

"Thanks be to God!

He gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Coninthians 15:57

#### THE GINGERBREAD'S GIVING

Once upon a time there lived an old woman. She had a little girl and one day they decided to make gingerbread together. They baked and cut the gingerbread into a gingerbread man. When they were finished they placed the cookie into the oven and the mother instructed her daughter to leave it in the oven until she returned from working in the garden. Soon the house began to smell of ginger spice and the temptation to open the oven door was too strong for self control. As the girl opened the door, the gingerbread man jumped from the oven and said, "Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man." The back door was open and before the girl knew it, the gingerbread man ran out of the back door. The little girl chased the gingerbread man, but could not keep up.

From a distance she saw him run into a group of old farmers. The gingerbread man stopped and was talking to the men. As she came closer, she heard the farmers tell the gingerbread man of their need for stronger hands. The gingerbread man quickly went to work helping the farmers with their work, but because he was made of gingerbread, his hands soon wore off and he was no longer able to help the farmers. He turned his head to go and as he left he shouted, "You've used my hands and they are gone, but I can still out run you, because I'm the gingerbread man."

The little girl continued to watch as the gingerbread man headed for the next turn and the next hill. Soon he came to a fox. "I've out ran a group of farmers and a little girl and I can out run you too." "Oh you can, can you?" asked the fox. And then he began telling the gingerbread man about his need for someone to help him catch more food. The gingerbread man began using his nose and soon he and the fox were finding all kinds of things to eat. He used his nose so much that it seem to just disappear, right off his face. Soon he was no longer able to help the fox hunt for food because of the lack of his nose, since he was only made of gingerbread. He turned his head and as he left he shouted, "You've used my nose and my hands are gone, but I can still out run you, because I'm the gingerbread man."

Next he came to a parrot who sat in a tree. The gingerbread man said, "I have out ran a little girl, a group of farmers, and a fox, and I can out run you too." "Oh, you can, can you?" And then the parrot began telling the gingerbread of all of his troubles. He talked and talked and talked and soon the gingerbread man's ears were worn out, because they were made of only gingerbread. He could no longer hear the words of the parrot, but the parrot was finished telling him about his problems. The gingerbread man just turned and when he was no longer able to listen he shouted, "You've used

my ears and my hands and nose are gone, but I can still out run you, because I'm the gingerbread man."

The girl followed the gingerbread man through the next valley and soon she saw him meet up with a bear. "I have out ran a little girl, a group of farmers, a fox, and a parrot, and I can out run you too." "Oh you can, can you?" asked the bear. And soon the bear began showing the gingerbread man of his hardshipconcerning catching fish. The gingerbread man quickly jumped up and ran to the river and began helping the bear catch fish with his mouth. He and the bear caught many fish and soon the gingerbread's mouth was gone, because his mouth was only made out of gingerbread. He turned and with kindness left in his only two eyes, he headed on further down the road.

By then little girl was even more tired, now that she had chased the gingerbread man over hills, and valleys and through the river. She wanted to sit down and rest, but knew she should keep up with the gingerbread man because now it was starting to get dark. As dusk was setting in she could hardly find the gingerbread man through the darkness of the forest. Her eyes strained to see his shadow through the dimly lit path. She thought she saw him go into a cabin, but when she entered, she could not find him. Because of her exhaustion, she quickly fell asleep.

When she awoke in the morning, she found the last reminder of the gingerbread man on a small table near the warm, black kettle stove. There laid the gingerbread man's heart. You see since he was made of gingerbread, he gave himself completely by helping those around him. The little girl took the gingerbread's heart and went back over the path where the gingerbread man had helped the fox, the bear, the parrot, and the farmers. She also remembered how he had also helped her make it through the night. She carried the gingerbread heart with her from then on as a reminder to help those around her. You see the gingerbread man gave all of himself, but more than just sharing his hands for helping, his ears for listening, his eyes for discovering, he gave his heart; withholding nothing. We need to share our heart with others as well. Yes, it requires a sacrifice, but just like the gingerbread man, you will never regret it!

This story reminds me of a Savior, who walked this dusty road helping those along the way, but just as the gingerbread man gave all he had, Jesus Christ sacrificed His own life to die for you and me. You see, it is good to give and help others, but are you willing to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Him? Maybe just start today by giving your heart to Him and then He will help you to give yourself to those around you who need His love. Mt. 16:24; Mk. 8:34; 10:21.



#### State Association Receives Check

State Executive Secretary Nathan Ruble is shown receiving a check in the amount of \$8,266.00 for the Missouri State Association from Gene Loomis of the Loomis Insurance Agency. This group retro premium refund is based upon a good loss experience of the seventy churches insured with Brotherhood Insurance. The General Board voted to deposit this and any future retro premium checks into a trust fund with the Free Will Baptist Foundation. The interest that is accrued each year will be given as scholarships to Missouri students attending a Free Will Baptist College. The Executive Committee has been charged with the responsibility of developing the criteria of eligibility. If you would like information concerning Brotherhood Insurance, you may contact Gene Loomis at 1-800-743-7205.

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.



#### Farmington 1st Burns Mortgage



**Farmington Church** 

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Farmington held a Mortgage Burning celebration October 25. It was a time of remembering God's past and present blessings with thanksgiving and a time of anticipating what God has in store for the church.



**Burning the Mortgage** 

Pastor Roger Hogan began the service by expressing gratitude to the former pastors for their vision in purchasing property and building both the congregation and the church buildings. He also expressed his appreciation for the congregation and their labors. He said, "We are the recipients of all those who have labored to bring us to this day." Brother Hogan then recognized trustees: Charles Wann, Stan Souder, Mike McMillian, Church Elser, Tom Wills, John Piphin, and John LaBroyere (de-

ceased). He praised them for their faithfulness as he called them to share in the burning of the mortgage.

