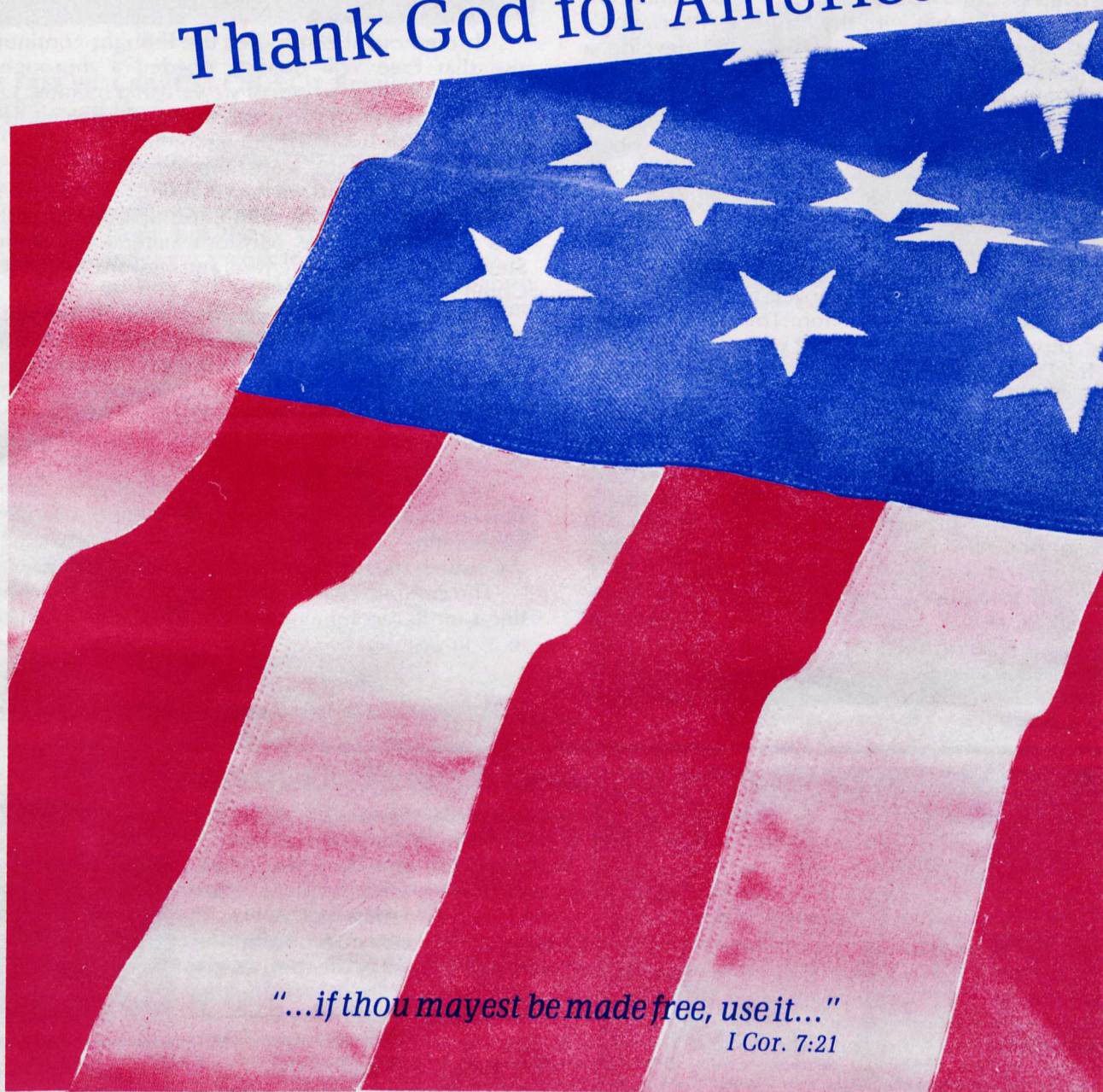


# **THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM**

Volume 62, No. 6, June 1992

Thank God for America



*"...if thou mayest be made free, use it..."*

*I Cor. 7:21*



## TOGETHER



### Designated

### Cooperative

From the four corners of the denomination, the committee came, fully aware of the tremendous responsibility placed upon their shoulders to give direction and guidance towards the formulation of a denominational stewardship program.

The committee, composed of Clarence Burton, Missouri; Connie Cariker, Oklahoma; Jeff Crabtree, Virginia; John Edwards, Alabama; Norwood Gipson, South Carolina; David Joslin, Arkansas; Tom Lilly, North Carolina; Alton Loveless, Ohio; David Shores, Illinois; and Don Walker, Tennessee, met with the National Association's Budget Committee to discuss, design, and develop a comprehensive stewardship-financial program for the denomination. National Moderator Ralph Hampton and Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington also participated in the three-day conference. Budget Committee members are the directors of the National Association's various departments. They are: Tom Malone, Eugene Waddell, Roy Thomas, Herman Hersey, James Vallance, Roger Reeds, and Mary Ruth Wisheart.

On Thursday night, delegates shared their concepts and thoughts regarding a solution towards the stewardship problems facing the denomination. The discussion was pointed, direct, and revealing, yet it was conducted with the highest respect for varied and opposite opinions and in a complimentary, Christian manner.

Friday's session was given impetus as a result of the candid and objective opinion of Certified Public Accountant Terry Hill. He shared his thoughts regarding the lack of fully sharing and interpreting the audits as given by the directors both during the General Board session and the official business session of the National Association. Promotional David Joslin of Arkansas stated: *"Pious words are a poor substitute for true accountability. Meaningful disclosure is vital. It must be accurate and timely, concise without obsessive details, all inclusive regarding activities, with comprehensive footnotes for unusual transactions and yet, easily understood by the average person."*

Hill also discussed the establishment of a central accounting office and the eventual elimination of individual departmental bookkeeping offices. Other discussion targeted the concept that the boards should employ the auditor rather than the director of the departments. This would allow an improved system of checks and balances and improve the accountability of each department to the denomination.

Sharing also with the delegates was Rev. Edward Hales, regional manager of Nehemiah Ministries, a stewardship consulting service. He shared valuable information towards a denominational statement of mission and financial policy. His information gave direction towards the establishment of stewardship philosophy for the denomination.

He challenged, **"TOGETHER, the whole is greater than the parts. Doing TOGETHER is better than doing alone."** He further stated, "Let's find the key to unlock the potential stewardship of the Free Will Baptist denomination." He emphasized that God has already provided that which is necessary for a successful ministry.

