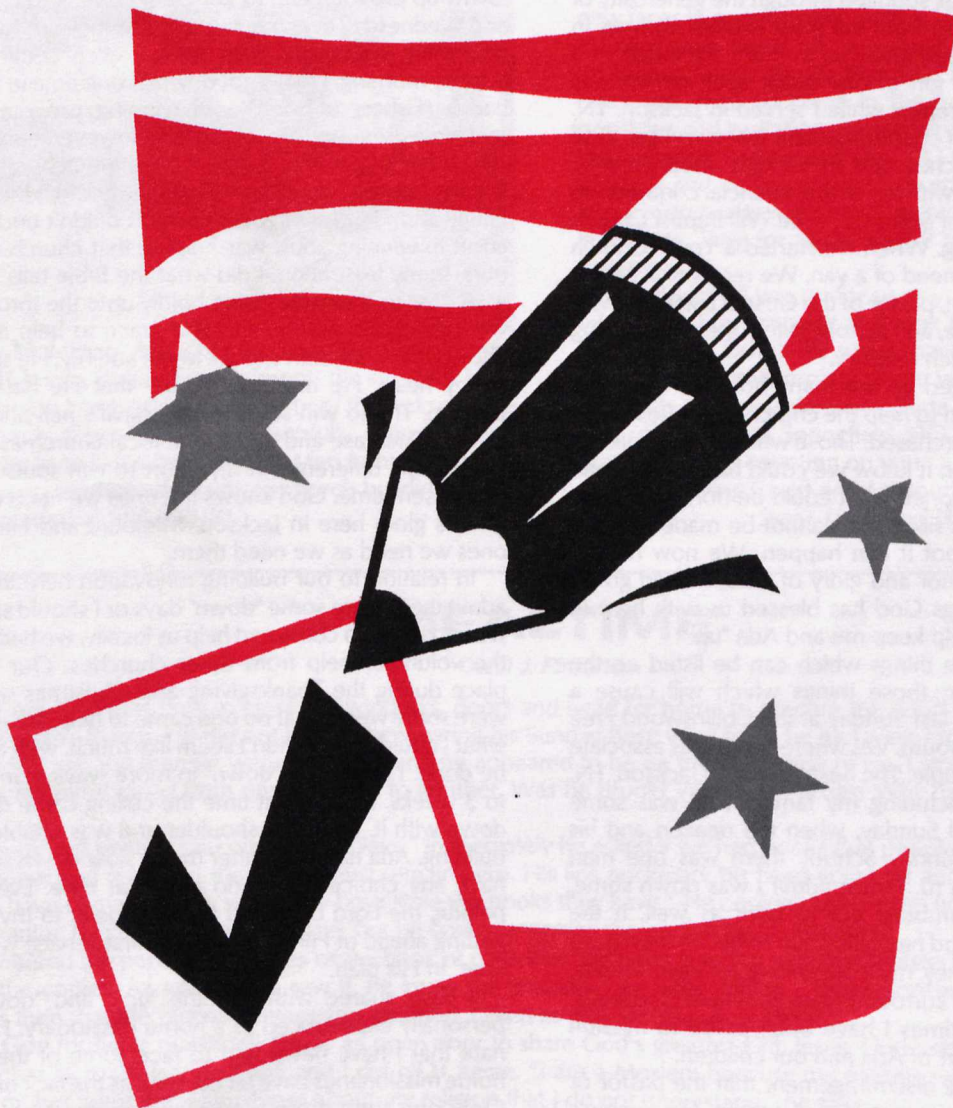


GEM

**THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST**

Volume 68, No. 11, November 1998



"CONTINUE IN PRAYER, AND WATCH IN THE SAME WITH THANKSGIVING"
COLOSSIANS 4:2

The "Ups" and "Downs" of a Home Missionary

by Vernon Long

The cliché, "when you're up, you're up and when you're down, you're down," expresses an experience which most pastors deal with from time to time. I have served as a pastor and associate pastor of established churches and as a home missionary in two works — Jackson, TN, and now in Jackson, MO. Having served in a small church and in a larger multi-ministry church, I know that there are a number of things which can cause elation and depression.

A missionary leaves for a new field of service with great excitement and great expectations. If he does not, then he better not go. A new field offers the prospect of gathering some dedicated, separated people who will be a part of a team for reaching new souls. Praise the Lord, I have some people who have helped us get started here in Jackson. A new field also offers the opportunity to see new converts grow spiritually according to the teaching of the Word of God.

The prayers, notes of encouragement, and phone calls from other believers help keep the missionary encouraged when the devil is trying to get him down. This has been so evident in our work here in Jackson. God has supplied through the generosity of others. I have seen help come from the most unlikely sources in the mission works I have been involved in. I am reminded of a widow in Tennessee whose gift of one dollar each month was printed out on my monthly report while I served in Jackson, TN, as a home missionary. It is an encouragement when you see God supply needs through churches and individuals. God recently blessed the Jackson Mission with a sizeable financial contribution from the people of the former Scott City Free Will Baptist Church when they sold their building. When we started a Youth Church program, God supplied our need of a van. We received a phone call from Brother Larry Allison, pastor of the Gospel Light Free Will Baptist Church in Bonne Terre, and he told us that they were giving us a van to use in our outreach ministry.

We have been encouraged by the many hours of volunteer labor that have been donated to help the church renovate the old church building which we purchased. Those who saw the building before we started working on it know we could have really been down, but our people envisioned what could be done with a lot of hard work. If you think "a silk purse cannot be made out of a sow's ear," we have the proof it can happen. We now have a beautiful building for the honor and glory of God. I could go on and on concerning the things God has blessed us with here in Jackson; those things that help keep me and Ada "up."

However, there are those things which can be listed on the negative side of the ledger; those things which will cause a missionary to be down. Our last Sunday at the Collinswood Free Will Baptist Church in Portsmouth, VA, where I served as associate pastor, I preached to 348 people. The next Sunday in Jackson, TN, I preached to 15 people including my family. That was some numbers shock. The second Sunday, when the deacon and his family had to leave after Sunday School, there was one man besides my family to preach to. I must admit I was down some, not just because of the numbers, but in spirit as well. If the missionary is to do the job God has called him to do, he must have the support of his family. They must be willing to leave friends, secure positions, and familiar surroundings to go where God leads. I thank the Lord that both times I have been called to mission works, I have had the support of Ada and our children.

Probably the number one discouragement that the pastor or missionary deals with is the inconsistency of people. The people's

inconsistency to attend and support the church services can be a real downer. There are those people who assure you they have been led of the Lord to help you but somehow they misunderstood what the Lord said to them, because in just a few weeks or months, they are gone. Then there are those people who come and leave because they do not agree with the missionary's standards and convictions on separated living. There are also those people who seem to want to see a church established and are willing to do whatever needs to be done — with one exception — they are not willing to give their tithes and offerings when the collection plate is passed. Praise God, we have some people here in Jackson who fit in the category of those Paul mentioned in 2 Cor. 8:1-5, who have not only "first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God" (verse 5), but they have also "abounded unto the riches of their liberality" (verse 2b).

