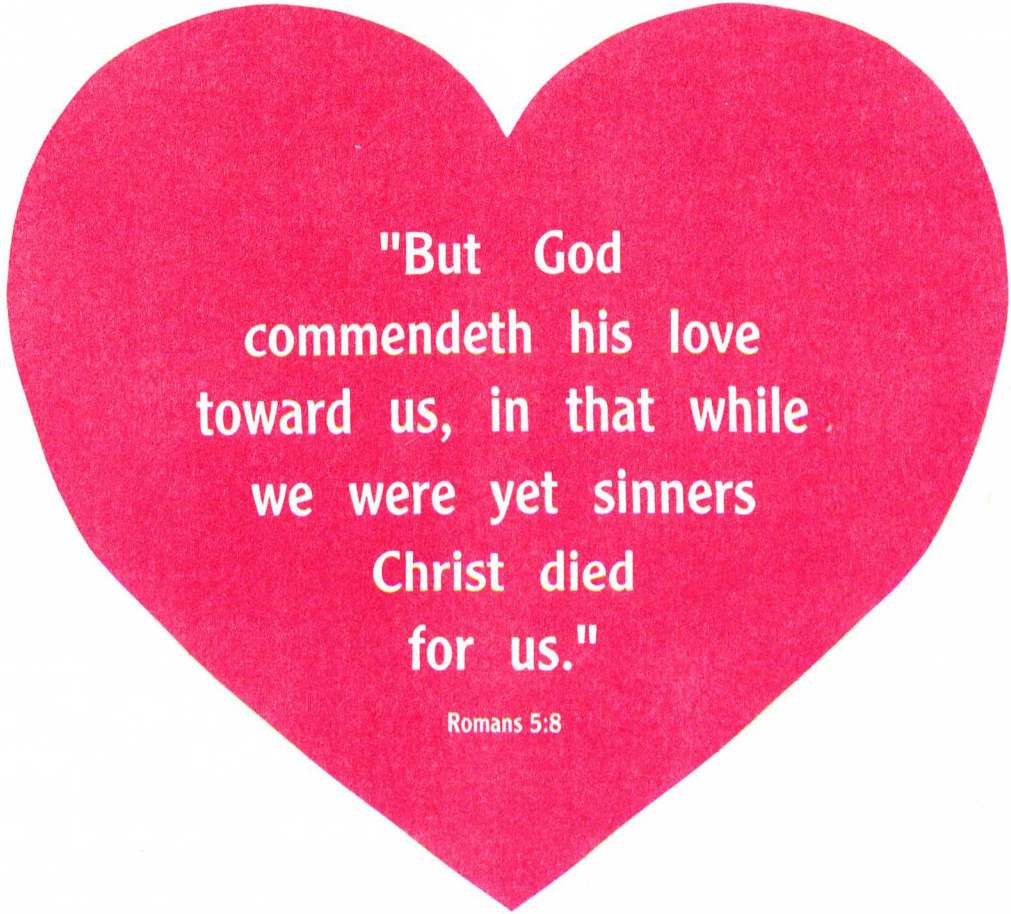


GEM

**THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST**

Volume 65, No. 2, February 1995

What Is Love?



**"But God
commendeth his love
toward us, in that while
we were yet sinners
Christ died
for us."**

Romans 5:8

Why Churches Stop Growing

Matthew 16:18

by Rev. Jerry Norris

Every church, at one point in their history, was a growing church. Some churches have experienced several periods of growth. But in nearly every instance, and I say this because over eighty percent of the churches in America have either plateaued or are in decline, that church has stopped growing. Why did that church stop growing? Some will offer various reasons, but I believe there is basically one reason why churches stop growing. Before I give you this one reason let me give some things that do not necessarily stop growth.

It is not a knowledge issue. Most pastors have enough knowledge to grow a church. There are hundreds of church growth books on the market. There are all kinds of seminars, films and videos, and resources people available.

It is not a denominational issue. This surprised me somewhat. In a recent issue of *Church Growth Today*, I noticed that of the one hundred fastest growing churches in America many different denominations were represented. Since a church is measured from one year to the next, it is rare that a church will be listed more than one year. The fastest growing church in the last issue was the New Birth Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia. This church went from 4,000 to 6,000 in one year. It is an American Baptist Church, which is basically a liberal denomination. In second place was Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, CA, an independent church pastored by John MacArthur. This church went from 8,000 to 10,000. Third was an Independent Charismatic Church, basically a black congregation, called World Changers, from College Park, Georgia. Among these 100 churches were twenty-seven Southern Baptists, ten Independents, ten Calvary Chapels, thirteen Independent Charismatics, ten Assemblies of God, five United Methodists, three Presbyterians, and three Foursquares. Other denominations represented in the last issue were Church of God, Lutheran - Missouri Synod, Church of Christ, United Church of Christ, COGIC, and Christian Missionary Alliance. All of this says that church growth is not a denominational issue.

It is not a location issue. Some churches are ideally located but have few in attendance. When we began at Calvary Fellowship, there was a church located at I-270 and Page. The church was presented in one of Elmer Towns' church growth books as one of the fastest growing churches in America, and a church with the brightest future. If there was a church that was ideally located, that was the church. Not only is that church no longer at that location, I do not even know if it is still in existence.

It is not an education issue. That is, it is not a formal education issue. Many of the pastors of the largest churches in this country have no seminary training. Many of the "Doctors" are honorary Doctor degrees.

This may come as a surprise, but **it is not a spiritual issue.** I know that sounds terrible, but some of the most spiritual preachers I know can't build a church. They love the Lord, read their Bibles, and pray two hours a day, but they can't grow weeds! Am I putting down spirituality? Not at all. I am saying that just because a person is spiritual doesn't mean he can build a church. Besides, if it is a

spiritual issue, every pastor of a large church would be "spiritual," and every pastor of a small church would be "unspiritual," and that simply is not true.

It is not a model issue. When I was beginning in the ministry, most of my peers wanted to be like Dr. Jack Hyles and First Baptist Church of Hammond, IN. We went to his pastor's school. Today, many great churches are springing up all over the country. Some will go to Dr. Robert Schuller's pastor's school at the Crystal Cathedral. They will return home seeking to copy that church. Still others will attend Bill Hybels' pastor's school at the Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, IL, and seek to copy that church. It is probably the most popular model today. But there is no one model. Growing churches come from every denomination, are pastored by all kinds of preachers, and are situated in every part of the country.

Back to my original question: If none of these things cause a church to stop growing, what does? **CHURCHES STOP GROWING WHEN THE PRICE BECOMES TOO HIGH!** People are no longer willing to pay the price necessary for continued growth.

Churches usually grow to the level of survival. The average church will have approximately 80 in attendance. Why 80? Because at 80, a church can get a piece of ground, have a building, and hire a pastor. What else do we need to survive?

I will illustrate two kinds of growth: easy and expensive. Most churches cease to grow when the cost moves from the Easy to the Expensive. Ask yourself the question, "What price am I willing to pay to see my church succeed?"