Following the burning of the mortgage, Board Chairman Tom Wills thanked the congregation for their faithfulness and stated that their service was a testimony of their commitment to the Lord. He also shared some of the future plans for the church. Brother Wills then called Pastor Hogan and Youth Pastor Steve Loveless to the podium and presented them with a Pastor Appreciation gift. Rev. Nathan Ruble delivered the morning message and thanked the church for its faithful commitment to the Great Commission.

The ladies of the church provided a delicious lunch following the morning service. The following is a short history of the Farmington Church:

In September of 1952, Rev. Damon Dodd from the Home Missions Department of the National Association of Free Will Baptists came to Farmington, Missouri, to hold a two-week revival for the purpose of establishing a Free Will Baptist Church in that city. On the closing night of the meeting, the Mission was organized with Rev. Damon Dodd serving as pastor and Clyde Gross serving as the first deacon.

In December of 1954, Rev. James Barker from St. Louis, Missouri, became the pastor of the church. Under his leadership the church purchased property at 305 West Columbia Street. In January of 1955 the church began support of the state ministries with its tithes. Rev. Barker continued to pastor for the next nine

In 1963 the church elected Rev. Everett Hellard from Conroe, Texas, as its first full-time pastor. Under his short ministry the church saw many souls saved, numerical church growth and purchased its first parsonage which stood at the comer of West Columbia and "A" Streets. Rev. Hellard resigned the church in August of 1965, and returned to Conroe, Texas.

Rev. Robert King from the state of South Carolina became the church's next pastor in September of 1965. Rev. King began the bus ministry at the Farmington church with the purchase of one bus. In 1969, Rev. King and his family moved to Miami, Florida, to pastor the work in that city.

With the resignation of Rev. King, Rev. Bill Evans became the next pastor. Under his leadership there began the spark of growth that the Farmington church is known for, the bus ministry was enlarged, and more space surrounding the original church building was purchased to enlarge parking facilities. Under the leadership of Bro. Evans started the dream that just a few short years later would become a reality in the form of Farmington Christian Academy. Rev. Evans resigned the work at Farmington in April of 1974 to become pastor of the Central Free Will Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

In May of 1974 the church elected Rev. James W. McAllister as its next pastor. In 1975 the parsonage was removed to make way for a new educational facility. Under the leadership of Rev. McAllister, the church saw significant numerical as well as spiritual growth. In May of 1974 when he came the church averaged 120. When he resigned in June of 1986, the church was averaging well over 700. In 1985, during the "Spring Campaign" that year, the church had 1350 in Sunday School.

Under his leadership in 1977 Farmington Christian Academy did become a reality. For the next 10 years it served as a place to educate children from all walks of life, and as a spiritual haven for them as well.

During the twelve years that Bro. Jim served as pastor the bus ministry was expanded to serve not only the immediate Farmington area, but all of St. Francois County.

Rev. McAllister resigned the church in June of 1986 to become pastor of the Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in Fresno, California, and president of California Christian College.

In August of 1986 Rev. Tim Eaton became pastor. His three year ministry was a time of healing and renewal after the resignation of Bro. McAllister. Under his pastorate the church found a new dependence on God and learned more and more to rely on Him. Bro. Eaton resigned the church in July of 1989 to become Academic Dean of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Oklahoma.



Rev. & Mrs. Roger Hogan

In August of that year Rev. Roger Hogan became the church's eighth pastor. Under his leadership the church has experienced a renewed sensitivity for the lost.

Recently, a remodeling project was completed on the old Gymnasium Building. The renovation in-

cludes a new kitchen facility as well as accessibility for the disabled.

The Farmington Free Will Baptist Church has come a long way since that tent revival in 1952. The church now averages well over 300 in attendance. It employs a full time staff of three pastors, and every Sunday sends out its buses to bring in people from all around to hear the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Only eternity will reveal the impact that this church has had on hundreds of people all over the world.

The Farmington Church has been the leader in Cooperative giving for a number of years.

#### Kingsway Pie Auction/Chili Supper

Kingsway Free Will Baptist Church located in Springfield, Missouri, held their annual chili supper and pie auction October 31. (This annual event is used to raise money for the youth activities of the church.) Brother Danny Douglas, Pastor of the Pleasant Home Free Will Baptist Church, served as the auctioneer. A lot of laughter spread throughout the crowd when people could not blink, wave or cough without it be recognized as a bid.

The teens and ladies provided delicious cakes, pies and brownies for the auction. A cheesecake baked by Sister Ann Cobb sold for \$34.50. Brother Mackey Bellamy donated wood carvings of hummingbirds, scissortailed flycatchers and folding stools which brought in over \$100.00. Brother Don Carter and his wife, Marie,

gave candy to all the children.

Pastor Carter and Brother Mackey Bellamy agreed that if \$500.00 was raised, they would take a pie in the face. Their wives enjoyed the pleasure of throwing the pies, but oops, a small miscalculation was made. The auction had only raised \$440.00. However, the two men proved to be good sports and somewhat forgiving of the mistake.

We would like to say a big "thank you" to everyone who helped make the event a success. We're looking forward to next year's

auction.

#### Copper Mines Women's Retreat



The ladies of the Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church with their guests from Fredericktown, held their first ladies' retreat October 23-24. They chose as their site Rachel's Bed & Breakfast in Annapolis, a lovely and gracious restored mansion. The proprietors, Joe and Sharon Cluck, with their daughter, Rachel, provided a beautiful Christian atmosphere which made us feel welcome. They catered to our every whim and were very accommodating of our worship services.

