

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Volume 62, No. 12, December 1992

Jesus Christ - The Greatest Gift Of All



Gems From The Past

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is from the December 1951 GEM. It was written by the Editor of the GEM, Rev. Lloyd T. Jeffreys.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHRIST

Once again the Christmas season rapidly approaches. For some of us it will come all too quickly. In a time when the world appears to be accelerated to a dizzy pace that leaves many of us constantly behind with our plans and work, the day will catch us almost unaware. Last minute shoppers will be numerous. In a frenzy they will try to secure a gift that will be acceptable to the recipient. Due to exhausted stocks, the lateness of the hour, and the rush of the time, many will be doomed to give only a token gift or a substitute for that which they may have thought to give. I wonder if in this rather amusing picture we cannot make a spiritual application — LATE, HURRIED, INADEQUATE GIFTS.

Of course, many will spend the Christmas time in revelry and riotous living, desecrating the very name and power of Christ who gave so much for us. I fear (from observation) that too often we merely are interested in Christ when we are in need — when we want to RECEIVE. But for the real child of God there are several things which he must give. The Apostle Paul, speaking to the Corinthians (shallow professors) pointed to the liberality of the churches of Macedonia toward “ministering to the saints” and emphasized that they “first gave their own selves to the Lord.” Again he said to the Roman believers “I beseech (beg) you . . . that ye present your bodies . . . acceptable unto God.” Yes, if you are desiring to show your love to Christ by giving, the very first thing to give is your own self. I realize this is not easily done. Perhaps it comes easier to some to give companion, or son or daughter, or materials, or lip service. Just as you do not expect your loved ones to purloin your possessions for a gift of love to them, Christ will not use thieving methods to claim you for Himself. You must give yourself, and you alone can do it.

Now, for another picture, let us turn to the automobile. From the outside it is a beautiful instrument of gracefully designed shape. It does not seem to be very complex or a thing over which to marvel. Yet, as we examine under the hood and the body we find an amazing arrangement of pieces and parts designed, milled, and arranged just in the right amounts and working in the exact proper ratio to each other until the automobile is a real marvel and a vital machine in this day. With these parts present and working, the machine would be one to be highly prized as a gift by any one. Without some of the essential gears, pins, rods and wires it would be a useless and annoying mass of junk, and would reflect a diabolic scheme of some kind. In just such a manner we can give a useless gift to Christ in the form of our selves if we reserve some other things “under the hood.”

Among the warnings and instructions given in Proverbs, we hear the Lord's instruction, “My son, give me thine heart.” I am not prepared to argue that the Lord meant the physical organ that propels the blood or that this is the

seat of the emotion as some teach. I feel certain that God meant for us to give Him our innermost being. I consider the heart (physical) a part of the body — and God was not here calling for the body. This indicates to me that there is more than the body to give. Perhaps a clearer picture of this innermost being was spoken of when Paul said, “Be not conformed (like) this world: but be ye transformed (changed) by the renewing of your mind.” All of the gifts we give God will sooner or later be enlarged upon and returned to us. So in the presenting of our hearts, they are changed and restored to us. I am reminded of an incident that illustrates this. A very good friend of mine has an affliction of the physical heart. As many of us, she sometimes lightly regards this handicap in trying to accomplish a given task. Then she has to spend several days being very careful of every action. Finding her in distress, I solemnly encouraged her to regard her condition and refrain from too much activity. I said, “That is the only heart you will ever have.” To this she cleverly replied, “But I did get a new one one time.” Yes, I could remember that at one time she had presented Christ herself and her heart (innermost being) and He had truly given her a better one in return for the old. But her giving has not ceased with that incident. She has continued to give her heart, her thinking, to God.

Another gift for Christ should be love. Perhaps you might think I am trying to engage in double talk now. I have indicated we should give our own self and that we need to give our heart. Now we speak of love. Your retort might be, “Does not the other gifts include love?” Perhaps it does. Still I would point you to Peter. He had heeded the personal call of Jesus to “Follow thou me.” He had left his trade and had given himself in service with and for Jesus. I am even inclined to believe he had presented his heart and had an entirely new character. Yet, late in the ministry of Jesus, He asked him, “Lovest thou me?” So uncertain was the love of Peter that Jesus asked him three times, or until Peter became vexed. This indicates that we can (and many do) follow Christ for reasons not intended by Him. Those who enter a service for popularity or for personal gain will discover that theirs will be a great loss. Our service must be of love. We find Peter later enjoining “Grace unto you whom have not seen (Christ), ye love.” For the full grace of Jesus Christ, we must offer our love. The absence of love can at the very least produce lethargy or drowsiness (spiritual lukewarmness). If you want to find aggressiveness, discover what the individual in question loves, and you will find his most effort in that direction. A slothful suitor would likely not get very far with his love for he would display but little love himself. The true love of Christ will be an aggressive and tireless worker for Him. Love demands love in return. Christ first loved us.

Then there is the gift of thanks. The psalmist said, “I will give thanks unto thee for ever.” Perhaps you do not

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feel that this is such a great gift. But I am inclined to feel of us would do well to attempt to emulate the spirit in this. I wonder how many of us do really give thanks. I trust that the Lord will never allow you to walk in the paths that have been my experience. However, I learned the reasonableness of giving thanks for everything for ever. Perhaps your experiences have taught you the same thing. Regardless of the lessons learned, I feel that many of us regard our blessings as coming "by my might and my power," and are reluctant or apathetic in giving thanks. Again the Apostle

Paul says, "In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." So give thanks. Do you give thanks for the every day blessings; will you give thanks in prosperity; can you give thanks in tribulation? Give a daily gift of thanks unto Christ.

