

# **THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM**

**Volume 64, No. 9, September 1994**

## *Thank You, Pastor!*

You are appreciated for the many ways you show you care — by bringing God's Word to the hearts and lives of others . . . for reflecting God's love and kindness in all the many ways you serve . . . for being there for us through all types of situations.

Thank you for all you have done, and for all you are doing. May God bless you, Pastor.

*"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."*

*Numbers 6:24-26*

September Is  
Pastor Appreciation  
Month



# The Terrible Blight of Strife and Contention

Romans 16:17-20

by Rev. J. L. Gore

(This sermon originally ran in *The Mississippi Free Will Baptist Messenger*.)

As I approach this subject, I do so with a broken heart. The things presented in this message will reveal disasters in personal relationships among Christians and devastation of many local congregations.

The following will reveal a serious lack of Christian maturity. There is the lack of a maturity marked by trust and confidence in one another. There is the lack of maturity that expresses thoughtfulness of one another. There is a lack of maturity that produces involvement with one another.

The most distinctive and demanding expression of Christian maturity is love. Mature Christian love will always approach differences with a broken heart. It will lead the true Christian to be willing to suffer loss to reach a solution of a disagreement.

There are battles in which the Christian must be involved. I Tim. 6:12 *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

2 Tim. 4:7 *I have fought a good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.*

Jude 1:3 *Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*

There are many battles raging that are not of God. James 4:1,2 *From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? (v2) Ye lust, and have not; ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war; yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*

Here is the terrible blight of strife and contention, wars and fightings among you?

## I. WHERE DO STRIFE AND CONTENTION ORIGINATE?

Strife and contention have their origins in a contentious spirit. Prov. 26:21 *As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire: so is a contentious man to kindle strife.*

Strife and contention come from a proud heart. Prov. 28:25 *He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.*

Prov. 13:10 *Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.*

Prov. 16:28 *A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.*

Strife and contention are born in the anger and wrath of men. Prov. 29:22 *An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.*

Prov. 15:18 *A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.*

Prov. 30:33 *Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter; and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.*

Prov. 10:12 *Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.*

In our relationships with others, often what passes for love is little more than a neat business transaction. People are kind to us,

so we repay them with equal consideration. When they treat us unjustly, our negative response is really what they asked for. Everything is so balanced, so fair, so logical with this eye-for-an-eye and tooth-for-a-tooth kind of justice. But Christian love never settles for only what's reasonable. It insists on giving mercy as well as justice. It breaks the chain of logical reactions.

General Robert E. Lee was asked what he thought of a fellow officer in the Confederate Army who had made some derogatory remarks about him. Lee rated him as being very satisfactory. The person who asked the question seemed perplexed. "General," he said, "I guess you don't know what he's been saying about you." "I know," answered Lee. "But I was asked my opinion of him, not his opinion of me!"

Strife and contention have as their source the flesh, the carnal nature of man.

I Cor. 3:3 *For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*

Gal. 5:19-24 *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, (v20) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, (v21) Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (v22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (v23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (v24) And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. James 3:14-17 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. (v15) This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. (v16) For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. (v17) But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*

James 4:1 *From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?*

## II. WHAT IS GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD STRIFE AND CONTENTION?

God hates strife and contention and they are abominations to Him.

Prov. 6:16-19 *These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: (v17) A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, (v18) An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, (v19) A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*

According to God's Word, a person is a fool to enter into contention.

Prov. 18:6 *A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.*

Why does God have such an attitude toward strife and contention? Strife and contention are Satan's tools to defeat the church.

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All items for publication must be in the hands of the editor no later than the 10th of the month preceding the issue month.

Business Office: 202 West Commercial, Lebanon, Missouri 65536. Nathan Ruble, Editor. Address all correspondence relating to the GEM, including subscription and mailing information, to the above address. The sermons and articles published in the GEM represent the personal views of the authors and not necessarily the views and policies of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists or of the editor. Subscription rates: Single subscription, \$4.50 per year, cash in advance. Church Plan, \$4.00 per year, consisting of five subscriptions or more. The Church Plan will continue until it is canceled by the church. This magazine is published monthly.



# The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

\* Child abuse and neglect victimize 318 children every year with the numbers growing continually. (Because of "public secrets" -- neighbors being aware of the problem but failing to report it -- it is virtually impossible to estimate the actual number of abused children in any community).

\* A child is murdered every four days while another child dies weekly from physical assault and neglect. Forty-three abused children lost their lives in 1993.

\* Every 36 minutes, a child is abused or neglected. Half the cases of neglect refer to a lack of food, warm clothing, and a decent place to live. Not surprisingly, a majority of prison's prisoners were abused as children.

Do these numbers seem disturbingly high? Please consider that these numbers are from the state of Virginia only.

There seems to be a gross confusion between abuse and discipline. Those who beat their children to "teach 'em a lesson" believe their abuse is discipline; those who "preserve the child's self-esteem" by avoiding correction altogether perceive discipline, in any form, abusive.

There is middle ground. The Bible has much to say about discipline. After all, discipline is the process by which one becomes a disciple. A verse in Proverbs encourages discipline, saying a son who is disciplined will bring delight to the soul.

Children are often punished because the adult is aggravated by how much attention a child requires. Children have needs and should never be punished because he demands those needs be met. Parental love and attention are God-given needs each child has, and his survival depends on those needs being met.

Kids have other needs as well --

1. They need to feel worthwhile and accepted. This is done by allowing them to be who they are without demanding perfection, including them in our lives, and showing interest in them. It results in their being able to accept others more easily.

2. They need to feel important and feel as if their activities are important. Kids often equate their activities' importance to you with your feelings toward them, the children.

3. They need to feel cared for by your availability to them, hugs, and a routine of your providing necessities.

4. They need to develop good attitudes. Wait -- avoid criticizing a child's attitude before examining your own. Because attitudes are "caught not taught," it is possible your child "caught" his attitude from you.

5. They need to develop good responses. Kids look to our responses in learning to respond to their world's situations.

6. They need to develop good patterns; they learn what they live.

So, we don't punish when our kids are annoyingly desiring their needs met (at the same time we're trying to balance 24 other activities), but there will be times our children will need discipline.

