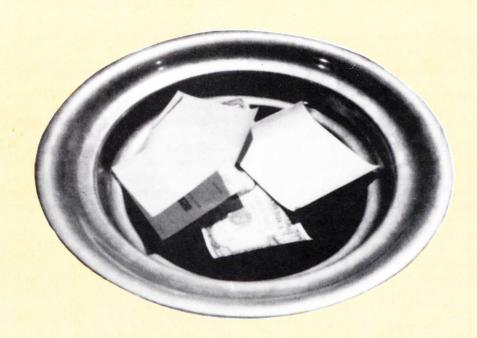


Volume 62, No. 3, March 1992

"Render unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's and unto God the things which be God's

Luke 20:25



"Sod loveth a cheerful giver" II Cor. 9:7

Missouri State CTS Competition **Registration Form** on page 7

The Christian Home

by Stanley Jones

Ephesians 5:21-6:4

Our churches are reflections of our homes. Show me a praying church, and I will show you praying families within that church. Show me a church which has a burden for souls and I'll show you soul-conscious families making up that church. A loving caring church family consists of loving human families.

Learning Christian principles of personal relationships in the home will enrich relationships within the church. Somehow we have the false notion that we can be a Christian in attitude and conduct everywhere but at home. It won't

work. And, in time it will become obvious as relationships in the church break down.

There are three main characteristics of the Christian home. They are: *submission* (Eph. 5:21-24, 33b; Col. 3:18); *love* (Eph. 5:25-33a; Col. 3:19); *obedience* (Eph. 6:14; Col. 3:20,21). These three areas are the responsibility of every family member. But in each area someone must take the load, or set the example.

member. But in each area, someone must take the lead, or set the example.

SUBMISSION: Ephesians 5:21 makes it clear all are to submit to each other. But verse 22 singles out the wife as the leader in the area. She is to create the atmosphere of submission in the home. Another word for submission to one another could be cooperation. So, the wife, as she displays a cooperative spirit toward her husband, is setting the tone for others in the home to follow.

LOVE: Ephesians 5:25 puts husbands in the role of leading his family in love. Love is the activity of all family members; but again, God set one in the home to provide the example to mimic. Love is not just emotions, but rather commitment. And, as the family sees a husband and father committed to his wife, his children, his church, his Lord, that family will have an atmosphere in which to express true love.

OBEDIENCE: No one in the family is omitted when it comes to their own area of responsibility. The wife sets the atmosphere of cooperation, the husband for commitment, and the children, according to Ephesians 6:1, are to give the example of compliance. Compliance is what obedience is all about. In obedience, we seek to grant the wishes and meet the needs of others.

When these attitudes are practiced in the home, they will, in turn, spill over into the church, the community, and the world. We can't be in other places, what we are not at home. If the principles of Christianity don't work at home, they will not work anywhere.

ABOUT THE WRITER: This message has been prepared by Rev. Stanley Jones. Stanley is a former writer for the GEM. He is serving as an evangelist, and he and his family live in Hartville, Missouri.

Cooperative Receipts for 1991 Exceed 1990

The economy was sluggish in 1991, as it is now; people have been laid off from their jobs; some no longer have jobs; but through it all the Lord has blessed through faithful pastors and churches with *Cooperative Receipts* for 1991 totaling \$337,919.56. This is an increase over the previous year of \$12,619.36. With a heart full of love, we praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!

Every ministry in the Missouri State Association has been blessed as a result of this. And this giving extends itself throughout the National Association of Free Will

Baptists

This is God's Plan — the tithe (10%). He blesses the individual, the family and the local church that follows this Biblical Principle. We are to give the Lord His tithes and complement that with our offerings. This is done through Cooperative and Designated giving. By doing this, our combined giving gives a solid financial foundation for the Lord's work, in the local church, the State Association and the National Association.

Again, Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!

Fine Leadership Conference

The Leadership Conference which met in Nashville on December 2 & 3 went well, writes Dr. Melvin Worthington, Executive Secretary. The participants freely and fully discussed issues regarding denominational stewardship and funding of national agencies.

The Stewardship Summit proved to be a rich and rewarding educational experience.

A National Stewardship Committee was appointed by Dr. Worthington, as directed by the participants. Those appointed to the committee are: (in alphabetical order) Clarence Burton, Connie Cariker, Jeff Crabtree, John Edwards, Norwood Gibson, David Joslin, Tom Lilly, Alton Loveless, David Shores, Don Walker and Ralph Hampton, advisor.

This committee will meet March 5-7 at the National Offices with the National Association Budget Committee.

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. Susbcription 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.



Reports from the Churches

CUBA CHURCH NEWS — In January of 1990, ten men committed themselves to a year long, two-hour monthly study session with the pastor. The purpose of the sessions was to learn together how to be more effective servant-leaders of the local church. At the end of the year, goals and objectives were established, with the men deciding it was God's will for them to serve as shepherds to the flock, and to regularly oversee the outreach program of the church. The participants also decided to make the two-hour monthly study session a regular on-going deacon and elder preparation program for all men serving the church on the Advisory Board and Shepherding Board.

These men (being convinced that the Scriptures reveal that servant-leaders of the church are to be continually growing and maturing in the grace and knowledge of Christ) have made significant impact upon the church. Assisting the pastor with new-member orientation, discipleship, and outreach, each participant is actively involved in ministering to and training others (2 Timothy 2:2).

On January 11, 1992, a special dinner was held for these men and for other participants in the 1992 Outreach program. Great joy and praise to God was given as the men discovered that God had so worked in the heart of His people, that a total of 32 people were committed to participation in the 1992 Outreach program. These are divided into 4 teams, with each team being led by 3 members of the Shepherding board. Ordination services for several of these men will be held during 1992. They are a blessing to their pastor, and their dedication and service is truly appreciated by the church. The number of men now participating in the servant-leadership program has grown to twelve, and others are expected to be added in the future.

Pastor Dablemont has served the Cuba Church for almost 8 years; In December of 1991 he completed his M.A. in Biblical Studies at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis.



Left to right — Front row: Helen Brown, Mable Kitchen, Georgia Farris, Judy Schroeder, Connie Dildine, Judy Dablemont, Becky Simpson, Kathy Huxtable, Barbara McCallum, Nancy Fields. Back row: Cecil Brown, Ed Kitchen, Ken Brown, Joe Weber, Rich Dildine, Pastor Rick, Dennis Simpson, Denny Pollard, Rich Enloe, Ed Fields, Vernon Kalmbah. Not pictured: Kenny Setzer, Jim Harrison, Curtis Holt, Everett Cox, Donna Setzer, Josie Harrison, Donna Black, Pam Weber, Juanita Weber, Genifer Campbell, Flora Kalmbah.

WORK DAY

FREE WILL BAPTIST YOUTH CAMP

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1992



Sunday School Attendance Averages August 1991 - January 1992

CHURCHES	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN
Belton	61	57	57	54	59	67
Bethel, El Dorado	59	61	68	62		
Calvary Fellowship	201	203	237	251		
Cape Girardeau	69	82	70	73	72	102
Central	102	102	102	93	103	
Copper Mines	76	61	60	68		
Cuba	63	70	74	75	76	85
DeSoto	180	183	179	180	178	199
Farmington	405	378	432	409	388	396
Flat River, First	110	108	110	105		
Hannon	86	102	106	103	103	97
Harmony	79	78	73	69	70	80
Hartville	92	99	99	100	91	99
Hopewell	40	37	29	34	32	29
Houston	81	86	102	94	90	102
Lebanon, First	84	92	103	92	97	106
Marshfield	28	28	26	29	27	25
Monett	115	109	148	128	130	118
Myrtle	37	36	39	31	29	32
Overland		38				
Parkview	56	53	56	51	55	51
Potosi	54					
Richwoods	35	52	35	34	36	
Rock Chapel	75	70	76	76	75	77
Springfield, First		124	137	132	123	127
Thayer			122	110	122	123
United, West Plains	193	187	193	168	183	184
Victory, Kansas City	70	63	75	81	70	75
Willow Springs	63	61	65	60	62	
Verdella	63	74	81	70	73	72

The above is only a partial listing — there are 177 Free Will Baptist churches in Missouri. Each church is encouraged to send in the Sunday School average each month.

