

GEM

THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST

Volume 65, No. 12, December 1995

Now when Jesus was born . . .
There came wise men . . .
To worship Him. Matthew 2:1,2

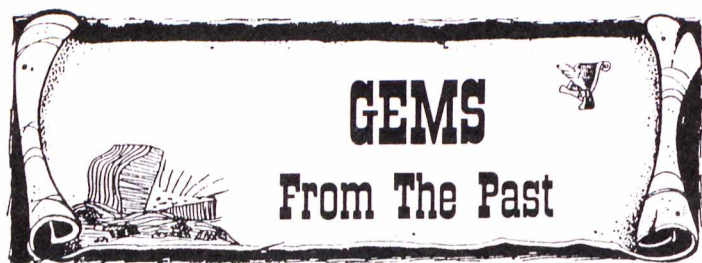


Wise men still seek Him!



" . . . He is a rewarder
of them that diligently
seek Him."

Hebrews 11:6



God Hates These Things

by Bob L. Jones

We know the devil "is a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44). We often meet people who have joined him in his design of falsehood. God came into action against the devil and his children, in these words, "God is angry with the wicked every day" (Psalm 7:11). We are well acquainted with the declaration "thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor," and to break it is to transgress the very law of God. It soweth "discord among the brethren." In Proverbs 6:16-19 we read, "These six things doth the Lord hate" etc.

The Lord hates "a proud look." Pride, as defined in this message, is the start toward "sowing discord among the brethren." A wicked pride always has its blinding effect to the proud in their relationship to others. They can only see themselves as good and others as bad. Proud has two meanings that shall be discussed: The first, "To exalt self; to lift up self." Remember the Pharisee's prayer? (Luke 18:9-14) He felt himself better than others. He lifted his head to God and looked down his nose to the publican in the place of worship. He strolled down the streets of the city with his head high above the receipt of custom where the dishonest publican sat collecting taxes. Because of his very position and prestige in an outward pretended honest religious sect, he imagined himself better than those who were willing to admit or confess their frailties and sins. The second meaning is defined "to be presumptuous and self-willed." The young rich fool described in Luke 12:16-21 was so self-willed and sufficient that God was a luxury to him. He could get along without God's will, power, and plan for his life. It is often easy to become so self-willed and self-sufficient that we entertain the notion "that God thinks more of us and will let us by with sin: because of our religious state and activity. When people come to this condition, it leads to "a lying tongue" explaining their righteousness above the sins of others.

The Lord hates "a lying tongue." Lying is to tell an untruth; also to cheat. Thus it speaks of action with speech. "And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (II Peter 2:3). Our speech and action may be such that the world will speak evil of the Truth of God! The word tongue usually means "an instrument of speech" but is phrased in this context as "a fork of flame to destroy." James 3:6-8 describes it this way, "And the tongue is a fire . . . it is an unruly evil full of deadly poison." Potiphar's wife told a lie to destroy the lad Joseph because she couldn't use him for her selfish pride. After the tongue has taken its toll, the hand of powerful pressure is revealed!

The Lord hates "hands that shed innocent blood!" Hands! Open hands which signify power! Didn't God say it is even an

abomination for open hands of power or advantage to suppress and hurt the innocent and helpless? The apostle Paul was assaulted and assailed by former religious friends. He was delivered to Festus, Agrippa, and Caesar, being followed by the same religious crowd to every court. They tried to hurt him! They wanted him out of the way! They wanted his very life taken from him! Their pride called desperately for his murder! When hands of advantage have taken their course the imagination of evil begins.

The Lord hates "An evil heart that deviseth wicked imaginations." The "heart" refers to the will and intellect of man! "Deviseth" . . . practice secretly! "Wicked" means vain or vanity! "Imaginations" . . . inventions! A proud mind imagines great things. It works overtime. It invents evil things and finally in its desperate state of hate it breaks forth to swiftness of mischief!

The Lord hates "feet that are swift in running to mischief." Mischief denotes spoil; to do evil; to do harm. Actually, it is malice! It has been studied in the imagination and now that is the deliberate act of wilful evil. Could it mean that we shouldn't run to tell some imaginative trash? Should we listen to such trash? No! The Lord does not will that we should listen or believe evil report that ruins the reputation and influence of others? When heard from the swift foot it is easily duplicated.

The Lord hates "a false witness that speaketh lies." This word is different than the foregoing "lying tongue" or the devised lie. The witness is to duplicate! Repeat a report of trash! Passing on what has been said or devised by the lying tongue! A rumor spreader! A gossip! A backbiter! Each of these hold the guilt of the liar. "And withal they learn to be idle, wandering from house to house (telephone); and not only idle, but tattlers, also busybodies, speaking (duplicating) things they ought not" (I Tim. 5:13). Duplicating lies soweth discord among the brethren!

The Lord hates "he that soweth discord among the brethren." Soweth is to spread out; to broadcast; to send forth. Thereof a necessity be a sower. Brawlings and contentions define discord. "Among" as between as to cast asunder. The brethren are related through the blood of Christ. To tell tales among brethren throws suspicion and distrust among the best of friends. Finally, it leads to discord, interruption, and life-lasting divisions that splits many church organizations.

What should be our attitude toward such discord? Paul answers, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause division and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such, serve not the Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good works and fair speeches deceive the heart of the simple" (Rom. 16:17-18). "He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are an abomination unto the Lord" (Prov. 17:15).

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT? "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. Speak not evil one of another brethren? (James 4:10-11a). Become humble enough to admit your sin and He will renew a right spirit within you? Then place a close guard on your life, in the light of God's word, with honest prayer!!!

