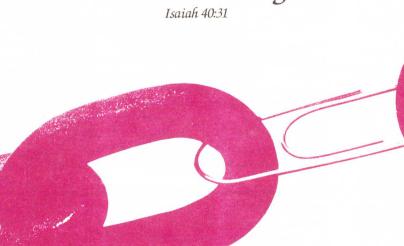
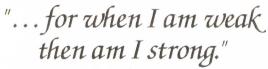


Volume 63, No. 10, October 1993

"... they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;..."





II Corinthians 12:10





From
The Desk of
The

Nathan Ruble

Executive Secretary

During the past year, if you called or stopped by the state office in Lebanon, you were greeted by my wife, Judith. Judy served as receptionist and bookkeeper but now she is returning to the classroom. She will be teaching in a local elementary school. Judy has done an outstanding job and I will miss her in the office.

When you call or visit the state office now, you will be greeted by the new receptionist and bookkeeper, Mrs. Ann Poletti. Ann is known by many Missouri Free Will Baptists as she worked for the Lebanon Bible and Book Store for a little over two and one half years. She also is known through her contribution to the *Gem* magazine. For six years she has written the Youth Look section of the *Gem*. The Lebanon native attended Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College where she earned her Associate Degree. Ann, her husband Tim, and daughter Katelyn, are members of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Lebanon.

Since my wife has returned to her chosen field of endeavor, I am thankful God has supplied a capable replacement. If you call or stop by, take time to say "hi" to Ann.

Flood Relief

by Nathan Ruble

For weeks the news media carried the news of the great flood of '93. Billions of dollars of property and crops were lost. We watched by way of television as homes were moved off their foundations and floated away; as crop ladened fields were inundated; as dikes failed and bridges toppled; as people labored around the clock to save their possessions. The end result was that many people lost the basic needs of life - food, clothing and shelter.

God is to be praised for the response of His people as they gave to help meet the needs of those hurt by the flood. Missouri Free Will Baptists have given generously and compassionately to help. One church in particular has not only given, they have also been actively involved in meeting needs. The Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in Parkville, Missouri, has distributed food, clothing and financial assistance. The church is pastored by Rev. Kevin Jackson.

Free Will Baptists from other states sent financial aid to help Missouri. Churches in South Carolina, Mississippi, and Oklahoma sent generous offerings for relief. Surely God is honored by these acts of compassion. Scripture teaches that a cup of cold water given in the name of the Lord will be rewarded by Him.

Gems From The Past

Editor's Note: (This article was taken from the April 1943 Gem)

CHRIST AND CALVARY by C.B. Decs

Calvary was the foulest spot about the city of Jerusalem. It was outside the walls, and infamous. It was the place where the vilest men were crucified and buried. Crucifixion was disgraceful, so much so that no Roman could be subjected to it. It was the last mark of detestation on the most abandoned and base of men. The soil on the hillside was thin and scanty. The victims of crucifixion had a hasty burial and, often from their scanty graves, their limbs would be left protruding and the bodies of these slain were often unearthed by jackals and beasts of prey. The ground was strewn with the skulls and bones of dead men, and the hill was popularly known as "Golgotha, the place of the skull."

As our Lord was to die the most ignominious of deaths, He must die in the place most infamous, so the counsels of men decided. But long before Herod, Pontius Pilate, or Caiaphas took counsel together, the death, the season, and the spot were appointed in that heavenly council in which the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world, accepted the mission to save ungodly men. Infamous in the eyes of men, Calvary has hallowed all divine services since Jesus died there.

Steadily, the Son of God fixed His eye on Calvary, and toward it He directed His steps from His birth. He came not into the world to live. He came to die. He did live, of course. He grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. He left us an example of living, but all this was incidental, for without Calvary, He would not have trodden the earth at all. Onward, with a steady step, from the manger He moved to the cross. He saw its summit from His home in Nazareth. Its shadow fell on His path as He toiled beneath the hot sun in Nazareth, and all His thoughts were fixed on it. Devout Greeks at Jerusalem sought out His disciples, to whom they said, "Sirs, we would see Jesus." Our Lord knew that only through Calvary could the door of mercy be opened to the Gentiles. "His soul was troubled" at the request. The agony of the atonement pressed upon Him, and visions of the death He must die caused Him to exclaim, "Father, save me from this hour." The corn of wheat must fall to the ground and die. The strengthening voice of God from heaven swept away the agony from His brow, and, with uplifted eyes, He exclaimed, "But for this cause came I unto this hour "

Much could be said about the life of Christ, for it was the most wonderful life ever lived on earth. At thirty, He left the home of Joseph, a few tools, and the work of a carpenter to take up a course of power, renown and repute. People were awed by His divine utterances; the sea and the elements heard His voice and obeyed Him; disease felt His healing touch and departed; demons knew Him and fled from His presence; the grave and corruption gave back their prey at His voice. His miraculous power was seen in all that He did. When men arrested Him, He told them that He gave them power to do so, that it was by His permission that any man touched Him at all. In that senate, amid the fiendish mockeries of His judges, He could have called a legion of angels for His deliverance. He was arrested because He came to the world for that purpose. He laid down His life because He chose to do so, and no

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

man could take it from Him. When He chose, He had the power to take up His life again.

Jesus might have done all these wonderful things, but without the death on Calvary, Jesus Christ would have been just another of the worthy characters to be numbered in the eleventh chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews along with Abraham and Moses and others while the world would have struggled on in sin with no remedy for its guilt. Of His boyhood days, from the time of His return from Egypt until He was twelve years old, we know but little. From twelve years of age until He was thirty, we know still less. The scriptures dwell not on these things which would have been the material for the most wonderful biography ever written. Inspiration hurries on to the Cross as the goal of His work, and the deeds of those closing days that culminated in His death are recounted with a detail that loves to linger about that Cross.

Not only earth, but heaven magnifies Calvary. Two visitors from heaven came to Jesus and conversed with Him; they did not congratulate Him on His performance of mighty miracles, His great teachings, His perfect morality, though all these would have been worthy themes, but they spake of His decease which He should accomplish at Jerusalem. Even heaven could not be silent on the great theme of Calvary, and angels still look on that summit with wonder. Calvary will never pass away. When the decree goes forth that time shall be no more, Calvary, like a jewel from a crushed crown, will abide. Around it the redeemed, before the throne, shall meet and sing in the presence of the Lamb, "Thou hast redeemed us by Thy BLOOD."

