

# **THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM**

Volume 64, No. 2, February 1994



Consider the lilies ...  
they toil not, neither do  
they spin: And yet I  
say unto you that even  
Solomon in all his  
glory was not arrayed  
like one of these ...  
Shall he not much more  
clothe you.

*Matthew 6:28-30*



# Moral Codes and Standards: Cultural or Biblical?

by Rev. Max Courtney

"That dress code was fine for the Dark Ages, but get a life! This is the twentieth century!"

"What do you mean, no petting? What do you mean, chaperone? What do you mean, no mixed swimming? Be real, those codes went out with the horse and buggy!"

"What do you mean, dresses below the knee? What do you mean, keep your shirt on in public? What are we raising, a bunch of Mennonites?"

Do you ever get tired of hearing those same old responses to your conservative stand on moral codes and standards, pounding in your eardrums like a cracked phonograph record? Well, one thing you can say in their favor, they're consistent, to say the least. They are all declaring the fact that most folks today believe moral codes and standards are cultural rather than Biblical. The question to answer is, are they? If the moral codes we teach and preach, and the moral standards we demand, are cultural and not Biblical, then they should change as culture changes. If they are not, however, cultural **but** Biblical, it is impossible to change them.

How can we tell if a moral code or standard is cultural or Biblical? The answer is simple. If the Bible demands something from us, it is Biblical to comply with that demand. If the Bible forbids something from us, it is Bible to reject and forbid it. However, most folks are not satisfied with those answers. "What about the gray areas?" they ask. "There are not absolutes. Who is to judge morality and set standards?"

Would it surprise you if I said, "The Bible is the standard for all decent moral conduct, and once you accept it, all other standards become obsolete?" Would it further surprise you if I declared, "This is the very reason secular humanists hate the Bible so much; it destroys their situation ethics and neo-morality."

We must understand a simple fact before we can accept Biblical codes and standards and keep from rebelling against them. The simple fact is, when the Bible was written, the Author knew it was being written to serve a number of cultures as well as a vast time-frame. Could we dare doubt for even one second that God, the Author of the Bible, was fully aware that

folks living in the twentieth century would someday read it and attempt to live by it? If we doubt that, we are doubting God's omniscience as well as His omnipotence. Not only does God have authority and power over the world at one time, but He has power and authority over the world for all time. And it would also follow that He not only has knowledge of the world at any given time, but He has knowledge of the world at all times: past, present, and future. We must therefore conclude that just as God is immutable so is all that He has written; what He has written of the past has happened; what He has written of the present is happening; and what He has written of the future is going to happen. For any mortal to attempt to change what God has written would be considered a challenge to God's omniscience and omnipotence.

With the foregoing in mind, we now can answer our question proposed by our title.

The fact of the matter is common decency is a Biblical demand and not a cultural adjustment. "But," you say, "decency according to whom?" Surely not according to myself, or to those around me; that would put us back in the "Cultural Codes and Standards" mode. It must be decency according to God. If this is the case, then surely God would tell us what He considered decent and what He considered indecent. The fact is... He did.

The subject of courting, or dating, behavior was addressed by our Lord through His spokesman, Paul, in I Corinthians 7:25-40. This passage covers the whole of this subject including premarital sex, petting, respect of virginity, and the sacredness of marriage. "Behavior" used with "unseemly" in this passage means "running the risk of bringing a virgin daughter to shame, danger, or disgrace" (see also I Corinthians 13:5). Anyone making a serious study of this passage could conclude nothing else but that God forbids premarital sex, common-law cohabitation, petting, and moral looseness.

God deals with the subject of common decency concerning dress codes in I Timothy 2:9-10. Here the word "modest" is used. What is modesty and by whose interpretation? The word actually describes an inner life expressing itself in dress and de-

meanor. Linking this passage with such passages as Leviticus 18:6-20, Isaiah 47:1-3, Isaiah 20:4, Exodus 28:42, and Genesis 10:20-23, we readily see that God associates nakedness with indecency. How can anyone really believe, in light of these facts, that they can exhibit their naked or partly naked bodies before others and comply with God's code of decency? I'm not bent out of shape so much by slacks, jeans, etc. as I am by the exposure of flesh by our modern fashions for both men and women. We **must** know down in our hearts that God does not sanction these things! Cultural guidelines may not draw this distinction, yet surely we can see it in God's Word.

God deals with the subject of homosexuality and lesbianism in Romans 1:24-32, Leviticus 18:22, and Genesis 19:4-7, and defines it as wickedness, abomination, and vile affections.

Even hair styles are discussed by our Lord in His word. I Peter 3:3, I Corinthians 11:1-10 and 14-15 prove beyond any reason of doubt that God expects us to follow His direction even in the way we wear our hair.

Now, we can do one of two things. We can do what most folks do when confronted with these facts and draw a veil of justification over our violation and continue to dress, act, talk, and groom ourselves as culture demands. Or we can come out from among them and be separate, not touching the unclean things, and be received and rewarded (II Corinthians 6:17) for our obedience to Biblical codes and standards instead of being driven by cultural peer pressure.

Not only is God interested in moral codes and standards, He has openly placed them in His word for our direction. They are **His** standards and codes, and no mortal has the authority, power, or knowledge to change them.

We have an interesting observation in I Corinthians 11:16 after Paul has given instructions concerning the grooming of the hair. Actually, some scholars believe the idea presented by Paul is the refusal of men to cut or groom their hair at all. The idea presented here is simply that if women did not cut their hair as instructed here and men did not cut their hair, there would be no distinction between the hairstyles of men

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and women. This is the idea that was being presented. The same idea is also presented in I Corinthians 6:9 where it is stated that the "effeminate" and "abusers of themselves with mankind" (homosexuals) shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Now, the interesting observation I want to point out in I Corinthians 11:16 is the way it points out God's definition of those who refuse to comply with His moral codes and standards. It states, "But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God." The word "contentious" (Greek PHILONEIKOS) signifies an eagerness to contend or being just plain "stubborn." We should remember that in I Samuel 15:23 God said, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king."

It all boils down to this: We can follow the guidelines of cultural moral codes and standards and be accepted by our peers without friction or ridicule, and be rejected by God. Or, we can follow God's Biblical moral codes and standards and be rejected by our peers and ridiculed, and be accepted by God. The choice is our own. It cannot be legislated, forced upon us, or even be complied with out of fear, but it is strictly a volunteer action from our hearts, born out of a sincere desire to please our God because of our love and respect for Him.



