

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Volume 63, No. 12, December 1993



Cradle and Throne

Earth gave thee a cradle, O Christ, and a cross,
Hard roads for Thy journey, reviling and loss;
Earth gave Thee thy wounding, Thy shroud and Thy Tomb,
But earth gave no welcome and earth gave no home.

Oh, Wronged One, return to the land Thou hast left,
The land that is desolate, lone, and bereft;
The world is a chaos of comfortless woes;
Men's wisdom has failed them, no help they propose.

Thou art the one hope, Lord, oh, lend us Thine aid
And save Thy creation -- the world Thou hast made.
A new earth shall greet Thee, a new world shall sing
The greatness and glories of Jesus its King.

Earth that once gave Thee its scorning and shame,
Its thorns and its scourging, shall yet hail Thy name,
The earth, once rebellious, allegiance shall own,
Shall give Thee a scepter, a crown, and a throne.



Nathan Ruble



From The Desk of The Executive Secretary

Christmas! Say it again! Christmas! Just saying the word starts the mind to remembering days gone by and brings an expectation of the celebration to come. Many feelings are associated with the word; things like warmth, togetherness, and joy. Christmas is all these things and more.

As we stand this side of the cross, surely we must be humbled by God giving us so great a gift. The gift that makes Christmas more than just feelings. It is a time for Christians to renew their commitment to serving the one who commended His love to us while we were yet sinners.

As you read the Gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus, Mary the mother of our Lord stands out as example of submission and commitment. When the angel Gabriel appeared to her, he told her she would bear a Son though she had never known a man. Her son would be great and His name would be Jesus. He would be called the Son of the Most High and would have an eternal throne and kingdom. Mary's reaction to this announcement was, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word..." (Luke 1:38) Her words of submission reveal that Mary was willing to serve God.

Mary was willing to serve God where she was. She lived in a village called Nazareth which was located seventy miles northeast of Jerusalem. It was a place that was held in contempt by many in that day. Nathaniel said, "can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" God still calls for His people to serve Him where they are. Too often we excuse our lack of service on our particular circumstances and surroundings.

Mary was willing for God's Word to govern her life. She was willing, knowing that it might mean that she would face shame, disgrace, and even death. God's Word must still be the Christian's final rule of faith and practice, allowing it to have the final say in every aspect of life.

Mary was willing to praise God for His blessings knowing all that could befall her. In the passage of Scripture known as the Magnificat she extolled the mercy, power, and immutability of God. Real commitment will always lead to praise.

I hope Christmas will help us as Missouri Free Will Baptists to say, as Mary did there so many years ago, "Behold the servant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your Word..."

Information Concerning Missouri State Retirement Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

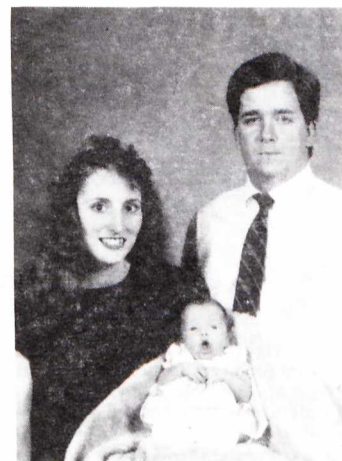
There are several options at retirement. Space will not permit including all of this information. Please do not hesitate to call, write, or come by for any help that is needed.

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.



The Rubles



The Polettis

Merry
Christmas,
Happy
New Year

and Best Wishes
from the State Office
and Bookstore



The Livingstons



The Joneses



The Meyers



The Cullens



Front Row (left to right): Edward Fields, Linda Bell, Judy Dablemont, Rev. Hugh Stogsdill (not pictured, Judy Schroeder). Back Row (left to right): Gary Mace, Leroy Bryant, Don Martin, Instructors - Rev. Jay Tilson & Rev. Rick Dablemont. (A picture of the Kansas City students was not available.)

Attending Bible College in Missouri!!!

A total of fourteen students are currently enrolled in the new Monitored External Studies program. Eight are attending the courses at the Cuba Free Will Baptist Church, under the supervision of Rev. Jay Tilson and Rev. Rick Dablemont. Six are doing course work at the Victory Free Will Baptist Church in Kansas City under the direction of Rev. Mark Braisher.

The students at Cuba are currently completing the courses **Life of Christ - B2313** and **Old Testament Survey - En1513** while students at Kansas City are completing **Life of Christ - B2313** and **Free Will Baptist History & Doctrine - Th1213**. The Christian Education Board of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, in association with Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Oklahoma, is responsible for the conducting of this program.

Two classes will be offered during the Spring Semester which begins on January 11, 1994: **New Testament Survey - En1613** and **Early Christianity - Bi2613**. Classes meet once per week with each class lasting approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. The schedule is arranged so that students may take both courses on the same night, thus earning 6 credit hours during each semester.

The Spring '94 classes offered in Kansas City will be **Early Christianity** and **Life and Writings of Paul**. For more information on the Kansas City program, call Rev. Mark Braisher at 816-454-2066 or 816-453-4253.

