

GEM

THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST

Volume 65, No. 9, September 1995

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Dear Pastor,

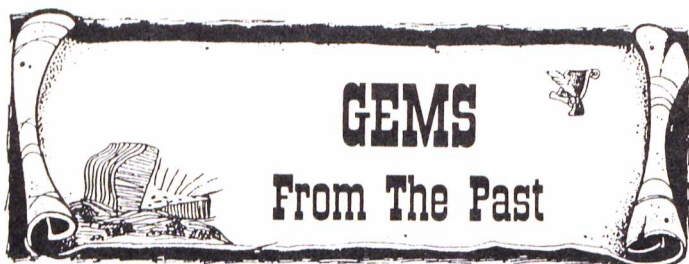
A rock cast into a stream sends out many ripples that broaden as they reach across the stream. In the same way, you impact the lives of countless people you reach daily for our Lord. Those people in turn impact the lives of yet others, who in turn do the same.

Pastor, thank you for carrying out the message of II Timothy 2:2, "... the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

In Christ's Love,

A Brother Because You Cared

SEPTEMBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH



The Work of Thy Fingers

by Alton Loveless

"When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained: what is man that Thou art mindful of Him or the son of man that Thou visitest him?" Psalm 8:3,4

Many ask today, "Is it reasonable to believe in the existence of a living God without being able to see or hear Him?" Forgive the oversimplification when I answer flatly, "Yes." In spite of all the debates and denials of a real God which you read, convincing evidences abound. The wonder is not that people believe in God, but that they don't.

The Psalmist said he heard God's voice in the wonders of creation. *"The heavens declare the glory of God . . . !"* Science tells us that our earth is part of a solar system that occupies an area estimated at some 7,000 million miles in diameter! But astronomers confound us even more when they relate that the galaxy of which our earth is a part of is but one infinitesimal member of 500 million more systems of equal or greater size!

What about the vastness of the universe? Does it tell us anything about ourselves? Does it tell us anything about God? Yes, it does, for it would take a God of infinite power to create it and a God of infinite love and detail to pick, as it were, a single grain from the seashore of infinity and people it with intelligent creatures capable of knowing, loving and serving Him.

With the aid of the mighty 200-inch Hale telescope at Mt. Palomar, California, astronomers have acquired even more staggering data. There is such a density of stars 4,000 million times 6 billion miles from the earth that individual suns can scarcely be separated or distinguished. One of the largest of them, Betelgeuse, is estimated to be 400 million miles in diameter!

One of the most fantastic discoveries of astronomers is that, no matter in which direction their research is directed, the distant galaxies are all traveling away from us. The more remote the galaxy, the more rapid its rate of retreat. These star systems are moving away from us at the speed of light – 186,000 miles a second! Where are they going? When will they stop? I must say with the Psalmist, *"Such knowledge is too wonderful for me . . . I cannot attain to it."*

Many men say they cannot accept God's greatness as fact, yet they accept the observable facts of the universe. Is it because they accept only what they want to accept? Is it because a probe of the universe upsets the program they have mapped out for their lives?

What then about the human body? The Psalmist speaks of his ingenious construction. *"I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made"* (Ps. 139:14).

The eye has about a million light-sensitive rods and cones, sending impulses to the brain through 338,000 nerve cables. The ear has no less than 24,000 strings which vibrate. Compare this with a grand piano which has only 240 strings and is a million times larger than the human hearing apparatus!

The heart expands and contracts 40 million times a year and uses 400 million berrylike structures in the lungs for collecting oxygen and discharging impurities. Do you see why I say the greatest wonder of all is the person who, confronted with these facts, insists that there is no God?

It is reasonable to assume that God would want to communicate with the intricate, intelligent beings He created. Man is given certain abilities denied lesser creatures, one of which is the ability to communicate and fellowship with Him. The Holy Scriptures tell us the first man had no barrier between himself and God – until disobedience marred that relationship. The result was that Adam and his progeny became subject to decay and death. Thereafter sin passed hereditarily upon all men (Romans 5:12). But God, still mighty in mercy, opened a channel back. In the Old Testament the return was emblemized by animal sacrifices, foreshadows of the coming Lamb, God's own Son, who would die on Calvary to atone for the sins of the whole world.

Centuries before Christ appeared on the earth the Greek philosopher Socrates said that if God were to ever influence the affairs of men it would be necessary for Him to become a man. God wasn't following Socrates' advice when He sent Jesus into this world; it was His well-laid plan before the foundations of the earth (Rev. 13:8).

Paul put it this way: *"But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son . . ."* (Gal. 4:4). John adds: *"The Word (Jesus) was made flesh . . ."* (John 1:14). Here we see God entering the mainstream of human life, identifying Himself with man and exemplifying Himself before man through the Person of His Son.

He established His deity by – changing water into wine; feeding more than five thousand with a small boy's lunch; walking on the water; calming storms; bringing life to the dead. The Gospels team with eyewitness accounts of the blind being given sight, the deaf hearing, the dumb speaking, and the demonic restored to rightful thinking. Even at His death a Roman centurion was moved to say, *"Truly this was the Son of God!"*

Why did Jesus have to die for us? The unamplified answer is: So God could pardon us. Ask yourself: "Has my every thought been pure, my every act for God's glory, and my every decision entirely selfless?"

