

GEM

**THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST**

Volume 64, No. 11, November 1994

" . . . Know ye not that there is a Prince and a great man fallen this day. . . . "

II Samuel 3:38



Rev. William "Bill" Reeves
1902 - 1994



Rev. E. E. Simpson
1898 - 1994

"...Know Ye Not That There is a Prince and a Great Man Fallen This Day..."

II Samuel 3:38

by Rev. Bob Thebeau

On January 1, 1902, a boy child was born to the Reeves family. No one could know on that day what this child would accomplish in the work of God. The child's name was to be William T. "Bill" Reeves, and he would live to be ninety-two years, eight months, and fourteen days. His memorial service was held on September 17, 1994, in Potosi, Missouri. He was buried beside his wife, Vada, at the Big River Cemetery in Irondale, Missouri.

I held the official position of being his pastor for two short years and, in truth, never really got to know Brother Bill. Thus, I leaned on his former pastor, Reverend Charley Miller, as well as his children, grandchildren, and a host of friends to help me get to know this man. Bro. Charley used the above scripture at the memorial service. After hearing some of the facts and accomplishments of his life's journey, I was overwhelmed. People ought to know "There is a prince and a great man fallen."

Brother Bill was saved at an old-fashioned revival meeting where Sister Lizzie McAdams was preaching. Bro. Bill was invited to go to the meeting but almost refused because he felt that no woman ought to be preaching. He went and, as he stood at the back of the church, he was approached by Sis. McAdams during the invitation. The Spirit's call was too great to refuse, and he accepted Christ as Saviour that night. He was licensed to preach in 1929 and ordained in 1932. Sis. McAdams' signature is on those papers. His first pastorate was at a nondenominational church at Davis Crossing. Bro. Bill would laugh in telling the following story: "My first year at Davis Crossing, I got paid \$1.00 and two chickens. The next year I pastored the Wortham Church and got paid just two chickens for the year. I guess I didn't preach as good."

During his ministry, he pastored in nineteen different churches -- some of them more than once. He started the Marshfield Free Will Baptist Church while serving at the Youth Camp. He would walk to many of these churches where the pay was, at times, no more than a few dollars. He organized the old League Convention in St. Francois County and the first League Convention for the state, as well as the first State Day School Convention.

There is a chapter in Bro. Bill's life that needs more recognition than this article can give. In 1946, the very first youth camp was held in Niangua, Missouri. There was alot of talk for someone to go there to help clear the land and build a camp for the youth to hear the Gospel. In May of 1949, Bro. Bill sold his home and moved with his wife and twelve-year-old son, Ken, into a shack in the woods to begin the task of clearing the land. (Bill would never own another house.) This shack was primitive with no running water, no electricity, and no ceiling except cardboard. This "ceiling" was so weak that the rats would fall through, just as one did one night into Ken's bed. Vada had had enough. She told Bill, "If you do not build us a decent place to live in, we're going back home." Bill started building. When the camp was to meet, Bill and others would burn off the field for the kids to play. They would

play ball on a field of ashes with tree stumps for the bases. The first few years, they would get straw to make straw ticks to sleep on. The camp was shut down in 1951 because of sickness among kids (to this day, some kids say it was more homesickness than anything else). Sister Vada sat and cried that year because there was no sound of children playing. The next year, they started back up, and the Reeves' remained there faithfully until 1972. He made a living by building and wiring houses during the day and worked on the camp at night. We are sure that many had good intentions to help Bro. Bill with the camp but very little help came. Few checks came to help support Bill. Unknown to many, when support would come, Bill would often cash the checks and put the money back into the camp.

When the camp sessions ended, some churches would not come for their kids until Sunday. The Reeves' would keep and feed the kids until they were picked up. On Saturday, they would fill a 250-gallon tub of water and let it warm in the sun. Then, on Sunday, while everyone was sitting around, Sis. Vada would slowly walk over, get a bucket of water from the tub, walk ever so gently over to Bill, and pour the water on him. That was a sign for everyone to grab a bucket -- the fight was on!

Hard work and sacrificial living that verged on the side of poverty was the way of life for this family. The fruit of their labor will never be fully recognized on this side of eternity. A little girl by the name of Lucille Wischart attended that first camp. She later became Lucille Hyman, a pioneer missionary for Free Will Baptists. Countless number of souls have been saved, lives changed, and calls to special ministries have resulted from this ministry. It would be hopeless to try to comprehend the many lives that have been touched, but it is forever recorded in God's Book of Remembrance.

In 1972, Bro. Bill and Sis. Vada left the camp behind in body but not in heart nor spirit. They came back to DeSoto and joined the First Free Will Baptist Church. His daughter-in-law, Mary, told me that Vada often sat and cried because she missed the camp and the sound of children. Sis. Vada died just four years later, but Bro. Bill never stopped going for the Lord. He was a soul winner at heart and often took men under his wing to help them along. To go hear Rev. Miller preach a revival would be also to hear Bill "amen-ing" him on. He was a part of DeSoto's senior ministry, Joymakers, and was responsible for the solid CTS program at the church. Yet, often when Rev. Miller preached a sermon on Christian service, Bill would come to the altar of prayer, crying and praying. When asked why he came to the altar, he would say, "I just haven't done enough for the Lord. I want to be used of Him." God have mercy on the complainers of the modern age we live in.

The tabernacle at the camp has been dedicated in memory of Bro. Bill and is now called Reeves Tabernacle. His family has set up a fund in his name through the DeSoto Free Will Baptist Church

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to help any child who would like to attend youth camp but does not have the funds to do so. As long as the church stands, a memorial will be there for Brother Bill.

We often remember the Moodys and Spurgeons from years gone by, but friends, we have lost one of the true pioneers of Free Will Baptists in this state. You would be hard pressed to find anyone who thought anything but good of Brother Bill and Sister Vada.