I would enjoy giving still other gift-subjects for you to consider, but feel space forbids. Some others for you to think about would be, "The fruit of our lips," "Glory and strength," and give "As we are able." May this be one Christmas that you will give much unto the Lord Jesus Christ.



Reports from the Churches

Verdella Church Burns Mortgage

Sunday, October 11, was a day of celebration for the Verdella Free Will Baptist Church. Sunday School and the morning worship services were well attended, and a delicious fellowship dinner was enjoyed following these services. The church held a special afternoon service to burn the building mortgage. God has truly blessed this fine church. The building, which was completed about five years ago, has been appraised at \$250,000.00 and is now paid for.

Pastor Don Anderson gave an enthusiastic welcome to the members and friends who gathered for this special occasion. Bill Walker led the congregation in singing, and Staci Spurgeon and Conrad and Lorene Williford provided special music.

The Pastor introduced Rev. Nathan Ruble, Executive Secretary of the Missouri State Association, to deliver the morning message. Bro. Ruble related that the burning of the mortgage gave a threefold testimony to the sacrifice of the people, the sufficiency of God, and the stewardship of possessions.

Following the message Pastor Anderson gave special recognition to Deacons Roger Phillips, Charles Whitson, and Randy Sprinkle. He also recognized the trustees which included Addis Foger, Roy Holder and Tom Crockett and the Finance Committee chaired by Ken Spurgeon. These men were invited to come forward for the ceremony, and Deacon Roger Phillips then invited all the men of the church to come forward, as all had been instrumental in building and paying for the church. The women of the church were also recognized for their contribution to the building effort.

At the close of the service the church reluctantly said farewell to Pastor and Mrs. Anderson, since this was their last Sunday to lead the Verdella Church.





This rare photo of the Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church was made in 1896.

Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church in Laclede County Celebrates 100 Years

The following article was compiled from information provided by Judy Pierce, a member of Cross Roads Church:

A large crowd attended the Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church on October 11, 1992, to celebrate the church's one hundredth anniversary. Each member and guest was greeted at the door and presented a corsage or boutonniere. Fifty-year members were recognized, and those present included Quenton Adams, Ruby Elam, Agnes Murrill, Willis Meyers, Lucy Pierce, Roby Pierce, Johnnie Reid, Ruth Ruble and Glennis Wilson.

The morning message by Pastor J.D. Caffey was followed by a basket dinner and fellowship on the lawn.

The afternoon services began with a welcome by the pastor and choir specials directed by Jan Eilenstein. The Church history, compiled by Bonnie Adams, was read by Deacon Quenton Adams. Brother Adams related that Cross Roads Church was organized on Saturday, October 7, 1892, by Elder M.E. Brasher, in the Cross Roads schoolhouse. Charter members were: J.J. Forgerson, Jesse Forgerson, C.C. Vaught, Martin Beal, M.E. Bingham, Ida Forgerson, Dora Vaught, Anne Beal, Mary M. Reid, Emaline Lewis Jennings, and Susan Reid. The first church building was erected in 1893, on four acres of land which had been purchased for a church yard and cemetery. Since that time the church has occupied two other buildings. The present church building was dedicated in 1964. Several rooms and a fellowship hall have been added since that time.

Elder M.E. Brasher was the first pastor of Cross Roads, and others who followed were: Elder Ed Delco, Elder J.R.

Reid, Elder S.N. Reid, Brother Will Bingham, Elder H.M. Cope, Elder C.A. McAllister, Elder L.H. Jones, Elder Glen Jones, Elder Curtis Wilson, Rev. A.W. Bailey, Rev. Roy Jones, Rev. J.T. Peterson, Rev. Lannie Ruble, Rev. Don Rogers, Rev. Paul Bliss, Rev. C.E. Butts, Rev. Joe Garrard, Rev. Melvin Nelson, Rev. Edward Ruble, Rev. Irvin Florence, and Rev. J.D. Caffey.

August 12, 1893, was the first time Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church was represented at the Old Pleasant Hill Association. The church is presently a member of the Laclede County Free Will Baptist Association.

Other highlights of the day included special singing, special remembrance of deceased members, and sharing of memories connected to Cross Roads Church.

Those present at the celebration agreed that Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church has been a lighthouse in the community for these one hundred years. From the original eleven charter members it has grown to a membership of nearly two hundred. Many of these are descendants of the charter members and other early church families.

The influence of this church and others like it cannot be underestimated. For example, in September of 1933, a revival meeting was held at Cross Roads which lasted four weeks and in which 50 souls were converted and reclaimed. Missouri Free Will Baptists truly have a rich heritage which is typified in churches across the state which have stood the test of time. Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church is one of many which we later Free Will Baptists owe a debt of gratitude.



Pastor Appreciation

by Sandy Morin

The United Free Will Baptist Church of West Plains celebrated Pastor Appreciation Day on Sunday, September 13, 1992, with an all day program. During the morning service, several special presentations were given in appreciation of our pastor, Brother Glenn Murray. The service was followed by a delicious fellowship meal served by the ladies of the church.

The congregation was eager to display their talents in appreciation for Brother Glenn and Sister Rachel. Brother Glenn reluctantly relinquished his hour to this talented group. The Murray Gospel Hour featured their own Miss Ginnie Pearl, Herkimer and the "Thick 'n Thin" Tilson Brothers. (This whole group will, no doubt, soon make an appearance at the Grand Palace in Branson. Keep looking for them!) It was a fun hour with special meaning for a very special couple.

