

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Volume 62, No. 11, November 1992

GIVE THANKS

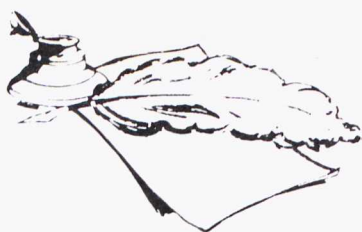


for...

Jesus Christ
The Holy Scriptures
Family
Friends
Food & Shelter
My Church



Nathan Ruble



From The Desk of The

Executive Secretary

Someone has defined Thanksgiving as our annual time of saying grace at the table of eternal goodness. This may be true for many, but it should not be true of the Christian. The word "Thanksgiving" has several different meanings. The word translated from the Hebrew can mean the extension of the hand, adoration (as a choir of worshippers), the sacrifice of praise, and the giving of thanks. Translated from the Greek it means gratitude.

Praise and gratitude should be a constant and visible part of the Christian life. It gives testimony of our desire to please God, and it offers an excellent way of proclaiming God.

Thanksgiving pleases God for it is an act of obedience to His Word. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus, concerning you." He wrote to the Ephesians and said, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Thanksgiving pleases God for it honors Him as the giver of every good gift. When the 10 lepers asked Jesus to heal them, only one returned to express his gratitude for the gift of healing. It has been said that ingratitude is the child of pride. Pride always says, "I can manage without God's help." Pride actually views God not as a Benevolent God, but as a debtor. The nine lepers who failed to return left this testimony.

Thanksgiving proclaims the goodness and greatness of God. The Christian has opportunity to make this proclamation by his expressions of praise and gratitude in his public and private prayers. Paul admonishes, "Be careful for nothing but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Praise in worship, tithing, consistent Christian living, all proclaim how we feel about God.

Scripture always identifies thanksgiving with those who would follow the Lord. However, it identifies ingrati-

tude as a characteristic of one going away from God. Romans 1:21 proclaims, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, **neither were thankful**; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." Unthankfulness is characteristic of the last days. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, **unthankful**, unholy."

A farmer who made it a practice to thank God for his meals, bowed his head in a restaurant in a big city to thank God for his meals. Some hecklers made light of him and asked, "Does everyone where you are from do that?" The farmer replied, "The pigs don't."

Thanksgiving is a good time to remember that Think and Thank come from the same root word. We need only to think in order to be thankful. God bless you and your family with a great Thanksgiving Day. May it be a time pleasing to God and a time of proclaiming his goodness.

Sunday School Attendance Averages April 1992 - September 1992

CHURCHES	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT
Belton	54	59	54	57	64	56
Bethel, El Dorado	57					
Calvary Fellowship	288	236	225	201	222	
Cape Girardeau	84	82	91	73	87	103
Central	101					
Cuba	97	83	98	90	89	101
DeSoto	211	187	187	182	197	195
Farmington	392	359	317	339	330	
Flat River, First	142	135	139	132	141	148
Hannon	99	96	95	97	86	82
Harmony	74	71	72	69	73	
Hartville	96	96	87		102	100
Hopewell	38	31	34	42	35	
Houston	79	85	71	70	75	67
Kirksville	37	37				32
Lebanon, First	115	105	96	100	103	100
Marshfield	28	27	24	27	26	26
Monett	136	125	119			
Myrtle				34	35	
Oskaloosa		17				
Parkview	54	56	60		56	57
Potosi	59	60	51	59	46	
Richwoods	40	50	50	35	43	45
Rock Chapel	80	79	74	71	70	
Springfield, First	118		118	119	118	
Thayer	124	112	107	121	120	
United, West Plains	178	172	176	168	163	
Verdella	69	68	61	69	63	64
Victory, Kansas City	69					
Willow Springs	65	61		58	63	

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.

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. Nathan Ruble, 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



Faithful To Their Church

The Clifton Free Will Baptist Church of Thayer is thankful for Senior Adults who are faithful to their church. On September 20, 1992, the church paid special tribute to nine church couples who have been married fifty years or more. The church prepared a surprise dinner in honor of these couples whose combined years of marriage total over five hundred years! (This must be some sort of record!) Those sharing the honors were: Bro. & Sis. Herman Davis, 65 years; Bro. & Sis. Emery Coble, 61 years; Bro. & Sis. Leman Reynolds, 57 years; Bro. & Sis. Frank Fisher, 57 years; Bro. & Sis. Roy Coates, 53 years; Bro. & Sis. Carl Day, 52 years; Bro. & Sis. Grover McKee, 52 years; Bro. & Sis. Noel Combs, 52 years; and Bro. & Sis. Randall Risner, 52 years.

Calvary Chapel Burns Mortgage

The Calvary Chapel Free Will Baptist Church located in Buffalo, Missouri, held a note burning service on October 4, 1992. Over one hundred people gathered to help celebrate the early debt retirement. The church paid the mortgage nine years earlier than was scheduled.

God has blessed the Calvary Chapel Church since their first service which was held November 2, 1980. The Lord has given them a choice piece of property, a beautiful building, and a loving and caring congregation. Pastor Doug Earls and the congregation are setting new goals of service for the Lord.

The church has been pastored by the following men: Rev. Kent Tallent, Rev. Tom Owens, Rev. Wesley Rider, Rev. Lester Davis, and Rev. Doug Earls.



Lebanon Celebrates 45th Anniversary

An all day service was held at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Lebanon on Sunday, September 27, to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the church. The morning worship service was well attended, and the people received a warm welcome from Pastor Gary Sheets.