It is important to remember that correction aims to restore the child and to develop understanding as well as expresses love and shows what needs to be done better. Severity of punishment is not the determining factor in producing successful disciplinary results. Just one word of rebuke is described as producing superior results to "a hundred lashes."

There are techniques to obtaining a child's response to your wishes without physically forcing him. First, pleasantly address the child by name; get close to the child so he pays attention to your messages; establish eye contact; gain a verbal response from the child to ensure he understands; and, remember to respect the child.

When physical discipline is necessary, some parents may feel their stress causes them to cross the line into abusive behavior. Steps can be taken to prevent child abuse:

1. When stress mounts, take time out instead of taking it out on your kids.

2. Make special time for each of your children by allowing him to choose a special activity during the time it's just the two of you.

3. Whether you're a parent or not, volunteer to be a Big Brother/Big Sister to a child who needs a good role model.

4. Research child abuse at a local library.

5. Make your church aware of the abuse problem, and see that the church is supportive of the family unit.

6. Ask your local PTA to sponsor a positive parenting program.

Any knowledge of abuse/neglect needs to be reported. Most importantly, we need to take our family relationships to God in prayer. God has a special plan for the family and will bless each one who honors his position by admitting he cannot do the awesome job alone.



Ozark Mission Anniversary

## Ozark Mission News

The Ozark Free Will Baptist Mission experienced a good July. They averaged 59 in Sunday School for the month, with two rededications and one saved.

The church also celebrated their first year with a Homecoming on July 10. In addition to a large number attending, the Calvarymen Quartet from Hartville, Missouri, presented special music.



Calvarymen Quartet



## Faith and Hope Ordains Two



Elmer Hailey & Gene Fly

On February 27, 1994, ordination services were held for Brother Elmer Haley to serve as deacon of the Faith and Hope Free Will Baptist Church in Aurora. Rev. Virgil Stewart delivered the ordination message, and Rev. Al Jaco led in prayer.

Pastor James McCully gave the charge, and Brother Gene Fly presented the Bible. Special music was presented by Larry and Elda Bassham of Joplin.

Following a dismissal prayer by Rev. Doug Bounous, a reception was held in the church's fellowship hall.

Friday, July 8, saw Faith and Hope ordain Rev. Virgil Stewart into the ministry. Vinson Stewart, twin brother of Virgil, opened in prayer. Special music was presented by the church trio, Larry and Elda Bassham, and the Pugh Family Quartet.

Pastor James McCully gave the charge with a Scripture reading from Acts 13:1-5. Dr. Horace Gentry, from California and the Stewarts' former pastor, delivered the ordination message, reading from Phillipians 3:13.



Rev. Virgil Stewart

Moderator Richard Robinson called the ordaining committee, along with the ordained in the congregation, to the altar for the ordination prayer and laying on of hands. Rev. Joe Wogoman led this prayer.

Presentation of the certificate was by Rev. Scott McCully, with the Bible being presented by Brother Gene Fly. Rev. Frank Webster closed in prayer, and a right hand of fellowship was extended to Rev. and Mrs. Stewart.

A reception followed the service.

## Girls Cabin For Sale

Trinity Free Will Baptist Church in Bridgeton, Missouri, is selling their small girls' cabin at the Free Will Baptist Youth Camp in Niangua. The cabin may be purchased for \$1000.00 or best offer. If interested, please contact the church at (314) 291-2972.

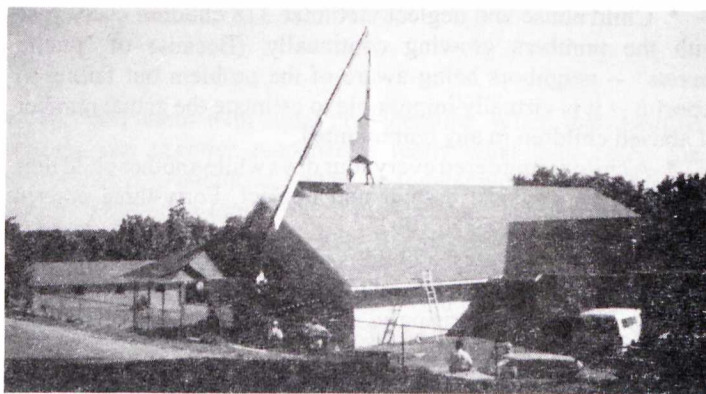
## Masterpeace Quartet Tapes Available!!!!



The Masterpeace Quartet was recently featured at the Senior Adult Retreat, Missouri State Association, and the National Convention. You may order their tapes by writing --

Masterpeace  
302 South A Street  
Farmington, MO 63640

## Thayer Church News



Thayer Free Will Baptist Church recently added a steeple to the top of the new sanctuary. This was the finishing touch to a long project which included the addition of almost 10,000 square feet of building and the renovation of all of the old building. As of March 1994, the building is completely debt-free!

In June, the church called Lance Rogers to serve as associate pastor/youth minister. Thayer praises God for His many blessings and expects to see the ministry of the church continue to grow and prosper.

## Sunday School Averages Febuary 1994 - July 1994

CHURCHES	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
Belton	65	66	64	56		
Bethel - Festus	67	66	64	62	60	71
Calvary Chapel	78	82	81	73	76	90
Calvary Fellowship	242	337				
Cape Girardeau	99	132	91	78	81	77
Cuba	114	124	120	115	113	111
DeSoto	187	200	184	178	175	171
Farmington	367	408	387	351	343	332
Hannon	78	83	81	83	76	77
Harmony	72	81	72	60	59	
Hartville	93		101	91	96	80
Hopewell	33	33	33	29	30	39
Houston	52	59	61	51	54	48
Jones Creek		13	18	13	15	12
Kirksville	28					
Lebanon First	115	118	115	111	107	
Mill Creek	51	51	55	46	44	
Monett	110	110				
Myrtle	27	26	27	32	27	27
Ozark	48	50	59	50	50	59
Park Hills First	130	141	134	136	126	
Parkview	44	42		41		45
Richwoods	35	33	35	23	23	24
Rock Chapel	66	77		67	78	67
Springfield First	105	123	102	105	113	103
Thayer	126	146	132	126	115	138
United, West Plains	228	203	206	200	206	206
Unity	39	44	37			
Verdella	72	73	75	78	67	67
Willow Springs	65	61	72	66	60	65

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.