During the years that the Murrays have been our pastor, the church has grown steadily. Brother Glenn has been a caring shepherd to the flock, and Sister Rachel has been a wonderful example as help-mate and constant supporter of her husband and the church.

The Church loves the Murray family and is grateful that God has allowed Brother Murray to be our pastor and friend.

New Beginnings at DeSoto First Free Will Baptist Church

by Doris Rogers

On the first Sunday of September 1992, Rev. Bob Hebeau, formerly of Twin Oaks Free Will Baptist Church in Fredericktown, preached his first sermon as the new pastor of the DeSoto First Free Will Baptist Church.

The DeSoto Free Will Baptist Church family welcomes Bro. Bob, his wife Kathy, and their four children - Faron, Benjamin, Brett and Amy.

Bro. Bob preaches the Word of God with deep conviction and sincerity. The Holy Spirit has been very active in the services and many have been at the altars praying for salvation, healing, rededication and for other special requests.

We are looking forward from our "new beginnings" to the future under the leadership of Brother Bob. We know that God has good things in store for us, and we are ready!

Pleasant Hill Homecoming

by Sharon Loyd

October 4, 1992, was a beautiful sunny autumn day — perfect weather for Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church's annual homecoming. The morning service began with a welcome from Pastor Walter Simpson. There was congregational singing led by David Hollis, followed by prayer led by Bill Burkhead, and Scripture reading by Leo Warren. After the Sunday School was taught by Bill Burkhead and Lisa Honeycutt, and the Sunday School report was given by Sue Burkhead, Rev. Simpson led the congregation in prayer. Rev. J.W. King then brought an inspiring message and shared some memories of his days as pastor of the church. Royce Hollis dismissed the service in prayer following the invitation.

A beautiful meal was served in the church basement. During this time visitors from several area churches joined the fellowship.

The afternoon services began with a welcome by Rev. Simpson, and Rev. David Honeycutt led the congregation in several songs. Special singers for the day were the Dwight Hickman Singers from Ash Flat. During their break, several former pastors were recognized. These included: Rev. David Honeycutt, Rev. J.W. King, and Rev. Grover Pingleton. The church deacons - Royce Hollis, Bill Burkhead and Leo Warren - were also recognized.

Several members then took the opportunity to share memories of past events. Special singing was also presented by Sue Burkhead, Linda and David Honeycutt, Royce Hollis, the Pleasant Hill Singers, and Francis Simpson.

A total of 71 people attended the afternoon services and enjoyed the fun and fellowship.



Charter Members

New Church In Lebanon

The North Five Free Will Baptist Church located in Lebanon, Missouri, held its first service on Sunday, August 2, 1992. It held its organizational service on November 1, 1992. Forty-five people attended the Sunday morning service which began with Warren Livingston leading the congregational singing. Rev. Alvis Paul, the founding Pastor, gave a warm welcome and recognized the visitors. Bill Smith presented the special music.

Rev. Nathan Ruble, Executive Secretary of the Missouri State Association, was introduced and delivered the morning message. He commended the people on their vision and commitment to the Lord in establishing a new work. A bountiful fellowship dinner was served by the ladies of the church following the morning service.

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The afternoon service was opened with singing and prayer. A skit was presented by Warren Livingston, Ann Livingston, and Sharon Greer. They also provided the special music for the service.

Rev. Nathan Ruble acted as moderator for the organizational service and Brenda Degraw served as clerk. Brother Ruble opened the meeting with comments on the characteristics of a New Testament Church. He then invited all who wished to be a charter member of the church to come forward. Eleven people responded. Rev. Clarence Burton was introduced, and he presented the Bible to the church as the only rule of faith and practice. Rev. Ruble read the Free Will Baptist Articles of Faith and the Church Covenant which were adopted. He then led a prayer of consecration, and the right hand of fellowship was extended to the new church.

Brother Ruble moderated the business meeting for the adoption of the church constitution and by-laws and the election of a Pastor. Rev. Alvis Paul was elected Pastor. He then assumed the position of moderator for the election of officers and the dismissal of the service.

Pray for Rev. Alvis Paul and his wife, June, as they lead this new work. Pray that they will see many souls won to the Lord and a great church established.



Looking Out My Parsonage Window

by Ve Ann Tilson

In the past four articles we've outlined different strategies for helping students become successful in school. The common thread in all these articles has been the role of the parent.

Schools alone can not educate children, nor do we want them to do so. If we want children to have high expectations about learning, then all of us - especially parents - must regularly send those signals.

One way for parents to send that message is to be actively involved in their children's schooling. Involvement in the programs, the curriculum, the activities . . . involved in every aspect of the school environment. But . . . are we involved, or are we just giving lip service.

Consider these statistics:

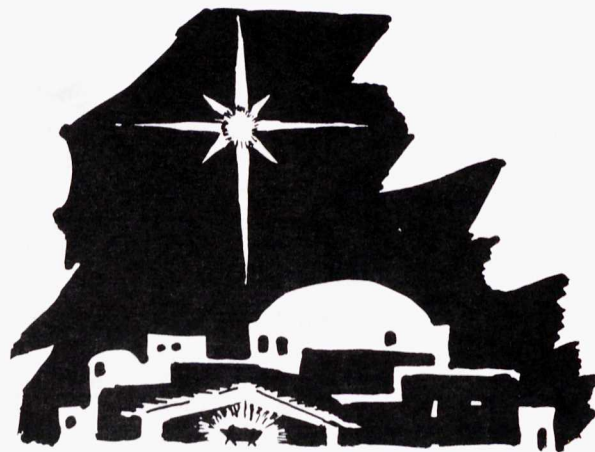
- * 26% of students said their parents rarely or never checked their homework.
- * 57% of parents said they rarely or never helped their child with homework.
- * 62% of students said they never or rarely discussed their classes or school programs with their parents.
- * 48% of parents said they had not contacted the school about their child's academic performance.

