

GEM

THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST

Volume 69, No. 2, February 1999

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*"Come ye yourselves apart into a
desert place, and rest a while"*

Mark 6:31

Information Concerning Missouri State Retirement Program

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

A Retirement Pension Enrollment Form supplied by the State Office shows the three plans for participation in the program.

Plan 1 is defined as Full Employer participation with the church contributing at least 5% of the base salary. A \$25,000 term life insurance policy is mandatory with this plan. The premiums are deducted from the employer contributions.

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

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

Tax Deferred Contribution Information: Only 25% of base salary is allowed for total tax deferred contributions. The 25% includes both Salary Reduction Agreement (SRA) (this SRA form may be obtained from the State Office or the Board of Retirement & Insurance) and employer (church) contributions. Base salary is taxable income which excludes benefits such as housing allowance. Ministers may include compensation for honorariums, revival offerings, etc. Older ministers may, under certain circumstances, exceed the 20% by completing a form.

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

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

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

Twice each year, shortly following January 1 and July 1, the Board of Retirement & Insurance, who holds the money in trust,

disburses the amount stated by the Missouri State Association to the account of the participant. Presently the amount is \$350.00. Before this transfer is made the treasurer of the local church is asked to sign a form, sent from the State Office, stating that the church has supported the Missouri State Cooperative Program with the full 10% of its regular tithes and offerings.

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

News of Interest

VERGEL MANESS HAS MOVED

I recently talked with Brother Vergel Maness by phone. He told me that he had closed the work in Philadelphia and was moving to Richmond, Virginia. He has accepted the position as pastor of the Glen Allen Free Will Baptist Church in Richmond. He asked me to thank Missouri Free Will Baptists for the support they gave him through the years.

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS

Two Missouri State Home Mission churches will go self supporting this year. The Wentzville Church will organize in March, and the Ozark Church will organize in April. The Missionary Pastors and the Missouri State Home Mission Board are to be commended for a job well done.



Youth Camp Tabernacle & Development Fund

The Youth Camp Board has established a Tabernacle and Development Fund as they prepare to launch a fund raising campaign to raise finances for the renovation of the camp. The first major project will be the replacement of the Tabernacle. This project must be completed as quickly as possible. It is estimated that the first phase of the renovation will cost well over \$200,000. Missouri Free Will Baptists are asked to help in this important project. *You may send your contributions to the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, P. O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65536. Please designate the contribution to the Camp Development Fund.*

There is no way to measure the full impact that the ministry of the Missouri Free Will Baptist Youth Camp has had through the years. However, we do know that many servants of God trace their conversion and their call to service back to a camp session they attended. This ministry needs to continue and it needs to increase its outreach. This can only be done as the camp continues to upgrade in order to meet the needs of our churches.

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.



Nathan Ruble

From The Desk of The Executive Secretary

Shakespeare said, "Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt." I am glad Brother Trymon Messer didn't allow the fear of failure to keep him from planning the North American Strategy Forum which he called Half-Time. To be honest, when he began to talk about the meeting, I was hopeful but somewhat dubious about what could be accomplished. However, I found that this historic meeting went beyond my expectations. It supplied an opportunity for fellowship, an occasion for frankness and an optimism for the future that other meetings had not supplied.

Many voiced the need for more meetings like this, meetings which allow us to get to know one another. We all know that fellowship helps destroy suspicion and fear. It is these emotions which separate us. Only through fellowship can a real partnership in ministry be realized. We experienced some of that during "Half-Time."

The Thursday morning session was a time for frankness as 109 forum participants sought to pinpoint the problems that have held us back as a denomination. While there was a frank expression of opinions, there was not a critical spirit of condemning others. Time was spent in searching for answers rather than searching for someone to blame.

Robert Browning said, "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp." During the last thirty years, Free Will Baptists have grown numerically, financially, and intellectually. However, I believe that as we learn to work together as a unified body, our reach will exceed that which we have already grasped. The meeting renewed my optimism for our future as a denomination. A new spirit of unity seems to prevail.

I encourage each Missouri Church and Pastor to renew our commitment to Prayer, Passion, Preaching, Positiveness, Peace, Purity, and Purpose. Read the article entitled North American Strategy Forum for a fuller explanation.

North American Strategy Forum

The North American Strategy Forum, held recently in Nashville, will be remembered as a momentous occasion, possibly even a turning point, in the effort of Free Will Baptists to reach our world for Jesus Christ

Not even ice and snow could deter the hearts hungry for God to do something among us. On January 6-8, 1999, denominational leaders, both men and women, met for three days of analyzing the past and planning for the future of the denominational work. This meeting, dubbed "Halftime," brought together leaders from 27 states—from California to Delaware, from Florida to Alaska—and two foreign countries

in an effort to set a positive direction for the next century. We sought to evaluate what we've accomplished in the "first half," and what we must do in the "second half" to carry out the Great Commission.

The heads of all our national departments, state and national board members, college presidents, businessmen, state moderators and other state leaders shared ideas for making our ministries more effective. There was an honest confession of past failures, mingled with a sincere desire to move forward in our labor for the Lord. There was a wonderful spirit of cooperation and brotherly love, with a firm commitment to work, pray and labor together for God's kingdom.

Bro. Trymon Messer, Home Missions Director, hosted the session, and Dr. Melvin Worthington, our Executive Secretary, challenged us to seize the opportunities before us and shoulder our obligations in obedience to the Lord. The National Association Moderator Carl Cheshire encouraged us in the joy of working together. Foreign Missions Director James Forlines reminded us that the field is the world, and our work is to be both at home and abroad.

Many who attended expressed optimism that this meeting, long overdue, might well be the impetus for a new evangelistic fervor among Free Will Baptists worldwide. Some comments expressed were:

"This is one of the best things we've ever done."

"I felt more harmony among us than I have felt in a long time."

"It's great to see us being pro-active, rather than reactive."

The worship service Thursday night concluded with an altar of prayer and a pledge to labor together more closely and fervently for the work of our Lord. The overall emphasis was a renewal of our commitment to PRAYER, PASSION, PREACHING, POSITIVENESS, PEACE, PURITY, and PURPOSE.

1. Prayer. We took as our goal this year to promote and plan everywhere we go and to stress especially in our new magazine, AIM, that we need to get back to prayer. Prayer is our number one factor in getting us moving forward. Certainly our number one priority this year will be prayer. Pray that God will give us a fresh touch of Heaven. Pray for our churches, pastors, leaders, one another and for God's blessing and leading.

2. Passion. People are dying and going to an awful place. How we need passion so that we would have a burden to reach people again. We need passion for our people, pastors and for the work of God. We need passion in our preaching. I don't believe anything will be accomplished until we get some passion in our heart and in our souls.

3. Preaching. The third priority is preaching. God has always used prophets and preachers to get His work moving forward. Our preachers need to get a fire in their souls about preaching the Word of God and in feeding the people of God, challenging their hearts and moving them back to the basics of prayer and passion. Our preachers need to begin to preach from their hearts and with power and fire.

4. Positiveness. We need to get positive about God's work. There seems to be much discouragement, negativism, defeat and depression. I believe the brightest days for Free Will Baptists are just ahead. Jesus is coming one day and relieving us of all the burdens of life. So, we need to be positive. Our attitude about the work of God is everything. We need to be

(continued on page 4)

positive in our preaching, praying and in dealing with one another.

5. Peace. We need to promote peace among ourselves, our members, preachers and among the work of God.

6. Purity. If God is going to help us and bless us, we must have some purity in our hearts, soul and in our lives. We are praying for purity of heart and soul so that God can hear our prayers.

7. Purpose. Last but not least is that we need to get back to the purpose of the church. We need to ask ourselves, "What are we trying to do?" "What is the purpose of our meeting?" Our people are becoming bored. They come to church week after week and they feel as if they are accomplishing very little for the Lord. Without a purpose there is no emotion to our motion. We need to ask ourselves, "Is our meeting together making a difference?" I believe our mission statement written in the preface of our Treatise states our purpose very well. "The Free Will Baptist denomination is a fellowship of evangelical believers united and extending the witness of Christ and the building of His church throughout the world." If we would revolve our church around that statement, we could get things going forward.

Monett 1st Ordains Deacon



Rev. & Mrs. Gary Parker and Deacon & Mrs. Jim Turner

Brother Jim Turner is the newest deacon at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Monett. Pastor Gary Parker preached the ordination service and gave the charge to Brother Jim Sunday evening, January 10th. He detailed the history, the responsibilities, and the privileges that make up the office of a deacon. Deacon Mike Haynes also challenged the new deacon and the congregation concerning the duties of a deacon. The prayer of ordination was led by Rev. Nathan Ruble as the ordained gathered at the altar and laid hands on Brother Turner.

NEWS FROM JOPLIN CORNERSTONE CHURCH

By Pastor Brian Brinkhoff

Greetings! Now that we have one full year under our belt, we wanted to share some of our accomplishments from this past year with you.

We jumped right into our first year by sponsoring a Thanksgiving dinner for the community. We had 33 people attend. This year, we continued the tradition and had a whopping 87! Praise the Lord for the growth and prospective contacts!

We also began our food pantry last March. We started out with 32 people attending every-other-week and now have around 35 people coming weekly for services and food. We have had 14 people visit our Sunday morning service due to this ministry, and have easily reached over 100 different families this year so far. I know God has changed lives in ways we may never even realize through this program.

Now that we have a foot into the community, we are starting to work on the church congregation as a whole. One way of doing this is through having a monthly pot-luck where those who attend on Sundays can get to know each other during a fellowship time. We also started a youth night on Sunday nights that averaged 10 children. We have five families attend regularly on Sunday mornings. (Unfortunately, rarely does everyone attend all at once!)

We have been blessed by special services with Doyle and Donna Terry, John and Paula McClure, and a quartet with Jim and Grace Williams and Chuck and Ruth Ann Reynolds. We had a guest speaker come and preach to our youth, and had a special Christmas program presented to us by the Carthage church as well. We were really blessed by these services and appreciated the fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We have also seen a lot of projects and church improvements done during this past year. We have laid some carpet, painted some walls, moved a wall, and purchased tables and chairs—all of this through the help of sister churches and kind donations to our work.

Although we've had a very successful year, this is just the beginning. We are already looking to Sunday evenings to hold a Women's Bible Study group. We believe that through this women's ministry we should be able to build our youth group up as well. We also plan on doing a VBS program this year, and want to develop a music ministry—or just have someone to play the piano! Of course souls saved, church growth, and Christian maturity heads up our list of goals.

We can feel ourselves on the verge of growth. Satan's fighting, but as Paul stated in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." And we can!

Pray for us.

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

March 7-11

March 25-27

Bible Conference

Welcome Days

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.

News From the Pinkertons

It had been announced that this would be a special day of giving thanks for 1998 and regiving ourselves to the Lord for His service in 1999, and it was! Several specials: songs, memorization of Scripture passages and testimonies.

Instead of passing the offering basket, it was placed on the drum at the front of the church and those wishing to give walked up, placing their gift in the basket.

Good preaching with two "praying" to receive the Lord. One comes from Moslem background, other comes from no church background. Praying is probably the easiest step ... returning to family, habits and following the Lord daily are hard. Please pray for these two young (20's) people.

Communion was served, followed by a feet washing service. If I counted right, 9 women and 16 men assisted.

Then we visited the home (room) of one of the women in the church ... She is not legally married ... Her non-official hubby died suddenly leaving her with one small child and many problems.

We were told this week that the signature we've been waiting on since September for the church land should be ready by next month. It's a hurry up to wait world ...

Jerry's young 87-year-old Mom, Bessie, fell a few weeks back ... first x-rays showed nothing broken ... pain continued so more x-rays were taken: fractured pelvis! Appreciate your prayers for her.

Please continue to pray for the Bryan Family in the USA and for the Neighborhood Outreach Groups. Thanks.

Carol for the Abidjan Believers, Bryans and Pinkertons

Sunday School Averages July 1998 - December 1998

CHURCHES	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Belton	30	31		34	39	
Calvary Chapel	126	138	141	144		135
Cape Girardeau			50		60	51
Copper Mines	42	56	53	53		
Cuba	86	110	105	107		116
Columbia	20		23			20
DeSoto	165	161	159	154	160	161
Farmington	289	336	353	330		
Hannon	99	103	100	102	103	116
Harmony		56		58		57
Hartville	109	106	101	113		116
Hazel Creek		62	70	71		68
Hopewell	28	32	28	32	32	28
Houston	47	50	46	53	45	46
Kirkville 1st	25	26	27	27	29	27
Lebanon 1st	102					
Lebanon FWB	38	44	48		54	
Mill Creek	73	80	76	69	60	61
Monett	50	49	58	46	45	57
Mt. Pisgah	73					
Myrtle	40		47			42
O'Fallon 1st		86		84		75
Oskaloosa		14				
Ozark	106		104		103	
Park Hills	107	116		116		
Richwoods	26	22	23	22		
Rock Chapel				49		
Rolla 1st		23		27	22	26
Southside	27	32	43	40	40	37
Springfield 1st	116	111		117		
Thayer	172	186	168	164	143	161
Trinity		76	85	88	81	
United, West Plains	262	295	287	294	293	
Willow Springs	61	60	62	64	58	

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.

**Everyone is Invited to Attend the
Organizational Service
of the
First Free Will Baptist Church
of Ozark
April 11, 1999
3:00 p.m.**

Missouri Students on the Dean's List at FWBBC

The following students are to be commended for their achievements:

Seniors

Anna Panduku	Fordland, MO
Laura Sides	Millersville, MO

Juniors

David Dodson	Park Hills, MO
Karen Hook	Blue Springs, MO
Amy Lotz	Bonne Terre, MO

Freshmen

Christy Zimmerman	Liberal, MO
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LESSONS FROM NATURE

BY
GARRY MATTHEWS

Like most deer hunters, the antlers of whitetail bucks fascinate me. This unique headgear is similar in composition from buck to buck, but also uniquely individual. The size and configurations of antlers intrigue deer hunters and antler collectors. The concept of "bigger is better" increases the value of the antlers, or uniqueness may add some intrinsic value. Antlers also tell us a lot about the buck, his physical condition, his maturity, his genetics, and his nutrition. Deer of the same age can have various sized racks. For example: a buck 1 1/2 years old may range from a spike (2 points) to a 10 pointer. The difference being nutrition, health, and genetics. If the buck maintains good nutrition, good health, and stays injury free, each year the rack will get taller, thicker beamed, and more points until he reaches his unique genetic potential. If he lives long enough, tooth wear, and general health and nutrition will deteriorate and this will be evident in his diminished antlers. The one thing all bucks have in common is that each year they "cast" (lose) their antlers and grow a new set. In late winter and early spring all bucks are "bald," and yet by spring turkey season, I have seen large bucks with "velvet" antlers out past their ears.

Today scientists are studying the growth pattern of deer antlers, because it is the fastest growing tissue known to man. It seems "impossible" to believe that elk and moose can lose their racks each year, and in 3-4 months regrow those tremendous racks. What a renewal process!

Christians also go through a renewal process called sanctification. Like the bucks it is an ongoing process, until we reach our "genetic potential." Unlike the deer, our potential is not reached during our lifetime. Only through our death do we achieve our "genetic potential" as sons and daughters of God—as brothers and sisters of Christ our Lord.

This renewal process is similar in ways to antler development in deer. First, at birth the process of antler development begins in the young buck with the development of pedicels (round formations on the forehead from which antlers grow). Likewise, at salvation (spiritual birth) the process of sanctifica-

tion begins with the Holy Spirit entering the believer's heart. By fall the young buck possesses "buttons" with maybe just the tip of antler showing. A young Christian also begins the lifetime journey of "growing in grace." Each year by February or March the bucks have "cast" (shed) their antlers. For a few weeks their heads are as bald as any doe's head. New antler growth cannot take place until the old antlers are shed. The apostle Paul says in Romans 12:2: **"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."** The Christian process of sanctification occurs through the renewing of the mind.

This mind renewal follows the same model the creator used in nature with deer antlers. Mainly this — renewing the mind involves two aspects of change. First, it involves the removal (shedding) of the old, worldly, sinful pattern of thought (antlers). Secondly, that pattern of thought is replaced with new, Godly patterns of thought (new antlers). This principle of removing and replacing is key to renewing our minds and "growing in grace." The Psalmist repeatedly emphasizes the importance of meditating on God's word. Psalm 119 speaks of the key role that **"thy word"** plays in the life of God's people. Just as the buck needs good nutrition to develop properly, so the Christian needs the good nutrition of God's Word! The buck will travel a great distance to obtain the nutrition he needs — too often Christians act like they are on a permanent diet, neglecting God's Word for days or weeks! The more we know, the more we study God's Word and meditate upon it, the more it becomes an integral part of our lives. Becoming a part of it, affecting our actions and reactions—**this is mind renewal!** This process of "shedding" the old man and "putting on the new man" is a lifelong process. Just as the maturity and health of the buck is reflected in his antlers, so is the spiritual maturity and health of the believer mirrored in his life. (Isn't it neat how God gives us "models" in the "natural world" showing us how he works in our lives? Truly, the evolutionist, blinded by his narrow-mindedness, misses the tremendous blessings God has created in the "natural world" to illustrate his workings!) A little of Garry's philosophy of life—ENOUGH!

A buck often accelerates the process of shedding his antlers by using a hind foot or a bush to break-off the wobbly antler. He invites this change into his life. Without this annual process he cannot grow larger headgear. As Christians we also need to welcome change in our lives, not spend our whole lives fighting change! We cannot become satisfied with our lives, but as the apostle Paul says in Philippians 3:14: **"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."**

Throughout his life, the whitetail buck is acutely aware of his antlers. They reflect his maturity, his health, and his rank within the herd. At the various stages of development of his antlers during the year—he protects them as they grow—he accelerates the removal of velvet by thrashing bushes—he polishes them by rubbing on trees—he uses them to spar and even fight to protect his ranking—and finally he sheds them to make way for a better set next year! How much better off would we as individuals, as families, as churches, be if we were as acutely aware and concerned about our renewal process (sanctification) as the buck with his renewal process? **How about it—are we satisfied with being a button buck, or do we want to become that tremendous trophy buck that reaches his genetic potential?**

Memorandum to a Chambermaid

Martha Morgan Kern

TO: Chambermaid, Marriott Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri
FROM: Martha Morgan Kern, Former Occupant of
Room 1576
RE: A Mysterious Stack of Paper

While I certainly don't delude myself with the notion that you have been pacing the rooms of your life, trying to figure out why someone left an unexpected and out-of-place stack of paper in Room 1576 last summer, I felt it was important to write you. The story behind that paper means something to me; it marked a watershed moment in my experience, my full understanding, of ethics and honesty and upright behavior. If you don't mind, it will grant me a soothing sort of closure to tell you about it today.

We were in St. Louis on business, or at least my husband was. It was a routine, two-day trip for him, during which he would meet with customers and do whatever it is he does in his traveling mode. What was unusual about this particular trip was the presence of the rest of our family. My two sons and I don't customarily accompany my husband on his numerous professional junkets, but it was summer, the Cardinals were in town and playing right across the street from your hotel, and the grind of the school year loomed just ahead. So we packed our bags and went, taking up noisy and disheveled residence in two adjoining rooms, numbers 1576 and 1578, I believe, of the downtown Marriott.

In the grand scheme of things, it was a pleasant and fairly unremarkable stay. We had dinner and a paddle-boat ride at Union Station. We took in a Cardinals game (they lost to the Dodgers) on a clear, balmy night. The hotel swimming pool became one of our regular haunts, and it was en route to that very pool one day that the paper caper unfolded like an embarrassing and slightly surreal tabloid news item.

My husband was at a business appointment so it was just the boys and me, flip-flopping through the hotel corridors in our rubber-thonged pool shoes, carrying towels and books and maybe a set of goggles or two. The pool was in a different tower than our rooms were, so it was quite a trek. Our route led us past a labyrinth of paneled conference suites, all dark, empty, and weighted with the aura of impending decisions and slide-projector boredom. But one of them was lit, just recently abandoned by its suit-and-tie tenants, and on its long mahogany table lay neat rows of padded paper, emblazoned with the hotel logo, all left behind like yesterday's thoughts by those who had used or ignored them.

Now let me explain to you, Chambermaid, that as a writer and an inveterate maker of lists, I have an unnatural attraction to paper and pens; there is something especially tantalizing for me in the promising nib of an untried pen, in the reassuring heft of a tablet-full of paper. You could call it a fetish, but I prefer not to. Let's just say it's a fascination, a mild eccentricity, and leave it at that.

So there we were, alone in the inviting presence of at least twenty pads of paper, most missing just a few pages, and I was stopped in my tracks by the sheer wastefulness of that scene. What would become of all that paper? The hotel, to my thinking, would never present future business guests with recycled pads of paper, all vaguely scented with pastrami from someone else's lunch meeting, all lightly engraved with the

impressions of a stranger's bold pen strokes. How second-rate that would seem! And in that short moment of odd reasoning, I made the choice to take those near-virgin pads for my own dull but essential purposes, possibly sparing them a trip to the hotel dumpster.

This theft was really a rescue mission, I told myself. I stationed my children as lookouts at the door; they were acutely uncomfortable with the whole scheme, in spite of my encouraging explanations, and they pleaded with me to hurry up or just forget this goofy idea. I should have listened. I should have thought about the terrible bind I put them in. But I didn't listen or think; instead I glided through the room, scooping up pad after pad like a vacuum sucking up dirt.

As is my custom when I've done something morally questionable, I tried to secure another person's approval; an ally always makes me feel better, as if their tacit endorsement will wipe the crime's oily coating from my soul. This time, it was my husband. I proudly showed him my paper haul, but to little avail. He was neither impressed nor visibly glad. He just shrugged and left me hanging there, unsure, guilty, alone in my contemplation of both the prize I had gained and the self-respect I had lost.

Later that night, I was laying on the bed, reading. The television was tuned to the Republican National Convention, and a gifted young speaker named J.C. Watts, Jr., was at the podium. I am not a fan of political conventions, Chambermaid, and I was tolerating its raucous noises only because my husband was engrossed in it. Looking back, though, I think it was no coincidence that I found myself in the television company of Mr. Watts that evening. I believe, in fact, that it was something of a miracle—God used the words of that speaker to reach out and straighten my uneven moral path.

As Mr. Watts was eloquently discussing ethics, a central topic in that election year, he said something like this: Ethical behavior is doing the right thing even when no one else is looking.

It is a simple idea, but an extremely meaningful one. It urges us to hold the same high moral standard at all times, even when illicit opportunities open up before us like tropical, fragrant blossoms. It speaks to the ethical compass embedded in each of us, the one that knows right from wrong and is unpersuaded by our elaborate rationales and polished excuses. I knew I had done the wrong thing in filching that paper; I could write poetry on each and every sheet, I could wrap gifts in its crisply textured folds, but I would never completely erase the ugly, gray smudges of my own ethical lapse.

So that is the reason you found that stack of paper in Room 1576 last summer. I couldn't remember which conference room it belonged in so I left it on our dresser in hopes that you would restore it to its rightful place. I'm sorry for that inconvenience, and I'm sorry I forgot, however temporarily, that doing the right thing is always more satisfying than choosing a darker alternative. Our secret sins are never really secret at all because we cannot hide them from ourselves. I have come to understand, Chambermaid, that even when it seems no one else is looking, someone always is.

Excerpt from Letters From the Middle Years: Reflections on Life and Faith for the Middle Generation by Martha Morgan Kern, Lion Publishing. Martha Morgan Kern is the author of several published essays and had her work featured in prose anthologies. Used by permission.

1998 CO-OP RECEIPTS

	1997	1998	amount of increase or decrease ()		1997	1998	amount of increase or decrease ()
Alton	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$.00	Marshfield	\$1,621.80	\$.00	(\$1,621.80)
Amity	.00	\$676.14	\$676.14	Merls Chapel	\$2,324.00	\$1,685.50	(\$638.50)
Aulsbury Chapel	\$1,248.64	\$3,241.65	\$1,996.01	Mill Creek	\$3,720.49	\$4,965.39	\$1,244.90
Bailey - Alton	\$2,507.51	\$2,247.00	(\$260.51)	Mine La Motte	\$565.20	\$742.70	\$177.50
Bailey Chapel	\$1,915.00	\$2,330.00	\$415.00	Monett 1st	\$6,385.58	\$7,012.55	\$626.97
Beacon	\$300.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,200.00	Mtn. Grove 1st	\$20,020.29	\$19,069.29	(\$951.00)
Belton	\$3,505.68	\$3,584.52	\$78.84	Mt. Pisgah	\$3,287.00	\$3,379.50	(\$92.50)
Berean	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$.00	Mt. Zion - Gower	\$762.79	\$622.60	(\$140.19)
Bethel - El Dorado Spr.	\$809.51	\$858.19	\$48.68	Myrtle	\$2,441.58	\$3,080.23	\$638.65
Bethel - Northview	\$1,563.71	\$1,560.59	(\$3.12)	Neosho 1st	\$1,140.00	\$1,140.00	\$.00
Black Oak	\$2,758.03	\$2,920.47	\$162.44	New Harmony	\$239.08	\$217.40	(\$20.40)
Blue Springs	\$458.30	\$.00	(\$458.30)	New Home - Falcon	\$816.27	\$836.40	\$20.13
Bourbon	\$917.38	\$1,158.00	\$240.62	New Hope - Fred.	\$600.00	\$640.00	\$40.00
Buffalo 1 st	\$.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	New Life - Licking	\$4,367.00	\$3,867.32	(\$499.68)
Byrd	\$698.80	\$810.00	\$111.20	New Rock Spr.	\$1,926.00	\$2,263.00	\$337.00
Cabool	\$3,385.44	\$3,555.95	\$170.51	Niangua	\$994.00	\$1,340.00	\$346.00
Calvary Chapel	\$6,810.48	\$9,309.29	\$2,498.81	North Five	\$1,221.44	\$1,384.35	\$162.91
Calvary Fellowship	\$2,371.17	\$2,956.83	\$585.66	Number One	\$1,058.74	\$1,217.83	\$159.09
Cape Girardeau	\$1,640.00	\$4,706.92	\$3,066.92	Oak Grove - Mtn. Grove	\$.00	\$263.16	\$263.16
Carthage	\$3,260.30	\$2,610.79	(\$649.51)	Oak Hill - Fred.	\$707.93	\$.00	(\$707.93)
Central - Grandview	\$11,443.35	\$11,390.45	(\$52.90)	Oak Hill - Union	\$6,818.82	\$6,512.72	(\$306.10)
Chapel of the Ozarks	\$633.96	\$732.94	\$98.98	O'Fallon 1st	\$9,573.33	\$10,458.28	\$884.95
Christ Chapel - St. Clair	\$.00	\$943.64	\$943.64	Old Bethel	\$223.47	\$.00	(\$223.47)
Clifton S.S. - Thayer	\$589.93	\$911.73	\$321.80	Olivet	\$1,000.00	\$.00	(\$1,000.00)
Columbia	\$.00	\$826.41	\$826.41	Oskaloosa	\$1,094.11	\$565.67	(\$528.44)
Copper Mines	\$3,992.11	\$4,516.26	\$524.15	Overland	\$1,461.50	\$1,481.00	\$19.50
Cornerstone - Joplin	\$167.60	\$434.60	\$267.00	Ozark 1st	\$13,408.81	\$12,557.93	(\$850.88)
Crossroads - Lebanon	\$3,063.94	\$3,232.68	\$168.74	Park Hills 1st	\$7,905.85	\$8,605.71	\$699.86
Crossroads - Wentzville	\$4,552.22	\$5,862.66	\$1,310.44	Parkview	\$4,322.57	\$5,677.90	\$1,355.33
Cuba	\$6,985.67	\$6,942.00	(\$43.67)	Parkway - Sedalia	\$.00	\$1,692.00	\$1,692.00
DeSoto 1st	\$14,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$1,000.00	Pleasant Hill - Thayer	\$1,722.03	\$1,820.01	\$97.98
Emanuel, Colorado	\$.00	\$248.21	\$248.21	Pleasant Home - Mtn. Gr.	\$3,395.75	\$3,743.73	\$347.98
Faith - Oak Grove	\$670.00	\$.00	(\$670.00)	Pleasant Ridge - Urb.	\$993.00	\$1,048.00	\$55.00
Faith - St. Louis	\$.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	Potosi	\$1,940.63	\$1,603.05	(\$337.13)
Faith & Hope - Aurora	\$859.00	\$863.18	\$4.18	Republic	\$1,714.48	\$1,519.00	(\$195.48)
Faith & Hope - Wil. Sp.	\$1,058.15	\$513.60	(\$544.55)	Richwoods	\$1,942.00	\$2,058.00	\$116.00
Farmington	\$29,823.69	\$30,749.21	\$925.52	Rock Chapel	\$4,273.38	\$4,366.56	\$93.18
Fellowship - Park Hills	\$4,800.00	\$5,200.00	\$400.00	Rolla 1 st	\$1,415.68	\$2,008.37	\$592.69
Fordland	\$6,739.49	\$7,091.27	\$351.78	Royal Oak - Alton	\$1,274.00	\$1,611.00	\$337.00
Fourth	\$2,888.68	\$3,794.54	\$905.86	Seymour	\$2,138.00	\$2,955.00	\$817.00
Fredericktown 1st	\$3,446.00	\$3,799.00	\$353.00	Smyrna	\$1,265.00	\$1,132.00	(\$133.00)
Freeman Chapel	\$4,367.70	\$5,035.75	\$668.05	South Fremont	\$3,897.00	\$9,164.00	\$5,267.00
Friendship	\$5,291.51	\$5,546.93	\$255.42	Southside	\$1,357.50	\$1,560.07	\$202.57
Grace	\$11,475.00	\$14,346.00	\$2,871.00	Springfield FWB	\$.00	\$657.00	\$657.00
Grant Avenue	\$11,286.13	\$10,411.57	(\$874.56)	Springfield 1st	\$12,587.55	\$13,505.79	\$918.24
Greenfield	\$555.00	\$982.00	\$427.00	St. Francois Assn.	\$161.00	\$93.50	(\$67.50)
Hannibal	\$2,146.00	\$2,476.00	\$330.00	Stockton	\$1,596.57	\$1,731.12	\$134.55
Hannon	\$8,825.01	\$8,921.48	\$96.47	Terrill Road	\$956.00	\$.00	(\$956.00)
Happy Home	\$938.82	\$.00	(\$938.82)	Thayer	\$11,320.00	\$13,624.00	\$2,304.00
Harmony	\$6,249.00	\$5,320.00	(\$929.00)	Trinity	\$12,549.66	\$13,159.96	\$610.30
Hartville	\$6,997.09	\$9,033.50	\$2,036.41	Twin Oak	\$4,437.74	\$3,756.16	(\$681.58)
Hazel Creek	\$2,344.78	\$2,753.71	\$408.93	Tyrone	\$267.00	\$400.00	\$133.00
Heritage	\$1,503.50	\$1,283.00	(\$220.50)	Union - Success	\$240.00	\$180.00	(\$60.00)
Hickory Grove	\$195.00	\$196.00	\$1.00	Union Grove	\$3,819.00	\$4,290.51	\$471.51
Hopewell	\$2,394.00	\$2,297.00	(\$97.00)	Union Light - Marq.	\$1,166.50	\$1,509.50	\$343.00
Houston 1st	\$4,290.73	\$4,277.93	(\$12.80)	United	\$12,637.68	\$14,678.77	\$2,041.09
Hurryville	\$5,594.48	\$5,840.78	\$246.30	Unity	\$4,665.00	\$4,798.00	\$133.00
Jackson	\$103.25	\$1,899.19	\$1,795.94	Verdella	\$6,172.02	\$6,857.39	\$685.37
Jones Chapel	\$3,164.04	\$2,172.31	(\$991.73)	Victory - Alton	\$2,582.43	\$3,322.50	\$740.07
Joplin 1st	\$6,888.94	\$7,708.55	\$819.61	Victory - K.C.	\$5,239.07	\$4,969.30	(\$269.77)
Kingsway	\$2,618.00	\$2,619.00	\$1.00	Victory Hill - Mfld.	\$561.89	\$51.22	(\$510.67)
Kirksville	\$286.20	\$93.50	(\$192.70)	Waynesville	\$3,411.94	\$3,707.15	\$295.21
Koshkonong	\$1,520.48	\$1,860.26	\$339.78	West Plains 1st	\$6,794.37	\$8,227.25	\$1,432.88
Lead Hill	\$2,686.79	\$3,611.92	\$925.13	Wilderness	\$2,793.09	\$2,680.64	(\$112.45)
Lebanon	\$3,708.45	\$3,585.83	(\$122.62)	Willow Spr. - Mtn. Gr.	\$2,666.27	\$3,028.48	\$362.21
Lebanon 1st	\$8,439.84	\$10,020.85	\$1,581.01	Wolf Creek	\$4,445.76	\$3,600.50	(\$845.26)
Lone Star	\$631.43	\$651.20	\$19.77				
Macedonia - Niangua	\$582.26	\$919.97	\$337.71				
				TOTAL	\$464,453.81	\$507,438.91	

V.B.S. WORKSHOP

Preview the 1999 V.B.S. Curriculum

Sponsored by the

Lebanon Bible & Book Store

Saturday, March 6, 1999

at the

Cowan Civic Center

Lebanon, MO

For more information call 1-417-532-9516



Financial Information

DECEMBER 1998

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board.....	\$7,633.97
17.50% Executive Office	7,221.32
3.00% General Fund.....	1,237.94
.50% Show-Me Plan.....	206.32
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.....	3,507.50
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.....	1,031.62
2.50% C.E. Board.....	1,031.62
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Bd.....	1,031.62
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	3,713.82
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	12,585.73
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	
(\$125.86 included in \$12,585.73)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund.....	2,063.24
TOTAL.....	\$41,264.70

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%.

DECEMBER 1998

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

Amity	\$245.34
Aulsbury Chapel.....	325.96
Bailey	205.00
Bailey Chapel.....	350.00
Belton	359.44
Bethel - El Dorado Springs	96.75
Black Oak	204.00
Black Oak	296.20
Bourbon	95.00
Buffalo 1st.....	100.00
Byrd	90.00
Calvary Chapel	816.08
Cape Girardeau	364.90
Carthage	269.94
Central	1,184.93
Chapel of the Ozarks	199.78
Christ Chapel	264.00
Clifton	87.16
Columbia	134.34
Copper Mines	494.40
Cornerstone - Joplin	30.00
Cornerstone - Joplin	10.00
Cornerstone - Joplin	51.00
Crossroads - Wentzville	672.49
Cuba	778.00
DeSoto 1st	1,807.00
Emmanuel - Colorado	76.52
Faith - St. Louis	100.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	46.80
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	44.40
Fellowship - Park Hills	500.00
Fordland	535.10
Fourth	367.75

Fredericktown 1st.....	398.00
Freeman Chapel	441.69
Friendship.....	413.15
Grant Avenue.....	1,291.48
Hannibal	251.00
Hannon	858.32
Harmony - Parkville	622.00
Hartville	782.00
Hazel Creek.....	608.41
Hopewell.....	260.00
Houston 1st.....	412.63
Hurryville.....	536.46
Jackson	159.15
Joplin 1st	669.97
Kirksville 1st.....	5.00
Koshkonong	167.98
Lead Hill	462.94
Lebanon 1st.....	872.84
Lone Star	20.90
Macedonia - Niangua	68.36
Merls Chapel	128.00
Mill Creek	448.10
Mine La Motte	72.79
Monett 1st	560.18
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	1,537.22
Mt. Pisgah	315.00
Mt. Zion - Gower	51.70
Myrtle	377.17
Neosho	95.00
New Home - Lebanon	287.40
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	70.00
New Rock Springs.....	200.00
Niangua	113.00
North Five	103.77

Number One	75.56
Oak Grove - Mtn. Grove.....	159.18
Oak Hill	1,875.51
O'Fallon 1st.....	782.00
Overland.....	165.00
Ozark 1st	1,266.72
Park Hills.....	770.92
Parkview	530.34
Pleasant Hill - Thayer	218.53
Pleasant Home	313.15
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	104.00
Potosi 1st	144.95
Republic.....	100.00
Republic.....	100.00
Rock Chapel	409.00
Rolla 1st	265.00
Royal Oak	133.00
Seymour.....	314.00
Smyrna	95.00
Springfield 1st	1,218.73
Springfield FWB.....	248.00
Stockton.....	171.78
Thayer	1,117.00
Trinity	1,178.60
Union Grove - Caudle.....	390.00
Union Light.....	129.00
United	1,294.72
Unity.....	506.00
Verdella	679.03
Victory - Alton	266.63
Waynesville 1st.....	365.66
West Plains 1st	752.50
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	261.30
TOTAL	\$41,264.70

SHOW-ME PLAN

Aulsbury Chapel	\$150.00
Belton	105.00
Belton Ladies Aux	15.00
Berean	30.00
Berry, R.	15.00
Bethel - El Dorado	268.52
Bethel - Festus	45.00
Betty Bishop	15.00
Big Creek	55.00
Black Oak	30.00
Black Oak	30.00
Bourbon	15.00
Buffalo 1st	60.00
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo	105.00
Carthage	762.49
Carthage Auxiliary	250.01
Carthage Sunday School	250.01
Central	370.00
Chapel of the Ozarks	478.48
Chism, B.	5.00
Columbia	70.00
Copper Mines & Greg B.	75.00
Copper Mines Junior Class	15.00
Copper Mines Young Adult Class	15.00
Cuba	118.00
Darnell, W.	15.00
David Maggart	45.00
DeSoto 1st	400.00
DeSoto Auditorium Class	15.00
Faith - St. Louis	40.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	181.50
Faith & Hope - W.S.	60.00
Fellowship	924.62
Fordland	311.75
Fredericktown 1st	150.00
Freeman Chapel	540.00
Garrett, R.	15.00
Gospel Light	675.00
Grant Avenue	420.00
Hannibal	15.00
Hannon	1,008.32
Harmony - Parkville	81.00
Hartville	195.00
Hazel Creek	815.61
Houston 1st	220.75
Indian Creek Assoc. CTS	165.52
Indian Creek Assoc. Offering	53.94
Jackson	30.00
Jerry Rader	20.00
Jones Chapel	799.99
Joplin 1st	75.00
Joplin 1st	1,684.74
Leadington	210.00
Lebanon 1st	150.00
Lebanon FWB	30.00
Looney, K.	15.00
M. Chrisman	30.00
Macedonia - Purdy	3,150.00
Macedonia Auxiliary - Purdy	1,085.01
Maggart, D.	45.00
Merls Chapel	250.01
Merls Chapel	250.01
Mill Creek	90.00
Mill Creek	45.00
Mill Creek Young Adult SS Class	15.00
Mine La Motte	45.00
Mo. State Woman's Auxiliary	710.00
Monett 1st	315.00
Monett 1st	392.06
Mtn. Grove 1st	910.00
Mt. Pisgah	75.00
Mt. Zion - Thayer	30.00
Myrtle	75.00
N. Ruble	45.00
Neosho 1st	689.51
New Home - Hartville	150.00
New Home - Lebanon	90.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	75.00
New Life - Monett	694.87
New Testament	165.00
Noel, D.	15.00
Oak Grove - Houston	15.00
O'Fallon 1st	110.00
Otto Parson	15.00
Ozark 1st	15.00

Park Hills 1st	317.48
Parkview - Desloge	331.11
Pinkerton, J.	45.00
Pleasant Grove - Anderson	205.54
Pleasant Hill	30.00
Pleasant Home	60.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	50.00
Purdy	1,318.57
Richardson, O.	15.00
Richwoods	67.50
Rock Chapel	315.00
Rogers, F.	15.00
Royal Oak	120.00
Schebaum, J.	80.00
Springfield 1st	530.00
Thayer	395.00
Trinity	765.00
Tyrone	540.00
Union Light	120.00
United - West Plains	432.33
Unity	75.00
Verdella	1,059.03
Viburnum	95.00
Walker, H. Jr.	15.00
White, R.	15.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	85.00
Willow Springs 1st	150.00
TOTAL	\$29,498.27

FOREIGN MISSIONS - DESIGNATED

Cape Girardeau	\$145.96
Central	20.00
Chapman, A.	20.00
Fordland	5.00
Grant Avenue	40.00
Harmony Fellowship - Colorado	138.00
Hickory Grove	55.82
Houston 1st	50.00
Joplin 1st	10.00
Kirksville 1st	29.00
Minor, K.	10.00
MO State Woman's Auxiliary	80.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	380.00
Neosho 1st	30.00
New Testament	70.00
Ozark 1st	20.00
Rock Chapel	15.00
St. Francois Dist. Mission Conf.	36.79
Thayer	70.00
Trinity	1,348.23
Union Light	10.00
Viburnum	10.00
Waynesville 1st	50.00
TOTAL	\$2,643.80

STATE HOME MISSIONS

Belton	\$25.00
Carthage	254.17
Carthage Auxiliary	83.33
Carthage Sunday School	83.33
Central	40.00
Chapel of the Ozarks	159.49
Cuba	59.00
DeSoto 1st	50.00
DeSoto Children's Church	20.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	60.50
Faith - Chandler, IN	25.00
Fellowship - Park Hills	10.00
Gospel Light	40.00
Grant Avenue	10.00
Indian Creek CTS	55.16
Indian Creek Offering	17.97
Jones Chapel	266.67
Joplin 1st	561.59
L. Wormington	30.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store	315.00
Macedonia - Purdy	1,050.00
Macedonia Aux. - Purdy	78.33
Merls Chapel	83.33
Mo. State WNAC	28.00
Monett	112.36
Neosho	179.83
New Home - Hartville	10.00
New Life - Monett	231.62
New Testament	50.00
O'Fallon 1st	47.50
Ozark 1st	10.00

Pleasant Grove - Anderson	68.52
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	20.00
Purdy 1st	289.53
Richard White	10.00
St. Francois Distric Mission Conf.	100.00
Thayer	50.00
Trinity	10.00
United	25.00
TOTAL	\$4,620.23

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Belton	\$25.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Cape Girardeau	218.94
Carthage	12.00
Carthage	254.17
Carthage Auxiliary	83.33
Carthage Sunday School	83.33
Central	10.00
Chapel of the Ozarks	159.49
Chapman, A.	5.00
Cornerstone - Joplin	10.00
Cornerstone - Joplin	10.00
Cornerstone - Joplin	20.00
Crossland, M.	5.00
Cuba	59.00
DeSoto 1st	503.00
DeSoto Auditorium Class	10.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	46.80
Faith & Hope - Aurora	60.50
Fordland	60.00
Grant Avenue	179.15
Hannon	814.99
Harmony - Parkville	15.00
Harmony Fellowship - Colorado	1,260.00
Hartville	1,121.30
Houston 1st	70.00
Indian Creek Assoc. CTS	55.16
Indian Creek Assoc. Offering	17.97
J.W. Rader	20.00
Jones Chapel	266.67
Joplin 1st	140.00
Joplin 1st	561.59
Lebanon	5.00
Macedonia - Purdy	1,050.00
Macedonia Auxiliary - Purdy	128.33
Merls Chapel	83.33
Monett 1st	87.00
Monett 1st	1,67.36
Mtn. Grove 1st	70.00
Mt. Pisgah	25.00
Myrtle	145.00
Neosho	299.83
New Home - Hartville	10.00
New Home - Lebanon	90.00
New Life - Monett	231.62
New Testament	275.00
O'Fallon 1st	47.50
Ozark 1st	25.00
Park Hills 1st	249.21
Pleasant Grove - Anderson	68.52
Pleasant Home	107.62
Purdy 1st	289.53
Richwoods	48.00
Rock Chapel	110.76
Rodgers, B.	25.00
Ruble, N.	50.00
St. Francois Mission Conference	183.91
Thayer	296.13
Thebeau, B.	5.00
Trinity	35.00
Union Light	136.00
United	150.00
Unity	50.00
Verdella	30.00
Viburnum	51.00
Waynesville 1st	50.00
TOTAL	\$10,883.04

MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

Hartville	\$10.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	195.00
New Life - Monett	69.50
Mt. Pisgah	10.00
New Home - Hartville	10.00
Niangua	20.00

Thayer	45.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
Hannon	15.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	10.00
DeSoto 1st	50.00
Trinity	14.00
Park Hills 1st	57.12
TOTAL	\$575.62

FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$45.00
Ozark 1st	5.00
N. Ruble	15.00
DeSoto 1st	35.00
Verdella	135.80
N. Ruble (P. Ketterman Offering)	50.00
TOTAL	\$285.80

HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Thayer	\$50.00
Hannon	50.00
Grant Avenue	10.00
Joplin 1st	75.00
Neosho 1st	60.00
TOTAL	\$245.00

STEVE SMITH

DeSoto 1st	\$50.00
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YOUTH MINISTRIES BOARD

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

Unity	\$10.00
Myrtle	11.00
New Life - Monett	69.50
Hannon	140.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	30.00
Belton	100.00
DeSoto 1st	50.00
M. Nosser	50.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	400.00
TOTAL	\$860.50

REV. JOHN MCCLURE

Monett 1st	\$35.00
Thayer	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	25.00
Carthage	89.20
Harmony - Parkville	19.00
Trinity	10.00
TOTAL	\$188.20

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	\$105.00
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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	\$105.00
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CORNERSTONE FWB

Carthage	\$254.17
Carthage Auxiliary	83.33
Carthage Sunday School	83.33
Chapel of the Ozarks	159.49
Faith & Hope - Aurora	60.50
Indian Creek CTS	55.16
Indian Creek Offering	17.97
Jones Chapel	266.67
Joplin 1st	561.59
Macedonia Auxiliary	28.33
Macedonia	1,050.00
Merls Chapel	83.33
Monett 1st	112.36
Neosho 1st	179.83
New Life - Monett	231.62
New Testament	50.00
Pleasant Grove	68.52
Purdy 1st	289.53
TOTAL	\$3,635.73

ROLL CALL SUNDAY MARCH 28, 1999

PLAN FOR THE BIGGEST
ATTENDANCE EVER!

ALMOST – BUT NOT QUITE

Carol Pinkerton

ALMOST! It has never been quite enough; close, but not close enough. That's how it was the day after our big rain. It poured and poured. All night and all morning the liquid fell from the angry-looking clouds.

Here in town, the force was so strong that it completely tore out a section of blacktop, isolating an area of town for several hours. We were thankful for the rain ... and more thankful when it quit!

It happened the next day out in a nearby village. Two young girls (pre-teens) were on their way to visit surrounding villages to sell the small items they carried in a basket on their heads. They came to a stream ... water was still in a mad-rush, but they knew not to cross; "the current is too swift, wait until tomorrow to cross," he said.

The girls were eager to make some money, so they continued their walk across the bridge with confidence. Just as they were about to reach the far side and say good-bye to the nagging doubts the man had placed in their minds, it happened. One, two, three more steps and they'd be across ... but not quite. For it was just at the ALMOST point of arriving that the first girl's step did her into the rushing water ... they both went down. The man was watching, but helpless. Nothing could be done to save them — they had not heeded the warning — and now they were both dead. He rushed to the village to tell the news ... but they almost made it.

It was so, so sad. Another story of almost — which is never enough. It wasn't for King Agrippa (Acts 26:28) and it wasn't for the two young girls.

I didn't know either of the young girls, but I know the first one's big sister, Ama. She and George live in Appimadoum where they minister to several groups of Christians in that area. How sad to see Ama cry, as she told me of the times she had witnessed to her little sister, but always received the same answer. "Not yet, I'm almost ready ... but not yet. Let me wait a while longer, I'm still young."

ALMOST — IT IS NEVER ENOUGH!

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