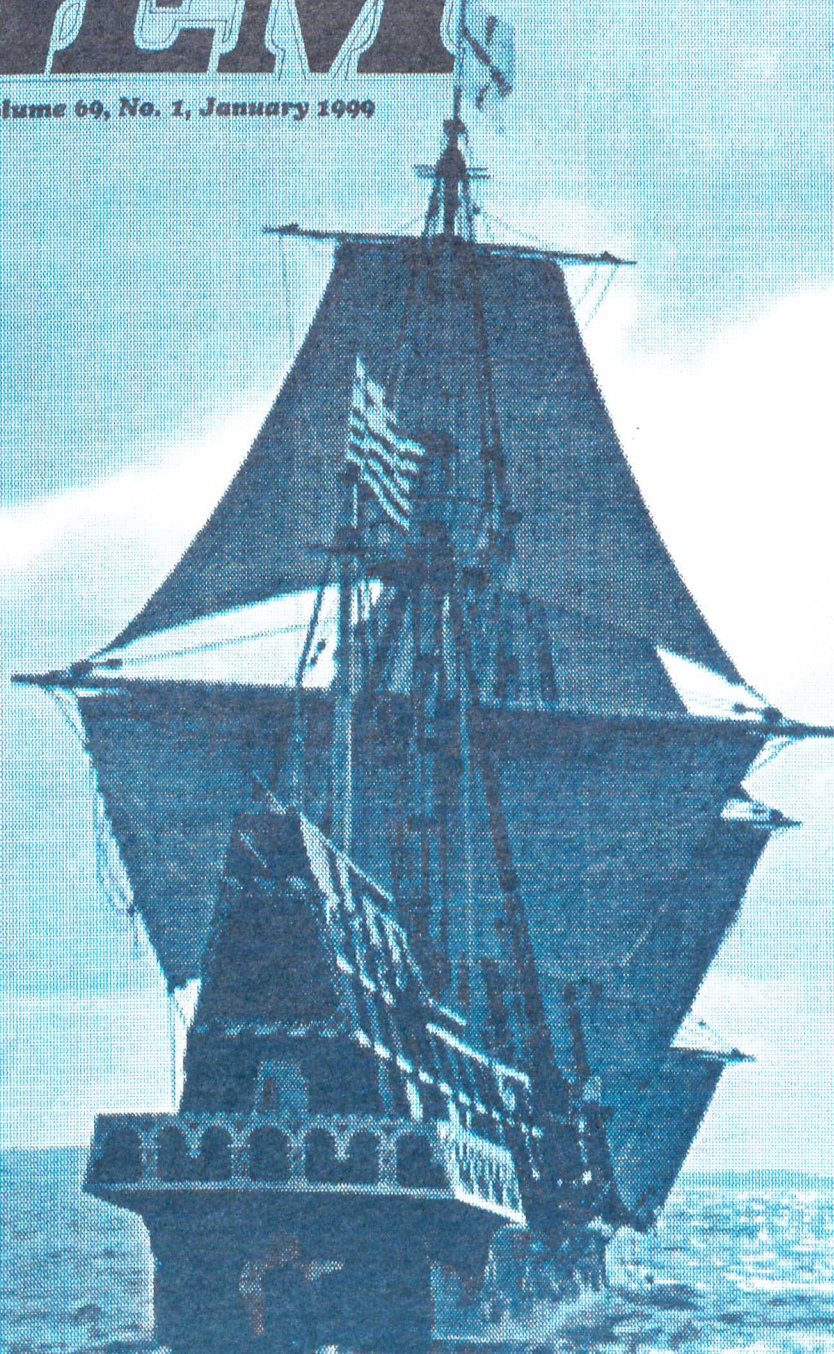


GEM

THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST

Volume 69, No. 1, January 1999



LAUNCHING A NEW YEAR

"Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a drought."

Luke 9:4

The "WHAT IF'S?"

Carol J. Pinkerton

They've made visits to your mind, haven't they? You know, something happens and is finished—then "they" blunder right in. They don't knock—they just come into your mind, occupying every bit of space—causing worry and doubt ... overshadowing joy that was present earlier. "BUT WHAT IF?????" The line of questions knows no end, and is most always negative.



Carol Pinkerton

I know these folks well ... they've made far too many visits to see me: Like the time in 1973, after we'd finished language study, and only eight days before we thought we were leaving for Africa. The truck that did not yield the right of way, hit our car with all five of us inside, turning it upside down and throwing our youngest son's head out the back side glass window ... WHAT IF he never came out of the coma??? WHAT IF he did come out of the coma—as a "vegetable"? (He did come out of the coma; as was so typical of him, he even tried to convince his 3rd grade teacher that he had brain damage! It required a brain wave test to prove that he was just trying to get out of doing homework!) Tim has facial scars, but is quite normal. He's now a Registered Nurse working in the Trauma Unit.

Or maybe, it was when I accompanied Arilla Wode to the States on a medical emergency and just decided to have a physical myself and the doctor said I needed thyroid surgery. WHAT IF I hadn't gone with her? WHAT IF I didn't see my doctor? Or WHAT IF the results came back saying it was cancerous? I had left Jerry in Africa. (Thankfully, it was benign ... and I quickly returned to Africa with a bandage over my fresh scar.)

Or, it could have been when Jerry & I were on our way to a village. The road was quite narrow with several sharp curves. Immediately after turning one of the corners and heading downhill (where a one lane bridge awaited us), a huge two-ton truck appeared on the other side of the bridge ... WHAT IF that was our last trip on earth? (It was a miracle; both vehicles passed without incident.)

Then, there was the time when Jerry was away teaching church leaders and I had chosen to stay at home. It was almost midnight and I'd taken my shower. The water had drained out so slowly I decided to use drain opener to speed things up. As I stepped from the shower, dressed in total nude, I reached for the bottle of crystals to unclog the drain. My hands were still wet and the bottle was hot. It slipped; the lid popped open and the crystal contents, now liquid (apparently due to high temperatures and humidity) which splattered in my direction. WHAT IF the bottle had been full and WHAT IF the contents got into my eyes ... all over my body... ??? (Another miracle as very little liquid even touched me! but, all areas around me were covered.)

There have been so many of these "WHAT IF'S"!!! And each time they come, I'm reminded of the greatest "WHAT IF." That is "WHAT IF" Jesus had not come to die for my sins? There would be only one place for me—and that would be Hell. Total destruction forever ... pain and torment, complete separation from God. Thankfully, He did come. Thankfully, He was obedient to His Father and because of His love, He gave His life ... for everyone. He paid the sin debt for all humanity.

I refuse to let the "WHAT IF'S" control my day. There is a time and a season for all things and My God is in total control. If I'm going to think about the "WHAT IF'S," may they be these:

WHAT IF I do not witness as I should?
WHAT IF my life is a stumbling block instead of a stepping stone?
WHAT IF others go to Hell because of me?



Nathan Ruble

From The Desk of The Executive Secretary

PREPARING FOR 1999

1999 offers a New Year, but not a new world. The accumulated evils of the past years will run before us into the New Year. Abortion, homosexuality, and deceit have found a champion in the courts and houses of government causing sin to abound more and more. With the abounding sin has come the limitation of Christian rights. All of these things could cause the Christian to view the New Year with fear and dread. Yet the history of the church is one of advancement—marching forward in the periods of darkness and the periods of light.

The third chapter of Joshua tells of Israel's preparation to enter a land that was so wicked that God ordered the destruction of its inhabitants. Instructions for entering the land are given. They are told that in order to enter and realize the full blessings and guidance of the Lord in Canaan, they must have a singular purpose, make spiritual preparation, and look for supernatural provisions.

