

GEM

THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST

Volume 65, No. 11, November 1995

*"... all the angels stood
round about the throne ...
Saying, Amen: Blessing,
and glory, and wisdom,
and thanksgiving, and
honour, and power, and
might, be unto our God for
ever and ever. Amen."*

Rev. 7:11,12

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Signifies,

[1] An acknowledging and confessing with gladness, the benefits and mercies, which God bestows either upon ourselves or others, Phil. 4.6. 1 Tim. 2.1. [2] The sacrifice of thanksgiving, Lev. 7.12, 15. [3] Psalms of thanksgiving, Neh. 12.8. We are to give thanks to God, [1] For spiritual blessings, such as willing hearts to do works of piety and charity, 1 Chron. 29.13, 14. [2] For moral blessings, as wisdom and knowledge, Dan. 2.23. [3] For saving graces, Rom. 1.8. 1 Cor. 1.4. [4] For the judgments of God upon the wicked, Psal. 9.1, 2, 3. [5] For the enlarging of Christ's kingdom, Rev. 11.17. [6] For deliverance from the body of death, Rom. 7.25. 1 Cor. 15.57. [7] For temporal deliverances, Exod. 15.1,2. [8] For Christ, the unspeakable gift of God, Luke 2.38. [9] For the deliverance of God's ministers, 2 Cor. 1.11.

NOVEMBER IS HOME MISSIONS MONTH

This special emphasis is part of the "Together Way Plan" adopted by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Every church is urged to give a special offering for National Home Missions General Fund.



Burl & Mary Halliburton

Home Mission Helpers

By J. Mark Vandivort

Faithful lay families are a must in establishing and maintaining home mission churches. Missouri natives Burl and Mary Scott Halliburton and their children, Nancy, Betty, Jane, Margaret (Margie), and Jeff have been such a family. In 1964 Burl and Mary moved their family

from Bristow, Oklahoma to Vancouver, Washington in order to assist home missionaries, John and Leah Postlewaite. Young Jeff was disappointed on the trip (his 4th birthday was celebrated in Dodge City, Kansas), because he didn't see Matt Dillion!

Burl and Mary have roots in pioneer Church of God (Anderson, Indiana) and Free Will Baptist families respectively. Regarding her childhood, Mary wrote: "One of the most vivid memories of this period of my life is on Saturday mornings when Papa (Rev. George W. Scott) would saddle up his horse and ride away. He would be gone until late Sunday night. At this time he was pastor of four churches (one weekend per month)." Ben, a brother, wrote: "Burl came to court Mary on Saturday nights and would bring his guitar and sing." Leah Postlewaite, a sister, wrote: "I remember the night Mary and Burl and (brother) Adam and Nadyne were married in a double ring ceremony at our house . . . Lorena (Edwards), a niece, spent the night with us, but fell asleep before the ceremony. The next morning, after hearing about the shivaree and all, she said, 'I didn't know there was going to be any such goings on or I'd have stayed awake'." (1981 Scott Reunion book).

While teaching school at Oak Grove (Texas County), Mary bought a 40-acre farm for \$200 where she and Burl began married life. Later they moved to Mtn. Grove, Missouri, where Burl was ordained as a Free Will Baptist deacon. Prior to moving to Bristow they lived in the Faith and Hope community.

While in Vancouver, Washington, Margie recalls that as a teenager she played the piano, learning a new hymn each week. (1995 Scott Reunion book).

After serving about a decade in the Vancouver Free Will Baptist Church (which currently needs a pastor) Burl was employed as Maintenance Director of Free Will Baptist Bible College. After Burl retired in 1982, they moved to Mtn. Grove,

Missouri, where they helped care for Mary's mother, Mrs. George (Oma) Scott, until her death at age 91. **Then this adventurous couple moved back to Washington State** (in 1987) where they have been faithful lay leaders in the New Hope Free Will Baptist Church, Kent, Washington, which was begun by their daughter and son-in-law, Lloyd and Betty Plunkett, under the direction of the National Home Mission Board. The New Hope Church is currently pastored by Rev. Brent Nix.

Recently my wife, Louise, daughter Debbie, and I traveled to Lynnwood, Washington, to see our new grandson Scott, our son Steve and daughter-in-law Jacqueline. While there we drove an hour south in order to introduce Scott to his great-great-Aunt Mary and great-great-Uncle Burl. Jeff Halliburton and his wife, Davelle, and their sons, Adam and Philip, were also present at Aunt Mary's heavily laden table which included barbecued salmon and raspberry cobbler made from berries grown in their back yard.

Uncle Burl enthusiastically asked, "Do you want to see our church?" After driving a short distance, Uncle Burl guided their car onto a busy four lane boulevard from which we entered the driveway of the New Hope Free Will Baptist Church located on a small beautiful acreage. They proudly ushered us into a neat chapel which they had helped develop with their own hands.

There is an urgent need for faithful, stable, experienced lay families with a heart for missions to assist in establishing and maintaining home mission churches. They must be able to adapt to changing cultures. Fellowship with other Free Will Baptists may be infrequent. For example, in isolated areas the next quarterly meeting may be 200 miles away. However, God's promise is still true when He says, "Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it." (1 Thess. 5:24).