Throughout the sessions, the thought continued to rise that Free Will Baptists needed a thorough and comprehensive program of stewardship training. One of the main thrusts of the committee will be to implement this type of program for the denomination.

Five committees were appointed to submit their recommendations to the next meeting of the Stewardship Committee; Philosophy of Stewardship Committee, Name and Logo Committee, Missions Statement Committee, Stewardship Plan Committee, and Stewardship Education Committee.

The most important action of the committee will be its recommendation to the National Association that a Finance Committee replace the current Budget Committee including a broader perspective with additional responsibilities and increased representation. They will also explore the possibility of a comptroller and a restructuring of the budgeting process and procedure.

The end result of the meeting was that the delegates viewed the denomination as a collection of God's stewards cooperating **TOGETHER** in a spirit of unity utilizing both the cooperative channel and designated giving.

The committee will meet June 1-2, 1992, to refine and fine-tune its recommendations to the National Association in its July Session.

*Copied - The Arkansas Vision*

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## Warren Wiersbe To Attend National Association

Warren Wiersbe will speak twice at the Fellowship of Encouragement dinner on Monday, July 20 in Indianapolis. A writer of almost one hundred books, he has blessed Free Will Baptists with his popular "BE Series." He is recognized as a "pastor's pastor" and has focused on that ministry with *Walking With the Giants*, *Confident Pastoral Leadership* and *Making Sense of the Ministry*. Many know him from his days as the Bible teacher on the *Back to the Bible* radio broadcast.

The Monday gathering will begin at 3:00 p.m. in the Westin Hotel. Two messages, fellowship, information about the Fellowship of Encouragement, networking among church leaders and wives, a punch reception and a delicious meal will fill out the time together. Don't miss this very special opportunity to meet one of the spiritual giants of our day. Tickets are available through the National Association Offices.

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All items for publication must be in the hands of the editor *no later than the 10th of the month* preceding the issue month. Business Office: 202 West Commercial, Lebanon, Missouri 65536. Clarence Burton, Editor. Address all correspondence relating to the GEM, including subscription and mailing information, to the above address. The sermons and articles published in the GEM represent the personal views of the authors and not necessarily the views and policies of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists or of the editor. Subscription rates: Single subscription, \$4.50 per year, cash in advance. Church Plan \$4.00 per year consisting of five subscriptions or more. The Church Plan will continue until it is canceled by the church. This magazine is published monthly.



# Reports from the Churches



The Pastor and Members

**FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Republic** — By way of background for the church at Republic, it should be stated that the church was formally a Fundamental Methodist Church. A relatively short time ago the church was seeking the leadership of the Lord for direction. The building and facilities was very accommodating. The attendance was not large, but the folks that attended were interested in continuing a work for the Lord.

Rev. Max Courtney, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Springfield, heard about the church need through a member of the church he serves. The Missouri State Home Missions Board was contacted and a plan was put in motion that was agreeable with the church and the Missions Board. The church voted to become affiliated with the Greater Springfield District Association.

Rev. Tony Butcher and his wife, Kay, accepted the pastoral responsibility of the Republic Church. The Lord is blessing the leadership and labor of the church. The members are showing a concerned interest in the spiritual welfare and outreach of the church.

River, Missouri, presented them with a 50-year plaque.

The special speakers for the service were Richard Barker (their son), who spoke on behalf of the family, and two men who were called to preach under the ministry of Rev. Barker. They were Rev. Larry Allison and Rev. Jack Burns.

The churches Rev. & Mrs. Barker had served were represented by personal representatives or by letter. A letter was received from the Executive Secretary of the Missouri State Association, Rev. Clarence Burton. Also, many cards and letters of appreciation were received from friends and ministers across the state of Missouri.

Following the close of the service, the congregation was invited to Fellowship Hall for cake and coffee. The large cake, representing an open Bible, was baked by a granddaughter, Laura Huitt.



Rev. Ronnie Graham with Rev. & Mrs. Barker



Rev. & Mrs. Barker and Congregation

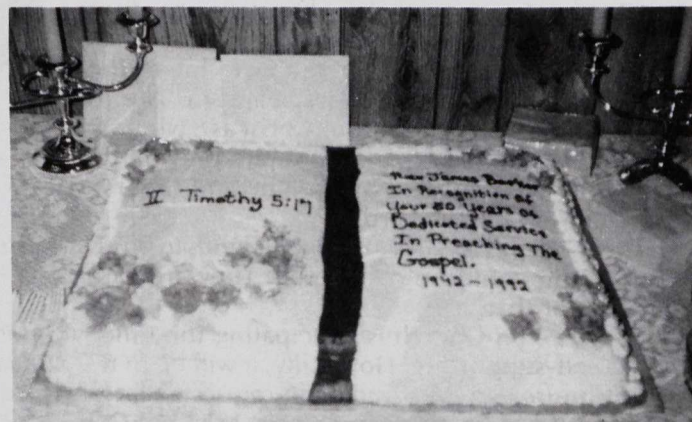
## **REV. & MRS. JAMES BARKER HONORED AT HURRYVILLE**



**CHURCH** — On Sunday, April 5, 1992, Rev. and Mrs. James Barker were honored for 50 years of faithful service for the Lord Jesus Christ. The service was held by Rev. Ronnie Graham and the members of the Hurryville Free Will Baptist Church.

Following a delicious noon meal, the Afternoon Service began with an overflow crowd. As the Special Service began, the

honored couple were given special chairs at the front of the auditorium. The church presented them with an Anniversary Plaque and a beautiful Anniversary Clock. The Sunday School presented them with a corsage and boutonniere. The First Free Will Baptist Church of Flat



The Bible Cake



**INDIAN CREEK WOMAN'S AUXILIARY HOLDS SPRING BANQUET** — On Friday evening, April 3, 1992, the Indian Creek Woman's Auxiliary met at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Monett, Missouri, for their Spring Banquet. The banquet was in honor of Mary Holland. She and her husband, Curt, are missionary appointees to Brazil.

The Fellowship Hall was beautifully decorated featuring the tropical theme, using brightly colored birds, plants, and flowers.

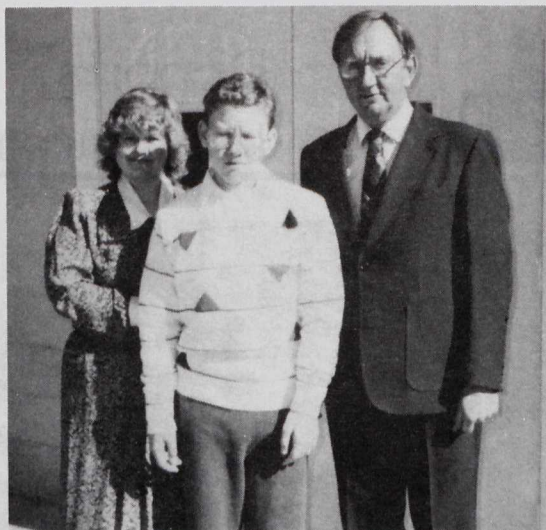
Mrs. Jo Ann Thomas gave a warm welcome to the large crowd and expressed special thanks to the ones who had worked hard in preparing for the event.