The 1992
Free Will Baptist
National Invitational
Softball Tournament
August 20-21-22
Sponsored by
Master's Men Department

EDITOR'S NOTE: Linda Derby is an R.N. Her husband, Dr. Dale Derby, has an office in the Lead Belt Area. They and their children are actively involved in the First Free Will Baptist Church in Farmington. I suggest that your read this article, and let the Lord remind you of His power to do what He chooses to do, as He may be glorified through the weakness of the flesh. We ask and pray that His will may be done. What a wonderful Lord!

The Healing

by Linda Derby

JAMES 5:13-15

13 Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms.

14 Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Last spring I contracted a virus which at the time the doctors thought to be the Epstein-Barr virus. This is a rather common virus among teenagers causing the disease mononucleosis. Even though my doctor told me I was "too old" to have mono and I didn't have the symptomatology, the lab results on my blood indicated a severe infection of this disease. I was very ill and over the next 6 months my symptoms grew progressively worse to the point of becoming totally non functioning. It was during this time of complete helplessness I cried out to God, obeyed His Word, and He so graciously, miraculously healed me from this disease.

The physical symptoms I suffered from that were so incapacitating: severe headaches, mental confusion, cerebral edema, visual disturbances, frequent respiratory infections and unbelievable, devastating fatigue. I had to resign my job as a nurse because I had no stamina or endurance to stay up for more than 2 - 3 hours a day.

It was very difficult if not impossible to carry out my normal routine functions as wife and mother. My family was very supportive, but my children didn't always understand why Mom was always sick and in bed.

Serving the Lord was very difficult, too. My husband and I are actively involved in the church's bus ministry. He is the Bus Director and I have a bus route. I would literally have to pray to God to give me enough strength to get out of bed on Sunday mornings so I could run the route. The fatigue was so debilitating.

After 6 months of living this nightmare, my doctor referred me to an infectious disease specialist. He referred me to the specialist after I told him I could not remember the month of June and only had a vague recollection of attending the National Convention in July. My mental status had deteriorated.

I met with the infectious disease doctor in early September. He thoroughly evaluated my condition and then discussed with me his findings. Even though my mental state was impaired that day, I knew what he told me was not good. I did not have a chronic mononucleosis infection; I had something much worse. I had contracted and been infected by the Human Herpes No. 6 virus and it had attacked my immune system. I was unable to fight infection. My immune system was compromised. I could die from an infection that is normally easy to treat. He

guaranteed that because my lab titers were so elevated due to the magnitude of the infection, I would have Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

All this information was so overwhelming and difficult to accept. It was like a death sentence because there was no cure or treatment. I kept thinking how would I care for my children, my family? How could I continue to serve the Lord? I no longer had the strength to fulfill my responsibilities. I was so discouraged.

Before I left the doctor's office that day, I asked that he send my husband, who is also a physician, any information he had on this particular virus. He assured me there wasn't much information on this virus, that it was only discovered or isolated 3 years ago. However, he would send us what information he had.

We received the information in the mail a few days later. As my husband and I were reading through the medical articles, I noticed the expression changing on his face. He looked quite worried so I asked him what was wrong.

He looked at me and said, "Linda, you have a terrible disease that no one knows anything about and there's no treatment or cure. It has affected your immune system and no one can tell me what to expect 3 to 5 years down the road. You are very ill." (I kinda knew that!)

We quietly sat reading and absorbing this information about the virus. I became quite concerned and scared. In my heart I knew I would die from this virus, and judging by how I felt, I didn't think it would be long.

After several minutes of silence my husband said, "You know, we are going about this all wrong. We should have done what we already know to do. The Bible says if you are sick, call the elders of the church and let them pray over you. And, that is exactly what we are going to do."

We had originally planned to speak with our pastor about our decision the following day which was Sunday. But, the Holy Spirit would intervene before we had the chance to meet with Brother Roger.

Sunday morning services started out as usual, but that would soon change. The Holy Spirit began to work during the singing of the special music. The message in the song was so beautiful. It spoke of the valleys Christians go through; that in these valleys is where Christians find strength and learn to grow in the Lord. The message spoke to nearly every heart in the congregation. It was quite emotional. Our pastor then approached the pulpit and he, too, was somewhat overcome with emotion. He addressed the congregation and explained the Holy Spirit had compelled him to do something different that morning; that he did not think he should begin with his sermon. He then asked if anyone had a testimony.

As soon as he spoke these words, I knew this service was for me. The Holy Spirit was tugging at my heart to stand and tell the congregation of my plight. But, I just couldn't at that time. I, too, was overcome with emotion. I kept praying for the Lord not to end this testimonial service, that I would testify, but first I needed to regain my composure. I guess I was really waiting for the right moment.

The right moment soon came. Some friends of ours, Dr. Paul and Tammy Gentuso, from Nashville, Tennessee, were visiting the church that day. Tammy stood and spoke how the Lord had prepared them for the missionary field

(continued on page 6)

Senior Adult Retreat

sponsored by
Senior Adult Ministries Board

May 11-13, 1992

Stonecroft Conference Center Branson, Missouri

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.

Gospel Preaching and Special Music



OKLAHOMA MINISTERS QUARTET

COST: Couple \$70.00

Triple \$30.00 per person Quad \$25.00 per person Dress: Casual

REGISTRATION FORM - SENIOR ADULT RETREAT

A \$5 non-refundable deposit is required for each person listed on the registration form.

Please return Registration Form to: Senior Adult Ministries Board, 2040 Osage St., Lebanon, Mo. 65536 by May 1, 1992.

through the illness of their infant son, Stephen. Stephen was just a few days old when he was stricken with an overwhelming viral infection. The doctors said there was no hope; he would die. The parents, however, would not accept this. They knew more than the doctors. They knew the Great Physician and of His healing power. Tammy and Paul and half the Free Will Baptists in the country began to pray for their little one. And, as one would expect, Stephen went home with his parents several days later, in perfect health, completely healed.

Tammy and Paul had learned to totally rely on the Lord for everything. Even with the medical technology available to their son, nothing could help him. It was a hopeless, helpless situation. However, by faith, prayer, and trusting in the Lord, God had turned a hopeless situation into a

great victory.

Stephen's situation paralleled with mine. I, too, had advanced medical technology at my disposal, the best doctors in their fields, but nothing could be done for me. I was in a hopeless, helpless state. With this realization, I knew it was time to make my request known to my church family; that I needed their prayers; I had a real health problem without remedy. I then stood and made an emotional appeal for their prayers.

As I was about to sit down, Brother Roger approached me and so humbly asked if I would like the elders to pray

for me. I, of course, said "yes."

The elders assembled around the altar with me and began to pray. God's presence was so strong; His Spirit so prevalent. I was trembling. The power of God permeated the walls of the building. I thought for a moment the auditorium would surely quake. God was everywhere.

I will never forget that time at the altar. I will never forget the peace, the warmth that flooded my soul. God's presence was so real to me, and I knew that when the

prayer had ended, I had been healed.

I did not get a chance after the services to talk with my pastor about the healing that took place. I had some questions I needed him to answer. So, I called Brother Roger and I asked if my husband had arranged with him prior to the services to have the elders pray over me. Brother Roger assured me he had not spoken with my husband, that the Holy Spirit had compelled him to call the elders and have them pray for me.