The inconsistency of people's professions can get a missionary down. There are those who from all indications pray the sinner's prayer and may even follow the Lord in baptism, but that is as far as they go. An effort is made to get them in a new convert's follow-up program and to get them coming to church on Sunday and Wednesday evening, but it seems they are too busy. Then the next thing you know, they are not even coming to church on Sunday morning. I really got down at one time in Jackson, TN. We had a "Fishers of Men" soul winning program and we were reaching some people for Christ. However, some of the people who were saved went back to their home church, Pleasant Plains Baptist Church (which was a good church), where some of their family and friends were attending. I couldn't understand why our effort in winning souls was helping that church to grow and not ours. In my frustration, I did what the Bible tells us to do in Heb. 4:16, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Though the Lord didn't speak to me audibly, He spoke very clearly to my heart. He made me know that He had brought me to Jackson, TN, to win souls from a devil's hell and that He would give the increase and add to the local church as He saw fit. That made a big difference in my effort to win souls from that day to the present time. God knows the ones we need to build a church for His glory here in Jackson, Missouri, and He will give us the ones we need as we need them.

In relation to our building renovation here in Jackson, I must admit there were some "down" days or I should say weeks. Before we had those to come and help us locally, we had to depend upon the volunteer help from other churches. Our renovation took place during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, and there were some weeks that no one came to help. I was by myself doing what I could, which didn't seem like much, with all that needed to be done. I was really "down" in more ways than one for about 2 to 3 weeks. During that time the ceiling came down and I came down with it. I hurt my shoulder and was unable to work on the building. Ada had been after me to slow down some, and I didn't have any choice but to do it at that time. Even though it was painful, the Lord used that time to speak to my heart about not getting ahead of Him and that our first service would be "right on time" in His plan.

I have shared with you the "ups" and "downs" that I have personally experienced as a home missionary. I have been fortunate that I have never had to face some of the problems other home missionaries have faced, such as the lack of a meeting place. Only one time did my missions account get low enough in

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Tennessee that I had to go back on itinerant, which will get a missionary pastor "down" when he has to leave his congregation to go and raise support. Missouri's plan of support for their state home missionaries prevents this from happening. I thank the Lord for an understanding Home Missions Board, which has been an encouragement to us as we serve in Jackson. When I served in Jackson, TN, it was a joint project with the National Home Missions Board and the Tennessee Home Missions Board. They also were a help and encouragement to me when I needed them. You can tell by this article that I am "up" at the present time, as we continue to see the Lord working in people's lives in our evangelistic efforts, but that doesn't mean that I will never be "down." That is why your continued prayers and support for not just Ada and me, but for all of our missionaries, are so important.



Brother Herb McMillian, Associate Pastor of the Gospel Light Free Will Baptist Church, Bonne Terre, presents the keys of a 1987 Dodge van to Vernon Long, Missionary Pastor of the Jackson Free Will Baptist Church. Gospel Light has faithfully supported the mission work in Jackson since its inception. Men from the Gospel Light Church helped renovate the Jackson church building which was recently appraised at \$85,000.00.

Columbia Mission Update

Dear Prayer Partner,

I want to share an update with you on our work here in Columbia, MO. The last three months have been wonderful as we watch God build His Church.

In August two 12-year-old girls gave their hearts to Christ. Megan and Crystal, foster children living with one of the families of our church, prayed with me to ask Jesus into their lives. Megan came forward during a Sunday morning service and Crystal prayed at home. These are the first two converts in the work here. Crystal has moved on to live with family in North Carolina. Pray for these two young ladies.

Channa Hires, a mother of two, has not made a public profession of faith as yet, but she and her sons faithfully attend. Please pray for her and her husband, Jeff.

We have moved to a new location! God has provided a 6,000 square feet office space near our home. Normally the space rents for \$4,000.00 a month (there is no way our new congregation could afford that), but the space has been empty for almost two years. The owner rented it to us for \$500.00 a month—what a great God we serve.

Our attendance these days is in the 20's and it seems we have new faces in every service. About 15 people from the Ozark FWB Youth Group came up in August and handed out over 1,000 invitations to our church (thanks, Ozarkians[?]). Our church outreach has involved going to the park to pass out balloons and popsicles and invitations to our services and also going to one of the Columbia entrances to the KATY Trail to pass out free bottles of water and invite people to church. Donna Goodman and her two children attended last Sunday as a result of one of these invitations. Pray for us as we try to reach unchurched folks in Columbia.

Thanks for all you do for us as you pray and give. We want to be able to buy property and look toward building soon. Please pray and ask God if He would have you to give to help us with this very expensive project. If you would like to give, please send your gifts to Rev. Dale Skiles, State Missions Director at 4534 S. McCullough Drive, Springfield, MO 65804. Please keep us in your prayers, we are counting on you.

Serving Christ and Missouri FWB's in Columbia,
Steve, Linda and Hannah Reeves

MEALTIME

Carol J. Pinkerton

It was almost noon; almost time to close the windows, doors and head for home to prepare the noon meal. That's when he walked slowly into the Reading Room. He did not look to be wearing his Sunday Best; what teeth he had were crooked and had been filed. He was a tall man. His look and manner were uncertain and he appeared to be on the angry side of life. I stood and extended my hand to welcome him as my mind raced from one question to another. Was he drunk? Was he on drugs? Why had he come? And, what was I going to do?

We shook hands and politely said our "Good Days." Immediately he asked if we had books that people could borrow. No, everyone is welcome to come and read, but the books must remain here. His lips puckered; his head going up and down with a satisfied grunt, "Un hu, un hu! I have come to verify where my boys stole the books they have." He couldn't tell me the title of the book since he didn't know paper (meaning he couldn't read or write), but he could recognize the book if he saw it again.

Then I remembered the paperback copies of the book of Luke that had been given to people interested in learning more about God. I found one of the copies. As soon as he saw it, he knew the problem had been solved. "These booklets had been given as gifts," I explained. It was then that the puzzled expression returned. Given as gifts? To my sons? Why?

How I thank God for these questions. It was an open door to share God's greatest Gift, Jesus. Understanding came as fast as it went when he stated that all roads lead to God, and I did NOT agree. "I am a Moslem because my parents were Moslems, as their parents were before them, but there are many things about my religion that I do not understand," he said.

The Reading Room and Training Center is here to teach Truth. The booklets that were given to your sons tell of this Truth. You are to be commended in searching for the truth about the books. A bridge of communication and understanding began that day. I do not know how long the construction will take, or if the bridge will ever be completed. I do know that he who seeks—finds and to him that knocks—a door will be opened. I know the Truth is found only in Jesus Christ. It is all explained in His Book.

Needless to say our noon meal wasn't eaten at noon. It matters not. My prayer is that because of this time in the search for Truth (and others to follow), understanding will increase and more plates will be set at the Marriage Feast of the Lamb!



Show-Me Plan



Pledge Card

WRITE IN THE NUMBER OF SHARES WHICH YOU WISH TO ADOPT

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 8 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

Show-Me Missionary News

Ginger Harrison

School is going good and I'm keeping busy with projects due this week. I have an enthusiastic professor who is doing her best to teach me French grammar. Continue to pray that I retain what I have learned and continue to practice and understand the French language.

I would like for you to pray for me, over the next several weeks especially, concerning my future ministry training plans. The Field Counsel will be meeting this coming week. During this meeting they will recommend plans for my education and arrival to the field. It's been suggested that I go ahead and study in Belgium this coming spring in order to receive tropical medicine training, and possibly staying in France until the end of the year to better my language skills. This would allow time for Dr. Eagleton to return from furlough and for the Andersons (another couple interested in the Community Health Program) to all reach the field by the year 2000.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. I appreciate your interest and concern for this ministry. Pray God directs and uses my life as an outreach for our ministry together to touch those He would have me to.