The theme of the retreat was "Willing Hearts, Serving Hands" taken from Exodus 35:21. Seventeen ladies attended and each one contributed to the retreat in her own way. The topics and devotions were centered around using the gifts that God has given to edify the body of Christ and encourage fellow believers. God's presence was so evident as each speaker's message developed the theme.

There was a testimony service, special music, a time of games and fellowship but by far the sweetest time was the worship. This was a time set aside to focus on our Savior and sing praises to Him. The ladies were uplifted and challenged.

After closing with a circle of prayer, the ladies were treated to a gourmet luncheon before returning to their homes refreshed and spiritually renewed.

# Master's Men Charter Granted to Farmington Church

The National Association of Free Will Baptists in Antioch, Tennessee, recently awarded the Men's Ministry group at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Farmington a Charter in its "Master's Men" men's ministry program.

The Master's Men program has been in existence since 1956. The program has encouraged and continues to encourage men in the church to participate in a variety of church activities and

mission projects.

Officers for the chapter include: Scott Cheatham – President; Scott Hastings – Program Chairman; Stan Souden – Activities Chairman; Fred Rohs – Secretary/Treasurer; and Chorister – Harold Hastings.

The group is already hosting monthly meetings at the church

and plan on scheduling a variety of activities for 1999.

"This is an opportunity for us to increase our outreach to men and to help them be Godly leaders in their home, church and community. Our association with the Master's Men program through the National Association opens up several new avenues for us to be more effective," stated Cheatham.

The First Free Will Baptist church is located at 305 W. Columbia Street in Farmington and any family wanting more information about the church or the Master's Men program is invited to contact Cheatham or the church's Senior Pastor, Rev. Roger Hogan.

If you would like more information, you may call 573/756-0142 or 573/756-6476.

#### **Sunday School Averages May 1998 - October 1998**

CHURCHES	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT
Belton		35	30	31		34
Calvary Chapel	108	118	126	138	141	144
Cape Girardeau					50	
Copper Mines	47	52	42	56	53	53
Cuba	122	111	86	110	105	107
Columbia	16	17	20		23	
DeSoto		154	165	161	159	154
Farmington	266	257	289	336	353	330
Hannon	101	99	99	103	100	102
Harmony	51			56		58
Hartville	115	101	109	106	101	113
Hazel Creek	63	64		62	70	71
Hopewell	31	24	28	32	28	32
Houston	50	51	47	50	46	53
Lebanon 1st	102	106	102			
Lebanon FWB	42	44	38	44	48	
Mill Creek	71	70	73	80	76	69
Monett	50	53	50	49	58	
Mt. Pisgah			73			
Myrtle	40	42	40		47	
O'Fallon 1st		78		86		84
Oskaloosa				14		
Ozark	103	110	106		104	
Park Hills	115	107	107	116		116
Richwoods	30	23	26	22	23	22
Rock Chapel		47				49
Rolla 1st				23		27
Southside	30	24	27	32	43	40
Springfield 1st	112	121	116	111		117
Thayer	175	178	172	186	168	164
Trinity	77	73	1.9	76	85	88
United, West Plains	282	304	262	295	287	294
Willow Springs	66	52	61	mol v		
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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.

### The History of the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting

The first of the eighty-three sessions of the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting was, in all probability, held in 1893. Unfortunately, little early history has been recorded and preserved for posterity.

Before 1941, the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting consisted of two Quarterly Meeting Associations: the St. François County and Madison County. Delegates from these two met for the purpose of carrying on business for God and fellowship among the churches involved. The Executive Board and several committees were established to handle phases of Free Will Baptist work originally at a meeting in Southeast Missouri. Local and prominent national denominational issues were acted upon. Those attending these meetings had a voice in these matters and worked together for a cause—to further the Kingdom of God.

In 1941 a Ministers' Conference was formed and convened with the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting. Its main objective was to "bring together the Ministers of the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting for the transaction of business pertaining to Kingdom work, to promote fellowship among the Ministers, unifying our efforts in the preaching of His Word, and conducting business in the local churches. Also to accept of each other Christian Admonition, Spiritual advice, and to plan together the growth of our beloved Denomination." (Taken from the "Constitution and By-Laws of the Southeast Missouri Ministers Conference)

Records show the Southeast Missouri Woman's Auxiliary Convention began in 1948 and was added to the program of the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting. Long before this time, women like Lizzie McAdams and Eunice Edwards were paving the way for Free Will Baptist women to have a significant part in rendering their contribution to the work of God. Sister Lucille Beatty not only was active in the work of Woman's Auxiliary, but also served on committees of the Yearly Meeting.

The 1950 Yearly Meeting stressed the importance of training and education. Both were needed to help local churches as well as our denomination to flourish. It was also decided to establish a "conformity of design" of the cabins of our Youth Camp at Niangua, Missouri.

The year 1952 marked the voting to build an open-air tabernacle at our Youth Camp grounds. An offering for the Cuban School of Missions was collected. The need to support home and foreign missions was emphasized that year and 1954 as well.

The newly formed St. Louis District Quarterly Meeting was the last addition to the Yearly Meeting in 1957. The raising of money for the purpose of entertaining the National Association of Free Will Baptists in St. Louis, Missouri, to be held in 1958 was the main issue that year.

With the new missionary challenges, especially in foreign fields, came a desire to inform people so they could better understand the need to give to Missions. The idea of having Missionary Conferences in the local churches was adopted. The latter continues to be the answer in presenting the challenge to support the work of a mission field and its workers. It was also voted in 1958 to support the "Victory Drive" to raise money for the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee.

