

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

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**" . . . turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children
to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."**

Malachi 4:6

NEWS FROM BUD & RUTH BIVENS

Dear Faithful Friends: There is always so much that we would like to share with you. However, with this letter I wanted to let you in on what we have been up to in the past couple of weeks. We thought you might enjoy a look at this week's and next week's column "FROM MY POINTLESS VIEW," Ruth's weekly column published in the Mayes County Banner in Pryor, Oklahoma.

Roll Call Sunday With Nuts And A Cherry - Part I

Roll Call Sunday is a red letter day among Free Will Baptists all across the nation and its connected properties. All of the FWB churches do everything they can think of to see how many people they can get to come to church for that Sunday morning. We have heard about pastors eating lunch on the roof, bar-be-cues, pony rides, and other crazy un-religious type activities. But, the Primera Iglesia Bautista de Libre Albedrio (First Free Will Baptist Church) in Puerto Rico surely had the most hilarious day of them all yesterday. We served banana splits to a gang of kids from Covadongas!

Covadongas is one of the large government housing projects in Trujillo Alto. There are many of these projects in the San Juan area and around the island. Essentially, people are warehoused in high rise concrete buildings. Poverty is terrible, crime is unspeakable, and life is miserable. When we first came here we would go out for a walk each morning. Our landlady, Adelaida, quickly warned us not to walk by a housing project called Los Cedros—a project consisting of twin, ten-story towers, enclosed with a high fence, where 360 families live. We had already walked by Los Cedros and no one jumped out and bit us, so we did not worry. Her warning grew more stern. "Well, don't walk by there after 5 o'clock. They will shoot you. The police don't even go into the projects because the drug dealers have better weapons than they do."

Hubby couldn't stand it. He went in, up one stair case after another (the elevators were/and remain broken). He knocked on doors inviting people to English class, and met some warm and wonderful people! But, in the evenings, two blocks away in our little apartment, we could hear gunfire from Los Cedros. And occasionally a body turned up on the street outside.

Adelaida told us, "Well, you sure don't want to go to Covadongas. It is worse than Los Cedros." Covadongas is a complex of 30 four-story buildings with 32 families in each building—again inside a high fence. It has all of the same problems, only worse.

Then Lillian, a lady from our congregation, went to work as a mentor for DHS and was assigned a family in Covadongas. She began to talk to us about the family and how badly they needed the Lord. She wanted us to meet them, but cautioned us how dangerous it is there and that she would have to take us the first time. Then the oldest boy suffered a ruptured appendix and we went to see him in the hospital. There we met the mother and father and Jose, 10. Soon after Jose was able to go home from the hospital Lillian brought them to church. What a boost in attendance that was—a mother with seven children. Before long, she brought a neighbor Magdalena; and then that neighbor brought another neighbor, Nancy. Nancy came to the altar to accept Christ that first Sunday and all three of the women asked if they could borrow one of the church Bibles. We gave them the Bibles. Then we

started awarding Bibles to children who have birthdays. Total kids from these three households—15, all excited about coming to church—and they sometimes bring friends.

As we go to visit them, Hubby gets a kick out of having a little bag of cookies or candy to give each family. The children are so hungry for anything different, and so delighted that someone would just come by and hug their necks for no apparent reason. Over the weeks of visiting there on Saturdays the neighbors have concluded that we must be the grandparents of Dolores' children. You would believe it too, if you could see the way they come bounding down the stairs to meet us half way across the court yard with smiles that light up the sky. They must have their little faces poked between the bars of their windows watching for us, because they meet us before we can make it up to their apartment. The smaller ones want to be picked up and hugged into oblivion, and swung around and around. Their reaction always makes me think that nobody else is meeting their daily quota of hugs, so they have to stock up when we are around.

We are learning how to choose treats to take. If there is an assortment, they want at least one of each, preferably more. If it is jelly beans, they want one of each color in their mouth and that many for their pocket. One thing they love is called "Limber." These are just small paper cups of frozen Kool-Aid. Watching how they enjoy sucking on the cup of flavored water, Hubby said one day, "Wouldn't it be fun to just bring a gallon of ice cream to them?" Then his idea grew. "We could make banana splits," he said. "We could just buy everything we need and go to the apartment and make banana splits."

"Yes," I agreed, "we could do that." But, we are busy, and the good idea never got off the ground—until Roll Call Sunday came along.

As we pondered what to do to bring in extra people for that special day, Hubby mentioned banana splits again. "That would be kind of hard to pull off," I cautioned. I fell to thinking of the difficulty of keeping ice cream frozen, the mess of scooping it out of the cartons, and all of the help we would need to control a crowd of children. And this would be expensive. Bananas cost 89 cents a pound and ice cream is \$6.49 a half gallon. Then, where in the world we would do this thing. Because, we had another major problem.

The Fannins, who are soon going to join us in the work here, bought a house full of furniture from a Methodist missionary family who moved back to the states in January. It is stored in the church office, in the breeze-way that serves as our "fellowship hall," and in our house. To have any kind of activity, we need that breeze-way cleaned out. However, there is no place to go with the furniture. The refrigerator is even setting in the back of the little, carport type sanctuary.

Hubby did not talk the project over any further with me, but the following Sunday announced from the pulpit, "On Roll Call Sunday we will be serving free banana splits. Everyone should bring their whole family and all of their friends and neighbors!" People asked, "What is a banana split?" Only two or three in the congregation that morning knew that it had to do with a banana, ice cream, and a cherry on top. The children cheered. If it had to do with ice cream, they were all for it.

(continued on page 10)

All items for publication must be in the hands of the editor no later than the 10th of the month preceding the issue month.

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Greetings From India

Rev. Carlisle Hanna

Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord. I trust you are well and that our Lord continues to bless our churches in Missouri. Please do be assured that I do pray for you and dear ones in the state faithfully. Marie's mother's youngest sister is still living in Farmington. She will be 80 on April 16 and is no longer able to write to us. I am thankful for the cousins who do write to us from Park Hills. I am thankful that I was able to visit them before I came back to India last year.

Sherwood Lee and James Forlines came to be with us for our Annual Conference in March. They had time to visit our work here and then we flew down to South India. Sherwood and Vada ministered to our church people down there one year when they came out, but this was the first visit for James. Last year is the only year I have not been with them in South India at least once each year since 1969. That was the last time we took a one year furlough. Our Lord blessed their time here in India. They left me in Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, to fly to Bombay and on out of India. I returned home to Sonapur.

We dedicated Living Bread FWB Church on March 28. It is a nice building and in such a pretty place. It is located on a deep curve on the National Highway and has wonderful potential for growth. Please do pray for the team working there. We hope to be able to dedicate Harvest FWB Church in May.

Our Lord has enabled me to come back to India and to stay and work hard. I praise Him. This has been the most difficult year of my life. These days are not easy for me, but I do not sorrow as those who have no HOPE. Our people have loved, cared and helped me and our family in so many ways. All of us are deeply grateful. My thanks to our church people in Missouri for the financial support and for your love, prayers and concern for us and India.

My plans are to go to U. S. A. on June 10. It seems I have always been able to tell our people when we left when I would expect to return until I left last year. Again, I believe this is the time for me to go, but I need your prayers regarding the time I should return. Please pray, too, for four special unspoken requests.