I needed to hear that. Satan constantly paddles me back and forth like a ping-pong ball instilling doubt and fear and every form of negativity in me. But, what took place on that Sunday morning was not of man but of God. It was supernatural. My husband had not orchestrated the assembling of the elders and my pastor was unaware of our intentions. The Holy Spirit was in charge and He impressed upon Brother Roger to gather the elders

because it was time for Linda to be healed!

Three months after my healing, I had to see the infectious disease doctor for a routine follow-up visit. I didn't want or need to go but because of insurance purposes, I made the visit. (Keep in mind he was unaware of the mircale that had taken place 3 months earlier.) He examined me and asked the usual questions on how I was doing, etc. I kept telling him I felt fine; that I no longer had the headaches, mental confusion, cerebral edema or the devastating fatigue. He looked rather puzzled as I told him how good I felt. He would scratch his head and act as if he didn't believe me.

After taking much delight in his apparent bewilderment, I finally told him what had happened. I explained my husband and I were born again Christians and we did what the Bible said to do when you are sick — have the elders of the church pray for you. I then elaborated on the miracle that God performed.

He really looked confused at that point and I knew I had lost him. He thought for a moment trying to offer an excuse or rebuttal to my comments. He then replied that many of his chronically ill patients started taking a more positive approach with their lives and before long, they

were feeling better.

By now, my doctor was beginning to irritate me just a little. I informed him if what had happened to me was just a choice of mind over matter or the power of positive thinking, I would have been well much sooner. I had no desire to be sick and after one week of illness I would have WILLED myself back to good health. It wasn't the power of positive thinking, it was the healing power of God Almighty. He healed me.

The doctor released me from his care that day because he could find nothing wrong with me. His long range theory regarding my health went out the window. He was baffled by my progress. As I left his office, he wished me

well and I left him a tract.

Six months have passed since the healing. All the debilitating symptoms are gone. They were eliminated immediately on that September Sunday, last fall. The Lord has given me back my life. I don't fully understand why He would heal me anymore than I understand why He would want to save me. But, He did and I will praise His name forever.



1992 Missouri State CTS Competition

It's almost time for the 1992 Missouri State CTS Competition! This year's competition will be held at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar on May 15-16.

The deadline for registration is April 15, 1992. Vocal and instrumental solos, keyboard solos, and first-round Tic Tac Toe and Bible Bowl are tentatively scheduled for Friday night.

Get your registrations mailed in early! Send them to:

Missouri Youth Ministries Board

Jeff Gaskins 1060 S. Grant Springfield, MO 65807

Lodging information will be sent to you with your confirmation of registration. If you have any questions, call or write:

Curt Gwartney 102 Randy Street Desloge, MO 63601 (314) 431-3235

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE COMPETITION REGISTRATION FORM

DISTRICT-STATE-NATIONAL

	DISTRICT CTATE WATCHE	
COMPETITION CODES	Record code numbers from left column here	\
Circle the appropriate information below and write correct code numbers in the boxes in the top right-hand corner:	19 Record code numbers from left column here -	AGE COMPETITION
AGE GROUP A Grades 1-3		CODE CODE
B Grades 4—6 C Grades 7—9	Name of participant or group (as you want it to appear in the o	lirectory)
D Grades 10-12 E Ages 18-24		
F Combination of A—E	Name of Oliver	Chata
BIBLE DIVISIONS 00.1 Bible Meritionization 00.2 Bible Sword Drill 00.3 Bible Tic Tac Toe 00.4 Bible Bown	Name of Church Clty	State
00.8 Turning Roint 00.9 Horizon	Pastor's name	Pastor's phone number
MUSIC & ARTS		
Vocal Solo 01.1 Vocal Solo (Age A-B)		Diseased above sumber
01.2 Male Vocal Solo (Age C—E) 01.3 Female Vocal Solo (Age C—E)	Name of director (or coach)	Director's phone number
Vocal Ensemble 02.2 Duet		
02.3 Trio 02.4 Quartet	Complete the following information for each participant	in this entry:
02.5 Quintet 02.6 Sextet	Complete the following information for each participant	in this entry.
Chorale & Choir	1. Name 8. Name	
03.1 Chorale (7–14) 03.2 Choir (15 or more)		
Instrumental Solo (not keyboard)		ST ZIP
04.1 String (Bowed) 04.2 String (Fretted)	PhoneBirthday Grade just completed Phone	Birthday Grade just completed
04.3 Woodwind 04.4 Brass	2. Name 9. Name	
04.5 Percussion		
Small Instrumental Ensemble (max. 6)	City ST ZIP City	STZIP
05.1 String (Bowed) 05.2 String (Fretted)	PhoneBirthday Grade just completed Phone	Birthday Grade just completed
05.3 Woodwind 05.4 Brass		
05.5 Percussion 05.6 Combination of instruments	1	
Large Inst. Ensemble (Band/Orchestra)		STZIP
06.1 Large Ensemble (7–14) 06.2 Band (15 or more)		Birthday Grade just completed
06.3 Orchestra (15 or more)		
Keyboard		27 70
07.1 Manual (solo) 07.2 Electronic (solo)		STZIP
07.3 Keyboard Ensemble (2—6)		Birthday Grade just completed _
Oral Communication 08.1 Extemporaneous Speech		
08.2 Dramatic Selection 08.3 Poetry	Address Address _	
08.4 Prose 08.5 Interpretive Reading of Scripture		STZIP
U8.6 Puppetry (live)		Birthday Grade just completed _
08.7 Puppetry (recorded) 08.8 Duet Acting		
08.9 Readers Theater 08.0 Skut		27. 710
Creative Writing		ST ZIP
09.1 Poetry 09.2 Short Story		Birthday Grade just completed
09.3 Essay 09.4 Play or Skit		
09.5 Song		27.710
Multi-Media		STZIP
10.1 One-Minute Radio Spot 10.2 Ten-Minute Radio Program		Birthday Grade just completed
10.3 Slide Presentation 10.4 Video	For groups larger than 14, please use two forms to re	ecord additional information .
10.5 Multi-Image Presentation	DARTICIDANTS DI EDGE	
Creative Arts 11.1 Sculpture/Pottery	PARTICIPANT'S PLEDGE (to be signed by the individual participant or by the I certify that the information on this form is correct and that I (or each group	director [coach] of a group)
11.2 Painting	indicated above as stated in the Guidelines for Competitive Activities,	and Loromise to conduct myself (or group) in
11.3 Graphics 11.4 Ceramic	manner becoming to a Christian and representative of my church, district	, and state.
11.5 Textiles 11.6 Photography (Black & White) 11.7 Photography (Color)		

Signature of Participant or Director (Coach)



The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

Lattended a luncheon this week at which a speaker spoke on "Matters of the Heart." She made reference to how much emphasis is placed on maintaining a healthy heart (and, having some problems with my own heart, I have to admit I get caught up in all the recommendations to prevent further complications), and how surprised she was when she picked up a package of "heart healthy" cookies to find the ingredients were eggs, sugar, shortening, and all the same ingredients found in regular cookies. However, because they were labeled "heart healthy," they were selling rapidly as they promoted what consumers wanted to hear, and alleviated a cookie lover's guilt of consuming "unhealthy" products.

What about the health of the soul? People spend hours reading manuals to increase their health consciousness and taking CPR classes — which is all good, IF Christians are as conscious of reviving those who need spiritual revival. What "ingredients" would be needed in order to be labeled "soul healthy"?

These answers will vary with each person because not everyone will define "soul healthy" in the same way. However, we would probably all agree that LOVE is an important ingredient as God commands us to love each other and feels it is so important that He defines it in detail in I Corinthians 13. Holiness and sincerity would also be important as others will be viewing these qualities in us. Spiritual growth would also be a must. These "ingredients" would be necessary in order to be healthy spiritually as well as help others.

Review what you consider to be "soul healthy" and ask yourself if you could have the label "soul healthy" stamped on your life or if it — like the example of the cookies — would be a misleading label which would only lead others astray.