The highlight of the year 1959 was that the Yearly Meeting approved "the work of the Immanuel Bible Institute of the St. Louis District Quarterly Meeting and petitioned the Missouri State Association to adopt the school as a State Project." (Taken from the 1959 Minutes of the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting)

In 1963 it was voted to have the Friday evening services designated as "Youth Emphasis services."

It was voted on in 1964 for each local church involved in the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting to institute the new Church Training Service. If our denomination was to continue to progress for the Lord, leadership training was a necessity.

A controversial issue was raised in 1968 yet was approved. The Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting went on record "as being united in prayerful support of the study commission elected at the National Association and by the State Association, to study our Denominational position of the backslider." (Taken from 1968 Minutes of the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting)

In 1969 it was voted to have the local churches to post signs along the highways making travelers aware there was a Free Will Baptist Church in the vicinity.

In 1971 the Temperance and Denominational Enterprises Committees combined and a greater evangelistic effort was stressed. This combined committee was, however, abolished in 1972 and the Business Committee began handling the work of it.

When missionaries Fulchers and McLains were faced with a financial crisis in 1973, the Yearly Meeting voted to give money to this need. The challenge went forth for local churches to aid this project.

The time of our national elections soon approaching warranted this item of business to be adopted in 1974: "That we reaffirm our stand against legalized gambling and abortion, etc. and that we examine the candidates up for election in November

relative to their stand to these issues and vote accordingly, and letters be sent to Governors, Senators and Congressmen." (Taken from the 1974 Minutes of the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting)

Some timely issues were raised at the 1975 meeting. The challenge went forth for the members of the Yearly Meeting to send letters to the major television networks in opposition to the "immorality and unrighteousness" on television. Another resolution that was adopted was to oppose the action concerning a petition that would prohibit religious programming on radio and television if approved by the Federal Communications Commission. This would have to be done by counter-petitioning. A third issue was presented regarding the increase of pornographic materials and how members of the Yearly Meeting could take a stand against this ungodly literature.

The year 1976 marked the dissolving of the Yearly Meeting. The Business Committee recommended "that each quarterly conference will petition the Missouri State Association in 1977 to be accepted as a District Association in the State Association; and that each quarterly conference will make their recommendation for their General Board member to be on the General Board of the 1977 State Association." This action would simply give a better representation than if the Yearly meeting stayed in existence.

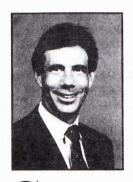
In conclusion, the Yearly Meeting of Southeast Missouri Free Will Baptists was greatly used for God's glory. Though there was much accomplished, it has served its purpose as an organization. The work and cause of Christ must continue making history as those who were involved in the Southeast Missouri Yearly Meeting labor within the state of Missouri for the salvation of souls and propagating the Gospel.

Researched and Written By Mrs. Sue Winchester

#### Hillsdale Update

The delegates to the Oklahoma State Meeting voted to allow the college to begin a 2.9 million dollar capital stewardship campaign to construct a chapel/conference center. The two-story building will include seven classrooms, administrative and faculty offices, storage facilities, rest rooms and an elevator. The chapel, which will seat 1,000, will be sufficient to house the state meeting, youth competitive, mission conferences, etc.

If continued growth is expected, the college must have additional classrooms, office space and a larger cafeteria.



## **Minister's Retreat**

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

peaker Rev. Robert Morgan, author, seminar speaker, and pastor, is a native of Tennessee. He was saved as a child and answered the call to preach as a teenager. He holds a MA from Wheaton Graduate School and a Masters of Divinity from Luther Rice Seminary. Brother Robert has pastored the Donelson Fellowship Church in Nashville since 1980. During that time the church has grown form 95 to 600 in attendance. He has authored a number of books and over seventy articles which were published in leading evangelical publications. He has been used to conduct seminars in Africa, Brazil, Japan, and the United States. Brother Morgan will be speaking on Pastoral Leadership during the retreat.

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

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

(The retreat is sponsored by the Missouri State Executive Office and the Christian Education Board)

#### REGISTRATION FORM

Please Print:	
Name	Home Phone ( )
Address	The late of the party of the late of the l
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I would like to room with	
A \$15 non-refundable deposit i	s required for each person. Please return this

registration to: Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, P.O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65536. Registration forms must arrive at the state office on or before the 12<sup>th</sup> of March. Note: Minister's wives are welcome to accompany their husbands.

## MISSOURI BIBLE INSTITUTE NEWS

Rick Dablemont

Praise God for the blessing of being associated with students of His Word. The '98 Fall Semester concludes in mid-December at all three sites: Cuba, Mtn. Grove, and Park Hills, where respectively Pastors Rick Dablemont, Gary Fry, and Ken Dodson are currently teaching COMPARATIVE RELIGION II, EARLY CHRISTIANITY, and LIFE & WRITINGS OF PAUL.

Total enrollment this semester is twenty: (five at Cuba, eight at Mtn. Grove, and seven at Park Hills). Rev. Craig Jones will offer the NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY course in January 1999 during the Spring Semester at Calvary Fellowship, and Rev. Jerry Norris (just recently approved as an instructor) will offer the Personal Evangelism course. All interested students in the St. Louis area will have the option of taking one or both of these courses. Pastors (in the St. Louis area) are encouraged to participate and to enroll their ministerial candidates and teachers.

Several students from various sites are on track to receive their Christian Worker Certificates at our state convention in June. Also, one student has already earned a 30 hour Bible Certificate from Hillsdale and we currently have at least four students on track towards earning their Associate Art Degrees from Hillsdale in the area of missions and Practical Theology. For these students and interested others, in the future, we hope to offer one or two mini-semesters of advanced level theology courses with visiting professors from Hillsdale here in Missouri.

