

GEM

THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST

Volume 64, No. 10, October 1994

Christ

The Beginning and The End

BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR

Redeemer

THE WORD

MIGHTY GOD

The Resurrection and The Life

King of Kings

THE CORNERSTONE

THE DOOR

Lily of the Valley

The Way, The Truth and The Life

The Light of
the World

MASTER

"Bless the Lord,
O my soul"

Ps. 103:2

Prince of Peace

Saviour

Jesus

El Shaddai

Counselor

THE HOPE

Tree of Life

Messiah

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Immanuel

THE ALPHABET OF GEM

TALKING TO KIDS ABOUT CULTS: PROVIDING THE BASICS

by Paul Borthwick

About forty students from our youth group gathered for a football game after church. Several members of the leadership team were there, but none of our adult volunteers. Three men approached the group. They came from The Way, a local cultic group that adheres to heretical teachings about Jesus, salvation, and the Holy Spirit.

As they engaged our students in conversation, they asked questions and made assertions that bothered the young people, but none of the members could quite put his finger on the problem. One student later told me, "We smelled a theological problem, but we didn't know how to uncover it."

I drove by the field, and one of the students flagged me down. He explained the situation and asked if I could help. I stopped, interacted with the cult evangelist, and asked a few questions about salvation and the deity of Christ, and the three men retreated.

From the students' perspective, we had "won." But the experience disappointed me. It showed me that even my student leaders did not really know how to handle the situation. It reminded me that these students -- many of whom would soon be on their own in college -- did not know how to respond to the myriad of cults that they might face in the years ahead.

*Addressing Cult Questions

Across the country and around the world, Christians face the challenge of cults -- those groups whose overemphasis on one issue or error in another have led them away from the orthodox, evangelical faith. Some cults -- like the Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, or Christian Scientists -- have been around for years. Others are being formed today.

Equipping our students to be Christians in the world means training them to identify and respond to cults. In my group members' encounter, the young people knew there was something theologically wrong, but they had no idea how to uncover the error or respond to it. Effectively equipping our teens in this respect will involve versing them in the answers to the questions like the following:

- * Who is Jesus Christ?
- * Is Jesus God?
- * What is the basis for forgiveness? For salvation?
- * Why did Jesus die on the cross?
- * What do you believe about the resurrection?

*How Do You Approach This Topic?

We must address realistically the attractive doctrines that cults teach. A young woman from our church joined a cult that taught that salvation was based on works. She was drawn to this group because she had never been able to accept the idea of salvation through faith alone. She had come from a rigid family where affection was "earned," and she never experienced unconditional love. When she was presented with the idea of needing to work hard to earn the love of a hard-to-please God, she fell prey to heresy.

Insecure men may be drawn to a cult that denigrates women. Those who need to have everything fully explained will be attracted to cults that teach that Jesus was only a man and not God incarnate. Students who are bored with "powerless" Christianity may be drawn to experiment with satanism because it appears to offer more in terms of the miraculous and dramatic.

Cults succeed because they teach doctrines or promote ideas that often have a greater appeal than the truth. Our task is to explain these attractive aspects of cultic teaching and then respond with our convictions as to why orthodox and biblical faith is still the answer.

We must recognize the social environment that attracts some to cults. In an age of dysfunctional families and the breakdown of authority, people's attraction to cults often stems from the social structure the cults create. Their regimented "fellowships" may provide some with a security that our church groups may never provide. People with lives in disarray will be drawn to authoritarian teaching that promises to get their lives in order. Young people may find in cults the love they never experienced at home.

The social attractiveness of some cults cannot be overlooked. This attraction should cause us to evaluate what is lacking in our own fellowships, and then try to respond. In addition, it should cause us to teach students the significance of not letting emotion rule our understanding of theology.

*Be cautious.

Students may show a great interest in studying cults, but often this interest is motivated by a voyeuristic curiosity or a desire to show that "we are right and they are wrong!" As leaders, therefore, we must be cautious about some of the potential pitfalls.

Caution #1: Exemplify "speaking the truth in love." Our experience with the evangelists from The Way illustrated an attitude that we now try to avoid. The students felt like we "won" when my questions sent the evangelists away.

Our goal is not to win arguments. Our goal is to teach students how to defend their faith so that they will be protected from heresy and able to explain the true Gospel to people lost in cultic error. If we present cult members as our enemies, we often promote in students a desire to destroy. Instead, we need to foster love so that students desire to win people out of their error to the love and mercy of Christ.

Caution #2: Don't gloss over the tough issues. In presenting the Christian perspective on cultic error, it is easy for us to want to present an "easy" understanding of the truth. As a result, we may try to oversimplify difficult passages like those in Acts, which seem to make baptism part of salvation.

If all of these issues were vividly clear and easy to understand, why would there be cults? The fact remains: Attacking the issues raised by cults lead us into some strenuous theology -- like explaining the Trinity. Be willing to take the time to wrestle with these issues so that we present a credible Gospel to inquiring students.

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.

Caution #3: Don't present "our brand" of Christianity as the only option. Studies concerning cults can lead to an unfortunate spirit of "witch hunting." Uncovering one error in one group can lead to the creation of theological detectives who dedicate themselves to uncovering error in all other groups. The net result can be the creation of another cultic group -- if we get to the point where we believe that our group alone has all the truth and everybody else is mistaken.

* Stretch Some Minds.

Remember that our goal as teachers, youth leaders, or pastors is to present the truth and encourage students to interact with it themselves. It is better to teach students discernment than it is to overwhelm them with dogma that they memorize without thinking. Our goal is to teach our young people how to think in addition to affirming the biblical doctrines of the Christian faith.

One of the errors of manipulative cults is the attitude that keeps group members from asking questions or challenging the teachings of the group. We can avoid that same error by encouraging interaction, listening to all of the questions that arise, and letting the Bible provide our answers.

(This article is courtesy of David C. Cook Publications.)



YOUTH CAMP '94 REPORT

Praise the Lord from Whom all blessings flow! The Missouri State Youth Camp Board would like to report the numbers for what they feel was a "banner" year at all of our camp sessions for 1994.