The first area we will consider is perhaps the most sensitive.

I. Money

This is always a dangerous place to begin. There is easy growth and expensive growth. When we first began at Calvary Fellowship in the summer of 1978, growth was both fun and cheap. It didn't cost us anything to go from 50 to 125. Someone before me had paid the price for us to achieve that growth. Rev. Al Helms and the congregation sacrificed to make the original purchase. Rev. Duane Hansen and the congregation in 1977 sacrificed to make the building into a place of worship. Growth wasn't cheap for those people; it was expensive, but it was easy growth for us. However, since that time, growth has been expensive. Now that we have voted to construct a Family Life Center and put a new front on our existing building, growth will continue to come at a price.

Someone has prayed that God will provide for our needs. The truth of the matter is that He has already provided for the financial needs of your church. He has provided through His people. It is now a matter of His people giving that which God has given them. The church will cease to grow when people say, "I don't want to spend any more money!"

II. Change

Easy growth brings few changes. Expensive growth means many changes. Resistance to change is not all bad; otherwise,

(continued on page 10)

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.

there would be no stability. We would be chasing every new fad that came around the corner. But when change is necessary for growth, then we must consider change. Resistance to change is universal.

The church is the only organization I know that is not pressured to change. If something is not pressured to change, it doesn't change. There is a great deal of comfort in doing things the way we have always done it.

People operate on the basis of two laws. **First, there is the law of self-interest.** This law states that "people change for selfish reasons quicker than for important reasons." Are there special interest groups in the church? Yes. For example, as we contemplated a new building and all the features to go into this building, a person with no interest in fellowship would feel fellowship space to be a waste of money. After all, we already have a kitchen and fellowship space so we don't need more. But people who work in the kitchen, stay for fellowship at Homecoming or other social functions, or have a wedding reception here will say, "We need more fellowship space." If one sits in a large classroom with plenty of space, he does not see the need for more classrooms. Go next door on an average Sunday morning and one will see the need for more classroom and assembly space. If you care nothing for recreation, you will see no need for any recreational space. Any building program can succeed only when each individual looks beyond his own needs and considers the needs of his brother.

I heard a story of a man who owns a house just north of New York City. When he first moved into that area, it was strictly rural. There were no buildings anywhere. However, as the years went by, they widened the highway into a six-lane superhighway. They built shopping malls, motels, and a convention center. One day a reporter came by to ask how he had accepted the changes over the last fifty years. The old man contemplated the question for a moment and finally said, "Yes, I have seen a lot changes out this way over the last fifty years, and I want you to know, **I've been agin' every one of them!**" That old man reminds me of a lot of church members.

Second, there is the law of ownership. This law states, "People change easiest when they feel the need or they initiate it." It isn't my early service, it is our early service. It isn't your program but our program. Our church has approved a building program. It is not my building program or their building program but OUR building program.

The church has always been asked to change – not its message but its methods. Some of the hymns we sing were once considered worldly. In fact, any song that didn't come straight from the Bible was considered modernist and liberal. Martin Luther took tunes which were popular in the bars of his day, put religious words to them, and presented them in church. You can imagine the reaction he received to one of those songs, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God."

There was a day when Sunday School was a "change." Two hundred years ago no church had a Sunday School. Of course,

(continued on page 10)

News From Blue Springs

The congregation of the Blue Springs Free Will Baptist Church has sold its church property that was located at 202 South 8th Street in Blue Springs. They are now seeking to purchase land in order to build a new facility. Please pray that God would provide affordable land in a good location. Rev. Alvin Hook is the pastor of this growing congregation.



Gary & Brenda Mitchener

Ozark Mission News

by Gary Mitchener

Missouri Home Missionaries Gary and Brenda Mitchener and the Ozark congregation wish to express their appreciation to all of those who were faithful to pray and support the Ozark Mission in 1994. December '94 was another good month in Ozark. There was one rededication and one was baptized. Our average attendance was 79 in Sunday School and 93 in the morning worship service. The church now has a teen choir which is composed of 15 to 20 teens. They not only provide special music for the church, but they are also being used in other local churches for revival. Please continue to pray and support us until we are a self-supporting church.

GOD MAKES LEADERS Memo

TO: Jesus, son of Joseph
Woodcrafter's Carpenter Shop, Nazareth
FROM: Jordan Management Consultants

Thank you for submitting the resumes of the twelve men you have selected for management positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our battery of tests, and we have run the results through our computer. We have arranged for each to have personal interviews with our psychologists and vocational aptitude consultants. The complete profile on each is included for your careful study.

It is our staff's opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education, and vocational aptitude for the type of work you are undertaking. They do not demonstrate a team concept. We would recommend that you search for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capability.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to an offensive temper. Andrew has absolutely no qualities of leadership. Brothers James and John, sons of Zebedee, place personal interests above company loyalty. Frankly, they are "mama's boys." Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel that it is our duty to tell you that Matthew has been blacklisted by our Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau. James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus have definite leanings toward the radical and register high on the manic depressive scale.

One of the candidates does, however, show great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, and has a keen business mind. He is highly motivated as well as ambitious and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man.

All other profiles are self-explanatory.

We wish you every success in your new venture.

Sunday School Averages July 1994 - December 1994

CHURCHES	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Bethel - Festus	71	67	68	70	71	63
Calvary Chapel	90	90	88	90		77
Calvary Fellowship	234	233	254	303	228	239
Cape Girardeau	77	74	76	109	83	98
Columbia				17	13	13
Cuba	111	87	110	107	111	117
DeSoto	171		180	177	184	183
Farmington	332	340	348	361	337	348
Fredericktown	41	40	37	42	42	
Hannon	77	81	76	80	82	90
Harmony	59	54	60	56	54	
Hartville	80	87		85	89	102
Hazel Creek	70	62	72	70	74	
Hopewell	39	32	28	29	33	35
Houston	48	47	54	43	45	46
Jones Creek	12	12	13	13	13	11
Kirksville	35	30	32			
Lebanon First	112	117	115	115	124	134
Mill Creek	40	46	50	49	50	62
Myrtle	27	27	37	31	28	37
Oskaloosa	11	11	11			
Ozark	59	53	58	64	77	79
Park Hills First	127	133	136	136	125	
Parkview		49	58	51	49	
Richwoods	24	29	33	60	45	
Rock Chapel	67	69	70	69	72	76
Springfield First	103	114	112	107	102	
Thayer	138	123	137	139	126	144
United, West Plains	206	217	212	211	219	236
Unity		34	36	42	47	41
Verdella	67	70	65	70	69	80
Willow Springs	65	64	65	71	67	

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.

YOUTH CAMP '95

The dates for the camp sessions are as follows:

Group II Teen – June 11 - June 16

Group I Teen – June 18 - June 23

(Please note the change in Group order for the teen session only.)

