

# THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Volume 65, No. 6, June 1995

Dear Son,

The years have passed by so swiftly, my son.  
Your boyhood is over and manhood's begun.  
I have some advice to pass on to you –  
Take heed to this warning, whatever you do.

Every man is a sower so pay this a mind,  
For every seed sowed yields many in kind.  
Son, look at my life and learn a lesson from me.  
No blessing in life could be greater, you see.

While seeking my own way, I rejected the truth;  
I wasted the best years, the years of my youth.  
Wasted, oh wasted, sowing in sin  
Depths, oh depths, where you've never been.

I speak as a sower that sowed many a crop  
Without ever a failure, no never a flop.  
When the sowing was ended, the harvest it came –  
A harvest of sorrow, heartache and shame.

I reaped many a harvest, but finally at last  
I sought the dear Lord to pardon my past.  
A pardon received, a new life begun,  
No longer a sinner, but now a son.

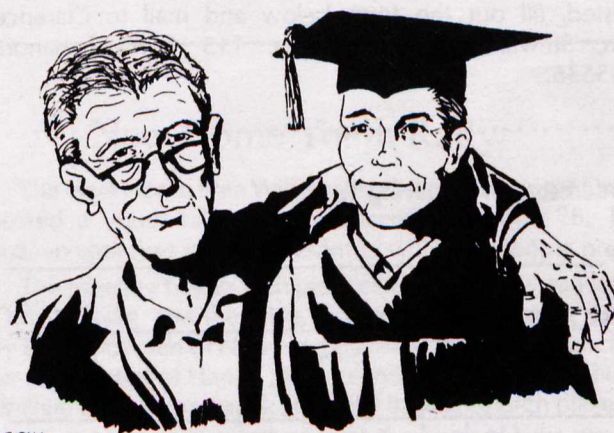
Saved by His grace, filled with His love,  
I'm sent on a mission from Heaven above –  
Sowing, yes sowing, to the the Spirit of God,  
Reaping a blessing instead of a rod.

I plead with you, Son, and I warn you, too,  
Sow for the Lord whatever you do.  
By experience I learned and now I know  
Your harvest will come from whatsoever you sow.

"... whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."  
Galatians 6:7

With unending love and an everlasting  
hope in Jesus Christ our Lord,

Your Dad





## The Revocable Living Trust

If you want to avoid probate, protect your heirs, and not pay any unnecessary estate taxes, the Living Trust may be exactly what you need and want.

It was Oliver Wendell Holmes who said, "Put not your trust in money, but put your money in trust." That is certainly applicable in this age and generation.

(1) The Living Trust avoids probate. Since the purpose of the probate court is to establish what a deceased person owned and who will now receive his/her property, probating items in a Living Trust is unnecessary, because those two questions are already satisfactorily answered.

(2) A Living Trust is a private transaction. Probate proceedings, including the estate inventory, are matter of public record. But items transferred from the estate of a descendant by means of the Living Trust are not made public. Nosy neighbors, relatives receiving no inheritance, even con artists who may want to pursue a list of debts and assets have no knowledge of the proceedings because it is a private transaction.

(3) A Living Trust is usually settled more quickly. Sometimes, and more often than not, probate court proceedings are lengthy. Because of the nature and function of the Living Trust, it is usually settled much more quickly.

(4) A Living Trust provides for a Successor Trustee to manage your assets in the event of your death or legal incapacity. If a person becomes "legally incapacitated," the court usually gives someone power of attorney to take care of the business. By having one's assets in and owned by a Living Trust, you have already named your Successor Trustee and would not be at the mercy of the court to choose the person to handle your affairs.

The Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists provides the help you need in having a Living Trust prepared. If you are interested, fill out the form below and mail to: Clarence Burton, Stewardship Commission, 115 Brook, Lebanon, MO 65536.

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I am interested in the Living Trust.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_  
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## Information Concerning Missouri State Retirement Program

In order for a pastor, associate pastor, or full-time youth minister to participate in the Retirement Program, the church he is serving must support the Missouri State Cooperative Program with the full 10% of its regular tithes and offerings. This ministry is funded through cooperative giving. (The associate pastor and/or full-time youth minister must receive his salary from the church as a full-time employee.)

A Retirement Pension Enrollment Form supplied by the State Office shows the two plans for participation in the program. Plan 1 is defined as Full Employer participation with the church contributing at least 5% of the base salary.

Plan 2 is defined as the Individual Plan with the employer contributing at least 3% of the base salary. The term life insurance for \$25,000 is \$13.00 monthly for Plan 1, but optional for Plan 2. A \$10.00 enrollment fee is paid to the Board of Retirement & Insurance in Nashville, Tennessee. This may be paid through the State Office, but it goes to the Board of Retirement & Insurance.

Tax Deferred Contribution information: Only 20% of base salary is allowed for total tax deferred contributions. The 20% includes both Salary Reduction Agreement (SRA) (this SRA form may be obtained from the State Office or the Board of Retirement & Insurance) and employer (church) contributions. Base salary is taxable income which excludes benefits such as housing allowance. Ministers may include compensation for honorariums, revival offerings, etc. Older ministers may, under certain circumstances, exceed the 20% by completing a form.

A new SRA may be filed once in any 12 month period. It is not retroactive. Increases may not be credited prior to the date of signature.

It is a member's responsibility to maintain and keep accurate records for tax liability and reports to IRS. It is recommended that you keep all SRA forms, semi-annual statements, and correspondence, and that you seek competent counsel in all tax matters.

All tax deferred contributions are subject to income taxes the year of withdrawal or distribution. Early withdrawals may be subject to an added 10% penalty. At retirement, distributions for ordained members may be designated housing allowance and tax free (determined by current IRS regulations). Distributions from tax deferred funds to unordained spouses are subject to taxes.