Registration was up for the second year in a row with 1,234 registered (an increase of 25 over 1993). We are thankful to report 110 salvation decisions (up 19 over last year). There were 127 rededications and three special callings. Our missions offering was \$1,233.29 which was an increase of \$247.85 over last year's offering.

The Youth Camp Board would like to express their appreciation to all of the churches, organizations, and individuals who gave of their time and treasures to help make "Youth Camp '94" a great success. We feel that Youth Camp is a vital ministry in reaching young people for Christ and providing spiritual training and fellowship among our Free Will Baptist youth.

The Camp Board would like to thank Brother Ken and Sister Judy Goff for the many hours that they put into our youth camp throughout the year. The Goffs are available to represent our youth camp at any local church service. They would be glad to come at the request of your church.

Please pray for our youth camp ministry. Thank you again for all that you do.

1994 National Youth Conference Winners from Missouri

BIBLE MEMORIZATION

Grade Two - Lauren Helsley (2nd Place)
Grade Three - Daniel Harkey (3rd Place)

VOCAL DUET

A - Ashley Dixon/Katie Conway

VOCAL TRIO

F - New Home Trio

WOODWIND

C - Rebecca Majors

COMBINATION ENSEMBLE

F - New Home Ensemble

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEECH

C - Callie Hudson

POETRY

A - Jeremy Crittendon

INTERPRETIVE READING OF SCRIPTURE

B - Brian Lennox
D - Sandy Anderson

CREATIVE WRITING - POETRY

E - Nikki Dolan

ESSAY

E - Nikki Dolan

SCULPTURE/POTTERY

C - Austin Williams

PAINTING

C - Patricia Chandler

TEXTILES

E - Kelly Shilling

B & W PHOTOGRAPHY

C - Amber Fowler
D - Jason Stephens

Congratulations to the winners and to all of you who participated!!!

Cape Girardeau Church Needs Youth Pastor

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Cape Girardeau is looking for a part-time youth pastor. Resumes may be sent to: Greg Hutsell, 821 Progress St., Cape Girardeau 63073, or you may call 314/334-4837.

DeSoto Employs Associate Pastor

The Free Will Baptist Church in DeSoto has hired Chuck Lotz to serve as associate pastor. Brother Lotz assumed these responsibilities on August 1, 1994.

Chuck was saved in 1980 and answered the call to preach under Reverend Earl Ames' ministry. Chuck and his wife, Shirley, have five children: Terry, Amy, Brad, Joe, and Nathan; and one grandchild.

My Testimony

by Robert Lane
First Free Will Baptist Church of DeSoto

Now listen to me, brother, while I tell the story;
How I found salvation and a home in Glory.
In a little country church on my knees in prayer
I left my soul in the Saviour's care.
I'd been sitting back in a corner dim
And while the preacher was preaching, I was mocking him.
I'd giggle and laugh and have all sorts of fun
And I've never since seen such carrying on.

When they called for sinners to come for prayer
I'd get up and sneak out of there.
I'd go outside, stand around and smoke;
Cuss a little bit and tell filthy jokes.
But then one night I heard the mournful pleas
Of the sinners at the altar down on their knees.
I knew it wasn't right for me to be out there,
I should be at the altar seeking God in prayer.

Oh, I had the feeling that I wanted to pray
But decided I'd wait till some other day.
I dismissed the thought with a shake of the head
As I thought of all the things my buddies had said.
This religion ain't worth a plugged nickel, they say
Nobody ever keeps it very long anyway.
Old what's-his-name, he got saved today
But he's gone to town now some poker to play.

They pointed out that you just have to quit
A lot of things you like to do whenever you repent.
You can't ever get out and have a lot of fun.
If you live your religion, then your good times are done.
Well, the next night, though I didn't mean to stay
I went up in the house, oh about half way.

I sat there and listened to that preacher talk
Thinking when they call for mourners, out of there I'll walk.
But the preacher said death was the wages of sin,
And I thought of all the sinful places I'd been.
At the tavern over here on top of the hill
I'd drunk a lot of whiskey and beer but still --
Was it really fun, I asked myself,
To lay my soul aside on the shelf
And go on living such a life of sin?
And then I thought of the home that I was brought up in.

Now if my folks died, they'd join a band
Of saints over on the golden strand.
But if I should die what would happen to me?
Where would I spend eternity?
In a devil's hell? Oh, God forbid!
So I jumped up and here's what I did:
I made my way to that mourner's seat
And in the blessed Jesus, found a safe retreat.

So the robe of sin I'd worn so long
Got traded in for a gospel song.
And there is no doubt I was saved by grace;
There were Christians shouting all over the place.
Oh! can you imagine the joy for me
When now I think of eternity?
For I know there's a home far over the way
Where I'm going to live some brighter day.
And as I travel on through this world below,
I'd like all the unsaved here to know
That they'll never really know what fun is,
Till they know what the love of God's Son is.

New Missionaries Employed

The National Home Missions Board announces the employment of two new missionary couples. *Rev. and Mrs. Len Blanchard* have been employed as associate missionaries to Carlsbad, New Mexico. *Rev. Blanchard* is currently pastoring the Faith Free Will Baptist Church in Adamsville, Alabama.

Rev. and Mrs. Roy Wilson have been employed as associate missionaries to Palm Bay, Florida. *Rev. Wilson* has 22 years pastoral experience in Arkansas and Texas, and will be a Joint Project worker with the Indian River District Association.

These two couples will do deputation work until support goals are reached. Gifts for *Blanchard* and *Wilson* accounts may be sent to National Home Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

Take The Foreign Missions Challenge

The New Home Free Will Baptist Church near Hartville, Mo. recently contributed \$1,445.00 to help with the Foreign Mission deficit accounts. They would like to challenge the churches in Missouri to do likewise.

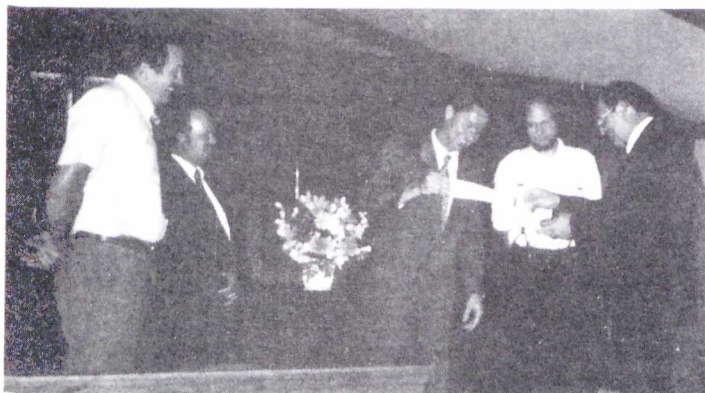


Flags Presented to Church

Earlier this summer, a set of flags (American and Christian) was presented to the Faith and Hope Free Will Baptist Church in Aurora. The flags were presented to the church by the Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society.

