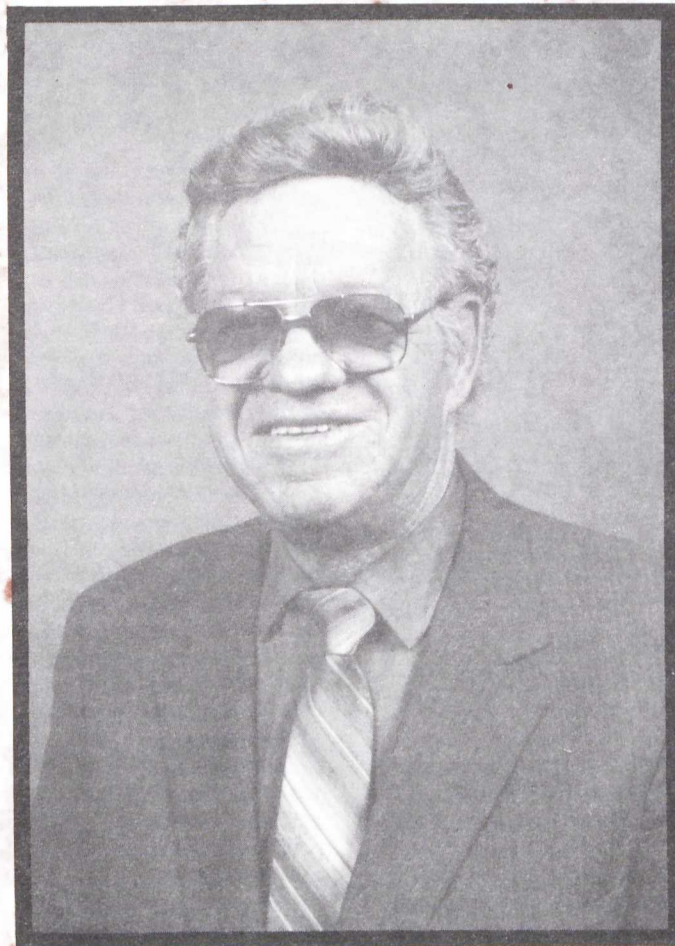


THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Volume 70, No. 8, August 1999



**Rev. Cliff Bowman
1928 - 1999**

*Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord
... that they may rest from their labours.*

Rev. 14:13

A Tribute To Rev. Cliff Bowman

By Rev. Dale Skiles

Our Free Will Baptist denomination, and especially Missouri Free Will Baptists, lost a giant of a man (both physically and spiritually) at the sudden death of Rev. Cliff Bowman. Brother Bowman passed away quietly in his sleep, and went to be with the Lord, and to be re-united with his dear wife, Frances, sometime in the early hours of Saturday morning, June 19th.

Brother Cliff had been the pastor of Olivet Free Will Baptist Church in Marshall, Missouri, for the past 31 years. He also had been chairman of the Missouri Home Mission Board for over 30 years. He had served on both the General Board and Executive Committee of the Missouri State Association.

I first met Brother Cliff Bowman in June of 1959 at our Missouri State Youth Camp in Niangua, Missouri. He and I, for the next 40 years, became very close personal friends. We served together on the Missouri Home Mission Board for over 25 years.

Brother Cliff and I travelled countless of miles together, and spent numerous hours together in Missouri state mission work. His leadership, as our chairman, was responsible, in a large part, for the success of our Missouri Home Mission program.

He and his wife, Frances, along with Brother Harry Beatty and his wife, Lucille, were responsible for starting the Perpetual Loan Fund to help establish mission churches in Missouri. They each gave \$1,000.00 to begin this loan fund. This fund now has reached \$750,000.00.

It was Brother Cliff's dream to establish a Free Will Baptist Church within driving distance of every person in the state of Missouri. He was a Bible scholar, a prayer warrior, a preacher of unusual ability, an extraordinary soul-winner, a lover of people, and a faithful friend.

Brother Bowman's death has left a real void in the work of Free Will Baptists in Missouri. But especially there is a void in the hearts of all those who knew him, who respected him, and who loved him.

Funeral services were conducted at the Olivet Free Will Baptist Church in Marshall, Missouri, on Tuesday, June 22, 1999, with Rev. Dale Skiles, Rev. Nathan Ruble, and Rev. Jerry Scott officiating.

Our sincere Christian sympathy and earnest prayers are extended to Brother Cliff's son, Dennis, his wife, Jeannie, and their family; and also to his daughter, Kathy, her husband, Gerald, and their family.

There is one verse of Scripture that comes to my mind as I think about the life of Cliff Bowman. *"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life"* (Revelation 2:10). Brother Cliff has been faithful and is now wearing the crown of life. Wear it well, my dear brother, until we join you in that place that God has prepared for us all.

Thank You

From The Family of Cliff Bowman

We would like to thank our many friends across Missouri and across the country for your prayers and for the food, flowers, memorial gifts, cards, phone calls and other expressions of love and concern given to us at the death of our loved one. Due to not being able to find addresses for many of you, we have been unable to properly express our thanks and appreciation to all of you. We thank God for each of you and for the comfort you have been to us during this difficult time. May God bless each of you in a very special way.

Dennis, Jeannie, David & Stephen Bowman
and Kathy, Gerald, Chad & Melissa Daniel

Communicating with Children

Marlene LeFever

I was telling the story of Jarius' daughter to a group of eight and nine year olds. "Jesus told the people who were crying in front of the little girl's house that she was sleeping and not dead," I explained. "Why did Jesus lie to them?" Heather asked. A little further on, I enthusiastically said, "Jesus raised her from the dead, and she was completely well." Joshua piped up, "Who taught Jesus white magic? Who taught Him such strong magic?"

Talking to children, really talking, requires all the thinking power an adult has. I answered their questions seriously because they were serious questions. I want children to grow up knowing that Christians think, that their questions are valued—even if not always anticipated! Through the years, I've gathered clues that have helped me keep the child-adult communication going.

