

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Volume 71, No. 2, February 2000

Missouri Home Missions State



The Reeves



The Cochrans



The Longs



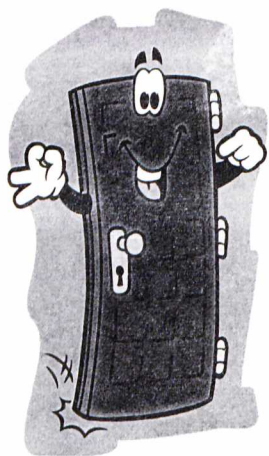
The Becks



The Bigelows



The Richmanns



O
n

The

THRESHOLD

By Garry Matthews

We stand on the threshold of a new year, and yes, a new millennium. We have heard all the hype about the new millennium and all the fears about Y2K. Maybe you, too, have grown tired of hearing all the doom and gloom. (Funny thing, but in Y2K's supposed worse case scenario, the Amish communities of northeast Missouri won't notice a thing! Maybe we "moderns" could learn some things from the "plain folk"). Still, the new millennium should be a time to pause and take inventory in our lives. As we stand on the threshold of this new 1,000 years, what do we see? If the Lord sees fit to give this world and mankind a new millennium, do we see opportunities or problems? Do we look forward and enter with faith, determination, and anticipation of what God can do through us—OR—will we wonder aimlessly, squandering yet other opportunities that God has given us?

Do we look forward and enter with faith, determination, and anticipation of what God can do through us—OR—will we wonder aimlessly, squandering yet other opportunities that God has given us?

I don't think it would be out of line to draw a parallel between ourselves standing on the threshold of a new millennium and the children of Israel standing on the threshold of the promised land as recorded in Numbers chapters 13 and 14. There are a number of striking similarities. Before us stands an unknown. As the spies of Israel went out to survey the promised land, they found that it consisted of both problems and opportunities. There would be trials and hardships. There would also be blessings and victories. We also can be assured that the new year(s) will bring trials and blessings, hardships and victories. How do we know? By looking back and reflecting on 1999 and prior years.

How do we react to the unknown? Do we focus on the huge cluster of grapes, the abundant pomegranates, and figs,—OR—do we focus on great, fortified cities and giants? Our focus will determine our reaction and our destiny. Caleb

saw the same things the other spies saw, yet only he and Joshua saw it as a possibility—even an opportunity!

"And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." (Numbers 13:30)

Ten other spies saw problems and considered stepping across the threshold an impossibility.

"But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we . . . is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature. And there we saw the giants . . ." (Numbers 13:31-33)

The spies were leaders in Israel, leaders from each tribe, and individual families. Perhaps an appropriate comparison today would be that of denominational leaders, pastors and church leaders, and the leader of each individual family unit. What these leaders foresee in the new millennium will largely determine the fates of Free Will Baptists, of individual churches, and individual families. The naysayers and doubting leaders of Israel cost the nation forty years of aimless wandering, until the entire adult generation that left Egypt died (except for Caleb and Joshua). Could not the same fate await our denomination, our churches, and our families

if we become so focused on the problems and fail to see the opportunities? Oh, our denomination, churches, and families may not die immediately from the plague of unbelief as the ten spies did, but they will certainly flounder aimlessly, going backward, and looking back toward the "good old days" in Egypt. How do we overcome this human tendency to look on the dark side of things? **Faith!** Complete faith in the God of Caleb and Joshua, that through

His mighty power we are "well able" to overcome" the giants and reap the grape clusters of victory.

" . . . because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

Ten spies went to see **if** the land could be taken, and determined that it couldn't. This was not what the Lord and Moses commanded them to do, but this was their mind set. Two spies went to see **what the fruits of victory were** that God had in store for them. They determined that they were "well able to overcome." History proved Caleb and Joshua under the leadership of God were indeed "well able" to overcome!

What about us? Which view will we take as we stand on the threshold of a new millennium? Will we see giants and turn back into the wilderness of unbelief and unpreparedness?—OR—will we determine that we are "well able to overcome it" and develop plans to seize the promised land of a new millennium that lies before us? To paraphrase Shakespeare's Hamlet: Giants or grapes?—that is the question.

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: 202 West Commercial, P.O. Box 991, 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.



L - R

Pastor Ken Haney, Deacons: John Percival, Gene Reed, Lehman O'Dell, Jerry Bowman, Dan Clark

was given an opportunity to respond with words of admiration for him. One member commented that he was "his hero." Several others spoke of his faithfulness and kind, willing spirit.

In spite of physical limitations that might cause most people to miss church, Brother Lehman never misses a service and, with great effort, remains faithful to the Lord and to his church. Everyone at First FWB is thankful to have such an example of godliness to follow.

"Lehman O'Dell Day" Celebrated at Lebanon First FWB Church

Sunday, October 31, 1999 was declared "Lehman O'Dell Day" at First Free Will Baptist Church in Lebanon. The congregation honored Brother O'Dell for his service to the Lord and the church as deacon for 33 years. His term began in 1966 and he continues to serve now in a limited capacity. He also served as deacon for a while at Liberty FWB Church in Phillipsburg before coming to Lebanon.

Pastor Ken Haney expressed the feelings of the entire church when he said, "Brother Lehman has portrayed a godly spirit and a level head. He has always kept an open mind toward any church matters and welcomed input from all the younger board members."

A plaque was presented to Brother O'Dell, and the congregation



**OZARK
CHURCH
ANNOUNCES
MEN'S RALLY**

Ozark First Free Will Baptist Church will sponsor a "Men's Rally For Christ" on Friday evening, March 10, 2000.

Many exciting plans are underway, beginning with a supper hosted at 5:30 p.m. At 7:00, following the meal, Connie Cariker, pastor of the West Tulsa Free Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, will serve as the special speaker for the evening. Special music and other treats will also be presented.