Lovingly in Christ,
D. Carlisle Hanna

THE REFUGE

J. Otis Ledbetter and Tim Smith

In 1989, an earthquake hit Armenia. Over thirty thousand people were killed in a matter of minutes. Afterward, a father left his house and rushed to the school where he knew his son had been at the time of the quake. He found the building had been leveled and remembered the promise he had once made to his son: "No matter what, I'll always be there for you!" But as he looked at the pile of debris, the father felt hopeless. Tears filled his eyes. What could he possibly do? Still, he kept thinking about the commitment he had made.

Suddenly, he remembered where his son's classroom was, in the back right corner of the building. He rushed to the spot and started digging through the rubble with his hands. Other heartbroken parents arrived. They were crying and saying, "My

son!" "My daughter!" Some tried to pull him away from the debris, saying, "It's too late! They're dead! You can't help. Go home! Face reality, there is nothing you can do! You are just going to make things worse!"

The father responded, "Won't you help me?" and continued to dig for his son, moving one stone at a time. A fire chief tried to pull him away, telling him fires were breaking out and explosions were happening all around them. But the Armenian father responded, "Won't you help me?" The police told him he was endangering others and should go home, but again he replied, "Won't you help me?" and he proceeded alone.

The father dug for eight hours . . . twelve hours . . . thirty-six hours. Then, in the fortieth hour, he pulled back a boulder and heard his son's voice. He screamed his son's name, "AR-MAND!"

"Dad! It's me. Dad! I told the other kids not to worry. I told them that if you were alive, you'd save me and when you saved me, they'd be saved. You did it, Dad!"

When the building collapsed, it had made a wedge like a triangle, and saved the lives of thirteen other children still alive with Armand.

Armand's Father said, "Come on out, boy!"

"No, Dad! Let the other kids out first. No matter what, I know you'll be there for me!"

As we seek to establish family traditions and to pass on stories, beliefs, and customs to our children, the goal is to reinforce a strong sense of identity and an abiding faith in God. We want the bond to be reinforced with an unshakable trust, the kind that prompts our child to say, "No matter what, I know you will be there for me!"

Excerpt from Heritage Builders: Family Traditions, by J. Otis Ledbetter and Tim Smith, Chariot Victor Publishing. Printed with permission by David C. Cook Church Ministries.

"GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD"

By Wade T. Jernigan

Christ had the world upon His shoulders when He prayed in John 17. Nineteen times He spoke of the world in one manner or another. He saw both the mission of Himself as well as the mission of His Church. This is made most evident in John 17:18, "***As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.***" His was no narrow mission. Neither is ours. It is not a question as to whether or not the Church ***will*** go, but rather ***when***. Marching orders for the Church are spoken by the Commander Himself. "Go ye into all the world . . ." (Mark 16:15).

Christ, the Author, Announcer and the Authority of the great commission, gave it a universal flavor with a home base start. Universality is seen in Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47-48; John 20:21; and Acts 1:8. Home base is viewed in Christ's statement, ". . . beginning at Jerusalem . . ." (Luke 24:47b). However, "both" in Acts 1:8 carries the meaning "at the selfsame time."

Isaiah's writing best fits the full program, "Enlarge the place of thy tent and let them ***stretch forth*** the curtains of thine habitations: ***spare not***, lengthen thy cords, and ***strengthen thy stakes***; for thou ***shalt break forth*** on the right hand and on the left; and ***thy seed shall inherit*** the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited . . ." (Isaiah 54:2,3). Those underlined statements carry forth the argument of "here, there and everywhere," the very essence of Acts 1:8.

Remembering Ministry Pioneers

By Mildred Rider



Rev. & Mrs. Hibbitts and Rev. & Mrs. Moyers

Three pioneer ministers, instrumental in establishing three of our Free Will Baptist churches in Missouri, are remembered: Rev. Charles Moyers, Rev. George Hibbitts, and Rev. Willard Darnell.

In 1952, Brother Charles Moyers visited my husband and myself and invited us to attend a newly organized church started by himself, Brother George Hibbitts, and Brother Willard Darnell. The group was worshipping in an abandoned laundromat with several families and lots of teenagers and children. The children and youth held their Sunday school classes in cars. We joined with the congregation the following Sunday after being invited.

In September of that same year, we called Rev. Damon Dodd (who was with our National Offices in Nashville, Tennessee), to come and conduct a tent revival for our church. God blessed with one or two souls being saved. During the tent meeting, we held an organizational

service and became established as a church, with our charter members organizing our congregation known as Farmington First Free Will Baptist Church. My husband and myself along with some of our children, and Brother Moyers and his family were among those first charter members.

The church called Rev. James Barker from St. Louis to come as pastor. In the interim period, until he could be with us, Rev. Dean Burpo and his wife pastored and led us.

After Brother Moyers saw that the church was becoming rooted and established, he and Brother George Hibbitts started another mission church in Hurryville, which later became known as the Hurryville Free Will Baptist Church.

My family attended the Farmington Church until 1957 when my husband, employed by Kroger's, was transferred to DeSoto, Missouri. In 1966, Brother Moyers visited us and asked if we would, again, join him in organizing another Free Will Baptist Church in DeSoto. We agreed to help him, and DeSoto First Free Will Baptist Church began. Brother Charles was with the church for fifteen months, and then Rev. Charles Miller was called as pastor, and stayed for twenty-five years. Brother George Hibbitts and his wife traveled down on weekends from Fredericktown to help with the work.

The Lord led these three men and blessed their willingness to be used, and today we have three God-honoring churches from God using these men.

Brother and Sister Hibbitts and Brother Moyers have all gone on to be with the Lord.

"Little is much if God is in it!"

What About A Living Trust?

By Jim Williams

I find Luke 12:20 to be a very interesting verse and worthy of special attention. Christ is speaking and says, "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

Christ was addressing a very important part of life, and that is death. Of course, the most important part to deal with is the soul of man and one's eternal destiny. However, Christ also asks a very sobering question dealing with one's possessions he leaves behind. Christ asked this wealthy man in a matter of words, "After you're gone, who will get what you leave behind?" (Paraphrased)

Our Missouri Free Will Baptists have developed an opportunity for you to attain a Living Trust to protect you and your family's assets. It provides for you the opportunity to give to the Free Will Baptist's work after you're gone, and if you include our denomination in your trust, the cost for you to have a trust is **very minimal**.

Can you afford not to provide this aid to your loved ones when you leave this world for eternity?

For more information, or for assistance in setting up a living trust, ask your pastor to contact me or you can contact me yourself by phone at (417) 358-3080; by Fax at (417) 358-5902; or by mail at P. O. Box 578, Carthage, MO 64836.

"God Has So Richly Blessed"

In Loving Memory of Mrs. Bertha Kessler

By Judy McWilliams

We here at the Rolla First Free Will Baptist Church would like to share with you what has been going on. We had a wonderful member of our congregation, Mrs. Bertha Kessler, who had a love for the church, for children, and a great desire to see the church grow with souls being saved.

The Lord allowed her to make a contribution that has enabled us to renovate our sanctuary and Sunday school classes with hopes of bringing more people in. The Lord has been blessing us with new people and prayers are being answered. Our God is so good!