## The Stanley Jones Singers

The 58th annual meeting of the National Association of Free Will Baptists was held July 17-21 in Little Rock, Arkansas, at the Statehouse Convention Center. For the second year in a row, The Stanley Jones Singers of Hartville, Missouri, were included on the program.

This group of Southern Gospel singers was featured twice during the five-day event which drew a registered attendance of 7,640. Their latest radio single, "I Will Not Trade," on Heritage Compilation CD Volume 10, #10, received an enthusiastic response from the audience.

A large number of convention goers visited The Stanley Jones Singers' booth. Among them was producer and songwriter John D. Jones of Houston, Texas. John has written several songs recorded by the Hartville, Missouri, group, as well as one recorded by the Lesters of St. Louis, Missouri, and one by the choir of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. Also stopping by the booth was producer and arranger Vernon Whaley of Nashville, Tennessee. Vernon has been of great encouragement and assistance to The Stanley Jones Singers. Convention music coordinator Randy Sawyer indicated future convention appearances by The Stanley Jones Singers.



Stanley with Producer/Writer John Jones



Stanley with Producer/Arranger Vernon Whaley

## REPORT OF 1994 CONVENTION



1994 Free Will Baptist National Convention

The 58th annual Free Will Baptist National Convention focused two days of voting and discussion on a wide variety of denominational issues, including the precedent-setting appointment of an eight-man study committee to probe Free Will Baptist interest in ethnic ministry outreach in the USA. The July 17-21 gathering filled Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Delegates responded energetically to a report that focused on non-Christian immigrants flooding American shores from Latin America, the Pacific Rim nations and the Middle East. The call for cross-cultural evangelistic and church planting efforts in the USA won immediate approval. Delegates authorized the study committee to be chaired by Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington. Other members include the general directors of the Home and Foreign Missions Departments, the general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department, the president

of Free Will Baptist Bible College; and three at-large members selected by the above-named committee members.

The study committee will assess denominational resources, identify those groups where Free Will Baptists can most readily minister, propose plans and strategies to implement a united cross-cultural ministry, determine denominational educational and training needs required for this kind of ministry, and offer suggestions for development of cross-cultural ministries by local churches, district and state associations.

In other action, delegates:

**Examined...** audited reports for all denominational agencies. The information was packaged in a 192-page *Digest of Reports* distributed to delegates and visitors at registration.

**Elected...** members to 33 positions on the following boards and commissions: General Officers (4), General Board (13), Execu-

(continued on page 6)



## Report of 1994 Convention *(continued from page 5)*

tive Committee (3), Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees (3), Foreign Missions Board (3), Sunday School and Church Training Board (3), Commission for Theological Integrity (1), Radio-Television Commission (1), Music Commission (1), Historical Commission (1).

**Registered...** 7,640 people in three concurrent conventions including 913 ordained ministers, 226 ordained deacons, 169 local church delegates, 96 state delegates, 72 home missionaries, 57 foreign missionaries; 2,859 non-delegates; 2,044 for the National Youth Conference and 1,175 for the Women Nationally Active for Christ Convention.

**Adopted...** a \$13.9 million denominational budget for 1995 for the following agencies: Foreign Missions – \$4.3 million; Home Missions – \$2.7 million; Free Will Baptist Bible College – \$3.3 million; Sunday School and Church Training – \$2.5 million; Executive Office – \$514,000; Retirement and Insurance – \$336,000; Master's Men – \$106,500; FWB Foundation – \$53,000; Radio-Television Commission – \$10,900; Music Commission – \$4,000; Historical Commission – \$2,725; Commission for Theological Integrity – \$2,700.

**Approved...** the Budget Committee's recommendation that gifts received through The Together Way Plan be allocated to national ministries on the following basis: (1) Underwrite the Executive Office administrative budget above designated gifts, not to exceed 60% of Cooperative gifts; (2) disburse the balance of Cooperative gifts according to these percentages -- Free Will Baptist Bible College 23%, Foreign Missions 23%, Home Missions 18%, Retirement and Insurance 14%, Master's Men 14%, FWB Foundation 6%, Commission for Theological Integrity 0.5%, Historical Commission 0.5%, Music Commission 0.5%, Radio-Television Commission 0.5%.

**Celebrated...** Tuesday evening's Victory Campaign emphasis with a colorful flag parade and a \$27,275 offering in cash and pledges.

**Gave...** a Wednesday evening missionary offering of \$24,891. Undesignated funds will be divided between home and foreign missions.

**Invested...** more than \$4.1 million in the Little Rock economy, according to the Convention and Visitors Bureau. That includes hotel rooms, food, shopping and other items.

**Selected...** Kansas City, Missouri, as the site for the July 18-22, 2004, national convention. The convention will meet in Bartle Hall and Municipal Auditorium.

**Heard...** five sermons in convention worship services delivered by the following ministers: Gary Fry (MO), Kenneth Frisbee (OH), Dean Dobbs (NC), Don Guthrie (TX), Mark Paschall (Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa).

**Praised...** the first annual Pastors' Conference speaker, Dr. Glen McGriff, who spoke twice on the subject, "Clergy in Crisis."

**Cheered...** when 300 Arkansas youth marched into Statehouse Convention Center Wednesday evening to present a \$78,000 check to the Foreign Missions Department for construction of churches in Brazil and Cote d'Ivoire. The "Norman Invasion" project organizers hope to complete their \$100,000 goal by December.

**Resolved...** appreciation for the Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists who hosted the convention. This marked the fourth time the National Association has met in Arkansas; three of the four meetings were in Little Rock.

**Enjoyed...** one of the most diverse musical programs ever heard at a national convention. Music Coordinator Randy Sawyer blended quartets, soloists, trios, ensembles, choirs, instrumentals and robust congregational singing to produce unforgettable music.

**Joined...** WNAC for an 11:00 a.m. Tuesday worship service

with missionary to Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa, Robert Bryan. Later that day, 740 attendees ate dinner with WNAC at the Excelsior Hotel and heard former missionary Lorene Miley address the WNAC Fellowship Dinner.

**Survived...** a record 1,025 entries in National Youth Conference Music and Arts Festival, and individual competitions. The Red Bay, Alabama, team won the Bible Tic Tac Toe competition, while the Keenbourg, Tennessee, team won Bible Bowl.