On hand for the presentation ceremonies, and pictured from left to right, were: June Young, area manager for the insurance company; James McCully, pastor; Louise McCully; Frances Stewart; Virgil Stewart, assistant pastor; and Elmer Haley, deacon.

First Church - Willow Springs Celebrates Being Debt Free



The First Free Will Baptist Church of Willow Springs celebrated being debt free on July 31, 1994. Pastor David Carroll led in the special services. He introduced the Rev. Gene Crewse, a former pastor, to deliver the morning message. Following the good morning service a delicious dinner was provided by the church.

The afternoon service included special singing, testimonies, reading the church history, and a devotion by Rev. Clarence Burton. The mortgage burning ceremony, led by the pastor, expressed the thanksgiving and joy felt by the church.

The First Free Will Baptist Church was founded September 29, 1977, with the following 25 charter members: John and Pat Beasley; Ralph and Opal Cook; Radell, Judy, Chad, Jill, and Craig Emmerson; Gary and Linda Gibson; Don, Mary, John, and Leslie Heard; Oneta and Netta Holloway; Paul and Lilly Jones; Dale and JoAnn Shaw; Bill, Nona, and David Watkins; Thelma and Lloyd Shriver. Rev. Ralph Cook was called as the first pastor and the church was named the Wayside Free Will Baptist Church. The name of the church was changed to First Free Will Baptist in 1985.

A meeting place was rented from the Seventh-Day Adventist Church until a loan was acquired to purchase land and build a basement. After the basement was constructed, the church moved to its present location on September 3, 1978. The men and women of the church labored together to build the sanctuary over the basement. God honored the people's contributions of labor and materials with a beautiful place to worship.

Six pastors have served the church during its seventeen-year history: Rev. Ralph Cook, Rev. Don Robertson, Rev. Gene Crewse, Rev. Ron Taylor, Rev. Carl Davis, and the present pastor, Rev. David Carroll. A number of Deacons have served the church including Radell Emerson, Lloyd Shriver, Dale Shaw, Bill Watkins, Pete Smith, Bill Wilson, and Jay Dyck.



Rev. Bud Arnold Resigns Branson

Due to health reasons, Rev. Bud Arnold has resigned the pastorate of Friendship Free Will Baptist Church in Branson. Rev. Arnold hopes to continue preaching some by filling a pulpit whenever needed.

For 42 years Rev. Arnold has pastored churches in Tennessee and Missouri. He and his wife, Doris, will continue to reside in Branson and extend an invitation to anyone going through the area to visit them.

VBS Held at Springfield First

Vacation Bible School was held at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Springfield during the week of June 20-24. The week was preceded by a teacher installation service on Sunday, June 19. This gave the workers a time to pray for God's guidance for this extraordinary week.

The theme for VBS was "Celebrate Jesus!" In addition to the dedicated and loving teachers, the teens assisted with music and taught classes. Preschool ages through junior ages enjoyed classes, music, and crafts. The craft time reflected each day's lesson, and nutritious lunches were served daily. Following classtime daily, the students listened to preaching. Two souls were saved and there were three rededications.



VBS '94

The offering of \$204.55 was sent to the Foreign Missions Department for the C. I. S. Russian Ministries Project to share the gospel in a land hungering for the Word. Students brought rolled pennies each day with the girls bringing the most.

Commencement services were held on Sunday, June 26. Springfield First is thankful for the wonderful VBS and all of the dedicated workers who helped make the week a success.

Ozark Mission Report

From the Mitcheners . . .

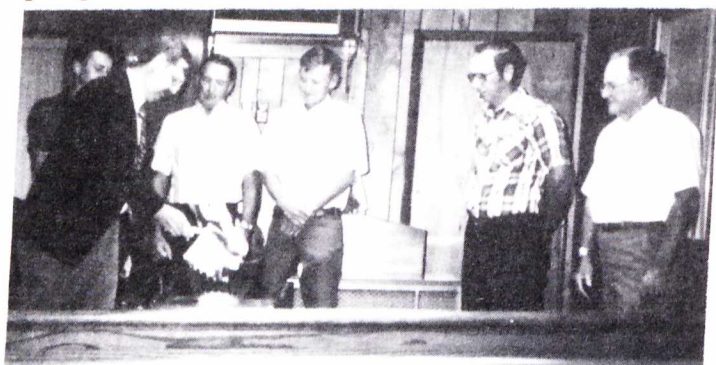
"The Lord continues to bless the mission work in Ozark. We now have seven Sunday School classes and a teen ministry. We have a wonderful group of faithful workers. We have had three saved and have baptized eight people. Our new building is such a tremendous blessing. Pray that we will keep our focus on the Great Commission of our Lord. Thank you for your continued prayer and support."



New Life Church Is Debt Free

Sunday, August 14, was a beautiful day and a very special day for the New Life Free Will Baptist Church of Licking, MO. It was special because the church gathered to celebrate being debt free.

The morning worship service was well attended and the congregation received a warm welcome from Pastor Mark Williford. The happy mood of the congregation was reflected in the good singing, both the congregational and special music which was provided by the church quartet. The mortgage burning ceremony was conducted by the pastor and the church board. Before burning the mortgage, Brother Williford said that being debt free was a pleasure, a victory, and a time of thanksgiving. A prayer of thanksgiving was led by Deacon Gary Routh.



Mark Williford, Greg Hadley, Chuck Barber, Gary Routh, Harold Price, Howard Blankenship

Rev. Nathan Ruble delivered the morning message, and he commended the church on its faithful stewardship in honoring the Lord with its means. A delicious lunch was enjoyed following the morning worship service. The afternoon offered time for the people to fellowship and listen to a good devotional message from the pastor.