Twice each year, shortly following January 1 and July 1, the Board of Retirement & Insurance, who holds amount stated by the Missouri State Association to the account of the participant. Presently the amount is \$260.00. Before this transfer is made the treasurer of the local church is asked to sign a form, sent from the State Office, stating that the church has supported the Missouri State Cooperative Program with the full 10% of its regular tithes and offerings.

There are several options at retirement. Space will not permit including all of this information. Please do not hesitate to call, write, or come by for any help that is needed.

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

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



## Fellowship Church News

*"So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto half the height thereof: for the people had a mind to work." Nehemiah 4:6*

Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church, 601 Buckley Street, Park Hills, MO, had a very special service on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1995. The people of the Church relived history, for it was on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1949, that the very first service was held in the present sanctuary. The day's activities began with a Sunrise Service, and then a special 2-hour Dedication Service began at 10:00 a.m. All the officers and ministries of the church were recognized and rededicated to the original purposes for which the church was established.

On that first Sunday, in 1949, Rev. Damon Dodd, who now resides in Georgia, was the pastor of the young congregation. In a short three years, the infant church had progressed from meeting in a rented store building, into the basement and finally on this day into the main sanctuary. Most of the labor for the construction was provided by the men of the church. This was a real step of faith for the church, as this took place during the longest lead strike in the history of the local lead mines. The mines provided the finances for probably 98% of the families of the church. This gave the men plenty of spare time but made finances a problem, but the Lord was faithful in



Fellowship FWB Sanctuary

providing the means for the young church not only to survive but to thrive.

For the past two years, Fellowship church has once again been in the process of rebuilding their church property. The Lord opened the door for the church to purchase the Coca Cola Bottling Plant and Warehouse next door to the church. After the purchase, the men of the church once again rolled up their sleeves and began to work. The main building was remodeled into a modern area of assembly rooms and classrooms. The warehouse was turned into a gym and recreational area for the growing youth ministry of the church. An open house was held in March 1994, as the people rejoiced in what had been accomplished. Shortly after the second phase of the construction began, a walkway was built between the buildings, thus allowing for a new entrance into the

church that is handicapped accessible. It also added an attractive nursery and rest room area. The sanctuary was completely remodeled, with walls being removed and the sanctuary enlarged to be able to accommodate a growing congregation. The original altar was discovered and after a prayer meeting of the workers, it was lovingly placed in the new altar area. The beautiful sanctuary is a monument to the hard work and dedication of the people of Fellowship, but even more so to the abundant provision given by the Lord to this people. Again most of the labor was provided by the men of the church. Join with us in prayer that we will now expend the same amount of labor and energy to fill His house with those who need to hear the "Good News" that only Jesus Christ can give.



Host Pastor John Postlewaite

## New Home Youth Rally

The New Home Free Will Baptist Church, in Wright County, hosted a youth rally Sunday afternoon, March 26, 1995. Sixteen churches were represented with 134 people present.

The meeting began with pledges to the American Flag, the Christian Flag, and the Bible. Congregational singing was led by Emily Dowden of New Home Free Will Baptist Church and Jennifer Nutter of Happy Hill Free Will Baptist Church. Norma Willhite from Coon Creek Free Will Baptist Church played the piano. A passage of scripture from the book of Luke was read by Emily Dowden. Amanda Young, also of the New Home Free Will Baptist Church, gave her CTS poem, "A Medley of Poems." Special music was provided by the young people of the host church, and a choir consisting of youth from each church. Rev. John Postlewaite, host pastor, was the first speaker. Following his message, there was a time given for

testimonies. Rev. Melvin Moon, pastor of the Hartville Free Will Baptist Church, was the second speaker. He gave a short youth oriented message, and he closed with a time of prayer at the altar.

A youth covenant was read by Hannah Dowden, and it was signed by all the young people present. Food was provided by the ladies of the church. The youth at the New Home Free Will Baptist Church extend a special thanks to all those who attended.



## Ozark Church News

First Free Will Baptist Church, Ozark, Missouri, appreciates the prayers and support for the Missouri state mission work at Ozark.

Rev. Keith Garrison is doing a fine job as minister of Christian education. Rev. Jerry Jackson serves as discipleship director and Clifford and Dorothy Brawley serve as missions directors.

Vacation Bible School will be June 26-30. Pray that we will reach precious souls during this time.

Easter Sunday was Friend Day at the Ozark church. Rev. Dale Skiles was the guest speaker for the sunrise service with 85 present. The old attendance record of 147 for worship was broken with 171 in attendance. In April the church attendance averaged 80 in Sunday School, 111 in the morning worship, 74 for evening worship, and 63 for Wednesday Bible study. Two children were saved in children's church, and one child was saved during Wednesday night Bible study class.



Ozark Children's Church



Baptizing 3-5-95



Baptizing 3-5-95

## Seventeen Unite With Verdella Church

Easter Sunday was a day of rejoicing at the Verdella Free Will Baptist Church. Pastor Milan Ruble opened the doors of the church and seventeen people responded to the invitation to unite with the church.

The new members had completed a six-week church training class which was taught by Rev. Stan Bunch, missionary to Panama.

A farewell dinner was held for the Bunch family following the morning worship service April 30. They presented the parting missionaries with a money tree containing \$879.00.