The Pinkertons

Yes!! Yes!! Yes!! It is true. Thanks to God and your faithfulness in praying and giving . . . the Free Will Baptist Church of Abidjan has land . . . almost two acres in a freshly cleared area sited for 2,000 new homes, plus 20 acres set aside for teacher and banker homes. The Free Will Baptist lots face the major street in the new subdivision.

The preliminary title should be coming from the government offices within a month. Then, the land will officially be Free Will Baptist! Please continue to pray . . . there's much more paper work to be done.

The Hollands

We had 72 campers at camp. Five campers made salvation decisions on Sunday night and at least five prayed about special needs in their lives. David Aycock was the camp evangelist. We had a good camp, and I believe our young people went home challenged.

In my absence from the Sao Jose work, Bill preached for me. Joao was saved. Now please pray for Simone, his wife.

Using the Right Physician

by Sister Kathy Thebeau

My mom is diabetic and had started having trouble with the circulation in her legs. Her doctor referred her to a specialist,

and it was determined she needed surgery. The day before the scheduled surgery, they ran some dye through her veins to give them a better picture of what they needed to do. During pre-operative testing they found she had some blockage around her heart. They called in a heart specialist. She required a four bypass surgery. She did great! Her overall circulation was so improved she no longer needs leg surgery.

The thing is, when they saw she had heart problems, it became the main thing to fix. And they didn't have the leg doctor do it. They used a heart specialist.

Sometimes in the Christian realm when people run into spiritual problems we refer them to counselors or doctors. This is like having the leg doctor do surgery on mom's heart. We might try to fix the problems ourselves when we are not qualified. What they really need is the Great Physician, the top specialist spiritually. He can see the deep hidden problems of a heart and He alone is able to fix it. Without proper diet and exercise, Mom's arteries could clog up again. We can get sluggish spiritually also after God has fixed our heart.

So, we just need to be sure to follow His example of spiritual diet and exercise. Most people don't even realize they're having heart problems until they have a heart attack. Likewise we can gradually grow cold spiritually if we don't go to the Great Physician for frequent check-ups. The best part is, if we let God fix our hearts, all our other problems seem to improve or even disappear.

"Mom" Willey MK Scholarship Fund

A memorial scholarship fund in tribute to Mrs. Mabel "Mom" Willey, pioneer missionary to Panama and Cuba, has been established by the Department of Foreign Missions. This fund will be managed as an endowment to provide scholarships for the children of our foreign missionaries (MKs) during their college education.

Rev. Bill Evans, director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation which will manage the fund, said: "Scholarship endowments are a wonderful way to establish a ministry of sustained help. A gift of \$1,700 can provide a one-time scholarship of \$1,700, or if placed in a scholarship endowment, it can provide that same student \$100 each year for four or five years. After that it can help another student, then another, and another. . . working indefinitely to provide a \$100 annual scholarship until Jesus returns."

Rev. and Mrs. Gordon Hart opened the account with a \$1,000 gift.

General Director R. Eugene Waddell said: "If 24 churches, auxiliaries, Master's Men groups or individuals would each immediately send \$1,700 we could award all 24 of our college age MKs a \$100 scholarship every year they are in school. Then the endowment would take care of the new MKs who begin college."

Anyone who wishes to contribute should send gifts to Foreign Missions or FWB Foundation, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002 and designate their offerings to "Mom Willey MK Scholarship Fund."

Cuban Leader Dies

Cuba—Gilberto Diaz, 62, died from a cerebral thrombosis on Wednesday, September 23, 1998. A victory celebration was held in his memory on Thursday, September 24.

Senor Diaz was a faithful, self-sacrificing leader of the Cuban work. He labored in spite of intense Communist opposition and physical difficulties. While he served as an ordained deacon in the Jaruco church, he traveled and witnessed throughout the country. Highly respected by the Cuban Christian community, he served as president of the Cuban Convention of Free Will Baptists for 11 years. During Brother Gilberto's tenure as president, contact was reestablished with Free Will Baptists in the United States and the seminary in Pinar del Rio was reopened.

Brother Diaz is survived by his wife, Loida, and two sons, Joel and Abel. Both sons are actively involved in lay ministry.

Cards of condolence may be sent to Senora Diaz at the following address:

Loida Gonzalez Romero
C/.24 #1505 e/.15 y 17
32800 Jaruco
Provincia de Habana
Cuba

Anyone wishing to send a contribution to the Cuban ministry in memory of Brother Diaz may send it to Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Please earmark such funds "In memory of Gilberto Diaz."

Monsoon Devastates North India

India—Monsoon rains have wreaked havoc during July and August in North India, leaving many homeless and destitute. The floods have washed out bridges and roads, destroyed crops, washed away houses and knocked down walls.

World Relief reports Bangladesh (which is just 20 miles from our North India station of Sonapurhat) has approximately 35 million people who have been displaced or marooned. Most of the flood water has come from India!

According to missionary Carlisle Hanna, "A call from India this morning (September 7) says today is the first day of sun they have had in two months." Carlisle emphasized, "These floods have been worse than ever in recorded history. Part of our compound wall has been down a month, but the rain has not stopped enough for them to be able to repair it."

The rains have affected the Free Will Baptist hostel ministry as well. This ministry provides housing and training for about 35 school age boys. Hanna says, "They tried to get our rice crop out twice, but all is washed away. No rice for our hostel for this coming year."

In light of this great devastation, many people in India are facing severe hunger and personal need. Those interested in helping these people in need may send gifts to Foreign Missions at P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

"Ole Fashioned Day" at United



Noel & Mae Smith

It was a Great Day! The folks at United Free Will Baptist Church had prayed, planned, and participated in preparation for this special Sunday — "Old Fashioned Day."

On Sunday, October 4, the folks met together to worship the Lord and fellowship as members of the Family of God. It was a wonderful day. The Lord blessed with singing, preaching, and folks at the altar for both worship services.

Some of the attractive features for this special Sunday were: Old photos of yesteryears (it's amazing how we change); old household items that have been replaced with some new-fangled items; old cars and trucks. The oldest vehicle was a 1926 Model T driven to church by Mr. & Mrs. Noel Smith (photo above). An old tractor was driven to church by Norman Carte. This tractor has been in the Carte family since it was purchased in the '50s. The tractor was used to pull the covered wagon for the Ole Fashioned Kiddie Ride. The Youth Group had an Ole Fashioned Lemonade Stand. They also served lemonade as one of the drinks for dinner.

The day was enjoyed by everyone. Someone said, "We have enjoyed this so much, we ought to do it again." Others said, "I just love those ole fashioned clothes." A beautiful and thoughtful remark was made by one of the older members, "The Lord has done great things for the United Free Will Baptist Church and bless God, He continues to do it!"

This fine church is served by Glenn Murray, Clarence Burton, and Dennis McGinley.

We need TEENS!

- Teens with talent
 - Teens ready to serve God
- Teens interested in adventure
 - Teens willing to help others
- Teens who want to know other teens

A **TEAM Cuba '98** participant says,
"I wish everyone would go on TEAM. It has been the greatest two weeks of my life."



Teens Equipped and Active in Missions

A member of **TEAM Japan '98** says,
"I love this program. I've made some great friends and learned tons."

Another **TEAM Cuba '98** member adds,
"God has truly opened my eyes to the need of salvation world-wide."



If you are a teen with the above qualities and you want to be used by God, please clip and return the coupon below. Shortly you will receive more information about **TEAM** ministry and an application.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION **TEAM** MINISTRY

Name _____ ()M ()F
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Date of birth _____
 Last grade completed _____ Home church _____
 Pastor's name _____ Phone _____
 Parent/Guardian signature _____

Send your request to:

TEAM

Foreign Missions

P.O. Box 5002

Antioch, TN 37011-5002

TEAM Ministries Plan Two Groups in 1999

TEAM Ministries coordinator Ken Eagleton has announced plans to send out two groups of teens through TEAM (Teens Equipped and Active in Missions) in the summer of 1999.