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was first printed in the June 1965, issue of the Gem.

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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Nathan & Judy Ruble



Merry
Christmas,

Happy



New Year

and Best Wishes



from the State Office

and Bookstore



Warren & Ann
Livingston



Dennis, Lillian, Karen
& Kathy Jones



Bruce, Connie, Heather
& Jeremy Myers



Tim & Tonja Cullen



Ronnie & Judy Pierce



Ozark Church News

We have been experiencing good services and attendance each Sunday. Two people were baptized in October.

We thank the First Quarterly Meeting of the Mission Association for allowing us to be a part of their "Mission Revival Conference." We enjoyed the services with the churches and appreciate the prayers, concern, and financial support. Praise the Lord!

We are excited about the response from you who are sending gifts to the "Ozark Building Project" to help pay on our principal. It is really appreciated! We are thankful for the support and hard work of Missouri Free Will Baptist people and the Missouri State Mission Board.



Ozark Sunday School Class



Ozark Sunday School Class

A Retreat for One, Please!

Avoiding Leadership Burnout

Jim Smoke

Your office phone is ringing off the wall. You still have four more counseling appointments before dinner and you are running behind. It is Wednesday and you have an executive council meeting this evening with several tough issues on the agenda. You have to teach three times on Sunday and you are behind in your preparation. You have not been home for the past four nights, and children keep asking, "Who is that?" when you run in and out the door.

You still have six months to go before your vacation reprieve and on top of everything else, your senior pastor wants you to take on the responsibility for a whole new program he proposed just yesterday.

Sound familiar? It should. Most of us in ministry have been there at one time or another. How do you survive and go on?

The Strongest Call We Need to Hear

In Mark 6:30-31 we read, "The apostles returned to Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. And He said to them, 'Come away by yourselves to a lonely place and rest a while'. For many were coming and going, and they had to leisure even to eat."

The strongest call we need to hear in ministry today is not the call to ministry but the call *apart* from ministry for a time. A place apart is a place for rest and renewal where the seeds of new life and growth can be planted in our spirits. In the place of busyness, Jesus calls us to a center of quiet and calm.

Matthew 14:23 says, "And when He had sent (please observe the word *sent*) the multitudes away, He went up to a mountain by Himself to pray." Just before Jesus chose His disciples, He "went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God" as recorded in Luke 6:12. Mark 1:35 tells us that "now in the morning, having risen a long while

before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed."

Jesus knew what you and I still seem to be learning – the importance of getting away from the hear of ministry to rest, renew, and pray. When was the last time you did that? Be honest! Your ministry will not collapse if you leave town for forty-eight hours. If it does, then I would question the foundation upon which it is built.

The call to rest and renewal in your life is more important today than ever before. The mountain cabin, a local monastery, a friend's condo, even a quiet hotel can provide a haven for a retreat. Basil Pennington said, "A place apart . . . there are many places apart for each one of us: those we create, those we find and those created for us. Seek and you shall find. Taste and see."

Times for Escape

There are two key times to escape to a quiet place. The first is when our stresses and tensions outweigh our graces. The second is when we plan for it well in advance and put it on our calendar. Each will have a different purpose. The first deals with survival, rest, renewal, and quiet listening to God's directions for the days ahead.

If you are married, remember that your spouse needs to share in some of your retreats. You will also need times alone. An excellent format to follow when on retreat is printed in the back pages of *A Guide to Prayer for Ministries and Other Services* (Upper Room). If you need a structure to prevent wasting your time, this will help.

Gordon MacDonald cites three ingredients we all need in our lives: "safe places, still times, and special friends." Right now might be a good moment for you to begin with the first two by ordering "a retreat for one, please."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jim Smoke is founder and director of The Center for Divorce Recovery in Phoenix, Arizona. This article is supplied by David C. Cook Church Ministries.

Ben Scott to be Honored

Dear Friends,

We at First Free Will Baptist Church in North Little Rock, Arkansas, invite you to honor our pastor, Ben Scott, and his wife Genelle, as they retire from the pastorate. Brother Scott will end his pastoral responsibilities on December 31, 1995. He has served the Lord for over fifty years in the ministry and for over 23 years here at North Little Rock. Brother Scott has pastored churches in Missouri and Oklahoma. He has served on many district, state, and national boards.

On Saturday, December 30, 1995 there will be a dinner and service to honor Brother Scott. The dinner will begin at 12 o'clock. Please make plans to be with us on that day and if possible, stay for his last Sunday with us the next day. We ask that you bring a letter from your family or church congregation to place in a memory book for the Scott family. If you cannot come to the dinner, please send the letter to the church to the attention of Mark Stripling.

If you have been privileged to serve with Brother Scott, you will want to be a part of this weekend. Please share this information with your church congregation or state organization. If you have any questions, please call the church and ask for Mark or you may call me at home. You may also call Brother Wendell Leckbee at (501) 753-1719.

