

GEM

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

Volume 71, No.11, November 2000



*Enter into
his gates
with thanks-
giving, and
into his
courts with
praise: be
thankful
unto him,
and bless his
name.*

Ps 100:4



OFTEN ASKED QUESTIONS

Pastor R.E. Dablemont

Is It Okay To Make A Little Noise?

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth...For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations"
(Psalm 100:1,5, NIV).

Not too many years ago, a group of therapists advocated that the "primal scream" would cure many of us from our anxiety and depression. Long before this great enlightenment, the writer of this psalm suggested a better way of making noise--in praise of Almighty God!

All KJV enthusiasts know that it translates the first part of verse 1 of this psalm "MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD..." Yes, I know our praise should be orderly and not cause confusion in corporate worship. But, might we admit that sometimes we stifle the joy that swells up in our hearts as we adore and worship the LORD? There is that appropriate time for quiet contemplation in adoration of God and TOO MUCH noise can be distracting then. But the Word of God clearly allows for and mandates also a time for audible praise.

C.S. Lewis wisely note that "praise is inner health made audible."* I'd like to see more "joyful noise" among all believers in corporate worship and also in our private times of worship. Hats off to all believers who unabashedly boldly praise God with no hang-ups about what people might think! When God is truly and sincerely praised, He is glorified because He His Word is being believed and acted upon. And He is worthy of glorious praise whether we feel like it or not!

Most of us become quite accomplished at shouting at times, maybe even for the wrong reasons. Why not try channeling our energy and enthusiasm into genuine, joyful exclamation before the LORD... There is always a right reason to do this...Go ahead, cry out: "hallelujah! glory! praise the Lord!"

For frigid Free Will Baptists, low-keyed Lutherans, proper Presbyterians, meticulous Methodists, cautious Catholics, and brought-up-right Baptists (no sanction, nor ill will intended), here is my suggestion: On this Thanksgiving Day as you

gather around your family dinner table, surprise your kids, tell grandpa to turn down his hearing-aid and SHOUT FOR JOY TO THE LORD! Then quietly join hands and thank God in heaven for His goodness, love, and faithfulness.

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

MISSOURI CHALLENGE 2000

Constructing a
church in
Campinas, Brazil

CONOSCO! ("WITH US" in Portuguese)

Curt and Mary Holland, your Missouri Free Will Baptist Foreign Missionaries, have been working to establish the newest F.W.B. Church in Brazil. The church has grown, organized and bought land. They now need you to join them in helping to construct this new building in the São José neighborhood of Campinas.

COMO? ("HOW" in Portuguese)

The construction will begin very soon. Your immediate help is needed. You can help by praying, becoming informed about the work in Brazil and by helping to raise funds for this new church building.

CUSTO? ("HOW MUCH" in Portuguese)

The goal is to see the Youth of Missouri and their churches raise \$30,000 for this project. It is a BIG MISSOURI CHALLENGE, but it can be done! All gifts should be sent to Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Please direct all gifts towards the CAMPINAS VISION FUND!

All items for publication must be in the hands of the editor no later than the 5th 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.

Homecoming at Fredericktown First

The annual Homecoming Sunday at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Fredericktown is always a good time to reminisce about God's past blessings and to be encouraged concerning His promises for the future. Homecoming 2000, celebrated September 10, pro-

vided time for these things through fellowship and worship.

Not only was it Homecoming day, it was also Grandparent's Day. Pastor Jeff Huffman recognized all of the Grandparents in the morning service. Rev. Nathan Ruble was the guest speaker. Before delivering the morning message, Bro. Ruble commended Pastor Huffman and the congregation for their faithfulness in supporting state and national ministries.

From the Heart Trio presented the special music for the morning worship service. They also provide an afternoon concert following a delicious lunch prepared by the ladies of the church.



Pastor Jeff Huffman & family

The church was organized April 24, 1922, with forty-three members. State Evangelist T.C. Ferguson directed the was Rev. L. Yancey, and the first deacons were J.F. Miller, J.M. Stacey, and John Williams.