Pastor, Rev. Gary Mitchener, would like to invite all Missouri men to come and enjoy the rally and this special time of encouragement and fellowship. If you have questions or need further information, contact Brother Gary at (417) 581-3758 or at (417) 581-5246.

Hazel Creek FWB Church Honors Oldest Living Member

**By
Karen Sponsler**



John Filkins

On Sunday, November 7, 1999, the Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church, rural Kirksville, Missouri, honored Brother John Filkins, age 97, as their oldest living member. He was born on November 2, 1902, and accepted Christ as his Savior at the age of 8. He became a member of Hazel Creek Church in 1916 at the age of 14, taught Sunday school for over 20 years, and was the song leader for 15 years.

At the age of 21, John married Mary Craig, and they lived together for 67 ½ years before she passed away on July 16, 1989 at the age of 89. They had one daughter, Wanda (Filkins) Riley. John has been a farmer in the Hazel Creek community all of his life.

He remembers as a child receiving an orange, banana and apple for a Christmas present and thought it was a really nice gift. He said the nicest material thing he remembers receiving was a bathroom in their house, but that becoming a Christian was the most important event in his life.

The church presented John with a certificate of recognition.

Heritage FWB Church

Poplar Bluff, Missouri

My family and I returned from California to Poplar Bluff, Missouri in 1989 to start a new Free Will Baptist Church under the direction and support of the Missouri State Home Mission Board. Heritage FWB Church held its first service in a rented storefront on September 10, 1989. In 1990 the Lord worked a miracle for us. We were able, with the support of the State Home Mission Board and the financial assistance from the Free Will Baptist churches across the state, to purchase a beautiful building with ample facilities located at Twelfth and Gardner Streets in Poplar Bluff.

We have faced many difficulties and setbacks in our ministry here, but we have never reached a point of "throwing in the towel." In the midst of all our trials, God has proven Himself to be faithful. There have been souls saved, baptized, and united with the church. We are still seeing lives changed!

Galatians 6:9 says, "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Our church feels that we're on the brink of reaping a golden harvest! It is our desire that Y2K be the most fruitful year of our ministry. We hope to gain much ground for our Lord. It is our aim to go self-supporting and to clear our church financially in 2000.

Thanks again to our Missouri State Home Mission Board and the faithful giving of our Free Will Baptist churches in the state of Missouri. Please continue to pray for us as we labor to build a strong and lasting Free Will Baptist church in Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

Rev. Donald Richmann and Family

Hannibal Church Reports God's Blessings

We are praising the Lord for all the good things that are happening in Hannibal.

We have had seven people join our church since September. We have started a Kid's Club on Wednesday nights, and have seen our Wednesday night attendance go from a consistent 11 to anywhere between 25-41.

Last month we had a completely paved parking lot donated to us, and we were able to install hot water heaters in our church. We also had new doors for the front of our church donated and installed. God is so good to us. There seems to be a new-found enthusiasm in our congregation for serving the Lord. It is so exciting to watch as people fully commit their lives to serving the Lord.

If you are ever in the Hannibal area, please come and visit us so we can show you what your support of Missouri Free Will Baptist State Home Missions has done in Hannibal, Missouri

Rev. Dale Cochran and Family



Rev. & Mrs. Alvin Hook

Blue Springs FWB Church Result of Your Prayers and Support

A small handful of people who were independent Church of God invited me and my wife, Cynthia Gaye, and our three girls to come to Blue Springs, Missouri (a suburb of Kansas City) when Pastor Paul Tribble had health problems and retired from the pastorate. We met in an old three-room house downtown with an extremely slow beginning. God began to bless and we sold the small building and rented a building at the edge of town. We later felt He was directing us to a piece of property at the edge of town.

We were looking for something inexpensive in the area, and found a ranch house with a basement and seven acres for \$120,000. With the help of the Missouri Mission Board, we were able to purchase the property and began to meet in the building. The city shut us down due to zoning problems. At the same time eight of our families moved away, with a couple more families getting discouraged and leaving our church. The congregation that remained decided to go forward. After three years, God has abundantly blessed with a new building being built by the people themselves, and many souls being saved and joining the church. The value of the property has increased to over \$750,000 because of expansion of the city and widening of the parkway in front of the property and the new facility that was built for \$190,000.

The Lord has been gracious and attendance has been well over 100 nearly every Sunday. But what's most important is that we have seen souls saved, families reunited, and individuals growing in the Lord. This is all possible because of Free Will Baptists, and especially the Missouri State Home Mission Board, whose support made it possible to build a first-stage building.

We have been through lean and hard times at Blue Springs, yet God is doing His work through it all. Thank you, Free Will Baptists, for your support!

Rev. Alvin G. Hook and Family



Rev. Dale Skiles,
General Director

Missouri Home Mission Board Report

This past year of 1999 has been both a year of deep sadness and sorrow and a year of rejoicing for the Missouri Home Mission Board of Free Will Baptists. It has been a year of rejoicing because of what God has done for our State Mission work through the faithfulness of His churches and people. This has been, by far, the best financial year of our existence.

Then, on the other hand, it has been a year of intense sadness because of the loss of two of our board members. Brother Cliff Bowman, our board chairman for over 30 years was called home to be with the Lord in June. Brother Bowman, during his tenure of the mission board, had been the heart and soul of Missouri missions. His heart truly beat for the mission works across our state. His wise counsel and leadership will be sorely missed by our board and by our state.

Then, in November, Brother Cody Freeman, an invaluable member of our board, moved to Oklahoma to pastor. He brought a real spirit of cooperation and congeniality to our board. Cody always conducted himself in a gentlemanly, Christian fashion. He, too, will be missed by our

board and our state.

Please pray for us as we seek out two men to fill the vacancies on our board. I'm sure that God is preparing the hearts of those two men whom He would have to serve with us.

But, in spite of the set-back and sadness, we rejoice in our hearts over what God has done and is doing through His people to further His kingdom work in Missouri through state home missions.