**Learned...** that 84-year-old Alabama layman, Thomas Bell, was named Layman of the Year. Brother Bell is well-known in the Birmingham area for his tract distribution ministry in local malls. Runner-Up Layman of the Year is Pontiac, Michigan, layman Randy Taylor.

**Toured...** Hall I in Statehouse Convention Center where exhibitors filled 60 exhibit booths with information and services ranging from denominational agencies to children's homes to Southern Gospel quartets. As delegates stepped into Hall I, they came nose-to-nose with a bright red, eight-foot-tall cover of the July issue of *Contact* magazine.

**Authorized...** a new binding and down-sized revision of *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book*. The hymn book will be off the press by November. Delegates also authorized publishing a generic version of the hymn book for sale to non-Free Will Baptist groups.

**Prayed...** for Foreign Missions Department general director R. Eugene Waddell who was unable to attend the convention after surgery in early July. They also prayed for Master's Men Board member Dwight Fletcher who was undergoing treatment for cancer and unable to attend.

**Grabbed...** 288 autographed copies of Lorene Miley's new book, *First Fruits: Answered Prayer on the Mission Field*. Copies are now available from the WNAC office at \$5 each.

**Pushed...** through heavy NYC crowds to learn that special awards were given to the following: Youth Group of the Year – the youth of Arkansas for their Norman Invasion Project; Youth of the Year – Corrie Coker of Turbeville, SC; and Youth Worker of the Year – Sam McVay of Nashville, TN.

**Smiled...** approval when the Foreign Missions Department reported 1,433 converts and 511 baptisms on the 10 mission fields. And smiled even bigger when Home Missions director Roy Thomas told that James Munsey, who coordinates the work in Mexico, has led in construction of 18 church buildings.

**Adjourned...** to meet in Charlotte, North Carolina, at the New Charlotte Convention Center for the July 16-20, 1995, session.

## The Rest of The Family Offering

The Together Way Plan includes four special offerings for national ministries during the denominational year. The Rest of The Family Offering in September provides opportunity for each Free Will Baptist to make a financial contribution to ministry of the Executive Office, Retirement and Insurance Department, Free Will Baptist Foundation, Master's Men, Women Nationally Active for Christ, National Youth Conference, Radio-Television Commission, Historical Commission, Music Commission and the Commission for Theological Integrity.

The **EXECUTIVE OFFICE** functions as an administrative and service office. It operates under the General Board to carry out directives, plans and goals of the National Association. The office implements and administers the business of the National Association. Its ministries relate directly to the ministries of the local church, the district and state associations and national departments, auxiliaries, commissions and committees. The office's

*(continued on page 7)*



**Isn't it time that you did more with your life?**  
**Isn't it time that you changed your world?**  
**Life is more than waiting to die. Maybe**  
**it's time for you to.....**

**CASTER!**  
The Missouri State Youth  
Conference  
November 18-19, 1994  
Windermere Baptist  
Assembly

**With Will Harmon, pastor of the Oak Park  
FWB Church in Pine Bluff, AR.**

**Music by Mark Brawley, minister of youth  
and music at Oak Park.**



# Registration Form

Wow! Believe it or not, it's almost time for the Missouri State Youth Conference again. This year's theme is "Cross The Line". You need to fill out this registration form and get a completed medical release form for everyone who's coming to the Conference. Be sure you read all the information carefully.

## Boy

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## Sponsors

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The Conference costs \$30 per camper, so complete this formula:

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times \$30 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

(# attending)      (Total amount)

Mail completed registration form, check and medical releases to The Missouri Youth Ministries Board, c/o Mark Braisher, 4041 NE Antioch Rd, Kansas City, MO, 64117. All forms must be postmarked by October 10, 1994. After October 10, the fee rises to \$35, so get everything done on time!



**Camper Medical Release Form**  
**Windemere Baptist Assembly**  
**Roach, MO 65787**

Camper's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (Zip Code)

Residence Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(Area Code) (A/C)

Church Coming With \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (City)

Allergy To Any Medicine? \_\_\_\_\_ If Yes, What? \_\_\_\_\_

If not available in an emergency, notify:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (A/C)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (A/C)

I \_\_\_\_\_, having legal custody of \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Name of Parent/Legal Guardian) (Minor)

who resides with me at the above address, am entrusting the care of him/her to the adults responsible for the camp program in which the child has been enrolled during the dates of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_ at Windemere Baptist Assembly, located at Roach, Missouri.