Group I Pre-Teen – July 23 - 28

Group II Pre-Teen – July 30 - August 4

This year there will be an increase in camp fees from \$40.00 to \$45.00. Due to the improvements made to the camp, as well as the rising costs of maintaining the camp, the camp board felt that it was necessary to raise the fees. It is our desire to continue making improvements to our Missouri State Youth Camp.

Another change to the camp sessions this year will be in the area of insurance. We have switched our insurance carrier and have gone to an "Excess Policy." This means that if any accidents occur during a camp session, the camper will be asked to turn the claim in to his or her primary insurance. The camp's insurance will then pay any deductibles or unpaid balances. If the camper does not have insurance, then the camp's insurance will become primary insurance. Please note that the camp's insurance is for accidents only.

We look forward to the upcoming camp sessions and pray that God will give us another great year at our Missouri State Free Will Baptist Youth Camp. Thank you for your prayers and financial support; there would be no Youth Camp without them. Thank you most of all for sending your youth to camp. We take very seriously the responsibility of providing a place of fellowship and learning for all of Missouri Free Will Baptist Youth.

Missouri Free Will Baptist Youth Camp Board

J. Reford Wilson, Former Missions Director, Dies

J. Reford Wilson, former general director of foreign missions, died on January 5 in the Presbyterian Hospital in Oklahoma City, Okla., at the age of 70. He had been admitted to the hospital over Thanksgiving weekend. Doctors treated him for a mild heart attack and released him on December 3.

Mr. Wilson was readmitted on December 6 with what doctors diagnosed as a diseased gall bladder. Surgery was scheduled for December 9, but his vital signs indicated he could not survive the surgery. Subsequently, many of his vital organs began to fail. Mr. Wilson was given only a short time to live, but lingered until the morning of January 5, when the Lord took him.

Reford served as general director of foreign missions from 1962 to 1975. He had served many years prior to that on the Board of Foreign Missions and served on the board again after he left the foreign missions office. His 13 1/2 years as general director plus 17 years on the board totaled more than 30 years with foreign missions.

Following his years of experience as head of the foreign missions program, Mr. Wilson used his missions knowledge and expertise to advantage in the classroom as professor of missions at Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Okla., from 1975 to 1979. Prior to his time at the helm of foreign missions, Reford pastored for 15 years in Tennessee, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Michigan.

The Wilsons spent from September 1979 to June 1990 in Aurora, Ill., where Reford pastored the Butterfield Church until he retired and returned to Oklahoma. He resumed teaching on a part-time basis in 1992 at Hillsdale.

Funeral services were held on January 9 at Southern Oaks FWB Church in Oklahoma City. A memorial service was held simultaneously at the National Offices in Antioch, Tenn.

Mr. Wilson is survived by his wife, Jean; a son, Jonathan; and a daughter, Rebecca Capp. He also leaves one sister, Opal Wilson, and two granddaughters, Meagan Lane Reddick and Leah Claire Wilson.

R. Eugene Waddell, current general director and longtime colleague, said, "Free Will Baptists have lost a valuable servant leader. Brother Reford Wilson was a leader in the pulpit, in the classroom, at the typewriter, on the telephone, and on the mission field. He was a humble, compassionate servant of the Lord. His love and concern for others won the hearts of his colleagues at home and overseas."

Waddell concluded, "Brother Reford was one of my mentors. He encouraged me to learn all I could about missions. He took me to meetings where I could hear great missionary speakers, and he was one of my cheerleaders. Like thousands of others, I'm going to miss him. May God raise up others to follow his example of servant leadership."



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Totally HIS**

Be strong in the Lord,
and in the power of HIS might.
Ephesians 6:10

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9:30 A.M.**

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"Their Works Do Follow Them"

by Jim Williams

A small crowd assembled at a church for a special service just one week before Christmas. The sanctuary had a few well-placed flowers, and some of those assembled displayed tender smiles. Others shed tears. What was the occasion? It was a memorial service for a frail ninety-five year old lady who had gone home. That lady was my grandmother. Those grieving the hardest were unsaved loved ones saying goodbye. Those with tender smiles were Christians saying, "So long. I'll see you in the morning."

What few possessions my grandmother still had, she gladly left behind in exchange for all she was to gain. What she left behind is not nearly as important as what she gained. It has often been stated that you can't take it with you, and that is true of the material. The Christian, however, does take with him that which is approved of God. John the Divine stated, . . . "and their works do follow them." (Rev. 14:13)

Edith Williams faithfully served the Lord and influenced her three children to do the same. Her first born, a son, waited until late in life to find Christ. Her second child, a daughter, faithfully serves the Lord today and is a member of a Free Will Baptist Church. The third child, Paul Williams, my father, lived an exemplary life of service as a Free Will Baptist Pastor and church planter. He was aided in this service by his Free Will Baptist bride, Opal Boyd. Edith's children gave her five grandchildren. Three of these are very active in the Free Will Baptist movement, Paula McClure, Missionary to Mexico; Ruth Reynolds, pianist at the Carthage Free Will Baptist Church (a talent taught her by Edith); Jim Williams, pastor and home missionary.

Edith left fourteen great-grandchildren, ten of whom are involved in the Lord's work. These serve as preachers, music ministers, youth workers, teachers, and etc. She also left seven great-great-grandchildren who are actively involved in a Free Will Baptist Church. Unfortunately some have strayed, one great-grandchild became a Mormon and another became a Catholic. Both of these entered cults through marriage. This is why the Bible speaks so strongly against being unequally yoked together.

On occasion people have asked me the secret of having all my family involved in our local church. My answer is, commitment, dedication, love for the Lord, love for family, and your roots. Paul made mention of this in II Timothy 1:5 . . . "I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice . . ."

I rejoice in the fact that I know the day is coming when I will meet my grandmother again. We will meet around the throne of God where the family circle will be unbroken.

The last years of grandmother's life reflected a profound love for the Lord and His work. She would attend our new mission church every opportunity she had. When we started a piano fund, she contributed \$500.00. When her health began to fail, she moved to Branson, Missouri, and helped the mission work there by donating an organ to the church.

Perhaps the most important point I want to make through this tribute is this: If we want the next generation to be anchored in God's work, we must be the right example for them. As a man sows, thus shall he reap. What are we sowing in our home; our church; in our denomination? Let us pray that our fruit will remain and that our works will follow us.

1995 MISSOURI STATE COMPETITION

The 1995 Missouri State Competition will be May 12-13 at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, MO. Since we last visited Southwest in 1992, they have built a new music building which will accommodate a large part of our competition. The facilities are very nice and won't be as "scattered out" as last time. The staff has been very helpful and eager to host our competition again.

The deadline for entering the 1995 competition is April 15, 1995. Please send your entry forms and fees to:

Missouri Youth Ministries Board
c/o Curt Gwartney
P.O. Box 444
Park Hills, MO 63601-0444

(Use a separate form for EACH entry. Example: A vocal trio is one entry.)