Take their questions seriously. For example, I knew that Joshua lived in the town where the Satanic Bible had been written. I had no idea what his life with his non-Christian single parent was like, but this was my one chance to talk about the difference between Jesus the Creator's strengths and the strengths of people who call themselves white witches. I had to answer in words he understood, using logic that was appropriate to his age level.

Ask questions that take children by surprise and encourage them to answer in paragraphs, rather than single-word answers. Down with "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Up with "What creative stuff could we make out of all these old magazine pictures?" Up with "What would you do for fun on an absolutely perfect day?"

Don't be appalled at anything they say. William checks out adults by announcing, "I don't know who my father is. My mother doesn't know either." If they recoil, William treats them as if they didn't exist. If they obviously still like him, he'll become their "forever" friend. We were on my front porch swing, a nightly event that usually lasted until his grandfather called him for supper. Out of nowhere came William's question, "So, what do you think of masturbation? My cousin teases me 'cause I do it." Gulp! But any question is okay. Without missing a beat, that ten-year-old boy and I talked on, as if this were the sort of question every kid needs answered by a Christian neighbor.

Be truthful. When adults don't know, we should say so. When a pretty lie would be immediately comforting, don't use it. Johnson is seven and his mother just died of cancer. Some adults have told him that she's now an angel. The Bible doesn't teach that. I'm truthful when I talk with him about his Christian mother. "She's living with Jesus now. Do you think the two of them sit and talk about you? Maybe! I know she loves you very much." I bring his mother into every conversation because I know he wants and needs to talk about her. I use the present tense. His mother is alive.

Have fun talking, but remember that you are still the adult. I've gotten under the table with kids to play in the tent, but when it's time for me to talk with adults, I expect children to respect that wish. We like each other and we're friends. Friends don't whine or hang on or tickle when it's the wrong time.

Dream up ways to tell them they are loved. Tell them in person. Ask them about events that are important to them. Send them postcards during the week, an unusual way to "talk" with children. Smile a lot. In our church, we walk up to the front of the church for communion. I watch for the kids as they are coming back and smile as broadly as I can. Often they'll stop and hug me before going back to their seats. No words were spoken, but we just had the most wonderful conversation.

Marlene LeFever is Director of Ministry Relations for David C. Cook Church Ministries. Used by permission from David C. Cook.

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.

"We're Building A Church In Overland Park!"

**An Update From Terry VanWinkle
Home Missionary to Overland Park, KS**

We're experiencing a miracle at Southern Hills!

The greatest moment in the history of Southern Hills Free Will Baptist Church took place on May 23, 1999. After several weeks of praying, preparing, and conducting our "Building for Life" campaign, we are pleased to announce the results!

Cash Offering on May 23 \$124,801.00
3-year pledges \$264,420.00

The combined total exceeds our miracle goals by almost \$50,000.00!

It has been a marvelous experience to witness God's work in the lives of our people over the past six weeks. We have seen many family units progress from reluctance to faith. We have observed everyone moving to a deeper level of sacrifice and commitment. God is truly preparing us to build a strong church in south Overland Park.

Thank you for praying and supporting us faithfully during this critical time of opportunity. I am excited about the days ahead as we move forward in our building project. Our projected groundbreaking is August of this year. Continue to pray for smooth progress in our building plans.

If you, your ministry group, or your church sends financial support, please earmark all gifts "Overland Park Building Fund" as you send them to the National Home Missions office.

Also, if your VBS or children's church would like to be part of our efforts to build, we have quarter folders that represent bricks being used to erect a church. To order the folders, simply call us at 913-685-2855.

Continue to remember us in prayer. As a matter of fact, why not pause at this moment to thank God for a miracle in Overland Park!

Park Hills First FWB Church Suffers Fire Damage

By Pearl Hutchings, Church Reporter

First Free Will Baptist Church of Park Hills, Missouri, was struck by lightning during an early morning electrical storm on Thursday, June 24, causing a devastating fire. A member of the church, who lives nearby, was awakened around 4 a.m. by the storm, and believes the steeple was struck by lightning, causing the fire. She immediately called 911 and Pastor Kenneth Dodson.

In just a few minutes, more than 30 members of the church gathered on the parking lot for a prayer service, while firemen from several towns battled the blaze for more than four hours. We are thankful for their dedication to their work, and bravery for doing many dangerous tasks.

The new addition of the church which was completed just over a year ago suffered extensive damage, with heavy water damage to the ministry offices, the nursery and restrooms. The main auditorium and sanctuary in the older part of the church was also heavily damaged with water.

After many long hours of using wet-dry vacuums, the clean-up allowed us to conduct a wonderful, thankful, praise and prayer

service on Sunday, June 27. Though distressed by the incident, the church will move on ahead with re-building, and will function as normally as possible, with the youth services being conducted in the fellowship hall.

We have been greatly blessed by the outpouring of the community from church members, neighbors, pastors and youth groups from sister churches. Many businesses provided equipment to help in the clean-up, and some generously provided food and drinks for the workers. Others, along with neighbors, gave donations of money, and still others came with words and prayers of encouragement.

The Park Hills Church is the oldest established church in what was once Flat River. It was organized in 1880 and for years was located on West Main Street. It was moved to a frame structure at its present location at the corner of Emerson and Laurel Streets just before 1920. The present church building was built around 1930.

Even though there was severe damage to the building, no one was hurt. Pastor Dodson said he was so thankful we had a steeple. Otherwise, the lightning may have hit near-by homes where people were sleeping, and the situation could have been more tragic. We give our Lord all the praise and thanks for His loving watch care over us all!

MOWAC UPDATE



Almost \$500.00 was raised by the Missouri Women Active for Christ at their first State Crafts Sale. This amount will help begin the fund to host our NWAC when it meets in Kansas City in 2004. Along with raising this noteworthy sum, the craft collection created a good deal of interest by those attending the Missouri State Convention. Shown above are Shirley Jackson, Kay Reiter, and Margaret Gill discussing the display. The craft booth will be a part of next year's state meeting, and all our talented Missouri Women are invited to donate examples of their work.