Minute Meditation by Gary Fry

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

These two verses express one of the most basic precepts in the scripture. They compress most of the teachings of Proverbs into a few words.

Since man is a creature of trust, it seems to come easy for most people to trust one thing or another. Man's problem is not a lack of trust but rather the object of his trust. It seems to be easy for him to put his trust in money or knowledge or the direction and council of his advisors. Yet he seems not to realize that these will leave him in the hour of his extreme need.

Men often trust in their own abilities. It is an acceptable thing in our world for a man to brag about his own achievements. In fact, we teach our young people that accomplishments are often the product of our own imagination and hard work, leaving out God's part in our success.

Trust in good works and religious ritual is sometimes substituted for actual trust in the Lord. Men somehow have the idea that you can start in the middle of living for God and bypass the most important step, that of trust-

ing the Lord to forgive sin. This is the absolute first step in the act of "trusting the Lord with all your heart..."

While it may sound odd, some men substitute trust in the Lord with trust in His mercy. They live their lives in the hope that when they die and stand in front of God, that His mercy will prevent Him from doing what He has promised to do. While God's mercy is certainly extended to all men, we must take advantage of it while we live here for it to benefit us after we die!

God knew that men would become full of their own understanding and forget that the truth only comes from God. And God was right; men scoff at the wisdom of God, prefering their own flawed brand of understanding that always leads to error and failure. Satan is good at misdirecting our attention and telling us that our failures are God's fault and not our own and we believe him.

To couple the previous principles with an acknowledgement of God in every area of life is one of the most sure-fire success methods around. Acknowledgement is more than a passing nod, however. It is recognizing that God himself has more than a passing interest in every area of our life and is the only one who can provide the assistance we need.

What these two verses really provide is the best method of determining God's will available to those who really want to know.

Singing Lewis Family Marks First Anniversary



Saturday, January 25, marked the first anniversary of the Terry Lewis family singing group. Over three hundred people gathered in the First Free Will Baptist Church of De Soto to help the Lewises celebrate. The Wallen family singers and the Glorylanders led off the evening. The Lewis family followed, with daughters Michelle and Jamie, ages 15 and 13, on the keyboard and bass guitar. Glen Young-blood accompanied on the drums.

Terry sings lead and his wife, Donna, accompanies him often. Michelle and Jamie won first place in the duet division, and were two-thirds of the trio that won first, during the Missouri CTS competition last May. They use their singing talent, as well as their instruments, for the Lord. Glen, also of the De Soto church, joined the Lewises a few moths ago.

The family has been traveling around Missouri, spreading blessings as they go. The long-time members of the De Soto church are excited about their singing ministry and are available to come to your special church functions. Please call (314) 586-2008 for more information.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a fine Gospel Singing Family. The Lord will use them to bless the local church, or church-related activities.

Southeastern Announces Graduation

Southeastern Free Will Baptist College announces their 1991-92 graduation exercises which will be held May 14, 10:00 a.m. at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina.

The commencement message will be delivered by Rev. Danny Dwyer, Vice President of Southeastern Free Will Baptist College. Bro. Dwyer is assistant to the president, Dean of Students, and is Chairman of the Pastoral Theology Dept. at Southeastern.

Bro. Dwyer and family have been with Southeastern since its beginning in 1983. His wife, Carolyn, serves as secretary to the president and his daughter, Wendy, graduated from Southeastern in 1989. Bro. Dwyer's son, Daron, will be among the twenty-three seniors graduating on May 14. Their youngest daughter, Sara, attends Raleigh Christian Academy.

Bro. Bevan says, "They have been a tremendous blessing to the ministry of Southeastern. I don't know how we would have gotten by without them."

You are extended a cordial invitation by President Bevan and the Board of Directors to attend the commencement, Thursday morning, May 14, 1992, 10:00 a.m. at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Raleigh.

Such Is The Kingdom

by Vicki Turner

Dirty faces, tangled hair and clothes all worn and tattered, Hearts and minds piled high with pain from homes that have been shattered. They ride the buses to the church, for parents won't come with them, They want to learn about the Lord and how to be a Christian.

But there are times we overlook these hungry, empty souls, By looking at the outside, not the inside spark that glows. We only see the traps and snares, those which the devil sets, To make us overlook the child he's trying hard to get.

"Such is the kingdom of heaven," that's what Jesus said, "Forbid them not to come unto me" for children too need fed.

Vicki and her husband are actively involved in the work at the Carthage Mission Church.

"An Unplanned Meeting"

by Jim Williams

The wind howled so fiercely and the temperature was real cold, I didn't want to be out in it, but I had someplace to go.

The inside seemed warm, and my, what a crowd in this gloom, But it's better now, I see a familiar face across the room.

We finally made our way to each other although the crowd was still here, Then a close, tender hug, a gentle smile and a tear.

We laughed and chatted about our jobs, our weight and hair, Then our eyes caught the figure of another that was there.

We hadn't remained as close as I wished we had through the years, And now as we spoke, with hurt, we tried to hold back the tears.

For the figure was a loved one who had gone on to meet their doom, And our presence was here for respect as they laid him in a tomb.

A kiss and a tear, a sweet song and a prayer, Be sure to sign the book so the family will know you were there.

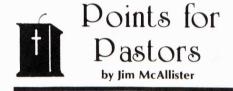
A hollow promise given, but it is probably untrue, With these few empty words, "I'll be thinking of you."

But back to our business, we're busy without end. Then in a little while we'll all meet again.

But next time will be different, just wait and see, For the one all have come for could be you or me.

But all really isn't over, and not everything need be loss, For God loved us so much He let His Son Jesus die on the cross.

For God made a great promise, His Word true, He did give, Put your trust in Jesus as your Savior, and always you'll live.



Recently I was asked to speak in a conference on the subject of "retaining what you catch." The idea was simply that we Free Will Baptists seem to have a tendency to catch fish, or win the lost, and then lose them. Years ago an Assembly of God pastor in Kansas City told me that he had been watching Free Will Baptists for years, and, he had discovered that we could reach more people quicker, and then lose them quicker than any church he knew about.

Well, I don't know whether that is true or not, but it is very possible. This might explain why we don't seem to grow. There must be a connection between the facts: 1) We do win people to Christ in rather large numbers, and 2) we are not growing. It would seem that the two do have something in common.

There certainly is no conflict in the Bible between evangelism and discipleship. There should be no problem within our church on these two vital subjects. If we can get both working in the local church, then we should see dramatic growth every year.

For example, if the average Free Will Baptist Church has about 75 in attendance and that church wins 15 people to Christ each year, and loses 8 people through transfer, backsliding, and death, then the growth would be 7 people per year. In 10 years the church will double. Logically, our denomination should double in 11 years. But we aren't and I believe the real problem lies in the discipling side of the great commission.

Checking Our Church Growth

by Ken Dodson

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rev. Ken Dodson, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Monett, Missouri, is a new writer for the GEM. He will be using as his focal point -Checking Our Church Growth. He is an experienced pastor with a strong emphasis on soul winning. His articles will be timely, challenging and helpful. Brother Dodson is experiencing a fruitful ministry with the church he serves, and he can write from the perspective of "The Lord has blessed me in doing this," rather than "I think this will work." He is presently serving on the State Youth Camp Board. The Monett Church is actively involved in the State and National ministries.

It was one of those horrible but necessary expriences in life. It took place years ago but only seems like yesterday. I was bright eyed, bushy tailed and all of five years old. I remember Mom telling me that I would be going to kindergarten in the next few weeks and that I would

be a big boy now. That was alright with me. I was ready to grow up and experience all the wonders that awaited me. But the bad news soon followed. It seemed you couldn't get that chance for growth until you had a physical examination. Apprehension now filled my desire for growth. especially when doctors and shots started to be mentioned. The day arrived. It was worse than I had even imagined. I was proded and poked and stared at. Instead of growing I seemed smaller than at any time in my life. And then! And then came this nurse with the biggest needle ever manufactured. Tears began to puddle in my eyes. Why couldn't they just leave me alone. I kind of liked being little anyway. Who wanted to grow up if you had to do this.

