participant is entitled to all of his funds, whether retired or not. Last year Congress changed this law, and there is no mandatory retirement age. Consequently, even after age 70, a member will only receive his money when he actually retires. The trust agreement is being amended to comply with the new law."

EDITOR'S NOTE: To Participants In Missouri State Retirement Program

When you reach the age for retirement, assuming you retire, the money you have in your account with the Board of Retirement & Insurance may be taken from this account and placed into an IRA. (The law states that funds in a "bonified" Retirement Account may be 'rolled over' into an IRA.) The program Missouri has with the Board of Retirement & Insurance is "bonified." This would give one the option of having possession of his or her funds and a disbursement plan could be set up with the institution holding the IRA.

Of course this would be contingent upon one having a break in employment. That is, one would need to retire in order to withdraw his or her funds (the stipulation of the Board of Retirement & Insurance). Employment, presumably part time, could begin at a later time.

I am not encouraging that the funds be withdrawn and placed into

an IRA. You may want to let the Board of Retirement & Insurance set up an annuity program, as I suspect that I will do. I have given this information that you may not get discouraged with the Missouri State Retirement Program, and that you may know that you can withdraw your funds (as prescribed above) if you choose to do so.

All of us are aware that funds in the Board of Retirement & Insurance are monies that can be loaned to build church buildings, educational units, etc.

From The McLains

Missionaries to Japan

April 1990

Dear Friends,

It is so easy to write a prayer letter when church attendance is up, or when you have some new converts, or just after you have baptized someone. But how do you write a letter when everything is just going along, or even has dropped a little bit?

About a month ago we were really encouraged. Our church attendance was up. Attendance at women's Bible study was up. **Then came April.** It may be difficult for you to realize what a difference April can make, but here in Japan, it is a time of new beginnings.

The latter part of March the school year is over. The first part of April the new school year begins. Businesses employ most of their new workers in April and transfer other workers to new locations. College graduates locate in their new work. Other young people leave the area to enter college.

This has happened in our church and women's meetings. One of our faithful young men graduated from college and started teaching in a high school across the island. Two ladies from the Bible study left the area when their husbands were transferred. One of our young men is in the Tokyo area attending college.

In March, 76 boys and girls graduated from our two kindergartens. A new school year has started with a full enrollment in both schools. The first few days of school are rather hectic with new teachers and a group of new children who have never been away from their mothers, and have never had much discipline. Most of the first few days are made up of wiping noses and tears, and making sure the little ones do not stray away.


We are seeing an increased interest in Christianity among some of our English students.

What we need now is prayer. We are asking the Lord to fill the empty places in our church and Bible study. We want to be able to communicate the gospel of our Lord in an effective way to our English students and other contacts we have made over the past year. We also need strength and guidance in reaching out in other areas with the gospel. We need encouragement in place of discouragement.

Sincerely,

Jim and Olena McLain

Essentials of Evangelism



by Stanley Jones

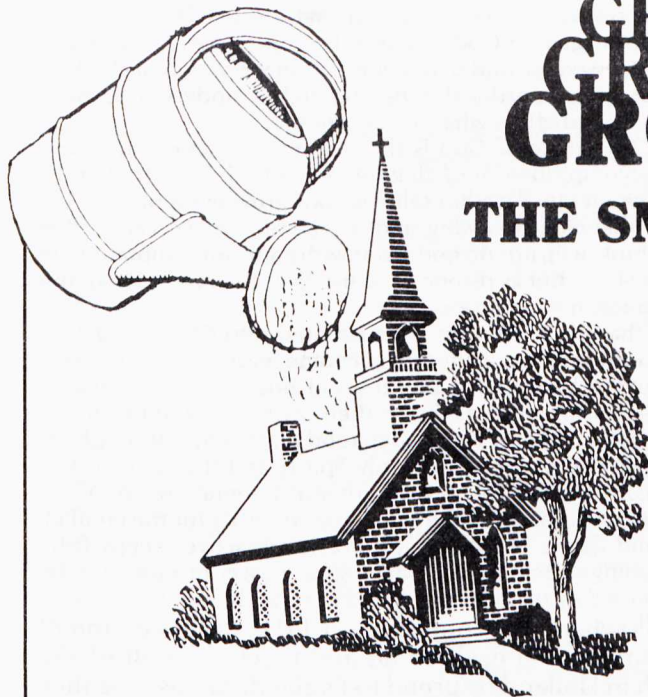
Have you tried to share Christ with a person who wanted to be saved, but was afraid he couldn't live the Christian life? Here are some things that you might find helpful as you deal with such a person.