The Ark of the Covenant, a symbol of God's presence, would be carried before them by the priests. When the people saw the ark moving, they were to follow it from their place. In order to know which way to go they were to keep a proper distance from it. They were traveling a new way, a way in which they had never been before. To comply with the instructions would require a singular purpose.

We too will be traveling a new way as we travel through 1999 and like Israel we will need to purpose to keep God in sight. Not lagging behind or running ahead of Him but yielding our will to Him that we might know His guidance.

Spiritual preparation was needed to enter the land. The people were to sanctify (separate) themselves from the things contrary to God and sanctify themselves unto God. Sanctification requires self-examination, confession and proper action. If we are to know all that God has for us in this New Year, this, too, will be required of us.

Crossing the river would not solve all of the people's problems. In fact it would mean that the manna would cease, battles would be fought, and casualties would be incurred. They had witnessed the power and might of God in the wilderness. They were to continue to see the supernatural provision of God. The Jordan would be cut off and they would cross on dry ground, the walls of Jericho would fall, and God would give them victory as long as they were obedient.

Let us sanctify ourselves and with singular purpose follow the Lord into 1999 expecting to see His supernatural provisions.

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.

LESSONS FROM NATURE

BY
GARRY MATTHEWS

Daylight found me sitting on my folding stool behind a couple of black oaks holding my longbow across my lap. I expectantly watched the intersection of two oak and hickory covered "finger" ridges less than 20 yards from where I sat. This was the 2nd week of the '98 fall bow season and my son, Chad, and I had already experienced an exciting 1st week, but we had not had a shot yet. I had the "feeling" that today was the day! Reaching this location in the shadowy, surreal quietness of pre-dawn, I had spooked a deer from one of the ridges, just beyond the intersection. The deer had flagged, but did not snort an alarm. The wind feather on my bow indicated that just a hint of a breeze was blowing from the direction of the deer toward me, preventing that super-keen nose from detecting me. Rather than being disappointed, the anticipation was building—I waited eagerly—it would be soon! Shafts of sunlight came over my shoulder and drove the shadows from the intersection. Like the gunfighters of the old west, I like to have the sunlight behind me blinding the eyes of the deer instead of mine. Hey, when bow hunting from ground level and at distances of a couple of car lengths from the paranoid bundle of nerves that we call whitetail deer, I need to even the odds as much as I can!

A sudden reflection of sunlight from my left caught my attention. Ever-so-slowly I shifted my eyes to the left. Sunlight was reflecting off the coat of a deer—yes, in direct sunlight deer coats shine and look out of place in the woods. The deer raised its head and my heart skipped a beat—no, it wasn't a big buck! It was a gray muzzled, swaybacked old matron of the woods—an old doe. People think big old bucks are smart, but they are no match for an old doe. Pressure a big buck and he will likely move from the area, but an old doe won't leave. Instead, she will hunt you down day after day and stand and snort (just out of bow range) and alert every deer within 1/4 mile to your presence! Believe me, I know! I love getting a chance to even the score on an old doe! Slowly she walked in my direction. In a few steps she was in range, and a step or two later her chest was broadside to me—less than 15 steps from where I sat bent low on my stool. As she lowered her head to search for acorns a bush screened me from her view. As I "oozed" my longbow up, I started slowly drawing the bowstring to the corner of my mouth. My eyes were boring a hole at a quarter-sized spot just behind her right front leg—in milli-seconds it would be over. In the blink of an eye, she whirled, ducked, and in 3 leaps she stood behind a tree glaring at me—and I hadn't even reached full draw yet! How did she know? Time stood still! I knew it wasn't going to happen today—and she sensed that it had almost happened! She had been within the blink of an eye of making a fatal mistake, and she was indignant! She stomped—then retreated a few more yards until she knew she was out of range—and then she stood and began snorting. Somewhere after 30 snorts I lost count. After an eternity she bounded away still snorting. **Almost!** **Almost!** Was I disappointed? — Not really. Even though I knew it would be weeks before I dared to hunt this spot again, if I did this season, the exhilaration and high I experienced in those moments was—well, hunters know what I mean.

That night I was relating this experience to Brother Ruble at the NEMO quarterly meeting. He said, "that sounds like an article for the Gem." If you're struggling through reading this — just remember, it's his fault!

In this age success has been idolized. It has become a god. Success is the ultimate goal, and today it is taught that it must come no matter what the cost—no matter what the hurt—anything less is total failure! Any type of short cut to success is even better! I don't know about you, but in my life I've had a lot more "almosts" than I have had complete successes. Today we even hear people worrying about how to properly handle success. I think it is far more important how we handle the "almosts."

In the sports world there are the world series winners, super bowl champs, the PGA champion, the NASCAR champion, etc., etc. These are only one person or one team—all the rest are "almosts." On the job, one person gets a promotion or a raise, others, "almost." You "almost" get a contract on a house — "almost" get a bank loan.

"Almost" is perhaps the most common experience that humans share. How do we handle it? Are we devastated, and see it as a total failure; or do we learn from it and use it as a building block for the future? Can we enjoy the exhilaration of the "almost," or do we give up in self-pity blaming others for our failure to succeed? Do we savor the moment—the anticipation? Are we thankful for our "almosts"? What if we are "almost" in a serious auto accident? Are we disappointed? — Definitely not! — Shaken maybe, but not disappointed! I think we can see that in everyday life "almosts" are important—they are character builders, motivators to greater efforts, and they can be exhilarating as many of my bow hunting "almosts" are.

What about spiritual "almosts"? Agrippa told the apostle Paul in Acts 26:28 **"... Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."** In Mark 12:34b, Jesus says of the scribe who had asked him which was the first (greatest) commandment: **"... Thou art not far from the Kingdom of God ..."** "Almost"! In Matthew 19 we find the rich young ruler who found the answer to what he lacked spiritually—yet, **"... went away sorrowful ..."** — "Almost"!

Christian, what about your work in the church? Did you "almost" accept the position of a church office, a Sunday school teacher, a leader, a deacon, a singer? The opportunity for a witness—did you "almost" take that opportunity? Spiritually, "almosts" can be positive or they can be devastatingly negative. Do you correct spiritual failures and shortcomings—using them as a motivating force for greater service? Our reaction to spiritual "almosts" can be building blocks or tombstones—sealing our fates. In the scriptural examples listed above, we do not know the final outcome, but I personally believe that at least two of the cases ended in spiritual tragedy.

This article is "almost" finished — (yea! — I heard that!). "Almost" an insignificant little word, but a significant experience. "Almosts" can be exhilarating, character building, motivating, a praise and thanksgiving item; or, disappointing, defeating, tragic, and destructive. It all depends upon the individual, the circumstance, and the eternal effect. Almost persuaded or almost home—what do you do with your "almosts"?

For Sale 1990 Ford F-350 Shuttle Bus



This 17-passenger bus is powered by a 460 gas engine. It is equipped with power steering, power brakes, automatic transmission, front and rear air, and new reclining captain chair seating. The bus also comes with an 8 ft. fiberglass trailer. The price for both units is \$15,900.00. For more information, you may call the First Free Will Baptist Church in Farmington (573-756-8933).

The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

Longfellow is credited with saying, "The young may die, but the old must."

Since the turn of the century, the life expectancy has raised 25 years. All of us "expect" to live until mid-70's and, even then, will be shocked and grieved when our mortality is realized.

Recently, in our area, many young people's lives have been taken. See, age does not guarantee life. The mortality rate is still 100%.

I wonder if we'd see life differently if we quit "planning for today and hoping for tomorrow" and began "hoping for today and planning for tomorrow." Would we see things more temporal on earth and eternal in Heaven if we placed our complete trust elsewhere?