A Missionary-theme game was played and enjoyed by everyone. Following this, a delicious dinner of fried chicken, brisket, vegetables, with salads were served. Then, a musical selection entitled "Thank You" was presented by Mrs. Vicky Hensley of the host church.

The guest of honor, Mary Holland, was the speaker for the banquet. She shared her burden for Brazil, and stated that everyone can be a missionary for Christ wherever we serve, for we serve a "Wonderful God."

The enjoyable event closed with a 'mission donation auction.' Pam Hudson, president of the Indian Creek Auxiliary, was the auctioneer. The theme for the banquet was "Make It or Bake It." All donations were in the form of craft items or baked goods. A total of \$1,068.14 was donated to the Holland Family.

The expression of praise for the Missionary Banquet of the Woman's Auxiliary was "To God Be The Glory." A wonderful time of warm fellowship was enjoyed by each of the eighty-two ladies in attendance. The Monett Free Will Baptist Church ladies say a special "Thank You" to everyone.



**The Pastor and Family**

**SPRINGFIELD FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH** — The Church Family is thanking the Lord for His blessings on the labor of the church, writes the church reporter. The attendance on Easter Sunday was seventy-five.

Through much prayer and faith, the pastor, Rev. Bill Swearingen, has led the church in making needed repairs and remodeling. The work has consisted of a new roof, new furnace, new air-conditioning, new carpeting, painting, and a lot of hard cleaning. Through all of this the Lord has given a joyous spirit and a deeper love for each other.

During this time, the pastor and his son have gone through very serious back surgery. Both are doing well now, for which we thank the Lord. The church is thankful for the pastor and his deep love for the Lord and His people.

The church is located just east of the West By-Pass, at 3430 West Bennett. It was formally a Methodist Church.



**Rev. Anderson and four candidates for Water Baptism**

**FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST, Moberly** — The church held its first Baptism Service in the newly installed baptistry, writes the pastor, Rev. Don Anderson.

On Roll Call Sunday, four people followed the Lord in the church ordinance of Water Baptism. The following week two more received Jesus Christ as Saviour and were baptized. The pastor writes, "We are praying that many more will accept Christ as Saviour and labor with the church in serving the Lord."

The Woman's Auxiliary raised the funds to buy materials that the job could be completed. They are to be commended for that.

The Mission Church is anticipating the time when it will be self-supporting. Hopefully, it will be in the not to distant future. Brother Anderson requests that Christian folks continue to remember this Mission Church in prayer.

**MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET AT OLIVET** — On Saturday afternoon, May 9, 1992, the Woman's Auxiliary of the Olivet Free Will Baptist Church at Marshall, Missouri, held a Mother-Daughter Banquet.

The special speaker for the banquet was Mrs. Vivian Burton of Lebanon, Missouri. Special music was provided by Tara Scott and Melinda Armstrong. Mrs. Donna Mitchell, president, led a 'Testimony Time.' She expressed her gratitude for the ones present, for the ones who worked to make the banquet possible, and for the blessings of the Lord, on the work of the Woman's Auxiliary.



**Some of those attending the Mother-Daughter Banquet**



*Free Will Baptist Bible College*

# Carrying The Torch Into the 21st Century

**For more than 50 years**, Free Will Baptist Bible College has held the torch of the gospel high. It has been faithful to the task of illuminating the world with the glorious name of Jesus Christ.

The flame carried by its alumni has burned in local churches, homes, businesses, classrooms and to the far corners of the earth.

The 21st Century is perched on the horizon. Free Will Baptist Bible College is mobilizing an army of torchbearers to move boldly into this new era with the light. We invite you to join us as we light the way for others to follow.

**Join our family.** Free Will Baptist Bible College is just that—a family. We are characterized by people who care.

**Join us** along the beautiful tree-lined streets of west Nashville, where we are located.

**Join us** on a campus where you are more than just a number on an ID card.

**Join our student body** in pursuing a variety of academic programs that will prepare you to meet the challenges of today—and tomorrow.

**Join us as we carry the torch into the 21st Century!**



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## **A STUDENT TESTIMONY**

**Greg Smith**

West Plains, MO

Dr. Ken Riggs is the reason I could be in the College Choir my senior year. I had a class conflict the same hour as choir. He was willing to teach the same class at 7:00 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m. This is one example of how the teachers here try to help us every way they can. They care about us!

I strongly believe that God has His hand on our school. Lives are being changed every day. I thank God for the encouragement of my pastor, Rev. Ronnie Blanks (a FWBBC graduate), and also my parents.

To prospective students, I would say by personal testimony I had never been away from home before I came to the Bible College. Leaving my family was the hardest decision of my life. But God's grace has helped me and God has taken care of me since I came. FWBBC is a "home away from home." The people here love you and will do anything for you.

That is what makes FWBBC such a special place.





# “Lord, Please Use Me To Build Your Church”

by Jim Williams

## I. BASICS.

Long before arriving on the field, and shortly after your arrival there are several basics that must be addressed. Look over the following with an open mind. Be very honest with yourself....even being abrasive, so that these areas can be dealt with, cut and polished for the Master to really be able to depend on you.

The area to begin with in self-evaluation is ask yourself very candidly, “am I a self starter? After I have begun a project, am I self-sustaining? Do I finish what I start? What does it take to stop me? Am I over emotional but under determined?” Any areas of weakness must be dealt with in a positive manner to result, hopefully, in becoming a more progressive, positive, pleasant person for Jesus.

Please consider, when arriving on the field that God has chosen for you, you are on your own! You will not have anyone watching over your shoulder constantly checking up on your hours of labor or decisions and attitude. In fact, you are pretty much answerable to no one. So it is very important that you establish definite goals, define your time frame, schedule your work load accordingly, and then labor to that end.

When I accepted the challenge to go to Carthage, Missouri, the Mission Board asked me, “How long will it take you to establish a totally self-supporting church?” “About seven years,” I replied. We did stretch beyond that, a few months into the eighth year, but we did ultimately reach that goal.

