

# **THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM**

**Volume 68, No. 5, May 1998**

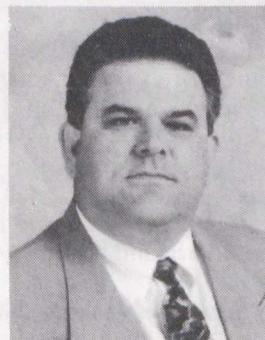
## **Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists**



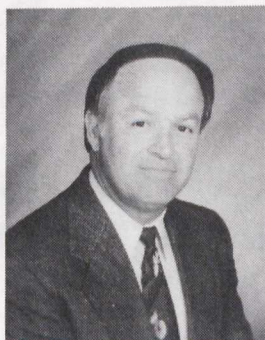
**Rev. Gene Howell**

### **Christian Loyalty**

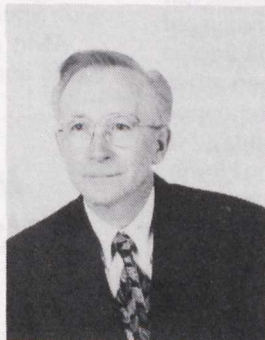
**Hebrews 10:24,25**



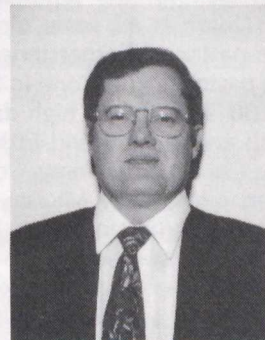
**Dr. Curtis Linton**



**Rev. Carl Cheshier**



**Rev. Ronnie Blanks**



**Rev. Alvin Hook**

**June 8 – 10, 1998  
Lebanon, MO – *New* Civic Center**





Nathan Ruble

## From The Desk of The Executive Secretary

The 85th session of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists will be held at the Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center in Lebanon, Missouri, June 8 - 10. Those attending the convention will notice two changes in the program. The Missouri Women Active for Christ will meet on Monday rather than Tuesday, and the convention will end following the Wednesday evening service rather than on Thursday morning.

The theme for this year's convention is "Christian Loyalty." Four speakers—Rev. Gene Howell, Rev. Carl Cheshier, Rev. Ronnie Blanks, and Rev. Alvin Hook—will develop the theme taken from Hebrews 10:24,25.

**The Monday evening message will be delivered by the Rev. Gene Howell.** Brother Howell was born in Fort Hood, Texas. Converted in 1966, he was ordained to preach in 1980. Brother Gene served as associate pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Flat River (1981-1984) and pastored the Faith Free Will Baptist Church of Corning, Arkansas (1984-1986); Viburnum Free Will Baptist Church (1986-1988); Belton Free Will Baptist Church (1988-1995); and the First Free Will Baptist Church of Springfield (1995 - present). He has served as moderator of the Greater Kansas City District Association and the St. Francois District Association. Gene has served on the Missouri Youth Camp Board, and he is now a member of the Youth Ministries Board.

Gene and his wife, Sandra, have three children - Stephanie, Joshua, and Jon.

**The Christian Education Board will be sponsoring a Church Growth Seminar Tuesday morning. Dr. Curtis Linton will be the guest speaker for the seminar and the eleven o'clock service.** Dr. Linton is 42 years old and a native of Oklahoma. He is the pastor of Cornerstone Free Will Baptist Church. He came to pastor Cornerstone in 1986 when attendance was around 100. The all-time high day for attendance was 3128. The church averages around 1100 per Sunday. He founded Cornerstone Christian Academy, Cornerstone Homeless Ministries, Cornerstone Spanish Ministry, and recently has started a satellite church, Cornerstone East, in another part of Tulsa. Cornerstone has also started two churches in Mexico and has been actively involved in the work in Russia. Before coming to Tulsa, Dr. Linton worked as a church planter in Salina, Oklahoma, and as a National Home Missionary to Lawton/Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Dr. Linton has an extensive revival/conference ministry which covers most of our Free Will Baptist states and several foreign countries.

Dr. Linton is married to Karen Linton. They have three daughters. Charity Wilson, who is the oldest daughter, is married; Hope is a Freshman at Southeastern Free Will Baptist

College; and Faith is a Sophomore at Cornerstone Christian Academy and lives at home. Dr. Linton is also a very proud grandfather of Mikala Dane Wilson who is five months old.

**Rev. Carl Cheshier will fill the pulpit Tuesday evening.** Brother Cheshier is well known among Free Will Baptists and has been widely used as an evangelist and conference speaker. The 59-year-old Oklahoma native has pastored in Arkansas, California, Oklahoma, and Texas. He served his last pastorate, the Cavanaugh Free Will Baptist Church, for twenty-eight years.

Brother Cheshier served as moderator of the Arkansas State Association for eighteen years. He also served on the National Sunday School Board for thirteen years and as Assistant Moderator of the National Association. He presently serves as President of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College and Moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Carl Cheshier and his wife, Barbara, have two children, Becky and Phil, and three grandchildren.

**The 11:00 service on Wednesday will have the Rev. Ronnie Blanks delivering the message.** Brother Blanks was born in Grubbs, Arkansas, in 1944. He was converted in 1957, ordained to preach in 1966, and graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1966. He has pastored in Huntsville, Alabama (65-67); Greenbrier, Arkansas (68-70); Warren, Arkansas (71-72, 78-86); Arkadelphia, Arkansas (72-78); and 1st Free Will Baptist Church, West Plains, Missouri (1986 - present). Ronnie has served as moderator of the New Hope Association in Arkansas, the Cave Springs quarterly in Missouri, and the Arkansas C.T.S. Board. He presently serves as chairman of the Missouri Youth Camp Board, a member of the West Plains Hospital ethics committee, and as a member of the West Plains Medical Center Chaplains.

Ronnie and his wife, Linda, have three children - Richie, Mrs. Ben (Jennifer) Ryan, and Matthew.

**The Rev. Alvin Hook will be preaching in the Wednesday evening service.** He was born in Harrisonville, Missouri, in 1956. Alvin was converted in 1966, ordained to preach in 1978, and graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1978. He served as an assistant pastor of the Woodbine Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and pastored the First Free Will Baptist Church, Blue Springs, Missouri (1979-1983), Verdella Free Will Baptist Church (1983-1985) and the Blue Springs Free Will Baptist Church (1986 - present).

Alvin and his wife, Gaye, have three daughters - Karen, Leslie and Julie.