"Death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart." (Eccl. 7:46 NIV)

MISSOURI STATE YOUTH CONFERENCE REPORT

BY BRENDA BUNCH

The 1998 Missouri State Youth Conference at Windermere, is an experience I wouldn't trade for anything. I hadn't planned on going because I don't really work with teens. Stan was going and he had told Ken Eagleton he would share about the TEAM ministry. Alicia was excited from the very beginning about going. We have never been here in the States when she was a teenager to go. Stan found out he couldn't go, so that meant I would have to listen to loud music and all those teenagers so full of life.

We talked about it at church and soon there were nine others excited and ready to go as well as another sponsor who had good memories of this when she was a teenager. The thing that really excited me about going was some of our girls played basketball and they were willing to miss practice, knowing they might not get to play in the next game. Only the Lord could give them that desire. Some of our group came later with the other sponsor and did not have to miss practice.

When we found out where we would be staying, our girls thought it was so far away from the other cabins, they were disappointed. Then, while driving to the cabin we saw some of the most beautiful creatures the Lord has created. We saw at least 8 deer eating. They were not bothered by our approaching van. They continued to eat and we just watched in amazement of their beauty. We were thankful for that cabin and that little extra gift the Lord gave us.

The food was great! Even the kids liked it! The auditorium was well decorated and seemed to bring joy to us when we arrived. FFH (Far From Home) sang from their hearts and blessed us right from the start. The speaker, Tom Tufts, blessed our hearts too. He knew how to build a quick relationship with those kids and they would listen to everything he said.

Saturday morning was the best. You could just feel the power of the Holy Spirit in that place. At the end of the first session, the speaker asked us all (450) to leave without making a noise and just ask the Lord to be with us in the next session at 10:30. I thought, "That sounds like a great idea but how could you get all these people to agree to do that?" Well, the Lord did it! I was totally amazed as I watched this group leave the auditorium without a sound of anyone talking. I thought, "Well, when we hit the door they will be normal, crazy, talking teenagers outside." I was wrong and so thankful to see God using these teenagers to prepare for the next session.

You know God likes to do God-sized things, but we are always so amazed when He does. The 10:30 session was awesome! At

least 7 teenagers accepted Christ. Who knows how many made life-changing commitments! The Spirit was so strong, no one wanted to dismiss. The speaker said we could leave and just worship the Lord for a few minutes outside wherever they would like to go. No one left. Then FFH sang praise and worship music. They didn't want to dismiss but said that anyone could leave. Now this is just a few minutes before lunch. I thought, "Well, these teenagers will be gone to the lunch line." Wrong!! They liked being there in the presence of the Lord and it was something only God could do.

I was so blessed and thankful for speaker and singers who were willing to let the Lord use them to bring these kids to a true worshipful attitude. We did finally leave for lunch, but it was a memory we will never forget. I am sure that will be like a spiritual marker for many teenagers and the sponsors will always remember it as a time they made important decisions also.

That meeting wouldn't be possible without those willing to make sacrifices for the Lord's work. Thanks to members of the Youth Ministries Board who helped plan this Youth Conference. May you never grow weary in this work. I also know that many prayers were prayed for that week-end. The speaker and the singers knew that without prayer their job would be in vain.

Our youth are still excited! It was so neat to hear them talk on the way home about all their plans and how they want to make a difference in their church and school. Right now, the youth of the Verdella Free Will Baptist Church are planning for their Youth Revival (Dec. 30 - Jan. 1). They found out how important their work for the Lord is. The Pastor is willing to let them do their best planning with the guidance of their youth leaders. It is a risk to let the teenagers be so involved in the planning, but the results are definitely worth it.

African Youth Retreat

by Carol Pinkerton

The Youth organized a retreat at the Ocean. Two girls came to the house last Friday to prepare the drink: we boiled and reboiled red leaves 3 times adding 2 crushed pineapples. Sugar was added plus some crushed hot-pepper flavored candy. It was then poured into small plastic bags and placed in our freezer.

For the sandwiches ... they brought a small container (maybe 2 cups) of what looked like cooked hamburger meat—but smelled like fish, oil and onions. It was placed in the refrigerator with instructions for me to heat it before coming to the Outing the following day. We finely shredded one cabbage, 12 carrots, many onions and garlic, and sliced 6 large cukes (removing the seeds). 28 boiled eggs were sliced. Each item was placed in its own plastic bag and refrigerated. The girls helped clean the kitchen and left.

Saturday, at the Ocean, after a devotion, singing and praying 27 of us were ready for the noon meal. Oil and vinegar were mixed with the above ingredients plus a small can of drained peas and placed inside a 6-inch piece of French Bread. Believe it or not, it was quite tasty ... the semi-frozen drinks were enjoyed from the plastic sacks ... making clean-up quick and easy.

We listened as the group expressed their views, requirements and hopes concerning their future mates. More singing and praying ... then a time of Biblical Games ... using the ocean sand as a hopscotch board ... There was much laughter as we enjoyed being together ... and even getting our feet wet in the ocean! The Girls were very modest in their Ocean attire—dresses, skirts: No shorts or bathing suits. They even passed out salvation tracts to others at the beach. It was a blessed time. Another group arrived and brought their bottles of strong drinks to the open hut next to ours. They also had a radio and amplifiers — Thankfully, they did not cause the first problem. Instead of turning the radio on, they sat at the edge of our group and listened to the devotion and discussion about Christian engagements. It was a super good outing.

As everyone knows, December is the beginning of Dry Season. When we left for church Sunday morning, we were caught in a long, hard, strong downpour ... many streets were flooded. Church started late since the rain caused most walkers to seek shelter until it quit. Prayer and Praise time lasted longer than usual ... there were just so many who voiced gratefulness for the Lord's care over them this past week. After services there was a business meeting and plans were made for Christmas.

We'd like to invite you to join us for a Christmas Eve Service (until midnight). We'll sing, pray and listen to God's Word. Christmas Day we'll gather again for more of the same, plus the Children's program and a meal—no sandwiches this time ... we're going all out with Couscous and chicken sauce and rice with fish sauce, bread, cake and drinks. Come, you'll enjoy it. We don't exchange gifts here, but rather rededicate our lives as gifts to the Lord to be used as He desires in CHANGING THE FACE OF ABIDJAN by bringing many others into His Fold.

The Abidjan Team wishes you a Happy Holiday Season. Thank you for your prayers, love and helps in His Work here.

*The Abidjan Believers,
Bryans (USA) and Pinkertons.*

305 At FWBBC Welcome Days

Free Will Baptist Bible College registered 305 visitors from 75 churches in 20 states for its fall Welcome Days, November 12-14, according to the college's Recruitment Office. The total was comprised of 222 prospective students and 83 sponsors.

The largest state representations were North Carolina (41), Illinois (24), and Michigan (21). The largest church group was 26 from Peace Free Will Baptist Church, in Wilson, North Carolina. The second largest was from Seffner Free Will Baptist Church, Seffner, Florida. One visitor, it was reported, was saved on the final night of the visit.

FWBBC President, Dr. Tom Malone, noted, "This fall's student prospects appeared more focused on their plans and excited about the college. All indications, from the music and drama presentations to the chapel service, were that this was not only one of our largest fall Welcome Days, but also one of our best."

Have-A-Heart for Hillsdale

The 1999 Have-a-Heart for Hillsdale campaign goal is \$250,000. The Missouri appointed Hillsdale Trustee members are asking the Missouri churches for \$35,000 as our fair share of the campaign. Brother Jack Richey has already received pledges from Missouri for \$12,500 — 35% already! We need to raise the remaining \$22,500 by February 28th.