Conference \_\_\_\_\_

**Authorization For Emergency Care**

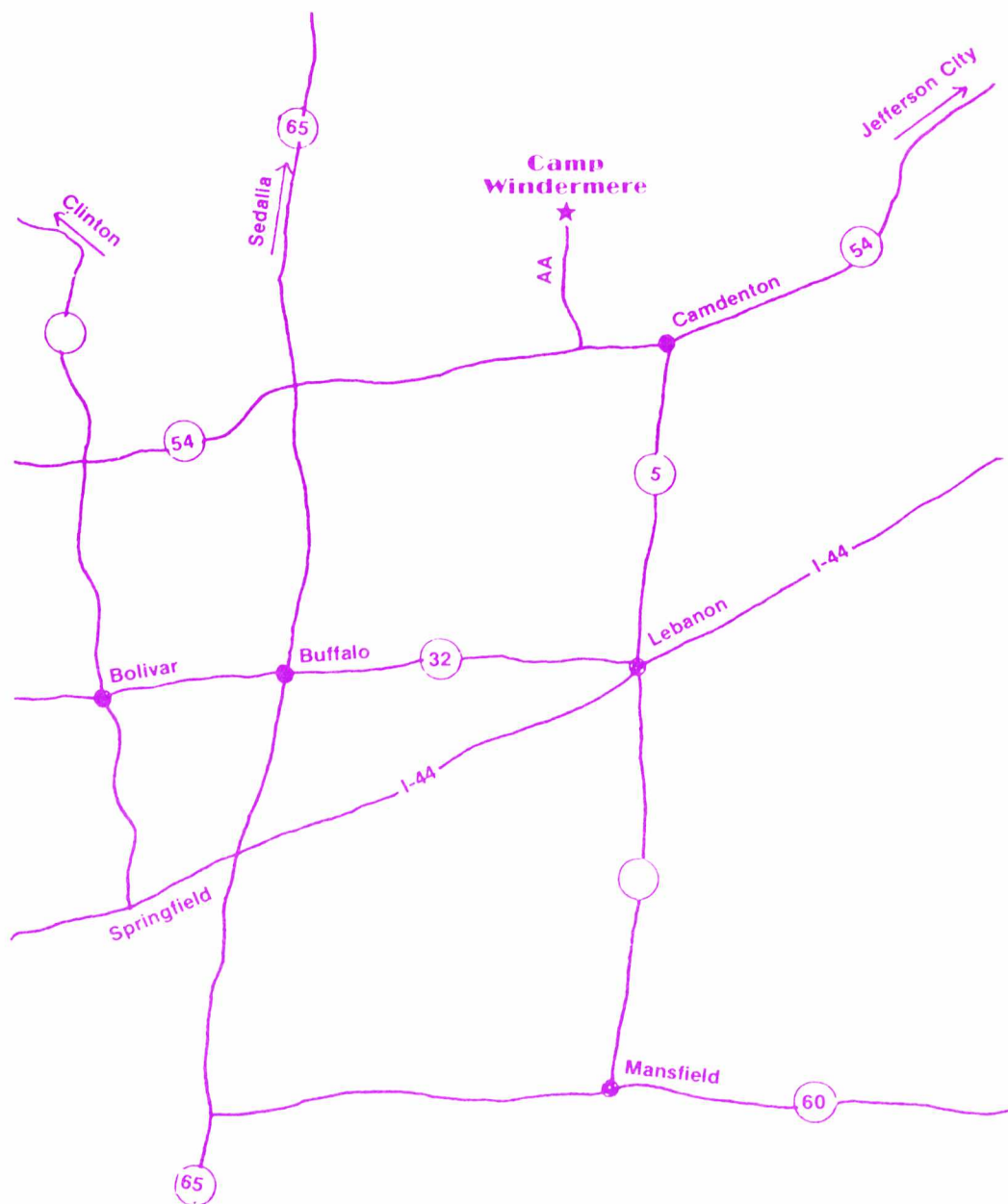
I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the camp personnel entrusted with the care of my child to order x-rays, routine tests, and treatment for the health of my child, and in the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the camp personnel entrusted with the care of my child to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for, and to order injection and/or anethesia and/or surgery for my child as named above. I also authorize said physician or any physician or hospital who has previously treated my child, to disclose any information thus acquired, if requested, to the camps insurance carrier.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

(PLEASE PHOTOCOPY)





# 1994 MISSOURI STATE YOUTH CONFERENCE SCHEDULE THEME: "CROSS THE LINE"

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1994

4:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Registration  
 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. - Supper  
 8:30 - 9:45 p.m. - Mark Brawley Concert  
 9:45 - 10:30 p.m. - Free Time  
 10:30 - 11:00 p.m. - In-Cabin Devotions  
 11:00 p.m. - LIGHTS OUT

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1994

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. - Breakfast  
 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. - General Session  
 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. - Free Time  
 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. - Youth Session with Mark  
                                     - Youth Workers with Will  
 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. - Lunch  
 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. - Youth Session With Will  
                                     - Youth Workers with Mark  
 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. - Free Time  
 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. - Closing Rally



## The Rest of The Family Offering *(continued from page 6)*

first job is to see that all business of the National Association is accomplished through promotion, implementation and administration of denominational programs.

The **RETIREMENT AND INSURANCE DEPARTMENT** provides a retirement program for participating Free Will Baptist ministers and denominational workers. It also loans money for new churches, provides a ministry for senior citizens, and maintains trust funds.

The **FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION** began in 1980 at the National Convention in Anaheim, California. Its purpose is two-fold: (1) to enable Free Will Baptists to better fulfill their stewardship obligations; (2) to accomplish together as a denomination what we cannot do individually for continuing support of the Lord's work. The Foundation conducts clinics and seminars on wills and planned giving and acts as a channel between Free Will Baptist people and various ministries. It helps the donor with arrangements that pay them a lifetime income and provides benefits for the ministries they choose upon their death.

The **MASTER'S MEN DEPARTMENT** came into existence in 1955 to provide a special ministry for men. In 1985 Master's Men began a "Decade of Discipleship" program. During this ten-year period the board and staff of Master's Men seek to zero in on the need of laymen to share Jesus Christ with the world.

The purpose of **WOMEN NATIONALLY ACTIVE FOR CHRIST** is to lead Free Will Baptist Women into a larger share in winning the world to Christ. WNAC emphasizes Christian education, missions, stewardship, benevolence, publications and literature. Today WNAC occupies a suite at the Free Will Baptist National offices in Antioch, Tennessee. Membership exceeds 10,000. The WNAC publication, *Co-Laborer*, has a circulation of over 13,000.

The **COMMISSION FOR THEOLOGICAL INTEGRITY, HISTORICAL, RADIO-TELEVISION AND MUSIC COMMISSIONS** provide special services which help enhance denominational life.

The **NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE** is sponsored by the **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH TRAINING DEPARTMENT**. This annual conference seeks to minister to the youth of the denomination. Throughout the year various ministries for youth are planned and promoted by the NYC staff. One major ministry of NYC is the Truth and Peace Conference for approximately 80 young people.

The combined budgets of these national ministries in 1994 totaled \$1,135,243.06. Below are the budgets for each of the Rest of The Family ministries:

Executive Office	\$326,420.06	(28.8%)
Retirement and Insurance	\$344,882.00	(30.4%)
Free Will Baptist Foundation	\$ 45,900.00	(4.0%)
Master's Men	\$178,779.60	(15.8%)
Women Nationally Active For Christ	\$181,871.00	(16.0%)
Commission for Theological Integrity	\$ 2,700.00	(.2%)
Historical Commission	\$ 2,350.00	(.2%)
Radio-Television Commission	\$ 10,900.00	(1.0%)
Music Commission	\$ 1,500.00	(.1%)
National Youth Conference	\$ 40,000.00	(3.5%)
Total	\$1,135,243.06	(100%)

The Rest of The Family Offering is distributed to each of the above national ministries based on their percentage of the total budget. A generous gift for the Rest of The Family Offering would help support each of these ministries.

September 25, 1994, has been designated for the Rest of The Family Offering. Join us in giving a generous gift on this special day.

