

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

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*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."*

Luke 2:11

NO ROOM

by Kevin Jackson

"... and laid him in a manger: because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7b

Many times we look at the people at the time of the birth of Jesus as being heartless, cold, and uncaring. How dare they let a baby be born in a dirty, smelly, dusty old stable? How dare they treat Jesus like that? If he had been born today, we would have made room for Him! We would have found a place for Him! But would we?

Most theologians agree that Jesus being born in a stable was a symbol of how He would be accepted on earth. Most people never fully believed; they had no time for Him, no room for Him. We can see that at the foot of the cross. Where were the thousands that got fed, or healed, or saw miracles? Only three stood at the foot of the cross. As we look back, we, the good moral people of the day, judge them and say, I wouldn't have done that, I would have stood by Him, I never would have put Him in a stable! But yet, we still have no room for Jesus.

There is no room for Him in American society. In our hurry-up-world Jesus has totally been pushed aside. Even Christmas has become X-Mas because we have no room for Him. America, the nation founded on God, now has totally rejected Jesus. He cramps our style. All of what He stands for is old fashioned and has no place today. We have to make money, gain power, have fun, do our own thing; and with all that's going on, there is no room for Him. He has even been pushed out of our schools because there is no room for Christ in education. No room for Him in our lives. We are just too busy to be bothered with Christianity.

There is no room for Him in our families. I don't have to tell you what kind of shape our families are in. It doesn't take a genius to see they are falling apart. Why? Because

there is no longer any room for God. The families are too busy going to PTA meetings, ball games, vacations, dance class, school activities, etc. What are we teaching our kids when we make them go to school, even if they don't want too? But, if they don't feel like going to church, they can stay home. We are teaching our kids that there is room for education, but none for God. Our families need to make room for Christ, put Him back in their lives before it is too late.

There is no room for Him even in our churches. Yes, sadly, many churches don't have room for Christ. He cramps their style. I mean most of the Bible is old fashioned, and out of date. So, how can we run our churches based on the Gospel? We are involved in social events and making people feel happy. If the Gospel of Christ makes people feel uncomfortable, then we'll teach them something else. We aren't concerned with salvation, just numbers on the church board. May God forgive us! If our churches and Christians are too busy to include Christ in their lives, then how can we ever expect the world to include Him in their lives?

Is there room for Christ in your life, family, and church? He has made room for us. Can't you make room for Him? Isn't it time we put Christ back in Christmas, and our lives?

ABOUT THE WRITER: Rev. Kevin Jackson is serving as pastor of the Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in Parkville, MO. The church is enjoying a gradual growth under his leadership. He is committed to the cause of Christ in the Greater Kansas City District Association, the Missouri State Association, and the National Association.

Minute Meditation

by Gene Crewse



"Ye did run well; who did hinder you that he should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you."
Galatians 5:7-8

I'm taking two verses instead of one for this meditation because the answer to verse seven is found in verse eight. As we see the day of our Lord approaching, there are many who seemingly have slacked up in the race. Those who used to run well when it came to Bible study, honest living and dedicated church work have been hindered by someone. We try to blame the preacher, deacon, Sunday School teacher, or choir director because after all, happiness is finding someone to blame. Right?

It doesn't matter where we place the blame, for the bottom line is that we must admit that we have disobeyed the truth. Many folks you talk to say, I know I need to do this or that, but I just don't like the way the preacher preaches, or how the Sunday School teacher teaches, or how other people in the church conduct themselves.

In the final analysis we know from verse eight that the one to whom we should be looking, the author and finisher of our faith, was not the one that persuaded us to disobey. My prayer for all of us is that, while we are running our race, we will look to Jesus. I also challenge each one to take a look at where you are in the race. Have you been side-lined? Who did hinder you? It wasn't Christ. After all, He is the one who is persuading us through His Word.

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Reports from the Churches

BELTON FWB CHURCH, Belton, MO

— “The Lord has blessed with a wonderful revival meeting,” writes the pastor, Rev. Gene Howell. The “revival” spirit began several weeks before the revival meeting began, for there had been four salvation decisions and two rededications.

The revival meeting began on Sunday morning, October 14, with Rev. Larry Allison serving as the evangelist. At the Sunday morning worship service three precious souls came forward for salvation and one came for rededication. Before the meeting closed, four more made profession of faith in Christ. The decision was made to close the revival services with a water baptismal service. There were fourteen that followed the Lord in believer’s baptism. The following Sunday ten united with the Belton Church.

Brother Howell states, “We praise the Lord for His blessings and are thankful the Lord is still in the Soul Saving Business.”

CALVARY CHAPEL CELEBRATES 10th ANNIVERSARY — On Sunday, October 28, 1990, the Calvary Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Buffalo, Missouri, celebrated its tenth anniversary.

Rev. Douglas Earls gave a warm welcome to the 175 in attendance for the special day. He stated that the Lord has brought us to this place and point in the history of the church, and because the faithful people of the church have worked and prayed, we are celebrating this 10th anniversary.

Special guests for the celebration were introduced by the pastor as each one shared in the program. They were in this order: The invocation was given by Senator John Russell. The prayer of dedication was led by Rev. Clarence Burton. Rev. Tom Owens led the offertory prayer. Tina Burk gave the special music and song. Mr. Steve Grant, news reporter for KY 3, Springfield, delivered the morning message.

The ladies of the church served a delicious dinner in the fellowship area. Someone said, “This has been a great day, and may the Lord help us that we may grow and grow!”

A brief history of the church was prepared by one of the members. The first service held by the Calvary Chapel Church was on November 2, 1980, when fifty-six people met at Montgomery Chapel, in Montgomery-Viets Funeral Home in Buffalo. The Rev. Ken Tallent was the first pastor. The church continued to meet in the Odd Fellows Hall while plans for a permanent location were being finalized.