In HIS service,
First Free Will Baptist

Sunday School Averages May 1995 - October 1995

CHURCHES	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT
Beacon			61	68	70	
Belton			30		34	36
Calvary Chapel	41	33	87	98	94	89
Cape Girardeau	78	78	71	70	75	105
Cuba	69	70	91	90	103	105
DeSoto	104	108	172	170	173	178
Farmington	180	168	296	262	306	318
Fredericktown	336	296				
Hannon	38					
Harmony	96	89	92	92	109	112
Hartville				49		
Hazel Creek	77	82	84	86	89	101
Hopewell	72	68	64	64	64	66
Houston	28	33	35	47	30	33
Kirkville First	54	50	53	49	50	53
Lebanon First	35	37				
Mill Creek	115	116	116	116	117	113
Monett	48	46	44	47	53	54
Myrtle	88	91	100	80	93	
Oskaloosa	34	34	27.8	29	38	28
Ozark	21					
Park Hills First	72	74	70	77	73	98
Republic	128	119	113	117	40	118
Richwoods		31	29	35		44
Rock Chapel	31	31	33	34		
Salem		56		58		65
Springfield First	13	13	14			
Thayer	97	99	107	104	115	110
United, West Plains	132	136	151	152	143	128
Unity	246	244	260	263	245	
Verdella	44		38	38	42	38
Viburnum	68	66	67	70	68	73
Willow Springs					27	
	62	60	61	59	64	56

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.

Absent From the Body - Present With the Lord

William Joseph Mishler was born March 28, 1916, in Colville, Washington. He went home to be with the Lord October 20, 1995.

The Mishler family moved to Mountain Grove, Missouri, when Brother Bill was eight years old. Throughout his life, he claimed Missouri as his home state and Mountain Grove as his hometown. His parents were of the old-fashioned Methodist faith. After moving to Missouri, the family attended the Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Wright County.

Rev. Mishler was saved December 8, 1932, at the Mt. Zion #1 Free Will Baptist Church during a revival meeting. Rev. Clarence Ussery was the evangelist and Rev. Elmer Snyder was the pastor. Following his profession of faith, he united with the Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church where he was a member until 1950.

Brother Mishler announced his call to the ministry in 1934 and preached his first sermon September 21, 1935, at the Oak Grove Church. He was licensed in 1936 and ordained May 28, 1937. He assumed the pastorate of the Rock Springs Free Will Baptist Church at Ben Davis September 7, 1936, and went on to pastor churches in Missouri, Tennessee, Michigan, Arkansas and Illinois. His last pastorate was the First Free Will Baptist Church of Johnston City, Illinois, where he served for thirteen years. After his retirement, he continued to be active in teaching the Adult Sunday School class until a couple of years before his death.

Brother Bill used to say, "I grew up during the 'Great Depression' era . . . quit school to work my sophomore year and did not get to further my education until 1946 when I attended and graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville. Later I took some summer school studies at Moody."

Rev. Mishler served his denomination through his ministry and held numerous offices. He served as Moderator of the Arkansas State Association for three years. He also served as Moderator of the Central District Association which he helped organize. In 1949, he was elected to the National Association Sunday School Board and served as its chairman for four years. In 1954, he became the Promotional Secretary for the National Association Sunday School Board and served for four and one-half years. During that time, he established the first Sunday School Department in the National Offices. He served on the General Board of the National Association for eighteen years and also served on the Graduate School Committee.

Beginning in 1961, he served seventeen years on the Board of Trustees of Free Will Baptist Bible College and was chairman fourteen of those years. He led the college through some very difficult years. Dr. L. C. Johnson, Dr. Charles Thigpen, Dr. Tom Malone, and his pastor, Rev. Randy Scott, spoke highly of his leadership as they shared during the funeral service.

He is survived by his wife, Bertie Saladin Mishler; two children, Bonnie Doggett of Springfield, Illinois and David Mishler of Johnston City, Illinois; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Sister Mishler presently resides in a nursing home in Creal Springs, Illinois.

1996 Ministers Retreat Program will be in the January '96 issue of the Gem.

Information On The Revocable Living Trust

Nothing is more precious to parents than their children. Dad and Mom, have you ever thought about who will have the guardianship of your children if you should meet an untimely death. We pray that this will never happen, but if it should, what have you done to assure that your children will be given the kind of love and protection that you want them to have?

This provision can be provided for with the Revocable Living Trust (RLT). There are four good reasons why one should consider establishing a trust:

1) **The Revocable Living Trust avoids probate.**

The purpose of the Probate Court is to establish what a deceased person owned and who will receive it. Probate Court is unnecessary with an RLT as it predetermines these questions.

2) **The Revocable Living Trust is a Private Transaction.**

Probate proceedings, including the estate inventory, is a matter of public record. However, items transferred from the estate of a decedent by means of the Revocable Living Trust are *not* made public. Therefore, no one will know how the estate is disbursed, except those who are recipients of it.

3) **The Revocable Living Trust is usually settled more quickly.**

More often than not, probate proceedings are lengthy. Because of the nature and function of the Revocable Living Trust, estates are usually settled more quickly.

4) **The Revocable Living Trust provides for a Successor Trustee.**

The one or ones you have chosen to be your Successor Trustee(s) will disburse your estate at your death according to the way you had planned it. The Successor Trustee whom you have chosen may act on your behalf in the event that you become mentally incapacitated. Otherwise, the court would choose a person to handle your affairs.

The Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists offers help to you in having a Revocable Living Trust prepared. If you are interested, fill out the form below and mail to:

Clarence Burton
Stewardship Commission
115 Brook
Lebanon, Missouri 65536

I am interested in the Revocable Living Trust.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (please include area Code) _____

Give Hope For Christmas

J. Mark Vandivort

A member of the Islamic religion from Indiana was interviewed on the radio. He said that Islam gained a foothold in the United States through international students (Of course not all international students are Islamic in religion). Islam is reported to be the fastest growing religion in the United States.

Our sovereign God has brought representatives from most nations of the world to the United States, giving fundamental Christians a strategic opportunity to share Jesus Christ!