* 65% of parents said they had never talked to school officials about the academic program being pursued by their eighth-grade child.

Where do you fall in their statistics?? Parents, we can no longer afford to be disengaged from the education of our children. We can not expect our children to do well without the guidance, the tutoring, the nurturing and the commitment of us as parents.

If your child is going to be successful in school, then you, the parent, hold the keys to the real success.

This is not to imply that our schools have no significant role or responsibility in the education process. Rather, it is reaffirming the Biblical role and responsibility of parents, in the "training up" of their own children. Parents have the primary or fundamental duty and oversight in this matter.



News From The McDonalds

Boy, have we got news for you! Fall in Japan has brought a bountiful harvest, spiritually speaking, and we want you to be able to rejoice with us! To paraphrase a familiar Scripture: "One gives, one gives and another prays, but the Lord gives the increase!" Thank you for your vital part in making this news happen!

St. Francois District Association Missions Conference

District Clerk/Treasurer Gary D. Sloan reports that a total of \$14,595.01 was given as a result of their recent District Missions Conference.

Gentusos Denied Visa To France

Dr. and Mrs. Paul Gentuso were officially denied entry visas to France in September. The couple had already made a tuition payment at the language school in Albertville, but hopes of recuperating these funds appear slim. No reason was given for the visa denial.

Paul and Tammy have enrolled in Berlitz course in St. Louis, Mo., and hope to get further language training in Canada or in the Ivory Coast. They had planned to take a tropical medicine course while in Europe, but that seems unlikely at the present.

Christians have been urged to pray much for the Gentusos as well as for future visa applications of Dr. and Mrs. Mark Paschall and others.

International Consultation Paves Way For International Consultation

Free Will Baptists entered a new era of international cooperation when representatives from seven countries met in Panama August 24-28. They voted to work toward organizing an International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists in 1995. This is to be a fraternal fellowship of autonomous national bodies without ecclesiastical hierarchy or legislative power.

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington, who was hindered from arriving until Wednesday evening due to Hurricane Andrew, was elected to serve as chairman of the organization committee for the new fellowship.

The delegates also approved the "Panama Declaration of 1992" affirming their commitment to fundamental beliefs of orthodox Christianity, distinctive beliefs and practices which characterize Free Will Baptists, the necessity of holy living, the dangers of the ecumenical movement and the priority of evangelism. They also adopted a statement of cautions, concerns and outright rejection of many doctrines and practices of the charismatic movement.

The International Consultation was convened at the request of the National Association of Free Will Baptists of the United States. Representatives attended from Brazil, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Panama, the United States, and Uruguay.

In addition to the delegates, 16 observers participated in the meetings. Seventy-five Panamanians traveled from various parts of the country to welcome their brethren during the Monday night service. Young ladies in colorful dresses typical of the Indian, Campesina, and traditional Spanish cultures pinned boutonnieres and corsages on the visitors.

Uri Gonzalez, pastor of the San Miguelito Free Will Baptist Church, sang an original composition about the adventurous life of the missionary.

Alex Mercado, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Panama City, brought the keynote message on the theme of the consultation, "Free Will Baptists: United in Worship, Fellowship, and Witness." Other speakers in the evening worship services, Kenichiro Sugitani of Japan, Lazaro de la Rosa of Mexico, and Jean Carlo Ache of Brazil emphasized various elements in the theme.

Other presentations given during the plenary sessions included "Free Will Baptists as Distinct Members of the Body of Christ" by Gerardo Azevedo of Uruguay, "The Office Work of the Holy Spirit in the Believer and Church Today" by Fred Hanson of Canada, and "The Mission of Free Will Baptists in the World" by R. Eugene Waddell, who was an alternate for Ramon Sanchez, the Cuban delegate. Ramon was unable to get a visa to visit Panama. Each presentation was followed by an open discussion guided by Jimmy Aldridge.

Fred Hanson presided over the business sessions and Jean Carlo Ache served as secretary.

Although four different language groups were represented, there were no serious communication problems which became evident. These foreign missionaries helped interpret: Steve Lytle, Stan Bunch, Fred Hersey, Walter Ellison, Dave Franks Sr. and Paul Robinson.

During the morning devotional periods, special prayer times were observed for all the countries where Free Will Baptists work.

The consultation closed with a communion and feet washing service Thursday night.



Home Missionary News

FRED JONES NEWSLETTER

This month has been really good for us here in Mexico. Several have accepted Christ, several more committed themselves to full time Christian service. Recently I was in the church pastored by Javier Gallegos. Five of our students were participating in the services, preaching, teaching, leading the service, directing the music. What a blessing! Two of our students left early Sunday morning and went to Ebano, Mexico, to assist in the services there. They had to walk in mud over their ankles and preach in a building where the wind just blew the rain all over them. They had to cancel the night service because it rained too badly. They came back to the school around 8 o'clock p.m., wet, muddy and hungry. We laughed and shared while Barbara prepared them a nice, hot meal. I wouldn't swap these moments for "all the tea in China." What a blessing! ... Keep praying for us. My missionary account and the Bible Institute account are both still in the RED. We desperately need your help to erase both of these deficits, as it is very difficult for me to leave the field to raise more support. ... God bless each of you. We love you.