## MOTEL INFORMATION FOR MISSOURI STATE CONVENTION JUNE 8 - 10



930 Ivey Lane, Lebanon, MO 65536  
Phone (417) 533-3100

1 person \$62.00 + tax  
2 - 4 persons 69.00 + tax  
Free Deluxe Continental Breakfast

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





1831 West Elm, Lebanon, MO 65536  
Phone (417) 588-2574

1-2 persons	1 bed	\$40.39 + tax
2 persons	2 beds	43.09 + tax
3 persons	2 beds	45.79 + tax
4 persons	2 beds	48.49 + tax

**Best Western Wyota Inn**  
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Lebanon, MO 65536  
Phone (417) 532-6171

1 person	\$38.95 + tax
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3 persons	53.95 + tax
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10% Seniors & AAA Discount

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Phone (417) 532-7111

1 person	\$47.95 + tax
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**Add:** \$5.00 for each addtl. adult  
10% discount  
Free Continental Breakfast

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Lebanon, MO 65536  
Phone (417) 588-3226

1 person	\$34.95 + tax
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**Add:** \$4.00 for each addtl. adult  
10% discount

**Forest Manor R-V Park**  
207 E. Seminole, Exit 130  
Lebanon, MO 65536  
Phone (417) 532-6114

\$14.95 + tax daily

## Join the Helping Hands

by Mildred Rider

If you are looking for a ministry which involves travel, work, and great fellowship, join the Helping Hands. The Helping Hands is a volunteer group of mostly retired men and women who love the Lord. Their backgrounds are as varied as a church congregation. Executives and laborers have united to build for the Lord. Most of those involved in this ministry were inexperienced in building when they started, but they were willing to learn.

Members pay their way to and from the job site and furnish their own health insurance. The churches, when able, feed the workers and may assist them with traveling expenses. Those who own RVs live in them while on the job. Those who do not stay with church members.

The 1996 Masters Men Layman of the year, Thedford Daniel Rider, will be 77 years of age in June and is still working. Presently, four couples from Missouri – Daniel & Mildred Rider, Floyd (Bud) & Doris Rogers, John & Vivian Mouser and Bill & Margie Vancil – are active in helping build. All four couples are members of the First Free Will Baptist Church in DeSoto. Other couples from Missouri who have worked with Helping Hands are Bob & Lou Collins, Rocky & Shirley Vernon, and the Hoppers.

Helping Hands have helped in more than 42 projects including the national office building in Antioch, Tennessee. Those involved say that the rewards are great. You meet some of the best people and work with Free Will Baptists from a number of states.

The Helping Hands are led by Missionary Builder Howard (Happy) Gwartney. If you would like to join this great ministry, you may contact Howard Gwartney at P.O. Box 217, Locust Grove, Oklahoma 74352, phone (918) 479-5456 or Home Missions Director Trymon Messer at P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, Tennessee 37011-5002.

## "COME OVER AND HELP US"

"Come over and help us" was the plea of the Macedonian in Acts 16:9. Now the plea comes from Arizona. George Harvey, Moderator of the First Arizona District Association, is writing each state headquarters office to publish a plea for ministers to pray about moving west where the mission field is vast.

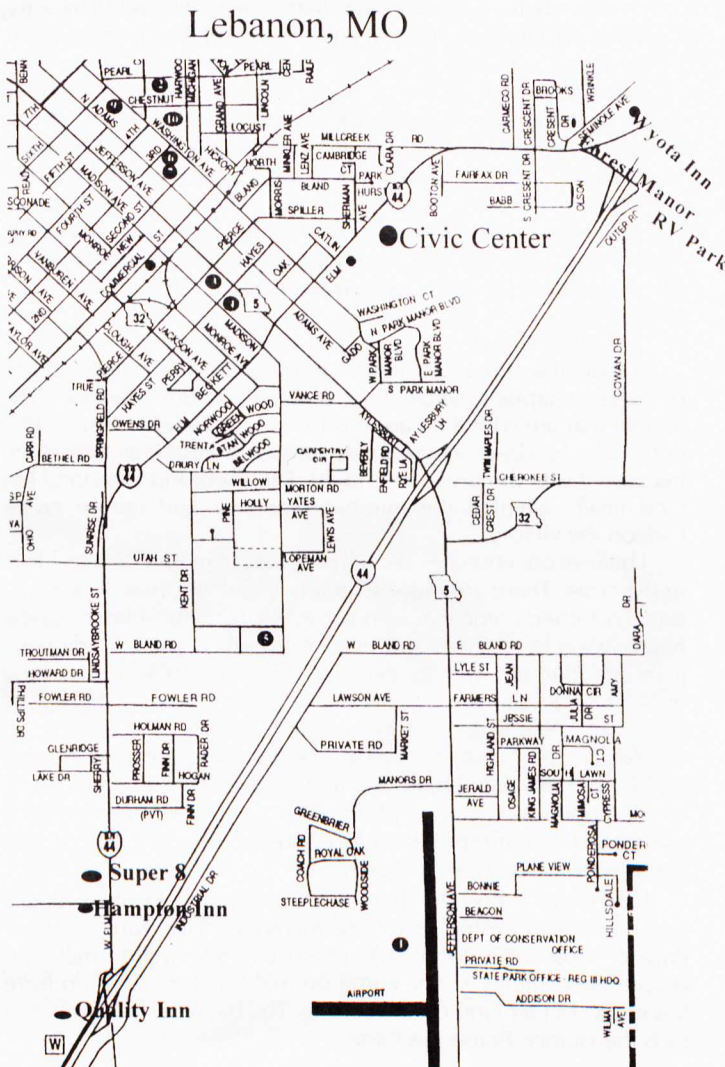
A mission work in Chandler, a suburb of Phoenix, is without a mission pastor. While the National Home Missions Department is looking for a man to fill this position, there may be someone interested in missions who needs to hear of this opportunity.

Another mission work in Sierra Vista needs an interim pastor for six months until their present pastor returns from military obligations.

Trinity Free Will Baptist is an established church without a pastor at this time. The congregation seeks your prayers as they try to find a replacement.

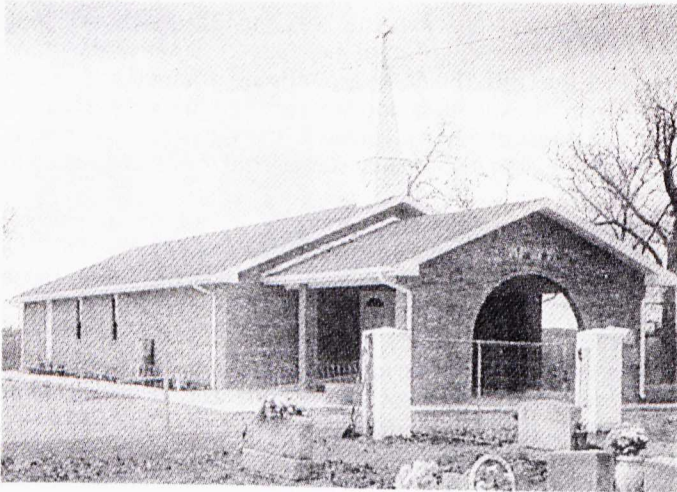
Phoenix is one of the fastest growing areas in the country with a great need for more churches. From 1994-97, almost one hundred thousand new homes were built.

