

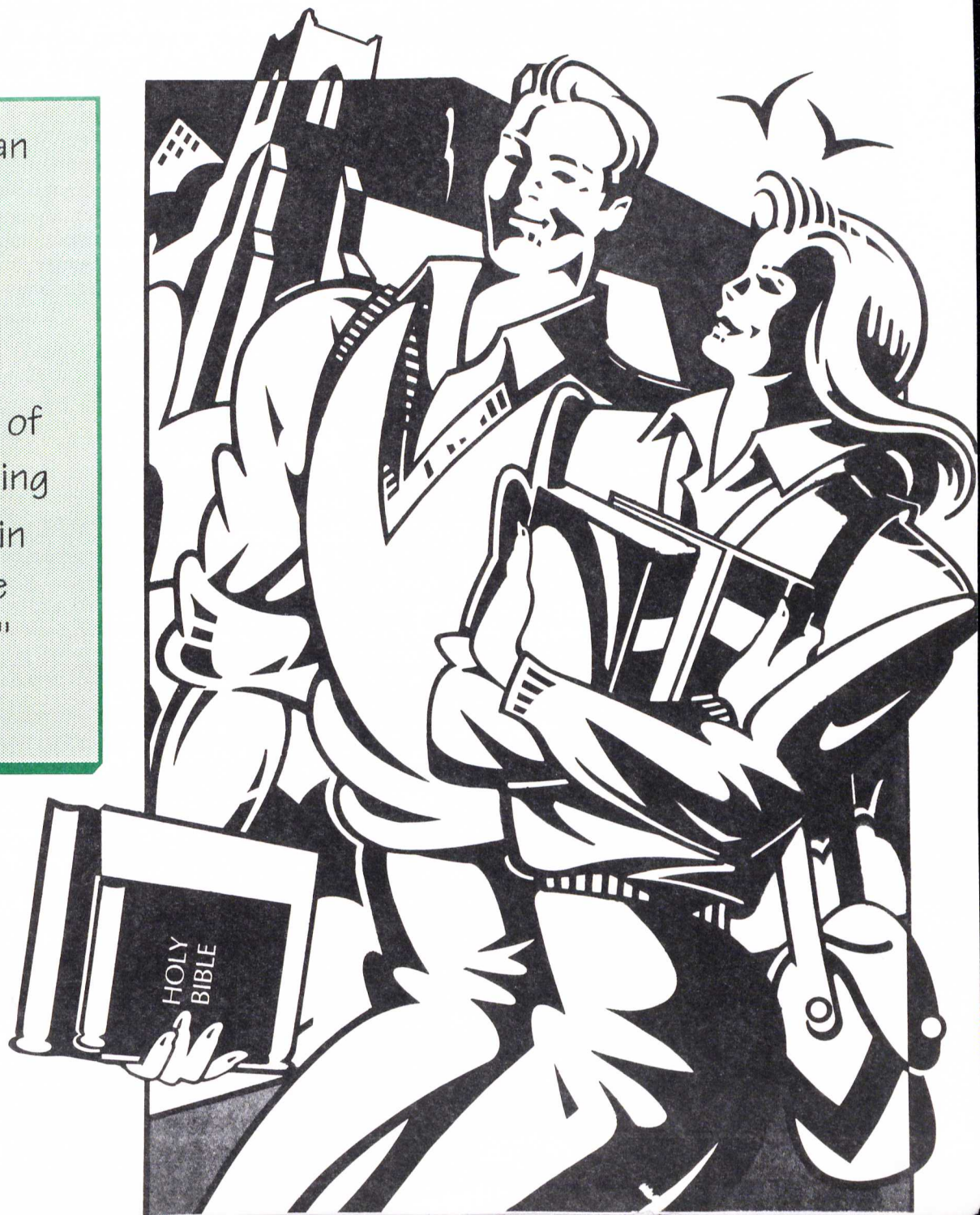
# THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Volume 65, No. 8, August 1995

FWBFC  
LIBRARY

"A wise man  
will hear,  
and will  
increase  
learning;  
and a man of  
understanding  
shall attain  
unto wise  
counsels."

Proverbs 1:5





# Talking to Kids About Their Faith

## A Youth Worker Offers Advice

Steve Dickie

You come home from one of your junior high events and ask yourself the classic youth worker question: "Why am I doing this?" Your best game failed; the Bible study you worked on all week was met with little interest; and your most dependable kids were the ones creating the problems. Sound familiar? If you're like me, you sometimes wonder if it's all really worth it.

Something always comes along to remind me of my focus. It might come when I see an eighth-grade boy discover and understand a truth from the Bible. It might happen when I hear a seventh-grade girl tell about how she is sharing her faith with her friends. Just when I'm questioning my efforts, I'm gently reminded why I do young teen ministry – to help kids fall in love with Jesus.

I'm convinced that many of us are afraid of helping young teens discover faith. Sure, we desire the end results, but the process it takes to get there can be pretty frightening. This is largely due to the fact that these kids are at a place of outrageous change. They are beginning to leave the world of *concrete operations* (reasoning based on objects) and are entering the world of *formal operations* (reasoning based on symbols and principles). In a sense, they are learning to "think about thinking."

**\*Growth Takes Time.** Have you ever noticed that when you look at old photos of your house, you're always amazed at how much the plants and trees have grown? While the daily change isn't always noticeable, when you're able to see the long-term perspective you realize that growth was happening all the time. Growing faith in junior high kids is very similar. Even though we may not see a lot going on in the spiritual lives of our kids, we have to trust that our faithfulness will be rewarded later on.

**\*Tough Questions.** While I was speaking at a conference recently, I had a young teen come up to me and express some doubts he was having about his faith. He shared his thoughts almost apologetically, as if God would stomp on him for questioning. I told him he didn't need to be afraid of asking tough faith questions because God wasn't afraid of them. After all, if God is Truth (and I certainly believe that He is), then Truth can stand up to our doubts. As a matter of fact, I believe God respects tough questions because it shows we're thinking.

In this light, we should encourage faith questions rather than attempting to discourage them.

**\*Leading by Example.** When I was a teenager, I lived for the opportunity to hang out with leaders of my church youth group. I probably made deeper commitments in my faith while cruising around in Marlin's van or shooting hoops at Dan's garage than I did in any meeting. The same holds true for many kids today, as I discovered when I become a youth worker. I

learned early on that a discussion around a basketball court or over a hamburger and shake often outweighed a year's worth of programs. It makes sense – real-life ministry happens when we invest our lives in young people between meetings.

The terms *mentoring* and *discipling* define this ministry investment. While it is an investment of our time, the apostle Paul also describes it in 1 Thessalonians 2:8 as an investment of our lives: "We have loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."

**\*Putting Faith Into Action.** One of the most important principles in nurturing faith is that kids will believe what they do more than they will do what they believe. It is essential, therefore, that we offer opportunities for young teens to own their faith firsthand. Instead of merely "transmitting knowledge," we have to use our creative energies to come up with strategies for kids to experience faith.