Have-A-Heart funds will be used for:

- * \$114,000 to meet the 1999 budget;
- * \$20,000 for a new roof on the Activities Building;
- * \$22,000 for a new van;
- * \$14,000 for campus renovations; and
- * \$80,000 toward paying off the indebtedness.

If you have any questions, you may call one of the Missouri Board Members.

Richard Robinson - 417-623-1014
Roger Hogan - 573-756-1605
Pam Hudson - 417-638-5124

McAllister Resigns as CCC President

As many of you have heard, at the CCC Board Meeting October 26, 1998, I gave my resignation as President of CCC, effective May 31, 1999. At that time I will have been President of California Christian College for 13 years.

During these 13 years many good things have happened. When I moved here in June of 1986, CCC was closed and had been closed for a year. We had lost our license to operate as a college in California. We had no students, no faculty, and no staff. All the buildings were in terrible disarray, a result of several months of being rented out to Victory Outreach and two other churches. We had no insurance on the property, no tax exemption status, and only \$30,000 in the bank, the result of having sold a house.

Today the situation is quite different. We had 200 enrolled for the fall semester of 1998 and expect that, or better, in January of 1999. We have a good staff and faculty, a well-guided curriculum, and program of instruction. CCC is accredited, the second Free Will Baptist College to attain that status. This is a great victory that will enable our students to transfer to other colleges and not lose many credits. One of our graduates from last year just enrolled in a law school in California and retained all her credits earned at CCC. All the buildings have been renovated and a new gym has been constructed. The house previously sold has been repurchased, and this indebtedness is the extent of our debt obligation.

CCC is now the third largest college, student wise, of all Free Will Baptist Colleges. Nashville had 330 registered this semester; Hillsdale 230; Southeastern 135; CCC 200. We will have graduated nearly 100 students from CCC when graduation ends in May of 1999. We have a satellite school in Sacramento and have applied for permission to operate a bi-lingual school in Los Angeles.

One of the sideline accomplishments of CCC has been an unexpected mission outreach to Hmong, Korean, and Slavic people. All over the nation Korean and Hmong churches are preparing to come into Free Will Baptists, and Slavic churches are also making these positive steps toward our denomination. There is a possibility of 50 South Korean churches coming in to our foreign missions church affiliation. All this through the contacts made by CCC. Praise the Lord!

The College Board is now in the process of searching for a new President. I have pledged my support to CCC and to the new President. The Board needs your encouragement and help. Please pray for them. These are good and wise men of God. They deserve all our assistance.

Now a legitimate question is "Why am I resigning?" There are four reasons: 1) The accrediting association (TRACS) told the college that they must have a full-time president. 2) Harmony church is growing very fast and requires a full-time pastor. 3) I chose to close my ministry as a pastor, not a college president (I am now 62 years old). 4) My doctor and family have advised me to leave the college.

I have done the best I could while at CCC. I believe I have done what I was asked to do. Certainly, great things have been accomplished. I owe a great deal to the CCC Board. They have been loyal and dedicated, as well as hard working. I owe a debt of gratitude to my dear wife for all she has endured these 13 years. The students are precious, all of them and I will miss them very much. Greg McAllister is the mastermind behind our success in being accredited. Other colleges have tried and failed because they didn't have him. He has done a great job. I also want to thank the faculty and staff and all of those California Free Will Baptists who have stood with us in this venture of faith. May God bless all of you.

Kirksville Church Honors Musicians

Betty Jones



Mrs. Iva Daniels and Mrs. Julia Mollick

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Kirksville honored their musicians on their November birthdays. Mrs. Iva Daniels, pianist, celebrated her 90th birthday on November 8, and Mrs. Julia Mollick, organist, celebrated her 83rd birthday on November 29. The Kirksville Women Active for Christ presented the ladies with corsages of roses and baskets of greeting cards to which the entire church contributed.

Mrs. Daniels served as pianist at the New Harmony Free Will Baptist church for thirty-three years before moving to the church in Kirksville. Mrs. Mollick has served the Kirksville church as pianist and then organist for more than forty-five years. Both ladies are still very active in the work of the church. Their dedication in using their talents for the Lord is an inspiration to the congregation. We thank them for their work in the music department of our church.

Bethel Church Dedicates New Building



Bethel Church

The Bethel Free Will Baptist Church located near Marshfield, Missouri, has been organized for five years. For the first few months of its existence, the church met in a rented garage. From there the congregation moved into a 100-year-old church building which they purchased and remodeled. However, they never lost their dream of having a new building in a good location. God has given them both.

Sunday, November 29, the church dedicated to the Lord a new building consisting of a sanctuary, classrooms, bathrooms and a fellowship hall. It is located on a beautiful piece of ground which is visible from two highways: Interstate 44 and Highway 00. The sanctuary was nearly filled for the morning service in which Pastor James Crawford shared the Word of God.



The dedication service was held in the afternoon following a pot-luck lunch provided by the ladies of the church. Pastor James Crawford opened the afternoon service by stating that it had been a long journey, but God had been with them all the way. He shared the history of the church and recognized those who had made special contributions in helping make the new building a reality. The list of donors included those who had donated material, labor, and money—many of the contributors are not members of the church. Rev. Nathan Ruble preached the dedication message.



Rev. & Mrs. James Crawford

Before he delivered the message, he presented Brother and Sister Crawford a plaque of appreciation for their labors and leadership from the Bethel congregation. Rev. Crawford prayed the prayer of dedication.

The Bethel church has supported state and national ministries since its inception and are to be commended for their faithfulness and labors for the Lord.

Great Bible Conference At Farmington

by David Bates

The Perry Sisters recorded a song: "I Came Here Expecting God To Move." That's how our church felt as we approached the time for our first Evangelism Conference in fourteen years. There was a sense of expectancy in our church staff and across the membership. You know how churches go along and things just seem to be so predictable that after a period of time you lose sight of your vision and your purpose. We wanted God to stir us. We didn't need a how-to seminar; our folks know enough Gospel to change the world. We just needed God to move in our hearts and stir us into action for the cause of Christ. We needed a fresh move of the Holy Spirit among us that would renew our desire to see people saved and lives changed.

We prayed for months and God led us to three of his great servants. Using hindsight I can say that if you want to do something unpredictable, call Curtis Linton for a meeting. Then add to him a hard preaching dairy farmer, John Williams, and a gentleman pastor with a lifetime of experience and knowledge, Glenn Murray. It certainly was an unusual meeting.

These three men preached with such anointing, freshness, and diversity that I was reminded that God hasn't changed. He hasn't moved, and His Spirit can still use a man to move His people.



The altars were constantly filled. I remember one service in particular in which the teenagers flocked to the front, and another time it was the older crowd. It seemed we all took our turn.

Bro. Curtis, from time to time, picks on people in the congregation. One night he caught me with my eyes closed and he moved over toward me and said, "Wake up, David!" My reply was, "I wasn't asleep, I was praying a prayer of repentance!"



Bro. & Sis. Pentecost

To sum it all up, we are so grateful for Bro. Glenn Murray, Bro. John Williams, Bro. Curtis Linton, and Bro. Bill and Sister Carolyn Pentecost. Most of all we're thankful for God's Holy presence and marvelous grace. We have wept, repented, laughed, and fellowshiped, but the most important thing is that we have been with Jesus.

The icing on the cake was the music of the conference. Pastor Bill Pentecost and his wife, Carolyn, from the First Church of God in Farmington were the music ministers for the meetings. Bro. Bill has a big baritone voice, reminiscent of George Beverly Shea. Carolyn plays piano with unusual expertise, tremendous energy and anointing. As they ministered, heaven came down and glory filled our hearts. Our church choir outdid itself on Sunday morning and night. Add it all together and surely the presence of the Lord was in this place.