Two groups of young people went to the fields of Japan and Cuba in 1998. Next year plans call for one team in Spain and another on a field still undetermined.

God has used the teens to minister in song, with puppetry, in preaching and in manual labor in nine countries over the past seven years. Under the auspices of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions, the TEAM program has helped these young people develop missions awareness, gain a more personal walk with the Lord and determine direction for their lives.

One TEAM Japan teen testified, "Through the Japanese Christians and other TEAM members I have improved my personal walk with God." A member of TEAM Cuba said, "God has allowed me to experience first hand what missions is all about. We saw lives changed and it was such a blessing. God has given me a real desire to reach lost souls."

Ken Eagleton urged interested parents of teens or pre-teens in grades seven to twelve to write for TEAM information at TEAM, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Those teens who are presently in the tenth, eleventh or twelfth grades desiring to go out in 1999, should write before November 1, 1998.

LESSONS FROM NATURE

BY GARRY MATTHEWS

Each year I eagerly anticipate October 1st, the opening of fall bow season. I love being in the outdoors in the fall. The chill in the air, the wind-chased clouds scurrying across the sky, leaves riding the wind gusts, acorns falling steadily to the forest floor—kerplop, the smell of moist earth and fallen leaves, and the rainbow of colors that no artist can truly duplicate. The feel, the sights, the sounds, and the smells of fall—I love it! The matching of my meager woodsmanship skills against the honed survival instincts of wary game animals, as I try to penetrate their security zones undetected (on the ground—eyeball to eyeball), gives me a natural "high." No drug, simulated computer game, or target competition can match the electrifying intensity as the distance between myself and a deer or turkey narrows step-by-step to the point where I can see eyelashes and whiskers on a deer, or the pupil of a turkey's eye.

Throughout the months of October and November, six mornings a week I negotiate the hills and creek bottoms of the oak and hickory wood-lots around Kirksville with the single beam of the smallest penlight illuminating only the very next step ahead. One has to have a step-by-step map imprinted on his brain marking all the natural landmarks (on the ground) in order to do this. If you don't, daylight will find you not only not in the location you intended to be, but the sun may come up in the north—if you know what I mean! I very seldom hunt the same location 2 days in a row—sometimes moving only 50 - 200 yards away, but often in totally different areas dozens of miles apart. So, I have many little step-by-step maps floating around in my head and in my notebooks. Morning after morning whether warm, cold, clear, rainy, or snowing, I eagerly greet the alarm clock in the pre-dawn darkness. With a few evening hunts scattered in across the weeks, my hours in the woods accumulate rapidly. I tell my wife that hunting is my job now, and I have to do it with the same intensity that I did my job as a quality assurance supervisor for almost 20 years. She reminds me that if we had to live off my hunting success—not only would we not have a weight problem, but we could probably be stars on a Feed the Children program! Imagine that!

By the end of November the hours of sitting motionless in the woods with every sense on "red alert" has taken its toll. When late December and January roll around, the intensity has waned. The alarm goes off later, and sometimes I lay snug in the bed hoping to hear the wind howl around the corner of the house. That way I won't feel as guilty deciding to "stay in out of the weather," and sleep a couple more hours! When I do summon up the mental strength to go out, it becomes an endurance test. Whereas in the early season hours flew by, now frostbitten minutes drag out into days and weeks! The bone-aching cold transforms all alertness into a foggy dullness. Suddenly a deer or turkey appears out of nowhere—opportunity comes knocking after a 3 hour sit in temperatures that need to be warmed several degrees to reach zero! The moment of truth—can my stiff, frozen muscles wrestle the bow

back to full draw? Can my numb fingers release the bow string cleanly and crisply? Can my cold dulled brain direct the arrow into the chest cavity of the game animal?

Do we not start our Christian journey through life with the same anticipation, fervor and intensity as I do each bow season? Awakening before our spiritual alarm clock goes off, we eagerly anticipate the spiritual adventures and opportunities of each day. As we travel on this spiritual journey, we need those step-by-step spiritual maps firmly implanted in our mind, not just at home in our Bibles, so we won't lose our way in the darkness of this world. As the seasons of life mature, does our spiritual intensity wane? Do we lose our edge? Do the problems of everyday life dull our spiritual senses? Often I'm afraid we go through the motions of "hunting," but it has become an endurance test. Our minds and senses have become dull, and then opportunity comes knocking. How about it—do you still have that same spiritual intensity, that eagerness to serve the Lord, that anticipation of spiritual adventure and success each day? I hope and pray that every day will become our October 1st—our season opener spiritually!

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9

The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

A "dead letter office" is maintained at the post office for all letters which cannot be delivered. For three months before Christmas an employee decided to watch how many letters came to the "office" addressed to Santa Claus. Naturally, thousands poured in, requesting anything and everything. The same employee monitored mail after Christmas . . . and counted one letter to Santa. Months passed, still only one letter expressed thanks to Santa Claus.

Often God's greatest gifts are ones we don't ask for — actually, at the time, we're hardly grateful for them. This is reflected in the prayer of an unknown Confederate soldier:

I asked for strength, that I might achieve;
I was made weak, that I might learn to humbly obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy;
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men;
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life;
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for — but everything I had hoped for.
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am, among all men, most richly blest.

James 1:17 reminds us where every good gift comes from. Turn this season (and our lives) from giving thanks to living thanks!

IF AMERICA DIES

by J. C. Watts, Jr., U.S. House of Representatives

J.C. Watts, Jr. is best known as the former University of Oklahoma journalism major and quarterback who led the "Sooners" to numerous championships and two Orange Bowl victories. From 1981-1986, he started for Ottawa and Toronto in the Canadian Football League. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in November 1994. Garnering 58 percent of the vote in his 1996 re-election, he has a solid reputation in Oklahoma as an articulate and passionate spokesman for balancing the budget, improving education, maintaining a strong defense, and promoting family values.

A tireless supporter of dozens of heartland groups like the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Orphan Foundation of America, and the March of Dimes, he also travels across the country as a guest preacher at many churches.

You may think you have heard it all before—America is suffering from a moral breakdown and we need to restore traditional values. But as J.C. Watts reminds us, this is not just sound public policy, it is the only way we are going to save our nation from impending disaster. Representative Watts presented this address during Hillsdale College's May 1998 Commencement at Hillsdale, Michigan.

According to recent news reports about the economy, America appears to be doing better than ever before. The stock market is up, the deficit is down—prosperity seems to be everywhere. Morally and culturally, however, it is not an exaggeration to say that we are on the verge of bankruptcy. The fact is that over the last quarter century we have squandered our spiritual capital.

When I was a small child, I learned the bedtime prayer, "Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take." These days, that prayer comes to mind again, only it is America that I fear will die before I wake. I know, I know—America is a great nation. But she is not great enough to survive the growing rot within. Call it secularism, decadence, or irresponsibility—it is as deadly as any cancer, and it has invaded the body politic.

Rebuilding Character

Thomas Jefferson once confessed, "Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just." He was concerned about the character of the citizens in the early republic—how much more concerned he would be today! I shudder to think of what Jefferson would say about Americans in the 1990s. Many of us appear to believe that we can have a strong nation without worrying about our character or the character of our leaders. This is like saying we can swim in the ocean without worrying about getting wet. Character—that is, doing what is right when nobody is looking—is essential.