Try getting kids involved with missions and local outreach. I've discovered that powerful things occur in kids' lives when they wrestle with issues of injustice and compassion. Take them to a nursing home, have them serve food to the homeless or sponsor a child through a mission program. The possibilities are limitless.

**\*The Tools of Faith.** When I take care of plants in our house, I take great care to provide them with all the elements they need. I place them near adequate light and supply them with the proper amounts of water and minerals. I've learned that without the right elements, plants just don't grow. In a similar way, we need to provide spiritual nourishment for kids. The good news is that kids can learn how to feed themselves – if we provide the tools.

The basic tools that will help a young person grow in his or her faith are an understanding of the Bible, a realization of the power of prayer, a commitment to fellowship in the church, and a grasp of the importance of sharing our faith with others. A solid foothold on these will allow a young person to become "rooted . . . in Him" (Colossians 2:6,7).

**\*A Final Word of Encouragement.** I've been in youth ministry a long time, and it's still painful for me when I think I'm not getting through to my kids. But my years in ministry have also given me another perspective. Older kids come back to me and tell me what a difference I made in their lives. It never ceases to amaze me. It also never ceases to cause me to look heavenward and acknowledge that God knew what He was doing all the time. The things we do and say really matter to kids. Don't give up – you are making a difference.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article supplied by David C. Cook Publishing Co.

---

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.





Nathan Ruble



## From The Desk of The

## Executive Secretary

Pastors often feel unloved and unappreciated. Congregations have it within their power to change this through the biblical principle of honoring. Paul encouraged the Christians in Thessalonica to honor their spiritual leaders. "Brothers and sisters, we ask you to show your appreciation for those leaders who work among you and instruct you. We ask you to love them and think very highly of them because of the work they are doing." (1 Thess. 5:12,13, God's Word) When a pastor has the support and encouragement of his congregation, it is easier for him to face the many things that he is called to endure.

He can face the disrespect of the world. Just as Hollywood portrays him as a weak, lecherous, incompetent, hypocritical, individual, some people in his community will be suspicious of him and put him in the same category as those high profile preachers who fell into sin. Others will love to discourage the pastor with the sharpness of their tongue. An individual in one of my former pastorates used to love to catch me in a public place so he could loudly proclaim to someone nearby, "I'm tired of working. I'm going to quit and either go on welfare or start preaching." A Gallup poll found that of the 100 most admired vocations, being a pastor ranked 56.

He can face those of the congregation that scrutinize his every move, question his every action, and doubt his calling.

He and his family live in a fish bowl where they are often treated as caretakers of the parsonage and their privacy is not respected.

He can face a work week that averages 50 - 75 hours. Often his wife will be required to work outside the home to supplement their income. He knows that his job will never be done. There will always be another funeral, another wedding, another meeting, or another crisis. The lights are never turned off.

He can face the interrupted vacations and the days off. Even when they go uninterrupted, the man of God always carries the weight of concern for his congregation. He often faces the recrimination of his own family for not having time for matters at home.

I believe Free Will Baptist Churches have some of the best people in the world, yet sometimes the pastor is taken for granted. Often it is easier to see the needs of visiting evangelists, missionaries, or singers than the needs of the parsonage family. That is not to say that the church should not support ministries beyond themselves, for they should. But God will honor the church who cares for the shepherd that He has given them. Here are some ways your church can help your pastor.

- Review the pastor's salary and retirement benefits each year. If financially able, give him an increase in salary.
- Respect the pastor's time off. Don't call him unless it is an emergency on his day off.
- Give the pastor an extra week of vacation time.
- Send the pastor to conferences and meetings where he will be renewed. It will benefit the church.
- Pray for your pastor. I can't stress this enough. E.M. Bounds once said, "The men in the pew given to praying for the pastor are like poles which hold up the wires along which the electric current runs. They are not the power, neither are they the specific agents in making the Word of the Lord effective. But they hold up the wires upon which the divine power runs to the hearts of men."

**September is Pastor Appreciation Month for Free Will Baptists.** During the month, plan a special day for your pastor. There are any number of things you can do to show him that you appreciate him and that you are glad God sent him to your church. A pat on the back will do wonders for your pastor.

## THANK YOU

To the Staff and Campers of Free Will Baptist Youth Camp, June 18-23, 1995:

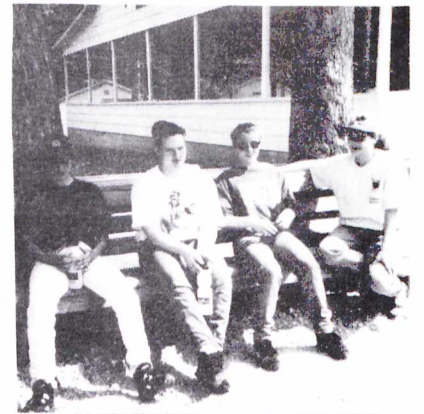
Among the six campers from my church, who attended this session of camp, was a mentally handicapped child. We brought him to camp with many reservations, wondering how he would cope.

I would like to thank everyone, but especially the other campers, for their part in making his week of camp a very special one. You treated him with respect and kindness. He not only enjoyed camp, but was allowed to experience friendship and acceptance. Words are not enough to express my appreciation for your behavior. You were examples of the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:40: "Whatever you do for the least of one of these brothers of mine, you have done it for me."

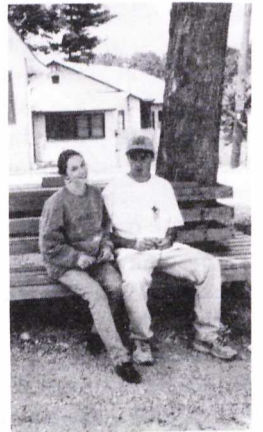
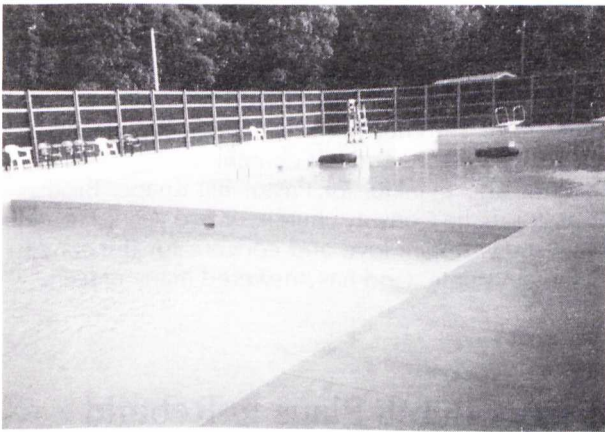
Sincerely  
Michael Walker



# TEEN CAMP 1995









## Nine Baptized At Republic Church

Through the prayers and labor of the Republic Free Will Baptist Church, the Lord has blessed with nine professions of faith, and nine have followed the Lord in the ordinance of water baptism. The pastor, Rev. Clarence Burton, writes that this has been a combined effort of the church through prayer, preaching, teaching, and witnessing. The Lord honors these ministries as they promote the cause of Christ.