Goal setting may be a little different for some of you. In fact, less than 10% of the people write down or set established goals. This means over 90% of our ministers don't know for sure where they are headed in their ministry. It is told of a man entering a hunting community and noticed on his way into town that everywhere he looked were targets painted, and dead in the center of every target was an arrow. Upon arriving in the town he stopped in a store and said, “I sure would like to meet the fellow that is such a terrific shot that every single arrow is in the exact center of every target. Where can I find him?”

“Third house down the road,” was the reply. So in haste, he went to seek out this great marksman. When he arrived at the house, he found the man with bow and arrow and paint and brush. The fellow pulled back his bow, shot an arrow into a huge barn, then went over and painted the target around the arrow. So it is with the person without goals....you never miss, because you really aren't shooting at any particular target.

The basic idea in my goal setting is to finally arrive at a twenty-year plan. Although I may never be around for the full twenty years, or may even be there longer, I establish that plan. Just between God and me I list everything I hope to accomplish in the next twenty years, if God allows me that time. I then take time to dream, visualize, and have a “brain-storm session.” After committing to paper, in detail, a description of that goal I poise the question, “in order to accomplish this in twenty years where do I need to be in fifteen years?” Write down that answer, then break it down to fifteen

years,...write that down, “where do I need to be in ten years,” then “in seven years, five, three, two, and one?” With all of these written down I have my short range goals (1, 2, 3, and 5 year), mid-range goals (7, 10 year), and long term goals (10, 15, and 20? years).

Check the progress and relate them to your goals often. Re-evaluate them regularly and honestly. Praying over them daily with a daily schedule helps to keep the whole plan in view and see the whole picture as it comes together. But remember...set them from **long range backward**, not from now forward, or you will never know in what direction you are headed, nor will you know when you have arrived.

Having established goals, it is then essential to become self-motivated. Especially at the beginning there will be few others to motivate you, and to be motivated requires the right motives behind the actions. Remember:

- \* **The call to service is a Divine calling.** Free Will Baptists believe that God calls men in special ways. to specific fields of service. HE alone is the owner and **must** be the ONE totally in control.
- \* **The call to service is a personal calling.** God has put the burden in your heart when He called you to do the job. No other pastor will know the weight of the burden, no mission board can do the job for you, other people cannot do it for you, and for sure, the world will never do it. God has called **you** to do it and you alone are responsible to answer for His calling.
- \* **The call to service is an all-inclusive call.** What I mean by this is that God demands all you have, all you are, or ever hope to be...it all belongs to Him for His use. After reaching this decision it becomes not only easier but even a joy to leave houses, areas, and jobs. Even to leave family and friends that you dearly love is less painful. Many have failed for lack of including **everything** in the call from God.
- \* **The call to service is a resulting call.** God will always do His part in answer to your obedience. Your obedience results in Him going with you. It results in His instruction, leadership, wisdom, strength, and promises, just to mention a few. However, the results reach far beyond personal satisfaction and gain by coming a channel for healing, salvation, and hope for those without the arc of God's saving grace.

How can we preach with expectation for others to yield to God's call for salvation and total surrender if we are unheeding to His call?

Occasionally I'm asked “why is it you are never down? Every time I see you, you're smiling and seem on top of it all.” Well, brethren, I'm not without trials, trouble, heartbreak, or discouragement. In fact, some days I feel everything **but** “up.” But I have learned the secret David is told to practice. In I Samuel 30:6b it says, “...but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.” I will never be everything God intends me to be if my joy is dependent on my surroundings, my circumstances, or on others around me. In truth our surroundings are not always good. (In fact you should see some of the places we have met in to begin a church.) Nor are our



circumstances always exciting. And when we listen to "others," we find they more often **discourage** than **encourage**...so learn to pick yourself up in the joy of the Lord and go forward with determination and in victory.

Next, over-ride fear. Thoughts such as "what if I fail?...I've never done this before!...I'm scared to death...I don't know if I have what it takes" can all be categorized under fear. Remember...if your area of challenge is entered into unsettled, it will fall apart and crumble during a time of difficulty or trouble. A verse that has brought about many victories in my times of doubt or trouble coupled with fear is II Timothy 1:7; "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Don't cave in by listening to those who tell you why you can't, but by trusting God who tells you why you can. Bear in mind that those who succeed use no excuses...Only those who do not obey or those who falter in their task look for excuse.

Finally, become equipped. Study and learn all you can about where you are going. Search the history of the area, the interest of the people, and the apparent needs.

To meet those needs will become a valuable tool to aid you in reaching the lost. Also, become equipped in

the Word to win the world! Don't pride yourself in ignorance. A while back a preacher told me "God called me to preach while I was a milkin' and I ain't had no learnin' to do what God calls me to do." Well, it may sound spiritual, but in reality it is the height of laziness to stay unlearned in the Word. I wouldn't go to a doctor that "felt" he was called to do heart surgery, but had no training. Nor would I be very excited over an attorney who felt "good" about going to court, but lacked education. Yet, in the **highest calling ever known to mankind** many pride themselves in ignorance. Remember that Paul told Timothy... "Study to shew thyself approved unto God"...(II Timothy 2:15a). Lack of study (or being equipped) shows we are unapproved for service.

Be equipped through reading the Word of God, by intense prayer, and by talking to those who are successful at doing what you are setting out to do. Read exciting books and study methods. Then let God mold you and build you into that servant He can use to build that church He desires to have established.

All of this groundwork must be handled properly before ever beginning...which brings us to our next subject...**"BEGINNING."**

## Benjamin Randall

The calling that Benjamin Randall heard was to go into the fields for they were white. He felt like he couldn't be quiet anymore but had to speak out. His calling as is common with others came from the deep love that he felt for his savior.

In the year of our Lord 1775, on the first of June, He says, as he was in a place to himself away from everyone weeping and mourning for sinners, that "something seemed to drop in into his soul" like a voice saying, "Why don't you warn them?" The immediate impression was that the Lord had called him to preach, which he says he felt instant opposition.

Benjamin Randall studied the scriptures constantly and was prepared as a layman to go into the pulpit, with his heart filled with the Spirit, and preach. Today, Free Will Baptist churches are filled with people who do not read or study the Word and are ill-equipped to lead or even follow in some cases. How can God use people who do not know His Word. We demand responsibility from others, yet, we live so irresponsibly as pertains to spiritual matters. Remember Randall came from the pew as an adult ready to work. Give yourself in service to our God, as a worker that has studied to show himself "approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

## New Products At Randall House

Exciting things are happening at Randall House Publications. We are introducing some new products and revising some current ones.

The **Randall House Commentary** Volume six will be coming off the press before the National Association meets in July. This volume includes expositions on James, 1 and 2 Peter, and Jude. The authors are Dr. Robert Picirilli (professor, Free Will Baptist Bible College) and Dr. Paul Harrison (pastor, Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church).