Scholarships are available from the C.E. Board for qualified students to assist with tuition costs each semester. High school seniors who plan on attending Bible college at Nashville, Hillsdale, Southeastern, or California Christian College are also eligible to take our courses at all sites for college credit.

The following courses will be offered during the '99 Spring Semester which begins in January; classes meet one night per week for 18 weeks; contact the appropriate instructor in your area for enrollment information:

Instructor	Phone #	Course	Location
Rick Dablemont	573-885-3543 417-926-5396	FWB History & Doctrine Church History I	Cuba
Gary Fry Craig Jones	314-225-4207	New Testament Survey Personal Evangelism	Mtn. Grove Fenton*
Jerry Norris	314-296-3308 (*Both these courses a	Fenton*	
Ken Dodson	573-431-2533	Early Christianity (Acts)	Park Hills

#### Parents Testify To God's Faithfulness

by Darryl and Gloria Crain Bath, N.B., Canada

For us, the greatest blessing of all is that the Lord would answer our three primary requests for our children. Since they were very young, we have prayed regularly (1) that they would commit their lives to Christ, (2) that they would find the right life mate and (3) that they would attend Bible school for at least one year. Obviously, not all of these requests are answered yet, but it is exciting to watch the hand of God bringing it all to pass before our very eyes.

We were excited when our oldest son, Martin, decided to go to FWBBC to study music and seek the Lord's will for service. Although many friends raised their eyebrows in wonder that we would consider sending a child to the U.S. with the exchange rate at 44%, we never once doubted that the Lord would meet our need. During his second semester we were challenged financially, but the Lord met the need day by day. The opportunity to be a Rejoice member and receive the scholarship associated with that was a great blessing during his second and third years. In the past four years Martin has had many opportunities to use his interest and ability in the musical field to subsidize his part-time earnings. He has been blessed by an all-sufficient God.

Two years later when Angela decided to attend FWBBC, we were again blessed by her decision. After visiting a secular

university, she knew that her desire to serve the Lord could probably never be met in that setting. She found summer employment at our local nursing home—thank the Lord! At the end of the summer, an elderly saint of God presented her with \$1,000 to help with her education. What a blessing! She also enjoys her secretarial job on campus where she is able to work 20 hours per week to help with expenses. On one occasion during her second year with exam time drawing near, she called home to see where she was going to get the money to finish paying her bill. I had no idea but I felt sure that the Lord would come through so we decided to pray. She called back on the last day to say that our church had deposited enough money in her account to clear her bill.

This fall, when Aaron entered his freshman year, the U.S. exchange rate was at an all-time high of 54%. Surely you can't be serious—three children in a U.S. college with the exchange rate of 54%. Remember, our God owns it all.

We have no idea what the next few months will hold or how we will meet the financial commitment we have made. I have to think, though, that it's more than a coincidence that this summer I was offered a part-time teaching job that should net approximately \$5,000 by March 1999. God is so good.

I guess maybe when we stop to consider the past four years, we do have many examples of how God has met our needs. We praise Him that He knows our needs and that He supplies it day by day, week by week, semester by semester. It is so exciting and it causes us to depend 100% on Him, our faithful provider!

### Merry Christmas From Our Show-Me Missionaries

**Ginger Harrison** 

I want to wish you all the very Merriest Christmas and New Year. May your faith in God be evident over the upcoming days and may He bless you for your faithfulness to Him. He has done great things through the past, but what can He expect out of you during this last year in the 1900's? What significant action or event will you be able to tell your grandchildren about in the years to come?

I am so looking forward to trusting in Him and allowing Him to work through me. He is worthy of all our effort, breath, and being. May He find us all working by faith in Him to brighten this world with His Truth of Jesus Christ until He returns!

Thank you for your support and prayers this past year. I can honestly say that I learned the French language with your prayers and His blessing. I will continue to learn and falter with mistakes, but God should still be glorified for the progress He has made in my life to which I can now take the gospel to others outside my own culture.

Que Dieu vous benisse! (God bless you!)

Ginger Harrison

The Lytles

CHRISTMAS GREETING:

Here in Panama we say, "Feliz Navidad!", which is Merry Christmas in Spanish. For the past 21 years we have had the privilege of wishing you, our friends, family and faithful supporters in Missouri, a very Merry Christmas. We don't have your cold weather or snow here, but we do have some changed hearts who look at Christmas now in a different light. Jesus is no long the helpless baby, but their personal Savior and the Savior of the world! Thank you for having a part in our ministry in Panama.

Our love and God's blessings, Steve and Judy Lytle and sons The Turnboughs

Dear Friends in Missouri,

MERRY CHRISTMAS or FELIZ NAVIDAD from Madrid! Thank you for your involvement in world outreach. We are thankful for support—every prayer and gift you give—both now and for the past 17 years. The Show-Me Plan took vision and courage to adopt, and its outreach is tremendous. We have seen the positive effects in our account and the spiritual impact in the lives of people. Thank you, and may God continue to bless and use you in special ways for the up building of His Kingdom there and around the world. From our home to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas Season.

All our love and prayers, Jeff, Susan, Matthew and Melissa Turnbough JeffTurnbough@compuserve.com Urb. Prado de los Enebros, 32 28400 C. Villalba (Madrid) SPAIN

#### The McDonalds

Season's Greetings from the McDonald family. The holiday season serves to remind us of the start of our present church planting ministry here in northern Japan just two years ago. Our work is the first new Free Will Baptist church planting ministry in Japan in over a decade. Much has happened since November/December of '96 and we are thankful for your partnership in helping to make this ministry possible. Again this year, we will use Christmas as a time to share Christ in the community as many Japanese hold an interest in the Christmas celebrations around the world.