Pastor Jeff Huffman and his family are to be commended for their commitment to God, the church and the Fredericktown Community.

Rejoice Free Will Baptist Dedicates New Building

The Rejoice Free Will Baptist Mission located in Columbia, Missouri, dedicated to God their new church building on Sunday, September 24. The songs, prayers, and testimonies were filled with thanksgiving and praise as the church rejoiced in God's goodness.

Several visitors, representatives from the state, members of the O'Fallon and Moberly churches joined the Rejoice congregation for the dedication service. The Stanley Jones Singers gave an afternoon concert which entertained, delighted, and inspired the congregation.

Pastor Steve Reeves opened the dedication service by expressing his appreciation for Missouri Free Will Baptists who made this day possible. Rev. Nathan Ruble read selected Scripture passages and Rev. Dale Skiles, Director of Missouri Home Missions, delivered the message. Pastor Reeves led the congregation in the act of dedication. Rev. Roger Harwell, Home Mission board member, prayed the prayer of dedication.



Pastor Steve Reeves

Continue to pray for the Reeves family as they labor in Columbia. They are to be commended for their faithful labors.



(L-R) Dale Skiles, Roger & Barabra Harwell



Stanley Jones Singers

Harvesting Thankfulness

By Mary Batchelor



God said: *'While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.'*
GENESIS 8:22

Noah and his family—and the animals—had to wait a long time before they could leave the Ark. Even after the rain had stopped a strong wind was needed to make the water recede and the land dry out. But once the family had disembarked there must have been a thousand urgent tasks to do. They had to put up shelters, forage for food and set in motion the preparations for next year's harvest. But Noah put all these jobs on hold. Before anything else, he remembered his obligation to give thanks to God. Our window, a fifteenth-century one from Great Malvern Priory in England, shows the altar that Noah built and the animal he was offering as a thanksgiving sacrifice to God for his protection. God responded by making promises to all humankind. He would never stop giving the blessing of harvest and the pattern of night, day and seasons to our earth. At this time of the year those of us in the West celebrate God's blessing in harvest. Of course there are tragic exceptions to the rhythms of the seasons. In some countries the harvest fails—maybe because of previous mistreatment of the land or because of natural disaster. But in general terms God's promise still holds good. Harvest time reminds us of God's faithfulness as well as his generosity. Every new day, every new season, every returning harvest, reminds us that God keeps his promises and that his loving purpose is to provide us all with the things we need in order to survive and to enjoy life.

Excerpt from Windows on the Bible: 365 Spiritual Reflections, Chariot Victor Publishing. Used by permission from David C. Cook Church Ministries.

The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

My friend shared this neat prayer with me and I thought it was great for all ages. . . .

Our thumbs are nearest to us. So we should begin our prayers by praying for those closest to us. They are the easiest to remember. C. S. Lewis once said that praying for loved ones is a "sweet duty."

The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct, and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, nurses, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction.

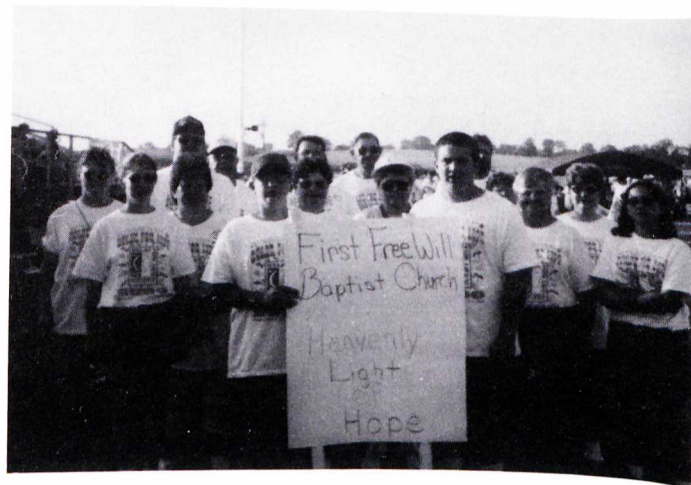
The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders so let's pray for the president and government leaders, business and industry leaders, and

administrators. These people shape our nation and public opinion. They need God's guidance.

