

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Volume 63, No. 1, January 1993



"... though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow ..."

Isaiah 1:18

Gems From The Past

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter was written by Laura Belle Barnard, Missionary to India, and printed in the December 1951 GEM.)

ATTEMPT TO FORCE AGED CHRISTIAN TO WORSHIP IDOL

"Westfield"
Kotagiri, So. India
November 19, 1951

Dear Friends:

It is hard to remember what we have written when it takes so long to get back to us. The dear old man, Ranguswamy, is holding true. Two weeks ago the outstanding Hindu festival of the year took place, and as Ranguswamy used to be a priest and always led his people in offering the sacrifice in those festivals, they naturally looked for him to do the same this year. But they were disappointed. And when he declined to take any part in the big Deepavalli Festival some of his relatives and friends, in their deep concern, dragged him to the temple and attempted to compel him to worship. They were afraid for themselves and for him if he denied the gods in this way. But Ranguswamy not only steadfastly refused but also gave a fearless witness to his faith in Christ as the true and living God, and took that opportunity to publicly renounce all his former belief in idolatry. A young man who is also a believer but not baptized told me this story about Ranguswamy, and the old man's faithfulness through this persecution was an inspiration to this young believer. I had to choke back the lump that came into my throat as I heard of the persecutions of this very frail and feeble old man, but I do praise God for a faith like his. Continue to pray for his wife who is now stoutly opposing him and in ways inconceivable trying to be a stumbling block to him.

I feel helpless when I try to present our most crucial problems to you for prayer. They are foreign to our Western customs, thought, and experience. You hear of demon possession and it seems unreal; you read of it in the New Testament and it seems but a thing of the past. Will this woman's story seem fanciful to you? She can neither read nor write, and she knows little but hard work every day. Some years ago she and her husband together went down to the plains to a famous temple and there dedicated themselves to a certain god and the priest burned the seal of this god into their necks with a red-hot iron as a sign of their pledge of worship and service to this demon god. A few years ago the Lord brought us into touch with the husband at a time when he was open to the truth. Fortunately, he could read and we encouraged him in searching out the truth from the Bible. As he read, the Word itself gripped him and led him to faith in Christ as Saviour. Through the years that faith has grown and, as the Word brought light, he found himself trusting Christ completely. But the poor wife, without the aid of literacy and the written Word, is still under the power of darkness. Some days ago the young man called here for fellowship, counsel, and strengthening, and in course of conversation expressed a deep burden for his wife and lamented her hardness of heart and apparent inability to receive gospel

truth. The very next day the Bible-woman went to see the wife, and in her sweet, tactful manner inspired her confidence. "Amma," she said, "I do not feel free to speak my heart to the teacher (the evangelist) because he is a man and he may not understand women. And I am ashamed to tell the white Missiamma what is on my heart because she may think it strange. You are an Indian woman and so I shall open my heart to you." Then she told the Bible-woman the whole story of how she and her husband by yielding themselves to the demon god, had come into its power. The husband, she said, had been liberated but she was still under the power. "I am bound by that power. I can do nothing about it. I long to be made free." The Bible Woman told her that if she would put her faith in Christ He would set her free. But she had yielded herself once, only to find herself in bondage. She wants to have evidence that Christ is the true God before she yields to Him. "I believe there is one true God somewhere, a god who is Spirit and not made by men's hands," she said. "If He will appear to me in a dream I will believe that He is the true God and I will put my full trust in Him," she promised. Upon hearing this, one of our workers exclaimed, "That is not a difficult thing for God to do. He has often revealed Himself to sincere souls in a vision or dream. He will do it for her."

This woman's story illustrates the reason it is so difficult for idol-worshipping, demon-serving human beings to turn from idols and serve the living God. Romans 6:16 says "To whom ye present yourselves...his bond servants ye are." Many think of heathenism as a powerless religion. This is true insofar as the immediate images which they bow down and worship is concerned, but each idol represents an unseen Satanic force and the demon power behind that idol gets a strangle-hold on the worshipper. It was no idle act when this poor woman and her husband bowed down before this idol and the priest burned that demon's seal into their flesh. In doing this they yielded themselves and became bond-slaves of that power, just as the Scripture says. Pray for this woman and all others in a similar condition. Many men are believing, but they are tortured by their ignorant, illiterate, unbelieving wives who are still held in demon power. This woman's husband said to me, "You cannot understand how a heathen wife can torture her husband." And referring to elderly Ranguswamy, he said, "I think he will have to leave his wife, for he can't live a Christian life under the roof with her."

A young Braham boy through some odd circumstances has come to live in the home of Bro. Thomas, our evangelist. One morning Thomas came in and found his wife massaging the lad with great concern. "What is the matter — is the lad sick?" he asked. The boy answered for himself, "Sir, I have wrestled with a demon in the night. Since I came here and you told me about the Lord Jesus I

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have wished to believe in Him, and as I have heard more I have loved Him and desired to receive Him as my own. So in my sleep last night this heathen god visited me and fought me. He kicked me, bruised me, and abused, and forbade me to believe in the true God. Look at my arms and my thighs!" It was a fact, and no imagination, that the lad was bruised and aching, and Thomas' wife was helping to relieve his pain. Yes, we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual hosts of wickedness in high places. Satan's throne is here and the devil is not just a myth. Here on this Spiritual battlefield we need to feel the impact of revival and consecrated living on the home front. We count on your prayers.



Laura B. Barnard
Missionary

Yours in His glad service,

Laura Belle Barnard
Volena Wilson



Sunday School Attendance Averages June 1992 - November 1992

CHURCHES	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV
Belton	54	67	64	56	66	53
Calvary Chapel				29		
Calvary Fellowship	225	201	222	242	296	229
Cape Girardeau	91	73	87	103	119	
Central	96	90	92	95	93	85
Cuba	98	90	89	101	110	106
DeSoto	187	182	197	195	183	180
Farmington	317	339	330		319	294
Flat River, First	139	132	141	148	130	135
Hannon	95	97	86	82	85	80
Harmony	72	69	73		71	74
Hartville	87		102	100	104	110
Hopewell	34	42	35	29	38	33
Houston	71	70	75	67	62	62
Jones Creek				23	24	22
Kirksville	34	37	32	32		
Lebanon, First	96	100	103	100	103	99
Marshfield	24	27	26	26	26	27
Monett	119	119	110	116	125	123
Myrtle		34	35			
Oskaloosa			20	14		
Parkview	60		56	57	56	57
Potosi	51	59	46			
Richwoods	50	35	43	45		
Rock Chapel	74	71	70			
Springfield, First	118	119	118		119	117
Thayer	107	121	120		126	125
United, West Plains	176	168	163	174		
Unity					45	39
Verdella	61	69	63	64	66	59
Willow Springs		58	63	61	64	

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



Reports from the Churches



Freeman Chapel Honors Rev. Vernon Maggart

On September 27, 1992, Rev. Vernon Maggart was honored during the morning worship service of the Freeman Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. Rev. Maggart has served as pastor of the Freeman Chapel Free Will Baptist Church for twenty years. Attending this special celebration along with the church family and friends, was the Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist Church.