Ladies, remember our retreat at Stonecroft August 20 and 21. It is important that you arrive before 12 p.m. in order to be registered and ready for the 1:00 p.m. service. "Because You're Worth It," the retreat theme, will offer something for everyone. Joanne Wallace is an exciting speaker whom God has used. After her final presentation on Saturday there will be special "door prizes," so plan to stay until the end.

**SEPTEMBER IS
PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH**
Plan a special day for that special person!

Bible College Trustees Considering Name Change

Nashville, Tennessee—As a new millennium approaches, the Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees is giving consideration to changing the name of the 57-year-old institution. They are inviting Free Will Baptists to submit suggestions.

President Tom Malone says the proposed renaming does not indicate any shift from the school's Bible-college stance. Neither is it an attempt to dilute its identity with the denomination. "The college will continue to clearly identify itself as a Free Will Baptist institution," he says.

Trustees will review the names submitted when they meet in December. Therefore, suggestions should be sent by November 15.

If you wish to submit a suggestion, please mail it, with your name and address, to:

Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

Email submissions may be sent to: president@fwbbc.edu.

New Life Honors Howard Blankenship



Bro. & Sis. Howard Blankenship and Pastor & Mrs. Max Courtney

Pastor Max Courtney opened the morning worship service on Father's Day by reading the following statement: Beginning last June our church set Father's Day as a day to honor a member of our church board for outstanding service to this church. This event was introduced by honoring one of our elders who has been with the church from its beginning and has served the church as a board member, teacher, prayer warrior, and counselor for more than 27 years. This day and event is named in his honor, Harold Price Sunday, and will continue to be known by that name. We are proud of Bro. Harold and Sis. Martha Price and their family. As we honor another board member today and add this member to our list of honorable servants, let's also remember those who have passed on to their rewards and thank God for them, those who now serve and those who are to come and pray for spiritual guidance for them as they serve. Pastor Courtney then announced that Howard Blankenship was the board member to be honored in the afternoon service for his 25 years of faithful service to the church.

Rev. Nathan Ruble delivered the morning message. Following the service, the congregation enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by the ladies of the church.

During the afternoon service Trustee Garry Routh presented Bro. Blankenship with a new rod and reel and all the fishing paraphernalia needed to land a big one. Board Chairman, Greg



Howard Blankenship & Garry Routh



Greg Hadley & Howard Blankenship

Hadley, presented Bro. Howard a plaque and the congregation expressed their appreciation with resounding applause. Special music for the afternoon service was provided by Bro. Brad Routh.

Pastor Max Courtney and the New Life Free Will Baptist Church are to be commended for establishing a day to honor faithful servants of the Lord.

Update From Carlisle Hanna

Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord. I do trust you have had a good Missouri State Meeting and that God continues to bless our work throughout the state. The last time I attended the Missouri State Association, it met at the Leadington Church and was in August. Bill Evans was pastoring Southside Church in St. Louis at that time. He met me at the airport and took me down for that one day. That has been many years ago.

Our daughter, Brenda Kay, and I left Charleston on December 10. I had 'flu when we left. I have coughed most of this time in India, and now that I am back in the U. S. A., I have pneumonia. I have not even been able to visit our family here. Please do pray for the health and strength I need to serve Him.

There is much persecution of believers in India now. Some have been killed and many churches burned. An Australian missionary and his two young sons were burned to death in their jeep during the night as they slept. They were in the area where our Free Will Baptist work began about 1835. He worked with lepers. In spite of the persecution, many are turning to Christ. We saw 64 baptized the last day of conference last March. Two weeks after that, one pastor baptized 87 in one day. People continue to show a keen interest in **HIS WAY**. Thank you for praying. Please do pray that all of our pastors and evangelists will live so like Christ so as to be an example to everyone, and that their lives and service will continue to count for Christ.

Please express my thanks to all those in the state of Missouri for their continued financial and prayer support for us and India. I am deeply grateful.

Sincerely in Christ,
D. Carlisle Hanna

Pinkerton Update

Hope you're doing fine. We are—just soaked! This is the wettest Rainy Season we can remember...up country where the farmers/fields are—they're getting thunder and lightning, but not much rain.

Church was full, but not packed yesterday. Three leaders were upcountry for National FWB meetings, and 13 other regulars were missing for some reason or another. We try to take some members home each week just to find out where they live. Streets are not marked or houses numbered, so it's a real challenge.

University students begin taking exams today...I do not know if they'll be able to complete them or not. Tension remains very high with troubles around many corners. Please continue to support these serious Christian students in your prayers.

Jerry preached on Sanctification. He had printed take home notes so people could give more study to the subject later.

The SS Kids told us about Innocence's absence. He comes to SS and Wednesday Kid's Class...Had been missing since Friday. We took time to assure the children that even though we did not know where he was, that God did. Perhaps it will be used to reinforce some teaching they've had about God's love towards us. Notices are often in the paper about missing children. Some say they are used as human sacrifices. True or not, we don't know, but we were filled with relief & praise as a group went to his house after church & found him there unharmed. It seems his real mother had died & this 10 year old took off, unannounced on his own, across a busy town of over four million people, to attend the funeral. I'm sure his unsaved parents have beat some common sense into him by now.

Work on the Mission House is about at the same place it was last Monday. The cement blocks are above window level. It was to have been completed by the end of June 1999...

Please share this news with others. We're so very grateful to MO FWB for prayers and gifts that help us remain working to turn the city of Abidjan upside down for Christ. His blessings be upon you.