The fourth finger is our ring finger and, as any piano teacher will testify, this is our weakest finger. Day and night, the weak, troubled, and pained need our prayers. We cannot pray much for them.

And lastly comes our little finger, the smallest finger of them all. This is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. The Bible says "The least will be greatest among you." The pinkie should remind us to pray for ourselves and, by the time we have prayed for the other groups, our own needs will be in proper perspective and we can pray more effectively.

The Heavenly Light of Hope



The youth group of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Fredericktown are called the Heavenly Light of Hope. The group recently let their light shine as they participated in the American Cancer Society's all-night "Relay for Life Walk-a-thon." They also sponsored a community yard sale. Altogether they raised \$2,700.00.

A Prayer for Our Nation

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage, we beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning and pure manners. . . .

Endow with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy name we entrust the authority of the government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth.

In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness and in the days of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail.
(Thomas Jefferson)

First Free Will Baptist Church of Neosho Celebrates 50 Year

The Neosho First Free Will Baptist Church, located at 960 Burr Crossing Road, held a special homecoming service Sunday, Sept. 17, 2000 to commemorate the completion of 50 years of service in Neosho. It was a time of celebration of God's past blessings and anticipation of what God had for the church in the future. During the morning service Pastor Frank Webster recognized the charter members who were present and presented them with a plaque of appreciation.



of Neosho on Nov. 26, 1950 with Rev. Alyea serving as its first elected pastor. The church's charter members included Samuel and Ruth Turner, Edgar and Sarah Davidson, Geraldine Testerman, Luther and Wilma Pogue, Ella Pogue, Bill Pogue and Rev. and Evelyn Alyea. Both Bill Pogue and Wilma Pogue are still in regular attendance today.

Rev. Alyea served as pastor until Sept. 1952

Rev. Nathan Ruble, State Executive Secretary, delivered the morning message. He complemented the church on their faithfulness. Following the morning service, a roasted pig and covered dish dinner was held in the fellowship hall.

The afternoon service featured the Victorymen singers who blessed the congregation with some good gospel

when Rev. C. M. Hatfield of Sarcouxie came as pastor. He served until May 1955. During his ministry, the church moved to 1319 N. Wall upon completion of the church's first owned building in Oct. 1952. This building was built by men of the church including Fred Weston, Luther Pogue, Bill Pogue and other hard working people.

Other pastors at this location were Rev. James McCully, Aug. 1955 – Aug. 1957; Rev. Lester Nutting, Sept. 1957 – June 1959; Rev. Loyd Jefferies, July 1959 – July 1960. Under Rev. Jefferies' leadership, the church purchased the building vacated by the First Christian Church at the corner of Jefferson and Hickory Streets. Pastors at this address included Rev. James McCully, July 1960 – Aug. 1961; Rev. Robert Duch, Sept. 1961 – Jan. 1964; Rev. Cecil Campbell, Nov. 1965- Aug. 1970; and Rev. Tom Owens, Feb. 1971 – Oct. 1971.

During the winter of 1971 and spring of 1972, the church moved to a temporary location on Baxter Street while a new church was being built. In April of 1972, the building at the present location was completed, and the first service was held on Easter Sunday in 1972 with Rev. Tom Owens as



Pastor and Mrs. Frank Webster

singing. Three former pastors were present, Jim McCully, Lester Nutting, and Robert Williams. The congregation was delighted to hear them reminisce about their experiences while pastoring the church. A good day was enjoyed by all in attendance.