Show him that the Christian faith is an overcoming faith. I John 5:5 states, "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

Let him know that his present life is not being improved upon but, rather, in Christ he is born again into a new life, "except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God," John 3:3b. He will need to understand that the new birth is the supernatural work of God. Ephesians 2:10 makes this clear when it declares, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, unto good works..." And, "therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (creation); old things are passed away; behold all things are become new," II Cor. 5:17.

Explain to him that the Holy Spirit dwells in the believer to aid him in his Christian walk (Galatians 5:16-25). And, that Christ Himself prays to the Father for each believer to be an overcomer (John 17:9,20; Hebrews 4:14-16).

God has not left His children, in their strength, to fight the good fight of faith. He has given us the instruction of His Word, the prayers of His Son, and the air of the Holy Spirit. We can be overcomers!



GROWING GROWING GROWING GROWING GROWING

THE SMALL CHURCH



Guest Speaker
C. Wayne Zunkel
Author & Pastor

September 24 & 25, 1990

Registration — 1:00 p.m.

All Boards Meeting — 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Seminar — 4:00 p.m. through Noon on the 25th

Place: Camp Mo-Kan (near Independence, MO)

Cost: \$30.00 per person (includes meals & lodging)

The ALL BOARDS MEETING is being held in conjunction with this seminar.

Further information and registration form will be in the August GEM.

“Moore” Thoughts On Missions

**by Ron Moore, Missionary
Cote d'Ivoire**

Are the heathen lost? It is difficult for some people to believe that those who have never heard the gospel will suffer eternal destruction. “After all,” they insist, “since God is merciful and just, He would not permit something so cruel and unfair.” What is even more difficult for me to believe, however, is that this question would even be raised in a fundamental, evangelical denomination! Have you ever thought about the consequences of such an argument? Consider the following:

If the heathen are not lost, then the Bible would be untrustworthy. Romans 1 clearly teaches that the heathen are condemned because they have rejected God’s message which is manifested everywhere in nature and

has been eternally stamped in their consciences. There are many passages which teach the same thing; yet, if a person doesn’t believe one, he will not believe the others either. In fact, if the Bible is wrong on this point, how can it be trusted on another? The Creation? Noah and the Ark? Jonah? The Resurrection of Jesus?

If the heathen are not lost, then the Lord’s sacrifice would have been unnecessary. There is no question what Jesus believed and taught. He left the riches of heaven and came to earth “to seek and to save” the lost and “to give his life a ransom” for sin on the cross. He taught that all who did not believe in Him would perish and commanded His disciples to proclaim this message to all nations. But if the heathen are not lost, why take them the gospel? In fact, if they are not in danger of eternal judgement, why did Jesus ever leave heaven?

If the heathen are not lost, then

God would have been unjust. It was the will of God that Jesus die the horrible death on the cross of Calvary. Those that believe in His Son will never perish, but those who do not believe stand condemned (John 3:16-18). If, however, God “excuses” the sin of some on the grounds that they have never heard, why did He insist on Christ’s sacrificial death? If forgiveness could be obtained in any other way, God would have indeed been wicked and unjust to allow His Son to die such a cruel and needless death. Friends, this is not the kind of God we serve!

Who raises this question and why? It is often raised by those who do not believe in missions. They use it as an argument to justify their lack of commitment. Are there many such people like this among Free Will Baptists? Well, we have a whole lot of folk who do not believe in or support foreign missions. Find one and ask him!

