


GEM

THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST

Volume 64, No. 1, January 1994



**Jesus Is Our
Refuge In The
Storms Of Life**

A History of the Gem by Robert E. Picirilli

(This article first ran in the April 1972 Gem.)

The *Gem* was begun in January, 1929, and succeeded the *New Morning Star*. For seven months in 1946 (May - November) the paper was not published, and for three months (July - September) in 1955. On two other occasions a month was skipped: May, 1930, and September, 1947. Except for these, every month has seen an issue of the *Gem* until the very present.

Technically, the current volume number is wrong, resulting from earlier errors. The years 1945 and 1946 were both numbered volume 17. Even worse, all three years 1956-58 were numbered volume 21. Actually, then, this year's issues (1972) really ought to be volume 44. Notice might also be taken about the size of the magazine. During the years 1942-46, it was the size of a handbook, about 6 by 9 inches. All the rest of the time it has been approximately the same size as now.

Brother B. F. Brown was the first editor. At the time, he was serving, I believe, as president of Tecumseh College in Oklahoma, and so the first issues were published from Tecumseh. In May, 1930, the paper was moved to Purdy, Missouri. Brother Brown continued as editor until June, 1939. No later editor ever served so long a period.

In July, 1939, John Rollins became editor, and the paper was relocated at Monett, Missouri, where it was to stay until 1955. Rollins was assisted, part of the time, by Herbert Henderson. C.B. Dees was the next editor and served from February, 1944, through April, 1946. The next seven months saw no issue published. Then Brother B. F. Brown, the original editor, was called upon to rescue the work. He served as "Acting editor" from December, 1946, through August, 1947 (part of the time assisted by Sherman Oakes). The later editors have been: Winford Davis (Oct. '47 -

Dec. '49); Lloyd Jeffreys (Jan. '50 - June '55); Eunice Edwards (Oct. '55 - Aug. '56); Albert Halbrook (Sept. '56 - Aug. '59); Roger Reeds (Sept. '59 - June '62); Bud Hill (July '62 - Sept. '69); Alton Loveless (Oct. '69 - Sept. '70); and Eddie Altis (since Oct. '70). From October, 1955, through September, 1963, the printing was done at Poplar Bluff, Missouri, by the General Baptist Press. Since that time, a number of different printing arrangements have been made.

The *Gem* has been much more than a state paper, especially in its earlier years when state papers were not so common. In those days, the *Gem* and the *Free Will Baptist* (Ayden, N. C.) were the two denominational papers. Other papers started and stopped; these two carried on.

It does not seem possible to overestimate the importance of the contributions made by the *Gem* to the Free Will Baptist denomination, particularly in those formative years when the programs of the new National Association were just getting established. Almost every issue carried lengthy promotional information about the Bible College and Foreign Missions. The *Gem* certainly helped get these programs off the ground, and played a tremendous part in educating Free Will Baptists -- especially in the West -- to these ministries. We ought to be grateful to the Lord and to those whose vision provided us with this good magazine.

NOTE: The following reflects editors who have served since this article was written and the years served:

Eddie Altis (Oct. '70 - Sept. '72)

Andy Lay (Oct. '72 - Nov. '75)

Clarence Burton (Dec. '75 - July '92)

Nathan Ruble (since Aug. '92)

Minute Meditation

by Rev. Gary Fry

I'm sure you have heard about the man who was so sour and grumpy that his wife told the neighbors she was sure he had been baptized in pickle juice. In fact, you might even know the guy! Isn't it amazing that a person can be delivered from a life of sin and shame, have his sins forgiven, and still look as if the weight of the world is on his shoulders? It seems to me that a Christian should be visible from afar just because of what is going on in his soul.

Psalm 34:5 says, "They looked unto Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed." This verse is talking about people who have looked unto the Lord and have come away affected by the experience. People should be able to tell that Christ is our savior just by looking at our faces, listening to our conversations, and watching our actions. There should be no doubt in their minds after an encounter with us that they have been in touch with someone who is in touch with God.

L. E. Maxwell tells a story about a group of prospectors who journeyed into the western wilderness in search of gold. They had suffered terrible hardships in their search and were returning to civilization empty-handed. Some of their number had been left buried where they had died. On their trip home, they stopped by a small stream for the evening and one of them picked up a shiny pebble from the stream bottom. Searching further, the group found several nuggets. The next morning, they hurried to the nearest town for more supplies and tools. They vowed not to tell anyone about their discovery, but as they left town, they were followed by a crowd. In the years to come, this area yielded over 30 million dollars in gold. Of that original poetry, no one had told of their discovery, yet one of those who had followed them out of town said "their beaming faces betrayed their secret!"

Maxwell says further that when a sinner finds Christ, he will not be able to conceal his rich treasure. Did you feel that way when you were first saved? How about now? Should there be any difference? Of course not! If Christ is your savior, let the world know by what they see on your face.



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.



Nathan Ruble



From
The Desk of
The

Executive Secretary

Preparing for 1994

1994 offers a New Year, but not a new world. The accumulated evils of the past years will run before us into the New Year. Abortion, homosexuality, and deceit have found a champion in the courts and houses of government causing sin to abound more and more. With the abounding sin has come the limitation of Christian rights. All of these things could cause the Christian to view the New Year with fear and dread. Yet the history of the church is one of advancement -- marching forward in the periods of darkness and the periods of light.

The third chapter of Joshua tells of Israel's preparation to enter a land that was so wicked that God ordered the destruction of its inhabitants. Once before Israel had turned back in fear. Instructions for entering the land are given. They are told that in order to enter and realize the full blessings and guidance of the Lord in Canaan, they must have a singular purpose, make spiritual preparation, and look for supernatural provisions.

The Ark of the Covenant, a symbol of God's presence, would be carried before them by the priests. When the people saw the ark moving, they were to follow it from their place. In order to know which way to go they were to keep a proper distance from it. They were traveling a new way, a way in which they had never been before. To comply with the instructions would require a singular purpose.

We too with singular purpose need to keep God in sight in 1994. Not lacking behind or running ahead of Him but yielding our will to Him that we might know His guidance.

Spiritual preparation was needed to enter the land. The people were to sanctify (separate) themselves from the things contrary to God and sanctify themselves unto God. Sanctification requires self-examination, confession and proper action. If we are to know all that God has for us in this New Year, this, too, will be required of us.

