

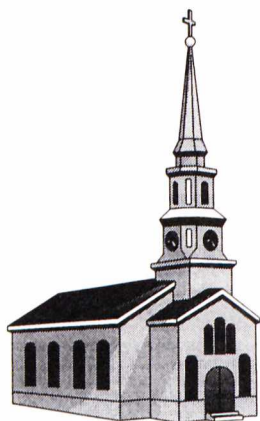


GEM


THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST

Volume 68, No. 1, January 1998

*Thou wilt show
me the path
of life. Ps.16:11*



THE CHURCH TITHING THE TITHE

My Weekly Tithe and Offering unto the Lord	
	
NAME	_____
AMOUNT	_____



A Church cannot sustain its physical plant, implement programs, or provide ministry without some financial income. For most churches that income is derived from the tithes of its members. How the church uses the tithes varies from church to church. Some churches believe that gift money should be used for local ministry only, while other churches would use it not only to meet their needs, but budget a portion for other ministries. Eugene B. Haberker, in an article entitled "How Much is Enough," raises a pertinent question. "The reason Scripture commands tithing is not to improve an economic situation but in response to a command of God and the important priority He is in our lives. Individuals are expected to tithe, so why not Christian organizations?" he asks.

Should churches tithe the tithes? Pastors and church leaders differ on this question. Those who are opposed to the church tithing the tithe use two major reasons to justify their point of view. First, there are those churches who believe the tithe should be used for nothing other than local ministry saying, "We want to know where our money is used." Second, there are churches who state that they just can't afford to tithe because the church budget just won't stand the extra expense.

For every reason for the church not to tithe, there is a better reason for the church to tithe.

Scripture supports tithing the tithe. The New Testament records that the early church gave of its means to assist the apostle Paul in his missionary endeavors. Also, it is recorded that the churches gave to help the Jerusalem church in its time of need. It can be argued that all of these gifts were special offerings which were over and above the tithe. However, since the Old Testament gives a very clear commission to tithe the tithe, we may assume that the early churches were not opposed to the practice. In the book of Numbers God told Moses that the tribe of Levi would not have a land inheritance when they settled in Israel, but the Levites would receive the tithes from the people.

And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation. But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance. Numbers 18:21-24

He then instructed that the Levites tithe the tithe to the Lord.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe. ... Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give thereof the LORD's heave offering to Aaron the priest. Numbers 18:25,26,28

Stewardship instruction to the Saints is reinforced when the church tithes the tithe. Christians are taught that stewardship is one of great tests of spirituality, and the Bible gives many reasons why the individual who has been saved should tithe. Gordon K. Moyes wrote, "Our tithes and offerings are God's by right, for the first fruits belong to Him. Tithing is God's key to your successful personal finances. Tithing puts God first, makes you budget in discipline, involves your family as a team, frees you from the great dollar hang-up, proves the reality of your faith, and releases the promises of God." Every biblical reason given why the individual should tithe can be used as a reason for the church to tithe the tithe. According to Edward J. Hales, "... The church needs to model a similar understanding of God's provision by being willing to give away from its own local program as the demonstration of its belief that God will, indeed, provide."

The solution to tithing the tithe begins with a commitment and a budget, formal or informal. Just as individual stewardship begins with a commitment to be obedient to give to the Lord, the church must make a commitment to give. After making the commitment to tithe the tithes, a budget will help the church to verbalize and then visualize the

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Business Office: P.O. Box 991, 202 West Commercial, Lebanon, Missouri 65536. Nathan Ruble, Editor. Address all correspondence relating to the GEM, including subscription and mailing information, to the above address. The sermons and articles published in the GEM represent the personal views of the authors and not necessarily the views and policies of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists or of the editor. Subscription rates: Single subscription, \$4.50 per year, cash in advance. Church Plan, \$4.00 per year, consisting of five subscriptions or more. The Church Plan will continue until it is canceled by the church. This magazine is published monthly.

commitment to tithe. "The Churches budget is not a list of its expenses, but a record of its vision. It is not a list of bills to be met but a program of ministry to be achieved," states Gordon K. Moyes.

However, commitment and budget alone will not guarantee success. Without consistent, aggressive leadership there will be limited success or failure. The pastor must provide the leadership that is necessary for the church to be a consistent. If there is a reluctance in the pulpit, there will be a reluctance in the pew.

Select a method for sending the tithes to work for the Lord. The Free Will Baptist Together Way Plan offers both the Cooperative and Designated method of giving. Cooperative giving, like the tithe when given to the church, is given undesignated. The money is sent through the state office where it is disbursed to state and national ministries according to the budget adopted by the State Association. Missouri churches have been blessed and have been a blessing by adopting the Cooperative plan of giving. Designated giving specifies the ministry that the money is to be given to. It may be sent through the state office, national office, or sent directly to the ministry for which the money is designated. Whichever method is used, the church should be concerned that the tithe they give supports the total ministry of the denomination. In that way it will be as the tithe given to the local church which supports the total program of that church.

Satisfaction is the blessing of the church tithing the tithe. There is the gratification of knowing that the church is participating with the rest of the body of Christ in carrying out the Great Commission. Too often churches are like two people riding a bicycle-built-for-two up a steep hill. When they reach the top, the first, gasping for breath, exclaims, "I though we'd never make it!" The second replies, "We wouldn't have if I hadn't kept the brakes on to keep us from rolling back down!" The Scriptures calls for cooperation and not competition. When our church tithes, it gives testimony to our oneness with the body of Christ. If God blesses the individual for tithing, He will no doubt bless the church for tithing.