Housing will be available in Plaster Lodge at Southwest Baptist or at the Colony Inn a few miles away. Here are the rates for each:

	<u>Plaster Lodge</u>	<u>Colony Inn</u>
1 person per room	\$28.00	\$35.00 + tax
2 persons per room – \$30.00 (2 twin beds)		\$38.00 + tax
3 persons per room – \$36.00 (2 twin beds & a rollaway)		\$42.00 + tax
4 persons per room –		\$46.00 + tax

Plaster Lodge has "dorm type" rooms with two twin beds in each. A rollaway can be placed in some of the rooms. Linens, pillows and towels are provided. Make reservations directly with Southwest Baptist by calling Becky Watson or Larry Staggs in the Evangelism and Conference Center (417) 326-1775. A \$5.00 refundable key deposit is required for each room key issued. The \$5.00 will be refunded when you return your key.

The Colony Inn is a very nice motel just a few miles away on Highway 13. Many of our people stayed there last time. Make reservations by calling (417) 326-8004. You must tell them you are with the Missouri Free Will Baptists. You can save the tax by paying with a Church check and providing them with a copy of your church's tax letter in advance.

Entry fees are as follows:

Bible Memorization & Sword Drill – \$12.00 per participant

Tic Tac Toe & Bible Bowl – \$20.00 per team

Music and Arts

Category 01 – \$12.00 per participant

Category 02 – \$20.00 per group

Category 03 – \$45.00 per group

Category 04 – \$12.00 per participant

Category 05 – \$20.00 per group

Category 06 – \$45.00 per group

Category 07 –

Divisions 1 & 2 – \$12.00 per participant

Division 3 – \$20.00 per group

Category 08 –

Division 1 - 5 – \$12.00 per participant

Division 6 - 10 – \$20.00 per group

Category 09 – \$12.00 per entry

Category 10 – \$12.00 per entry

Category 11 – \$12.00 per entry

(Entries in Categories 09-Creative Writing and 10-Multi-Media must be sent directly to the Youth Ministries Division at Randall House Publications in Nashville, TN.)

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE COMPETITION REGISTRATION FORM

DISTRICT-STATE-NATIONAL

COMPETITION CODES

Circle the appropriate information below and write correct code numbers in the boxes in the top right-hand corner:

AGE GROUP...

- A Grades 1-3
- B Grades 4-6
- C Grades 7-9
- D Grades 10-12
- E Ages 18-24
- F Combination of A-E

BIBLE DIVISIONS...

- 00.1 Bible Memorization
- 00.2 Bible Sword Drill
- 00.3 Bible Tic Tac Toe
- 00.4 Bible Bowl
- 00.8 Turning Point
- 00.9 Horizon

MUSIC & ARTS...

- Vocal Solo
 - 01.1 Vocal Solo (Age A-B)
 - 01.2 Male Vocal Solo (Age C-E)
 - 01.3 Female Vocal Solo (Age C-E)

Vocal Ensemble

- 02.2 Duet
- 02.3 Trio
- 02.4 Quartet
- 02.5 Quintet
- 02.6 Sextet

Chorale & Choir

- 03.1 Chorale (7-14)
- 03.2 Choir (15 or more)

Instrumental Solo (not keyboard)

- 04.1 String (Bowed)
- 04.2 String (Fretted)
- 04.3 Woodwind
- 04.4 Brass
- 04.5 Percussion

Small Instrumental Ensemble (max. 6)

- 05.1 String (Bowed)
- 05.2 String (Fretted)
- 05.3 Woodwind
- 05.4 Brass
- 05.5 Percussion
- 05.6 Combination of instruments

Large Inst. Ensemble (Band/Orchestra)

- 06.1 Large Ensemble (7-14)
- 06.2 Band (15 or more)
- 06.3 Orchestra (15 or more)

Keyboard

- 07.1 Manual (solo)
- 07.2 Electronic (solo)
- 07.3 Keyboard Ensemble (2-6)

Oral Communication

- 08.1 Extemporaneous Speech
- 08.2 Dramatic Selection
- 08.3 Poetry
- 08.4 Prose
- 08.5 Interpretive Reading of Scripture
- 08.6 Puppetry (live)
- 08.7 Puppetry (recorded)
- 08.8 Duet Acting
- 08.9 Readers Theater
- 08.0 Skit

Creative Writing

- 09.1 Poetry
- 09.2 Short Story
- 09.3 Essay
- 09.4 Play or Skit
- 09.5 Song

Multi-Media

- 10.1 One-Minute Radio Spot
- 10.2 Ten-Minute Radio Program
- 10.3 Slide Presentation
- 10.4 Video
- 10.5 Multi-Image Presentation

Creative Arts

- 11.1 Sculpture/Pottery
- 11.2 Painting
- 11.3 Graphics
- 11.4 Ceramic
- 11.5 Textiles
- 11.6 Photography (Black & White)
- 11.7 Photography (Color)

19
YEAR

Record code numbers from left column here →

-
AGE CODE COMPETITION CODE

Name of participant or group (as you want it to appear in the directory)

Name of Church

City

State

Pastor's name

Pastor's phone number

() -

Name of director (or coach)

Director's phone number

() -

Complete the following information for each participant in this entry:

1. Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Birthday _____ Grade just completed _____	8. Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Birthday _____ Grade just completed _____
2. Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Birthday _____ Grade just completed _____	9. Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Birthday _____ Grade just completed _____
3. Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Birthday _____ Grade just completed _____	10. Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Birthday _____ Grade just completed _____
4. Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Birthday _____ Grade just completed _____	11. Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Birthday _____ Grade just completed _____
5. Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Birthday _____ Grade just completed _____	12. Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Birthday _____ Grade just completed _____
6. Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Birthday _____ Grade just completed _____	13. Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Birthday _____ Grade just completed _____
7. Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Birthday _____ Grade just completed _____	14. Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Birthday _____ Grade just completed _____

For groups larger than 14, please use two forms to record additional information.

PARTICIPANT'S PLEDGE (to be signed by the individual participant or by the director [coach] of a group)

I certify that the information on this form is correct and that I (or each group member) meet the requirements for competition indicated above as stated in the *Guidelines for Competitive Activities*, and I promise to conduct myself (or group) in a manner becoming to a Christian and representative of my church, district, and state.

MAIL TO:

Missouri Youth Ministries Board

Curt Gwartney

P.O. Box 444

Park Hills, MO 63601-0444

USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH ENTRY!

Signature of Participant or Director (Coach)

Christ Inspired Many of History's Greats

by Rev. J. Mark Vandivort

"... Many of men's noblest and kindest deeds find their motivation in love for Jesus Christ..." wrote Dr. D. James Kennedy and his associate, Jerry Newcomb, in the introduction to their book, *What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?* This article consists of summary and quotes from the book.