Benjamin Randall Offering

Your gifts and prayers help build churches in the North American continent and U.S. owned islands. Everyone is asked to participate in this gigantic effort to raise \$200,000 for National Home Missions. Each pastor whose church gives to the Benjamin Randall Offering, and every individual who gives at least \$25.00, will receive the exciting new book, *The Man From Idaho . . . His Story, His Service, His Sermons*.

Free materials to promote Home Missions Sunday may be obtained from Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

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

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Student Meeting at the Cuba Church

External Studies Enrollment

The third year of the Missouri Christian Education Board's Monitored External Studies Bible College program began on September 5 at the Cuba Free Will Baptist Church with an enrollment of 10 students.

Eight students are enrolled in Church History II and six in Introduction to Missions during the Fall semester. Classes will be completed before Christmas. The Winter semester will begin in January of 1996. Classes meet Tuesday evenings from seven till ten p.m. for 18 weeks. The program is being conducted in association with Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, OK. Students may earn college credit or take the courses on an auditing basis.

For information concerning enrollment, contact the Cuba Free Will Baptist Church at 314-885-3543. The program is also being conducted at Victory Free Will Baptist Church in Kansas City. For enrollment information there, contact the church at 816-454-2066.

1996 Truth & Peace Youth Leadership Conference

LOCATIONS: Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College & Ramada Plaza Hotel, Ft. Worth, Texas.

DATES: July 8-24, 1996

Would you like to join other Christian young people from across the county in an unforgettable experience of learning, laughing, leading, and loving together?

This is your chance to take the Gospel to the Streets!

The Truth & Peace Conference is three weeks of nonstop activities that combine seminars, workshops, local church involvement, fellowship, and group interaction into one very memorable experience! This is a conference for Free Will Baptist youth who are currently in the 10th, 11th, & 12th grades.

The 1996 National Youth Conference in Ft. Worth, Texas, will give you opportunities to put into practice many of the leadership skills that you learn during the first two weeks.

The Conference is a time where you can get away from your usual surroundings in order to spend quality time growing and learning about the Savior and His plan for you. You will return to those surroundings better equipped and ready to make a difference!

For more information about this exciting summer opportunity, please write to Truth & Peace, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.



HAVE A HEART FOR HILLSDALE FEBRUARY 1996

Have A Heart for Hillsdale every month.

Remember Hillsdale with a Special Gift in February 1996.

Please Pray: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16)

PRAY FOR THE STUDENT BODY

PRAY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION

PRAY FOR THE FACULTY & STAFF

PRAY FOR THE FINANCIAL NEEDS

Missouri Have A Heart Team

The Youth Look

By Ann Poletti

After causing some major riots, a group of young people were asked why they started such upheaval. The answer . . . boredom. Just another case of idle hands being the devil's workshop, it seems.

While it can - and should - be argued that boredom should not excuse any misbehavior, do adults have any responsibility in seeing that young people find boredom no problem for them? I don't believe adults should entertain kids or else shoulder the burden of their resulting delinquency, but I believe adults should set an example for those around them.

Reverend John Hagee has said that, as he was growing up, his mother had the cure-all for boredom: rake leaves, mow the lawn, sweep the floors, dust the furniture, wash the dishes, cook supper . . . then if a younger Hagee was still bored, he could start all over again. I believe it's safe to say no one is bored because he has nothing to do, but instead he isn't entertained by what he has to do. That's our "me first" society. "The world owes me some fun."

This is a perfect time of year to break these "entertain me" doldrums. By concentrating on others and their needs, none of us should feel bored. How many lonely people would appreciate a visitor? Who's checked to see if an elderly shut-in or single parent needs help around the house? How many bored people have checked to see if their churches need a volunteer?

It is almost guaranteed that boredom will be replaced by satisfaction in helping others. And it also sets a good example for the always-bored generation.

Free Will Baptist Family Ministries

The FALL HARVEST/BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE is well underway at Free Will Baptist Family Ministries (formerly Free Will Baptist Home for Children) in Greeneville, TN. Having to meet the needs of 66 kids is a real privilege but also a heavy responsibility. That's why we ask our churches to participate in this particular DRIVE. If your church would like to collect groceries and bring them to our campus, you would be helping us meet all these needs. If you would like to take part, but feel you live too far away to deliver these items, you may send a check designated "FALL HARVEST."

Many people from all over the country make this project a success. For example, just recently we have had groups from as far away as Illinois and Arkansas give us these much needed groceries. To them and to all who help in this way, . . . we say "thank you!"

Dr. McQuilkin To Bring Forlines Lectures

Dr. Robertson McQuilkin, who served for 22 years as president of Columbia International University (formerly Columbia Bible College) will be Free Will Baptist Bible College's guest speaker for the 1995 Leroy Forlines Lectures to be held on campus October 24-26.

Prior to his service at CIU, McQuilkin was a church-starting missionary in Japan for 12 years. At Columbia, he led in the training of thousands of young people who are now a missionary force that circles the earth. Since his retirement from Columbia, Dr. McQuilkin has become Executive Director of the Evangelical Missiological Society, an organization of teachers of missions and missions executives. The society is devoted to the study of issues related to the missionary enterprise. He is also the author of such books as *Understanding and Applying the Bible*, *Measuring the Church Growth Movement*, and *An Introduction to Biblical Ethics*. His topic in the lecture series will be "Ethics."