Two former pastors returned to share in the celebration. The Rev. Roger Harwell preached during the eleven o'clock service. A pot-luck lunch was provided by the church following the morning service. The Rev. Joe Braddy preached the afternoon message. The Rev. Jim Mertz, a former pastor, sent a letter congratulating the church on its special day. Special music for the services was provided by the Church Choir, Phillip Day, Sue Cook, and the Saved by Grace Quartet. A special time was given for testimonies during the afternoon service.

The Lebanon Church was organized on July 25, 1947, with 19 charter members. Two charter members, Gladys Montgomery and Freida (Montgomery) Hays, still attend the church. The church has been pastored by the following men: Rev. C.A. McAllister, Rev. J.E. Burney, Rev. Harvey M. Cope, Rev. Verl Tait, Rev. Leo Curtis, Rev. Finis Johnson, Rev. Cleo Covington, Rev. Dale Jones, Rev. Roger Harwell, Rev. Jim Mertz, Rev. Joe Braddy, and Rev. Gary Sheets.



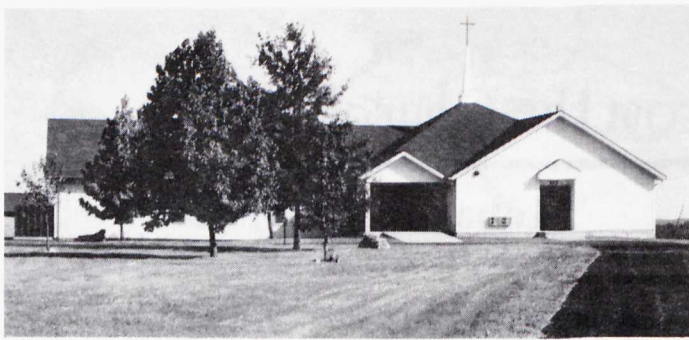
Roger & Barbara Harwell



Pastor Gary Sheets



Joe Braddy



Eastern Gate Church

Eastern Gate Dedicates Educational Building

Eastern Gate Free Will Baptist Church dedicated their newly completed educational facilities on Sunday, September 20, 1992. The 2 p.m. service was opened with the pastor, Rev. Jeff Daniels, welcoming those present and recognizing special visitors in the service. Bro. Daniels thanked the Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees, and Building Committee for their work in the building project. He recognized the Board of Deacons consisting of Chairman Bill Robbins, Doug Norris, Gilbert Fortney, Shorty Hampton, and Clifford Brawley. Those serving on the Board of Trustees include Chairman Larry Fortney, Otho McCormack, Greg Conner, and Jess Young. The Building Committee was made up of Ben Reed, Otho McCormack, and Clifford Brawley. All were commended for their leadership and dedication in seeing the building task completed.

Sis. Mary Fortney led the congregation in singing. The invocation was led by Bro. Otho McCormack. Sis. Tamme Daniels and Sis. Missy Smith contributed special music for the service.

Rev. Nathan Ruble preached the dedication message. He commended the church for their sacrifice and vision in completing the building.

After Bro. Ruble's message, Bro. Daniels led the congregation in The Act of Dedication. The service was concluded with an altar of prayer led by Bro. Bill Robbins in which he once again committed the new building to God's use.

Hannibal Surprises Pastor

Sunday, September 13, the Hannibal Free Will Baptist Church surprised Pastor Dale Cochran by having a Pastor Appreciation Day. The congregation honored Bro. Dale for five years of service to Hannibal with two sets of reference books.

Eighty people were present to hear the Calvarymen Quartet sing and testify. The church truly was blessed by their ministry.

After the services the Children's Church, under the direction of Teri Blackburn and Gwen Koch, served brunch. They made and served homemade waffles. The youth group is a very important part of the Hannibal Church, and we are very proud of their willingness to serve others.

The Hannibal Mission would like to thank all of you in the state of Missouri for your prayers and your financial support.

Bourbon - Pastor Appreciation Day



The Rev. Hugh Stogsdill, pastor of the Bourbon Free Will Baptist Church, was completely surprised by his congregation on Pastor Appreciation Day.

The congregation presented him with a boutonniere and a poem written especially for him by his wife, Eunice. Sister Lucreita Foster read the poem and Brother Arnold Flowers presented him a Certificate of Appreciation.

The biggest surprise of the day was the announcement that a carry-in meal was in the dining room. Pastor Stogsdill said he hadn't smelled a thing. The Pastor and church had an enjoyable time of fellowship.

Lou Foster, Reporter



Cuba and Bourbon Churches Baptize 15

Sunday, August 30, the Cuba and Bourbon churches met at Huzzah Campground for an afternoon of fellowship and recreation.

At 5:00 p.m. a delicious meal was enjoyed by everyone present. At 6:00 p.m. the evening service was held at the outside pavillion, led by Rev. Rick Dablemont, pastor of the Cuba Free Will Baptist Church. Fifteen people were baptized, three from the Bourbon Church and twelve from the Cuba Church. This was the highlight of the day. (Rev. Hugh Stogsdill pastors the Bourbon Church.)

by Lou Foster, Bourbon Church

But Could Miracles Happen In My Church?

Thirty men sat in their adult Sunday school class and listened to teacher Calvin Horn. "Across the street from our church," he said, "people are hungry and homeless. Let's do something about it."

Just one Sunday school class in Albuquerque, New Mexico. No money in the budget. But people were hungry. They needed bread. They needed Jesus Christ. So the students agreed that for four Wednesdays, their class would come up with \$1.50 for each noon meal that hungry people ate. The first week 69 people were fed.

"Four weeks was our plan," said Calvin. "But four weeks wasn't the Lord's plan." From those meals grew Noon Day Ministry," a program that now provides daily meals, showers, Bible studies, storage, and a place to stay for homeless families. The \$1.50 commitment grew into an annual budget of \$120,000. "Noon Day Ministry," sponsored by First Baptist Church of Albuquerque, recently won World Vision's Mustard Seed Award for an enterprising ministry to the poor.