Kennedy quotes from Dr. Sherwood Wirt's book, *The Social Conscience of the Evangelical*: "Many permanent legal reforms were set in motion by Emperor Constantine (280?-337) and Justinian (483-565) that can be laid to the influence of Christianity. Licentious and cruel sports were checked; new legislation was ordered to protect the slave, the prisoner, the mutilated men, the outcast woman. Children were granted important legal rights. Infant exposure was abolished. Women were raised from a status of degradation to that of legal protection. Hospitals and orphanages were created to take care of foundlings. Personal feuds and private wars were put under restraints... branding of slaves was halted" (p.13).

Kennedy seeks to put to rest the myth often repeated that "more people have been killed in the name of Christ than any other" (p. 7). Some professing Christians have not been obedient followers of Jesus Christ and some have been misguided by both secular and ecclesiastical politics. Also, some Christians have taken up arms to defend themselves. Using the most exaggerated criteria and numbers (including many Evangelical martyrs) about 17 million people have been killed by professing Christians compared with 170 million (many of whom were Christians) who were killed by such leaders as Hitler, Lenin, Stalin, Mao, and numerous others. "As Paul Johnson – the great historian – says, the 20th-century state has proved itself the great killer of all time" (p. 237).

Christians have made outstanding contributions in the areas of science, the arts, music, education and democratic government, including such people as Blaise Pascal (mathematician) and Isaac Newton. Newton wrote: "I have a foundational belief in the Bible as the Word of God, written by men who were inspired. I study the Bible daily... When I look at the solar system, I see the Earth at the right distance from the sun to receive the proper amount of heat and light. This did not happen by chance" (p. 100). A long list of able, believing scientists also includes geneticist Gregor Mendel and biologist Louis Pasteur. Pasteur's research gave rise to pasteurization, sterilization and development of vaccines against many deadly diseases, including rabies, diphtheria and anthrax. "Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), the founder of modern nursing, received much of the inspiration for her work from Jesus Christ" (p. 149).

St. Cyril (d. 869) developed an alphabet known to this day as the Cyrillic alphabet in order to translate the Bible into the Slavic tongue. Today, more than 200 million people including Russians communicate nationally using the Cyrillic alphabet. Yale historian Phillip Schaff comments regarding Johann Gutenberg (c. 1398-1468): "The art of printing, which was one of the providential preparations for the Reformation, became the mightiest lever of Protestantism and the modern culture" (p. 43). Italian Franciscan monk, Fra Luca Pacioli, is recognized as the father of modern accounting. Regarding art, Kennedy wrote, "Many of the greatest masterpieces in the world have had a Christian theme or base" (p. 173). The 11th century Benedictine monk, Guio of Arezzo, is credited with being the father of modern musical notation.

In early America, education was a high priority of the Pilgrims and Puritans as they recognized the importance of people being able to read the Bible for themselves. Virtually all education in early America was private. Kennedy declares: "Almost every one of the first 123 colleges and universities in the United States has Christian origins" (p. 52). This included such universities as Harvard, Yale, William and Mary, and Princeton.

"The Constitution of the United States, declared the skeptical historian H. G. Wells, is 'indubitably Christian.' Because the overwhelming majority of the creators of the Constitution were practicing Christians who derive their political philosophies from the Bible and other Christian sources, it should come as no surprise that they enshrined numerous biblical principles in the Constitution..." (p. 71).

Kennedy declares: Some people have written that the father of our country was not a Christian, but a deist. I believe an honest examination of the facts show otherwise. For example, a book of prayers that Washington used on a regular basis was found in April 1891 among many of his papers. This 24-page manuscript book, titled 'Daily Sacrifices' was in his own handwriting. Whether he had originated these or whether he had merely copied them, historians note that they were important to him. Here is a representative sample of his book of prayers: 'O most Glorious God, in Jesus Christ my merciful and loving father, I acknowledge and confess my guilt, in the weak and imperfect performance of the duties of this day. I have called on thee for pardon and forgiveness of sins, but so coldly and carelessly, that my prayers have become my sin and stand in the need of pardon'" (pp. 68-69). "Washington wrote this to Thomas Nelson in a letter dated Aug. 20, 1778: 'The hand of Providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse than an infidel who lacks faith, and more than wicked, that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations'" (p. 69).

For Christians of all times, the Apostle Paul wrote: "If it is possible, as far as it depends upon you, live at peace with everyone" (Romans 12:18).

(This article was first printed in the Arizona Daily Sun. Rev. Vandivort pastors the Sunset Free Will Baptist Church in Flagstaff, Arizona).

News From Tennessee

At the Tennessee State Association last November, it was voted on and approved to change the charter of Free Will Baptist Home for Children, Inc. to *Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, Inc.* This is now the umbrella name under which are four divisions, namely:

*Trula Cronk Home for Children – This speaks of the six residential houses on the campus in Greeneville, each of which ministers to 6 to 8 children. (Named in honor of the first child of the Home in 1939.)

*PATH Shelter - "Protecting Adolescents and Teaching Hope" – This shelter provides emergency placements for children 24 hours a day.

*The Stanley Foster Care Program – (Named in honor of the founders and first houseparents of the Home.)

*The OAKS Family Conference Center and Camp

Please, pray for *Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, Inc.* and all the lives that are being touched through this organization. In 1994, over 30 children came to know Christ through these ministries. For further information, call 615-639-9449 or write to this address: 90 Stanley Lane, Greeneville, TN 37743.



HAVE A HEART FOR HILLSDALE – 1995



FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SENT THEIR GIFT, AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT MADE THEIR PLEDGE, IT IS NOT TOO LATE.

Please send the gift or make the pledge for "Have A Heart" by April. This will help tremendously when the accreditation committee examines Hillsdale for accreditation recommendation.

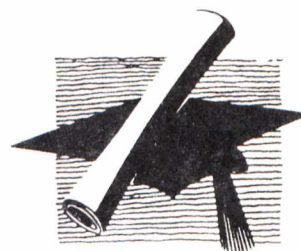
Mail to: Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, P.O. Box 7208, Moore, OK 73153 or Phone 405-794-6661.

THANKS! Missouri Have A Heart Team



My Thoughts On Hillsdale

by Pam Hudson



My first encounter with Hillsdale came in January 1976.

When I graduated from Union High in Tulsa in 1975, I thought I had the world by the tail. I had graduated with honors and was taking the highest ACT score in Math ever from Union to the big University of Oklahoma. To put things in perspective, my graduating class was 134 – my History class in Dale Hall had almost 600 and my Zoology class had a little over 600. Was I unprepared? I didn't know the first thing about note taking, study skills, or time management. I was entirely overwhelmed. After the fall, I decided to transfer to Hillsdale.

It proved to be my salvation. I made more friends at an institution with 200 students than I ever had at one with over 20,000. My friends from Hillsdale, I count among my closest 20 years later. While attending Hillsdale, I rededicated my life to God and truly for the first time in my life began to seek out the Lord's will for me. However, I was very careful not to date any ministerial students because I was positive I was not "preacher's wife material."