### New Stewardship Initiative Launched

Year 1994 marks the beginning of "The Together Way Plan" stewardship initiative to fund denominational outreach ministries.

The basic principle calls for every church to use this plan, whether giving primarily cooperatively or by designation, to support equitably all denominational ministries.

The Plan calls for:

(1) each local church to contribute at least 10% of its general income for denominational causes -- district, state and national -- whether cooperatively or by designation.

(2) states to work toward the goal of retaining 50% of this general giving for district and state causes combined and sending 50% to national ministries.

(3) each church to give, beyond this 10% minimum, appropriate designated offerings for denominational agencies as needed to assume its fair share of support.

(4) the entire denomination to promote four special annual offerings supported by all national agencies.

April: Foreign Missions

September: Rest of the Family Offerings  
Executive Office, Retirement & Insurance,  
FWB Foundation, WNAC, Master's Men,  
National Youth Conference, Commissions  
(Theological Integrity, Music, Historical,  
Radio-Television)

November: Home Missions

December: Free Will Baptist Bible College

"The Together Way Plan" calls for fair share goals set for the support of all national agencies, including the Executive Office, with the understanding that departments continue to promote quotas based on need and experience.

The Plan further provides that missions and educational agencies continue to raise funds through faith promise and designated giving.



## Minute Meditation

by Rev. Gary Fry

*"Therefore will I give thanks unto Thee,  
O Lord ... and sing praises unto Thy name."  
Psalm 18:49*

Wouldn't you like to feel the sentiment of this verse all the time? It would be great if we could always thank God and sing His praises. But that is not our common course.

Instead, we find ourselves often in the dumps because of our circumstances and have to fake a smile. Surely the Psalmist must have had some secret that enabled him to maintain this great attitude.

The blind poetess, Fanny Crosby, might give us insight as to what that secret was. Clint Banner says, "Miss Crosby never attempted a composition without first seeking God's help. She must have spent considerable time on her knees for she wrote no less than 8,000 gospel songs." One day when she was under pressure to produce the lyrics for a tune that William Doane had sent, she found that the words would not come. She remembered that she had neglected her usual time of prayer and went to her knees to seek the Lord's direction. As she arose from her knees, her assistant could hardly keep up with the rapid succession of verses that seemed to flow from her lips. In but moments came the now famous hymn, "Near the Cross."

On another occasion, when she was asking God for creative insight for a new song for which her publishers were waiting, she remembered a bill that she owed and had not the funds to pay. So, as she prayed, she included that request for the needed \$5 as a sort of postscript. Before she finished praying, her devotions were cut short by an admirer who had come to visit. She greeted him briefly and, as he held out his hand to tell her goodbye, he slipped a \$5 bill into her waiting hand. As her assistant told her that it was the \$5 she had prayed for just moments before, she bowed her head and gave thanks to the Lord. Later that afternoon, she dictated the words for the hymn, "All the Way My Savior Leads Me" in response to God's blessing.

Fanny Crosby seemed to find it easy to sing God's praises because she took everything to the Lord in prayer and trusted Him for the answers. This is the secret of praise. It is impossible for us to praise unless we have first prayed. And being in an attitude and position of prayer will invariably lead to praise. For who can enter His gates without thanksgiving and into His courts without praise?

## Two Richwoods Members Home with the Lord

Richwoods First Free Will Baptist Church in Richwoods, Missouri, recently lost two longtime members: Maude Sohn and Arthur "Ott" Vest.

Maude Sohn, 80, passed away on November 24, 1993. Survivors included two children: Clarence, and his wife, Betty; and Edith, and her husband, Junior. Other survivors included two sisters, Emma Butler of Richwoods, and Rose Patton of Washington, Missouri; six grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; four great-great grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Arthur "Ott" Vest passed away on September 10, 1993, after a longtime illness. He left behind brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Rev. Michael Hoggard officiated both services. Richwoods Church will dearly miss these two precious people.



## Black Oak Celebrates 100 Years

The Black Oak Free Will Baptist Church near Marshfield, MO, celebrated 100 years of service to the Lord on Sunday January 16, 1994. Displaying the intrepid spirit of the church founders, a good number of people braved a sleet and ice storm to attend the services. Several of those attending were dressed in old fashioned attire to celebrate the special occasion.

After a good Sunday School hour, the worship service was opened with congregational singing and prayer. Pastor Jack Day gave a warm welcome and commended Lloyd Cliff, Bernice Cliff, Pat Henderson, and Leota Clair for serving on the committee that led in the preparations for the day. Then Bernice Cliff made a special presentation of a rose to Sister Freda Day, the



Black Oak FWB Church

pastor's wife. She also gave gifts to those who had served on the committee. Special singing prepared hearts for the preaching of the Word of God. The Pastor introduced Rev. Nathan Ruble, Executive Secretary of the Missouri State Association, who delivered the morning message. Brother Ruble commended the Church on its vision and commitment to carrying out the Great Commission.

The lively congregational singing, good special music, and sweet spirit in the service gave expression to the joy felt by the people. It was a time that



Rev. & Mrs. Jack Day

honored those who sacrificed and labored to establish and sustain the church. It was also a time of looking ahead with renewed enthusiasm to what God has in store for the church.

Following the morning service lunch was served in the fellowship hall. Services that had been planned for the afternoon were cancelled because of the weather.

The Black Oak Free Will Baptist Church was organized on January 13, 1894, with D.H. Long, J.L. Holcomb and fourteen other believers. Services were held in the Black Oak School House. Two acres of land located 100 yards west of the school house was purchased on November 12, 1894. The purchase price was twelve dollars.

The first church building was erected in 1895. This build-



Lloyd & Bernice Cliff

ing burned in 1940 but a new building was built on the same location. The new building, with a full basement, was completed in 1941. Over the years the building has been modernized and enlarged. The most recent addition is the 36' x 40' fellowship hall that was completed in 1991.

Twenty-four pastors have served the church. They are: J.T. Holcomb, J. Fitch, K.C. Fergersen, C.M. Branstetter, M.B. Cliff, Lane, Suttin, Carpenter, Gearing,

Laster Branstetter, John Swaffier, Ezra Vestal, Henry Long, George Deckard, John Mace, O.L. Claxton, William Reeves, Eddie Pearce, Melvin Nelson, Robert Carlson, Clay McVay, and Jack Day. Only two of the twenty-four are still living, Rev. William Reeves and Rev. Jack Day.