Only Jesus Christ ever passed that test; that's why He came to this earth, lived up to all of God's righteous standards, and then offered Himself, a willing sacrifice on the cross, becoming a divine Substitute for a race of men that deserved to die in that place and in that manner. This is what is meant by the substitutionary work of Christ. It is God dying in our place, bearing our sins. It is God proving Himself to be not only the Creator, but also the Redeemer of mankind.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was first printed in the September 1970 issue of the Gem. Rev. Loveless was pastor of the Joplin Free Will Baptist Church.

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.

Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church News



The Mark Turrell Family

The Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church welcomed a new pastor in May. Rev. Mark Turrell, his wife, Mona, and their four children, Rachel, B.J., Nathan, and Micah, moved to Fredericktown, Missouri, from Oklahoma. Everyone is excited about their enthusiasm for and desire to help the church grow. Their ministry will no doubt be blessed because of their dedication to the Lord's work.



Nursery Class - Copper Mines Church

This summer has been a busy one for the church. A great Vacation Bible School was held, the annual trip to Six Flags was a success, and the church played host to the Madison County Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meeting. Five new members were received into the church July 9, and more new members are anticipated in the future.



Heather Hall

The first annual Missouri State W.N.A.C. Scholarship was awarded to Heather Hall. She is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Warren Hall of El Dorado Springs, Missouri. Heather has completed two years at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College and will return there in the fall. She was chosen from four applicants, all of whom were very qualified to receive the scholarship. Missouri State W.N.A.C. Executive Committee wishes to thank them for their interest and encourage them to apply again next year.

CONGRATULATIONS, HEATHER!

40th Wedding Anniversary

The Myrtle Free Will Baptist Church held a reception to celebrate the 40th wedding anniversary of their pastor, Bob Epperson, and his wife, Jo Ann, on June 25, 1995. It climaxed a very busy day with a fellowship dinner at noon following the regularly scheduled church services.



Bob & Jo Ann Epperson



The Epperson Family

Brother Bob and Sister Jo Ann renewed their wedding vows in a ceremony conducted by Rev. R.E. Helsley, pastor of the Wolf Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Mansfield, Missouri. Their attendants were their daughter and son-in-law, Tammie and Greg West, and their grandchildren, Rianna and Greg West, Jr. Music was provided by Maelynn Sandridge, soloist, and Kathy Deckard, pianist.

A good number came to express their congratulations and best wishes. Among those present from out of town were Rev. and Mrs. R.E. Helsley of Mansfield, MO; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bailey and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Dougherty from Ava, MO; Mr. and Mrs. Greg West and children, from Rogersville, MO; and Jo Ann's sister and brother-in-law, Nell and Reese Brace from Dover, Arkansas.

A beautiful cake was served with punch, coffee, mints and nuts as the gifts were opened.

Missouri W.N.A.C. Awards First Scholarship

Myrtle Church Dedicates New Parking Lot



The Myrtle Free Will Baptist Church dedicated a newly paved parking lot to the Lord's use Sunday, July 30. It was with joy that the people praised the Lord and recounted His blessings. During the past year and a half, led by Pastor Bob Epperson, the church installed a new water line, a new sewer system, two new bathrooms, a drinking fountain, purchased a new copier, upgraded the P.A. system, and paved the parking lot. The congregation has generously given the finances needed to completely pay for each of these projects. Pastor Epperson is quick to state that the greatest blessing has been the people who have been saved and those who have rededicated their lives to the Lord.

Rev. Nathan Ruble delivered the morning message. Following the invitation, the congregation proceeded to the parking lot and joined hands in a prayer circle. The prayer of dedication was prayed by each one who desired to pray.

A delicious lunch was served by the ladies of the church and a great time of fellowship was enjoyed by all. Brother Bob proudly showed off a picture of his new mule foal and took some good natured kidding.

The congregation of the Myrtle church is to be complimented on all they have accomplished. They did it while continuing to give both cooperative and designated gifts to carry out the Great Commission.



Prayer of Dedication



Rev. Bob Thebeau Preaching – Rev. James Munsey Translating

Missouri Pastors Visit Mexico

Vernon Long

Friday morning, June 23, Rev. Bob Thebeau, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in DeSoto, MO, and Rev. Vernon Long, pastor of the Leadington Free Will Baptist Church, traveled to Mexico. The trip would revolutionize their spiritual lives concerning the work of Free Will Baptists in Mexico. They met with some believers in Reynosa for a cottage prayer meeting their first night there. This group meets every night of the week, either at the church or in their homes. The churches do not have air conditioning or padded pews. However, they do not dismiss Sunday and Wednesday night services to make it more convenient for people to "fulfill their obligation to go to church." Mexican believers love to serve the Lord. Their countenances manifest the joy they feel.

They show great love and concern for one another. The believers used the Saturday we were there to help build a home for one of their less fortunate members. They were assisted by the teen group sponsored by the Foreign Missions Department, under the direction of Ken and Marvis Eagleton.

A youth service was held for the churches in the Reynosa area Saturday evening. A good number of young people attended. They represent the future for Free Will Baptists in Mexico. Under the able leadership of the Mexican coordinator, Bro. James Munsey, and our Mexican pastors, it is hoped that many of these young people will answer God's call to serve Him.