I met Bob Hudson while in my second year at Hillsdale and we were married the following summer. At the time, he was a civil engineering student. After we had two beautiful little girls, and a new home with a healthy mortgage, God called Bob into the ministry. Isn't it funny how the Lord works sometimes? Thus, my second encounter with Hillsdale came as a student's wife. While working full time at the Sunnyside Free Will Baptist church, Bob finished his degree in Theology with an emphasis in Christian Education (because he was certain God intended for him to be on a church staff, not preach).

After Bob finished his degree, I quickly realized the ministry doesn't pay nearly as well as engineering, and I was only qualified to make minimum wage. So, with a great deal of support from my

husband and my parents, I went back to OU to complete what I had started six years before.

During my senior year, I became pregnant with our son. He was born on May 1, and I walked through graduation on May 12. With a new baby and two small children, I was confident God did not want me to work full time. Hillsdale once again entered my life.

I began teaching on an adjunct basis in the Fall of 1984, which allowed me to work on my graduate degree at OU and gain some invaluable experience teaching across curriculum. I taught several classes at Hillsdale for the next two years, finished my master's degree, and was able to spend a lot of time at home with my children. During my tenure at Hillsdale, my father went to be with the Lord. The faculty, staff, and students could not have been more supportive and gave me much needed comfort.

Shortly after our fourth child was born, Bob again felt the Lord speaking to his heart and we accepted the pastorate in Neosho, Missouri. My, how far I had come from that girl who wouldn't date "those preachers"! The experience I had gained from teaching at Hillsdale helped me secure a position at Crowder College which I still enjoy.

Eight years later, we pastor the Jones Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Stella and I have been appointed by the Missouri State Association to represent Missouri on the board of trustees for Hillsdale. At this point in my life, I am fighting for Hillsdale to be all it can be. I have four great kids (the oldest is 16) who I want to see there.

Hillsdale has never been far from my life since I walked on the campus with long hair, bell-bottom blue jeans, and a typical 18-year-old attitude. I am what I am today in large part because of Hillsdale College, and for that, I will do whatever it takes to see it continue and prosper.

WHY CHURCHES STOP GROWING

(continued from page 3)

most churches had a "public" school, making the Sunday School unnecessary. In England, children would work all week long, and Sunday was the only day the kids were not required to work in the mills and mines. Robert Raikes began a school in which he taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and the Bible. It became known as "Sunday School." We have had it ever since, but there was a day when it constituted a change in "methodology."

There was a day when no church had a Sunday evening service. Even the most fundamental churches had no Sunday evening service. Our church fathers saw a tremendous opportunity to reach unsaved people, because on Sunday night there was nothing to do. There were no ball games, no television, no restaurants open, so the Sunday night "evangelistic" service came into existence. There was a need, and a change in methodology helped meet the need.

Even the bus ministry was a change in methodology. There was a day when no church ran buses. Dr. Jack Hyles, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Hammond, IN, saw the possibilities and began this ministry.

A church will cease to grow when people say, "I will change no more!"

III. Commitment

Easy growth requires little commitment. Expensive growth requires much commitment. I have learned that there is a difference between a crowd and a congregation. I really don't expect much from a crowd, except to show up. We have a crowd when we have a group such as the Nelons or the Dixie Melody Boys. We have a crowd on Easter Sunday. I really don't expect much from that group. We have a good day, sing some songs, have a big number, but I won't see many of those until next year or the next musical group. We can average 300 in worship and have 475 on a special day. Our regular giving averages approximately \$3,600.00 per week. When I have that large crowd of 475, do you know what my regular offering is going to be? You guessed it: \$3,600.00. So why have special days? Because from each special day I get a prospect. It also gives people an opportunity to bring their friends. Even though I don't expect much from that crowd, I do expect a lot from a congregation. I expect those people to tithe, attend church faithfully, etc. There is very little commitment in a crowd, and commitment is essential for sustained growth.

This year we experienced an event that I honestly never thought I would realize. Fifteen years ago we entered into a bond program to build our existing facility. This year we burned that note. At that ceremony we also recognized those who had been with us for at least fifteen years. There were sixty-five people who are still with us. That is the primary reason Calvary Fellowship has experienced a measure of growth through the years.

IV. Non-Growth on the Part of Leadership

Easy growth is doing what you do on the basis of what you already know. That is basically what I do when it comes to the computer. I know enough to do what I need to do, but I could do a whole lot more if I would only apply myself. Many preachers have grown very little since they graduated from college, if they went to college. They rarely read a book on church growth and rarely attend a growth seminar. Expensive growth requires that the individual be ever growing. I am always reading at least one book. I attend as many seminars as I can afford, and some that I can't afford. I have taken courses at the college to enhance my abilities. I believe that church workers should be ever growing.

Most pastors who have pastored for 30 years will say they have 30 years experience. What they really have is 3 years of experience ten times.

V. Motivation

Easy growth is **emotion-based motivation**. This is easy – you are doing everything because you "feel" like doing it. You feel like coming to church, serving in some area of ministry, tithing your income, etc. Everything is fun and exciting! Expensive growth is **character-based motivation**. This is when you do what you are supposed to do even when you don't feel like it. If you just read the Bible when you feel like it, there will be a lot of times you won't read the Bible. If you just attend church when you feel like it, there will be times when you won't attend church. If you just give when you feel like it, there will be times when you won't give. Many Christians are like that. Their theme song is, "I sing because I'm happy." Character-based people sing whether they are happy or not. You can't build a church on emotion-based motivated people. They are up and down, in and out. If a church is going to grow and be what it can be for God, it will be because of character-based motivated people. They will be there through thick and thin. They will be there when things are "up," and they will be there when things are "down."

The late Louis L'Amour is one of the best-selling authors of all time. Nearly 230 million copies of his books are in print worldwide, and every one of his more than one hundred books is still in print. Many have been made into movies. When asked the key to his writing style he responded, "Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on." That's a good word for life. Sometimes, what we need to do is just do something.

In conclusion, when it comes time to pay a particular price in order for your church to achieve continued growth, I trust that you will consider paying it.

Cowart Baptizes Nine in December, Six Saved

Uberlandia, Brazil – Missionary Jim Cowart baptized nine converts on December 4 in Uberlandia, Brazil. Jim says that "gives us a total of 23 baptized this year." He also reported 32 people saved during the year.

During the December 4 service, Cowart preached on the new life of the believer and gave an invitation. Six people responded and were converted. Five of those were visitors.

In the midst of these blessings the Cowarts have been experiencing a financial crunch as their mission account slipped to a deficit of \$6,365.21 at the end of November. Although they are scheduled to begin furlough in May, Jim and Karen urgently need financial help now.