The Church has been blessed with two great revivals. In 1926 God saved 56 people through the preaching of Rev. Marion Cliff, and 126 people were saved in a six-week revival that started in January of 1966. Rev. Clay McVay was the pastor and Rev. Earl Blansit was the evangelist.

The present pastor, Rev. Jack Day, has served the church for over twenty-five years. God has used him and his wife, Freda, in a special way. The church has a vibrant growing congregation.



Some Dressed Old Fashioned



Good Food and Fellowship

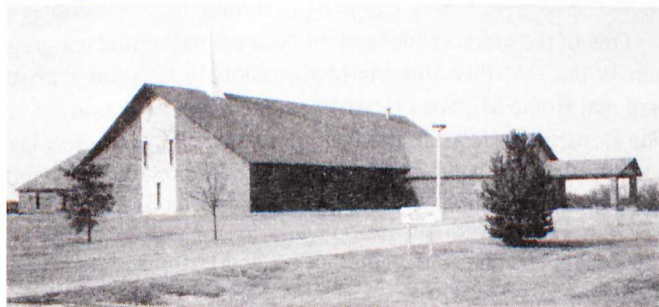


## New Pastor Installed at Central

by Edwin Bowden

Rev. Don Walker was installed as the new pastor of the Central Free Will Baptist Church, Grandview, in the Sunday morning service on January 9. Missouri Executive Secretary Nathan Ruble brought the message and conducted the installation service. Symbolic representations of commitment were presented to Pastor Walker by the deacons and other church leaders. Oral commitments were made by the pastor and the church. A church dinner concluded the celebration.

Rev. Walker, a 43-year-old Detroit, Michigan, native, comes from Clarksville, Tennessee, where he pastored the Pardue Memorial Free Will Baptist Church for sixteen years. He also served as the moderator of the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists for the last three years. Rev. Walker is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, and is completing his master's degree from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois. He and his wife DeDe have two daughters. Kelley, 20, is a junior social work major at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee. Kim, 14, will be a freshman at Grandview High School.



Central FWB Church



Greeting the New Pastor and His Family

Rev. Edwin Bowden served as interim pastor and assisted the pulpit committee in its search for the new pastor. Those serving on the pulpit committee were deacons: Jim Bagby, Max Breshears, Lyndell Harrington, David McKee, and Larry Starnes.

Rev. Walker became Central's seventh pastor. Other pastors were Jim McAllister, Dale Jones, Bill Evans, Howard Gwartney, Jim Shepherd, and Kent Hubbard.

The church celebrated its thirtieth anniversary on June 13 with former pastor Bill Evans preaching the anniversary message. Central began with a group meeting in the living room of Lee and Cledith Sherrell in February 1963 to start a strong evangelical church in the central metropolitan area of Kansas City. Following a revival with Rev. Woodrow Matthews, the Missouri State Home Mission Board met with the mission on May 23, 1963, and formally organized Central Free Will Baptist Church with twenty-six charter members. Charter members Cledith Sherrell, Dorthy Douglas, and Donnie Dunn are still active members.

The church met at 1112 E. 77th Street for eighteen years. The church purchased seventeen acres in Grandview, a south Kansas City suburb, in October 1976. A new building was dedicated and occupied on the Grandview location on April 26, 1981. An educational wing was completed in May 1988. The auditorium was extensively remodeled in the spring of 1992.



Rev. Walker, DeDe & Kelly  
(daughter Kim was still in Tenn.)



Pastor Walker, Deacons and Interim Pastor

## Hannibal Mission Report

by Rev. Dale Cochran

Here is wishing you and your family a very happy, Christ-filled new year!

As you can well guess, Barbara and I are very happy to say good-bye to 1993. With great anticipation and very much prayer, we are looking forward to 1994 being much easier on our nerves.

We can see that the Lord has accomplished much for us and the Hannibal Mission in 1993. However, the personal sickness, the flood, and the strain from all of it was a lot for us to handle. Thank God for His comfort and the prayers and support from our church families.

Alexander, our grandson, is doing quite well. He no longer has to take any medication for his heart. He will have to have one more open heart surgery in the future, and then he should be able to lead a fairly normal life.

People are recovering slowly, but recovering just the same, from the flood. The church's finances have not fully recovered so we would be thrilled with any additional help the Lord might lead you to offer. Again, we would like to say thank you to all of you who helped with the flood relief this summer. You saved us from financial disaster.

Pray for our church families and our daughters. Tonya is majoring in Special Education at Northwest Missouri State University. Kimberly and Jason are trying very hard to survive their son's illness. That has placed an extra strain on their lives.

Barbara and I ask for your prayers. We have been in Hannibal six-and-a-half years. We had hoped that we would be self-supporting by now but, unfortunately, that hasn't happened. Pray that 1994 will be the year that sees that dream come true.



## From Our Missionaries....

### FOREIGN

**GENTUSO** - Some of you might still be wondering why the Gentuso family is in Belgium. Simply put, that is where they found the best, most comprehensive tropical medicine course offered in the French language. They must study and learn all they can about tropical diseases, which are quite different from the typical problems they have treated in the U. S. Moreover, their studies must be in French, as this is the language of Cote d'Ivoire.

**REEVES** - The church is moving closer to becoming self-supporting. They are in the process of selecting a Spanish pastor who will assume the role gradually, over a period of three to four years. This is a matter to praise the Lord for as this congregation continues to mature and grow. Continue to remember them as you pray.

**CURT HOLLAND** - We will begin full responsibility of the second church in Ribeirao Preto. Please continue to pray for us. Our language school is over and the real challenge begins: winning people to Christ and ministering to their needs in their language.

**EAGLETON** - As we move to Doropo medical station, our responsibilities shift to helping keep the clinic and hospital facilities functioning. I will help out with servicing and maintenance of buildings, generators, vehicles, and other equipment. Marvis will help with administrative duties, record-keeping, etc. I am already scheduled to preach twice this month. There will be plenty to do, I'm sure.

**CALLAWAY** - In the past three or four weeks there have been more questions asked by the Spanish teenagers who come in, than during almost any time before. As you might guess, most of them have been taught evolution as a fact. They know that our church believes in the Genesis account of creation, and this serves as an opening for talking with them about the Lord.

**PINKERTON** - Jerry has officially given resignation as pastor of the Bondoukou Church - effective in April, just before our furlough. Please pray that God will call an African pastor to this church.