VERGEL MANESS NEWSLETTER

Our present goal is to soon become self supporting for the completion of another autonomous Free Will Baptist Church. We are looking forward to this goal being accomplished. ... Recession or depression, when one is unemployed it does not make any difference what it is called. We have several in our church who are unemployed. We led one precious couple to Christ this month, and they are bringing others. Just yesterday we were with one new "babe" in Christ, led to the Lord by one of our people the previous day. But these are unemployed. They are bright, determined young people who need jobs. Please pray for them. ... We have experienced a break through and are witnessing effectively to many Catholics. The form and emptiness of their religious training has come to a place of "hunger" for something more. Please pray for them and for us as we work to win them. ... Thank you for your financial and prayer support. We ask that you continue this just a little while longer. Your support is appreciated and needed until the work here becomes self supporting.

Free Will Baptist Children's Home Eldridge, AL

Dr. Levy Corey, Executive Director, writes:

I've been looking at the past with thanksgiving . . . and to the future with hope. It's been eight years since my wife and I became "Mom and Dad" to the forty precious lives that make up our family. Each moment has been full of the Holy Spirit touching children, changing the very fabric of lives torn by beatings, incest, rape, and emotional abuse. For these moments I am thankful.

May God richly bless you this thanksgiving. Thank you for being a part of this life-saving ministry.



FWB Home For Children

It is with thankful hearts that we tell you how God is blessing the Free Will Baptist Home For Children. With the opening of the Sibling Home (formerly the Director's residence), the Home has 51 children in our care, which is up from only 18 children in 1990.

Although we have expanded almost 3 fold, we still have to deny admission each day because we are operating at a full capacity. Very simply, over 30 children were turned away in September alone because there was no room. Currently we have 5 homes open as well as our Emergency Shelter.

Providing for so many children is a tremendous responsibility; however, the Lord is meeting the needs through the hearts of His people. We are very grateful for the generosity we have seen from the state of Missouri. In 1992 you have given more than \$5,200.00 to help these children. Growing in leaps and bounds, we thank God for your participation in this very important ministry to children.

As the Christmas holiday nears, we encourage your participation with the children. If you would like more information on ways to help, please call the Development Office at (615) 639-9449.

Send A Card

The Rev. Harry Beatty and the Rev. Bill Reeves are a part of the history of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists. It would be nice for us to remember them with an occasional card. Their addresses are listed below:

Rev. Harry Beatty
Evergreen Care Center
12600 East 73rd Street North
Room 26
Owasso, OK 74055

Rev. Bill Reeves
c/o Georgian Garden Nursing Home
#1 Georgian Garden Drive
Potosi, MO 63664

Available For Pulpit Supply

Robert Montgomery of the Cape Girardeau Church was recently licensed to preach and is available for pulpit supply. He may be reached at the following address:

Robert D. Montgomery
1512 Kingsbury
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
Telephone — (314) 651-0973

Youth Look



by Ann Poletti

Keith L. Brooks has written a beautiful Christmas devotion which depicts the contrast between God's perfect plan and the less-than-perfect condition Jesus lived in while trying to fulfill this plan. Below is a paraphrased version of this devotion:

Jesus was born under the worst circumstances, but the heavenly hosts filled the air with praise. A star invited guests from afar to honor the elite King — in a cattle pen. He was born contrary to the laws of life... born contrary to the laws of death. Although He owned no crops or flocks, He could feed bread and fish to more than five thousand and have much to spare. Never was a red carpet rolled out for His tired feet, but His crucifixion was the ultimate of all crimes, but God knew only this infinite agony (nothing less) could redeem His children. The sun had turned black at His death, but few men returned. Men trembled not for their sins, but Earth shakes under the load. Nature honors Him; sinners reject Him. Sin and corruption never touched Him — even the soil, red with His blood, could not claim His dust. In the three short years He preached, He became the central character of human history and preaching today. He did so without ever writing a book, building a church, or being backed by financial support. He alone is the Regenerator of the human race. How can any thinking man keep from proclaiming, "My Lord! My God!"

Free Will Baptist Bible College News

The names of 70 students were on the mid-semester Dean's List, following examinations at Free Will Baptist Bible College in late October. Missouri was well represented by the following five students: Jamie Gates, Fenton, MO; Terry Skiles, Festus, MO; Kevin Stacy, Columbus, MO; Angel Mertz, O'Fallon, MO; and Amy Pointer, Springfield, MO.

Hillsdale FWB College Needs Your Help

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is part of a letter written by Jim Shepherd, President of Hillsdale FWB College.

November 5, 1992

Dear Friend,

I am writing you to communicate an urgent need because I am convinced that you, with Free Will Baptists everywhere, are vitally concerned about the future success of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. The college is accredited by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, a status that has been enjoyed for nearly twenty years. This accreditation is required of any college that grants degrees in the state of Oklahoma. Due to its financial condition, Hillsdale is in real danger of losing its accreditation on December 31, 1992.

Although it would be impossible to detail the complexity of this issue in a letter, it is important to understand that the Oklahoma Regents have given the college's educational program a clean bill of health. However, the Accreditation Committee has recommended that our accreditation should not be renewed. The college will appeal this recommendation at the appropriate time.

The major problem relates to the financial condition of the college, and there are two sides to the problem.