Two new Sunday school products are scheduled to be available for the fall quarter. **The Bible Teacher** and **The Bible Scholar** will be professionally produced on cassette. These new products will allow the Sunday school teacher and scholar the advantage of using their important time while driving, walking, or while performing other activities. It is ideal for your vision impaired and shut-in members. **The Bible Scholar** 3 tape package will retail for \$9.95, and the 7 tape **Bible Teacher** (with one bonus tape) will retail for \$19.95.

Seven other cassette packages are also available: "Old Testament Survey" (12 tapes), "New Testament Survey" (12 tapes), "Free Will Baptist Doctrine" and "Charismatic Confusion" by Dr. Robert Picirilli (two tapes), "Aunt

Laura's Bible Stories" and "Sing With Jean" (two tapes), "Methods of Teaching" and "Seven Laws of Teaching" by Reeds and Harrison (two tapes), "Fundamentals of the Faith" and "Inerrancy of the Scriptures" by Picirilli and Forlines (two tapes). The Old and New Testament Survey packages retail for \$49.95, and the two tape packages retail for \$9.95.

Be on the lookout for the new fall order blank; it will have a new look. It will commemorate the fact that your Sunday School Department is now an international ministry.

**The Nursery Make & Do, The Preschool Companion, and The Preschool Student** will receive new colors beginning with the fall quarter. Look for these colorful additions to your children's Christian education.

It's here, the 1992 "Dollar Sale." You can now order many of our excellent products at great savings. If you have not received a brochure, call Randall House at 1-800-877-7030 for your free brochure.

The following books are being reprinted: **Faith For Today (student), Free Will Baptist Doctrine, Fundamentals of the Faith, Handbook for Deacons, Methods of Teaching, Commissioned To Communicate, and Precepts For Practice (student).**

Randall House Publications is owned and operated by the National Association of Free Will Baptists.



## The Free Will Baptist Retirement Plan

Whatever position you fill in our ministries, our retirement plan is your best choice.

First, Free Will Baptists designed our plan specifically for Free Will Baptists. We finance the program. We manage it. And we set its policies. Trustees elected from our own ranks manage the program and feel a personal responsibility for those who serve us. They understand the circumstances and special needs of our pastors, missionaries and their families.

Four laymembers, two retired pastors and three younger pastors make up the present board. This mix gives a good balance of representation from our churches and ministers.

Because the denomination controls our plan, accountability standards are strict. Delegates to the National Association (a) elect the trustees, (b) approve the budget, (c) review and approve the annual audit and (d) adopt the annual report. The director and employees are subject to the board of trustees and the trustees are subject to the National Association.

The trustees establish investment policies which diversify the investments for safety and to meet prudent fiduciary standards. Church loans make up about 60 percent of plan investments. The balance of funds is invested in compliance with our church covenant. No funds are placed with tobacco, alcohol or gambling-related businesses.

Our plan, like all church pension plans generally, offers broader benefits and options. For instance, it provides for these types of contributions: (1) tax paid personal, (2) tax deferred salary reduction agreement, (3) tax deferred employer/church.

Our plan provides the flexibility our pastors and ministers need. Members whose circumstances change find it easy to adjust their contribution formula. Contributions may vary from one type to several combinations of types. Members temporarily unemployed may keep their account active by making personal contributions. Employees of a non-participating church or agency may participate individually.

Both ministers and churches find our uniform plan works efficiently for them. As ministers and lay employees move from one field of ministry to another, they simply notify our office.

Their retirement program goes on without interruption.

As a church plan, our program offers certain privileges to ordained members. Only church retirement plans may designate annuity payments as housing allowance. This may well be the best financial break pastors receive in retirement. Tax free housing allowance includes (1) mortgage payments or rent, (2) utility expenses, (3) maintenance and repairs, (4) property taxes, (5) insurance premiums, and (6) yard work.

Because of our pastors and missionaries' special needs at retirement, our plan offers several settlement options. For example, many pastors spend their working years in parsonages. Missionaries live in rented facilities on the field. At retirement they often need part of their funds to buy a home. Others need a lifetime monthly income for themselves and their spouses.

Finally, our Free Will Baptist Retirement Plan offers personal continuing care for annuitants. We provide for an increasing annuity based on the earnings of the annuity pool. For example, last January all annuitants received a 6.9% permanent increase in payments. This makes a real difference for retired missionaries and pastors. Currently annuitants and spouses each receive a cash gift on birthdays and at Christmas.

Without reservation we recommend our Free Will Baptist Retirement Plan as best for our church employees. Our denomination cares for its own. We continue to grow in understanding and concern for the needs of those who serve us at home and on the foreign field.

## Checking Our Church Growth

by Kenneth Dodson

"The Free Will Baptist denomination, founded under God, by Benjamin Randall, in 1780, now embraces, according to the Register for 1869, 29 Yearly Meetings, 150 Quarterly Meetings, 1248 ordained and licensed preachers, and 63,543 members." So reads our Free Will Baptist Treatise of 1869 on page 5. One hundred and twenty-three years later our 1992 Free Will Baptist Year Book reports on A-207 that we now have 207 Associations, 2,471 churches, 2,027 pastors (444 fewer

pastors than churches), and 204,195 members.

It has taken 123 years for us to triple our size. That surely doesn't seem to equal the "each one reach one philosophy." Did they not have the means to promote church growth? Quite the contrary. They had as many if not more colleges to train Christian workers and preachers than what we have right now. They had major printing companies putting out Christian literature. What happened?

Dissention, division, and strife. Oh, how important it is that we all work together to promote doctrinal purity, evangelistic and educational growth. We must all set our eyes upon Christ. From the east coast to the west coast, from the churches on opposite sides of town, we must love, encourage, and yes, reprove one another in the spirit of Christian love and edification. If you neighboring Free Will Baptist Church is winning souls - REJOICE! If your church is not growing, don't blame the one that is. Get down on your knees. Seek out God's wisdom and direction. Get on fire for the Lord and start winning souls. It won't be long till you're "Checking Our Church Growth."

## Michael Johnston Joins Missions Staff As Treasurer

Antioch, Tenn. — Michael Johnston of Benton, Ill., has been employed as treasurer for the Department of Foreign Missions and assumed his duties on April 20.

Michael, a Certified Public Accountant, holds a B.S. degree in business from Eastern Illinois University. He has worked for an accounting agency, has headed his own accounting firm, and has served nine years as treasurer of the Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Johnston is a member of Ina FWB Church, Ina, Ill., where his father-in-law, David Shores, is pastor. He and his wife, Rebecca, have three children: Jennifer, age 10; Bethany, age 7; and Adam, age 4.