The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

Have you ever tried to explain something to someone who has no idea what you're talking about? Try explaining a white cloud floating in a blue sky to a blind person. Someone who has been blind since birth probably will not understand even the colors you are trying to explain. Walk up to someone who has not been forced to live in the "computer age" and begin talking software, commands, and laser printers. It likely will become a one-sided conversation.

In Vacation Bible School, the 5th & 6th graders attempted to explain modern transportation to someone from the 1700's who had been exposed only to "horse and buggy" transportation --- me!! They tried their best to get me to understand what things were like 200 years later but could not put into words something that "I" did not have even the most basic concept of. Finally, one frustrated boy said, "I can't tell you in a way you'll understand, but I know you'll like it."

It all fit perfectly with our lesson that night: John's vision of Heaven and trying to describe it to us -- a people who cannot begin to understand such beauty and perfection. He tries in Revelation to let us know how wonderful Heaven is, probably knowing our minds could not fully comprehend. It had to be frustrating for John to see something so perfect and not be able to put its glory into words.

This should result in great joy for us, knowing that Heaven is much more wonderful than the beautiful place John described. When he said that our eyes had not seen and our ears had not heard the wonderful things God had in store for us, I think it was his way of saying, "I can't tell you in a way you'll understand, but I know you'll like it."

Death Notice

Mrs. Prayer Meeting died recently at the First Neglected Church, on Worldly Avenue. Born many years ago in the midst of great revivals, she was a strong, healthy child, fed largely on testimony and scriptural holiness, soon growing into worldwide prominence, and was one of the most influential members of the famous Church family.

For the past several years, Sister Prayer Meeting has been failing in health, gradually wasting away until rendered helpless by stiffness of knees, coldness of heart, inactivity, and weakness of purpose and will power. At the last, she was but a shadow of her former happy self. Her last whispered words were inquiries concerning the strange absence of her loved ones now absent from her presence, busy in the marts of trade and places of worldly amusements. Her older brother, Brother Class Meeting, has been dead many years.

Experts, including Dr. Works, Dr. Reform, and Dr. Joiner, disagreed as to the cause of her fatal illness, administering large doses of organization, socials, contest, and drives, but to no avail. A post mortem showed that a deficiency of spiritual food, coupled with lack of fasting, faith, heartfelt religion and non-support were contributing causes. Only a few were present at her death, sobbing over memories of her past beauty and power. Carefully selected pallbearers were urged to tenderly bear her remains away, but failed to appear. There were no flowers. Her favorite hymns, 'Amazing Grace' and 'Rock of Ages', were not sung. Miss Ima Modern rendered, 'Beautiful Isles of Somewhere,' but none had any idea where this fancied isles might be. The body rests in the beautiful cemetery of Bygone Glories awaiting the summons from above.

In honor of her going, the church doors will be closed on Wednesday night, save on the third Wednesday night of each month, when the Ladies' Pink Lemonade Society serves refreshments to the members of the men's handball team.

From The Free Will Baptist Echo

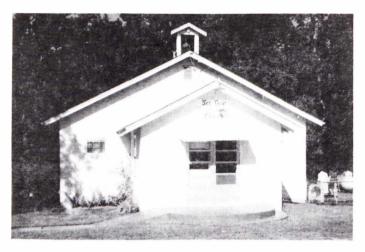
You Can Make A Difference!

Tony Leake, a member of the Belton Free Will Baptist Church in Belton, Missouri, proved that you can make a difference in society with a little effort and persistence.

KCMO radio, in Kansas City, featured a nighttime radio sexologist until July of this year. The show "Let's Talk Sex", was cancelled after Leake and some friends voiced their opposition to the show.

Late this spring, Tony Leake got some friends to donate a little money and mount a crusade against the sex show. He spent about four months letting the advertisers know that his group was upset with their advertising on the show. When the advertisers begin to pull out, KCMO was determined to keep the show so they pulled all the advertisers out of the sex show and carried the program.

Leake then contacted advertisers who bought time in other periods. Sixty days later the show was dropped. The Kansas City Star quoted Brian Wilson, KCMO program director, as saying, "I'm sure he considers it a great victory. And that's fine if he wants to take credit for it - particularly if he goes away and leaves us alone."



New Home Church

New Home Church Celebrates 100 Years

Sunday, September 5, 1993, the New Home Free Will Baptist Church in Wright County celebrated 100 years of service to the Lord and the community. People began to gather early for the all day service. Some used the time to walk through the cemetery to stand by the grave side of a loved one and remember other times. Others stood in the vestibule and chatted as they looked at the pictures which lined the walls.

At 10:30 a.m. the Pastor John Postlewaite welcomed a congregation that filled the house. Sister Pauline Long led the congregation in singing "All Hail the Power" and "Blessed Be the Name". Special music was presented by Sister Jane Benton, the New Home Choir, and the Dowden Trio. The morning message was delivered by Rev. Nathan Ruble, Executive Secretary of the Missouri State Association. He commended the church for having a faith like Abraham's. Following the morning service a delicious, bountiful lunch was served by the church.

The afternoon service as highlighted by a skit portraying the organizational meeting of the church. Descendants of the original sixteen members made up the cast. Rev. Stanley Jones prayed the prayer of dedication as he reenacted the role of his grandfather, Rand Jones. Sister Leah Postlewaite, the Pastor's wife, wrote and directed the skit.

Both in the morning and afternoon service, former pastors and their wives were given the opportunity to share their memories of the New Home Church. Rev. Ivan Parker said, "I spent the best part of my ministry at New Home Church." Sister Dale Allsman, widow of Rev. Marion Allsman, recounted, "This place holds a lot of good memories. I remember one testimony service that started in Sunday School and lasted until 1:00 p.m." Sister Ruby Montgomery, widow of Rev. Clyde Montgomery, recalled, "I have many precious memories of New Home. My husband and I visited in many of the homes of the community." Rev. Herbert Vandivort said, "I loved the church and the neighborhood. The people treated me real nice. A great number of people will inherit the glory land because of this church." Sister Bessie Vandivort told how her uncle rode thirty miles on horseback to pastor the church. Rev. Jerry Ward said, "My fondest memory of the church is that it was built and still stands on the Word of God." Rev. R.E. Helsley said, "A lot of folks will miss hell and gain heaven because of the New Home Church." Two former pastors, Troy Burney and I.L. Florence, sent letters which were read.