Rev. Tom Owens became pastor in September 1981. Land was purchased near the southeast corner of Buffalo city limits in the Cantlon/Eske subdivision. Construction began in the fall of 1981, and in February 1982 the first service was held in the partially completed building. For the next five years the congregation met in the basement of the unfinished structure.

On November 23, 1983, Rev. Wesley Rider became the pastor. The attendance grew and a record attendance of 113 people packed into the basement for the day’s activities.

Rev. Lester Davis accepted the pastorate of the Calvary Chapel Church on February 10, 1985, and remained until December 1988. During his ministry the church accepted the challenge to complete the building, and in November 1987 the first service was held in the auditorium. With the procedure of one step at a time, the auditorium was furnished with appropriate furniture, a steeple was put into place, and the lighting project was completed.

Rev. Douglas Earls accepted the pastorate of the church in January 1989, and is presently serving as pastor. Under his leadership the church has set new goals for the future and re-established some present goals. Rev. Earls states, “With the nice and proper facilities that Calvary Chapel has, we can do the work the Lord wants us to do — win souls to Christ and help them grow in the Lord.”

NEW LIFE FWB CHURCH, Licking, MO

— “We are so excited that we have exceeded our high attendance since we have been at New Life Church,” writes Pastor David Brawley. On Sunday, October 28, 1990, the church had one hundred twenty-four in attendance. This was the result of much prayer and visitation.

The church is in the process of bricking the building and trusting the Lord to meet the financial need. A very successful bazaar of handmade craft items, baked goods, chili, stew and other things was held by the church, raising \$1,600.00. In addition to this the Youth Group had a car wash and raised \$110.00. The young people are very excited about this. Pastor Brawley continues, “The New Life Free Will Baptist Church is continuing to experience spiritual growth. A ‘Most Wanted List’ has been compiled, and the church has claimed the people on the list for Jesus Christ. And we are seeing God glorified through this effort.”

Parkers Celebrate 25th Wedding Anniversary

Rev. and Mrs. Gary Parker celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, November 3, 1990. The celebration was held at the church where Rev. Parker is serving as pastor, the Waynesville Free Will Baptist Church.

Officiating at the renewal of vows ceremony was Rev. Charley Miller, pastor of the DeSoto Free Will Baptist Church and former pastor of Rev. and Mrs. Gary Parker (Gary and Sharon). Standing with Gary and Sharon were their son, Gary, Jr., and their daughter and her husband, Rob and Dawn Bradley.

A reception was held in the fellowship hall following the renewal of vows.

Unity Christian Academy



The Student Body



Pastor Talbot



The Pastor, Principal and Staff

Pastor Talbot states, "We are thrilled with the progress of the school. There is a wonderful relationship between the members of the staff and the students and the faculty. The Unity Christian Academy has six staff members."

When asked about those who have graduated, Pastor Talbot stated, "A young man who graduated from the academy last year, Shane Shockley, is now pastoring the Hopewell Free Will Baptist Church at Tunas, Missouri. I think that speaks well for the school."

Gene Reed, the principal, states, "This school has come a long ways. In 1987 we began with an enrollment of 11 students. This year we enrolled 33. Some families have

had to move out of the area, and unfortunately this has taken their children out of school. We can adequately care for 50 children, Pre-school through the 12th grade. We pray that we will reach that goal and even find it necessary to expand the facilities."

Unity Christian Academy can accept students, Pre-school through the 12th grade, at anytime of the school year. The school uses the A.C.E. program, and it will accommodate transfer students at any point of the school year.

Pastor Talbot and the principal, Gene Reed, welcome visitors to come and look over the facilities at any time.

Sister Lucille Beatty Home With The Lord

A Memorial Service was held Thursday, November 1, 1990, at West Plains, Missouri, for Sister Lucille Beatty. She went home to be with the Lord on October 30, 1990, following a long illness, at the St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Missouri.

Lucille Beatty was born June 12, 1915, at Alton, Missouri. She was the daughter of the late Griff and Rosie Harrison. She was united in marriage on June 17, 1934, in Alton, Missouri, to Harry Howard Beatty.

Rev. Glen Murray, pastor of the United Free Will Baptist Church, of which Sister Beatty was a member, said in the message, "Sister Beatty was a pastor's friend. No one in the church gave more encouragement than her. Even during her prolonged illness she still gave encouraging words and was constantly praying for the pastor and his family." He also stated that she loved working in the church and especially enjoyed her labor in the Woman's Auxiliary.

She is survived by her husband, Rev. Harry Beatty; son, Kenneth Beatty, and his wife, Maurene, Tulsa, OK; son, Gordon Beatty, and his wife, Celena, Springfield, VA; two sisters, Virginia Davis and Maureen Holman, both of West Plains, MO; stepmother, Emily Harrison, Thayer, MO; four grandchildren and four step-grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and four step-great-grandchildren, and one great, great grandchild. She was preceded in death by her parents, and one brother, Herbert Harrison.

Lucille was a hairdresser and for several years operated her own Beauty Shop.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sister Lucille Beatty was loved by everyone. She was a sweet, kind and gracious person. She reflected that beautiful Christian grace. She loved God and she loved those of the family of God. She will be missed in the local church, the State Association, and the National Association of Free Will Baptists.



SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES MAY - OCTOBER 1990

CHURCHES	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT
Belton	52	40	52	54	56	57
Calvary Fellowship	196	199	186	189		
Cape Girardeau		62	51	58	81	64
Central	96	105	100			
Copper Mines	64	73				
Cuba	65	74				
DeSoto	202	195	189	194	200	
Farmington	361	328	334	359	374	356
Flat River, First	120	119	126	128	121	
Hannon	80	81	84	78	85	87
Harmony	69	68	64	90	75	
Hartville	102	93	90	98	116	103
Hopewell		42		40	39	38
Houston	72	77	68	75	68	
Lebanon, First	82	90	84	88	96	96
Myrtle	37	34	36	30	31	30
O'Fallon	33	38	33	38	44	44
Parkview	60	54	62	53	60	57
Richwoods	33	33	33	34		
Rock Chapel	75	81	66	80		
Springfield, First	125	122	129	126	117	126
Thayer		116	109	119	121	121
United, West Plains	172	187		189	178	
Victory, K.C.	72	75	65	71		
Willow Springs	65	67		67	71	67

The above is only a partial listing — there are 170 Free Will Baptist churches in Missouri. Please send your Sunday School average attendance each month, plus those that have been omitted.

New Quarterly Publication Begins

Three Oklahoma ministers announce the beginning of a new quarterly publication, which will have its first printing on March 1, 1991. The publication is entitled **FRONTLINE**, and is targeted toward ministers in associate (non-pastoral) positions and the volunteer ministry leaders of the local church who work in the ministries of music, youth, and Christian education.

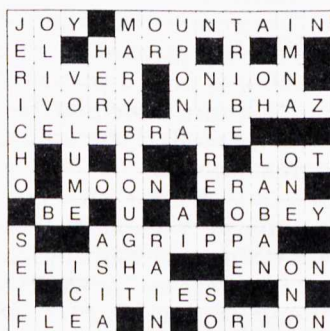
The goal of this publication is: (1) to encourage those who work specifically with music, youth, and Christian education ministries, either on a paid or volunteer basis; (2) to provide assistance in planning for implementation of new ministries or expansion of current ministries; (3) to provide a clearinghouse for the sharing of creative approaches to ministry; (4) to serve as a resource for those needing additional information/material for ministry.

FRONTLINE will be sent on a trial basis to anyone wishing to receive a copy. The four-page format will include articles on music, youth, and Christian education, as well as editorials. Letters to the editor will be gladly accepted, as will be relevant articles submitted for possible publication.

For additional information, or to place your name on the mailing list for the first publication, please write: **FRONTLINE**, c/o Bethany Free Will Baptist Church, 100 North Olive, Broken Arrow, OK 74012.

David Hewitt: Director of Christian Education, Lawnwood FWB Church, Tulsa, OK. Daryn McGee: Minister of Youth, West Tulsa FWB Church, Tulsa, OK. David Messer: Associate Pastor, Bethany FWB Church, Broken Arrow, OK.

Answers to Puzzle #2



Looking Out

My Parsonage Window

by Ve Ann Tilson

A great deal of debate has been generated about the effects of mothers working outside the home, and the impact this has on both the family and the church. The following survey is an effort to assess the direct impact (positive or negative) upon Free Will Baptist women and the local church ministries.

For this to be a beneficial endeavor, we need a personal response from Free Will Baptist women. Ladies, whether you are working outside the home or not, please take the time to complete the following brief questionnaire, and mail it to the address given below, by January 15, 1991. Thank you for your participation in this survey. (You need not sign your name to the questionnaire.)

1. Married? _____ Single? _____
2. Age: 18-35 _____ 36-50 _____ over 50 _____
3. Do you work outside the home? Yes _____ No _____
4. If you work outside the home, is it a full-time or part-time job?

5. How many church services do you regularly attend each week?

6. When your church is in a revival meeting, how many services do you attend on the average? _____
7. Are you involved in any visitation ministry of the church? Hospital _____
Nursing Home _____ Sunday School _____ Other _____
8. If you are working outside the home, does your work schedule interfere with your church involvement?
Frequently _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____
9. If you work outside the home, does your work drain you of your energies to become actively involved in church activities?
Frequently _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____
10. I would be more involved with my local church if I did not work outside the home. Yes _____ No _____
11. How active are your children in the local church?
Very active _____ Somewhat active _____ Uninvolved _____
12. Any personal comment on this subject? _____

Please mail your completed questionnaire to:

Ve Ann Tilson
Route 1, Box 80
Lonedell, MO 63060



The
Youth Ministries Division
of Randall House Publications
Presents
TRUTH and PEACE
Youth Leadership Conference
July 8-24, 1991



LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Discovering and developing your leadership potential is the core of this program. You will be involved in seminars with the entire group. Small groups will plan and participate in retreats, ministry projects, worship services, etc. Each individual will also be given leadership assignments during the conference.

FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

Whether it is going to a ball game, picnic, or shopping trip together, you'll enjoy the warmth of Christian fellowship. Many recreational activities are planned. You will meet other teens from across the denomination that will become your lifelong friends.

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

July 21-24 will bring over 1500 youth to Charleston, West Virginia, for the 1991 National Youth Conference. Truth and Peace will be featured in the Youth Banquet program and will also provide special music for an evening service. You will also assume leadership roles in various NYC programs and activities.

LOCATION

The 1991 Leadership Conference will be housed on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. The excitement will begin with a unique celebration on Monday evening, July 8. On Saturday, July 20, the participants will be chartered to Charleston, West Virginia, for the final week of the conference. You will be staying in the NYC Headquarters Hotel in the midst of the activities of the National Youth Conference.



Youth Look by Ann Poletti

This time of year, we devote much of our time and thoughts to counting our blessings and giving thanks to the Lord for all His mercies. I'd like to do just that in this month's article — share with you a few of the many things with which God has blessed me for which I am so thankful.

One of the greatest blessings in my life is my family — a good Christian family. It breaks my heart to see young people (and old people alike) struggle with no Christian support at home; and it is equally heart-breaking to see someone with wonderful Christian parents who do not know what a blessing it is. Of all the wonderful things my parents did for my sister and me while we were growing up, none was more precious than teaching us about Christ and being living examples of His love. I'm also thankful to be married to a Christian man; nothing is more important in looking

for a mate than looking for someone who is a dedicated Christian.