Calendar of Events 1994

National Youth Workers Retreat

February 19 - 21, 1994

Stonecroft Conference Center, Branson, MO

State Youth Competitive Activities

May 13, 14, 1994

West County Assembly, St. Louis, MO

Senior Adult Retreat

May 16-18, 1994

Stonecroft Conference Center, Branson, MO

Missouri State Convention/

Woman's Auxiliary Convention

June 6-9, 1994

Civic Center, West Plains, MO

Youth Camp

Teen Camp Group 1, June 12-17, 1994

Teen Camp Group 2, June 19-24, 1994

Pre-Teen Group 1, July 24-29, 1994

Pre-Teen Group 2, July 31-August 5, 1994

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 17-21, 1994

Little Rock, Arkansas

Preacher/Layman's Retreat and All Boards Meeting

September 19, 20, 1994

Youth Camp, Niangua, MO

Suggestion: Put this information on your Church Bulletin Board.

Something from Jesus

Betty Van Ordin remembers over 60 years ago when she, a little girl from a poor family, started coming to Sunday school. Betty said, "My parents weren't Christians, but I went without them. Imagine my joy when the Sunday before Christmas my teacher said she would have a gift for me the following week.

"All week I dreamed of what it might be. A cross? A Bible? A picture of Jesus in a stand-up frame? Maybe a book with stories about Jesus?"

The big day came and Betty unwrapped her gift. It was a string of pearls. "My heart sank," she said. "Anyone could give pearls. Why hadn't my teacher given me a 'Jesus gift,' something special I could only get where I learned about him? To this day I can remember how disappointed I was."

(Article by David C. Cook Publishing Company)

A Gift to the Giver

by Ann Poletti

During this beautiful time of year, it is common to hear people complain that Christ is left out of His own birthday celebration. Even those who do not view Christmas as the religious holiday it is will comment that the season is too hectic or that their children are so inundated with gifts that they fail to appreciate even one of the many kindnesses shown to them.

Many churches -- and families -- have begun forming their own Christ-centered traditions. Any age group can involve itself in an activity at Christmastime in which Jesus is indeed the honored guest and "goodwill" is spread.

Young children are always in the mood for parties and celebrations. Why not have a "birthday party for Jesus"? In addition to serving cake and playing games, have the children bring gifts ... for Jesus. These gifts could include money to be sent to a mission project, needed supplies for the Sunday School classrooms, or toys and mittens for the local homeless shelter.

A teen group may follow the same plan of celebration, adjusting their gifts to their age group. For example, I once heard of a youth group whose members each brought a slip of paper to their "party." On this paper was written the amount of time he (or she) could allot during the coming week to helping the church's elderly. Based on that amount of time, as well as the youth's talents and skills, he (or she) was matched with one of the church's elderly people who needed help preparing for Christmas. The chores ranged from taking the older person shopping and wrapping gifts to baking cookies, cleaning house, and helping trim the tree. The recipient of this goodwill appreciated the assistance in preparing for the holidays, and the volunteer was blessed by the giving of himself; both benefited from the company and, in most cases, a special friendship formed between the two.

Adults can also give of themselves. Opening your home to welcome in someone who would have no one else during the holidays, participating in "Share Your Christmas," depositing a "gift" into a missionary's account or into your church's building fund are a few of the many ways an adult could find joy in giving at Christmas.

I challenge each of you -- young or old -- to look inside your heart and find what you can do to spread goodwill as well as focus on our Lord this season ... and make it last the whole year! Christmas, as every day, should remind us that it is truly better to give than to receive.



Rev. Gary Fry

Minute Meditation

by Rev. Gary Fry

"...in the shadow of his hand hath he hidden me, and made me a polished shaft." Isaiah 49:2

None of us ever like to be chastened. We don't like the pain or the embarrassment that usually comes from correction. While we would all say that we want to be what God wants us to be, we sometimes are not willing for God to do what is necessary to make us what He wants.

Thomas Lambie tells of watching an Ethiopian villager prepare spears for hunting. First, the man selected a slender stick about 8 feet long from a bundle of small, crooked tree branches. Rough and bent, it appeared to be totally useless. The villager then drove a large number of pegs into a level piece of ground. They protruded slightly above the surface and were arranged in two parallel rows about an inch and a half apart. Taking the wooden rod, he heated it in a fire until it was scorched but not burned. With a knife, he scraped the bark and cut off the rough places. While the shaft was still hot, he forced it between the parallel rows of pegs. This both reshaped and hardened the wood. He repeated the process over and over until it remained perfectly straight and was tapered to a fine point. Then followed more scraping and rubbing with an abrasive. Carefully he cleaned the wood and applied a warm oil until the smooth surface gleamed. Finally, that crooked stick was a useful, polished shaft!

That should remind us of how God must sometimes work to accomplish His will in our lives. We may seem to be under the fire of testing or the knife of correction or the abrasive of trial, but even though these are painful, we must remember that the end result will be a life of great usefulness to the Lord. And isn't that really the great desire of the heart turned toward Christ?

This passage also promises that while the testing and trying is under way, God will hide us in the shadow of His hand. While we might feel open and vulnerable during the trials of our lives, God says those are the times that His presence and protection are most evident. We may have trouble seeing or feeling that truth, but if we are yielded to Him, we will always emerge more suited for His service!

Roll Call Sunday Offering March 27, 1994

During the 1993 State Meeting the delegates voted to encourage the churches of Missouri to receive a special offering on Roll Call Sunday 1994. The offering has been designated for the National Capital Stewardship Campaign. It will help Missouri provide its fair share of the National Office Building indebtedness. As you plan your enlargement campaign for March, please plan for this special offering. When you send your offering to the State Office, mark it "Roll Call Sunday Offering."