Our Missouri missions, by and large, are doing exceptionally well. We anticipate that three of our missions—Hannibal, Moberly and Poplar Bluff, will become self-supporting, organized churches during this coming year.

We are presently supporting seven full or part-time missions in Missouri. They are: Stockton (Bill and Loretta Ragsdale), Columbia (Steve and Linda Reeves), Hannibal (Dale and Barbara Cochran), Moberly (Lynn and Debbie Beck), Sedalia (Gary and Shannon Bigelow), Poplar Bluff (Don and Madonna Richmann), and Jackson (Vernon and Ada Long). We urge you to earnestly pray and financially support these faithful families.

The Perpetual Loan Fund has been re-named the "Cliff and Francis Bowman Perpetual Loan Fund." They were the ones, along with Harry and Lucille Beatty who had a vision for the fund, and gave \$1,000 each to start it. The loan fund is a valuable asset to our mission work. We were able, through this fund, to make a loan to Blue Springs Church to erect their new building, and a loan to Sedalia, to purchase a house adjacent to their church to be used as a parsonage.

As the mission board, we want to thank each of you for your prayers, encouragement and financial support for the ministry of Missouri Home Missions. None of these things I have mentioned could have been accomplished without the combined efforts of Free Will Baptists across the State of Missouri.

"Thank You" From Jackson FWB Church

To those who have faithfully supported and prayed for the new mission work at Jackson, we want to say "Thank You." It is because of your concern that lives have been touched through our ministries here in Jackson. We are praying that we will continue to reach new people for Christ in the coming year of 2000. I believe we will as our people remain faithful to the Great Commission.

Several years ago our Foreign Missions Department had as their theme, "His Last Command, Our First Concern." His last command is to "Go!" We have the promise in God's Word that if we will go with a burden on our heart that we will, without a doubt, "bring in the sheaves." "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Psalm 126:5, 6

Continue to call our names in your prayers—for, without Christ, we can do nothing.

Vernon and Ada Long

Terrill Road Free Will Baptist Church

Lynn Beck

Debbie and I have been in Missouri since 1990 when we moved to Kirksville after being called as pastor. We move to Moberly in August 1995 to serve as Home Missionaries at the Terrill Road Free Will Baptist Church.

We have seen a great spiritual growth among the people of Terrill Road. There is a sweet spirit in the church and the people have a resolve to move forward to a state of self-support.

Recently, our people have adopted the theme "God-supported" in place of the term "self-supporting". We believe that all we accomplish will be the result of our relationship with the Lord and His blessings being poured out on us. We are depending on God's help in moving toward our goal.

Debbie and I have a desire to work in Moberly and see the work completed. By completed, we mean brought to the place of being an organized Free Will Baptist Church without the financial support from the board.

Pray for the work at Moberly and for our people. We have several "young" Christians who need seasoning in the Word. We still need to reach others and will with God's help.

Bible College Trustees Propose To Modify Name

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE—The Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees has voted unanimously to propose that the name of the college be expanded to "Palmer College: The Free Will Baptist Bible College." The action was taken at the December meeting of the Board in Nashville.

Chairman, Gary Fry says, "About five years ago, then Foreign Missions Director, Eugene Waddell, began making the National Association aware that the name, 'Free Will Baptist Bible College,' was causing our graduates to be excluded from access as missionaries to many of the world's least evangelized countries. Upon learning this, the FWBBC Board and administration began to consider a name change."

He stressed that "Free Will Baptist" will remain part of the college's name and that the modification is not a precursor to converting the school from a Bible college to a Christian liberal arts institution.

The new name would honor Paul Palmer, a pastor, teacher, evangelist, and church planter who established the first Free Will Baptist church in North America in 1727. Dr. Matthew Pinson, a student of Free Will Baptist history, says, "had it not been for his dedication to God's work and to General Baptist principles, the National Association of Free Will Baptists would not exist."

The process for the change involves presenting it to the National Association of Free Will Baptists (NAFWB) this year and voting on it the next year.

President, Tom Malone says discussions on the college's name go back to when he was a member of the board. "I assure the denomination that modifying the college's name does not change who or what the college is," he says. "We are 100% Free Will Baptist and we are 100% a Bible college. It is not my intention that either be changed."

100 Make Bible College Dean's List

The names of 100 Free Will Baptist Bible College students were placed on the Dean's List following final examinations on campus in December. The fall semester closed with 20 seniors, 22 juniors, 19 sophomores, and 38 freshmen making grades of B or higher. Fourteen finished the semester with a straight A average.

The following Missouri students made the semester Dean's List and "B" Roll:

Jeff Cates (Senior) - West Plains
David Dodson (Senior) - Park Hills
Melissa Sloan (Junior) - Bonne Terre
Kellie Warren (Junior) - Dexter
Dee Dee Vandivort (Sophomore) - Wentzville
Stephanie Howell (Freshman) - Farmington

Congratulations to each of these students for their hard work!

**ROLL CALL
SUNDAY
March 26
PLAN A BIG
DAY!**

**Plan To Send In
Your Roll Call
Sunday Statistics!**

—Gary Fry—

Let me thank all of you in advance who will help us this year with Roll Call Sunday! How can you help?

The most effective way is to return the post card you will receive in the mail in a few weeks. You will receive a letter explaining what we want in the way of statistics this year and a post card for your response. Please put the card where you will be reminded on the afternoon of March 26th to fill it out and return it to Roll Call Central!!

Why do we go to all this trouble every year? First, we need to know how many of us there are. Without knowledge of our numbers, we don't know if we are growing. No growth means that we must look to the reasons why not and make some new effort. We are also interested in how many people are saved in our denomination yearly. Our interest in reporting these facts is not to boast but to boost. We want our report to be an instrument of encouragement.