Many international students return to their home countries having never visited in an American home. Holidays can be lonely times for international students. Most universities have a person designated to coordinate visits into homes of the community. Louise and our family have been blessed and culturally enriched by inviting such students into our home. If you are not near a university, pray for those who are. When you serve as host, be relaxed, natural and sensitive if the Holy Spirit should open a door for sharing. In our home, a Scripture and short time of thanksgiving before eating, seemed a natural opportunity to share our faith. We have received some encouraging responses. Some international students have been interested in attending church.

Islam does not recognize Jesus Christ as the Son of God. The Koran is their rule of faith and practice. George Otis, Jr. In his book *The Last of The Giants*, wrote "in a fall 1988 article *World Evangelization* magazine revealed that at a recent Moslem-sponsored missions conference in Los Angeles, organizers proudly announced a goal of winning 50 to 75 million Americans to Islam. Their target, they said, were those 'strata of society suffering from the bankruptcy of the social order.' Furthermore, they declared they wanted it known that they are in North America for the long haul, willing to invest centuries, if necessary, to gain their objectives. As models of their persistence, they alluded to their history of gradually becoming numerically dominant in Egypt, North Africa and Indonesia. Today, of the cities of the patristic fathers (fathers of the Christian church) dotting Asia Minor and North Africa (there are fifteen with a population of one million), all are solidly Moslem."

Otis documents several Islamic training and evangelistic centers within the United States. The greatest gains of Islam is among "people of color."

As Louise and I discussed sharing the gospel with "people of color," Louise wondered aloud, " . . . how many black children had she knelt with, leading them to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior?"

Give "hope" for Christmas.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rev. Mark Vandivort is the pastor of the Sunset Free Will Baptist Church located in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Ministers Retreat

sponsored by
Missouri State Executive Office

March 18 - 20, 1996

**Stonecroft Conference Center
Branson, Missouri**

*Directions: Approximately 45 miles south of Springfield, Missouri, on Highway 65
(four miles south of Branson), turn right on 265 and stay left one mile to center.*



Speaker: Dr. Glenn McGriff

Cost: Double Occupancy - \$55.00 per person

Cost includes two nights lodging, five meals and two snacks.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please Print:

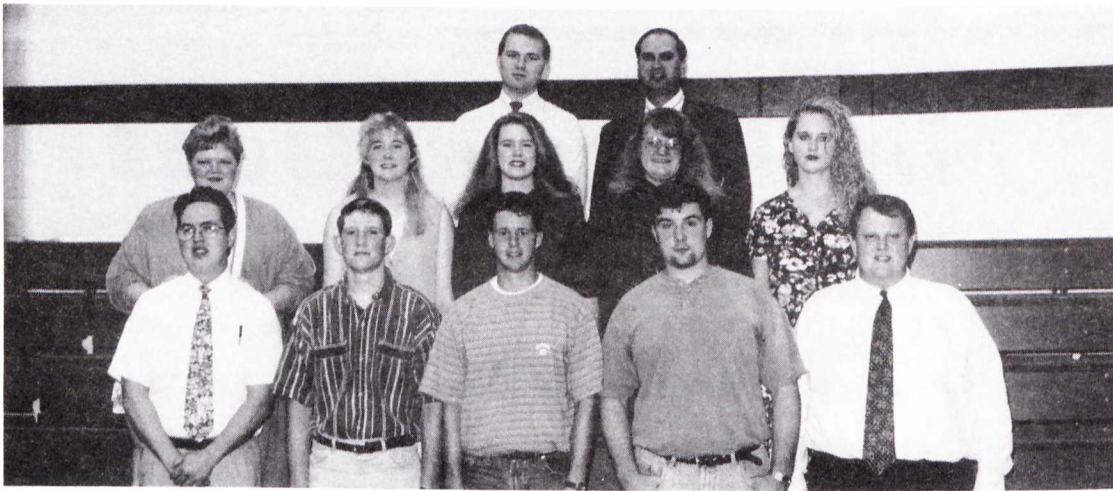
Name _____ Home Phone () _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Church _____

I would like to room with _____

*A \$5 non-refundable deposit is required for each person. Please return this registration form to:
Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, P.O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65536.*



Hillsdale Says Thanks!

Hillsdale and your young people wish to THANK YOU for your continued support. They are creating memories that will last a lifetime. With your consistent giving through percentage, budget, faith promise, and Have a Heart, these memories will continue in the lives of these and other young people. Thank you for your faithfulness.

"I love Hillsdale because of all the great people here. Most teachers will go out of their way to help a student. Also, the students are all friendly and willing to help someone when they are down," Kimberly Hall, El Dorado Springs.

"Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College is preparing people for service in the building of God's kingdom. I am glad to be a student at Hillsdale," David Province, Farmington.

"When I think of Hillsdale, a picture of home comes to mind, not in the sense of a mother and father, but in the sense of a place where you are challenged and encouraged to grow both spiritually and mentally, a sense of loving guidance and nurturing that is centered on the Love of God, family, and friends," Greg Conner, Springfield.

Fifteen students from Missouri are attending Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College this fall semester. They are: 1st row (left to right) - David Province (Farmington), Luke Vandivort (Edgar Springs), Lance Hogan (Farmington), David Derby (Fenton), Greg Conner (Springfield); 2nd row (left to right) - Sheila Province (Farmington), Rachel Vandivort (Edgar Springs), Kimberly Hall (El Dorado Springs), Heather Hall (El Dorado Springs), Anna Crewse (Fordland); 3rd row (left to right) - Kevin Williford (Potosi), Mike Garner, Director of Pastoral Ministries (Bridgeton). Not pictured: Fred Beck (Kirksville), James Coffelt (Hollister), Mary (Bodine) Hill (Farmington).