Available For Pulpit Supply

Dave Province, a member of the Hurryville Free Will Baptist Church of Flat River, Missouri, has been licensed to preach and is available for pulpit supply. He may be reached by phone at (314) 431-0104. His mailing address is:

Rev. Dave Province
5351 Hurryville Rd.
Farmington, MO 63640

Just a Quarter

Suppose each Sunday this year every Sunday school student put just 25 cents in the offering plate. The amount collected in just one year would be enough to buy over 20 million Bibles (priced at \$25 each) for seekers around the world.

(Article by David C. Cook Publishing Company)

Seasons Greetings from our Missionaries

*Please remember to pray for our missionaries
during this Christmas season.*

Foreign Missionaries:

Lloyd and Betty Plunkett
Curt and Mary Holland
Charolette Tallent
Paul and Tammy Gentuso
Ron and Linda Moore
Clint and Lynette Morgan
Jerry and Carol Pinkerton
Ken and Judy Bailey
Jim and Olena McLain
Stan and Brenda Bunch
Steve and Judy Lytle
Ron and Linda Callaway
Steve and Linda Reeves
Jeff and Susan Turnbough
Don and Ruth McDonald

State and National Home Missionaries:

Bill Adkissons
Don Andersons
Gary Bigelows
Dale Cochranes
Bill Ragdales
Don Richmanns
Gary Mitcheners
Jim Mertzes
Vergel Manesses
Russell Johnsons
Mark Vandivorts

Missions News

From the Mitcheners in Ozark, MO....

In October, we averaged 44 in Sunday School and 58 for worship. Our October 31st "Friend Day" was a real blessing to our church. Not only did we have a high attendance of 89, but we had one teen saved and one rededication.

We sincerely appreciate your support and desire your continued prayers.

Evelyn Hersey with the Lord

Monday, October 4, at 10:50 a.m., Evelyn Hersey, veteran missionary to Japan, quietly and peacefully went to be with the Lord Jesus Christ. In her final hours, she was surrounded by her five children, two sisters, a brother-in-law, and her husband Fred. The funeral in Nashville, Tennessee, and internment in southern Illinois were well attended.

Brother Fred writes, "Thanks for the many expressions of concern and love shown during Evelyn's illness and passing. As for my plans for the future, I have reservations to fly to Japan on November 10, returning December 17. I will be traveling for missions starting in January in the annual Alabama Mission Conference. I might return to Japan sometime in August to live. Pray that I will know God's will...."

An "Evelyn Hersey Memorial Endowment Fund" has been established. Funds will be invested and the earnings will be given every six months for ministry in Japan. Contributions should be directed to the Free Will Baptist Foundation, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002, and designated "Evelyn Hersey Memorial Endowment Fund." For information, call 615-731-6812.

CompuServe

EDITOR'S NOTE: This information has been supplied for the benefit of those who would like to communicate with our missionaries by computer.

Many of our missionaries use CompuServe to talk to each other and the National Offices.

To go on line for the first time, dial "800-635-6225"

To configure your communication software:

1. Baud Rate This service supports 300, 1200, 2400, 9600.
2. Data Transfer and Parity
Preferred - "7-1-E"
no parity - 8 no parity
3. Echo - off
4. Full Duplex

The Kansas City access number is 816-472-1283
Type Host name "CIS"
or call 1-800-848-8990

CompuServe is now in Europe, Australia, Chile, Israel, Korea, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, and Venezuela.

Following is a list of missionaries for which numbers are given:

Spain.....	Ron Callaway.....	100113,2053
	Dwain Crosby.....	76640,73
	Steve Reeves.....	100030,513
	Jeff Turnbough.....	100030,520
	Lynn Midgett.....	100117,2000
France.....	Allan Crowson.....	100115,3410
	Tom McCollough.....	72762,1457
	Dennis Teague.....	100272,36
Germany.....	Dennis Heath.....	74650,3347
FM Office.....	Shirley Lauthern.....	MHS:Shirley@FWBFM
	Carole Ragan.....	MHS:Carole@FWBFM

Randall House News

Revised Treatise

The tenth revision of the *Treatise of the Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists* is now off the press. This is the first revision in eleven years. This revised edition now includes all the changes the National Association of Free Will Baptists has adopted since 1981. There are also some minor changes in the organization of the material.

Keep your church and ministry up-to-date; order your new copies today. You may order your copies directly from Randall House Publications, 1-800-877-7030. The price remains unchanged at \$1.95 each.

Christian Purchasing Network

Randall House Publications has signed an agreement with the Christian Purchasing Network which entitles your church to purchase products at a considerable savings. We are highlighting chairs and copiers. For more information, call Randall House Publications at 1-800-877-7030. We can also arrange a free copier demonstration in your church.

My Experience with Team '93

by Gayla Smith

Before this summer, whenever the word "missionary" was mentioned, I automatically thought of a couple who would come to our church. They had a few kids, would sing in a language I didn't understand, would show some pictures of people I didn't know, and ask for money and for us to remember them in prayer. For seventeen years, this is how I thought. That is, until I went to Panama as a member of TEAM Panama '93.

TEAM stands for "Teens Equipped and Active in Missions." For the past two years, the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Board has allowed groups of teenagers to go to Brazil, Panama, and Uruguay to minister to the people of that country, many of whom have never seen a Bible or even heard about Jesus. As a member of TEAM Panama '93, I shared that responsibility with 15 other teenagers from around the United States.

As a team, we stayed at the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, from June 18-25. While there, we practiced music that we would be singing, were taught cross-cultured evangelism, and prayed that the Lord would have His way with each of our lives.