With this great need in mind, we ask that you help us pray that God will send laborers into the ripened fields of Arizona. If you feel led to consider a mission work in Arizona, please contact: National Home Missions Department, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-6812, (615) 731-6812.





## Amity Church Has Dedication Service



On Sunday, March 15, 1998, Amity Free Will Baptist Church gathered to celebrate the blessings of God with a dedication service for their brand new church building. Rev. Dan Talbott delivered the dedication message. Fifteen other ordained ministers were also present for the occasion.

The church family suffered the loss of their 102-year-old building in December, 1996, when it was destroyed by fire at the hands of arsonists.

Amity, located east of Niangua, had its first service on April 13, 1895, under the name of New Home Free Will Baptist Church. The name was changed to Amity sometime between 1919-1924, while records indicate both names were used for a while. The first annual session of the Liberty Association of Free Will Baptists was held at the church on August 18, 1938.

Rev. J. W. O'Neal was elected pastor in 1975, and ministered there until 1981. Over that six years, the church's attendance reached 65. But by 1992, the church doors were closed due to low attendance.

In August, 1996, Rev. O'Neal returned to Amity as pastor and began major clean-up and remodeling of the neglected facilities. Soon the church was operating again and worship services were conducted three times weekly.

However, after all the hard work of the congregation, vandals broke into the church on November 21 and again on December 12 of that year, breaking windows and furniture.

The church family pulled together once again, cleaning and repairing in order to conduct their Christmas program with 89 present in spite of the adversity.

But on Monday, December 30, in the early morning hours, arsonists set fire to the building, destroying it. Two teenagers were arrested three days later for the arson, while one juvenile and one adult were taken into custody in connection with the fire.

The congregation's spirit and determination did not waiver. They began conducting services in the home of the O'Neals, with more members joining and two being baptized at the river.

With gifts and contributions from God's people in Missouri and neighboring states, construction on a new building got underway. By March 9, 1997, the building was suitable for worship services with an attendance of 125 on Easter Sunday, March 30.

The new building is paid for, thanks to the generosity and love gifts of God's people across the denomination. Amity would like to thank each person who had a part in seeing that God's work continues there in their church. They also extend an invitation for everyone to visit and worship with them in their beautiful facilities.

## News From Copper Mines Church

*by Joyce Moyers*

God has been blessing the Copper Mines Church with great services and outreach opportunities for the Lord. One recently accepted the Lord as Saviour, and Ross and Kara Beth Lunsford were dedicated to the Lord.

The church had the Sitze family in concert March 28. It was a great time of rejoicing and praise. The fifth Sunday singing held March 29 was well attended.

Noah's Crew Youth Group sponsored the Four For Harmony Concert at the armory in Fredericktown the first of April. The youth of the church have been very active in service and need our prayers.

## WHEN THINGS GO SOUR

*by David Bates*

Last Saturday night my phone rang. It was a pastor friend from another denomination. He sounded somewhat less energetic than usual. As we visited, the story began to unfold. A disgruntled member had said he wasn't being fed anymore, and had been rallying the troops against this dedicated man of God. I wondered how many times in my life I had seen this scenario played out. As I listened to him, my mind raced back through time over the past 22 years of attending my church. I've witnessed something akin to this on more than one occasion. Things don't always go as planned.

I remembered 12 years back, that after a long fruitful ministry, God moved a former pastor to another part of the country. A new pastor came, and after almost no honeymoon, some disgruntled members began to sing the old song: "I'm not being fed"; and then verse 2: "things are not like they used to be." What is it that provokes people to begin voicing negative opinions? What on earth could cause a healthy, happy atmosphere to change overnight to one of murmuring, complaining and mean-spirited tactics?

As I sat there listening to my dear brother in Christ as he poured out his heart, the Word of God began to boil down inside of me. All of a sudden I just blurted it out. I said, "Preacher, you've got too many!"

He said, "What?"

I repeated, "Preacher, you've got too many!" I reminded him of Judges, chapter 7, verse 2, when God said unto Gideon, "The people that are with thee are too many . . ." Gideon sent 22,000 home who had been afraid (today someone would say they all left because it was the preacher's fault). Ten thousand remained but God finally whittled the number down to 300 before giving Gideon the victory.

I believe our churches are full of something other than soldiers of the cross. There are those who are Socialites; there to see and be seen. Others come to seek prospects for their businesses. Some have always been there and don't even know why? Many complain and murmur; they are called to the ministry of criticism (one of Satan's spiritual gifts). Many are afraid to try anything new or different for fear that someone may not like it!

Yet, in every church there are people who are genuine and love God; men, women, boys and girls who would die for Christ if called upon. You can count on them to pray, cooperate, love, share and commit themselves to whatever the call! How do you sort them out? You don't! God does.

God wants every church to be a worshipping, loving, evangelistic church. So pastor, love your members; love your enemies. Pray for those who spitefully use you. If you will do right and keep a right spirit, you will come out right! It's true, we do have too many; but let God do the sorting. The battle is the Lord's and so is the victory. Praise His name!



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# THIRD CHURCH REUNION

June 27, 1998

Grace Free Will Baptist Church  
2258 Tenbrook Rd., Arnold, MO 63010  
314/296-2380  
Bring Lunch

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## Rolla Congregation Burns Mortgage



Dale Cochran, Pastor Parker, and Dan Booth

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Rolla, Missouri, assembled Sunday, March 22, to burn the mortgage on the property.

Two former pastors, Dan Booth and Dale Cochran, shared greetings, memories, and encouragement during the Sunday School hour. Brother Booth was the founding pastor of the church. Brother Cochran was saved under Brother Booth's ministry and succeeded him as pastor.

The morning worship service was opened with lively congregational singing and a welcome from Pastor James Parker. He gave praise to the Lord for bringing the church to this day. After more congregational singing, Brother James invited the former pastors to join him in burning the mortgage. A prayer of praise and thanksgiving was led by Bud Jackson. Nathan Ruble, Executive Secretary of Missouri Free Will Baptists, delivered the morning message.

Following the worship service, a plentiful, delicious lunch was served by the ladies of the church.



"One Accord"

An afternoon of singing gave expression to the joy of the occasion. The singing group, "One Accord," was the featured group.

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Rolla began as a Missouri Home Missions project. Today as an autonomous body, the church is to be commended for its vision and support of state and national ministries. Brother and Sister Parker are to be commended for their faithful leadership.