The church has enjoyed some special activities that have complimented the regular services. The young people enjoyed a "Hayride and Cookout." Ken Spurgeon, Sunday School Superintendent, his wife, Staci, Bill and Tina Stranghoner, Mark and Pam Gleason, and Stan Blades provided the wagon and tractor and helped make this an enjoyable event. Another special treat for the young people was "DQ Night."

These activities plus Mother's Day, Father's Day, and the Monthly Fellowship Dinner have helped in developing a close bond of fellowship and a stronger desire to see the lost come to Christ and grow in the Lord. The women always prepare and serve delicious meals that everyone enjoys.

The Lord has truly blessed the church with wonderful people. They do so many things that go beyond the normal work in the church. The church board, consisting of Bob Allman, Raymond Kennsinger and Ken Spurgeon, serves the church very effectively. Ken, who is also superintendent of schools at Billings, has filled the pulpit on several occasions and always presents a fine message. The church is also blessed with a fine music director, fine musicians, and those with special singing talent.

I anticipate that my work as interim pastor will be completed near the end of August. Vivian and I feel that this is the will of the Lord, and it is only His will that has led us to make this decision. Rev. Don Anderson, his wife Carol, and their daughter Tammy will be assuming the pastorate. I believe that the Lord will bless the church under their leadership. They are a dedicated Christian family. Prior to our coming to the church, Rev. and Mrs. Tony Butcher served as the pastor family. They had a fine ministry.

The church in Republic has a rich Christian heritage. The Missouri State Home Mission Board had the privilege of helping this church family move from a Fundamental Methodist background to Free Will Baptists. They are wonderful people. These folks and the Free Will Baptists who have united with this work, will continue to have a positive impact for the cause of Christ in the Republic area.

*Clarence Burton, Pastor  
Ken Spurgeon, S. S. Supt.*

## Homecoming At Fredericktown First

September 10 is Homecoming at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Fredericktown. Rev. Clarence Burton will be the special speaker and the Masterpeace quartet will provide the special music. There will be a dinner following the morning service, and the Masterpeace Quartet will sing in the afternoon.

## Columbia Church News

Gary Junge

Adam Hatton was baptized at the Columbia Free Will Baptist Church, Sunday, June 11. The same service saw two children give their lives to Christ. This makes a total of four saved, and three rededications, since the first of the year.

Sunday, July 2, Brother Gary McBee presented a special gospel magic show for the children, which was enjoyed by the children and adults alike.

Our attendance, however, has declined since March, and is now at its lowest level since we have been here. Please continue to pray for the work in Columbia. We need additional workers desperately. Pray that the Lord will send laborers into this field. Your prayers are deeply appreciated.

## Calvary Church Honors Deacon



Deacon & Mrs. Wilkerson and Pastor & Mrs. Knapp

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Calvary Free Will Baptist Church surprised Deacon Larry Wilkerson with a birthday dinner, May 21. The church presented Brother Wilkerson a Bible, and the Woman's Auxiliary honored him with a beautifully decorated cake. The church is very thankful for this faithful servant who loves the Lord and His church.

The church is also thankful for Pastor Bill Knapp. Brother Knapp has pastored the Conway church for two years. He and his wife have shown much love and concern for the church families. During this time, God has answered many prayers.

## Liberty Church Plans to Rebuild

The Liberty Free Will Baptist Church located east of Thayer, Missouri, burned in the early morning hours on April 12, 1995. The cause of the fire has not been determined, but it is suspected that the fire was set by an arsonist. Currently the congregation is meeting in a local community building.

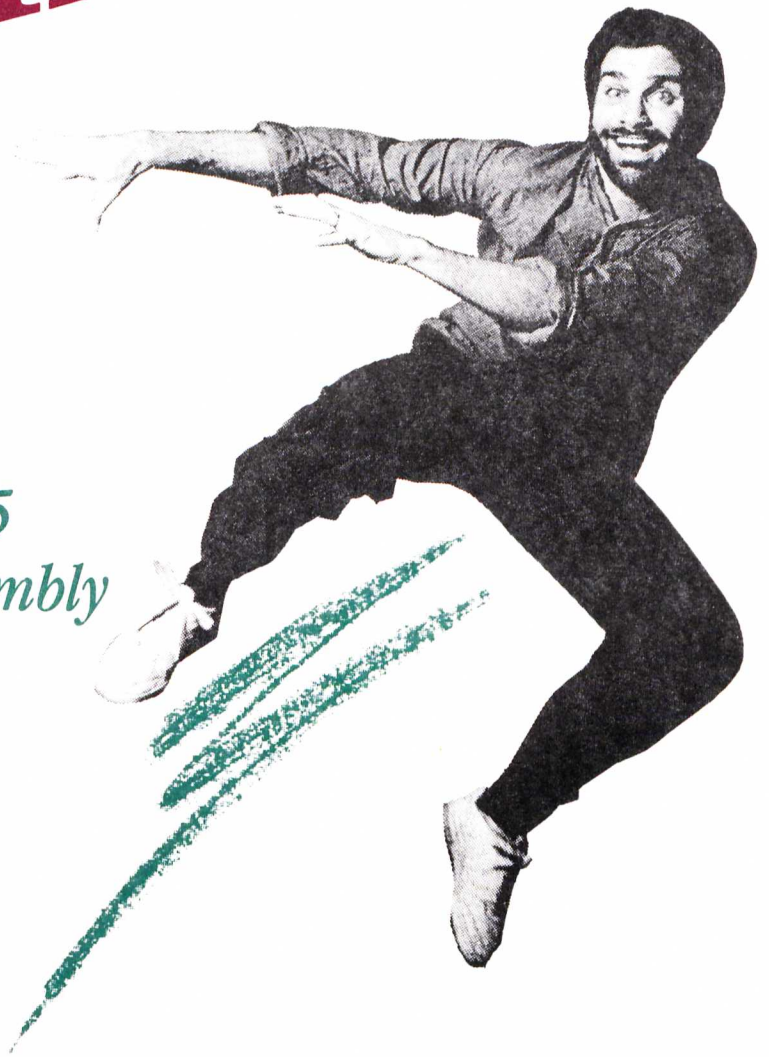
Pastor J. W. King and the congregation are working to raise the needed funds to rebuild the church that organized in the early 20's. The former church building was insured, but the coverage will not cover the cost of rebuilding. To raise money, the congregation has held a car wash and a bake sale. A community benefit is planned.

This rural congregation believes that a Free Will Baptist Church is needed in their community and are working together to rebuild. If you or your church would like to help, you may send contributions to the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church, c/o Mrs. Bonnie Gazeway, Gatewood, Missouri 63942.