On June 25th, we left Nashville for Panama. Arriving in Panama that night was exciting but rather hectic. We were greeted at the airport by the Lytles, our missionaries in Panama, along with other Free Will Baptist Panamanians, with whom we would be staying.

Each service in Panama was unique and holds a special place in my heart. One in particular was a small church in a town called Canitas. Canitas is in the interior of Panama where it is mountainous and not very modern. In Canitas, we passed out tracts and invited people to the service that night. That evening's service saw 150 people come to a church that usually had around 30 faithful members. I gave my testimony that night, with the help of an interpreter. As I spoke and sang, I scanned the audience and recognized the faces of many people I had personally invited. I then realized that, had it not been for TEAM Panama '93, many Panamanians may have never heard about a man named Jesus who died for them almost 2000 years ago.

Today, I often think about the church in Canitas, as well as all the other churches we visited. I'll always remember the faces of the children as they watched us sing, the pauses in the conversations as we stumbled over a foreign language, and the tear-stained face of a Panamanian lady who shouted "Dios Bendiga" (God bless you) as our charter bus drove away.

I truly believe that TEAM Panama '93 made a difference in at least one person's life. That person is me. Because of this trip, I've experienced first-hand that God has a plan for everyone. It doesn't matter what language you speak, where you're from, or the color of your skin. I still don't know if the Lord is calling me into foreign missions; however, I do know that I can be a missionary right here at home. And if the day comes when the Lord needs a soldier of the cross abroad, I intend to stand and say, "Here am I, Lord, send me."

Gayla Smith is a member of the Mill Creek Free Will Baptist Church at Fredericktown, Missouri.

The Church Bone Yard

by Opal Jeffreys

"The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones." Ezekiel 37:1

The valley of dry bones was Ezekiel's congregation. They were lifeless and dry ... a very unsavory sight to look upon. Many of our modern congregations are just as dry and dead. Let us examine some of the "bones" which make up our churches.

The Wishbone Church Member.

These are the ones who are always wishing to see things done but are too lazy to do anything to help the cause. They bury their talents instead of using them to win souls and glorify the Savior's name. Wishing we could sing, pray, or preach like another is an excuse for not using the talent God has given us. We are much like the ten spies. They said the giants of Canaan would destroy them and were unwilling to believe God would be with them all the way. God cannot use His people when they are fearful and afraid. Like Gideon's army, the fearful held down the progress; thus, God told Gideon to cull them out. By God's instructions of separating, there were only 300 left of the 22,000, but they won the battle.

The Funny Bone Member. They are always getting their feelings hurt. Sometimes they are like the elder brother in Luke 15 who was offended because a brother received more attention than he. A "funny bone" is always misunderstanding and allowing these misunderstandings to rob him of a blessing of loving service. The

preacher must pamper and beg a "funny bone" to come to church.

The Dry Bone Member. It's against their principles to ever say "amen" or shed a tear. Smiles and nods of approval can be a great inspiration to any speaker. The Pharisee-type strains at every letter of the law, at added customs, and are not willing to allow any working of the Spirit. They may even try to explain away the Gospel truth.

The Hip Bone Member. They are a little touchy about their giving. Somewhat like a hitchhiker, they want to ride and serve God on credit. They refuse to accept that God's acceptable plan to support His work is the tithe plus offerings. We all know how the cost of living has soared, but many of us still seem to think God's work can be amply supported on any leftover pocket change we might have. The "hip-bone's" religion hasn't gone deep enough to reach the hip pocket.

The Jaw Bone Member. Sometimes this infamous one is referred to as the church tattler. Sowing seeds of discord is very hurtful and has cut short the usefulness of many good Christians. We find the Simon Peter type -- "always bragging." When Christians are caught in this trap, we should do as Peter did after his third denial of Christ and realize our terrible mistake, then go out and weep bitterly. James 3:8 calls a gossiping tongue a world on fire.

The Knee Bone Member. There are a few of these left -- the Wednesday night

crowd (thank God for the faithful!). These are the praying type; the ones that will pay the price on their knees for revival. These knee-bone Christians are the ones who can be counted on for prayer when dark clouds of disaster hang low. They know that God loves, cares, and will not fail them. Recently, a fine Christian lady brought to our little group a sincere request for prayer. She was very burdened and, as we joined in prayer for this request, God heard and answered. God still answers prayer!

The Backbone Christian. Such as the backbone is very important to the human body, so are backbone Christians with real convictions very important to the church. Even Daniel, in the face of opposition and death, did not break his prayer chain with God.

He knew God would deliver even if the king made true his threat of the lion's den. Daniel kept praying and, consequently, the king had him thrown into the den of lions. As a result of Daniel's continued praying, the angel of the Lord shut the lions' mouths. Like Daniel, Paul was a strong advocate of prayer in his ministry. Another example of a "backbone" can be found in Acts 7:54-60. It tells of Stephen and the wonderful faith he had as he preached and died for the cause.

Looking at these examples, what kind of bone are you? Are you a bone which is found useful to the body of Christ?

Missouri State Woman's Auxiliary Update by Rose Mertz

What a mighty God we serve! I am so excited at what God is doing through our women in the state of Missouri. I am proud to be a part of a group of women who take seriously the responsibility of taking the gospel to the uttermost parts of the world.