## Dear Co-Laborer,

We are getting excited about our State WAC Convention in June. Notice that the women will meet on Monday this year rather than Tuesday. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. The convention center in Lebanon should be finished in plenty of time and be a great place to meet. Our theme is "Reflecting His Love." We are asking each Local to bring an offering of \$40 to be divided equally between Home Missions and the Show Me Plan. Please pray for those who are making plans and getting ready for this year's convention. We want to reflect God's love in all that we do.

I would also like to remind you about the Missouri State WAC Retreat at Stonecroft. The retreat will be August 14-15. Our theme is "Making Your Life Count for Christ." We are happy to have Kathy Grant as our speaker this year. She is a gifted speaker, traveling across the country for seminars and retreats. Kathy has a wonderful workbook on prayer that we are including in your fee this year. We just hated to think of anyone going home from the retreat without it. In order to include the workbook we have raised the fee from \$45 to \$50. The workbook is really \$10, but we have made adjustments so every lady who pays for registration and meals will receive her workbook at no additional cost.

The board has carefully reviewed all the suggestions turned in at the retreat last year. There are several of these suggestions we are trying to incorporate into our program this year. We want to thank all of you for taking the time to fill these out and turn them in. One of the suggestions that was mentioned in the questionnaire is that you would like to have more people involved in the special music and skits. We need your help with this. We can't involve more people if we don't know who is willing to help. Please let us know of any ladies in your church who enjoy doing special music or taking part in skits, and we will be glad to include them in future programs.

A large number of ladies do not eat Saturday lunch at Stonecroft and we have to pay for their lunch anyway. This year, on a trial basis, we have told Stonecroft not to serve lunch on Saturday. The savings from this help make your workbook possible.

We are still not in a position to have babies brought to the retreat. We want this time to be a refreshing time for ladies, a time away from the responsibilities of home and family. All of us need this time to concentrate on God's love and blessings so we can return to our families refreshed and revived. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Please ask the Lord to bless all the ladies who attend. I am looking forward to seeing you at the State Convention in June and at the Retreat in August.

Until He Comes,  
Shirley Jackson  
Missouri State WAC President



**The 1998  
Missouri State Free Will Baptist  
WAC Retreat**

August 14-15, 1998 - Stonecroft Conference Center

Theme: "Making Your Life Count for Christ"

**Speaker: Kathy Grant**

RETREAT PRE-REGISTRATION FORM  
For those staying at the Conference Center



Kathy Grant

List the ladies that will be staying in the same room (each room has 2 double or queen size beds). You may copy this form or add a sheet for additional names.

1/Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_

2/Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_

3/Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_

4/Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_

In order to accommodate the maximum number of ladies attending, there must be 4 ladies to each room. Rooms are assigned as reservations are received. **Reservations will not be accepted before June 22, 1998. Due to limited space and the purpose of retreat, we request no babies please.**

Cost is \$50.00 per person (which includes food, lodging, registration fee, and workbook).

Total Amount Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_ PLEASE SEND **ONE CHECK** FOR ALL REGISTERING WITH YOUR GROUP. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MISSOURI STATE WAC (no cash please). As in years past, no refunds will be given, but substitutions may be made. **PLEASE SEND FORM, CHECK, AND A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE TO:** Judith Ruble - 610 Hunters Creek Dr. - Lebanon, MO 65536

**Missouri State Free Will Baptist  
WAC Retreat  
August 14-15, 1998  
Stonecroft Conference Center (near Branson, MO)**

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM  
For those not staying at the Conference Center**

List the ladies attending the retreat, but providing their own accommodations. Check which meals they will be eating at Stonecroft. The cost for registration, all meals, and workbook will be \$35. Workbooks for those not paying for registration and all meals will be \$10 each.

1/Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Registration Fee    \$15.50      \_\_\_\_ Friday Dinner    \$8.50      \_\_\_\_ Saturday Breakfast    \$5.00

2/Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Registration Fee    \$15.50      \_\_\_\_ Friday Dinner    \$8.50      \_\_\_\_ Saturday Breakfast    \$5.00

3/Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Registration Fee    \$15.50      \_\_\_\_ Friday Dinner    \$8.50      \_\_\_\_ Saturday Breakfast    \$5.00

4/Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Registration Fee    \$15.50      \_\_\_\_ Friday Dinner    \$8.50      \_\_\_\_ Saturday Breakfast    \$5.00

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MISSOURI STATE WAC (no cash please). THERE ARE NO REFUNDS!  
Please send **ONE CHECK** for all registering with your group. MAIL YOUR CHECK, THIS FORM, AND A SELF-  
ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE TO: Judith Ruble - 610 Hunters Creek Dr. - Lebanon, MO 65536.



## Blessings Continue At United FWB

United Free Will Baptist, West Plains, had been praying the Lord would do something special on Easter Sunday. Special prayer time was set aside during the breakfast and evening prayer meetings, asking the Lord for souls to be saved, re-dedications and new members to be added.

The Lord heard and answered, with three professions of faith, three baptized (not the same three who were saved), and five who united with the church. The Easter attendance was 561.

This wonderful day was preceded by the outpouring of His blessings on Roll Call Sunday with ten re-dedications and professions of faith and attendance at 758.

Plans for expanding the church facilities are underway. The tentative expansion program will include a larger auditorium, more classrooms, and a larger fellowship hall.

To quote one of the members from the church family: "It is getting better and better . . . the Lord keeps blessing and blessing."

Glenn Murray is Pastor; Clarence Burton, Associate Pastor; Dennis McGinley, Youth Minister.

## Greater Springfield Association Hosts Youth Rally

*By Keith Garrison*

The Greater Springfield Association held a youth rally in January at the Ozark Free Will Baptist Church. The Lord blessed this youth event, attended by area youth as well as others from churches throughout the association.

The weather was great and the spirit strong as we had an afternoon of Bible Trivia, recreation, games and more. We presented winners of the basketball and ping pong tournaments with prizes, as well as the youth teams winning in Bible Trivia. Attendance was near 80, as laborers from area churches helped with recreation and the afternoon meal.

We had music and preaching for both youth and teens. Brother Mark Brawley, along with students from Hillsdale, presented a great praise service. He also brought a tremendous message for the group.

This event was hosted and promoted through the Greater Springfield Christian Education Board. Members are Rev. Don Carter, Bro. Bill Blair, Rev. Keith Garrison and Rev. Jason Miller.



## HOW TO CATCH THE BIG ONE

*By R. E. Dablemont*

*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19*

When I was just a small boy around five, my Dad tried to choke me (I thought), by tying an old orange life vest around my neck. My first float trip was unforgettable. As he eased the 19 ft. canoe over the sandbar, morning mist hovered over the water; the sun was just rising over the horizon. Sleepers were still in my eyes and the cup of hot chocolate he handed me from the thermos was a welcome surprise.

He sat me up front in the canoe, stuck a fishing rod in my hand with a really weird-looking plug on the end of the line. He paddled me all day down Hamilton Creek, a small tributary that flows into the Big Piney River in southern Texas County.