On Sunday, the visitors had the opportunity to preach in some of the Free Will Baptist churches. The word of God was well received as it was translated by Bro. Munsey and Bro. Bivens.

The hearts of Bob and Vernon were challenged and burdened for the believers in Mexico. However, the real burden is for the 80 million lost souls who need to be reached. They need to hear the Gospel. "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?" Romans 10:14,15a.

It is the duty of the Christian to help in this ministry! Full support for a Mexican pastor varies from \$150 to \$250 a month. A pastor receiving \$150 a month can be totally supported by five people giving \$1.00 a day. Rev. Long was challenged to invest \$1.00 a day for the Gospel to be preached in Mexico! Will you also invest \$1.00 a day for a Mexican pastor to preach the Gospel in Mexico?

MAYDAY!

MAYDAY!

MAYDAY!

From the Curt Hollands

Dear Missouri Free Will Baptists,

I hope this finds you doing well and having a great summer. The news that we have been getting from Brazilian television is that you are having a HOT one. Our weather here has been nice especially considering that we are in winter season. However, there are some HOT items going on and I could say that, "things are heating up here also!" Our account is overheated and exhausted. In fact, it's suffering from heatstroke that has left it very RED; \$9,600.30 in the red to be exact. If it is not replenished soon, I'm afraid that we will be asked to come home.

You may be asking, "what happened?" I certainly have been. Although it is hard to explain in a letter, I want you to know a few of the reasons why.

One big reason is that the Dollar is at an all time low in Brazil. Curt figured that in the last year we have lost about \$5,000 in the exchange rate from American dollars to Brazilian dollars. Another reason is the outrageous price of rent. The paper said that in the last 12 months rent has increased 200 percent. That means that a house that was \$500 a month now rents for about \$1,500. Crazy? Yes, but it's happening and we have no control over it.

Another reason that our account is suffering, is that we have had moving expenses twice in the last two years. We have moved to fill places in churches that didn't have anyone to continue the work. For example, we moved here to Uberlandia to fill in for Tom and Nancy Hughes who had to take an early furlough because of medical reasons. The church had no one. The Hughes had a good work and did not want to leave it to struggle and suffer. We didn't either so we moved to help. These are some of the things that have left our account the way it is today.

You may be thinking, "so go home and start an early furlough . . ." There is no one to care for our church. Since we have moved here, God has continued to bless. We have visitors every Sunday. We are also seeing people saved and growing in their faith. We have plans and goals with the church that we would like to see fulfilled over the next year. We also feel that the church is at a crucial point of really going forward and making a difference. We have prayed and feel that this isn't the time for us to return to the USA. Also, if the girls had to leave before finishing the school year here, they would lose the entire school year.

We need you!!!!!!!!!!!!!! If you can imagine, a sailboat going full speed ahead guided by the Master of the wind - when suddenly you have a tear in your sail. You know you are where you are supposed to be, you see land, your destiny is just ahead of you. But what sustains you and keeps you going is in need of repair. Do you turn back and lose what has been gained to get your sail repaired and start all over again? Or can we stay, knowing that help is on the way so that we may continue...? Please, if there is any way you can keep us sailing, we would appreciate it.

Why am I writing to the state of Missouri? We are proud to be from Missouri and proud to be your missionaries to Brazil. It is Free Will Baptists of Missouri who give us more than two-thirds of our support. You have mended my sails and set me on my way more than once. I know and am praying that you will do it again.

Yours for Brazil,
Mary Holland and family

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Ken and Stacie Spurgeon in Republic, Missouri, are serving as our proxies while we are on the field. How we appreciate their service to us and to the Lord. They are helping us by getting our needs known to you. They are handling special newsletters, as this one, and all correspondence. Ken and Stacie would be glad to speak in your Auxiliary or church about our ministry and needs. They also have ideas and information for your Auxiliary or church about our ministry and how you can help us. Please contact them on how you and your Auxiliary can help. Below is a response sheet. We would appreciate it if you could fill out the response sheet and mail it back to Stacie. If you are sending an offering, please send it to the Foreign Mission Office. WE MUST KNOW if the funds are coming in. Ken and Stacie will keep us posted on responses. By sending them your response, it will be much faster and easier than sending it to us in Brazil. Thank you for your love and prayers for us.

mail to: Ken and Stacie Spurgeon - phone (417) 732-7745
2180 E. Sandlewood
Republic, MO 65738

Yes, we are responding to the Hollands Mayday. Our Auxiliary or church plans to send help to their account so that they can continue the work that the Lord has sent them to do. We are sending or will send \$_____ to Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions.