**POOLE** - On January 19, we will leave Brazil for another short furlough; however, to get back to the field in July, we desperately need your help. You may ask why the urgency. It is mainly because of the Seminary-Bible Institute since I am director and we are both teachers.

**AYCOCK** - We are excited about what we feel God is going to do in the work here in 1994. Please accept our thanks for standing with us in this ministry. May the Lord give us all a fresh appreciation for the love that made Him give His only Son for this lost world.

**LEE** - After serving in the Ivory Coast for 27 years, the Lees were unable to return due to Vada's health problems.

**PLUNKETT** - The Plunketts have arrived in the Ivory Coast. They were scheduled to leave Nashville on December 12 and arrive on December 13.

**BUNCH** - We arrived in the states in July. We have been privileged to visit many churches. Jonathan will have the first of a series of surgeries January 19. The first surgery on his ear will be the most difficult. Alicia's doctor says she needs another surgery on her foot. We will meet with one of the doctors January 18, to discuss it further. Please pray for Amanda, Alicia, and Jonathan.

### HOME

**MANESS** - I cannot list everything in one letter or express to you my complete appreciation for you and your dedication to our Lord and finding that dedication in supporting our ministry. We

have been working here under many difficult circumstances and have gone through some unusual problems. I am continually reminded that we could not do so if you did not support our ministry.

**DOGGETT** - We realize more each day how truly blessed we are. God has been so good to us and we are grateful. You have been so kind to us with your support in love, prayers, and gifts. We value your FRIENDSHIP more than you could know.



### Jim Mertz's Account Needs Support

The Wentzville Mission, where Jim Mertz serves as the home missionary pastor, reports souls saved recently, and growth in attendance and offerings. The church is now supporting the pastor with about \$400 per month to his account, and also are paying a large mortgage payment of \$1,600 per month.

One of the greatest concerns of both the pastor and congregation is the fact that Jim Mertz's missionary account with the National Home Missions Department is almost \$7,000 in the red. The Department is asking the supporters of Jim Mertz to please be faithful in their support until the work in Wentzville can become self supporting. Send your gifts designated for the "Jim Mertz Account" to the National Home Missions Department, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002, or to the Missouri State Mission Board.

### Sacrifice

*(This was excerpted from the Clint Morgan Family Missionary Letter)*

When the Institute students finish their studies on campus, they will be placed in a FWB church to serve one year as an intern. We wrote letters to our churches asking who was interested in receiving one of these interns. Several responded saying they wanted one but could not afford to pay one. The old issue of money raised its head again and seemingly put the brakes on an important aspect of our leadership training program. At this point we could only pray that someone would take a step of faith.

God answered that prayer and one man dared to be different. He had the courage to stand and say with words and actions, "My God is able." This man was one of our former students named Ernest Kambou. He is presently pastoring three village churches and overseeing several new groups. Under his leadership, the churches in the area have nearly doubled. Overwhelmed by the tasks and knowing he needed the help, he laid down the gauntlet. He said to his churches, "I will give half of my salary (\$50 a month divided in two) in order to have some help and to make sure that these students complete their training."

What a statement of faith! Two of the students were so moved by his example that they have committed themselves to any church that needs them, even if they are not promised any money. Perhaps this is not the ultimate "sacrifice," but surely it is a giant step more than most would dare to take.



# Free Will Baptist Bible College News

## Bible College Names Conference Speakers

Dr. James Draper, Jr., President of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, will headline a list of speakers for Free Will Baptist Bible College's spring Bible Conference, March 6-10, according to Dr. Robert Picirilli, Academic Dean.

Other speakers include Rev. Henry Horne, Rev. Vernon Barker, and Rev. Terry Forrest. Two students will also be included on the program.

Dr. Draper, a native of Arkansas, brought 35 years of pastoral experience with him when he became the eighth president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in 1991. He left the 8,200-member First Baptist Church in Euless, Texas, where he served for 16 years as pastor, to direct the work of one of the largest religious publishing houses in the world. Dr. Draper also served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1982-84.

Rev. Horne is a 1979 FWBBC graduate. He is currently in his seventh year as pastor of Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Chocowinity, North Carolina.

Rev. Barker is an evangelist who makes his home in Joelton, Tennessee. He is a 1974 alumnus of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Rev. Forrest served for 20 years as a Free Will Baptist pastor before he moved to Nashville in 1991 to serve as Dean of Students at FWBBC. He is a 1971 graduate of the Bible College.

Two student preachers -- Jose Rodriguez and Mark Kiepke -- will each speak once during the conference.

The Commission for Theological Integrity of the National Association of Free Will Baptists has asked Dr. Jack Williams, editor of *Contact* magazine and coordinator of the annual Free Will Baptist convention, to present a special seminar on Wednesday afternoon of the conference.

The FWBBC Alumni Association will hold its annual business meeting during the week and will elect officers.

The college welcomes all visitors to the 1994 Bible Conference, March 6-10.

## Welcome Days at FWBBC

The warm thoughts of being home with family flooded most students' minds the week prior to the Thanksgiving holidays. But, as Thursday, November 18, arrived, those warm thoughts were transferred from their minds to warm hearts and open arms as the FWBBC college family welcomed 290 guests from 17 states and 63 churches for fall Welcome Days.

Following registration, settling into rooms, and eating supper, the guests gathered at Memorial Auditorium to be challenged by the *Evangels* drama team and the Concert Choir. The *Evangels* began with two light-hearted sketches that had everyone laughing. The choir blended voices, leading the worship to the Father. Then the *Evangels* returned with "The Chair" and all hearts were searched. Many came forward to pray.

Friday was filled with visits to classes, a special chapel with *Rejoice!*, and a timely message by President Tom Malone. There was a special forum and reception for sponsors. Other meetings explained the programs at FWBBC, financial aid, and provided time for interaction with faculty, staff, and students.

That night, the Activities Building was packed to watch the FWBBC Flames basketball team triumph over Crown College. After the game, everyone was treated to hot chocolate and donuts by the student body. Welcome Days was capped off with the heart-stirring film of David Ring's testimony.