"Listen to me carefully, son, and do what I say and do and you will catch the big one." Then he prayed, "Lord, give us a safe trip and help this lad catch a BIG ONE!"

My lure was a large, orange flatfish with bright red polka dots; looking more like a Christmas tree ornament or an Easter egg, but he said it drove fish crazy and Dad was never wrong. I threw that lure all morning long, cranking it slowly, watching it wiggle back to the boat through the green-tinted water.

"When the lure stops, rear back and jerk as hard as you can," Dad instructed.

"I'm tired, Dad. Can't we just stop and rest a while?" I moaned.

"Nope, just keep casting the lure near the bank by the logs and trees. The bass hide there," Dad constantly reminded me.

"Why are the bass hidin' in the dark?" an unlearned, but curious, kid asked.

"Because they don't like the light. It's very painful for all the really big ones to come out into the light."

"Why is it painful, Dad?"

He answered, "Don't know, except maybe it's more comfortable for 'em in the dark. Keep on castin' by those dark trees under the water." So I did . . . all day long.

The questions continued. "Why won't the big ones come out of the dark into the light, Dad?"

"You gotta keep at it, son, and make 'em want to come out. Keep castin'."

When I would turn around and look at him, he was consistently throwing his lure into the shadows. Cast after cast, he seemed to never get tired. I decided then and there that if he could keep doing it, then I could, too.

Sixteen perch and about ten goggle-eye attacked my lure and he netted every one of them, saying, "That's not the big one." They all looked big to me, but not even the eleven-inch goggle-eye was "the big one."

About an hour before sundown, my lure suddenly jerked violently as I was cranking along beside an old brushpile at the end of an eddy where the swift water of the shoal started. "Jerk hard!" Dad yelled. I did. I cranked and cranked, and during the next three minutes, I became hooked on hooking the big ones for life. Dad proudly netted the three-pound, smallmouth bass, exclaiming, "Now, that's the big one!"

Many years later, the profound realization sank into my heart that Dad had been teaching me more than just how to fish for the big ones. As a servant and follower of Christ, patience and persistence are still necessary when trying to lure "the big ones" out of their comfort zones.

"Keep on castin', brethren!"

## LESSONS FROM NATURE

*by Garry Matthews*

Spring – even the word sounds alive! Every usage of the word in the English language depicts action or the potential for action. A cold, free-flowing spring of water, a mechanical device such as a spiral spring or a leaf spring, or to spring (leap) into action – all of these give us a sense of the word spring. So why would we call the period of time from the end of winter's snow and cold until the heat of summer – spring? Why? Because it is



a time of feverish activity and growth among living things.

I love spring time! Every day brings tremendous changes from the dormancy of winter. New life appears all around. Plant life literally springs from the ground overnight. Buds spring open to release tiny new leaves, or blossoms. Plants grow at tremendous rates, and the natural world comes alive with vivid colors, melodious sounds, and fragrant aromas. The woods become a rainbow of colors as multiple shades of green emerge from lifeless looking branches. The greens are contrasted with the vivid colors of Red-buds, Dogwoods, wild Plums, and other flowering trees, shrubs, and plants. The gentle spring breezes carry fragrances that almost defy description – and even the spring showers bring a pleasing aroma – the aroma of new life.

The animal world also undergoes a transformation. Each morning as the sky begins to radiate with the colors of the sun fast-approaching the eastern horizon, newly returned songbirds break forth in a joyous symphony of song. The owl's haunting cries fade away with the approaching light, and the proud turkey gobbler makes the hills and hollows ring with his distinctive voice. Hibernating wildlife rush from dens to greet the warm

sunshine. Deer shed their mottled gray-brown winter coats, leaving large patches of hair marking their travels. Soon it will be replaced with the sleek, reddish coat of summer. Each day new animal life appears and revels in the joy of spring!

And then there is man. Out of all of God's creation, man has the ability to reason, to understand, to make choices, and to thoroughly rejoice in the significance of spring. All too often, after the initial delight of warm weather, man goes on his busy way, oblivious to the significance of spring. Do you enjoy spring? But do you rejoice in it? Do you allow the sights, sounds, and smells of spring to awaken and revitalize you spiritually? What do I mean? Let me explain.

I believe God created the natural world (all of God's creation, except man) as a "living object lesson" for mankind:

*"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and God-head; so that they are without excuse."*  
Romans 1:20

The natural world literally springs forth in renewed life in the spring. There is a sense of newness, of freshness, of revival, of renewed energy in the natural world.

It cannot be restrained. Each living thing brings forth praise to God the Creator in its own unique way. Each living thing fulfills its purpose as designed by God. Do you show forth praise by fulfilling your purpose in life per God's design? Or, do you follow your own design? Each spring we see an example of the beauty, harmony, and bounty of God's design. His design for mankind is just as wonderful! His design for you is the best possible design for your life! The spring season is not a second-rate design—no—it is perfect! Would God do less for you? And yet, so many live their lives by their own design, as though God's is not good enough! — Do you?

This spring let's allow our senses to soak in the "experiences" of spring, and revitalize us spiritually. A "revival," a "renewing," of our personal relationship with the Lord! Let's really experience spring this year! Let's have the very best spring we've ever had, and praise the Lord with tremendous growth and vitality in our lives, and in our churches! — Just like the natural world!

***"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy." Psalm 107:2***

## Sunday School Averages October 1997 - March 1998

CHURCHES	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Belton	32	35	38	35	39	41
Calvary Chapel	124	132	135			130
Copper Mines	48	48		48	48	
Cuba	130	132	127	124	126	134
DeSoto	167	165	166	153	155	157
Farmington	299	281	272	270	284	315
Hannon	113	108	114	99	105	102
Harmony	42	54				
Hartville	96	101	107	112	125	120
Hazel Creek	68	64	68	68	65	64
Hopewell	28	30	28	29	25	27
Houston	54	56	51	51	52	55
Lebanon First	98	106	110	97	108	
Lebanon FWB	46	49	43	44	41	43
Mill Creek	55	59	56	63	74	77
Monett	50	54	52	60	51	54
Myrtle		38	33		30	33
Oskaloosa		17				
Ozark	109	97	113	106	110	105
Park Hills First	109	114	107	105	94	
Richwoods	37			42		
Rock Chapel		47		37		
Southside	19	21	23	21	28	37
Springfield First	118	115	120	104	116	126
Thayer	178	182	185	178		
Trinity	75	78	75	98	85	86
United, West Plains	286	312	304	286	289	314
Willow Springs	55	53	60	57	54	62

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.