Crossing the river would not solve all of the people's problems. In fact it would mean that the manna would cease, battles would be fought, and casualties would be incurred. They had witnessed the power and might of God in the wilderness. They were to continue to see the supernatural provision of God. The Jordan would be cut off and they would cross on dry ground, the walls of Jericho would fall, and God would give them victory as long as they were obedient.

Let us sanctify ourselves and with singular purpose follow the Lord into 1994 expecting to see His supernatural provisions.

February 1994 is "Have a Heart for Hillsdale"

Good news! President Jim Shepherd released this information. The technical amendments to the Higher Education Act were passed by both the House and Senate. The amendments will restore Hillsdale College's eligibility for the federal student financial aid program.

NOTE: This student financial aid program means that any student applying for financial aid can depend on that aid to be available. This is an answer to much prayer. We are thankful to God and to everyone who has made this a serious matter of prayer. This should encourage every potential Hillsdale student that he or she can receive financial aid.

As you know, February is "Have a Heart" month. The goal for Missouri is \$30,000. This was adopted by the Missouri State Association. You have had time to give this prayer and consideration. No doubt, many have already made commitments and have begun raising funds for an individual or church goal. That's great! But, for those who have not begun to give for this needed and necessary purpose, why not make a decision and commitment now?

Remember, what you give is an investment in Free Will Baptist young people who are endeavoring to fulfill God's plan and purpose for their lives. These young people are depending on us!

If you have not made a commitment, will you adopt one of these suggested amounts? These may be adopted by an individual, Sunday School class, youth group, women's auxiliary, senior adult group, or church.

By the help and grace of Almighty God, we will give:

\$1,000 _____ \$500 _____ \$400 _____ \$300 _____ \$200 _____ \$100 _____

The Phone-a-Thon for "Have a Heart" is set for Sunday, February 27, 1994. A letter will be forthcoming giving the details.

Gifts may be mailed through the State Office, P. O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65536 or Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, P. O. Box 7208, Moore, OK 73153.

Clarence Burton
Assoc. Dir. Ch. Rel.

Richard Robinson
Trustee Bd. Mem.

Newsletter Clips

Thebeaus Take about \$1,000 to Donohos

Reverend Bob Thebeau, pastor of the DeSoto Free Will Baptist Church, and his wife, Kathy, recently traveled to Davenport, Iowa. They took with them about a \$1,000 special offering to help missionary pastor Cliff Donoho finish eight Sunday School classrooms. Of that \$1,000, the New Adult Sunday School class, the Teen Department, and the Ambassador CTS class each decided to adopt a classroom for \$75. That means three completed classrooms. Sunday evening, the Victor's CTS class also voted to send \$75, bringing the total to \$1,075. Thanks to all in the DeSoto Church for your generosity!

Jeff Nichols Resigns

Jeff Nichols recently resigned as youth pastor of Calvary Fellowship Church in Fenton, Missouri. He has moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where he is in charge of Children's Ministries at the Donelson Free Will Baptist Church.



Rev. Alton Loveless

Rev. Alton Loveless Installed As New Randall House Director

Rev. Alton Loveless, Executive Secretary of the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists, was installed at the National Leadership Conference, December 7, in Nashville, Tennessee, as the General Director of the National Sunday School and Church Training Service Department and Randall House Publications, who jointly produce about 1,400,000 units of material yearly in English and Spanish.

Rev. Milton Worthington, Chairman of the Board, and Dr. Roger C. Reeds, outgoing director, participated in the installation along with a prayer of dedication by Rev. Jim McAllister, Vice Chairman, and the Sunday School Board members present.

For the last nineteen years Dr. Loveless has served Ohio Free Will Baptists where he has overseen the denominational programs; edited *The Ambassador Magazine*; presided over Ohio Bible Institute; organized the yearly State Minister/Layman Retreat; and whose office has been responsible for the Ambassador Bible Bookstore which is one of the largest religious supermarkets in Ohio.

A native of Conway, Arkansas, Mr. Loveless entered the ministry in 1955 at age 17. He pastored the First Free Will Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas; First Free Will Baptist Church, North Little Rock, Arkansas; Rose Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Monticello, Arkansas; and First Free Will Baptist Church, Joplin, Missouri. He joined Scripture Press Publications in 1970 where he served as a Field Representative and later as a National Regional Marketing Director for the southern United States and the Caribbean.

Dr. Loveless has traveled, preached, served as a consultant, and conducted more than 700 seminars on Teacher Training, Leadership, and Interpersonal Relationships, among 68 different denominations in 47 states and 32 foreign countries. He has over 400 published items.

Brother Loveless stated, "Both my past and present have taken me into many areas where different Christian Education philosophies exist with some ideas that may be helpful for Free Will Baptists. I am convinced that Christian Education and the Sunday School must be a vital part of evangelism. The process of teaching

and training our new converts is necessary for their growth and the continuing education of all people in our churches. Dr. Howard Hendricks has given a definitive character of Christian Education with the following statement, 'Christian Education is not an option, it is an order; it is not a luxury, it is a life. It is not something nice to have, it is something necessary to have. It is not a part of the work of the church, it is the work of the church. It is not extraneous, it is essential. It is our obligation, not merely an option.'"

Brother Loveless continued with, "As people differ in their gifts, abilities, and educational levels, we must produce material to help them reach their area for Jesus Christ. While I may not be able to help everyone, it is my desire to contribute toward doing the best job possible.

"Nearly all my adult life has been in Christian Education, either with a publishing wholesaler or in retail, so the preparation for this role was not foreign to me or the requirements needed for the directorship. I sincerely desire the prayers of our people and solicit the patience of all segments in allowing me time to do the tasks before me. No one has the ability to do his best with an adversary nearby. The job alone will be chore enough to plan, prepare, and then promote the material. Time is our biggest enemy and Christ's return must surely be near. Please join me for the work ahead and let us do battle against the devil!"

Rev. Loveless is a graduate of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, Oklahoma; and received a Ph.D in Business Administration from Columbia Pacific University. He has also been honored by a number of other colleges and many organizations.

He served 12 years on the National Sunday School Board, 10 years on the National Historical Commission, 3 years on the National Foreign Mission Board, and on numerous other committees before his resignation in Ohio to assume his new role.

He is married to the former Delois Draby of Pocahontas, Arkansas. They have two sons, Randall and Steven, and two grandsons. Randall has a Preferred Risk Insurance Agency and lives in Columbus, Ohio. Steven is on the staff of the Farmington Free Will Baptist Church, Farmington, Missouri, as Youth Pastor. The Loveless' have been married for 35 years.

He will be assuming his new role January 3, 1994.