The new treasurer assumes the position as head of a financial department which is responsible for a 1992 budget of \$3,741,349. The position was held for eight years by Earl Larson who left the department in January.





## Our Missionaries Write:

### WHAT'S NEW IN BONDOUNKOU?

*EDITOR'S NOTE: That sounds like Carol Pinkerton, and it is.*

The walls are up; the roof is on; the windows are in place and the cement floor is poured! The New Youth/Training Center is nearing completion. Thanks to nine Master's Men who came and helped!

The Area Leadership Training Program is going again. Jerry and Ron go to different villages four nights a week, teaching in over 30 recognized churches. The leaders of the various churches then, take the lessons, and teach others...The 2nd National Ladies Meeting was held at Bondoukou in January with 108 women from 25 villages in attendance. Most brought thin mats, sleeping on the floor. The lessons were great and the Lord taught us much.

Thank You All Very Much for helping us to be here serving the Lord!

**DOUBLE YOUR INVESTMENT**, write the Gentusos (appointees to Cote d'Ivoire): Many of our readers have already invested in God's work by committing to support the Gentuso's on a monthly basis. Individual investments range from \$2 to \$167 per month. Our analysts have concluded that current partners in ministry would be pleased to carry out this work of expanding the Gentusos support base—particularly after learning that their efforts will play a major role in determining whether or not the family leaves on schedule for language school.

New supporters need not feel hindered if they lack an "official" faith/promise card. A simple note, stating their name, address and monthly commitment, sent to Mrs. Carole Ragan at FWB Foreign Mission, will suffice.

## FROM THE BAILEYS IN JAPAN

### Dear Friends at Home,

Many of you have probably heard by now of Kenny's recent discovery of having diabetes. Three weeks ago, he went to the doctor with several symptoms. After taking some blood tests, the doctor sent Ken home and called him a few hours later to say he must get to the emergency room immediately as he was about to go into a coma; his glucose level had reached 398. Upon entering the hospital, he was given an I.V. and after four hours, his glucose was brought down to a "normal" range. He was dismissed that night, but had to report back to the hospital the following morning, and every morning after that for about 18 days. During that time, the doctors were working to "stabilize" his condition and determine how much insulin he will need to maintain a normal glucose level. At this time, he is doing very well and seems to have everything under control. He is giving himself two insulin shots a day and the doctors stress that with the insulin, exercise, and the proper diet, he can lead a very normal lifestyle. Praise the Lord! Three of our missionary friends here have returned home to the States in the past 14 months because of cancer, and we were afraid this might be something as serious. We are thankful that we have good doctors here, and also up-to-the minute medical care. We do appreciate your prayers for Ken and our family!

THANKS TO EACH OF YOU who have responded in the appeals for our mission account! We are IN THE BLACK! However, in order to remain on the field for the next two years, we continue to need more monthly support, so please keep this prayer before the Lord.

Here for His sake,

*Ken and Judy*

### From YOUR Missionaries in Villalba, Spain STEVE & LINDA REEVES

#### Special Prayer Needs For May:

1. Steve's Hypoglycemia
2. The Building Process
3. The Maturing of our Believers
4. God's Wisdom for the Future

### Dear Bro. & Sis. Burton:

Greetings from Tulsa, Ok. Yes, we are in the states. Steve's health kept getting worse and worse so on February 3 we left for the States. He has been diagnosed as having hypoglycemia. He is doing much better, and we hope to return to Spain in June.

Several things have happened since we have been in the States. The Villalba church had a "Marriage Enrichment" retreat in March. We heard that it was well attended and well received. The church finally received the deed for our 1/4 acre of land. Jeff has met with the architect, so it sounds like things are going good.

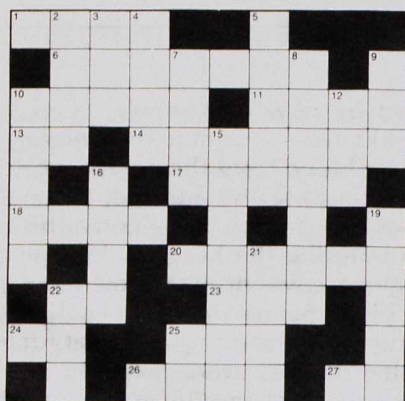
Thank you for your gifts to our account during 1991. Please, pray with us that our account won't suffer due to the unforeseen trip to the States and the added medical expenses.

We do thank you for your support and prayers.

Sincerely,  
Steve and Linda Reeves



## PUZZLE 11



### ACROSS

1. The wise men who visited Jesus
6. A sign of Jesus' divine power (John 3:2)
10. He tried to flee from the presence of God and was swallowed by a whale. (Jonah 1:1-17)
11. An Asherite whose sons were Arah, Haniel and Rezia (I Chr. 7:39)
13. "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, \_\_\_\_\_ I have loved you." (John 15:12)
14. A disciple who wrote the first book of the New Testament
17. Symbolic of the body of Christ in the Communion service (Matt. 26:26)
18. A precious stone used in the temple (I Chr. 29:2)
20. The village to which the two disciples were going when the Lord appeared to them (Luke 24:13)
22. "\_\_\_\_\_ that doeth truth cometh to the light \_\_\_\_\_" (John 3:21)
23. "\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the scribes is in vain." (Jer. 8:8)
24. "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ with you all \_\_\_\_\_" (Rev. 22:21)
25. God parted the Red \_\_\_\_\_. (Ex. 14:21; 15:4)
26. An insect destructive of garments (Job 13:28)
27. "And Jesus said, I \_\_\_\_\_" (Mark 14:62)

### DOWN

2. A prophet who wrote the 30th book of the Old Testament
3. A snare (Amos 3:5)
4. A duke of Edom (Gen. 36:43)
5. A musical instrument (Dan. 3:5)
7. A false prophet (Jer. 29:21, 22)
8. Son of Jair (I Chr. 20:5)
9. "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord is perfect \_\_\_\_\_" (Ps. 19:7)
10. Son of Isaac, twin brother of Esau (Gen. 25:24-26)
12. Moses \_\_\_\_\_ the people of Israel to the Red Sea. (Ex. 13:18,19)
15. A musical instrument, in biblical times, made of a ram's horn (Josh. 6:4-6)
16. Multitudes from this sea coast came to hear Jesus and be healed. (Luke 6:17)
19. A song of praise (150 of them make up the 19th book of the Old Testament)
21. A tower in Jerusalem (Neh. 3:1)
22. A bird (Matt. 23:37)
25. "Let your light \_\_\_\_\_ shine before men \_\_\_\_\_" (Matt. 5:16)

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ANSWERS IN NEXT MONTH'S GEM



## Points for Pastors

by James McAllister

In this article we will see the second method of discipling the new convert. Remember we are discussing how the church can preserve the catch, or keep those you reach for Christ. The first rule was to be as sure as possible they are really caught, and the second was follow-up discipleship. The first method of discipling was one-on-one in the home lessons, and in this article we will discuss classes and Sunday School discipleship.