Nathan Ruble

From The Desk of The Executive Secretary

"And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore. And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." (Josh. 3:3-5)

After forty years of wandering in the wilderness, the Lord brought the children of Israel back to the Jordan River in preparation for entering the land He had promised them. Because they had not traveled the land they were to occupy, they were given instructions for the journey. They were to keep the Ark of the Covenant in sight, use it as their signal to move, and sanctify themselves, for God was going to do wonders among them.

I can't think of better instructions for Missouri Free Will Baptists in 1998 than that which God gave to the Israelites, being where God is, going where God is going, and separated unto Him for His use. We have before us a New Year and how we follow God's instructions will determine what we do with it.

There is a road in Israel built next to a security fence that runs through the Jordan valley to separate Israel from its neighbors. The fence is an ordinary security fence, but the road is unusual. The road bed is covered with a thick layer of sand, and the only traffic on the road is a vehicle that pulls a drag along it once or twice a day to wipe out any tracks that may be on the road. As you probably have surmised, the road is used as a detector. Anyone crossing the fence will leave their tracks on the soft sand road and thus it alerts the Israelite patrols that an intruder has crossed into their territory.

1997 was like that road when it was used. Tracks of our passing are in the sand. Souls were saved in our churches and at youth camp, the Show-Me Mission Plan was launched, two new churches were started, Missouri Bible Institute sights and enrollment increased, lake front property was purchased for future use, Cooperative receipts increased, Senior Adult Retreat moved to two sessions, and Youth Ministries workshops were held.

1998 is like the sand road after the drag has passed by leaving no tracks or disturbances. As we set our feet upon the road of 1998, let us remember the admonition of the writer of Hebrews when he said, "... make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed." Heb. 12:13

Straight paths are commanded but they don't just happen. It requires planning and implementation. God has allowed us to plan. We have prepared budgets, scheduled meetings, and enlisted workers. Now we must implement those plans as we envision great things for our Lord. However, if in the doing we forget God's instructions, we will have failed. Let us labor as we practice being where God is, doing what God is doing, and sanctifying ourselves for God's use. God wants to do wonders among us.

Sunday School Averages June 1997 - November 1997

CHURCHES	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
Belton	43	38	39	39	32	35
Calvary Chapel	113	103	114	129	124	132
Copper Mines	53	49	49	51	48	
Cuba	123	129	128	118	130	132
DeSoto	158	165	171	183	167	165
Farmington	286					
Hannon	102	95	99	112	113	108
Harmony	56	53	48	54	42	54
Hartville	101	84	91	103	96	101
Hazel Creek	70		64	73	68	64
Hopewell	32	31	35	34	28	30
Houston	47	47	49	50	54	56
Lebanon First	92	82	104			
Lebanon FWB	41	39	41	42	46	49
Mill Creek	51	44	48	54	55	59
Monett	50	53	60	55	50	
Myrtle	30	32				38
Oskaloosa			16			17
Ozark	89	89	85	107	109	97
Park Hills First	112	98	109	117	109	
Richwoods	32	30	32	41	37	
Rock Chapel		48	51			47
Southside	15		20	17	19	21
Springfield First	101	114	115	143	118	115
Thayer	161	171	182	186	178	182
Trinity	76	71	62	75	75	78
United, West Plains	263	261	267	278	286	312
Verdella	97	72				
Willow Springs	51	58	48	57	55	53

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.

Mortgage Burning Celebration at O'Fallon



The First Free Will Baptist Church of O'Fallon, Missouri, held a special mortgage burning service Sunday, November 9. The morning and afternoon services were dedicated to celebration and thanksgiving as the Lord was given praise for His blessings.

A large crowd of members, former members, and visitors were welcomed to the services by Pastor Rick Dement. The congregational singing and special music

magnified the Lord and stirred hearts. Rev. Nathan Ruble delivered the morning message and commended the church on its faithful stewardship and its commitment to the Great Commission.

The ladies of the church provided a bountiful lunch which was enjoyed by everyone. During lunch many of the visitors took time to catch up on all the things that has happened since they had moved away.



Pastor Dement and Choir

The afternoon service was a time for special music and testimonies. Former pastors were recognized and those present were honored. Rev. Hugh Stogsdill was presented a plaque and Sister Eunice Stogsdill was presented roses in appreciation for their ministry in O'Fallon. Sister Carolyn Lombard was presented a plaque and roses in appreciation of her and Brother Don's labors. (The Lord called Brother Don home while he was pastor of the church.) Brother Stogsdill and Sister Lombard related some serious and comical things they remembered from the time that they served the church. Letters from former pastors Lloyd Durbin and Dale Underwood were read. Charter members were also recognized.

The First Free Will Baptist Church of O'Fallon had its beginning in the Spring of 1966 under the leadership of Rev. Lloyd Durbin. The Missouri Free Will Baptist Home Mission Board provided financial help and guidance. The mission went self supporting and organized into a church with 23 charter members in 1967.

A local restaurant was used as the first meeting place. At that time the mission was paying rent for the meeting place and for a house for the pastor. After a short time the congregation decided it would be better stewardship to build a parsonage with a basement where the church and Sunday School could meet and a top story where the pastor would live. Four men served the church as pastor while it met in the parsonage: Lloyd Durbin, Hugh Stogsdill, Dale Underwood, and Don Lombard.