## Sunday School Averages November 1994 - April 1995

CHURCHES	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Beacon			65	70	78	
Belton						48
Bethel - Festus	71	63	77	80	84	
Calvary Chapel		77	86	104	94	
Calvary Fellowship	228	239	217	220	271	
Cape Girardeau	83	98	76	78	107	82
Columbia	13	13		14	17	16
Cuba	111	117	102	109	122	117
DeSoto	184	183	164	179	235	176
Farmington	337	348	315	311		
Fredericktown	42	40	34	38		
Hannon	82	90	85	78	87	99
Harmony	54				57	
Hartville	89	102	94	96	91	94
Hazel Creek	74	67	74	72		
Hopewell	33	35	28	29	31	30
Houston	45	46	39	50	58	57
Jones Creek	13	11	10	7	8	10
Lebanon First	124	134	117	121	122	122
Mill Creek	50	62	48	50	50	52
Myrtle	28	37	33	48	42	39
Oskaloosa			17	17		
Ozark	77	79		76	82	80
Park Hills First	125	131	120	137	140	125
Parkview	49					
Richwoods	45	41	48	39	61	
Rock Chapel	72	76	67	66	65	62
Springfield First	102		105	103	106	107
Thayer	126	144		139	170	155
United, West Plains	219	236	203		237	289
Unity	47	41	36	35	36	36
Verdella	69	80	67	65	69	71
Willow Springs	74	67	57	63	61	63

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.



## Cross Roads Church Organizes Auxiliary



Cross Roads WNAC

Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church near Lebanon, Missouri, recently organized a Woman's Auxiliary. Judy Ruble spoke to the group of ladies on February 22, and the group voted to organize with eleven members. Officers elected to serve include: Judy Pierce, President; Melissa Smith, Vice President; Della Piercy, Secretary; Lillian Jones, Treasurer; Beulah Wilson, Mission Prayer Chairman; Dianna Perry, Mission Study Chairman; Celesa Harris, Mission Action Chairman; and Betty Lathrop, Song Leader. Since organization, the group membership has grown to twenty.

## Enlarge Your Vision

### Winners Announced

The following Sunday Schools earned first and second place in the 1995 Spring Sunday School Enlargement Campaign sponsored by Randall House Publications.

Division	% Increase	# Increase
<b>Division A</b>		
First, Bakersfield, CA	26.8	155
<b>Division D</b>		
First, Checotah, OK	50.7	102
Calvary, Fenton, MO	4.0	10
<b>Division E</b>		
West Tulsa, Tulsa, OK	77.6	149
First, DeSoto, MO	30.6	55
<b>Division F</b>		
Fairfield, Fairfield, CA	70.5	98
Cuba, Cuba, MO	11.9	13
<b>Division G</b>		
Trinity, Ypsilanti, MI	48.9	43
First, Decatur, AL	44.0	22
<b>Division H</b>		
First, Wellington, KS	212.5	17
Ashland, Haywood, CA	138.1	29
<b>Division I</b>		
Landmark, Sperry, OK	65.5	27

68 entries were received from 21 states. The average percentage of increase among the reporting churches was 38.54. Awards are being prepared for the winners in each division. The Fall 1995 Sunday School Enlargement Campaign is entitled "Friend Day" and will be conducted during the month of October.

## News From Fourth Church

Fourth Free Will Baptist Church, St. Louis, Missouri, held their third annual Hometown Day with a high attendance of 210. Each year the church gives a special invitation to people who have migrated to St. Louis from East Prairie, Missouri. East Prairie is the pastor's hometown.

Forty-three families attended the first year, 12 new families came the second year and fifteen new families this year. A total of seventy families have visited Fourth Free Will Baptist Church in response to this special day.

This program will work in any city in America because people migrate from area to area.

## The Pastor Is On The Roof?



Gene Robinson on the Roof

Rev. Gene Robinson, pastor of Chapel of the Ozarks Free Will Baptist Church, challenged his congregation to break their attendance record. He proposed to "eat his dinner on the roof" if 50 people attended Sunday School.

Sunday, April 2, 1995, they exceeded their goal with 55 in attendance. The congregation decided that the roof of the church was too steep, so he ate his dinner on the roof of the Fellowship Hall.

## CONGRATULATIONS, DR. BRASHIER!

Rev. Mark Brashier, pastor of the Victory Free Will Baptist Church in Kansas City, received the Doctorate of Ministry degree from Midwestern Theological Seminary May 20, 1995. God has not only blessed Brother Mark in his studies, but God has also blessed his ministry at Victory. The church has continued to grow and prosper under his leadership.





**Berniece & Floyd Cantrell**

## **Floyd & Berniece Cantrell Celebrate Their 60th Wedding Anniversary**

Floyd and Berniece Cantrell celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary May 26, 1995. They were married May 19, 1935. At the time of their marriage, they were both members of the Mill Creek Free Will Baptist Church. The name of the church was later changed to Myrtle Free Will Baptist Church. Floyd was ordained a deacon in the Mill Creek Church in 1937.

Floyd loves to tell of the early days of their marriage when they lived on a farm. He cut and sold wood in the winter in order to buy groceries. He received fifty cents a rank for the wood. He also worked as a carpenter ten

hours a day and earned ten cents an hour, one dollar a day.

The Cantrells moved to St. Louis in the 1940s. There Floyd worked in a candy factory, in a shingle plant, and in a defense plant. In 1944 Floyd was inducted into the army. He served in the Philippines under the command of General McArthur until his discharge in 1946. After his discharge, Floyd returned to St. Louis and took up his former trade of carpentry. He worked at this trade until his retirement.

God has used this fine couple to minister in several Free Will Baptist Churches. In St. Louis they attended the Berkeley Free Will Baptist Church. Floyd worked on the job during the day and at night worked to repair the old church building. Rev. Charles Miller was pastor at the time. As the church grew, the congregation voted to build a new church building in 1961. Floyd was chosen to oversee the construction.

In 1975 the Cantrells moved to Warrenton, Missouri, and attended the O'Fallon Church. There they worked on the new addition to the church and served there until they retired in 1978. After retiring, they moved to Okeechobee, Florida. In Florida, they joined the Okeechobee Free Will Baptist Church and became actively involved in remodeling the building. They left the Okeechobee church in 1986 to help start the Trinity Free Will Baptist Church there.