Is It a Sin to Repeat Gossip? *by Rev. Max Courtney*

(Reprinted from "The Shepherd's Way.")

Spreading gossip is probably the most effective tool the devil uses to destroy God's people and His Church. There are eight rules to observe when we are tempted to repeat gossip.

Rule One: Realize that all sin dishonors God. If this is true, when someone sins, that person has dishonored God. Then, each time that sin is repeated, God is dishonored again and again. We should ask ourselves, "If I repeat this to someone else, will it bring honor or dishonor to God?"

Rule Two: Realize that one person's sin can discourage the weak brother or sister (Malachi 2:7-8). We must realize that our lips may cause someone to stumble. If someone has confidence in another, and we

tell that one of his friend's mistakes, it might cause him to stumble.

Rule Three: Ask yourself, "If I tell it, will it help?" James Chapter 3 warns that the tongue can start a spiritual forest fire that cannot be extinguished. Remember, when we start a fire, we may be called upon to put it out.

Rule Four: Ask yourself, "If I tell it, will it hurt?" The fact of the matter is what we tell may not only hurt the one we tell, but it may also hurt others, and especially the Lord's Church.

Rule Five: Ask yourself, "Is it my business anyway?" Draw a circle on a sheet of paper; put a dot in the center of the circle and write your initials beside the dot. Outside the circle, write the name of the person

you are considering talking about. You take care of everything inside the circle, and make everything outside the circle none of your business. Be honest with yourself, and don't talk about anything that's not your business.

Rule Six: Ask yourself, "What is my motive in repeating it?" Is it to make you look better by embarrassing somebody or make someone else look bad? Generally, our motives for repeating gossip are not good motives.

Rule Seven: Ask yourself, "Am I another's prosecutor?" We should remember that God is the Prosecutor, and He's going to take care of it. There are Biblical ways to take care of offenses that we commit and those committed against us. Matthew

18:15-17 states, "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained a brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican."

Rule Eight: Ask yourself, "Will I be discouraged by talking about it?" We can discourage ourselves if we try. Spreading gossip and bad news will pull you down and cause you to be disheartened and discouraged, and it won't be long until you will be the one who has fallen.

There is a lot of sin in this old world, and God has no pleasure in any of it. He certainly has no pleasure when Christians cause that sin to bring twice as much reproach to His name by repeating it. Be careful lest the reproach fall upon you.

1994 Special Offerings National Ministries



APRIL 24	Foreign Missions
SEPTEMBER	Rest of the Family *Executive Office *Retirement *FWB Foundation *Master's Men *WNAC *NYC *Commissions
NOVEMBER 20	Home Missions
DECEMBER	Free Will Baptist Bible College

THE TOGETHER WAY PLAN
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Foreign Missions Update

BRAZIL: Since the summer, ten people have been saved in Barbacena, and seven saved in Lafaiete. A mission work has been started in Antonio Carlos where two were saved last month.

CUBA: Our churches are packed at every service and souls are being won to Him in spite of the severe economic hardship in this country.

FRANCE: In St. Sebastien, fifteen-year-old Stephanie was baptized after giving a good testimony before several unsaved members of her family. Nine-year-old Solene was led to the Lord by her mother, Nicole.

GERMANY: Three Moslem children received Christ as Savior after viewing the "Jesus" film at a special service in Kusel.

INDIA: Thirty men have recently been trained in evangelism. Now they are going out in teams of two in an effort to reach every family in the area around our churches. Early reports from two of the teams indicate that 15 people have already turned to Christ.

IVORY COAST: Adja, a female witch doctor who was saved earlier this fall, has suffered severe persecution from her family. In spite of these trials, she burned her fetishes in order to follow the Lord.

JAPAN: One of Evelyn Hersey's last prayers was for the salvation of Mr. Murooka. Just a few hours before Evelyn's death, Mr. Murooka called Fred Hersey to tell him he had received the Lord as his Savior.

The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

*"Drink less coffee..."
"Stop biting my fingernails..."
"Lose fifteen pounds..."*



Resolution ... I call it a "January word." In one month, we will hear this one word more than we will hear it the other eleven months put together! When January ends, not only will the word die but also the resolution itself. As a matter-of-fact, at month's end, a person who made a resolution may not even remember what he resolved to do.

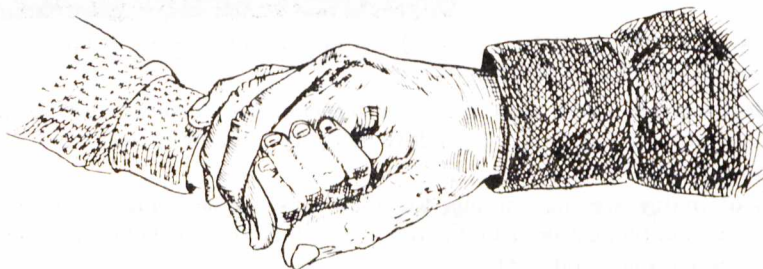
The word "resolution" is defined as "firm determination." Few, if any, resolve to do anything with true impact (e.g. find a cure for cancer or initiate world peace) so, generally, no one is held accountable for his resolution.

When one examines the definition by Christian standards, it is easy to see how beneficial the proper resolutions would be to the local church. Think of what would happen in a church if all the members resolved:

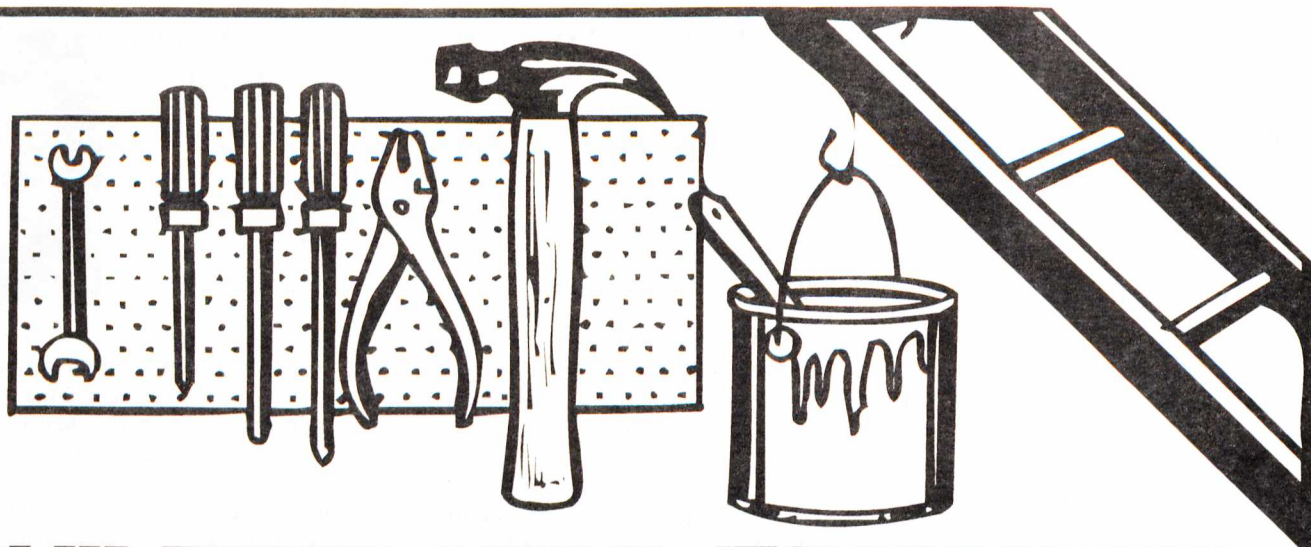
1. to speak only kind and uplifting words to and about one another.
2. to give 10% of income to the church.
3. to lift up the church's needs through fervent prayer.
4. to use Bible study to fortify the spiritual life.

I believe churches would be amazed at the growth experienced and blessings received if its members determined, *firmly* determined, to adopt such guidelines in their lives then allowed themselves to be held accountable for their effectiveness in carrying out such resolutions.

It certainly beats losing fifteen pounds, doesn't it?



*Working together
we can accomplish great things for the Lord.
Support the Cooperative Plan of Giving.*



BUILDING KIDS TOGETHER

1st Annual National Youth Worker's Retreat
February 18-20, 1994
Stonecroft Conference Center
Hollister, MO

Make plans NOW to attend this exciting first-time event for Free Will Baptist Youth Workers! You'll find this weekend full of ideas, activities, encouragement, fellowship, networking, food, and fun. Located at the beautiful *Stonecroft Conference Center*, nestled on Table Rock Lake in the Ozark Mountains, the retreat setting will be ideal for relaxation and motivation as we share and learn together.

If you are a full-time or part-time youth worker, Sunday school teacher, children's church worker, parent, or pastor who is interested in helping **BUILD KIDS TOGETHER**, then this retreat is for you! The program is designed to help you in your local church ministry, as you build up kids...emotionally and spiritually. You'll gain new insights into the ways kids think, act, and what can be done to meet their needs into the 21st century!

You'll be hearing from some veteran youth workers, as well as new-comers as they share their talents and experiences with others. We want you to leave the retreat pumped up, motivated, and more committed to a ministry devoted to building kids.

At the retreat you'll find a resource center with hundreds of items hand-picked to help you in your ministry. You'll also find exciting contests, an up-lifting concert, great music, and valuable door prizes!

The retreat fees are very reasonable and include two nights lodging and three meals, registration fees, conference notebook, and refreshments.

Conference Information

Check-In: Plan to arrive by 8:00 PM Friday, February 18. If this is not possible, the Conference Center requires that you check-in no later than 11:00 PM.

Registration: There is a \$25.00 deposit (per person) required when you return your form. The balance of your account may be paid upon arrival. Please register **before** February 1st in order to save a \$10.00 per person fee. There will be no refunds after the February 1st deadline.

Roommates: You may arrange for your own roommates. Please list the others you want to share a room with on your form. If you want us to find a roommate for you, please indicate it on your form. You will be charged depending on the number of people we can find to share your room.

Special Notes: Each person needs to bring their favorite idea or activity (typed on 8 1/2 x 11 paper). Copies will be made and shared with everyone. Also, bring a picture of your youth center, Sunday school room, children's church, etc. Prizes will be awarded for the most creative room. Prizes will also be given for the best youth group name.

Dress: Casual but modest & warm.

Conference Program

Friday, February 18

8:00 PM WELCOME!! (Games, activities, mixers)

Saturday, February 19

8:30 AM Breakfast

10:00 AM Opening Session (Crowdbreakers, music, devotion)

10:45 AM Break (*Refreshments*)

11:00 AM Seminars

1 - Adding Adventure to Your Youth Ministry

2 - Changing Your Children's Ministry from a Circus to a Service

12:00 N Lunch

1:00 PM Seminar

3 - Working With Your Pastor in Youth Ministry

2:00 PM Panel Discussion (Q&A Time, Idea Sharing)

3:15 PM Dismissal (*Supper on your own*)

7:00 PM Concert

8:00 PM What Is God Doing In Your Church?

8:45 PM Break (*Refreshments*)

9:00 PM Variety Show

Sunday, February 20

8:30 AM Breakfast

10:00 AM Morning Worship Service

11:15 AM Dismissal

Stonecroft Conference Center

The Stonecroft Conference Center is a first-class facility located in the heart of the Ozark Mountains, just minutes from Branson, MO. The center offers a spacious dining room, snack shop, and fully equipped meeting rooms. The sleeping rooms feature two queen-size beds and a private bath, each offering a breathtaking view of Table Rock Lake

Located just minutes from Stonecroft are some of the nation's finest craftsmen, quaint gift shops, and a new factory outlet mall. Two outdoor dramas, *The Shepherd of the Hills* and *The Great Passion Play* are located in nearby towns.

Directions

Stonecroft Conference Center is located 8 miles south of Branson off Highway 65, between Branson, Missouri, and the Arkansas state line.

From the North -- Take Highway 65 south from Springfield, Missouri, about 45 miles to Branson. Continue on 65 past Branson and through the traffic light of Business Route 65. Four miles past the traffic light turn right on 265. Continue left one mile to the Conference Center.

From the South -- Take Highway 65 approximately 4 1/2 miles north of the Arkansas/Missouri border. Turn left on 265. Continue left one mile to the Conference Center.

Youth Worker's Retreat Registration Form

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Church _____

Accommodations Requested:

_____ 1 in Room/\$80.00 (each person)

_____ 2 in Room/\$60.00 (each person)

_____ 3 in Room/\$55.00 (each person)

_____ 4 in Room/\$50.00 (each person)

(After February 1, add \$10.00 person)

Registration Fee includes: 2 nights lodging (linens), 3 meals, entrance to all sessions, and conference notebook.