In 1970, led by pastor Don Lombard, the church voted to build a first phase worship and educational facility, and in 1977 Brother Lombard led the church in a second phase addition to the building. Four pastors have served in the new facilities: Don Lombard, Robert Sherry, Ken Petty, and present pastor Rick Dement.

The First Church of O'Fallon continues to grow numerically, financially, and spiritually. Pastor Rick Dement states that the goal of the church is to be a blessing to others.

Two New Deacons Serving Verdella Church



Robert Williams, Pastor Ruble and Keith Crockett

Keith Crockett and Robert Williams were ordained to serve the Verdella Church as Deacons in a special service November 30, 1997. The church and several visitors from the Central Western Association Churches were welcomed to the service by Pastor Milan Ruble who presided over the service.

Rev. George Naumann prayed the invocation and Nancy Tahhan provided the special music. Rev. Nathan Ruble delivered a message emphasizing the calling, character, and commitment required of those who would serve the church.

Following the message, Pastor Milan Ruble called the two men forward and questioned them concerning their willingness to assume the office of deacon. As the men knelt at the altar the ordained gathered around and laid their hands on them as Rev. Warren Hall led in the prayer of ordination.

The charge was delivered by the pastor and he concluded by expressing his confidence in the two fine young men who have given themselves to serve the Verdella congregation. The service was concluded with the congregation giving the new deacons and their wives the right hand of fellowship and congratulations.

DAN CRONK WITH THE LORD

Former missionary Dan Cronk went to be with the Lord on November 20, 1997, after suffering a long illness. Dan and Trula Cronk served 27 years as missionaries to India. They returned to the States in 1972 due to Brother Cronk's health problems.

After their return, Brother Cronk taught at Free Will Baptist Bible College for seven years and served on the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Board for twelve years. He distinguished himself as an avid reader and served both on and off the field as a missions consultant. His presence among us will be missed.

1998 CALENDAR

MINISTERS RETREAT

March 23 - 25, 1998
Stonecroft Conference Center, Branson, MO

STATE YOUTH COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

May 8 - 9, 1998
Calvary Fellowship Church, Fenton, MO

SENIOR ADULT RETREAT

Group I

May 18 - 20, 1998

Group II

May 20 - 22, 1998

Stonecroft Conference Center,
Branson, MO

MISSOURI STATE CONVENTION/ WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

June 8 - 10, 1998
First Free Will Baptist Church, Monett, MO

YOUTH CAMP

Teen Camp

June 21 - 26, 1998

Pre - Teen Group 1

July 26 - July 31, 1998

Pre - Teen Group 2

August 2 - August 7, 1998

Please Note:

There will only be one Teen session this year.

Group 1

Greater Springfield
Indian Creek
Central Western
Mission
Cave Springs
Liberty
Niangua
Laclede

Group 2

Greater Kansas City
South Central
Northeast
St. Louis
St. Francois
Mid-Rivers
Bootheel
Northwest

NATIONAL CONVENTION, NYC & WNAC

July 12 - 16, 1998
Tulsa, Oklahoma

PREACHER/LAYMAN'S RETREAT AND ALL BOARDS MEETING

September 14, 1998
Youth Camp, Niangua, MO

Suggestion:

Put this information on your Church Bulletin Board.

LESSONS FROM NATURE

BY
GARRY MATTHEWS



Bow hunting in late December and early January in the north-east corner of Missouri is often a brutal experience. Three or four hours sitting in single digit temperatures (or below) and wind chills that go well into the minus two digits teaches one the meaning of the word cold! My wife says it more properly defines the word, stupid! Whatever your viewpoint, trust me, it is cold enough to make your bones ache. When I'm that cold, the quickest way for me to warm up is by sitting in front of a roaring fire in either the fireplace or my wood furnace in the basement. It never fails to bring back memories of standing around the old wood stove in uncle Ted and aunt Ta's kitchen. Some of you know what that's like. The side closest to the stove gets first degree burns, and the side away from the stove won't melt frost. Wood stoves are wonderful, and have only one drawback – you have to cut wood!

By now most of you realize I'm a little different (or as some say, "strange"), but I like to cut wood. I've learned a lot of lessons from cutting wood, mostly, all the hard way! I would like to share some of this wonderful knowledge!

****The best time to cut wood is when you don't need it.** Then you can pick the weather conditions, and the time that you want to do it. The worst time to cut wood is when the last stick is in the stove! Then no matter what the weather, or how bad you feel "you gotta cut wood!" It is the same way with prayer. The best time to pray is not when your back is to the wall, and you have tried all other alternatives. Rather, it is better to pray and commune with God from thankful hearts, praising him when everything is going great. He receives more glory from this than from "bailing us out of trouble" all the time. We should be as one of his disciples said in Luke 11:1 "...Lord, teach us to pray..."

****Your chain saw needs to be tuned up, and the chain sharp.** There is nothing worse than a saw that is difficult to start. It is easier physically to cut a pick-up load of wood than start a balky saw – you can pull your insides out! A dull chain turns a job into real work! Solomon sums it up in Ecclesiastes 10:10, "If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength:" Some Christians are like that – they are difficult to get started (some you can't start), they bog down easily, and kick back. The pastor ends up spending all his time working on them, rather than "cutting a load of wood."