At 70 years of age, Floyd was asked to build another church building. He and 73 year old C.L. Markham, built the building for the Trinity Free Will Baptist Church in Okeechobee. They completed the sanctuary in only ten weeks and three days.

In 1989 the Cantrells moved back to Warrenton, Missouri, to be near their family. They attend the O'Fallon Free Will Baptist Church and say that it is one of the friendliest churches around.

Floyd and Berniece count among their blessings: their three children - Shirley, Sondra, and Floyd Jr. - their grandchildren, their pastors (past and present), their church and their Christian friends. They encourage others to let the Lord direct their lives, to stay in church, and to give Him the first fruits of their labors.

## **Are You One Who Has Said . . . ?**

### ***I Am Too Busy to Help With Vacation Bible School***

The Lord had a job for me, but I had so much to do.

I said, "You get somebody else, or wait 'till I get through."

I don't know how the Lord came out, but He seemed to get along -

And yet, I felt so sneakin' like, a-doing God a wrong.

One day I needed the Lord, needed Him right away -

But He never answered me at all - yet I could hear Him say,

Down in my guilty heart, "Man, I've got too much to do,

You get somebody else, or wait 'till I get through."

Now when the Lord has a job I never try to shirk,

I drop the thing I have on hand, and do the good Lord's work.

And my affairs can run along, or wait 'till I get through -

'Cause nobody else can do the job the Lord's marked out for you.

*The Visitor*

## **The Historical Commission Needs Your Help!!!**

The Historical Commission is grateful to everyone who has given material to be placed in the State Archives at Lebanon. We can use any Free Will Baptist material such as: pictures (include names of those in the photo if possible), old minutes, Gems, and books.

We urge the churches of the Missouri State Association to compile a history of their church. We also urge every Quarterly Meeting or District Association to compile a history of their organization. Please send up-to-date histories and other materials to the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, P.O. Box 991, Lebanon, Missouri 65536; or have someone in your association gather the material and give it to Rev. Nathan Ruble, Executive Secretary, when he visits your association.

Thank You,  
Rev. Cecil Campbell  
Rev. James Barker  
Rev. John Schebaum

## **When God Made Fathers**

When the Lord was creating fathers, He started with a tall frame. An angel nearby said, "What kind of father is that? If you are going to make children so close to the ground, why have you put fathers up so high? He will not be able to shoot marbles without kneeling, tuck a child into bed without bending, or even kiss a child without a lot of stooping."

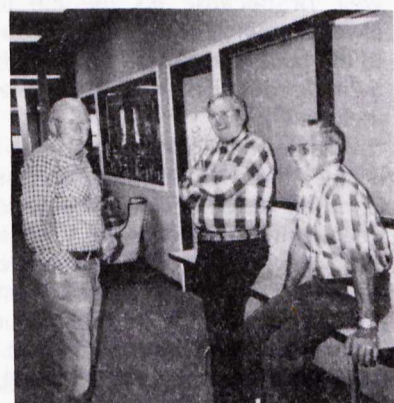
And God smiled and said, "Yes, but if I make him child-size, who would children have to look up to?"

*The Voice In The Wilderness*





# SENIOR ADULT RETREAT - 1995





## Why Be a Christian?

### *Your Role in Teaching Young Teens the Value of Their Faith*

by Darrell Pearson

Sometimes I'm not sure why I'm a Christian. Sometimes it just seems like the thing to do. Maybe I'm a Christian because most of my friends are Christians. Or perhaps it's due to the way my parents brought me up. Often I'm just acting the part, being a Christian because I've always been a Christian (or so it seems).

Sounds like a young teen talking. Young teens are really not much different from us, if we're honest about it. Many of them are Christians - or pretend to be Christians - because their friends are, because their parents have trained them well, or because it's the life they've always known. Young teens who are new to the faith have a hard time articulating their discovery or really understanding their new joy.

Studies have shown that ninth grade is the time when kids choose the Christian life or decide it's time to start sleeping in on Sundays. It's the first time they've ever really considered the option of not accepting the faith. For once in their lives they are in the position of making the decision themselves. That fact is very puzzling, frightening, and threatening to those of us who are trying desperately to pass on the faith to the next generation.

**So, Why Are You a Christian?** When I was starting my youth ministry career I interned at a church in Iowa. One of the volunteers asked me one day, "How much do you love the Lord?" She expected an eloquent exposition, I'm sure, but got a dumbfounded response that puzzled her. I spent years trying to answer that question. I still am. But I think now I could give a much clearer response about why I choose to follow Christ. With maturity, I've learned His provision for my life, my unworthiness, His grace. Now I think I could answer her better. Young teens are at the most critical age to make a decision about following Christ. Will they hear from wise words from us?

**Be Like Me, For I Am Like . . . Christ!** That's what Paul said. He knew that even though it wasn't healthy for people to become overdependent upon a personality, to some extent, a committed Christian is the best picture of Christ that others will see. What picture of Christ do your students see in you? If you are striving to be Christ-like, your young teens will never forget that image. I know. It's why I'm a follower today.

It wasn't until I was halfway through college that I realized that all of the wonderful non-Christian friends I had associated with for two years had one de-

sire for my life, which was for me to drink alcohol. The realization that this was their level of great concern for me prompted me to start looking for new friends. Where could they be found? Why, in the people who had always cared for me in the first place, the people from my Christian past I had grown up with.

That's the roles you want to fill for your students. In the midst of their throwing pencils out the window, making cutting remarks about the Bible, belching at three in the morning on a retreat, they are somehow formulating a picture of the Christian faith for the future - and it's based on you, the nearest portrait of Christ they might ever see.