Jeff Robertson, son-in-law of the pastor, presided over the service which began with Scripture reading by Delbert Verbick. Special singing by Rhonda Willegus and Joshua Maggart, four-year-old grandson of the pastor, was enjoyed. Several in the congregation stood and gave personal testimonies and shared their appreciation of Brother Maggart. The testimonies were followed by special poems dedicated to the pastor. Eva Gallagher, Rev. Maggart's sister, presented one and his daughter, Debbie Robertson, presented another which was entitled "Daddy." Congratulatory letters from Rev. Clarence Burton and Carol and Jerry Pinkerton were read by Dana Lane who is also the pastor's daughter. (It was pointed out that the church has supported the Pinkertons, who serve the Lord in Ivory Coast, Africa, for twenty years.)

During the service Mrs. Maggart was presented a beautiful gold watch and Rev. Maggart was presented a set of commentaries. Helen Verbick and Freda and Curtis Coffey presented these gifts on behalf of the Freeman Chapel Church. Velma Perkins from the Mt. Zion church presented Rev. Maggart with a monetary gift from their church. Sister Maggart then surprised her husband with an oil painting of Freeman Chapel which was painted by a local artist, Norma Ault.

During the service those who were saved under Brother Maggart's ministry stood. This was a special tribute to a man whom God has used over the years. Bro. Maggart has faithfully discharged his duties at Freeman Chapel as well as conducting 9 a.m. services at Mt. Zion Church on Sunday mornings. Brother Maggart then took

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the opportunity to encourage the congregation to continue to love one another and to serve the Lord faithfully. The church agreed that Brother Maggard has set them a clear and worthy example.

Following the service, a fellowship dinner was served. Those attending enjoyed a delicious meal and a lovely time of encouragement and fellowship.

Calvary Fellowship FWB Church Fenton, Missouri

Our Women's Auxiliary held their annual Fall Festival on November 7, consisting of an all-day craft and bake sale followed by a Thanksgiving dinner. The purpose of this event was to raise money for missions. After lots of planning and numerous evenings spent preparing crafts, the ladies raised a grand total of \$2,086.50 for the mission field.

Another major recent event was Homecoming on October 18. The Dixie Melody Boys sang in the main auditorium, and the Deitweiler family entertained both in children's church and for the adults. We had a nice crowd of 469 present for the service and a great time of fun and fellowship.

by Reporter: Diana Anderson

Lord, Please Use Me To Build Your Church

by Rev. Jim Williams

In my last article I covered the subject of "The Beginning" and how important it is to get off to a good start. It is equally important to weigh your decision in consideration of a building. What the people of the community see of your building, is what they will also think of your church.

In regards to a building, there are at least two popular thoughts. First, buy a building already finished, or second, purchase land and build a new building. Let's consider both of these options for a few minutes.

First, the option of purchasing a building already built, equipped, and used as a church in the past. This is by far the quickest way to get your own building and has many times proven to be the best choice. It is usually the most economical choice, but your decision must not rest on the price alone. Sometimes purchasing an existing building will gain your church some of the people who once attended there. There are some good buys out there, but numerous pitfalls should be thoroughly checked out. The previous group vacated the building for some reason, and to find out why is very important.

The following is a partial list to consider:

1. What was the reputation of the previous church and how long has it been gone? (A poor community image, a reputation for trouble, or a bad credit history, could take literally years to overcome.) Don't be afraid to ask questions and to expect full answers.
2. What is the structure like? I don't mean the cosmetics such as paint, paper, broken windows, etc. I mean, is the foundation cracked or sagging? Is there severe termite damage? Are wiring and plumbing out-dated?



New Home Youth Raise Money For Foreign Missions

The New Home Free Will Baptist Youth Group recently raised \$188 through a bake sale. The church, located near Hartville, is pastored by Rev. John Postlewaite. Deacon Tom Young is pictured buying cookies as the young folks are happy to sell them.

Proceeds of the sale were sent as a love offering to the Donald McDonald family who are serving as missionaries in Japan. Mrs. Ruth McDonald is Pastor Postlewaite's daughter.

Are there health and fire code problems? All of these would be concerns. Often bringing an old building up to code costs far more than you would ever save over building a new unit.

3. How much "off street" parking is available? Adequate parking is a must. In fact, many city codes require a certain number of "off street" parking spaces per occupancy limit in the building. Also, when a building changes hands, the city sometimes requires the new owner to bring the building up to meet all current city code requirements.
4. Is the building suitable to meet the needs of your church? For example, are there plenty of well-lit, ventilated, roomy spaces for classes? If a daycare or Christian School is in your future plans, will the facility accommodate those needs. (Remember to keep the full scope of your dreams in view while making such decisions.)
5. How economical will it be to heat and cool the facility. Today people expect comfort wherever they go. Most people will not continue to attend services in a building that is cold and drafty in the winter or hot and humid in the summer.
6. Consider insurance costs or exclusions. Insurance rates are at an all-time high in cost and an all-time low in coverage. It could shock you to find out, after purchasing a "good deal," that no reliable insurance company will provide you with a policy. Before purchase, have a local insurance agent look through the building with you to estimate the insurance cost.

If you don't buy a church building already built, the other option is obvious. Purchase land and build your own building on it.