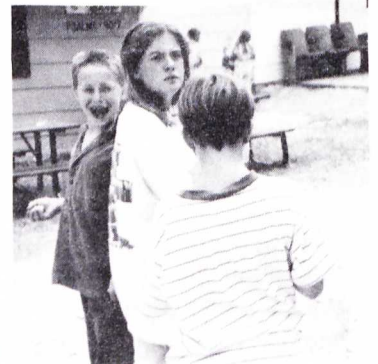
RESPONSE FROM: _____

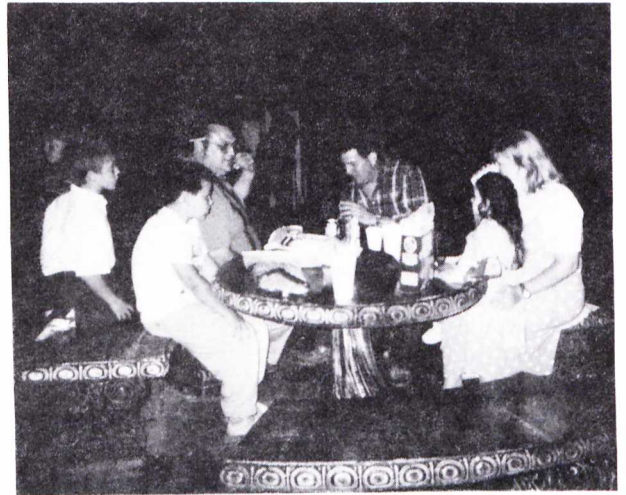
mail all offerings to: Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011

This offering in the amount of \$_____ is for the CURT HOLLAND ACCOUNT.

OFFERING FROM: _____

PRE-TEEN CAMP 1995





Free Will Baptists To Discuss Philosophical Differences



Missionaries march across stage with 6,000 attendees watching during the Wednesday night service at the 1995 FWB National Convention in Charlotte, NC.

The 59th annual Free Will Baptist National Convention which met July 16-20 at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, ended with a vote to discuss philosophical differences at the December 1995 Leadership Conference. Delegates referred three of six resolutions to the December conference in order to allow ample time for discussion. The conference will be open to any Free Will Baptist who wishes to attend.

The major resolution referred was the seven-point "Areas of Concern" adopted in June by the North Carolina Association and passed on to the National Association for consideration. The resolution includes guidelines which would have to be signed before any person could be considered as a National Association speaker, board member, department head or officer. The seven areas of concern include music, Sunday School, preaching, separation, missions, National Association employees, board members and speakers; and New-Evangelicalism.

Two resolutions from the Virginia State Association were also referred to the December meeting. One concerned the Fellowship of Encouragement; the other was a request for an apology from the WNAC executive secretary and the Co-Laborer editor.

In other action, delegates:

Examined . . . audited reports from all denominational agencies. The information was packaged in a 252-page Digest of Reports distributed to delegates and visitors at registration.

Elected . . . members to 40 positions on the following boards and commissions: General Officers (4), General Board (20), Executive Committee (3), Board of Retirement (3), Home

Missions Board (3), Master's Men Board (3), Commission for Theological Integrity (1), Radio-Television Commission (1), Music Commission (1), Historical Commission (1).

Registered . . . 6,972 people in three concurrent conventions including 895 ordained ministers, 221 deacons, 123 local church delegates, 87 state delegates, 77 home missionaries, 30 foreign missionaries; 1,999 non-delegates; 2,288 for the National Youth Conference and 1,204 for the WNAC Convention.

Adopted . . . a \$14.6 million denominational budget for the following agencies: Foreign Missions-\$4.5 million; Free Will Baptist Bible College-\$3.6 million; Home Missions-\$2.7 million; Sunday School and Church Training-\$2.6 million; Executive Office-\$544,000; Retirement and Insurance-\$318,000; Master's Men-\$145,000; Free Will Baptist Foundation-\$89,000; Radio-Television Commission-\$9,350; Music Commission-\$3,725; Historical Commission-\$2,725; Commission for Theological Integrity-\$2,100.

Approved . . . the Budget Committee's recommendation that gifts received through The Together Way Plan be allocated to national ministries on the following basis: (1) Underwrite the Executive Office administrative budget above designated gifts, not to exceed 55% of cooperative gifts; (2) disburse the balance of cooperative gifts according to these percentages-Free Will Baptist Bible College 23%, Foreign Missions 23%, Home Missions 18%, Retirement and Insurance 14%, Master's Men 14%, FWB Foundation 6%, Commission for Theological Integrity 0.5%, Historical Commission 0.5%, Music Commission 0.5%, Radio-Television Commission 0.5%.

Gave . . . a record Wednesday evening missionary offering of \$48,500. Undesignated funds will be divided between home and foreign missions.

Invested . . . more than \$2.5 million in the Charlotte economy, according to the Convention and Visitors Bureau. This includes hotel rooms, food, shopping and other items.

Selected . . . Louisville, Kentucky, as the site for the July 17-21, 2005, national convention. The convention will meet in the Commonwealth Convention Center.

Crowded . . . into the Ballroom at Charlotte Convention Center to hear 90-year-old Mabel Willey address the WNAC Fellowship Dinner. Some 790 bought tickets for the dinner. Others stood around the walls as Mrs. Willey spoke.

Resolved . . . opposition to a 25-page paper titled "Evangelicals and Catholics Together." The resolution declares that Free Will Baptists recognize Roman Catholics as a mission field by our mission departments and by our local churches.

Resolved . . . condemnation of racism in any form and pledged to proclaim the Gospel freely to all men of every race.