**A Reason to Live.** As students process the ideas and concepts in their lives that give direction to where they are going, they will most likely develop a growing awareness that their lives must revolve around some purpose. As kids move into high school, their ability to consider broader issues will lead them to discover that there are more important things in this world to build their lives around. They, just like us, will need a purpose for their lives. What will help them discover the greatness of following Christ is a close study of leaders who, because they have chosen to follow Him, were willing to spend time with hard-to-love young teens.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was supplied by David C. Cook Church Ministries.*



Mary Holland and The Girls

## Letter from the Hollands

We are now leading the congregation of the Second Free Will Baptist Church in Uberlandia during Tom and Nancy Hughes' furlough. We are looking forward to a good ministry here until our furlough in July of 1996.

Allow me to share what has been happening during the first three months of 1995. In January, I was co-director for our preteen and teen camps at our Free Will Baptist campgrounds in Jaboticabal. In February, we were informed that the Hughes' were going to have to take an early furlough. We were asked to go to Uberlandia and minister at the Second Church during their absence. During the days of Carnival (February 25th-March 1st), the 22nd Annual Family Retreat for our

Free Will Baptist families was held here in Brazil. This year's theme was "Edifying the Family in Difficult Times." We had over 180 participants during the four days. In March, Tom and Nancy went to the states on furlough. They have left a good group of believers here in Uberlandia. We are working with them and hope to encourage them in their spiritual growth and in their commitment to the Lord. On Easter Sunday, the ladies of the church performed a play about the "Challenge of the Cross."

Our church has prayer meeting Tuesday nights, Bible study Thursday nights, and youth meeting Saturday nights, besides our regular Sunday services. Please pray for the Lord's leading upon my ministry as I seek to "feed the flock."

These past few weeks and months have left us needing the help "that cometh from the Lord." The financial support that we receive from the churches, auxiliaries and individuals from Missouri amounts to about 63% of our total support. "Praise the Lord!" is our response to that.

Everyone's continued support is so vital to us as our account has suffered a big loss due to the many expenses incurred during our last move. We will probably drop into the RED. Not only is the continued monthly support vital, but some one time cash offerings from Sunday Schools, VBS's and Auxiliaries would be a great help to our mission account. We do appreciate all the prayers, letters and support that the good people of Missouri have provided us with over the past four years! We look forward to sharing the victories and challenges of Brazil with you in 1996.



# Haitian Island Ministry

A letter from Steve Smith

My family and I have been members of the Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church in Wentzville, Missouri, for the past eight years. My wife teaches the Junior Sunday School class, and I teach the adult class. I also direct the music and serve on the advisory board.

For several years I have worked in surgery, being certified in Sterilization Technology and Infection Control, in two local hospitals. Through my contacts in those hospitals I was able to obtain supplies for missionaries. I always felt like I would like to be able to go to the mission field. After the church began praying for me, I met a doctor who was putting together a team of Christian doctors to go to Haiti. He asked me to go with them.

On December 26 we left to spend two weeks on the island of La Gonave, off the coast of Haiti. La Gonave is 30 miles long and 10 miles wide, but is very mountainous. The country suffers almost continually from drought so it's almost impossible to raise even the smallest garden.

One fourth of all deaths on the island are of children one year and under. One half of all deaths occur in children five years of age and under. Usually the deaths are caused from infectious diseases or malnutrition.



Haitian Children

If all the health problems were not enough, their central religion is voodoo, or voodoo-based, which came from West Africa. There are a few Christians, and they fight a constant battle.

While we were there, we treated or performed surgery on 925 people. Some of the treatment which was performed, I would not have thought possible in the primitive conditions we were in. But the ones I remember most are the 21 who accepted Christ.

For weeks after I returned, I was up sometimes all night wrestling with this and how it had affected my life. I simply can't get these people out of my mind. I told God that if this was what he had in mind for me, he would have to show me the way. I woke one morning at 4:00 A.M. with plans in my mind.

I have formed a nonprofit organization named Haitian Island Ministry (H.I.M.), to help these people physically and spiritually. Our purpose is found in I Chronicles 16:24 where it states that we are to declare His glory among the heathen, and His marvelous works among all nations.

The mission station that is there was established in 1968. They have offered me the use of anything I need, for however long I want to stay.

I will return to Haiti in June to put together a film to show those here who would be interested in being involved, whether spiritually, financially, or both. I have a slide presentation (30 minutes or one hour) for any group or church who would like to see it and I also have pictures.

In order to establish this ministry, I not only need your financial support but your daily prayers. Anyone who would care to help us financially can make checks payable to the Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church, and designate it for "Haitian Mission." The mailing address is: Haitian Islands Ministry, P.O. Box 616, Wentzville, Missouri 63385-0616.

## FREE WILL BAPTISTS TO BEGIN MINISTRY IN RUSSIA/C.I.S.

During their annual board meeting April 24-26 the Board of Foreign Missions unanimously voted to minister in Russia and Ukraine. This action followed the report of a fact-finding committee composed of R. Eugene Waddell, general director; Jimmy Aldridge, overseas secretary; Bill Jones, foreign missions board member; and Michael Corley, a Russian-speaking deacon from Madison Free Will Baptist Church, Madison, Ala.

The four men spent two and one-half weeks in the Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly USSR) this spring. They found the Baptists in Russia and Ukraine to hold the Arminian position of the doctrine of salvation as do Free Will Baptists. For this reason the major portion of the board's ministry in the C.I.S. will be in cooperation with the Baptist churches there.

Recognizing the political instability evident in much of the former Soviet Union, the board responded favorably to the following urgent needs:

- \* \$1,200 worth of Free Will Baptist commentaries, theological books and literature for the seminaries and Bible institutes in Russia and Ukraine.

- \* Medicines for a Christian doctor in Kiev. (Those interested may write the foreign missions office for the details.)

- \* Funds for completing the church building at Selso, Russia, where Sean Warren and Eddie Hobbs served as student missionaries during the summer of 1994.

- \* Professors to serve as short-term teachers in seminaries and Bible institutes in Russia and Ukraine.