A Short History On Free Will Baptists

by Ken Dodson

At the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, men were already beginning to rebel against Luther's teachings on the predestination of the elect. One such man (once a colleague and friend of Luther) was Melancthon. In 1532 he published a book on Romans stating that, "not all obtain the benefits of redemption through Christ, because many resist the Word. And it is manifest that to resist belongs to the human will, because God is not the cause of sin." In his "Loci Communes" (1535) he ascribes conversion to three causes: the Word, the Holy Spirit, and the human will.

This doctrine of "free-will" came under fierce attack by the followers of Luther and Calvin. The Calvinists were bitterly opposed to teachings about a general atonement by Christ for all men. Any teaching of "free-will" was announced as heresy. Calvin strongly proclaimed that only those predestined by God would be saved to become the elect.

In 1588 James Arminius began pastoring at one of the principle churches in Amsterdam. By this time Arminius had come to be recognized as among the ablest and most learned men of his time. It is said that his expository sermons were so lucid, eloquent, and well delivered as to attract large audiences. He was called on from time to time to write against the opponents of Calvinism, which he did in a satisfactory way. The University of Leyden acquired Arminius as an instructor in 1602. Upon searching the depths of the scriptures, he found that he could not teach the Calvinist doctrine. Young ministers found themselves seeing the truth of the "general atonement" and the "free-will" of man, opposed to the teachings of Calvin. The authorities, upon finding these teachings of heresy, tried to force the professors at Leyden to fill out a questionnaire of nine points on Calvinism. They declined. Many pastors also refused to subscribe to the symbols. During these heated discussions with authorities, Arminius became ill and died in October, 1609.

Those who held to Arminius' teaching became more zealous after his death. In 1610 they decided to send a document of their views to the government in a plan for toleration. This document of 5 points was called the Remonstrance.

These five points still outline the basic beliefs and doctrines of the two Arminian (after James Arminius) denominations today (Free Will Baptists and General Baptists).

1. "that God, by an eternal and immutable decree in Jesus Christ his Son, before the world was founded, determined out of the fallen, sinful human race, to save in Christ for Christ's sake and through Christ those who, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, believe on this His Son Jesus and shall persevere in this faith and obedience of faith, through this grace, even the end; and on the other hand, to leave the incorrigible and unbelieving in sin and under wrath, and to condemn them as alienates from Christ according to the word of the gospel in John 3:36"
2. "Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, died for all men and for every man, so that He has obtained for them all, by His death on the cross, redemption and the forgiveness of sins; yet that no one actually enjoys this forgiveness of sin except the believer."

3. "declares that apostate sinful man can of and by himself neither think, will, nor do anything that is truly good (such as saving faith really is); but that it is needful that he be born again of God in Christ, through His Holy Spirit, and renewed in understanding, inclination, will and all his powers, in order that he may rightly understand, think, will, and effect what is truly good."
4. "This grace of God is the beginning, continuance, and accomplishment of all good, even to the extent that the regenerate man himself, without prevenient or assisting, awakening, following, and co-operative grace, can neither think, will, nor do good, nor withstand any temptations to evil; . . . but as respects the mode of the operation of this grace, it is not irresistible."
5. "that those who are incorporated into Christ by a True faith, and have thereby become partakers of His life-giving Spirit, have thereby full power to strive against Satan, sin, the world, and their own flesh, and to win the victory; it being well understood that it is ever through the assisting grace of the Holy Spirit; and that Jesus Christ assists them through His Spirit in all temptation, extends to them His hand, and if only they are ready for the conflict, and desire His help, and are not inactive, keeps from falling so that they, by no craft or power of Satan, can be misled or plucked out of Christ's hands."

Following "the Confession of 1611" (a declaration of the Arminian faith, doctrine and practice) most of the church in Holland returned to England. At this time they began to be called Arminian or General Baptists. Persecutions were suffered by the General Baptists because the Church of England was still the state religion. Despite the persecutions waged against them, they grew and continued to grow.

The rise of Free Will Baptists came from the influence of Baptists of Arminian persuasion who settled in the colonies from England. The denomination traces its beginning back to two fronts, one in the south under Paul Palmer and the other in the North by Benjamin Randall.