Well, what my mother knew and the school officials knew was that to insure safe physical growth you needed a good basic examination. Preventive measures need to be taken to make sure disease doesn't retard the growth that should take place.

Wise ministers who are truly concerned about the proper and healthy growth of their church need to heed the example of good mothers. The Corinthian church bragged of their growth from their own eyes. But upon Paul's examination he had this to say about their well being, "...many are weak and sickly among you..." What was Paul's consensus? "But let a man examine himself."

A total spiritual examination is needed before a church is ready for healthy, continued growth. However, that examination can make both the minister and the congregation very apprehensive. Then when the Holy Spirit begins to show the need of a huge innoculation of God's Word in a very tender area of the spiritual body, we sometimes decide that maybe it's better that we don't grow up after all.

But grow we must. The writer of Hebrews said in 5:13, 14, "For everyone that useth milk is unskillful (immature - not grown) in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age (spiritually mature and growing) even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Many a zealous minister has enacted many good programs and activities to spur numerical growth in souls saved. Growth was sustained momentarily, only to find it collapse. What hapened? The weight was too great for the church body to sustain. There was not the healthy spiritual strength needed to continue the growth.

In the next few articles we will be looking at some areas that should have proper examination and spiritual attention in order to keep "Checking Our Church Growth."

A Letter From Roy Thomas To The Churches of Missouri:

I thank the Lord and the good people and churches of Missouri for all the prayers and gifts which enabled the National Home Missions Department to have a good year with some great accomplishments in 1991. Although the year was very tight financially, and we had record deficits both in missionary accounts and in the General Fund, it ended with a total income of \$2,270,727.62, for which we are very thankful. Expenditures for the year were \$2,362,656.89.

Twenty-two (22) states exceeded their goals in giving to National Home Missions. Missouri gave \$119,413.76, which was under your 1991 goal of \$155,000.00. I thank the churches of Missouri for what you did.

The 1992 goal for Missouri is \$150,000.00. I hope you will begin now to

work toward reaching it.

Our greatest and most critical need at this time is additional support for our *General Fund*. This fund undergirds the work of the entire department and provides many helps for our home missionaries. We have cut every corner we could, and spent only for the bare necessities from the General Fund. However, it cost over \$91,929.27 more to operate than what was received in our General Fund.

I pray that the churches and individuals of Missouri will include the Home

Missions General Fund in their giving for 1992.

Thank you for your help. May the churches of Missouri and the National Home Missions Department join hands to put "Missionaries In Every State For Churches In Every City."

In His service,

Roy Thomas

Roy Thomas General Director

Financial Information

| JANUARY 1992 | COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS | 18.50% | Mo. State Home Missions | Board \$ 6,775.71 | 17.50% | Exec. Off. & Gem . . 6,409.45 | 3.50% | General Fund 1,281.89 | 8.50% | Youth Camp Bd. . . 3,113.16 | 2.50% | Youth Ministries Bd. . . 915.64 | 2.50% | Sr. Adult Ministries Board 915.64 | 9.00% | Mo. State Retirement

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
(\$111.70 included in \$11,170.78)
5% Mo. State Conference
Center Fund \$1,831.2
Total \$36,625.4

This month begins the year 1992! We do not know what the future holds - we do not know what tomorrow holds. But praise the Lord we know Who holds tomorrow. And, as He holds our hand everything will work out for His glory and for the good of those who love Him. May the Lord continue to bless the faithful pastors and churches as we serve Him. We pray that cooperative and designated receipts for 1992 will exceed that which we received in 1991. Through our giving and because of His great love toward us, souls are saved and Christians are strengthened in the Lord.

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

JANUARY 1992 RECEIPTS COOPERATIVE

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Carthage	\$	150.00
Unity		264.92
New Rock Springs		106.00
Number One		. 49.16
Clifton		100.50
Myrtle		483.55
Hartville		384.02
Kingsway		318.48
New Harmony		. 28.98
Friendship		481.60
Verdella	• • •	204.18
Rolla		. 88.11
Thayer		645.00
Bailey Chapel		. 68.00
Fourth		
Fourth		209.00
Name Life Full		187.83
New Life Fellowship		475.29
Central		173.54
Salem		. 60.00
Liberty		285.59
Riverview		594.75
Royal Oak		141.00
Houston		368.25
Columbia		. 75.00
Lone Star		. 34.19
Bethel		100.00
Belton		361.85
Joplin		438.57
O'Fallon		166.00
Oak Hill, Fredericktown		116.84
Beacon	. 1	,500.00
Mill Creek		254.46
Union Grove		208.00
Mt. Pisgah		197.00
Heritage		155.00
Rock Chapel		755.18
Mt. Zion, Gower		. 56.60
Lebanon		581.91
Marshfield		263.52
Cope		. 40.00
Mountain Grove		. 50.00
Victory, Alton		201.00
Calvary Chapel		114.21
Alton		225.00
Pleasant Ridge		110.00
Hannon		434.75
DeSoto		835.00
Waynesville		542.32
Monett		781.65
Parkview		385.16
Fredericktown		417.95
New Hope		8.15
Mine La Motte		
Willie La Motte		. 36.60