Dr. McQuilkin will speak during chapel all three days. On Wednesday, the chapel hour will be doubled, giving him a total of four lectures. He will also speak at the college's 7:00 p.m. Wednesday evening campus service.

The college is honored to have Dr. McQuilkin for these services.



Troy & Lola Burney

Pastors Praise Preaching Conference

Attendees at Free Will Baptist Bible College's 1995 Pastors' Conference, held on campus September 25-27, hailed it as one of the best they have attended. Dr. Stephen Olford and his son, Dr. David Olford, were the featured speakers.

Dr. Robert Woodard, who directed the conference, counted approximately 110 registered guests from 18 states and many other visitors.

Dr. David Olford directed workshops on expository preaching, while his father demonstrated the power of the preached Word. In the evening, Dr. Stephen Olford preached on the theme, "The Centrality of Christ." On Monday, his message was "The Reality of Christ." He followed on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings with "The Authority of Christ" and "The Sufficiency of Christ."

FWBBC President, Dr. Tom Malone, said:

The conference was not only challenging and encouraging, it was packed full of practical helps for the preacher. I appreciated Dr. Olford's continual emphasis on "preach the Word." The Tuesday night message is still challenging me concerning the Lordship of Christ. Many pastors shared with me how they were helped and encouraged, and thanked the college for sponsoring the conference.

Dr. Woodard was also gratified with the outcome of the conference. He said:

Time will tell, but I honestly believe this conference will prove to be one of the finest we've ever hosted. Both Olfords did a commendable job instructing and inspiring our fellows regarding expository preaching. Dr. Stephen Olford's messages were truly refreshing and convicting. I do not remember when we have ever seen such an emphasis on the Lordship of Christ - the missing ingredient in much of today's preaching. The Lord be praised for meeting with us in such a marvelous and convincing manner!

F.W.B. Family Ministries Seeking Houseparents

Married couples and single persons as interactive role models for household of 6-9 children. Persons will work as relief houseparent, taking direction from the lead houseparents. Work will involve *all aspects of the ministry*. \$20-26,000/couple, plus housing and utilities. Medical/life/ disability insurance and a tax deferred retirement plan after one year. *Must have* minimum of high school diploma or GED. Experience in houseparenting preferred. Send resume' to Jim Ausley, Human Resource Manager, c/o FWB Family Ministries, Inc., 90 Stanley Lane, Greeneville, TN 37743.

Happy Home Honors Their Pastor

The Happy Home Free Will Baptist Church, at Ava, Missouri, expressed their appreciation to their pastor, Rev. Troy Burney, on Pastor Appreciation Day. They surprised him with a gift of money and cake and ice-cream after the Sunday services. The money and cake and ice-cream were just a way of saying that the members of Happy Home church appreciate Brother Troy and Sister Lola.



Rev. John Postlewaite

Postlewaite Marks 50 Years in Gospel Ministry

John J. Postlewaite was the eighth son born to Free Will Baptist preacher and his wife, Jeff and Lucy Postlewaite of Graff, Missouri. One of 15 children, John was saved at the age of 12 and accepted God's call to the ministry at the age of 18.

He struggled with this decision for two years, concerned because so many preacher boys started preaching and then quit. He committed to the task saying, "If I start, I intend to finish." He now celebrates 50 years as a Free Will Baptist minister.

After attending Free Will Baptist Bible College, Rev. Postlewaite married Leah Mae Scott and accepted Faith and Hope Free Will Baptist Church of Willow Springs, Missouri, as his first pastorate. While pastoring in Oklahoma in 1954, he traveled to Oregon to hold a revival, resulting in 28 souls being saved and the beginning of a house-church. One year later, the fledgling Free Will Baptist Home Mission Board contacted him about going to Washington and Oregon as a church planter. During 15 years in the Northwest, he was instrumental in establishing seven churches.

The Postlewaites moved to Arkansas in 1970 and have since pastored in Missouri, Illinois and, most recently again in Missouri. In July of this year he resigned as pastor of Hartville's New Home Free Will Baptist Church where he continued to promote two major themes of his ministry – missions and youth.

John Postlewaite's commitment as a teenager led him to pastor in six states, hold various local, district and state positions and plant churches in areas previously unreached by Free Will Baptists. Although no longer pastoring, he is certainly not retired. He currently provides pulpit supply for area churches and is promoting missions by organizing the first-ever mission conference for Mission Association this fall. He and Leah are open to other areas of ministry as the Lord directs.

Following are the testimonies of his children:

John and Leah Postlewaite took very seriously the responsibility of teaching their children what they needed to know for proper relationships with man and God. During my 18 years in their household, the most important lesson I learned, especially from Dad, wasn't actually vocalized. Instead, it was lived out every day. That was simply to trust God and go wherever He asked. My parents prepared me, by their example, to leave home and serve God.

By the time I entered first grade Dad had pastored churches in four states – Missouri, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Washington. By the end of ninth grade I had attended nine different schools. I often wondered why we moved around so much and later understood that Dad was a church planter and started churches wherever God led. Some were begun under the direction of the Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department, others on his own, but all because God told him to.