So please help us on March 26th when **Free Will Baptists all across the nation are counting because we want Free Will Baptists to count in this world!**

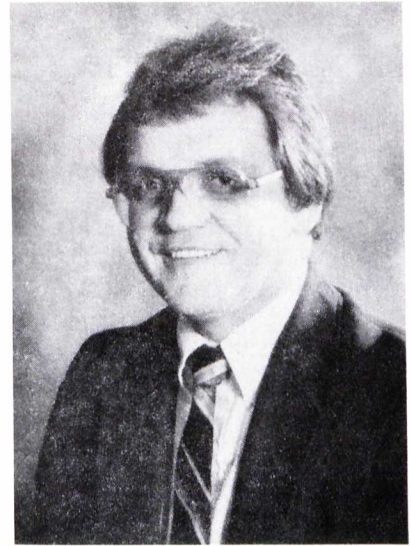
Often Asked Questions

By Pastor R. E. Dablemont

What a joy it is to serve the Lord as a Free Will Baptist in the state of Missouri. This new column is dedicated to those throughout our state who have joined together to pray for and with one another for the advancement of our local churches for the glory of God. If you have a question you would like answered about practical theology (putting into practice the teachings of God's Word), please send it to me and I will try (notice I said "try") to address the question in this monthly column.

Mailing Address: R. E. Dablemont - 651 Oakdale Circle - Cuba, MO 65453

E-Mail Address: apologistrick@yahoo.com



What Can I Do To Help My Pastor?

"Don't get all shook up, preacher! It'll be okay!" I suppose every pastor has heard these words at one time or another after sharing the burden of his heart over some wandering sheep. It's normal for pastors to experience anguish over the spiritual welfare of their congregations. Paul, the Apostle, wrote the following words to the developing church in Thessalonica, "... I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless" (1 Thess. 3:5b, NIV).

After over fifteen years of serving one congregation in one community, I can relate to Paul's sentiments. Every pastor with a heart for God's people has felt this fear and most likely has asked these questions: "Will these people make it?" "Will temptation overcome them and cause them to fall by the wayside?" "Have my efforts been useless?"

While some may view these questions as reflecting a lack of faith or no confidence in God, others quickly realize that they only reveal a heartfelt concern for the eternal destiny of God's children. Paul's words reveal to us that he was well aware of the fact that "... (our) enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8b, NIV).

Spiritual danger lurks in every nook and cranny of our present world just as it did in the days of Paul. Lives and souls of people are spoiled, wasted, or lost forever as Satan

does his dirty work. Folks need to realize that it is impossible for their pastors to always wear plastered, feigned, Miss America Contestant-like happy faces when their hearts are in a turmoil, burdened with grief. Reflecting this very fact, Paul had earlier stated, "... when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith" (1 Thess. 3:5a, NIV).

Paul could rejoice later as he found out the good news from Timothy that the believers at Thessalonica were full of "faith and love." The news, however, is not always good, as every pastor knows! Churches today are really no different than they were in the first century. We rejoice with the good news quite easily, but when bad news comes, how many are burdened with their pastor and are weeping, praying, and laboring to find the lost sheep? Every pastor's worst fear is that of a cold, unconcerned church.

How can YOU help your pastor? As a concerned, committed, Christian and member of your local church, you simply can get on your knees and pray for and with your pastor for those in your flock who have strayed. You can help him go out and find them by volunteering to help visit those in the church who are frequently absent from the life and ministry of the church. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ will bring forth good news as you see your prayers being answered in the future. And you will also see more real smiles on the face of your happy pastor!

**"He who believes is strong; he who doubts is weak;
strong convictions precede great actions:**

J.F. Clarke

The price of greatness is responsibility.