AVAILABLE FOR PULPIT SUPPLY

Rev. Dale Kester is available for pulpit supply, revivals, and special services. You may contact him at 417-336-3917.

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.

Strategic Financial Planning Seminar

By Jim Williams

"Brother Jim . . . I wish you had been here and done your seminar sooner. I had a \$750 doctor bill I couldn't pay, so I went to a lawyer for advice on how to handle it. He said I should claim bankruptcy, so I did. I now owe him \$500 for the bankruptcy and I have ruined my credit."

"Brother Williams . . . the seminar you taught us was like a breath of fresh air. I was afraid all we would hear was about budgets. Imagine my surprise to learn some things I can put to use that will increase my income now, while still planning for the future. Thanks."

These are a couple of comments I have received after doing a "Strategic Financial Planning Seminar."

Does it seem strange to you that we want to see folks get saved, begin giving to the local church, and live a holy life, yet so often we fail to place in their hands some very inexpensive tools to help them accomplish these needs?

I have done many of these seminars now, and two of the churches have scheduled me back to do a follow-up. I do believe this is an area God has blessed me in and as the Bible says, "Freely you have received, freely give," so I am being used wherever God opens the door for me to go.

While covering about every area of finances, enough of the gospel is presented to touch the heart of the unsaved.

Have you considered what would happen if you became disabled? Or what if you live to a healthy older age? Could you live or just get by? What about your death? Don't you think death is enough pain to your loved ones without adding to their grief? I do believe there is enough help available to you that you can make some preparation that will benefit everyone no matter which of the three comes your way.

If you would like me to present a "Strategic Financial Planning Seminar" at your church, call me and we'll discuss it and set up a date. There is no charge for my time or materials I use.

Contact Jim Williams at (417) 358-4112 or at Fax # (417) 358-5902.

AN ATHEIST'S TRAGIC DOUBTS

What were the inner thoughts and feelings of America's foremost atheist? A review of Madalyn Murray O'Hair's diaries, recently auctioned to pay off \$250,000 owed in back taxes to the Federal Government, yields revealing answers to this question. In addition to chronicling the treachery she perceived among those in American Atheist's membership who dared to question her autonomy, as well as her unrelenting quest for wealth, there is a glimpse of the emptiness that her godless life left her. As she wrote in her diary, "I have failed in marriage, motherhood, as a politician." Even more poignant are her lines, "Somebody, somewhere, love me," which she wrote six times. If only she had realized that *Someone* did, more than she could have ever imagined.

LESSONS FROM NATURE BY GARRY MATTHEWS

You could feel it. The fog hung heavy in the 36 degree air. Visibility was less than 50 yards. Quiet—absolute stillness—you really could feel it! Chad and I stalked quietly along the deer trail to the point where it intersected the fire lane. Hopefully the swirling fog would hide us from the deer which would even now be moving along the creek bottom, the connecting ditches, and starting to climb the ridges toward our ambush points. Twice we stopped to add fresh deer scent to scrapes that had been demolished since we doctored them as we left yesterday. One of the scrapes contained the largest deer track that I had ever seen (and I've seen a few over the years). Chad and I exchanged knowing glances as I used the point and part of an arrow shaft to gauge the track size. Chad had been eyeball to eyeball with a large 8 pt. buck earlier in the week (alas, no shot), but he felt this buck was larger.

Chad decided to watch a ridge intersection which he had seen numerous deer use earlier. After a whispered discussion of wind direction, we finally reached a consensus of exact set-up location (we go through this quite often as I share my "expert gut feel"—Ha!—and he "shares" his rapidly developing "gut feel"). I quietly hurried to my ambush point a few ridges away, stopping once more to freshen another scrape. I arrived at the site I had selected in my mind and looked around for just the "right" set-up point. I found a black oak with four trunks just three feet away from the fence separating public land from the state park (wildlife refuge and deer bedding area). I would sit behind the tree, using it as a blind to hide the motion as I drew my bow. Less than 25 yards from the tree, the top two wires of the old fence were broken. The rutted deer trail indicated it was a major crossing point, and a scrape was less than 50 yards away. I leaned my long bow and back quiver against the tree. Pulling a pair of pruning shears from my shoulder bag, I trimmed briars and branches to create a narrow shooting lane to the trail. Returning to the tree, I sat on my folding stool and put on the rest of my camouflage clothes.

As I shoved a diaphragm turkey call in my mouth and pulled down my head net, I got one of those "feelings." I looked up just as a doe jumped the fence into the state park. Looking around the tree I saw a second doe step to the top of the

ridge and stop. Wait a minute! I'm not ready! I grabbed my bow and slid an arrow on the string—I would have to shoot bare-handed as I didn't have my shooting glove on yet. It didn't matter, with the commotion she had spotted me and spun around heading back to the creek bottom below. Gimme a break! At least let me get ready! In less than a minute I finished getting ready!

The swirling fog was like looking through a window while someone played with the blinds. One minute I would be looking at a tree 50 yards away, and the next minute it would disappear in the fog. As the fog swirled, I saw the back half of a deer about 30 yards away heading toward the creek bottom. Where did that deer come from? Was it the same doe? Then I caught a glimpse of antlers. I grabbed my deer call and gave a doe bleat. The buck stopped and stood absolutely still for several minutes. I caught glimpses of it 40 yards away in the fog. Finally he trotted off toward the creek bottom. For the first time this morning, I could hear the deer moving. Suddenly there was a crashing sound to my left down in the creek bottom. Deer were running back and forth across the bottom. I could hear brush breaking as the buck was chasing does down below me. At that exact moment a turkey yelped directly behind me. I could hear it scratching in the leaves just below the ridge top. I can't tell you how many times I've been in this situation before—and the majority of the time the results are not good! As I turned to look back over my left shoulder for the turkey, a large doe burst out of the creek bottom, topped the ridge and ran in a semi-circle around me. In her rush to escape the buck, she didn't see me. She stopped about 15 yards from the fence. My tree was just "perfect"—it hid me from her view. Now she is standing broadside, but a sapling is blocking her chest. She takes a step from behind the sapling and looks down the fence in the opposite direction from me. My bow is up, my eyes focused on a spot just behind her right front leg, and the string comes back easily. Completely relaxed, the doe turns her head looking in my direction as my hand brushed my cheek and the arrow is away. I watch the black arrow with the bright yellow feathers flash across the 21 steps between us. Milliseconds before impact she whirls 180 degrees (directly away), and I see the yellow feathers pass

parallel 2-3 inches the full length of her body from back to front. Missed! She had dodged the arrow! (This is only the second time that has happened in over 20 years of bowhunting). My bow shoots my arrows around 190 feet per second, and it is very quiet. She was 21 yards (63 feet) away and the arrow was gone just as she turned her head my direction. In less than 1/3 of a tick of the clock, she had reacted—just enough to save her life! My reaction? I smiled and tipped my hat in admiration. Believe it or not, that made my bow season! The intensity of that moment is indescribable. That split second, frozen in time, is etched forever on my mind—the yellow and black arrow traveling the entire length of her body as she spins away. That's why I hunt the way I do. The challenge of one-on-one, on the ground, pitting my limited range weapon and meager woodman ship skills against the keen senses and survival instincts of deer and turkey, is immense. No matter how I try to stack the odds in my favor, by far, the majority of the time they win these close encounters. My success rate as a predator will not threaten any four-legged predators! Meantime, Chad was having his own close encounters. He called a 4-pt. buck into less than 10 yards, drew down on him, but could not shoot because a sapling was in the way. Finally, the buck walked over the edge of the ridge without presenting an open shot.