# *“Straight to The Heart”*

*Missouri State  
Youth Conference  
November 17-18, 1995  
Windermere Baptist Assembly*



*Fun!!!!!  
Friends!!!!!  
Food?????  
Fantastic T-shirts!!*

***Curt  
Cloninger***  
*one-man theatre*



# 1995 Missouri State Youth Conference

## Registration Form

Return by October 10.

Church \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### Guys

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### Sponsors

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### Girls

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### Sponsors

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of the conference is \$30 per person. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Includes lodging and three meals.)

(# attending)

(Total Amount)

Mail completed registration form, Check and medical release forms to:

**Missouri Youth Ministries Board**

**4041 NE Antioch Rd.**

**Kansas City, MO 64117**

All forms must be postmarked by October 10.

**After October 10, the fee increases to \$35 per person.**



# Camper Medical Release Form

Windermere Baptist Assembly  
Roach, MO 65787

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

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

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

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

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

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

If not available in an emergency, notify:

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

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

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

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

Conference \_\_\_\_\_

## Authorization For Emergency Care

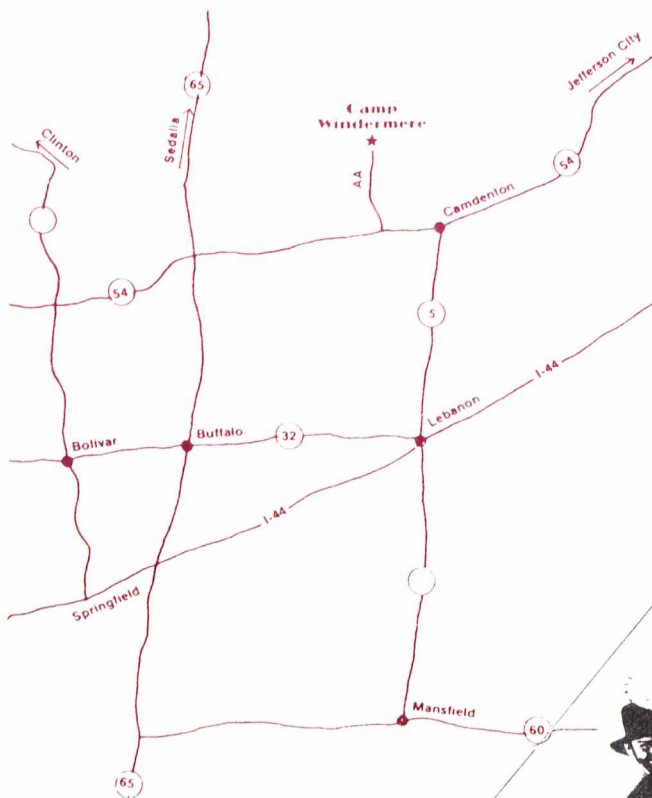
I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the camp personnel entrusted with the care of my child to order x-rays, routine tests, and treatment for the health of my child, and in the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the camp personnel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

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

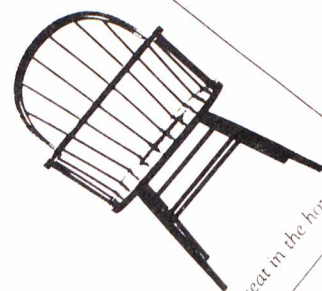
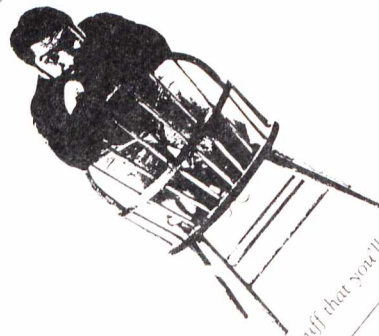
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

(PLEASE PHOTOCOPY)





Curt Cloninger. He'll fill the stage with so many characters who give you so much insight into God and life and love and all that good stuff that you'll wish there wasn't an empty seat in the house.



## 1995 Missouri State Youth Conference "Straight To The Heart"

### • Schedule •

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- 4:00-7:30 p.m. - Registration/Check-In
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. - Supper
- 8:30-9:45 p.m. - Curt Cloninger - "GOD VIEWS"
- 9:45-10:30 p.m. - Free Time (Games & Videos)
- 10:30-11:00 p.m. In-Cabin Devotions
- 11:00 p.m. - LIGHTS OUT

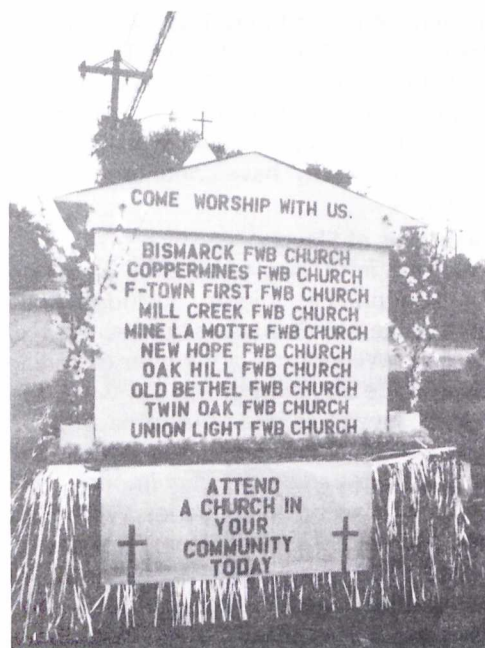
#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

- 8:00-9:00 a.m. - Breakfast
- 9:00-10:00 a.m. - Curt Cloninger - "WITNESSES"
- 10:00-10:45 - Free Time
  - Youth Workers' Roundtable Discussion
- 12:00-1:00 p.m. - Lunch
- 1:00-2:00 p.m. - Youth - "OFF THE WALL"
  - Youth Workers' Only Session
- 2:00-3:15 p.m. - Free Time
- 3:15-4:30 p.m. - Curt Cloninger - "WHEN I DIED LAST TUESDAY"



## Southeast Association Wins First Place!

by Jennifer Huffman



"United we stand, divided we fall" was Abraham Lincoln's theme during the Civil War. It is also the theme of Scripture. Paul encouraged the Corinthians, "... that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement." (1 Cor. 1:10) Much can be accomplished when God's children work together.

The ten churches of the Southeast Association of Free Will Baptists recently joined to build and enter a float in the Fredericktown parade. The churches contributed the money, the materials, and the labor. They prayed that God would bless them in sharing His message with the community. They chose, "The Best of Madison County, Our Churches and Our Christian Heritage," as the theme for the float.

The association was rewarded with good fellowship, first place in the religious category, and Grand Prize overall. First prize was \$350.00 which will be used for the youth work of the association.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Congratulations!

## HAVE YOU SEEN A BIBLE BOWL MACHINE?

The Youth Ministries Board is looking for their missing Bible Bowl machine. The machine has either been misplaced or borrowed. If you know the whereabouts of the Bible Bowl machine, please contact one of the board members or call the state office.