This man's prayers are still alive, and I can't help but feel that his mantle has fallen on someone else to continue the work. It has been said by more than one preacher, "There was not another man who would have taken on the task of building a youth camp other than Bill Reeves."

A special note to the Reeves family: "Thank you for sharing your parents' lives with us."

Reverend Elzie Simpson 1898-1994

by Eunice Stogsdill

Reverend Elzie Simpson passed away September 25, 1994, at the age of 95 years 9 months 12 days. Ordained to preach the gospel on May 29, 1931, he was a member of the Cave Springs Association.

Early in his ministry, Rev. Simpson sometimes pastored four churches at a time due to the shortage of ministers. Each church would meet once a month and rotate weekly. Often having to walk to his churches, he relied solely on the goodness of the congregation to find him a place to stay after he arrived. He would tell of revivals lasting as long as three weeks and of the innumerable people he baptized. Two interesting stories regarding his baptisms include one where thirty people were baptized in one service, and another in which one man did not want to wait until spring to be baptized. In compliance with his wishes, the ice was cut on the Elevenpoint River in order for him to be baptized.

One hundred two couples were married by Rev. Simpson, including several couples married in his home. Some showed up on his front porch without notice, were married, then gone within twenty minutes.

Family ties were deeply important to him. For health reasons, Rev. Simpson moved to Bourbon in 1989 to live with his daughter and her husband, Rev. Hugh and Eunice Stogsdill. Although blind the last eight years of his life and unable to read the Bible, Rev. Simpson was blessed with a memory that enabled him to quote Scripture until the time of his death.

Rev. Simpson was not ashamed to let it be known that he found joy in his salvation. There was never a night when we didn't pray -- often for his church or his family.

Yes, our home is lonely since his death, but I still have memories. I am very thankful for a father who taught me right from wrong and now has a far better home than I could ever give him.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Brother E.E. Simpson was a pioneer minister whose ministry in the Cave Springs Association will be remembered, and he will be missed by those who had the privilege to know him. Many of those who attended his funeral paid verbal tribute to his memory. Following are a few of the comments that were made:

Rev. Virgil Blankenship, who was saved under the ministry of Brother Simpson in 1937, told how Brother Simpson walked eight

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Brother Reeves pioneered the Youth Camp Ministry in Missouri for Free Will Baptists. He will long be remembered as a gentle man whose love for the Lord was manifested in love for others. Remarks made by Brother Charles Miller and Brother Bob Theabeau during the memorial service held for Brother Reeves were testimonies of his Christian character.

Brother Charles Miller said in the memorial message that Brother Bill gave himself to the ministry of the Lord and his work will live on.

Brother Bob Theabeau said, "I hope that I am thought of as this man was when it is time for me to meet the Lord."

miles and waded the Elevenpoint River to pastor a church. Brother E.E. relied on the church to provide a place for him to stay Sunday afternoon. One cool Sunday when the river water was cold, everyone but one couple had left the church, and no one had invited him home for the day. Brother Simpson dreaded making the round trip home since this would mean wading that cold river four times. He said to the couple who remained, "Come and go home with me." They replied, "We can't. You might as well go home with us." Brother Simpson quickly said, "I believe I will."

Rev. Grover Pingleton, who will soon be celebrating fifty years in the ministry, delivered the funeral message. He told of his conversion under Brother Simpson's ministry and how Brother E.E. helped to license and ordain him for the ministry.

Rev. David Honeycutt, Pastor of Pleasant Ridge Church where Brother Simpson had his membership, told how Brother Simpson continued to support the church with his prayers and finances to the end.

I heard others relate that Brother Simpson was progressive in his ministry. He looked ahead and wanted the best for his denomination. Some told of the respect that he had earned in the Cave Springs Association over the years, and because of that, he was able to be a peace maker in churches and among brethren.

Hannibal Mission Report

Reverend Dale Cochran reports that the mission work in Hannibal is "still seeing people saved every month. Our Sunday morning worship service is averaging 62. The income of the church is slowly but steadily growing. We can see the future getting much brighter with the church finances. I believe that being self-supporting is not a far-off distant dream anymore."

Ozark Mission News

The mission work in Ozark experienced another good month in September. Pastor Gary Mitchener reports averages of 73 in morning worship, 51 in evening services, and 45 on Wednesday night.

In addition to seven baptisms in September, Ozark started October with a teenager saved.

Crossroads Celebrates Homecoming



Crossroads Church - Richland



New Life Singers

The Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church near Lebanon was beautifully decorated inside and out for its 102 anniversary and homecoming Sunday, October 9. Many of the members dressed in old fashion attire as they celebrated the occasion with old fashion preaching and singing, dinner on the grounds, and old fashion games for the children. Judy Pierce, Lillian Jones, and Sherry Lathrop served as the committee that planned the activities of the day.

The afternoon service was opened by Pastor Craig Perry as he welcomed the congregation and made some special presentations. He presented a flower to Doris Piercy who won the pie baking contest that was held during lunch time. A flower was presented to the one who traveled the furthest to be in the service.

Lillian Jones, the church clerk, read the names of those who had been members of the church for fifty years or longer. Effie Ruble was presented a certificate as her name was added to the list as a new 50 year member.

Pastor Perry and the church deacons led the congregation in a time of remembering the members who had died since the last homecoming.

A P.A. system, donated to the church in memory of Agnes Murrell, and a P.A. cabinet, donated in memory of Jeff Poston, were dedicated to the Lord. Pastor Perry led in the prayer of dedication.

Special music was provided for the afternoon service by the New Life Singers, Dennis Jones, and Gladys Bingham. Rev. Nathan Ruble delivered the afternoon sermon. He commended the church on its service to the Lord and on its impact in the community.

Games for adults and children were enjoyed by everyone following the services.



Pastor & Mrs. Craig Perry
Dressed for Old Fashion Day



Rev. Craig Bodenschatz & Family

Reverend Craig Bodenschatz is interested in a pastor's or assistant pastor's position. He states that his true joy is preaching the gospel, and that he is willing to move if the opportunity is there.