First, Hillsdale must have immediate improvement in its gift income. Second, and to a lesser degree, we must address the matter of our indebtedness.

In reporting this crucial matter to the Oklahoma State Association of Free Will Baptists on October 14, 1992, I announced the most important fund-raising campaign in Hillsdale's history. Our goal is to raise \$550,000.00 by December 1, 1992. Your immediate response is needed if this campaign is going to be successful. The proceeds will be used to remove a significant portion of our indebtedness, to secure our financial base, to add vital computer equipment, to immediately upgrade the library, and to purchase much-needed vehicles.

Until now, Hillsdale has not issued an appeal of this nature to the entire denomination; but, as you can see, the need is urgent and it is immediate. Your generous response may be a part of a true modern-day miracle. I am asking churches that have pledged "Have A Heart For Hillsdale" offerings to receive those offerings now, rather than in February. I am asking our alumni, number over 3,000, to give a personal gift now. I am asking churches and people who have supported Hillsdale in the past to renew their giving now. I am asking churches and people who have never supported Hillsdale to cast a voice for the future by making a gift to Hillsdale now.

Two Goals Set For FWBBC Christmas Drive

Robert Shockey, Public Relations Director for Free Will Baptist Bible College, has set two goals for the college's 1992 Paul Kettelman Memorial Christmas Fund Drive.

"Our Victory Goal is \$250,000," he says. "But our Hallelujah! Goal is \$300,000!" He hopes to see a record response to the Christmas Drive this year.

The Christmas Drive is FWBBC's annual campaign to underwrite a major portion of its needs. It was begun in 1976 by Rev. Paul Kettelman, who served for 25 years as Public Relations Director before his death in 1987. The drive has resulted in over \$1 million in gifts raised for the college.

All gifts to the college in the month of December count toward the goal. So do any other gifts received by January 31, 1993, that are earmarked for the Christmas Drive.

The denomination adopted "The Together Way," a comprehensive stewardship plan, during the National Association of Free Will Baptists in July. It recognizes four months each year for special fund-raising drives by denominational agencies. December is FWBBC's month to make its special appeal.

Mr. Shockey urges every church and individual to participate in the Paul Kettelman Memorial Christmas Drive in December by sending a special gift to Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Information Concerning Missouri State Retirement Program

In order for a pastor, associate pastor, or full-time youth minister to participate in the Retirement Program, the church he is serving must support the Missouri State Cooperative Program with the full 10% of its regular tithes and offerings. As is shown in the cooperative disbursement each month, this ministry is funded through cooperative giving. (The associate pastor and/or full-time youth minister must receive his salary from the church as a full-time employee.)

A Retirement Pension Enrollment Form supplied by the State Office shows the two plans for participation in the program. Plan 1 is defined as Full Employer Participation with the church contributing at least 5% of the base salary.

Plan 2 is defined as the Individual Plan with the employer contributing at least 3% of the base salary. The term life insurance for \$25,000 is \$13.00 monthly for Plan 1, but optional for Plan 2. A \$10.00 Enrollment Fee is paid to the Board of Retirement & Insurance in Nashville, Tennessee. This may be paid through the State Office, but it goes to the Board of Retirement & Insurance.

Tax Deferred Contribution information: Only 20% of base salary is allowed for total tax deferred contributions. The 20% includes both Salary Reduction Agreement (SRA) (this SRA form may be obtained from the State Office or the Board of Retirement & Insurance) and employer (church) contributions. Base salary is taxable income which excludes benefits such as housing allowance. Ministers may include compensation for honorariums, revival offerings, etc. Older ministers may, under certain circumstances, exceed the 20% by completing a form.

A new SRA may be filed once in any 12 month period. It is not retroactive. Increases may not be credited prior to the date of signature.

It is a member's responsibility to maintain and keep accurate records for tax liability and reports to IRS. It is recommended that you keep all SRA forms, semi-annual statements, and correspondence, and that you seek competent counsel in all tax matters.

All tax deferred contributions are subject to income taxes the year of withdrawal or distribution. Early withdrawals may be subject to an added 10% penalty. At retirement, distributions for ordained members may be designated housing allowance and tax free (determined by current IRS regulations). Distributions from tax deferred funds to unordained spouses are subject to taxes.

Twice each year, shortly following January 1 and July 1, the Board of Retirement & Insurance, who holds and handles the Missouri State Retirement Fund, will transfer the amount stated by the Missouri State Association to the account of the participant. Presently the amount is \$240.00. Before this transfer is made the treasurer of the local church is asked to sign a form, sent from the State Office, stating that the church has supported the Missouri State Cooperative Program with the full 10% of its regular tithes and offerings.

There are several options at retirement. Space will not permit including all of this information. This information may be obtained from the State Office. Please do not hesitate to call, write, or come by for any help that is needed.

Sunday School Attendance Averages May 1992 - October 1992

CHURCHES	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
Belton	59	54	67	64	56	66
Calvary Chapel						29
Calvary Fellowship	236	225	201	222		296
Cape Girardeau	82	91	73	87	103	119
Central	98	96	90	92	95	93
Cuba	83	98	90	89	101	110
DeSoto	187	187	182	197	195	
Farmington	359	317	339	330		319
Flat River, First	135	139	132	141	148	130
Hannon	96	95	97	86	82	85
Harmony	71	72	69	73		71
Hartville	96	87		102	100	104
Hopewell	31	34	42	35	29	38
Houston	85	71	70	75	67	62
Kirksville	37	34	37	32	32	
Lebanon, First	105	96	100	103	100	103
Marshfield	27	24	27	26	26	26
Monett	125	119				
Myrtle			34	35		
Oskaloosa	17			20	14	
Parkview	56	60		56	57	
Potosi	60	51	59	46		
Richwoods	50	50	35	43	45	
Rock Chapel	79	74	71	70		
Springfield, First		118	119	118		119
Thayer	112	107	121	120		126
United, West Plains	172	176	168	163	174	
Unity						45
Verdella	68	61	69	63	64	66
Willow Springs	61		58	63	61	

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.