List others in your room: _____

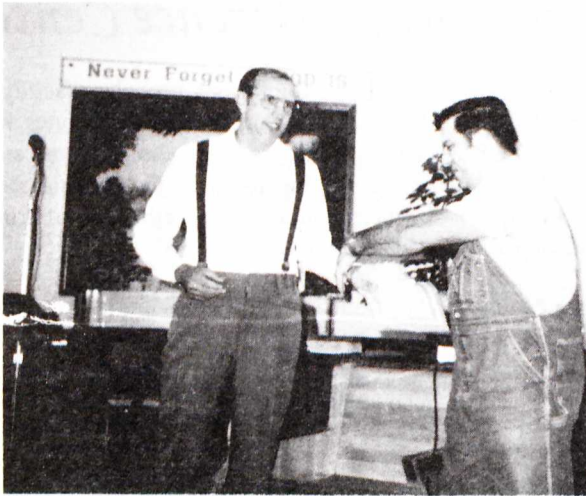
Check here if you would like for us to find a roommate for you. ☐ YES

Number you would like to have in your room. _____

We will contact you before any placement is made.

Make checks payable to Youth Worker's Retreat.

Please return this form and fees by February 1, 1994 to: Youth Worker's Retreat•P.O. Box 17306 Nashville, TN•37217. If you have any questions, please call (615)361-1221 ext. 344.



Pastor Howard Anderson and James Shannon

Can-Do Sunday at Willow Springs

On October 24th, the Willow Springs Free Will Baptist Church located north of Mountain Grove, Missouri, had Can-Do Sunday. This was an event which would prove to the people that all things are possible through God.

There was a debt owed against the parsonage, and the people felt that this debt needed to be paid off. We started some fundraising projects. A Can-Do collection box was built by Wayne Fry, and people began to give to this fund. We had a fish fry, yard sale, singing, and -- to top it off -- a Walk-a-Thon. There was approximately \$200.00 raised by contributions and different events. The Walk-a-Thon brought in over \$1,300.00 with James Shannon raising over \$1,000.00.

Can-Do Sunday was to be Old-Fashioned Sunday with a prize going to the lady with the oldest dress. This prize was won by Tammi Gaddis, who wore a dress over 100 years old.

On that day, we had 84 in attendance. The Gateway Quartet sang for us in the morning service. We then announced that we had raised over three times the amount needed to pay off the debt. At noon, a church dinner was enjoyed by all.

Our services that night consisted of mostly singing and testimonies with Wayne and Sheila Crisp our featured singers. God's blessings were evident throughout the day.



Part of the Old Fashioned Congregation

Sunday School Averages June 1993 - November 1993

CHURCHES	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
Belton	67	71	72	64	65	65
Bethel - Festus	42	41	49	49	59	
Calvary Chapel	75	67	77	71	79	72
Calvary Fellowship	229	214	229	232	292	
Cape Girardeau	82	83	87	105	116	84
Central	73	65	63	64		
Cuba	107	92	100	106		106
DeSoto	175	172	179	188	185	165
Farmington	310	297	333	323	374	338
Flat River, First	139	136	137	147	144	
Hannon	79	86	72	76	81	81
Harmony	67	60		67		
Hartville	99	101	113	104	99	
Hopewell	27	31	31	27	34	34
Houston	49	54	49	51	54	59
Jones Creek	20		18	15	15	12
Kirksville	29					
Lebanon First	96	94	93	103	97	107
Marshfield	35	36				
Myrtle		21	21	28	21	25
Oskaloosa			10	10	10	
Parkview	49	48	54	53	49	42
Richwoods	39	35	30	44	38	
Rock Chapel	65	55	66	61	67	64
Springfield First	102		112	110	112	108
Thayer	120	128	121	127	121	104
United, West Plains	195	189	199	207	199	
Unity	39	48	44	41	52	40
Verdella	68	63	65	75	72	74
Waynesville	66					
Willow Springs	75	69	60	61	64	66

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.



Terry, Connie, Timmy and Ryan Deckard

New Pastor at Rock Chapel

In September 1993, Rock Chapel Free Will Baptist Church near Norwood, Missouri, called Rev. Terry Deckard to pastor the church. Brother Deckard was called to preach in September 1983. Since that time, God has used him as an evangelist, a supply pastor, and a pastor. He pastored the Alton Free Will Baptist Church at Alton, Missouri, from October 1991 to July 1993.

Brother Deckard and his wife, Connie, have two sons, Timmy and Ryan. Pray for this fine family as they pastor a fine group of God's people.

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSION NEWS

NEWS FROM HANNIBAL:

The Hannibal Free Will Baptist Church would like to thank those of you who participated in our emergency flood relief effort.

We made our needs known to the Home Mission Board, they made them known to you, and the response was overwhelming. Missouri Free Will Baptists have certainly made an impact in the Hannibal community. Because of your generosity, our church was able to meet all of its obligations and help 164 individuals with flood relief of some kind. The help we provided included food, cleaning supplies, auto repair, and some lodging assistance.

We received a total of \$7,000.00 from Missouri, Tennessee, West Virginia, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Georgia. We had a need and you, God's people, reached out and helped us meet that need.

Over the past couple of months, our church has been able to provide a real ministry to a hurting community. We did that with your help. As a result, we have seen seven people saved and several rededications. Most importantly, God has been glorified by cooperative efforts. God bless you very much!!

If you would like to contribute to any of the Missouri mission churches, you may do so by mailing your contribution to Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, P. O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65536 or Rev. Dale Skiles, 4534 S. McCullough, Springfield, MO 65804-7208.

Please specify which work you are supporting.

NEWS FROM OZARK:

Greetings from your Missouri State Missionaries in Ozark, Missouri. The Lord continues to work and bless here at Ozark and in the surrounding area. The church continues to grow both spiritually and numerically. We averaged 43 in Sunday School and 51 for worship in November.

We would like to thank:

the Indian Creek Association Mission Conference that gave \$4,106.54 to the Ozark account;

the churches and auxiliaries in the state who are supporting the work in prayer and finances;

the Missouri State Home Mission Board and the Missouri State Cooperative Program;

Brenda Postlewaite, who drives from Springfield each Sunday to play the piano for us;

the Lord for a wonderful, hard-working congregation here at the Ozark Church.

Continue to pray for us as we pray for you.

Jogging Shoes for Feet of Clay Helping Kids Cope with the Great Church Turn-Off

by Steven Board

On the outside this church had a lot going for it. It began in the ministry of prominent and gifted leaders. Among its members were some very talented, dedicated people. But the way it developed internally -- in plain sight of its most sensitive and idealistic youth -- was a tragedy and disgrace. Sex and money scandals, petty divisions, and self-centered people all made this congregation a spiritual eyesore. It had clay feet clear up to its armpits.