To contact Rev. Bodenschatz, you can write to him at --

Craig Bodenschatz
303 Lee Street
Fredericktown, MO 63645

Minister Available

The Way Back from the Edge of the Abyss

by William J. Bennett

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article is excerpted from a speech by William J. Bennett, formerly Secretary of Education and presently a distinguished fellow at the Heritage Foundation, as well as editor of The Book of Virtues. This address was given on the occasion of the foundation's 20th anniversary. After showing at some length the depth of America's moral and spiritual decline, Mr. Bennett offered suggestions as to how the Christian community should respond, and it is these suggestions that are reprinted here.

What can be done? First, here are the short answers: do not surrender; get mad; and get in the fight. Now, let me offer a few, somewhat longer, prescriptions.

I. Let me suggest that our first task is to recognize that, in general, we place too much hope in politics. I am certainly not denying the impact (for good and for ill) of public policies. I would

not have devoted the past decade of my life to public service -- and I could not work at the Heritage Foundation -- if I believed that the work with which I was engaged amounted to nothing more than striving after wind and ashes. But it is foolish, and futile, to rely primarily on politics to solve moral, cultural, and spiritual afflictions.

The last quarter-century has taught politicians a hard and humbling lesson: there are intrinsic limits to what the state can do, particularly when it comes to imparting virtue, and forming and forging character, and providing peace to souls. Samuel Johnson expressed this (deeply conservative and true) sentiment when he wrote "How small, of all that human hearts endure, that part which laws or kings can cause or cure!"

King Lear was a great king -- sufficient to all his political responsibilities and obligations. He did well as a king, but as a father and a man, he messed up terribly. The great king was reduced to the mud and ignominy of the heath, cursing his daughters, his life, his gods. Politics is a great adventure; it is greatly important; but its proper place in our lives has been greatly exaggerated. Politics has too often become the graven image of our time.

Animals ... or the Children of God?

II. We must have public policies that once again make the connection between our deepest beliefs and our legislative agenda. Do we Americans, for example, believe that man is a spiritual being with a potential for individual nobility and moral responsibility? Or do we believe that his ultimate fate is to be merely a soulless cog in the machine of state? When we teach sex-education courses to teenagers, do we treat them as if they are young animals in heat? Or, do we treat them as potential children of God?

In terms of public policy, the failure is not so much intellectual; it is a failure of will and courage. Right now we are playing a rhetorical game: we say one thing and we do another. Consider the following:

We say that we desire from our children more civility and responsibility, but in many of our schools we steadfastly refuse to teach right and wrong.

We say that we want law and order in the streets, but we allow criminals, including violent criminals, to return to those same streets.

We say that we want to stop illegitimacy, but we continue to subsidize the kind of behavior that virtually guarantees high rates of illegitimacy.

We say that we want to discourage teenage sexual activity, but in classrooms all across America educators are more eager to dispense condoms than moral guidance.

We say that we want more families to stay together, but we liberalize divorce laws and make divorce easier to obtain.

We say that we want to achieve a color blind society and judge people by the content of their character, but we continue to count by race, skin, and pigment.

We say that we want to encourage virtue and honor among the young, but it has become a mark of sophistication to shun the language of morality.

Education Once Made Good Men

III. We desperately need to recover a sense of the fundamental purpose of education, which is to provide for the intellectual and moral education of the young. From the ancient Greeks to the founding fathers, moral instruction was the central task of educa-

tion. "If you ask what is the good of education," Plato said, "the answer is easy: education makes good men, and good men act nobly." Jefferson believed that education should aim at improving one's "morals" and "faculties." And of education, John Locke said this: "Tis' virtue that we aim at, hard virtue, and not the subtle acts of shifting."

Until a quarter-century or so ago, this consensus was so deep as to go virtually unchallenged. Having departed from this time-honored belief, we are now reaping the whirlwind. And so we talk not about education as the architecture of souls, but about "skills facilitation" and "self-esteem" and about being "comfortable with ourselves."

Bigotry Against Religion

IV. As individuals and as a society, we need to return religion to its proper place. Religion, after all, provides us with moral bearings. And if I am right and the chief problem we face is spiritual impoverishment, then the solution depends, finally, on spiritual renewal. I am not speaking here about coerced spiritual renewal -- in fact, there is no such thing -- but about renewal freely taken.

The enervation of strong religious beliefs -- in our private lives as well as our public conversations -- has demoralized our society. We ignore religion and its lessons at our peril. But instead of according religion its proper place, much of society ridicules and disdains it, and mocks those who are serious about their faith.

In America today, the only respectable form of bigotry is bigotry directed against religious people. This antipathy toward religion cannot be explained by the well-publicized moral failures and financial excesses of a few leaders or charlatans, or by the censoriousness of some of their followers. No, the reason for hatred of religion is that it forces modern man to confront matters he would prefer to ignore.

Every serious student of American history, familiar with the writings of the founders, knows the civic case for religion. It provides society with a moral anchor -- and nothing else has yet been found to substitute for it. Religion tames our baser appetites, passions, and impulses. And it helps us to thoughtfully sort through the "ordo amoris," the order of the loves.

But remember, too, that for those who believe, it is a mistake to treat religion merely as a useful means to worldly ends. Religion rightly demands that we take seriously not only the commandments of the faith, but that we also take seriously the object of the faith. Those who believe know that although we are pilgrims and sojourners and wanderers in this earthly kingdom, ultimately we are citizens of the City of God -- a city which man did not build and cannot destroy, a city where there is no sadness, where the sorrows of the world find no haven, and where there is peace the world cannot give.

Pushing Back

Let me conclude. In his 1950 Nobel Prize acceptance speech, William Faulkner declared "I decline to accept the end of man." Man will not merely endure but prevail because, as Faulkner said, he alone among creatures "has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance."