A Welsh church, organized in Wales in 1701, immigrated the same year to Pennsylvania. Two years later it received a grant of land known as the "Welsh Tract," where the colony prospered and was able to send a number of able ministers to various sections. One of these, Elder Paul Palmer, gathered a company in North Carolina and in 1727, organized a church at Perquimans, in Chowan County. The principle element was Arminian. A yearly meeting was formed among 16 sister churches in 1752 with 1,000 communicants. "In the early part of their history they do not appear to have had a distinctive name. They were afterwards called 'Free Will Baptists' and most of them became known as 'Original Free Will Baptists,' but have since preferred to drop the name 'Original.'"

The Northern movement took place under the leadership of Benjamin Randall. In 1779 Benjamin Randall of New Hampshire, who had been converted through Whitefield's preaching (1770), but had from Wesleyan Methodism derived his Arminian views, was arraigned for heresy and disfellowship by a Baptist council. The charges brought against him were the preaching of unlimited atonement and of the freedom of the will. He immediately gained a considerable following from the Regular Baptists of the New England States. Through his marked gifts of

organization, he called into existence one hundred and thirty churches with about 6,000 members, before his death in 1808.

These northern churches first called themselves the "Church of Christ." It wasn't until after 1800 that "Free Will Baptist" was used. Many associations still use "Church of Christ" as part of their name.

In the South all the churches were usually thought of as General Baptists, if they believed in the general atonement. The Calvinists were called Particular Baptists because they believed Christ died for the elect only, making the atonement particular.

During this period of time, both General and Particular Baptists met in a union. "After the union, the Calvinists took the position that, if the nature of the atonement was general, no one could avail himself of the benefits of Christ's death but the elect; that the non-elect could not do anything toward his salvation, for he was predestinated for hell; that man's will was not free. The argument turned from that time on to the freedom of the human will; and those General Baptists that would not go into the union were nicknamed Free Willers, because they emphasized the freedom of the human will."

The Revolutionary War scattered the Baptists. Whole communities migrated to the west taking their religion with them. Religious leaders among these soon felt the need to organize general meetings. First there was the formation of the Southwestern Convention with the intention of taking in all the Free Will Baptists in the Southwest states (1901); then the Cooperative General Association met in 1916 with the states of Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas; the Eastern Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists of the United States met to organize the states left on the eastern side of the Mississippi River.

Sectional differences were finally laid aside in 1935 when the National Association of Free Will Baptists was finally formed. Denominational Headquarters was placed in Nashville, Tennessee.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Ken Dodson prepared this article quite some time ago. He thought the Gem readers might be interested in reading it. It is interesting, informative and helpful. Brother Dodson is presently serving as the pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Monett, MO. He is serving on the Youth Camp Board and is a supporter of the State and National Ministries.



Points for Pastors

by James McAllister

What must one do in order to rise in the denomination as a leader? In this column, for the next few months, I will deal with this issue and submit thoughts for your consideration.

I believe that one requirement for rising in the denomination is this — you must care about the Free Will Baptist denomination. *You must care!* Why? Because you will not be willing to sacrifice the time, energy, and money necessary unless you really care.

You must care about missions — both foreign and home. You must care about the missionary. You must care about the place they serve.

You must care about our college and high school young people. What happens to them must be important to you. It must be important to you that there should be Bible colleges for them to attend, and programs to help them.

You must care about our churches and starting new ones. Why should

there be a Free Will Baptist church in every city for everyone wishing to attend one?

You must care about our doctrine. Do you believe our Free Will Baptist doctrines are true? If so, then you must care that others be exposed to it, and that our churches and preachers preserve it.

Now, what does caring involve? It means I will support it financially. I will support its missions, its colleges, its missions churches, and its doctrine.

It means I will give others room to be wrong. If I can give others room to be wrong, I must also concede that I can be wrong. I must concede that others can be right. I must try to reconcile my ideas with the ideas of others. I must not become condemning and critical of others.

Men who rise in the denomination are men and women who care about the Free Will Baptist denomination.

Minute Meditation

by Gene Crewse



"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation." 1 Peter 1:15

As we continue our series of meditations on things that need to be restored in Christian lives and church congregations, I wish to turn your attention to purity.