We always enthusiastically celebrate the Christ of Christmas at our church and in our home at this season. We as a family are growing in His grace and especially celebrate His work in our lives this year. May you and yours also celebrate His perfect gift and His gracious work in your lives during this Christmas season.

Yours in Japan, The McDonalds

## JAMES FORLINES TO HEAD FOREIGN MISSIONS



When R. Eugene Waddell announced his retirement after 12 1/2 years as general director of Foreign Missions, the Board of Foreign Missions began praying and searching for his replacement.

After prayer and surveys, they sought God's direction and decided in April of this year that board member James Forlines of Batesville, Ark., was the man for the job.

Brother James is the son of Professor and Mrs. Leroy Forlines of Nashville and is a 1980 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College. He also has taken graduate courses from Anderson School of Theology in Anderson, Ind. James has served as associate and youth pastor in Gastonia, N.C., as pastor of First FWB in Chesterfield, Ind., and as pastor of Allen Chapel FWB in Batesville, Ark.

Brother Forlines has been active in writing Sunday school materials for Randall House Publications and has served five years as moderator of the Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists. He has also served the past four years as a member of the Board of Foreign

Missions. He was one of the key figures in the development of the A.C.T.S. 1:8 plan of missionary support adopted by Arkansas Free Will Baptists.

James is married to the former Anita Ganey of Hendersonville, N.C. The Forlines have three children: Daniel, age 19; Rachel, age 15; and Rebekah, age 14. Daniel is a student at Vanderbilt University, Rachel is a sophomore at Overton High School and Rebekah is an eighth grader at McMurray Middle School.

Mr. Forlines will assume his position as general director January 1, 1999.

#### The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

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

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

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

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

I pray God's richest blessings on you for the holiday season and as you plan for 1999. I challenge you to give Him your heart or whatever part of yourself you've withheld from Him. I believe, in return, God will give His greatest blessings.



## Missouri Youth **Exceed Goal for** New Hope in Panama

During the 1996 camp session, the Missouri Youth Camp Board challenged campers to raise \$12,000.00 to purchase property for the Nueva Esperanza church in Panama. The youth with the help of the Missouri Women Active for Christ exceeded the goal by raising \$13,931.14. Below is a thank you letter from the Lytles.

You passed your goal and we are so thankful for all your hard work. The money you have raised has gone to purchase the land on which the mission is meeting. There is a small building already there and the pastor has plans for a new building to be built. It would be large enough for the soup kitchen (eating area and kitchen) in the back, sanctuary in the front, indoor bathrooms and classrooms on the second floor. The plans are for a functional building that will meet the needs of the folks there. Help us pray that this will become a reality. Your generous gift has been the first

By the way, the soup kitchen is functioning three times a week at lunch feeding around 40 children. The ladies of the church there work under not too ideal conditions, but needy children are given a balanced meal on these days. We pray that this will help them physically so they can do better in school. Also we pray that it will open doors for the Gospel.

Steve and Judy Lytle

# 😂 Financial Information 🥨

#### OCTOBER 1998 COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS 18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board ... .... \$8,920.61 17.50% Executive Office..... ... 8.438 42 3.00% General Fund ...... ...... 1,446.59 50% Show-Me Plan. ..241.10 8.50% Youth Camp Bd. 2.50% Youth Ministries Bd...... 1,205.49 2.50% C.E. Board. 2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Bd. . 1,205.49 9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program .. 30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College .. 14,706.95 Foreign Missions Board National Home Missions Board Same Allocation: Free Will Baptist Bible College Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College Filipade Free Will Baptist Collet Executive Department Layman's Board Radio & TV Commission Theological Commission Historical Commission Board of Retirement & Insurance 1.00% Calif. Christian College (\$147.70 included in \$14.70 c. (\$147.70 included in \$14,706.95) 5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund ...... 2,410,98 TOTAL .. .....\$48,219.53

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%.

OCTOBER 1998	
<b>COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS</b>	
Alton	\$450.00
Amity	112 48
Aulsbury Chapel	197.66
Bailey - Alton	144.00
Bailey Chapel	170.00
Beacon	1 500 00
Belton	230.56
Berean	50.00
Bethel - El Dorado Springs	74.00
Bethel - El Dorado Springs	90.40
Black Oak	217.10
Bourbon	64.00
Buffalo 1st	100.00
Cabool	247.04
Calvary Chapel	830.39
Calvary Fellowship	855.66
Cape Girardeau 1st	031.60
Carthage	306.00
Carthage	210.00
Central	210.85
Christ Chapel - St. Clair	9/3./4
Clifton	
Columbia	/ 6.89
Copper Mines	113./0
Crossroads - Lebanon	339.1/
Croosroads - Wentzville	1,0/5.00
Cuba	432.20
Cuba	547.00
Cuba	604.00
DeSoto	1,000.00
Emanuel - Loveland, CO	88.52
Faith & Hope - Aurora	37.60
Faith & Hope - Aurora	32.00

Faith & Hope - Willow Springs...... 36.00

Farmington 1st	3,312.13
Fellowship	400.00
Fordland	723.44
Fourth	254.53
Fredericktown 1st	
Freeman Chapel	357.00
Friendship	333.00
Grace	1,088.00
Grant Ave	
Hannibal	
Hannibal	24.00
Hannibal	50.00
Hannon	
Harmony - KC	
Hartville	
Hartville	690.00
Heritage	100.00
Hopewell	166.00
Houston 1st	287.15
Hurryville	466.95
Jackson	231.38
Jones Chapel	516.78
Joplin 1st	520.82
Kingsway	253.00
Kingsway	182.00
Kirksville 1st	5.00
Koshkonong	143.75
Lead Hill	294.30
Lebanon 1st	
Lebanon FWB	353.73
Lone Star	35.40
Macedonia - Niangua	49.62
Merl's Chapel	121.00
Mill Creek	420.96
Mine La Motte	