This year, at the National Convention of Free Will Baptists, the women were confronted with the problem that our national office is in serious trouble financially. There must be more income if the offices are to remain open and minister to our women. It was voted that, in addition to each auxiliary giving its \$10.00 per month, we raise our dues. Dues for the state of Missouri will be \$11.00, allowing our national office to receive \$10.00, your state to receive \$.75, and your district to receive \$.25. Ladies, this is only about \$.23 per week. Where else can you invest \$.23 a week and get so much in return? The difference this makes will be realized only when we stand before our Master, and we see -- standing before the throne -- people from all nations that were able to hear the Gospel because we cared. Please let us not focus on the amount of the increase, or perhaps the feeling that some of our women cannot afford it, but let us look to our great Provider who has never failed us yet!! God always makes a way where there is no way.

Remember that dues should be paid before April 1, 1994, and your district should get them to Reva Baker no later than April 15, 1994, so that our state report can be ready and up-to-date before our state meeting.

Our state projects are -- \$3,000.00 - Ron and Linda Moore...Ivory Coast; \$3,000.00 - Terry and Ramona Van Winkle...Overland Park, Kansas; \$3,000.00 - Missouri State Missions.

Remember that February is "HAVE A HEART FOR MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS." This is when we ask every church to give a special love offering to support our mission work in our own state.

I am praying for you as you continue to be co-laborers with Him. Please share how your auxiliary reached its goals of raising money, or anything God is doing in your group. Send it to me: Rose Mertz, 18 Doris Drive, O'Fallon, MO 63366. I will make sure it gets in the Gem.

Thank you for all you do for missions in our state, our country, and the world.



Sunnyview Free Will Baptist Church

Rev. & Mrs. Bill Eden

Sunnyview Free Will Baptist Church, located 10 miles east of Lebanon on Highway 32, honored their pastor and his wife, Rev. Bill and Mary Sue Eden, on September 26, 1993. The dinner served after the morning worship service was in honor of Pastor Appreciation Day. The Edens have been at Sunnyview for four years and have been pastoring for 33 years.

It was indeed a special day for it was also Brother Bill's 69th birthday. At the close of the morning service, the church gave the pastor a beautiful card with \$50.00 enclosed. On Sunday night, the "Sunnyview Crew" honored Brother Bill with yet another card and gift.

The "Sunnyview Crew" is a youth group that was organized by the Sunnyview Church on August 15, 1993. Through the Lord's blessings, and the efforts of many people, the youth group has already experienced a growth as well as witnessed two young ladies saved.

On November 19, 1993, the youth group had an all-night lock-in at the church. The sponsors presented Christian films and Bible discussions. There were 30 sponsors and youth present. All enjoyed the wonderful refreshments and the precious fellowship.

Dedication At Mt. Pisgah



Inside Mt. Pisgah FWB Church

On Sunday, October 31, 1993, the Mt. Pisgah Free Will Baptist Church held a Dedication Service. The church dedicated its beautiful and spacious new auditorium, additional class rooms, pastor's study, and an enlarged fellowship area.

The day's activities began with Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. The excitement was felt in the Sunday School hour. Several visitors were present. The excitement began to increase as the Morning Worship began.

The pastor, Rev. Keith Reece, gave the members and friends of the church a warm welcome. The choir assembled, and under the direction of Beth Neil songs were sung by choir and congregation that glorified God and blessed hearts. Special music was given by Amy O'Dell, the Paul Wade family, and Gary and Linda Walls. The Morning Message was delivered by Rev. Clarence Burton. He challenged the church to *Continue Steadfastly* in their zeal and determination to serve the Lord. The Lord blessed with a lady receiving Christ and others coming for prayer.

The ladies served a delicious meal in the Fellowship Area. Someone said, "I don't think the food has been any better and the fellowship any sweeter."

The Afternoon Service began with deacon Paul Wade expressing appreciation to everyone who had gathered for this important service. Again the choir and congregation lifted their voices in wonderful praise to the Lord. Brother Wade then gave a brief

history of the Mt. Pisgah Church. It was informative and picturesque as members of the church walked in front of the congregation displaying objects that were used in the progression of the building program.



Recognized for 50 years + Service

Then Debbie Evans and Brenda Miller led in giving special recognition to those who had given 50 years or more service to the Lord at the Mt. Pisgah Church. Those recognized were presented a beautiful gold embossed certificate. They were: Lloyd and Margaret Walls, Ralph and Carla Marie Odem, Warren and Edna Walls, Floyd and Wilma Walls and Inez Curry. (Mrs. Curry totaled 64 yrs.)

Everyone enjoyed the special music by the Countrymen, Kala Wade, and the Caravan. Each one did a super job.



Rev. & Mrs. Keith Reece

The pastor, as an act of love and appreciation, presented a bouquet of roses to the deacons and their wives: Paul and Kay Wade and Neil and Beth Hamilton. He also presented a bouquet of roses to his wife, Paulette.

Neil Hamilton, a deacon, introduced Rev. Clarence Burton to deliver the Dedication Message. Rev. Burton, complimented the pastor and the church for a job well done. His message focused on the purpose and use of the building and its furniture as it is dedicated and used for preaching and teaching the Word, for the winning of souls to Christ, and the fellowship of the believers in the body of Christ. Rev. Ezra Butts, a former pastor and member of the church, led in a very meaningful Prayer of Dedication.

Rev. Keith Reece expressed appreciation to everyone for their faithfulness in the many hours of labor, the sacrificial giving, and the unity in which the work was accomplished. He extended an invitation for everyone to go to the Fellowship Area for delicious dessert.