There is something exciting about building a new church plant. The smell of everything new and freshly

painted is nice, beautiful, and exciting! But there are as many pitfalls in building new as there are in purchasing old. Consider these:

1. With a new building comes a new mortgage! Can you really afford it? What is your plan for financing? A church is considered commercial property and many lending institutions won't lend construction money to a new church. If they do lend the money, they require an immense amount of security and they charge an interest rate that is higher than a regular mortgage loan. (I am glad our Missouri State Home Mission Board has had the foresight to establish the Perpetual Loan Fund to meet these very special needs of the new churches.) After the structure is completed, a permanent financing must be arranged. Will your church be able to handle the full monthly payment? A church builder must emphasize the need for the new church to pay her own expenses and send some money every month to the mission board toward the pastor's salary if the church is under Home Mission Board supervision. If this is not taught at the very beginning, the new work will probably never see the need to do it. However, if the church planter resigns, it puts the new pastor at a disadvantage. (The things that I recommend are things that have worked in Carthage, so I am confident they will work in any mission church.)
2. Check with the zoning and building departments where your property is located in order to find out about restrictions and requirements (i.e. curbing, guttering, structural material requirements, landscaping, square footage, etc.). This can save time and money in meeting unexpected requirements.
3. Choose your building plans and have them approved by the local building department. There are several different church blueprints available at a small fee through our National Home Missions Department. Look them over and determine which plan best fits your needs and your finances. I would recommend that you build the educational wing first, then move on to building the auditorium. Doing it this way enables your people to keep in mind the need for an auditorium. If they build the sanctuary first, the people may slack off because they are not aware of the immediate need of educational space. However, it is a proven fact that the lack of class space and meeting hall will hinder church growth.
4. Do a study of the layout of the property in order to properly position the building on the land. Locate the building in such a way as to leave adequate room for future expansion. A number of buildings which are beautiful to worship in would be "found wanting" if the need for expansion ever came.

Recently a pastor asked me what I thought would be the one most important and beneficial thing to do when starting to build. After some serious consideration I replied, "Win a lawyer, a banker, a building contractor, a building inspector, and a mayor to the Lord, then put them to work!" I said that to emphasize the fact that every step in building is so vital that none should be considered unimportant.

Whether you choose to build or purchase a ready-built building, remember, **GOD IS FAITHFUL!** If you seek his will and obey his leading, there is no wrong way...there is only victory. After that you can move forward to build "The Body."

The End of the Beginning is in Sight

Sometimes right after the first of a new year, with the excitement of the holidays behind us, it is easy to feel let down or to even become discouraged. This, however, is not the case at the Free Will Baptist Mission Church of Carthage. Why? Because the reason for Home Missionary Pastor Jim Williams' going to Carthage has become a reality! The church is averaging 90 on Sunday morning, 58 on Sunday night, and 42 on Wednesday. AND...the church has been totally **self-supporting** for about the past year! **PRAISE THE LORD!**

Now the Free Will Baptist Church of Carthage invites you to celebrate and rejoice with us by attending our Organizational Service which will be held at the church on January 31, 1993. A Special Service is planned for Sunday morning, followed by dinner at the church. At 1:30 p.m. we will convene to "Set the Church in Order".

Because so many of you have stood faithfully by our needs these past nine years, we feel it is only right for you to be a partaker with us in this special time of celebration. If you are unable to attend, please continue to whisper a prayer **regularly** to our Great God and Savior in our behalf. Pray for our church as it is crossing over the bridge to operating on a fully self-sufficient basis. This is a big step that we have anticipated with both smiles and tears.

Missionary News

JIM MERTZ NEWSLETTER

This month we averaged 62 in attendance and enjoyed seeing new faces almost weekly. Our church also is now in the process of building and training its leadership. So, pray with us for the Lord's leading.

Thank you for giving to the Lord each month. This is our lifeline, whatever amount. Your prayers are greatly needed as we labor to finish this giant task of establishment of the new church. Please come by and see us if you can, or drop us a line. It will be great to hear from you.

VERGEL MANESS NEWSLETTER

Our plans are to officially organize the church in January, 1993, so this may be our last newsletter. We have been here since August, 1981, but building the church here has been a long, slow process.

The one item which gave us great difficulty in the early years here in Vineland was my missionary account. With the Vineland home missions project we have had to work many times under the difficulties of our account being in the red. But we do thank the faithful supporters who have stood with this work through the years.

Another difficulty here has been in the slow progress of the building program. The difficulties with the city requirements for permits, etc., stopped us on several occasions. This was before the National Home Missions Department had some of the various programs to assist the missionary that it now has, such as the loan fund, the building team, etc. In the first few years, the lack of enough money available for borrowing at rates we could afford caused us to delay, to borrow less money and consequently to do our own labor...which included digging by hand the foundation with shovels and a roto tiller (four feet deep and two feet wide and about four hundred feet long).

Please help us to end this home missions project in the

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BLACK, by staying with us until the church becomes self-supporting! Again, thanks for your faithful prayers and support.

RUSSELL JOHNSON NEWSLETTER

Greetings from cold and windy Cheyenne, Wyoming! The ground is white and we rush inside quickly this time of year. You can start getting in the Christmas spirit in September here in Wyoming! We have had several snows and single digit temperatures already.

Since our last newsletter we have gained some new families and are averaging in the upper 30s now. On October 25, we had **67** in attendance! We have set new records in our youth services with 29 in attendance. Some of these young people have never been in church. It is good to see our people grow in God's Word.

Because our account has gone deep in the RED, we have had to be away for missionary services. This always hurts our attendance. Through the help of many good Free Will Baptists, we are now pulling up out of the red. The Tulsa area churches gave a \$1,600 offering to our account. Churches at Blackwell, Okla., and West Plains, Thayer and the Victory Church in Alton, Mo., have all given special offerings! Several churches gave VBS offerings, for which we are very thankful. Please keep supporting and praying for us as we build a Free Will Baptist Church here in this needy city.

TERRY VANWINKLE NEWSLETTER

Our purpose in coming to Kansas is to share the gift of Jesus Christ with those who have not yet received it. We believe that it is our responsibility to take Christ into our community instead of just expecting people to come to a church seeking for answers. To that end we have dedicated ourselves to community involvement.

Our target date for our first Sunday worship service is April 4. At this point, everything is in place but our finances. Please pray that our cash requirement of \$10,000 will be met soon.