Twin Oaks		968.09
Freeman Chapel		263.84 206.00
Merl's Chapel		. 50.00
Kirksville		153.50
Leadington		334.75 823.24
Seymour		113.00
West Plains 1st		532.57
Wilderness		272.00 489.00
Scott City		365.61
Unitéd		695.28
Springfield 1st		765.97
Bethel, El Dorado		. 56.34 150.00
Potosi		135.10
Lingo		. 21.80
Fordland		547.62
Trinity		,139.64
Faith, Lemay		
Oak Hill, Union		517.27 358.74
Victory Hill		. 22.00
Stockton		107.91
Happy Home		186.43 410.00
Wolf Creek		292.80
Neosho		. 71.25
Faith & Hope		121.52 227.44
Harmony, K.C.		508.00
Black Oak		274.73
Farmington		,235.58
Olivet		. 80.00
Carthage		140.00
Grant Avenue		774.49
Eastern Gate		382.32 178.00
Grace		,110.00
Pleasant Hill		. 59.65
Willow Springs		230.85
Jone's Chapel New Rock Springs		194.05 . 63.00
Berean		. 20.00
Terrill Road		136.00
Overland		128.20 102.75
Friendship		
		351.20
Myrtle		171.16
Number One		171.16 . 39.28
Number One		171.16 . 39.28 241.85
Number One		171.16 . 39.28
Number One		171.16 . 39.28 241.85 105.45 . 58.48 741.59
Númber One. Liberty. Overland Clifton. Central Salem		171.16 . 39.28 241.85 105.45 . 58.48 741.59 . 30.00
Number One		171.16 . 39.28 241.85 105.45 . 58.48 741.59 . 30.00 . 17.62
Númber One		171.16 . 39.28 241.85 105.45 . 58.48 741.59 . 30.00 . 17.62 . 96.13 157.39
Númber One		171.16 . 39.28 241.85 105.45 . 58.48 741.59 . 30.00 . 17.62 . 96.13 157.39 206.19
Númber One		171.16 . 39.28 241.85 105.45 . 58.48 741.59 . 30.00 . 17.62 . 96.13 157.39 206.19
Númber One		171.16 . 39.28 241.85 105.45 . 58.48 . 741.59 . 30.00 . 17.62 . 96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 109.88 158.66
Númber One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton		171.16 . 39.28 241.85 105.45 . 58.48 . 741.59 . 30.00 . 17.62 . 96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 109.88 158.66
Númber One		171.16 . 39.28 241.85 105.45 . 58.48 . 741.59 . 30.00 . 17.62 . 96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 109.88 158.66
Númber One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage	\$36	171.16 . 39.28 241.85 105.45 . 58.48 741.59 . 30.00 . 17.62 . 96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 109.88 158.66 ,625.47
Númber One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage	\$36	171.16 .39.28 241.85 105.45 .58.48 741.59 .30.00 .17.62 .96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 109.88 158.66 ,625.47
Númber One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville	\$36	171.16 .39,28 241.85 105.45 .58,48 741.59 .30.00 .17.62 .96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 109.88 158.66 ,625.47
Númber One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville Niangua	\$36	171.16 .39,28 241.85 .58,48 741.59 .30,00 .17.62 .96.13 157.39 100.00 109,88 158.66 .625.47 81.00 .48.10 210.00 .76.80 .60.00
Númber One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville Niangua Cuba	\$36	171.16 .39.28 241.85 105.45 .58.48 741.59 .30.00 .17.62 .96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 109.88 158.66 ,625.47 81.00 .48.10 210.00 .76.80 .60.00 .60.00
Númber One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville Niangua	\$36	171.16 .39,28 241.85 105.45 .58,48 741.59 .30,00 .17.62 .96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 109,88 158.66 ,625.47 81.00 .48.10 210.00 .76.80 .60.00 .60.45 200.00 144.95
Númber One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville Niangua Cuba Houston New Harmony Martinstown	\$36	171.16 .39,28 241.85 105.45 .58.48 741.59 .30.00 .17.62 .96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 109.88 158.66 .625.47 81.00 .48.10 210.00 .76.80 .60.00 .60.05 .60.00
Númber One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville Niangua Cuba Houston New Harmony Martinstown Richwoods	\$36	171.16 .39.28 241.85 105.45 .58.48 741.59 .30.00 .17.62 .96.13 157.39 200.00 109.88 158.66 .625.47 81.00 .48.10 210.00 .76.80 .60.00 .60.04 200.00 144.95 100.00 .67.00
Númber One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville Niangua Cuba Houston New Harmony Martinstown Richwoods Verdella	\$36	171.16 .39.28 241.85 105.45 .58.48 741.59 .30.00 .17.62 .96.13 157.39 200.00 109.88 158.66 .625.47 81.00 .48.10 210.00 .76.80 .60.00 .60.04 200.00 144.95 100.00 .67.00
Númber One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville Niangua Cuba Houston New Harmony Martinstown Richwoods Verdella Thayer Fourth	\$36	171.16 .39.28 241.85 105.45 .58.48 741.59 .30.00 .17.62 .96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 109.88 158.66 .625.47 81.00 .48.10 210.00 .76.80 .60.00 .60.05 .60.00 .44.49.5 200.00 144.95 200.00 .67.00 .432.24 170.00 .80.00
Númber One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville Niangua Cuba Houston New Harmony Martinstown Richwoods Verdella Thayer Fourth Calvary, Conway.	\$36	171.16 . 39.28 241.85 241.85 . 58.48 741.59 . 30.00 . 17.62 . 96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 109.88 158.66 . 625.47 81.00 . 48.10 210.00 . 76.80 . 60.00 . 60.05 . 100.00 144.95 200.00 144.95 100.00 . 67.00 432.24 170.00 . 88.00 . 56.34
Number One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville Niangua Cuba Houston New Harmony Martinstown Richwoods Verdella Thayer Fourth Calvary, Conway S. Hart	\$36	171.16 .39,28 241.85 105.45 .58,48 741.59 .30.00 .17.62 .96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 109.88 .60.00 .48.10 210.00 .48.10 210.00 .60.45 200.00 .44.95 100.00 .67.00 .48.224 170.00 .80.00 .80.00 .80.00 .80.00 .80.00 .80.00 .80.00 .80.00 .80.00 .80.00 .80.00 .80.00 .80.00 .80.00
Númber One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville Niangua Cuba Houston New Harmony Martinstown Richwoods Verdella Thayer Fourth Calvary, Conway S. Hart New Life Fellowship Central	\$36	171.16 .39.28 241.85 105.45 .58.48 741.59 .30.00 .17.62 .96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 109.88 158.66 .625.47 81.00 .48.10 210.00 .76.80 .60.00 .60.00 .44.95 100.00 .47.00 .48.10 .60.00 .60.00 .60.05 .
Númber One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville Niangua Cuba Houston New Harmony Martinstown Richwoods Verdella Thayer Fourth Calvary, Conway S. Hart New Life Fellowship Central Houston	\$36	171.16 .39,28 241.85 105.45 .58,48 741.59 .30,00 .17.62 .96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 109.88 .58,66 .625.47 81.00 .48.10 .76.80 .60.00 .60.45 .10.00 .60.45 .10.00 .48.10 .60.00 .48.10 .76.80 .60.00 .48.10 .76.80 .60.00 .60.45 .76.80 .60.00 .76.80 .60.00 .76.80 .60.00 .76.80 .60.00 .76.80 .
Number One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville Niangua Cuba Houston New Harmony Martinstown Richwoods Verdella Thayer Fourth Calvary, Conway S. Hart New Life Fellowship Central Houston Columbia	\$36	171.16 . 39.28 241.85 105.45 . 58.48 741.59 . 30.00 . 17.62 . 96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 . 109.88 158.66 . 625.47 81.00 . 48.10 210.00 . 76.80 . 60.00 . 60.45 200.00 . 60.00 . 67.00 . 432.24 170.00 . 80.00 . 55.34 . 20.00 145.00 . 50.00 197.79 . 25.00
Number One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville Niangua Cuba Houston New Harmony Martinstown Richwoods Verdella Thayer Fourth Calvary, Conway S. Hart New Life Fellowship Central Houston Columbia Southside	\$36	171.16 . 39.28 241.85 241.85 . 58.48 741.59 . 30.00 . 17.62 . 96.13 . 157.39 . 206.19 . 100.00 . 109.88 . 158.66 . 625.47 81.00 . 48.10 . 210.00 . 76.80 . 60.00 . 60.45 . 200.00 . 144.95 . 100.00 . 80.00 . 56.34 . 20.00 . 197.79 . 25.00 . 230.00
Númber One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville Niangua Cuba Houston New Harmony Martinstown Richwoods Verdella Thayer Fourth Calvary, Conway S. Hart New Life Fellowship Central Houston Columbia Southside Belton	\$36	171.16 .39,28 241.85 105.45 .58,48 741.59 .30.00 .17.62 .96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 109.88 158.66 .625.47 81.00 .48.10 .76.80 .60.05 .60.45 100.00 .48.224 170.00 .80.00 .48.00 .48.10 .90.00 144.95 100.00 .48.10 .90.00 145.00 .90.00 145.00 197.79 .25.00 230.00 150.00
Number One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville Niangua Cuba Houston New Harmony Martinstown Richwoods Verdella Thayer Fourth Calvary, Conway S. Hart New Life Fellowship Central Houston Columbia Southside Belton Joplin O'Fallon	\$36	171.16 . 39.28 241.85 241.85 . 58.48 741.59 . 30.00 . 17.62 . 96.13 157.39 100.00 109.88 158.66 . 625.47 81.00 . 48.10 210.00 . 76.80 . 60.00 . 60.45 200.00 144.95 100.00 . 80.00 . 56.34 . 20.00 . 17.00 . 20.00 . 30.00 . 50.00 . 30.00 . 50.00 . 30.00
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Númber One Liberty Overland Clifton Central Salem New Hope Oak Hill, Fredericktown O'Fallon Unity Bethel, Festus Stockton Heritage Total FOREIGN MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Hartville Niangua Cuba Houston New Harmony Martinstown Richwoods Verdella Thayer Fourth Calvary, Conway S. Hart New Life Fellowship Central Houston Columbia Southside Belton Joplin	\$36	171.16 .39,28 241.85 105.45 .58,48 741.59 .30.00 .17.62 .96.13 157.39 206.19 100.00 109.88 .58.66 .625.47 81.00 .48.10 210.00 .48.10 210.00 .60.45 .60.00 .60.45 .60.00 .60.45 .60.00 .60.00 .60.00 .60.00 .60.00 .80.00 .80.00 .80.00 .50.00 .10.00 .50.00 .10.00 .35.00 .35.00 .352.00 .352.00