I'm thankful for my Christian friends. God has sent so many people my way that I value for their encouragement and fellowship. Considering how shallow and self-serving so many people in the world are, having Christian friends is truly a blessing (this includes a wonderful church family).

I'm grateful for life's daily mercies — often taken for granted . . . a roof over my head, food on my table, clothing, two legs to walk, breath in my body. God is not *obligated* to provide these things for us.

Our country, even with its problems, is something for which I'm thankful. I have freedoms many only dream about. I can choose where to attend church, I can pray, it is not against the law for me to own a Bible

. . . we take our freedoms for granted, don't we?

I have a blessing many may not — I really like my job! I'm fortunate to work with Christians around Christian material. Although not everyone may have this type of job, a job that provides money to buy the things your family needs is a blessing. It is so sad to see those families who are desperate because, all at once, their jobs are gone and they truly don't know what to do.

Finally, I'm grateful for the greatest blessing of all in my life: Jesus. He didn't come in fancy wrappings; He came to the world wrapped only in swaddling clothes. The cost was not great — only that we would freely accept Him and live for Him. However, this was the greatest of ALL gifts.

Though it is only a partial list of blessings, I'm sure none of us have to look very far to find something for which to be thankful.

May you all know God's love and blessings during this holiday season... and have many more blessings to add to your "blessings list" in the coming year.

“Free Publicity?”

by Tim Campbell

During the past few years, Satanism, demonism, and occultism has risen to the forefront of our awareness. The church has realized for years the reality of this war, but now people who before would have labeled such issues as “religious hoo-rah” have even become concerned about this demonic patronage.

I too am concerned. I am concerned because Satanic influence is actively and publicly campaigning to enlist new adherents into its so-called religion. But the matter I am most concerned about is if the church is responding accurately and effectively to this problem. In my opinion, we are lacking. In fact, we may be responding just how Satan wants us to respond. As I see it, we have definite problems in three major areas.

1. We are fostering a sense of fascination concerning Satanic activities.

If you should go to most book stores, Bible or secular, one of the largest sections of books will be the occult section. Publications abound with books that tell how this one or that one escaped the clutches of demons by the power of Jesus Christ. Many times they go into dramatic detail describing various activities that are really not appropriate for the average reader. There are even fictitious novels that speculatively describe the behind the scenes activities of demons and their war on Christians.

While I do realize that many of these books are well written and even some offer true Biblical scholarship and help, I also feel like Christian people have become literally engulfed in fascination about demonic activity. On what basis do I make this assessment? I base my assumptions on our own actions, especially in our church services.

Many people are attributing demonic intervention to every single area of life. They declare that we are tempted and drawn away into adultery by the demon of unfaithfulness. Demons cause men to steal, cheat, lie, and connive. The truth is, we bear total responsibility for our actions.

We have even brought this fascination into our churches. I have actually heard people, with absolutely no evidence, attribute accidental occurrences (lights going out, microphones not working, preachers tripping up

words, etc.) to Satan. When there is not any evidence as to the authenticity of demonic activity, we should make no such deduction. As Christians, we are called upon to support and uphold truth. To attribute Satanic influence to situations where there is no evidence to merit such activity is being less than honest. It might sound more “spiritual,” and it might drum up a cheap emotional response, but it is not really calling the shots as they are.

Let me pause to say that I do believe that there are such activities going on in the world. I am not denying that Satan is zealously planning and devising to try to thwart the work of God. I am simply, but firmly, saying that we should not attribute such activity to Satan *without evidence*. I contend that when we do so, we are actively giving the devil free publicity.

It also should be stated that when we make such unwarranted, unrestrained judgments and assumptions, we indeed may set in the minds of our young people and novices an unhealthy curiosity that just could prove to be a drawing influence instead of a restraining influence.

We cannot afford to create an atmosphere of over-familiarity and fascination with devils and demons. Let's not put more into the hands of immature people than they can hold. To do so might ultimately prove fatal to them.

2. We are taking scriptures out of context in relation to Satan.

In some circles, Christians are seemingly putting more emphasis on the dark side of the spiritual realm than on the positive side. Let me explain what I mean by way of example.

It has become quite popular for people to “bind Satan” in their services. I suppose they are meaning that they are hoping to limit the devil's impact in a service.

Out of curiosity, I looked up every reference to the words “bound,” “bind,” “devil,” “unclean spirits,” etc. in the Bible. The only place that I found any reference to the binding of Satan was in Revelation 20:2, and it was an angel binding the devil and not a man (I sure don't have time to take up that issue here).

The only other place that I could

surmise that people could draw such a conclusion was from Matthew 16:19 and Matthew 18:18. But notice that the context of those scriptures is not even close to implying that we can “bind” Satan. In Matthew 16:19 the Lord Jesus is speaking to Peter in reference to his apostolic authority in relation to the future establishment of the church. In Matthew 18:18 the context is that of the church making a judgment on an unrepentant brother who trespasses against another brother. The Bible says that whatever the church finds as binding here on earth in such a matter (whatever judgment they pass), God will accept as binding in Heaven. Satan is not even mentioned.

II Timothy 2:15b commands us to rightly divide the word of truth. We will be judged as to how we have handled the word of God. To use a verse as a proof-text, that is, to find a verse that sounds like it fits our idea instead of studying a verse to determine its true meaning, is a sin. We must heed the interpretational rules of Bible study. Interpreting verses in their context is the most basic rule of Bible interpretation, but sadly it seems as if it is also the most ignored.

Concerning such grave subjects as the one before us, it behooves us to give our utmost efforts to interpreting the scriptures accurately. To do less could prove to be devastating to those around us.