When we think of this method there are four subjects that need to be taught and understood. One, family and marriage — most people who get saved as adults will have serious marital problems. They need help. In the Sunday School Christian videos, books, audio tapes, and discussion groups can be effectively used to build up, and even save the marriage. Two, finances — most people who are saved as adults also have financial problems. In the Sunday School class help can be given. Three, growth — Christian growth can be taught in the Sunday School class. Four, evangelism — every Christian needs to be a soul winner. In the Sunday School class the new convert can learn how to win souls. Five, church loyalty — a real problem in most churches is the lack of church loyalty one finds in the average church. This can also be taught in the classroom setting.

As Jesus taught his disciples, and as Paul taught Timothy, the dedicated pastor can teach his new converts and thus make them better and more productive Christians.

### Looking Out My Parsonage Window

by Ve Ann Tilson



Election mania of 1992 is in full swing. Tune into the local or national news any evening and you are sure to hear about Bill Clinton's family problems, President Bush's plan for helping the ailing economy, or newcomer Ross Perot's bid for the White House. The presidential election is a very important event in our nation's life. The man elected will guide our country for the next four years and his influence will last even longer. For what kind of candidate will you vote? Will you look for his stand on Christian values, such as his position on abortion, marriage, family, etc.? Or, will you simply choose not to vote at all.

Paul, in his Epistle to the Romans, felt it very much our responsibility to take an active role in government affairs. We, as Christians, need to be informed concerning political issues. We need to take the time to check out the candidates and issues, before going to the polls. Because everyone is subject to civil authorities, it is important that we take our civil duties

seriously. Voting is an important part of that obligation.

What about other elections? In school board elections, for instance, only 10% of the registered voters turn out to vote in most board elections. Our vote is critical on this level. These local boards set policy on programs, curriculum, instruction, discipline, etc., for your children and grandchildren. Don't complain about your local school and its non-Christian programs, if you've failed to exercise your duty to vote on these local school board members.

What about county elections? We have a lot more input in what goes on at the local/county level than we do anywhere. How many elections have been won by just a few votes on the county level? Do we take the time to speak out for Christian values? Voting is speaking out!

The same is true on the state level. In the last legislative session, the very important issue of abortion was discussed in Jefferson City. How does your representative/senator feel about this issue. Maybe you should find out.

Voting is an obligation. With many Christian values on the line at each level of government, it is more critical than ever before that Christians "speak up." We can no longer be part of the "silent majority."



## Financial Information

### APRIL 1992

#### COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$ 6,366.79
17.50% Exec. Off. & Gem.	6,022.64
3.50% General Fund	1,204.53
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	2,925.28
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	860.38
2.50% C.E. Board	860.38
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board	860.38
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	3,097.35
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	10,496.62
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 (\$104.96 included in \$10,496.62)	
5% Mo. State Conference Center Fund	\$1,720.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,415.10</b>

The Lord gave us another wonderful month! He always supplies the need for His work. May the Lord continue to bless the faithful pastors and churches as we serve Him. 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 FWBCC & Hillsdale receiving an equal amount. California Christian College will continue to receive the 1%.

### APRIL 1992 RECEIPTS

#### COOPERATIVE

Bethel, Festus	\$ 100.00
New Hope, Fredericktown	16.53
Twin Oak	766.47
Harmony, K.C.	515.00
Cope	80.00
Carthage	120.00
Kingsway	331.14
Columbia	75.00
Unity	320.05
Central	939.69
Alton	225.00
Oak Hill, Fredricktown	132.86
Liberty	316.00
Pleasant Ridge	138.00
New Harmony	23.31
Union Grove	238.69
New Life Fellowship	771.79
Number One	52.08
Houston	366.00
Seymour	105.00
Merl's Chapel	165.00
Fourth	284.00
Verdella	200.87
Hannon	483.12
O'Fallon	214.00
Royal Oak	158.00
Overland	178.50
Smyrna	330.00
Thayer	655.00
Calvary, Conway	214.35
Mt. Zion, Gower	62.10
Bailey Chapel	70.00
Mill Creek	218.55
Parkway, Sedalia	203.40
Rock Chapel	441.67
Victory, K.C.	266.19
Lebanon 1st	653.84
West Plains 1st	560.00
Greenfield	218.00
Calvary Chapel	193.58

Black Oak	216.60
Mine La Motte	47.48
Bootheel Assn.	18.96
Hurryville	334.80
Leadington	345.31
Happy Home	155.15
Kirkville	200.80
Monett	847.01
Crossroads, Wentzville	100.00
Belton	402.59
DeSoto	1,000.00
Freeman Chapel	287.21
Lingo	27.75
Joplin	487.20
Lone Star	35.60
Faith, Lemay	25.00
Heritage	173.00
Farmington	3,094.04
Mt. Pisgah	207.00
Koshkonong	102.35
Grant Avenue	817.82
Cape Girardeau	826.02
Stockton	143.75
Flat River 1st	882.51
Oak Hill, Union	558.67
Fordland	218.00
Springfield 1st	994.24
Hopewell	155.00
Trinity	1,095.06
Liberty, Marshfield	163.94
Neosho	142.50
Faith & Hope	161.52
Scott City	384.00
Pleasant Hill	67.64
New Home, Falcon	90.46
Waynesville	536.52
Parkview	340.05
Jones Chapel	105.00
Bethel, El Dorado	71.04
Wolf Creek	325.30
Union, Success	60.00
Victory Hill	36.00
Victory Hill	64.00
Eastern Gate	499.00
Carthage	140.00
Willow Springs	231.33
Cabool	393.65
Copper Mines	246.05
Potosi	117.92
United, West Plains	740.54
Grace	1,325.00
Richwoods	412.00
S. Fremont	286.00
Terrill Road	192.00
Jones Chapel	150.00
New Rock Springs	89.00
Byrd	43.40
Marshfield	233.70
Wilderness	340.00
Hartville	357.10
Clifton	65.40
Central	761.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,373.10</b>