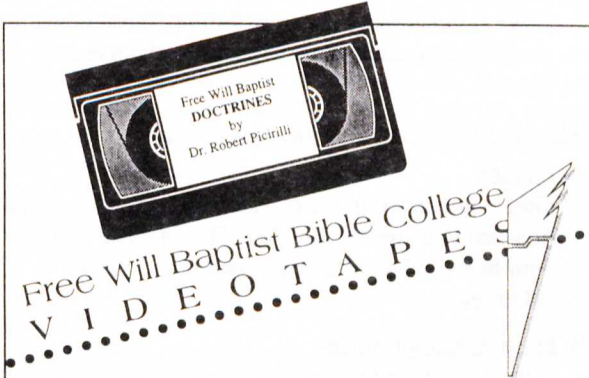
Welcome Days closed and students' minds returned to those warm thoughts of time at home around a bountiful table of turkey with all the trimmings. But there is an additional warmth -- the memory of two wonderful days with some very special guests.

Why not plan to attend spring Welcome Days, March 30 - April 2, 1994? Write or call the college for registration materials.

## 92 Students on Bible College Dean's List

Following final fall semester examinations, the names of 92 Free Will Baptist Bible College students were placed on the Dean's List of honor students. These made B or higher in every class they took. Following is a list of Missouri students who made the Dean's List:

Bill Stringer, Esther, MO -- Senior  
Amy Pointer, Springfield, MO -- Sophomore  
Jennifer Blanks, West Plains, MO -- Freshman



Free Will Baptist Doctrine—Dr. Robert Picirilli	\$59.95
Homiletics—Rev. Ralph Hampton	\$59.95
Marriage and The Family—Dr. LaVerne Miley	\$79.95
The Book of James—Dr. Ken Riggs	\$99.95
New Testament Survey—Dr. Stanley Outlaw	\$99.95

Add 10% of total order for shipping & handling

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# How to Pray

by Rev. Ken Dodson

Communication is the key to any relationship that will be a meaningful one. God has chosen the Bible as His primary vehicle of communication to us. He also communicates to us through the Holy Spirit, through the preaching of His Word, through His creation, through the testimonies of His children, and while singing songs of praise and adoration.

We communicate with God through the avenue of prayer! Without prayer there can be no meaningful relationship with God. Real communication takes two individuals who are willing to talk honestly with one another and be willing to listen intently to each other.

Since prayer is so important in our relationship with God, what do you know about it? How does God instruct us in this avenue of communication? Let us study together in this lesson on how to pray as the Bible teaches.

## I. Realize that there are hindrances to prayer.

### A. Sin in our lives

If we are committing known sin in our lives, or continue to willingly sin, God will not hear our prayers. (Psalm 66:18)

### B. Walking against light

If we refuse to obey God or to follow His leadership in our lives, He will not answer our prayers. (Proverbs 1:28-30)

### C. Rebellion against God's messengers

If we rebel against the preached Word of God (not just the whims and opinions of man), God will not hear us. (Zechariah 7:13)

### D. Doubt

If we lack in true believing faith, then God cannot answer our prayers. (James 1:6-7)

### E. Selfishness

If we pray selfishly (praying for only those things that would please and satisfy us), God will not answer our prayers.

## II. Realize the conditions for answered prayer.

### A. Privacy

God is interested in the private times of communication that you spend with Him. That is when you bare your heart and soul to your Creator and Savior. (Matthew 6:6)

### B. Forgiveness for others

If we cannot forgive and communicate with others, then God cannot forgive and communicate with us. (Matthew 6:14 & Mark 11:26)

### C. Others praying with you

Power of prayer comes forth from the unity and love of brothers and sisters in Christ who care about each other enough to pray together with shared concerns and burdens. (Matthew 18:19)

### D. Believe that God will answer your prayers

When we pray under the direction of God's will, we can believe that God will answer our prayers. But we must remember that God can answer with a YES - NO - or LATER. (Mark 11:24)

### E. Perseverance in prayer

A quick little "Please God..." before we nod off to sleep is not a true burden of prayer. A prayer concern that stays on our heart and in our prayers shows God the seriousness of our communication to Him. (Luke 18:7 & Luke 11:9)

### F. Abiding in Christ

The way we live must be consistent with what God taught us in His Word before we can expect Him to answer our prayers. (John 15:7)

### G. Continuing in prayer

We are not to pray without stopping but rather to be in constant recurring prayer. This type of praying calls on God for our daily living. (I Thess. 5:17 & Eph. 6:18)

### H. Righteous living

Righteous men have powerful prayers, and holy living is a condition that must be met before prayers will be answered. (James 5:16)

### I. Obedience

Love is the essence of deep inner heart communication. Jesus said, "If ye love me keep my commandments." We must learn heart-given obedience to truly be able to communicate in prayer with God. (I John 3:22)

## III. Remember that Christ gave us instructions for prayer.

The disciples had asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. (If they needed instruction, we certainly do). For their instruction, Jesus prayed a pattern prayer in order to help teach them to pray themselves. Remember, Jesus prayed many prayers here on earth, but this was the only time He prayed this specific prayer. In this pattern prayer, Jesus showed that we should do the following things (Matthew 6:9-13):

A. Address God with respect and honor.

B. Pray for His kingdom and will to be done.

C. Trust in Him for daily sustenance and needs.

D. Ask for any needed forgiveness of sins, realizing that we should be forgiving others also.

E. Ask for help in times of temptation.

## IV. Restudy passages on prayer.

A. Luke 18:1-8 Parable of the widow

B. Luke 18:9-12 Parable of the Pharisee

C. Luke 18:13-14 Parable of the Publican

D. Luke 11:5-13 Parable of the friend at midnight

E. Matthew 18:23-25 Parable of the unmerciful servant

F. John 17:1-26 Christ's prayer



## News of Interest

### Principal Disciplined After Allowing Prayer

Apparently fearing a law suit from the American Civil Liberties Union, the Jackson, Mississippi, public schools have put a high school principal on administrative leave indefinitely after he allowed a student to lead a school prayer broadcast over an intercom before classes for three mornings. Several students who walked out of school to show support for Jackson Wingfield High School's principal, Dr. Bishop Knox, were also suspended. Thousands demonstrated in support of Knox and the students.

"The students wanted prayer, the student council endorsed the concept and they called for a student body vote," Knox said. Students had voted 490-96 to approve the school prayer proposal.

"The ACLU is misleading schools into thinking that prayer is permissible only at graduation," AFA Law Center General Counsel Scott Thomas said. "This is not true!"

Knox said the prayer followed a 5th U. S. Circuit Court ruling permitting student-initiated prayer. The local PTA president said parents support the principal.

The AFA Law Center is representing Knox in proceedings by the school district and is discussing possible action on behalf of the students.