Eighty-eight students make up the freshman class at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College this year. It is the largest one in twenty years.

Sincerely,
Timothy W. Eaton
Vice President of Academic Affairs

TEACHER NEEDED

Dear Friends of Missions:

On October 22, Tanya Hart returned from Cote d'Ivoire on medical leave. She was a very sick young woman. In addition to suffering a dislocated rib, the doctor said she has fibromyalgia, immune deficiency, chronic fatigue syndrome and is suffering from chondritis, an inflammation of the chest, sternum and lining around the heart. Because of the persistent fever they checked her for some tropical disease, but apparently she does not have one. Her doctor has told her that it will take about five to six months for her to get completely well.

Tanya's illness has left us with a problem. Although Tanya's responsibility was teaching physical education, she was also teaching some history and Bible classes at the International Christian Academy in Bouake. This is a school for missionary children from all over West Africa. The school is looking to us for a replacement.

Do you know of anyone with the appropriate educational credentials who might be interested in teaching in Ivory Coast for six months? Surely there is some retired teacher in good health who would like to make a contribution to the lives of missionary children. If you know of anyone, please have them get in touch with us as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please call me at my office (615/731-6812) or at my home (615/361-5137). If you would like to send a fax, the number is 615/361-5345.

Thank you for your prayers and concern for my health. I am recovering quite well from the heart bypass surgery I received September 6. Praise the Lord!

Please pray with us that God will provide His teacher for this opportunity of service in Ivory Coast.

Your Brother in Christ,
R. Eugene Waddell
General Director

Season's Greetings

from

Our Missionaries

Missouri Home Missionaries

The Adkissons	St. Louis, MO
The Becks	Moberly, MO
The Bigelows	Sedalia, MO
The Cochrans	Hannibal, MO
The Mitcheners	Ozark, MO
The Ragsdales	Stockton, MO
The Richmanns	Poplar Bluff, MO

National Home Missionaries

The Johnsons	Cheyenne, WY
The Maness	Philadelphia, PA
The Mertz'	Wentzville, MO
The Vandivorts	Flagstaff, AZ

Foreign Missionaries

The Baileys	Japan	The McDonalds	Japan
The Bunches	Panama	The McLains	Japan
The Callaways	Spain	The Moores	Ivory Coast
The Gentusos	Ivory Coast	The Pinkertons	Ivory Coast
The Hannas	India	The Plunketts	Ivory Coast
The Hollands	Brazil	Charolette Tallent	France
The Lytles	Panama	The Turnboughs	Spain

SEND ANGEL TO AFRICA!

Dear Friends,

Hi! My name is Angel Mertz and my family is currently serving as Home Missionaries in Wentzville, Missouri. I am a Senior at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, studying Missions and Psychology. I had the opportunity to be a part of TEAM (Teens Equipped and Active in Missions) during the summers of '92 and '93. We made missionary trips to Brazil and Panama. God opened my eyes to the needs of people around the world.

I truly feel that God is leading me to the mission field. I am not sure about where but I have given God complete control of my life, and I believe He will guide and direct me. I want to be actively involved in carrying out His Great Commission.

I will have the opportunity to be a part of "GO and BE 1996" next summer, which is a missionary team from the Bible College. We will be going to the Ivory Coast, West Africa, to minister. The "GO and BE Team" will offer on the job training.

Our team will be involved in various activities, such as: attending classes, doing a research project, youth center ministry, helping with English classes in the High School, teaching with a translator, music and dramas for youth meetings, and we will also observe and learn from the lives of the African people.

Our plans are to leave the United States the second week of July and minister in Africa for five weeks. I so look forward to going, but as you know, it costs to do God's work and get workers to the fields. The total cost for the mission trip will be \$3,200, which will cover the cost of food, housing, utilities, transportation, medical treatment and supplies.

It seems almost impossible to me, but I have to raise \$2,200 by January 1 to cover the cost of a plane ticket. If you would consider helping me further spread the Gospel to the field of Africa, I would be so grateful. Simply give as the Lord would lead you and I will be eternally thankful for whatever you can do. You may send your contributions to Angel Mertz, 18 Doris Dr., O'Fallon, MO 63366.

Most of all, I want to ask you to pray for me and for the rest of the "GO & BE Team." Pray that the Lord will work in all our lives as we minister to the dear African people this summer in the Ivory Coast. Thank you for your time. May God bless you.

In Christ,
Angel Mertz

Bread Cast Upon the Waters

(Story of Rev. Ken Turner continued from November issue)

Ken was asked by the National Foreign Mission Board to travel from state to state, showing the needs of the mission through his motion picture films. Hopefully, this would raise money for the mission plus recruit more Free Will Baptist missionaries to send to Cuba and other countries. He would receive \$7 for each service as a wage for his labor, plus train fare to the state in which he was to work. Each church was to provide lodging and see that he reached the next service at the next church. This would mean being separated from his family most of the time as he traveled.

It was a big decision to make, but Ken agreed to travel for the mission cause. Jewell supported his decision and made his work possible by working at O.T. Alred's Grocery Store and J.C. Penneys, in Monett. For the next 15 years Ken traveled from state to state raising money and gathering support for Free Will Baptist missions.

Ken was not always welcomed in a church. At that time, motion picture films were viewed by some as an evil amusement. Even after explaining that his films were about spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ, Ken was still refused the privilege of showing the films in some churches. He would instead show snapshots of Cuba and the mission work. Even then some people were suspicious.