I grew up seeing this preacher and his wife willing to sacrifice because they believed God would provide. When I

read in the Bible about great men of faith – Abraham, Elijah, the Apostle Paul – and lived with and observed the ministry of John Postlewaite, it became clear to me there is only one way to live the Christian life: *trust and obey*.

Mom and Dad finally moved back to Missouri after making stops in Arkansas and Illinois to establish or pastor churches. Dad has been preaching for 50 years. They must be content to only see their children and grandchildren once in a while. You see, the Postlewaite children learned the lesson of trust and obedience. The four are serving the Lord with their families in Tennessee, Virginia, Virgin Islands and Japan – literally around the world.

Thanks, Dad, for teaching me to *trust and obey*.

Joe Postlewaite

Principal, FWB Christian School

St. Croix, USVI

This month we are honoring a man of God, my lifelong pastor and dad, for 50 years of ministry. The mere longevity of this commitment is impressive, but the most striking thing about this man is the character of his life and work.

Dad has faithfully shown love and concern for his family. Even in the busyness of witnessing, counseling, preaching, teaching, entertaining, marrying and burying, he still found time to write poems to his wife and affirm his love for his children. I never doubted my worth in the home nor my daddy's love for me. As my pastor-daddy, he helped me pray the sinner's prayer, baptized me in a little church he'd planted, and always gave sound instruction in my life's crises. During my turbulent adolescent years, I often disagreed and sometimes debated with my dad. But I've never forgotten the image of walking into an empty sanctuary unnoticed and finding my pastor-dad at the alter calling out my name in prayer.

During 50 years of ministry, he has also shown great love and concern for those to whom he's ministered. Having an uncanny understanding of human nature, he has been approachable by many in need. He's not put off by appearances nor circumstances of those who come to him. He's always given time and money to any and all who had needs. Even though the phone rang often and at all hours, I never heard my dad complain about the demands of ministry. As I've watched him lead scores of people to the Savior, I've caught his fervent desire to win the lost. Though he's often had to work a second job in order to make a living, I've always known that he is living to tell others about Jesus.

When it all comes down, I guess he's able to celebrate 50 years of ministry with integrity because of his greatest love – his love for the One who saved and called him. He can never hear or sing "I'd Rather Have Jesus" without tears, and he has lived his life with that message in mind. He's not accumulated a lot of gold, houses, fame or applause on this earth, but he's always been "true to His holy name" and "led by His nail-pierced hand." And, after all, in eternity that will mean far more than "anything this world affords today."

Ruth Postlewaite McDonald

FWB Foreign Missionary

Sapporo, Japan

Fifty years is only a blink of the eye in world history, but to Free Will Baptists it is a much more significant time span. Our existing denominational structure is only 60 years old and John J. Postlewaite has been preaching for 50 of those 60 years!

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"Johnnie" began preaching at 18 and was licensed in December 1945. He had no reason to think he would ever live or minister outside his home state of Missouri, but obeying God's will led him in unexpected paths. After attendance at Free Will Baptist Bible College, marriage to Leah Mae Scott, and pastorates in Missouri and Oklahoma, Rev. Postlewaite and his family moved to Oregon. Although others had been commissioned, they became the first Free Will Baptist home missionaries to arrive on the field. The next 15 years Postlewaite planted churches and ministered in Washington and Oregon. In 1970, God led in a different direction and the Postlewaites left the Pacific Northwest to pastor in Arkansas, Missouri, and Illinois.

John Postlewaite's ministry has taken him full circle, back to his Missouri roots and a few miles from where he first surrendered to God's claim on his life. He no longer pastors, but he and Leah continue their life's work in revivals, pulpit supply, mission promotion, conferences and retreats - wherever God opens doors.

I have known Brother Postlewaite all my life. In fact, when I was small, I wanted to be a preacher just like him - until my brother told me girls couldn't be preachers! I am his daughter and have never been more proud to say, "My Daddy's a preacher!" Congratulations, Dad, on your golden anniversary in the Gospel ministry. For all the sermons, prayers, baptisms, weddings, funerals, encouragement, sacrifices, dreams and tears, your family and the untold souls touched by your life say "Thank you."

Sue Postlewaite Larson
Nashville, TN

The fifth commandment tells us to honor our father and mother. This applies to all children of all parents, saved or unsaved. It's made more meaningful and much easier to obey when the father and mother have been faithful in honoring their Heavenly Father by lives dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ. My parents, John and Leah Postlewaite, have made it easy for me to honor them. They're not perfect, but they have been faithful.

They have been faithful to each other. Married in September 1948, they've spent 47 years together. As a child, and now as a married son, I've always admired and appreciated their deep love for each other.

They have been faithful to the ministry. This year marks 50 years of preaching for John J. Postlewaite. What a milestone in a day when so many people start but quit! Dad has pastored in six states and several churches, but has faithfully carried the same Gospel message wherever he has gone. Hundreds of people, including me, were won to Christ during their ministry. Yes, *Their* ministry - a pastor and his wife are a team, co-laborers together in Christ.

Above all, they have been faithful to the Lord!

Dad, congratulations on 50 years in the Gospel ministry. I'm sure pastoring hasn't always been fun, but that it has been rewarding. Mom, thank you for being by Dad's side all these years. You've been a great pastor's wife.

