

# **GEM**

THE  
FREE WILL BAPTIST

Volume 68, No. 6, June 1998



## *Got Anchor?*

Hebrews 6:18b-19

"... to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil,"



# BUILDING UP ONE ANOTHER

Gene Getz

A number of years ago, I learned a very powerful lesson. I was serving as Director of the Moody Evening School in Chicago—a ministry to lay people. About a thousand students attended. Most of these people held full-time jobs, but served as Sunday School teachers, board members, deacons, elders and in other lay positions in their churches. Some simply came to Moody Bible Institute to increase their knowledge of the Bible.

As director of this school, I used to speak in various churches throughout the Chicago area and the suburbs in order to let people know about our ministry and how we could serve them.

On one occasion, a woman introduced herself after I had spoken at a Sunday evening service. She wanted me to know what a blessing Dr. Charles Horn was in her life. Chuck was one of our professors. "I never miss that class he is teaching on the Book of Romans," she said. "During the day I work as a secretary in downtown Chicago," she continued, "and I am always tired when I get to school. However, that course is changing my life!"

I remember jotting down what she had said and the next morning when I arrived in my office, I called this professor on the telephone. Frankly, I simply relayed to him what this woman had told me. As I did, I could "hear" the silence on the other end of the phone. And then, I heard the following words encased in the context of deep sincerity and appreciation—"Thank you. Thank you very much, Gene! I needed that!"

"Well," I said, "this student really appreciated you, Chuck. Your ministry is changing her life. And I appreciate you too! Thanks for you faithfulness."

Little did I realize at that moment that my telephone call that morning was life changing for this professor. Subsequently, I discovered that in all of his years of teaching this was the first time that he had ever received positive feedback from one of his superiors. "This could never happen—not among Christians!" I remember thinking to myself.

Faithfulness should be rewarded. Chuck was a faithful teacher. He is now in heaven, but it has never been God's plan for His servants to have to wait to receive their rewards till they are rewarded in heaven. That's why He has instructed us to "honor one another." Mutual encouragement is definitely a twin concept!

Because of this experience, I set a new goal—to encourage the other professors with positive verbal feedback. Consequently, I tuned my ears to what students were saying and made it a point to ask questions that generated this kind of information. I then looked for natural opportunities to pass this information on to the other professors.

When I took over this ministry, I knew that faculty morale was at an all-time low, simply because no one had occupied this position for several years. Consequently, the teachers—most who also taught in the day school—had come to view this ministry as an obligation rather than an opportunity. However, one day after I had begun this new approach to encouragement, I received a call from the director of personnel. "Gene,"

he said, "I don't know what you're doing, but I've never seen such a positive change in a group of employees."

"It's simple, John," I replied. "I just listen for positive comments from students and pass them on to the professors!"

Why are we so hesitant to encourage others? Why do we neglect this very important biblical responsibility? In fact, some Christians seem to feel they possess the gift of discouragement. The only time they communicate anything to others is when they have something negative to say! Either that, or they say nothing at all—which can be just as discouraging.

To be fair, some of this neglect is based on the misunderstanding that successful public figures don't need positive feedback. The facts are, all Christians need it! On occasion, people come up to me after a service when they have been deeply touched by a message or series of messages and say—"Gene, I'm sure you hear this all the time, but"—and then they go on to share their appreciation. I want to respond by saying—"No, people don't say that kind of thing all the time! However, I wish they did!"

You see, many people just don't believe that leaders who appear to have it all together need encouragement. But we all do, and the truth is that no matter how successful we are, none of us "have it together" as well as it may appear when we are on the platform delivering a message or in front of a classroom giving a lecture. Even when we do a great job in ministry, we need positive feedback to keep on keeping on for Jesus! We all tend at times to second guess our effectiveness. We all need encouragement!

**Therefore encourage one another and build each other up. 1 Thessalonians 5:11**

*Excerpt from Building Up One Another by Gene Getz, Used by permission. Provided by David C. Cook Church Ministries.*

## HELP NEEDED

The Missouri Home Mission Board is seeking volunteer laborers to assist Bro. Alvin Hook and the Blue Springs FWB Church in Blue Springs, Missouri. Their new church building is nearing completion, and in order to secure a city occupancy permit, they need to finish putting up sheet rock on the inside of the building.

Our churches are being asked to enlist any men who would be willing to help with the dry wall and also in laying brick on the outside front of the building. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

If you can work, or know of other men who could, please contact Bro. Alvin Hook at 816-229-0882 or by mobile phone at 913-530-3865.

**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.



## Information Concerning Missouri State Retirement Program

In order for a pastor, associate pastor, or full-time youth minister to participate in the Missouri Retirement Program, the church he is serving must support the Missouri State Cooperative Program with the full 10% of its regular tithes and offerings. This ministry is funded through cooperative giving. (The associate pastor and/or full-time youth minister must receive his salary from the church as a full-time employee.) The individual must also enroll with the Board of Retirement & Insurance in Nashville, Tennessee. The enrollment fee is \$10.00. This may be paid through the State Office, but it goes to the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement & Insurance.

A Retirement Pension Enrollment Form supplied by the State Office shows the three plans for participation in the program. Plan 1 is defined as Full Employer participation with the church contributing at least 5% of the base salary. A \$25,000 term life insurance policy is mandatory with this plan. The premiums are deducted from the employer contributions.

Plan 2 is defined as an Individual Plan with the employer or the individual contributing at least 3% of the base salary. The term life insurance is optional for Plan 2.

Plan 3 is an introductory plan. The individual or the employer contributes at least \$10.00 per month. The life insurance is not available with this plan.

Tax Deferred Contribution information: Only 20% of base salary is allowed for total tax deferred contributions. The 20% includes both Salary Reduction Agreement (SRA) (this SRA form may be obtained from the State Office or the Board of Retirement & Insurance) and employer (church) contributions. Base salary is taxable income which excludes benefits such as housing allowance. Ministers may include compensation for honorariums, revival offerings, etc. Older ministers may, under certain circumstances, exceed the 20% by completing a form.

A new SRA may be filed once in any 12-month period. It is not retroactive. Increases may not be credited prior to the date of signature.

It is a member's responsibility to maintain and keep accurate records for tax liability and reports to IRS. It is recommended that you keep all SRA forms, semi-annual statements, and correspondence, and that you seek competent counsel in all tax matters.