Monett 1st576.3	3
Mtn. Grove 1st1,316.9	5
Mtn. Grove 1st1,498.4	1
Mt. Pisgah238.0	0
Mt. Zion - Gower 46.6	0
Myrtle237.9	2
Myrtle268.4	0
Neosho 1st95.0	00
New Hope - Fredericktown 50.0	
New Life - Licking 411.3	5
Niangua 125.0	
North Five107.2	
Number One115.3	
Number One 92.7	
O'Fallon 1st701.0	
Overland140.0	00
Ozark 1st972.5	52
Park Hills 1st717.1	6
Parkview	90
Pleasant Hill - Thaver194.5	59
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove 243.2	20
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana 75.0	00
Potosi 1st120.1	3
Republic200.0	
Republic100.0	
Richwoods 1st463.0	
Rock Chapel279.2	14
Rolla 1st221.0	
Royal Oak112.0	
Seymour	
Smyrna 75.0	
South Fremont1,260.0	
Southside	
Springfield223.0	
Springfield	
Jpinigheid1,003.3	,0

St. Francois Assoc		Myrtle		Macedonia Auxiliary		New Home - Hartville	
Stockton Thayer		Myrtle N. Ruble		Mtn. Grove 1st Mtn. Grove 1st		Lebanon Bible & Book Store Trinity	
rinity		Neil, R.		New Home - Hartville		Thayer	
nion Grove		Neosho 1st		O'Fallon 1st		Hannon	
nion Light		New Home - Hartville		Ozark 1st		Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	
nited		New Hope - Fredericktown		Pleasant Ridge - Urbana		DeSoto 1st	
Inity		New Life - Licking		Richard White		Berean	
erdella		New Testament		Southeast Assoc		Ozark 1st	
ictory - Alton		Noel, D		Southeast Assoc.		Mt. Pisgah Park Hills 1st	
Vaynesville 1st Vest Plains 1st		Oak Grove - Houston		St. Francois Assoc Thayer		West Plains 1st	
Vilderness		O'Fallon Old Bethel		Trinity		Buffalo 1st	
Villow Springs - Mtn. Grove		Otto Parsons		United		New Life - Monett	
Volf Creek		Ozark 1st		WNAC		Hartville	
TOTAL		Park Hills 1st		TOTAL		Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
SHOW-ME PLAN		Parkview - Desloge	291.25	NATIONAL HOME MISSION	e	Cabool	
Barker, Rev. J	\$15.00	Pinkerton, J	45.00	Alan Chapman		TOTAL	731.99
Beacon		Pleasant Grove - Anderson	45.00	Beacon		<b>FWB BIBLE COLLEGE</b>	
Belton		Pleasant Hill - Thayer		Belton		Verdella	\$109.49
Belton Ladies Aux		Pleasant Home		Bethel - Festus		N. Ruble	
Berry, R		Pleasant Ridge - Urbana		Bob Theabeau		Thayer	45.00
Bethel - El Dorado		Purdy Richard White		Brenda King	10.00	DeSoto 1st	35.00
Bethel - El Dorado		Richardson, O		Bud Rogers		Beacon	162.61
Bethel - Festus		Richwoods		Buffalo 1st		Farmington 1st	\$373.10
Big Creek		Rock Chapel		Bufalo 1st			
Bishop, B.J.		Rodney Garrell		Calvary Fellowship		HILLSDALE FWB COLLEG	
Black Oak	30.00	Royal Oak		Cape Girardeau 1st		Thayer	\$50.00
Bourbon Berean	15.00	South Fremont		Carthage		Hannon	50.00
Buffalo 1st		Southeast MO Assoc		Carthage		Gary Tune Cuban Account (2	
Buffalo 1st	60.00	Southeast MO Assoc	90.00	Central		Neosho 1st	70.00
Cabool	205.00	Springfield 1st		Cuba		Grant Ave	8.00
Calvary Chapel		St. Louis Assoc		DeSoto 1st		Joplin 1st	5.00
Calvary Fellowship	2,676.00	Thayer		DeSoto Auditorium Class		FordlandFarmington 1st	
Cartee, J	15.00	Trinity		Faith & Hope - Aurora		TOTAL	\$437.80
Central	390.00	Tune, G		Faith & Hope - Aurora			
Chism, B	5.00	Tune, G		Farmington 1st		CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN	
Chrisman, M	30.00	Union Light United		Fordland	35.00	Farmington 1st	\$52.62
Columbia	70.00	Unity		Grace		STEVE SMITH	
Cook, J	360.00	Verdella		Grant Ave		DeSoto 1st	\$50.00
Cross Roads J. L.	90.00	Viburnum		Hannon		YOUTH MINISTRIES BOA	
Cross Roads - Lebanon	90.00	Walker, H. Jr.		Harmony		Lebanon Bible & Book Store	
Cuba	152.21	West Plains 1st		Harmony Fellowship - Colorad			
Darnell, W	111.65	Wilderness		Hartville		TRULA CRONK HOME FOR	
DeSoto 1st	400.00	Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	85.00	Hartville		New Hope - Fredericktown.	\$30.00
DeSoto Auditorium Class	15.00	Willow Springs 1st	150.00	Houston 1st J.W. Rader		Myrtle	5.00
Eastern Gate	50.00	TOTAL	\$25,611.37	Joplin 1st		Belton	10.00
Faith - Lemay	40.00	FOREIGN MISSIONS - DES	IGNATED	Judy Hoggard		Unity DeSoto 1st	90.00
Faith - St. Louis	40.00	Allen Chapman		Lebanon FWB	5.00	Hannon	100.00
raith & Hope - W.S.	60.00	Beacon		Macedonia - Purdy		New Life - Monett	58.74