Financial Information

DECEMBER 1994

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$5,260.71
17.50% Executive Office	4,976.35
3.50% General Fund	995.27
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	2,417.08
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	710.91
2.50% C.E. Board	710.91
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board	710.91
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	2,559.27
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	

	8,673.07
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 (\$86.73 included in \$8,673.07)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund	1,421.81
TOTAL	\$28,436.29

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

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

DECEMBER 1994 COOPERATIVE

Bailey Chapel - Tunas	\$ 90.00
Belton	289.89
Black Oak	249.70
Bourbon	55.17
Byrd	56.55
Byrd	206.65
Cabool	347.76
Calvary Chapel	248.13
Cape Girardeau	732.64
Carthage	170.00
Central	661.35
Chapel of the Ozarks	190.90
Clifton	70.37
Columbia	87.90
Coper Mines	288.88
Cuba	482.55
DeSoto	790.00
Eastern Gate	268.75
Faith & Hope - Aurora	44.60
Faith & Hope - W. Springs	71.00
Farmington	2,122.40
Flat River 1st	496.58
Fordland	420.66
Fourth	200.00
Freeman Chapel	246.00
Friendship	346.14
Grant Avenue	756.26
Hannibal	90.00
Hannon	504.90
Happy Home	103.92
Harmony	410.00
Hartville	496.79
Hazel Creek	580.66
Heritage	106.00
Hopewell - Tunas	114.00
Houston	301.82
Hurryville	343.79
Kingsway	246.48
Kirksville	147.55
Koshkonong	166.63
Leadington	337.56
Lebanon 1st	784.23
Liberty - Phil.	325.96
Lone Star	38.70
Marshfield	307.68
Merls Chapel	182.00
Mill Creek	247.09
Mine La Motte	43.87
Monett	475.14
Mountain Grove 1st	1,211.66
Mt. Pisgah	221.00
Mt. Pisgah	212.00
Mt. Zion - Gower	62.50
Myrtle	168.39
Neosho 1st	166.25
New Harmony	15.03
New Hope - Fredericktown	20.00
New Rock Springs	94.00
North Five	105.99
Number One	49.37
O'Fallon 1st	729.85
Oak Hill - Fredericktown	64.98
Oak Hill - Union	555.50
Oskaloosa	195.00
Overland	122.50
Ozark	547.91
Parkview	376.76
Pleasant Hill	77.88
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	85.00
Potosi	106.82
Rock Chapel	339.50
Rolla	57.44
Royal Oak	96.00
Seymour	67.00
Smyrna	200.00
South Fremont	500.00
South Fremont	460.00
Springfield 1st	698.09
Stockton	108.00
Thayer	714.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	887.98
Tyrone	47.00
Union - Success	60.00
Union Grove	163.00

Union Light	93.45
Union Light	89.50
Verdella	344.55
Victory - Alton	142.45
Victory - KC	327.58
Victory Hill	45.22
Waynesville	407.00
West Plains 1st	484.21
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	211.93
Wolf Creek	356.40
TOTAL	\$28,436.29

STATE HOME MISSIONS

Bethel - Festus	\$ 72.47
Carthage	258.26
Central	10.00
Chapel of the Ozarks	93.75
DeSoto Victor's CTS	30.00
Eastern Gate	20.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	54.75
Faith & Hope - Aurora	250.00
Faith & Hope - W. Springs	25.00
Farmington	20.00
Fordland	4.00
Fourth	10.00
Grant Avenue	94.63
Greater Springfield Assoc	1,284.34
Hannon	252.44
Indian Creek Aux	7.75
Indian Creek Youth	5.44
Jones Chapel	168.57
Joplin	1,532.33
L. Wormington	30.00
Lebanon 1st	10.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	190.00
Macedonia	1,500.00
Macedonia Aux	100.00
Marshfield	30.76
Merls Chapel	145.01
Monett	470.65
Mountain Grove 1st	25.00
Myrtle	46.00
Neosho 1st	25.00
Neosho Auxiliary	100.00
New Life - Monett	50.65
New Testament	60.00
O'Fallon 1st	83.39
Ozark	10.00
Pleasant Grove	87.50
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	25.00
Purdy	250.00
Richwoods	10.00
Rock Chapel	98.41
South Fremont	15.00
South Fremont	10.00
Thayer	42.50
Trinity - Bridgeton	65.00
Union Light	56.00
Union Light	56.00
Verdella	20.00
Viburnum	10.00
Victory - KC	5.00
West Plains 1st	30.00
TOTAL	\$7,850.60

FOREIGN MISSIONS

B. King (DeSoto)	\$ 10.00
B. Thebeau (DeSoto)	30.00
Belton	177.00
Bethel - Festus	160.00
Blue Springs	95.50
Calvary Chapel	124.00
Calvary Fellowship	689.64
Calvary Fellowship	962.64
Carthage	112.00
Carthage	516.51
Central	271.00
Chapel of the Ozarks	187.50
Columbia	15.00
Connellsville	80.00
D. Akeman	10.00
D. Lewis (DeSoto)	10.00
DeSoto	350.00
DeSoto Joy-makers	10.00
DeSoto Young Married SS	50.00
Eastern Gate	93.75
F. Rogers (DeSoto)	20.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	54.75
Faith & Hope - Aurora	500.00
Faith - St. Louis	75.00
Faith & Hope - W. Springs	150.00
Farmington	501.74
Flat River 1st	198.64
Fordland	141.00
Fourth	50.00
Freeman Chapel	354.00
Grant Avenue Women SS	25.00
Grant Avenue	517.26
Grant Avenue Prayer Partner	23.00
Greater Springfield Assoc	1,284.33
Hannon	724.90
Hartville	99.36

Houston	93.00
Indian Creek Aux.	15.50
Indian Creek Youth	10.88
J. Hoggard (DeSoto)	10.00
J. Schebaum	15.00
Jones Chapel	337.15
Joplin	3,064.65
K. Minor (DeSoto)	20.00
Kirkville Children's Church	24.48
Leadington	30.00
Lebanon 1st	95.00
Lebanon 1st Jr. Church	25.69
Macedonia	3,000.00
Macedonia Aux.	1,150.00
Marshfield	45.00
Merls Chapel	200.00
Merls Chapel	290.01
Monett	472.00
Monett	1,066.80
Mountain Grove 1st	395.00
Mt. Pisgah	100.00
Mt. Pisgah	100.00
Myrtle	73.00
Neosho 1st	273.45
Neosho Auxiliary	200.00
New Harmony	75.14
New Home - Hartville	230.00
New Testament	130.00
Niangua	12.00
Niangua	8.00
O'Fallon 1st	83.39
Oak Grove - Houston	65.00
Oak Grove - Norwood	95.32
Ozark	70.00
Parkview	517.24
Pleasant Grove	175.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	70.00
Purdy	500.00
R. Garrett (DeSoto)	10.00
Richwoods	25.00
Rock Chapel	190.94
South Fremont	115.00
South Fremont	92.00
Southeast Assn.	25.00
Thayer	309.18
Trinity - Bridgeton	516.19
Union Light	150.00
Union Light	150.00
Union Mission	113.14
Verdella	624.56
Viburnum	200.00
Victory - KC	107.00
Waynesville	25.00
West Plains 1st	25.00
TOTAL	\$24,489.23