### Youth Ministries Board Members:

Rev. Curt Gwartney	314-431-5115
Dr. Mark Brashier	816-454-2066
Rev. David Brawley	314-629-6215
Rev. Howard Anderson	417-926-3371
Rev. Kevin Scott	314-291-1710

## About Angels, Good and Evil

by Mark Vandivort

*"The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them." Psalm 34:7 NKJV.*

The existence of angels is taught in at least 34 books of the Bible, with the word angel occurring 275 times. Angels are described as supernatural, created, heavenly beings (Colossians 1:16). However, they are never worshiped or exalted above the members of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Revelation 22:8,9). Angels are spirit beings who sometimes appear in human forms (Luke 24:4-7). Angels also sometimes offer guidance or protection as seen in Acts, chapter 12, where the Apostle Peter was miraculously delivered from prison. Regarding angels, Hebrews Chapter 1 verse 14, states, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit Salvation?" (NASV)

According to the Bible, the devil also has a host of angels under his command. The Apostle Paul describes the devil (or Satan) as a being who masquerades as an "angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). Sometimes he presents himself as a counterfeit of Jesus Christ as he seeks people who will follow him and worship him. Jesus said that a Hell of eternal fire has been prepared for the devil and his angels and also for those people who would be deceived by the devil (Matthew 25:41).

Only God can dispatch an angel whom one should want to encounter. A close walk with Jesus Christ is the best protection against being visited by the wrong angel. Jesus Christ's atoning sacrifice of His blood on the cross paid the penalty for the sins of all humankind. For the person who believes, the resurrection of Jesus Christ provides living reality of Christian hope in heaven. Regarding 1 Peter chapter 1, verses 3-12, the editors of the Wesley Study Bible wrote, "Peter thanks God for the sure hope we have in Christ (vv. 3-5), a hope that enables us to rejoice even in trials (vv. 6-9). All the prophets looked forward to such a salvation, and all the angels want to understand it." (vv. 10-12)

Perhaps one of the most profound proclamations made by an angel is, "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins," Matthew 1:21 (NKJV).



# John Newton Discovers Grace!

The Greyhound had been thrashing about in the north Atlantic storm for over a week. Its canvas sails were ripped, and the wood on one side of the ship had been torn away and splintered. The sailors had little hope of survival, but they mechanically worked the pumps, trying to keep the vessel afloat. On the eleventh day of the storm, sailor John Newton was too exhausted to pump, so he was tied to the helm and tried to hood the ship to its course. From one o'clock until midnight he was at the helm.

With the storm raging fiercely, Newton had time to think. His life seemed as ruined and wrecked as the battered ship he was trying to steer through the storm. Since the age of eleven he had lived a life at sea. Sailors were not noted for the refinement of their manners, but Newton had a reputation for profanity, coarseness, and debauchery which even shocked many a sailor.

He was known as "the great blasphemer." He sank so low at one point that he was even a servant to slaves in Africa for a brief period. His mother had prayed he would become a minister, and had early taught him the Scriptures and Isaac Watts' *Divine Songs for Children*. Some of those early childhood teachings came to mind now. He remembered Proverbs 1:24-28, and in the midst of that storm, those verses seemed to confirm Newton in his despair.

*"Because I have called, and ye refused ...ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also laughed at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh: when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish come upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer ..."*

Newton had rejected his mother's teachings and had led other sailors into unbelief. He felt he was beyond hope and beyond saving. Still Newton's thoughts began to turn to Christ. He found a New Testament and began to read. Luke 11:13 seemed to assure him that God might still hear him: *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him."*

## Deliverance

That day at the helm, March 21, 1748, was a day Newton remembered ever after, for "On that day the Lord sent from on high and delivered me out of deep waters." Many years later, as an old man, Newton wrote in his diary of March 21, 1805: "Not well able to write; but I endeavor to observe the return of this day with humiliation, prayer, and praise." Only God's amazing grace could and would take a rude, profane, slave-trading sailor and transform him into a child of God. Newton never ceased to stand in awe of God's work in his life.

## New Directions

Though Newton continued in his profession of sailing and slave-trading for a time, his life was transformed. He began a disciplined schedule of Bible study, prayer, and Christian reading, and tried to be a Christian example to the sailors under his command. Philip Doddridge's *The Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul* provided much spiritual comfort, and a fellow-Christian captain he met off the coast of Africa guided Newton further in his Christian faith.

Newton left slave-trading and took the job of tide surveyor at Liverpool, but he began to think he had been called to the ministry. His mother's prayers for her son were answered, and

in 1764, at the age of thirty-nine, John Newton began forty-three years of preaching the gospel of Christ.

John and his beloved wife Mary (at the end of his life John would write that their love "equalled all that the writers of romance have imagined") moved to the little market town of Olney. He spent his mornings in Bible study and his afternoons in visiting his parishioners. There were regular Sunday morning and afternoon services as well as meetings for children and young people. There was also a Tuesday evening prayer meeting which was always well attended.

## The World's Most Famous Hymn

For the Sunday evening services, Newton often composed a hymn which developed the lessons and Scripture for the evening. In 1779, 280 of these were collected and combined with 68 hymns by Newton's friend and parishioner, William Cowper, and published as the Olney Hymns. The most famous of all the Olney Hymns, "Faith's Review and Expectation," grew out of David's exclamation in I Chronicles 17:16-17. We know it today as "Amazing Grace." Several other of the Olney hymns by Newton continue in use today, including "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds," and "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken." The hymns first brought attention to Newton's friend, William Cowper, who later became a famous national poet. Cowper's "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood" and "God Moves in a Mysterious Way" have continued to find their way into today's hymnals.

## Rector Reveals Evils of Slavery

In 1779 Newton left Olney to become rector of St. Mary Woolnoth in London. His ministry included not only the London poor and the merchant class but also the wealthy and influential. William Wilberforce, a member of Parliament and a prime mover in the abolition of slavery, was strongly influenced by John Newton's life and preaching. Newton's *Thoughts on the African Slave Trade*, based on his own experiences as a slave trader, was very important in securing British abolition of slavery. Missionaries William Carey and Henry Martyn also gained strength from Newton's counsel.

Newton lived to be eighty-two years old and continued to preach and have an active ministry until beset by fading health in the last two or three years of his life. Even then, Newton never ceased to be amazed by God's grace and told his friends, "My memory is nearly gone; but I remember two things: That I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour."

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was copied from Pulpit Helps. Glimpses Bulletin Insert, Christian History Institute, Box 540, Worcester, PA 19490.*

## NEEDED!

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Deerfield Beach, Florida, is seeking a couple to enhance the church music ministry. The church needs a couple who can direct music and provide piano or organ accompaniment. The church is located just south of Boca Raton near the Atlantic Ocean. If you are interested, please call Pastor Billy Wilson at 305-421-2530. His mailing address is: Rev. Billy Wilson, 1417 S.E. 3rd Terr., Deerfield Beach, FL 33441.