rarmington 1st	930.00	Calvary Fellowship		Maggie Kenun	10.00	New Life - Monett	60.23
Fellowship	984.53	Cape Girardeau 1st		Marlon Crossland		Mtn. Grove 1st	1.00
Floyd Rogers	15.00	Central	5.00	Monett 1st	83.00	TOTAL	\$404.97
Fordland	155.00	Elta Bridges		Mtn. Grove 1st	95.00		
Fourth	195.00	Farmington 1st	125.00	Mtn. Grove 1st	125.00	REV. JOHN MCCLURE	\$164.24
Fred Harris Fredericktown 1st	150.00	Fordland	5.00	Mt. Pisgah		Carthage Central Western WNAC	30.00
Freeman Chapel	540.00	Grant Ave	183.15	Myrtle		Monett 1st	35.00
Gospel Light	675.00	Greenfield	10.00	Myrtle		Mtn. Grove 1st	42.50
Grace	297.00	Harmony Fellowship - Colorad	do 108.00	Neosho 1st		Thayer	10.00
Graham, S	15.00	Joplin 1st		New Home - Hartville		Bud Bivens	50.00
Grant Ave	295.00	Ken Minor Kirksville 1st		New Testament		Crace	15.00
Greenfield	180.00	Merl's Chapel	30.00	O'Fallon 1st		Central Western WNAC	15.00
Hannibal - WNAC	15.00	Mtn. Grove 1st	70.00	Ozark 1st Park Hills 1st		Carthage	133.57
Hannon	938.13	Mtn. Grove 1st	80.00	Pleasant Home		Mtn. Grove 1st	317.50
Happy Hill	15.00	Neosho 1st	22.00	Richard White		TOTAL	\$812.81
Harmony - Parkville	80.00	New Hope - Fredericktown	20.00	Richwoods	47.00		
Harris, F		New Testament	60.00	Rock Chapel	95.95	NEW HOPE - PANAMA	\$150.00
Hartville		St. Francois Mission Rally	437.39	St. Francois Assoc. Rally	2,187.00	Harmony Youth Group Neosho 1st VBS	407.16
Hartville Houston 1st		Thayer	70.00	Thayer	190.00	Missouri State WNAC	250.00
Hurryville		Trinity	188.42	Trinity	10.00	TOTAL	\$807.10
Hurryville - Sr. Adult S.S. Clas		Union Light	10.00	Union Light			
Jackson		United	40.00	United	170.00	SENIOR ADULT MINISTI	KIES
Jones Chapel		Viburnum	10.00	United Youth Group	170.00	Lebanon Bible & Book Sto	re \$ 105.0
Joplin 1st		Waynesville 1st TOTAL	\$2,630,00	United Youth Group	170.00	Calvary Fellowship	\$155 A
Leadington			\$2,020.93	Unity	50.00	TOTAL	
Lebanon 1st	75.00	STATE HOME MISSIONS		Verdella	10.00	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	NBOARD
Lebanon FWB		Belton	\$45.00	Viburnum	51.00	Lebanon Bible & Book Sto	ore \$105.0
Macedonia - Purdy		Berean	15.00	Waynesville 1st West Plains 1st	50.00	DISCIPLESHIP CENTER	
Maggart, D		Calvary Fellowship	100.00	Wolf Creek	205.00	CORTEZ, COLORAI	
Merl's Chapel		Central		TOTAL	\$8 584 70	Calvary Fellowship	\$10.0
Mill Creek		Cuba	46.11				
Mill Creek - Young Adult S.S.		Cuba	55.82	FWB BOARD OF RETIRE	MENT	2004 CONVENTION	A 0
Mine La Motte		DeSoto	70.00	Grant Avenue		Mission Association	\$75.0
MO Women Active for Chris		Faith - Chandler, IN	25.00	MISSOURI FWB YOUTH (	CAMP	REST OF THE FAMILY	
Monett	195.00	Gospel Light	40.00	Niangua	\$20.00	Myrtle	\$102.0
Mtn. Grove 1st	241 55	Craco					
Mtn. Grove 1st		Grace	55.00	Hartville	10.00	,	
	1,045.00	Grace Grant Ave Larry Wormington	10.00	Hartville New Life - Monett Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00		



# 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

(Please print)	of shares desired: I share is \$15.00 per month)			
Name_				
Address				
City				
Mail to: Missouri Sta	StateStateStateStateStateStateStateStateStateStateState_	Zip Code  Box 991, LEBANON MO 65526		
		,, 110 05550		



## Share Your Memories

The State Historical Committee is seeking to preserve the history of Missouri Free Will Baptists by collecting old Gem magazines, minutes, documents and books that detail the events of our past. If you have any such items, you may send them to Rev. James Barker, Rev. Lloyd Durbin, Rev. John Schebaum or the state office. The materials will be placed in the state archives which is housed at the state office building. All the materials in the archives are available for viewing by those who visit the offices. Shown in the photo is Rev. Elmer Turnbough presenting Executive Secretary Nathan Ruble a 1958 photo of the National Convention when it met in St.

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

Contact P. O. Box 5002 Antioch, TN 37011-5002

PLEASE INFORM US IMMEDIATELY OF YOUR NEW ADDRESS TO INSURE UNINTERRUPTED DELIVERY OF YOUR GEM