All tax deferred contributions are subject to income taxes the year of withdrawal or distribution. Early withdrawals may be subject to an added 10% penalty. At retirement, distributions for ordained members may be designated housing allowance and tax free (determined by current IRS regulations). Distributions from tax deferred funds to unordained spouses are subject to taxes.

Twice each year, shortly following January 1 and July 1, the Board of Retirement & Insurance, who holds the money in trust, disburses the amount stated by the Missouri State Association to the account of the participant. Presently the amount is \$350.00. Before this transfer is made the treasurer of the local church is asked to sign a form, sent from the State Office, stating that the church has supported the Missouri State Cooperative Program with the full 10% of its regular tithes and offerings.

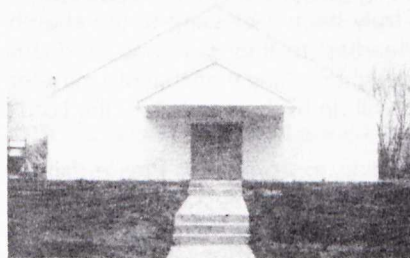
There are several options at retirement. Space will not permit including all of this information. Please do not hesitate to call, write, or come by for any help that is needed.

## Jackson FWB

### Dedicates New Building



BEFORE



AFTER

There has truly been a conversion at 611 Blanche Street in Jackson, Missouri, as the "old" Calvary Baptist Church building was renovated into the "new" Jackson Free Will Baptist Church. This conversion was made possible by some willing workers who assisted missionary pastor, Vernon Long, and the people of Jackson. Several workers from the following associations donated their time and labor: Bootheel, South Central, Southeast, St. Francois, and St. Louis. All of the work done on the church was volunteer labor, except for the concrete work, the roofing and guttering, and the siding on the front of the building. Renovation began in November, and their first service in the new building was conducted on January 25.

A dedication service was held on April 5, with 42 in attendance. Missouri Executive Secretary, Nathan Ruble, preached in the morning service followed by an old-time basket dinner. Later in the afternoon, Dale Skiles, Director of the Missouri Free Will Baptist Home Missions Board, preached the dedication message as the pastor and members dedicated the building for the work and glory of God.

Support through prayers and giving has also been received from many other Free Will Baptist Associations and churches in Missouri as well as other states. You may support this new work by sending your offerings to the State Missions Board and designated to the "Jackson Account."

If you are ever in the Jackson area, you are invited to come and visit the church and see what the Lord is doing as a result of your prayers and giving. Brother Long would appreciate any names of contacts in the Jackson area. You may reach him at 573-243-5974 or 573-243-1925, or write him at 430 N. Shawnee, Jackson, MO 63755.



Rev. & Mrs. Dale Skiles

Rev. & Mrs. Vernon Long



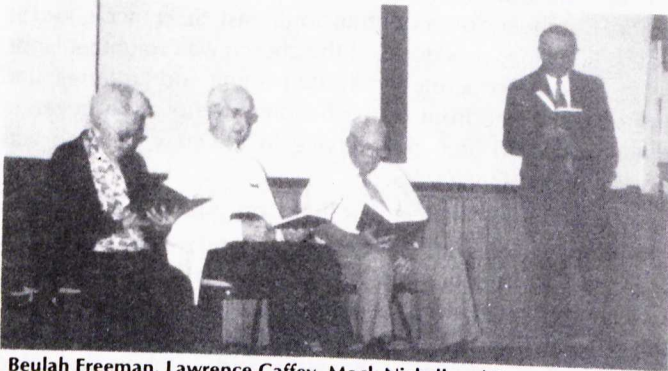
## First FWB - Cape Girardeau News

First Free Will Baptist Church of Cape Girardeau was recently blessed when one of their long-time members, Chris Girard, accepted the call to preach. Chris has served on the church board, sings with a gospel quartet, and has been a member in good standing for several years. Chris' wife, Felicia, is the director of the Children's Church. She also sings in the quartet with Chris and has served as a Woman's Auxiliary officer. They have two young daughters, Amanda and Erin.

This young family has truly been a blessing to the church, and has always proven steadfast to their faith and God. The church believes there is no higher calling than that of a minister, and feels certain this man will do his best to follow the Lord's plan for his life.

Chris is available to preach upon request. Please call the church at 573-334-8461 and leave a message, or you may contact him directly at 573-651-4334. Please remember Chris and his family in prayer as they undertake God's plan for their lives.

## Unity Honors Senior Adults



Beulah Freeman, Lawrence Caffey, Mack Nickell and Pastor Dan Talbott

On April 19, Unity Free Will Baptist Church in Conway honored four special senior adults in their evening service. Three of the four 90-year-old honorees were present for this special occasion—Beulah Freeman, Lawrence Caffey, and Mack Nickell. Mabel Chastain was unable to attend.

The service included special verses and songs in honor of the four. Their children and grandchildren were present, with Sister Freeman having four generations from her family in attendance.

Unity is very proud of these senior members and the way God has blessed and used them over the years. They want to always honor, respect and cherish them.



## Faith FWB - St. Louis

### "Tie To The Finish Campaign"



Faith Free Will Baptist Church, St. Louis, committed the month of March to an attendance campaign called "Tie To the Finish." The church was divided into two "teams" headed by Pastor Ray Littrell and member, Jerry Reed. The number of visitors and new prospects attending were totaled each week, with the "winner" cutting off a piece of the "loser's" tie.

At the end of the month, Pastor Littrell's group was declared the winner by bringing in a total of 37 visitors. Brother Reed's group followed closely with 27 visitors.

The "losers" served ice cream to the winning group following the evening service, as well as their leader, Brother Reed receiving a Cool Whip pie in the face.

The fun and successful event was enjoyed by everyone at Faith. For more information about upcoming events at the church, you may call (314) 544-9014.



## Sunday School Averages November 1997 - April 1998

CHURCHES	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Belton	35	38	35	39	41	45
Calvary Chapel	132	135	122	124	130	116
Copper Mines	48		48	48	46	
Cuba	132	127	124	126	134	117
DeSoto	165	166	153	155	157	
Farmington	281	272	270	284	315	
Hannon	108	114	99	105	102	104
Harmony	54					
Hartville	101	107	112	125	120	117
Hazel Creek	64	68	68	65	64	70
Hopewell	30	28	29	25	27	
Houston	56	51	51	52	55	52
Lebanon 1st	106	110	97	108	119	115
Lebanon FWB	49	43	44	41	43	44
Mill Creek	59	56	63	74	77	80
Monett	54	52	60	51	54	
Myrtle		33		30	33	46
O'Fallon 1st						72
Oskaloosa	17					
Ozark	97	113	106	110	105	104
Park Hills	114	107	105	94	115	
Richwoods			42			
Rock Chapel	47		37			
Southside	21	23	21	28	37	33
Springfield 1st	115	120	104	116	126	124
Thayer	182	185	178			168
Trinity	78	75	98	85	86	88
United, West Plains	312	304	286	289	314	336
Willow Springs	53	60	57	54	62	65

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.