From Your Hand, God . . .  
We Give



The Rest of the Family  
Offering

September, 1994

Executive Office, Retirement and  
Insurance, FWB Foundation,  
Master's Men, WNAC, National  
Youth Conference, Commissions  
(Theological Integrity, Music,  
Historical, Radio-Television)

*These ten ministries provide resources  
and services for our denominational  
family.*

The Together Way Plan  
P. O. Box 5002  
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

## Thanks for "Having a Heart"

A great big thanks goes out to every church and individual that contributed to the 1993-94 "Have a Heart for Hillsdale" campaign. The goal of \$30,000, adopted by the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists for "Have a Heart for Hillsdale," was reached and exceeded. The total, as reported by Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College and given at the recent State Convention, was \$36,084.89.

On Monday evening of the State Convention, a special plaque of recognition was presented to the churches that gave \$400.00 or more. Many of these churches had made commitments.

The goal of \$30,000 was reached and exceeded because of many caring pastors and laypeople. This Free Will Baptist institution of higher learning is meeting a need in our denomination. Its geographic location in the midwest enables many of our people the opportunity to attend. As a result of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, and other Free Will Baptist institutions, those who choose to attend a Christian institution have that privilege.

Two additional trustees were elected at the State Convention. They are Pam Hudson and Roger Harwell. May the Lord bless these and Richard Robinson in their endeavors to serve Him.

Thanks again for caring and sharing.

Clarence Burton  
Assoc. Dir. Ch. Rel.

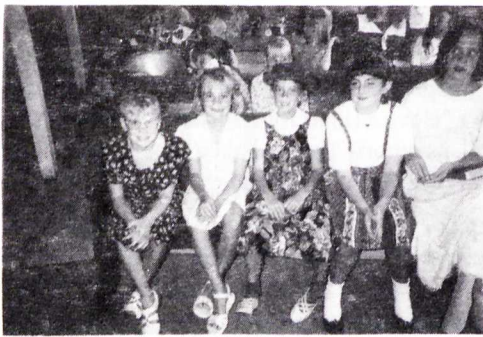
Richard Robinson  
Trustee





# Pre-Ten

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94





## The Terrible Blight of Strife and Contention

*continued from page 2*

Strife and contention keep back a sin-killing, Holy Spirit empowered awakening in our churches. Strife and contention are the direct causes of the dying spiritual fire in many of our churches.

I heard about a couple celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. When the festivities were over, the woman turned to her husband and said, "We've been miserable for 50 years. We've fought every day. We've disagreed on nearly everything, and I am convinced that we can't keep going like this. I have made a commitment to pray that God will help us solve this problem. I'm praying that he will take one of us home. And when he answers my prayer, I'm going to live with my sister in Grand Rapids."

### III. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF STRIFE AND CONTENTION?

Strife and contention cause separation among brethren. Separation over questions that cannot be answered. Separation over interpretations which will never be clear. Separation over matters of personal conviction.

Strife and contention usually do not settle anything. The questions are still unanswered. The interpretations are still unclear. Agreement upon matters of personal convictions are still far away. Note these sad results of strife and contention churches have experienced: Gone from many congregations is a spirit of love, unity, trust and fellowship. What a tragedy!

A sign I read carried this announcement: Notice! This church does not have a gym. It requires no physical fitness program. Everyone gets enough exercise jumping to conclusions, flying off the handle, running down the pastor and staff, knifing friends in the back, dodging responsibility and pushing their luck.

Because of strife and contention, many members have been lost, and revival fires have been stifled. Because of strife and contention, many churches' witnesses have been defeated.

Now note some serious results of strife and contention given in the Bible:

Strife and contention bring personal shame.

Prov. 25:8 *Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame.*

Prov. 26:17 *He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.*

Gal. 5:15 *But if ye bite and devour one another; take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.*

Brothers offended.

Prov. 18:19 *A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.*

UnChristian conduct.

I Cor. 12:20 *For I fear; lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:*

I Tim. 6:3-5 *If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; (v4) He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, (v5) Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.*

I Cor. 11:17,18 *Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better; but for the worse. (v18) For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.*

Mat. 12:25 *And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:*

A lack of mature Bible teaching.

I Tim 1:5-7 *Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: (v6) From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; (v7) Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.*

I Cor. 13:1 *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.*

2 Tim 2:14 *Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.*

### IV. WHAT CAN CHRISTIANS DO CONCERNING STRIFE AND CONTENTION?

General principles to guide the Christian.

Live peaceably with all men.

Rom. 12:18 *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

Don't strive without a cause.

Prov. 3:30 *Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.*

Be slow to anger.

Prov. 15:18 *A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.*

When a person harbors hatred and resentment in his heart, he is often hurt by the poison of his own malice. He thinks he is injuring his enemies by displaying his wrath, but the real harm is inflicted deep within his own soul.

Anger can also cause us to do and say things we may deeply regret. George W. Martin tells the following true story: "I remember a fellow who once wrote a nasty letter to his father. Since we worked in the same office, I advised him not to send it because it was written in a fit of temper. But he sealed it and asked me to put it in the mail. Instead, I simply slipped it into my pocket and kept it until the next day. The following morning he arrived at the office looking very worried. 'George,' he said, 'I wish I had never sent that note to my dad yesterday. It hurts me deeply, and I know it will break his heart when he reads it. I'd give 50 dollars to get it back!' Taking the envelope from my pocket, I handed it to him and told him what I had done. He was so overjoyed that he actually wanted to pay me the 50 dollars!"

Seek that which is better.

Prov. 17:1 *Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.*

Don't be a meddler.

Prov. 20:3 *It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling.*

Follow after peace.

Rom. 14:19 *Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another:*

Do nothing through strife and contention.

Phil. 2:3 *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*

No murmurings and disputings.