One of the senior adults expressed the feeling of the church, when he said, "The Lord surely has visited us today and I believe He is pleased with this building that we have dedicated to Him."



The Caravan



Outside of Mt. Pisgah FWB Church



The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

Even the smallest child is familiar with the "Christmas story," or parts of it. The child may be able to repeat that Jesus was born in a manger without knowing what a manger is. He relates the concept of the

"brightest star" while not realizing exactly how brightly the star had to shine in order to guide three kings.

There is so much beauty in the events surrounding Christ's birth. Isn't it sad that so many teens and adults remain content with a childlike comprehension of Christmas?

After all, Mary was not just another expectant mother who, by chance, gave birth to the Christ Child. God searched the earth for a special woman who loved God and who exhibited the qualities that would make her the perfect mother for Jesus. Mary was probably very aware of the honor bestowed upon her, but I doubt she was prideful. Although she trusted God, she may have been a bit apprehensive about how people would react to a godly young lady who was pregnant and unmarried.

Imagine the faith of the wise men who set out with their expensive gifts to find the newborn King. Where were they going?

Who had a map? Why, they simply followed the star -- the brightest star in the sky!

And Joseph ... A carpenter whose life's plans probably did not originally include raising God's Son. I believe Joseph was chosen because God saw in him someone who would protect Mary, work hard to provide for Jesus, and serve as an acceptable father-figure to Jesus while He was here on earth.

There will never again be a need for what Mary did, but God still calls "Marys" today. She, a woman who could have been afraid of the public example into which she might have been made, could be an inspiration to the one who is afraid of "what people will think" should she take a stand for the Lord.

How many of us could be called today to be one of the wise men? It would be hard for God to call one to travel from a far country following nothing but a star when this one will not travel next door to witness to a neighbor -- WITH CLEAR-CUT INSTRUCTIONS!!!!

Yet today, men are called to be "Josephs": hard-working; sacrificing for their families; and loving fathers to the children God has placed in their temporary care.

The Christmas story has such a tremendous impact on our Christianity, and it is filled with lessons in faith for us today. This year, let's strive to increase our understanding about Christmas and not just "repeat" the story. Had Christ not been born, He could not have died; thus, we would have.

Let's Make Our Pledge for "Have a Heart for Hillsdale"

We begin this with a part of President Jim Shepherd's report to the Board of Trustees, dated 9/13/93. "As I make this report, I cannot describe the joy that surrounds Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. Free Will Baptists were joined by countless believers in sister denominations, in concern and prayer as the college's future was uncertain. Our people gave record gifts, offered continuous encouragement, and recruited students in a most difficult environment. The decision of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to extend the college's accreditation gives us a great opportunity to re-establish our credibility. May God give us the victory!"

For the Gem readers, one of the 'musts' for Hillsdale by the Oklahoma State Regents is: Fund-raising which equals in actual gifts the level achieved in 1992/1993.

The Missouri State Association adopted a goal of 10% of the total goal for "Have a Heart." Our goal is \$30,000. We can do this by each church giving an appropriate gift. Surely with 170 churches we can do it! I am encouraged by what I see: Hillsdale Rally in Indian Creek Association; Hillsdale Singers at Greater Springfield Association and at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Lebanon; meeting with pastors from several of our district associations. No one has told me that he or she would not give and pray for Hillsdale.

Hillsdale recommended to the Oklahoma State Association, and the Association adopted this in its October meeting, that the Missouri State Association be given two additional Trustee Board members. That will give Missouri three trustee board members. This translates that Missouri will have a stronger input into the ministry of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. This should give Missouri a stronger desire to help in its support of this Free Will Baptist Christian institution.

One pastor and church has already pledged \$3,000 (Praise God)! There are others who have pledged \$1,000, \$500, \$400, \$200. In order for Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College to continue, it is necessary that we help support this ministry of the Lord. Every person who desires to attend college should have the option of attending a Christian institution and, for our children, a Free Will Baptist institution.

Will you challenge your churches, Sunday School classes, youth groups, senior adult groups, etc. to give? Also, please pray that we may reach the goal!

PLEASE MARK ALL YOUR GIFTS FOR HILLSDALE "HAVE A HEART".

Clarence Burton, Associate Director Church Relations
Richard Robinson, Trustee Board Member



1993

Paul Kettelman Memorial Christmas Fund Drive

for
Free Will Baptist Bible College

December is Free Will Baptist Bible College's month in the denomination's *Together Way* stewardship plan. Every church and every Free Will Baptist is asked to respond with a gift to the college in December.

The goal is \$250,000. The college family is attempting to raise \$100,000 of that.

Please respond with a special gift. Send your contribution to:

Kettelman Christmas Drive
Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205

Financial Information

OCTOBER 1993 COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$5,307.42
17.50% Executive Office	5,020.53
3.50% General Fund	1,004.11
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	2,438.54
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	717.22
2.50% C.E. Board	717.22
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board	717.22
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	2,581.98
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	8,750.07
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	
(\$87.50 included in \$8,750.07)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund	1,434.43
TOTAL	\$28,688.74

God continues to bless the faithful, consistent giving of the churches in Missouri, and He is to be praised. Souls are being saved and saints are being edified. Pastors and churches are to be commended for their Great Commission vision. Paul, writing to the Church at Corinth, said, "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." II Cor. 9:6.

The allocation for National Ministries goes undesignated for this year, with FWBCC and Hillsdale receiving an equal amount. California Christian College will continue to receive the 1%.