In 1 Corinthians 10:13, the apostle Paul says: **"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."** I had just witnessed an example of a great escape! God had built into that deer the millisecond, instinctive reaction to dodge my arrow. Had the deer leaped forward, the arrow would still have produced a lethal hit. The only escape was to whirl away, and that sure didn't seem like a possibility to me! Later the thought came to me—"if God has equipped wildlife with this unique ability to escape danger—how much more has he equipped his sons and daughters to escape the spiritual ambushes of Satan?" Do I exercise my spiritual instincts and hone them to allow me to escape the devil's point-blank assaults? I've finally come to the conclusion that deer are so skittish and "wired" all the time so that

they can escape life threatening danger when it does suddenly appear. If only we Christians were so skittish of spiritual dangers! I'm afraid, too often when we are in the position the doe was in, we hesitate. We want to be certain it really is danger. We wouldn't want to appear foolish and bolt away if it's not necessary. Yet every day, even many times a day deer bolt—putting distance between them and the perceived danger first—then they pause to see it was really danger. If only we Christians could learn and teach this valuable lesson, we would suffer fewer spiritual casualties!

" . . . but will with the temptation also make a way to escape . . . "

Sunday School Averages November 1998 - April 1999

CHURCHES	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Belton	39		35	36	35	34
Calvary Chapel		135	146	142	143	134
Cape Girardeau	60	51	51	58	56	52
Copper Mines	55	52	49	51	51	
Cuba		116	117	102	101	110
Columbia		20	24	25	28	29
DeSoto	160	161	142	160	158	
Farmington		348	328	384	577	
Hannon	103	116	98	122	109	116
Harmony	58	57				
Hartville		116	105	111	106	101
Hazel Creek		68				62
Hopewell	32	28	31	29	30	29
Houston	45	46	46	54	46	
Kirkville 1st	29	27				
Lebanon 1st	113	119	81			
Lebanon FWB	54	56	55	57	50	54
Mill Creek	60	61	54	59	62	66
Monett	45	57	52	56	56	62
Myrtle		42			41	
O'Fallon 1st		75	77	79	73	76
Oskaloosa		15	15	15		
Ozark	103		106	119	120	
Park Hills		115	87	115		146
Purdy	49	45	51	52	46	
Richwoods	29	28	24	33		
Rock Chapel			48			
Rolla 1st	22	26	29	27	35	32
Southside	40	37	35	32	32	
Springfield 1st	125	132	115	124	131	129
Thayer	143	161	139	147		
Trinity	81	85			76	72
United, West Plains	293		301	290	302	304
Willow Springs	58	63	64	55	54	57

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.

Sister Winona Riggs Called Home

Sister Winona Riggs, well-known and much admired among the Free Will Baptist denomination, passed away on Tuesday, March 23, 1999. She was admitted to the hospital in Cookeville, Tennessee, where it was determined that she was critically ill. At times her body temperature would go as high as 106 degrees. Medical personnel, family and friends did all that could be done for her. All of the Riggs' children, except for their son Stephen—missionary to France—had been at the hospital before she passed away.

The Riggs' have six children, all of whom attended Free Will Baptist Bible College. All four sons are ordained. Charles Riggs is an ordained deacon and minister of music. Dr. Kenneth Riggs pastors West Meade Fellowship of Nashville. (He was formerly Chairman of the Teacher Education Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College.) Randall Riggs has pastored several Free Will Baptist churches, but is now between churches. (The last church he pastored was Harper Road Free Will Baptist Church at Joelton, Tennessee.) The youngest son, Stephen, is serving the Foreign Missions Department as a missionary to France. Both daughters are active in local churches. Ramona lives in Virginia and Patsy lives in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The Riggs' have twenty grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. One grandson is a pastor and one is a medical doctor.

Sister Winona Riggs was a very gifted person. She was an outstanding organist and pianist. She was also a good singer and a unique writer. She wrote a book of humor entitled *Bologna From Winona*. Mrs. Riggs loved music and could play from memory almost any hymn that one could suggest.

Mrs. Riggs was the daughter of the late Reverend and Mrs. Newton P. Gates of Arkansas and Michigan. She has two brothers, both of whom live in Michigan, Graydon Gates and Lowell Gates.

The Riggs' have been a great ministry team. Bother Riggs' preaching, Mrs. Riggs' playing the organ or piano and both of them singing have blessed the hearts of multiplied thousands of people.

The Riggs' have been married for 62 years. They have contributed much to the cause of Christ and the Free Will Baptist denomination. Mrs. Riggs' greatest contribution is that of the six outstanding children who are following them in the faith. She was admired and loved by all who knew her. There is no doubt that she was one of the most interesting and colorful personalities among Free Will Baptists.

Sister Trula Cronk, former missionary to India, said of Mrs. Riggs: "The greatest compliment that I could pay Winona was to tell her how much I love and appreciate all of her children. My fondest memory is her music. My, I wish she could have willed that gift of hers to me! But there will be wonderful music for all of us when we join her in heaven with the Lord."

1998 SHOW-ME PLAN GIFTS

Cave Springs Association	\$17,038.49
Central Western Association	35,007.51
Greater Springfield Association	13,981.08
Greater Kansas City Association	10,522.00
Indian Creek Association	57,430.95
Laclede Association	2,010.00
Liberty Association	9,275.00
Mid-Rivers Association	4,878.00
Miscellaneous	860.79
Mission Association	39,900.65
Niangua Association	1,345.00
Northeast Association	4,886.20
Northwest Association	7,020.00
South Central Association	8,089.54
Southeast Association	6,645.00
St. Francois Association	47,947.62
St. Louis Association	28,969.00
Missouri Women Active For Christ	7,655.56
TOTAL	\$303,462.39

FREE WILL BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION TO MEET IN ATLANTA

The National Association of Free Will Baptists meets in Atlanta, Georgia, July 18-22, 1999, for its 63rd annual session. Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington says he expects 7,000 delegates and visitors from 40 states at the Atlanta Civic Center for the five-day meeting. For the third time Georgia's 10,000 members and 120 churches will host the national convention. The National Association first met in Georgia in 1947 (Columbus), then returned in 1973 (Macon).

The National Association of Free Will Baptists includes 2,500 churches with more than 215,000 members in 40 states. The denomination supports 105 missionaries in 10 foreign countries and 70 home missionaries in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

National convention delegates are expected to approve denominational budgets which will exceed \$17 million. Moderator Carl Cheshier (President of Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Oklahoma) will gavel the voting body through electing 39 board and commission members and general officers. Each national agency and commission will submit an annual report to delegates during the two-day convention business session on Wednesday and Thursday.

The 1999 convention theme is "All in Accord." Five pastors will deliver major addresses: Cliff Donoho (Iowa), Danny Williams (Alabama), Kent Barwick (Tennessee), Roger Hogan (Missouri) and Robert Morgan (Tennessee).