Phil. 2:14,15 *Do all things without murmurings and disputings; (v15) That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

A man decided to join a monastery and one of the rules of the group was that you were only allowed to speak two words every

*(continued on back cover)*



# Financial Information

## JULY 1994 COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$ 5,930.67
17.50% Executive Office	5,609.67
3.50% General Fund	1,121.93
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	2,724.7
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	801.38
2.50% C.E. Board	801.38
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board	801.38
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	2,884.97
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	\$9,776.85
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 (\$99.77 included in \$9,776.85)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund	1,602.76
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$32,055.24</b>

"We thank God for the Pastors and Churches that consistently give in order to help carry out the Great Commission." Souls are being saved and saints are being edified to the praise and glory of God. God blessed with another good month. He is to be praised. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, in whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17

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

## JULY 1994 COOPERATIVE

Alton	\$ 225.00
Bailey Chapel	80.00
Beacon	875.00
Belton	326.84
Berean	20.00
Bethel - El Dorado Spgs.	47.05
Bethel - Festus	328.00
Black Oak	236.04
Blue Springs	357.59
Bourbon	58.80
Byrd	160.60
Cabool	338.54
Calvary Chapel	197.70
Cape Girardeau	688.54
Carthage	180.00
Central	665.18
Clifton	89.70
Columbia	51.40
Cope	52.00
Cope	31.00
Copper Mines	228.99
Cross Roads - Rich.	247.32
Cross Roads - Rich.	171.00
Cuba	470.52
DeSoto	850.00
Eastern Gate	292.84
Faith & Hope - Aurora	73.60
Faith & Hope - Willow Spgs.	61.68
Faith - Oak Grove	252.85
Farmington	1,811.22
Fordland	349.87
Fourth	209.00
Fredericktown 1st	347.00
Freeman Chapel	223.70
Grace	1,093.00
Grant Avenue	892.15
Greenfield	272.00
Hannibal	68.00
Hannon	418.95
Happy Home	107.85
Harmony - Parkville	433.00
Hartville	482.76

Hopewell - Tunas	105.00
Houston	356.78
Hurryville	339.22
Joplin	519.57
Joplin	659.70
Kingsway	264.19
Kirksville	128.63
Koshkonong	140.47
Leadington	309.00
Lebanon	506.95
Liberty - Phil.	225.00
Lone Star	38.37
Marshfield	324.75
Merls Chapel	196.00
Mill Creek	238.33
Mill Creek	191.64
Mine La Motte	44.06
Monett	522.19
Mtn. Grove 1st	1,134.52
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	220.00
Mt. Zion - Gower	62.00
Myrtle	170.81
New Hope - Fredericktown	20.00
New Rock Springs	80.00
North Five	82.34
Number One - Huggins	39.86
O'Fallon	555.37
Oak Hill - Fredericktown	58.68
Oak Hill - Union	453.66
Overland	102.00
Ozark	435.55
Park Hills 1st	550.62
Parkview	362.65
Pleasant Hill - Thayer	80.46
Pleasant Home	168.07
Pleasant Home	151.42
Pleasant Ridge - Urb.	82.00
Potosi 1st	120.89
Richwoods	378.00
Riverview - Iowa	625.60
Rock Chapel	352.03
Rolla	86.48
Royal Oak	104.00
Smyrna	100.00
Springfield 1st	837.37
Stockton	86.90
Terrill Road	213.00
Thayer	588.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	1,049.25
Tyrone	80.00
Union - Success	60.00
Union Grove	171.00
Union Light	96.40
Unity	629.00
Verdella	347.51
Victory - Alton	131.15
Victory - KC	245.54
Victory Hill	71.38
Waynesville	276.17
West Plains 1st	504.38
Willow Spgs. - Mtn. Grove	190.90
Wolf Creek	424.15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$32,055.24</b>

## FOREIGN MISSIONS

B. Thebeau (DeSoto)	\$ 30.00
Beacon	1,416.00
Bethel - Festus	60.00
Blue Springs	388.08
Calvary Chapel	50.00
Calvary Chapel	65.00
Calvary Fellowship	662.64
Carthage	150.00
Central	346.00
Columbia	25.00
Connelsville	80.00
Cuba	55.80
D. Akeman	10.00
D. Lewis (DeSoto)	30.00
DeSoto	350.00
DeSoto Young Adult SS	50.00
Eastern Gate	108.57
F. Green	35.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	65.50
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	125.00
Faith - St. Louis	75.00
Farmington	538.56
Fordland	137.00
Fourth	70.00
Freeman Chapel	418.00
Gr. Ave. Prayer Partners	25.50
Grace	62.50
Grant Ave. Bible Club	44.16
Grant Ave. Women's SS	25.00

Grant Avenue	471.43
Greenfield	180.00
Hannon	633.95
Hartville	96.55
Houston	119.20
J. Schebaum	15.00
Joplin	20.00
Joplin	40.00
K. Minor (DeSoto)	30.00
Kirksville	10.11
Leadington	30.00
Lebanon	90.00
Marshfield	45.00
Merls Chapel	200.00
Monett	691.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	462.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	100.00
Myrtle	86.00
New Home - Hartville	225.00
Niangua	11.00
Niangua	8.00
Niangua	12.00
Niangua	11.00
O'Fallon	52.50
Oak Grove - Houston	65.00
Oak Grove - Norwood	103.10
Oak Hill - Union	36.76
Ozark	60.00
Park Hills 1st	220.24
Parkview	384.03
Parkview Msn. Group	60.00
Pleasant Home	72.60
Pleasant Home	54.87
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	55.00
Richwoods	30.00
Rock Chapel	303.04
S. Hart	20.00
St. Peters	218.85
Thayer	192.50
Trinity - Bridgeton	659.70
Union Light	145.00
Union Mission	177.45
Unity	40.00
Verdella	677.52
Victory - KC	175.00
Waynesville	25.00
West Plains 1st	40.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,953.71</b>

## NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Beacon	\$ 350.00
Bethel - Festus	10.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Calvary Fellowship	5.00
Carthage	49.00
Central	95.00
Columbia	10.00
DeSoto	150.00
DeSoto Children's Church	40.00
Eastern Gate	10.00
F. Rogers (DeSoto)	20.00
Faith & Hope - Willow Spgs	25.00
Farmington	30.00
Fordland	10.00
Fourth	45.00
Grace	150.00
Grant Avenue	121.00
Hannon	46.89
J.W. Rader	20.00
Leadington	20.00
Lebanon	10.00
Monett	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	245.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	50.00
Myrtle	70.00
New Home - Hartville	20.00
O'Fallon	52.50
Oak Grove - Norwood	51.55
Oak Hill - Union	21.00
Overland	4.00
Park Hills 1st	75.06
Parkview	13.00
Parkview Mission Grp	10.00
Pleasant Home	10.00
Pleasant Home	97.11
R. White (DeSoto)	30.00
Richwoods	32.00
Rock Chapel	45.00
S. Hart	10.00
Thayer	192.50
Trinity - Bridgeton	40.00
Union Light	35.00
Verdella	20.00
Victory - KC	45.00
Waynesville	25.00
West Plains (1st)	30.00
Wolf Creek	32.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,532.66</b>