Pastor and Mrs. Postlewaite shared memories of their relationship with the church. He told of holding revivals there as a young

man, before and shortly after, he was married. Sister Leah read a list of remembrances which were heart warming. Brother John may have summed it up best when he said, "New Home is one of the best churches I have pastored."

The congregation was given time to share their memories of the Church. Many, with tears of joy, told of the impact that the church has had in their lives of their families.

The services were concluded by singing "Until We Meet Again" and prayer.

The New Home Church was organized on April 17, 1893, with 16 charter members. Uncle Tom (T.M.) Lawler donated land for the original church and cemetery. In 1903, the building burned. According to the history of the Church, they were without a building until 1912. Through great sacrifice, a new building was built and the church was reorganized June 1, 1912. In 1953, Pastor Herbert Vandivort encouraged the church to start a building fund for a new church building. The new building was begun in 1956 and completed in 1957.

The Church is a mission-minded Church. In 1951, the church started giving to Foreign Missions and in 1958 they started giving to Home Missions.

Many important events have taken place at New Home. There have been wonderful revivals, many souls saved, numerous funerals conducted, weddings performed, Bible Schools taught, Christmas programs presented, and many prayers prayed. Unnumbered deeds of kindness and labors of love have been rendered by the members of the church. Preachers, Sunday School teachers, deacons, Youth Directors and many other Christian workers are now serving the Lord in other areas, who were once a part of this church.

The Church has been pastored by the following:

M.E. Brashier Bro. Hensley Bro. Chambers William Sheets Edd Delcour Marion Williams L.J. Gearing George Scott Eli Burney Clarence Ussery J.E. Burney A.J. Kelsay Elmer Synder
Samuel Marcum
John Moore
Bud Cope
Wid McClanahan
Bland Massey
Walter George
Lester Lawler
Leo Curtis
Jeff Postlewaite
Herbert Vandivort
Marion Allsman

Carl Postlewaite
R.E. Helsley
Donovan Maxwell
Clyde Montgomery
Dan Talbot
Guy Hutsell
Troy Burney
I.L. Florence
Ivan Parker
Jerry Ward
John Postlewaite



Part of the Homecoming Congregation



New Home Choir



Present and Former Pastors & Wives



Organizational Skit



Pastor & Mrs. John Postlewaite

25 Years of Service by Junc Withers



Jack & Freda Day

On Sunday, August 1st, the congregation of Black Oak Free Will Baptist church in Marshfield honored Rev. Jack and Freda Day for 25 years of pastoring the church. An open house was held from 2-4 p.m. with family and friends attending to thank the Days for their faithful service.

Rev. Jack Day delivered his first message to the Black Oak church on August 4, 1968. He and Freda have touched many lives during this 25 years.

Rev. Day's strong commitment to his church family and community is one reason that the church continues to grow today. The Days have given up countless hours of their personal life to do God's work.

The Black Oak congregation wishes to thank Rev. Jack and Freda Day for the continuing labor of God's work and the twenty-five years of love and commitment shown to the Black Oak FWB Church.

Black Oak VBS

Black Oak FWB Church in Marshfield held Vacation Bible School during the week of August 9-13. An average of 70 turned out, anxious to learn about God's word. The study of Noah's ark, Leroy the Lion puppet, music, crafts, and snacks (of course) combined to make an exciting week for all.

Each child, teacher, and some helpers had a t-shirt made with the VBS theme on it: "Of all His creatures great and small, Jesus loves you most of all." The shirts were worn during the program on Saturday night, August 14th.

The program consisted of each class conveying through puppets, songs, and quizzes what had been learned during the week. Black Oak hopes these lessons will guide each child throughout his life.

Living by Faith

by Ellen Starns

The Lord has been blessing Faith Free Will Baptist Church in Lemay. Since June 1, 1992, Faith has been without a permanent pastor. Several ministers filled in, and Bro. H. T. Dann began serving as the "temporary" pastor. During the first week of June 1993 -- one year after the search began for a permanent pastor -- Rev. Harry Asher answered the Lord's call to fill this need of a pastor.

During the week of June 28, James Starns, Tony Starns, Stephen Hasty, and Lindell Willhite labored in the hot sun to put up a beautiful chain link fence and gate for the parking lot. A man living next door to, but not attending, the Faith Church has complimented the workers on the nice appearance of the church and the attention which goes into taking care of the church.

Also, some members of Faith donated money to buy beautiful new offering plates and a communion set. These new pieces replaced a set which the church had used for at least twenty years.

Faith Church would like to thank everyone for the prayers, support, and help. God will surely bless you as He has blessed us!



Standing with the new fence are, left to right back: Lindell Willhite, Harry Asher, Carl Hasty, James Starns. Front: H.T. Dann, Tony Starns, Stephen Hasty.



Pastor Harry Asher & Rev. H.T. Dann.

VBS at Lebanon

Crafts... snacks... Leroy the Lion with his words of wisdom.... Under the direction of Connie Myers, Vacation Bible School was held at Lebanon's First Free Will Baptist Church during the week of August 9 - 13. The attendance grew nightly with the highest night's attendance near 80 and the week's average attendance around 70.

Students enjoyed an idea which was used for the first time at the church: a miniature Christian bookstore set up in the church basement and stocked with prizes. Students could buy from the store according to the points accumulated by attending VBS, bringing Bibles and guests, learning memory verses, and participating in class. This reward system was definitely a "hit" as the students diligently worked to earn the highest number of points possible.

The week's offering of \$70 was combined with a church offering taken for the Hannibal Free Will Baptist Church. The hope was that the money would help the mission work as well as provide relief to any of the church's members who were affected by the summer's flood.