New Life Free Will Baptist Church was founded in the fall of 1972 by Missouri State Home Missionary Tom Owens.

The first building was built in 1973 and the church was organized on July 28, 1974. In 1978, a second building, consisting of six classrooms and a fellowship hall, was added and a children's church ministry was begun. In 1987 a parsonage was built, and in 1992 the fellowship hall was enlarged.



Norman Vandivort, Melva Lee Watson, Pastor Williford



Pastor Williford and Family

The church has been led by six pastors: Rev. Tom Owens, Rev. Max Courtney, Rev. Danny Douglas, Rev. Russell Lowe, Rev. David Brawley and Rev. Mark Williford. Brother Williford, the present pastor, assumed the leadership of the church in February, 1994.

Sunday School Averages Febuary 1994 - July 1994

CHURCHES	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
Belton	66	64	56			
Bethel - Festus	66	64	62	60	71	67
Calvary Chapel	82	81	73	76	90	90
Calvary Fellowship	337	248	242	218	234	233
Cape Girardeau	132	91	78	81	77	74
Cuba	124	120	115	113	111	87
DeSoto	200	184	178	175	171	
Farmington	408	387	351	343	332	340
Hannon	83	81	83	76	77	81
Harmony	81	72	60	59		
Hartville		101	91	96	80	87
Hazel Creek				66	70	62
Hopewell	33	33	29	30	39	32
Houston	59	61	51	54	48	47
Jones Creek	13	18	13	15	12	12
Lebanon First	118	115	111	107		117
Mill Creek	51	55	46	44	40	
Monett	110					
Myrtle	26	27	32	27	27	27
Oskaloosa			11	11	11	11
Ozark	50	59	50	50	59	53
Park Hills First	141	134	136	126	127	
Parkview	42		41		45	49
Richwoods	33	35	23	23	24	
Rock Chapel	77		67	78	67	69
Springfield First	123	102	105	113	103	114
Thayer	146	132	126	115	138	123
United, West Plains	203	206	200	206	206	
Unity	44	37			30	34
Verdella	73	75	78	67	67	70
Willow Springs	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.

Thayer Celebrates 40th Anniversary



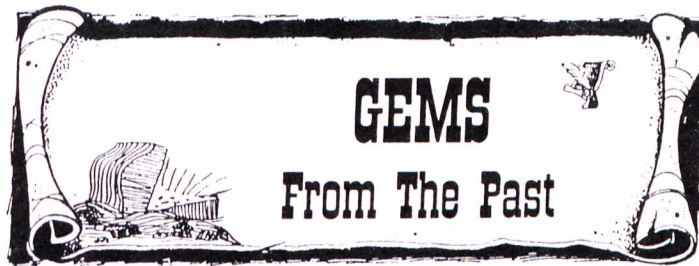
Charter Members



Former Pastors - Rev. & Mrs. Grover Pingleton and Rev. & Mrs. Richard Robinson. Pastor & Mrs. Cody Freeman, Associate Pastor & Mrs. Lance Rogers

On July 31st, Thayer Free Will Baptist Church celebrated their 40th anniversary with all-day services. Former pastor Richard Robinson preached the morning service, with dinner being served after morning worship. The all day services featured several singing groups from area churches.

Reverend Cody Freeman, who has pastored Thayer for the past ten years, reported a good day with approximately 245 in attendance. Fourteen of the fifty-one charter members were able to attend.



God of the Hills and the Valleys

by Rev. Ben Scott

(This GEM FROM THE PAST originally ran in the January 1957 issue.)

In the book of I Kings, chapter 20, we read the account of the Syrian army going out to battle the army of Israel. Quite unexpectedly to the king of Syria his army was conquered and most of his men were slain. Those who were not slain were sorely pursued by Israel's soldiers.

Ben-hadad, the king of Syria, missed being slaughtered with his army by escaping with some horsemen on a horse. Having escaped alive, he began to plan another battle with Israel. In discussing the reason for failure in his previous attempt, Ben-hadad and his servants offered this excuse: "Their Gods are Gods of the Hills; therefore they were stronger than we." I Kings 20:23.

Our God is not One to retreat from a challenge. He offers Himself freely to all in every trying experience of life, saying "Try Me, Prove Me!" Because His power had been challenged another meeting in battle was arranged between the Syrians and Israel. In I Kings 20:27 we read, "And the children of Israel were numbered, and were all present, and went against them: and the children of

Israel pitched them like two little flocks of kids; but the Syrians filled the country." This meeting was in the plain, or valley. It was not in the hills. But whether in the hills or in the valleys, an army with God in the camp is better than the most powerful army in the world without God.

God never fails when put to the test. Nor was He to fail this time. I Kings 20:29-30 states, "And it was so, that in the seventh day the battle was joined: and the children of Israel slew of the Syrians an hundred thousand footmen in one day. But the rest fled to Apek, into the city; and there a wall fell upon twenty and seven thousand of the men that were left." No longer could the king's servants say, "Their God is only a God of the hills!"

As we find ourselves now facing the new year we are made to wonder just what lies before us. As one of old has said, "Ye have not passed this way before." Undoubtedly there will be some mountain-top experiences for the faithful; but there are also some valley experiences ahead. May I suggest for your consideration just a few of the valleys through which some of us may pass in the year ahead.

(continued on page 8)

God of the Hills and the Valleys *(continued from page 7)*

1. The Valley of Temptation

Surely it was a "Mountain-top" experience for our Lord when, at His baptism in Jordan, the Heavens were opened. It must have been a source of blessing and strength for Him to have the witness of the Spirit and to hear the Father say, "This is My beloved Son." It would have been wonderful to have stayed there but there was a "Wilderness" to be conquered.

Satan never tempted Christ while He was receiving this wonderful experience in Jordan. But he came to Jesus in the wilderness. Not many church members backslide during times of unusual revival showers. It's not hard to be a Christian when surrounded by fellow Christians. But Satan meets you in the valley. It is there that many fall victim to his temptations and surrender to him. Not so with our Lord! He met the tempter like a good soldier. He returned blow for blow. He went through the valley of temptation and came out victor! So can we if we draw from the storehouse of God's power. I Cor. 10:13 declares, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

2. The Valley of Discouragement

This is a valley through which we all must surely pass sooner or later. There are times when it seems everything is going perfectly. During these times it's not hard to stay in the race. But there are also times of discouragement; times when it seems everything goes wrong. This valley is not uncommon to God's people. Who is there who has not at some time or other become discouraged? In Numbers 21:4 we read of Israel, "And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea, to compass the land of Eden, and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way."