## MO. STATE HOME MISSIONS

Beacon	\$ 2.00
Central	10.00
Cuba	111.60

DeSoto	50.00
DeSoto Victor's CTS	30.00
Eastern Gate	20.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	65.50
Farmington	10.00
Fordland	11.50
Fourth	20.00
Grace	30.00
Grant Avenue	141.22
Hannon	209.48
Joplin	5.00
Kirksville	5.11
L. Wormington	30.00
Lebanon	10.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	190.00
Marshfield	32.47
Mountain Grove 1st	25.00
Myrtle	45.00
O'Fallon	57.50
Oak Hill - Union	23.00
Ozark	10.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urb.	25.00
Rock Chapel	100.62
Southeast Assoc.	25.00
Thayer	52.50
Trinity - Bridgeton	45.00
Union Light	56.00
Victory - KC	5.00
West Plains 1st	5.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,458.50</b>

## NATIONAL ASSOC. OF FWB

Victory Campaign (7-15)	\$1,069.32
Designated (7-29)	26.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,095.32</b>

## MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	\$ 10.00
Hartville	10.00
Myrtle	35.00
New Home - Hartville	10.00
Hannon	15.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
Ozark	10.00
West Plains 1st	512.00
Thayer	37.50
Lebanon Bible & Book	85.00
Parkview Msn. Group (Bathrooms)	10.00

DeSoto	50.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	10.00
Park Hills 1st	14.48
Union - Success	30.00
Calvary Fellowship	25.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	14.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$937.38</b>

## CALIF. CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Farmington	\$25.00
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## CHILDREN'S HOME - AL

Myrtle	\$5.00
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## CHILDREN'S HOME - TN

Parkview Msn. Group	\$10.00
DeSoto	50.00
Unity - Lebanon	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$70.00</b>

## WORLD RELIEF

Victory - KC	\$10.00
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## WORLD VISION

Victory - KC	\$5.00
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## FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$ 37.50
Beacon	2.00
Parkview Msn. Group	10.00
DeSoto	35.00
Farmington	133.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$217.83</b>

## REV. JOHN MCCLURE

Thayer	\$ 5.00
Verdella	10.00
Monett	45.00
Grace	17.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$77.50</b>

## HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Hannon	\$ 50.00
Eastern Gate	58.57
Victory - KC	52.32
Central	212.85
Thayer	42.50
Beacon (New Life Singers)	210.00
Marvin & Sue Cook	25.00
Grant Avenue	4.00
Farmington	141.66
Oak Hill - Union	24.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$820.90</b>



## Tapes for Sale

**Dr. Roger Reeds Sings His Old Favorites** is the name of a tape recording that was recently produced by Rapture Studios of Fredericktown, Missouri. This tape contains ten of Dr. Reeds' favorite songs that he has sung through the years of his ministry. These tapes are available from Randall House Publications for \$8.00 each. There will be an additional charge for postage and handling of \$1. Dr. Reeds is now retired from Randall House and is available for Sunday School Revivals – 1-800-877-7030.

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### The Terrible Blight of Strife and Contention

*continued from page 10*

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ten years. At the end of ten years he said, "Bad food!"

Ten more years went by and he said, "Hard bed!"

Finally, on his 30th anniversary with the brothers, he thundered, "I quit!" And the priest in charge responded, "You might as well. All you do is complain anyway."

Put away things that cause strife and contention.

Eph. 4:31,32 *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: (v32) And be ye kind one to another; tenderhearted, forgiving one another; even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

Col. 3:8-13 *But now ye also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. (v9) Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; (v10) And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: (v11) Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. (v12) Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering: (v13) Forbearing one another; and forgiving one another; if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

Strive not about words to no profit.

2 Tim. 2:14, 15, 24, 25 *Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. (v15) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (v24) And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, (v25) In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;*

Love is: Slow to suspect – quick to trust. Slow to condemn – quick to justify. Slow to offend – quick to defend. Slow to reprimand – quick to forbear. Slow to belittle – quick to appreciate. Slow to demand – quick to give. Slow to provoke – quick to conciliate. Slow to hinder – quick to help. Slow to resent – quick to forgive.

Should Christians ever be a party to strife and contention? We have seen that strife and contention are very serious from God's viewpoint. When we must stand for a just cause we must not be contentious or cause strife. From what the Bible has to say concerning strife and contention, it is my personal conviction that no Christian should ever be a party to it.

How to prevent or stop strife and contention.

Let the Lord settle it.

Prov. 20:22 *Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.*

Let love rule.

Prov. 10:12 *Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.*

Watch your tongue.

Prov. 26:20 *Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.*

Yield to be led of the Spirit and produce the fruit of the Spirit.

Gal. 5:22-26 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (v23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (v24) And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. (v25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (v26) Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another; envying one another.*

Avoid those who cause division and strife.

Rom. 16:17,18 *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. (v18) For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.*

Approach all cases of strife and contention with love and a broken heart.

James 1:19 *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear; slow to speak, slow to wrath:*

During World War II, the German Air Force carried out massive bombing attacks against English cities. Coventry was a favorite target. Many of the city's buildings were destroyed by bombs and fire. Among these was the famous Coventry cathedral. Since the war, the cathedral has been rebuilt. Charred timbers from the burned cathedral were used to make a cross. Beneath the cross were written the words of Jesus, "Father, Forgive." One day an official of the cathedral found a man kneeling before the cross in tears. When the official offered to be of help, the man explained: "I was in the German Air Force and flew over Coventry the night the cathedral was bombed. Ever since that night, my heart has been sad because of that experience. Today as I knelt here at the altar and read the inscription, 'Father, Forgive,' something happened within me -- I found release."

Oh, my brothers and sisters if you have been hurt by strife and contention, bring it to the cross and leave it there in forgiveness. If you have been a party to strife and contention in the church, come to the cross for your forgiveness. There is where you will find release.

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