Today we must, in the same way, decline to accept the end of the moral man. We must carry on the struggle, for our children. We will push back hard against an age that is pushing hard against us. When we do, we will emerge victorious against the trials of our time. When we do, we will save our children from the decadence of our time.

We have a lot of work to do. Let's get to it.

(This article ran in "Pulpit Helps.")

Waynesville Church Celebration



Happy Mortgage Burners

Homecoming, mortgage burning, Pastor appreciation, and Sharon's birthday (Pastor's wife) were celebrated October 2, with an all day service at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Waynesville, Missouri. A spirit of joy and thanksgiving was expressed by the congregation throughout the day.

The morning worship service was well attended and the people enjoyed lively congregational singing and fervent special music. Rev. Nathan Ruble delivered the morning message.

Following the morning service the congregation enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner. Just before lunch was served, the Women Active for Christ honored Sister Sharon Parker with a gift and a song in honor of her birthday.

Pastor Gary Parker opened the afternoon service by recognizing the visitors and former members of the church. Church members provided the special singing for the afternoon. During the service, Brother Gary was surprised by the church as they expressed their appreciation for him. They presented him with a gift and gave him many verbal tributes.



**L to R: Rev. & Mrs. John Schebaum
Deacon & Mrs. James Greer
Pastor & Mrs. Gary Parker
Deacon & Mrs. Schumaker**



**L to R: Leonard & Kay Gan
Bill & Helen Bales
Effie Bales (Charter Member)**



Burning the Mortgage

Rev. Nathan Ruble preached the afternoon message. He commended the church on their faithfulness in paying off the mortgage. The act of burning the mortgage was led by Pastor Parker. He invited the deacons, Rev. and Mrs. John Schebaum, and Rev. Nathan Ruble to join him in the ceremony. Rev. John Schebaum a former pastor, led in the prayer of thanksgiving.

The day began and ended in gladness. It was a good day in the house of the Lord. Following is a poem by Kay Gan. It was read at the close of the mortgage burning ceremony.

A SEED PLANTED AND LOVED, DID GROW

by Kay Gan...October 2, 1994

I seem to recall a revival long ago
When friends and loved ones invited me to go.
It was just about this time of year
And folks would come, both far and near.

It seems hard to remember everyone,
But in a memory tucked away
The Waynesville First Free Will Baptist Church
Was started up the street a ways.

I was told by someone around town,
That it was 3 families that got it off the ground.
Soon there were others besides family, that came,
And charter members were called and they had a name.

God blessed this work as time would show,
And to a larger building they would go.
Another revival soon spread around
That began in a little white church just west of town.

It was upon this site, near where we now stand,
That souls were saved, and the walls began to expand.
From this point on, as I seem to recall,
They had to build on to hold them all.

In among the blessings that we shared,
Were many sorrows and despairs.
Then came a fire that destroyed it all
And broke our hearts as we watched it fall.
A blessing from this...no way...you say!
Ah! The power of God, when we let Him have His way!

All hearts determined as we rallied around
That we wouldn't let Satan get us down.
Like saints have gone forward in days of old,
God blessed and blessed, and the measure is yet untold.

Very soon the debris was whisked away,
And plans for a new building were being made.
Everything went well, and when the church was nearly done,
The builder walked off into the setting sun!

Satan supposed this was the final straw...
That would break us down and destroy us all.
Oh...but he seemed to forget the power of praying Christians
United as one...to see its completion.

God did bless...all our efforts, and now,
We have this beautiful church in which to worship.
We are so thankful for all those who helped it be,
Church, land, and parsonage...all debt free!

Those remembered, and from what records were saved,
Are among those memories, made.
Bowman, Allsman, Covington, and Price, too,
Broyles, Hampton, Maness, Bennett, Southwell, to name a few.
There was Butler and Schebaum, and Alvis Paul, too,
Then our pastor, Gary Parker, last but not least, but he'll do.

As I close there is not much left to say,
Except may God bless you, and thanks so much
For being here today.

News from Bethel

by Virginia Baker

Bethel Free Will Baptist Church in Northview had a dinner September 25th in recognition of Pastor Appreciation Day. The honor surprised Pastor and Mrs. James Crawford. The Willis Family of Springfield provided special music.

This date also marked the last service in the old building. The church, organized on October 10, 1993, has relocated to another building in Northview.

Heaven Came Down

You are invited to attend a two-act Christmas musical drama, written and directed by Jack Dale of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Mountain Grove, Missouri. Performances will be at 8:00 p.m. on December 3 & 4 and on December 9 & 10. Admission is free, but tickets are necessary for seating. Those tickets can be obtained by writing --

First Free Will Baptist Church
South Main and Harker
Mountain Grove, MO 65711



Benjamin Randall Day

Nov. 20, 1994

National Home Missions Sunday

- ★ Help start 250 new churches
- ★ Erase deficit accounts
- ★ Undergird the General Fund
- ★ Provide helps for missionaries

GOAL: \$225,000

(General Fund)

Every church receive a special offering.
Every family give a special gift.



Nathan Ruble



From
The Desk of
The

Executive Secretary

Thanksgiving is a time to pause and to take inventory of our blessings. It is also a time to express our appreciation to a loving, giving God who bestows those blessings. As I began to take inventory of the blessings God had bestowed on me this past year, I discovered that I had a blessing I had been overlooking. It is the blessing of Free Will Baptist Pioneers who have given us a great heritage.

Each generation has its pioneers, those who break new ground for the Lord and establish the work of the churches. Free Will Baptists have been blessed with a great portfolio of men and women who have labored faithfully for the Lord and the Free Will Baptist denomination. Our generation is witnessing the demise of those who labored to unite our churches into a denomination and to establish us in a unified effort to carry out the Great Commission. Many of the pioneers lived to see changes they did not understand and to hear terms that were new to them. They knew nothing of the modern day marketing techniques and innovative methodologies used by some churches. They knew nothing of making the church "user friendly" or "relevant," but they did know the supernatural power of God. Led by that power, they were willing to sacrifice and unite to do the work of God. Because of their faith in a never failing God, and their willingness to keep on pressing ahead, our denomination now offers us a far better situation than that which they enjoyed. Many of these lived and died without recognition, but their labors continue to bring forth fruit.