Discouragement is a favorite tool of Satan. Through discouragement the powerful Elijah became a hide-away weakling. He became a victim of self-pity, saying, "I'm the only one left and they seek my life." There is one, tho, who is Lord even of the valley of discouragement. Read Isa. 42:1-3 "Behold My servant, Whom I uphold; Mine elect, in Whom My soul delighteth; I have put My Spirit upon Him: He shall not fail nor be discouraged." Surely the same Spirit is ours today. Through the power of that Spirit we can walk through the valley of discouragement and still keep our faith in God. The real test of a Christian is how he acts in the valley. It was in the valley David killed Goliath; It was in the valley Gideon's army was tested, leaving him only 300 men. It's in the valley that many lose sight of Christ and "wash out."

3. The Valley of Death

This is a valley from which we shrink. However, death is more than a dream; it is an actual reality, an ordeal which is coming to all. It is very likely that someone who reads this message will pass through the valley of death in 1957. Are you prepared for this journey? Even in the very hour of death it is possible that Satan may tempt us. Having never gone through this valley we are still in wonder as to what it is like. None of our friends have come back from this journey to tell us about it. We are not left without promise and consolation, tho. The Bible, God's Holy Word, gives to us some definite promises concerning death. The Psalmist declared in Psalms 23:4 "Yea, tho I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me."

Isa. 41:10 offers us these words: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness." In verse 13 we read: "For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not, I will keep thee."

What more can we ask? God took care of His servant, Moses. He sent a convoy of angels for Lazarus. He rolled back the Heavens for Stephen. Will He forsake one of His in the valley of death? Never!

In conclusion may I offer the words of a familiar song as an appropriate prayer.

"When my way groweth drear,
precious Lord linger near;
When my life is almost gone;
Hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me home."

Remember, friend; Our God is also God of the valleys!

Enrollment Increase at Free Will Baptist Bible College

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE—Free Will Baptist Bible College has posted a 6 percent enrollment increase over that of a year ago, according to Dr. Charles E. Hampton, Registrar. The college enrolled 354 students from 27 states and eight foreign countries for the current fall semester.

States with the best representations are Tennessee (75), Illinois (33), Alabama (29) and North Carolina (25). Foreign students have come from Brazil, Canada, France, Korea, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, and Romania.

By states/foreign countries, the current student body breaks down as follows:

Alabama.....	29	North Carolina.....	25
Arkansas	18	Ohio	12
California.....	3	Oklahoma	2
Colorado	5	Pennsylvania.....	1
Delaware.....	1	South Carolina.....	9
Florida.....	11	South Dakota	1
Georgia	16	Tennessee.....	75
Illinois.....	33	Texas.....	7
Indiana	15	Virginia	3
Kansas.....	2	Washington.....	3
Kentucky	12	West Virginia	6
Louisiana	1	Foreign.....	19
Michigan.....	9	Brazil (2), Canada (8),	
Mississippi.....	10	Korea (4), France, Mexico,	
Missouri.....	9	Pakistan, Panama,	
Nebraska.....	1	Romania (1 each)	

This is the fourth year of a fall enrollment spiral that began at the college in 1991. To God be the glory!

Please pray for the administration, faculty, staff, and student body throughout the school year.

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

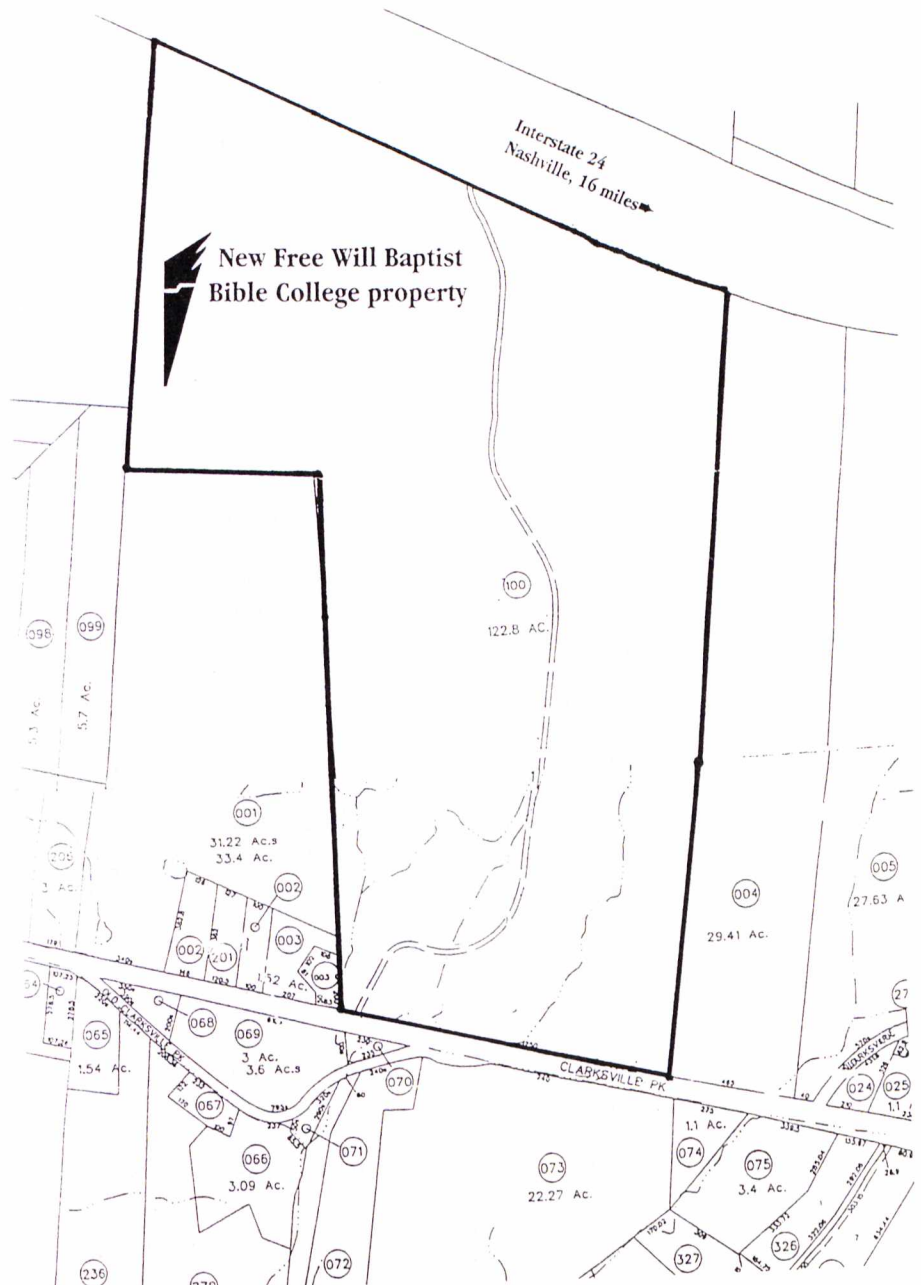
The college's growing enrollment has increased the urgency of considering a move. Enrollment this fall has left the college with few remaining rooms on campus in which to place students. At the present rate, the college will fill available dormitory space in the next year or two. At that point, the college will have to either build or move. Zoning laws will not permit the college to buy buildings in the area and convert them for use as dormitories. Also, property values in the West End area of Nashville, where the college is located, have increased dramatically in the last 10 years. That is both good and bad for the college. It is good in that the property the college owns is worth more than it was just a few years ago. But it also makes it nearly impossible for the college to grow in its present location. These considerations have made it necessary for college officials to seriously search for a new location.