- \* A contribution of \$5,000 toward the new seminary building in Kiev, Ukraine.

- \* A copy machine for the Autonomous Baptist Bible Institute in Ukraine.

- \* Support for 16 Russian and Ukrainian church planters to go where the needs are greatest.

- \* Co-sponsorship of a pastors' and workers' conference in Russia during the spring of 1996.

- \* A witnessing team and a follow-up team of Americans to spend several weeks in Novosibirsk, Russia, in the summer of 1996.

"To respond to these needs, we have opened a 'Russia/C.I.S.' account," Mr. Waddell said. "We are looking to our Free Will Baptist people to reach out in love and generosity toward our Russian and Ukrainian brethren."

In considering these new challenges the foreign missions board emphasized the necessity of continuing to support missionary ministries in the nine countries where Free Will Baptist missionaries are already serving.

For additional information on ministry opportunities in the C.I.S. contact Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, Tenn. 37011-5002.



## 279 Attend Bible College's Welcome Days

Free Will Baptist Bible College enjoyed visits from 279 prospective students and sponsors during its spring Welcome Days, March 30-April 1, according to Neil Gilliland, promoter of the event.

Representatives came from 71 churches in 18 states. States with the best representation were Illinois (52) and Florida (29). The largest church groups came from Decatur, IL, First FWB Church (15), and Calvary Chapel FWB Church, Hollywood, FL (13).

The next Welcome Days is scheduled for November 16-18, 1995. Write or call the college for information.

## Minister Spiritual Gifts

by Robert B. Crawford

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." I Peter 4:10.

The challenge for all Christians today is to minister, to God's glory, the spiritual gifts which have been given to them by God's grace. The Lord expects His children to be wise and faithful stewards. "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." I Corinthians 4:2.

The gift spoken of in I Peter 4:10 is an endowment conferred by the grace of God, and it is to be used to do good unto others. Whatever gifts or endowments one may possess are not one's own. They are the Lord's and are to be used in His work and to promote His glory.

Today there are needs in the lives of others which ought to be the immediate concern of all Christians for the sake of Christ and His church. The missionaries, both home and foreign, are in great need of prayerful and financial support.

Missionaries sent out by missionary boards depend upon people who support these boards to support them while on the field. It shows a lack of stewardship when a missionary's account is in the red. Knowing that the missionary may have to come home because of the lack of funds should convict hearts and stir everyone to respond to the need.

Because of zoning regulations, it has become necessary for the Free Will Baptist Bible College to make plans to relocate in the near future. Property has been purchased and must be paid for. Those to whom God has ministered material gifts will be blessed if they respond to this pressing need. It is important that the transition be made smoothly and that the ministry of the Bible College continues uninterrupted.

To prevent any lack in the vital ministries of the Lord, individual Christians and local church bodies must be concerned for the salvation and welfare of others, not only locally, but throughout the world. Church leaders who use the tithes and offerings only for local needs and fail to give to worldwide ministries are failing to receive many rich spiritual blessings available to them as a body of believers. Also, they may be **robbing God.**

### Christianity Is Essentially Missionary

Jesus was a missionary. Paul was a home missionary and a foreign missionary. God's plan is for the world. His Word says,

"God so loved the world," and "Go ye into all the world." Jesus spoke of His world plan just before the cloud received Him out of sight. (Acts 1:8) Christians are to witness where they are and "unto the uttermost part of the earth." Christians should plan to accept God's plan for the world. We know our sins are forgiven, and we want every living soul to know the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ. Our hearts are blessed to see interest shown for the Lord's work on the mission fields, at the Bible College, and in all other work near to the heart of God.

### Why Minister Spiritual Gifts

The following are some of the reasons why Christians must minister spiritual gifts.

1. It is the desire of Jesus Christ that all should be saved.
2. He has entrusted Christians with the gospel and has given them the privilege of taking it to all the world.
3. When we minister to others in the name of Jesus, we are blessed. He tells us, "Give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over shall men give into your bosom." Luke 6:38a.
4. It is an evidence that our citizenship is in heaven, our future home, prepared for us by Jesus Christ.
5. It shows that we have eternal values at heart as we lay up treasures in heaven. "For where your treasure is there will your heart be also." Luke 12:34. Jesus asks, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward?" Luke 12:42.

6. It shows that the Lord recognizes us as members of His body, for He said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches; he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing." John 15:5.

May we all, by the manifold grace of God, show spiritual growth and maturity and strive "until we all come into the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:13. "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour." Ephesians 5:2.

**The Christian life is one of sacrifice. Only that kind of life will please the Lord.**

EDITOR'S NOTE: Robert B. Crawford, Sr., was the first full-time Executive Secretary for the National Association of Free Will Baptists. He has pastored churches in North Carolina, Texas, Florida, Tennessee and Alabama.

## Financial Information

### APRIL 1995

#### COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board .....	\$6,645.15
17.50% Executive Office .....	6,285.95
3.50% General Fund .....	1,275.19
8.50% Youth Camp Bd. ....	3,053.17
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd. ....	897.99
<b>2.50% C.E. Board .....</b>	<b>897.99</b>
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board .....	897.99
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program .....	3,232.77
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College .....	

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  
(\$109.56 included in \$10,955.50)

5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund .....

**TOTAL .....**



"...Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!..." Ps. 106:1. God has given us another good month, 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%.