Our worship services must not be reduced to some mystical, magical, spell-casting session that we have pulled out from misinterpreted scriptures. Worship in its truest sense is to be positive. It is to be praise and adoration directed toward God.

3. We are ignorant of the person Satan.

It may sound like I am contradicting myself in my first point. I am not. I do believe that we are becoming over-familiar with demonism. But, at the same time, I believe that mature Christians need to have a working, Biblical knowledge as to who Satan really is and what he can and cannot do.

Satan is a powerful being who wields much power. In fact, the Bible describes him as “the prince of the power of the air” and “the god of this world.” He has the ability to tempt,

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

accuse, and to try to make people stumble and fall. But it must also be noted that his power is limited.

Satan is not God and does not possess any attribute of God. He is not omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, nor immutable. He does not have all power. He is not all knowing. He is ever changing and never keeps his promises. He cannot be everywhere at once. In fact, he can only be one place at one time. He is a fallen angel and is not even close to being like God.

It is also important to recognize that Satan cannot make any Christian do anything that they do not want to do. Look at the example of Job. Satan can tempt, but he cannot make us act against our will.

Many more characteristics about Satan's personality could be listed, but I think that you get the point.

My deep concern is that we search out the truth and not be motivated by hyper-emotional mysticism. We need a recommitment to warm, Biblical scholarship. We should seek to know the truth, to base our assumptions on the truth, and to respond appropriately from the proper application of truth in our lives.

I am persuaded that we have enough problems stemming from our depraved nature to keep us busy (James 1:14) without trying to blame everything on the devil. But I am also keenly aware that we shall be confronted, as Christians, more frequently in the future to deal directly with Satanic and demonic influence. Let's prepare ourselves, by diligent study and fervent prayer for those imminent future confrontations. In the meantime, let's not breed an atmosphere of over-familiarity, let's not put into the minds of our young readers things for which they are not ready (unless there is a definite problem in this area), and let's be honest and truthful in our estimation of each situation and call the shots as they are . . . because we don't need to give the devil any free publicity.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Tim Campbell is serving as pastor of the Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church near Kirksville, Mo. He is a serious student of the Bible, which is reflected in his preaching and teaching. He was graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College with honors, receiving a B.A. degree.

Essentials of Evangelism

by Stanley Jones

One of the greatest tools we have at our disposal, as we labor in the field of evangelism, is the message we carry. This message is that Jesus came to save the sinner from the penalty of sin. It is a message of life to the spiritually deceased. It is the truth that will set men free from the practice of sin.

This message is easily found in written form - the Bible. We should be careful to know it and proclaim it, if we seek to win souls. Proclaiming the message is the work of the evangelist. Explaining the Word is the work of the pastor. When we reverse this order, we turn evangelistic meetings into teaching seminars that leave the lost "high and dry."

The message is what God has blessed to produce saving faith. (Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ (Rom. 10:17 NIV). He has promised it will not return void of the fruit (Is. 55:11). The message is still capable of touching the heart and revealing the need of mankind (Heb. 4:12).

It is a positive message. The need of every man can be met through Christ. The message does not just point out a man's sinful nature and leave him in a pool of despair. The message points out a man's dilemma and in the same breath says, "Jesus is the answer."

Those who desire to be used of God in the wonderful work of evangelism must learn, grasp and deliver this message of life, hope and freedom in Jesus Christ.

New Superintendent At Youth Camp

Rev. Ken Goff was elected by the Youth Camp Board to serve as the superintendent of the Youth Camp properties following the resignation and retirement of Brother Dale McCurry.

Rev. Ken Goff has served as pastor of the First Church in Flat River, Missouri, for eleven years and the Bethel Church in Festus, Missouri, for seven years. His entire pastoral ministry has been in Missouri. He understands the function and work of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists.

The Youth Camp ministry is very familiar to Brother Goff. He has served as a member of the Youth Camp Board over ten years with part of this time serving as chairman of the board.

Rev. Goff states, "This new work is a challenge, but we look forward to this great challenge of promoting and seeking ways the Camp may be utilized more, by the people of our great state."

Rev. Gary Parker, chairman of the Youth Camp Board, said, "We believe that we have elected a man that understands the important relationship that this ministry has to our youth, and we believe that he is committed to help, in implementing this toward the winning of souls, and helping Christians grow in the Lord."

Brother Parker continued, "We appreciate the fine work that Brother Dale McCurry has done while serving as superintendent. He was committed to improving the camp grounds and making it a place suitable for learning and relaxation. We pray the Lord will bless him and his wife, Lena, as they enjoy their retirement."

Rev. and Mrs. Goff (Ken and Judy) moved into the camp parsonage the first of November.



The Beauty of Biology

by Pam Hudson

In the summer of 1989, my family and I visited Sea World in San Diego. I was so completely awed by the marine life, that I thought we had to return this past summer. Again, as the first time, the great wonders God has produced in the oceans amazed me. I studied everything I could find, from the sea cucumbers to the sharks to the dolphins, but the most amazing, by virtue of just their size, are the whales. I was intrigued by all the information at Sea World concerning the biology of the creatures, but a little disappointed at the strong emphasis put on the evolutionary descent of marine mammals. It seems to be an *accepted fact* that as mammals appeared on the earth, some of them *supposedly* crept back into the ocean, and thus, the marine mammals evolved. (HOGWASH!)