Meeting simultaneously with the National Association are the 32nd annual National Youth Conference, with an expected 2,500 registrants and the 64th annual Women Nationally Active for Christ (WNAC) Convention with more than 1,000 women anticipated.

The four-day National Youth Conference (NYC) which includes Bible competitive activities as well as a music and arts festival will rally around the theme, "No Wall Too High." NYC will conduct separate worship services for all youth at the Marriott Hotel. Numerous seminars are scheduled for attendees. Several hundred teens will participate in service and work projects within the Atlanta community. The youth will meet with the adults Wednesday evening for a combined worship service at the Atlanta Civic Center.

The two-day WNAC theme is "Passing the Torch." WNAC's Monday afternoon seminar will meet in the Marriott Marquis with Tennessee's Genny Waddell speaking. The Tuesday business session convenes at the Atlanta Civic Center. The WNAC keynote service will feature missionary to Brazil, Shirley Combs. South Carolina speaker Brenda Vaughn will address the Fellowship Dinner at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday.

Monday afternoon, the Pastor/Laymen Conference meets in the Atlanta Civic Center. The two-hour conference will focus on leadership with Atlanta-based author John Maxwell speaking. More than 2,000 people are expected to attend.

The Tuesday morning Home Missions/Foreign Missions Rally will meet in the Imperial Ballroom at the Marriott Marquis. More than 900 ministers and laymen will gather for the two-hour session.

The Marriott Marquis will serve as headquarters hotel for the national convention, the National Youth Conference and

WNAC. Adult worship services as well as all business sessions will meet at the Atlanta Civic Center.

For the first time in recent memory, convention registration and exhibits will be housed in the headquarters hotel (Marriott Marquis) located about three blocks from the Atlanta Civic Center.

Eight Georgia Free Will Baptists serve on the national Steering Committee to coordinate the 1999 convention:

William Smith (Colquitt) - Chairman/Steering Committee
Paul Smith (Fayetteville) - State Moderator
Herbert Waid (Moultrie) - Registration Committee Chairman
Terry Pierce (Marietta) - Hospitality Committee Chairman
Charles Barnard (Macon) - Prayer Committee Chairman
Jack Daniel (Albany) - Ushering Committee Chairman
Gail Smith (Fayetteville) - State Auxiliary President
Rodney Goodman (Alma) - NYC Advisor

The Power Plant

By Charles Bernard

"And . . . they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God . . . And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:24, 31 KJV).

In the April 1999 issue of CONTACT, Master's Men Director, Tom Dooley, asked the question: "Do You Have A Furnace Room?" In the article, he made reference to the source of C.H. Spurgeon's remarkable success in the ministry. It was the hundreds of people who met with regularity to pray for the services and pastor. **Fervent, specific, and united prayer lies at the root of the power of the Church.**

As Chairman of the Prayer Committee for the upcoming National Convention in Atlanta, I have been searching for ways to ignite a renewed emphasis upon prayer throughout the state of Georgia and across our denomination. Following the lead of Daniel Phillips and last year's Oklahoma Prayer Committee, we have begun to hold **Concerts of Prayer** across the state. **Prayer postcards** designating convention personalities and reminding members of their personal prayer responsibilities are being distributed. However, much more needs to be done if we are to experience an outpouring of the Holy Spirit such as is mentioned in the text printed above.

This year's meeting will have a designated place for people to spend time in fervent, effectual prayer for the speakers, officers, and meetings of our Convention. Instead of milling around in the corridors during services, we are urging people to find their way to the **Power Plant**. The **Power Plant** will be located in a room just off the Civic Center stage on the orchestra level. Signs will clearly mark this room's designation and its purpose.

Some people might balk at spending time in the **Power Plant** during services or business meetings. Yet, if I were a speaker or officer, I would rather have my friends on their knees in the **Power Plant** praying for God's anointing upon me than in the seats cheering me on.

The **Power Plant** will be open and available throughout the Convention. Feel free to enter and pray as often and as long as you like. In the end, whether or not we live up to this year's theme of "**All In Accord**" will depend greatly upon the measure of the Spirit's anointing upon our lives.

The time **you** spend in the **Power Plant** will have a distinct and direct impact upon the success and spirit of this year's convention! Together, in one accord, we can experience the shaking, filling, and boldness that God intends for His Church to know.

I'll see you in Atlanta. Until then, in the words of Rev. Dooley, "let's take a stand where we can stand tallest — on our knees."

Pre-Registration Form

for

National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Atlanta, Georgia / July 18-22, 1999

DEADLINE:
Must be **postmarked**
on or before
June 18, 1999

Please Print: (Only one person per form—make copies if needed.)

Name: _____
First or Name desired on badge _____ Last _____

Home Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone #: (____) _____ - _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

Church Name: _____ City _____ State _____

Pastor's Name: _____

Note: You may register for all three conventions on this form.

<p align="center">National Association Registration</p> <p>Voting Delegates: All voting delegates must be members in good standing of a Free Will Baptist church.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> National Officer <input type="checkbox"/> National Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> State Delegate <input type="checkbox"/> Local Church Delegate (\$25) <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Missionary <input type="checkbox"/> Home Missionary <input type="checkbox"/> Ordained Deacon <input type="checkbox"/> Ordained Minister</p> <p>Non-Voting Attendees: <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Minister <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor</p>	<p align="center">WNAC Registration</p> <p>Voting Delegates: <input type="checkbox"/> National Officer <input type="checkbox"/> State President <input type="checkbox"/> State Field Worker <input type="checkbox"/> State Delegate <input type="checkbox"/> Local WAC Delegate (\$5)</p> <p>Non-Voting Attendees: <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor</p>
<p align="center">National Youth Conference Registration</p> <p align="center">Pre-Registration Fee: \$20*</p> <p>♦ Grades 1-12 must register to attend NYC events. ♦ Ages 2-6 must register if attending Pre-school Worship.</p> <p>Birthdate: ____/____/____ Age: ____ Grade completed Spring 1999: ____ Parent/Guardian name: _____ Youth Leader's name: _____</p>	

Payment must accompany this form for:

Tickets:
 Youth Workers Reception (\$15) Quantity _____ x \$15 \$ _____
 WNAC Fellowship Dinner (\$28) Quantity _____ x \$28 \$ _____

Delegate Fees:
 Local Church Delegate (\$25) (Must enclose a signed delegate card, see Contact, page 12.)** \$ _____
 Local WAC Delegate (\$5) (Must enclose a signed WNAC delegate card, see Contact, page 12.)** \$ _____

Youth Registration Fee:
 Pre-Registration Fee (\$20) \$ _____
 *On-Site Registration Fee: \$25 \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Send one check for total amount — payable to FWB Convention.

**Delegate cards available on website: www.nafwb.org

Mail to:
Convention Registration
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Confirmation letter will be mailed to
all those pre-registering.

For Office Use Only	
Date Rcv'd _____	
Clk/WO# _____	Amt _____
From _____	

NEWS FROM BUD & RUTH BIVENS

(continued from page 2)

I quickly considered my options: A one way ticket to the northwest, a quick divorce, or murder. I settled on trying to figure out how to pull this thing off—not knowing how many people to expect, and where in the world we would put them, nor how in the world we would make banana splits for everyone.