****Some trees fool you.** They look like they will fall one direction, but they fall the opposite. Ecclesiastes 11:3, "And if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be." This can be quite dangerous. I experienced that this past spring. A large tree landed where I was standing just seconds before. Thank God, even though it got my saw, I escaped by inches. Solomon says: "... and he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby." Ecclesiastes 10:9. Spiritually we sometimes get over-matched. Our confidence in our abilities to combat the forces of satan may put us in the direct path of the "falling tree."

****Splitting wood is a real art.** My father-in-law is a master at splitting wood with a double-bit axe. He makes it look easy, splitting with one or two swings of the axe. I assure you, it is not that easy – it comes with years (decades) of practice. Mature, experienced Christians are that same way. They make the Christian life look so easy, so simple. They never seem to break a sweat. Meanwhile the immature Christian may be swinging the axe faster and harder, but he's not splitting with the grain, or can't hit the same place twice. Therefore, his greatest accomplish-

ment is activity (sweat), not results (split wood).

****Wood with twisted grain is difficult to split – sometimes seemingly impossible, especially when green.** However, that same stick of wood with frost in it will split with a single blow. So it is when the "frost" of the Holy Spirit penetrates embittered, twisted, impenitent hearts. People that have been prayed for, and witnessed to for years with no success, can be "split with a single blow" with the working and leading of the Holy Spirit.

****Properly seasoned wood burns better, with less creosote build-up than green wood.** Likewise, a heart seasoned with prayer and Bible study accomplishes its purpose of providing warmth to cold, sinful hearts with a lot less "smoke and impurities."

****When burning wood, the ashes have to be routinely carried out or eventually they will choke out the fire.** The flue has to be kept clean, or there is a danger of a flue fire, and of burning the house down. We as Christians need a routine cleansing of our lives, or our fire will go out. If we do not routinely clean the impurities from our lives, then we too risk the danger of burning our spiritual house down.

Unfortunately, in this modern age, most of us have become great thermostat adjusters. The concept of having to plan ahead and physically prepare for our winter's fuel supply is completely foreign. Once again, another opportunity for an entire family working together as a unit toward a common goal is lost. Is it possible that the demise of the wood stove, the family garden, the hog killings, and some of the other old time ways has contributed to the break-up of the family unit? Hmmn – I wonder.

Ministers Retreat

sponsored by

Missouri State Executive Office

&

The Christian Education Board

March 23 - 25, 1998

Stonecroft Conference Center

Branson, Missouri

Speakers

Rev. Carl Cheshier, President of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College and Rev. James Forlines, Pastor of the Allen Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Batesville, Arkansas, will be the guest speakers for the 1998 retreat.

Cost

Double Occupancy - \$65.00 per person (Cost includes two nights lodging, five meals and two snacks.)

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.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please Print:

Name _____ Home Phone () _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Church _____

I would like to room with _____

A \$10 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.

HOLLAND HIGHLIGHTS

Curt & Mary
Amber, Kelsey, Brooklin

Dear Show-Me Churches,

We just want to let each of you know how much we appreciate you. Since our arrival in Brazil on July 1st, we have felt the benefit of your prayers for us. Soon after setting up house here in Campinas, we began working with the First Free Will Baptist Church here in town. After a meeting with the pastor and the church board, our plan of ministry was determined. There are 8 people who attend the First Church, but they live in a neighborhood that is a good distance from the church. The church has wanted to start a new congregation in the Sao Jose' neighborhood, but hadn't been successful in coordinating the effort. Part of our new ministry here in Campinas is the planting of a new congregation in the Sao Jose' area. We would like to introduce the key members of this group to you so that you can better pray for them.

Onofre - He is a common laborer who was saved in 1984. He has a great desire to witness to his neighbors and friends. Pray for his wife, young son and his older son who helps in the music ministry at the 1st Church.

Bill & Claudia - Claudia is Onofre's daughter. This couple is very excited about serving the Lord. They have been saved for about three years and have been married for two years. They have a young daughter who is almost one. They both work in Factories outside of Campinas. Bill is studying law and they have opened their house to our group for our home Bible studies. Please pray as the Lord uses them.

Junior - A young man in his late twenties, was saved in 1996. He is taking a class on missions at the Bible seminary here in town. He works at a soap factory in

the maintenance department. He will be married to Adriana on December 13th. Please pray for this future leader of the church to be a good witness.

Adriana - Who is Junior's fiance, is in her early twenties and is looking forward to their wedding. She works for a major health insurance company. She and Junior have been doing pre-marital classes and have been growing in their spiritual lives. Andiana was saved in 1996.

Paulo Cesar - He is 22 years old today. Paulo was saved earlier this year. He works in an auto body shop. Please pray for his spiritual growth as he is still a babe in Christ. He has a great desire to learn and grow in his Christian life.

Ana Paula - Ana was also saved earlier this year. She is the girlfriend of Paulo. She loves to memorize scripture and study her new convert lessons. She is a student and is a witness to her friends and family members on a daily basis. Please pray that she will keep the "fire."