In recent months Missouri Free Will Baptists said goodbye to Rev. Harry Beatty, Rev. Bill Reeves, and Rev. E. E. Simpson. They were pioneers. Some of them did not minister beyond the borders of their beloved state, yet their ministries helped to establish and encourage ministries which reached far beyond their area. As we say goodbye, we do it with thankful hearts. We are thankful for their lives, their labors, and their vision.

Now would be a good time to check your Thanksgiving list. Add to that list Free Will Baptist Pioneers. As a denomination, we should thank God for the pioneers, and should pray that He will continue to raise up those with a like spirit in our generation.

"...we are bound to give thanks always to
God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord"

II Thess. 2:13

Blanche Rogers Home with the Lord

Blanche Elizabeth Rogers went home to be with the Lord on August 25, 1994, after suffering a heart attack three days earlier. Reverend Rick Chapman and Rev. O. D. Matthews officiated. Preceded in death by her husband, Glen, Blanche was the mother of Janice Durbin, Phyllis Berry, and Jim Rogers.

A member of Mill Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Blanche had been a member of Mine La Motte Free Will Baptist Church during most of her earlier years. She was a quiet lady but her life was a clear testimony of her salvation. One of Blanche's favorite activities was the annual Senior Adult Retreat.

Leaving two sons-in-law and two grandsons preaching the gospel as well as two grandsons active in gospel music and a son formerly in gospel music, Blanche leaves a great Christian heritage for her family and friends. She will be greatly missed in the coming days.

The Youth Look

The Abuse of Child Abuse

(Continued)

by Ann Poletti



Last month, I mentioned that, in examining the Child Protection Services (CPS), we would look this month at what could be considered children "at-risk." Again, let me stress that not all social workers are the criminals in the system; however, we are looking at those who view the family as the enemy and the system as the hero.

A child is considered "at-risk" when meal courses do not go together or provide variety, dolls are not provided for boys and trucks for girls, clothes are hand-me-downs, home's faucets or roofs leak, or when the family does not own adult and children's books, a working electric vacuum, camera, television, fishing equipment, and magazines. Often, during an assessment, CPS will count movies, carnivals, vacations, and spectator sports as required activities. One can see where such requirements limit poor people in parenting their own children.

Lower-income homes are also targeted when they have to turn to the government for assistance. All the paperwork required to receive any kind of assistance makes the recipient easy to trace. Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutritional foods but monitors child's growth. If a child is not growing properly, the parent is often accused of neglect.

Perhaps the scariest part of this nightmare is that CPS does not have to comply with a Grand Jury. A mother had a social worker show up at her door -- without a court order -- demanding her two-year-old son based on an anonymous report of abuse. Afraid that protesting would make her look guilty and intimidated by the woman's status as a social worker, the mother naively turned over her child. The worker put the child into the car without any required safety restraints, drove up the street, and was involved in an accident which killed the child. The devastated mother took the agency to court only to be told that had she been a good mother CPS would not have been called nor would she have released her child without a court order.

The book (given as a source at the end of the article) offers great suggestions for defense with the best ones being KNOW YOUR RIGHTS and LIVE ABOVE REPROACH (e.g., don't spank your child in public or develop a reputation that could harm your parenting rights later).

Though there was a time when it seemed that the church was relatively exempt from such accusations, abuse within the church is increasing. Therefore, churches also need to exercise protective care -- for the kids as well as innocent adults who may be accused.

- 1) Select and screen all employees and volunteers carefully.
- 2) Exercise reasonable care in the supervision of all church activities.
- 3) Require workers (nursery to youth) to be associated with your church at least six months before working.
- 4) Educate all workers on abuse, appropriate/inappropriate behavior, as well as state and federal laws on abuse.
- 5) NEVER allow one nursery worker to work alone -- even if there's only one or two children present -- or allow one adult to take kids to the bathroom or changing areas.

H. L. Mencken said, "There is always an easy solution to every human problem -- neat, plausible -- and wrong." For our solution to be right in dealing with child abuse or the abuse of child abuse, we must do what we should always do -- find the Biblical solution.

Sources: 1) Out of Control: Who's Watching Our Child Protection Agencies? by Brenda Scott.

2) Brenda Scott's radio interviews with Marlin Maddux on "Point of View," originally aired July 26 & 27, 1994.

3) Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company "Insurance Advisor Series" Issue 10.

The Durbins' Ministry Continues

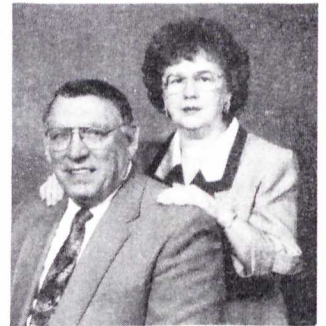
Ageless . . . It is the name of The Durbins' latest tape, but it could also describe Lloyd and Janice Durbin themselves.

Reverend Durbin began his pastoral ministry in 1961 and pastored Mill Creek Free Will Baptist Church near Fredericktown, Mine La Motte Free Will Baptist Church, as well as serving in Home Mission work at O'Fallon. For a total of 21 years, Rev. Durbin was the pastor at Mill Creek.

Throughout those same years, the Durbin family also traveled as they shared their gospel music ministry. Lloyd and Janice's son and daughter-in-law, Roger and Tammy, still travel as The Durbins while Beth, Lloyd and Janice's daughter, awaits in Heaven.