Winston Churchill

1999 Co-op Receipts

Alton	\$850.00	Greenfield	\$1,001.00	Oskaloosa	\$1,518.67
Amity	\$1,387.14	Hannibal	\$2,730.00	Overland	\$1,470.00
Aulsbury Chapel	\$2,923.88	Hannon	\$9,365.87	Ozark 1st.....	\$15,518.39
Bailey	\$2,297.00	Harmony-kc	\$5,827.96	Park Hills 1st	\$10,004.81
Bailey Chapel	\$2,660.00	Hartville	\$9,635.63	Parkview	\$5,833.73
Beacon	\$4,950.00	Hazel Creek	\$2,494.68	Pleasant Hill-Thayer	\$2,479.15
Belton	\$3,939.75	Heritage	\$500.00	Pleasant Home-Mtn.Grove ..	\$3,806.21
Berean	\$370.00	Hickory Grove	\$213.00	Pleasant Ridge-Urbana	\$935.00
Bethel-El Dorado Springs	\$831.02	Hopewell	\$2,300.00	Potosi	\$1,649.90
Bethel-Northview	\$2,304.00	Houston 1st.....	\$4,159.92	Republic	\$1,200.00
Black Oak.....	\$3,299.75	Hurryville	\$5,838.88	Richwood	\$2,210.00
Bourbon	\$875.88	Jackson	\$2,240.57	Rock Chapel	\$5,272.94
Buffalo 1st	\$1,310.00	Jones Chapel	\$2,642.02	Rolla 1st	\$2,829.00
Byrd	\$961.70	Joplin 1st	\$7,472.57	Royal Oak-Alton	\$1,401.00
Cabool.....	\$3,767.90	Kingsway	\$191.00	Salem	\$270.00
Calvary Chapel	\$11,073.64	Kirksville 1st	\$78.00	Seymour	\$3,367.00
Calvary Fellowship	\$4,206.50	Koshkonong	\$1,998.72	Smyrna	\$978.00
Cape Girardeau	\$4,285.98	Lead Hill	\$3,535.42	South Fremont	\$7,660.00
Carthage	\$2,483.08	Lebanon 1st	\$10,430.12	Southside	\$828.48
Central	\$11,215.42	Lebanon FWB	\$4,355.79	Springfield	\$2,577.00
Chapel of the Ozarks	\$563.40	Liberty	\$190.19	Springfield 1st	\$13,232.66
Christ Chapel	\$2,794.15	Lone Star	\$592.89	St. Peters	\$2,223.91
Clifton	\$814.39	Macedonia-Niangua	\$902.75	St.Francois Assn.	\$120.00
Columbia	\$1,984.51	Merls Chapel	\$1,409.80	Stockton	\$2,145.14
Copper Mines	\$5,492.64	Mill Creek	\$4,710.80	Terrill Rd.	\$2,240.00
Cornerstone-Joplin	\$193.60	Mine LaMotte	\$802.97	Thayer	\$12,303.40
Cornerstone-Mtn.Grove	\$5,762.94	Monett 1st	\$5,983.14	Trinity	\$11,927.93
Cross Roads - Lebanon	\$1,655.00	Mountain Grove1st	\$18,549.67	Twin Oak	\$4,252.29
Crossroads-Wentzville	\$7,637.29	Mt.Pisgah	\$4,332.00	Union Grove	\$4,953.00
Cuba	\$7,564.50	Mt.Zion-Gower	\$690.80	Union Light	\$1,859.50
DeSoto 1st	\$14,500.00	Myrtle	\$2,510.51	Union-Success	\$300.00
Emanuel-Loveland,CO	\$574.60	Neosho 1st.....	\$1,140.00	United	\$18,404.05
Faith & Hope-Aurora	\$736.52	New Harmony	\$161.54	Unity	\$4,545.00
Faith & Hope-Willow Spring ...	\$589.90	New Home-Lebanon	\$588.90	Verdella	\$6,707.88
Faith-St.Louis	\$250.00	New Hope-Fredericktown	\$840.00	Viburnum	\$2,200.76
Farmington	\$36,788.65	New Life-Licking	\$4,508.73	Victory-Alton	\$4,824.82
Fellowship	\$10,000.00	New Rock Springs	\$1,148.00	Victory-KC	\$5,550.83
Fordland	\$9,048.26	Niangua	\$2,239.00	Waynesville	\$4,335.62
Fourth.....	\$4,147.22	North Five	\$1,504.84	West Plains 1st	\$8,616.25
Fredericktown 1st	\$3,585.00	Number One	\$1,069.60	Wilderness	\$3,504.94
Freeman Chapel	\$5,306.84	Oak Grove-Mtn.Grove	\$2,093.97	Willow Springs-Mtn.Grove ..	\$2,808.81
Friendship	\$1,790.12	Oak Hill-Union	\$621.05	Wolf Creek	\$4,213.81
Grace	\$16,711.00	O'Fallon 1st.....	\$9,362.10		
Grant Ave.	\$12,134.89	Olivet	\$1,261.26	Total	\$553,923.60

1999 Show-Me Plan Giving By Associations

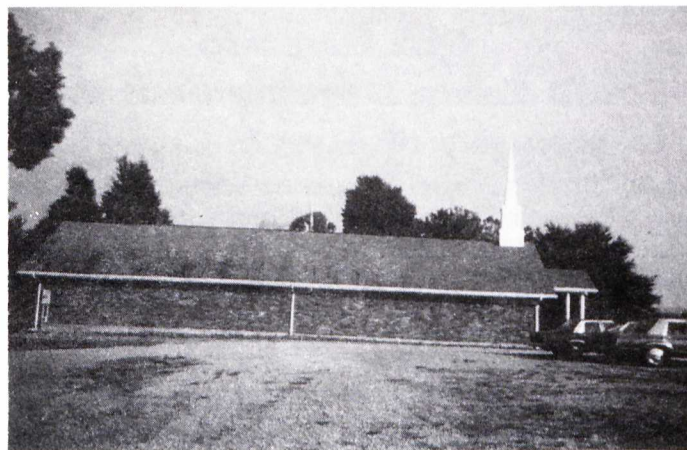
Bootheel	-0-*	Liberty	11,141.47	South Central	13,946.07
Cave Springs	16,040.92	Mid-Rivers	3,219.00	Southeast	12,260.00
Central Western	34,937.17	Mission	39,936.73	St. Francois	49,530.93
Kansas City	13,832.84	Mo-Ark	800.00	St. Louis	33,774.21
Springfield	11,668.00	Niangua	1,260.00	Other	8,999.21
Indian Creek.....	63,730.36	Northeast	6,396.40	TOTALS	\$329,738.31
Laclede	1,290.00	Northwest	6,975.00		

* A check was received from the Bootheel Association too late to be posted for 1999.

Vacation Bible School workshop

The Lebanon Bible & Bookstore will present a special workshop for those interested in Vacation Bible School. **The workshop will be held on Saturday March 4th, and will be held in the meeting rooms of the Cowan Civic Center located at 500 East Elm Street in Lebanon. The time will be 9:30 a.m. till 11:00 a.m.**

All V.B.S. workers are welcome. A special gift will be given to those churches who bring the most workers and who come the furthest. Please make your plans now to attend. For more information call 417-532-9516.



New Hope FWB Church Seeks New Pastor

The New Hope Free Will Baptist Church in Fredericktown, Missouri is seeking a new pastor. If anyone is interested, or has any names of available ministers, please contact Levi Eaker at (573) 760-0787 or Ed Tripp at (573) 783-5952.

North Carolina Flood Victims Send Thanks

Dear Friends:

First of all, I want you to know that this is from my heart! It is a letter that I am sending to all of you who have sent finances—and for some of you this is the second time. My first choice would be to write each and every one of you a personal hand-written letter, but because of the great volume of response from individuals and churches across the country, I have to do it this way. So, please accept my apology for this 2nd, 3rd, or 4th form letter. There are a few things that I have altered from the earlier edition.

It is utterly amazing to see the response of our FWB people across the nation. As of today, December 28, 1999, we have received a total of \$417,555.08! Once again, I am preparing to send out checks to our people and churches. Especially during this Christmas season, we are grateful for your generosity.