## HILLSDALE NEWS

By Toby Youngblood  
Director of Development

Hillsdale has been blessed this semester with our enrollment continuing to increase with 162 students. Ministerial and Missions students, New Life and others are out ministering every day to people just like you. Pray for our students as God uses their gifts to reach out to the world and bring glory to Him. Please encourage young people to consider attending Hillsdale. We know that God will use our college to touch their lives.

We are having another tremendous semester. It began with our annual Homecoming festivities and Alumni reception. We had approximately 100 alumni in attendance and set a record attendance at the evening game with over 400 present.

We have also been experiencing revival on campus. We have already had two student-led revivals in February and March. God continues to move on the Hillsdale campus.

Thank you! Thank you for your continued support. Donations to the college have been on the rise throughout the year. We could not make it without your support. We feel that in order to continue to bring glory to God through the ministry of Hillsdale, it is imperative for us to operate in the black for this budget year which ends June 30, 1998.

Continue to pray for God's guidance as we look to the future. And once again, thank you for all that you do. May God continue to bless and enrich your life as you serve Him.



## HOLLAND HIGHLIGHTS

### CURT AND MARY HOLLAND

Thirty-five young people and adults from the 1st Church went to the Sao Jose neighborhood recently for an open air service. They sang, gave testimonies and evangelistic messages, and handed out almost 200 Bible tracts with an invitation to a preaching service to be held the following Thursday night. Many contacts with chances to witness were made. A local evangelical radio station announced the two services.

The Thursday night service was well attended, with five visitors from the 1st Church, which included Pastor Nata and his wife. We had one visitor, Ana, and her two children. Ana is Adriana's sister-in-law. Adriana and Junior are one of our couples in the Sao Jose area. Ana did not make a decision, but plans to attend this week and bring her mother.

Please pray for...

- ... the salvation of Ana and her husband Rogerio
- ... those who are being invited to the services.
- ... Antoniocese and Juliana - They plan to be married in July and will live in the Sao Jose area.
- ... Magal and Rita - They continue to grow spiritually and await baptism on May 24th.
- ... Mary - she is fighting a sore throat.
- ... Ivanir, who recently prayed to be saved at the Maraba Church in Araras. Also, pray for this church as it is seeking a pastor.
- ... Claudia - Mary is training her to teach in Children's Church.

The Hollands thank you for your prayers, and ask that you continue to hold them up before the Lord as they serve Him in Brazil.

## UPDATE TO

### "NEW HOPE IN PANAMA"

We have been enlisting your help this past year with a project called "New Hope in Panama," and we thought we would bring you up to date. Steve and Judy Lytle, missionaries to Panama, are working with Pastor Arsenio Gonzales in an effort to build a strong Free Will Baptist Church in Nueva Esperanza, Panama. Nueva Esperanza means "New Hope" in English. The total amount needed to complete this project is \$12,000. This is a small amount compared to the construction cost in the United States, but Nueva Esperanza is a poverty-stricken area and they are doing the best they can. Missouri Free Will Baptist youth have committed to supply the money so these dedicated people can have a place of worship.

Brother Lytle writes, "Because the community is so poor, and so many of the children don't have much to eat, they have started a 'Comedor Infantil' (literally, a children's dining room). It's like a soup kitchen. The children of the community, not just from the church, can come two or three times a week for a hot lunch. It's dependent on donations from Christians and churches to be able to operate. So far, it's going pretty well. People from the church buy the food, cook it, and serve it to the children. We trust that it's going to open many hearts to the gospel."

The Sunday school attendance for 1997 in the Nueva Esperanza church averaged 35 and is growing. Because Pastor

Arsenio has to work a secular job, the church is still counting on the Lytle's help. The congregation is trying to do all they can to build a strong church so they can reach out to a community who needs so desperately to hear about Christ. They can't do it alone! So far, we have raised about half of the needed money to complete this project. We hope your heart is challenged by this great need. It is not a large amount if all of us will work together, but we can't achieve our goal without you!

We thank those who have worked hard to send money to the "New Hope in Panama" project, and we want to thank you ahead of time for what you are going to do. Pastor Gonzales, the Lytles, and the congregation of Nueva Esperanza church covet your prayers as they strive to serve Christ in Panama.

## THE YOUTH LOOK

By Ann Poletti

In a teacher's devotional, I found this "prayer." At this time of year, I thought it appropriate to share. With summer vacation approaching... enjoy!

*"Oh, Lord Jesus, some days I wonder what you saw in them. How could you gather those whiny, crabby little humans in your arms and bless them? Did they push and shove to get to you, or worse yet, take cuts in line? Did they tattle on their best friend or ruthlessly tease the victim of the week? That's the reality of kids, Lord.*

*Oh, but help me to remember that no less real is their curiosity, their open-heartedness, their zest. Nowhere, but in children, do we see such receptive, eager, and humble learners.*

*So, Lord Jesus, remind me what you saw in them... the very kingdom of heaven."*

(Dedicated to the harried parent or babysitter who must contain these kids' summer energies, and to the youth workers and Sunday school teachers who deal with problem kids. Can they see Jesus in us?)



## Financial Information

### MARCH 1998

#### COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$7,114.95
17.50% Executive Office	6,730.36
3.00% General Fund	1,153.78
0.50% Show-Me Plan	192.30
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	3,369.03
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	961.48
2.50% C.E. Board	961.48
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Bd.	961.48
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	3,461.33
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	11,730.06
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	

(\$117.30 included in \$11,730.06)

5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund

1,922.96

**TOTAL** \$38,459.21

The Co-op allocation for National Ministries is undesignated this year, with FWBBC and Hillsdale receiving an equal amount. California Christian College will continue to receive 1%.

### MARCH 1998

#### COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

Aulsbury Chapel	\$269.96
Bailey - Alton	181.00
Bailey Chapel	170.00
Belton	248.77
Bethel - El Dorado Springs	66.08
Bethel - Northview	158.26
Black Oak	228.09
Bourbon	81.00
Byrd	62.00
Byrd	70.80
Cabool	261.33
Calvary Chapel	837.88
Central	781.60
Copper Mines	332.72
Cornerstone	24.00