The Following Churches are in need of a Pastor:

Bourbon Free Will Baptist
Bourbon, MO
Call: 573-885-3412

Mill Creek Free Will Baptist
Fredericktown, MO
Call: 573-783-2410 or 573-243-8748

Myrtle Free Will Baptist
Myrtle, MO
Call: 417-938-448, 417-938-4481, or 870-966-4001

Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist
Anderson, MO
Call: 417-451-7329 or 417-845-6805

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.

Mary Ruth Wisheart A Sister's Reminiscence

*Personal reflections on Mary Ruth Wisheart, the retiring
Executive Secretary of Women Nationally Active for Christ*

By Lucy Hyman

A memory that stands out in my mind is an illness Mary Ruth had when she was just about six years old. One day she complained of stomach pains. Of course that was something common for a child, but with the usual home remedies, it didn't get better; so the doctor was contacted. In those days he came to the house. He examined her and gave her medicine; but she continued to get worse, and my parents became very alarmed. They were devout Christians and of course were pleading with God on her behalf. I remember how Mary Ruth was crying and telling my mother that she was going to die. Finally the doctor decided she

(continued on page 8)

MARY RUTH WISEHART

(continued from page 7)

needed to be rushed to the hospital. By the time she was admitted and diagnosed, her appendix had ruptured, and she was in serious condition. Who would have thought that such a small child could have appendicitis?

God answered our prayers, and after a stay in the hospital, she was fine. It has been very evident that God wasn't ready for her to go to heaven, because He needed her down here. She never had any more physical problems that I recall, but she was always small for her age, which could have been related to that incident.

During her high school days, Mary Ruth sang tenor in our ladies quartet at the Myrtle Free Will Baptist Church. We were even invited to sing at an all-night singing, where we got rave reviews! Mary graduated with honors from high school and went on to work her way through Free Will Baptist Bible College. After graduating she started teaching there and at the same time worked on a master's degree and finally her doctorate. No one knows how many lives she touched while teaching at the Bible College. Here is one example. At a church meeting, some former Bible College students were discussing experiences there. One lady said that Dr. Wisehart was the best teacher she had ever had in her entire life. What's more, she didn't even know as she said that to me that I was Mary Ruth's sister.

Personally, I was very happy when she decided to take the job as Executive Secretary for WNAC. I felt that she had limited herself too much and had missed a lot in the world by teaching so many years at the Bible College. I even told her so; however, she answered only to God's will for her life. Only when God spoke did she change her career.

She had always hoped that some of her nieces or nephews would go to Bible College, and she was so certain they would that she set up a savings account with her own funds to help that one. Our daughter Marilyn was the first one to go; so she benefitted from Mary Ruth's savings. It was very difficult for us to see Marilyn go so far away to college, since we were living in McAllen, Texas, at the time, some 1,000 miles away. However, it helped a little knowing that my sister would be there to offer assistance.

Nevertheless, on a drama trip that Mary was in charge of, Marilyn was a part of the group. Can you imagine how humbling it was when she was left at one of their stops alone and in a strange city and no one, not even her aunt, missed her until they had been traveling an hour? All was forgiven, but it was hard living that down!

My sister always handled difficult situations with a positive attitude. I remember

how hard it was for her when one of her very close friends died of cancer. She had a call rather late one night to come to the hospital, but she told her friend she would see her in the morning as she felt she couldn't make it that night. The next morning when she arrived at the hospital, she was shocked to learn that during the night her friend had suffered a stroke and could no longer communicate. That was difficult for her to take, feeling that she had failed to be there for Phyllis, who soon went to be with the Lord, yet she handled it extremely well.

Even though our parents lived over 300 miles from Nashville, Mary was faithful in going to see them every chance she had on weekends and holidays. I really appreciated that. Since I lived so far away, I only got to go home about once a year. She was a source of blessing for our mother and dad as long as they lived. Growing up, I always thought that my mother gave her special treatment and love. Maybe it was because she almost lost her as a child, but just maybe it was because she was always a meek, obedient, and respectful daughter. That couldn't always be said about me. I actually never remember her having to be punished for anything. What mother wouldn't appreciate a child like that? Mary Ruth was a great comfort to me when I joined the faculty at Free Will Baptist Bible College just a few months after my husband died. She had an extra room in her house, and she invited me to stay with her. It was extremely helpful to me as I tried to deal with my loss. One day when the snow was about a foot deep and I couldn't get my car out of the driveway to go to class, she walked with me through her back yard to show me the bus stop a few blocks away. That's a sister.

I was with her when she received her first chemotherapy treatment after cancer surgery. She was always positive and hopeful that she could with God's help beat the cancer, and she did. Then in three years she received the dreaded news again that cancer had struck. With God's help and the medicine, she has won the battle again.

When she was severely criticized, and unjustly so, for an editorial in the *Co-Laborer* magazine which she was in charge of, I saw her take it with her head held high and with a loving spirit. I member how some member of our family remarked, "I can't believe that she has given her whole life for Free Will Baptists and this is the thanks she gets." Yet it was wonderful to see how those who knew her well rallied to her support. For example, I was asked on one occasion what the ladies could do to help her because they felt she was being mistreated and was going through a trying time. My answer was that she had told me she was fine and there was nothing to worry about because it was in God's hands.

Well, it's not over yet. She is still my sister, and she is still giving her life and talents to the Lord. Who knows what will be around the next bend of the road for her? I will watch and look forward to hearing about her next adventure.

About the writer: *Lucy Hyman is a member of First Church, Albany, Georgia, and is Managing Editor of the Spanish Department of Randall House Publications.*

Passing The Baton

Greg Haslam

I Kings 18:36-39; 19:13b-14; 19-21

The End Is Nigh

Is this the terminal generation? To listen to many observers—both secular and Christian—you would think so. They point to the many indicators of upheaval and urgent unrest: the earth's dwindling material resources, the ecological damage inflicted by man upon his environment, the sheer scale and global repercussions of the concerns reported in daily news. These events and the ferment in the spiritual and ideological perspectives of mankind all seem to confirm our worst suspicions. This widespread accumulation of alarming data seems not only to endorse the sober predictions voiced by Jesus and his apostles (see, for example, Matthew 24 and Revelation 8 and 9), they seem also to confirm what some had most feared—namely, that the church is in retreat, evil has triumphed, the Christian cause is all but lost, and the people of God are becoming an increasingly shrinking minority. The church appears besieged and beleaguered. Her only hope is said to lie in death or translation, resurrection or rapture. It doesn't really matter which, so long as it is an escape from the mess. That, at any rate, is what many sincerely believe and hope for.

Interestingly, it is also what the prophet Elijah believed and hoped for. The famous contest on Mount Carmel in which Yahweh's representative had rallied the forces and faith of his nation in the notable "power encounter" with the demonic fertility gods of Canaan, had ended with the utter supremacy of Yahweh being mounted in vivid and indisputable display. That night, 850 prophets of the discredited god Baal and his consort Asherah had all been brought to the Kishon Valley and persuaded to give blood in much larger amounts than those voluntarily donated earlier in the day (see I Kings 18:40 and 18:28). Elijah must surely have expected that the repentance of King Ahab, the renunciation of his demon-worshipping queen Jezebel, and the renewal of the people would all immediately follow. In fact, none of this happened. Instead, the nation

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Minister's Retreat

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

Speaker

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 from 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.

Cost

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

Directions

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

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

REGISTRATION FORM

Please Print:

Name _____ Home Phone () _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Church _____

I would like to room with _____

A \$15 non-refundable deposit is 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 12th of March.

Note: Minister's wives are welcome to accompany their husbands.