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Lebanon 1st	\$ 143.00
Richwoods	37.00
Myrtle	130.00
Union Light	35.00
Carthage	53.00
Central	65.00
Mountain Grove 1st	15.00
Southeast Assn.	25.00
New Harmony	75.14
Hartville	1,000.00
O'Fallon 1st	83.39
New Home - Hartville	20.00
Hannon	55.49
Thayer	212.50
J.W. Rader	20.00
Eastern Gate	10.00
Faith & Hope - W. Springs	25.00
Lebanon 1st	5.00
Rock Chapel	45.00
Victory - KC	35.00
Grant Avenue	86.00
Calvary Fellowship	92.97
Calvary Fellowship	240.92
F. Rogers (DeSoto)	20.00
R. White (DeSoto)	20.00
DeSoto Children's Church	40.00
Overland	4.00
Columbia	10.00
Waynesville	25.00
West Plains 1st	247.19
Flat River 1st	69.66
Viburnum	108.00
Mt. Pisgah	50.00
Mt. Pisgah	50.00
Parkview	10.00
S. Hart	30.00
Oak Grove - Norwood	47.66
Greater Springfield Assoc	1,284.33
Bethel - Festus	35.00
Belton	20.00
Fordland	13.00
Thayer	75.00
Wolf Creek	10.00
Union Light	35.00
Leadington	20.00

Verdella	30.00
Farmington	37.28
Trinity - Bridgeton	50.00
Neosho 1st	25.00
Neosho Auxiliary	100.00
Chapel of the Ozarks	93.75
Macedonia	1,500.00
New Testament	90.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	250.00
Indian Creek Aux	7.75
Indian Creek Youth	5.44
Jones Chapel	168.57
Joplin	1,532.33
Merls Chapel	145.00
Monett	470.65
Pleasant Grove	87.50
Purdy	250.00
Carthage	258.25
Fourth	45.00
South Fremont	12.00
TOTAL	\$9,891.77

MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

New Rock Springs	\$ 10.00
Myrtle	36.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
Hartville	10.00
New Home - Hartville	10.00
Hannon	15.00
Thayer	37.50
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	10.00
Calvary Fellowship	25.00
Calvary Fellowship	25.00
DeSoto	50.00
New Life - Monett	50.65
Ozark	10.00
Flat River 1st	13.48
Mt. Pisgah	10.00
Mt. Pisgah	10.00
Union - Success	30.00
Bethel - Festus	63.45
Lebanon Bible & Book	85.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	14.00
Tyrone	100.00
TOTAL	\$625.08

CHILDREN'S HOME (AL)

Myrtle	\$4.70
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HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Central	\$ 36.00
Hannon	50.00
Thayer	42.50
Eastern Gate	53.75
Victory - KC	67.30
Grant Avenue	8.00
Farmington	141.66
Neosho 1st	120.00
TOTAL	\$519.21

FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$ 37.50
DeSoto	35.00
Farmington	133.33
TOTAL	\$205.83

REV. JOHN McCLURE

Carthage	\$ 16.00
Thayer	10.00
Union Light Auxiliary	50.00
Verdella	10.00
Monett	50.00
TOTAL	\$136.00

CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Farmington	\$25.00
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TRULA CRONK HOME FOR CHILDREN

DeSoto	\$ 50.00
New Life - Monett	50.65
TOTAL	\$100.65

WORLD RELIEF

Victory - KC	\$20.00
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WORLD VISION

Victory - KC	\$10.00
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Calendar of Events 1995

Senior Adult Retreat

April 25 - 27, 1995
Stonecroft Conference Center, Branson, MO

State Youth Competitive Activities

May 12 - 13, 1995
Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, MO

Missouri State Convention/ Woman's Auxiliary Convention

June 5 - 8, 1995
Kirkville, MO

Youth Camp

Teen Camp Group 2, June 11 - 16, 1995
Teen Camp Group 1, June 18 - 23, 1995
Pre - Teen Group 1, July 23 - 28, 1995
Pre - Teen Group 2, July 30 - August 4, 1995

Please Note: Group 2 will go first in the Teen session of camp. Also, the camp fees have been increased to \$45 per camper.

Group 1

Greater Springfield
Indian Creek
Central Western
Mission
Cave Springs
Liberty
Niangua
Laclede

Group 2

Greater Kansas City
South Central
Northeast
St. Louis
St. Francois
Mid-Rivers
Bootheel
Northwest

National Convention, NYC & WNAC

July 16 - 20, 1995
Charlotte, North Carolina

Missouri Women Active for Christ Retreat

August 18 - 19, 1995
Stonecroft Conference Center

Preacher/Layman's Retreat and All Boards Meeting

September 18, 19, 1995
Youth Camp, Niangua, MO

National Women Active for Christ Retreat

October 20 - 22, 1995
Glorieta, New Mexico

Suggestion:

Put this information on your Church Bulletin Board.

The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

A story is told of Brad, a shy boy who was new to town. Being new to town was bad enough but, when one is as shy as Brad, making new friends is almost impossible. It hurt Brad's mother to stand by the window at the end of each school day and watch the other kids as they walked and laughed together . . . then look farther up the path to see Brad trudging along behind, quiet and alone.

One day, Brad came in and announced to his mother that Valentine's Day was coming up soon, and he desired to make special cards for each kid in his class. Brad's mother tried to subtly discourage him - after all, why would such a sweet boy want to make cards for kids who totally ignored him? After seeing how much this meant to Brad, his mother bought all the supplies he would need and then watched as he painstakingly designed the cards.

Valentine's Day came, and Brad excitedly stacked his cards with his books and rushed off to school. Sadly, his mother did her daily chores and made warm cookies for her son. She was certain he'd not get many cards and would be heartbroken.

As she took her daily post at the window, the same scene unfolded - only, today, the other kids had stacks of cards . . . while Brad had none. His mother grabbed him to comfort him but his face glowed as he exclaimed, "Oh, Mom, I didn't forget one! Not a single one!"

We could learn a lot about love from young Brad. He focused on what he gave - not on what he received. I can picture our Lord, rejected and despised by those He died for, telling His Father, "I died for them all! I didn't leave out a single one!"

85 Students

On Bible College Dean's List

With the completion of final examinations for the fall semester, the names of 85 honor students - those with grades of "B" or higher - were placed on the Dean's List.

Our congratulations are extended to the following students from Missouri who are on the current Dean's List:

Danny Maggart (Senior) Bolivar, MO
Bill Stringer (Senior) Park Hills, MO

Vergel Maness Update

On December 7, 1994, the National Home Missions Board gave their approval for Vergel and Alyne Maness to establish a Free Will Baptist Church in Philadelphia. Vergel is presently looking for a location on the New Jersey side of this metropolitan area that has a population of 5 million people. The Maness' state that they need your prayers and support once again as they undertake this new work.

MISSOURI STATE ASSOC. OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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