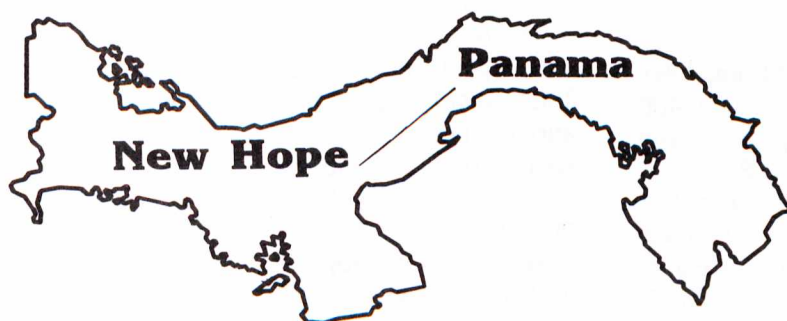
Just last night, I finished a seven week course on how to lead an evangelistic home Bible study with this group. They have been challenged to fast and pray next week for those whom they want to reach through these studies. Some of them have already started the first few lessons with some unsaved friends. This group now wants to continue with another series of studies that will help them to grow deeper in their Christian lives. Please join us in prayer for these precious people. As you give thanks to the Lord during this time of the year, please give thanks with us for these Brazilian believers who are trying to reach the lost here in Brazil.



Mission Association Walk-A-Thon

The Mission District Association held its third annual Walk for Missions on November 1. The walk was organized by the Mission Association Youth Ministries Board under the direction of the Association Missions Coordinator, Rev. John Postlewaite. This year the Walk for Missions included a Walk Marathon and a Run Marathon. Brother Anderson reports that when the signal to begin the Run Marathon was given, Justin Brill took off swiftly. The skeptics said, "He'll never make it." The winner was Justin Brill. As the Walk Marathon got under way the skeptics stated that the power-walking Jerry Pinkerton would not be able to keep up his fast start. The winner was Jerry Pinkerton.

Over fifty runners and walkers participated in the event and someone said the age of the participants ranged from 3 to 93. Prizes were given for the most money raised, the youngest walker, the oldest walker, first place runner, first place walker, and the church with the most participants. Pleasant Home Free Will Baptist Church was awarded a plaque during the November Quarterly Meeting for having the most participants in the event. At this time, it is estimated that the Mission Association Youth raised over \$2,400.00.



"New Hope in Panama"

by Russell McDaris

In the 1996 summer session of Youth Camp, a challenge was accepted by our youth to join the other Free Will Baptist youth

of Missouri to raise \$12,000.00 for the Nueva Esperanza (New Hope) Free Will Baptist Church in Panama. Brother Arsenio Gonzales is pastor of the Nueva Esperanza Church, and Steve and Judy Lytle are working with him in this building effort.

This is a faith project by the youth of our state. All Free Will Baptist youth in Missouri are invited to be a part of this project. To this date about half of the money has been raised. The designated goal is to have it all raised in time for the State Meeting June 8 - 10, 1998. So, we are urging you to be much in prayer and do what God would have you to do to share in this mission work!

God is faithful. He will supply our needs, if we will follow His lead. Thank you so much for what you have already done and for what you are going to do. May God continue to bless you and yours!

Randall House Publications Continues To Fulfill Commitment With New Curriculum Release

In 1994, Dr. Alton Loveless made a commitment to the National Association of Free Will Baptists to improve the quality and appearance of Randall House curriculum. After revising all curriculum covers, redesigning adult curriculum formats, reediting teen curriculum, and introducing a new curriculum for primary classes, **Randall House Publications has done it again.**

Beginning with the December 1997 issue all *Junior* curriculum will be rewritten and redesigned. While remaining a KJV Bible based curriculum, new ideas and designs make this an up-to-date, and age relevant curriculum.

This new curriculum will stimulate students with new activities, reinforce Biblical education with insightful questions and activities, inspire spiritual commitment with age-relevant devotional Bible lessons, and evangelize with a strong salvation emphasis. Teachers will love the easy-to-follow lesson plan, the strong Bible memory program, the uplifting music, and the importance placed on salvation and Christian values throughout the curriculum.

If your church is not using Randall House's new *Junior* curriculum you may request a free sample. Free samples will be available after January 1, 1998. To receive your free sample: write Randall House Publications, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217; fax 615-367-0535; e-mail sales@randallhouse.com; or call 1-800-877-7030. You may order your Randall House Literature from the Lebanon Bible and Bookstore.

The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti



Recently, I was studying my Sunday School lesson. I was also concentrating on a commitment I'd made to try to be an encourager, daily lift others up.

The lesson focused on being a reflection of God's love. It shared a brief story of a woman who'd had a difficult time finding a church which would make her handicapped mother feel welcome. While visiting yet another church, the pastor said the word "home" which prompted a gentleman with Alzheimer's to stand and sing "Home on the Range." Upon his completion he was seated and the pastor simply carried on. This truly signified home to the woman as she was sure she'd found the church who would love her mother in spite of the handicaps.

I wondered about this love on an individual, personal basis but switched my thinking toward the church. Does your church (and its groups, classes, etc) offer love and acceptance to those seeking your fellowship? Could you offer unconditional out-of-the ordinary love to those who need it the most yet appear to deserve it the least?

It sounds familiar, doesn't it? In our sin, Christ died for us. In our rebellion and ignorance, He loves us. We can reflect no less to others.

1997 YOUTH CONFERENCE

by Ann Poletti

The 1997 Youth Conference convened at Camp Win-
dermere on November 21 - 22. Approximately 400
gathered to be challenged by the music, speakers, and
seminars coordinated by the Youth Ministries Board.