Thank you for the support you have already extended to us. We praise God for people like you. May his richest blessings be upon your family as you celebrate the birth of His Son.

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM RON & LINDA MOORE

This will be the first Christmas we'll have spent in the States in five years, and, as most of you, we're looking forward to spending it with family.

Linda and I are enjoying the motor home. It sure is nice to be able to travel together, to have my work (computer) with me at all times, and to be able to sleep in the same bed every night. An added blessing is the fact that it will save our account some traveling expenses.

While in Nashville recently, we visited the Woman's

Auxiliary provision closet. Our motor home is now stocked with all the necessities. Thanks, ladies! You've come through for us again.

GENTUSO GAZETTE - PAUL & TAMMY GENTUSO

We are so excited to finally be focusing our full energies on learning to speak French! After many years of schooling and a year of deputation, it is wonderful to be learning to speak to the people we will minister to in Cote d'Ivoire.

Why all the effort? Because the Bible admonishes us to love people not just with words, but with our very lives. Moreover, "How can they call on the one they have not heard? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?"

Thank you for sending us. We would like to already be in Africa, yet we must be patient through this final phase of preparation. Thanks for hanging in there with us — we so appreciate each and every one of you for your faithful support and love.

SPAIN UPDATE - JEFF & SUSAN TURNBOUGH

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Nehemiah Project was unable to continue as planned in the month of September. Among many other things that were/are happening, there were **two major reasons** we had to do this.

First, the local city government has not given us the necessary permissions to build. Our petition has been in their hands since the beginning of July, and all of our papers are in order. We honestly feel they are discriminating against us since this is the very first Evangelical Church ever to request a building permit from them.

Second, no bank in Spain will consider an Evangelical Church for a loan. Again, all of our papers are in order, and from all external appearances, we would appear to be a better "risk" than most small businesses here. We have property completely paid for and approved by the government. We have 15 families ready, willing, and able to co-sign the note (which is immensely more than most small businesses). We had three local bank directors who were in favor of granting us a loan. However, in order to grant a larger loan, it must pass to a central commission. The word that has come back in all three cases is that under the present circumstances banks in Spain do not consider religious institutions for loans. It is not that they turned us down, **they won't even consider us.**

So, until we can settle these two matters, our property sits there, with the basement already dug.

Please pray that the city will soon grant the permit and that the church can get a loan from somewhere for \$150,000 — the U.S.A., a Christian organization, or someone somewhere!

Record Number Attends Fall Welcome Days

Free Will Baptist Bible College hosted a record 346 visitors from 16 states for its fall Welcome Days, November 19-21. This eclipses the old fall record of 255 set in 1981, according to Neil Gilliland, Recruitment Director.

"Praise the Lord," he exclaimed. "We are still rejoicing and thanking the Father for all who came and for the wonderful job the college family did hosting our very special guests."

The largest groups came from Peace Free Will Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN. (13), and First Free Will Baptist Church, Kalamazoo, MI. (12).

The next Welcome Days is scheduled for April 1-3, 1993.

FWBBC Announces Spring Conference Speakers

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE — People who attend Free Will Baptist Bible College's spring Bible Conference, March 7-11, 1993, are in for a treat. Five outstanding preachers will fill out a program that will feature solid biblical preaching, soul-stirring music and revitalizing fellowship.

This year's conference speakers are:

- Dr. T.V. Farris, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, TN.
- Rev. Joe Grizzle, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church, Norman, OK.
- Dr. Paul Harrison, pastor of Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, TN.
- Rev. Wayne Phillips, pastor of Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church, Flat River, MO.
- Rev. Fred Warner, Director of Missionary/Church Relations for the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Department, Nashville, TN.

The annual conference is also homecoming for many of the college's 5,500 alumni. Dr. Ken Riggs, FWBBC Alumni Association President, and his staff will be ready to host activities that include times for fellowship and the Association's annual business meeting.

Dr. Vernon Whaley, Chairman of the Music Department, promises that the music will be a highlight of the conference. Attendees of last year's Jubilee Bible Conference will remember his musical tribute as one of the unforgettable moments of the week.

Mark your calendar for Bible Conference: March 7-11, 1993.



Looking Out My Parsonage Window

by Ve Ann Tilson

Everyone believes divorce breaks up families. This is not so. The broken family is not the result of divorce; divorce is the result of the broken family.

— Judge Paul W. Alexander

"I love him...but I'm not in love with him." These were the words spoken to me recently by a young woman who was in the processing of divorcing her husband of twelve years. She went on to say that it would be a "friendly" divorce...they did not want to upset their two children.

Each year, over 1,150,000 marriages end in divorce. According to statistics from 1987, two marriages out of every three are doomed for failure. More than 40% of contemporary marriages involve the remarriage of one or both individuals, and almost half the remarriages end in divorce. The list of statistics could go on and on.

What has happened to America's homes? What is happening to the children of these broken homes? What can we do as a church, to strengthen the home?

These are all questions I would like to address in the next series of articles. With 60% of all children who were born in the 1980s, faced with a single-parent family caused by divorce, few original families will be untouched by this tragedy.

The Guest Speaker

You will find a guest speaker wherever a church is having a homecoming, a revival, a building dedication, a mortgage burning, a Sunday school rally, or some other "Big Day." He is the man who is expected to bring freshness and excitement to that special occasion. Most of the time he is the pastor of another church.

Special days are exciting! However, they are not always special to the guest speaker. They can even be a burden. More and more as I travel about, I hear preachers talking about being invited to be a guest speaker at churches at their own expense. The only token of appreciation they receive is a handshake.

The preachers I know are not in the ministry because of the money. At the same time these preachers cannot afford the expense of leaving the pulpit to fill another without the reimbursement of expenses. A guest speaker incurs several expenses. He has the expense of travel, sometimes a motel, meals, and often he must pay a man to fill his own pulpit while he is away. If the host church does not pay the speaker, these expenses come out of the speaker's own pocket. This experience always leaves a question mark in the mind of the guest speaker about the pastor and the church that cost him money that he could not afford.