PASSING THE BATON

(continued from page 8)

just went home and told each other what an exciting day it had been. Ahab went home and told Jezebel what a naughty boy Elijah had been and Jezebel went "ballistic" and after telling her gods what a loyal witch she had been, promptly put a contract out on Elijah's life.

Disappointment and Disillusionment

Elijah could not have been more devastated. Alone, afraid, and disillusioned, he fled to the desert and, almost suicidal with disappointment and self-pity, he gave voice to the same convictions and aspirations of many believers today: "I have had enough, Lord ... Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors ... I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too" (I Kings 19: 4, 10). It's the same desire for escape, resurrection, or rapture which marks so many sectors of the church today. This is a self-serving response, unworthy of a man with something more than a contract on his life—Elijah had the call of God on his life. He seemed to have forgotten that. His life was in danger and he thought that all was lost.

But Elijah was wrong. This wasn't the end, he wasn't the only one left and God's cause was by no means lost. Instead, God was at pains to point out that while Elijah's exhaustion and mood were to some degree understandable, in fact he had no

business being where he was. "What are you doing here, Elijah?" (I Kings 19:9) was not so much an inquiry about his location, as a challenge to both his frustration and resignation. God was mildly rebuking his defeatism and despair. The Lord took him to task for the narrowness of his perspective and the smallness of his vision.

Something similar needs to happen to us today. We too need to be told to stop complaining and get on with the work at hand. Immediate escape is not an option. It is better to think long term and to look beyond our own minor (or major) defeats and victories, toward the ongoing and ever-expanding triumph of God in history. God buries His workers but His work goes on.

Elijah had to realize that his ministry was only an episode in a very long-running saga. It would be good if we too had the humility to admit the same. We are part of something that has continuity with the past and also perpetuity in the future. It will end in triumph and not tragedy, and it will be God and not Satan who has the last word.

Passing The Baton

Since like Elijah we live in a time of transition, it is important that we learn to handle that transition well. You have probably watched television athletic competitions which include relay races. The key to success in such a race frequently lies in the handover of the baton to the team member who is to run the next leg of the race. It is all too easy to fumble or even to drop that

baton. This metaphor highlights both the importance of the team effort and also the vital necessity of a properly executed hand-over if the race is to be won. Elijah nearly flunked on both counts. He forgot he was only a part of the team, and that there were other runners also in the race. (He miscalculated the number of his teammates by 6,999.) Worse still, he nearly dropped the baton. God reminded him that there were other people waiting for their chance to run, and more particularly, that Elijah had a success waiting a few miles ahead of him round a bend in the track—Elisha. Elijah was to pass on the baton of his witness. His job was to make sure that he made the pass as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

We too live with a legacy of the past, we have a job to do now in the present, and we must also look expectantly to the future. You are to act like Elisha as you grasp the baton handed to you from the past, and as you prepare to hand that same baton to your successors. There are no stars in a relay race, unless it is the whole team of winners, in which case everyone is a star. We may be proud to be in the race at all, but we should be humble about our own particular part within it. Church history didn't begin in 1967 when I was converted, nor will it end at next summer's Bible Week or convention. In the great sweep we call history, God has already determined the glorious outcome. But it is a team effort; it

(concluded on back cover)

Sunday School Averages June 1998 - November 1998

| CHURCHES | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| Belton | 35 | 30 | 31 | | 34 | 39 |
| Calvary Chapel | 118 | 126 | 138 | 141 | 144 | |
| Cape Girardeau | | | | 50 | | 60 |
| Copper Mines | 52 | 42 | 56 | 53 | 53 | |
| Cuba | 111 | 86 | 110 | 105 | 107 | |
| Columbia | 17 | 20 | | 23 | | |
| DeSoto | 154 | 165 | 161 | 159 | 154 | 160 |
| Farmington | 257 | 289 | 336 | 353 | 330 | |
| Hannon | 99 | 99 | 103 | 100 | 102 | 103 |
| Harmony | | | 56 | | 58 | |
| Hartville | 101 | 109 | 106 | 101 | 113 | |
| Hazel Creek | 64 | | 62 | 70 | 71 | |
| Hopewell | 24 | 28 | 32 | 28 | 32 | 32 |
| Houston | 51 | 47 | 50 | 46 | 53 | 45 |
| Lebanon 1st | 106 | 102 | | | | |
| Lebanon FWB | 44 | 38 | 44 | 48 | | 54 |
| Mill Creek | 70 | 73 | 80 | 76 | 69 | 60 |
| Monett | 53 | 50 | 49 | 58 | | |
| Mt. Pisgah | | 73 | | | | |
| Myrtle | 42 | 40 | | 47 | | |
| O'Fallon 1st | 78 | | 86 | | 84 | |
| Oskaloosa | | | 14 | | | |
| Ozak | 110 | 106 | | 104 | | 103 |
| Park Hills | 107 | 107 | 116 | | 116 | |
| Richwoods | 23 | 26 | 22 | 23 | 22 | |
| Rock Chapel | 47 | | | | 49 | |
| Rolla 1st | | | 23 | | 27 | 22 |
| Southside | 24 | 27 | 32 | 43 | 40 | |
| Springfield 1st | 121 | 116 | 111 | | 117 | |
| Thayer | 178 | 172 | 186 | 168 | 164 | 143 |
| Trinity | 73 | | 76 | 85 | 88 | 81 |
| United, West Plains | 304 | 262 | 295 | 287 | 294 | 293 |
| Willow Springs | 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

NOVEMBER 1998

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| 18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board..... | \$6,496.58 |
| 17.50% Executive Office | 6,145.40 |
| 3.00% General Fund | 1,053.50 |
| .50% Show-Me Plan | 175.58 |
| 8.50% Youth Camp Bd..... | 2,984.94 |
| 2.50% Youth Ministries Bd..... | 877.91 |
| 2.50% C.E. Board | 877.91 |
| 2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Bd..... | 877.91 |
| 9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program | 3,160.49 |
| 30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College | 10,710.56 |
| 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 | |
| (\$107.10 included in \$10,710.56) | |
| 5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund | 1,755.83 |
| TOTAL..... | \$35,116.58 |

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%.