I want to honor both of you as you have honored the Lord! Thank you for all you have done for God, for others, and for me.

Sam Postlewaite
Principal, Gateway Christian School
Virginia Beach, VA

WATCH FOR THE DECEMBER GEM. IT WILL CARRY INFORMATION
CONCERNING THE MINISTER'S RETREAT IN MARCH 1996.

Unity Church Celebrates Anniversary

The Unity Free Will Baptist Church, located on south highway five at Lebanon, Missouri, celebrated its fifteenth anniversary September 17, 1995. The church was organized September 14, 1980. Since its inception, the church has purchased land, built a nice church building, and a parsonage. The mortgage on the parsonage was paid in 1993.

Ninety people attended the special service. They enjoyed a delicious dinner served by the ladies of the church and a good time in the afternoon service. Brother Ferrell and Sister Thelma Hutsell were recognized as charter members in attendance. Three ministers, Mike Uder, John Uder, and Craig Perry, who began their ministry at Unity, shared their testimonies and a scripture reading.

A great time of fellowship was enjoyed by everyone. Pastor Dan Talbot extends his thanks to all who attended the service and to all who have prayed for the Unity church through the years. May God bless you.



Ferrell & Thelma Hutsell with Pastor Talbot



Part of the Congregation

South Side Celebrates 50 Years



Southside Church



Pastor Phil Bozeman



Rev. Loy Smith

Sunday, September 17, was marked by reminiscing, rejoicing, and optimism as South Side Free Will Baptist Church celebrated fifty years of service for the Lord. Two ministers preached during the morning services. Pastor Phil Bozeman delivered the first message emphasizing the need for men to see through the eyes of Jesus. Rev. Loy Smith, the first assistant pastor of the church, preached during the eleven clock services. Evangelist John Gibbs, a former member of the church, provided a musical concert during the afternoon service.

Throughout the day, some of the former members were given time to share their testimonies of what South Side has meant to them. A letter was read from the founding pastor, Rev. Harvey Hill. Jean Francis, wife of former Pastor Bob Francis deceased, shared her memories of South Side as well as former pastor Jim Mertz. The ladies of the church served a delicious lunch that was enjoyed by all.

South Side Church had its beginning in January 1944, when Rev. Harvey Hill held the first service in a remodeled hardware store. One year later the church was organized. The following facts are taken from Rev. Harvey Hill's account of the organizational service.

Rev. Mark Lewis, Bro. Womack, and Rev. James Miller, members of the St. Francois Quarterly Meeting board, met with the South Side mission to organize it into an autonomous church on January 27, 1945. Rev. Lewis acted as chairman. The Word of God was presented as the standard of living and leadership, and the church covenant was read. Twenty-one people responded when the doors of the church were opened for membership. The members were voted in by the council

and given the right hand of fellowship. This was followed by a prayer of consecration.

From the beginning the church grew and soon voted to employ their pastor on a full-time basis. After a time, the growing church needed more room and it began to look for a larger facility. The church remained at 5418 Idaho until July 28, 1951, when they moved to their present location at 3124 Mt. Pleasant Street.

The South Side church has been blessed with good men who have faithfully preached the Word of God. The list includes: Harvey E. Hill, James A. Franklin, W.A. Hales, Roger Reeds, Albert McFarland, William Evans, Wayne Wagner, Robert Francis, Grover Terry, Bill Van Winkle, James Mertz, Danny Potter, and Phil Bozeman. The preached Word did its work as God called many from the church to serve Him around the world. They are: Robert Hill, Randall Thompson, William Hill, Roger Reeds, John Vick, Donald Hill, John Purdom, Jack Randall, Chesley Hill, Harry Asher, Jim Mertz, Barb Stolle, Charolette Tallent, Hazel Barton, Dean Burpo, Fred Harris, Floyd Arnold, Donald Dungan, Eddie Cook, John Gibbs, Harold Curtis, Lillian Moore, Erma Pearson (Skiles), Jim Ward, Kent Tallent, and Keith Tallent.

The South Side community has changed over the years but the South Side Free Will Baptist Church still has an active ministry in reaching out to its community. Pastor Phil Bozeman wrote that, "Many changes have taken place in St. Louis in the past 50 years, and South Side has been here through them all! The suburbs have expanded, the population grown, and the city of St. Louis has seen decline. Still, with all these changes, there remains a great need for churches like South Side.

"South Side has been a 'Lighthouse for the Lord' for over 50 years now, and I thank God for its outstanding ministry. Through times of difficulty, and through times of great blessing, South Side has remained faithful to the Lord, and God has blessed in so many wonderful ways. With the help of God, South Side will continue to be a 'Lighthouse for the Lord' in South St. Louis for many years to come. I believe in South Side."

Trinity Appreciates Pastor Lynn and Family

Trinity Free Will Baptist Church at Bridgeton, Missouri, expressed love and appreciation to Pastor Lynn Davenport, wife, Pamela, and two sons, Kreston and MacKenzie, at the close of our morning worship on October 8th. Sister Pamela was presented a beautiful arrangement of fresh flowers in a basket by auxiliary president, Shirley Jackson. Elder Harold Bailey spoke for the membership in saying that Brother Lynn's efforts and dedication were very much appreciated by the membership and friends. An envelope filled with love offerings from members and friends was given to Brother Lynn. He was in receipt of other cards which, no doubt, contained gifts of money.