"If ten years ago someone had said to me, 'Calvin, in the twilight of your years, you're going to work with the homeless,' I would have smiled and said, 'You're off your rocker.' After all, the church once gave me a carnation for being its oldest member. But here I am. And Noon Day is one of the most exciting things I've ever been involved in."

Some of the original Sunday school members are still involved, but the ministry has grown far beyond the class. Other churches in the area send support. Since the ministry won the Mustard Seed Award, hundreds of churches have been writing to find out how to start food ministries in their areas.

"I believe the Bible," Calvin said. "I read that the Lord did miracles and I believe that. But miracles are for today, too." God took just \$1.50 and multiplied it to give food, dignity, and a demonstration of His love to thousands.

Article by Marlene LeFever
from David C. Cook Publishing Co.



Missionary News

LYTLE HYLITES

August 24-28 was an especially busy and important time for us. Free Will Baptists from seven different countries met here in Panama at a Christian camp for five days of fellowship, spiritual refreshment and serious discussion. ... Please remember to pray with us for: Revival among our people here in Panama. Teachers and students of the Bible Institute. Steve as he travels each month to our country churches and missions. The boys as they travel an hour each way to school and back.

GENTUSO GAZETTE

Much to our disappointment, we have been delayed in leaving for language school in France. This delay has graphically reminded us that, "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps." ... We tentatively anticipate enrolling in an intensive French program stateside, and then moving into a French speaking community to continue formal language learning. ... Please pray for us as we decide on and enroll in a new course of French study.

HOLLAND HIGHLIGHTS

After two and a half weeks of being here in Brazil, we have found a house, bought a nice used car, and have received our temporary Visa papers. Please pray that we will learn the Portuguese language quickly so that we can communicate the love of the Lord and our love to the Brazilian people.

REEVES REVIEW

Linda is expecting a baby which is due in March! To say the least, we are excited. ... Our return and readjustment to Spain has gone smoothly. It was good to get back and be with Jeff and Susan Turnbough and family as well as our church family here. ... Thus far my hypoglycemia seems to be about under control. I have learned to be pretty faithful to my diet, but your prayers have helped most of all. Prayer requests: 1) Linda's pregnancy 2) Steve's health 3) Building program 4) Logos Bible Institute 5) New Youth Program.

JIM MERTZ NEWSLETTER

Thanks to you, your prayers, and faithful support our church is growing, and God is helping us to get the job done. Also, this year our offerings have increased about 30% from last year, and we are on our way to begin assuming some pastoral support. We are still in need of your help monthly until we reach that status.

VERGEL MANESS NEWSLETTER

My father passed away August 7, 1992. My mother, who is not well herself, has decided to live alone in their DeSoto, Missouri, home. She needs prayer during these days of adjustment. ... Please pray that September through December will result in new growth for our Free Will Baptist Church in Vineland, New Jersey.



TEAM

Panama '93

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD TEENS !

Are you tired of mowing grass and watching Andy Griffith reruns all summer long? How would you like to be involved in an exciting cross-cultural ministry on a foreign field? This may be just the opportunity you've been waiting for!

Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions is looking for a few **committed** teens who are interested in a two-week trip to Panama in July 1993. Don't be misled--this will **not** be a sightseeing trip or a Caribbean vacation; we need some young people who are not ashamed to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world!

There will be opportunities for singing, preaching, teaching, playing musical instruments, puppet ministry, drama and pantomime presentations, as well as lots of one-on-one contact with people. If you have talents in any of these areas, perhaps you can put them to use for God's glory in another country. Jesus gave us all a commission to take the gospel to the whole world--*and you are not too young to start doing it!*

This trip is not for everyone! It is for you if you can share your personal testimony of how you became a Christian. You will also need to be at least an upcoming junior in high school (at the time of the trip), and be recommended by your pastor and/or youth minister.

As you may have already guessed, this trip will cost money! You will be responsible to raise approximately \$2,300 to cover the cost of your plane fare, room and board, and other expenses.

So, if you think you have the "right stuff," and are willing to be used by God, then return the bottom portion of this sheet **no later than October 1, 1992**, and additional information will be sent to you. *This is a challenging opportunity to do something for God next summer!*

Clip this part and mail to the address below

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Church: _____ Pastor: _____

Last grade completed (check one): ☐9 ☐10 ☐11 ☐12

☐ I'm not old enough to be eligible now but I will be eligible in _____, so keep me informed for future opportunities.

Send form to: **FWB Foreign Missions**
TEAM Panama '93
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The deadline for receiving the applications has been extended to February 1993.

Bible College Discontinues Graduate Program

Free Will Baptist Bible College's Board of Trustees - at the recommendation of Mr. Ralph Hampton, Dean of the Graduate School, President Tom Malone, and Dr. Robert Picirilli, Academic Dean of the college - voted unanimously September 25 to discontinue the graduate program.

The decision was made because of insufficient enrollment. "To put it simply, we have not had the enrollment needed to enable us to have a sound and accreditable program. Nor does it appear that these circumstances will change significantly in the days ahead," says Dr. Picirilli.

Students in the program spoke enthusiastically about its contribution to their ministries. But the number of those enrolled, especially in recent sessions, has not been sufficient to continue the program.

"We will work to make provision

for those who have already made progress in the program and wish to complete it," he says. "Courses will be offered through the December 1993 session and the last group will graduate in May 1994."

College officials still believe that there is a need for continuing education in the denomination. Dr. Picirilli says that the college will try to redirect its focus and provide such education in less formal ways that may be available and helpful to more people. This will largely be done through the college's External Studies Division, directed by Mr. Harrold Harrison. "We believe our energies will be more effective in the way," he adds.