I sit on the National Security Committee in the U. S. House of Representatives, and I hear a lot of debate about what makes for a strong nation. How many tanks, bombers, and missiles should we buy? How should we react to regional conflicts around the globe that may affect our national interest? Who are our enemies? Who are our allies? How should we deal with them? As important as these questions are, none is as important as this: How do we defend ourselves from our worst enemy, which is us? How do we overcome our fallen nature and choose virtue over vice, right over wrong?

I'll take character over tanks, bombers, and missiles any day of the week. That is because character is the best weapon of defense. But we have a long way to go when it comes to developing character in this cynical, self-indulgent age. Just look at the moral weakness we tolerate. We allow a basketball player to leave the room, and come back 20 minutes later as if nothing had happened. Worse yet, we portray him as the victim! He can't possibly be held responsible for his destructive impulses, so our reasoning goes. We pass an Endangered Species Act that protects 13 different species, born and unborn, but cannot protect human beings from abortion or euthanasia. Those who protest the killings are treated as dangerous fanatics. We encourage husbands and wives to break their marriage vows without the slightest word of

reproach, since divorce has become not only respectable but fashionable. And we permit the nation's chief executive to prey on young women while we villify his accusers.

But there are shining rays of hope. Look at Promise Keepers, a wonderful organization that has led millions of men to reaffirm their commitment as husbands and fathers. Look at Prison Fellowship, which ministers to many of the 1.5 million inmates across America. Look at the new music artists who have topped the charts with songs that condone simple everyday virtues instead of killing cops and raping women. These are just a few of the positive developments that rebuild character.

Reforming Education

One of the most important ways to rebuild character involves education, for teaching the young is the primary method of ensuring that traditional values and ideas will be passed on to the next generation. Unfortunately, the sorry state of the public schools does not allow the method to work properly. This hurts the poor in particular. Right now, the government mandates that poor parents must send their children five days a week to schools that fail them in every way. These institutions do not teach them how to read, write, or compute. They do not teach them the love of learning or the joy of overcoming academic challenges.

I must stress that I am not anti-public education. I am pro-child. That means that I am in favor of the main factor that makes schools work: competition. Bad schools will always be bad unless someone threatens to put them out of business. The famous ex-slave and abolitionist orator Frederick Douglass once said, "Some people know the importance of education because they have it. I know the importance of education because I didn't." We mustn't let our children remain enslaved to ignorance.

Curing Poverty

Another way we can help rebuild character is to rid America of one of the worst corrupters of virtue: welfare. We have spent billions of dollars on government welfare programs, and all they have done is create more poverty and inescapable dependency. It is high time to cure poverty and to do so in a manner that does not rob the poor of their dignity or their drive to succeed. In the process, we have to make sure that the rewards for families that stay together are greater than the rewards for families that break up. We also have to make sure that the rewards for working men and women who take out second mortgages to put their children through college are greater than the rewards for drug dealers on the streets. And in all times and in all places, we have to make sure that there is a direct relationship between effort and reward. With the best of intentions, big government has tried to sever that relationship by subsidizing the destruction of the family, penalizing the successful, demeaning the work ethic, and excusing personal accountability. This cannot go on any longer without doing irreparable harm.

Restoring Faith

We also have to remember that the phrase "One nation under God" means that our land, our flag, and our government are divine gifts. We have to begin making wise use of them once again. But we have to do so soon, or America will surely die before we wake. Resuscitating the values and the institutions that gave America its freedom over two hundred years ago takes more than noble aspirations. It takes desperate action, spurred on by powerful faith. In the past, the present, and the future, faith has and will always prove to be the strongest force. It can move mountains and it can move nations—if, first of all, we let it move our hearts.

"Reprinted by permission from IMPRIMIS, the monthly journal of Hillsdale College, Hillsdale Michigan."

Bible College Plans Welcome Days

Free Will Baptist Bible College will hold its semi-annual Welcome Days for prospective students on November 12-14, 1998, and March 25-27, 1999. This is an excellent opportunity for young people to check out the college as they make plans for the future.

The cost is just \$30 and includes accommodations and meals. Activities include classroom visits, information on financial aid, music/drama programs, and more. This is especially for high school juniors and seniors, or those who have completed high school.

For full information or to pre-register, call 1-800-76-FWBBC. Or, you may email "recruit@fwbbc.edu".

Missouri Students Attending FWBBC

Justin Bradley — Mountain Grove, MO
Jeffery Cates — West Plains, MO
Phillip Day — Conway, MO
David Dodson — Park Hills, MO
Karen Hook — Blue Springs, MO
Jennifer Koester — Park Hills, MO
Steven Koester — Park Hills, MO
Amy Lotz — Bonne Terre, MO
Deidre Moyers — Farmington, MO
Anna Panduku — Fordland, MO
Susan Pattengill — Park Hills, MO
Brian Scott — Eureka, MO
Laura Sides — Millersville, MO
Melissa Sloan — Bonne Terre, MO
Terry Vandivort — Wentzville, MO
Michelle Wallace — Park Hills, MO
Kellie Warren — Dexter, MO
Christy Zimmerman — Liberal, MO
Jason Yount — Barnhart, MO

An Open Letter From A Bible College Freshman

Hello, my name is Timothy Browning and I am a freshman at Free Will Baptist Bible College. I am writing to tell you of the wonderful time I have had thus far at the college. I have only been here for three weeks and the blessings that the Lord has given me are far more than I ever expected. The warmth and love everyone displays, from faculty down to students, is an amazing experience in itself. I have made many friends and have the honor of having been voted Freshman Class vice president.

I considered this school for a long time, but was not sure that I could make the transition from my home, in Holden, West Virginia. There were many changes which I had to deal with, like the rules and things of that kind. After weighing the situation, God revealed that if the things of this world are so important to me that I can't follow His will, then my heart was wrong. I count it an honor that God saw fit to give me the opportunity to come to FWBBC, not only to further my knowledge, but to prepare me for the ministry to which He has called me. I appreciate those in my church, my conference and my family for making this possible.

I encourage all young people to make Free Will Baptist Bible College the college of their choice. I can promise you that attending FWBBC will be nothing short of a great blessing.

NOTE: For further information on the Bible College, call 1-800-76-FWBBC, or email "recruit@fwbbc.edu".

A Thanksgiving Party With a Purpose: Making One Big Family Out of Little Ones

Marlene LeFever

This hospitality idea is not just intended to encourage a group of friends to have a dandy time together. Instead it is designed to meet at least one of the following objectives:

> To give Christians a tool to reach out to our unbelieving friends and neighbors, to open the possibility of Jesus Christ to them through a planned hospitality event in our home or church.

> To grow friendships among church people through a hospitality event in our home or the church, building up the family of God.

Objective: Singles, small families, and foreign families without Thanksgiving tradi-

tions will combine resources at a Thanksgiving meal. Together everyone will praise God for His bounty this year.

Basic idea: Everyone will provide one dish to add to the Thanksgiving meal; the host family will supply the turkey. By combining resources, the meal will not be expensive.

My husband Jack and I decided to go through the church directory and invite all the singles, foreign families, and small families. We figured nearly everyone would have a place to go already, so we could safely invite as many as we wanted to.

We were flabbergasted when the calls began to arrive.

"Thanks so much," a woman from Australia said. "We'll all come. We were wondering how Americans did this holiday, but we never thought we'd be able to find out."

"I'll be there with the kids," another woman said. "I didn't have money for the trip to my folks' place in Georgia. It's great to have something special to do close to home."