Holiness, or purity, is a command from God to the Christian. His Word not only declares it, but His character demands it. We serve a Holy God; we are led by the Holy Spirit, through the contents of the Holy Bible. It may seem that I am laboring the word "holy" in this meditation, but I believe it is the theme of God's Word.

Holiness is a lifestyle for the Christian who wishes to please God. The word *conversation* in this verse means behavior. Therefore, I feel this verse is a word of wisdom to those who would honor God with their lives, but also a word of warning to those who will not.

Finally, holiness is a relationship to God. Not only did Christ's blood purchase this relationship, but it also purifies it. When God looks down from His throne and sees His children, I think the mark that designates them as His is the mark of holiness.

When God looks into the heart of our churches, I trust there will be a pure, easily recognized child, and that He is more than glad to say they're one of Mine.

Missouri Students On Honor List at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College

PRESIDENT'S LIST

(perfect 4.00 grade point average)

Marlene Hartman
Amy Stahlman

DEAN'S LIST

(3.00 or above grade point average)

Patricia Dinwiddie — 3.56
Brian Gayer — 3.33
Ginger Harrison — 3.78
Sheila Johnson — 3.00
Scott Keith — 3.29
Randall Lovelace — 3.50

EDITOR'S NOTE: Congratulations!

59 Graduate From Free Will Baptist Bible College

On May 17, 1990, the Free Will Baptist Bible College graduated 59 students in Commencement Exercises held in the College Auditorium. The graduates from fifteen states and two foreign countries were completing five different programs.

Five students — Dickey Andersen, Debbie Robertson (MO), Wayne Miracle, Nancy Thomas and Joey Wilson — shared testimonies with more than 600 assembled friends, parents and other guests. The testimonies were moving and were filled with references of the Lord's faithfulness.

Dr. Ken Riggs, chairman of the Teacher Education Department, gave the challenge to the students.

Four students were inducted into Delta Epsilon Chi Honor Society. The students are Dickey Anderson, Debbie Robertson (MO), Lyn Williams and Joel Hampton.

Missouri students receiving Bachelor of Science degrees were: Richard Allen Pointer, Springfield, MO; Debbie Maggart Robertson***, St. Joseph, MO. Gregory Tyson, St. Louis, MO, received a Bachelor of Arts degree. Jay Lynn Tilson, Lonedell, MO, received a Master of Ministry degree.

*** Summa cum laude

EDITOR'S NOTE: Congratulations!

Missouri Students on Honor List at Free Will Baptist Bible College

"A" HONOR ROLL

Allen Pointer, Springfield, MO
Debbie Robertson, St. Joseph, MO

"B" HONOR ROLL

Greg Tyson, St. Louis, MO
David Baker, Monett, MO
Craig Cook, Independence, MO
Kenny Simpson, Farmington, MO
Terry Skiles, Festus, MO
Greg Smith, West Plains, MO
Jamie Gates, Fenton, MO
Kevin Scott, Bridgeton, MO
David Walls, Florissant, MO

EDITOR'S NOTE: Congratulations!

A Letter From Free Will Baptist Home For Children

Dear Friends:

Free Will Baptist Home for Children is pleased to announce the hiring of Roger Hood as Superintendent, effective June 1, 1990. We feel he is well qualified for this position.

Mr. Hood is married and the father of three children. He graduated from the Free Will Baptist Bible College with a major in Bible and a minor in Pastoral Administration. He also graduated from Pensacola Christian College with a Master of Science degree with a major in Education

Administration. He has served as president of the cooperative body and head administrator of Pleasant View Christian School in Pleasant Hill, Tennessee, for the past 11 years.

We continue to ask for your prayerful support of the child care ministry and for Mr. Hood and his family as they make this transition.