# 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.

## MISSIONARY NEWSBRIEFS

**JERRY PINKERTON** — When Jerry traveled from Abidjan to Bondoukou for our baggage, we thought he'd be gone ten hours. It was three days due to events beyond our control! When he arrived back home, the baggage looked like scrambled eggs (a timely reminder of the low value of material possessions!) . . . We're in a new house. That means we have to scrub the glue off the top side of the linoleum, remove cement from window panes, add a few plug-ins, and replace the clothes line that fell off the wall. Trivial matters that bring joy when corrected . . . Neighbors across the street are Moslems. A woman up the street saw the Baptist sign on our truck and came asking us to help get her son's life in order. She is a Catholic. Looks like a ripe harvest area! . . . We thought we'd found the perfect church land! The owner had agreed to our price, but then she burst our bubble by saying she'd changed her mind and wouldn't sell. YIKES! Are we disappointed? YES! Are we discouraged/defeated? No Way! We'll just wait for the Lord to show us HIS location for HIS church. Please pray with us . . . Meanwhile, we'll just keep on working side by side with church leaders and NOGs (Neighborhood Outreach

Groups). Three are now functioning, with two more to begin soon . . . Our FWB work here in Abidjan has just celebrated its first anniversary. Thank you for your support in this exciting work. We know we couldn't be here without your help. We are most grateful!

**STEVE LYTLE** — Our oldest son, Michael, will graduate from Free Will Baptist Bible College on May 14, and will be married to Diane Milom on June 27. We will be able to attend both events. Our middle son Phillip, is a junior at FWBBC. David, our youngest, was chosen to participate in the TEAM CUBA 98 ministry . . . Our V B S was a big success. We were thrilled to have 25 + children other than our own church kids who attended every day . . . Ron Callaway has joined us in our Bible Institute and will be sharing the teaching load. The program has been expanded to three trimesters this year . . . The Betania church in Panama City conducted a medical/evangelistic outreach on March 15 in the Nueva Esperanza area with about 50 people participating. Besides helping almost 200 people with health and dental problems, ladies of the church conducted a clothing sale and evangelistic teams

distributed tracts and shared the gospel. At least 10 people made decisions for Christ. Please continue your prayers for us here . . .

**STAN BUNCH** — We praise the Lord that on March 4th the Parita church voted unanimously to accept Uriel Velasquez as pastor. The members of the church have started and assumed responsibility for a new mission work in Los Castillos. Bible Institute classes are going well, but we'd like to see the enrollment to increase . . . Upon returning to the field in May of 1999, we will begin a new church in Chitre, where we live. It is the largest city in the province and is a prime area for establishing a church. We have two families committed to helping us as well as several neighbors . . . Jonathan will graduate from high school on May 17th and will start college in September. In June, Alicia will be going with TEAM ministries to Cuba while Amanda will be going to Mexico with her cousin's church in Kansas City where they both will be working as interpreters . . . In May we will begin our stateside assignment by returning to the US to be at Jonathan's graduation . . .

(continued on page 6)



(continued from page 5)

**CURT HOLLAND** — The church here in Campinas is doing well under the leadership of a Brazilian pastor. Curt is working with Pastor Nata and also with a group of people from the church who live quite a distance away in Home Bible Studies. He meets with six couples every Tuesday night. We're praying for a total of ten couples by June. We're convinced God is going to build His church through His people . . . We started a Teacher's Training Course with good attendance. We desperately need more workers. Please help us pray . . . Mary is Coordinator of Children's Ministries, and is developing curriculum, organizing a puppet and music ministry. She is training a young mother named Claudia who has a tremendous zeal for the Lord . . . The ministry here is exciting and very busy. Please keep praying. We do appreciate all your support for us!

**STEVE REEVES** — As most of you know by now, Linda and I have felt God's direction to start a new church here in Columbia, MO. We moved in on January 29. We need a team of intercessors who will go to God regularly for our needs and the church. We need you to be a part of our team. We want to send out a monthly prayer letter to each team member with specific requests for the month.

We held our first get acquainted meeting at our home on April 5, with 19 present. God seems to be giving us people who want to be involved in building this church. A 23-year old lady brought three University students with her. These young people are eager to be involved and love to work in music. Thank God for answered prayer.

We averaged 15 each week during April in our home meetings. Our first public Sunday morning service is scheduled for May 17 at Stephens College.

Here are some prayer requests to share with you:

1. For a place to buy and build. We want to be in a very visible location in a growing part of Columbia.

2. For more contacts.

3. For our first service on May 17, and that souls would come to know the Lord.

4. Pray for wisdom as we plan, work and strive to lay a good foundation for a healthy church; also for health and strength.

5. For Hannah as she adjusts to a new school, friends, house, etc.

6. That God will prepare the hearts of the people we will be contacting.

Thanks for all you do for us; most of all for your prayers. God will build His church!

**TERRY VAN WINKLE** — One of the most exciting things this spring is that more people are becoming aware of our church. Our publicity team is doing a great job of making our church visible by targeting new residents, submitting press releases and newspaper ads. We have also placed a color display ad in the yellow pages and are doing three direct mail pieces to 6,000 homes over the course of the year. All of this helps us meet our greatest challenge—making an invisible church visible . . . This month we will also be voting to set aside three men for the office of deacon. They are excited about this opportunity to serve the church and support the pastor . . . We are still seeking churches and families to be part of our "Be the 1" supporters. Please drop me a note if you would be willing to pledge 1% of your church budget or personal income toward this effort . . . God is blessing our home and our church family. Thanks for being in this ministry with us through your concern, your prayers and your support.

**RUSSELL JOHNSON** — Since our last newsletter, we have had two saved, and two new families attending our church. We now have about 22 families altogether. We have started a youth choir on Sunday nights with several youth participating. We contacted 101 homes of people who moved into Cheyenne this past month . . . Pray that this new program will bring new families into our church. The Lord is doing a great work here, and we don't want Satan to stop it. Thanks for all you have done for us. We do appreciate you!