Jerry & Carol Pinkerton

Sunday School Averages January 1999 - June 1999

CHURCHES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Belton	35	36	35	34	32	37
Calvary Chapel	146	142	143	134		119
Cape Girardeau	51	58	56	52	47	50
Copper Mines	49	51	51	50	55	53
Cuba	117	102	101	110	113	113
Columbia	24	25	28	29	23	25
DeSoto	142	160	158	161	146	151
Farmington	328	384	577		326	
Hannon	98	122	109	116	116	127
Hartville	105	111	106	101	105	106
Hazel Creek				62	58	
Hopewell	31	29	30	29	30	26
Houston	46	54	46	46	43	44
Lebanon 1st	81	111	114	109	109	
Lebanon FWB	55	57	50	54	52	47
Mill Creek	54	59	62	66	63	60
Monett	52	56	56	62		
Myrtle	34	35	41	43	37	34
O'Fallon 1st	77	79	73	76	61	65
Oskaloosa	15	15	14	14	14	
Ozark	106	119	120	108	104	111
Park Hills	87	115		146	114	112
Purdy	51	52	46			
Richwoods	24	33				
Rock Chapel	48					
Rolla 1st	29	27	35	32	30	26
Southside	35	32	32	34	31	
Springfield 1st	115	124	131	129	115	118
Thayer	139	147			141	147
Trinity			76	72	67	69
United	290	302	304		316	321
Willow Springs	64	55	54	57	55	50

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.



Show-Me Mission Plan Pledge Card



Write in the number of shares which you wish to adopt.

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: II Cor. 9:8

Trusting God to supply for me and for those whom He has sent, I will adopt the following shares to help support nine foreign mission families.

By faith I adopt _____ Share(s)

(Write in the number of shares desired: 1 share is \$15.00 per month)

(Please print)

Name _____

Address _____

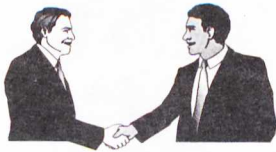
City _____ St. _____ Zip Code _____

MAIL TO: MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST, P.O. Box 991, LEBANON, MO 65536



Missouri State Meeting 1999





All Boards Meeting Preacher/Layman's Retreat

September 13, 1998
Youth Camp, Niangua



Monday, September 13

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.....Golf Tournament

Golf Tournament - Marshfield Golf Course

5:30 p.m.....Evening Meal

6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.Rev. Rick Dablemont

“The Potential of Prayer”

7:15 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.....Rev. Richard Robinson

“The Power of Partnering in Prayer”

8:00 p.m.....Boards Meet

9:00 p.m.....Refreshments

GUIDELINES FOR GOLF TOURNAMENT

2 Man Scramble

3 Trophies will be awarded for the tournament:

A trophy each to first place finishers

A trophy each to second place finishers

A trophy for the ball closest to the hole off the tee on # 7, par 3

Registration For Golf Tournament

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Each participant will pay his own green fee.

Dale Skiles will be in charge of the Golf Tournament

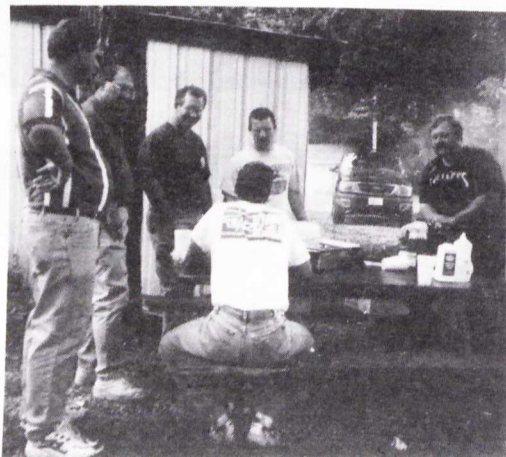
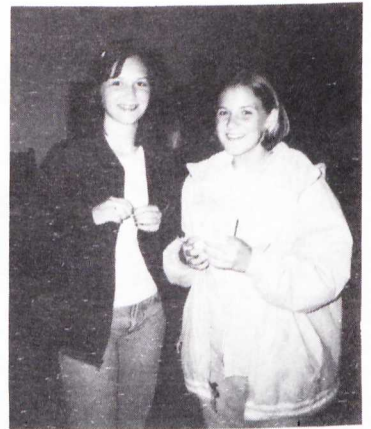
Mail the registration form to:

Rev. Dale Skiles

4534 McCullough

Springfield, MO 65804

Teen Camp '99



Trinity Children's Church Welcomes Clarke Benton Davenport



On April 25, 1999, the Children's Church of Trinity FWB Church in Bridgeton, hosted a "Welcome Party" for Clarke Benton Davenport, newborn son of Pastor and Mrs. Lynn Davenport. Clarke arrived on March 31, 1999, weighing 8 lbs. 10 oz., and was 22 inches long.

The party included cake and punch, and the gift of a special quilt presented to Pam Davenport for Clarke. The quilt had been hand-painted by all the children in Children's Church to show their love and appreciation to Brother Lynn and Sister Pam.

The Davenports have two older sons, Kreston and Mackenzie, who are very excited about their new brother.

Personalizing Your Sunday School Lesson

Andy Dhuse

Additional Resources

No printed Sunday school material will know your students the way you do. When you become aware that some of your students' needs aren't being met, don't panic. Instead, start to collect. Collect articles, newspaper clippings, pictures. Add these personalized ideas to your lessons. Sometimes your class will have a need that is so specific that you will need to do a complete lesson to meet that need. Follow the same format as your usual published lessons.

The Art of Good Questions

Good questions ask students to think in several different ways. You will want to use several types of questions when you write lessons or add questions to existing lessons.

- » Some questions will ask for content answers. These are often the easiest.
- » Other questions will require students to evaluate or compare, to make some judgment in addition to recalling content.
- » Still other questions will require students to apply what they have learned to their own lives.