In Christ,

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FREE WILL BAPTIST
HOME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Jack Taylor, Chairman

Calendar of Events

YOUTH CAMP

Group I Pre-Teens: July 29-Aug. 3

Group II Pre-Teens: Aug. 5-10

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY RETREAT

Aug. 24, 25

Stonecroft Conference Center

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES

BOARD RETREAT

"Ministering To Older Adults - Training Seminar"

Sept. 18-20, 1990

Stonecroft Conference Center

* ALL BOARDS MEETING

Sept. 24, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Camp Mo-Kan, near Indep., MO

* C.E. BOARD SEMINAR

"Growing The Smaller Church"

Sept. 24, 25

Camp Mo-Kan, near Indep., MO

* Held in conjunction with each other

OCTOBER — REVIVAL TIME

STATE YOUTH CONFERENCE

Nov. 9, 10

Windermere

Financial Information

MAY 1990

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50%	Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$ 5,682.57
17.50%	Exec. Off. & Gem	5,375.40
3.50%	General Fund	1,075.08
8.50%	Youth Camp Bd.	2,610.91
2.50%	Youth Ministries Bd.	767.91
2.50%	C.E. Board	767.91
2.50%	Sr. Adult Ministries Board	767.91
5.00%	Mo. State Retirement Program	1,535.84
30.50%	Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	9,368.56
	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.	2,764.49
Total	\$30,716.58

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%.

MAY 1990 RECEIPTS COOPERATIVE

Columbia	\$ 75.00
New Rock Springs	99.00
Berkeley	308.58
Fourth	262.00
New Hope, Fredericktown	20.23
Victory Hill	92.88
Royal Oak	103.00

Merl's Chapel	260.00
Rolla	87.72
Alton	225.00
Number One	57.68
Houston	321.47
Oak Hill, Fredericktown	131.65
De Soto	1,000.00
Bailey Chapel	60.00
Marshfield	186.18
Willow Springs	226.11
Myrtle	226.64
Verdella	237.19
Friendship	406.64
Cope	42.00
Sedalia	126.60
Mt. Pisgah	220.00
Rock Chapel	397.03
Kingsway	278.73
Fredericktown	518.30
Happy Home	100.67
Hannon	422.50
Viburnum	237.21
Potosi	88.89
Liberty	304.00
Overland	169.67

Monett	601.83
Belton	400.96
Blue Springs	135.00
Verdella	204.04
Lingo	51.64
Calvary, Conway	243.45
New Harmony	19.03
Pleasant Ridge	100.00
Kirksville	13.75
Lone Star	34.70
Mt. Zion, Thayer	60.31
Calvary Chapel	128.62
Eastern Gate	239.82
Union	120.00
Mine La Motte	54.46
Tyrone	123.63
Thayer	682.00
Lebanon, First	516.08
Heritage	110.67
Stockton	127.65
Oak Grove, Norwood	131.27
Richwoods	365.00
Springfield, First	615.81
Leadington	475.00
Riverview, IA	354.00

United	741.91
Mt. Zion, Gower	50.30
Purdy	553.30
Black Oak	232.91
Freeman Chapel	264.54
Faith, Lemay	25.00
Mill Creek	330.25
Flat River, First	543.87
Bethel, Festus	389.00
Hannibal	100.00
Parkview	359.00
Farmington	2,750.08
New Life, Licking	324.40
Cabool	399.04
New Life, Fellowship	510.82
Wolf Creek	334.38
Koshkonong	120.93
Merl's Chapel	592.76
Jones Chapel	93.04
Neosho	71.25
Faith & Hope	57.95
Hurricane	204.35
Copper Mines	171.33
Terrill Road	160.00
Grace	500.00
Oak Hill, Union	482.24
Salem	30.00
Grant Avenue	788.57
Joplin	426.71
Macedonia	20.00
Pleasant Hill	51.34
West Plains, First	580.00
Crossroads	100.00
Willow Springs	204.05
Victory Hill	79.37
Unity	261.34
New Rock Springs	90.00
Central	778.65
Bethel, El Dorado	55.73
Fourth	200.00
Overland	105.75
Number One	43.50
Merl's Chapel	180.00
Trinity	940.26
Carthage	95.00
Blue Springs	135.00
South Fremont	408.00
Berean	12.34
Mtn. Grove	714.15
Kingsway	192.70
Mill Creek	207.80
Cape Girardeau	508.38
Total	\$30,772.58