**JOHN McCLURE** — We have begun a new ministry to the pre-teen age. The streets in all their multi-faceted attractions, such as gang violence, here in Mexico hold a tight grasp on this age group . . . We have dedicated the Sunday Evening service to a study on "Machismo and Feminismo," in the realm of family living which is another great area of need in this culture. Pray that the people will see that God wants them to enjoy a new and better plan for their homes . . . We are so proud to announce the birth of our third grandchild and first grandson, John Andrew McClure, born to our oldest son, Paul, and wife, Ashley, on February 9 . . . Please pray for our annual film revival that we may be able to reach someone with the Gospel during this event . . . We love you. Plan a trip down sometime. We would love to have you . . .

## **HARVEST FWB CHILD CARE MINISTRIES, INC. MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Harvest Child Care Ministries announces the following ministry positions available:

**Residential Counselor:** Now hiring devoted Christian men and women for the position of residential Counselor. Candidates must demonstrate, through previous life and work experience, an ability to maintain a stable environment, and to provide guidance to children aged 5 - 18.

Counselors will live on our campus to provide abused, abandoned, and neglected children daily care, nurturing, and guidance. They serve five days on duty with five days off duty. Benefits include salary, life & health insurance, and retirement benefits.

**Advancement Representative:** New positions now available. Candidates must demonstrate an ability to professionally communicate the purposes, goals, and needs of the ministry. Must be a self-starter and possess excellent people skills. Must be willing to re-locate and cultivate new contacts.

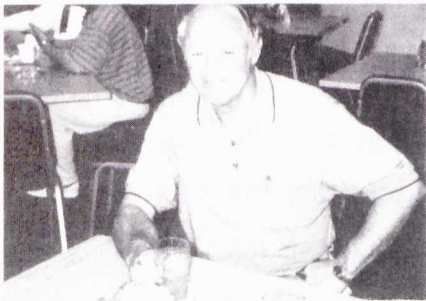
Representatives will work a minimum of 40 hours per week, including nights and week-ends. Benefits include salary, vacation, life & health insurance, and retirement benefits.

Harvest Child Care Ministries is a non-profit agency that provides a loving, home-like atmosphere for abused, abandoned, and neglected children. Our philosophy is based on a basic belief that a healthy Christian home environment, caring parents, and a wholesome family life are fundamental necessities, if not rights, for every child.

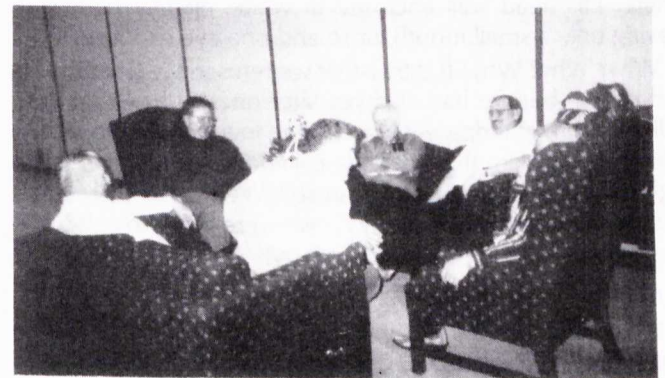
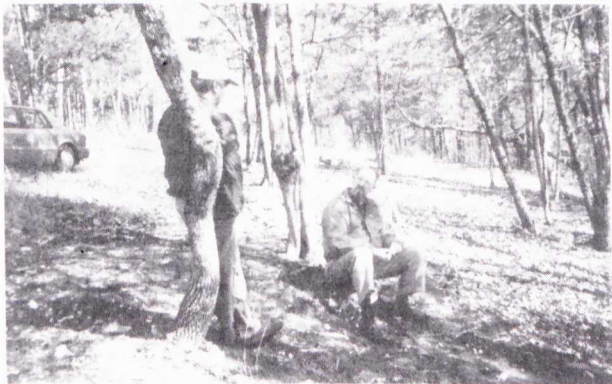
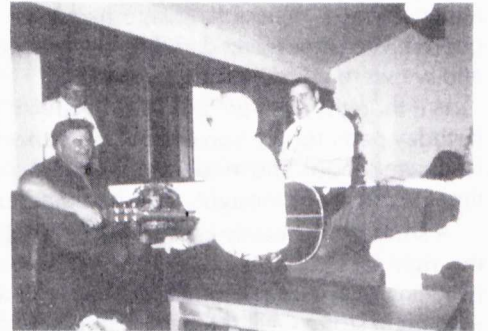
Interested applicants should submit a complete resume, references, and position desired to:

Newl Dotson, Executive Director  
P. O. Box 259  
Duffield, VA 24244  
Fax: 540-523-7015  
E-Mail: harvest@mounet.com





# 1998 MINISTER'S RETREAT





## *We Thought We Were Going To A Party*

Carol J. Pinkerton  
1994

The year was 1973. The place was Vevey, Switzerland. The family of five were all in the car. Battles had already been fought. The Lord had called. We were reluctant to follow for He called us to a place far away—to a country we did not know.

Hence, the battles. He won them all. Now, there was abiding peace. A new language had been more or less conquered. We were packed and ready to leave for this new land, and we were going to a party.

We thought we were going to a party. It was to be a happy birthday party for the son of a family with whom we'd been in language school. The mood was casual and leisure. It was party time . . . or so we thought. God had different plans.

A small truck heavily loaded with scaffolding failed to yield the right of way at a blind intersection. It happened in the twinkling of an eye. The car impacted with the truck – skidded – hitting a stone wall, turned upon its side and stopped!

The five passengers were tossed as a salad. Four managed to remove themselves from the overturned car. The fifth, a happy boy of 10 years was silent. His face lay on the broken side window on the ragged, broken glass. Blood flowed freely. His father cupped the head as the body was removed from the vehicle not knowing if his third son was alive or dead – yet, strangely enough he knew that all was well. He had an unexplainable peace about this child.

In the ambulance on route to the hospital, this son's voice was heard. Yet, it wasn't a human sound. It was similar to a raging, wild animal. The sound, although frightening, was beautiful. For we knew then that he was still alive.

Hours of surgery and thousands of minuet stitches later, we saw him. He didn't move for 3 1/2 days. Tubes were everywhere. His head was enclosed in white, circular bandages, leaving only a small mouth, nose and one eye exposed.