This church should probably go unnamed since it developed into quite a scandal, but I'll identify it later.

Uncovered Flaws

"I can't get our young people to accept that the Gospel changes lives when it has not changed the lives of some of our charter members," a youth leader was heard to say. Her husband added, "Our kids are pushed into taking sides in church fights and factions that they don't know anything about. The whole point of Christianity is obscured by these human representatives."

Anyone who works with youth or new Christians has a major problem like this. Young people haven't developed the knack of covering up the flaws of the church. They haven't learned to bracket out the scandal. Some of them even relish those warts on the face of the congregation: "So, all those judgmental, nit-picking older folk have problems of their own! They don't get along with each other, they attack the pastor, and their marriages are shaky. Now they can get off my back!"

In short, when it comes to the visible church -- the one most visible to your youth -- "glorious things of thee" are not spoken. So what do you do next?

Honesty

Let's at least be honest with young people. A prominent theologian shocked his audience on one occasion by saying, "The church is like Noah's ark. You can only stand the stink on the inside because of the storm on the outside." We're talking about both a human and a divine institution.

Everything human falls short of the ideal, including governments, families, and churches.

"You may like math but not your math teacher," I told a 13-year-old with exactly that problem. And I knew he liked popular music but did not admire all popular musicians. He liked tennis but not all famous tennis champions. To face the salt-and-pepper mix of the church may itself be the main growing experience a Christian young person needs. And facing it is inevitable.

Equally, they must be honest with us. Their complaints about the church may be a way of deflecting a hassle with their parents, who support the church. The church may be the lightning rod that's catching all charged-up hostile atmosphere from a strict home or Christian school. Adult leaders can hardly be expected to pick up all that baggage and trudge along sympathetically beside such youth. But we can raise their sights.

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)

Heady Doctrine

Ask yourself, "How do I handle the hypocrisy, the failings, the disappointment in other Christians?"

Probably you will answer, "I have a separate vision that overcomes all that." That is, you have an understanding of who Christ is, what He is doing on the earth, what you think He wants you to do -- and all that enables you to rise above the problems you see in any local setting.

No higher vantage point on the church can ever be reached than from the altitude of its Head, Christ Himself. This is what Paul urges of his readers in Ephesians when he says Christ is making the church "holy cleansing her by the washing with water through the word." Not yet is the church "radiant," "without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish," nor is it yet, in even one instance, "holy and blameless." But that's where things are headed because of the Head of the church. The journey is already under way.

Some people think doctrine like this is too remote to be useful. But the biblical writers made it useful, and we ought to be able to draw the connections as well. To put handles on that doctrine, however, we will need some practical experiences for the adolescent.

A basic starting point: How vivid is the Head of the Church to your teens? If they can strengthen a living friendship with Christ, the other problems will diminish in importance.

As youth begin to know who Christ is and what He has done, they will be able to serve the church, not just criticize it. After

Paul's famous description of Christ in Colossians 1:15-20 ("He is before all things, and in him all things hold together"), he goes on to say, "I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body." First he understands Christ, then he can serve the people who name Christ.

This argues for some clear content about the Christian faith in our programming. No youth program will do its job if it is merely keeping the kids off the street. Nor can we be content with simply acquainting them with the church as an institution. We have a mission to introduce them to their Saviour and King who will change their lives.

Other Christians

Next, we can show young Christians a variety of redeemed humanity. Suppose you lived in Jerusalem in the first century. If you met one disciple and he was Judas, what would you think of the Christian cause? How about if you met only Judas and Peter? How about if you met only James and John, while they were trying to call down lightning on whole cities? Or Nicodemus while he was still a secret disciple?

Every additional Christian we meet fleshes out our picture of what the Church is like. In the Letter to the Philippians, Paul did not let two feuding members, Euodia and Syntyche (4:2), dominate the picture he had of this church. He had seen others who paid a great personal price for their Christian commitment, like Timothy and Epaphroditus (2:25).

This may call for biographies of familiar Christians. We are bound to have a

bigger picture of Christian people after reading about Corrie ten Boom or Charles Colson. Some help will come through films and videos. You'll want to use guest speakers, camps, conferences, retreats, and trips out of town -- all to acquaint your rather provincial young people with some relevant, dedicated examples to challenge their stereotypes of adult believers.

Jesus talked about disciples who were impatient with the visible "field" of God's people. They wanted to pull up the weeds and just have wheat. He urged patience -- wait for God to identify the weeds at the end. Adolescents are not known for patience. But their involvement will turn their attention to bigger issues and they will learn patience as a side effect.

Somewhere along the way, a growing Christian teen will get the picture: "Hey, I'm part of something bigger than I thought! The church is not just them; it's me, too." And when that insight breaks through, we need to be ready with ways for kids to invest in the church -- to buy into it and consider themselves official stockholders. If we can harness their activism and let them build on to the church they know, whatever form that may take, that very activity will give them ownership in the total cause.

That scandalous church I mentioned at first was not the one in your community you may have been thinking of. It was the church at Corinth in A.D. 60 or so. You know: the one Paul said had its treasure in clay pots. Just like your church. Just like you. And me.

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

"F.R.A.N.tastic Days!"

WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The following Sunday Schools earned first and second place in the 1993 Fall Sunday School Enlargement Campaign sponsored by Randall House Publications.

Division	% Increase	# Increase
Division H		
First, Knoxville, TN	148.48	49
First, Ozark, MO	69.23	18
Division G		
Ebenezer, Glennville, GA	61.33	46
Homer's Chapel, Black Mtn., NC	42	21
Division F		
First, Greenwood, AR	7.24	10
Division E		
First, Checotah, OH	1.51	3
Division D		
First, Farmington, MO	15.35	45

49 entries were received from 19 states, plus the Virgin Islands. The average percentage of increase among all churches was 31.62. Awards are being prepared for the winners in each division. The Spring 1994 Sunday School Enlargement Campaign is entitled "Sunday School Enrollment" and will be conducted during the month of March.