The college will appreciate any suggestions people feel will be helpful as it looks for new ways to serve the denomination.

Hillsdale Appointments Announced

Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College is pleased to announce the following appointments.

Jack Richey, Director of Church Relations. Richey will assume responsibility for the annual General Fund - "Have A Heart For Hillsdale" as well as church/pastor relations.

Clarence Burton, Associate Director of Church Relations. Burton recently retired as Executive Secretary of Missouri Free Will Baptists. His new assignment will be to promote church/pastor relations in the state of Missouri.

Wilma Marberry, Coordinator of Public Affairs. She assumes responsibility for scheduling public relations and mass mailing.

Tim Lisenbee, Director of Student Recruiting. These duties will be added to his duties as Athletic Director and Coach.

Pam Wilson, Dean of Students. Wilson will continue to teach in addition to her new responsibility.

Carl Krueger, Dean of Women's Resident Life and faculty. Krueger is a graduate of Hillsdale (A.A.), Southwest Missouri State University (Bachelor of Science in Counseling), and the University of North Florida (Master of Science in Counseling).

Darryl Ferrington, Music Faculty. Ferrington's duties have been expanded to include additional classroom instruction and director of NewLife. He is presently doing dissertation work toward a PH.D. in Music at the University of Oklahoma.

Matt Schinske, Music Faculty. Schinske, who is working on his PH.D. at the University of Oklahoma, is teaching in the area of music technology. His instruction incorporates computerization and state-of-the art technology.

16 From FWBBC Make "Who's Who"

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE — Sixteen seniors at Free Will Baptist Bible College will be listed in the 1993 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. They join an elite group of students from 1,400 institutions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign countries.

Among the criteria considered by the FWBBC faculty, which nominated them, were spiritual maturity, academic performance, social contributions and promise of future service.

This year's *Who's Who* students are:

Wendy Burgess, Normal, IL
Dewey Chalos, Richmond, VA
Kevin Hester, Russellville, AL
Tim Johnson, Warren, MI
David Kilgore, Wise, VA
Michelle Laughlin, Cisne, IL
Steve Lindsay, Odessa, MO

Dennis Moore, Nashville, TN
Bryan Pate, Nashville, TN
Travis Penn, Decatur, IL
Paige Powell, Nashville, TN
Kevin Scott, Bridgeton, MO
John Waddell, Nashville, TN
Jodi Marie Young, Columbus, OH

The Other Hillsdale College

Sometimes a bit of Free Will Baptist history comes to us in unusual ways. This happened some time ago through an issue of *Sports Illustrated*. One of the articles in the December 6, 1971, issue of that magazine concerned a football player named Chester Marcol, a kicker for Hillsdale College in Michigan. Marcol holds two collegiate gridiron records, with a 62 yard field goal, and with 104 consecutive points after touchdowns. He averaged better than 40 yards per punt - though none of this has anything to do with Free Will Baptist history. The article went on to describe Hillsdale College, pointing out that the institution was "founded in 1844 by Free Will Baptists." Hillsdale was founded by the northern branch of our denomination. The article observed that the first graduating class at Hillsdale, five students, included a woman and a Black. Both of those facts were remarkable in that period. The causes of woman's suffrage or Black rights had not yet been advanced very strongly, and for either to be at such a level of higher education was almost unheard of. Obviously, Hillsdale was a pacesetter in these matters. Enough history has been preserved for us to know that Free Will Baptists - in the North, of course - were strong advocates of Black freedom and equality. By the way, that first Black Hillsdale graduate's name was Fisk, who established Fisk University in Nashville!

— Robert Picirilli, Member, Free Will Baptist Historical Commission

Gems From The Past

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter from Missionary Thomas Willey was printed in the October 1953 GEM.

PIONEERING NEW FIELDS IN TROUBLED CUBA

Our Dear Co-Laborers:

The labors of the past month have been in new fields, that I have, up to now, not been able to visit. I wish it were possible to take each of you with me and let you see and feel what I have experienced.

The first new field was back in the towering cliff country where one of our Christian families has been living for a year. The husband is in charge of a large cattle ranch. Only one person in the family can read a little, they began inviting their neighbors in and their 14 year old girl would read the Word. The results have been wonderful. A number have been saved and a young man called to preach the Gospel. The tragedy is that this fine boy cannot read. He said, "Mr. Willey, please let me attend the Seminary. I will do anything for a chance to prepare myself." He was carrying tracts and Gospel portions on his pony to isolated families in the mountains. "Mr. Willey, I must preach," were his parting words to me, after we prayed together high in those Cuban mountain trails. He sat on his pony and waited as I faded out on the trail. We must do something for this boy. I sent for him to come and work at the farm so we can teach him to read. Probably someone might be interested in him. His name is Angel, "Angel of the mountains." He is now here in the school. He came without a towel or sheets or soap, and how willing he is to do anything.

I carry some of Launbach's system of teaching to read with me when I go on these trips. In one Christian home I had an experience I shall never forget. The girl 14, the father and mother, devout Christian soul-winners, hung upon a chair while the little blond headed son knelt and sorted out letters to form words so that father and mother might learn to read the Word. This lesson lasted for three straight hours.

I have heard children praying with intense earnestness in these mountain homes, and my heart is thrilled. The going is not at all easy over these steep stony mountain trails, but what a reward it is — not meeting the multitude in the churches but seeing results of hand picked fruit. Such was the ministry of the Master — from person to person. We as preachers have been so mass conscious that we have lost touch with the individual.