When you want students to write their answers, be sure to allow plenty of space on any printed sheet. Occasionally, ask students to answer their questions with something other than words. They might draw a design or a doodle. This allows students who learn more from pictures than words to shine when the class shares answers. If you create a quiz, keep it short, and give the answers right away. You might put the answers upside down on the bottom of the lesson sheet or at the top of another page. Don't discourage students or use your skills as a test developer to make

the class members feel stupid. Affirm right answers and the efforts of the person who gives a wrong answer. Don't cover too much in your questions. It is better for students to leave class learning one important idea or being open to trying one new thing than to present too much.

Be Creative in Your Choice of Methods

When you are structuring an original lesson, don't just use lecture or storytelling or questions and answers. Vary your methods, and you will reach more students. Not all students learn the same way. Consider, for example, how you might use drama as part of your lesson. Use your students' imaginations to take them into the story. You might want to assign parts and give each person a role description. Get as many people involved as possible. For example you might want to divide the class into Sadducees and Pharisees and let them fight in the Sanhedrin over Paul, or act out the first Jerusalem council or even turn your class into the 12 spies exploring the Promised Land; assign a Caleb and Joshua. Let your creativity shine for Him!

Excerpt from Super Sunday School Sourcebook, David C. Cook Church Ministries. Used by permission.

New President of El Seminario Biblico La Cruz

Dr. Thomas Marberry responds to his new appointment:

I am honored to accept the invitation of the Home Missions Department to become the President of El Seminario Biblico La Cruz in Reynosa, Tamps., Mexico. My wife, Wilma, and I have prayed about this decision, and we believe that it is the will of God for us to undertake this ministry at this time in our lives.

Since 1975 I have been a part of the faculty of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Oklahoma. When Wilma and I married in 1983, she joined me in the ministry of Christian Education. During the past 24 years it has been my privilege to teach some of the finest young people that Free Will Baptists have produced. Hillsdale will always have a special place in my heart, and I will do everything I can to help the college in the future.

We made our first mission trip to Mexico in 1989 with a group of students and faculty members from Hillsdale. During that trip the Lord spoke to my heart about Mexico and its people. We visited the seminary for the first time in 1990 when it was located at Altamira. We have visited many times since then. On every visit we have developed a deeper appreciation for the seminary, for our churches in Mexico, and for the Mexican people.

It was certainly not an easy decision to leave Hillsdale. We have grown to love and appreciate the college very much. We believe that God is leading us to go to the seminary in Mexico because there is a need. The seminary needs a president who has had the proper training and experience for the position. Pray with us that God may help us to meet that need.

We are going to Mexico with one goal in mind. That one goal is to make a good institution even better for the glory of God. The seminary in Mexico has a beautiful campus, excellent students, and fine teachers. Our goal is to develop the best training institution we can develop for Spanish-speaking Free Will Baptists. We plan to improve the courses that are presently being offered and add new courses to the curriculum. We want to insure that every student receives sound Biblical training. We also want to insure that every student receives training in Theology, Christian Service, Spanish, English, Computers, and other necessary disciplines.

The task before us is a large one. We will need the prayers and support of Free Will Baptists both in the United States and Mexico. Please join us in this ministry.

Dr. Thomas L. Marberry

LESSON FROM NATURE

BY GARRY MATTHEWS

Frustration! There was no other word for it. It was opening morning of the '98 firearms deer season. My son, Chad, and I had carefully planned our ambush sites for this opening morning based on the previous day's experience. The morning before, we had seen 11 deer between us, and I had a doe dodge my arrow at 21 steps (only the second time in 20 years). Chad had grunted a 4 pt. buck to within ten yards, drew his bow back, but couldn't shoot because brush blocked the buck's vitals. We were pumped this morning! We were watching major escape routes that the deer would use to leave the public hunting area and enter the wildlife refuge of the state park when pressured. Since Chad was using his slug gun, we switched positions today. With his shotgun he could cover the entire ridge I watched yesterday. I moved about 50 yards east of his position of yesterday within bow range of the intersection of two of the approach trails the deer would use.

The first indication that things might be different this morning was the flashlight beam coming from the opposite direction and headed toward the same ridge we were on. We were closer and got to my position first. The other hunter stopped at the intersection of the ridge 100 yards away. Chad and I watched to see if the other hunter continued on or stayed put, then exchanged whispered good lucks, and Chad headed toward his ridge 300 yards away. With daylight, the parade of orange coats began. In the previous 28 days of hunting, we had not seen another hunter on the 1100 acres. Today people were everywhere, and it sounded like a battlefield. I know some guys must have had to go back to town to get more ammo! There were very few moments when orange coats were not in sight! The deer were cut off from us by the sheer number of hunters! We were completely surrounded by gunfire.

Finally at 7:45 a.m., I saw a doe slip across the top of an intersecting ridge within a few yards of where another hunter had been just moments before. She started down one of the trails I was watching. The trail ran just below the crest of the ridge except at the point where I was sitting. At this point, the ridge widened and the trail came up along the edge. It would be a close call. I would have to take the shot before the doe got down wind of me. She would be in bow range when she came into view. Only about 25 yards of the trail ran along the ridge top, and the last five yards would be directly down wind. I could hear each step as the doe furtively hurried down the trail. I was in position and my long bow was up and ready. As the tips of her ears came into view, my fingers tightened on the string, and my shoulder and back muscles tensed in anticipation of the shot. First her ears, then the top of her back was visible above the ridge. Three more steps and she was on top of the ridge. There was no opening through the brush to her vitals. She was walking along the far side of a line of saplings, well within bow range, but protected. No problem! I scanned ahead and spotted the opening where I would shoot. She would be broadside at less than 20 yards. Just as her nose entered the opening, she whipped her head in my direction, and in a single leap she was off the ridge top. I heard her walking away through the bottom. The wind got me! I looked at the wind feather attached to my bow. It had shifted ever so slightly—just enough to carry my scent to the opening. **Frustrated!**

For the next hour and a half, I sat listening to gunshots and watching orange coats come and go. I was kicking myself for even bothering to buy a firearms tag. I promised myself that next year I wouldn't even try during the firearms season. The area we normally hunt was overrun with hunters and the deer were not able to follow their normal patterns. I was really developing a foul mood!