Whales, along with all other marine animals, appeared on the fifth day of creation, thereby preceding the land mammals from which they supposedly evolved. The God of all creation had no problem launching these monsters of the deep without the help of vast time periods or previously existing forms. But evolutionists have problems explaining how such complex and uniquely structured animals could have evolved into their present forms. To list only three examples out of many: (1) *The female whale gives birth to her young underwater, and suckles them underwater. The baby whale has its windpipe prolonged above the gullet to prevent milk ejected out of its mother's mammary glands from getting into its lungs. Further, the baby whale's snout is cunningly arranged to fit a receptacle on the body of its mother into which she secretes milk.* Could such organs have evolved by random mutations and natural selection? (2) *The whale's eye differs from that of land mammals in having the eyeball immovable, eyelids without eyelashes, no tarsus in the eyelid, a downward direction of eye axis, a more spherical lens, and a greatly thickened sclera.* (3) *The ear of a whale is clearly constructed on a different plan from that of the mammalian ear for the perception of air-borne sound waves. The cetacean ear operates in water and is able to resist temporary high pressures when the animal is at depth.*

Evolutionists often point to vestigial structures (what appear to be

remnants) as a basis for evolutionary development. The Right Whale has some vestigial "hind legs" near the pelvis that are said to be remnants from their land ancestors. But upon closer inspection, not only are the structures found in only one species, they are actually strengthening bones to the genital wall. Thus, we can appreciate more than ever the psalmist's challenge: *Praise the Lord from the earth you great sea creatures and all the depths.* (Psalms 148:7)

(Excerpts taken from: *The Early Earth* by John C. Whitcomb, Baker Book House.

Bible College To Offer Student Aid Programs

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE — Students now attending Free Will Baptist Bible College, as well as those who enroll next semester, may qualify for federal financial aid, according to Tom Sass, Treasurer.

The college has already been approved to offer Pell Grants, the largest direct aid program administered by the Office of Student Financial Assistance. Students who demonstrate a definite financial need may qualify for up to \$2,300 per year. Even students enrolled for the current fall semester will be able to apply for Pell Grants.

The college is awaiting final approval for several other Title IV student financial aid packages. These include the College Work Study Program (CWS), the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program (SEOG), the Stafford Loan Program, Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS), and the Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students Program (PLUS). FWBBC officials are hopeful that the Stafford Loan Program, the SLS Program and the PLUS Program will be available by the time students enroll for the spring semester. The CWS and SEOG programs will be introduced in the fall of 1991.

The Board of Trustees began several years ago to investigate the possibility of securing federal aid for FWBBC students. Many students now attending the Bible College come from homes where college expenses put their families in a financial strain. These financial aid programs will make federal funds available to these students and to their families.

The college has been cautious about accepting federal funds, even in the form of student assistance. However, Chancellor Charles A.

Thigpen says that the college's involvement in these programs will require no more than what the college has been doing for years by making GI Bill benefits available to veterans.

FWBBC President Tom Malone says, "We are offering these programs to help our students and their families. This aid is to our students, not to the institution." He added, "We do not see this as opening the door for government control of the college. In 1965, the college pulled out of these assistance programs because of attempts to impose guidelines we were not ready to accept. If we detect such attempts in the future, we have the right to do the same thing."

Anyone who would like information on the Pell Grants, and on other financial aid programs as they become available, may request them from:

Office of Student Financial Aid
Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205
615/383-1340

Small Church System Announced

Randall House Publications announces the introduction of church computer software developed specifically for the smaller Free Will Baptist Church. The new system will be known as TBIS (The Baptist Information System) "500" System and can be used by Free Will Baptist Churches that are tracking fewer than 500 people.

The TBIS "500" system runs on IBM Personal Computers and compatibilities (requires a hard disk) and includes 3 powerful modules: Membership, Contributions, and Attendance. Benefits of the system include the ability to maintain records about members, visitors and prospects; print class rosters and track attendances at any church functions; keep up with all of the contributions and pledges; develop customized reports; print contributions statements; and much, much more.

The Baptist Information System and TBIS "500" are products of Randall House Publications and are the OFFICIAL church computer software products of the Free Will Baptist church.

To order a demonstration system or receive more information, contact Randall House Publications, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217, phone (615) 361-1221.

God's Yardstick

by Tom Strska

Two men sat down to the dinner table in different cities. One man's table was spread lavishly with meats, cheeses, fine breads and drink. The other man's table was nearly empty except for a few crusts of bread and a cup of milk. Each man bowed his head in prayer over his meal. Which man was most thankful?

To the eyes of the world all would certainly agree that the man who had plenty should be more thankful. However, looking through the eye of God, we venture to say that the man who had little was most thankful.

Consider the parable of the widow's two mites. She gave little in comparison to those who were rich, but Jesus said that she had given "more than they all."

The prophet Isaiah declared of God, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts," Isaiah 55:9.

The question then rises and asks, "How does God measure success?" Is success measured with the ruler of the world that can look no further than to say: How big? How much? How tall? How deep?

With the yardstick of the world in use, our blessed Saviour would have been a failure! In Apostle Paul's day, the old apostle was considered by the world as just another of the sect called Christian that was perishing in jail. The world only knew that John was cast away on a deserted island called Patmos! Some said that Philip was unimportant as they saw him journey alone into the desert where he met with an Ethiopian eunuch.

Our memories are fond of the great prophet Elijah! He was a man that was full of fire and used by God in miraculous ways. But even this fine Old Testament figure felt the fear of failure. "I, even I only am left," he cried in dejection to God.

Today many Christians - even pastors, evangelists, and missionaries - struggle with the fear of failure. Many feel that because great numbers are not being saved, or delivered, that they are somehow failing!

Why do we sometimes feel that we are not a success? Because we pick up the world's yardstick and start measuring ourselves!

Zechariah 4:10 admonishes us not to "despise the day of small things."

Little is much when God is in it! A crust of bread is much greater value than the feast of the wicked! Two small fishes once fed a great multitude!

Christians, pastors, evangelists, missionaries are sometimes discouraged by a small flock only when they raise their eyes to look at other congregations! God did not call us to look into our neighbor's yard!

The eyes of Christians everywhere must flee the immature emotion of being "spiritually up" or "spiritually down" by looking at numbers. God says, "Preach the Word!" God says, "Occupy till I come!" God says, "Get your eyes off of uncertain riches!" God says, "Be thankful in ALL THINGS!"