All those involved in VBS missed Pastor Gary and Sister Betty Sheets' involvement after Tuesday night. The unexpected death of Sister Betty's father prevented them from attending the rest of the week. Pastor Gary expressed the deepest heartfelt thanks for the capable director and workers who were able to carry on in his and Betty's absences.

The highlight of the week came when six young souls were saved. The church had already been rejoicing over three conversions during pre-teen week at camp. The three were baptized on August 8th.

Praise God for His continued goodness to the First FWB Church in Lebanon!



Belton:

The Belton Church averaged 101 in V.B.S. The V.B.S. offering was designated to the Youth Camp for the new men's shower house.

Grant Ave.:

The Grant Ave. Woman's Auxiliary collected \$74.00 during their special project for Ron and Linda Moore. The money will be used to buy toys for the children the Moores work with.

Parkview:

The Parkview Church recently purchased a new 15 passenger Ford van and it's paid for.

Calvary Fellowship:

Calvary Fellowship has voted to build a new Family Life Center.

Beacon:

Beacon held a church growth seminar featuring Don Guthrie from Plano, Texas.

DeSoto:

The Joymakers, a senior adult group, held a walk-a-thon to raise money to help complete the mini-golf course at the Youth Camp.



Rev. & Mrs. James Crawford

New Church at Northview

A new church is being planted at Northview, Missouri, under the leadership of Missionary Pastor James Crawford. Brother Crawford was the founding pastor of the Fordland and Fair Grove Free Will Baptist Churches.

Sunday School Attendance Averages March 1993 - August 1993

CHURCHES	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
Belton	70	72	69	67	71	72
Bethel, Festus	56	55	39	42	41	49
Calvary Chapel	79	83	74	75		
Calvary Fellowship	356	284				
Cape Girardeau	96	99	89	82	83	87
Central	86	85	72	73	65	63
Cuba	128	118	106	107	92	100
DeSoto	189	179	179	175	172	179
Farmington	369	321	296	310	297	333
Flat River First	151	142	136	139	136	137
Hannon	78	72	72	79	86	72
Harmony	88	82	63	67	60	
Hartville	116	107	109	99	101	113
Hopewell	38	39	37	27	31	31
Houston	59	55	51	49	54	49
Jones Creek	24	21	22	20		18
Kirksville	33	33	30	29		
Lebanon First	104	106	96	96	94	93
Marshfield	30	32	27	35	36	
Myrtle						21
Parkview	60	55	55	49	48	54
Richwoods	55	52	42			
Rock Chapel	66	68	65	65	55	66
Springfield First	137	123	109	102		112
Thayer	143	124		120	128	121
United, West Plains	197	196		195	189	199
Unity	40	40	41	39	48	44
Verdella	70	72	74	68	63	65
Victory	79					
Waynesville	47			66		
Willow Springs	65	75	74	75	69	

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.



A Farewell Tribute To Sister Lillian

by Sue Winchester

Lillian Underwood Hovis, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, went home to be with the Lord June 23, 1993. It's been a tremendous loss not only to her family, but for her church family and friends, too numerous to list. Personally speaking, she was my role model, mentor, encourager and friend. I was one of many women who felt that way. She left for us a beautiful and timeless legacy. She touched many lives with her warmth and friendliness. The testimony of her faithfulness to God will live on in all our hearts.

Lillian was a very kind and gentle soul, but don't cross her when it came to the Lord, church, and family. She was fierce in her devotion to her priorities. Though she worked outside the home for many years as a nurse, she kept her priorities straight. With the attributes she had, it always seemed fitting that she chose to go into nursing. It wasn't just a job, it was an extension of herself.

She labored faithfully at Fourth Church in St. Louis. Even at times when she might have felt discouraged Lillian, along with her husband Lindell, kept pressing on always believing the tide would turn and God would bless their faithfulness. Whether playing the piano, singing a special or helping to serve dinner in the church basement, Lillian could always be counted on.

She was very active in Woman's Auxiliary. She not only came up with ideas for mission projects, but she gave of her time and means to see them completed. I especially remember her enthusiasm for raising money for missions. Her example showed that there was always a way if you looked for it. Cookbooks, rummage and bake sales, quilts, and suppers; she knew how to get the job done. She taught us that "begging" was okay for the cause of Christ. One of Lillian's last mission projects was to help raise funds for my niece, Angel Mertz, as she prepared to go to Panama with the Team missions effort. Lillian truly had a burden for souls which was not limited to her own community or to Panama where her daughter Judy and family serve.

Lillian would probably be a little embarrassed by this. She lived her life for

God's glory, not her own. She loved people and was given to hospitality. She had a servant's heart. Our pastor, Brother Bill Adkisson, eulogized her best using the word, faithful. She put the needs of others ahead of her own until she succumbed to pancreatic and liver cancer and the Lord took her home on that prayer meeting night.

Editor's note: I had the privilege to be Sister Lillian's pastor for five years. She was a fine Christian lady who will be missed. Her children are a testimony of Lillian's and her husband Lindell's devotion to the Lord. Their four children are serving the Lord. One daughter, Judy Lytle with her husband Steve, are missionaries to Panama. Another daughter, Brenda Blankenship, works with her husband Leory pastoring the First Free Will Baptist Church in Henderson, Texas.



Benjamin Randall Day November 21, 1993

This is part of the "Together Way Plan" adopted by the National Association. Every Pastor who sends an offering from his church will receive a beautiful parchment copy of the Articles of Faith drawn up by Benjamin Randall. He will also receive a copy of the book, Stones of Remembrance, a new novel written by Mrs. Eleanor Grindstaff which gives an exciting fictional narrative of Benjamin Randall and his followers. Every individual giving \$25.00 or more will also receive a copy of her exciting new book.

A New Book About Benjamin Randall!

To help your church have a successful Benjamin Randall Day and a generous offering, order *free* Home Missions material such as Bulletin Inserts, Offering Envelopes, Bulletin Board Posters, Mission Maps, etc., from Home Missions, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Randall videos and Journals are also available.

Mrs. Freda Marie Sell Home With the Lord

On Wednesday, August 18, 1993, a Memorial Service was held for Sister Freda Marie Sell. She was born to Finis and Ida Dodson Alexander October 9, 1905, and

went home to be with the Lord August 15, 1993, at the age of 87 years.