The land is in the Joelton area of Nashville, approximately 16 miles from downtown, in a growing part of the city. Gas and water are already available on the site and sewer lines are less than half a mile away. "The value of this property will increase significantly when the sewer line is extended," Dr. Malone said. It has a frontage of 1,250 feet on Clarksville Highway and approximately double that bordering the Interstate.

The property will be either partially or totally paid for when four recent bequests to the college are all settled. These people re-

Several inquiries have been made expressing interest in buying the college's present campus. Dr. Malone is awaiting proposals to see what will be the best approach to securing the maximum price for what Free Will Baptists have spent more than 50 years acquiring. One of the key factors in determining if and when the college can be moved will be how much the present campus is worth.

Please pray with the administration, that God will lead clearly and that they will follow Him faithfully in this matter.





The Youth Look

The Abuse of Child Abuse

by Ann Poletti

Last month, this column focused on the disturbing numbers regarding child abuse. There is a problem even if only one child is abused, but when 7,945 children are abused/neglected daily in America, and three of them die daily as a result of this abuse, there appears to be an epidemic.

However, this may not be necessarily so. That's why we'll focus this month on the flipside of abuse: The abuse of child abuse. As disturbing as these sad numbers is the fact that the child protection services (CPS) which we look to for protecting these abused children are making a business out of people's concerns about abuse.

Don Quixote once said, "Facts are enemies of the truth." The truth is the numbers we grieve over often are padded. For example, one study shows 2.936 million **children** were reported to CPS in 1993; however, this was how many **reports** were received. You may ask, What's the difference? Consider that one incident of spanking can result in three charges: misdemeanor child abuse, dependency and neglect, and emotional abuse. Three reports for one spanking . . . and, if it's revealed the child has received two spankings, the number doubles, and so on. Because one can report abuse anonymously, the number can appear higher as a result of an angry ex-spouse, neighbor, or landlord being able to call anonymously and not have to provide any evidence. Without having to leave a name, no one is held accountable if the report is false.

Another reason numbers may be inaccurate is due to the "big business of child abuse." One county can receive \$46,000 in federal funds for each charge of sexual abuse. It does not have to be proven, just a simple charge.

Money is also an issue when one considers that legislation provides that Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) checks must follow the child. Because CPS seems to feel a child is better off in foster care, the county will come out money ahead when an AFDC-receiving child is placed in foster care for the county will receive the funds. Since the parents will be billed for the foster care, the county has profited.

The reports of innocent parents being accused are harrowing. One such example involves an eight-year-old girl who was removed from her bed and taken through a bedroom window in the middle of the night. The man brutally abused her sexually then returned her to her bed. The next morning, her parents began to suspect an infection based on her complaints so they took her to a clinic. Immediately, sexual abuse was confirmed, and CPS entered. Despite the victim's denial of any parental involvement, DNA tests' proving the father innocent, and the conviction of a man on a similar incident in the same neighborhood, the child was removed from her home. CPS believes guilty people always say they're innocent and, if nothing else, the parents "allowed" this violence to occur. The events which followed were devastating, but the family eventually reunited . . . 2 1/2 years later . . . following the mother's attempted suicide . . . after costing \$260,000 PRIOR to being billed for 2 1/2 years of the child's foster care.

In their defense, some social workers are genuinely concerned for children. However, many have endured abuse as children and chose this field to prevent other kids' suffering. With them, they

bring a distorted view of the family. It may be one of these workers who determines that a child forced into foster care who, while seeing a parent during a supervised visit, clings to the parent has been sexually abused based on the child's desire to be hugged by the parent.

It may be one of these workers who suspects abuse when the child is either overly neat or unkempt in appearance, either talkative or shy, either aggressive or passive in behavior, living in an untidy home or a home with a stepfather present, pulled out of school to be homeschooled, occasionally sleeps in parents' bed, or if child's other parent has recently been ill or died as CPS believes the resulting stress will drive the remaining parent to abuse.

(Next month we will continue this topic and explore when your child is considered "at-risk.")

Sources for this article: *Out of Control: Who's Watching Our Child Protection Agencies?* by Brenda Scott; Ms. Scott's radio interview with Marlin Maddux on "Point of View," originally aired July 26-27, 1994; two statistics were from Children Defense Fund Report as quoted in Pastor's Weekly Briefing.



Dear Gem Readers:

Thank you for the faithful support of the Missouri State Free Will Baptists during the past nineteen-plus years as your National Home Missionary to Delaware and New Jersey. My appreciation is beyond words of expression.