For what is the value of one soul? A man walked down the street and met another man at the corner. The first man asked, "What is the value of one soul?" The second man thought a moment and answered, "Yours or mine?"

Christians also lose their vision of the great value of the eternal soul. All the riches of the world collected together could not purchase a day in

eternity for one soul! Only the precious blood of Jesus is able to redeem the soul of man.

As the missionary labors year after year, walking a dusty trail for miles to meet with a handful of believers in a grass hut, what is the value of those souls? A pastor might open the doors of a street front church in a city's poor section year after year to meet with another handful. What is the value of those souls?

We will only know the value of a soul when we are gathered together unto Jesus. When handfuls of souls are gathered from the four corners of the earth as precious jewels to the hand of a loving Saviour, then and only then will we know the value of one soul. For one by one the faithful of each handful will appear with shining faces before the Lamb!

ABOUT THE WRITER: Tom Strska is a free lance writer. His relationship with the Lord is reflected in his writings. He is married to Judy Huffman. She is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Truman Huffman of Fredericktown, Missouri.



Points for Pastors

by James McAllister

One of the primary reasons for stagnant ministries is a failure on the part of the pastor to meditate in and on God's Word. It is easy to get so busy in doing good things we neglect the better. The man of God *must* have plenty of time for meditation in the Bible and prayer. We preachers should let ourselves be filled and then preach from the overflow — that is the richness of God's grace, and that is what feeds our congregation.

We see this stagnant, anemic, and sterile ministry manifested in several ways:

One, there will be frequent problems of disharmony in the church. The people will be out of sorts because the preacher is out of sorts. There will be a spirit of strife among the saints. The church won't have that spirit of love and warmth that characterizes a great church.

Two, there will be a raising up of dissenters and those who follow them. The pastor will discover that because his own heart is cold, he won't be able to warn the people, and thus they will follow spiritually weak but politically strong laymen of the church. The church will therefore not grow or flourish.

Three, the altars will become barren and the pulpit devoid of power and fire. If there is no heavenly fire in the pulpit, there won't be any fire in the pews. I'm not talking about worked up emotion or fabricated fire, but the fire that comes into a preacher's heart when he has been living in the Word and on his knees and his heart is broken over the conditions prevailing.

Four, workers will be few and their efforts will be of little effect. Momentum will die down to a standstill, teachers will teach with little interest, and fewer people will attend, leaving the worship services empty. There are but a few results.

What to do? Preachers, get back into the Word. Get alone with God and feed on the Word. Read Ravenhill's book for devotions. Read Rice's book on the "soulwinner's fire." Read Acts on your knees. Spend time with God and let the Lord fill you to overflowing. Then preach that overflow and watch God work.

Financial Information

OCTOBER 1990

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$ 6,335.34
17.50% Exec. Off. & Gem	5,992.89
3.50% General Fund	1,198.58
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	2,910.83
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	856.13
2.50% C.E. Board	856.13
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board	856.13
5.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	1,712.25
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	10,444.76
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	
(\$104.44 included in \$10,444.76)	
9.00% State Office & Bookstore Bldg.	3,082.06
Total	\$34,245.10

How bountiful are the blessings from the Lord! The Lord is so good! We thank Him for His blessings and faithfulness, through the faithful churches that are so consistent in supporting this unified plan of support. So we praise God, from Whom all blessings flow! We pray His continued blessings on those who share in this ministry.

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

OCTOBER 1990 RECEIPTS

COOPERATIVE

Friendship	\$ 230.28
New Life, Licking	657.37
Victory Hill	77.83
New Life Fellowship	898.38
Rolla	96.36
Potosi	196.73
Hopewell	160.00
Merl's Chapel	250.00
Hartville	405.50
Fourth	250.00
New Hope	11.41
Berkeley	297.16
New Rock Springs	54.50
Kingsway	261.00
Mt. Zion, Thayer	56.20
Beacon	500.00
Carthage	140.00
Calvary, Conway	224.92
Calvary Chapel	165.00
Unity	255.06
Royal Oak	100.00
Oak Hill, Fredericktown	192.96
Bailey Chapel	70.00
Victory, Alton	187.00
Pleasant Ridge	100.00
Number One	52.37
Lone Star	47.60
Faith, Lemay	25.00
Thayer	668.00
Monett	653.44
Union Light	225.00
Clifton	31.70
West Plains, First	599.69
Houston	461.93
Heritage	72.83
Lebanon, First	599.06
Lingo	52.74

New Harmony	18.40
Hannibal	127.00
Belton	311.08
Hannon	422.41
Seymour	124.00
Mt. Zion, Gower	51.40
Stockton	118.39
Blue Springs	160.00
Berean	30.46
Columbia	75.00
Cabool	302.85
Cabool	399.89
Oak Grove, Norwood	130.64
Overland	147.57
Happy Home	119.06
Happy Home	110.15
Myrtle	348.68
Springfield, First	705.58
Liberty	286.78
Rock Chapel	369.44
Byrd	38.00
Parkview	358.14
Olivet	400.00
Kirkville	72.50
Fredericktown	498.17
Mine La Motte	50.91
Richwoods	387.00
Mill Creek	272.68
Koshkonong	107.32
Black Oak	309.29
Cope	45.00
Freeman Chapel	237.35
Central	745.59
Central	775.67
United, W.P.	1,548.17
Trinity	941.59
DeSoto	940.00
Hurryville	243.40
Flat River, First	533.19
Farmington	2,228.40
Leadington	312.00
New Life, Licking	429.00
Mt. Pisgah	207.00
Bethel, El Dorado	49.21
Wilderness	374.00
Verdella	189.99
South Fremont	740.00
Salem	30.00
Wolf Creek	245.06
Pleasant Hill	76.35
Macedonia	20.00
Copper Mines	157.85
Beacon	1,000.00
Terrill Road	122.00
Eastern Gate	248.39
Grant Avenue	827.72
Grace	500.00
Beacon	1,500.00
New Rock Springs	114.00
Viburnum	197.79
Jones Chapel	175.56
Jones Chapel	193.28
St. Francois Association	16.50
Victory Hill	90.53
Hartville	319.27
Fourth	195.00
Myrtle	225.48
Union	120.00
Mountain Grove, First	793.40
Cape Girardeau	375.55
Total	\$34,245.10