On October 22, 1921, she was married to Ashley Champer Sell. To this union six children were born. Surviving is her husband, of almost 72 years, Champer; 2 sons, Champer Glenn Sell and wife Gloria of Springfield and James Sell and wife Shirley of Niangua; Freda and husband Rev. Jack Day of Marshfield; Saundra and husband Beryl Rhyne of Springfield; a daughter in law, Opal Sell of Marshfield; a brother, Dempsy Alexander of Marshfield; 25 grandchildren, 38 great grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.

Mrs. Sell was a member of the Niangua Free Will Baptist Church. She had been a cook for the Niangua School System for 25 years and for 22 years she had been a

cook for the Missouri State Free Will Baptist Youth Camp at Niangua.

Rev. Jack Day, a son-in-law, delivered the Memorial Message. He was assisted by Rev. Clarence Burton, a family friend. Brother Day, emphasized the faithfulness and kindness of his mother-in-law. He said, "Everyone was her friend, and her life was patterned after the Lord in helping others." Brother Day reminded everyone that death will come to each one of us, and we need to know Christ as Saviour and be prepared to meet Him.

Brother Burton, recalled the faithful service Sister Sell had rendered to the Lord by her labor in the kitchen at Youth Camp. He said, "Sister Sell, fed many hungry faces and she was a helper to many. She loved the Lord and she loved people. The memory of her and her family will linger long for all of us."

Internment was at the Niangua Cemetery.

Impressions

by Judy Steska

On Friday, August 13, as my twoand-a-half year old daughter, Katie, and I were driving home from town, she wanted, as usual, to take off her shoes and socks. I told her she could, and they immediately came off, falling to the floorboard of the car. She is constantly full of questions now and wanting to have everything explained why things are the way they are. So she asked, "What's that?"

I looked over at her sitting in her car seat, pointing at her feet. Observing her feet, I saw ridges from her socks and an indentation across the top of her foot from the strap on her shoe. I smiled and answered, "That is from your socks and shoes; it's called an impression. It happens when you've had something on for a long time." That satisfied her, and I thought about what we had just discussed as I continued to drive down the road.

An impression appears after wearing something or leaning against something for a long period of time. None of us can escape impressions. If we spend a lot of time with things of this world, it WILL leave an impression. You cannot possibly spend hours with worldly music, television, people, or the other things the world offers without it affecting your mind, spirit, and even your body. Marks will appear that will be visible to anyone. Your spiritual life WILL suffer, and may be completely destroyed if you do not take away the things of the world and allow them to fall to the ground. Don't allow these marks to become scars which will never disappear!

However, look up and hold your heads high, ye Christians. Just as the things of this would will mar you, spending time with our Almighty God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will leave great and glorious marks for the world to see. Prayer, fasting, Bible reading, and seeking His will in our lives will leave an impression of a man or woman at peace with a just God. Your soul will be joyful, desiring the things of God and wanting to live with Him according to His will -not yours.

Knowing that each of us have an impression that IS visible, let us strive to know ours is one from spending time with Jesus. He is our only hope! If you are bearing the marks of Christ, you can be assured you are on the winning side; for greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world!

I Grew Up in a Christian Home (Yawn)

by Debbie Elkink

If I were really honest, I would have to admit that there were many things I hated about Camp Arnes. I hated the early morning calisthenics in a clammy bathing suit, and I hated the outhouses and the mushy porridge. But what I hated most about Camp Arnes were the testimony times.

Testimony time took place on the beach around a huge bonfire. We sang. We prayed. And then we passed around a box full of little chunks of wood, and everyone took one.

Somebody, most often a self-assured gorgeous blond, would flick her chip of wood into the fire, stand, and tell the story of her salvation.

"My parents were divorced when I was four because my father beat my mother black-and-blue every night. So my niece and I grew up together and ran away to Morocco when we were sixteen. While hitchhiking around, I - uh - fell in love with a 30-year-old Greek, and we were married. Then he ran off with my niece (remember my niece?). Finally the Lord brought me to a revival meeting in Holland, and it was there that I got sayed."

How would I follow an act like that? Why didn't I get up? Why didn't I stride forward and throw my "chip" into the fire? I didn't because, alas, I had no tale of misfortune or self-destruction to tell. I had had no life of abuse or truancy from which I had turned to Christ.

I'd always gone to Sunday school and Church. I'd always listened to my parents (more or less) and didn't cheat on exams, or shoplift costume jewelry from K-Mart, or even smoke behind the school. I took part in the local "Prayer and Praise" meetings with the other Christian kids in the neighborhood. I went to a Christian boarding school for my eleventh grade year and even taught little children about Jesus one summer with Child Evangelism Fellowship. My story, compared to the others, was about as interesting as porridge.

One time, when I actually did get up the nerve to "toss in my chip," my testimony went like this:

"I was brought up in a Christian home (here, one-half of the campers began to yawn) and accepted Christ at a very early age. I'm so happy I'm a Christian." So who was interested in that? I felt cheated -- left with the kind of testimony no one cared to hear. I thought I had nothing to tell.

It wasn't that I thought I was sinless! I realized that my "small" sins were as despicable to God as others' "big" ones. But one has to face the facts: Losing your temper doesn't seem half as glamourous as stealing a car! With such a humdrum, steady, and secure Christian life, how could I be expected to be a witness of God's power to others?

One day, my questions were answered.

My friend, Bonnie, was raised in a Christian home, but turned her back on that way of life. First, it was mild -- deceiving her parents, ignoring her spiritual training. Soon she found herself partying and doing drugs. Then she got into witchcraft.

Eventually, Bonnie got herself straightened out, and now she's a gentle, loving and, in many ways, spiritually mature Christian. But I see that old life of hers pulling at her. Even though she's given herself completely over to God, her past experience haunts her.

But Bonnie isn't the only person whose pre-salvation life "unbalances" her now. There's the girl who got attention by wearing suggestive clothes and now finds herself craving that attention again, and the new Christian who unwittingly twists God's Word around because he never had a spiritual upbringing.