Every church and individual that has responded have been tremendously encouraging to brothers and sisters in Free Will Baptist churches in eastern North Carolina. Here is a portion of a letter that I received from Rev. Van Mitchell, pastor of the Grifton FWB Church. His church had 18 families devastated by the flood. "The outpouring of support, encouragement, prayers, and love has been glorious. Our people have been so strengthened by the knowledge that we are not having to go through this alone. Knowing that others are sensitive to our burdens is helping to give the courage needed to face the challenges of this disaster. Thank you for the extraordinary gift that you sent for our flood victims. It is not only appreciated, but it is also needed!"

These Free Will Baptist people's struggle for sanity and normalcy will continue for months. Many of them have not only lost their homes, but their places of employment and the businesses that they counted on for the livelihood. Please put some kind of reminder up, and don't forget them. Send notes or letters to the churches listed, or find the name and address of a particular family and stay in touch. There are many ways in which you can let the folks know that someone is aware and cares!

For the most part, the news media has already forgotten those who are destitute. They have basically milked this item for all it's worth, and now they move on. Unfortunately, as they move on, America and many Free Will Baptists who are not aware of what is happening will forget. None the less, Jesus is still the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and He is still on His throne. We, as the people of God, are under a different economy and watch care. Our Heavenly Father knows every labored soul and will provide strength for endurance.

So please accept our humble thanks for all that you have done. Your gifts are a blessing from above, and the Lord will reward you for your compassion. Please remember our people when you pray, and particularly our pastors, who not only bear their own burdens, but the burdens of their hurting people. God bless you all!

A Fellow Laborer,
Jim Marcum
North Carolina Promotional Director

Gift Given to Youth Camp Development Fund in Memory of Myrtle Cornelison

A \$1,000 gift has been given to the Youth Camp Development fund as a memorial to Mrs. Myrtle Cornelison. Sister Cornelison was born July 14, 1910 and went to be with the Lord September 21, 1999.



Sunday School Averages July - December 1999

Churches:	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Belton	37	42	38	39	39	32
Calvary Chapel	130	134	139	154	144	132
Cape Girardeau	55	48	63	41	43	38
Copper Mines	52	53	56	56	53	49
Cuba	112	107	107	115	108	
Columbia	28	28	29	23	38	28
DeSoto	154	160	161	172	173	
Farmington	322	351	403	350	359	402
Hannon	103	119	119	121	109	118
Harmony					62	59
Hartville	97	104	91	90	110	100
Hazel Creek	59	57				
Hopewell	35	29		27	30	
Houston	46	47	42	40	49	45
Lebanon FWB	47	49	46	45	45	46
Lebanon 1st	99	99	95			
Mill Creek	61	62	61	67	52	52
Monett	46	50	47	60		
Myrtle	35				33	
O'Fallon 1st		65	51	62	69	58
Ozark	108	104	108	111	108	
Park Hills	106	113			101	
Purdy	43	54	56	57	59	64
Richwoods	25	26	31	29		
Rock Chapel		46	41	41		
Rolla 1st	28	27		30	29	
Springfield 1st	116	115	117	117	114	
Thayer	143	144		140		133
Trinity	60	69	68	69	65	66
United	305	326	316	326		
Willow Springs	52	54	69	52	62	

The above is only a partial listing- there are 180 Free Will Baptist Churches in Missouri. Each church is encouraged to send in their Sunday School average each month.

Three hints for making a speech:

Be Sincere
Be brief
Be seated.

Financial Report

Cooperative Disbursements

December 1999	\$37,528.96
18.50%MO Home Missions	6,942.86
17.50%Executive Office	6,567.58
3.00%General Fund	1,125.87
.50%Show-Me Plan	187.64
8.50%Youth Camp Board	3,189.96
2.50%Youth Ministries Bd	938.22
2.50%Christian Ed Bd	938.22
2.50%Senior Adult Min Bd	938.22
9.00%Missouri St Retirement Program	3,377.61
30.50%	
National Ministries, Hillsdale and California Christian College	\$ 11,446.33
Foreign Missions Board	
National Home Missions Bd	
Same Allocation	
FWBBC	
Hillsdale FWB College	
Executive Department	
Layman's Board	
Radio & TV Commission	
Theological Commission	
Historical Commission	
Board of Retirement	
1.00% California Christian College (\$114.45)	
included in	\$11,446.33
5.00%Missouri State Conference Center Fund	\$1,876.45

Total \$37,528.96

Co-op

Alton	\$200.00
Bailey - Alton	\$184.00
Bailey Chapel	\$275.00
Belton	\$463.88
Berean	\$70.00
Bethel - El Dorado Sps	\$49.58
Bethel - Northview	\$225.00
Black Oak	\$265.12
Byrd	\$244.60
Calvary Chapel	\$823.40
Calvary Fellowship	\$415.83
Cape Girardeau 1st	\$130.15
Cape Girardeau 1st	\$397.20
Carthage	\$250.23
Central	\$935.42
Chapel of the Ozarks	\$153.05
Christ Chapel	\$223.35
Clifton	\$54.17
Columbia	\$166.63
Copper Mines	\$530.79
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove	\$584.90
Crossroads - Wentzville	\$703.00
Cuba	\$575.00
DeSoto 1st	\$770.00
F & H - Aurora	\$96.45
Faith & Hope - Willow Sps	\$83.58
Fellowship - Park Hills	\$800.00