Preparation to have a special occasion at the church should include the expenses and an honorarium for the special speaker. If the church cannot afford to pay a guest speaker,

he should be told at the time of the invitation. This gives him the opportunity to decide if he can afford to be a guest speaker. The failure to do one of the above may result in the pastor and church receiving a name of being miserly or having unconcerned leaders. Ultimately, the responsibility to care for the guest speaker rests upon the Pastor and Church Board. Jesus said,... "The labourer is worthy of his hire..." (Lk. 10:7)

SCA Youth Rally

All teen groups from across the state are invited to come to the Youth Rally at First FWB Church in DeSoto, Mo., on Saturday evening, February 13. The Rally will begin at 7 p.m. The Evangel Players (a group of outstanding college students from FWB Bible College) will be leading in the services. There will be heart-warming singing, exciting dramatic presentation of the Gospel, and spirit-filled worship. For further information contact the Rev. Bob Thebeau, pastor of the DeSoto Church.

FWB groups from across the state are invited and encouraged to participate in both of these special activities. There is no registration fee...it's free!!! Come join us for a great time in the Lord!!! For further information regarding the Leadership Conference contact the Rev. Rick Dablemont, pastor of the Cuba Church. We are requesting that large groups notify us that you are coming in order to make appropriate arrangements for seating and lunch.

Leadership Conference

The Sixth Annual South Central Association Leadership Conference will be held on Saturday, February 13, at the Cuba FWB Church. The program will feature the Rev. Bob Shockey and the Evangel Players from FWB Bible College in Nashville, Tenn. Messages and dramatic presentations will focus upon the key concepts of Bible Servant-Leadership.

Agenda

9:00 a.m. Coffee & Do-nuts
9:45 a.m. Joint Opening Session
10:00 a.m. Rev. Bob Shockey
10:50 a.m. Break
11:00 a.m. The Evangel Players
Noon Lunch (served at church)
1:00 p.m. Rev. Bob Shockey
1:50 p.m. SCA Business Session

1992 State Youth Conference Report

by Curt Gwartzney

Over 320 young people and Youth Workers gathered at Windermere Baptist Assembly, November 8-9, 1992. They represented 30 Missouri Free Will Baptist Churches and two Free Will Baptist Colleges. The theme was "Carry The Torch," emphasizing personal witnessing and World Missions.

John Kane, Director of Counseling at Shepherd Ministries, was the featured speaker. Richard Vickers from Salem, Mo., provided the music for

the group. Both men were **excellent!** The Lord used them to touch the hearts of the young people and Youth Workers alike. Many life-changing decisions were made, not only at the altar, but also in the cabin devotion time.

Next year's Conference will be November 19-20, 1993. The speaker will be Bob Stromberg, a gifted communicator. Make plans now to attend. Watch the Gem for further details.



John Kane with one of the students who attended.



Youth Worker's Panel Discussion Workshop

1993 Truth and Peace Youth Leadership Conference

Applications are now being received for the 1993 Truth and Peace Youth Leadership Conference.

This will be the tenth year for this leadership conference. The Lord has richly blessed this ministry. Many Free Will Baptist teens have been challenged through this conference to life-time Christian service.

Many former participants are now out of college and involved in full-time ministry across our denomination.

If you have high school youth that you feel have leadership potential, please encourage them to apply for this conference. This year, participants will be limited to 72 (36 young men, 36 young ladies). Please send us your best and we'll return them to you next summer even better equipped to serve the Lord and your church.

A brochure giving the basic information regarding the conference may be obtained at the following address:

Dean Jones, Director
Youth Ministries Division
Randall House Publications
P.O. Box 17306
Nashville, Tennessee 37217
Telephone (615) 361-1221



The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

During one advertisement for Billy Graham's most recently televised crusade, Rev. Graham used the phrase, "OK, God, you got our attention. Now what?" He quoted this from something he'd seen — this sentence painted on the rooftop of a structure which miraculously stood after Hurricane Andrew did its damage. So many lives lost, possessions acquired through entire lifetimes were all destroyed, and one saw Andrew as God's only way to show who is in control.

When I thought about it, I had to admit that, many times, God was forced to send "hurricanes" in my life to show me His will. Though I do not believe all bad things in life are punishments nor that it always takes a disaster

to put us where we need to be, I do believe all things work together for a reason and, as the Bible tells us, **for good.**

Isn't it hard to bear such tragedies with faith? How would it have felt to be Job — tested beyond comprehension and never lose his love for God? Or live in Noah's day when a natural disaster destroyed **all** but Noah and his family? To know the world was so wicked that God basically felt a need to start over? To be so stubborn and blinded by human will, as Jonah, that extraordinary measures were needed to get one's attention?

When one thinks about it, it seems so sad God has to use such means (then and now) to get people — even His people — to obey Him. And we always seem to look back and say it was necessary because God is always in control.

"Now what?" Listen, follow, obey!

Are the Heathen Lost?

Are the heathen lost? It is difficult for some people to believe that those who have never heard the gospel will suffer eternal destruction. "After all," they insist, "since God is merciful and just, He would not permit something so cruel and unfair." What is even more difficult for me to believe, however, is that this question would even be raised in a fundamental, evangelical denomination! Have you ever thought about the consequences of such an argument? Consider the following:

If the heathen are not lost, then the Bible would be untrustworthy. Romans 1 clearly teaches that the heathen are condemned because they have rejected God's message which is manifested everywhere in nature and has been eternally stamped in their consciences. There are many passages which teach the same thing; yet, if a person doesn't believe one, he will not believe the others either. In fact, if the Bible is wrong on this point, how can it be trusted on another? The Creation? Noah and the Ark? Jonah? The Resurrection of Jesus?

If the heathen are not lost, then the Lord's sacrifice would have been unnecessary. There is no question what Jesus believed and taught. He left the riches of heaven and came to earth "to seek and to save" the lost and "to give his life a ransom" for sin on the cross. He taught that all who did not believe in Him would perish and commanded His disciples to proclaim this message to all nations. But if the heathen are not lost, why take them the gospel? In fact, if they are not in danger of eternal judgement, why did Jesus ever leave heaven?

If the heathen are not lost, then God would have been unjust. It was the will of God that Jesus die the horrible death on the cross of Calvary. Those that believe in His Son will never perish, but those who do not believe stand condemned (John 3:16-18). If, however, God "excuses" the sin of some on the grounds that they have never heard, why did He insist on Christ's sacrificial death? If forgiveness could be obtained in any other way, God would have indeed been wicked and unjust to allow His Son to die such a cruel and needless death. Friends, this is not the kind of God we serve!