N. Akeman	
Calvary Chapel	65.00
Pleasant Ridge	25.00
Hannon	529.75
Victory, K.C	120.00
Monett	2,234.00
Monett	275.00
Freeman Chapel	
Kirksville	131.12
Kirksville Children's Church	36.30
Leadington	
Fordland	145.25
Bethel, Festus	205.22
Oak Grove, Houston	65.00
Trinity	407.93
Faith, Lemay Oak Hill, Union	50.00
Faith, Oak Grove	30.00
Calvary Chapel Young Adult	157.50
Oak Grove, Norwood Hartville College & Career	55.00
Faith & Hope	92.10
New Testament	174.00
C. Layman	1,756.28
Farmington	100.00
Union Light	500.00
Parkview Mission Group	60.00
Hickory Grove	
Grant Avenue	540.90
Eastern GateGreenfield	214.69
Greenfield	23.50
Overland	10.00
Myrtle	150.00
St. Louis Assn	129.48
St. Louis Assn	35.00
Calvary Fellowship	. 1,398.72
Total	16,392.68
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO	516,392.68 NS
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage	NS . \$ 52.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage Myrtle	NS . \$ 52.00 165.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage	NS . \$ 52.00 165.00 32.00 15.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage	NS . \$ 52.00 165.00 32.00 15.00 135.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage. Myrtle. Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin	NS . \$ 52.00 165.00 32.00 15.00 135.00 10.00 50.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage. Myrtle Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon	NS . \$ 52.00 . 165.00 . 32.00 15.00 135.00 10.00 50.00 30.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage Myrtle Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah	NS
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage. Myrtle. Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel	NS
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage. Myrtle. Richwoods. Verdella Thayer. Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon	NS
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage. Myrtle. Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove. Hannon	NS 52.00 165.00 165.00 15.00 135.00 10.00 30.00 295.00 332.63 5.00 235.00 235.00 10.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage. Myrtle. Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C.	NS 52.00 165.00 165.00 15.00 135.00 130.00 50.00 30.00 295.00 50.00 332.63 5.00 235.00 10.00 10.00 55.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage. Myrtle. Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove. Hannon	NS 52.00 165.00 32.00 135.00 135.00 135.00 295.00 30.00 295.00 332.63 332.63 35.00 235.00 5.00 5.00 5.00 5.00 5.00 5.00 5.00 5.00 5.00 5.00 200.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage Myrtle Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C. DeSoto Parkview Kirksville	NS
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage. Myrtle. Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C. DeSoto Parkview Kirksville Leadington	NS 52.00 165.00 32.00 15.00 135.00 130.00 15.00 130.00 15.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage Myrtle Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C DeSoto Parkview Kirksville Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland	NS
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage. Myrtle. Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C. DeSoto Parkview Kirksville Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st	NS 52.00 165.00 165.00 135.00 135.00 135.00 30.00 50.00 332.63 5.00 225.00 10.00 50.00 245.00 43.13 15.00 50.00 50.00 46.00 50.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage Myrtle Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C. DeSoto Parkview Kirksville Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st Trinity Oak Hill, Union	NS
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage Myrtle Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C DeSoto Parkview Kirksville Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st Trinity Oak Hill, Union Oak Grove, Norwood	NS 52.00 52.00 165.00 32.00 15.00 31.00 50.00 332.63 5.00 235.00 45.00 45.00 45.00 50.00 64.76 20.00 64.76 20.00 24.50 24.50 78.75
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage. Myrtle. Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C. DeSoto Parkview Kirksville. Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st Trinity Oak Hill, Union Oak Grove, Norwood Wolf Creek	NS 52.00 52.00 165.00 32.00 15.00 33.00 50.00 332.63 5.00 225.00 225.00 43.13 15.00 50.00 34.13 15.00 50.00 64.76 20.00 24.50 50.00 224.50 50.00 224.50 50.00 24.50 50.00 55.00 50.00 55.00 55.00 55.00 55.00 55.00 55.00 55.00 55.00 55.00 55.00 56.78.75 54.87
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage Myrtle Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C DeSoto Parkview Kirksville Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st Trinity Oak Hill, Union Oak Grove, Norwood Wolf Creek New Testament Farmington	NS 52.00 52.00 165.00 32.00 15.00 30.00 295.00 332.63 5.00 235.00 45.00 44.00 45.00 50.00 50.00 50.00 64.76 220.00 64.76 220.00 24.50 78.75 54.87 85.00 71.04
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage Myrtle Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C DeSoto Parkview Kirksville Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st Trinity Oak Hill, Union Oak Grove, Norwood Wolf Creek New Testament Farmington	NS 52.00 52.00 165.00 32.00 15.00 30.00 295.00 332.63 5.00 235.00 45.00 45.00 45.00 50.00 64.76 220.00 64.76 220.00 24.50 78.75 54.87 85.00 71.04
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage Myrtle Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C. DeSoto Parkview Kirksville Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st Trinity Oak Hill, Union Oak Grove, Norwood Wolf Creek New Testament Farmington Union Light Parkview Mission Group Carthage	NS 52.00 52.00 15.00 1
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage Myrtle Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C DeSoto Parkview Kirksville Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st Trinity Oak Hill, Union Oak Grove, Norwood Wolf Creek New Testament Farmington Union Light Parkview Mission Group Carthage Crant Avenue	NS 52.00 52.00 165.00 32.00 135.00 30.00 50.00 332.63 5.00 235.00 45.00 45.00 45.00 50.00 50.00 64.76 20.00 64.76 20.00 78.75 54.87 85.00 71.04 25.00 10.00 36.00 35.00 36.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage. Myrtle. Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C. DeSoto Parkview Kirksville Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st Trinity Oak Hill, Union Oak Grove, Norwood Wolf Creek New Testament Farmington Union Light Parkview Mission Group Carthage. Grant Avenue Eastern Gate Grace Myrthe Mission Myrthe Myrt	NS 52.00 165.00 32.00 15.00 135.00 135.00 130.00 295.00 132.63 5.00 235.00 235.00 235.00 235.00 43.13 15.00 50.00 24.50 64.76 20.00 24.50 78.75 54.87 85.00 71.04 25.00 10.00 28.00 36.00 10.00 28.00 36.00 10.00 120.
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage Myrtle Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C DeSoto Parkview Kirksville Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st Trinity Oak Hill, Union Oak Grove, Norwood Wolf Creek New Testament Farmington Union Light Parkview Mission Group Carthage Grant Avenue Eastern Gate Grace Myrtle	NS 52.00 52.00 15.00 1
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage Myrtle Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C. DeSoto Parkview Kirksville Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st Trinity Oak Hill, Union Oak Grove, Norwood Wolf Creek New Testament Farmington Union Light Parkview Mission Group Carthage Grant Avenue Eastern Gate Myrtle Central	NS 52.00 52.00 165.00 32.00 135.00 30.00 295.00 332.63 5.00 235.00 235.00 43.13 15.00 50.00 24.50 64.76 220.00 24.50 78.75 54.87 85.00 71.04 25.00 10.00 26.00 36.00 10.00 26.00 10.00 27.
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage Myrtle Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C DeSoto Parkview Kirksville Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st Trinity Oak Hill, Union Oak Grove, Norwood Wolf Creek New Testament Farmington Union Light Parkview Mission Group Carthage Grant Avenue Eastern Gate Grace Myrtle	NS 52.00 165.00 32.00 135.00 15.00 30.00 295.00 332.63 5.00 235.00 45.00 45.00 50.00 34.13 15.00 50.00 34.13 15.00 54.76 22.50 36.00 71.04 25.00 25.00 25.00 25.00 25.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage Myrtle Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C DeSoto Parkview Kirksville Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st Trinity Oak Hill, Union Oak Grove, Norwood Wolf Creek New Testament Farmington Union Light Parkview Mission Group Carthage Grant Avenue Eastern Gate Grace Myrtle Central O'Fallon Total STATE HOME MISSIONS	NS 52.00 52.00 165.00 15.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage Myrtle Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C DeSoto Parkview Kirksville Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st Trinity Oak Hill, Union Oak Grove, Norwood Wolf Creek New Testament Farmington Union Light Parkview Mission Group Carthage Grace Myrtle Central O'Fallon Total STATE HOME MISSIONS Carthage	NS 52.00 52.00 165.00 13.00 13.00 14.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage. Myrtle. Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C. DeSoto Parkview Kirksville. Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st Trinity Oak Hill, Union Oak Grove, Norwood Wolf Creek New Testament Farmington Union Light Parkview Mission Group Carthage. Grant Avenue Eastern Gate Grace Myrtle Central O'Fallon Total STATE HOME MISSIONS Carthage. Unity Myrtle	NS 52.00 165.00 32.00 135.00 135.00 295.00 332.63 5.00 235.00 235.00 343.13 15.00 50.00 343.13 15.00 50.00 245.00 245.00 245.00 255.00
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage Myrtle Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C DeSoto Parkview Kirksville Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st Trinity Oak Hill, Union Oak Grove, Norwood Wolf Creek New Testament Farmington Union Light Parkview Mission Group Carthage Grant Avenue Eastern Gate Grace Myrtle Central O'Fallon Total STATE HOME MISSIONS Carthage Unity Myrtle Cuba	NS
NATIONAL HOME MISSIO Carthage. Myrtle. Richwoods Verdella Thayer Columbia Joplin O'Fallon Beacon Mt. Pisgah Rock Chapel Lebanon Mountain Grove Hannon Victory, K.C. DeSoto Parkview Kirksville. Leadington Buffalo 1st Fordland Flat River 1st Trinity Oak Hill, Union Oak Grove, Norwood Wolf Creek New Testament Farmington Union Light Parkview Mission Group Carthage. Grant Avenue Eastern Gate Grace Myrtle Central O'Fallon Total STATE HOME MISSIONS Carthage. Unity Myrtle	NS 52.00 165.00 32.00 135.00 135.00 295.00 332.63 5.00 235.00 10.00 45.00 45.00 45.00 56.00 34.13 15.00 50.00 36.00 71.04 25.00 10.00 24.50 36.00 71.04 25.00 36.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 25.00 71.04 71.0