A friend of mine grew up within a secular family and had no contact with Christians until a year ago when she met me. She accepted salvation recently and commented to me, "I really started thinking seriously about Christianity when I saw the love and security of your parents' home. Everyone seems to trust God in everyday life, and no one makes a big deal of it."

It was through that calm and secure feeling -- the very one I considered the humdrumness of Christian life -- that my friend saw the power of God. So what if I don't have firsthand experience in drugs and gambling? My conversion wasn't a turnabout from a sensationally wicked life to a saintly existence.

Rather, my Christian experience has been a day-by-day spiritual plodding --two steps forward, one step back. I thought I didn't have a story to tell, but I found out that God will display his power in every type of Christian witness. Isn't he creative?

(This article was supplied by the David C. Cook Publishing Co.)

Building Self Esteem in Teens

by Dr. Bob Laurent

(continued from last month's GEM)

5. Help them experience satisfaction and find balance with their physical appearance.

As crucial as it is to encourage your teen to focus on his internal qualities, the fact is that there will probably be times when he can't see that "eternal" because the "temporary" is driving him to distraction.

Having a teenager who is inordinately vain about his looks is a problem. But is it less vain or destructive for a teen to be self-consumed with what he considers to be a physical flaw? I was extremely self-conscious and rendered socially dysfunctional in my early teen years by a chipped front tooth. After being teased by some kids at school about my "Bucky Beaver" grin, it became difficult for me to look people straight on when talking with them, and I eventually developed a crooked smile which remains with me today. My confidence level skyrocketed the weekend I had my teeth capped.

Whether you need to connect with an orthodontist for braces, an optometrist for contact lenses, a dermatologist for skin care, or even a plastic surgeon for help with a crooked nose, your teen's appreciation will make the expense worth it. It may free them up to go deeper when they are no longer plagued by a surface problem.

6. Remind them often of their inestimable worth.

I believe that it is God's desire that our teens value themselves in accordance with the price He has placed upon them. Your teenager is worth the death of Jesus Christ.

My sixteen-year-old son and I have a better understanding of that price because of a severely broken leg he suffered in a skiing accident when he was seven. For some reason there was no doctor available to set his bone on that raw February evening, so the decision was made to get him through the night with pain shots.

My nerves were on edge and my heart breaking with compassion as I sat in his darkened hospital room, listening to his quiet weeping turn to crying and eventually to feverish screaming. I felt totally helpless and gladly would have offered both of my legs for breaking if it would have alleviated the smallest part of his suffering. Eventually, the pain was so intense and his fear of another hypodermic needle so vivid that he called me over to his bed. "Dad," he begged me, "you've got to promise me something!"

"What is it, son?" I replied, unable any longer to restrain my own tears.

"Don't let them stick me again!" he implored.

Scarcely a moment later, the nurse called me into the hallway and said, "Mr. Laurent, your son is waking this whole wing up. I have instructions to help him get to sleep."

I was relieved to hear that and wondered why they hadn't done so earlier. "Fine," I answered, "How are you going to do it?"

"I have to give him another injection. I need you to hold him down for me."

I pinned my son's spindly arms to the bed as the nurse whipped the sheet off his body and, for the fifth time that night, jabbed him in his bottom with the hypodermic.

His eyes were as big as saucers as he stared at me and let out a scream that pierced me like cold steel: "DA-A-A-A-A-A-DD!"

For the first time in my life, I understood the Father's side of the cross.

The day before His death at Golgotha, Jesus informed His best friends that He would be crucified and that, in the end, even they would betray Him. They were vehement in their denial and pledged their loyalty to Him. In view of what happened on Friday, His next words surely came from the human side of the God-man. "But I will not be alone, for my Father will be with me."

Jesus spoke several times as He hung on the cross for six hours between Heaven and Hell. But to me, His most poignant speech occurred at the moment He fully realized the price which sin was to exact. Bleeding to death for the sins of the world, He became aware of something which had never happened since before the dawn of time. "My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?"

Did God the Father hear His only Son crying, "DA-A-A-A-ADD!" when, because Jesus became my sin, His own father turned away from Him?

If I, having been created in the image of God, instinctively was ready to sacrifice all of my limbs that night just to repair my son's leg, what might the Father-heart of God felt on the dark afternoon His Son was murdered? The more basic question, though, is, why did He allow it?

The answer for you and your teenager is that you both are worth the death

of Jesus Christ. You are that much loved.

Dr. Bob Laurent has ministered to teens for more than 20 years. He holds a Ph.D in Religious Education, specializing in adolescent psychology. This excerpt, reprinted with permission from David C. Cook Publishing Co., is from his book Improving Your Child's Self-Image (LifeJourey Books).

Limits

by Mary Vaughn Armstrong

When my husband's invalid mother came to live with us, my naive expectations soon crumbled under caregiving's realities. It would be a piece of cake! I'd thought. I'd simply get up as early, move as fast, plan as well, and stay up as late as the situation demanded.

My life would continue as before. Vacation Bible School, dinner with friends, Bible study, writing, Prayer Chain link, early morning walks, relaxed Sunday afternoons, and more. I convinced myself that I could neatly slip caregiving into the few remaining spaces of each day.

That theory exploded the day I fell sound asleep in church for the first time in my life, and realized something had to give. Dead ahead loomed a crossroads: simplify my schedule or collapse under its weight.

Are you facing a similar change point in your life? Does an avalanche of yesterday's commitments threaten to bury today's reality? Do you cry easily? Lash out at those you love with words you loathe? Drag yourself into bed praying tomorrow never comes?

Join hands with overcommitted people around the world who have reduced their obligations. Ask God to bathe you with His wisdom, to make clear what duties you must ask to be excused from. Let Him reveal what has become a burden, and what to do about it. Then obey the Holy Spirit's voice. Dial the phone and say, "Thank you, but I can't right now."

Excerpt from Quiet Moments for Parents and Other Caregivers (LifeJourney Books, a division of David C. Cook).

Missionary Newsletter Excerpts

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

From the Maness' in New Jersey:

Sunday, July 11, we had four saved, eight baptized, thirty-two received communion, and, YES, twenty adults (10 men and 10 women) washed feet. Our Sunday school average was up by four.