By 9:30 a.m., the shooting had died down and most of the orange coats had headed back to their campers for coffee and breakfast. Peace returned to the woods, and bird and squirrel activity increased. With the peace and quiet, my frame of mind improved and I soaked up the warmth of the sunshine.

Out of the corner of my eye I caught movement. Slowly I turned my head and saw a large buck step from the timber 60 yards away and cross the fire lane. He came from the direction of the refuge. Apparently he, too, had waited until the orange coats had disappeared. I felt vindicated! I felt certain this was the buck who was demolishing the scrapes we had been doctoring all week, and leaving the largest deer track I had ever seen. Now the clock turned back 200 years to the time native Americans roamed these hills of Northeast Missouri. The single hunter with the ancient weapon pits his skills against the noble stag. The buck headed away toward the creek bottom below. I pulled a deer call from my pocket and gave a series of doe bleats. He stopped and turned his head in my direction. Seconds drug into minutes as he scrutinized the area for the source of the bleats. Another series of bleats, and he turned, heading in my direction. The sunlight glinted off his massive 10 pt. rack. Ever so cautiously he came in my direction, stopping every few steps to scan the area with his eyes and nose. The intensity increased with every step. My attention was riveted to the spot behind the right front leg as the moment of truth came closer—step by cautious step. An inner calmness came over me as hunter's instinct took over. From approximately 100 yards away over the next several minutes, he closed the gap to about 45 yards. Then he stopped. For whatever reason, he would come no closer. He was broadside to me and his rack was large and symmetrical. My grip on my bow tightened. I wanted him real bad! "Take the shot! No, it's too far! Take the shot! You deserve him. You've dogged his trail for two weeks! Maybe you can get him—you're shooting good today—No!" Over and over the words screamed in my head. After a few very intense, emotional moments, my better judgment won out. Maybe I could put the arrow in the "boiler works"—it was just too risky of a shot. There was too great a chance of wounding and losing a magnificent animal! I relaxed the grip on my bow and a moment later he walked over the edge and disappeared from my life. I felt weak as a rush of emotions flooded through me—frustration, disappointment, and yet, elation and a sense of satisfaction at doing the right thing!

Have you ever been in this position? No, I don't mean the hunt, but this set of circumstances—frustration caused by life's circumstances that you have no control over. Something that you want so badly and you have paid your "dues" for. You've put in the time

(continued on back cover)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

JUNE 1999

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board.....	\$8,765.04
17.50% Executive Office	8,291.25
3.00% General Fund	1,421.36
.50% Show-Me Plan.....	236.89
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.....	4,027.18
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	1,184.47
2.50% C.E. Board.....	1,184.47
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Bd....	1,184.47
9.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	4,264.08
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	14,450.48
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 (\$144.50 included in \$14,450.48)	
5.00% Mo. State Conference Center Fund.....	2,368.93
TOTAL.....	\$47,378.62

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%.

JUNE 1999

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

Amity	\$161.78
Aulsbury Chapel	302.86
Bailey - Alton	224.00
Bailey Chapel	280.00
Belton	215.62
Bethel - El Dorado Springs	91.11
Black Oak	311.15
Bourbon	103.62
Buffalo 1st	100.00
Byrd	93.60
Cape Girardeau 1st	390.39
Carthage	129.77
Central	1,013.47
Christ Chapel	269.11
Clifton	64.10
Columbia	176.70
Copper Mines	458.32
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove	454.31
Crossroads - Lebanon	1,655.00
Crossroads - Wentzville	655.00
Cuba	638.50
Cuba	613.50
DeSoto 1st	1,500.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	83.95
Faith & Hope - Willow Springs	40.00
Fellowship - Park Hills	1,000.00
Fordland	876.97
Fourth - St. Louis	683.21
Fredericktown - 1st	477.00
Freeman Chapel	531.68
Grace - Arnold	1,517.00
Grant Avenue	1,215.00
Hannibal	235.00

Hannon	947.85
Harmony	639.00
Hartville	976.55
Hazel Creek	581.46
Heritage - Poplar Bluff	100.00
Hopewell	212.00
Houston 1st	383.56
Hurryville	489.41
Jackson	203.69
Joplin 1st	691.48
Koshkonong	167.00
Lead Hill	351.97
Lebanon	352.38
Lebanon	408.94
Lebanon 1st	911.40
Lone Star	40.80
Macedonia	90.37
Merls Chapel	105.00
Mill Creek	467.66
Mine La Motte	80.90
Monett 1st	701.63
Mtn. Grove 1st	1,686.12
Mt. Pisgah	399.00
Mt. Zion - Gower	73.00
Myrtle	222.11
New Hope - Fredericktown	70.00
New Life - Licking	558.20
New Rock Springs	204.00
Niangua	340.00
Niangua	230.00
North Five	176.54
Number One	118.76
Number One	102.19
Oak Grove	194.35
O'Fallon 1st	845.00
Oskaloosa	290.00
Overland	150.00
Ozark 1st	1,491.43
Park Hills 1st	973.61
Parkview - Desloge	569.40
Pleasant Hill - Thayer	251.41
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	87.00
Potosi 1st	173.67
Republic	100.00
Rock Chapel	470.66
Rolla 1st	233.00
Royal Oak	109.00
Seymour	211.00
Smyrna	75.00
South Fremont	1,100.00
Southside - St. Louis	135.55
Springfield	231.00
Springfield 1st	1,097.75
Stockton	207.25
Thayer	1,324.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	1,098.95
Union Grove	476.00
Union Light	389.00
Union Success	60.00
United - West Plains	2,118.06
Unity	420.00
Viburnum	383.00
Victory - Alton	630.10
Waynesville 1st	465.85
West Plains 1st	846.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	210.41
Wolf Creek	316.48
TOTAL	47,378.62