After dismissal of the morning service, 80 members and friends gathered at Hatfield's & McCoy's Southern Style Restaurant for a noon meal in honor of Pastor Lynn, Sister Pamela and their two sons. The reserved room overflow crowd not only enjoyed a good meal (members and friends went dutch), but the bonding in love and appreciation was also evident. We are a grateful congregation for Pastor Lynn, Pamela, and sons.

The months Pastor Davenport and family have been with us have been fruitful, and their love and dedication for our people is very much appreciated.

A ROMANTIC JOURNEY TO CROWDUCK

One might wonder just what would make anyone have thoughts of romance about an old fishin' lake named Crowduck. The story is entertaining, so if you have a minute, I'll tell you . . .

One Sunday night, in the hill country of the Ozarks, a special couple celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in a rather peculiar way. After some gentle persuasion from a large group of friends, they repeated (to some degree) their wedding vows of years long past. The white haired groom was held, sort of, under house arrest, while the not so eager bride came forward, escorted by two of her four sons. The older son was at the altar, exerting a little pressure on the groom to stay put and say his part.



The Wedding Party

It seems that the couple had acquired a little preacher son-in-law over the years to go with their talented little songbird of a daughter. Now to their surprise these young folks owed them a little bit of a "payback" from their own wedding, performed 10 years earlier by this white haired groom who is also a preacher boy from the Ozarks. While the little lady sang, the little preacher boy repeated vows, the grandchildren agreed to give their grandmother to their grandfather in remarriage, and the mother of the bride objected, not to the remarriage, but to having five more grandchildren. The old-maid sister-of-the-bride came forward to participate in the only wedding she would likely ever get to participate in, while the older son kept a guarded vigil on the white haired groom so that this union could be recompleted before the congregation of the United Free Will Baptist Church. Who else could we be talking about but Brother Glenn and Sister Rachel Murray, pastor of the United Free Will Baptist Church in West Plains, Missouri. After much ado, this ceremony was completed with a final, "you betcha", from the blushing bride of 40 years, who agreed to 40 more with this white haired groom if the Lord is willin' and the creeks don't rise.

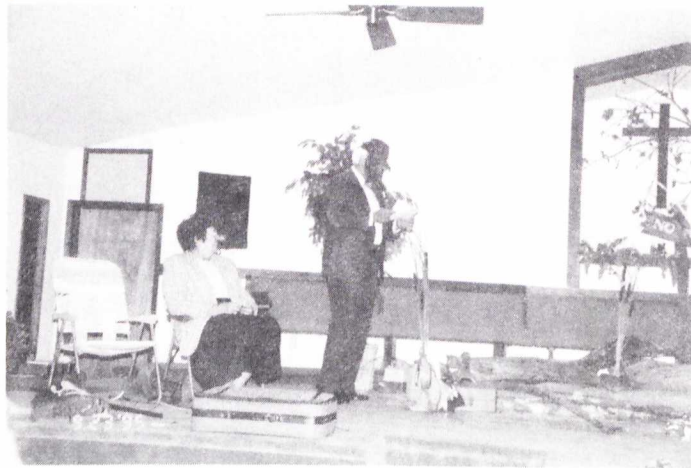


Glenn & Rachel Murray

The groom honored his bride by chauffeuring her from the ceremony in the recognized limousine of the Ozarks, a sturdy wheelbarrow. The limousine was tastefully decorated with a "Disabled" sign.

However, the celebration wasn't over. It was just gettin' started! They were escorted back to the front of the church for a trip to their favorite (make believe) fishin' hole. After all, who ever heard of a honeymoon trip made complete without a good day's fishin'?

A replica of their favorite fishin' hole had been completed by members of their little congregation. They were seated along the banks of this great place, fishin' poles in hand, for a fine day of fishin'. (You know what they say about today's great fishermen, they're "jerks" at one end, waiting for a "jerk" on the other!) As these two newly re-weds sat peacefully enjoying visions of great fish leaping in their heads, a sweet little band of angels, better known as the Woman's Auxiliary appeared. Attired for the occasion, equipped for the event, and as quietly as bulls in a fine china shop, they arrived, ready for whatever the day would bring. They were excited about the fact that the preacher had invited them along for the trip, but they were wondering just where they would be going. Would it be by land, air, or sea? Maybe all three! Being informed that the trip was for the purpose of fishin', the ladies set out to make themselves comfy, when one charming little lady noticed the preacher (white haired groom) had a bite on the end of his pole.