From the Jones' in Mexico:

At the Mexican National Convention we spoke with eight different people who have intentions of coming to the school. Two married couples are included in this, which is a real step of faith for them. Their churches are planning on helping support them while they are in school, and the *Student Fund* will help them with their school costs and books. Please pray for these young couples. Remember to pray also for our teachers who are preparing for the upcoming classes.

From the Johnsons in Cheyenne:

God still answers prayer! Our song leader has gotten out of the military and moved to Kentucky. We began to pray and the Lord answered. We had a man saved who has a good voice and is now leading our singing! We are also thankful that we now have several who are capable of teaching children. They are studying God's Word and are being faithful to the church and are trying to live according to God's Word.

From the Lloyds in Wisconsin:

After a long journey, the Lloyd family finally arrived safely back in Wisconsin, and were thrilled to learn that our mission church did well in their Pastor's absence. David, Jerry, and Bryant took turns filling the pulpit, keeping West Madison Mission Church open, and doing a great job for Jesus (they recorded each service on audio cassettes and I was pleased with the results). Several of our church attenders have been visiting and inviting others to church, and some prospects have come as a result. Although the nucleus of our church is still very weak, you would be blessed and encouraged to meet the families attending the only Free Will Baptist Church in the state of Wisconsin.

From the VanWinkles in Kansas:

One year later, I feel an obligation to give an "Annual Report to Stockholders." You can rejoice in the fact that the consistent investment of your prayers and finances are reaping the following dividends: a new church that began worship services in April of this year; families who are now a part of Christ's Kingdom that did not even attend church before; at least three individuals who will be baptized this month; the beginning of ministries and programs that meet the needs of those in this community; a foundation for continued growth of our church and our denomination. God has blessed your investment in so many ways in just this first year. I can't wait to see how he multiplies his blessings in the years to come.

From the Vandivorts in Arizona:

Will you please pray that God would call someone in your area who would be committed to raising \$1,000 to \$10,000 for the Flagstaff Project. We are asking for an *interest-free loan* rather than a gift. The Sunset FWB Mission's monthly payments on the interest-free loan will build an endowment which will be available if God should call your grandson, or ours, to build a Free Will Baptist Church in the future. Most of the people in our Sunset FWB Mission have limited incomes. For several years, we have not had sufficient budget to enable us to make a \$1,000 or more per month payment on a 10% loan. We are *deeply grateful* for each of you who have given \$10, \$100, or \$1,000 to the Flagstaff Project.

From the Doggetts in Illinois:

July is supposed to be a slow month for church work. It was a bit different for us. We had a good month! A total of 23 first-time visitors attended Heritage Free Will Baptist Church during the month! Our high attendance was 30 on a Sunday evening and 24 for a Sunday morning. We had two decisions for the month. We give praise to the Lord!

From the Harveys in Arizona:

I am glad to report that we had three precious souls to come forward and make a public profession of faith and three rededications! "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow." One of them was Chris, nephew of Phil and Jan, that I wrote about in my last newsletter. I hope you will help us pray for Chris's Mom and Dad. They are very cold and negative toward God and everything connected to Him. Continue to pray for John and Wilma Riggs. God has sure had them under conviction, but they are really fighting it. Wilma said she knew what she had to do but wasn't ready to do it. John came last Sunday but he said Wilma was really down and didn't want to come.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

From the Lytles in Panama:

TEAM PANAMA 93: What an incredible group of kids! There was never a dull moment while they were here! Sixteen teenagers from Free Will Baptist churches around the country, receiving their first exposure to missions -- up close and personal. Our boys were blessed by being able to work with the group as interpreters. The kids stayed mostly in Panamanian homes, and the bonding that took place with the host families was beautiful to see. As they visited each of our churches and mission works, singing, sharing their testimonies, and witnessing, only eternity will reveal the impact they had. We do know that our Panamanian kids were challenged, and at least one of the TEAM members confirmed her call to the mission field as a result of this experience. WE ESPECIALLY APPRECIATE TERRY AND JAMIE EAGLETON FOR ACCOMPANYING THE GROUP, AND GIVING SO MUCH OF THEMSELVES.

From the Turnboughs in Spain:

We are searching for a small office space downtown Villalba to branch out in a new way in our ministry. Please pray that God will provide the right office in the right place for the ministry He wants. This will open up a whole new area of contacts among Villalba's business people, help coordinate the Villalba team in its activities, and help divide family and work time (which up to this point had been blurred because of our offices being located in our homes). We pray this will enhance outreach (evangelism) and enable us to sharpen our discipleship ministry.

Financial Information

AUGUST 1993 COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College

....8,491.38

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

(\$84.91 included in \$8,491.38)

Program......2,505.65

5.00% Mo. State Conferen	ce	Pleasant Ridge, Urbana	110.00	Farmington	20.00	Calvary Fellowship	880
Center Fund		Hopewell		Trinity		Beacon	
TOTAL		Fourth		J. Rader		C. Layman	
		Grace		Fordland		Mountain Grove 1st	
God continues to bless the f		Parkview		Grant Ave		New Life Fellowship	
istent giving of the churches nd He is to be praised. Sou		Potosi 1st	102.75	Union Light		Unity	
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r their Great Commission		Mt. Pisgah		Parkview		MISSOURI FWB YOU	
riting to the Church a		Copper Mines	255.07	Flat River 1st		Hannon	
aid"He who sows sparing	gly will also	Fredericktown 1st	343.00	Mt. Pisgah		Thayer	
ap sparingly, and he who s	ows bounti-	South Fremont	405.00	South Fremont		Hartville	
illy will also reap bountifully	." II Cor. 9:6	Salem	90.00	Victory		Willow Springs, Mtn. G	
he allocation for Nationa	I Ministries	Niangua	11.00	Leadington		DeSoto 1st	
oes undesignated for this		Victory		Wolf Creek		Lebanon Bible & Book	
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mount. California Christian		Wolf Creek		Waynesville 1st		Trinity	14
ontinue to receive the 1%.	oomogo	Crossroads, Wentzville		Calvary Fellowship		Ozark 1st	
Offilings to receive the tree		Waynesville 1st		Beacon		Flat River 1st	24
UGUST 1993		Beacon		Buffalo 1st		Mt. Pisgah	
OOPERATIVE		Niangua		United		Calvary Fellowship	2
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ill Creek		STATE HOME MISSIONS		Blue Springs	\$ 87.00	FWB BIBLE COLLEG	
		Hannon		C. Thompson		Thayer	
onett		Thayer		Hannon		DeSoto 1st	3
artville		O'Fallon 1st		Thayer		Farmington	13
oshkonong	75.30	Macedonia Aux		Leadington		TOTAL	
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eosho 1st				Hartville		Hannon	
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outh Fremont		Rock Chapel		Neosho 1st		South Fremont	
ouston 1st	314.92	United		Macedonia Aux		Farmington	
iangua	14.00	Pleasant Ridge, Urbana		New Testament			
ictory, Alton		DeSoto 1st		Carthage	82.00	Ozark 1st	
nion Grove		West Plains 1st		Faith & Hope, Willow Springs	125.00	Grant Avenue	
erl's Chapel		Lebanon Bible & Book		South Fremont	172.19	Victory	
alvary Chapel		Lebanon		Houston 1st	149.89	Oak Hill	
ock Chapel		Joplin 1st	5.00	D. Akeman	10.00	TOTAL	\$/1
nited		New Testament	20.00	Merl's Chapel	200.00		-
oyal Oak		Macedonia Woman's Aux	50.00	Calvary Chapel	150.00	REV. JOHN McCLUR	
tockton		New Home, Hartville	200.00	Rock Chapel		Thayer	
leasant Ridge, Urbana		Oak Hill, Union	19.00	S. Hart		Grace	1
ubau		Farmington	76.66	United	85 18	Unity	
reeman Chapel		Trinity	75.00	Pleasant Ridge, Urbana		Monett 1st	1
		Marshfield		Freeman Chapel		TOTAL	\$5
/illow Springs, Mtn. Grove .		Ozark Mission	800.00	DeSoto 1st			
armony, Parkville		Grant Ave	86.83	DeSoto Joymakers		MO. FWB YOUTH MI	NISTRIES
ctory Hill		Union Light				Lebanon Bible & Book	
eSoto 1st		Indian Creek Assoc		West Plains 1st		Calvary Fellowship	
ngo		Macedonia Woman's Aux		New Harmony		TOTAL	
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ew Harmony	17.06	Fourth		Lebanon	95.00	CALIF. CHRISTIAN (OLLEGE
ak Hill	80.46	Grace		Joplin 1st	953.00		
chwoods	376.00	Camp Niangua		F. Green	35.00	Farmington	
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nity		Calvary Fellowship	20.00	Central V.B.S	118.30	FWB HOME FOR CH	ILDREN -
. Francois Qtrly		Royal Oak	200.00	Columbia		DeSoto 1st	
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ne La Motte		TOTAL		St. Francois Assoc	140 10	WNAC	
banon				Marshfield		Joplin 1st	\$1
oerty		NATIONAL HOME MISSION	ONS	Faith, St. Louis	75.00		
pe		Blue Springs		Fordland	100.00		
plin 1st		Overland					
eymour		Hannon		Greenfield	137.00		
orth Five		Thayer		Oak Grove, Cabool			
osho				Grant Ave			
rean		Leadington		Union Light	160.00		
llowship, Flat River		Monett		Macedonia Woman's Aux	8,000.00		
ossroads	246.00	O'Fallon 1st		Fourth	94.61		
lumbia	75.00	New Testament		Oak Grove, Norwood			
k Hill, Union	358.80	Carthage		Grace			
mington	1,974.28	Faith & Hope, Willow Spring		Parkview	358.40		
nity		South Fremont		Camp Niangua	423.44		
lton		Rock Chapel		Flat River 1st	311.48		
rshfield		DeSoto 1st	150.00	Kirksville 1st	75.90		
		West Plains 1st		Mt. Pisgah			
ne Star		New Harmony		Calvary Chapel			
ack Oak		Richwoods		South Fremont	80.00		
rdland		Lebanon 1st		Eastern Gate			
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	246 02	Columbia	45.00	Vibumum	120.00		
bool . Zion		Oak Hill, Union		Waynesville 1st			

Good News at Hillsdale

This semester the enrollment is 130. Considering the adverse circumstances Hillsdale College has faced with the accreditation process, the enrollment stands as a testimony of God's approval on this Christian Institution.

HAVE A HEART FOR HILLSDALE is in process! Have A Heart is February. Some churches have already made commitments, and by God's grace and help these will come to fruition. If you have not made a commitment, please consider this, and as the Lord leads, make a commitment for the cause of Christ through Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. This is a crucial year with provisional accreditation. Every alumni, every friend and every person who supports Christian teaching and training should pray and give for this important ministry.

As you know the Have A Heart goal for Missouri is \$30,000+. With each local church participating the goal can be reached.

Total	1 2 4 20 40 50 50	Churches Churches Churches Churches Churches Churches Churches	\$3,000.00 2,500.00 1,000.00 400.00 200.00 100.00 50.00	\$3,000.00 5,000.00 4,000.00 8,000.00 5,000.00 2,500.00 \$35,500.00
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As the Lord leads, will your church make a commitment in an appropriate category. WE CAN DO IT TOGETHER!

By the help and leadership of the Lord you will be contacted at a Quarterly Meeting, or at your local church concerning a commitment.

Clarence Burton, Associate Dir. Ch. Rel. Richard Robinson, Trustee Bd. Mem.

1993 National Youth Conference Winners

The National Youth Conference registered 2,128 for this year's conference. There were 997 entries for the competitive activities. Listed below are the winners from Missouri. Our congratulations are extended to all who won and all who competed in 1993.

Grant Ave. Girls Quartet
Farmington Chorale
Brian Scott
New Home Trio
Aaron Beck
Dawn Real

Lyn Alison Martin Emily Dowden Dodson/Mackey Duet Ambassador Skit Christopher Chandler Hannah Dowden

1993 Youth Camp Statistics

TOTAL REGISTRATION:	1,209
FIRST TIME DECISIONS:	91
REDEDICATIONS:	111
SPECIAL NEEDS:	180
SPECIAL CALLINGS:	3

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