SHOW-ME PLAN

Barker, Rev. J.	\$15.00
Belton	150.00
Berry, R.	15.00
Bethel - El Dorado Springs	242.23
Bethel - Festus	45.00
Big Creek	55.00
Bishop, B. J.	15.00
Black Oak	30.00
Bourbon	15.00
Braisher, M.	60.00
Buffalo 1st	60.00
Buxton, G.	30.00
Carter, J.	15.00
Central	360.00
Chism, B.	10.00
Chrisman, M.	30.00
Columbia	50.00
Copper Mines	150.00
Copper Mines - HiTeen, Teen, Jr. Cl.	30.00
Copper Mines - Young Adult Class	15.00
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove	415.17
Crossroads - Lebanon	180.00
Cuba	195.35
Cuba	174.80
Darnell, W.	15.00
DeSoto 1st	460.00

DeSoto 1st - Auditorium Class	15.00
Faith - Oak Grove	500.00
Faith - St. Louis	20.00
Faith & Hope - W.S.	60.00
Fellowship	914.67
Fordland	185.00
Fourth	210.00
Fredericktown 1st	150.00
Freeman Chapel	540.00
Garrett, R.	15.00
Gospel Light	735.00
Grace	375.00
Graham, S.	15.00
Grant Avenue	350.00
Hannibal - WNAC	15.00
Hannon	1,217.85
Harmony - Parkville	26.00
Harris, F.	45.00
Hartville	195.00
Hazel Creek	827.64
Houston 1st	269.00
Hurryville	300.00
Hurryville - Sr. Adult S.S. Class	15.00
Jackson	30.00
Joplin 1st	75.00
Leadington	180.00
Lebanon 1st	150.00
Lebanon F.W.B.	30.00
Maggart, D.	45.00
Maggart, D.	45.00
Merls Chapel	200.00
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
Missouri State Woman's Aux.	273.35
Monett 1st	300.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	720.00
Mt. Pisgah	75.00
Mt. Zion - Thayer	30.00
Myrtle	75.00
Neal, Dorothy	15.00
New Home - Hartville	150.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	105.00
New Life - Licking	90.00
Oak Grove - Houston	15.00
O'Fallon 1st	133.00
Old Bethel	900.00
Ozark 1st	30.00
Park Hills 1st	307.08
Parkview - Desloge	286.50
Parson, O.	15.00
Pinkerton, J.	45.00
Pleasant Grove - Anderson	45.00
Pleasant Hill	30.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	50.00
Reagan, Jimmie	300.00
Rehkop, Lon	30.00
Richardson, O.	15.00
Richwoods	67.50
Rock Chapel	240.00
Rogers, B.	15.00
Royal Oak	120.00
Ruble, N.	30.00
South Fremont	320.00
Springfield 1st	545.00
Thayer	317.50
Trinity	615.00
Union Light	120.00
United - West Plains	428.01
Unity	75.00
Viburnum	105.00
Viburnum	105.00
Walker, H. Jr.	15.00
Waynesville 1st	360.20
White, R.	15.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	85.00
Willow Springs 1st	150.00
TOTAL	\$18,540.85

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Cape Girardeau	\$156.16
Central	20.00
Chapman, A.	20.00
Cuba	32.56
Cuba	29.13
Gospel Light	60.00
Grant Avenue	77.00
Houston 1st	50.00
Joplin 1st	10.00
Minor, K.	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	80.00
Ozark 1st	20.00
Rock Chapel	15.00
Thayer	85.00
Trinity	354.42

Union Light	10.00
United - West Plains	40.00
Viburnum	10.00
Viburnum	10.00
TOTAL	\$1,089.27

STATE HOME MISSIONS

Belton	\$25.00
Central	20.00
Cuba	32.56
Cuba	29.13
DeSoto 1st	90.00
DeSoto 1st Children's Church	20.00
Farmington	115.00
Fellowship - Park Hills	110.00
Fellowship - Park Hills	135.00
Gospel Light	60.00
Grace - Arnold	40.00
Grant Avenue	10.00
Larry Wormington	30.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store	315.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	50.00
New Home - Hartville	10.00
O'Fallon 1st	76.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	20.00
Richard White	10.00
Thayer	62.50
United - West Plains	25.00
WNAC (via National Offices)	27.00
TOTAL	\$1,322.19

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Alan Chapman	\$10.00
Arlee Hopper	10.00
Artie Holdman	15.00
Belton	25.00
Ben Thebeau	15.00
Bob Thebeau	35.00
Brenda King	10.00
Bud Rogers	40.00
Carthage	30.00
Central	160.00
Chuck Degonia	20.00
DeSoto 1st	330.00
DeSoto 1st - Auditorium S.S.C.	10.00
Faith & Hope - Aurora	83.95
Fordland	25.00
Gary Orrick	15.00
Gospel Light	60.00
Grace - Arnold	156.00
Grant Avenue	121.50
Hannon	568.71
Hartville	100.00
Houston 1st	80.00
Jerry Rader	20.00
Jim Pope	10.00
John Elders	2.00
Joplin 1st	40.00
Kerry Crossland	5.00
Lester Gale	20.00
Mae Nosser	5.00
Maggie Kenaum	10.00
Marlon Crossland	15.00
Merls Chapel	72.50
Monett 1st	213.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	45.00
Mt. Pisgah	25.00
Myrtle	40.00
Nathan Ruble	10.00
New Home - Hartville	20.00
Northeast MO District Assoc.	1,020.27
O'Fallon 1st	76.00
Park Hills 1st	242.36
Richard White	30.00
Richwoods 1st	49.00
Robbie Fortner	15.00
Rock Chapel	114.80
Rodney Garrett	20.00
St. Louis District Assoc.	40.22
Thayer	205.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	15.00
Union Light	96.00
United	170.00
United - West Plains	170.00
Unity	50.00
Viburnum	81.00
Viburnum	104.00
Warren Woodfin	5.00
Waynesville 1st	50.00
West Plains 1st	165.00
Wolf Creek	75.00
TOTAL	\$5,266.31