Fourth	
Southside	
Joplin 35.00	
O'Fallon	
S.E. District Assn	
Lebanon	
Marshfield	
Mountain Grove	
Pleasant Ridge	
Hannan 217.26	
Hannon	
Victory, K.C 5.00	
DeSoto Children's Church 20.00	
DeSoto 50.00	
Parkview 5.00	
Leadington	
West Plains 1st 187.25	
United 55.50	
Fordland 2.00	
Bethel, Festus 31.23	
Flat River 1st 59.76	
Trinity	
Oak Hill, Union 25.30	
Faith & Hope 92.10	
New Testament	
J.W. Rader	
Farmington	
Farmington 100.00	
Union Light 61.00	
Grant Avenue 161.47	
Eastern Gate 20.00	
Grace	
Myrtle	
Bible & Book	
Central	
O'Fallon	
Total \$2,331.16	
YOUTH CAMP	
New Rock Springs \$ 20.00	
Myrtle	
Hartville	
Thayer	
Mt. Pisgah	
Mountain Grove	
Hannon 15.00	
D C	
DeSoto	
Bethel, El Dorado 15.00	
Bethel, El Dorado	
Bethel, El Dorado 15.00 Buffalo, 1st 50.00 Flat River, 1st 100.13	
Bethel, El Dorado 15.00 Buffalo, 1st 50.00 Flat River, 1st 100.13 Trinity 14.00	
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Testimony of John Alva Haase

Part II

I refused to repent and was quickly ostrasized, not only by the body of the church but also by my family. I had just turned sixteen. The stress was unbearable. I was named an apostate and a radical and other Mormons that knew me suspected me of beng possessed by the Devil. I left home, quit high school and supported myself the best I could for the next two years. During that time I lived amongst the infidel and became consumed with sin. In the summer of my eighteenth year I turned again to the church in questioning, but I found this time that their answers fell on dead ears. I had become unlike them and in doing so had lost my ability to value their words. There finally came a day when the mental picture of the world as I knew it faded and I no longer considered life the way it had been taught to me. In short, the structure of my thoughts ruptured and I had no world image to replace the damage. I was filled with hatred and anger at everything or anything that pertained to God or religion, and I decided that if Mormonism was untrue, than all religions must be as well. I proclaimed that there was no God and that I considered believers of any faith to be less than human, caught up in a swell of emotionalism and fear. Led only by their petty desires and easily deceived.

My anger entered into every aspect of my life. I made a list of things I had been forbidden to do and kept it in my journal checking off each sin as I accomplished it. I failed to acknowledge any truth but science and viciously attacked any one who attempted to tell me otherwise. I had expected that the God I prayed to would answer me and deliver me and when he had not (or so I thought at that time), I vowed to take revenge against life.

I moved to Utah and within a couple of months was inducted into the Communist Party of the United States. A Pro-Soviet, Marxist, Lennenist organization aethistic in belief and domineering in nature. I used my knowledge of people and of the Bible to teach that there was no God, that Jesus had been an enlightened philosopher and a political martyr, that religion was the opium of the masses, and that belief in God only lulled a person into a state of malignant hope, leaving them prey to evil and greedy people bent on taking advantage of them.

One evening at a meeting on the apartheid question of South Africa, I was introduced to a person who was checking us out. I was immediately compelled to listen to him. Something deep within me told me that he had an answer to my questions. In time I grew to know him and to love him as a brother. He was an inactive Mormon who never took the church seriously. For some reason I trusted every word that he told. Eventually we came across the question of God. I gave him my well rehearsed reasoning and he simply told me that he hoped I was wrong. That shocked me. I had expected something more, but he just held his peace and went on to other things. In the two brief years that I knew him, I went to him many times with questions. His only answer was that eventually love would conquer all and that love was the only force of truth in the world. After months of probing, he began to tell me about his belief in God. He reasoned with me about the existence of God and convinced me that the nature of

God was truth and love.

(continued next month)

Calendar of Events

SENIOR ADULT RETREAT

May 11-13

Stonecroft Conference Center, Branson, MO Registrations forms will be in the next Gem issue.

STATE YOUTH COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

May 15, 16

Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, MO

MISSOURI STATE CONVENTION/ WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

June 8-11

Nelson Community Center, Lebanon, MO

YOUTH CAMP

Teen Camp Group I, June 14-19 Teen Camp Group II, June 21-26 Pre-Teen Group I, July 26-31 Pre-Teen Group II, August 2-7

Group I

Greater Springfield Bootheel Indian Creek Central Western Mission Cave Springs Liberty Niangua Group II
Greater Kansas City
Northwest
South Central

Northeast St. Louis St. Francois Laclede

NATIONAL CONVENTION, NYC & WNAC

July 19-23 Indianapolis, IN

ALL BOARDS MEETING

September 21-23 Youth Camp, Niangua, MO

SUGGESTION: Put this information on your Church Bulletin Board. This will be especially helpful for Youth Camp information.

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