Who raises this question and why?

It is often raised by those who do not believe in missions. They use it as an argument to justify their lack of commitment. Are there many such people like this among Free Will Baptists? Well, we have a whole lot of folk who do not believe in or support foreign missions. Find one and ask him!

by Ron Moore

Missionary to Ivory Coast, Africa

Adrift in the Fog

Many years ago, a sailing ship left one port enroute to another which was heralded to be a short journey. While out at sea, the winds blew contrary to the ship then quit completely. A dense fog set in immediately and the seaman spent days with neither sight nor sound, only the gentle lapping of waves upon the ship's hull.

A mumuring soon rose among the ship's crew. Some chided that the captain was drifting in the wrong direction, others snarled that their progress was too slow.

At the result of much frustration and anger, a large portion of the crew determined to set adrift in one of the life boats. The dissenters demanded the ship's compass and charts which were staunchly denied by the Captain.

With much anger and little thought, they set adrift from the ship. With one last desperate plea, the captain cried after them, "Except ye abide in the ship you will be lost."

Adrift in the lifeboat, some argued to row in one direction while others held to another. The bulk of the ship was soon barely visible and all began to have misgivings concerning their actions. Finally, one man cried into the swirling fog, "It's not too late to return, mates."

A gruff voice sneered an answer, "And admit we're wrong? Not hardly!"

Soon the lights of the ship faded into the dimness and a dozen souls perished at sea.

Exodus 12:22 commanded the Israelites "Not to go out of the door of the house." Acts 27:31 warned "Except these abide in the ship ye cannot be saved." In Ruth 2:8, 22 the soon to be bride was charged "Not to glean in any other field."

God has provided an ark of safety for His bride, called the church. The gates of hell shall not prevail against this God-ordained institution. One, two, or three members of the human body cannot live without the functioning support of the other members. In reverse, the body can live without one, two, or three members!

Multitudes of men and women have been lost because of their refusal to "abide in the ship." Some knew soon after leaving that they had made a mistake. But, pride kept them from returning. Others drifted so far away they could no longer see the way of return.

The scripture has said that "No man hath hardened himself against God and prospered." It is a fearful thing to leave God's church voluntarily, and turn and walk away.

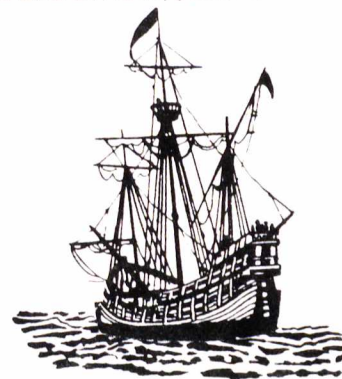
Many have left the church by claiming, "God is leading me"...**God does not lead anyone** away from light and into darkness...from truth into error. **Satan** leads in that direction!

Many men have wandered from church to church seeking spiritual high places that others have labored for, and have become spiritual derelicts because no church could ever depend on them!

God's word warns us "**Not** to forsake the **assembling** of ourselves together, as the manner of some is... and **so much the more** as we see the day approaching."

It is no small wonder that churches have had such an uphill battle for years, for many of the so-called saints have been wandering up and down the streets looking for a perfect church instead of being down on their knees fasting, praying, crying to God for one!

Do not set adrift in the fog apart from the church! Rather, may all that have truly been **born** of the water and the spirit, labor within their local church with love and affection, waiting for the soon coming of our precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



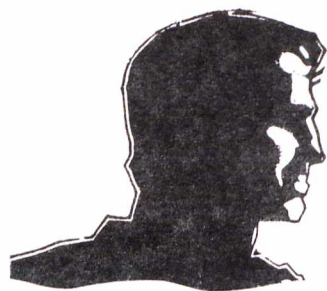
Family Life Seminar

Sponsored by the
Missouri Christian Education Board

March 19-20, 1993
Stonecroft Conference Center

FEATURING:

Dennis Bowman, on the subject "Blended Families"
Jerry Norris, addressing "Help To Hurting Families"
Melvin Moon, sharing the "Foundations of Family Life"



This year's conference format offers couples the option of attending one of three seminar subjects. When you send in your pre-registration form and deposit, please indicate which seminar you plan to attend.

COST: The total cost is only \$60 per couple, which includes two meals, two snacks, and one night's lodging. Couples may share a room if desired. The cost for those couples who share a room is \$50 per couple.

DRESS: Casual

DIRECTIONS: Approximately 45 miles south of Springfield, Missouri, on Highway 65 (four miles south of Branson). Turn right on 265 and stay left one mile to Stonecroft Conference Center.

Register as soon as possible. The Stonecroft Conference Center only has 70 rooms available. Reservations will be made on a "first postmark" basis. Once the rooms are filled, those who wish to attend the conference must make their own reservations elsewhere in the area. Those couples who do not stay at the Conference Center may eat their meals there, provided that they pre-register. For these couples the cost will be \$20 to cover the cost of two meals.

COMMENTS FROM PAST SEMINARS:

"Excellent seminar, beautiful resort, wonderful fellowship, good food, and best of all, it was in a Christian atmosphere." — L.H.

"It was great! The sessions were informative, challenging and helpful. The fellowship was almost like being in heaven." — C. & V.B.

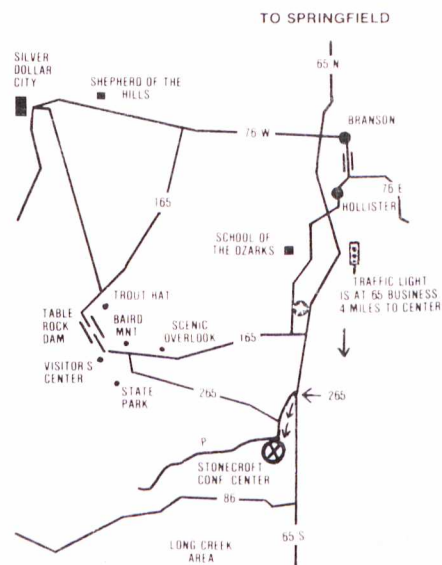
"It was super! Couples in every age group were given very practical help to make their marriages and families stronger for the Lord. It was very beneficial for everyone." — C.G.

Friday, March 19, 1993

1:00- 1:45 p.m. Registration
1:45- 2:00 p.m. Orientation
2:00- 2:45 p.m. Session I
2:45- 3:15 p.m. Break (snack)
3:15- 4:00 p.m. Session II
4:00- 4:15 p.m. Break
4:15- 5:00 p.m. Session III
5:00- 5:30 p.m. Preparation for the evening meal
5:30- 6:30 Evening Meal
6:30-10:00 p.m. Free Time

Saturday, March 20, 1993

8:00- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:30-10:15 a.m. Session IV
10:15-10:45 a.m. Break (snack)
10:45-11:30 a.m. Session V
11:30-11:45 a.m. General Meeting
11:45- Departure



REGISTRATION for Spring 1993 Family Life Seminar (husband/wife sessions)

Name _____ Home Phone _____
Address _____

Please enclose a \$30 non-refundable deposit with your reservation. Balance to be paid upon arrival. February 1, 1993, deadline. Indicate if you plan to share a room with another couple, and give their names.

Return registration and deposit to: **Rev. Roger Hogan, 316 West Liberty, Farmington, Mo. 63640.**

NOVEMBER 1992

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions	
Board	\$ 5,391.53
17.50% Exec. Off. & Gem	5,100.10
3.50% General Fund	1,020.02
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	2,477.19
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	728.59
2.50% C.E. Board	728.59
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries	
Board	728.59
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	2,622.90
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	8,888.74
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	
(\$88.88 included in \$8,888.74)	
5% Mo. State Conference	
Center Fund	\$1,457.17
Total	\$29,143.42

"...Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!..." Ps. 106:1. God has given us another 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 FWBCC & Hillsdale receiving an equal amount. California Christian College will continue to receive the 1%.

NOVEMBER 1992 RECEIPTS COOPERATIVE

Parkway	\$ 115.00
Hannon	379.82
Myrtle	146.17
Clifton S.S.	61.02
Rock Chapel	389.41
Overland	130.00
O'Fallon	182.22
Crossroads-Wentz	150.00
Hartville	443.39
Thayer	556.00
New Hope, Fredericktown	16.54
Fourth	173.00
Belton	329.78
Cape Girardeau	755.97
Faith & Hope, Aur.	89.92
Verdella	246.94
Royal Oak	125.00
West Plains 1st	464.00
Springfield 1st	721.65
Fredricktown 1st	209.51
Mine La Motte	34.77
Faith & Hope, W.S.	55.00
New Harmony Ch.	17.45
Lone Star	40.82
Columbia 1st	75.00
Stockton	112.40
Merl's Chapel	174.00
Kingsway	363.55
Calvary Chapel	201.67
Pleasant Ridge, Urbana	126.00
Lebanon	560.97
Union Grove	136.00
Cuba	361.92
DeSoto 1st	970.00
Rolla	89.03
Seymour	166.00
Freeman Chapel	231.30
Victory, Alton	137.00
Mt. Zion, Gower	46.60
Black Oak	159.76
Oak Hill, Union	361.06

Liberty	263.71
New Life, O'Fallon	512.46
Monett 1st	686.98
Mt. Pisgah	206.00
Fellowship	400.00
Flat River 1st	473.31
Tyrone	76.80
Happy Home, Ava	107.78
Unity, Lebanon	235.00
Hurricaneville	324.65
Lingo	17.80
Grant Avenue	694.68
Pleasant Hill, Thayer	57.62
Beacon	2,175.00
Faith, St. Louis	25.00
Trinity	886.74
Mountain Grove 1st	1,767.23
Pleasant Home, Mnt. Grove	239.86
Riverview, Betd., IA.	580.09
New Life, Licking	608.69
Farmington	2,175.49
Copper Mines	222.41
Calvary, Conway	161.23
Parkview	329.00
Eastern Gate	267.95
Hopewell	127.00
Fordland	167.90
Cabool	335.28
Waynesville 1st	474.86
Bethel, El Dorado Springs	40.85
North Five, Lebanon	152.12
Marshfield	208.87
Leadington	329.73
Grace	1,031.00
Wolf Creek	300.13
Carthage	180.00
Terrill Road	181.00
United	661.21
Neosho 1st	71.25
Potosi 1st	111.82
Willow Springs, Mtn. Grove	194.43
New Rock Springs	75.00
Mountain Grove 1st	899.85
Total	\$29,143.42

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Hannon	\$ 544.82
Myrtle	106.00
Rock Chapel	148.00
O'Fallon	37.50
Hartville	88.68
Thayer	205.00
Fourth	55.00
Belton	50.00
Faith & Hope, Aur.	51.63
Verdella	834.26
West Plains 1st	5.00
Faith & Hope, W.S.	100.00
New Harmony Ch.	87.76
Columbia 1st	16.87
D. Akeman	10.00
Merl's Chapel	200.00
Pleasant Ridge, Urbana	45.00
Blue Springs	49.00
Lebanon	85.00
Houston	243.31
DeSoto 1st	390.00
Freeman Chapel	377.65
F. Green	35.00
New Life, O'Fallon	243.74
Monett 1st	659.00
Mt. Pisgah	100.00
C. Thompson	25.00
Flat River 1st	285.04
Mountain Grove 1st	207.00
Calvary Chapel	120.00
Greenfield	122.00
Oak Grove, Cabool	65.00
Grant Avenue	490.14
Beacon	2,518.00
Niangua	11.00
Faith, St. Louis	75.00
Trinity	396.02
Bethel, Festus	159.85
Pleasant Home, M.G.	92.09
Farmington	1,286.55
Oak Grove, Norwood	116.18
Pleasant Ridge, Urbana	10.00
S. Hart	20.00
Calvary, Conway	48.37
Parkview	327.00
Eastern Gate	170.40
Niangua	13.00
Fordland	82.20
Waynesville 1st	25.00
Marshfield	40.00
Leadington	52.50

Grace	34.50
St. Francois District	3,843.58
Carthage	106.00
United	20.00
Neosho 1st	195.00
New Testament	108.50
Monett 1st	2,633.50
Indian Creek Quarterly	49.75
Merl's Chapel	127.11
Carthage	100.00
Purdy 1st	251.00
Chapel of Ozarks	26.96
Joplin 1st	935.15
Pleasant Grove	121.69
Faith & Hope, Aurora	201.84
Macedonia, Purdy	1,108.50
Jones Chapel	560.00
Parkview Mission Group	60.00
Niangua	13.00
Union Light	140.00
Viburnum	120.00
Calvary Fellowship	1,000.33
Total	\$23,281.97