Still serving the Lord wherever needed, the Durbins are available to fill-in, serve in revivals, or sing at your church. You may reach them at --

HCR 78 Box 397
Fredericktown, MO 63645
(314)783-5236



Rev. & Mrs. Lloyd Durbin



H - O - P - E

by Brent Thompson

H-O-P-E, a word that gives a connotation of promise and the future. Life is a form of hope that can be found in many ways. This summer I saw life and hope from a different angle.

God gave me the opportunity to go to China through an organization named ELIC (English Language Institute China). Through this program, I was able to study the Chinese language and discover life as never before. Imagine the sound of a foreign language ringing through your ears as you walk down the street. Do you see all of the bicycles buzz around you? Can you smell the open market as you wonder what form of order these people live by? I began to realize that the rule of chaos seemed to guide their lives.

As I lived among the people from day to day, I began to feel ashamed because, in their own way, they are searching for hope. All I could think about was, "Are these people crazy?" I began to wonder "Where is my place in this world? How can I show the people of this world the H-O-P-E that God gave to me?"

What a burden! What a task God has given us! Wow, God truly has given us hope!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Brent is the son of Ernest and Lila Thompson and a member of the Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Kirksville. He is attending Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville.)

Thanks for the Thorns

"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation" (Habakkuk 3:17,18).

We may safely say to everything that comes to us, "Thank you. I am so glad you have come." I may not know all the whys and wherefores, but I do know that my Heavenly Father would not send anything but that which was the very best for me, and He always makes all things work together for good to His trusting child. "In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (I Thess. 5:18).

A very touching story is told of a poor woman with two children who had no bed for them to lie upon, and scarcely any clothes to cover them. In the depth of winter they were nearly frozen. The mother took the cellar door off the hinges and set it up before the corner where they crouched down to sleep, that some of the draft and cold might be kept from them. One of the children whispered to the mother, when he complained of how badly off they were, "Mother, what do those poor children do who have no cellar door to put up in front of them?" Even then that dear little heart found cause of thankfulness.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name" (Psalm 103:1). It is so easy to give thanks for the roses, and forget to be thankful for the thorns, which may be a more lasting benefit than roses are.

(Copied from The Voice in the Wilderness.)

TIDBITS from Waynelle Scott

The year was 1977, and it was the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Our pastor announced that at the Wednesday night prayer meeting (on Thanksgiving Eve) we would have a "praise" service. Everyone was to think of something for which they were particularly thankful, then we would gather on Wednesday evening to praise God for His blessings. It was no problem for me to know what to give thanks for! When it was my turn to share with the congregation, I confidently stood and gratefully proclaimed, "My two precious blessings are in the nursery tonight. I praise God for my two little girls!" The baby had been born in September, joining her 21-month-old sister. These little girls were my pride and joy. When it was time for prayer, I prayed with fullness of heart that God would bless my children and that He would use their lives as He saw fit.

Thanksgiving Day was spent with my folks. The baby ate her first strained meat (turkey, of course), and my first-born got better acquainted with Grandma's piano. It was a quiet day of family, food, and football -- nothing memorable. The only reason my mind now seems to recall even the smallest detail is that this was the only holiday we were privileged to spend with our baby girl. On the Saturday morning following Thanksgiving, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome struck our household. We found that our darling was gone from us into the presence of God.

It was this realization -- that she was with God -- that made our loss bearable. After all, had we not dedicated her to Him when she was 3 weeks old? Had I not just days before asked Him to use my children as He saw fit? We could only believe that this was God's plan, and His ways are always right.

I will not try to make you believe that I did not experience hurt like I had never felt before. My empty arms ached to hold my little one; I wanted to see her smile, to feel her cuddle, to hear her coo. There were endless nights of tossing and turning -- reliving the terrible moments when we found our baby was dead, or seeing again that little casket ready to be lowered into the grave. Finally, I would fall asleep -- sleep that was full of dreams. Sometimes I had nightmares, but often I had wonderful dreams that my baby was alive and everything was just as before. These good dreams were almost worse than the nightmares because each time I awoke, I was faced with reality; and the tears would flow anew.

But I can tell you that with every hurt, with every lonely moment, with every night that passed, with every tear that fell, came comfort from the One Who holds us in His hands. I had never been so personally aware of the presence of a real and living God. I can assure you that my God is a loving God, and He alone can work the miracle of healing a broken heart. He is worthy of our praise. He is deserving of our thanksgiving. This year I thank God for my four precious blessings. Three of my children I have here with me to raise; my other child waits for us in the presence of God.

(Sis. Waynelle Scott is a member of the Olivet FWB Church in Marshall, MO, and is actively involved in the ministries of the church. She has taught in the Olivet Christian Academy and in the pre-school program, Kiddie Kare Kampus, for the past twelve years.)

SNAPSHOTS OF THE 1994 PASTOR/LAYMAN'S RETREAT



Financial Information

SEPTEMBER 1994

COOPERATIVE

DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$ 6,396.01
17.50% Executive Office	6,050.28
3.50% General Fund	1,210.05
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	2,938.71
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	864.33
2.50% C.E. Board	864.33
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board	864.33
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	3,111.57
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	10,544.78
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 (\$105.45 included in \$10,544.78)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund	1,728.65
TOTAL	\$34,573.04

"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 1%.