I have had occasion during these weeks to spend hours in the saddle going from cabin to cabin high in the Cuban hills. My heart has been appaled at the need — need of food. There were little children with beautiful features but pinched by malnutrition. I have ridden at mid-day up to the doors of these cabins and have seen upon the table sometimes only ground corn, dry and tasteless, or yuca, a tropical tuber almost pure starch. But the saddest fact is that they have never heard of the Bread of Life, the Saviour who came so long ago. In my sadness at the impoverished living, I have rejoiced in being the first to tell them the glad story of redeeming grace; of treasures untold, until it is all I can do to come back to the comfort and pleasant surroundings of my own home at the mission school. My heart has desired to reach those who have never heard so much. I am mapping out sections of all the Province. Since writing to you last I have made three trips in these out of the way places.

The man who came to be our school cook was born on the coast where we have never entered, simply because we did not have the workers. This man, when at the age of two years, moved with the family to the Province of Las Villas. For 28 years contact was lost with the home folk. The longing of this humble Christian was to see if his relatives were alive and if they knew the Gospel. This was a real opportunity that I could not miss, so we arranged for one of our faithful Christians who knows something of the mountain trails to meet us with horses. We rode into pine covered hills until there burst out upon our sight the immense Atlantic Ocean. Winding our way down into the valley, thickly populated, where a missionary had never gone, and after hours we found the uncle and a large family of grown sons. They heard for the first time the story of salvation. Their interest was a thrill to our hearts. We were the first to arrive with the Word of God. They were so poor that I bought fish as the fishermen came in with their boats to have something to eat.

The military supervision was so strict that more than four people were not permitted to meet together, so for the moment a preaching service was out of the question. Personal work from home to home was the order.

I found the bus could make it over the roads so we planned to return. The next week I went in on horseback and while going in, found another valley of precious people; some of them relatives of our Christians. I told these I would be back. When I arrived in the fishing village of El Barraco, news came from the military officer in charge that he was my friend and I could have a service when and where I desired. The next day the bus came in and imagine my surprise when Tommy rushed out to pull me off the horse. The dear folk in East Nashville Church had made it possible for him to be with us a short time and we are grateful to them.

That afternoon we had the first evangelical service in that village. Rough fishermen and their families stood, greatly moved, as Mrs. Willey spoke to them on a text they heard for the first time in their lives, John 3:16. When we asked them if they wanted us to return, one big fisherman said, "Probably it is too late for us, but you are in time for our children."

In this statement, so well put, there is a tragic fact. "Too late for us, in time for our children." The children, great numbers under foot all about, certainly shall be the net to reach these sun-bronzed sons of the nets. It is more than we can do to wait to place benches and lights. The old uncle who sits with consuming interest, took me into an immense room and said, "You can have this room for services."

I could go on and on telling you of such experiences. What I personally have experienced in these past weeks, and during this summer, our preacher boys are knowing year in and out. Pray for them daily that the Holy Spirit shall completely possess their lives, and make them flaming evangelists, that the fire and passion "to go out in the highways and hedges" shall never be dimmed until the task is done.

With warmest Christian love and gratitude to each of you who share with us in this great responsibility.

Rev. Thomas H. Willey



Looking Out My Parsonage Window

by Ve Ann Tilson

HELPING YOUR CHILD AT SCHOOL

What is the parent's role in homework and study? Some would be quick to tell you, "That's what we pay the teacher to do; when I get home I'm tired . . ."

When we, as parents, get busy with our own concerns, it is easy to become lax about our children and their school work. Here are a few ways you can support your child and help him develop good study habits and achieve school success:

- Instill in him/her the importance of education. Just as we have a job description at our place of employment, the student also has a job description. Their job is to study hard and make the best of their education.
 - Expect your child to work up to their capabilities. If they are capable of a C, expect a C, but . . . if they are capable of an A, don't be satisfied with a C.
 - Encourage your child to set realistic goals, like bringing up a grade from a C to a B.
 - Encourage responsibility. I've seen so many parents fall short in this department. The child is never made responsible for his/her actions, grades, behavior, etc. You are only hurting the child when you neglect to teach responsibility.
 - Encourage organization. Use assignment books or folders. This will be a skill that will be used throughout life.
 - Set a time and a place to study. Be consistent. Be available to help if needed.
 - Don't assume your child is "doing okay in school." Stay in touch with the teacher. A simple note or phone call as to how "Mary" is doing may save heartache down the road. The eighth week of a nine week grading period is too late to discover there's a problem.
- Remember you, the parent, will be the key to your child's success or failure at school.

No News is Bad News

Keep up with what's happening in your world. Christians should be informed and able to defend the stands they take to other Christians and those in the secular world. Knowing the news can put you on common conversational ground with just about anyone. This makes news knowledge a building block to friendship evangelism. If you're a Sunday school teacher, illustrations from today's news will make your lessons more effective. The same is true for pastors looking for sermon illustrations.

First, discover the sources for news. Without too much effort, you can make news gathering an integral, painless part of each day. Rely on these sources to keep you informed.

LISTENING. Listen to what makes people happy, hurt, fearful, optimistic, or pessimistic. These emotions often swirl around current events.

TALK RADIO. Switch your radio dial to talk radio. Although some of the talk shows are boring and trivial, a surprising amount of the subject matter deals with current news.

TELEVISION. Gary Warner, journalism professor and former executive director of the Evangelical Press Association, recommends at least 30 minutes of television news every day. "If you can spare an hour, divide the time between national and local news," he said. "If you have only 30 minutes, opt for the national broadcast."

NEWSPAPERS. Subscribe to your local paper along with a national paper. If nothing else, devour the Sunday paper.

RELIGIOUS NEWS. This news generates from religious newspapers, news sections, and wire services. But don't rely solely on these sources. Most of these publishers deal only with a limited amount of news about religious community.

Second, judge the value of the news. Judge the value of an event to determine how much attention to give it. Warner suggests the following guidelines to evaluate its newsworthiness.