#### FOREIGN MISSIONS

Cuba	\$ 82.93
Niangua	54.00
Carthage	86.00
Columbia	23.02
Central	137.50
Pleasant Ridge	45.00
New Harmony	116.57
New Life Fellowship	336.54
Richwoods	67.00
Beacon	390.00
Blue Springs	55.00
Merl's Chapel	200.00
Fourth	85.00
Verdella	622.82
Hannon	603.12
Cindi Thompson	25.00
O'Fallon	49.50
Overland	25.00
Thayer	132.00
Calvary, Conway	64.31
Parkway, Sedalia	250.00
Rock Chapel	143.00
Victory, K.C.	145.00
Lebanon 1st	80.00
S. Hart	20.00
West Plains 1st	5.00
Greenfield	267.00
Calvary Chapel	45.00
B. Blair	30.00
C. Laymay	10.00
Houston	217.02

Leadington	226.00
Beacon	343.00
Kirkville	64.75
Kirkville Children's Church	20.20
Monett	652.00
N. Akeman	10.00
Belton	50.00
DeSoto	370.00
Freeman Chapel	472.50
Joplin	30.00
Faith, Lemay	75.00
F. Green	35.00
Farmington	372.85
Mt. Pisgah	100.00
Royal Oak	50.00
Oak Grove, Cabool	65.00
Grant Avenue	546.06
Flat River 1st	269.75
Oak Hill, Union	26.50
Fordland	136.00
Trinity	458.52
Bethel, Festus	199.50
Neosho	480.00
Faith & Hope	108.93
New Testament	78.00
Southside	215.00
Parkview	620.00
Oak Grove, Norwood	142.62
Eastern Gate	269.91
Carthage	89.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	376.00
Calvary Chapel	40.00
Calvary Fellowship	1,089.33
Union Light	130.00
United, West Plains	62.00
Grace	26.50
Viburnum	90.00
S. Fremont	304.00
Parkview Mission Group	60.00
Marshfield	40.00
Wilderness	100.00
Hartville	71.42
Central	150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,527.67</b>

#### NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Carthage	\$ 57.00
Columbia	18.03
Central	130.00
New Life Fellowship	154.36
Richwoods	27.00
Beacon	40.00
Blue Springs	10.00
Verdella	15.00
Hannon	10.00
O'Fallon	59.50
Thayer	84.00
Rock Chapel	194.10
Lebanon 1st	5.00
West Plains 1st	2.00
Leadington	15.00
Kirkville	34.75
Monett	10.00
DeSoto	200.00
Joplin	50.00
Farmington	13.15
Mt. Pisgah	50.00
Grant Avenue	10.00
Flat River 1st	103.25
Oak Hill, Union	15.00
Fordland	10.00
Trinity	15.00
New Testament	25.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Parkview	58.00
Wolf Creek	45.56
Oak Grove, Norwood	71.31
Eastern Gate	10.00
Carthage	38.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	170.00
Union Light	25.00
Grace	115.00
Viburnum	38.00
S. Fremont	22.00
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
Central	103.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,113.01</b>

#### STATE HOME MISSIONS

Cuba	\$ 165.84
Columbia	35.00
Central	30.00
Pleasant Ridge	25.00
New Harmony	116.57
Richwoods	15.00
Beacon	2.00

Fourth	10.00
Hannon	241.56
O'Fallon	15.00
Thayer	40.00
Bible & Book Store	174.00
Lebanon 1st	65.00
West Plains 1st	190.02
J.W. Rader	20.00
Leadington	16.00
Monett	3.00
DeSoto	50.00
DeSoto Children's Church	20.00
Southeast Assn.	25.00
Joplin	10.00
Farmington	136.66
Grant Avenue	169.78
Flat River 1st	88.25
Oak Hill, Union	29.00
Fordland	5.00
Trinity	55.00
Bethel, Festus	15.00
Faith & Hope	108.92
New Testament	25.00
Southside	10.00
Parkview	10.00
Eastern Gate	20.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	64.00
Union Light	161.00
United, West Plains	20.00
Grace	35.00
Viburnum	8.00
S. Fremont	75.00
Marshfield	33.37
Central	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,347.97</b>

#### YOUTH CAMP

Hannon	\$ 15.00
Thayer	235.00
Lebanon Bible Book Store	78.00
DeSoto	50.00
Mt. Pisgah	10.00
Flat River 1st	104.56
Trinity	14.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Bethel, El Dorado Springs	15.00
Union, Success	30.00
Mountain Grove	20.00
Willow Springs	10.00
Calvary Fellowship	39.00
Springfield 1st	39.64
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
New Rock Springs	10.00
Hartville	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$740.20</b>

#### JOHN McCURE ACCOUNT

Verdella	\$ 10.00
Thayer	110.00
Victory, K.C.	5.00
Monett	20.00
Farmington	10.00
Mo. Woman's Auxiliary	50.00
Grace	27.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$132.50</b>

#### HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Central	\$ 81.00
Beacon	25.00
Hannon	50.00
Thayer	40.00
Victory, K.C.	36.62
Farmington	142.41
Oak Hill, Union	17.50
Calvary Fellowship	35.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$438.28</b>

#### FWBCC

Thayer	\$ 35.00
DeSoto	35.00
Farmington	127.37
Calvary Fellowship	35.75
Parkview	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$243.12</b>

#### CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Farmington	\$23.97
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## Sunday School Attendance Averages November 1991 - April 1992

CHURCHES	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Belton	54	59	67	68	60	54
Bethel, El Dorado	62	60	61	57	60	
Calvary Fellowship	251	221	228	248	316	
Cape Girardeau	73	72	102	98	106	84
Central	93	103	110	97	102	101
Copper Mines	68					
Cuba	75	76	85	86	95	
DeSoto	180	178	199	202	204	211
Farmington	409	388	396	400	438	392
Flat River, First	105			108	161	142
Hannon	103	103	97	96	110	99
Harmony	69	70	80	76	75	74
Hartville	100	91	99	104	96	96
Hopewell	34	32	29	27	32	38
Houston	94	90	102	97	93	78
Kirksville			33	34		
Lebanon, First	92	97	106	107	110	115
Marshfield	29	27	25	25	28	30
Monett	128	130	118			
Myrtle	31	29	32	31		
Oskaloosa						17
Overland				43	42	
Parkview	51	55	51	51	56	54
Potosi	52	57	59	49	61	
Richwoods	34	36				
Rock Chapel	76	75	77	79	85	
Springfield, First	132	123	127	130	132	118
Thayer	110	122	123	119		124
United, West Plains	168	183	184	165	177	178
Verdella	70	73	72	77		
Victory, Kansas City	81	70	75	66	90	
Willow Springs	60	62	62	62	63	65

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.

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

## Calendar of Events

### 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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