A guy announced that he'd bring real mashed potatoes. "I was feeling a little family-less," he said.

This Thanksgiving party is the only one we've had where I have no idea how many people actually showed up. It was in the neighborhood of sixty, give or take a dozen kids. When the crowd filled our place, Diana, the neighbor across the hall, opened doors for the overflow. Then the lady upstairs opened her place. Thank goodness we lived in an apartment building! A house would never have been big enough.

Nametags: A must! Ours were little drawings of fat pilgrims. Each said, "In case you've forgotten, I'm _____."

Choral Reading: Before the meal, we gave all readers a copy of a Thanksgiving choral reading. We had contacted a few friends before the meal, and they were ready with short personal statements.

Host: Lord, You have poured out amazing blessings on this land! You have poured down your blessings on the land and it yields its bountiful crops.

All: Lord, You have poured out amazing blessings on this land! Now bring us back to loving You.

Friend: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Give a joyous shout in honor of our God!

All sing: "Come Ye Thankful People Come."

Hostess: God said, "What I want from you is your true thanks."

Friend: Father, I thank You because ... (This person should complete the sentence with a personal reason she has for thanking the Lord this year.)

All: Sing your praise accompanied by music from the harp. Let the comets and trumpets shout! Make a joyful symphony before the Lord, our King! Let the sea in all its vastness roar with praise! Let the earth

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)

and all those living on it shout, "Glory to the Lord."

Friend: Glory to the Lord! Let the waves clap their hands in glee, and the hills sing out their songs of joy before the Lord.

Friend: Father, I praise You because ...

Friend: Glory to the Lord.

Friend: Father, I praise You because ...

All: Sing the doxology, perhaps to one of the newer melodies, as the Thanksgiving prayer.

And then we ate! There was more than enough for all. Jack had made two turkeys, and their total forty pounds was perfect. Actually, with all the great things others brought, I don't think anyone would have minded if we had run out of turkey.

Some of our neighbors were older women who were spending the holidays with their children. When they heard about our enormous party, four people offered their door keys and ovens even though they wouldn't be able to attend.

Don't skip a little Thanksgiving program and head immediately for the turkey. For four years, I planned a Thanksgiving in September for a group of Christians from developing nations who were in the states for training. The first year, I figured I'd be busy with the food so I suggested a friend handle the Thanksgiving-specific stuff. She prayed and thanked God for the food. For the foreign guests, the meal was just a big American spread. They never heard about its history or its significance to Americans and Canadians, or, most especially, the added significance Christians, give to it. They stuffed themselves, following our example, I'm sure. But they never were rewarded spiritually. The next three years, I gave the food to friends to prepare and I handled the program. Thanksgiving is a concept I'd like to share with friends around the world.

Pilgrim Scavenger Hunt: In between the main course and the dessert, we needed to clear dozens of people out of the apartments for a few minutes so we would have space to reorganize. So the entire group was divided into Pilgrim Scavenger Hunt groups. Children were all included. For some adults, especially those without kids, it was the first time they had worked hand in hand with youngsters. It was fun to see these randomly chosen people become competitive, enthusiastic groups. They all left cheering and insisting that their group would be back first with all the items needed to win the Pilgrim Scavenger Hunt.

Here's the scavenger hunt list we used. It is adapted to the area in which we lived—about two blocks from a railroad track in a suburban community. Change anything you couldn't find in your community.

Pilgrim Scavenger Hunt

1. One wild turkey feather or unreasonable facsimile.
2. A Pilgrim's Pet Rock. Be prepared to demonstrate a trick it can do.
3. Ten different types of leaves from the dense forests hereabouts.
4. One forked stick that would be perfect for killing snakes.
5. One piece of post-Indian litter.
6. One hat camouflaged to avoid detection in hostile Indian territory.
7. One coin of this kingdom.
8. One Thanksgiving carol sung before a neighbor's house. Have astonished neighbor sign his/her name here (not that Pilgrims are not to be trusted!)
9. One musket ball or one round button.
10. Any tree's berry.
11. Any small weed-roots and all—that grows down by the iron horse's tracks.

12. A four-line poem in rhyming couplet about Thanksgiving.
13. Number of steps around our settlement (this block): _____
14. Piece of wood to add to winter's fuel supply.
15. A friendly hello to a Pilgrim stranger on the street. Name of the thrilled person: _____
16. Names of all churches within five minutes of our front door.
17. Scalp count—one gray hair, one brown hair, one blond hair, one red hair.
18. Scout around—one thumb print in a mud ball.
19. Pilgrim panic—something growing outside that you could eat in a pinch.
20. Anything that rhymes with pie—and come back for dessert!

I had the first group back show what they had collected, then I awarded them each chocolate turkeys.

However, people from the losing groups were still complaining months later that they had written wonderful rhyming couplets and developed excellent rock tricks that they hadn't had an opportunity to show off. So if you copy our Thanksgiving party, don't copy our mistake. Wait until all groups are back, and then allow creative people from each group to share what they have done.

Excerpt from Parties With a Purpose: Laying the Groundwork for Discipleship & Evangelism by Marlene LeFever. Used by permission of David Cook Ministry Resources.

Sunday School Averages April 1998 - September 1998

CHURCHES	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT
Belton	45		35	30	31	
Calvary Chapel	116	108	118	126	138	141
Copper Mines	50	47	52	42		
Cuba	117	122	111	86	110	105
Columbia	15	16	17	20		23
DeSoto	169		154	165	161	159
Farmington	276	266	257	289	336	353
Hannon	104	101	99	99	103	100
Harmony		51			56	
Hartville	117	115	101	109	106	101
Hazel Creek	70	63	64		62	70
Hopewell	33	31	24	28	32	28
Houston	52	50	51	47	50	
Lebanon 1st	115	102	106	102		
Lebanon FWB	44	42	44	38	44	48
Mill Creek	80	71	70	73	80	76
Monett	54	50	53	50	49	58
Mt. Pisgah				73		
Myrtle	46	40	42	40		47
O'Fallon 1st	69		78		86	
Oskaloosa					14	
Ozark	104	103	110	106		104
Park Hills	112	115	107	107	116	
Richwoods	34	30	24	28		
Rock Chapel			47			
Rolla 1st					23	
Southside	33	30	24	27	32	43
Springfield 1st	124	112	121	116	111	
Thayer	168	175	178	172	186	
Trinity	88	77	73		76	85
United, West Plains	336	282	304	262	295	287
Willow Springs	65	66	52	61		

The above is only a partial listing - there are 180 Free Will Baptist churches in Missouri. Each church is encouraged to send in the Sunday School average each month.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER 1998

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$8,319.75
17.50% Executive Office	7,870.04
3.00% General Fund	1,349.15
.50% Show-Me Plan	224.86
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	3,822.59
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	1,124.29
2.50% C.E. Board	1,124.29
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Bd.	1,124.29
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	4,047.45
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	13,716.35
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 (\$189.27 included in \$13,716.35)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference	
Center Fund	2,248.58

TOTAL \$44,971.64

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%.