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Farmington	\$2,000.00
Columbia	17.65
Fordland	264.19
Berkeley	50.00
Fourth	223.25
Merl's Chapel	200.00
Cuba	237.17
Marshfield	136.00
Willow Springs	10.00
Myrtle	110.00
Richwoods	61.00
Houston	31.07
De Soto	300.00
O'Fallon	25.00
Verdella	657.38
Mt. Pisgah	200.00
Rock Chapel	145.00
C. Thompson	25.00
Hannon	422.50
Monett	713.00
Belton	25.00
Southeast District	25.00
Parkview Mission Group	50.00
Blue Springs	105.00
Verdella	251.02
Greater Springfield Ass'n.	509.52
New Harmony	95.17
Southside	188.00
Pleasant Ridge	30.00
Kirkville	25.00
Eastern Gate	63.98
Thayer	45.00
Lebanon	159.00
Monett	1,986.05
Oak Grove, Norwood	87.50
Niangua	45.00
Terrill Road	27.10
Leadington	235.00
Oak Grove, Cabool	65.00
N. Akeman	10.00
United, West Plains	5.00

South Fremont	428.00
C. Layman	10.00
Freeman Chapel	253.43
Fordland	751.11
Flat River First	108.78
Bethel, Festus	105.00
Parkview	212.00
Farmington	320.00
Neosho	1,026.85
Faith & Hope	29.13
New Testament	60.00
Calvary Fellowship	1,036.47
Macedonia, Niangua	10.00
Friendship	105.66
Grace	137.00
Grant Avenue	495.71
Joplin	35.00
A. Jenkerson	15.00
West Plains First	165.00
Willow Springs	10.00
Unity	34.58
Central	192.50
Viburnum	208.70
Fourth	85.00
O'Fallon	20.00
Merl's Chapel	200.00
Trinity	188.14
Carthage	54.00
Blue Springs	60.00
Mtn. Grove	328.11
Richwoods	62.00
Total	\$16,607.72

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Columbia	12.65
Fordland	20.00
Berkeley	10.00
New Hope	10.00
Marshfield	42.00
Myrtle	132.00
Richwoods	35.00
De Soto	200.00
Verdella	15.00
Mt. Pisgah	75.00
Rock Chapel	179.15
Hannon	5.00
Monett	15.00
Southeast District	25.00
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
Blue Springs	20.00
Verdella	15.00
Greater Springfield Ass'n.	169.84
Kirkville	5.00
Eastern Gate	5.00
Thayer	179.00
Lebanon	5.00
Oak Grove, Norwood	43.75
Leadington	110.00
United, West Plains	58.33
South Fremont	158.00
Fordland	153.08
Flat River, First	15.00
Bethel, Festus	25.00
E. Bates	10.00
Parkview	25.00
Farmington	54.00
Faith & Hope	29.12
New Testament	30.00
F. Clayton	10.00
Buffalo First	50.00
Friendship	35.20
Grace	120.00
New Life Fellowship	25.00
Wolf Creek	10.00
J. Schebaum	65.00
Grant Avenue	50.00
Joplin	30.00
A. Jenkerson	5.00
B. Keith	10.00
Central	177.50
Viburnum	53.00
Blue Springs	10.00
Mtn. Grove	245.00
Richwoods	27.00
Total	\$2,818.62

MISSOURI HOME MISSIONS

Columbia	35.00
Fordland	64.00
Berkeley	10.00
Fourth	10.00
Marshfield	18.61
Myrtle	58.00
Richwoods	20.00
De Soto	50.00
Hannon	211.25
Monett	325.00

Belton	25.00
New Harmony	95.16
Southside	15.00
Pleasant Ridge	10.00
Eastern Gate	45.00
Thayer	35.00
Lebanon	45.00
Leadington	102.00
United, West Plains	18.34
South Fremont	45.00
J.W. Rader	25.00
Fordland	48.00
Flat River First	128.78
Bethel, Festus	95.00
Farmington	60.00
Neosho	15.00
Calvary Fellowship	123.82
Macedonia, Niangua	25.00
Grace	35.00
New Life Fellowship	25.00
Grant Avenue	205.86
Joplin	35.00
West Plains First	115.00
Unity	34.57
Central	20.00
Viburnum	13.00
Fourth	10.00
O'Fallon	50.00
Trinity	60.00
Oak Hill, Union	10.00
Carthage	10.00
Mtn. Grove	19.00
Richwoods	15.00
Total	\$2,415.39