In one particular service, in an Eastern state, Ken had done his best to explain the missionary program. After his presentation, an offering plate was passed. All at once a man stood up and said, "This money should not be turned over to a stranger like this man. He might be a crook for all we know." Ken was startled and disappointed, but decided to leave the offering with the church and go on his way.

In one of the Southern states, a good service was enjoyed with several young lives being dedicated to the Lord's work and some especially as missionaries. An exceptional offering was received and the service dismissed. Ken spent the night in the home of a good brother who assured him he knew the location of the church where services were scheduled the next morning. It was 15 miles just over the county line at the Loyal Chapel Church, and he said he would be glad to drive Ken there.

Early the next morning the two men drove to Loyal Chapel. They unloaded the cases, projector, and the materials for the missionary service. The man drove off after bidding Ken goodbye. The church doors were unlocked. Ken got all his equipment set up and was ready to meet the people when they came to services. Patiently, he waited. At 9 a.m. not a soul had come that way. Hoping to see people arriving, Ken kept waiting and looking out the door. At 9:30 a.m. Ken spied two ladies walking up the path by the church. Greeting them he asked if this were the Loyal Chapel Free Will Baptist Church and what time services started. Ken was shocked at their abrupt reply. He had the wrong church! He was at the LoveJoy Primitive Baptist Church, and they did not believe in missions!

Ken hurriedly went back inside the church, took down his equipment, packed it in the cases, and carried it to the highway where he could keep it in sight. He walked one-half mile up the road to a house where a young man was repairing a front wheel on a Model T Ford. The young man was very nice. He assured Ken that he knew where Loyal Chapel Church was

located and that he would be happy to take him there if he could get his wheel repaired. Relieved, Ken walked back to his cases and sat down to write Jewell while he waited for the Model T. He wrote her of the mistake in churches. It seemed to him that Kill Joy Church would be a more appropriate name. Soon the Model T drove up and Ken once again loaded his equipment. They drove 15 miles farther and arrived at Loyal Chapel at 11 o'clock just as Sunday School was over. Ken was introduced and hurriedly set up his equipment during the next song. No one ever knew the difficulty encountered in getting there. The Lord alone understood and received the glory for permitting the mission program to be presented once again. Numerous dedications and an abundant offering were the rewards for all the labor involved.

In the mountains of an Eastern state, miles back from the highway Ken concluded a good mission service with several dedications and an abundant offering received. He spent the night with a family in the community. The next morning a young man in the family explained that by driving a distance through the mountain roads, he could get Ken to a bus route on the highway which would take him 25 miles to Jenkins where the next service was to be held. This man was obligated to get back to work in the coal mines at an early hour, so they finished breakfast very early and drove through the hills to the highway. Ken set his cases and equipment out by the side of the road and waited for the bus that the young man had assured him would come.

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 third segment in a series of articles.

Rev. Kermeth Bass at Home With the Lord

Kermeth M. Bass was born in Storm Lake, Iowa, July 13, 1920. He went home to be with the Lord September 27, 1995. His family moved to Missouri and settled in the Ashley Community, near Mansfield, when he was six years old.

Brother Bass gave his heart and life to the Lord at an early age and later answered the call to preach the gospel. During his thirty-six years of ministry, he pastored several churches in the Mansfield area. He enjoyed preaching God's Word, and he preached as long as his health permitted him to do so. In recent years he held services for the Nursing home in Cabool, Missouri. He was a member of the Mt. Zion No. 1 Free Will Baptist Church north of Norwood, Missouri, and taught the Adult Sunday School Class the Sunday before going into the hospital.

He was united in marriage to Geneva Fern Fagan September 21, 1941, and after fifty-three years of marriage, she preceded him in death. He is survived by five daughters and four sons-in-law: Geneva and Dwight Clements, Florence and Sonny Chaffin, Barbara Conness, Deana and Willie Matney, Dorilea and Dale Melton.

He served in the army during World War II and left a testimony of his love for his country, his Lord, and his family.

Financial Information

OCTOBER 1995

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$6,187.99
17.50% Executive Office	5,853.50
3.50% General Fund	1,170.70
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	2,843.13
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	836.22
2.50% C.E. Board	836.22
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board	836.22
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	3,010.38
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	10,201.83
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 (\$102.02 included in \$10,201.83)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund	1,672.43
TOTAL	\$33,448.62

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%.

OCTOBER 1995 COOPERATIVE

Alton	\$ 225.00
Bailey Chapel	92.00
Beacon - Raytown	875.00
Belton	209.19
Bethel - Marshfield	167.15
Black Oak - Marshfield	210.53
Blue Springs	128.49
Cabool	271.91
Calvary Chapel	363.35
Cape Girardeau 1st	683.31
Carthage	513.95
Columbia	47.00
Cope - Hartville	42.00
Copper Mines - Fred	321.18
Crossroads - Leb.	225.33
Crossroads - Leb.	127.45
Crossroads - Leb.	42.00
Crossroads - Wentzville	267.00
Crossroads - Wentzville	248.00
DeSoto 1st	750.00
F & H - Aurora	76.40
F & H - Willow Springs	87.93
Farmington 1st	2,158.54
Fordland	528.23
Fredericktown 1st	269.00
Freeman Chapel	311.81
Friendship	418.69
Grace - Arnold	979.00
Grant Ave. - Spfld.	814.47
Hannibal	150.00
Hannon - Liberal	548.10
Harmony - Parkville	403.00
Hartville	471.00
Hopewell - Tunas	187.00
Hurryville - Park Hills	384.25
Joplin 1st	660.02
Kirksville 1st	142.39
Kirksville 1st	137.64
Koshkonong - Thayer	127.43
Leadington	349.86
Lebanon 1st	558.27
Liberty - Phillipsburg	171.00
Lone Star - Seymour	64.30
Marshfield	339.70
Meris Chapel	168.00
Mill Creek - Fred	292.92