# All Boards Meeting - Preacher/Layman's Retreat

September 18 & 19, 1995

Youth Camp, Niangua

Theme: "Faith and Works"

## Monday, September 18, 1995

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. .... Fun and Fellowship

### Golf Tournament - Golf Course in Marshfield

Miniature Golf, Ping Pong, Horse Shoe Pitching - Youth Camp

5:30 p.m. .... Evening Meal

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. .... "Living by Faith"

Rev. Bill Evans

7:30 p.m. .... Boards Meet

9:30 p.m. .... Refreshments

## Tuesday, September 19, 1995

8:00 a.m. .... Breakfast

9:00 - 9:30 a.m. .... Message from the Moderator

Rev. Ken Dodson

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. .... "Planning for the Future"

Rev. Bill Evans

Break

10:45 - 11:30 a.m. .... Summary and Coordinating State Activities

Dismiss

11:30 a.m. .... Lunch

*There will be time given for questions and comments on the subjects that are presented.*

## GUIDELINES FOR GOLF TOURNAMENT

2 Man Scramble

3 Trophies will be awarded for the tournament:

A trophy each to first place finishers

A trophy each to second place finishers

A trophy for the ball closest to the hole off the tee on #7, par 3

## Registration For Golf Tournament

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Each participant will pay his own green fee.

Dale Skiles will be in charge of the Golf Tournament.

*Mail the registration form to:*

**Dale Skiles, 4534 McCullough, Springfield, MO 65804**

The other activities - miniature golf, horse shoes, ping pong - will not be organized.

Those who want to play may play when they want to.





Rev. & Mrs. Cecil Campbell

## Rev. Cecil and Mrs. Jewell Campbell Celebrated Their 60th Wedding Anniversary

The children of Cecil and Jewell Campbell hosted a sixtieth wedding anniversary celebration for their parents at the municipal auditorium in Neosho, Missouri, Sunday, June 25. Family and friends came throughout the afternoon to honor this esteemed couple. Rev. Lewis Campbell, the Campbell's son, printed a small booklet honoring his parents. The following is an excerpt from that booklet.

It was a hot day in June 1935, when a country preacher, Cecil Campbell, was busy farming to support his preaching. At noon, June 22, he parked his equipment under a shade tree, put on his Sunday clothes, and took a young woman that had grown up on a neighboring farm, Jewell Marie Lewis, to be his wife. There is no way that anyone could have predicted the turns in life's road that lay ahead for them.

About halfway between the farms where these young folks grew up was the Jones Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. The church was the center of the community and was to become a central part of their lives. Rev. Campbell was ordained and pastored there three different times in his ministry.

The road of life has taken them to many places. Interestingly enough, the road at this time has taken them back to the same farm where Jewell grew up and where they first set up housekeeping. Between leaving and returning to the farm, they pastored in two states and held revivals in many others. This country preacher worked in the formation and development of the National Association of Free Will Baptists for fifty years. He still serves on the Historical Commission in the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists.

For her part, Jewell Lewis Campbell was a leader, an officer and frequently a writer for the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention. She was ever by her preacher husband's side but never lost sight of the fact that she was an individual in her own right.

## Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit -  
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,  
As every one of us sometimes learns,  
And many a fellow turns about  
When he might have won had he stuck it out.  
Don't give up though the pace seems slow -  
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than  
It seems to a faint and faltering man;  
Often the struggler has given up  
When he might have captured the victor's cup;  
And he learned too late when the night came down,  
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,  
And you never can tell how close you are,  
It may be near when it seems afar;  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,  
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

- Author Unknown



## Financial Information

### JUNE 1995

#### COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$6,973.57
17.50% Executive Office	6,596.61
3.50% General Fund	1,319.32
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	3,204.08
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	942.37
2.50% C.E. Board	942.37
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board	942.37
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	3,392.54
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	11,496.95
Foreign Missions Board	
National Home Missions Board	
Same Allocation:	
Free Will Baptist Bible College	
Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	
Executive Department	
Layman's Board	
Radio & TV Commission	
Theological Commission	
Historical Commission	
Board of Retirement & Insurance	
1.00% Calif. Christian College	
(\$114.97 included in \$11,496.95)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund	1,884.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$37,694.93</b>

"...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 possi-

ble 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%.

### JUNE 1995

#### COOPERATIVE

Bailey Chapel - Tunas	\$ 100.00
Bailey Chapel - Tuans	90.00
Beacon - Raytown	875.00
Belton	329.64
Bethel - El Dorado Springs	61.54
Bethel - Marshfield	187.97
Black Oak	219.95
Blue Springs	127.58
Bourbon	49.32
Cabool	275.89
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo	270.38
Cape Girardeau 1st	805.05
Carthage	152.00
Central - Grandview	661.70
Chapel of the Ozarks	201.78
Clifton - Thayer	75.00
Clifton - Thayer	74.00
Columbia	68.00
Copper Mines - Fredericktown	309.40
Crossroads - Wentzville	307.00
Cuba	499.00
DeSoto 1st	1,000.00
Eastern Gate - Springfield	291.19
Faith & Hope - Aurora	62.80



Faith & Hope - Aurora	80.50
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	83.50
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	83.74
Farmington 1st	2,072.31
Fordland	462.71
Fourth	250.00
Fredericktown 1st	268.00
Freeman Chapel	290.52
Friendship - Branson	466.37
Grace - Arnold	959.00
Grant Avenue - Springfield	869.77
Hannon - Liberal	485.85
Happy Home - Ava	92.32
Hartville	490.05
Hazel Creek - Kirksville	600.49
Heritage	93.78
Hopewell - Tunas	150.00
Houston 1st	309.13
Hurryville - Park Hills	346.45
Jones Chapel	141.29
Jones Chapel - Stark City	721.81
Joplin 1st	486.59
Kingsway - Springfield	225.97
Kirksville 1st	192.00
Koshkonong - Thayer	146.58
Leadington	436.91
Lebanon 1st	660.00
Liberty - Phillipsburg	167.20
Lone Star - Seymour	62.20
Marshfield	284.41
Merls Chapel - Cassville	200.00
Mill Creek - Fredericktown	267.22
Mine La Motte	45.80
Monett 1st	482.29
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	217.00
Mt. Zion - Gower	81.53
Mt. Zion - Gower	66.20
Mtn. Grove 1st	1,293.06
Myrtle	214.91
Myrtle	230.97
Neosho 1st	170.00
New Harmony - Greentop	23.09
New Home - Lebanon	355.55
New Hope - Fredericktown	20.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	20.00
New Life - Licking	367.80
New Rock Springs - Cabool	127.00
New Rock Springs - Cabool	143.00
North 5 - Lebanon	156.59
Number One - Huggins	52.36
Number One - Huggins	47.32
Oak Hill - Fredericktown	75.03
Oak Hill - Union	655.87
Oak Hill - Union	470.03
Oskaloosa - Liberal	216.00
Overland	121.00
Overland	103.00
Park Hills 1st	529.51
Parkview - Desloge	433.26
Parkview - Desloge	334.23
Pleasant Hill - Thayer	114.66
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove	218.60
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove	246.47
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove	295.18
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	74.00
Potosi 1st	140.90
Republic	129.03
Rock Chapel - Norwood	341.11
Rolla 1st	54.15
Royal Oak - Alton	116.00
Seymour	96.00
Smyrna	170.00
Springfield 1st	698.71
St. Peter's	450.05
Stockton	126.51
Terrill Road - Moberly	247.00
Terrill Road - Moberly	231.00
Thayer	693.00
Trinity Baptist - Bridgeton	976.30
Tyrone - Elk Creek	41.00
Union Grove S.S. - Norwood	230.00
Union Light - Marquand	102.50
Union - Success	60.00
United - West Plains	981.11
United - West Plains	887.73
Unity - Lebanon	300.00
Verdella - Liberal	335.10
Victory Hill - Mansfield	77.38
Victory Hill - Mansfield	57.00
Victory - Alton	142.74
Victory - K.C.	343.13
Waynesville 1st	354.61
West Plains 1st	556.88
West Plains 1st	544.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	253.04
Wolf Creek - Mansfield	416.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$37,694.93</b>