YOUTH CAMP

Hartville	\$ 20.00
New Rock Springs	20.00
Thayer	30.00
Hannon	15.00
Monett	120.00
Myrtle	97.00
Olivet	25.00
Buffalo, First	50.00
Fordland	20.00
Parkview	20.00
Trinity	14.00
DeSoto	50.00
Mt. Pisgah	10.00
Bethel, El Dorado	15.00
Union	60.00
Calvary Fellowship	39.00
Mountain Grove, First	10.00
Total	\$605.00

FWBCC

Thayer	\$ 25.00
Parkview	10.00
Freeman Chapel	95.00

Central	54.00
DeSoto	35.00
Farmington	175.00
Grant Avenue	70.00
Calvary Fellowship	35.75
Total	\$499.75

HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$ 30.00
Hannon	50.00
Central	54.00
Farmington	84.58
Oak Hill, Union	19.50
Grant Avenue	10.00
Calvary Fellowship	35.75
Total	\$283.83

JOHN MCCLURE ACCOUNT

Berkeley	\$ 10.00
Thayer	12.00
Monett	310.00
Farmington	10.00
Verdella	10.00
Grace	25.00
Total	\$377.00

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Niangua	\$ 55.00
Richwoods	57.00
New Life Fellowship	45.00
Martinstown	100.00
Merl's Chapel	200.00
Fourth	110.00
New Hope	5.00
Berkeley	60.00
Cuba	52.73
N. Akeman	10.00
Beacon	240.00
Carthage	46.00
Oak Hill, Union	39.25
B. Blair	20.00
Southside	165.00
Pleasant Ridge	30.00
Thayer	45.00
Monett	567.87
West Plains, First	5.00
Houston	75.27
O'Fallon	40.00
Lebanon	75.00
Charley Rich	35.00
S.E. District	25.00
New Harmony	92.01
S. Hart	20.00
Belton	25.00
B. Thompson	50.00
Hannon	477.41
Blue Springs	70.00
Columbia	22.57
Oak Grove, Norwood	99.08
Myrtle	118.00
Rock Chapel	148.00
Parkview	289.70
Olivet	100.00
A. Jenkerson	25.00
Kirkville	27.00
Macedonia	10.00
Fordland	180.00
Sedalia	30.62
Mission Group	60.00
C. Layman	10.00
Freeman Chapel	306.74
Central	386.00
United, W.P.	12.00
Trinity	231.24
DeSoto	300.00
Flat River	106.64
Farmington	255.00
Leadington	30.00
Mt. Pisgah	200.00
Verdella	396.66
South Fremont	253.00
Bethel, Festus	50.00
Oak Grove, Cabool	65.00
Calvary Chapel	33.00
Eastern Gate	54.83
Grant Avenue	523.07
Grace	17.00
Sedalia	276.12
Viburnum	70.00
Richwoods	55.00
Myrtle	123.00
Calvary Fellowship	1,072.75
Mountain Grove	166.96
Total	\$8,941.52

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Richwoods	\$ 27.00
New Life Fellowship	45.00
Berkeley	15.00
Cuba	52.74
Beacon	50.00
Oak Hill, Union	29.00
Thayer	197.50
West Plains, First	3.00
Lebanon	5.00
S.E. District	25.00
Hannon	10.00
Blue Springs	10.00
Columbia	22.57
Oak Grove, Norwood	49.54
Myrtle	141.00
Rock Chapel	184.19
Parkview	51.00
Buffalo, First	100.00
A. Jenkerson	10.00
Kirkville	5.00
Fordland	15.00
Mission Group	10.00
Central	292.00
United, W.P.	25.00
Trinity	15.00
DeSoto	200.00
Flat River	15.00
Farmington	127.00
Mt. Pisgah	85.00
Verdella	15.00
South Fremont	79.00
Wolf Creek	10.00
Eastern Gate	10.00
Grant Avenue	41.00
Grace	152.00
Viburnum	43.00
Richwoods	27.00
Myrtle	135.00
Mountain Grove	15.00
Total	\$2,343.54

MISSOURI HOME MISSIONS

Richwoods	\$ 20.00
Fourth	20.00
Berkeley	15.00
Scott City	140.52
Cuba	52.73
Carthage	5.00
Oak Hill, Union	28.50
Southside	15.00
Pleasant Ridge	10.00
Thayer	35.00
Monett	3.00
O'Fallon	20.00
Lebanon	15.00
New Harmony	92.02
Belton	25.00
Hannon	211.20
Columbia	35.00
Myrtle	76.00
Parkview	5.00
A. Jenkerson	5.00
Macedonia	25.00
Fordland	27.00
J.W. Rader	25.00
Central	25.00
United, W.P.	7.00
Trinity	50.00
DeSoto	50.00
Flat River	131.64
Farmington	90.00
South Fremont	105.00
Bethel, Festus	20.00
Eastern Gate	20.00
Grant Avenue	285.87
Grace	25.00
Viburnum	23.00
Richwoods	15.00
Myrtle	76.00
Calvary Fellowship	317.63
Mountain Grove	7.00
Total	\$2,154.11

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born.

He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that ONE SOLITARY LIFE.



Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year
Clarence and Vivian

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