IMPACT. An event's importance is determined by its impact on people. Look to see how this news affects your community and your church family.

PROMINENCE. People make news. Prominent people make the news often. Keeping up with the news makers brings insight into what people

watchers think, want, and strive after.

CONFLICT. Differences and disagreements are part of daily living. Watch for conflict, big and small, and you'll find notable news. Being aware of conflict can help you relate to the inner and outer struggles of your friends and the people with whom you work.

TIMELINESS. Know the fresh news. Staying on top of the issues can help establish one-to-one rapport with thinking members in your church or Sunday school class. News helps Christians live in the real world. Christians have occasionally been accused of not living in the real world. Knowing what's in the news can be a reality check.

CURRENCY. What are the current fads? The hot topics? If you're teaching juniors or teens and your anecdotes lag behind the latest, you'll be tuned out.

UNIVERSALITY. Some topics interest everyone: food, shelter, sex, clothing, war, work. Christians should be aware of the latest developments in life's universal themes.

Joyce Landorf wrote in her book *I'm Still Growing* (Nelson), "We are told to work, for the night is coming, yet some of us have been so cooped up in our own little houses that we are blissfully unaware of the approaching evening shadows or the broken lives on our block. The newspaper and media can put this into a realistic focus for us, and quite quickly."

Article by
David C. Cook Publishing Co.

Answers to Last Month's Puzzle 13

S	C	I	E	N	C	E		N		S
C	A	R	T				A	N	E	S
A	N		A	D	A	R		A		R
R	A	I	M	E	N	T		R		I
L		Z		A			H	A	M	A
E	V	E	R	L	A	S	T	I	N	G
T	A	H	A	T	H		A	N	D	
	I	A	M				D	R	E	A
I	N	R	O	M	E		O		M	
N			T		L	A	T	T	E	R
K	I	T	H	L	I	S	H		N	

Operation Idaho

"Go West, young ladies!" "Ladies?, that's not the way it goes!" But that is the way it went for eight brave young ladies from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Monett, Missouri, where the Rev. Ken Dodson pastors. These brave young ladies took part in a youth missions trip labeled "Operation Idaho."

On August 5, their journey began with youth pastor, Lance Rogers, leading the way along with co-sponsors, Janet Terry, Vickie Hensley, and Marvin Hensley. The journey took the group through nine states before returning them to Monett. Rupert, Idaho, served as a "watering hole" midway through the journey. While in Rupert, the group took part in a youth rally at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Rupert, where Rev. Bill Phillips pastors. The Youth Rally brought several area youth groups together for a night of fellowship, fun, and a special time of sharing their different experiences as Christian teens in different parts of the country. Also during the three day stop in Rupert, the youth presented a program at the Rupert Church and also at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Jerome where Rev. Gene Kissinger pastors. Their program consisted of dramas, singing, instrumental pieces, a monologue, and a special treat with Darcy Hensley presenting a song in sign language as her mother, Vickie Hensley, sang.

From their base camp in Rupert, the group toured many of the area sights including Shoshone Falls, the Snake River Canyon, Craters of the Moon, and the Grand Tetons. Yellowstone National Park was a special treat that can only be described as magnificent.

One more stop was made on the trek, and that was in Cheyenne, Wyoming. There the group ministered at the First Free Will Baptist Church where Rev. Russell Johnson pastors.

"This trip made a life changing impact on our young people. If the churches we visited got one-hundredth of the blessing that we received, then I just praise the Lord," quotes Brother Lance.

The "brave" young ladies who made the journey west were Kristin Hood, Jill Mackey, Karen McCully, Kelli Mackey, Rhonda Hensley, Amanda Terry, Reagan Arnaud, and Darcy Hensley.

by Lance Rogers

Youth Camp 1992

We have had another good year at our Missouri State Free Will Baptist Youth Camp. We are thankful for all the blessings of this year's camp sessions. In the four camp sessions this summer we had 1,102 register. There were 101 salvation decisions, 147 who came forward to rededicate their lives, and 132 who came forward for prayer concerning special needs in their lives.

Special thanks go to our evangelists and teacher for this year's sessions. Brother Tim York and Brother Gary Mitchner served as our evangelists. Each served for one week of the teen session and one week of the pre-teen session. Both were right on target with their preaching and were well received as the Lord blessed with a great response during the altar services. This year Brother Bob Farwell served as the teacher for our daily teaching sessions. He did an excellent job teaching on Creationism in all four sessions of our camp. We thank him for taking the time to be with us. Brother Bob also wrote the curriculum which was used.

Special thanks go to everyone who made this year's camp a success. Thanks to the churches who support our camp both financially and by sending their young people. Thanks to those who served as sponsors. Some even used vacation time to serve at camp. Thanks to all those who helped with the program this year; teachers, recreation workers, lifeguards, first-aid workers, camp directors, cabin sponsors, and all who helped in any way. The cooks did a fine job and their work is especially appreciated.

One person who deserves a very special thank you is our Camp Superintendent, Brother Ken Goff. The grounds were in top condition and the improvements were very noticeable. Brother Ken deserves much credit for these improvements. He works very hard all year to make them possible.

The new miniature golf course was well used this year. We have plans to add to it for next year as well as making other additions to the camp. Please pray for our camp program and our Youth Camp Board. We are now in the process of preparing for our 1993 camp session. Hope to see you there!

by Gene Howell

Financial Information

SEPTEMBER 1992

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50%	Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$ 6,678.62
17.50%	Exec. Off. & Gem	6,317.61
3.50%	General Fund	1,263.52
8.50%	Youth Camp Bd.	3,068.55
2.50%	Youth Ministries Bd.	902.52
2.50%	C.E. Board	902.52
2.50%	Sr. Adult Ministries Board	902.52
9.00%	Mo. State Retirement Program	3,249.06
30.50%	Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	11,010.69

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	
(\$110.11 included in \$11,010.69)	
5% Mo. State Conference	
Center Fund	\$1,805.03
Total	\$36,100.64

"...Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!..." Ps. 106:1. God has given us a good month, and He is to be praised. The faithfulness of the Pastors and Churches in Missouri make it possible for us to have a part in carrying out the Great Commission. Working together, we will see the lost saved and the saints edified.