SEPTEMBER 1994

COOPERATIVE

Bailey Chapel	\$ 85.00
Belton	347.08
Bethel - El Dor. Spgs.	60.31
Bethel - El Dor. Spgs.	81.48
Black Oak	234.19
Bourbon	64.47
Cabool	329.16
Calvary Chapel	400.08
Cape Girardeau 1st	523.89
Carthage	190.00
Carthage	210.00
Central	777.33
Chapel of the Ozarks	183.35
Clifton	85.10
Columbia	92.02
Cope	34.00
Cope	32.00
Copper Mines	281.46
Cross Roads - Wentz	329.00
Cross Roads - Richland	474.89
Cuba	358.20
DeSoto	820.00
Eastern Gate	261.30
Faith & Hope - Aurora	89.50
Faith & Hope - W. Spgs.	84.00
Farmington 1st	1,814.54
Fordland	379.51
Fourth	175.00
Fredericktown 1st	272.00
Freeman Chapel	199.49
Grace	967.00
Grant Avenue	935.51
Hannibal	100.00
Hannon	427.17
Harmony - Parkville	401.00
Hartville	471.10
Hazel Creek	578.00
Hopewell - Tunas	168.00
Houston	294.22
Hurryville	356.56
Jones Chapel	661.32
Jones Creek Road	212.02

Joplin 1st	538.96
Joplin 1st	439.75
Kingsway	277.84
Kirkville	184.27
Koshkonong	123.10
Leadington	433.65
Lebanon	537.44
Liberty - Phil.	226.80
Lone Star	34.20
Marshfield	258.29
Mill Creek	179.19
Mine La Motte	45.85
Monett	456.86
Mountain Grove 1st	1,069.01
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	204.00
Mt. Zion - Gower	59.40
Myrtle	155.37
Neosho 1st	71.25
New Harmony	22.09
New Hope - Fred.	20.00
New Rock Springs	96.00
New Rock Springs	94.00
North Five	94.57
Number One	53.10
O'Fallon 1st	465.00
Oak Hill - Fred.	63.25
Olivet	1,000.00
Oskaloosa	326.13
Overland	119.00
Ozark	400.10
Park Hills 1st	457.15
Parkview	444.69
Parkview	429.86
Pleasant Hill - Thayer	42.48
Pleasant Home	204.43
Pleasant Home - Mt. Grv.	187.49
Pleasant Ridge - Urb.	91.00
Potosi	155.94
Riverview - Ia	679.65
Rock Chapel	305.51
Rolla	68.27
Royal Oak	102.00
Seymour	58.00
Smyrna	125.00
South Fremont	365.00
Springfield 1st	1,037.14
Stockton	82.10
Terrill Road	193.00
Thayer	763.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	1,001.89
Twin Oaks	928.92
Tyrone	58.00
Union	60.00
Union Grove	177.00
Union Light	84.30
United	895.73
Verdella	378.08
Victory - Alton	152.00
Victory - KC	245.72
Victory Hill	63.70
Waynesville	288.90
Waynesville	328.90
West Plains 1st	499.98
Willow Spgs. - Mtn. Grove	245.72
Wolf Creek	483.77
TOTAL	\$34,573.04

STATE HOME MISSIONS

Central	\$ 20.00
Cuba	89.02
DeSoto Victor's CTS	20.00
Eastern Gate	20.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	42.25
Farmington 1st	10.00
Fordland	5.00
Fourth	10.00
Grace	30.00
Grant Avenue	120.55
Hannon	213.58
Kirkville	10.36
Lebanon	10.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	190.00
Macedonia Auxiliary	50.00
Marshfield	25.82
Mountain Grove 1st	25.00
Myrtle	41.00
N. Ruble	30.00
New Testament	20.00
O'Fallon 1st	63.16
Ozark	10.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urb.	25.00
Richwoods	10.00
Rock Chapel	87.22
South Fremont	10.00
Southeast Assoc.	25.00

Thayer	52.50
Trinity - Bridgeton	195.00
Union Light	56.00
United	21.48
Viburnum	5.00
Viburnum	5.00
Victory - KC	5.00
West Plains 1st	5.00
TOTAL	\$1,557.94

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Belton	\$ 10.00
Bethel - Festus	20.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Carthage	52.00
Carthage	51.00
Central	110.50
Columbia	10.00
DeSoto	150.00
DeSoto Chil. Church	40.00
F. Rogers (DeSoto)	20.00
Faith & Hope - W. Spgs.	25.00
Farmington 1st	25.00
Fordland	10.00
Fourth	45.00
Grace	45.00
Grant Avenue	76.00
Hannon	47.72
J. W. Rader	20.00
Leadington	20.00
Lebanon	10.00
Monett	10.00
Mountain Grove 1st	50.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	50.00
Myrtle	70.00
New Harmony	110.44
New Testament	50.00
O'Fallon 1st	63.16
Oak Grove - Norwood	40.75
Overland	4.00
Park Hills 1st	65.72
Parkview	13.00
Pleasant Home - Mt. Grv.	10.00
R. White (DeSoto)	20.00
Richwoods	42.00
Rock Chapel	45.00
Thayer	177.50
Trinity - Bridgeton	35.00
Union Light	35.00
United	10.00
Verdella	20.00
Viburnum	54.00
Viburnum	54.00
Victory - KC	20.00
Waynesville	25.00
Waynesville	25.00
West Plains 1st	30.00
Wolf Creek	29.72
TOTAL	\$1,996.51

FOREIGN MISSIONS

B. Griggs (DeSoto)	\$ 5.00
B. Thebeau (DeSoto)	30.00
Belton	165.02
Bethel - Festus	80.00
Blue Springs	60.00
C. Thompson	25.00
Calvary Chapel	224.82
Carthage	149.00
Carthage	149.00
Central	620.50
Central VBS	108.93
Columbia	15.00
Cuba	44.50
D. Akeman	10.00
D. Lewis (DeSoto)	30.00
DeSoto	350.00
Eastern Gate	82.26
F. Green	35.00
F. Rogers (DeSoto)	10.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	42.25
Faith & Hope - W. Spgs.	125.00
Faith - St. Louis	150.00
Farmington 1st	589.72
Fordland	133.00
Fourth	50.00
Freeman Chapel	423.50
G. Millard	59.00
Grace	57.50
Grant Ave. Prayer Part	17.00
Grant Ave. Women SS	25.00
Grant Avenue	478.10
Greenfield	334.00
Hannon	654.17
Hartville	94.22
Houston	171.26
J. Hoggard (DeSoto)	10.00
J. Lewis (DeSoto)	5.00
J. Schebaum	15.00
Joplin 1st	20.00
Joplin 1st	20.00
K. Minor (DeSoto)	20.00
Kirkville	10.35
Leadington	35.00