The church began as a mission in late 1949 or early 1950. The Mission was an outgrowth of a revival meeting conducted by Rev. Elda Crane of Miami, OK and assisted by Raymond Woods and his wife. The first services were held in an upstairs room above what was then the Jones' Drug Store on the S.E. corner of the square. After several months, the mission moved to a garage building on Lincoln Street where Mr. Woods was in charge for a while. Rev. Roy Alyea of Monett then took charge of the mission and shortly afterward, the mission moved to a rock building at the corner of McCord and Valley Streets. Under Rev. Alyea's ministry, the mission was organized into the First Free Will Baptist Church



(L-R) Lester Nutting, James McCully, Robert Williams, Frank Webster



Media Commission

THE MEDIA COMMISSION

National Association of Free Will Baptist
P O Box 5002 Antioch, Tenn. 37011
Phone (615) 731-6812 Fax (615) 731-0771



Media Commission Board:

Steve Faison
Chairman

Doug Kite,
Sec/ Treasurer

Bill Gardner

Ron Hunter

Mike Jones

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

To advance the cause of Christ, the Media Commission serves churches and denominational agencies by providing access to, and assistance with, professional quality media tools for communication, evangelization, and edification.

PRESS RELEASE

During the National Association Convention at Anaheim, California the convention approved a proposal for the Media Commission to go from a part time commission to full time work. This means the budget for the Media Commission will need to go from \$2000 a year to \$200,000 a year. The good news is that if this budget can be met for 3 years then the Media Commission will be established enough to allow it to become a self supporting commission that will no longer need assistance from the National Association budget.

The Media Commission presently produces Radio and TV ads for our denomination and ad slicks for newspaper and bulletin promotions. As it expands to a full time commission the Media Commission will be able to assist every denominational department with quality media products that will greatly enhance the image Free Will Baptist present to the world. This expert advice will also be available to aid local churches as they design cards, letterheads, bulletins and other media presentations so that Free Will Baptist will always put their best foot forward in our community.

The Media Commission is already assisting our Home Missionaries in reaching their communities with introductory videos and is working closely with the Bible College and Music Commission in producing high quality cassettes and CDs. There is a world of possibilities available if the initial needs can be met to get the commission up and running on a full time basis.

If your church, or you as an individual, would like to assist in this great work then designate your contributions to the Media Commission and send them to your state Promotional Director or directly to the Media Commission office in Nashville (P O Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011).

Free Will Baptist have the best doctrine in the world, now let's present this doctrine in the best possible way. Your prayers and support are vital during this time of transition.

Your Media Commission.

(Neosho 1st continued from page 5)

pastor. Elected pastors at this location have included Rev. Donald Davis, June 1973 – June 1974; Rev. Robert (Rocky) Williams, Aug. 1974 – May 1981; Rev. Steve Reeves, June 1981 – June 1985; Rev. Mike Rhodes, July 1985 – Sept. 1986; Rev. Bob Hudson, Oct. 1986 – Dec. 1991; and Rev Frank Webster, Jan. 1992– present.

Under Rev. Robert Williams, the church added a large addition to the property that today serves as classrooms. Then under Rev. Steve Reeves, an even larger addition was added which included a fellowship hall, bathrooms, a kitchen and several more classrooms. Under Rev. Bob Hudson's leadership, the church added a parsonage to the property. Under the leadership of our present pastor, Rev. Frank Webster, the church has upgraded our heating and cooling systems, en-

larged and paved our parking area, added a lighted church sign, built a new storage building, and been able to support many denominational ministries around the world.

At different times during the 50 years, the church has been without a pastor. During these times, pastors filling in included Rev. Charles Black, Rev. Floyd Ferguson, Rev. Bill Weston, Rev. John Jent and Rev. Leon Riddle.

Over the years, some fine men have served as deacons for the church. These included Fred Weston, Luther Pogue, Bill Childress, and Matt Bevis. Our present deacons are Jerry Mahaffey and Tom McCollough. The church has also been blessed with dedicated church clerks such as Ruth Turner, Wilma Pogue, Marcus Van Dorn, and our present clerk, Madonna Ferguson.

2001 National Student & Children Workers' Retreat

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

WHAT ? Two exciting retreats for National Student & Children Workers sponsored by the Free Will Baptist Student & Children Ministries.

WHEN ? February 9-11
February 16-18

WHERE ? Branson, Missouri
(February 9-11)
Prestonsburg, Kentucky
(February 16-18)

WHY ? To provide ministry help and training from a national level to adult workers in children's ministries.

WHO'LL BE SPEAKING ?