Financial Information

OCTOBER 1992

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$ 5,437.11
17.50% Exec. Off. & Gen.	5,143.21
3.50% General Fund	1,028.64
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	2,498.13
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	734.74
2.50% C.E. Board	734.74
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board	734.74
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	2,645.08
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	8,963.88
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
1.00% Calif. Christian College
(\$89.64 included in \$8,963.88)

5.00% Mo. State Conference
Center Fund \$1,469.49 || **Total** | **\$29,389.76** |

"...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%.

OCTOBER 1992 RECEIPTS **COOPERATIVE**

Central	\$ 708.03
New Life Fellowship	554.33
O'Fallon 1st	173.22
Hannon	387.05
Carthage	175.00
Thayer	580.00
Springfield 1st	735.11
Lone Star	33.40
Cuba	344.24
Columbia 1st	75.00
Hartville	482.14
Union Grove	145.86
Overland	104.00
Black Oak	164.50
Liberty	235.59
Verdella	173.45
Royal Oak	121.00
Faith & Hope, Aur.	76.95
Victory, K.C.	222.23
Rock Chapel	347.92
Rolla 1st	82.98
Merl's Chapel	158.00
Bailey Chapel	54.00
Niangua	20.00
Stockton	110.40
Houston 1st	287.93
Lingo	16.40
Salem	90.00
Calvary Chapel	280.73
Pleasant Ridge, Urb.	119.00
Monett 1st	563.07
Mill Creek	207.76
Happy Home, Ava	93.93
Fourth	126.00
Union, Success	60.00
Unity, Lebanon	202.00
Belton	286.69
Alton	225.00
Fellowship	400.00
Mine LaMotte	34.18
DeSoto 1st	727.00
West Plains 1st	442.69
Cape Girardeau	779.18
Waynesville 1st	358.21
Trinity	880.64
Lebanon 1st	490.21
Mtn. Grove 1st	1,479.78
Mt. Pisgah	225.00
Greenfield	193.00
Hurryville	324.08
Joplin 1st	394.10
Mt. Zion, Gower	50.20
Freeman Chapel	233.26
Pleasant Hill, Th.	58.98
Fordland	177.66
Kingsway	356.78
Grant Avenue	769.06
Oak Hill, Union	354.54
Flat River 1st	497.61
Parkview, Desloge	334.80
Parkway	175.00
Heritage	132.00
Old Liberty	277.12
Farmington	1,808.39
Oskaloosa	133.70
Copper Mines	248.42
Carthage	175.00
Potosi 1st	88.40
Bethel, El Dorado Sp.	44.91
Marshfield	213.31
Hopewell	110.00
Willow Springs, Mtn. Gr.	186.37
Eastern Gate	271.05
Jones Creek	220.69
Terrill Rd.	158.00
Grace	964.00
Calvary, Conway	145.24
Victory Hill, Mans.	100.00
New Rock Springs	82.00
Richwoods 1st	525.00
Scott City 1st	567.00
St. Francois Quarterly	16.50
Berean, Indep.	35.00
Byrd	112.00
Houston 1st	305.54
Cope	42.00
Bailey Chapel	70.00
Harmony, Parkville	390.00
Wolf Creek	389.95
Macedonia, Niangua	80.60
Friendship	296.87
Faith, St. Louis	25.00
Leadington	284.19

Pleasant Home	180.27
Pleasant Home	254.12
Central	642.06
Jones Chapel	197.00
Jones Chapel	207.00
Kirksville 1st	112.98
Oak Hill, Fred.	73.87
Number One	49.09
United, W.P.	616.25
Total	\$29,389.76

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Central	\$ 113.00
New Life Fellowship	110.87
O'Fallon 1st	42.50
Hannon	329.10
Carthage	43.00
Thayer	79.00
Columbia 1st	15.68
Overland	4.00
Verdella	15.00
New Testament	80.00
Victory, K.C.	5.00
Rock Chapel	20.00
Faith & Hope, W.S.	35.00
Monett 1st	10.00
Blue Springs	10.00
J.W. Rader	20.00
Beacon	215.86
DeSoto 1st	235.00
West Plains 1st	45.00
Calvary Fellowship	150.00
Calvary Fellowship	50.00
Waynesville 1st	25.00
Trinity	20.00
Lebanon 1st	5.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	155.00
Mt. Pisgah	50.00
Fordland	10.00
Grant Ave.	11.00
Flat River 1st	74.76
Parkview, Desloge	33.00
Richwoods	47.00
Oak Grove, Norwood	59.40
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Farmington	177.88
Carthage	28.00
Viburnum	41.00
Eastern Gate	10.00
Grace	125.00
Parkview Miss. Gr.	10.00
Bethel, Festus	43.00
Wolf Creek	46.37
R. Keith	10.00
Southside	99.25
Leadington	15.00
Pleasant Home	15.00
Pleasant Home	26.72
Central	369.02
Richwoods	32.00
Kirksville 1st	18.58
Union Light	35.00
N. Ruble	10.00
Total	\$3,279.99