I desire your continued support . . . in a different way. I am no longer with the National Home Missions Department and feel evangelism is the direction of ministry where I can best serve presently.

Thirty years ago, the St. Louis District Association ordained me. I have experienced the center of God's will several times during the thirty-two years of preaching the Gospel message and pastoring Free Will Baptist churches. I desire to be there again. We are walking one day at a time and "waiting upon the Lord" claiming Isaiah 40:31 as our strength.

At this time we are establishing an account in our local bank as MANESS EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES and are already receiving pledges of support to that ministry. We are scheduling revivals and other services. Open dates begin immediately; however, October is filled. My address and phone number will be provided below.

Sincerely,

Reverend Vergel A. Maness
1530 South Orchard Road
Vineland, New Jersey 08360

(609) 691-2864

Financial Information

AUGUST 1994

COOPERATIVE

DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$ 6,927.10
17.50% Executive Office	6,552.66
3.50% General Fund	1,310.53
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	3,182.72
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	936.10
2.50% C.E. Board	936.10
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board	936.10
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	3,369.94
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	\$11,420.36
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	
(\$114.20 included in \$11,420.36)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund	1,872.19
TOTAL	\$37,443.80

"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%.

AUGUST 1994

COOPERATIVE

Royal Oak	\$ 146.00
Crossroads - Wentzville	360.00
Rolla 1st	106.73
New Rock Springs	94.00
United	1,258.75
Ozark	628.10
Myrtle	226.07
Seymour	251.00
Columbia	122.35
Cape Girardeau	935.27
Victory - Alton	199.27
Bourbon	44.72
Bailey Chapel - Tunas	100.00
Koshkonong	202.58
Number One - Huggins	51.86
Clifton	105.00
Union Grove	243.00
North Five	100.48
New Hope - Fredericktown	20.00
Overland	128.00
Springfield 1st	939.77
New Harmony	24.33
Hartville	565.44
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	105.00
Faith & Hope - Willow Spgs.	86.75
Mtn. Grove 1st	1,534.99
Tyrone	27.00
Victory Hill	76.28
Lone Star	51.56
Houston	373.23
Hurryville	425.21
Calvary Chapel	357.42
Faith & Hope - Aurora	88.30
Merls Chapel	245.00
O'Fallon 1st	591.95
Rock Chapel	352.03
DeSoto	1,000.00
Monett 1st	572.08
Hannon	595.10
Thayer	966.00
Mine La Motte	50.60
Stockton	130.60

New Home - Lebanon	213.27
Black Oak	319.28
Oak Hill - Fredericktown	76.44
St. Francois Assoc.	15.00
Cuba	653.10
Smyrna	100.00
Hopewell - Tunas	167.00
Happy Home - Ava	116.17
Kingsway	334.68
Liberty - Phil.	270.85
Fordland	519.08
Willow Spgs. - Mtn. Grove	181.72
Wilderness	380.00
Freeman Chapel	299.78
Unity	336.00
United - W. Plains	1,287.87
Eastern Gate	329.22
West Plains 1st	591.38
South Fremont	873.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	210.00
Verdella	411.69
Harmony - Parkville	534.00
Potosi 1st	135.29
Mt. Zion - Gower	68.90
Kirksville 1st	251.14
Cabool	405.03
Fourth	250.00
Farmington	2,518.46
Neosho 1st	213.75
Crossroads - Wentzville	440.00
Copper Mines	279.11
Mill Creek	251.62
Pleasant Hill - Thayer	53.85
Hannibal	150.00
Fredericktown 1st	382.00
Marshfield	343.09
Central	1,026.37
Grant Avenue	1,004.62
Heritage	158.00
Oak Hill - Union	573.80
Wolf Creek	260.30
Lebanon 1st	824.45
Belton	389.46
Union Light	84.65
Grace	1,219.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	1,398.97
Terrill Road	200.00
Park Hills 1st	665.50
Beacon	875.00
Victory - KC	320.09
TOTAL	\$37,443.80

STATE HOME MISSIONS

United	\$ 55.58
Ozark	10.00
Myrtle	47.00
L. Wormington	30.00
Southeast Assoc.	25.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	25.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	25.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	65.88
O'Fallon 1st	99.50
Rock Chapel	100.62
Hannon	297.54
Thayer	52.50
Lebanon Bible & Book	190.00
United - W. Plains	27.19
Eastern Gate	20.00
West Plains 1st	5.00
South Fremont	25.00
Kirksville 1st	14.25
Viburnum	10.00
Fourth	20.00
Fordland	22.35
Farmington	25.00
New Testament	40.00
Macedonia Auxiliary	150.00
Marshfield	34.30
Grant Avenue	124.46
Lebanon 1st	10.00
Union Light	56.00
Grace	30.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	385.00
L. Wormington	30.00
Victory - KC	5.00
TOTAL	\$2,057.17

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

United	\$ 10.00
Myrtle	123.00
Overland	4.00
S. Hart	10.00
New Harmony	121.64
New Home - Hartville	20.00

Faith & Hope - Willow Spgs.	25.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	235.00
O'Fallon 1st	89.50
Rock Chapel	45.00
DeSoto	150.00
DeSoto Children's Church	40.00
Monett 1st	10.00
Calvary Fellowship	79.25
Hannon	64.51
Thayer	192.50
J. W. Rader	20.00
United - W. Plains	37.18
Eastern Gate	10.00
West Plains 1st	30.00
South Fremont	10.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	50.00
Verdella	30.00
Leadington	20.00
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
Parkview	13.00
Bethel - Festus	25.00
Viburnum	103.00
Fourth	40.00
Richwoods	32.00
Fordland	10.00
Farmington	45.50
New Testament	100.00
Central	77.50
Grant Avenue	101.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Wolf Creek	29.50
Lebanon 1st	15.00
Belton	25.00
Union Light	35.00
Grace	145.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	70.00
Oak Grove - Norwood	57.90
Park Hills 1st	86.55
St. Peters	40.00
Youth Camp Offerings	616.64
Victory - KC	30.00
New Home - Hartville	20.00
TOTAL	\$3,204.17