OCTOBER 1993 COOPERATIVE

Friendship	\$ 285.06
Mountain Grove 1st	1,352.94
O'Fallon 1st	212.85
Carthage	163.00
Cope	41.00
Mill Creek	205.06
Monett 1st	487.06
Rock Chapel	353.32
Rolla 1st	82.13
Kingsway	294.00
Union Grove	166.00
Victory Hill	65.17
Hannon	396.40
Hartville	470.79
Oak Hill-Fredericktown	99.58
Royal Oak	109.00
Merls Chapel	206.00
Koshkonong	82.70
Tyrone	41.00
Fellowship	400.00
Springfield 1st	811.63
Overland	118.00
Belton	300.58
Grant Avenue	882.28
Greenfield	195.00
Calvary Chapel	251.55
Black Oak	164.35
Eastern Gate	339.40
Happy Home	76.96
Lone Star	37.80
Columbia	75.00
Jones Chapel	959.21
Desoto 1st	830.00
Mine La Motte	42.02

Victory-Alton	146.40
Fredericktown 1st	740.00
Stockton	98.50
Bailey Chapel-Tunas	75.00
Pleasant Ridge-Goodson	111.00
Parkview	372.90
Freeman Chapel	349.60
United-W.P.	784.33
New Harmony	17.05
Liberty-Phillipsburg	197.00
Hopewell	142.00
Berean	23.00
North Five	67.94
Cuba	355.91
Bourbon	142.97
Verdella	315.68
Potosi 1st	134.92
Hurryville	337.82
Niangua	22.00
Joplin 1st	383.95
Cabool	310.90
Cape Girardeau 1st	678.09
Victory-K.C.	244.44
Marshfield	234.43
Mt. Pisgah-Cabool	150.00
Union Light	147.95
Neosho 1st	71.25
Trinity	912.35
Flat River 1st	529.44
New Life-Licking	231.59
Unity	262.00
Oak Hill-Union	410.04
Grace	1,013.00
Waynesville 1st	284.86
Farmington	2,272.86
Lebanon 1st	573.86
Copper Mines	255.43
Niangua	13.00
Fordland	360.74
Willow Springs-Mtn. Grove	189.52
Terrill Road	223.00
Olivet	500.00
Fourth	207.00
Pleasant Hill-Thayer	60.21
Crossroads-Wentzville	290.00
Bethel-El Dorado Springs	50.03
Blue Springs	295.30
Niangua	15.00
Wolf Creek	346.55
Wilderness	608.00
South Fremont	432.00
Mountain Grove 1st	1,101.09
TOTAL	\$28,688.74

STATE HOME MISSIONS

Lebanon Bible & Book	\$ 174.00
Beacon	2.00
Mountain Grove 1st	27.00
O'Fallon 1st	63.64
Faith & Hope-Willow Spgs.	43.28
Rock Chapel	129.66
Calvary Fellowship	20.00
Hannon	198.20
Grant Avenue	117.22
Eastern Gate	20.00
Columbia	35.00
DeSoto 1st	70.00
Pleasant Ridge-Goodson	25.00
Victory-K.C.	5.00
United-W.P.	39.75
Cuba	61.32
Madison Co. Qrtly. Mtg.	23.44
Union Light	61.00
Macedonia	50.00
New Testament	20.00
Trinity	45.00
Oak Hill-Union	12.25
Grace	25.00
Viburnum	5.00
L. Wormington	30.00
Farmington	86.66
Lebanon 1st	60.00
Fourth	50.00
Calvary Fellowship	20.00
South Fremont	5.00
Mountain Grove 1st	22.00
TOTAL	\$1,546.42

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Beacon	\$ 265.00
Mountain Grove 1st	293.00
O'Fallon 1st	63.64
Faith & Hope-Willow Spgs.	125.00
Carthage	138.00
Monett 1st	482.00
Union Mission	251.61
Rock Chapel	168.21
Calvary Fellowship	1,162.99
Hannon	1,611.40
Hartville	94.16
Merls Chapel	200.00
C. Thompson	50.00
Parkview Mission Group	120.00
Grant Avenue	573.95
Grant Avenue Women SS	25.00
Grant Avenue Partners	40.00
Grant Avenue Teen SS	21.27
Greenfield	146.00
Calvary Chapel	150.00
Eastern Gate	167.88
N. Akeman	10.00
F. Green	35.00
Bethel-Festus	89.50
Columbia	15.00
DeSoto 1st	610.00
S. Hart	20.00
Pleasant Ridge-Goodson	45.00
Parkview	313.95
Victory-K.C.	125.00
Freeman Chapel	410.50
United-W.P.	79.75
Houston 1st	149.85
New Harmony	85.27
Cuba	30.65
Verdella	570.68
Oak Grove-Cabool	65.00
Madison Co. Qrtly. Mtg.	500.00
Marshfield	40.00
Mt. Pisgah-Cabool	100.00
Union Light	402.75
Neosho 1st	195.00
Macedonia	650.00
New Testament	75.00
Trinity	539.32
Flat River 1st	309.36
Oak Hill-Union	33.00
Grace	92.50
Waynesville Woman's Aux.	14.00
Viburnum	120.00
Farmington	477.65
Lebanon 1st	85.00
Leadington	35.00
Calvary Chapel	70.00
Fordland	123.00
Oak Grove-Norwood	104.08
Pleasant Ridge	10.00
Fourth	50.00
Calvary Fellowship	858.64
New Life Fellowship-O'Fallon	55.00
Blue Springs	236.24
Union Mission	106.81
Wilderness	224.00
Springfield 1st Sr. Group	100.00
South Fremont	145.00
Mountain Grove 1st	208.00
Blue Springs	70.00
TOTAL	\$14,833.61