Mine La Motte	62.62
Monett 1st	515.74
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	277.00
Mt. Zion - Gower	51.30
Mtn. Grove 1st	1,211.57
Mtn. Grove 1st	1,221.28
New Harmony	35.71
New Life - Licking	246.12
North 5 - Lebanon	149.69
O'Fallon 1st	582.29
Oak Hill - Fred	120.00
Overland	92.00
Ozark 1st	543.13
Park Hills 1st	456.52
Parkview - Desloge	395.63
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove	315.33
Pleasant Ridge - Urb.	108.00
Potosi 1st	108.67
Republic	159.84
Richwoods 1st	433.00
Rock Chapel - Norwood	359.46
Rolla 1st	60.35
Royal Oak - Alton	107.00
Springfield 1st	744.04
St. Francois Dist. Assoc.	27.00
St. Peter's	1,274.28
St. Peter's	584.30
Stockton	155.39
Terrill Rd. - Moberly	226.80
Thayer	638.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	978.91
Twin Oak - Fred	849.25
Tyrone	47.00
Union Grove S.S.	235.00
Union Light - Marq.	73.00
United - W.P.	709.10
Unity - Leb.	208.00
Verdella - Liberal	357.27
Victory Hill - Mansfield	71.30
Victory - Alton	147.40
Waynesville-1st	331.30
West Plains 1st	545.00
Wilderness	554.94
Willow Spr. - Mtn. Grove	203.40
Wolf Creek - Mansfield	266.90
TOTAL	\$33,448.62

FOREIGN MISSIONS

A. Chapman	\$ 10.00
B. Thebeau	30.00
Beacon - Raytown	895.00
Belton	100.00
Belton	255.25
Bethel - Festus	97.00
Blue Springs	1.00
Blue Springs	102.80
Buffalo 1st	50.00
C. Thompson	25.00
Calvary Chapel	156.00
Calvary Chapel - Buff.	65.00
Calvary Chapel - Buff.	113.00
Carthage	196.67
Cuba	46.07
D. Lewis	10.00
DeSoto 1st	350.00
Eastern Gate	126.00
F & H - Aurora	28.00
F. Rogers	10.00
F & H - Wil. Spr.	150.00
Farmington 1st	308.33
Farmington 1st	187.79
Fordland	111.00
Freeman Chapel	592.50
Grace - Arnold	10.75
Grant Ave. - Pray. Part.	53.00
Grant Ave. - Spfld.	473.89
Grant Ave. - Wom. S.S. Cl.	25.00
Hannon - Liberal	843.10
Hartville	94.20
Houston 1st	135.00
J. Hoggard	10.00
J. Owens	10.00
Joplin 1st	25.00
K. Minor	10.00
Kirksville 1st	14.40
L. Voyles	10.00
Leadington	5.00
Lebanon 1st	40.00
Lebanon 1st	50.00
Lebanon 1st (Jr. Ch.)	10.15
Macedonia Wom. Aux.	650.00
Marshfield	62.50
Meris Chapel	200.00
Monett 1st	200.00
Monett 1st	463.00

Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	75.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	329.00
N. Akeman	10.00
N. Ruble	30.00
New Harmony	178.54
New Home - Hartville	228.00
New Life - Monett	61.45
New Testament	165.00
O'Fallon 1st	58.83
O'Fallon Wom. Aux.	100.00
Oak Grove - Cabool	65.00
Oak Grove - Norwood	114.30
Ozark 1st	35.00
Park Hills 1st	182.60
Parkview - Desloge	331.00
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Gr.	91.53
Pleasant Home - Urb.	50.00
R. Garrett	10.00
Richwoods 1st	20.00
Rock Chapel - Norwood	263.50
St. Peter's	340.47
St. Peter's	70.00
Thayer	313.75
Trinity - Bridgeton	660.51
Union Light - Marq.	140.00
Union Mission - Leb.	180.30
United - W.P.	98.90
Unity - Leb.	40.00
Verdella - Liberal	1,107.26
Viburnum	170.00
Waynesville 1st	50.00
West Plains 1st	20.00
TOTAL	\$13,001.34

STATE HOME MISSIONS

Beacon - Raytown	\$ 2.00
Bethel - Festus	10.00
Cuba	92.14
F & H - Aurora	28.00
F & H - Willow Spr.	25.00
Farmington 1st	10.00
Fordland	5.00
Grace - Arnold	40.00
Grant Ave. - Spfld.	29.00
Hannon - Liberal	274.04
Kirksville 1st	15.50
Kirksville 1st	37.60
Leb. B & B Store	190.00
Lebanon 1st	5.00
Macedonia Wom. Aux.	50.00
Wilderness	33.97
Mtn. Grove 1st	25.00
N. Ruble	5.00
New Life - Monett	61.45
New Testament	60.00
O'Fallon 1st	58.83
Ozark 1st	10.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urb.	20.00
Rock Chapel - Norwood	73.25
Thayer	58.75
Trinity - Bridgeton	220.00
Union Light - Marq.	51.00
United - W.P.	68.91
Viburnum	5.00
Victor's CTS Cl.	20.00
TOTAL	\$1,584.44