SEPTEMBER 1998 COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

Amity	\$111.62
Aulsbury Chapel	309.69
Bailey - Alton	197.00
Bailey Chapel	200.00
Belton	314.82
Bethel - Northview	134.70
Bethel - Northview	157.00
Black Oak	305.43
Bourbon	109.00
Byrd	72.90
Cabool 1st	329.15

Calvary Chapel	944.70
Carthage	246.80
Central	999.31
Chapel of the Ozarks	191.14
Clifton	81.60
Columbia	122.88
Copper Mines	505.03
Crossroads - Wentzville	609.13
Cuba	703.00
DeSoto 1st	800.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	36.28
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	60.00
Faith - Lemay	50.00
Farmington 1st	2,320.66
Fellowship - Park Hills	500.00
Fellowship - Park Hills	400.00
Fordland	726.95

Fourth.....	359.99
Fredericktown 1st.....	326.00
Freeman Chapel.....	705.79
Friendship.....	461.03
Grace.....	1,431.00
Grant Avenue.....	817.73
Hannibal.....	75.00
Hannibal.....	60.00
Hannibal.....	30.00
Hannibal.....	35.00
Hannibal.....	30.00
Hannon.....	815.61
Harmony - K.C.....	435.00
Harmony - K.C.....	564.00
Hartville.....	742.00
Hazel Creek.....	566.16
Hopewell - Tunas.....	200.00
Houston.....	422.00
Hurryville.....	540.62
Jackson.....	171.29
Joplin 1st.....	672.30
Kingsway.....	222.00
Kirksville 1st.....	14.00
Koshkonong.....	182.77
Lead Hill.....	300.90
Lebanon 1st.....	962.58
Lebanon FWB.....	387.82
Lone Star.....	44.50
Macedonia - Niangua.....	79.42
Merl's Chapel.....	145.00
Mill Creek.....	479.62
Mine La Motte.....	64.55
Monett 1st.....	486.96
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	1,671.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	283.00
Mt. Zion - Gower.....	59.50
Myrtle.....	323.69
Neosho 1st.....	95.00
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	50.00
New Rock Springs.....	143.00
New Rock Springs.....	203.00
Niangua.....	167.00
North Five.....	139.55
Number One.....	132.40
O'Fallon 1st.....	949.00
Oskaloosa.....	279.70
Overland.....	160.00
Ozark 1st.....	1,237.97
Park Hills 1st.....	1,458.14
Parkview.....	559.47
Pleasant Hill.....	221.46
Pleasant Home.....	329.65
Pleasant Ridge.....	96.00
Potosi 1st.....	150.96
Rock Chapel.....	384.58
Rolla 1st.....	205.00
Royal Oak.....	163.00
Seymour.....	293.00
Smyrna.....	100.00
South Fremont.....	360.00
Southside.....	122.35
Springfield 1st.....	1,212.84
Stockton.....	165.67
Thayer.....	1,749.00
Trinity - Bridgeton.....	1,249.22
Twin Oaks.....	887.30
Union - Success.....	60.00
Union Light.....	86.00
Union Grove - Caudle.....	400.00
United.....	1,359.68
Unity.....	400.00
Verdella.....	709.68
Victory - Alton.....	264.74
Waynesville 1st.....	331.87
West Plains 1st.....	802.50
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove.....	266.62
Wolf Creek.....	319.67
TOTAL.....	\$44,971.64

SHOW-ME PLAN

Aulsbury Chapel.....	\$150.00
Barker, Rev. J.....	15.00
Belton.....	105.00
Belton - Ladies Aux.....	15.00
Berean.....	30.00
Bethel - Festus.....	45.00
Betty Jean Bishop.....	15.00
Big Creek.....	55.00
Black Oak.....	30.00
Bourbon.....	15.00
Braisher, M.....	45.00
Buffalo 1st.....	60.00
Buxton, G.....	30.00
Cabool 1st.....	135.00
Calvary Chapel.....	105.00

Carter, J.....	15.00
Central.....	593.00
Chrisman, M.....	30.00
Columbia.....	60.00
Copper Mines.....	30.00
Copper Mines - HiTeen, Teen & Jr.....	15.00
Copper Mines - Young Adult Class.....	15.00
Cuba.....	151.61
Darnell, W.....	15.00
David Maggart.....	45.00
DeSoto 1st.....	400.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora.....	30.00
Faith & Hope - W.S.....	60.00
Faith - Lemay.....	40.00
Farmington 1st.....	825.00
Fellowship.....	953.83
Fellowship - Park Hills.....	1,141.85
Fordland.....	160.00
Fourth.....	210.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	150.00
Freeman Chapel.....	540.00
Grace.....	296.00
Graham, S.....	15.00
Grant Avenue.....	560.00
Greenfield.....	180.00
Hannibal - WNAC.....	15.00
Hannon.....	1,145.61
Harmony - K.C.....	112.00
Hartville.....	195.00
Hazel Creek.....	817.44
Hollis Walker.....	15.00
Houston 1st.....	256.00
Hurryville.....	300.00
Hurryville - Sr. Adult S.S. Class.....	18.00
Jackson.....	30.00
Joplin 1st.....	75.00
Leadington.....	210.00
Lebanon 1st.....	75.00
Lebanon F.W.B.....	30.00
Macedonia - Purdy.....	8,000.00
Merl's Chapel.....	150.00
Mill Creek.....	90.00
Mill Creek - Young Adult S.S. Class.....	15.00
Mill Creek - CWF.....	45.00
Mine La Motte.....	45.00
Missouri State Woman's Aux.....	746.50
Monett 1st.....	248.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	945.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	75.00
Mt. Zion - Thayer.....	30.00
Myrtle.....	75.00
N. Ruble.....	45.00
Neosho 1st.....	120.00
New Home - Hartville.....	150.00
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	75.00
New Testament.....	30.00
Niangua.....	120.00
Noel, D.....	15.00
Oak Grove - Houston.....	15.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	203.00
Ozark 1st.....	20.00
Park Hills 1st.....	447.46
Parkview.....	326.75
Parson, O.....	15.00
Pinkerton, J.....	45.00
Pleasant Grove - Anderson.....	90.00
Pleasant Hill.....	30.00
Pleasant Home.....	60.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana.....	50.00
Richardson, O.....	15.00
Richwoods.....	97.50
Roberta Berry.....	15.00
Rock Chapel.....	485.00
South Fremont.....	75.00
Springfield 1st.....	545.00
St. Peters.....	595.00
Steve Lytle.....	25.00
Thayer.....	305.00
Trinity - Bridgeton.....	690.00
Union - Success.....	30.00
Union Light.....	120.00
United - West Plains.....	300.00
Unity.....	75.00
Verdella.....	1,409.68
Viburnum.....	75.00
West Plains 1st.....	179.00
West Plains 1st.....	379.50
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove.....	85.00
Willow Springs 1st.....	150.00
Wilson, R.....	15.00
TOTAL.....	\$28,662.73

FOREIGN MISSIONS - DESIGNATED

Central.....	\$350.03
Farmington 1st.....	25.00

Fordland.....	5.00
Grant Avenue.....	40.00
Greenfield.....	10.00
Harmony Fellowship - Colorado.....	132.00
Joplin 1st.....	115.00
Kirksville 1st.....	63.75
Merl's Chapel.....	50.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	80.00
Neosho 1st.....	15.00
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	20.00
New Testament.....	60.00
Oak Grove - Mtn. Grove.....	94.60
Ozark 1st.....	45.00
Rock Chapel.....	15.00
Thayer.....	65.00
Trinity - Bridgeton.....	387.07
Union Light.....	10.00
Viburnum.....	10.00
Waynesville 1st.....	50.00
TOTAL.....	\$1,642.45