Satan did his best to kill the spirit . . . but failed.
Scheduled speaker Barry St. Clair was forced to cancel
due to his wife's serious illness, the "substitute" speaker
was fogged in at St. Louis, and Jonathan Adams (St. Clair's
assistant) was rushed in at the last minute to fill in. Using
his own experiences, Adams challenged those in atten-
dance to use every given opportunity to be a witness for
Christ.



This year's music was provided by "Four for Harmony."
Combining a timeless message with contemporary music
and acoustics, the group ministered beautifully to the
enthusiastic audience.

Make plans now to attend the 1998 conference!!

Music Commission Announces Mass Choir Recording

The Music Commission of the National Association of
Free Will Baptists reports exciting results from their Sep-
tember meeting at the national office building outside
Nashville. Randy Sawyer, commission chairman, is
pleased to announce plans for a mass choir recording

project slated for July 10 - 11, 1998, the weekend prior
to the National Association meeting in Tulsa, OK.

The recording session will be held at the Rejoice Fee
Will Baptist Church in Owasso, Oklahoma, just north of
Tulsa. Recording will begin on Friday afternoon/evening
and continue on Saturday, followed by a fellowship
supper for all participants.

"This is a very ambitious and exciting undertaking for
our commission and for Free Will Baptists. It will include
songs that our people have held dear as part of our
tradition, as well as new songs destined to become
standards of the church," commented Sawyer. "It's some-
thing no Free Will Baptist musician will want to miss."

Songs from the release will be used in worship by the
mass choir during all evening services of the convention,
and attendees will have the first chance to purchase the
project that week at the music commission booth. Pro-
duction plans include cassettes, Cds, choral books, and
orchestration tracks.

"We need participation from everywhere for this pro-
ject to be a success," Sawyer continued. "Singers from
choirs with 10 voices or 100 voices all need to make
preparations to be at the recording session."

Plans are being made to mail rehearsal music in the
spring. Those that plan to attend and would like the music
should send a request to:

Reasons To Rejoice

c/o Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church
2518 Una-Antioch Pike
Antioch, TN 37013
or e-mail to: KjustMan@AOL.com

Financial Information

NOVEMBER 1997 COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board.....	\$5,153.79
17.50% Executive Office	4,875.21
3.00% General Fund	835.75
.50% Show-Me Plan	139.29
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	2,367.96
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.....	696.46
2.50% C.E. Board	696.46
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board.....	696.46
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	2,507.24
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	8,496.78
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	
(\$84.96 included in \$8,496.78)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund	1,392.92
TOTAL	\$27,858.32

God has blessed the faithfulness of the
Pastors and Churches in Missouri through
1997. He has given us another good year.
As we continue to work together, we will
see the lost saved and the saints edified.
"And God is able to make all grace abound
toward you; that ye, always having all suf-
ficiency in all things, may abound to every
good work;" (2 Cor. 9:8).

The allocation for National Ministries
is designated this year, with FWBCC and
Hillsdale receiving an equal amount. Cali-
fornia Christian College will continue to
receive 1%.

NOVEMBER 1997 COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

Aulsbury Chapel	\$169.51
Bailey - Alton	187.00
Bailey Chapel	140.00
Belton	244.84
Bethel - Northview	139.93
Black Oak	191.10
Bourbon	64.60
Byrd	64.00
Cabool	255.36
Calvary Chapel	582.35
Central	775.29
Chapel of the Ozarks	158.13
Copper Mines	399.79
Cornerstone	74.00
Cornerstone	33.60
Crossroads - Wentzville	385.10

Cuba.....	466.50
DeSoto 1st.....	1,000.00
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs.....	85.50
Fellowship.....	400.00
Fellowship.....	33.50
Fordland.....	426.03
Fourth.....	285.18
Fredericktown 1st.....	258.00
Freeman Chapel.....	235.39
Friendship.....	508.01
Grace.....	1,014.00
Grant Ave.....	828.93
Hannibal.....	211.00
Hannon.....	692.46
Harmony.....	453.00
Heritage.....	100.00
Hopewell.....	154.00
Houston 1st.....	343.73
Hurryville.....	486.86
Jackson.....	33.00
Joplin 1st.....	504.53
King's Way.....	228.00
Kirkville 1st.....	10.00
Koshkonong.....	131.94
Lead Hill.....	243.00
Lebanon 1st.....	727.57
Lebanon F.W.B.	303.21
Lone Star.....	40.10
Macedonia.....	52.53
Merl's Chapel.....	160.00
Mill Creek.....	291.21
Mine La Motte.....	62.79
Mt. Pisgah.....	280.00
Mt. Zion - Gower.....	46.70
Neosho 1st.....	95.00
New Harmony.....	14.35
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	50.00
New Life - Licking.....	240.45
Niangua.....	120.00
North Five.....	80.50
Number One.....	110.62
Oak Hill - Fredericktown.....	45.89
Oak Hill - Union - Sept.....	577.39
Oak Hill - Union - Aug.....	899.28
O'Fallon 1st.....	786.45
Overland.....	110.00
Ozark 1st.....	1,089.93
Park Hills 1st.....	617.51
Parkview.....	380.75
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove.....	270.92
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana.....	76.00
Pleasant Hill - Thayer.....	106.69
Potosi 1st.....	127.62
Republic.....	181.00
Rock Chapel.....	296.69
Rolla 1st.....	106.49
Royal Oak - Alton.....	130.00
Seymour.....	187.00
Smyrna.....	100.00
Southside.....	130.26
Springfield 1st.....	938.73
Stockton.....	114.88
Thayer.....	806.00
Trinity.....	1,004.55
Union Grove.....	268.00
Union Light.....	79.00
United - West Plains.....	903.44
Unity.....	354.00
Verdella.....	386.91
Victory - Alton.....	200.66
Waynesville 1st.....	244.22
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove.....	212.42
Wolf Creek.....	453.45
TOTAL.....	\$27,858.32