Roll Call Sunday With Nuts And A Cherry - Part II

The day after Hubby made the announcement that we would be serving banana splits, he went to Sam's Club and bought a huge jar of gorgeous red maraschino cherries with stems. The next Sunday he held it up to show that he was serious; we really are going to have banana splits. "Start inviting your family and friends. We want everyone to bring at least one guest, and more if you can." Once again the children had to be reassured that we were talking about ice cream here. They cheered! I felt a tightness in my chest—panic.

I started making lists. Then I started looking for banana boats. I had seen them at Sam's Club in Texas, so we went to Sam's first. Nothing. George and his wife checked Sam's in Texas, nothing. We checked several other large stores. Nothing. Our El Salvadorian friend brought us a stack of nacho trays just in case, but she mentioned another place—Montalvo's. It is sort of a warehouse market type store. We went there. No banana boats, but I saw a stack of hot dog trays, the carry-out type with a little fold over lid. I knew I could cut them in two. They would work. We bought a bag of two hundred, 100 soft drink cups, and 100 plastic spoons. My mind could not deal with the thought of making more than 100 banana splits but I knew that would be plenty.

Another trip we bought three bottles of chocolate syrup, two of strawberry syrup, and a quart of unsalted peanuts. The Methodist folks had left us four bottles of butterscotch syrup. Hubby put two of them up for safe keeping, remarking that

one of these days we would have banana splits at the church. That was January before this madness began. They are in such a safe place that we can't find them. We have 1 1/2 left.

Time drew closer. Coca Cola went on sale—89 cents for a two liter bottle. Hubby stocked up. Then one day I saw that Pueblo Super market had ice cream on sale for \$1.99 a half gallon carton. Pictured in the ad was the popular Neapolitan type—three kinds of ice cream in one carton. A little light went off in my brain. Buy that kind, slice it, and avoid the scooping. Hubby went that day and ran an extension cord over to the refrigerator stored at the church. The next day we bought 13 cartons of ice cream and four cartons of whipped topping. I figured we could get six big banana splits out of a carton for adults, and eight for children. We had enough for 90. As the big day drew closer, Hubby got cold feet. Did we have enough? The ice cream went on sale again, so he bought three more cartons and one sugar-free vanilla for our dear Brother Tomas Valentin who is 83 and a diabetic.

Now we face the problem, what are we going to do with the crowd? We needed at least another Sunday school class. I spoke to Adelaida. She has been missing some, going to church with her son who is in a treatment center. She agreed that she would stay and help us that day and teach the 7-12 year old children.

How are we going to get the people there? Our church van had been in the shop since last June without its transmission. We had paid the mechanic what he asked for the work, and he never did it. The transmission lay scattered on the ground where it had been when Hurricane George took the roof off of his place. Covadongas is about two miles from our church, so someone has to go there and pick up anyone who comes. We loaned our station wagon to Lillian and a van we had been trying to sell for the Methodist folks. She and her husband began to run two trips to get folks to church and Hubby picked up others in our pickup. Then, Lillian took the mechanic to task. Before she was through, she had the van and its rusted parts towed to a Christian mechanic who fixed it in a week!

(continued on back cover)



Financial Information



APRIL 1999

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board.....	\$8,727.35
17.50% Executive Office.....	8,255.61
3.00% General Fund.....	1,415.25
.50% Show-Me Plan.....	235.87
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.....	4,009.87
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.....	1,179.37
2.50% C.E. Board.....	1,179.37
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Bd.....	1,179.37
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program.....	4,254.75
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College.....	14,388.34
Foreign Missions Board	
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	
(\$143.88 included in \$14,388.34)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund.....	2,358.74
TOTAL.....	\$47,174.89

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%.

APRIL 1999

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

Alton.....	\$225.00
Amity.....	108.37
Aulsbury Chapel.....	171.98
Bailey Chapel.....	200.00
Bailey Chapel.....	200.00
Beacon.....	750.00
Belton.....	373.12
Berean.....	50.00
Bethel - El Dorado Springs.....	70.93
Bethel - Northview.....	226.00
Black Oak.....	258.12
Bourbon.....	74.87
Buffalo 1st.....	100.00
Cabool 1st.....	260.46
Cabool 1st.....	248.88
Calvary Chapel.....	1,019.45
Cape Girardeau 1st.....	385.78
Carthage.....	208.18
Central.....	882.01
Christ Chapel.....	199.31
Clifton.....	60.55
Columbia.....	123.10
Copper Mines.....	465.42
Cornerstone - Joplin.....	41.00
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove.....	420.45
Crossroads - Wentzville.....	583.00

Cuba.....	676.50
DeSoto 1st.....	1,275.00
Emmanuel.....	32.70
Faith & Hope - Aurora.....	54.62
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs.....	45.00
Faith - St. Louis.....	50.00
Farmington 1st.....	3,571.14
Fellowship - Park Hills.....	800.00
Fordland.....	526.81
Fourth - St. Louis.....	333.24
Fredericktown 1st.....	262.00
Freeman Chapel.....	472.30
Grace.....	1,172.00
Grant Avenue.....	869.59
Greenfield.....	235.00
Hannibal.....	198.00
Hannon.....	729.88
Hannon.....	654.09
Harmony - Parkville.....	1,018.96
Hartville.....	412.61
Heritage - Poplar Bluff.....	100.00
Hopewell.....	154.00
Houston 1st.....	326.96
Hurryville.....	408.39
Jackson.....	200.05
Jones Chapel.....	590.10
Joplin 1st.....	426.41
Kirkville 1st.....	5.00
Koshkonong.....	150.72
Lead Hill.....	233.84
Lebanon.....	272.51
Lebanon.....	370.73

Lebanon 1st.....	971.17
Lone Star.....	48.60
Macedonia.....	37.45
Merls Chapel.....	178.00
Mill Creek.....	370.14
Mine La Motte.....	67.51
Monett 1st.....	361.52
Monett 1st.....	390.97
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	1,785.99
Mt. Pisgah.....	329.00
Mt. Zion - Gower.....	54.00
Myrtle.....	208.63
Neosho 1st.....	95.00
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	70.00
New Life - Licking.....	68.53
New Life - Licking.....	377.29
New Rock Springs.....	97.00
New Rock Springs.....	200.00
North Five.....	96.70
Number One.....	97.36
Oak Grove - Mtn. Grove.....	170.87
O'Fallon 1st.....	766.00
Overland.....	130.00
Ozark 1st.....	1,038.25
Park Hills 1st.....	775.88
Parkview.....	543.30
Parkview - Desloge.....	471.98
Pleasant Hill - Thayer.....	158.42
Pleasant Home.....	246.00
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove.....	332.80
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana.....	58.00
Potosi 1st.....	123.74

Republic.....	100.00
Richwoods 1st.....	527.00
Rolla 1st.....	159.00
Royal Oak.....	136.00
Seymour.....	210.00
South Fremont.....	1,200.00
Southside.....	116.18
Springfield.....	227.00
Springfield 1st.....	949.41
Stockton.....	182.67
Terrill Rd.....	220.00
Thayer.....	913.00
Trinity.....	833.16
Union Grove.....	392.00
Union Light.....	163.00
United - West Plains.....	1,013.05
Unity.....	360.00
Verdella.....	563.04
Victory - K.C.....	1,431.04
Waynesville 1st.....	324.31
West Plains 1st.....	682.00
West Plains 1st.....	707.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove.....	241.26
Wolf Creek.....	470.54
TOTAL.....	\$47,174.89