Fordland	\$731.39
Fourth	\$236.72
Freeman Chapel	\$415.81
Friendship - Kirbyville	\$290.95
Grace - Arnold	\$1,225.00
Grant Avenue	\$841.19
Hannibal	\$288.00
Hannon	\$724.43
Harmony	\$510.00
Hartville	\$727.00
Hazel Creek	\$672.45
Hopewell	\$193.00
Houston 1st	\$254.01
Hurryville	\$481.26
Jackson	\$179.65
Joplin 1st	\$591.26
Kirksville 1st	\$28.00
Koshkonong	\$131.00
Lead Hill	\$236.87
Lebanon	\$417.12
Lebanon 1st	\$838.02
Lone Star	\$51.10
Macedonia - Niangua	\$68.54
Merls Chapel	\$102.00
Mill Creek	\$340.89
Mine La Motte	\$61.74
Monett 1st	\$379.93
Mountain Grove 1st	\$1,394.78
Mt. Pisgah - Cabool	\$336.00
Mt. Zion - Gower	\$58.00
Myrtle	\$184.25
Neosho 1st	\$95.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	\$70.00
New Life - Licking	\$495.60
Niangua	\$232.00
North Five	\$85.47
Number One	\$69.50
Oak Grove - Mtn. Grove	\$142.83
O'Fallon 1st	\$775.00
Olivet	\$320.00
Oskaloosa	\$376.20
Overland	\$100.00
Ozark 1st	\$1,308.00
Park Hills 1st	\$712.30
Parkview	\$374.96
Pleasant Hill	\$169.97
Pleasant Home	\$315.70
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	\$62.00
Potosi 1st	\$102.99
Republic	\$100.00
Rock Chapel	\$668.55
Rolla 1st	\$138.00
Royal Oak	\$91.00
Seymour	\$333.00
Smyrna	\$60.00
Springfield	\$181.00
Springfield 1st	\$871.23
Stockton	\$187.10
Terrill Road	\$225.00
Thayer	\$898.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	\$754.94
Union	\$60.00
Union Grove	\$380.00
Union Light	\$138.00
United	\$1,451.74

Unity - Lebanon	\$540.00
Verdella	\$424.79
Victory - Alton	\$252.88
Waynesville 1st	\$406.37
West Plains 1st	\$647.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Gr	\$252.15
Total	\$37,528.96

Show-Me Plan

Aulsbury Chapel	\$150.00
Barker, Rev. J.	\$15.00
Belton	\$150.00
Berean	\$30.00
Berry, R.	\$15.00
Bethel - Festus	\$45.00
Big Creek	\$55.00
Bishop, B. J.	\$15.00
Black Oak	\$30.00
Buxton, G.	\$30.00
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo	\$105.00
Calvary Fellowship	\$1,639.00
Cartee, J.	\$15.00
Central	\$270.00
Chism, B.	\$5.00
Chrisman, M.	\$30.00
Columbia	\$50.00
Copper Mines	\$150.00
Copper Mines - Hi. Teen Cl	\$30.00
Copper Mines - Yg. Adult Cl	\$15.00
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove	\$359.00
Cuba	\$184.10
Darnell, W.	\$15.00
DeSoto 1st	\$460.00
DeSoto 1st - Auditorium Cl	\$15.00
Faith & Hope - W.S.	\$60.00
Fellowship	\$870.47
Fordland	\$210.00
Fourth	\$210.00
Freeman Chapel	\$540.00
Gardner Church	\$180.00
Garrett, R.	\$30.00
Gospel Light	\$735.00
Grace	\$241.00
Graham, S.	\$15.00
Grant Ave.	\$245.00
Hannon	\$974.43
Harmony - Parkville	\$150.15
Hartville	\$195.00
Hazel Creek	\$478.30
Houston 1st	\$272.91
Hurryville	\$300.00
Hurryville Sr. Adult Cl	\$15.00
Jackson	\$30.00
Joplin 1st	\$105.00
Kirksville 1st	\$145.55
Leadington	\$210.00
Lebanon 1st	\$150.00
Lebanon F.W.B.	\$60.00
Macedonia Aux.	\$1,000.00
Matthews, C.	\$111.00
Matthews, G.	\$350.00
Merl's Chapel	\$200.00
Mill Creek	\$105.00
Mill Creek C. W. F.	\$45.00
Mill Creek Young Adult	\$15.00
Mine La Motte	\$45.00
Missouri St Womans Aux.	\$494.80
Mitchell, R.	\$45.00
Monett 1st	\$225.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$835.00
Mt. Pisgah	\$75.00
Mt. Zion - Thayer	\$30.00
Myrtle	\$75.00
Neosho 1st	\$180.00
New Home - Hartville	\$150.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	\$105.00
New Life - Licking	\$126.65
New Testament	\$15.00
Noel, D.	\$15.00
Oak Grove - Houston	\$15.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$153.00

Park Hills 1st	\$228.69
Parkview - Desloge	\$241.22
Parson, O.	\$15.00
Pinkerton, J.	\$45.00
Pleasant Grove - Anderson	\$90.00
Pleasant Home	\$75.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	\$50.00
Purdy	\$510.00
Reagan, Jimmie	\$300.00
Rehkop, Lon	\$30.00
Richardson, O.	\$15.00
Richwoods	\$52.50
Rock Chapel	\$240.00
Rogers, B.	\$30.00
Royal Oak	\$120.00
Ruble, N.	\$45.00
Springfield 1st	\$530.00
Thayer	\$205.00
Thomas, E.	\$25.00
Trinity	\$465.00
Union Light	\$120.00
United - West Plains	\$716.49
Unity	\$75.00
Verdella	\$594.79
Victory - Alton	\$252.88
Waynesville 1st	\$336.00
White, R.	\$30.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Gr	\$85.00
Willow Springs 1st	\$150.00
Total	\$20,382.93

Foreign Missions

Calvary Fellowship	\$128.34
Cape Girardeau	\$52.06
Cape Girardeau	\$158.92
Central	\$5.00
Chapman, A.	\$40.00
Cuba	\$30.69
Faith - St. Louis	\$24.50
Faith - St. Louis	\$25.00
Fourth	\$50.00
Gospel Light	\$60.00
Grant Ave.	\$36.00
Harmony Fellowship (CO)	\$340.00
Houston 1st	\$50.00
Joplin 1st	\$10.00
Kirksville 1st	\$5.00
Lewis, D.	\$30.00
Minor, K.	\$10.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$5.00
Neosho 1st	\$15.00
New Testament	\$130.00
Ozark 1st	\$20.00
Pleasant Ridge Auxiliary	\$25.00
Rock Chapel	\$22.50
Thayer	\$65.00
Trinity	\$115.21
Union Light	\$10.00
Total	\$1,463.22