Why? Why? Why? It is true that we refused the first time He had called—but we had said yes later on. We had taken our children from grandparents, family and friends to another land, attempted to learn the language called French and were only eight days from being on African soil. We'd been scared, but trusted and obeyed God. Why . . . we were going to celebrate. We thought we were going to a party!

God had other plans.

It was 21 years ago today that we began—but never arrived at the party. We still do not understand why God permitted all this to happen. We do know that God is in control, even when we do not understand. Our limited knowledge does not make Him less than God.

He is God the Creator, unbound by time or space. He is pure and perfect. He is all knowledge. He loves all mankind!

Why did it happen? We do not know. God does and that is enough! And, what about Tim? Well, he is a Registered Nurse working in the trauma unit at a large hospital—helping others who have been seriously injured.

Thank you, God. Someday when we celebrate the Eternal Party in Heaven, perhaps you'll answer the questions—but then, it won't really matter, will it?

Romans 8:28 is true.

## Order My Steps, Lord

Free Will Baptist WNAC Retreat  
Ridgecrest, NC

September 24–26, 1998

### Special speaker Glenda Revell Author of *Glenda's Story: Led by Grace—*

her own eloquent testimony of the Lord's  
love and grace throughout a hideously  
abused childhood. She never accepted  
the "victimization" label,  
and with her husband has established  
a Christian home with four children.

You may obtain a reservation form from WNAC,  
P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.



## South Carolina Junior Elected FWBBC Student President

Shiloh Hackett, a junior Pastoral Training major from Spartanburg, South Carolina, has been elected president of the 1998-99 Free Will Baptist Bible College student body. Elections were held on campus April 8-9.

Shiloh is a graduate of Inman (SC) Christian Academy. At FWBBC, he was president of his freshman class, chaplain of his junior class, and sports director of the Alpha Chi Society his sophomore year. He has played on the Flames basketball team and served as both a Prayer Captain and a Christian Service Group Leader.

An excellent cabinet of officers was elected to serve with him. Joey Postlewaite, a sophomore Pastoral Training major from St. Croix, Virgin Islands, was elected Vice President. The new Secretary-Treasurer is Becky Hale, from Taylor Ridge, Illinois. Becky is a sophomore, majoring in Secondary Education/English, with a Missions minor. Barry Raper, a senior from Red Bay, Alabama, was elected Chaplain. He is a Pastoral Training major. The new Worship Leader is Matt McAfee, a junior Pastoral Training major from Bristol, NB, Canada.

Please pray for these new student leaders at Free Will Baptist Bible College.



## Reservation Form

### Free Will Baptist WNAC National Retreat

**Ridgecrest Conference Center**  
Ridgecrest, North Carolina

**Theme: Order My Steps, Lord**  
**September 24-26, 1998**

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

(per person for 2 nights plus 5 meals, including program fee):

Please indicate the # of rooms requested:

- ☐ 1 per room: \$165.75  
☐ 2 per room: \$115.25  
☐ 3 per room: \$104.25  
☐ 4 per room: \$98.25

**Please list all names and addresses of those staying in your room**

*(Make additional copies if needed):*

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group/Church Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs: ☐ Disabled access ☐ First floor required

#### GROUP RESERVATIONS:

Total number of rooms needed \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons in group \_\_\_\_\_

Attach list of participants, grouped by roommates. Indicate special needs for each room (disabled access; first floor required). Group should plan to pay with one check, if possible; if not, please notify Ridgecrest in advance.

If planning to arrive or depart early, please indicate below:

Arrival date: \_\_\_\_\_ First meal: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure date: \_\_\_\_\_ Last meal: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOW TO PAY:** Enclose deposit of \$19.75 per person. Reservations will not be processed without deposit. Deposit will be credited to your account at check-in.

**SEND TO: Ridgecrest Conference Center, P. O. Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770. Fax. (704) 669-9721 Tel. (704) 669-8022**

**NO REFUNDS after August 23, 1998.**

**Daytime only participants: \$34.75 per adult plus meal costs. Breakfast: \$5.50; Lunch or dinner: \$7.50.**

#### Transportation

Ridgecrest is located 17 miles east of Asheville, NC, on Interstate, 40, exit 66. At the top of the ramp, turn left. At the first junction, turn right onto Old U. S. 70. The Ridgecrest entrance is on the left.

The Asheville Regional Airport is serviced by the following airlines: Delta, American, US Air and United.

#### A Few Ridgecrest Guidelines

Ridgecrest is a Christian conference center. Guests are expected to dress reflecting a Christian example.

Ridgecrest facilities and grounds are designated as a tobacco-free environment.

No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are permitted on the conference center campus.

We accept personal checks, Visa, MC, and Discover cards. If using a credit card, please complete the following information (credit card users may FAX or phone in reservations):

☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Discover

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name (print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

Card Acct #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## CCC NEWS

California Christian College wishes to thank everyone for their financial support. Your gifts mean a lot.

The school received its accreditation in February, which will be a big boost in the recruitment of students. Also, their basketball team won third place in the National Small College Tournament, and second place in the National Bible College Tournament. These activities gained them lots of recognition and publicity in Fresno, as the area news broadcasts followed the games.

Please continue to support California Christian College with your financial gifts and most of all, your prayers.



# FREE WILL BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION TO MEET IN TULSA

The National Association of Free Will Baptists meets in Tulsa, Oklahoma, July 12-16 for its 62nd annual session. Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington says he expects more than 7,000 delegates and visitors from 40 states at the Tulsa Convention Center for the five-day meeting. For the eighth time in 57 years, Oklahoma's 20,830 members and 252 churches will host the national convention. The Association first met in Oklahoma in 1941 (Drumright), and returned regularly: Oklahoma City (1946, 1968), Shawnee (1952) and Tulsa (1955, 1976, 1986).

The National Association of Free Will Baptists includes 2,500 churches with more than 215,000 members in 40 states. The denomination supports 98 missionaries in nine foreign countries and 108 home missionaries in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

National convention delegates are expected to approve denominational budgets which will exceed \$16 million. Moderator Carl Cheshier (President of Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Oklahoma) will gavel the voting body through electing 32 board and commission members and general officers. Each national agency and commission will submit an annual report to delegates during the two-day convention business session on Wednesday and Thursday.