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%.

SEPTEMBER 1992 RECEIPTS COOPERATIVE

Central	\$ 705.86
Number 1	60.42
Houston 1st	384.16
New Hope, Fredricktown	14.84
Bailey Chapel	80.00
Harmony, Parkville	450.00
Oak Hill, Fredricktown	78.25
Union Grove	216.00
Cuba	404.07
Tyrone	58.60
Monett 1st	733.28
Kingsway	415.68
Niangua	28.00

Rolla 1st	105.90
Myrtle	210.07
Thayer	661.00
Mt. Pisgah	265.00
Hartville	506.25
Columbia 1st	75.00
Oak	161.00
Ship	360.50
Lone Star	37.60
Rock Chapel	456.21
O'Fallon	213.99
Clifton	148.46
Pleasant Ridge, Urb.	166.00
Belton	581.02
DeSoto 1st	900.00
Hann	423.90
Verdella	219.87
Girardeau	877.66
Cape, K.C.	253.69
Victory, K.C.	171.65
Victory, Gower	54.87
Mt. Z St. Louis	25.00
Faith Home	121.99
Happery, Conway	203.00
Calva	133.00
Over	500.00
Fellowship Chapel	211.00
Merl's Avenue	769.06
Gran	336.77
Cabe, Lebanon	262.00
Unity	21.02
Lingn 1st	464.19
Joplin 1st	736.56
Leba Creek	306.67
Millage	127.00
Herziver 1st	584.09
Flat man Chapel	265.40
Freel Creek	464.42
Hazirview	636.10
Riveth	177.00
Foue LaMotte	37.78
Mink Oak	279.01
Blace Church	54.00
Cop Life	699.29
Novland	196.47
Forc Hill, Union	497.33
Oality	1,199.35
Trirryville	378.06
Hulin 1st	391.20
Jopsho 1st	213.75
Neh & Hope, Aur.	166.76
Faiynesville 1st	309.97
Wapewell	148.00
Hoerty	299.26
Libkview	390.00
Pares Chapel	171.84
Jones Chapel	235.54
Jorst Plains 1st	557.81
Wringfield 1st	815.33
Sptory Hill	102.00
Viv Harmony	16.30
Nivet	1,000.00
Olvary Chapel	381.20
Cctory, Alton	170.00
Willow Springs	219.03
Wshkonong	132.49
Kopper Mines	235.00
Cadington	370.20
Lockton	145.85
Seasant Hill	62.31
Unitd	723.77
outh Fremont	645.00
Marshfield	286.14
Grace	1,279.00
armington	2,372.64
ew Home, Falcon	96.14
errill Road	170.00
otosi 1st	126.53
Kirksville 1st	118.85
ethel, El Dorado Springs	58.35
Wolf Creek	309.00
astern Gate	384.25
Macedonia, Niangua	62.50
Hickory Grove	127.00
New Rock Springs	75.00
Myrtle	150.95
Kingsway	336.14
Smyrna	485.00
Friendship	418.32
Number One	37.91
Harmony, Parkville	426.00
Boothill Quarterly	16.00
New Hope	15.20
Oak Hill, Fredricktown	81.77
Clifton	72.17
Wilderness	513.00

New Harmony 15.81
Total \$36,100.64

STATE HOME MISSIONS

Central	\$ 10.00
Leadington	20.00
Monett 1st	3.00
Myrtle	65.50
Thayer	40.00
Rock Chapel	132.41
O'Fallon	25.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	174.00
Pleasant Ridge, Urb.	25.00
DeSoto 1st	70.00
Hannon	211.94
Victory, K.C.	5.00
Grant Avenue	117.91
Viburnum	8.00
Joplin 1st	55.00
Lebanon 1st	65.00
Flat River 1st	58.41
Fourth	20.00
Fordland	3.00
Oak Hill, Union	28.00
Trinity	65.00
Madison Co. Quarterly	25.00
Joplin 1st	35.00
New Testament Mis.	25.00
Faith & Hope, Aur.	51.75
West Plains 1st	33.00
Richwoods	15.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	52.00
Union Light	61.00
N. Ruble	10.00
Bethel, Festus	10.00
United	28.00
South Fremont	75.00
Marshfield	38.61
Grace	25.00
Farmington	136.66
Youth Camp Offering	434.28
Eastern Gate	20.00
Myrtle	63.00
Total	\$2,340.47

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Central	\$ 130.00
Leadington	15.00
Monett 1st	10.00
Myrtle	188.00
Thayer	197.00
Mt. Pisgah	50.00
Blue Springs	10.00
Columbia 1st	46.71
Rock Chapel	20.00
O'Fallon	35.00
DeSoto 1st	225.00
Hannon	15.00
Verdella	10.00
Victory, K.C.	5.00
Victory, K.C.	5.00
Overland	4.00
Faith & Hope, W. Springs	25.00
Grant Avenue	10.00
Viburnum	41.00
Joplin 1st	50.00
Flat River 1st	73.41
J.W. Rader	20.00
New Life	139.86
Fordland	16.00
Oak Hill, Union	17.50
Trinity	20.00
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
Bethel, Festus	50.00
Joplin 1st	35.00
New Testament Mis.	20.00
Parkview	75.04
West Plains 1st	426.45
Richwoods	27.00
New Harmony	81.54
Mtn. Grove 1st	155.00
Union Light	75.00
Rev. N. Ruble	20.00
Bethel, Festus	5.00
South Fremont	14.00
Grace	240.00
Farmington	234.02
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Oak Grove, Norwood	71.56
Bob Keith	20.00
Kirksville 1st	23.27
Wolf Creek	45.70
Eastern Gate	10.00
Myrtle	142.00
New Harmony	79.09
Total	\$3,288.15