STATE HOME MISSIONS

Central	\$ 10.00
O'Fallon 1st	25.00
Hannon	193.54
Lebanon Bible & Book	174.00
Thayer	53.00
Cuba	157.76
Columbia 1st	35.00
Madison Co. Quarterly	25.00
Faith & Hope, Aur.	42.64
New Testament	48.00
Victory, K.C.	10.00
Rock Chapel	121.24
Faith & Hope, W.S.	10.00
Pleasant Ridge, Urb.	25.00
DeSoto 1st	70.00
West Plains 1st	5.00
Calvary Fellowship	10.00
Trinity	65.00
Lebanon 1st	65.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	47.00
Joplin 1st	95.91
Grant Ave.	12.00
Oak Hill, Union	49.76
Flat River 1st	5.00
Parkview, Desloge	5.00
Richwoods	116.66
Farmington	20.00
Viburnum	8.00
Marshfield	21.33
Eastern Gate	40.00

Grace	35.00
Bethel, Festus	10.00
Southside	20.00
Leadington	10.00
Central	10.00
Union Light	61.00
N. Ruble	15.00
Total	\$1,731.84

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Central	\$ 305.00
New Life Fellowship	286.30
O'Fallon 1st	47.50
Hannon	502.05
C. Thompson	25.00
Carthage	94.00
Thayer	145.00
Cuba	78.89
F. Green	35.00
Columbia 1st	20.68
Hartville	96.43
Verdella	426.26
D. Akeman	10.00
Faith & Hope, Aur.	42.64
New Testament	153.00
Victory, K.C.	155.00
Rock Chapel	148.00
Merl's Chapel	200.00
Houston 1st	270.16
Faith & Hope, W.S.	121.88
Pleasant Ridge, Urb.	45.00
Monett 1st	880.00
Fourth	10.00
Belton	50.00
Blue Springs	45.00
Beacon	662.00
DeSoto 1st	450.00
West Plains 1st	449.47
Calvary Fellowship	1,145.33
Calvary Fellowship	1,073.51
Waynesville 1st	25.00
Trinity	394.19
Lebanon 1st	80.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	178.00
Mt. Pisgah	100.00
Greenfield	117.00
Joplin 1st	10.00
Freeman Chapel	425.00
Fordland	149.25
Calvary Chapel	75.00
Grant Avenue	840.52
Oak Hill, Union	12.00
Flat River 1st	149.28
Parkview, Desloge	292.00
Oak Grove, Cabool	65.00
Richwoods	35.00
S. Hart	20.00
Farmington	249.99
Oak Grove, Norwood	118.80
Farmington	247.24
Niangua	15.00
Carthage	69.00
Faith, Oak Grove	85.00
Viburnum	120.00
Marshfield	40.00
Calvary Chapel	80.00
Eastern Gate	171.32
C. Layman	30.00
Grace	16.00
Calvary, Conway	43.57
Parkview Miss. Group	60.00
Bethel, Festus	165.00
Niangua	10.00
Faith, St. Louis	75.00
Southside	225.00
Leadington	50.00
Pleasant Home	58.03
Pleasant Home	35.41
Central	300.00
Richwoods	32.00
Kirksville 1st	42.57
Union Light	140.00
N. Ruble	25.00
TOTAL	\$13,444.27

CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Farmington	\$23.97
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FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$ 35.00
DeSoto	35.00
Calvary Fellowship	71.50
Farmington	127.37
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
Total	\$278.87

FWB CHILDREN'S HOME, AL

DeSoto 1st	\$25.00
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FWB HOME FOR CHILDREN, TN

DeSoto 1st	\$50.00
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HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Hannon	\$ 50.00
Thayer 1st	40.00
Central	36.00
Victory	32.22
Beacon	50.00
Calvary Fellowship	71.50
Grant Avenue	8.00
Oak Hill	19.00
Farmington	142.41
Central	36.00
Total	\$485.13

JOHN McCLURE ACCOUNT

Thayer 1st	\$10.00
Victory	5.00
Verdella	10.00
Monett	10.00
Grace	27.50
Total	\$62.50

MISSOURI STATE YOUTH CAMP

Hannon	\$ 15.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	78.00
Thayer 1st	35.00
Hartville	10.00
DeSoto 1st	50.00
Union, Success	30.00
Trinity	14.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
Mt. Pisgah	10.00
Calvary Fellowship	78.00
Flat River 1st	40.53
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Bethel, El Dorado Sp.	15.00
Willow Springs	10.00
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
New Rock Springs	10.00
St. Louis District	69.15
Total	\$534.68

NAT'L. ASSOC. OF EVANGELICALS WORLD RELIEF FUND

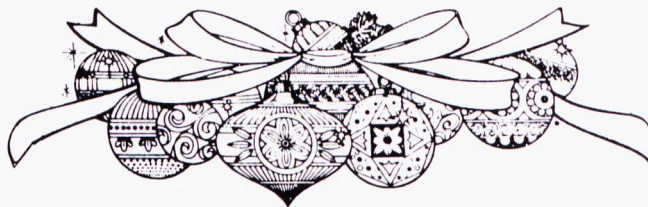
Victory, K.C.	\$5.00
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WOMAN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY CONVENTION

Joplin 1st	\$10.00
Pleasant Home, Mtn. Grove	19.60
Total	\$29.60

MILLARD SASSER

Fordland	\$3.00
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*Wishing you a
Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*

Nathan & Judy



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

F

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