SHOW-ME PLAN

AmeriVision - Lee. G.....	\$1.73
Aulsbury Chapel.....	150.00
Banes, B.....	15.00
Barker, Rev. J.....	15.00
Belton.....	120.00
Belton Ladies Aux.....	15.00
Berean.....	30.00
Berry, R.....	15.00
Bethel - Festus.....	45.00
Big Creek.....	55.00
Bishop, B.J.....	15.00
Black Oak.....	30.00
Bourbon.....	15.00
Bowers, C.....	15.00
Brotherhood Insurance.....	2,433.33
Buxton, G.....	30.00
Cabool.....	135.00
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo.....	105.00
Cartee, J.....	15.00
Carthage.....	500.00

Carthage Aux.....	500.00
Carthage Sunday School.....	100.01
Central.....	460.00
Chapel of the Ozarks.....	387.46
Chrisman, M.....	30.00
Copper Mines.....	30.00
Copper Mines - High Teen Class.....	15.00
Copper Mines - Young Adult Class.....	15.00
Cuba.....	64.86
Darnell, W.....	15.00
DeSoto 1st.....	300.00
DeSoto - Victors CTS Class.....	15.00
Eastern Gate.....	80.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora.....	375.00
Faith & Hope - W.S.....	60.00
Farmington 1st.....	675.00
Fellowship.....	827.73
Fordland.....	160.00
Fourth.....	135.00
Fourth.....	210.00
Francis, N.....	15.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	120.00
Freeman Chapel.....	540.00
Garrett, R.....	15.00
Gospel Light.....	600.00
Grace.....	259.00
Graham, S.....	15.00
Grant Ave.....	320.00
Greater Springfield Assoc.....	820.00
Hannibal - WNAC.....	15.00
Hannon.....	1,107.46
Harmony - Parkville.....	145.00
Harris, F.....	45.00
Houston 1st.....	541.50
Hurryville.....	300.00
Hurryville - Sr. Adult S.S. Class.....	15.00
Indian Creek Aux.....	30.00
Indian Creek CTS.....	291.50
Indian Creek Offering.....	75.56
Jackson.....	15.00
Jones Chapel.....	797.51
Joplin 1st.....	2,387.25
King's Way.....	10.00
Leadington.....	30.00
Lebanon 1st.....	50.00
Lebanon F.W.B.....	30.00
Macedonia - Purdy.....	2,835.83
Macedonia Aux.....	950.00
Maggart, D.....	45.00
Merl's Chapel.....	150.00
Merl's Chapel.....	250.01
Mill Creek.....	90.00
Mill Creek.....	45.00
Mill Creek - Young Adult S.S. Class.....	15.00
Mine La Motte.....	45.00
Monett 1st.....	2,082.69
Monett 1st.....	562.50
Mt. Pisgah.....	75.00
Mt. Zion - Thayer.....	30.00
Neosho.....	165.00
Neosho.....	200.00
Neosho Aux.....	300.00
New Harmony.....	71.77
New Home.....	150.00
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	75.00
New Life - Licking.....	71.16
New Life - Monett.....	678.50
New Testament.....	273.50
Oak Grove - Houston.....	15.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	210.00
Ozark 1st.....	55.00
Park Hills 1st.....	215.25
Parkview - Desloge.....	195.00
Parson, O.....	15.00
Pleasant Grove - Anderson.....	182.94
Pleasant Home.....	75.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana.....	50.00
Purdy.....	60.00
Purdy.....	655.00
Richardson, O.....	15.00
Richwoods.....	60.00
Rock Chapel.....	285.00
Rogers, B.....	15.00
Royal Oak.....	105.00
Ruble, N.....	45.00
Springfield 1st.....	20.00
Thayer.....	310.00
Trinity.....	780.00
Union Light.....	120.00
United - West Plains.....	1,052.79
Unity.....	75.00
Verdella.....	746.91
Viburnum.....	210.00
Walker, H. Jr.....	15.00
West Plains 1st.....	202.50
White, R.....	15.00

Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove.....	85.00
Willow Springs 1st.....	150.00
Wilson, R.....	15.00
Wolf Creek.....	360.00
TOTAL.....	\$32,371.25