The 1998 convention theme is "Belief Behaves," taken from James 1:22. Five men will deliver major addresses developing the theme. The speakers include three pastors: Loyd Locklear (Michigan), Randy Wilson (Oklahoma), David Taylor (Arizona), plus Ohio Executive Secretary Edwin Hayes and Foreign Missions Department general director Eugene Waddell.

Meeting simultaneously with the National Association are the 31st annual National Youth Conference, with an expected 2,500 registrants and the 63rd annual Women Nationally Active for Christ (WNAC) Convention with more than 1,000 women anticipated.

The four-day National Youth Conference (NYC) which includes Bible competitive activities as well as a music and arts festival will rally around the theme, "Faith Works." NYC will conduct separate worship services for all youth. Tuesday evening's Youth Banquet will meet at Discoveryland. More than 30 seminars are scheduled for conference attendees. Several

hundred teens will "Touch Tulsa" as they participate in service and work projects within the community. The youth will meet with the adults Wednesday evening.

The two-day WNAC theme is "Stewardship of Life: Living Sacrifices." Two WNAC seminars will meet Monday afternoon in the Tulsa Convention Center. The Tuesday business session convenes at Tulsa Convention Center. The WNAC keynote service will honor retiring executive secretary-treasurer Mary R. Wisehart. Oregon actress Julisa Rowe will speak at the Fellowship Dinner. Tuesday afternoon Julisa Rowe will present "Gathering Lotus Buds," which tells of the work and writings of Amy Carmichael, missionary to India.

Monday afternoon, the Home Missions Rally meets in the Arena at the Tulsa Convention Center. The two-hour conference will focus on the growing cross-cultural outreach among Free Will Baptists. A major address by Dr. Paul Park (South Korea) will highlight the gathering. More than 2,000 people are expected to attend.

The Tuesday morning Bible Conference will meet in the Assembly Hall at the convention center. Three pastors will speak during the three-hour meeting: George Lynn (Arkansas), Thurmon Murphy (Texas) and J. L. Gore (Mississippi). More than 900 ministers and laymen are expected to gather for the sessions.

The Doubletree Hotel Downtown will serve as headquarters hotel for the national convention. The National Youth Conference will be headquartered in the Adam's Mark Hotel. All plenary sessions will meet at Tulsa Convention Center.

Eight Oklahoma Free Will Baptists serve on the national Steering Committee to coordinate the 1998 convention:

Jack Richey (Moore) - Chairman/Steering Committee  
David McDougal (Seminole) - State Moderator  
David Archer (Glenpool) - Registration Committee  
Chairman  
Dale Smith (Tulsa) - Hospitality Committee Chairman  
Daniel Phillips (Tulsa) - Prayer Committee Chairman  
Don Wagner (Tulsa) - Ushering Committee Chairman  
Jean Marie Rogers (Tulsa) - State Auxiliary President  
Darryn McGee (Collinsville) - NYC Advisor

## Financial Information

### APRIL 1998

#### COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board..... \$8,745.43  
17.50% Executive Office..... 8,272.70  
3.00% General Fund..... 1,418.17  
.50% Show-Me Plan..... 236.36  
8.50% Youth Camp Bd..... 4,018.17  
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd..... 1,181.81  
2.50% C.E. Board..... 1,181.81  
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Bd.. 1,181.81  
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program..... 4,254.53  
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale &

Calif. Christian College..... 14,418.13  
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 (\$144.18 included in \$14,418.13)

5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund..... 2,363.65  
**TOTAL.....\$47,272.57**

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%.

### APRIL 1998

#### COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

Faith & Hope - Aurora..... \$ 103.30  
West Plains 1st..... 816.00  
New Rock Springs..... 276.00

Union Grove..... 426.00  
Houston 1st..... 408.97  
Clifton - Thayer..... 78.62  
Myrtle..... 267.34  
Grant Avenue..... 739.81  
Bailey - Alton..... 203.00  
Freeman Chapel..... 527.00  
Smyrna..... 133.00  
Cuba..... 619.00  
Ozark 1st..... 1,176.09  
Mtn. Grove 1st..... 2,424.84  
Lead Hill..... 371.10  
Hannibal..... 330.00  
Hartville..... 770.00



O'Fallon 1st	1,068.88
Parkview	506.00
Cornerstone	36.00
Niangua	96.00
Thayer	692.00
Seymour	256.00
Number One	110.60
Trinity	1,348.40
New Hope - Fredericktown	50.00
Hopewell	219.00
Faith - St. Louis	50.00
Macedonia	115.96
Mt. Pisgah	338.00
Waynesville 1st	331.96
Carthage 1st	253.49
Monett 1st	524.10
Verdella	675.17
Koshkonong	181.56
Gospel Light	277.55
Lebanon 1st	947.97
Merl's Chapel	218.00
Bailey Chapel	200.00
Rock Chapel	483.75
Hannon	584.96
Mill Creek	523.44
Lone Star	58.45
United - West Plains	2,455.88
Bethel	176.44
Pleasant Ridge	127.00
Calvary Chapel	827.59
Unity - Lebanon	436.00
Belton	384.13
Black Oak	226.69
Royal Oak	166.00
Central	1,119.43
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	309.38
Alton	225.00
Lone Star	60.80
Aulsbury Chapel	299.09
Mt. Zion - Gower	71.20
Richwoods 1st	552.00
Southside	205.21
Victory	1,544.80
Hurryville	490.55
Crossroads - Wentzville	578.56
Friendship	512.78
Fellowship	500.00
North Five	124.45
Hopewell	219.00
Stockton	157.40
Pleasant Home	336.19
Joplin 1st	804.29
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	40.00
Pleasant Hill - Thayer	109.89
Fredericktown 1st	387.00
Overland	130.00
Greenfield	173.00
Wolf Creek	344.14
DeSoto 1st	1,350.00
Heritage - Poplar Bluff	200.00
Fordland	604.97
Wilderness	845.32
Neosho 1st	95.00
Springfield 1st	1,326.57
Kings Way	404.00
Copper Mines	339.12
Potosi 1st	152.62
Bethel - El Dorado Springs	83.91
Rolla 1st	195.89
Cabool 1st	300.58
Union Light	111.50
Cape Girardeau 1st	375.00
Park Hills 1st	795.82
St. Francois District Ass'n	33.50
New Life - Licking	435.18
Grace - Arnold	1,420.00
New Rock Springs	173.00
Clifton	69.20
Niangua	120.00
Lebanon	369.30
Grant Avenue	846.20
Mtn. Grove 1st	1,537.69
West Plains 1st	690.00
Bailey - Alton	187.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$47,272.57</b>