*Clarion-Ledger, 11/13/93*

### Dad Who Objects to Obscenities Shot to Death

A Bible college worker was shot to death in Portland, Oregon, recently after demanding an apology from a man and two teens who shouted obscenities at his five-year-old son.

The man was driving with his wife and son when a car pulled alongside and three people inside started yelling obscenities. At a stoplight, the man demanded an apology. A scuffle ensued with the 29-year-old in the car, then the 16-year-old allegedly shot the father.

The teen was charged with murder; the man was charged with assault. The third person was questioned and released.

*The Plain Dealer, 8/8/93*

### Good Deed for Boy Scouts

The time-honored Scout oath, "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country," came under attack in Welsh v. Boy Scouts of America (BSA). A suburban Chicago son and father sued the BSA to force acceptance of Mark Welsh as a member of the Cub Scout pack despite his refusal to affirm belief in God. His father was denied the opportunity to act as an adult partner. The agnostic plaintiffs claimed that the BSA is a "place of public accommodation" and practiced religious discrimination against them in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. However, a U. S. Appeals Court last May ruled 2-1 in favor of the BSA. In December, the Supreme Court unanimously declined to review the case, thus leaving intact the lower court decision.

A merit badge to the court for this good deed. We believe the Boy Scouts have every right, as they argued, "to form an association for the purpose of expressing, transmitting, and reinforcing certain values and beliefs, including religious ones, and to limit membership to those who share those values and beliefs." Sadly, for the courage of their convictions, the BSA will be rewarded with other legal tests.

*NAE Washington INSIGHT (National Association of Evangelicals) 1/94*

## Who Killed River Phoenix?

*by Rev. Bob Thebeau*

*(The following article is from the DeSoto FWB Church newsletter).*

River Phoenix was a young actor who died recently of a drug overdose at the age of 23. In an age such as ours that refuses to accept responsibility for its actions or call sin "sin," I felt some small satisfaction in an article in the Post-Dispatch written by Mona Charen concerning this man's death. A portion of that article follows:

"We are all accustomed to the bereaved families of drug abusers finding meaning in the deaths of their loved ones by dedicating themselves to the fight against drug abuse. At first it looked as though Heart Phoenix (his mother) was headed in that direction. The death of her son, River, at a Hollywood night club, she confirmed, was the result of recreational drug use.

"But Ms. Phoenix veered immediately into the Never-Never Land of left-wing kookiness. She hopes, she writes, that River's death will focus the attention of the world on how painfully the spirits of his generation are being worn down. They are growing up with polluted air, toxic earth and food, and undrinkable water. We are destroying our forests, the ozone layer is being depleted, and AIDS and other diseases are epidemic... Drug abuse is a symptom of an unfeeling, materialistic, success-oriented world where the feelings and creativity of young people are not seen as important.

"Oh dear. So that's how it is. Young people at Hollywood night clubs are not indulging in drugs because they lack self-control. They aren't drowning their poor self-esteem in a bath of hallucinogens. No, they are making a statement about ozone depletion.

"As for the feelings and creativity of young people being ignored in our materialistic society, River Phoenix was hardly one to complain. The sums he fetched each time he expressed his creativity on film would feed whole towns for a year.

"Nor is it even remotely true that our water is undrinkable, our land toxic, or our air unbreathable... Well within living memory, food-borne illnesses killed thousands. The air in industrial cities used to be so polluted that the trees turned black. Today everywhere in America, you can turn on the tap and drink clean water without fear. You may not like the taste, but it won't kill you.

"It is sheer fantasy to paint the modern world as hopelessly sullied. But more importantly -- and again, one hates to upbraid a grieving mother -- the notion that large forces like global warming and pollution are responsible for individual action is exactly the kind of thinking that unhinged this country during the sixties and continues to work its effects today.

"River Phoenix was an adult. He was responsible for his actions. Leave aside the stupid ozone hole. Phoenix did a terrible, ghastly thing by polluting his own brain with chemicals, to say nothing of the example he set.

"Heart Phoenix is worried about the rivers and streams... I've got a list of my own. I'm worried about thousands of shootings in our cities and schoolyards, 1.5 million abortions every year, the seemingly unstoppable growth of government, a 25 percent illegitimacy rate, and the endless supply of violent, trashy, vulgar ooze produced by the entertainment industry of which River Phoenix was a part. That stuff pollutes the minds and souls of the people who see it. And the pollution is much more important, more frightening, and far harder to reverse than the carbon monoxide in the air."

It would do some good to see more news media people take a stand such as this woman has.





## The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

Three years ago, the youth ministry magazine, *Group*, reported the findings of a Search Institute survey of 46,799 sixth through twelfth graders. The statistics were, and still are, troubling.

Nine out of ten kids have more negative factors working against them than positive factors working for them. Life, the study showed, is a series of close calls and risks. This all means that 90% of kids (in the given age group) risk slipping into such behavior as premarital sex, eating disorders, reckless driving, or drug abuse.

The study then set out to discover why such a high percentage of youth is at risk. Contributing factors included the following:

**1. Home Alone** - Because almost all teens live in a two-income or single-parent household, 58% spend two hours or more each day at home with no adult supervision.

**2. Values of No Value** - 48% hold as their values wealth, popularity, and good times.

**3. Couch Potatoes** - 40% watch three hours or more of television daily.

**4. Party Time** - 31% of this age group frequently attend parties where alcohol is served; however, this jumps to 61% in high school seniors.

**5. Stressed Out** - 21% feel stressed about their lives MOST OF THE TIME!!! Reasons responsible for that stress include physical and/or sexual abuse as well as drug/alcohol abusive parents.

Bad news, huh? However, the researchers found contributors to reducing at-risk behavior included the following:

- 1) Family support
- 2) Positive school environment
- 3) Structured extracurricular activities
- 4) Church involvement

These "contributors" leave a lot of responsibility to the parents, teachers, and church (youth group). The youth group is what I would like to focus on in next month's article. After seeing the previously-mentioned statistics, we will attempt to discover why a youth group is a refuge for so many young people.