STATE HOME MISSIONS

Belton.....	\$41.00
Central.....	30.00
Cuba.....	38.31
DeSoto 1st.....	50.00
DeSoto 1st - Children's Church.....	20.00
Faith - Chandler, IN.....	25.00
Farmington 1st.....	100.00
Fellowship - Master's Men.....	225.00
Grace.....	40.00
Grant Ave.....	10.00
Hazel Creek.....	299.00
Jerrie Wormington.....	30.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	315.00
Macedonia.....	50.00
Mission District WNAC.....	400.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	25.00
New Home - Hartville.....	10.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	73.50
Ozark 1st.....	10.00
Pleasant Ridge.....	20.00
Thayer.....	45.00
Trinity - Bridgeton.....	10.00
United.....	25.00
TOTAL.....	\$1,891.81

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Belton.....	\$41.00
Bethel - Festus.....	25.00
Buffalo 1st.....	50.00
Carthage.....	20.00
Central.....	10.00
Cuba.....	38.30
DeSoto 1st.....	425.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora.....	36.27
Farmington 1st.....	30.00
Fordland.....	15.00
Grace.....	137.00
Grant Avenue.....	121.77
Harmony - K.C.....	10.00
Hannon.....	489.36
Harmony Fellowship - Colorado.....	153.00
Hartville.....	100.00
Houston 1st.....	70.00
J.W. Rader.....	20.00
Joplin 1st.....	20.00
Kirksville 1st.....	100.00
Lebanon FWB.....	5.00
Macedonia - Purdy.....	100.00
Monett 1st.....	82.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	80.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	25.00
Myrtle.....	40.00
Neosho 1st.....	45.00
New Home - Hartville.....	10.00
New Testament.....	170.00
Oak Grove - Mtn. Grove.....	47.30
O'Fallon 1st.....	73.50
Ozark 1st.....	60.00
Park Hills 1st.....	279.59
Pleasant Home.....	108.39
Richwoods.....	61.00
Rock Chapel.....	124.66
South Fremont.....	15.00
Thayer.....	190.00
Trinity - Bridgeton.....	45.00
Union Light.....	136.00
United.....	150.00
United - Youth Group.....	170.00
Unity.....	50.00
Verdella.....	20.00
Viburnum.....	41.00
Waynesville 1st.....	50.00
West Plains 1st.....	100.00

West Plains 1st.....	150.00
Wolf Creek.....	75.00
TOTAL.....	\$4,415.14

FWB BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Grant Avenue.....	\$1.00
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MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

Mtn. Grove 1st.....	\$10.00
Hartville.....	10.00
Niangua.....	20.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	195.00
Hannon.....	15.00
New Home - Hartville.....	10.00
Thayer.....	45.00
New Life - Monett.....	60.71
Mt. Pisgah.....	10.00
Trinity.....	14.00
Buffalo 1st.....	50.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove.....	10.00
DeSoto 1st.....	50.00
Park Hills 1st.....	98.82
West Plains 1st.....	25.00
Union.....	30.00
Cabool 1st.....	10.00
New Rock Springs.....	10.00
Ozark 1st.....	10.00
TOTAL.....	\$683.53

FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Verdella.....	\$141.94
N. Ruble.....	15.00
Thayer.....	45.00
DeSoto 1st.....	35.00
Farmington 1st.....	152.61
TOTAL.....	\$389.55

HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Cuba.....	\$100.00
Hannon.....	50.00
Thayer.....	50.00
Neosho 1st.....	50.00
Grant Avenue.....	10.00
Joplin 1st.....	75.00
Fordland.....	5.00
Cuba (Have a Heart).....	400.00
Farmington 1st.....	94.80
Farmington 1st.....	15.00
Ozark 1st.....	5.00
TOTAL.....	\$854.80

CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Farmington 1st.....	\$52.62
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STEVE SMITH

DeSoto 1st.....	\$50.00
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YOUTH MINISTRIES BOARD

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

New Hope - Fredericktown.....	\$30.00
Myrtle.....	6.00
Belton.....	58.00
Unity.....	10.00
DeSoto 1st.....	50.00
Hannon.....	200.00
New Life - Monett.....	60.71
TOTAL.....	\$414.71

REV. JOHN MCCLURE

Monett 1st.....	\$65.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	17.50
Thayer.....	10.00
Trinity.....	10.00
Carthage.....	104.93
Grace.....	15.00
TOTAL.....	\$222.43

NEW HOPE - PANAMA

O'Fallon 1st-3rd Grade CTS Class.....	\$28.00
Missouri State WNAC.....	720.00
West Plains 1st.....	28.00
TOTAL.....	\$776.00

TOGETHER WAY PLAN - FOUR SPECIAL DAYS

Cuba.....	100.00
Cuba.....	400.00
TOTAL.....	\$500.00

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES

Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	\$105.00
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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	\$105.00
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1999 CALENDAR

Ministers Retreat

March 22 - 24, 1999
Stonecroft Conference Center, Branson, MO

State Youth Competitive Activities

May 14 - 15, 1999
Stephens College, Columbia, MO

Senior Adult Retreat

Group I
May 17 - 19, 1999

Group II
May 19 - 21, 1999
Stonecroft Conference Center, Branson, MO

Missouri State Convention/Woman's Auxiliary Convention

June 7 - 9, 1999
Cowan Civic Center, Lebanon, MO

Youth Camp

Teen Camp, June 20 - 25, 1999
Pre - Teen Group 1, July 25 - July 30, 1999
Pre - Teen Group 2, August 1 - August 6, 1999
Please Note: There will only be one Teen session this year.

Group 1

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

Group 2

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

National Convention, NYC & WNAC

July 18 - 22, 1999
Atlanta, Georgia

Missouri Women Active For Christ Retreat

August 20 - 21, 1999
Stonecroft Conference Center

Preacher/Layman's Retreat and All Boards Meeting

September 13, 1999
Youth Camp, Niangua, MO

Suggestion: Put this information on your Church Bulletin Board.

St. Francois District Women Active For Christ

Betty Reeves, reporter

The St. Francois Women Active for Christ met Saturday, September 19th, at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Fredericktown, MO. Forty-five members registered for the meeting. The theme for the day's program was "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." The program was a Memorial service honoring the life and service of Marie (Wright) Hanna. Jennifer Huffman, president of the district WAC presided. A taped testimony from Marie was played, testimonies of Marie's life and influence were given, and a message from her son, Mark, was read.

The Missions Project for the day was an offering presented from each church for the work in India. Each church presented their offering in a creative way. A picture of the Taj Mahal was used to illustrate the architecture used for a memorial to a loved one emphasizing that Marie's life and those she won to Christ were her memorial. One used an Indian elephant bearing the gift of money; another used a treasure chest with the Scripture verse, "her price is far above rubies." Kathy Thebeau wrote a poem which the DeSoto Church used in its presentation (see copy below). Altogether, the offering totaled \$390.00.

We concluded that the phrase "Actions speak louder than words" describes the life of Marie Hanna, a faithful, humble servant of God. A skit was presented by the women of the Fredericktown church. After a delicious luncheon, provided by the host church, the meeting was adjourned.

Marie Wright Hanna, a woman used of God;
On earth she never wanted honor or laud.

She gave her life in service to Him;

Forsaking all and any earthly whim.

Losing her first child - what a devastating blow!

But, it didn't defeat her - she let God's love show.

Many in India have come to know the Savior;

Because Carlisle and Marie's faith didn't waver.

God gave them three more children;

Marie taught them to stay clear of all sin.

She showed God's love to all and any;

The friends she attained were so many!

When God chose to call her home to glory;

Saved and unsaved alike came to honor Sister Marie.

How can we pay tribute to this very faithful one?

By following her example and faithfully serving her Master,
God's only Son!

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