#### APRIL 1995 COOPERATIVE

Alton	\$ 225.00
Beacon - Raytown	875.00
Belton	289.83
Bethel - El Dorado	57.33
Bethel - El Dorado	69.32
Bethel - Marshfield	193.76
Black Oak	240.91
Blue Springs	466.80
Bourbon	49.38
Cabool	311.84
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo	316.52
Cape Girardeau 1st	714.33
Carthage	260.00
Columbia	109.00
Cope Church	43.00
Cope Church	40.00
Copper Mines - Fredericktown	311.76
Crossroads - Richland	186.59
Crossroads - Wentzville	330.00
DeSoto 1st	710.00
Eastern Gate - Springfield	320.50
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	83.78
Farmington	2,097.56
Fordland	457.74
Fourth - St. Louis	300.00
Freeman Chapel	256.90
Friendship - Branson	415.75
Grace - Arnold	1,008.00
Grant Ave. - Springfield	1,113.96
Hannibal	145.00
Hannon - Liberal	497.93
Happy Home - Ava	107.58
Happy Home - Ava	109.81
Harmony - Parkville	439.00
Hartville	503.31
Hopewell - Tunas	143.00
Hurryville - Park Hills	386.08
Jones Creek Rd.	207.30
Joplin 1st	525.51
Kingsway - Springfield	253.67
Kirkville 1st	164.65
Koshkonong - Thayer	101.18
Leadington	437.79
Lebanon 1st	700.20
Liberty - Phillipsburg	190.00
Lone Star - Seymour	42.04
Marshfield	300.67
Merls Chapel	225.00
Mill Creek - Fredericktown	315.36
Mine La Motte	46.94
Monett 1st	605.71
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	192.00
Mt. Zion - Gower	61.26
Mtn. Grove 1st	1,163.23
Neosho 1st	190.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	20.00
New Life - Licking	619.12
New Rock Springs	99.00
North 5 - Lebanon	157.00
O'Fallon 1st	688.55
Oak Hill - Fredericktown	72.16
Oak Hill - Union	629.67
Overland	108.00
Ozark 1st	692.85
Park Hills 1st	584.15
Parkview - Desloge	373.41
Pleasant Hill - Thayer	129.97
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	85.00
Potosi 1st	159.91
Richwoods 1st	375.00
Rock Chapel - Norwood	376.90
Rolla 1st	57.45
Royal Oak - Alton	118.00
Salem	420.00
Smyrna	120.00
South Fremont	1,000.00
Springfield 1st	753.68
St. Peter's	598.10
St. Francois Dist. Assoc.	13.50
Stockton	138.73
Terrill Rd. - Moberly	379.00
Thayer	793.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	968.95
Tyrone - Elk Creek	43.00

Union Grove - Norwood	193.00
Union Light - Marq.	642.00
Union Light - Marq.	92.85
United - West Plains	1,077.65
Unity - Lebanon	412.74
Verdella - Liberal	316.96
Victory Hill - Mansfield	93.60
Victory - Alton	176.00
Victory - K.C.	376.90
Waynesville 1st	357.15
West Plains 1st	563.93
West Plains 1st	491.51
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	203.81
Wolf Creek - Mansfield	438.70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$35,919.68</b>

#### STATE HOME MISSIONS

Beacon - Raytown	\$ 2.00
Belton	20.30
Bethel - Festus	60.55
Columbia	20.00
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	25.00
Farmington	10.00
Fourth - St. Louis	10.00
Grace - Arnold	30.00
Grant Ave. - Springfield	38.00
Hannon - Liberal	248.96
Kirkville 1st	14.81
L. Wormington	30.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	190.00
Lebanon 1st	10.00
Macedonia Woman's Aux.	100.00
Marshfield	30.06
Mtn. Grove 1st	5.00
N. Ruble	25.00
N.E. Assn. - Greentop	830.00
New Testament	40.00
O'Fallon 1st	54.17
Ozark 1st	10.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	20.00
Rock Chapel - Norwood	78.31
South Fremont	25.00
Thayer	45.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	77.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	6,000.00
Union Light - Marq.	56.00
Union Light - Marq.	56.00
Viburnum	5.00
Viburnum	5.00
Victor's Cl - DeSoto	10.00
Victory - K.C.	5.00
West Plains 1st	5.00
West Plains 1st	5.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,196.16</b>

#### FOREIGN MISSIONS

A. Chapman	\$ 10.00
A. Chapman	10.00
B. Rogers	15.00
B. Thebeau	5.00
B. Thebeau	5.00
B. Thebeau	5.00
Beacon - Raytown	1,004.00
Belton	160.00
Bethel - Festus	199.10
Blue Springs	373.44
Blue Springs	321.09
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
C. Thompson	25.00
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo	110.00
Calvary Fellowship	782.71
Carthage	116.05
Columbia	25.00
D. Lewis	10.00
DeSoto 1st	350.00
Eastern Gate - Springfield	134.00
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	150.00
Faith - St. Louis	25.00
Faith - St. Louis	50.00
Farmington	308.33
Farmington	160.00
Fordland	116.00
Fourth - St. Louis	60.00
Freeman Chapel	485.00
GM	84.00
Grace - Arnold	15.00
Grant Ave. - Springfield	543.79
Hannon - Liberal	762.93
Hartville	100.66
Houston 1st	128.90
J. Hoggard	20.00
J. Schebaum	15.00
Joplin 1st	25.00
JoyMakers	10.00
K. Minor	20.00
Kingsway - N. Warrick	5.00
Kirkville 1st	14.80
Lebanon 1st	35.00
Lebanon 1st	50.00
Lebanon 1st - Jr. Church	26.41
Macedonia Woman's Aux.	5,300.00