Financial Information

NOVEMBER 1993 COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$6,483.31
17.50% Executive Office	6,132.86
3.50% General Fund	1,226.57
8.50% Youth Camp 3d.	2,978.82
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	876.12
2.50% C.E. Board	876.12
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board	876.12
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	3,154.04
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	10,688.69

Foreign Missions Board
National Home Missions Board
Same Allocation:
Free Will Baptist Bible College
Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College
Executive Department
Layman's Board

Radio & TV Commission	
Theological Commission	
Historical Commission	
Board of Retirement & Insurance	
1.00% Calif. Christian College	
(\$106.89 included in \$10,688.69)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference	
Center Fund	1,752.25
TOTAL	\$35,044.90

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

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

NOVEMBER 1993

COOPERATIVE

New Rock Springs	\$ 119.00
Tyrone	41.00
Rolla 1st	87.53
Bourbon	73.71
Victory, Alton	174.35
Royal Oak	118.00
Number One	55.12
Union Grove	211.00
Friendship	221.94
Faith & Hope, Aurora	105.10
Merls Chapel	248.00
Hartville	549.49
Columbia	75.00
Pleasant Ridge, Goodson	119.00
Carthage	212.00
Myrtle	171.88
Thayer	705.00
Rock Chapel	463.41
Kingsway	387.63
Belton	376.40
Bailey Chapel	90.00
Harmony	547.00
Calvary Chapel	399.90
New Hope, Fredericktown	20.00
Clifton	99.73
Victory Hill	91.80
Willow Springs, Mtn. Grove	227.10
Hannon	492.05
Central	684.12
Mill Creek	291.07
Lone Star	39.60
Pleasant Home, Mtn. Grove	156.95
DeSoto	1,100.00
Oak Hill, Union	585.08
Hurryville	377.68
Oak Hill, Fredericktown	109.53
Stockton	125.30
Liberty, Phillipsburg	246.76
New Harmony	25.12
Koshkonong	89.94
Unity	286.00
Hopewell, Tunas	204.00
Houston 1st	376.86
Eastern Gate	453.69
Cabool	525.40
Fellowship, Pk. Hills	500.00
O'Fallon 1st	274.68
Leadington	288.00
Fredericktown 1st	390.00
Cuba	361.50
Richwoods 1st	396.00
Springfield 1st	976.74
Cape Girardeau 1st	983.12
Waynesville 1st	300.996
Freeman Chapel	308.57
Lebanon 1st	668.84
Victory, K.C.	272.83
Joplin 1st	589.78
West Plains 1st	1,082.34
Mine La Motte	43.00
Happy Home	130.75
Black Oak	235.37
Mt. Zion, Gower	62.00
Kirksville 1st	217.51
Fourth	265.00
Flat River 1st	663.07
Farmington 1st	1,895.39
Trinity	1,231.92
Potosi 1st	183.59
Copper Mines	221.21
Riverview, Iowa	688.30
Overland	131.00
Fordland	382.45
Marshfield	310.09
Mt. Pisgah, Cabool	170.00
Verdella	417.04
Grace	1,275.00
Ozark 1st	383.09
Union Light, Marq.	135.00
Monett 1st	1,080.40
Bethel, El Dorado Springs	64.38
North Five	75.41
Parkview	354.80
Grant Avenue	836.97
Neosho 1st	71.25
Chapel of the Ozarks	116.73
Wolf Creek	292.95
Pleasant Hill, Thayer	70.85
Seymour	77.00
Seymour	92.00
Crossroads, Wentz	390.00

Cross Roads, Lebanon	263.77
Terrill Road	290.00
United, W.P.	965.51
Oskaloosa	178.10
Mtn. Grove 1st	1,231.40
Total	\$35,044.90

STATE HOME MISSIONS

Faith & Hope, Aurora	\$ 47.93
Columbia	35.00
Pleasant Ridge, Goodson	25.00
Myrtle	53.00
Thayer	40.00
Rock Chapel	146.31
Madison Co. Qrtly. Mtg.	25.00
South Fremont	25.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	174.00
Hannon	246.02
Faith & Hope, W.S.	44.48
Central	\$10.00
DeSoto	80.00
DeSoto Child. Church	20.00
Oak Hill, Union	22.75
Eastern Gate	40.00
O'Fallon 1st	50.00
L. Wormington	30.00
Lebanon 1st	55.00
Victory, K.C.	5.00
West Plains 1st	10.00
Kirksville 1st	17.90
Fourth	5.00
Farmington 1st	86.66
Trinity	50.00
N. Ruble	20.00
Marshfield	31.00
Grace	30.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Union Light, Marq.	56.00
Calvary Fellowship	45.00
Richwoods	10.00
Grant Avenue	112.70
Neosho 1st	80.89
Chapel of the Ozarks	39.26
Jones Chapel	262.50
Indian Creek Qrtly. Mtg.	21.00
New Testament	45.00
Neosho Auxiliary	25.00
Macedonia	1,250.00
Merls Chapel	136.91
Monett	253.98
Purdy 1st	200.00
Carthage	156.25
Indian Creek Dist. Aux.	200.75
Faith & Hope, Aurora	375.00
Joplin 1st	1,080.00
Macedonia Woman's Aux.	50.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	32.00
Total	\$5,867.29

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Waynesville 1st	\$ 25.00
Columbia	10.00
Bethel, Festus	25.00
Carthage	111.00
Myrtle	132.00
Thayer	235.00
Rock Chapel	70.00
Blue Springs	20.00
South Fremont	12.00
Hannon	5.00
Faith & Hope, W. S.	25.00
Central	130.00
Pleasant Home, Mtn. Grove	20.63
DeSoto	205.00
Oak Hill, Union	30.00
New Harmony	125.63
Eastern Gate	20.00
O'Fallon 1st	82.78
Waynesville 1st	25.00
Lebanon 1st	5.00
Victory, K.C.	15.00
Joplin 1st	1,000.00
West Plains 1st	991.94
J. W. Rader	20.00
Flat River 1st	76.31
Farmington 1st	45.00
Trinity	84.00
Overland	4.00
Bethel, Festus	25.00
N. Ruble	10.00
Leadington	20.00
Fordland	15.00
Mt. Pisgah, Cabool	50.00
Verdella	15.00

Grace	160.00
Union Light, Marq.	35.00
Calvary Fellowship	83.41
Monett 1st	30.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Oak Grove, Norwood	68.10
Lebanon 1st	263.53
Richwoods	52.00
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
Parkview	16.00
Grant Avenue	21.00
Neosho 1st	80.88
Chapel of the Ozarks	39.26
Jones Chapel	262.50
Indian Creek Qrtly. Mtg.	21.00
New Testament	95.00
Neosho Auxiliary	25.00
Macedonia	1,250.00
Merls Chapel	136.91
Monett	253.99
Purdy 1st	200.00
Carthage	156.25
Indian Creek Dist. Aux.	200.75
Faith & Hope, Aurora	375.00
Joplin 1st	1,080.00
Wolf Creek	230.25
Royal Oak	288.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	45.00
Total	\$9,214.12