SHOW-ME PLAN

Aulsbury Chapel.....	\$150.00
Barker, Rev. J.....	15.00
Beacon.....	225.00
Belton.....	150.00
Berean.....	30.00
Bethel - El Dorado Springs.....	201.86
Bethel - Festus.....	45.00
Big Creek.....	55.00
Bishop, B.J.....	15.00
Black Oak.....	60.00
Bourbon.....	15.00
Braisher, M.....	60.00
Buffalo 1st.....	60.00
Buxton, G.....	30.00
Cabool.....	153.00
Cabool.....	135.00
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo.....	105.00
Carter, J.....	15.00
Central.....	410.00
Chism, B.....	5.00
Chrisman, M.....	30.00
Columbia.....	50.00
Copper Mines.....	150.00
Copper Mines - Young Adult Class.....	15.00
Copper Mines - Jr., Teen.....	30.00
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove.....	370.50
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove.....	45.00
Cuba.....	187.28
Darnell, W.....	15.00
DeSoto 1st.....	460.00
DeSoto 1st - Auditorium Class.....	15.00
Faith - St. Louis.....	21.00
Faith & Hope - W.S.....	60.00
Farmington 1st.....	975.00
Fellowship.....	681.72
Fordland.....	180.00
Fourth.....	225.00
Francis, N.....	15.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	150.00
Freeman Chapel.....	540.00
Gardner Church.....	180.00
Garrett, R.....	15.00
Gospel Light.....	735.00
Gospel Light.....	735.00
Grace.....	276.00
Graham, S.....	15.00
Grant Avenue.....	230.00
Greenfield.....	180.00
Hannibal - WNAC.....	15.00
Hannon.....	979.88
Hannon.....	824.09
Happy Hill.....	30.00
Harmony - Parkville.....	29.00
Harris, F.....	45.00
Harris, F.....	45.00
Hartville.....	195.00
Houston 1st.....	285.36
Hurryville.....	300.00
Hurryville Sr. Adult S.S. Class.....	19.50
Jackson.....	45.00
Jones Chapel.....	420.00
Joplin 1st.....	75.00
Leadington.....	180.00
Lebanon 1st.....	150.00
Lebanon FWB.....	30.00
Looney, K.....	15.00
Macedonia Aux.....	1,000.00
Merl's Chapel.....	400.00
Mill Creek.....	90.00

Mill Creek Young Adult S.S. Class.....	15.00
Mine La Motte.....	45.00
Missouri State Woman's Aux.....	918.00
Monett 1st.....	210.00
Monett 1st.....	255.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	430.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	75.00
Mt. Zion - Thayer.....	30.00
Myrtle.....	75.00
Neosho 1st.....	165.00
New Home - Hartville.....	150.00
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	105.00
New Life - Licking.....	81.65
New Life - Licking.....	81.17
New Testament.....	15.00
Noel, D.....	15.00
Norris, Trisha.....	15.00
Norris, Trisha.....	15.00
Oak Grove - Houston.....	15.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	153.00
Ozark 1st.....	20.00
Park Hills 1st.....	232.77
Parkview - Desloge.....	232.39
Parkview - Desloge.....	285.04
Parson, O.....	15.00
Pinkerton, J.....	45.00
Pleasant Grove - Anderson.....	135.00
Pleasant Hill.....	30.00
Pleasant Home.....	90.00
Pleasant Home.....	90.00
Pleasant Ridge - Alton.....	270.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana.....	50.00
Purdy.....	255.00
Reagan, Jimmie.....	300.00
Rehkop, Lon.....	30.00
Richardson, O.....	15.00
Richardson, O.....	15.00
Richwoods.....	67.50
Richwoods.....	52.50
Royal Oak.....	120.00
Ruble, N.....	45.00
South Fremont.....	215.00
Springfield 1st.....	560.00
Thayer.....	205.00
Trinity.....	540.00
Union Light.....	120.00
United - West Plains.....	300.00
Unity.....	75.00
Verdella.....	1,143.04
Victory - K.C.....	555.00
Walker, H. Jr.....	15.00
Waynesville 1st.....	244.12
White, R.....	15.00
Willhite, L.....	180.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove.....	85.00
Willow Springs 1st.....	150.00
Wilson, R.....	15.00
TOTAL.....	\$23,365.37

FOREIGN MISSIONS - DESIGNATED

Beacon.....	\$322.00
Cape Girardeau.....	154.31
Central.....	20.00
Chapman, A.....	20.00
Cuba.....	31.22
Farmington 1st.....	50.00
Fordland.....	10.00
Fourth.....	50.00
G.M.....	150.00
Gospel Light.....	60.00
Gospel Light.....	60.00
Grant Avenue.....	59.00
Greenfield.....	100.00
Hannon.....	300.00
Harmony Fellowship (Colorado).....	138.00
Houston 1st.....	40.00
Joplin 1st.....	10.00
Kirksville 1st.....	42.35
Lewis, D.....	10.00
Minor, K.....	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	1,080.00
Myrtle.....	105.00
Neosho 1st.....	15.00
New Life - Licking.....	179.00
New Testament.....	70.00
Ozark 1st.....	10.00
Thayer.....	85.00
Trinity.....	173.24
Union Light.....	10.00
Victory - K.C.....	75.00
Williams, V.....	10.00
TOTAL.....	\$3,449.12

STATE HOME MISSIONS

Beacon.....	\$2.00
Belton.....	64.89

Berean.....	15.00
Central.....	30.00
Cuba.....	31.21
DeSoto 1st.....	145.00
DeSoto Children's Church.....	20.00
Faith - Chandler, IN.....	25.00
Farmington.....	145.00
Fellowship - Park Hills.....	110.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	100.00
Gosel Light.....	60.00
Gospel Light.....	60.00
Grace.....	103.00
Grant Avenue.....	10.00
Jerrie Wormington.....	30.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store.....	315.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	25.00
New Home - Hartville.....	10.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	63.50
Ozark 1st.....	10.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana.....	20.00
Richard White (DeSoto).....	10.00
Thayer.....	50.00
United - West Plains.....	25.00
Waynesville 1st.....	50.00
TOTAL.....	\$1,529.60