Lebanon	90.00
Macedonia Auxiliary	650.00
Marshfield	45.00
Monett	446.00
Mountain Grove 1st	220.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	100.00
Myrtle	77.00
N. Ruble	30.00
Neosho 1st	185.00
Neosho Auxiliary	10.00
Neosho VBS	284.94
New Harmony	110.44
New Testament	60.00
Niangua	9.00
Niangua	10.00
Niangua	11.00
Niangua	7.00
O'Fallon 1st	58.16
Oak Grove - Houston	65.00
Oak Grove - Norwood	81.50
Ozark	40.00
Park Hills 1st	182.88
Parkview	329.00
Pleasant Home	20.44
Pleasant Home - Mt. Grv.	79.71
Pleasant Ridge - Urb.	45.00
Richwoods	30.00
Rock Chapel	167.49
South Fremont	35.00
St. Peters	150.00
Thayer	539.50
Thayer VBS	175.38
Trinity - Bridgeton	590.76
Union Light	150.00
Union Mission	215.14
United	51.48
Verdella	593.08
Viburnum	100.00
Viburnum	130.00
Victory - KC	105.00
Waynesville	25.00
Waynesville	25.00
West Plains 1st	25.00
TOTAL	\$12,088.00

MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

New Rock Springs	\$ 10.00
Myrtle	31.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
Lebanon Bible and Book	85.00
Hartville	10.00
Thayer	37.50
Ozark	10.00
Hannon	15.00
DeSoto	50.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	10.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	10.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Trinton - Bridgeton	14.00
New Rock Springs	10.00
Union - Success	30.00
Park Hills 1st	9.35
TOTAL	\$391.85

WORLD VISION

Victory - KC	\$5.00
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NATIONAL ASSOC. OF FWB

Lebanon 1st (Victory Campaign)	\$110.00
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CHILDREN'S HOME (AL)

Myrtle	\$7.00
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WORLD RELIEF

Victory - KC	\$10.00
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HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Central	\$ 36.00
Thayer	42.50
Hannon	50.00
Eastern Gate	52.26
Neosho 1st	60.00
Grant Avenue	8.00
Victory - KC	35.48
Farmington	153.33
TOTAL	\$437.57

FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$ 37.50
DeSoto	35.00
Grant Avenue	10.00
Farmington	161.66
TOTAL	\$244.16

REV. JOHN McCCLURE

Thayer	\$15.00
Monett	5.00
Grace	17.50
TOTAL	\$37.50

CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Farmington	\$25.00
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FWB HOME FOR CHILDREN (TN)

DeSoto 1st	\$ 50.00
Waynesville 1st	31.05
DeSoto Ambassador's CTS Class	100.00
TOTAL	\$181.05

Missionary Glennnda Leatherbury Succumbs to Cardiac Arrest



Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa -- Missionary nurse Glennnda Leatherbury died of cardiac arrest on Saturday night, October 15, at the Free Will Baptist hospital in Doropo, Cote d'Ivoire. She had been back at the mission station after furlough only since early June.

Reports indicate Glennnda had complained of dizziness the night before and again Saturday afternoon. Dr. Paul Gentuso examined her and encouraged her to stay at his house but she chose to return to her own home. Later that evening she sent an African girl to call the doctor. When Dr. Paul arrived shortly thereafter, she had suffered cardiac arrest and was not breathing. He revived her through performing CPR.

Miss Leatherbury suffered a total of six episodes of cardiac arrest and was brought back five times. The sixth proved fatal. She had no previous history of heart trouble but several of those related to her have had heart problems.

The body was taken to Bondoukou for embalming and to be placed in cold storage until the funeral. Glennnda had requested to be buried on the field and the funeral was scheduled for October 28 in Doropo.

Jalayn Martens, Glennnda's co-laborer and roommate, was in the United States due to the illness and subsequent death of her father. She, Mrs. Mildred Leatherbury (Glennnda's mother) and General Director R. Eugene Waddell were scheduled to attend the funeral.

Mr. Waddell stated, "Glennnda has given her life to serve others and especially those in the Doropo area where the next closest medical facilities are over 50 miles away. She has been a faithful servant of her Lord. Her friends and co-workers will miss her greatly."

A Glennnda Leatherbury Memorial Fund has been set up for those who would like to send money in lieu of flowers. Gifts can be sent to Leatherbury Memorial Fund, Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN, 37011-5002

Sunday School Averages April 1994 - September 1994

CHURCHES	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT
Belton	64	56				
Bethel - Festus	64	62	60	71	67	68
Calvary Chapel	81	73	76	90	90	88
Calvary Fellowship	248	242	218	234	233	254
Cape Girardeau	91	78	81	77	74	76
Columbia						19
Cuba	120	115	113	111	87	110
DeSoto	184	178	175	171		180
Farmington	387	351	343	332	340	348
Hannon	81	83	76	77	81	76
Harmony	72	60	59			
Hartville	101	91	96	80	87	
Hazel Creek			66	70	62	
Hopewell	33	29	30	39	32	28
Houston	61	51	54	48	47	54
Jones Creek	18	13	15	12	12	13
Kirksville	31	33	30	35	30	32
Lebanon First	115	111	107	112	117	115
Mill Creek	55	46	44	40	46	50
Myrtle	27	32	27	27	27	37
Oskaloosa		11	11	11	11	
Ozark	59	50	50	59	53	58
Park Hills First	134	136	126	127	133	
Parkview		41		45	49	58
Richwoods	35	23	23	24		
Rock Chapel		67	78	67	69	70
Springfield First	102	105	113	103	114	112
Thayer	132	126	115	138	123	137
United, West Plains	206	200	206	206	217	212
Unity	37			30	34	36
Verdella	75	78	67	67	70	65
Willow Springs	72	66	60	65	64	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.

MISSOURI STATE ASSOC. OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
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