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Beacon	\$ 80.00
Mountain Grove 1st	255.00
O'Fallon 1st	63.64
Faith & Hope-Willow Spgs.	25.00
Carthage	69.00
Monett 1st	20.00
Rock Chapel	45.00
Calvary Fellowship	140.91
Hannon	5.00
Madison Co. Qrtly. Mtg.	25.00
Parkview Mission Group	20.00
Overland	4.00
Grant Avenue	31.00
J.W. Rader	20.00
Eastern Gate	10.00
Bethel-Festus	25.00

Columbia	10.00
DeSoto-1st	485.00
Parkview	6.00
Victory-K.C.	35.00
United-W.P.	10.00
New Harmony	85.26
Verdella	20.00
Mt. Pisgah-Cabool	50.00
Union Light	35.00
New Testament	70.00
Trinity	49.00
Flat River 1st	87.34
Oak Hill-Union	23.00
Grace	115.00
Viburnum	49.00
Farmington	25.00
Lebanon 1st	5.00
Leadington	20.00
United	150.00
Fordland	10.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Oak Grove-Norwood	52.04
Calvary Fellowship	67.14
New Life Fellowship-O'Fallon	10.00
Wolf Creek	36.56
South Fremont	17.00
Mountain Grove 1st	235.00
Blue Springs	20.00
TOTAL	\$2,665.89

HOME FOR CHILDREN-TN

Parkview Mission Group	\$ 20.00
DeSoto	550.00
TOTAL	\$570.00

CALIF. CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Farmington	\$ 25.00
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MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

Lebanon Bible and Book	\$ 78.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
Calvary Fellowship	25.00
Hannon	15.00
Hartville	10.00
Parkview Mission Group	
(for bathrooms)	10.00
Parkview Mission Group	
(for bathrooms)	10.00
DeSoto	50.00
Mt. Pisgah-Cabool	10.00
Trinity	14.00
Flat River 1st (\$300 to golf)	337.39
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Willow Springs-Mtn. Grove	10.00
Calvary Fellowship	25.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
TOTAL	\$664.39

FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Parkview Mission Group	\$ 20.00
DeSoto	35.00
Farmington	133.33
TOTAL	\$188.33

HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Hannon	\$ 50.00
Grant Avenue	8.00
Eastern Gate	67.88
Victory-K.C.	17.00
Victory-K.C.	24.44
Oak Hill	32.00
Farmington	141.66
TOTAL	\$340.98

REV. JOHN McCLURE

Monett 1st	\$ 60.00
Verdella	20.00
Farmington	5.00
Grace	17.50
TOTAL	\$102.50

SALVATION ARMY - FLOOD RELIEF

Mt. Bethel, Rose Bud, AR	\$696.25
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WORLD RELIEF

Victory-K.C.	\$9.55
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God Completely Clothes a Tree

Take time to listen to me
I'll tell you a story of a girl and a tree.
God never half-dressed a tree
And leave it there for you and I to see.

But she stands in her noble green dress
A beautiful sight that none may miss.
It always stimulates our happiness
To see a tree in its crimson dress.

Trees are green with skies of blue.
Beauty is there for me and you.
Learn a lesson, my young lass,
Order your dress complete, green as grass.

Not a partial dress of green
To be embarrassed on the scene.
No naked limbs, legs, or breast
To hinder little birds from building their nest.

Completely clothed, you can be sure
No embarrassing moments to endure.
Sure God knows how to dress a tree
But this day and age girls go nearly naked you see.

How will it be on judgment day
And they stand before God, their sins to pay?
But if you are washed in His blood a crimson stain
Forever with Him you may remain.
You heard my story of a girl and a tree
Oh! heed the warning before it is too late, and we
go to eternity.

(Written by M. P. Watson, a member of the First FWB Church in Houston)

Sunday School Averages May 1993 - October 1993

CHURCHES	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT
Belton	69	67	71	72	64	65
Bethel - Festus	39	42	41	49	49	59
Calvary Chapel	74	75	67	77	71	79
Calvary Fellowship	246	229	214	229	232	292
Cape Girardeau	89	82	83	87	105	116
Central	72	73	65	63	64	
Cuba	106	107	92	100	106	
DeSoto	179	175	172	179	188	185
Farmington	296	310	297	333	323	374
Flat River, First	136	139	136	137	147	144
Hannon	72	79	86	72	76	81
Harmony	63	67	60		67	
Hartville	109	99	101	113	104	99
Hopewell	37	27	31	31	27	34
Houston	51	49	54	49	51	54
Jones Creek	22	20		18	15	15
Kirksville	30	29				
Lebanon First	96	96	94	93	103	97
Marshfield	27	35	36			
Myrtle			21	21	28	21
Parkview	55	49	48	54	53	49
Richwoods	42	39	35	30	44	38
Rock Chapel	65	65	55	66	61	67
Springfield First	109	102		112	110	112
Thayer		120	128	121	127	121
United, West Plains		195	189	199	207	
Unity	41	39	48	44	41	52
Verdella	74	68	63	65	75	72
Waynesville		66				
Willow Springs	74	75	69	60	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 Sunday School average each month.

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

Bill Ruble
FWBBC P. O. Box 50117
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