Nat'l Home Missions

Belton	\$81.00
Bob Thebeau	\$10.00
Brenda King	\$10.00
Bud Rogers	\$40.00
Calvary Fellowship	\$2,169.00
Carthage	\$45.00
DeSoto 1st	\$6,016.18
DeSoto 1st Auditorium Cl	\$10.00
F & H - Aurora	\$236.95
Fordland	\$105.00
Gospel Light	\$60.00
Grace - Arnold	\$141.00
Grant Avenue	\$120.12
Hannon	\$734.65
Harmony Fellowship	\$411.00
Hartville	\$1,665.00
Houston 1st	\$80.00
Jackson	\$45.00

Jerry Rader	\$20.00
Joplin 1st	\$100.00
Macedonia Auxiliary	\$2,100.00
Merls Chapel	\$110.00
Monett 1st	\$185.00
Mt. Pisgah	\$25.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	\$60.00
Myrtle	\$142.00
Neosho 1st	\$35.00
New Home - Hartville	\$10.00
New Testament	\$150.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$186.00
Park Hills 1st	\$889.30
Pleasant Home	\$75.00
Pleasant Home	\$454.09
Richwoods 1st	\$87.00
Rock Chapel	\$96.70
Thayer	\$155.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	\$85.00
Union Light	\$96.00
United	\$150.00
United Youth Group	\$170.00
Unity - Lebanon	\$50.00
Verdella	\$30.00
West Plains 1st	\$105.00
Total	\$17,545.99

State Home Missions

Belton	\$45.50
Central	\$40.00
Cuba	\$30.69
DeSoto 1st	\$90.00
DeSoto 1st Children's Ch	\$20.00
Fellowship - Park Hills	\$110.00
Gospel Light	\$60.00
Grace - Arnold	\$70.00
Larry Wormington	\$30.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	\$315.00
New Home - Hartville	\$10.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$61.00
Ozark 1st	\$10.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	\$20.00
Richard White	\$20.00
Thayer	\$50.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	\$330.00
United	\$25.00
Waynesville 1st	\$50.00
Total	\$1,387.19

Youth Camp

Hartville	10.00
Mountain Grove 1st	10.00
Niangua	20.00
Cornerstone - Mt. Grove	25.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	14.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	195.00
New Home - Hartville	10.00
Hannon	15.00
Park Hills 1st	55.42
Mt. Pisgah	15.00
Willow Springs - Mt. Grove	10.00
DeSoto 1st	55.00
Thayer	50.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Union	30.00
Total	\$524.42

Camp Development Fund

Myrtle	36.00
Harmony - Parkville	30.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	640.00
Nathan Ruble	200.00
Houston 1st	100.00
Lawrence D. Hocker	500.00
West Plains 1st	212.00
Cabool 1st	100.00
Total	\$1,818.00

C. E. Board

Lebanon Bible & Book	105.00
Total	\$105.00

Senior Adult Ministries

Lebanon Bible & Book	105.00
Total	\$105.00

Youth Ministries Board

Lebanon Bible & Book	105.00
Total	\$105.00

Missouri Retirement Program

Lebanon Bible & Book	142.50
Total	\$142.50

Stewardship Commission

Lebanon Bible & Book	225.00
Total	\$225.00

Missouri State WAFC

Belton	15.00
Total	\$15.00

Missouri Retirement Program

Lebanon Bible & Book	142.50
Total	\$142.50

Free Will Baptist Bible College

Mountain Grove 1st	10.00
Nathan Ruble	15.00
DeSoto 1st	40.00
Thayer	50.00
West Plains 1st	158.00
Verdella	84.95
Total	\$357.95

Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College

Hannon	50.00
Joplin 1st	75.00
Thayer	50.00
Cuba	282.75
Neosho 1st	50.00
Grant Avenue	8.00
Total	\$515.75

Trula Cronk Home for Children

Myrtle	6.00
Hannon	100.00
Belton	90.00
DeSoto 1st	130.00
Unity	10.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	30.00
Pleasant Ridge Women's Aux	25.00
Monett 1st Ladies Aux	75.00
Total	\$466.00

Rev. John McClure

Mountain Grove 1st	17.50
Monett 1st	85.00
Central Western Dist Aux	30.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	10.00
Gospel Light	80.00
Thayer	5.00
Carthage	15.00
Grace - Arnold	15.00
Total	\$257.50

FWB Board of Retirement

Grant Avenue	1.00
Total	\$1.00

Cornerstone FWB Church

(Brian Brinkhoff)	
New Testament	10.00
Total	\$10.00

Steve Smith

DeSoto 1st	55.00
Total	\$55.00

North Carolina Flood Relief

Cuba	607.99
Total	\$607.99



Minister's Retreat

March 20 - 22, 2000

Stonecroft Conference Center
Branson, Missouri

Speaker

Dr. Jack Williams has pastored churches in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee; served as Academic Dean of California Christian College; and has served in various state positions. Since 1977, he has served as editor of *Contact* magazine, Convention Coordinator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, and Executive Assistant to the Executive Secretary. Brother Jack is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College and holds a Ph.D from Baptist University in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Cost

Double Occupancy - \$70.00 per person (Cost includes two nights lodging, five meals and two snacks.)

Directions

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

REGISTRATION FORM

Please Print:

Name _____ Home Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
Church _____ I would like to room with _____

A \$20 non-refundable deposit is required for each person. Please return this registration from to: Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, P.O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65536. Registration forms must arrive at the state office on or before the 10th of March. *Note: Minister's wives are welcome to accompany their husbands.*

OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

P.O. Box 991
202 West Commercial
Lebanon, MO 65536

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LEBANON, MO 65536
PERMIT NO. 1092

Executive Department
Natl. Assoc. FWB
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch TN 37011-5002

PLEASE INFORM US IMMEDIATELY OF YOUR NEW ADDRESS
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