NOVEMBER 1998

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Amity..... | \$109.62 |
| Aulsbury Chapel | 301.90 |
| Bailey - Alton | 177.00 |
| Bailey Chapel | 160.00 |
| Belton | 219.21 |
| Bethel - El Dorado Springs | 66.31 |
| Bethel - Northview | 129.00 |
| Bourbon | 87.00 |
| Byrd | 165.65 |
| Cabool 1st..... | 269.25 |
| Calvary Chapel..... | 816.17 |
| Cape Girardeau | 345.42 |
| Central | 867.46 |
| Christ Chapel..... | 179.32 |
| Clifton | 75.72 |
| Columbia | 141.07 |
| Copper Mines | 348.29 |
| Crossroads - Wentzville..... | 476.97 |
| DeSoto 1st..... | 1,200.00 |
| Emanuel - Loveland, CO | 83.17 |
| Faith & Hope - Willow Springs..... | 53.20 |
| Farmington 1st | 2,219.52 |
| Fellowship - Park Hills | 400.00 |
| Fordland | 507.19 |
| Fourth | 454.96 |
| Fredericktown | 265.00 |
| Freeman Chapel | 408.03 |
| Friendship | 411.09 |
| Grace | 1,214.00 |
| Grant Avenue..... | 876.57 |
| Greenfield | 226.00 |
| Hannibal | 188.00 |
| Hannon..... | 730.91 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Harmony | 448.00 |
| Heritage | 124.00 |
| Hopewell | 183.00 |
| Houston 1st | 328.91 |
| Hurryville | 507.44 |
| Jackson | 120.86 |
| Joplin 1st | 722.34 |
| Kingsway | 160.00 |
| Kirksville | 6.00 |
| Koshkonong | 155.13 |
| Lead Hill | 246.40 |
| Lebanon 1st | 667.70 |
| Lebanon FWB | 294.24 |
| Lone Star | 46.80 |
| Macedonia - Niangua | 76.84 |
| Merls Chapel | 140.00 |
| Mill Creek | 303.85 |
| Mine La Motte | 68.10 |
| Monett 1st | 438.91 |
| Mt. Pisgah | 253.00 |
| Mt. Zion - Gower | 48.00 |
| Neosho 1st | 95.00 |
| New Harmony | 180.22 |
| New Hope - Fredericktown | 70.00 |
| New Life - Licking | 314.20 |
| New Life - Licking | 371.35 |
| New Rock Springs | 138.00 |
| Niangua | 94.00 |
| North Five | 104.50 |
| Oak Grove - Mtn. Grove | 103.98 |
| O'Fallon 1st | 820.00 |
| Overland | 145.00 |
| Ozark 1st | 967.61 |
| Park Hills 1st | 639.38 |
| Parkview | 4.70 |
| Pleasant Hill | 197.00 |
| Pleasant Home | 492.90 |
| Pleasant Ridge - Urbana | 75.00 |
| Potosi 1st | 133.27 |
| Rock Chapel | 330.90 |
| Rolla 1st | 180.00 |
| Royal Oak | 125.00 |
| Seymour | 226.00 |
| Smyrna | 70.00 |
| South Fremont | 1,000.00 |
| Southside | 109.03 |
| Springfield 1st | 1,068.41 |
| Springfield FWB | 186.00 |
| Stockton | 154.12 |
| Thayer | 946.00 |
| Trinity | 982.47 |
| Union Grove - Caudle | 315.00 |
| Union Light | 104.20 |
| United | 1,054.32 |
| Unity | 300.00 |
| Verdella | 469.93 |
| Victory | 1,162.63 |
| Victory - Alton | 406.23 |
| Waynesville | 291.40 |
| West Plains 1st | 638.00 |
| Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove | 231.36 |
| Wolf Creek | 306.95 |
| TOTAL | \$35,116.58 |

SHOW-ME PLAN

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Aulsbury Chapel | \$150.00 |
| Barker, Rev. J. | 15.00 |
| Belton | 105.00 |
| Belton Ladies Aux. | 15.00 |
| Berean | 30.00 |
| Berry, R. | 15.00 |
| Bethel - El Dorado | 132.62 |
| Bethel - Festus | 22.50 |
| Betty Bishop | 15.00 |
| Big Creek | 55.00 |
| Bourbon | 15.00 |
| Braisher, M. | 135.00 |
| Buxton, G. | 30.00 |
| Cabool | 135.00 |
| Calvary Chapel - Buffalo | 105.00 |
| Cartee, J. | 15.00 |
| Central | 350.00 |
| Chism, B. | 5.00 |
| Chrisman, M. | 30.00 |
| Columbia | 70.00 |
| Copper Mines | 30.00 |
| Copper Mines Young Adult Class | 15.00 |
| Copper Mines HTN/Tn/Jr Classes | 15.00 |
| Cross Roads - Lebanon | 30.00 |
| Darnell, W. | 15.00 |
| DeSoto 1st | 400.00 |
| DeSoto 1st - Auditorium Class | 15.00 |
| DeSoto Young Adult S.S. Class | 45.00 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Eastern Gate | 50.00 |
| Faith & Hope - Willow Springs | 60.00 |
| Farmington 1st | 855.00 |
| Fellowship | 848.24 |
| Fordland | 140.00 |
| Fourth | 195.00 |
| Fredericktown 1st | 150.00 |
| Freeman Chapel | 540.00 |
| Garrett, R. | 15.00 |
| Gospel Light | 675.00 |
| Grace | 293.00 |
| Graham, S. | 15.00 |
| Grant Avenue | 340.00 |
| Greater Springfield Mission Conf. | 802.33 |
| Hannibal - WNAC | 15.00 |
| Hannon | 980.91 |
| Harmony - Parkville | 72.00 |
| Harris, F. | 45.00 |
| Houston 1st | 262.00 |
| Hurryville | 300.00 |
| Hurryville Sr. Adult S.S. Class | 19.11 |
| Jackson | 30.00 |
| Joplin 1st | 75.00 |
| Leadington | 210.00 |
| Lebanon 1st | 75.00 |
| Lebanon FWB | 30.00 |
| Liberty - Gatewood | 15.00 |
| Macedonia Aux. | 1,000.00 |
| Merl's Chapel | 150.00 |
| Mill Creek | 90.00 |
| Mill Creek Young Adult S.S. Class | 15.00 |
| Mine La Motte | 45.00 |
| Missouri State Woman's Aux. | 438.34 |
| Monett 1st | 220.00 |
| Mt. Pisgah | 75.00 |
| Mt. Zion - Thayer | 30.00 |
| Mt. Zion - Cuba | 30.00 |
| Neosho 1st | 180.00 |
| New Harmony | 895.95 |
| New Home - Hartville | 150.00 |
| New Hope - Fredericktown | 75.00 |
| New Life - Licking | 107.16 |
| New Life - Licking | 80.50 |
| New Testament | 15.00 |
| Noel, D. | 15.00 |
| Oak Grove - Houston | 15.00 |
| Oak Grove - Mtn. Grove | 138.32 |
| O'Fallon 1st | 155.00 |
| Ozark 1st | 40.00 |
| Park Hills 1st | 191.82 |
| Parson, O. | 15.00 |
| Pinkerton, J. | 45.00 |
| Pleasant Grove - Anderson | 45.00 |
| Pleasant Hill | 30.00 |
| Pleasant Ridge - Urbana | 50.00 |
| Richwoods | 67.50 |
| Rock Chapel | 230.00 |
| Rogers, F. | 15.00 |
| Royal Oak | 120.00 |
| Ruble, N. | 45.00 |
| South Fremont | 250.00 |
| Springfield 1st | 575.00 |
| Thayer | 270.00 |
| Trinity | 590.00 |
| Union Light | 120.00 |
| United - West Plains | 3,690.63 |
| Unity | 75.00 |
| Verdella | 1,084.93 |
| Viburnum | 115.00 |
| Victory - K.C. | 840.00 |
| Walker, H. Jr. | 15.00 |
| West Plains 1st | 10.00 |
| White, R. | 15.00 |
| Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove | 95.00 |
| Willow Springs 1st | 150.00 |
| TOTAL | \$21,827.86 |

FOREIGN MISSIONS - DESIGNATED

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Cape Girardeau | \$138.17 |
| Central | 20.00 |
| Chapman, A. | 20.00 |
| Farmington 1st | 25.00 |
| Fordland | 10.00 |
| Grant Avenue | 56.00 |
| Hamony - Loveland, CO | 170.00 |
| Hurryville | 100.00 |
| Joplin 1st | 125.00 |
| Kirksville 1st | 27.20 |
| Merls Chapel | 50.00 |
| Minor, K. | 10.00 |
| New Harmony | 500.00 |
| New Testament | 60.00 |
| Ozark 1st | 20.00 |

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Rodgers, Mertie | 10.00 |
| Thayer | 70.00 |
| Trinity | 240.36 |
| Union Light | 10.00 |
| Viburnum | 10.00 |
| Victory - K.C. | 75.00 |
| Waynesville 1st | 50.00 |
| TOTAL | \$1,796.73 |

STATE HOME MISSIONS

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Belton | \$19.57 |
| Central | 30.00 |
| DeSoto 1st | 50.00 |
| DeSoto Children's Church | 20.00 |
| Faith - Chandler, IN | 25.00 |
| Farmington | 135.00 |
| Fordland | 5.00 |
| Gospel Light | 40.00 |
| Grace | 40.00 |
| Grant Avenue | 10.00 |
| Greater Springfield | 802.34 |
| Hannibal WNAC | 48.00 |
| Harmony | 7.00 |
| L. Wormington | 30.00 |
| Lebanon Bible & Book Store | 315.00 |
| Macedonia Aux. | 50.00 |
| New Home - Hart | 10.00 |
| O'Fallon 1st | 89.50 |
| Ozark 1st | 10.00 |
| Park Hills 1st | 10.00 |
| Pleasant Ridge - Urbana | 20.00 |
| R. White | 20.00 |
| Thayer | 45.00 |
| Trinity | 10.00 |
| United | 25.00 |
| TOTAL | \$1,866.41 |

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Belton | \$19.57 |
| Bethel - Festus | 22.50 |
| Cape Girardeau | 207.25 |
| Central | 10.00 |
| Chapman, A. | 20.00 |
| Crossland, M. | 5.00 |
| DeSoto 1st | 584.00 |
| DeSoto 1st - Auditorium Class | 10.00 |
| Farmington 1st | 5.00 |
| Fordland | 15.00 |
| Grace | 111.00 |
| Grant Avenue | 114.66 |
| Greater Springfield Mission Conf. | 802.33 |
| Hannon | 438.54 |
| Harmony Fellowship | 199.00 |
| Hoggard, J. | 10.00 |
| Houston 1st | 70.00 |
| Hurryville | 500.00 |
| Joplin 1st | 20.00 |
| King, B. | 20.00 |
| Lebanon FWB | 5.00 |
| Macedonia Aux. | 100.00 |
| Monett 1st | 72.00 |
| Mt. Pisgah | 25.00 |
| New Harmony | 895.95 |
| New Home - Hartville | 10.00 |
| New Testament | 150.00 |
| O'Fallon | 89.50 |
| Ozark 1st | 30.00 |
| Park Hills 1st | 153.94 |
| Richwoods 1st | 46.00 |
| Rock Chapel | 106.32 |
| Rogers, B. | 25.00 |
| South Fremont | 30.00 |
| Thayer | 190.00 |
| Thebeau, B. | 5.00 |
| Trinity | 40.00 |
| Union Light | 136.00 |
| United | 150.00 |
| United Youth Group | 170.00 |
| Unity | 50.00 |
| Verdella | 20.00 |
| Viburnum | 51.00 |
| Victory | 60.00 |
| Waynesville 1st | 50.00 |
| West Plains 1st | 465.21 |
| White, R. | 10.00 |
| Wolf Creek | 75.00 |
| TOTAL | \$6,344.77 |

MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

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| West Plains 1st | \$25.00 |
| New Home - Hartville | 10.00 |
| Thayer | 45.00 |
| Lebanon Bible & Book | 195.00 |
| Trinity | 14.00 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Mt. Pisgah | 10.00 |
| Hannon | 15.00 |
| Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove | 10.00 |
| DeSoto 1st | 50.00 |
| Park Hills 1st | 45.34 |
| Ozark 1st | 10.00 |
| Niangua | 20.00 |
| Cabool 1st | 10.00 |
| TOTAL | \$459.34 |

FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

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|----------------|-----------------|
| Verdella | \$99.39 |
| N. Ruble | 15.00 |
| Thayer | 45.00 |
| DeSoto 1st | 35.00 |
| Farmington 1st | 152.61 |
| TOTAL | \$347.00 |

HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Thayer | \$50.00 |
| Neosho 1st | 60.00 |
| Victory | 118.13 |
| Grant Avenue | 8.00 |
| Hannon | 50.00 |
| Joplin 1st | 75.00 |
| Ozark 1st | 5.00 |
| Farmington 1st | 94.80 |
| TOTAL | \$460.93 |

CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

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| Farmington 1st | \$52.62 |
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STEVE SMITH

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| DeSoto 1st | \$50.00 |
| Farmington 1st | 12.00 |
| TOTAL | \$62.00 |

MELANIE WALKER

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| Verdella | \$20.00 |
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| Belton | 50.00 |
| New Hope - Fredericktown | 30.00 |
| Hannon | 100.00 |
| DeSoto 1st | 50.00 |
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REV. JOHN MCCLURE

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| Monett 1st | \$35.00 |
| Thayer | 10.00 |
| Central | 25.00 |
| Trinity | 20.00 |
| Carthage - Woman's Aux. | 80.00 |
| Central Western - Woman's Aux. | 15.00 |
| Grace | 15.00 |
| Missouri State WNAC | 50.00 |
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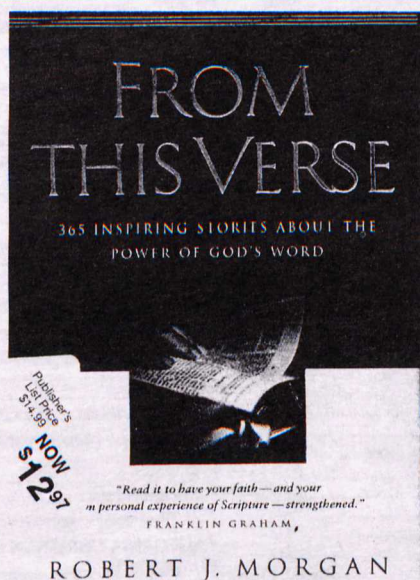
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PASSING THE BATON *(continued from page 10)*

doesn't depend entirely upon you or upon me. We are all to play our part, but it is only a part and not the whole.

However, each one of us has something unique to contribute. Elisha, the God-appointed successor of Elijah, did not have the same task or ministry as Elijah. God does something new in each generation. That is why it is not healthy for us to live in the past. We may study history and learn from it, but never live in it. There is no better time for me to be alive than now, and no better place for me to be living than right here, for being alive in this time and this place is God's will for me.

What's In A Name?

We see that demonstrated clearly here with Elijah and Elisha. Elijah's name means "God is Yahweh." He was called to affirm that fact within a climate of relativism ("there is no such thing as absolute truth"), pluralism ("all religious insights are equally valid"), and syncretism ("all roads lead to God, so why not amalgamate their complementary perspectives?"). A time, in other words, not dissimilar to our own. Elijah lived to declare Yahweh is God and that only Yahweh is God—not Ahab and his consort Jezebel, not the Canaanite deity Baal and his consort Asherah—only Yahweh is God and both tribal kings and tribal deities are accountable to

him. This is why Elijah's ministry was marked by confrontation and judgement. There were power encounters of devastating effectiveness including blistering drought and rock-splitting storms—all in order to establish the identity of the Being who really ruled the heavens. Was it Baal or was it Yahweh? Elijah lived up to his name. He established the fact that Yahweh is God. A similar calling rests upon God's prophetic people today. We too live in a time of rampant relativism, pluralism, syncretism, lies, and deception. Is nature our god, or is God the God of nature? Is ecological ruin the worst reckoning mankind can face, or is eschatological ruin a far more certain and fearful prospect? God's people are called to an Elijah ministry of prevailing prayer and powerful preaching to unmask mankind's deceptions today.

Yet we are called to demonstrate not only the fact that God is, but also the fact that God saves. The name Elisha means "God saves." The church's task is not only to show the world who God is (Elijah), but also that God saves (Elisha). This is the baton we must run with in this generation. We need not only the role of Elijah, but also that of Elisha. This being the case, it is time God's Elisha heard God's call. Are you listening?

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