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Central	\$ 562.32
Leadington	55.00
Monett 1st	565.00
Calvary Chapel	41.00
Myrtle	104.00
Thayer	150.00
Mt. Pisgah	100.00
Blue Springs	45.00
Hartville	101.25
Columbia 1st	16.71
Rock Chapel	148.00
O'Fallon	35.00
Pleasant Ridge, Urb.	45.00
Belton	50.00
DeSoto 1st	360.00
C. Thompson	25.00
Hannon	593.90
Verdella	673.76
F. Green	35.00
Victory, K.C.	175.00
Victory, K.C.	155.00
Faith, St. Louis	75.00
Calvary, Conway	60.90
Overland	25.00
Faith & Hope, W. Springs	145.57
Houston 1st	262.54
D. Akeman	10.00
Merl's Chapel	200.00
Grant Avenue	407.31
Grace Y.P.A.	50.00
Viburnum	125.00
Niangua	11.00
Joplin 1st	30.00
Lebanon 1st	35.00
K. Williford	31.00
Flat River 1st	175.23
Calvary Chapel	45.00
B. Blair	30.00
Freeman Chapel	343.50
Fourth	100.00
New Life	299.79
Fordland	168.00
Oak Hill, Union	12.00
Trinity	489.80
Parkview Mission Group	60.00
Bethel, Festus	136.50
Joplin 1st	10.00
New Testament Mis.	78.00
Neosho 1st	328.00
Faith & Hope, Aur.	51.76
Parkview	293.75
West Plains 1st	5.00
Richwoods	64.00
New Harmony	81.54
Olivet	200.00
Calvary Chapel	85.00
Greenfield	120.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	243.00
Oak Grove, Norwood	65.00
Niangua	15.00
Belton	377.28
Union Light	140.00
Rev. N. Ruble	20.00
Bethel, Festus	35.00
United	28.00
South Fremont	175.00
Monett 1st	200.00
S. Hart	20.00
Marshfield	40.00
Grace	23.05
Farmington	935.90
Oak Grove, Norwood	143.12
Niangua	16.00
Youth Camp Off.	434.28
Parkway	500.00
Kirksville 1st	41.92
Eastern Gate	195.28
Hickory Grove	57.04
Niangua	16.00
Myrtle	110.00
Wilderness	155.00
New Harmony	79.10
Total	\$12,745.50

MISSOURI STATE YOUTH CAMP

Myrtle	\$ 88.50
Thayer	35.00
Mt. Pisgah	10.00
Hartville	10.00
DeSoto 1st	50.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	78.00
Hannon Church	15.00
Flat River 1st	48.60
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
Trinity	14.00

Willow Springs	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Bethel, El Dorado Springs	15.00
New Rock Springs, Cabool	10.00
Total	\$454.10

FWBBC

Thayer	\$ 35.00
DeSoto 1st	35.00
Freeman Chapel (Credit the ac- count of Danny Maggard)	50.00
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
Farmington	127.37
Total	\$257.37

HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Central, K.C.	\$ 45.00
Thayer	40.00
Hannon Church	50.00
Victory, K.C.	35.37
Victory, K.C.	27.17
Grant Avenue	10.00
Oak Hill	15.00
Belton	100.00
Farmington	142.41
Total	\$464.95

JOHN McCLURE ACCOUNT

Monett 1st	\$ 15.00
Thayer	10.00
Victory, K.C.	10.00
Grace, Arnold	37.50
Farmington	50.00
Total	\$122.50

FWB CHILDREN'S HOME, TN

Myrtle	\$ 43.25
DeSoto 1st	37.50
Myrtle	104.00
Total	\$184.75

FWB HOME FOR CHILDREN, AL

DeSoto 1st	\$37.50
------------	---------

CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Farmington	\$23.97
------------	---------

NAT'L. ASSOC. OF EVANGELICALS

WORLD RELIEF FUND

Victory, K.C.	\$20.00
---------------	---------

WOMAN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY

CONVENTION

Joplin 1st	\$10.00
------------	---------

Creation Or Evolution

God created Heaven and earth in only six days.

World evolution describes it in many other ways.

He made man for his own pleasure,

Evolution only credits one as a small measure.

He has given to every one a living soul.

Evolution brings man out of a deep dark hole.

He gives us strength and a loving heart,

But evolution leaves God without any part.

God reveals His power through all good things.

Through evolution it happens with a big bang.

We see the beauty of all His hand chimes.

Evolution insists that God is a waste of time.

God gives us a spirit so that we may believe.

Evolution makes a way, but only it may deceive.

God has given man a mission to carry out,

But evolution is leaving many moving about.

God has provided us a way of salvation,

While evolution can only give one a situation.

God had given us His only Son for our Saviour,

But evolution can only offer a world treasure.

The gift from Christ - we can have a new life

But evolution cannot offer anything but a demise.

Trusting God we will some day have a new home,

While the world is waiting for another big Boom!

by Loyd Christopher, 1st FWB Church, O'Fallon

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

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

JR COLLEGE MT OLIVE
FWB HISTORICAL COLL.
MOYE LIBRARY
MT OLIVE NC 28365

TO INSURE UNINTERRUPTED DELIVERY OF YOUR GEM
PLEASE INFORM US IMMEDIATELY OF YOUR NEW ADDRESS