#### STATE HOME MISSIONS

Bethel - Festus	\$ 69.07
Central - Grandview	10.00
Columbia	5.00

Cuba	152.08
Faith & Hope - Aurora	31.50
Faith & Hope - Aurora	30.00
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	25.00
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	25.00
Farmington 1st	10.00
Fourth	10.00
Grace - Arnold	30.00
Grant Avenue - Springfield	20.00
Hannon - Liberal	242.92
Kirksville 1st	6.00
L. Wormington	30.00
Lebanon 1st	10.00
Lebanon Bible & Bookstore	190.00
Macedonia Women's Aux.	2,100.00
Marshfield	28.44
Mtn. Grove 1st	25.00
N. Ruble	20.00
New Testament	40.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	20.00
Richwoods 1st	5.00
Rock Chapel - Norwood	78.35
State Meeting Offering	210.00
Thayer	50.00
Trinity Baptist - Bridgeton	95.00
Union Light - Marquand	112.00
United - West Plains	35.50
Victory - K.C.	5.00
West Plains 1st	5.00
West Plains 1st	5.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,730.86</b>

#### FOREIGN MISSIONS

A. Chapman	\$ 30.00
Beacon - Raytown	1,001.00
Belton	425.00
Bethel - Festus	5.00
Bethel - Festus	120.00
Blue Springs	102.06
Blue Springs	85.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
C. Thompson	25.00
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo	75.00
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo	100.00
Calvary Fellowship	3,483.85
Carthage	77.00
Central - Grandview	11.00
Central - Grandview	242.50
Columbia	25.00
Cuba	76.05
DeSoto 1st	350.00
Eastern Gate - Springfield	118.24
Faith & Hope - Aurora	31.50
Faith & Hope - Aurora	30.00
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	150.00
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	150.00
Faith - St. Louis	25.00
Faith - St. Louis	50.00
Farmington 1st	308.33
Farmington 1st	150.17
Fordland	90.00
Fourth	111.67
Freeman Chapel	379.50
Friend & Co. (D. Lewis)	10.00
Grace - Arnold	19.00
Grant Avenue - Springfield	539.95
Grant Avenue - Prayer Partners	49.00
Grant Avenue - Women's S.S. Class	25.00
Hannon - Liberal	775.85
Hartville	98.01
J. Hoggard	10.00
J. Schebaum	15.00
Joplin 1st	25.00
Joy Makers	10.00
K. Minor	10.00
Kingsway - (N. Warrick)	5.00
Kirksville 1st	6.00
Kirksville 1st - Children's Church	14.67
Leadington	71.00
Lebanon 1st	40.00
Lebanon 1st	50.00
Macedonia Women's Aux.	1,300.00
Marshfield	44.24
Merls Chapel - Cassville	200.00
Mission Group - Desloge	50.00
Monett 1st	200.00
Monett 1st	608.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	100.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	317.18
Myrtle	40.00
N. Ruble	30.00
N. Akeman	10.00
Neosho 1st	315.00
New Harmony - Greentop	115.47
New Home - Hartville	270.00
New Home - Hartville	257.00
New Testament	110.00
Niangua	50.00
Niangua	50.00
Oak Grove - Cabool	65.00
Oak Grove - Norwood	143.00

Oak Grove - Norwood	106.40
Park Hills 1st	211.80
Parkview - Desloge	304.00
Parkview - Desloge	315.00
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove	66.86
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove	97.47
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove	79.73
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	50.00
Richwoods 1st	20.00
Rock Chapel - Norwood	163.00
SE MO Dist. Assoc. - Fred.	25.00
SE MO Dist. Assoc. - Fred.	25.00
St. Peter's	45.00
State Meeting Offering	210.00
Thayer	235.00
Trinity Baptist - Bridgeton	569.34
Union Light - Marquand	300.00
Union Mission	165.30
United - West Plains	224.97
United - West Plains	75.50
Unity - Lebanon	40.00
Verdella - Liberal	545.10
Victory - K.C.	130.00
W. Livingston	10.00
Waynesville 1st	50.00
West Plains 1st	25.00
West Plains 1st	25.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,090.71</b>

#### NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

A. Chapman	\$ 20.00
Beacon - Raytown	230.00
Belton	50.00
Bethel - Festus	35.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Calvary Fellowship	274.00
Carthage	102.00
Central - Grandview	42.50
Columbia	10.00
D. Piercy - Crossroads	10.00
DeSoto 1st	100.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	20.00
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	25.00
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	25.00
Farmington 1st	40.00
Fordland	25.00
Fourth	30.00
Grace - Arnold	126.50
Grant Avenue - Springfield	161.98
Hannon - Liberal	53.58
J. Hoggard	10.00
J.W. Rader - Marshfield	20.00
Jones Creek	15.00
Jones Creek Rd. - Dittmer	10.00
Leadington	20.00
Lebanon 1st	10.00
Lebanon 1st	35.00
M. Smith - Crossroads	5.00
Mission Group - Desloge	20.00
Monett 1st	10.00
Monett 1st	575.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	50.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	35.00
Myrtle	80.00
N. Canon - Buffalo	5.00
New Harmony - Greentop	115.47
New Home - Lebanon	360.00
New Home - Hartville	20.00
New Home - Hartville	20.00
New Testament	150.00
Oak Grove - Norwood	71.50
Oak Grove - Norwood	53.20
P. Clayton - Buffalo	5.00
Park Hills 1st	172.95
Parkview - Desloge	54.25
Parkview - Desloge	10.00
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove	42.11
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove	10.00
R. Gamble	5.00
R. Pierce - Crossroads	10.00
Richwoods 1st	37.00
Rock Chapel - Norwood	45.00
SE MO Dist. Assoc. - Fred.	25.00
SE MO Dist. Assoc. - Fred.	25.00
St. Peter's	20.00
State Meeting Offering	210.00
Thayer	393.51
Trinity Baptist - Bridgeton	60.00
Union Light - Marquand	70.00
Union Light - Marquand	70.00
United - West Plains	346.02
United - West Plains	40.02
Unity - Lebanon (D. Oliver)	5.00
Unity - Lebanon	50.00
Unity - Lebanon	5.00
Verdella - Liberal	30.00
Victory - K.C.	10.00
W. Livingston	10.00
Waynesville 1st	50.00
West Plains 1st	422.00
West Plains 1st	35.00