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Niangua	\$ 15.00
Faith & Hope, Aurora	47.93
Merls Chapel	200.00
Waynesville 1st	25.00
Hartville	109.90
Columbia	15.00
Bethel, Festus	86.00
Pleasant Hill, Goodson	45.00
Carthage	217.00
Myrtle	93.00
Thayer	190.00
Rock Chapel	176.26
Blue Springs	45.50
South Fremont	321.00
Hannon	707.05
Faith & Hope, W. S.	125.00
Central	298.25
F. Green	35.00
Pleasant Home, Mtn. Grove	35.70
DeSoto	370.00
DeSoto Joymakers	25.00
Oak Hill, Union	29.00
N. Akeman	10.00
New Harmony	125.64
S. Hart	20.00
Houston 1st	196.60
Niangua	18.00
Eastern Gate	230.73
O'Fallon 1st	82.78
Waynesville 1st	25.00
Freeman Chapel	343.00
Faith, St. Louis	75.00
Lebanon 1st	95.00
Victory, K.C.	177.00
Joplin 1st	40.00
West Plains 1st	173.83
M. Chrisman	80.00
Union Mission	112.83
Mt. Zion, Gower	130.00
Kirksville 1st	22.90
Kirksville 1st Child. Church	17.45
Fourth	95.00
Flat River 1st	265.24
Farmington 1st	457.47
Trinity	651.17
Niangua	9.00
Bethel, Festus	104.00
N. Ruble	30.00
Leadington	35.00
Fordland	182.00
Marshfield	50.00
Mt. Pisgah, Cabool	100.00
Oak Grove, Cabool	65.00
Verdella	777.04
Grace	100.50
Ozark 1st	10.00
Union Light, Marq.	165.00
Calvary Fellowship	992.64
Monett 1st	717.50
Oak Grove, Norwood	136.20
Calvary Chapel	255.00
Richwoods	35.00

Parkview Mission Group	60.00
Parkview	453.30
Grant Avenue	452.14
Niangua	26.00
Neosho 1st	306.77
Chapel of the Ozarks	78.52
Jones Chapel	525.00
Indian Creek Qrtly. Mtg.	42.00
New Testament	125.00
Neosho Auxiliary	50.00
Macedonia	2,500.00
Merls Chapel	273.82
Monett	507.97
Purdy 1st	400.00
Carthage	312.50
Indian Creek Dist. Aux.	401.50
Faith & Hope, Aurora	750.00
Joplin 1st	2,160.00
K. Markle	5.00
Macedonia Woman's Aux.	650.00
Grant Ave. Woman's SS	25.00
Grant Ave. Partners	29.00
G. Millard	50.00
Terrill Road	83.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	317.00
Total	\$21,003.63

SALVATION ARMY - FLOOD RELIEF

Cove City FWB Young Women's Aux., Cove City, NC	\$55.00
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CHILDREN'S HOME - TN

DeSoto	\$50.00
Flat River 1st	18.00
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
Total	\$78.00

CHILDREN'S HOME - AL

Myrtle	\$40.00
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CALIF. CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Farmington	\$25.00
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FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$ 35.00
DeSoto	35.00
Farmington	133.33
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
Total	\$213.33

JOHN MCCLURE

Thayer	\$ 15.00
Verdella	10.00
Grace	37.50
Monett 1st	107.50
Total	\$170.00

MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

Hartville	\$ 10.00
Myrtle	43.00
Thayer	35.00
Willow Springs, Mtn. Grove	10.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	78.00
Hannon	15.00
DeSoto	50.00
Flat River 1st	24.60
Trinity	14.00
Mt. Pisgah, Cabool	10.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Calvary Fellowship	25.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
Total	\$394.60

HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Thayer	\$ 40.00
Hannon	50.00
Central	45.00
NE Mo. Assoc. ("Have a Heart")	646.26
Eastern Gate	90.73
Victory, K.C.	37.28
Farmington	151.66
Ozark 1st	10.00
Grant Avenue	8.00
Total	\$1,078.93

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.

Ashley Champer Sell Home with the Lord

On Sunday, November 21, 1993, just 13 weeks following the death of his wife, Freda Marie Sell, Ashley Champer Sell went home to be with the Lord. The memorial service was held November 23, 1993. Ashley Champer Sell was born May 15, 1902, in Webster County.

On October 22, 1921, he was united in marriage to Freda Marie Alexander. To this union, six children were born. He was preceded in death by his wife, Freda Marie; a son, Lloyd T. Sell; a granddaughter, Angela Penner; a great-granddaughter, Trina Thompson; six brothers: Dave, Walter, Harve, Percey, Sherman, and Ralph Sell; four sisters: June, Elizabeth, Julie, and Pearl.

Surviving are two sons: Champer Glen Sell and wife Gloria of Springfield; James Sell and wife Shirley of Niangua; three daughters: Doris Gorman and husband Robert of Niangua, Freda and husband Rev. Jack Day of Marshfield, and Sandra Rhyne and husband Beryl of Springfield; 20 grandchildren; 34 great-grandchildren; nine great-great grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Mr. Sell was a long-time member of Niangua Free Will Baptist Church. In his lifetime, he had been a farmer and had retired as custodian of the Niangua schools. For over fifty years, he had served as caretaker of the Niangua Cemetery. He found great satisfaction in caring for the cemetery and giving assistance to those who needed it. His internment was at the Niangua Cemetery.

Rev. Jack Day, a son-in-law, delivered the memorial message. Brother Day began his remarks with, "It seems such a short time ago that we were here for Mrs. Sell's service." He emphasized the wonderful relationship he had enjoyed with his father-in-law and the Sell family, and the encouragement Brother Sell had given him. He said, "Brother Sell seemed to enjoy the responsibility of caring for the cemetery and found joy in helping others. Brother Sell will surely be missed by all of us and by everyone who knew him."

Rev. Clarence Burton, a friend of the family, assisted with the memorial service. He stated, "I know that this is especially difficult for the family, inasmuch as it has been such a short time since Mrs. Sell was called home to be with the Lord. But we know that God's grace is sufficient."

Mr. Sell was always a friend and a gentleman. He had a very fine reputation in the Niangua community and other areas where he had done work and business. He left precious memories.

MO. STATE ASSOC. OF
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