STATE HOME MISSIONS

Hannon	\$ 189.92
Myrtle	57.00
Rock Chapel	125.56
O'Fallon	10.00
Thayer	50.00
Fourth	10.00
Faith & Hope, Aurora	51.62
West Plains 1st	5.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	174.00
Pleasant Ridge, Urbana	25.00
Lebanon	60.00
DeSoto 1st	70.00
Oak Hill, Union	17.00
Monett 1st	3.00
Mountain Grove 1st	49.00
Grant Avenue	96.47
Trinity	65.00
Bethel, Festus	10.00
Farmington	136.66
Parkview	5.00
Marshfield	20.88
Leadington	12.50
Grace	35.00
St. Francois District	1,725.79
New Testament	299.00
Monett 1st	719.00
Indian Creek Quarterly	99.50
Merl's Chapel	294.22
Carthage	200.00
Purdy 1st	251.00
Chapel of Ozarks	53.92
Joplin 1st	1,870.31
Pleasant Grove	243.38
Faith & Hope, Aurora	403.67
Macedonia, Purdy	2,217.00
Cuba Woman's Auxiliary	100.00
Union Light	61.00
Viburnum	8.00
Calvary Fellowship	10.00
Total	\$9,834.40

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Hannon	\$ 15.00
Myrtle	117.00
Rock Chapel	70.00
Overland	4.00
O'Fallon	37.50
Thayer	90.00
Niangua	50.00
Verdella	10.00
West Plains 1st	489.00
Faith & Hope, W.S.	25.00
New Harmony	87.76
Columbia 1st	46.87
Blue Springs	10.00
Lebanon	5.00
DeSoto 1st	240.00
J.W. Rader	20.00
Oak Hill, Union	9.00
New Life, O'Fallon	102.49
Wolf Creek	200.00
Mt. Pisgah	50.00
Flat River 1st	76.26
Mountain Grove 1st	267.00
Central	37.50
Madison Co. Quarterly	25.00
Grant Avenue	11.00
Beacon	410.00
Trinity	20.00
Bethel, Festus	45.00
Pleasant Home, M.G.	10.00
Farmington	230.00

Farmington	58.09
Parkview	33.00
Eastern Gate	10.00
Fordland	5.00
Waynesville 1st	25.00
Liberty	150.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Leadington	15.00
Grace	145.00
St. Francois District	2,145.79
Wolf Creek	50.75
Carthage	53.00
New Testament	297.50
Monett 1st	369.50
Indian Creek Quarterly	49.75
Merl's Chapel	127.11
Carthage	100.00
Purdy 1st	251.00
Chapel of Ozarks	26.97
Joplin 1st	935.16
Pleasant Grove	121.70
Faith & Hope, Aurora	201.84
Macedonia, Purdy	1,108.50
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
United, W.P.	669.34
Union Light	35.00
Viburnum	41.00
Calvary Fellowship	100.00
Total	\$9,995.38

JOHN McCURE ACCOUNT

Thayer	\$ 10.00
Monett 1st	225.00
Fordland	5.00
Grace, Arnold	27.50
Monett	30.00
Total	\$297.50

CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Farmington	\$23.97
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FWB HOME FOR CHILDREN, TN.

DeSoto 1st	\$50.00
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FWB CHILDREN'S HOME, AL.

Thayer	\$ 3.00
DeSoto 1st	25.00
Total	\$28.00

1ST FWB CHURCH - RUPERT, ID.

Monett 1st	225.00
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HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Hannon, Liberal	\$ 50.00
Thayer	40.00
Oak Hill, Union	10.00
Grant Avenue, Springfield	8.00
Beacon, Raytown	75.00
Farmington	142.41
Calvary Fellowship, Fenton	35.75
Total	\$361.16

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$ 35.00
DeSoto 1st	35.00
Beacon, Raytown	75.00
Farmington	127.37
Parkview Miss. Group, Desloge	10.00
Calvary Fellowship, Fenton	35.75
Total	\$318.12

MISSOURI STATE YOUTH CAMP

Hannon, Liberal	\$ 15.00
Thayer	35.00
Myrtle	37.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	78.00
Hartville	10.00
DeSoto 1st	50.00
Mt. Pisgah, Cabool	10.00
Flat River 1st	31.30
Mountain Grove 1st	10.00
Trinity, Bridgeton	14.00
Bethel, El Dorado Springs	15.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Parkview Miss. Group, Desloge (Bathrooms)	10.00
Mtn. Grove, Willow Springs	10.00
Calvary Fellowship, Fenton	39.00
Total	\$414.30

Calandar of Events

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS RETREAT

February 8, 9, 1993
Lebanon, MO.

FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

March 19, 20, 1993
Stonecroft Conference Center, Branson, MO.

STATE YOUTH COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

May 14, 15, 1993
Stephens College, Columbia, MO.

SENIOR ADULT RETREAT

May 25-27, 1993
Stonecroft Conference Center, Branson, MO.

MISSOURI STATE CONVENTION/ WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

June 7-10, 1993
Victory FWB Church, Kansas City, MO.

YOUTH CAMP

Teen Camp Group 1, June 13-18, 1993
Teen Camp Group 2, June 20-25, 1993
Pre-Teen Group 1, July 25-30, 1993
Pre-Teen Group 2, August 1-6, 1993

Group 1

Greater Springfield
Bootheel
Indian Creek
Central Western
Mission
Cave Springs
Liberty
Niangua

Group 2

Greater Kansas City
Northwest
South Central
Northeast
St. Louis
St. Francois
Laclede
Mid-Rivers

NATIONAL CONVENTION, NYC & WNAC

July 18-22, 1993
Louisville, KY.

ALL BOARDS MEETING

September 20, 21, 1993
Youth Camp, Niangua, MO.

STATE YOUTH CONFERENCE

November 19, 20, 1993
Camp Windemere, Roach, MO.

*Suggestion: Put this information
on your Church Bulletin Board.*

MO. STATE ASSOC. OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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Lebanon, Missouri 65536

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