Survived . . . 1,091 entries in National Youth Conference Music and Arts Festival, and individual competitions. The Hartville, Missouri, team won the Bible Tic Tac Toe competition, while the New Home Church team, also from Hartville, Missouri, won the Bible Bowl competition.

Cheered . . . when Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington announced that the smaller-sized revision of Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book was off the press. The hymnal was revised by Dr. Vernon Whaley and members of the Music Commission.

Authorized . . . Free Will Baptist Bible College to continue with plans to relocate the campus to a 123-acre site near Joelton, Tennessee. The college's proposal to finance the relocation was also approved. In the future, the present campus on West End Avenue in Nashville will be sold and proceeds applied to construction of new buildings. A fund-raising campaign will be launched to raise a major portion of the difference between the present campus' selling price and the cost of new facilities.

Voted . . . to change the Treatise to reflect the new name for WNAC, now known as Women Nationally Active for Christ.

Recommended . . . that the denomination develop a program within one of the existing agencies to provide support, counsel and assistance for local churches that encounter people in their communities with alcohol and drug addictions. The Committee on Alcohol and Drug Addiction Rehabilitation conducted a survey among 3,000 randomly-selected leaders during the past year. Eighty percent of the respondents requested that such a program be developed.

Instructed . . . the Ministerial Family Committee to study legal ramifications for ministerial discipline and restoration during the next year. At the conclusion of the study, the committee will publish information it has gathered in booklet form to be used by churches and associations.

Agreed . . . for the Cross-Cultural Study Committee to continue its work by developing a plan to evangelize cross-culturally in the United States. The committee will coordinate with local leadership to determine feasible places to be in cross-cultural ministries. The committee's report to the national convention included a list of churches presently involved in cross-cultural ministry.

Lined . . . up to participate in the Board of Retirement's program after Director William Evans announced dividends of 21.5 percent for the first six months of 1995.

Smiled . . . when the Foreign Missions Department reported 1,231 converts and 806 baptisms on nine mission fields. And smiled even bigger when the Home Missions Department reported that nine new missionaries had been appointed in 1994.

Welcomed . . . the new WNAC President, Everyl Getz of McAllen, Texas. Mrs. Getz succeeds Mary Neal of New Castle, Indiana, who served 12 years on the WNAC Executive Committee.

Watched . . . the passing of the mantle when Trymon Messer was named the new general director of the Home Missions Department. Mr. Messer, a layman, has served 17 years as associate director. He assumes his new duties on September 1.

Made . . . a world of difference in Charlotte. More than 150 Free Will Baptist youth spent three days participating in service projects coordinated by NYC officials and the Charlotte Housing Authority. The youth assisted elderly and handicapped residents by cleaning, visiting, singing and worshiping in their homes.

Announced . . . the opening of a new missionary effort in Russia. The thrust will be broad enough to include tentmaker missionaries, new works among unreached peoples in the Commonwealth of Independent States and assistance to Arminian Baptist groups in Russia and the Ukraine. Leroy and Fay Forlines will travel to Russia to teach in a seminary during the spring 1996 semester.

Adjourned . . . to meet in Fort Worth, Texas, at the Tarrant County Convention Center for the July 21-25, 1996, session.

Randall House Announces Rejoice Hymnal is Available

After more than a year at revision and reprinting the Free Will Baptist Hymnbook: REJOICE is now being shipped.

This new edition is exactly the same as the original except for the corrections and size of the book. The book is lighter and a quarter of an inch thinner.

The hymnbook is unique to Free Will Baptists with the selections honoring our faith, practice and purpose. More than 600 selections of hymns, gospel songs, praise and worship songs are contained. Over 100 readings from God's Holy Word are blended among the songs for those that desire responsive readings. This book is destined to be the favorite hymnal of churches everywhere.

The pew edition will sell for \$12.98 and will be available in Sky Blue, Spring Green, and Cardinal Red. Shaped or round notes are available in all three colors. The accompanist loose-leaf edition is available in all the above variations and will sell for \$24.98.

Already the thousands of backorders have been shipped. Churches and individuals who want this hymnbook will need to order soon due to the heavy demand.

You may order the new hymnal from the Lebanon Bible & Book Store, P.O. Box 991, Lebanon, Missouri 65536 (ph. 417-532-9516) or Randall House Publications, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, Tennessee 37217 (ph. 1-800-877-7030 or 615-361-1221).



Now, through our agreement with long-distance telephone carrier AmeriVision/LifeLine, you can

**HELP FUND THE MINISTRY OF
MISSOURI STATE FREE WILL BAPTIST YOUTH CAMP
(CAMP NIANGUA)**

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS - You can have 10% of your long-distance billing given to Missouri State Free Will Baptist Youth Camp (Camp Niangua), and it won't cost you anything! Simply call the toll-free number below and tell them you want LifeLine as your long-distance carrier. Be sure to specify that Free Will Baptist Youth Camp is to receive the tithe (10%) of your monthly long-distance bill.

The change-over is "invisible," and you'll use your phone just like always. You can be billed through your local phone company, as you probably are now, or enjoy even greater savings with direct billing. If your phone company charges a switching fee, send the bill to LifeLine for a prompt refund.