Crossroads - Wentzville.....	501.35
DeSoto 1st.....	1,265.00
Faith - St. Louis.....	50.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora.....	87.20
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs.....	40.00
Farmington.....	2,373.04
Farmington 1st.....	2,404.31
Fellowship.....	400.00
Fordland.....	603.29
Fourth.....	231.77
Fredericktown 1st.....	286.00
Freeman Chapel.....	412.20
Friendship.....	511.06
Grace.....	1,229.00
Grant Ave.....	727.45
Hannon.....	652.40
Harmony - Parkville.....	477.00
Hartville.....	741.54
Hazel Creek.....	540.05
Heritage.....	124.00
Hopewell.....	169.00
Houston 1st.....	364.88
Hurryville.....	484.70
Jackson.....	188.39
Joplin 1st.....	561.08
King's Way.....	203.00
Koshkonong.....	144.60
Lead Hill.....	268.50
Lebanon 1st.....	739.40
Lebanon F.W.B.....	339.50
Lone Star.....	53.50
Macedonia.....	79.58
Merl's Chapel.....	157.00
Mill Creek.....	354.55
Mine La Motte.....	59.04
Monett 1st.....	464.55
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	1,241.15
Mt. Pisgah.....	237.00
Mt. Zion - Gower.....	47.80
Neosho.....	95.00
New Harmony.....	14.45
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	50.00
New Life - Licking.....	272.98
NewLife - Licking.....	280.62
Niangua.....	89.00
North Five.....	99.40
Oak Hill - Union.....	509.67
Oak Hill - Union.....	579.16
O'Fallon 1st.....	788.00
Overland.....	100.00
Ozark 1st.....	996.24
Park Hills 1st.....	598.51
Parkview.....	371.80
Parkview.....	323.00
Pleasant Hill.....	110.56
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove.....	303.33
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana.....	87.00
Potosi 1st.....	131.40
Republic.....	199.00
Rock Chapel.....	344.60
Rolla 1st.....	82.00
Royal Oak - Alton.....	129.00
Seymour.....	196.00
Smyrna.....	100.00
Southside.....	110.07
Springfield 1st.....	982.30
Stockton.....	128.75
Thayer.....	1,270.00
Trinity.....	1,287.39
Twin Oak.....	891.49
Union - Success.....	60.00
Union Grove.....	333.00
Union Light.....	86.00
United - W.P.....	1,070.94
Unity.....	300.00
Verdella.....	463.09
Victory - Alton.....	233.94
Waynesville 1st.....	238.96
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove.....	214.44
Wolf Creek.....	350.75
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$38,459.21</b>

#### SHOW-ME PLAN

Aulsbury Chapel.....	\$150.00
Aulsbury Chapel.....	150.00
Barker, Rev. J.....	15.00
Barker, Rev. J.....	15.00
Belton.....	105.00
Belton - Ladies Aux.....	15.00
Berean.....	30.00
Berry, R.....	15.00
Bethel - El Dorado Springs.....	162.18
Bethel - Festus.....	45.00
Big Creek.....	55.00
Bishop, B.J.....	15.00
Black Oak.....	30.00
Bourbon.....	15.00
Bowers, C.....	15.00
Buffalo 1st.....	60.00
Buxton, G.....	30.00
Cabool.....	135.00
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo.....	105.00
Cartee, J.....	15.00

Cartee, J.....	15.00
Central.....	365.00
Chism, B.....	5.00
Chrisman, M.....	30.00
Copper Mines.....	30.00
Copper Mines - HiTeen, Teen, Jr.....	15.00
Copper Mines - Young Adult Class.....	15.00
Darnell, W.....	15.00
DeSoto 1st.....	400.00
DeSoto - Victors CTS Class.....	30.00
Eastern Gate.....	60.00
F.W.B. Foreign Missions.....	45.00
Faith - St. Louis.....	30.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora.....	30.00
Faith & Hope - W.S.....	60.00
Farmington 1st.....	1,170.00
Farmington 1st.....	300.00
Farmington 1st.....	662.00
Fellowship.....	1,115.00
Fordland.....	239.00
Fourth.....	210.00
Francis, N.....	15.00
Francis, N.....	15.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	180.00
Freeman Chapel.....	540.00
Garrett, R.....	30.00
Gospel Light.....	675.00
Grace.....	522.00
Graham, S.....	15.00
Graham, S.....	15.00
Grant Ave.....	490.00
Greenfield 1st.....	180.00
Hannon.....	862.40
Happy Hill.....	30.00
Harmony - Parkville.....	233.00
Harris, F.....	45.00
Hartville.....	195.00
Hazel Creek.....	766.21
Houston 1st.....	269.25
Hurryville.....	300.00
Hurryville.....	300.00
Hurryville - Sr. Adult S.S. Class.....	30.00
Hurryville - Sr. Adult S.S. Class.....	30.00
Jackson.....	15.00
Jones Chapel.....	315.00
Lebanon 1st.....	75.00
Lebanon F.W.B.....	30.00
Looney, K.....	15.00
Macedonia - Purdy.....	7,000.00
Maggart, D.....	45.00
Merl's Chapel.....	150.00
Mill Creek.....	45.00
Mill Creek.....	90.00
Mill Creek - Young Adult S.S. Class.....	15.00
Mine La Motte.....	45.00
Monett 1st.....	260.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	435.06
Mt. Pisgah.....	75.00
Mt. Zion - Thayer.....	144.40
Mt. Zion - Thayer.....	30.00
Neil, R.....	45.00
Neosho.....	180.00
New Harmony.....	72.27
New Home - Hartville.....	150.00
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	75.00
New Life - Licking.....	46.78
New Life - Licking.....	73.95
Noel, D.....	15.00
Oak Grove - Houston.....	15.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	247.00
Ozark 1st.....	40.00
Park Hills 1st.....	209.55
Parkview - Desloge.....	260.00
Parson, O.....	15.00
Pinkerton, J.....	45.00
Pleasant Grove - Anderson.....	45.00
Pleasant Hill.....	60.00
Pleasant Home.....	60.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana.....	50.00
Purdy.....	180.00
Richardson, O.....	15.00
Richardson, O.....	15.00
Richwoods.....	60.00
Rock Chapel.....	375.00
Rogers, B.....	30.00
Royal Oak.....	120.00
Ruble, N.....	45.00
Shelton, B.....	180.00
Springfield 1st.....	270.00
St. Peter's.....	1,280.00
Stovall, J.....	10.00
Thayer.....	280.00
Thayer - Women Active for Christ.....	600.00
Trinity.....	665.00
Turnbough, E.....	75.00
Union - Success.....	180.00
Union Light.....	120.00
United - West Plains.....	300.00
Unity.....	75.00
Verdella.....	743.09
Viburnum.....	95.00
Walker, H. Jr.....	15.00

West Plains 1st.....	146.00
West Plains 1st Auxiliary.....	30.00
White, R.....	30.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove.....	85.00
Willow Springs 1st.....	150.00
Wilson, R.....	15.00
Wilson, R.....	15.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$28,444.14</b>

#### STATE HOME MISSIONS

Belton.....	\$20.50
DeSoto 1st.....	50.00
DeSoto - Children's Church.....	20.00
Gospel Light.....	40.00
Grace.....	40.00
Grant Ave.....	10.00
Hannon.....	326.20
Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	315.00
Macedonia.....	100.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	15.00
New Home - Hartville.....	10.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	110.00
Ozark 1st.....	10.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana.....	20.00
Roch Chapel.....	57.55
Stovall, J.....	30.00
Thayer.....	45.00
Trinity.....	20.00
Union Light.....	51.00
United - W.P.....	25.00
White, R.....	20.00
Wormington, L.....	30.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$1,365.25</b>

#### NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Belton.....	\$20.50
Bethel - Festus.....	15.00
Buffalo 1st.....	50.00
Central.....	10.00
Chapman, A.....	15.00
Crossland, M.....	10.00
DeSoto 1st.....	695.00
DeSoto Auditorium Class.....	20.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora.....	90.00
Farmington.....	40.00
Farmington 1st.....	5.00
Fordland.....	25.00
Grace.....	122.00
Grant Ave.....	116.75
Haggard, J.....	20.00
Hannon.....	65.24
Hartville.....	100.00
Houston 1st.....	170.00
Joplin 1st.....	125.00
King, B.....	10.00
Lebanon F.W.B.....	5.00
Macedonia.....	200.00
Monett 1st.....	92.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	70.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	25.00
Neosho.....	40.00
New Harmony.....	72.27
New Home - Hartville.....	10.00
New Testament.....	130.00
Oak Grove - Mtn. Grove.....	36.20
O'Fallon 1st.....	110.00
Ozark 1st.....	55.00
Park Hills 1st.....	141.15
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove.....	92.88
Rader, J.W.....	20.00
Richwoods 1st.....	45.00
Rock Chapel.....	10.00
Thayer.....	226.00
Thebeau.....	10.00
Trinity.....	30.00
Union Light.....	85.00
United - W.P.....	15.00
Unity.....	50.00
Verdella.....	10.00
Viburnum.....	51.00
Waynesville 1st.....	50.00
West Plains 1st.....	185.00
White, R.....	20.00
Wolf Creek.....	75.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$3,685.99</b>

#### FOREIGN MISSIONS - DESIGNATED

Central.....	\$45.00
Chapman, A.....	35.00
Farmington 1st.....	25.00
Farmington 1st.....	25.00
Fourth.....	25.00
Fourth.....	15.00
Grant Ave.....	51.00
Greenfield 1st.....	10.00
Joplin 1st.....	20.00
Macedonia - Purdy.....	1,000.00
Merl's Chapel.....	50.00
Minor, K.....	20.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	30.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	20.00
Neosho.....	45.00
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	20.00

New Life - Licking.....	23.39
New Life - Licking.....	36.98
New Testament.....	60.00
Oak Grove - Mtn. Grove.....	72.40
Ozark 1st.....	125.00
Parkview - Desloge.....	30.00
Parkview - Desloge.....	30.00
Thayer.....	70.00
Trinity.....	408.06
Union Light.....	10.00
United - West Plains.....	30.00
Verdella.....	1,000.00
Viburnum.....	10.00
Waynesville 1st.....	50.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$3,391.83</b>

#### MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

Mtn. Grove 1st.....	\$10.00
Hartville.....	10.00
Niangua.....	20.00
Hannon.....	15.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	196.00
New Life - Monett.....	83.55
Ozark 1st.....	10.00
Thayer.....	45.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	10.00
Buffalo 1st.....	50.00
James Stovall.....	10.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove.....	10.00
Cabool.....	10.00
West Plains 1st.....	25.00
Union - Success.....	30.00
DeSoto 1st.....	50.00
New Home - Hartville.....	10.00
Park Hills 1st.....	61.30
Trinity.....	14.00
Wolf Creek.....	500.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$1,168.85</b>

#### FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Farmington 1st.....	\$305.22
Thayer.....	45.00
Verdella.....	92.60
DeSoto 1st.....	50.00
Nathan Ruble.....	75.00
Farmington.....	152.61
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$720.43</b>

#### HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Grant Ave.....	\$8.00
Farmington 1st.....	25.00
Farmington 1st.....	189.60
Hannon.....	50.00
Ozark 1st - Have A Heart.....	420.32
Thayer.....	50.00
Neosho 1st.....	60.00
Central -	
For account of Kim Walker.....	75.00
For account of Sarah Merryfield.....	75.00
Farmington.....	104.80
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$1,057.72</b>

#### CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Farmington 1st.....	\$105.24
Farmington.....	52.62
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$157.86</b>

#### REV. JOHN MCCLURE

Mtn. Grove 1st.....	\$32.50
Monett 1st.....	45.00
Thayer.....	10.00
Grace.....	15.00
Thayer - WAFC.....	149.00
Parkview.....	10.00
Farmington.....	5.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$266.50</b>

#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	\$105.00
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#### YOUTH MINISTRIES BOARD

Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	\$105.00
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#### SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES BOARD

Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	\$105.00
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#### TRULA CRONK HOME FOR CHILDREN

Farmington 1st.....	\$20.00
New Life - Monett.....	83.55
Belton.....	25.00
Unity.....	10.00
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	30.00
DeSoto 1st.....	50.00
Mae Nossor.....	25.00
Park Hills 1st.....	10.00
Farmington.....	20.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$273.55</b>

#### STEVE SMITH

DeSoto 1st.....	\$50.00
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#### TOGETHER WAY PLAN

<b>FOUR SPECIAL DAYS</b>	
South Central Assoc.....	\$2,800.00

#### RETIREMENT & INSURANCE

Grant Avenue.....	\$1.00
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# 1998 Show-Me Plan



## Pledge Card

Write in the number of shares which you wish to adopt for 1998.

*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. - II Cor 9:8.*

Trusting God to supply for me and for those whom He has sent, I will adopt the following shares to help support 9 foreign mission families and one single missionary.

By faith I adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Share(s)

*(Write in the number of shares desired: 1 share is \$15.00 per month)*

*(Please print)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, P.O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65536.**

## SECOND ANNUAL HISPANIC MINISTRIES CONFERENCE

Begin making your plans now to attend the Second Annual Hispanic Ministries Conference sponsored by National Home Missions, Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, and the Seminary of the Cross. This year the conference will be held on June 1-7, 1998. The specific goals of this conference are: (1) To develop an understanding of and appreciation for the Hispanic people. (2) To improve the student's ability to share the gospel with Hispanic friends and neighbors. (3) To assist in the preparation of Christian workers to share the gospel in an effective way with Spanish-speaking people. \*\*Some basic Spanish language skills will also be taught.

The cost of the conference for non-credit students is \$250.00 per person. This includes transportation in Mexico, room and board, classroom instruction, field trips, and materials. This does not include transportation costs to Weslaco, Texas, or funds for personal expenses.

If you have questions or desire additional information, please contact Home Missions at (615-731-6812) or Dr. Thomas Marberry at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College (405-912-9018).

You must have your application and \$25.00 deposit turned in to Home Missions by May 1, 1998. (Home Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002).

Do not miss this exciting week in Reynosa, Mexico. Your life and ministry will never be the same after attending this conference!

**MISSOURI STATE ASSOC.  
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
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