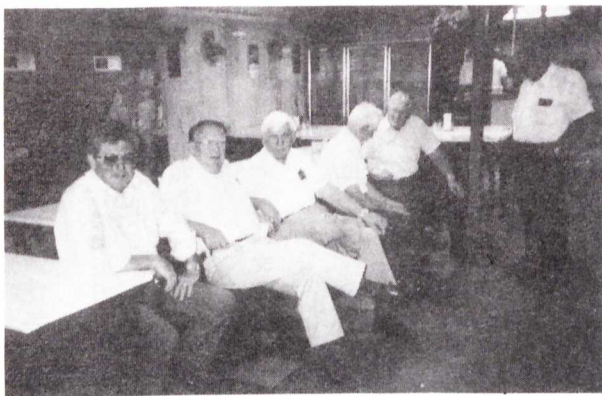


Gone Fishin'

She got excited and chided the white haired groom to pick up his pole and check his catch. He did and it broke. She yelled, "You may have the biggest catch of your life!" Believe it or not, she was right. The catch was two tickets to Crowduck Lake, Canada, for the Murrys, in the summer of 1996, in appreciation for the unending, endearing hours of service to those of the United Free Will Baptist Church and to this community of West Plains, Missouri. But, never fear, the tickets are to go and to come back. They don't get away from us that easy. After the presentation of this all-expense paid, round-trip ticket affair, the program was adjourned to the fellowship hall, for a lovely reception with cake, punch and all the trimmings.

We appreciate all who worked so hard, all who came to be with us, all who contributed in any way, and all who participated in making this such a wonderful "40th" Anniversary and Pastor's Appreciation Celebration on Sunday, September 24, 1995.

1995 PREACHER/LAYMAN'S RETREAT



My Dad

By Lance Hogan

What would life be like without your right hand? Could the life you live today be the same? Do you believe that you could be successful in the things you do with a life revolving around a handicap? In the same instance, would the life you live today be the same if the person who impacted your life was not there? Could you be successful? In my own mind, I really do not think that I could have the fulfilled life that I have today if my influential person would never have been there. The person that has made a difference in my life is my father. There are three aspects of my life that my father affects daily. They are everyday life, sports, and my spiritual life.

My father has had a great impact on my daily life. As a boy growing up, I watched my father's reactions in times of sorrow, joy and his dealing with adversity. Not only did I watch the way he faced problems, but I also watched the way he walked, talked, and did many other regular activities. More and more, I find myself becoming a fashionable dresser like my father and even carrying myself as he does. As I look at my life, I face many problems that my dad has faced. I often find that I go about handling them in the same manner that he did. If it was not for my father and the way he has affected my life, would I have the fulfilled life that I have today?

Throughout my life sports have played a major role. When I was growing up, whenever a sports season would come around, my father and I would practice that sport. For instance, during football season in the fall, my father and I would go out and play catch. We even would go to Wal-Mart and buy a football helmet. Together, we painted the helmet black and put a gold stripe down the middle of the helmet. This tradition carried on until I got involved in youth league football. When it was basketball season, my father played in a men's church basketball league. Before and after the games that were held on Friday nights, he would let me practice dribbling on the basketball court and shoot at the goals. In the spring and summer we practiced baseball at least once a week. My father and I would go to a nearby baseball diamond where he would hit me ground balls and pitch to me so I could hit. If it wasn't for my father and the way he has affected my life, would I have the fulfilled life that I live today?

During the years I have been growing up, the most important aspect that my father influenced me in was my spiritual life. As a child I watched my father spend many hours a week studying God's word and praying. I also watched him preach the messages he prepared during the week every Sunday and Wednesday. When I heard him preach, he taught me about God and his great salvation. The older I get, the more I realize what type of a spiritual leader he really was. By watching his direction in his lifestyle, he taught me that I should pray, read my Bible, and tithe. If it wasn't for my father and the way he has affected my life, would I have the fulfilled life that I live today?

The question that has been asked over and over is, "If it wasn't for my father and the way he has affected my life, would I have a fulfilled life that I live today?" I would like to tell the answer to this question. Without my father playing a major role in my everyday life, sports, and my spiritual life, I would not have the fulfilled life that I live today. In my everyday life I would not dress, walk, and handle problems the way I do effectively, if it was not for my father. The sports I participated

in during high school would not have been as fun and rewarding if it wasn't for my father. If he had not taken the time for practice and fundamental teaching in football, basketball, and baseball, I would have never have received the rewards and recognition. Without my father, I would not have the close walk with God that I have today. The seed that he planted in my heart as a young boy is finally coming into a full blossom. His teaching of God's word was the most important aspect of my life, and if I had to keep only one aspect that he had touched, I would keep this one. I will always be grateful for my dad, because he has affected my life in so many positive ways and without him I would not be the person I am today.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lance Hogan is the 19-year old son of Rev. Roger and Mrs. Carolyn Hogan. He is a freshman at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, and he just recently answered God's call to preach. He wrote this composition for his English class.