## Sunday School Averages July 1993 - December 1993

CHURCHES	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Belton	71	72	64	65	65	65
Bethel - Festus	41	49	49	59	58	55
Calvary Chapel	67	77	71	79	72	71
Calvary Fellowship	214	229	232	292		
Cape Girardeau	83	87	105	116	84	
Central	65	63	64	67	68	69
Cuba	92	100	106	108	106	102
DeSoto	172	179	188	185	165	183
Farmington	297	333	323	374	338	370
Flat River, First	136	137	147	144	131	131
Hannon	86	72	76	81	81	79
Harmony	60		67			
Hartville	101	113	104	99		98
Hopewell	31	31	27	34	34	33
Houston	54	49	51	54	59	51
Jones Creek		18	15	15	12	12
Lebanon First	94	93	103	97	107	111
Marshfield	36					
Myrtle	21	21	28	21	25	27
Oskaloosa		10	10	10		
Parkview	48	54	53	49	42	48
Richwoods	35	30	44	38		
Rock Chapel	55	66	61	67	64	69
Springfield First		112	110	112	108	108
Thayer	128	121	127	121	104	125
United, West Plains	189	199	207	199	209	220
Unity	48	44	41	52	40	39
Verdella	63	65	75	72	74	81
Willow Springs	69	60	61	64	66	62

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.



## Have A Heart Continues Through April

If you did not give your contribution for Have A Heart for Hillsdale in February, it is not too late. The contribution may be made through the month of April!!!

However, it is necessary that the gift be made during the school year 1993 - 1994. So, if for some reason you did not register your gift in the February 27 - Phone A Thon, please send it in during the month of March or April. (The Phone A Thon number was mailed out from Hillsdale.)

The goal for Missouri is \$30,000. We can do it! Some churches have stretched their faith, and the Lord is blessing this with a fine response. The Lord rewards faith that reaches to do the impossible.

May we encourage you to help this Christian Institution that the Lord has used to bless the Free Will Baptist denomination by preparing pastors, missionaries and precious dedicated laypeople to serve the Lord Jesus Christ!

Please mail your gifts for Hillsdale to the Missouri State Office, P.O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65536 or Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, P.O. Box 7208, Moore, OK 73153.

**PLEASE MARK ALL GIFTS HAVE A HEART.**

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

## V.B.S. WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 5th - 9:30 a.m.

Wyota Restaurant - Lebanon, MO

For more information  
call the Lebanon Bible and Bookstore.

(417) 532-9516



# Financial Information

## DECEMBER 1993 COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$5,123.96
17.50% Executive Office	4,846.98
3.50% General Fund	969.40
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	2,354.25
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	692.43
2.50% C.E. Board	692.43
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board	692.43
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	2,492.74
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	8,447.61
Foreign Missions Board	
National Home Missions Board	
Same Allocation:	
Free Will Baptist Bible College	
Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	
Executive Department	
Layman's Board	
Radio & TV Commission	
Theological Commission	
Historical Commission	
Board of Retirement & Insurance	
1.00% Calif. Christian College (\$84.48 included in \$8,447.61)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund	1,384.85
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$27,697.08</b>

"...Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!..." Ps. 106:1. God has given us a good year, and He is to be praised. The faithfulness of the pastors and churches in Missouri made it possible for us to have a part in carrying out the Great Commission in 1993. Pray, as we work together, that we will see more people saved and edified in 1994.

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%.

## DECEMBER 1993 COOPERATIVE

Harmony	\$378.00
Jones Creek	236.00
Victory Hill	55.25
Union Grove	177.00
Kingsway	324.19
Number One	42.46
Koshkonong	74.86
Royal Oak	92.00
Clifton	96.00
Rolla 1st	79.06
Houston 1st	344.99
Leadington	368.00
New Hope, Fredericktown	20.00
New Rock Springs	89.00
Faith & Hope, Aurora	89.80
Myrtle	133.89
Carthage	53.00
Central	916.16
Thayer	709.00
Rock Chapel	351.91
Seymour	75.00
Cross Roads, Richland	207.01
O'Fallon 1st	245.27
Faith & Hope, Willow Springs	53.38
Hartville	393.96
Monett 1st	457.71
Hannon	398.67
Cope	87.00
Liberty, Phillipsburg	204.45
Friendship, Branson	240.00
Black Oak	170.75
Byrd	228.85
Springfield 1st	660.80

Happy Home	100.51
Merls Chapel	166.50
Fellowship, Flat River	400.00
Bourbon	61.46
Bailey Chapel, Tunas	73.00
Mill Creek	216.53
Pleasant Ridge, Goodson	110.00
Willow Springs, Mtn. Grove	222.24
Columbia	113.00
Lebanon 1st	535.50
Parkview	383.96
West Plains 1st	405.32
Verdella	414.43
Fordland	328.80
New Home, Falcon	93.78
Hurryville	335.02
Lone Star	53.19
Cuba	320.00
Belton	390.50
Hazel Creek	514.16
Calvary Chapel	282.37
Overland	96.00
Mt. Zion, Gower	52.60
Stockton	104.10
Faith, Oak Grove	235.80
Olivet	400.00
Mine La Motte	41.02
Unity	324.00
Freeman Chapel	229.12
Fourth	332.00
DeSoto	900.00
Hopewell	136.00
Victory, Alton	127.80
Cabool	333.25
Ozark 1st	287.00
Oak Hill	421.98
Eastern Gate	240.22
North Five	65.37
Victory, K.C.	191.09
Trinity	943.09
Potosi 1st	113.10
Copper Minas	282.13
Fredericktown 1st	300.00
Cape Girardeau	666.03
Waynesville 1st	328.26
New Harmony	15.66
Marshfield	189.81
Mt. Pisgah, Cabool	200.00
Union Light	445.00
Neosho 1st	71.25
Jones Chapel	97.00
Terrill Road	235.00
Farmington	2,115.54
Flat River 1st	512.22
Union, Success	60.00
Wolf Creek	188.05
Grace	1,018.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	1,040.08
Grant Avenue	785.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,697.08</b>

## FOREIGN MISSIONS

N. Akeman	\$10.00
Faith & Hope, Aurora	69.13
Richwoods	30.00
Myrtle	82.00
Carthage	164.00
Central	231.00
Thayer	190.00
Rock Chapel	176.05
C. Thompson	50.00
New Life Fellowship	120.00
O'Fallon 1st	60.56
Blue Springs	76.50
Faith & Hope, Willow Springs	125.00
Hartville	78.79
Monett 1st	429.00
Hannon	673.67
Merls Chapel	200.00
S. Hart	20.00
Pleasant Ridge, Goodson	45.00
F. Green	35.00
Faith, Oak Grove	60.00
Columbia	15.00
Lebanon 1st	95.00
Parkview	296.55