STATE HOME MISSIONS

Brotherhood Insurance.....	\$2,433.34
Carthage.....	166.67
Carthage Sunday School.....	33.33
Chapel of the Ozarks.....	129.15
Cuba.....	22.43
Faith & Hope - Aurora.....	125.00
Farmington 1st.....	20.00
Grace.....	25.00
Grant Ave.....	20.00
Greater Springfield Area Assoc.....	820.00
Hannon.....	346.24
Indian Creek Aux.....	10.00
Indian Creek CTS.....	97.17
Indian Creek Offering.....	25.18
Jones Chapel.....	265.83
Joplin.....	362.66
Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	285.00
Livingston, W.....	20.00
Macedonia.....	945.27
Macedonia Aux.....	50.00
Merl's Chapel.....	83.33
Monett.....	187.50
Neosho.....	66.67
Neosho Aux.....	100.00
New Home - Hartville.....	10.00
New Life.....	226.17
New Testament.....	91.16
O'Fallon 1st.....	112.50
Ozark 1st.....	10.00
Pleasant Grove - Anderson.....	60.97
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana.....	20.00
Purdy.....	218.33
Rock Chapel.....	73.99
St. Francois Dist. Assoc.....	1,592.35
Stovall, J.....	30.00
Thayer.....	40.00
Trinity.....	15.00
Union Light.....	51.00
United - West Plains.....	25.00
Wormington, L.....	30.00
TOTAL.....	\$9,246.24

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Carthage.....	\$166.67
Carthage Sunday School.....	33.33
Central.....	10.00
Chapel of the Ozarks.....	129.15
Cuba.....	22.43
DeSoto 1st.....	644.00
DeSoto Children's Church.....	20.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora.....	125.00
Fordland.....	25.00
Grace.....	166.00
Grant Ave.....	143.89
Greater Springfield Area Assoc.....	820.00
Hannon.....	69.25
Houston 1st.....	70.00
Indian Creek Aux.....	10.00
Indian Creek CTS.....	97.16
Indian Creek Offering.....	25.48
Jones Chapel.....	265.83
Joplin.....	362.66
Joplin 1st.....	20.00
Lebanon F.W.B.....	5.00
Macedonia - Purdy.....	945.28
Macedonia Aux.....	100.00
Merl's Chapel.....	83.33
Monett.....	187.50
Mt. Pisgah.....	25.00
Neosho.....	66.66
Neosho 1st.....	25.00
Neosho Aux.....	100.00
New Harmony.....	71.77
New Home - Hartville.....	10.00
New Life.....	226.16
New Testament.....	130.00
New Testament.....	91.17
Number One.....	427.31
Oak Grove - Mtn. Grove.....	43.30
O'Fallon 1st.....	112.50
Ozark 1st.....	135.00
Park Hills 1st.....	279.65
Pleasant Grove - Anderson.....	60.97
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove.....	121.82
Purdy.....	218.34
Rader, J.W.....	20.00
Ratterree, J.....	50.00
Richwoods 1st.....	55.00
Rock chapel.....	45.00
Serghides, A.....	25.00

St. Francois Dist. Assoc.....	796.18
Thayer.....	178.00
Trinity.....	40.00
Union Light.....	85.00
United - West Plains.....	15.00
Unity.....	50.00
Verdella.....	10.00
Viburnum.....	82.00
Waynesville 1st.....	50.00
West Plains 1st.....	183.00
Wolf Creek.....	75.00
TOTAL.....	\$8,450.79

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Blue Springs.....	\$87.75
Buttress, D.....	194.00
Central.....	25.00
DeSoto 1st.....	45.00
Fourth.....	15.00
Grant Ave.....	76.00
Joplin Youth.....	500.00
Kirkville 1st.....	40.00
Leadington.....	50.00
Merl's Chapel.....	50.00
Neosho.....	15.00
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	20.00
New Life - Licking.....	35.59
New Testament.....	60.00
Oak Grove - Mtn. Grove.....	86.60
Parkview - Desloge.....	40.00
Springfield 1st.....	982.10
St. Francois Dist. Assoc.....	2,388.54
Stovall, J.....	10.00
Thayer.....	10.00
Trinity.....	202.28
United - West Plains.....	30.00
Waynesville 1st.....	50.00
Williams, V.....	10.00
TOTAL.....	\$5,022.86

MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

James Stovall.....	\$10.00
Ozark 1st.....	10.00
Niangua.....	20.00
Hannon.....	15.00
Thayer.....	40.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	127.50
DeSoto 1st.....	50.00
Park Hills 1st.....	42.32
Mt. Pisgah.....	10.00
Trinity.....	14.00
New Home - Hartville.....	10.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove.....	10.00
West Plains 1st.....	25.00
Cabool.....	10.00
Brotherhood Insurance.....	2,433.33
TOTAL.....	\$2,827.15

FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Thayer.....	\$40.00
DeSoto 1st.....	35.00
Verdella.....	77.38
TOTAL.....	\$152.38

HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Ozark 1st.....	\$10.00
Hannon.....	50.00
Central.....	60.00
Thayer.....	45.00
Neosho 1st.....	60.00
Grant Ave.....	6.00
TOTAL.....	\$231.00

REV. JOHN MCCLURE

Thayer.....	\$10.00
Trinity.....	10.00
Grace.....	15.00
TOTAL.....	\$35.00

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	\$37.50
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YOUTH MINISTRIES BOARD

Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	\$37.50
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SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES BOARD

Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	\$37.50
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TRULA CRONK HOME FOR CHILDREN

Waynesville 1st.....	\$55.52
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	30.00
Unity.....	10.00
DeSoto 1st.....	75.00
Park Hills 1st.....	10.00
TOTAL.....	\$180.52

STEVE SMITH

DeSoto 1st.....	\$50.00
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CORNERSTONE FWB CHURCH

Indian Creek Missions Conference.....	\$3,694.39
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Have a Heart for Hillsdale February 1998



MISSOURI STATE ASSOC.
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
P.O. Box 991
202 West Commercial
Lebanon, MO 65536

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