WHO IS LIFELINE? LifeLine is a service of AMERIVISION, a private corporation and major long-distance carrier like AT&T and MCI. However, instead of promoting their business with major media advertising, new customers sign up through special programs like this. LifeLine is a Christian company built on biblical values and has taken a stand against abortion, pornography, and the homosexual lifestyle. LifeLine seeks to help organizations, such as the Free Will Baptist Youth Camp, who are involved in building values in our youth and advancing the cause of Jesus Christ. With LifeLine you can call long-distance with a clear connection and a clear conscience.

LIFELINE PRIORITIES - The commercial service, called LifeLine Priorities, is competitive and flexible to meet the needs of large or small businesses. Simply send LifeLine a copy of last month's commercial bill, and they will show you how to save while also giving 10% of your bill to Free Will Baptist Youth Camp. LifeLine Priorities provides these valuable services for business customers:

- 1) Detailed managerial reports with each bill;
- 2) One-, two-, or three-digit accounting codes for managing phone usage;
- 3) No installation or monthly fee;
- 4) Six-second billing, instead of full-minute billing, and savings up to 30% under local Bell system charges;
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- 6) Commercial rate of .1390.

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of call). Plus, you'll get a free, easy-to-use travel card for using LifeLine when you're away from home. Try LifeLine for 90 days. If you're not pleased, you can switch back at no charge. LifeLine will give you 30 free minutes of long-distance calling when you sign up.

CALL NOW! Whether you wish to switch your personal phone, your business, or both, simply call the toll-free number. Mention Missouri State Free Will Baptist Youth Camp as the organization to receive the tithe (10%) of your monthly long-distance bill. Even if your long-distance bill is \$5.00 a month or less, try LifeLine today and you will make a tremendous difference in the future quality and financial strength of Free Will Baptist Youth Camp. Remember, stewardship starts with your first call. **Please call this number today and switch to LifeLine: 1-800-493-2002.** Tell them you want to support the Missouri Free Will Baptist Youth Camp.

Sunday School Averages February 1995 - July 1995

CHURCHES	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
Beacon	70	78				
Belton			48	41	33	30
Bethel - Festus	80	84				
Calvary Chapel	104	94	83	77	78	86
Calvary Fellowship	220	271				
Cape Girardeau	78	107	82	69	70	71
Columbia	14	17	16			
Cuba	109	122	117	104	108	91
DeSoto	179	235	176	180	168	172
Farmington	311	392	330	336	296	296
Fredericktown	38	43	41	38		
Hannon	78	87	99	96	89	92
Harmony		57				
Hartville	96	91	94	77	82	84
Hazel Creek	72	73	70	72	68	64
Hopewell	29	31	30	28	33	35
Houston	50	58	57	54	50	50
Jones Creek	7	8	10	8	7	
Kirksville First	37	40	36	35	37	
Lebanon First	121	122	122	115	116	116
Mill Creek	50	50	52	48	46	44
Monett	90	97	86	88	91	100
Myrtle	48	42	39	34	34	27.8
Oskaloosa	17	21	21	21		
Ozark	76	82	80	72	74	
Park Hills First	137	140	125	128	119	113
Richwoods	39	61				
Rock Chapel	66	65	62		56	
Salem				13	13	14
Springfield First	103	106	107	97	99	107
Thayer	139	170	155	132	136	151
United, West Plains	237	243	267	246	244	
Unity	35	36	36	44		38
Verdella	65	69	71	68	66	67
Willow Springs	63	61	63		60	61

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.

Financial Information

JULY 1995

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$6,284.76
17.50% Executive Office	5,945.05
3.50% General Fund	1,189.01
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	2,887.59
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	849.29
2.50% C.E. Board	849.29
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board	849.29
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	3,057.45
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	10,361.38
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 (\$103.61 included in \$10,361.38)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund	1,698.58
TOTAL	\$33,971.69

"God is so good, God is so good, God is so Good. . . These words from a chorus express how I feel when I see what the Lord is doing through the Free Will Baptist Churches in Missouri. 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%.

JULY 1995 COOPERATIVE

Alton	\$225.00
Belton	439.74
Bethel - El Dorado Springs	53.75
Bethel - Marshfield	200.84
Black Oak	211.26
Blue Springs	148.92
Bourbon	48.76
Cabool	313.37
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo	376.01
Cape Girardeau 1st	824.79
Central - Grandview	886.82
Columbia	43.00
Cope Ch. - Hartville	41.00
Copper Mines - Fredericktown	305.62
Crossroads - Wentzville	284.00
Cuba	507.00
DeSoto 1st	980.00
Eastern Gate - Springfield	280.39
Fourth - St. Louis	250.00
Freeman Chapel	282.50
Friendship - Branson	365.83
Grace - Arnold	1,019.00
Grant Ave. - Springfield	950.82
Hannon - Liberal	506.75
Happy Home - Ava	114.36
Harmony - Parkville	802.00
Hartville	359.80
Hopewell - Tunas	215.00
Houston 1st	332.28
Hurricane - ParkH	363.53
Joplin 1st	446.28
Kingsway - Springfield	210.38
Koshkonong - Thayer	216.55
Leadington	318.91
Lebanon 1st	575.58
Liberty - Pburg	160.75
Lone Star - Seymour	38.00
Marshfield	306.95
Meris Chapel	167.00
Mill Creek - Fredericktown	262.96
Mine La Motte	41.75