FOREIGN MISSIONS

United	\$ 55.57
Niangua	10.00
Ozark	80.00
Myrtle	70.00
D. Akeman	10.00
S. Hart	20.00
New Harmony	121.64
Hartville	113.09
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	45.00
New Home - Hartville	233.00
Faith & Hope - Willow Spgs.	125.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	345.00
C. Thompson	50.00
Springfield 1st VBS	204.55
Faith & Hope - Aurora	65.88
Trinity - Bridgeton	458.00
F. Green	35.00
Merls Chapel	200.00
O'Fallon 1st	89.50
Rock Chapel	193.48
DeSoto	350.00
D. Lewis (DeSoto)	10.00
J. Lewis (DeSoto)	5.00
Monett 1st	750.00
Calvary Fellowship	846.64
Hannon	830.10
Thayer	222.50
Niangua	11.00
Wilderness	52.00
Freeman Chapel	351.50
Unity	40.00
United - W. Plains	94.38
Eastern Gate	115.84
West Plains 1st	367.05
South Fremont	163.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	100.00
Verdella	636.70
Leadington	35.00
Parkview Mission Group	60.00
Parkview	334.00
Lebanon 1st	50.00
Union Mission	172.75
Mt. Zion - Gower	110.00
Bethel - Festus	130.00
Houston	120.10
Kirksville 1st	14.25
Kirkville VBS	70.29
Blue Springs	122.00
Viburnum	259.00
Fourth	60.00
Richwoods	30.00
Oak Grove - Houston	65.00
Fordland	155.00
Farmington	461.59
Neosho 1st	530.00
Neosho Auxiliary	30.00
New Testament	170.00

Macedonia Auxiliary	15,450.00
J. Schebaum	15.00
Niangua	17.00
Calvary Chapel	137.00
Marshfield	30.00
Central	223.50
Grant Avenue	1,191.90
Grant Avenue Women's SS	25.00
Grant Avenue Prayer Part	23.00
Faith - Oak Grove	30.00
Lebanon 1st	40.00
Belton	200.65
Union Light	145.00
Grace	62.50
Trinity - Bridgeton	769.59
Union Mission VBS	144.25
Niangua	8.00
Oak Grove - Norwood	115.80
Park Hills 1st	266.20
Niangua	11.00
St. Peters	235.00
Youth Camp Offerings	616.65
Victory - KC	180.00
New Home - Hartville	1,490.00
TOTAL	\$31,876.41

MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

New Rock Springs	\$ 10.00
Ozark	10.00
Myrtle	37.00
Hartville	10.00
New Home - Hartville	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
Trinity - Bridgeton (bathroom)	400.00
DeSoto	50.00
Calvary Fellowship	25.00
Hannon	15.00
Thayer	37.50
Lebanon Bible & Book	85.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	10.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	10.00
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	14.00
Park Hills 1st	16.79
Houston (bathroom)	60.07
New Home - Hartville	10.00
TOTAL	\$880.36

WORLD VISION

Victory - KC	\$5.00
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NATIONAL ASSOC. OF FWB

Calvary Fellowship	\$ 26.00
Trinity-Bridgeton (Victory Campaign)	500.00
TOTAL	\$526.00

FWB HOME FOR CHILDREN (TN)

DeSoto 1st	\$50.00
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
Unity	10.00
TOTAL	\$70.00

CHILDREN'S HOME (AL)

Myrtle	\$46.00
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WORLD RELIEF

Victory - KC	\$5.00
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FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

DeSoto	\$ 35.00
Thayer	37.50
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
Farmington	133.33
Grant Avenue	10.00
TOTAL	\$225.83

HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Hannon	\$ 50.00
Thayer	42.50
Eastern Gate	65.84
Farmington	141.66
Neosho	170.00
Central	45.00
Grant Avenue	10.00
Grace	130.50
Victory - KC	56.67
TOTAL	\$712.17

REV. JOHN McCCLURE

Thayer	\$ 15.00
Monett	15.00
Verdella	20.00
Farmington	5.00
Fourth	30.00
Grace	17.50
TOTAL	\$102.50

November is Home Missions Month

This special emphasis is part of the "Together Way Plan" adopted by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Every church is urged to give a special offering for National Home Missions General Fund.



Benjamin Randall Offering

Your gifts and prayers help build churches in the North American continent and U.S. owned islands. Everyone is asked to participate in this gigantic effort to raise \$225,000 for National Home Missions.

Free materials to promote Home Missions Sunday may be obtained from:

Free Will Baptist
Home Missions Department
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

YOU CAN HELP!

The Pinkertons write . . . "We've been asking in churches if people want to send medical supplies to the Christians in the Bondoukou area. The money has just been cut in half, and the folks could not afford medication even before the cut. This means more suffering. I'm including a way people can send things if they so desire. Thank you very much."

If you desire to send medications, please:

MAKE SURE THE PACKAGE WEIGHS 2 POUNDS OR LESS AND HAS A GREEN CUSTOMS STICKER FROM THE POST OFFICE.

MARK THE CUSTOMS STICKER IN THE "GIFT" BOX AND WRITE "PORCH MINISTRY"

SEND TO:

Rev. Ernest Holland
B.P. 415, Bondoukou
Ivory Coast, Africa (199)

OR

Rev. Ron Moore
B.P. 161, Bondoukou
Ivory Coast, Africa (199)

OR

Rev. Jerry Pinkerton
B.P. 161, Bondoukou
Ivory Coast, Africa (199)

Customs—Douane C 1

May be Officially Opened
(Peut être ouvert d'office)

See Instructions on Back

Contents in detail:
Désignation détaillée
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porch
ministry

Mark X here if a gift ☒
Il s'agit d'un cadeau
or a sample of merchandise ()
d'un échantillon de marchandises

Value: _____ Weight: _____
Valeur _____ Poids _____ Lbs. _____ Oz.
PS Form 2976, Feb. 1993

Any/all over-the-counter medications will be appreciated. Buy generic; it will be cheaper than name-brand medications.

Aspirin, headache, cold-sinus-sore throat medication, muscle relaxants, diarrhea, vitamins for adults and children. Your choice . . . all are needed and appreciated.

If you wish to send money for food, please send a check to:

African Relief Fund
Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
202 West Commercial
Lebanon, Missouri 65536

FWB Bible College
Library & Faculty
3606 West End Ave.
Nashville TN 37205

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PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES