

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Volume 70, No. 5, May 1999

Missouri State Association



Al Taylor

The Unchanging
Word
Joshua 1:8,9
For A Changing World



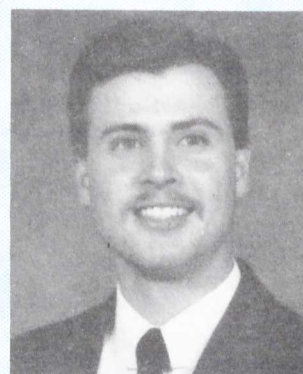
Clarence Burton



Ken Dodson



Trymon Messer



Melvin Moon

June 7 - 9, 1999

Lebanon, MO - Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center

THE 86TH SESSION OF THE MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

The Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists will meet June 7 - 9, 1999, at the Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center in Lebanon. This 86th session will offer a time for great fellowship, great singing, and great preaching. The Missouri Women Active for Christ led by President Shirley Jackson will meet Monday.

The theme for this year's convention is "The Unchanging Word for A Changing World." Four speakers — Rev. Ken Dodson, Rev. Clarence Burton, Rev. Melvin Moon, and Rev. Trymon Messer — will develop the theme taken from Joshua 1:8-9.

The Monday evening message will be delivered by the Rev. Kenneth Dodson. Brother Dodson was born in Ironton, Missouri. Converted in 1959, he was ordained to preach in 1974, and graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1982. He has pastored Old Reyno FWB Church in Reyno, Arkansas ('73-'75); Fourth FWB Church in St. Louis, Missouri ('77-'80); Monett FWB Church in Monett, Missouri ('84-'87) and ('90-'96); Woodbine FWB Church, Nashville, Tennessee ('87-'90); and Park Hills FWB Church, Park Hills, Missouri ('96 - present). He also taught at the Christian Academy and served as Bus Director at First FWB Church in Farmington, Missouri ('80-'84). Ken has served as Moderator of the St. Louis District and the Missouri State Association, and has served on the Sunday school/CTS, and Youth Camp Boards for the Missouri State Association, as well as the Missions Coordinator for the Indian Creek Association. He has also served on the Presbytery Board in Nashville, Tennessee, and is presently serving on our National Home Missions Board.

Ken and his wife, Paula, have five children: Mrs. Scott (Dawn) Real, Darrin, Douglas, David, and Dennis.

The Christian Education Board will be sponsoring a Stewardship Seminar Tuesday morning. Mr. Al Taylor is the Director of Stewardship for the Church of God at their international offices in Cleveland, Tennessee. Among other titles, he also served as the chairman of the international Prayer Commission. An enthusiastic promoter of lay ministries, Taylor is a sought-after speaker for national and international conferences. He is the author of *Proving God*, a best-selling book on tithing.

A former Lee College student, Taylor was listed among the *Distinguished Leaders* of 1976 and nominated for *Who's Who in Religion* in 1977 and 1985, *Who's Who in the South* and *Southwest* in 1983 and 1985, and *Who's Who in the World* in 1991-92.

Born in Danville, Virginia, Taylor is a third generation member of the Church of God. He now lives in Cleveland, Tennessee, with his wife, Norma. They have five children.

Rev. Clarence Burton will fill the pulpit Tuesday evening. Brother Burton was born in Paragould, Arkansas, was converted in 1938 and ordained to preach in 1955. He graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College and also attended Ouchita University, George Peabody College, and Arkansas State University. He has pastored three churches: Ballew's Chapel in Grubbs, Arkansas ('55-'59); First FWB Church in Fredericktown, Missouri ('60-'63); and First FWB Church in Berkeley, Missouri ('63-'75). He has served on the National Sunday

school/CTS Board as well as two terms on the Free Will Baptist Bible College Board. For the Missouri State Association, he has served on the Youth Camp and Home Mission Boards, and served as Moderator for the State Association ('70-'73) and as Executive Secretary ('75-'92). He presently serves as Associate Pastor at United FWB Church in West Plains, Missouri.

Clarence and his wife, Vivian, have two children, Steve and John.

Our Wednesday morning worship service will have the Rev. Melvin Moon delivering the message. Brother Moon was born in Searcy, Arkansas, converted in 1977, and ordained to preach in 1984. He is an alumnus of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. Melvin is presently pastor of Hartville FWB Church, Hartville, Missouri ('89 - present); and has pastored Mt. Carmel FWB Church in Vilonia, Arkansas ('85-'86); and Grace FWB Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma ('87-'89). He has served on the Executive Board for the Mission Association and on the Missouri State Christian Education Board.

Melvin and his wife, Clarissa, have four children: Caleb, twins Shanda and Seth, and Gillian.

Trymon Messer will be our speaker for the Wednesday evening service. Mr. Messer is Director of our National Home Missions Department in Antioch, Tennessee. He accepted that position in September, 1995, after having served as Home Missions' associate director since 1978. Known as a leader in evangelism and soul winning, he came to our national offices after 13 years as lay pastor of First FWB Church in Salina, Kansas, where he led a growth surge from two families to a record attendance of 964.

Prior to his years as associate director, Mr. Messer won two lay awards. Oklahoma Bible college (now Hillsdale FWB College) named him layman of the year in 1964. The Master's Men Department named him layman of the year in 1969. He has chaired the Kansas Home Missions Board and served on both the National Home Missions Board as well as the Hillsdale FWB College Board of Trustees. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. Trymon and his wife, Opal, have three children.

The General Board will meet Monday afternoon at the state offices. The business sessions led by Moderator Rick Dablemont will begin Tuesday afternoon.

We are looking for a great time in the Lord. You don't want to miss it.

PROGRAM MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Theme: "The Unchanging Word for A Changing World"

Scripture: Joshua 1:8-9

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 1999

10:30 a.m. Executive Committee MeetingState Office
1:30 p.m. General Board Meeting.....State Office

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.

**Missouri State Women Nationally
Active For Christ Convention**
Theme: "Y2K – Yes To The King"
Philippians 3:13b
Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center

**THREE GREAT
SINGING GROUPS
SINGING AT THE
STATE MEETING!!**

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
9:30 a.m. Congregational Singing Anita Haney
Prayer
Welcome..... Ann Poletti
Response..... Barbara Lee
Special Music
Morning Devotion Shirley Lotz
(Missionary to Denver, CO)
Seating Delegates
Appointment of Committees
Greetings From Missionaries and Other National
Ministries
Recess
11:00 a.m. Congregational Singing
Prayer
Congregational Singing
Offertory
Special Music
Message Chuck Lotz
(Missionary to Denver, CO)
Benediction
1:30 p.m. Congregational Singing
Special Music
Skit
Business Session
Installation of Officers
Benediction
Pianist–Ann Poletti Song Leader–Anita Haney
7:30 p.m. **EVENING WORSHIP**..... Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center
Message Rev. Ken Dodson

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 8, 1999

- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. C.E. Board Workshop (Al Taylor)
..... Civic Center

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 8, 1999

Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center

- 1:30 p.m. **BUSINESS SESSION**
Presiding..... Rev. Rick Dablemont, Moderator

TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 8, 1999

- 7:30 p.m. **EVENING WORSHIP** Civic Center
Message Rev. Clarence Burton

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 9, 1999

Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center

- 9:00 a.m. **BUSINESS SESSION**
Presiding..... Rev. Rick Dablemont, Moderator
11:00 a.m. **MORNING WORSHIP**
Message Rev. Melvin Moon

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 9, 1999

- 1:30 p.m. **BUSINESS SESSION**
Presiding..... Rev. Rick Dablemont, Moderator

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 9, 1999

- 7:30 p.m. **EVENING WORSHIP** Civic Center
Message Rev. Trymon Messer



Master Peace Quartet



The Calvarymen Quartet



Stanley Jones Singers

MOTEL INFORMATION FOR MISSOURI STATE CONVENTION JUNE 7 - 9



930 Ivey Lane
Lebanon, MO 65536
Phone (417) 533-3100

1 person \$62.00 + tax
2 - 4 persons 69.00 + tax
Free Deluxe Continental Breakfast



1831 West Elm
Lebanon, MO 65536
Phone (417) 588-2574

1 person 1 bed \$39.88 + tax
2 persons 1 bed 44.88 + tax
3 persons 2 beds 53.88 + tax
4 persons 2 beds 53.88 + tax

*11 years of age & under stay free with parents
*Rates are cheaper than quoted with a VIP Card

Wyota Inn

East Business Loop 44 at Exit 130
Lebanon, MO 65536
Phone (417) 532-6171

Single \$34.00 + tax
2 persons 44.00 + tax
\$5.00 each add'l person

* Breakfast: Muffins, O.J., Coffee

Quality Inn

Business Loop I44 W.
Lebanon, MO 65536
Phone (417) 532-7111

1 - 4 persons \$40.00 + tax
* Free Continental Breakfast

Econo Lodge

Business Loop I44 W.
Lebanon, MO 65536
Phone (417) 588-3226

1 - 4 persons \$36.00 + tax

Brentwood Motel

1320 S. Jefferson
Next to Hardees
Lebanon, MO 65536

1 person \$32.95 + tax
2 persons - 1 bed 35.95 + tax
3 persons - 2 beds 42.95 + tax
4 persons - 2 beds 45.95 + tax

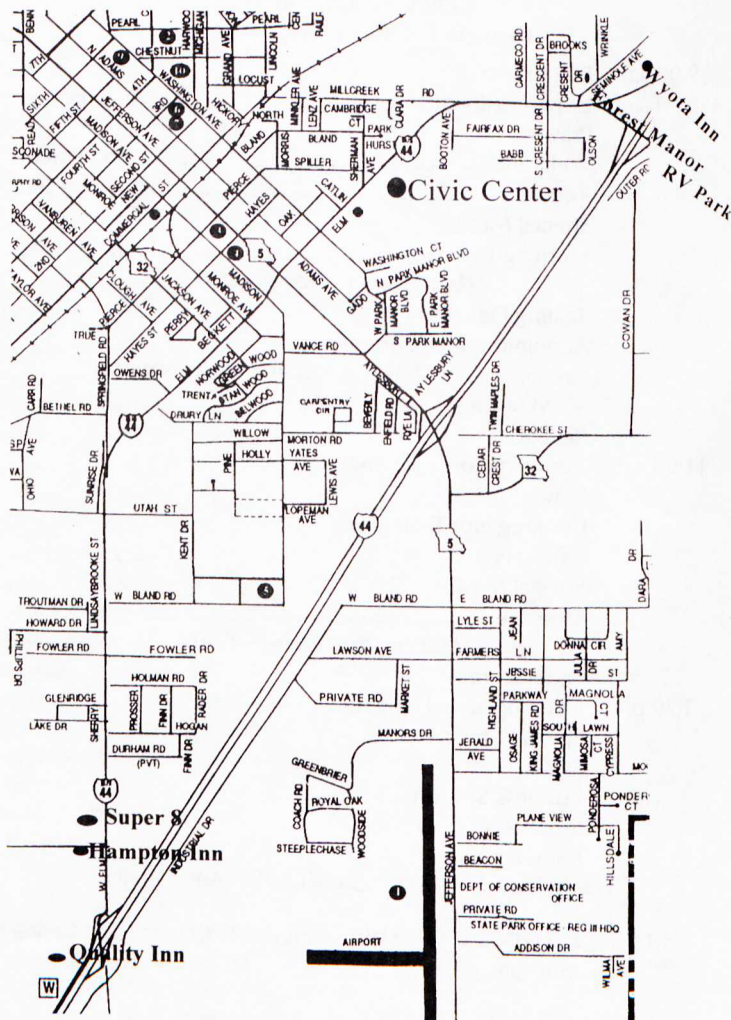
*Gives Hardees coupons for \$1.50 off breakfast

Forest Manor R-V Park

207 E. Seminole, Exit 130
Lebanon, MO 65536
Phone (417) 532-6114

\$18.00 + tax daily

Lebanon, MO



Rev. Charles Moyers Promoted to Glory

Rev. Charles H. Moyers passed away at Maranatha Village Nursing Home in Springfield, Missouri, on March 9, 1999, at the age of 81.

He accepted the call to the ministry at the age of 17, and never faltered from his calling. He was used of God to start several churches—three of them local. He assisted Rev. Willard Darnell in starting the Farmington Free Will Baptist Church, and with the assistance of Rev. George Hibbits, started the Hurryville Free Will Baptist Church. Approximately 33 years later, he organized the DeSoto Free Will Baptist Church. He also pastored churches in Alabama and Oklahoma.

On March 21, 1999, the DeSoto church conducted a service honoring their former pastors, presenting plaques in recognition of their labors. Brother Moyers' plaque was accepted by his brother, Herusel. The family was very proud of the remembrance from the DeSoto church. Sister Moyers (Dean) is in Maranatha Village Nursing Home in Springfield, and is suffering from Alzheimer's Disease.

Ginger Harrison Update

I arrived in Antwerp, Belgium, Wednesday morning, February 24th, at 11:30 AM after a 10 minute near-death experience during the first portion of my flight from Boston to Amsterdam. Being exhausted, I headed to the small airport's baggage claim to find there were no porters or considerate persons available to aid me with my 7 suitcases. After maneuvering them to the rental car counter and then down to the station wagon, I hoisted all 7 into the car with one seat left for me.

Tired and sore from lifting, my driving European driving skills slowly returned from the summer of being a missionary in Germany. Following the directions to my apartment and the institute, trying to read street names, follow the flow of traffic and keep from crying after an hour of driving in circles to find the correct street names took its toll. After asking directions again and still getting confused on the congested, small cobblestone street and passing another 45 minutes, I finally found the institute and my new apartment. The problem was I was supposed to meet the land-lord at his house. Determined to not lose the school, I stopped and called for him to meet me at the apartment.

The out-side was white, older, near the corner of 6 intersections with cable cars and a bus stop in front. Entering the dark building and ascending 8 flights of stairs to the top floor, my heart sank further to believe this was to be my home for the next 4 months. This huge, empty building was dark, smelly, and scary. I tried thinking positive and that I was just exhausted, but even though it was right across the street from the school, I did not have a peace about staying there one more minute when the land-lord left.

With your prayers and God's provision, I found another apartment and moved in by Saturday. It's right around the corner from the school and the lady and her husband who rent it are very helpful and kind. The apartment is still different for me, with a small kitchen and a bathroom in the hall, but it's clean and I feel comfortable.

Trusting the Lord has really been a step for me this week. I'm looking forward to starting my studies here, but also see how when we take steps in following God's direction in our lives how many obstacles can arise. I'm not discouraged today and know that God has placed me here to serve Him. I've already talked to my land-lady about the Lord and Antwerp is actually a very interesting place to see.

Pray for God's protection, peace, and perseverance in my life and ministry. Thanks for your prayers and encouragement. Those days that I was "disconnected" from the world without telephone and e-mail makes me realize how much I rely on updating you and keeping you in touch with prayer needs. "Maybe it is that the times you should pray the most, is when you know the least about the situation!" I believe you did that for me during this transition!

God bless you!

Your missionary now in Belgium . . .

Ginger Harrison, RN

Hillsdale FWB News

A BID FOR THE FUTURE

On May 21 and 22, Hillsdale will be hosting "A Bid For The Future." This event will be a special fund raising auction held on the Hillsdale campus. Gary and Donna Richey are this year's auction chairpersons. The auction will begin on Friday, May 21st, with a special fund raising dinner and silent auction.

On Saturday, an outdoor auction will take place on the Hillsdale campus. Hillsdale's Development office staff members, Jack Richey, Bailey Thompson, and Wade Jernigan will be our special auctioneers. The auction will become a new annual feature on the Hillsdale calendar. Mark down the date now, and plan on attending both the dinner/silent auction and the outdoor auction. If you have any questions about the auction or items you can donate, please call one of the college's representatives: Barbara Cheshier at (405) 912-9032, Sue Chaffin at (405) 912-9005, or Pam Cariker at (405) 912-9033. We hope to see you there!

HISTORIC DAY AT HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Friday, March 26, 1999, will always be remembered as a historic day for Free Will Baptists and Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. The Steering Committee for the Capital Stewardship Campaign met for their first time under the direction of Chairman Bill Barber. The purpose of the meeting was to identify potential lead donors, refine Case for Support, and develop a strategy for success.

The meeting opened with a welcome from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College President, Carl Cheshier. Then, the Steering Committee members were introduced. Will Harmon, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, presented the architectural drawings of the proposed Chapel/Classroom Building. Consultants, Mr. W. D. Broadway and Mr. Stanley Weinstein, challenged everyone to the potentiality of a 5.5 million dollar campaign, which includes the proposed building, an endowment, furnishings, parking, etc.

Chairman Bill Barber then challenged everyone with a lead gift from the Barber family of at least \$500,000.00 . . . probably \$750,000.00 . . . and maybe \$1,000,000.00!

Needless to say, there were no dry eyes as countless cries of "Amen" and "Praise the Lord" filled the room. What a beginning! What a generous gift!

We praise God for what He has started through the love and generosity of the Bill Barber family. As a result of this gift, a focus has been made on the future, to see God's continued blessing upon this campaign.

CALLING ALL "MASTER'S MEN" !

By Scott Cheatham

I am the director of our Master's Men group here at First Free Will Baptist Church in Farmington, and we are interested in contacting other chapters statewide. I don't know how active Master's Men is statewide in Missouri, but would eventually like to see more activity, since I've never really seen much in the GEM. Our group is interested in sharing ideas and thoughts about building a successful chapter.

On that note, we recently completed a repair on our church's bell tower! Our Master's Men group took that on as a project after we learned that the bell hadn't been rung in 21 years due to its condition. The Lord blessed us and we were able to raise the money needed by March and had a special dedication during our March 7th service. Pastor Roger Hogan commended the group for their efforts, and then we rang the bell seven times as the mark of completion. God is really blessing us.

If any other Master's Men chapters are interested in communicating, I can be reached at my home phone number: (573) 756-0142; or my Email address: scottc@saintmail.net .



Joanne Wallace, Speaker

Missouri State Free Will Baptist WAC Retreat

August 20-21, 1999 - Stonecroft Conference Center

Theme: "Because You're Worth It"

Speaker: Joanne Wallace

RETREAT PRE-REGISTRATION FORM For those staying at the Conference Center

List the ladies that will be staying in the same room (each room has 2 double or queen size beds). You may copy this form or add a sheet for additional names.

1/Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Church _____

2/Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Church _____

3/Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Church _____

4/Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Church _____

In order to accommodate the maximum number of ladies attending, there must be 4 ladies to each room. Rooms are assigned as reservations are received. **Reservations will not be accepted before June 21, 1999. Due to limited space and the purpose of retreat, we request no babies please.**

Cost is \$50.00 per person (which includes food, lodging, and registration fee).

Total Amount Enclosed: \$_____ PLEASE SEND **ONE CHECK** FOR ALL REGISTERING WITH YOUR GROUP. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MISSOURI STATE WAC (no cash please). As in years past, no refunds will be given, but substitutions may be made. **PLEASE SEND FORM, CHECK, AND A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE TO:** Judith Ruble - 610 Hunters Creek Dr. - Lebanon, MO 65536

Missouri State Free Will Baptist WAC Retreat

August 20-21, 1999

Stonecroft Conference Center (near Branson, MO)

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

For those not staying at the Conference Center

List the ladies attending the retreat, but providing their own accommodations. Check which meals they will be eating at Stonecroft. The cost for registration and all meals will be \$30.

1/Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone (_____) _____
Church _____
____ Registration Fee \$16.50 ____ Friday Dinner \$8.50 ____ Saturday Breakfast \$5.00

2/Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone (_____) _____
Church _____
____ Registration Fee \$16.50 ____ Friday Dinner \$8.50 ____ Saturday Breakfast \$5.00

3/Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone (_____) _____
Church _____
____ Registration Fee \$16.50 ____ Friday Dinner \$8.50 ____ Saturday Breakfast \$5.00

4/Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone (_____) _____
Church _____
____ Registration Fee \$16.50 ____ Friday Dinner \$8.50 ____ Saturday Breakfast \$5.00

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MISSOURI STATE WAC (no cash please). THERE ARE NO REFUNDS!
Please send **ONE CHECK** for all registering with your group. MAIL YOUR CHECK, THIS FORM, AND A SELF-
ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE TO: Judith Ruble - 610 Hunters Creek Dr. - Lebanon, MO 65536.

STATE HOME MISSION BOARD ORGANIZES TWO CHURCHES

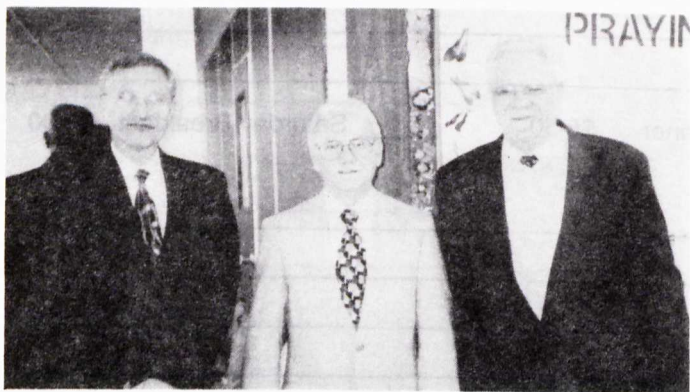
Wentzville, March 6, 1999



Pastor & Mrs. Wes Rider

The Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Mission located in Wentzville, Missouri, was organized in a special service March 6, 1999. The service was opened by the pastor, Rev. Wes Rider. He welcomed a congregation of 102 people, and he expressed his appreciation for the State Home Mission Board before he introduced Rev. Cliff Bowman. Bro. Bowman, Chairman of the Mission Board, served as Moderator for the service. Bro. Cliff told how the church had its beginning and said, "Tonight is the fulfillment of what we expected, and it is not the end but the beginning." Rev. Cody Freeman led in prayer, and the moderator opened the doors of the church and had the people stand who desired to be charter members of the new church. Rev. Wes Rider was then elected pastor.

Rev. Cody Freeman, Mission Board member, presented the Bible as the only rule of faith and practice. Rev. Dale Skiles, State Home Mission's Director, presented the church covenant and stressed the importance of its content. Rev. Nathan Ruble, Executive Secretary, read the church constitution and by-laws which were adopted by the body.



Mission Board Members: Cody Freeman, Dale Skiles, Cliff Bowman

After a prayer of dedication, the service was turned back to Pastor Rider. He led the church in adopting a budget and in the election of church officers. He then made a special presentation to Quentin and Joyce Marshall. The Marshalls were presented a beautiful picture to honor them for their faithful service to the church from its inception. The church choir presented a special and Pastor Rider delivered a devotion.

Following the service, the ladies of the church served a pot-luck supper.

The Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church was started as a joint project of Missouri Free Will Baptists and the National Home Missions Board. Rev. Jim Mertz was called to serve as the missionary pastor, and the first service was held March 2, 1986. Bro. Mertz led the mission in purchasing a choice piece of land and building a beautiful building which was occupied in December 1991. Rev. Mertz and his family served the mission until July 1996. Rev. Wes Rider was called to serve the church by the State Home Mission Board. God has used Pastor Rider to build a fine congregation that is laboring to carry out the Great Commission.

Pastor Rider, former Pastor Mertz, and the fine congregation of the Cross Roads church are to be commended for their faithfulness.



Wentzville Singers

Ozark, April 11, 1999

The joy of God's presence and blessings were expressed throughout the activities on Sunday, April 11, at the First Free Will Baptist Mission in Ozark. An hour before the scheduled organizational service, a pre-organizational service was held by the congregation of the Ozark Mission. It was a time for people to recount their blessings and express thanksgiving for all that the Lord has done and is doing.

The service was blessed with congregational and special music before Rev. Dale Skiles, Director of the State Home Mission Board, led in the organization of the church. Rev. Gene Crewse led in prayer before Bro. Skiles opened the doors of the church and called for those to stand who wished to be charter members of the church. 101 united with the church and others are expected to join during the sixty days that the charter membership remains open. Rev. Gary Mitchner, the missionary pastor, was elected as pastor.



Pastor & Mrs. Mitchner with Pastor's Mother

Rev. Clarence Burton, mission board member, presented the Bible as the rule of faith and practice, and Rev. Nathan Ruble, Executive Secretary, presented the church covenant for adoption. The Constitution and By-laws were presented by Rev. Cody Freeman, mission board member. The new church took time to recognize the gift of an organ from the Thayer Free Will Baptist Church where Bro. Freeman is pastor. Church members and visitors were invited to gather at the altar where Rev. Gary Junge led in the prayer of consecration.



Organization Committee with Pastor

The service was then turned to Pastor Mitchener. He led in conducting a small amount of business before dismissing the service with prayer.

The First Free Will Baptist Church held its first service July 11, 1993. Since that time the church has grown and relocated to its present location. God has provided the church with beautiful facilities. The Mitchener family and the congregation of the First Free Will Baptist Church are to be commended for their faithful labors and their far reaching vision.



First Church Choir

God's House Redesigned A Church Standing United

By Steven White

There is a different feeling around First FWB Church in DeSoto, Missouri; a refreshing change. Give God the glory! Our church stands as a testimony that a church in these days needs reliable trustees, solid deacons, a faithful pastor, and every member of the congregation trusting in God in prayer to accomplish anything. That's just what happened.

During a Wednesday night business meeting last fall our church body voted to redesign our sanctuary and the children's church. We knew we were taking on a big task, but we knew with our prayers, with leadership in place, and the people standing united in the decision, it could and would be done.

Like the maestro of a symphony orchestra, our Pastor, Brother Bob Thebeau, conducted the business meeting, addressed all the questions, and kept the concerns down to a minimum—all with the faith needed to see it through.

"What color curtains should we get?" . . . "How will we pay for it?" . . . "How big should we make the stage?" . . . "Do we really need that?" . . . "I don't think we should do that." These were just a few of the many questions and comments that night. Brother Bob answered them as soon as they were raised. I'll have to admit that there were times that night when we didn't all see eye to eye, but we continued to discuss the particulars of what to do. After a while we settled on how the sanctuary needed to look. Then the question of "How do we pay for it?" came up. As quick as that question was asked, it was stifled by a senior member of the church. He stood up and said, "If we're going to do this, we need to take a step of faith and the Lord will provide the rest." Have faith . . . what a concept! Right then, the whole church came together, united

to take on the task and to trust God for the rest. The music of Brother Bob's orchestra was now playing a praising melody to God.



The work began. In an effort to save costs, our church body did the work. We had young and old, men and women, boys and girls, all helping in the project. There was no job too dirty or small for anybody—we all helped. It was good to see everyone working together in God's house with the guidance of a few dedicated carpenters, electricians, and carpet layers from our church; people who knew what they were doing. The old went out and the new came in.

After a few months, our new sanctuary and children's church are complete. They look great! Now we stand back to look at the finished work and realize that if God's people stand united in strong faith in the work of the Lord, we can do anything. If we changed the look of God's house inside, just think what we can do, faithfully united in the community of DeSoto for Jesus!

Missouri Women Active for Christ UPDATE

In 2004 Missouri Free Will Baptists will have the honor of hosting the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Kansas City, Missouri. Preparations for hosting the conference have been going on for some time, and these preparations are not without cost. These preparations and expenses are a cooperative effort and shared by the 183 churches of the state.

During the 2004 National Association, Missouri Women will have the honor of hosting the WNAC. Along with the honor will be the responsibility of raising \$12,000.00. This is the amount designated by the National Association as the Missouri Women Active for Christ's share of convention expenses.

During their planning meeting in February, the MOWAC Executive Committee discussed ways to raise the needed funds. It was decided to sponsor a craft display and sale at the Missouri State Association Meeting in June. District Auxiliaries may contribute craft items, and proceeds will help offset convention costs.

Missouri women failed to raise their fair share when the National Association last met in Missouri. Perhaps this was due to the fact that the need was not made known. However, with advance preparation this failure need not be repeated. The Executive Committee is open to suggestions you might have for raising funds and asks for your participation in this important challenge.

Sunday School Averages October 1998 - March 1999

CHURCHES	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Belton	34	39		35	36	35
Calvary Chapel	144		135	146	142	143
Cape Girardeau		60	51	51	58	56
Copper Mines	53	55	52	49	51	51
Cuba	107		116	117	102	101
Columbia			20	24	25	28
DeSoto	154	160	161	142	160	158
Farmington	330		348	328	384	577
Hannon	102	103	116	98	122	109
Harmony	58	58	57			
Hartville	113		116	105	111	106
Hazel Creek	71		68			
Hopewell	32	32	28	31	29	30
Houston	53	45	46	46	54	46
Kirksville 1st	27	29	27			
Lebanon 1st	117	113	119	81		
Lebanon FWB		54		55	57	50
Mill Creek	69	60	61	54	59	62
Monett	46	45	57			
Myrtle			42			41
O'Fallon 1st	84		75	77	79	73
Oskaloosa			15	15	15	
Ozark		103		106	119	120
Park Hills	116		115	87	115	
Purdy	48	49	45	51	52	46
Richwoods	22	29	28	24	33	
Rock Chapel	49			48		
Rolla 1st	27	22	26	29	27	35
Southside	40	40	37	35	32	32
Springfield 1st	117	125	132	115	124	131
Thayer	164	143	161	139	147	
Trinity	88	81	85			76
United, West Plains	294	293		301	290	302
Willow Springs	64	58	63	64	55	54

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.

Central Western Ordains Jimmy Holder



Rev. Jimmy Holder and Rev. Milan Ruble

Jimmy Holder flew home from Nashville, Tennessee, to meet with the Central Western District Association March 19 & 20, where he was examined by the Ordination Committee and appeared before the Executive Board. He was ordained on March 21 at his home church, the Verdella Free Will Baptist Church.

After an excellent dinner in the fellowship room, about 100 of God's people moved into the sanctuary for a spirit-filled service. The congregational singing was uplifting, and special songs were presented by Lynette Emmerson and Janelle Bunny.

The ordination message was preached by Rev. Stan Bunch, missionary to Panama. The charge was given by Rev. Milan Ruble. The ordination prayer and laying on of hands by all the ordained was led by Rev. Bob Dickey.

It was great to hear Jimmy tell how God blessed him and met his needs as he attended and graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College. He is now the Head Chaplain of the Rescue Mission in Nashville.

We commend Jimmy for his faithfulness and pray for God's richest blessing as he continues to serve the Lord.

Bro. Jimmy returned to his job as Head Chaplain of the Rescue Mission in Nashville, Tennessee, on March 23.

Financial Information

MARCH 1999

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board.....	\$8,202.87
17.50% Executive Office.....	7,759.47
3.00% General Fund.....	1,330.19
.50% Show-Me Plan.....	221.70
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.....	3,768.88
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.....	1,108.50
2.50% C.E. Board.....	1,108.50
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Bd.....	1,108.50
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program.....	3,990.58
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College.....	13,523.65
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 (\$135.24 included in \$13,523.65)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund.....	2,216.98
TOTAL.....	\$44,339.82

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%.

MARCH 1999

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

Amity.....	\$86.32
Aulsbury Chapel.....	329.66
Bailey - Alton.....	188.00
Bailey - Alton.....	145.00
Bailey Chapel.....	300.00
Belton.....	292.35
Bethel - El Dorado Springs.....	74.66
Bethel - Northview.....	180.00
Black Oak.....	275.68
Black Oak.....	219.30
Bourbon.....	55.75
Buffalo 1st.....	100.00

Calvary Chapel.....	789.21
Calvary Fellowship.....	297.92
Cape Girardeau.....	389.18
Carthage.....	212.48
Carthage.....	174.59
Central.....	1,187.41
Chapel of the Ozarks.....	177.74
Christ Chapel.....	223.87
Clifton.....	82.42
Columbia.....	137.10
Copper Mines.....	360.73
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove.....	356.24
Crossroads - Wentzville.....	569.00
Cuba.....	550.00
Cuba.....	550.00
DeSoto 1st.....	1,200.00
Emmanuel - Colorado.....	57.21
Faith & Hope - Aurora.....	94.80
Faith & hope - Aurora.....	39.50
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs.....	40.00
Fellowship.....	800.00
Fordland.....	1,450.47
Fourth.....	1,053.79
Fredericktown 1st.....	290.00
Freeman Chapel.....	487.29
Grace - Arnold.....	1,194.00
Grant Avenue.....	946.66
Hannibal.....	215.00
Hannon.....	702.51
Harmony - Parkville.....	608.00
Hartville.....	949.00
Hartville.....	867.00
Hazel Creek.....	724.22
Heritage.....	100.00
Hopewell.....	192.00
Houston 1st.....	397.07
Hurryville.....	525.76
Jackson.....	210.48
Joplin 1st.....	534.08
Kirksville 1st.....	5.00
Koshkonong.....	178.00
Lead Hill.....	274.81
Lebanon 1st.....	759.35
Lone Star.....	66.00
Macedonia.....	60.40
Mill Creek.....	332.16
Mine La Motte.....	80.99
Monett 1st.....	469.95

Mtn. Grove 1st.....	1,465.20
Mt. Pisgah	372.00
Mt. Zion - Gower	49.00
Myrtle.....	219.11
Myrtle.....	151.78
Neosho 1st	95.00
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	70.00
New Life - Licking.....	378.06
New Rock Springs.....	138.00
Niangua.....	120.00
Niangua.....	210.00
North Five.....	110.95
Number One.....	79.92
Number One.....	74.17
Oak Grove - Mtn. Grove	136.64
O'Fallon 1st	787.50
Oskaloosa.....	559.93
Overland.....	125.00
Ozark 1st	1,122.60
Park Hills 1st.....	776.51
Parkview.....	483.76
Pleasant Hill - Thayer	160.65
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove.....	240.20
Pleasant Ridge.....	85.00
Potosi 1st	128.14
Republic.....	100.00
Rock Chapel.....	362.02
Rolla 1st.....	196.00
Royal Oak.....	108.00
Salem.....	90.00
Seymour.....	278.00
Smyrna.....	90.00
Smyrna.....	75.00
Southside.....	154.31
Springfield.....	218.00
Springfield 1st.....	990.69
Stockton.....	150.14
Terrill Rd.	213.00
Thayer.....	967.00
Trinity.....	2,193.30
Twin Oak.....	866.00
Union.....	60.00
Union Grove - S.S.....	393.00
Union Light.....	79.00
United.....	1,259.09
Unity - Lebanon	330.00
Verdella.....	1,139.24
Victory - Alton.....	295.81
Waynesville 1st.....	276.95
West Plains 1st.....	623.50
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove.....	219.18
Wolf Creek.....	263.36
TOTAL.....	\$44,339.82

SHOW-ME PLAN

Aulsbury Chapel.....	\$150.00
Barker, Rev. J.....	15.00
Belton.....	165.00
Berean.....	30.00
Bethel - El Dorado Springs.....	209.33
Bethel - Festus.....	45.00
Big Creek.....	55.00
Bishop, B.J.....	15.00
Black Oak.....	30.00
Black Oak.....	30.00
Bourbon.....	15.00
Braisher, M.....	105.00
Buffalo 1st.....	60.00
Buxton, G.....	30.00
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo.....	105.00
Calvary Fellowship.....	4,366.00
Cartee, J.....	15.00
Central.....	525.00
Chism, B.....	5.00
Chrisman, M.....	30.00
Columbia.....	50.00
Copper Mines.....	30.00
Copper Mines - Teen Classes.....	30.00
Copper Mines - Young Adult Class.....	15.00
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove.....	410.00
Cuba.....	246.20
Cuba.....	172.79
Darnell, W.....	15.00
DeSoto 1st.....	460.00
DeSoto 1st - Auditorium Class.....	15.00
Faith - St. Louis.....	40.00
Faith & Hope - W.S.....	60.00
Fellowship.....	902.69
Fordland.....	315.00
Fourth.....	435.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	150.00
Freeman Chapel.....	540.00
Garrett, R.....	15.00
Grace.....	645.00
Graham, S.....	15.00

Grant Avenue.....	370.00
Greenfield.....	180.00
Hannibal - WNAC.....	15.00
Hannon.....	1,002.51
Harmony - Parkville.....	37.00
Harmony - Parkville.....	213.00
Hartville.....	195.00
Hartville.....	195.00
Hazel Creek.....	892.81
Houston 1st	227.71
Hurryville.....	300.00
Hurryville - Sr. Adult S.S. Class.....	15.00
Jackson.....	60.00
Joplin 1st.....	75.00
Leadington.....	180.00
Lebanon 1st	150.00
Lebanon FWB.....	30.00
Looney, K.....	15.00
Macedonia Aux.....	8,000.00
Maggart, D.....	45.00
Mill Creek.....	90.00
Mill Creek C.W.F.....	45.00
Mill Creek - Young Adult S.S. Class.....	15.00
Mine La Motte.....	45.00
MO State Woman's Aux.....	923.70
Monett 1st.....	255.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	470.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	75.00
Mt. Zion - Thayer.....	30.00
Myrtle.....	75.00
Myrtle.....	75.00
Neal, Dorothy.....	15.00
Neosho 1st.....	150.00
New Home - Hartville.....	150.00
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	105.00
New Life - Licking.....	116.30
New Testament.....	15.00
Oak Grove - Houston.....	15.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	163.00
Park Hills 1st.....	232.95
Parkview - Desloge.....	363.56
Parson, O.....	15.00
Pinkerton, J.....	45.00
Pleasant Hill.....	30.00
Pleasant Home.....	75.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana.....	50.00
Purdy.....	255.00
Rader, Jerry.....	20.00
Richardson, O.....	15.00
Richwoods.....	52.50
Rock Chapel.....	270.00
Rogers, B.....	15.00
Royal Oak.....	120.00
Ruble, N.....	45.00
Shelton, B.....	180.00
South Central Assoc.....	900.00
Springfield 1st.....	517.47
Thayer.....	285.00
Trinity.....	1,005.00
Union - Success.....	180.00
Union Light.....	120.00
United - West Plains.....	432.33
Unity.....	75.00
Verdella.....	1,999.24
Viburnum.....	210.00
Walker, H. Jr.....	15.00
Waynesville 1st.....	220.25
Waynesville 1st.....	247.40
Waynesville 1st.....	10.00
West Plains 1st Aux.....	30.00
White, R.....	15.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove.....	85.00
Willow Springs 1st.....	150.00
Wilson, R.....	15.00
TOTAL.....	\$33,883.74

FOREIGN MISSIONS - DESIGNATED

Calvary Fellowship.....	\$345.89
Cape Girardeau.....	155.67
Central.....	25.00
Chapman, A.....	20.00
Cuba.....	28.83
Cuba.....	28.80
Fordland.....	5.00
Grant Avenue.....	20.00
Greenfield.....	250.00
Harmony Fellowship (Colorado).....	210.00
Houston 1st.....	75.00
Joplin 1st.....	10.00
Kirksville 1st.....	38.00
Lewis, D.....	90.00
Minor, K.....	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	580.00
Neosho 1st.....	15.00
New Testament.....	70.00

Thayer.....	115.00
Trinity.....	636.31
Union Light.....	10.00
Viburnum.....	20.00
TOTAL.....	\$2,758.50

STATE HOME MISSIONS

Belton.....	\$25.00
Central.....	40.00
Cuba.....	28.83
Cuba.....	28.80
DeSoto 1st	90.00
DeSoto 1st Children's Church.....	20.00
Faith - Chandler, IN.....	25.00
Farmington.....	115.00
Fellowship - Park Hill, MO.....	135.00
Grace - Arnold.....	90.00
Jackson.....	25.00
Larry Wormington.....	30.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	315.00
Macedonia Aux.....	3,050.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	25.00
New Home - Hartville.....	10.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	81.00
Ozark 1st.....	10.00
Pleasant Ridge.....	20.00
Richard White (DeSoto 1st).....	10.00
Thayer.....	50.00
United.....	25.00
Waynesville 1st.....	50.00
TOTAL.....	\$4,298.63

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Alan Chapman (DeSoto).....	\$10.00
Artie Holdman.....	5.00
Belton.....	25.00
Bob Thebeau.....	15.00
Brenda King (DeSoto).....	10.00
Bud Rogers.....	40.00
Calvary Fellowship.....	1,645.00
Cape Girardeau.....	233.51
Carthage.....	10.00
Carthage.....	5.00
Central.....	10.00
Cindy Queen.....	10.00
DeSoto 1st.....	442.00
DeSoto Auditorium S.S. Class.....	10.00
DeSoto Teens.....	282.00
Elizabeth Talantino.....	5.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora.....	94.80
Faith & Hope - Aurora.....	39.50
Fordland.....	50.00
Grace.....	75.00
Grant Avenue.....	132.67
Hannon.....	421.50
Harmony Fellowship (Colorado).....	260.00
Hartville.....	100.00
Hartville.....	100.00
Houston 1st.....	75.00
Jerry Rader.....	20.00
John Elders (DeSoto).....	8.00
Joplin 1st.....	20.00
Joyce Poletti.....	10.00
Judy Haggard.....	40.00
Macedonia Aux.....	100.00
Mae Nossor.....	5.00
Marlon Crossland.....	10.00
Michelle Lewis.....	10.00
Monett 1st.....	226.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	130.00
Myrtle.....	40.00
Myrtle.....	40.00
Neosho 1st.....	65.00
New Home - Hartville.....	10.00
New Home - Hartville.....	500.00
New Testament.....	150.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	81.00
Park Hills 1st.....	98.50
Pearl Hutchings (Park Hills).....	100.00
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove.....	92.04
Richard White (DeSoto).....	30.00
Richwoods.....	40.00
Rob Fortner.....	5.00
Rock Chapel.....	67.95
Rodney Garrett (DeSoto).....	525.00
Steve White (DeSoto).....	15.00
Thayer.....	190.00
Trinity.....	35.00
Union Light.....	96.00
United.....	150.00
Unity - Lebanon.....	50.00
Verdella.....	50.00
Viburnum.....	12.00
Wallace Minney (DeSoto).....	10.00
Waynesville 1st.....	100.00

West Plains 1st.....	180.00
Wolf Creek.....	75.00
TOTAL.....	\$7,492.47

MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

Buffalo.....	\$50.00
Lebanon Bible & Book.....	195.00
New Home - Hartville.....	10.00
Niangua.....	20.00
Hartville.....	10.00
Trinity - Bridgeton.....	28.00
Hannon.....	15.00
Thayer.....	50.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	10.00
Willow Springs.....	10.00
Ozark 1st.....	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	10.00
Verdella.....	15.00
DeSoto 1st.....	55.00
Park Hills 1st.....	68.50
Niangua.....	20.00
Hartville.....	10.00
Union.....	30.00
TOTAL.....	\$616.50

FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Nathan Ruble.....	\$15.00
Thayer.....	50.00
Calvary Fellowship.....	30.00
Ozark 1st.....	300.00
Verdella.....	227.85
DeSoto 1st.....	40.00
South Central Assoc.....	900.00
TOTAL.....	\$1,562.85

HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

West Plains 1st.....	\$156.00
Hannon.....	50.00
Thayer.....	55.00
Grant Avenue.....	7.00
Joplin 1st.....	75.00
Verdella.....	135.00
Neosho 1st.....	50.00
South Central Assoc.....	900.00
TOTAL.....	\$1,428.00

STEVE SMITH

DeSoto 1st.....	\$55.00
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TRULA CRONK HOME FOR CHILDREN

Myrtle.....	\$5.00
Hannon.....	100.00
New Hope.....	30.00
Unity - Lebanon.....	10.00
Belton.....	50.00
DeSoto 1st.....	80.00
Myrtle.....	3.00
TOTAL.....	\$278.00

REV. JOHN MCCLURE

Trinity - Bridgeton.....	\$10.00
Thayer.....	10.00
Central West Dist. Woman's Aux.....	45.00
Monett 1st.....	35.00
Carthage.....	183.36
Harmony - Parkville.....	40.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	42.50
Grace - Arnold.....	15.00
TOTAL.....	\$380.86

YOUTH MINISTRIES BOARD

Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	\$105.00
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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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MISSOURI RETIREMENT PROGRAM

Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	\$142.50
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STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	\$225.00
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CAMP DEVELOPMENT FUND

Houston 1st.....	\$100.00
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2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Mission Assoc.....	185.00
Bethel - El Dorado Springs.....	75.00
TOTAL.....	\$260.00



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.

United FWB Conducts Bible Conference

The United FWB Church in West Plains hosted a Bible Conference March 7-10. The speakers for the conference were Rev. Ben Scott and his son, Rev. Randy Scott. Brother Randy Scott is presently serving as pastor of the Sutton FWB Church in Pocahontas, Arkansas. Brother Ben Scott is presently serving as interim pastor of the Myrtle FWB Church. These pastors came with an abundance of pastoral experience and also experience as conference and revival speakers.

It was a time of "spiritual refreshing" as the church met each service for sweet fellowship and solid gospel preaching. Comments from the congregation were: "Wonderful preaching" . . . "strong Bible preaching" . . . "Blessings for everyone."

The Lord is blessing the United Church with continued growth. The Annual Report showed 58 additions to the church in 1998 and the First Quarterly Report for 1999 showed 20 additions. Rev. Glenn Murray is pastor of the United Church.

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

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

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

STATE HOME MISSIONS NEWS FROM JACKSON

We want to thank you for your continued prayer and financial support for the new Free Will Baptist church in Jackson, MO. Your prayers, along with our prayers, continue to be answered, as you will see in the following update of the Lord's working here in our church.

One of our prayers the Lord has miraculously answered is His sending us a young family all the way from Virginia to help us in reaching this area for Christ. We have had several young couples visit in our services, but most of those attending our church are older (notice I didn't say old), and as you know, it takes younger couples to attract other young couples to continue coming. **Robbie and Lisa Gerst**, who were working in a church in Virginia, felt led of the Lord to come and help us. Robbie called me one evening and asked if we could use them—you know what my answer was, don't you? **It was really God's answer to our prayers!** So Robbie, Lisa and their three boys have now moved to the area. He found a job in just a few days, which was another answer to our prayers. He is going to be involved in getting our "bus ministry" going, as well as other activities for the youth. They previously are from the Bethel Free Will Baptist Church in Festus, MO.

We had our highest attendance day since our first service. On **February 21** we had a total attendance of **39**. Then the next Sunday we were down to **29**; the following Sunday, with some out of town and others sick, we were down to **20**; then guess what happened this past Sunday, March 14—we had **0**, as we had no services because of 13 to 14 inches of snow on the ground. I pray that we can now go from **0** back up to **39**, and even more! One thing we can praise the Lord for, on our high Sunday we also had a record offering of **\$870.95**, which helped us to keep our average offerings for the past month above \$400.

Your faithful prayers and support are being used of the Lord to do what we came here for, and that is to build a church for the glory and honor of God. Just this afternoon we saw evidence of the Lord's working in sinners' lives, as one of the mothers of our congregation was in the hospital room when her son, Bud Hurt, asked Jesus to forgive him of his sins and come into his life. His mother, Opal London, has been coming to our church from the beginning and she has six other sons we hope to reach for the Lord. We just started our second semester of Evangelism Explosion on March 9. Seven are enrolled in the course, and we are looking forward to some fruit from this evangelism and edification ministry. I believe as we continue to faithfully plant and water that "God will give the increase."

Continue to call our names in your prayers. "Thanks" again to you all for how you have helped us.

The Longs

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