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Alan Chapman.....	\$10.00
Archie Hopper.....	10.00
Beacon.....	60.00
Belton.....	64.90
Ben Thebeau.....	15.00
Bernie Petty.....	50.00
Bill Chandler.....	25.00
Bill Vancil.....	25.00
Bob Thebeau.....	15.00
Carthage.....	5.00
Central.....	20.00
David Boyd.....	40.00
DeSoto 1st.....	330.00
DeSoto 1st Auditorium Class.....	10.00
Donna Lewis.....	25.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora.....	54.63
Farmington 1st.....	80.00
Fordland.....	20.00
Gary Orrick.....	15.00
Gospel Light.....	60.00
Grace.....	85.00
Grant Avenue.....	86.96
Hannon.....	437.98
Hannon.....	392.46
Harmony Fellowship.....	161.00
Hartville.....	100.00
Houston 1st.....	70.00
Jerry Rader.....	20.00
John Elders.....	2.00
Judy Hoggard.....	40.00
Larry Voyles.....	25.00
Lester Gale.....	20.00
Macedonia Aux.....	1,100.00
Mae Nosser.....	5.00
Maggie Kenuam.....	10.00
Marlon Crossland.....	10.00
Monett 1st.....	116.00
Monett 1st.....	121.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	55.00
Myrtle.....	40.00
Neosho 1st.....	45.00
New Home - Hartville.....	10.00
New Testament.....	150.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	63.50
Ozark 1st.....	5.00
Park Hills 1st.....	149.63
Pleasant Home.....	90.30
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Grove.....	99.17
Richard White.....	30.00
Richwoods 1st.....	46.00
Richwoods 1st.....	61.00
Rodney Garrett.....	25.00
Thayer.....	200.00
Trinity.....	20.00
Union Light.....	96.00
United - West Plains.....	170.00
United - West Plains.....	150.00
United - West Plains (Youth).....	170.00
Unity.....	50.00
Verdella.....	50.00
Viburnum.....	763.00
Victory - K.C.....	50.00
West Plains 1st.....	200.00
Wolf Creek.....	75.00
TOTAL.....	\$6,600.53

MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

New Life.....	\$46.93
Thayer.....	50.00

Berean.....	15.00
Cabool 1st.....	20.00
Buffalo 1st.....	50.00
Lebanon Bible & Book.....	195.00
New Home - Hartville.....	10.00
Hannon.....	30.00
Ozark 1st.....	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	10.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	10.00
Park Hills 1st.....	62.04
Gospel Light.....	55.00
Trinity - Bridgeton.....	14.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove.....	10.00
Verdella.....	10.00
Hartville.....	10.00
TOTAL.....	\$607.97

FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Thayer.....	\$50.00
Farmington 1st.....	132.00
Beacon.....	6.00
DeSoto 1st.....	40.00
Nathan Ruble.....	15.00
Verdella.....	112.61
TOTAL.....	\$355.61

HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Thayer.....	\$50.00
Farmington 1st.....	90.00
Hannon.....	100.00
Joplin 1st.....	75.00
Neosho 1st.....	60.00
Grant Avenue.....	8.00
Victory - K.C. (*Have A Heart).....	160.09
Victory - K.C.....	116.55
TOTAL.....	\$659.64

CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Farmington 1st.....	\$78.00
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STEVE SMITH

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

New Life - Monett.....	\$46.93
Farmington 1st.....	15.00
New Hope - Fredericktown.....	30.00
Hannon.....	200.00
Unity.....	10.00
Belton.....	80.00
DeSoto 1st.....	80.00
Myrtle.....	2.00
TOTAL.....	\$463.93

REV. JOHN MCCLURE

Monett 1st.....	\$70.00
Thayer.....	5.00
Gospel Light.....	160.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	42.50
Trinity - Bridgeton.....	10.00
Grace - Arnold.....	15.00
Central West. Dist. Women's Aux.....	15.00
Harmony - Parkville.....	19.00
Carthage.....	105.46
TOTAL.....	\$441.96

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
West Plains 1st.....	75.00
Pleasant Hill - Thayer.....	50.00
Unity.....	2,000.00
TOTAL.....	\$2,225.00

2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Bethel - Festus.....	\$75.00
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MISSOURI STATE WAFC

Belton.....	\$15.00
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The Youth Look

By Ann Poletti

A friend of mine passed on this story to me, and I thought it was worth sharing. Sometimes, we need to be reminded of the power of the cross.

While taking a college photography class, Bob became acquainted with a young student named Charles. Charles was training for the Summer Olympics and was very patient as Bob talked for hours about how Jesus had saved him.

Not raised in a home that attended any kind of church, Charles was fascinated by Bob's stories about salvation and God's total forgiveness of sin. Finally, Bob had to put the question before Charles: Was he ready to trust Christ?

Bob saw Charles' countenance fall as he explained how much Charles needed a Redeemer in his own life. However, Charles replied, "No" quite strongly.

Charles began avoiding Bob in the days that followed. One day, Bob got a phone call from Charles asking where in the New Testament he could find the verses about salvation. Charles didn't want to meet with Bob, but Bob could tell Charles was greatly troubled and facing the reality of his soul's condition.

Because he was training for the Olympics, Charles had special privileges at the University pool facilities. Late that night, he decided to practice a few dives. The pool was housed under a glass ceiling, so the bright October moon shone brightly on Charles as he climbed to the highest platform to take his first dive.

At that moment, Charles was convicted of his sins. All the witnessing, all the Scriptures flooded his mind. He stood on the platform backwards to prepare for his dive and, as he spread his arms to gather his balance, he noticed the moon cast his own shadow on the wall in the form of a cross. He could bear the burden of his sin no longer. He sat on the platform and asked God to forgive him.

Suddenly, the light came on and the pool attendant entered the facility. When Charles looked down, he saw the pool had been drained for repairs. He had almost plummeted to his death, but the cross had stopped him from disaster.

NEWS FROM BUD & RUTH BIVENS

(continued from page 10)

The week before Roll Call Day we nearly killed ourselves fixing up the church. Hubby hauled the things out of his office and restacked it, shifted things around in the breeze-way/fellowship hall, brought another load to our house, and made room for us to set up tables and serve. We removed a second pulpit that took up space in front of the large pulpit, painted the front of the church, put up a new curtain behind the pulpit, new flowers, and on Friday, set up 72 chairs. On Saturday, he set chairs out under the big tree for his teen class and Adelaide's Intermediate class. Sunday, Hubby drove our revived van to Covadongas and picked up 20 people—two adults and 18 children. Higinio and Lillian ran two trips with their two vehicles (they ended up buying the Methodist van), and I picked up a load in our station wagon. When all heads were counted, we had 61 in attendance! Probably 2/3 were children.

The congregation presented us with gifts and a beautiful cake to celebrate the first anniversary of our arrival at the church. We divided up for our classes and then I taught the smaller ones in Children's Church. After service I sat up an assembly line and we made and served over 100 banana splits. Most of the children had more than one. Remember Jose, the boy with the ruptured appendix? He ate four! The children ate until they had all of the ice cream they wanted. We didn't even cut the lovely cake. We put it in the fridge for Good Friday service.

When it was all over, Hubby commented, "The next time I have an idea like this, I believe I will talk it over with someone before I announce it." Good idea. Then he mentioned that it would not be hard to make Coke floats, and we did have a lot of Coca Cola left over, and three or four cartons of ice cream.

Like I said, it was hilarious. But, the bottom line is this: A year ago on Roll Call Sunday, there were eight people at this church. Yesterday 61 people came to church, for whatever motive, and I had the opportunity to teach, first the adults in Sunday school class, then the little ones in Children's Church about the Lord Jesus and how much He loves them. Hubby preached a simple gospel message and two accepted Christ. We made a lot of new contacts, and some of those people will become regulars. That is what it is all about! Your prayers and support helped make this happy day possible. God bless you—and don't stop now!

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