Wolf Creek - Mansfield	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,448.59</b>

#### MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

Hartville	\$ 10.00
Hannon - Liberal	15.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Thayer	40.00
Union - Success (April - June)	30.00
Monett 1st (1 yr.)	120.00
Cabool	10.00
Indian Creek Assoc.	164.67
Calvary Fellowship	50.00
Lebanon Bible & Bookstore	85.00
Bethel - Festus	69.07
Trinity - Bridgeton	14.00
Park Hills 1st	19.16
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	10.00
Mission Group - Desloge	10.00
New Home - Hartville	10.00
DeSoto 1st	50.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	10.00
New Rock Springs - Cabool	10.00
Marshfield	20.00
Bethel - Marshfield	50.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
New Home - Hartville	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$916.90</b>

#### CHILDREN'S HOME (TN)

Myrtle	\$ 1.00
Unity - Lebanon	10.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	27.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	213.00
Park Hills 1st	94.25
Mission Group - Desloge	10.00
DeSoto 1st	50.00
Farmington 1st	15.00
Myrtle	5.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	29.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$454.25</b>

#### HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Hannon - Liberal	\$ 50.00
Central - Grandview	48.00
Victory - K.C.	42.88
Eastern Gate - Springfield	58.24
Thayer	45.00
Neosho 1st	110.00
Grant Avenue - Springfield	8.00
Farmington 1st	141.66
Beacon - Raytown	125.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$628.78</b>

#### FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$ 40.00
Mission Group - Desloge	10.00
DeSoto 1st	35.00
Farmington 1st	133.33
Grant Avenue - Springfield	20.00
N. Ruble (MO Alumni Project)	50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$288.33</b>

#### REV. JOHN MCCLURE

Verdella - Liberal	\$ 10.00
Thayer	15.00
Jones Creek Rd.	10.00
Monett 1st	25.00
Carthage	21.00
Bethel - WNAC	40.00
Grace - Arnold	15.00
Jones Creek Rd.	15.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$151.00</b>

#### CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Farmington 1st	\$25.00
----------------	---------

#### YOUTH MINISTRIES BOARD

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	\$25.00
Calvary Fellowship - Fenton	13.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$38.00</b>

#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	\$25.00
----------------------------	---------

#### SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES BOARD

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	\$25.00
----------------------------	---------

#### WORLD RELIEF

Victory - K.C.	\$10.00
----------------	---------

#### WORLD VISION

Victory - K.C.	\$5.00
----------------	--------

#### FREE WILL BAPTIST WNAC (Provision Closet)

Macedonia WNAC	\$1,000.00
----------------	------------

#### NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Calvary Fellowship - Fenton	\$52.00
-----------------------------	---------



## The Youth Look

By Ann Poletti

"Have thine own way, Lord,  
Have thine own way.  
Thou art the potter,  
I am the clay . . ."



As a child growing up in a little country church, we sang this hymn a lot. I counted it as one of my favorites, although I didn't understand the connection between "potter/clay" and the Lord having His own way . . . until my freshman year in high school.

At the suggestion of my guidance counselor, I enrolled in one semester of art. Not only am I not an artist, but I also have little interest in it; so my counselor had to really push to help me see that colleges would appreciate such a "diverse" transcript.

I yawned my way through drawing and color appreciation . . . but when we did a section on pottery, I thought I might actually like this! A lumpy, old piece of clay mud would be manipulated into a (hopefully) beautiful pot. So what if I drew mountains resembling cones or people with 90 degree angled elbows? I could be in control of this mudball.

Well, this "mudball" had a mind of its own. When the pottery wheel began turning, I saw I had to work hard every second or the clay would fall to one side. It would dry out so I had to work it with one hand while watering it with the other. It was a time-consuming task and one I nearly gave up on. Then . . . reward! I saw a pot beginning to appear!! The sandy grit against the constant motion of the wheel had rubbed my hands raw, but I was too close to stop. The "A" I received was little consolation; I knew what the song meant now!

Lord, I am a lumpy mudball with a mind of my own. I'm sure You tire of holding me up while slopping water on me to keep me "workable." Please keep the wheel turning - even when I want off - and don't give up on me when I blister Your hands. I want to be a beautiful vessel of Your own making . . . and one which will say "Have thine own way."

## Sunday School Averages January 1995 - June 1995

CHURCHES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Beacon	65	70	78			
Belton				48	41	33
Bethel - Festus	77	80	84			
Calvary Chapel	86	104	94			
Calvary Fellowship	217	220	271			
Cape Girardeau	76	78	107	82	69	70
Columbia		14	17	16		
Cuba	102	109	122	117	104	108
DeSoto	164	179	235	176	180	
Farmington	315	311		330	336	
Fredericktown	34	38	43	41	38	
Hannon	85	78	87	99	96	89
Harmony			57			
Hartville	94	96	91	94	97	82
Hazel Creek	74	72				
Hopewell	28	29	31	30	28	
Houston	39	50	58	57	54	50
Jones Creek	10	7	8	10	8	7
Kirksville, First	35	37	40	36	35	37
Lebanon First	117	121	122	122	115	116
Mill Creek	48	50	50	52	48	46
Monett		90	97	86	99	
Myrtle	33	48	42	39	34	34
Oskaloosa	17	17	21	21	21	
Ozark		76	82	80	72	
Park Hills First	120	137	140	125	128	119
Richwoods	48	39	61			
Rock Chapel	67	66	65	62		56
Salem					13	
Springfield First	105	103	106	107	97	99
Thayer		139	170	155	132	136
United, West Plains	203	237	243	267	246	244
Unity	36	35	36	36	44	
Verdella	67	65	69	71	68	66
Willow Springs	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.

## SEPTEMBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH. PLAN NOW TO DO SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YOUR PASTOR!

### Calendar of Events 1995

**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.*

MISSOURI STATE ASSOC.  
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS  
202 West Commercial  
Lebanon, MO 65536

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
INDEP. MO 64050  
PERMIT NO. 331

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

PLEASE INFORM US IMMEDIATELY OF YOUR NEW ADDRESS  
TO INSURE UNINTERRUPTED DELIVERY OF YOUR GEM