#### SHOW-ME PLAN

AmeriVision - Lee, G.	\$ 3.86
Aulsbury Chapel	150.00
Beacon	15.00
Belton	105.00
Belton Ladies Aux.	15.00
Berean	30.00
Berry, R.	15.00
Bethel - El Dorado	257.84
Big Creek	55.00
Bishop, B. J.	15.00
Black Oak	30.00
Bowers, C.	30.00
Buffalo 1st	60.00
Buxton, G.	30.00
Cabool	135.00
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo	105.00

Central	490.00
Chism, B.	5.00
Chrisman, M.	30.00
Copper Mines	30.00
Copper Mines - HiTeen, Teen, Jr.	15.00
Copper Mines - Yg. Adult Class	15.00
Cuba	200.70
Darnell, W.	15.00
DeSoto 1st	400.00
DeSoto Victors CTS Class	15.00
Eastern Gate	90.00
Faith - St. Louis	30.00
Faith & Hope - W.S.	60.00
Fellowship	953.53
Fordland	171.00
Fourth	405.00
Fredericktown 1st	150.00
Freeman Chapel	540.00
Gardner Church	180.00
Garrett, R.	15.00
Gospel Light	675.00
Grace	404.00
Grant Avenue	458.00
Grant Avenue	629.00
Greenfield 1st	180.00
Hannon	1,154.96
Harmony - Parkville	69.00
Harris, F.	45.00
Harris, F.	45.00
Hartville	195.00
Houston 1st	324.50
Hurryville	300.00
Jackson	15.00
Jones Chapel	16.00
Kings Way	75.00
Kings Way	10.00
Kirk, G.	150.00
Leadington	60.00
Lebanon 1st	75.00
Lebanon F.W.B.	30.00
Macedonia Aux.	1,000.00
Maggart, D.	45.00
Merl's Chapel	150.00
Mill Creek	90.00
Mill Creek Young Adult S.S.C.	15.00
Mo. State Woman's Aux.	344.34
Monett 1st	390.00
Moore, Lillian	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	1,315.42
Mtn. Grove 1st	1,450.00
Mt. Pisgah	75.00
Mt. Zion - Thayer	30.00
Myrtle	75.00
Neil, R.	45.00
Neosho 1st	200.00
New Home - Hartville	150.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	75.00
New Life - Licking	98.85
New Testament	30.00
Noel, D.	15.00
Oak Grove - Houston	15.00
O'Fallon 1st	395.00
Old Bethel	540.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Park Hills 1st	238.74
Parson, O.	15.00
Pinkerton, J.	45.00
Pleasant Grove - Anderson	90.00
Pleasant Home	60.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	90.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	50.00
Purdy	180.00
Richwoods	60.00
Rock Chapel	345.00
Royal Oak	120.00
Ruble, N.	45.00
Schebaum, J.	50.00
Southeast Mo. Ass'n	90.00
Springfield 1st	315.00
St. Louis Ass'n	86.00
Sunnyview	360.00
Thayer	275.00
Trinity	705.00
Union Light	120.00
United - West Plains	300.00
Unity	75.00
Verdella	1,255.17
Viburnum	95.00
Victory - K.C.	570.00
Walker, H. Jr.	15.00
West Plains 1st	10.00
West Plains 1st Aux.	30.00
White, R.	15.00
Wilderness	67.42
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	85.00
Willow Springs 1st	150.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,337.33</b>

#### FOREIGN MISSIONS - DESIGNATED

Beacon	\$ 226.00
Belton	8.00
Cape Girardeau	150.00
Central	55.00

Fordland	20.00
Fourth	15.00
Grant Avenue	73.00
Grant Avenue	40.00
Greenfield 1st	10.00
Greenfield 1st - Aux. Easter Off.	155.00
Joplin 1st	105.00
Lewis, D.	30.00
Merl's Chapel	50.00
Minor, K.	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	50.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	30.00
Neosho	15.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	20.00
New Life - Licking	49.42
New Testament	60.00
Oak Grove - Mtn. Grove	80.70
Ozark 1st	45.00
Pleasant Home	63.81
Thayer	80.00
Trinity	441.62
Union Light	10.00
United - West Plains	30.00
Viburnum	10.00
Victory - K.C.	130.00
Waynesville 1st	50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,112.55</b>

#### STATE HOME MISSIONS

Berean	\$ 15.00
Cuba	80.35
DeSoto 1st	50.00
DeSoto 1st - Children's Church	20.00
Faith - Chandler, IN.	25.00
Farmington 1st	40.00
Fordland	5.00
Gospel Light	40.00
Grace - Arnold	25.00
Grant Avenue	10.00
Hannon	442.48
Lebanon Bible & Book	315.00
Macedonia	50.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	40.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	45.00
New Home - Hartville	10.00
O'Fallon 1st	68.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Pleasant Ridge	20.00
Richard White	10.00
Rock Chapel	72.92
Southeast Mo. Dist. Ass'n	90.00
Thayer	45.00
Trinity	30.00
Union Light	51.00
United - West Plains	25.00
Victory	10.00
Wormington, Larry	30.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,684.75</b>

#### NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Beacon	\$ 80.00
Belton	8.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Cape Girardeau 1st	225.00
Carthage 1st	15.00
Central	20.00
Chapman, Alan	35.00
Cornerstone	120.00
Crossland, Marlon	5.00
Cuba	80.36
DeSoto 1st	556.00
DeSoto 1st - Auditorium Class	10.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	23.00
Fordland	35.00
Grace - Arnold	181.00
Grant Avenue	125.98
Grant Avenue	124.62
Hannon	88.50
Hartville	100.00
Hoggard, Judy	10.00
Houston 1st	120.00
J.W. Rader	20.00
Joplin	20.00
King, Brenda	10.00
Lebanon	5.00
Macedonia	100.00
Monett 1st	97.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	75.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	60.00
Mt. Pisgah	25.00
Myrtle	20.00
Neosho 1st	25.00
New Home - Hartville	10.00
New Testament	170.00
Oak Grove - Mtn. Grove	40.35
O'Fallon 1st	68.00
Ozark 1st	70.00
Park Hills 1st	149.58
Pleasant Home	100.00
Richwoods 1st	41.00
Rock Chapel	50.00
Thayer	211.00