YOUTH CAMP

Fordland	\$ 60.00
New Rock Springs	20.00
De Soto	50.00
Willow Springs	20.00
Myrtle	38.00
Verdella	20.00
Mt. Pisgah	10.00
Hannon	15.00
Parkview	10.00
Union	60.00
Thayer	30.00

Leadington	20.00
Bethel, Festus	25.00
Buffalo, First	50.00
Calvary Chapel	39.00
Bethel, El Dorado	15.00
Trinity	14.00
Mtn. Grove	10.00
Total	\$506.00

FWBBC

De Soto	\$ 35.00
Parkview	10.00
Thayer	25.00
Leadington	20.00
Freeman Chapel	150.00
Calvary Fellowship	35.75
Grant Avenue	50.00
Central	30.00
Total	\$530.75

HILLSDALE

Hannon	\$ 50.00
Thayer	30.00
Calvary Fellowship	35.75
Grant Avenue	10.00
Central	30.00
Total	\$240.33

CHILDREN'S HOME

De Soto	\$ 50.00
Myrtle	71.36
Unity	20.18
Total	\$141.54

JOHN MCCLURE ACCOUNT

Berkeley	\$ 10.00
Verdella	20.00
Thayer	12.00
Grace	30.00
Unity	19.69
Farmington	10.00
Total	\$ 101.69

NORTHWEST FRESNO MISSION

Fordland	\$ 6.00
Lebanon First	5.00
South Fremont	25.00
Trinity	20.00
Total	\$61.00

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES 1989-90

CHURCHES	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Belton	45	54	53	62		52
Calvary Fellowship	190	232				
Cape Girardeau	60	60	69		72	
Central		110	112	121		
Copper Mines	68	66	72	80		
Cuba	65	68	72			
DeSoto	192	187	179	213		202
Farmington	310	325	352	404	381	361
Flat River, First	152	151		179	151	
Hannon	85	91	86	102	90	80
Harmony	68	73	74	84	78	69
Hopewell		44	40	49		
Hartville	90	94				
Houston	76	86	73	73	77	72
Lebanon, First	89	84	93	102	97	82
Myrtle	36	34	34	36	36	37
O'Fallon			44	40	40	
Parkview	60	61	64	70	70	60
Rock Chapel	59	65	68			
Springfield, First	121	135	123	134	128	125
Thayer	128		133		125	
United, West Plains	174	176	180	190	203	172
Victory, K.C.	57	65				
West Plains, First	135	113	123	125		
Willow Springs	62	68	58		67	65

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 each month to be listed above. Beginning this month we will be showing the average attendance for 6 months.

Let's try to keep these spots filled.



BIBLE CONFERENCE

September 27 - 28, 1990
Cabool Free Will Baptist Church
Cabool, Missouri

PREACHERS

Rev. Rupert Pixley, Ft. Smith, Arkansas
Rev. Gilbert Pixley, Van Buren, Arkansas



These preachers are twin brothers. Brother Rupert Pixley has been preaching for 52 years and is pastoring the First Free Will Baptist Church, Ft. Smith, where he has been for 43 years. He has preached 5500 funerals and has seen thousands saved during his ministry. He has served on various State Boards in the Arkansas State Association.

Brother Gilbert Pixley has been preaching for 46 years and has pastored seven churches. He has conducted 2500 funerals and held many revivals. He has been used of the Lord to lead many to know Jesus Christ as Saviour. He has served on State Boards in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

These twin brothers have not only been effective preachers, they are very talented gospel singers. The Mission Association extends a cordial welcome to everyone to attend these services.

TIME

September 27 — 7:00 p.m.
September 28 — 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

There will be two messages at each session.

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

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

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NASHVILLE TN 37217

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