Monett 1st	588.11
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	240.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	1,381.17
New Life - Licking	289.01
New Harmony - Greentop	20.98
North 5 - Lebanon	100.87
O'Fallon 1st	687.09
Oak Hill - Fredericktown	97.00
Oak Hill - Union	488.16
Olivet - Marshall	1,000.00
Ozark 1st	548.04
Ozark 1st	615.01
Park Hills 1st	607.58
Parkview - Desloge	368.68
Parkway - Sedalia	1,537.00
Pleasant Hill - Thayer	82.90
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	92.00
Potosi 1st	121.35
Republic	136.88
Richwoods 1st	443.00
Riverview (IA)	593.40
Rock Chapel - Norwood	322.51
Rolla 1st	86.35
Royal Oak - Alton	142.00
Royal Oak Alton	88.00
Seymour	99.00
Smyrna	200.00
South Fremont - Springfield	1,000.00
Springfield 1st	851.31
Stockton	123.10
Thayer	812.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	1,006.04
Twin Oak Ch. - Fredericktown	980.00
Tyrone - Elk Creek	49.00
Union Grove S.S.	249.00
Union Light - Marq.	124.75
United - W. Plains	749.43
Unity - Lebanon	240.00
Verdella - Liberal	322.68
Victory Hill - Mansfield	52.94
Victory - Alton	159.21
Victory - K.C.	439.19
Waynesville 1st	280.53
Wilderness - Fremont	575.48
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	208.99
Wolf Creek - Manfield	294.70
TOTAL	\$33,971.69

STATE HOME MISSIONS

Bethel - Festus	\$52.00
Central - Grandview	10.00
Columbia	9.00
DeSoto 1st	10.00
Fourth - St. Louis	20.00
Grace - Arnold	35.00
Grant Ave. - Springfield	37.00
Hannon - Liberal	253.38
L. Wormington	30.00
Lebanon 1st	5.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store	190.00
Marshfield	30.70
Mtn. Grove - 1st	25.00
New Life - Monett	61.15
New Life - Monett	47.55
O'Fallon 1st	88.89
Ozark 1st	10.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	20.00
Richwoods 1st	5.00
Rock Chapel - Norwood	76.15
South Fremont - Springfield	5.00
Thayer	70.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	155.00
Union Light - Marq.	56.00
Viburnum	5.00
West Plains 1st	25.00
TOTAL	\$1,341.82

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Bethel - Festus	\$103.00
Blue Springs	119.64
Buffalo 1st	50.00
C. Thompson	25.00
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo	30.00
Central - Grandview	261.00
Central - Grandview	377.50
DeSoto 1st	485.00
Eastern Gate - Springfield	126.00
Faith - St. Louis	25.00
Faith - St. Louis	50.00
Fourth - St. Louis	307.00
Freeman Chapel	427.50
Grace - Arnold	49.00
Grant Ave. - Wom SS Cl.	17.50

Grant Ave. - Springfield	461.16
Hannon - Liberal	751.75
Hartville	71.96
Houston 1st	167.55
Houston 1st	172.00
J. Schebaum - Cabool	15.00
Kingsway (N. Warrick)	5.00
Leadington	30.00
Lebanon 1st	40.00
Lebanon 1st	50.00
Lebanon 1st Jr. Ch.	38.27
M. Chrisman - Novinger	80.00
Marshfield	54.91
Meris Chapel	200.00
Monett 1st	278.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	100.00
Mtn. Grove - 1st	309.00
N. Akeman	10.00
New Harmony - Greentop	104.89
O'Fallon 1st	88.89
Oak Grove - Cabool	65.00
Oak Grove - Norwood	109.40
Ozark 1st	45.00
Ozark 1st	65.00
Park Hills 1st	243.04
Parkview - Desloge	340.75
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	50.00
Richwoods 1st	20.00
Rock Chapel - Norwood	167.05
South Fremont - Springfield	265.00
Thayer	280.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	577.72
Union Light - Marq.	150.00
Union Mission	183.00
United - W. Plains	119.00
Unity - Lebanon	40.00
Verdella - Liberal	617.68
Viburnum	135.00
Victory - K.C.	210.00
W. Livingston	10.00
Waynesville 1st	50.00
West Plains 1st	5.00
Wilderness - Fremont	149.79
TOTAL	\$9,378.95

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Bethel - Festus	\$30.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Buffalo 1st	10.00
Central - Grandview	47.50
D. Piercy	5.00
DeSoto 1st	249.00
Eastern Gate - Springfield	10.00
Fourth - St. Louis	20.00
Grace - Arnold	163.00
Grant Ave. - Springfield	166.08
Hannon - Liberal	55.67
J.W. Rader - Marshfield	20.00
Kirksville 1st	86.97
Leadington	20.00
Lebanon 1st	15.00
M. Smith	5.00
Monett 1st	10.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	50.00
Mtn. Grove - 1st	35.00
New Harmony - Greentop	104.89
O'Fallon 1st	88.89
Oak Grove - Norwood	54.70
Ozark 1st	60.00
Ozark 1st	85.00
Park Hills 1st	80.76
Parkview - Desloge	10.00
R. Pierce	10.00
Richwoods 1st	37.00
Rock Chapel - Norwood	50.00
S. Hart - Lebanon	20.00
South Fremont - Springfield	185.00
Thayer	222.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	246.52
Union Light - Marq.	70.00
United - W. Plains	20.00
Unity - Lebanon	5.00
Unity - Lebanon	50.00
Verdella - Liberal	20.00
Viburnum	103.00
Victory - K.C.	50.00
W. Livingston	10.00
Waynesville 1st	50.00
West Plains 1st	324.79
Wolf Creek - Mansfield	10.00
TOTAL	\$3,015.77

MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

Hannon	\$15.00
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Hartville	10.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Park Hills 1st	26.55
Thayer	40.00
Mt. Pisgah	10.00
Cabool	10.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store	85.00
DeSoto 1st	50.00
Trinity	14.00
Willow Springs	10.00
Ozark 1st	20.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
Bethel - Festus	52.00
New Life - Monett	61.15
New Life - Monett	47.55
Marshfield	20.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
TOTAL	\$541.25

CHILDREN'S HOME (TN)

Unity - Lebanon	\$10.00
DeSoto 1st	50.00
TOTAL	\$60.00

HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Victory - K.C.	\$49.28
Central	48.00
Hannon	50.00
Eastern Gate	56.00
Thayer	45.00
Grant Ave.	8.00
TOTAL	\$256.28

FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Victory - K.C.	\$163.00
Thayer	40.00
DeSoto 1st	35.00
Grant Ave.	147.00
TOTAL	\$385.00

REV. JOHN McCLURE

Thayer	\$10.00
Grace - Arnold	30.00
TOTAL	\$40.00

YOUTH MINISTRIES BOARD

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	\$25.00
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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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WORLD RELIEF

Victory - K.C.	\$10.00
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WORLD VISION

Victory - K.C.	\$5.00
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SOMETHING'S HAPPENING HERE

by Larry D. Hampton

Some time ago one of the television stations in Nashville sponsored a campaign to attract new viewers. During that time I heard their slogan so often that I don't think I'll ever forget it. Recently as I thought about the National Association of Free Will Baptists, that slogan came to my mind. "Something's happening here!" Let me give you a few examples of what's happening here.

According to Dr. Melvin Worthington, Executive Secretary, Free Will Baptists baptized 7,804 believers in 1994. (Our churches have reported 59,152 baptisms since 1988.) We added 12,393 new members last year for a total of 87,392 new members since 1988. We have had a net increase in membership of 38,862 people since 1988.

Free Will Baptists have 105 missionaries serving in eight countries (Brazil, Cote d'Ivoire, France, India, Japan, Panama, Spain, and Uruguay). There is also a strong work in Cuba, the fruit of the ministry of Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Willey during the 1940's and 1950's. The Foreign Missions Department reported that 1,231 people came to the Lord in 1994.

Home Missions churches in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, Southaven, Mississippi, Hamilton and Lancaster, Ohio, and Abingdon, Virginia, became self-supporting during 1994.

A total of 223,858 people attended Free Will Baptist churches on Roll Call

Sunday, March 27, 1994. There were 601 conversions that day.

Free Will Baptists gave \$7,131,916 for world outreach last year. Foreign Missions receipted \$4,474,083; Home Missions receipted \$2,657,833.

The 377 individuals (207 men, 170 women) who studied at Free Will Baptist Bible College during the 1994-95 school year came from twenty-seven states and eight foreign countries. Sixty-five young men are preparing for the ministry. Forty-two students have declared a Missions major.

Over 200 people were led to the Lord by FWBBC students during the academic year. Numerous other individuals rededicated their lives to Christ.

The Board of Trustees recommended that the college relocate on the 123 acres purchased for that purpose. In December 1994 the college was granted candidate status by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Women Nationally Active for Christ continue to generously support missions and missionary objectives. In 1994 Free Will Baptist women gave \$301,591.89 to Foreign Missions. WNAC received gifts totaling \$82,184.68 for Home Missions. Gifts for mission objectives totaled \$9,006.71. Members channeled \$9,341.67 to Bible colleges.

WNAC received \$8,571.42 in cash for the Provision Closet. Non-cash gifts

to the Provision Closet totaled \$31,714.35.

The Free Will Baptist Foundation manages endowments established by churches and individuals to produce regular income for our various denominational ministries. During 1994 those funds increased by 172% to \$824,189.

Since two laymen from Tennessee traveled to Brazil in 1984 to help erect the Metcalf Memorial Dormitory, it is estimated that Master's Men have saved the denomination \$2.5 million in construction costs. During 1994 eight men from Ada, Oklahoma, helped work on a church building near Pinar del Rio, Cuba.

And what shall I more say? For the time would fail me to tell of Randall House Publications which publishes a full line of Bible-based curriculum for Sunday School and Church Training. (Similar materials are also available in Spanish.) Or the Board of Retirement which meets the retirement needs of hundreds of ordained ministers and full-time Christian workers.

Yes, something's happening here. No, not as much as needs to be happening or as much as we would like to see happening. But praise God, He is using Free Will Baptists for His glory here and abroad. Working together in partnership with Him and one another, we can see more and more happening here.

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