Trinity	50.00
Union Light	85.00
United - West Plains	10.00
Unity - Lebanon	50.00
Verdella	50.00
Viburnum	51.00
Victory	50.00
Waynesville 1st	50.00
West Plains 1st	185.00
White, Richard	10.00
Wolf Creek	75.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,045.39</b>

#### MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

Buffalo 1st	\$ 50.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
Hartville	10.00
New Life - Monett	94.61
Niangua	20.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	195.00
Thayer	45.00
Trinity	14.00
Mt. Pisgah	10.00
Hannon	15.00
Willow Springs	10.00
New Home	10.00
West Plains 1st	25.00
DeSoto 1st	50.00
Berean	15.00
Cabool 1st	10.00
Park Hills 1st	46.42
New Rock Springs	10.00
Niangua	20.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$680.03</b>

#### FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$ 45.00
Verdella	135.03
Beacon	6.00
Central	85.21
DeSoto 1st	35.00
Houston 1st	75.00
West Plains - Re-Location Fund	566.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$947.74</b>

#### HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Grant Avenue	\$ 6.00
Thayer	50.00
Hannon	50.00
Cuba - Have A Heart	100.00
Beacon	20.00
Central	
For account of Kim Walker	75.00
For account of Sarah Merryfield	75.00
Victory	122.24
Gary Tune - Lazo	50.00
Neosho 1st	60.00
Bethel - El Dorado Springs	30.00
Grace - Arnold - Have A Heart	500.00
Grant Avenue	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,148.24</b>

#### CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Carthage 1st	\$70.53
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#### REV. JOHN McCURE

Mtn. Grove 1st	\$ 42.50
Thayer	10.00
Trinity	20.00
Carthage 1st	85.53
Monett 1st	45.00
Central Western Dist. Wom. Aux.	30.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	55.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$288.03</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

Myrtle	\$ 6.00
New Life - Monett	94.61
New Hope - Fredericktown	30.00
Unity - Lebanon	10.00
Belton	21.00
DeSoto 1st	100.00
Park Hills 1st	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$271.61</b>

#### STEVE SMITH

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

FOUR SPECIAL DAYS	
Cuba	\$100.00

#### WORLD RELIEF

Victory	\$45.00
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# LESSONS FROM NATURE

BY  
GARRY MATTHEWS

Humility—there is something ominous hiding behind that word. Another word—pride, we've been taught, is a sin hated by God. Solomon says in Proverbs 16:18,19:

**"Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud."**

I don't know about you, but I'm a pretty humble guy. It's just that once in awhile I get a surge of over-confidence, if you know what I mean. Shortly afterwards, I find that ominous meaning that hides behind that word—humility. Since you readers probably never experience this—let me give you an example.

Jerry and Carol Pinkerton are some of my family's dearest friends. Jerry and I happen to share a real strong addiction to hunting. (If you know Jerry, you know what I'm talking about!) God called Jerry to Ivory Coast West Africa—then closed it to hunting. Who says God doesn't have a sense of humor! A couple of furloughs back, I took Jerry bowhunting and probably ruined him forever. In several days of hunting from different tree stand locations, Jerry saw nothing; and I just happened to call in and arrow a large turkey gobbler within sight of my vehicle.

This past October Jerry and Carol were in our home again. It seems like each October that they're home, the women's auxiliary has Carol speak at their retreat, which is conveniently scheduled in mid-October! Jerry and I had been hunting together a couple of days, and we had seen both deer and turkeys, but nothing in range. This morning we were joined by my 20-year-old son, Chad. I had chosen this particular spot because the previous morning I watched 6 deer (including a buck) cross this area. I had built a ground blind 15 yards from one trail where I placed Chad. 30 yards away I put Jerry in a downed tree with deer trails on either side of him. I set up about 50 yards away behind a little brush, just trying to stay out of their way, and still be able to watch the action. Shortly after daylight deer appeared. For the next hour deer were constantly in sight, feeding and milling around within 100 yards. Finally a small buck chased the young deer off, and then began chasing a large doe in earnest. After the doe and buck disappeared, one of the young deer slipped back into the area and headed our way. I was hoping it would give either Jerry or

Chad an opportunity for a shot. He came across in front of Jerry's blind, just slightly downhill. I mentally screamed "shoot—Jerry—shoot", but Jerry never shot. While I was still puzzling over why he hadn't shot, the deer began walking toward me. Suddenly the deer was twelve steps from me, and I was still trying to figure out what happened. The thought came to me—"Well I'll just show Chad and Jerry how it's done. After all, I've been fairly successful over the years, and I teach bowhunter education classes for the Missouri Department of Conservation in several counties here in northeast Missouri."

In one fluid motion, I sat upright on my folding-stool, drew my bow, and shot.

I watched the arrow fly harmlessly over the deer's back. It ran past me 10 yards and stopped broadside. No problem, this time I just concentrated harder, visually burning a hole in the deer's chest cavity—and shot. Just before reaching the deer's chest, there was a snap, and the arrow turned at right angle to the deer and sailed into a patch of briars—hit a limb! The deer ran uphill across from Jerry and stopped. I waited—"shoot, Jerry, shoot" I silently screamed! Jerry waited, confident that the deer would come closer as it headed away from me—wrong! Back it came, and at 10 yards we faced off head to head. Time stood still. It seemed like it was as long as a sermon that starts in Genesis and ends up in Revelation—if you get my drift! Finally, the deer moved off uphill stopping broadside with its head and neck behind a large white oak tree. At 20 yards I drove an arrow deep into the trunk of the white oak! The deer paused two more times within range, but I didn't even bother to shoot.

**Humility**—yep, I really felt humble as Jerry "kindly" dug my arrow out of the tree with his hunting knife, and Chad helped me look for my arrow in the briars! They never said much, but they sure grinned a lot! There's nothing like missing three times at point blank range with an audience—humility (bah)!

Sometimes we get over-confident in other areas of our lives, and God has to teach us humility. Oddly enough, it helps me to know that people I look up to in the Christian walk are human. No, I don't rejoice in their failures, but it helps me to realize that I have the capability to move up to their spiritual level also. There is hope for all of us—we don't have to wallow in our failures! I believe that is why God included in his Word the faults and failures of heroes of the faith. If you recall, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and Peter to name a few, had times when they failed miserably. Yet, they rose above their failures and went on to greater service for God—so can we!

Jerry—just wait until your next furlough—I'll show you! I can't believe I said that—can you?

MISSOURI STATE ASSOC.  
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS  
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