Sunday School Averages April 1995 - September 1995

CHURCHES	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
Belton	48	41	33	30		34
Calvary Chapel	85	78	78	87	98	94
Cape Girardeau	82	69	70	71	70	75
Columbia	16					
Cuba	117	104	108	91	90	103
DeSoto	176	180	168	172	170	173
Farmington	330	336	296	296	262	
Fredericktown	41	38				
Hannon	99	96	89	92	92	109
Harmony					49	
Hartville	94	77	82	84	86	89
Hazel Creek	70	72	68	64	64	64
Hopewell	30	28	33	35	47	30
Houston	57	54	50	53	49	50
Kirksville First	36	35	37			
Lebanon First	122	115	116	116	116	117
Mill Creek	52	48	46	44	47	53
Monett	86	88	91	100		
Myrtle	39	34	34	27.8	29	38
Oskaloosa	21	21				
Ozark	80	72	74	70	77	
Park Hills First	125	128	119	113	117	
Richwoods	35	31	31	33	34	
Rock Chapel	62		56		58	
Salem		13	13	14		
Springfield First	107	97	99	107	104	115
Thayer	155	132	136	151	152	143
United, West Plains	267	246	244	260	263	245
Unity	36	44		38	38	42
Verdella	71	68	66	67	70	68
Willow Springs	63	62	60	61	59	64

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

SEPTEMBER 1995

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board.....	\$6,807.49
17.50% Executive Office.....	6439.52
3.50% General Fund.....	1,287.90
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.....	3,127.77
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.....	919.93
2.50% C.E. Board.....	919.93
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board.....	919.93
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program.....	3,311.76
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	

Foreign Missions Board	11,223.16
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	
(\$112.23 included in \$11,223.16)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund.....	\$1,839.86
TOTAL	\$36,797.25

Bread Cast Upon The Waters

(Story of Ken Turner continued from October issue)

While in Cuba, Ken was permitted to see how they farmed. The two main crops grown were tobacco, for chewing and cigar making, and sugar cane for sugar. During sugar cane harvest, the Cubans cut the stalks of cane by hand. Chinch bugs were thick on the inside leaves of the lower part of the sugar cane stalk. With bug-infested leaves remaining, they simply cut the stalks and loaded them on ox carts which were driven to the sugar mill.

The procedure of grinding the cane juice from the stalks is done much as it is in the States at sorghum mills. The stalks are run through large heavy rollers. In this particular mill, once the juice started flowing from the stalks, it was directed to run along in a trough made in the cement floor. The hired men who came to work in the morning remembered to bring their chewing tobacco, and it was put to use. The chewing and spitting went on all day as they worked. They were not too careful where they spit nor where they walked as the brown cane juice flowed along the trough on the floor. From there it flowed into large vats where it was cooked over a fire until it boiled down to a dry condition. Afterwards it was placed in large metal containers that revolved at terrific speed. This process changed it into a white granule form. It was then placed in sacks for shipping. Even with the hope that the boiling process purified the sugar, it was a long time before sugar became appealing to Ken!

The island of Cuba was beautiful. The people were simple and for the most part happy. But they still were lost without Christ. Ken captured this on film in the faces of many of the people. His camera was never still as he sought the right subjects to convey the tremendous need of a mission in Cuba. Pictures were the only way to adequately express the need to Free Will Baptists in America.

As time drew near to sail back to the United States, three of the ministers became fearful and decided to fly back to Florida. Ken and Winford Davis volunteered to sail back to the States on the steamship *Cuba* with the car they had brought with them. Because of the danger of attack in the Atlantic, this was to be the last run of the ship.

Again, at night under total blackout, the ship headed for the United States carrying only two ministers and a wealth of film and pictures. It was hoped they would be instrumental in raising funds for the brand new mission in Cuba.

The sea was rough that night, and the ship rolled and pitched its way through the waves toward home. Ken became seasick and spent the better part of the trip in bed. Winford Davis tried to comfort him. At last, morning arrived and the Atlantic became calmer.

The coast of Florida was a welcome sight in the early light of day. The minister's joy was short lived, however. Coming back through customs, Ken was surprised as his film and pictures were all confiscated by the United States security authorities.

With the pictures and film went Ken's hopes and dream of promoting the mission in Cuba. Not only that, but he also felt the loss of money and film he had spent for the trip. With a young wife and two small children to support, it was crucial that his money be spent wisely. On the trip back to Missouri, Ken worried about how his wife would feel about the loss. Ken's father always said she had the right name. She was indeed a "jewel." When they met, it was almost love at first sight for both of them.

Ken and a friend had been in a revival meeting with Winford Davis at Jones Chapel near Monett, Missouri. The two young men went with Winford up to Macedonia to visit in the area after the revival closed. While in the community, they visited Ozark School. The teacher, Mr. Spencer Smith, wanted the two guests to speak to the students. When Ken got up to speak, he had trouble thinking of something intelligent to say. There was a young girl sitting toward the back who caught his eye. She kept looking at him. This seemed to hinder his ability to speak somewhat. Ken made an effort to meet this girl after his "speech" was over and school was dismissed. He learned her name was Jewell Marie Roller and he walked her home from school. That walk was the beginning of their courtship. They were married at the home of Asberry Davis, August 4, 1928. The Lord blessed their union with two healthy children, Virginia and David.

At home, Ken's fears were dissolved as Jewell helped him carry the burden of the lost film and pictures. Several weeks passed before a large carton was delivered to their home. Inside were every picture and motion picture film Ken had taken in Cuba. All were returned intact. The Turners were overjoyed at the Lord's goodness! Plans were again made for promoting the mission in Cuba.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the story of Rev. Ken Turner. The story was written by Jeanna L. Merritt and published by Randall House Publications. Randall House Publications has given their permission for the Gem magazine to reprint the booklet in a series of articles. This is the second segment in a series of articles. The Lebanon Bible and Bookstore has a few copies of the booklet in stock.



Rev. Ken & Sis. Jewell Turner

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