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

A. Chapman	\$ 25.00
B. Chandler	5.00
Beacon - Raytown	195.00
Belton	50.00
Bethel - Festus	25.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Carthage	339.21
Cuba	46.06
DeSoto 1st	200.00
Eastern Gate	10.00
F & H - Aurora	20.00
F. Rogers	10.00
F & H - Willow Spr.	25.00
Farmington 1st	20.00
Fordland	20.00
Grace - Arnold	125.64
Grant Ave. - Spfld.	172.45
Hannon - Liberal	59.81
Houston 1st	5.00
J. Hoggard	20.00
J.W. Rader	20.00
Joplin 1st	179.13
L. Voyles	10.00
Leadington	40.00
Lebanon 1st	10.00
Monett 1st	330.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	50.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	35.00
N. Ruble	5.00
New Harmony	178.54
New Home - Hartville	20.00
New Testament	220.00
O'Fallon 1st	58.83
Oak Grove - Norwood	57.15

Ozark 1st	65.00
Park Hills 1st	65.65
Parkview - Desloge	10.00
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Gr.	24.66
R. White	40.00
R. Gamble	30.00
R. Pierce	10.00
Richwoods 1st	37.00
Rock Chapel - Norwood	55.00
S. Hart	20.00
St. Peter's	70.00
St. Peter's	15.00
Thayer	213.75
Trinity - Bridgeton	175.00
Union Light - Marq.	65.00
United - W.P.	10.00
United - W.P.	500.00
Unity - Leb.	50.00
Unity - Leb.	5.00
Verdella - Liberal	25.00
Viburnum	74.00
Waynesville 1st	50.00
West Plains 1st	812.00
Wolf Creek	10.00
TOTAL	\$5,068.88

MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

Thayer	\$ 40.00
New Home - Hartville	10.00
Hannon - Liberal	15.00
Hartville	10.00
New Life - Monett	61.45
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Willow Spr. - Mtn. Grove	10.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	10.00
DeSoto 1st	50.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	85.00
Marshfield	20.00
Cabool	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	14.00
"Anonymous Donor" (Bathroom, Nurse's Quarters)	300.00
Park Hills 1st	18.00
TOTAL	\$723.45

TRULA CRONK HOME FOR CHILDREN

New Life - Monett	\$ 61.45
Unity - Lebanon	10.00
DeSoto 1st	50.00
Park Hills 1st	10.00
Farmington 1st	41.00
TOTAL	\$172.45

HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Beacon - Raytown	\$125.00
Thayer	58.75
Hannon - Liberal	50.00
Eastern Gate - Spfld.	56.00
Grant Ave. - Spfld.	8.00
Farmington 1st	141.66
TOTAL	\$439.41

FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$ 40.00
DeSoto 1st	35.00
Grant Ave. - Springfield	10.00
Farmington 1st	133.33
TOTAL	\$218.33

REV. JOHN McCCLURE

Thayer	\$ 10.00
Monett 1st	35.00
Verdella - Liberal	10.00
Central West. Wom. Dist. Aux. (Bethel - El Dorado)	10.00
Grace - Arnold	15.00
Indian Creek Assoc. (Carthage)	33.00
TOTAL	\$113.00

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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CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Farmington 1st	\$25.00
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STEVE SMITH

Lebanon 1st	\$ 5.00
Farmington 1st	5.00
TOTAL	\$10.00

The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

What can I give Him
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part.
Yet what can I give Him?
Give my heart.



The little poem by Christina Rossetti is entitled "The Birthday Gift." As children (and many adults) make Christmas lists as long as the chimney they hope Santa will come down and shoppers wear themselves out trying to buy all those gifts; as the pressure mounts for choirs putting the finishing touches on their cantatas and Christmas program actors tire of the never-ending play rehearsals; as every class, club, and organization juggles schedules to plan a holiday party; the beauty of this time of year and "goodwill toward men" gives way to tired and frustrated scrooges who cannot wait for Christmas to be over and already dread next year's holiday season.

Who is all the hoopla for? "Christ!" we proclaim. "He is the reason for the season." Yet that can't be true, for all He expects from us is what He expects every other day of the year - our hearts and our willingness to serve Him.

Perhaps God may expect you to serve Him by participating in your church's cantata or program. Perhaps He wants you to be willing to share the gospel with your neighbor who doesn't know Christ. Maybe He wants you to take the time to share your talents with the less fortunate during the holidays . . . or He might want you to share more time with your family and reinstate those family devotions which have been pushed aside due to overcrowded schedules.

I pray God's richest blessings on you for the holiday season and as you plan for 1996. I challenge you to give Him your heart or whatever part of yourself you've withheld from Him. I believe, in return, God will give His greatest blessings.

Ray, A Good Friend

You have blessed the lives of many,
With your kind and helping hand.
Cheered the heart that was sad and lonely,
Helped the weak and suffering to stand.

To your flock, you were a shepherd,
To your neighbor, a true friend.
Now you've gone to reap the Harvest,
In a World that will never end.

Here, the heartaches seemed so heavy,
As you labored to win the lost.
But no sacrifice was ever too great;
You never seemed to count the cost.

Many days you left your family,
Whom you loved so very much -
To give your time to those about you,
Souls who needed a friendly touch.

How we appreciated your dedication,
As you endeavored to do His will.
Now, the toiling days have ended,
But those works will live on still.

And in that Land so beautiful,
Home of perfect peace and rest,
God has prepared for you a mansion,
Numbered you among the blest.

So, farewell, good and faithful servant,
You have gained a Home on high.
With a crown of Life forever,
Where there are no sad "goodbyes."

*In loving memory of Rev. Ray Middleton,
A man who cared for our souls.
by Pauline White, Cabool, Missouri*

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