MISSOURI FWB YOUTH CAMP

Buffalo 1st	\$50.00
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Niangua	40.00
Hartville	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
New Home - Hartville	10.00
New Life - Monett	84.99
Thayer	50.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store	195.00
Hannon	15.00
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	10.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	14.00
Park Hills 1st	46.93
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	10.00
DeSoto 1st	55.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
St. Louis District Assoc.	23.00
Union	30.00
Niangua	20.00
TOTAL	\$683.92

FWB BIBLE COLLEGE

Thayer	\$50.00
Nathan Ruble	20.00
DeSoto 1st	40.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
TOTAL	\$120.00

HILLSDALE FWB COLLEGE

Thayer	\$55.00
Hannon	50.00
Joplin 1st	75.00
Grant Avenue	10.00
TOTAL	\$190.00

CAMP DEVELOPMENT FUND

Opal Mooney	\$40.00
DeSoto 1st	1,000.00
Cash from 6/9 Offering at State Convention	344.20
Marvin Cook	25.00
Sandra Shockley	15.00
Warren Hall	10.00
Ronnie Blanks	20.00
Houston 1st	100.00
West Plains 1st	211.87
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	5.00
TOTAL	\$1,771.07

STEVE SMITH

DeSoto 1st	\$55.00
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TRULA CRONK HOME FOR CHILDREN

New Life - Monett	\$84.99
Unity	10.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	30.00
Hannon	100.00
Belton	50.00
DeSoto 1st	80.00
TOTAL	\$354.99

REV. JOHN MCCLURE

Gospel Light	\$80.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	67.50
Thayer	10.00
Central Western District Women	15.00
Carthage	97.60
Monett 1st	35.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	10.00
Harmony - Parkville	20.00
Grace - Arnold	15.00
TOTAL	\$350.10

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
Tape Sales from Minister's Retreat	10.00
TOTAL	\$115.00

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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2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Peters	\$75.00
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MISSOURI STATE WAFB

Belton	\$15.00
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FWB RETIREMENT BOARD

Grant Avenue	\$1.00
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LESSON FROM NATURE (continued from page 10)

and the effort, only to see the object of your dreams approach, and then halt just out of ethical reach. The only way that you can realize your goal is to step across this "line in the sand." Have you not been tempted as I have many times? "Just this once—no one will ever know—and then never again!" Those rationalizing words that run through our minds become an intense internal argument. Maybe it's not illegal or immoral, it's just not ethical. That's even more difficult to turn away from! James says: **"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."** (James 4:17)

Is James not calling us to a higher standard than just the legal or moral standard? Yes, I think he is talking about a higher plane; an ethical standard that we, as Christians, are to live by. Failure to do so, James calls sin. No one was watching that November morning when I let that buck walk away. It was painful and disappointing for a moment, but I knew it was the right thing to do. I wish I could say I've always made the right decisions in life, but I haven't. God help us to resolve to do right in these troubled and turbulent times. The world needs that kind of testimony, and God expects it!

A New Tabernacle At Camp "What Would Brother Bill Say?"

The news was not good. An engineer had just come down from the rafters of the tabernacle at camp and gave his diagnosis—"COMDEMN IT!" The building that had been erected nearly fifty years ago by Brother Bill Reeves had seen its better days. Needless to say, the news was not what the Camp Board members wanted to hear. There had been some talk about relocating the camp, but that would be in the future. The need to fix or replace the condemned tabernacle was right now. That was in August of 1998.

After months of much prayer and searching for the best solution, the Camp Board thought it best to try and erect a new tabernacle on the camp ground where the ball field is now located. New ground was purchased on the northern edge of the camp where the new ball field will be. Plans for the new tabernacle were drawn up and presented to the State Association at our June 1999 meeting. There was an overwhelming vote to proceed with the building. The new building would cost \$300,000—with \$200,000 coming from the state and the Camp Board was to raise another \$100,000.

It sounds like an enormous task; and it is. But when you consider what Brother Bill and his family faced fifty years ago when he moved them there on nothing but faith and desire alone, our task doesn't sound nearly so big. By the end of the 1999 Teen Camp, there has already been nearly \$10,000 raised! Donations are as follows:

West Plains 1st.....	\$ 351.87
Pleasant Hill - Thayer.....	50.00
Unity	2,000.00
Liberty Association	1,000.00
Opal Mooney	80.00
Houston 1st	1,000.00
United - West Plains.....	2,200.00
DeSoto 1st	1,000.00
Offering - State Mtg. 6/9/99	414.00
Offering - Teen Camp 6/21/99	1,864.00
TOTAL.....	\$9,959.87

You will notice that in these donations we have associations, churches, and individuals giving—which is called "Team-work." Team-work will take this large debt and wipe it out before the State Meeting next year. The South Central Association is in the talking stages of a combined youth fund-raiser. I've been told by several

individuals that they plan on giving. If 175 churches gave \$570.00, it would take care of the cost. There are many ways the above need can be met and exceeded. It's just a matter of putting our hands to the plow.

As you enter the new building, the vestibule wall will have bricks with the names of the individual churches, associations, organizations and people that have contributed. I trust the pastors, leaders and youth of our state will start now. By the way, the question I asked was, "What would Brother Bill Reeves say?" Well, I saw his son the other day. I told him about the poor condition of the tabernacle that his dad built and how we would be building a new one to replace it. I asked what he thought his dad would say if he were here. Ben Reeves told me that Dad would say, "Get it done! If the kids are in danger and the need is there, then don't wait—GET IT DONE!"

Don't Miss the 1999 Missouri State Youth Conference November 19-20

Featuring:
Bill Gravell

And Music by:
"Far From Home" (ffh)

at Windermere Baptist Conference Center
Watch the Gem for registration information.

MISSOURI STATE ASSOC. OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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