Viburnum	128.50
West Plains 1st	25.00
Verdella	794.44
Fordland	139.00
Greenfield	241.50
Calvary Chapel	175.00
Freeman Chapel	461.50
Monett 1st	2,891.00
Fourth	40.00
Parkview Mission Group	60.00
DeSoto	350.00
B. Thebeau (DeSoto)	30.00
T. Lewis (DeSoto)	10.00
K. Minor (DeSoto)	20.00
Y. Married SS, DeSoto	50.00
Joymakers, DeSoto	25.00
Houston 1st	169.00
Bethel, Festus	110.75
Ozark 1st	15.00
Eastern Gate	108.04
Union Mission	118.21
Victory, K.C.	141.00
Trinity	515.08
Pleasant Ridge, E. Per	10.00
Niangua	26.00
Waynesville 1st	25.00
New Harmony	79.30
Marshfield	30.00
Mt. Pisgah, Cabool	100.00
Oak Grove, Cabool	65.00
Union Light	665.00
Neosho 1st	195.00
Pleasant Grove	106.00
Macedonia Woman's Aux.	650.00
New Testament	80.00
Faith, Oak Grove	30.00
Farmington	539.80
Flat River 1st	204.88
Oak Grove, Norwood	101.96
Grace	42.50
Mtn. Grove 1st	263.00
Grant Avenue	605.66
Grant Ave. Women's SSC	25.00
Grant Ave. Partners	26.75
Grant Ave. Teen SSC	8.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,830.07</b>

## STATE HOME MISSIONS

Faith & Hope, Aurora	\$69.12
Richwoods	10.00
Myrtle	36.50
Central	10.00
Thayer	40.00
Rock Chapel	120.46
O'Fallon 1st	25.00
Hannon	199.32
Pleasant Ridge, Goodson	25.00
Lebanon 1st	60.00
Viburnum	5.00
West Plains 1st	5.00
Fordland	12.00
Madison Co. Qrtly. Mtg.	25.00
Fourth	10.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store	174.00
DeSoto	50.00
Victor's CTS Class, DeSoto	20.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Victory, K.C.	5.00
Trinity	35.00
Marshfield	18.98
Union Light	156.00
Pleasant Grove	53.00
Macedonia Woman's Aux.	50.00
New Testament	20.00
Farmington	76.66
Grace	25.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	27.00
Grant Avenue	109.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,482.62</b>

## NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Faith & Hope, Aurora	\$53.00
Cabool	100.00
Richwoods	42.00
Myrtle	180.00
Carthage	131.00
Central	113.50
Thayer	205.00
Rock Chapel	20.00
New Life Fellowship	20.00
O'Fallon 1st	60.56
Blue Springs	20.00
Faith & Hope, Willow Springs	25.00
Monett 1st	20.00

Hannon	5.00
J.W. Rader	20.00
Columbia	10.00
Lebanon 1st	5.00
Parkview	126.00
Viburnum	44.00
West Plains 1st	366.33
Verdella	25.00
Fordland	10.00
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
DeSoto	150.00
R. White (DeSoto)	20.00
F. Rogers (DeSoto)	15.00
W. Woodfin (DeSoto)	10.00
DeSoto Children's Church	57.60
Bethel, Festus	25.00
Ozark 1st	134.22
Oak Hill	21.00
Victory, K.C.	250.00
Trinity	39.00
Waynesville 1st	25.00
New Harmony	79.30
Mt. Pisgah, Cabool	50.00
Union Light	235.00
Pleasant Grove	52.99
New Testament	50.00
Farmington	33.00
Flat River 1st	192.22
Wolf Creek	29.76
Oak Grove, Norwood	50.98
Grace	120.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	255.00
Grant Avenue	21.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,527.46</b>

## CALIF. CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Farmington	\$25.00
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## WORLD VISION - CA

Victory, K.C.	\$5.00
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## CHILDREN'S HOME - AL

Myrtle	\$5.18
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## CHILDREN'S HOME - TN

Parkview Mission Group	\$10.00
DeSoto	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>

## FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$35.00
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
DeSoto	35.00
Farmington	133.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$213.33</b>

## REV. JOHN MCCLURE

Thayer	\$10.00
Carthage	32.00
Monett 1st	5.00
Verdella	10.00
Grace	37.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$94.50</b>

## HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Thayer	\$40.00
Central	36.00
Hannon	50.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Oak Hill	24.00
Eastern Gate	48.04
Victory, K.C.	29.11
Farmington	151.66
Grant Avenue	8.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$396.81</b>

## YOUTH CAMP

New Rock Springs	\$10.00
Cabool (Golf Course)	100.00
Myrtle	36.50
Thayer	35.00
Hartville	10.00
Hannon	15.00
Willow Springs, Mtn. Grove	10.00
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store	78.00
DeSoto	50.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Trinity, Bridgeton	14.00
Mt. Pisgah, Cabool	10.00
Union, Success	30.00
Flat River 1st	23.64
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$452.14</b>



## 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.*

## Camp Niangua News

### Finishing the Course

*(This item appeared in the Camp Niangua newsletter.)*

Brother David Kennedy, a very able carpenter from Grant Avenue Church, has told us that work will begin soon to finish the miniature golf course. However, this is only made possible by those youth groups and churches who have contributed so generously toward the project "Putting Through the Life of Christ." Our special mini-golf course will be set up where each of the nine holes represent a time in the life and ministry of Jesus. It will be a very unique, and yet beautiful, addition to Camp Niangua. The miniature golf course has been very popular with both young people and adults since we started it some two summers ago. We estimate about THREE THOUSAND games are played during camp each year. Remember, par for the course is set at 27 but, when Brother David finishes, 27 will be a little harder to attain. So far, 20 is the course record, but probably will never to be hit again!

Again, we want to thank those youth groups and churches that have made special contributions to this project. Without you, we couldn't complete the project. Be praying for our good carpenter as he works to "Finish the Course!"

### WE ADMIT THIS...

Getting out a paper is fun, but it's no picnic! If we print jokes, people say we are silly. If we don't, they say we are too serious.

If we clip things from other magazines, we are too lazy to write them ourselves. If we don't, we are fond of our own stuff.

If we don't print contributions, we don't appreciate true genius. If we do print them, the page is filled with junk.

Now like as not, someone will say we swiped this from some other magazine. WE DID!!!

*(This was copied from the Beacon Church newsletter.)*

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

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