Marshfield	69.80
Merls Chapel	200.00
Miss. Gr. Parkview - Des.	60.00
Monett 1st	200.00
Monett 1st	538.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	100.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	297.00
N. Akeman	10.00
Neosho 1st	310.00
New Home - Hartville	326.00
New Testament	235.00
Niangua	47.00
O'Fallon 1st	49.17
Oak Grove - Houston	65.00
Oak Grove - Norwood	105.40
Ozark 1st	45.00
Park Hills 1st	233.68
Parkview - Desloge	431.75
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	50.00
Prayer Partners - Grant Ave.	19.45
R. Garrett	10.00
Richwoods 1st	20.00
Rock Chapel - Norwood	168.00
South Fremont	339.00
St. Peter's	80.00
Thayer	250.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	856.03
Union Light - Marq.	150.00
Union Light - Marq.	150.00
Union Mission	176.80
United - West Plains	95.00
Unity - Lebanon	80.00
Verdella - Liberal	591.96
Viburnum	110.00
Viburnum	130.00
Victory - K.C.	215.00
W. Livingston	10.00
Waynesville 1st	50.00
West Plains 1st	5.00
West Plains 1st	25.00
Wom. S.S. Cl. - Grant Ave.	24.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,199.25</b>

#### NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

A. Chapman	\$ 10.00
A. Chapman	10.00
B. Chandler	15.00
Beacon - Raytown	225.00
Belton	35.30
Bethel - Festus	35.00
Blue Springs	10.50
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Calvary Fellowship	110.00
Carthage	106.00
Columbia	10.00
DeSoto 1st	100.00
Eastern Gate - Springfield	10.00
F. Rogers	10.00
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	25.00
Farmington	25.00
Fordland	15.00
Fourth - St. Louis	20.00
Grace - Arnold	161.00
Grant Ave. - Springfield	207.39
Hannon - Liberal	54.79
J. Hoggard	10.00
J.W. Rader	20.00
Joy Harvest - Joplin 1st	50.00
L. Voyles	10.00
Lebanon 1st	10.00
M. Kenuam	10.00
Mission Group, Parkview - Des.	10.00
Monett 1st	10.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	50.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	35.00
New Home - Hartville	20.00
New Testament	150.00
O'Fallon 1st	49.17
Oak Grove - Norwood	52.70
Ozark 1st	60.00
Park Hills 1st	163.42
Parkview - Desloge	10.00
R. Gamble	30.00
R. White	10.00
R. White	10.00
Richwoods 1st	32.00
Rock Chapel - Norwood	45.00
S. Hart	30.00
South Fremont	106.00
St. Peter's	35.00
Thayer	157.50
Trinity - Bridgeton	295.00
Union Light - Marq.	35.00
Union Light - Marq.	35.00
Unity - Lebanon	200.00
Verdella - Liberal	20.00
Viburnum	54.00
Viburnum	54.00
Victory - K.C.	25.00
W. Livingston	10.00
Waynesville 1st	50.00

West Plains 1st	30.00
West Plains 1st	35.00
Wolf Creek - Mansfield	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,323.77</b>

#### MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

Hartville	\$ 10.00
Hannon - Liberal	15.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
Thayer	40.00
Marshfield	20.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	10.00
Mission Group, Parkview - Des.	10.00
Bethel - Festus	60.55
Lebanon Bible & Book	85.00
New Home - Hartville	10.00
Trinity Baptist - Bridgeton	14.00
Calvary Fellowship - Fenton	25.00
Cabool	10.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	10.00
Park Hills 1st	12.93
DeSoto 1st	50.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$502.48</b>

#### CHILDREN'S HOME (TN)

Mission Group, Parkview - Des.	\$ 10.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	32.00
DeSoto 1st	50.00
Unity - Lebanon	20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$112.00</b>

#### HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Hannon	\$ 50.00
Victory - K.C.	356.99
Beacon	130.00
Thayer	57.50
Eastern Gate	64.00
Neosho 1st	120.00
Grant Avenue	8.00
Farmington	141.66
Kirkville 1st	5.00
West Plains 1st	256.66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,189.81</b>

#### FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$ 40.00
Mission Group, Parkview - Des.	10.00
DeSoto 1st	35.00
Grant Ave. - Springfield	10.00
Farmington	133.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$228.33</b>

#### REV. JOHN MCCLURE

Monett 1st	\$ 25.00
Thayer	15.00
Carthage	17.00
Grace - Arnold	15.00
WNAC (Farmington Aux.)	78.25
Farmington	13.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$163.65</b>

#### CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Farmington	\$25.00
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#### YOUTH MINISTRIES BOARD

Calvary Fellowship - Fenton	\$ 6.50
Lebanon Bible & Book Store	25.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$31.50</b>

#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	\$25.00
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#### SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES BOARD

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	\$25.00
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#### RETIREMENT & INSURANCE

Grant Ave. - Springfield	\$1.00
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#### WORLD RELIEF

Victory - K.C.	\$5.00
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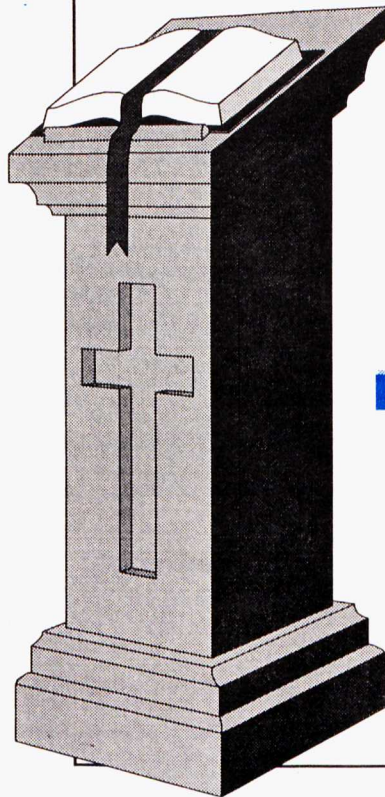
#### WORLD VISION

Victory - K.C.	\$5.00
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#### NATIONAL ASSOC. OF FWB

Calvary Fellowship - Fenton	\$26.00
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# 1995 PASTORS' CONFERENCE

**September 25-27, 1995**

**Free Will Baptist Bible College  
Nashville, Tennessee**

**Featuring Dr. Stephen Olford  
and Dr. David Olford**

For more information, write or call:

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