Paul Borthwick

Paul Borthwick has served as the Youth Minister and Missions Minister for over 24 years at Grace Church in Lexington, Massachusetts. He has coordinated over 100 short term missions teams, and commits himself to mobilizing others for cross cultural ministry.

Jeff Nichols

Jeff Nichols has served for over 7 years as Executive Pastor/Minister of Children at Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He has led Children's Ministry seminars around the country as a presenter for the International Network of Children's Ministry at their one day Children's Ministry Seminar.

Registration fees start at \$94 and includes 2 nights lodging, meals, workshops, materials, and a cool notebook! For more information about the 2001 National Student & Children Workers' Retreat, call 1-800-877-7030 - Extension 345, or email us at youth@randallhouse.com.

Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Board News Release

Building Available for Russian Bible Institute

Antioch Tenn - Missionaries, Mike and Cathy Corley, expressed excitement recently when they and Russian leaders discovered a building available in Chelyabinsk, Russia, to house the Russian Bible Institute. The two-story building has over 10,000 square feet of space.

The structure being considered would house the institute, provide a dormitory and bathrooms, make it possible to start a new church in that area of town, and could even serve for youth camp since it is near a beautiful lake. It has a large meeting room that will seat over 100 people and 25 other rooms.

Currently, the two-week institute is held twice a year in the church at Chelyabinsk. The students have to sleep in the same room where they have classes and they have no shower facilities. They must search for public places where they can bathe. If the purchase is completed by mid-January of 2001, it should give time to renovate the building before the spring semester of the Bible Institute.

Because of the intense interest in furthering the Russian work through training, the Board of Foreign Missions has authorized Jimmy Aldridge, former overseas secretary, and Randy Wilson, a board member from Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, to seek the funds to purchase the building.

According to Jimmy and Randy, who were in Russia in June, the project will cost \$110,000 including the purchase, remodeling for classes, and expenditures for raising the funds. "We already have \$20,000 toward this opportunity," says Jimmy. "We need an additional \$55,000 by December 15 to provide this desperately needed space for the 27 sacrificing students. Another \$35,000 will be required to remodel and equip the building for use."

The Bible institute program in Russia was actually launched in 1996 when Free Will Baptists sponsored a pastoral training session in Chelyabinsk. Over a period of four and one-half years professors were sent to train the Russian Leaders in Theology, Pastoral Counseling, Pastoral Theology, Church

Pray for the Pinkertons

Greetings. It took one and one-half hours on tv last night, but five presidential candidates were named. The Moslem was disqualified as were all of the former ruling political party's candidates. It's still a wait & see time with much prayer needed. Curfews over the weekend with the country in a state of emergency. Traffic is less than normal.

Thanks so very much for your continued prayers.
Jerry & Carol

New Deacons At Cape Girardeau 1st FWB

On Sunday, September 24th, two deacons were set apart for special service at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Cape Girardeau. The church has been without deacons for some time. It was discovered by Pastor, Rev. Howard Anderson, that two former ordained deacons from the General Baptist Church were members of the church. After examining these two men, the church voted on September 13th, that Brother Don Gregory and Brother Randy Sanders be accepted as deacons.

The deacons were recognized by the Bootheel Association on September 15th, and were installed as church deacons on September 24th. On Sunday morning, Rev. Anderson had them come to the front of the church and stand within a prayer circle. Prayer was led by Rev. Anderson, along with Brother Ed O'Howell, representing the church board, and Brother Chris Girard, representing the church body. The right hand of fellowship was extended to the deacons as promises of cooperation by the church body was made.

16 Missouri Churches Exceed \$5,000 In Giving To Foreign Missions In '99

According to Heartbeat magazine, 179 Free Will Baptist churches gave \$5,000 or more toward world outreach. Sixteen Missouri churches were among those listed. They are:

\$20,000 and Over

Calvary Fellowship, Fenton \$21,431.31

\$10,000 and Over

Hannon, Liberal \$19,365.87
Fellowship, Park Hills \$14,205.37
Verdella, Liberal \$12,547.88
First, Farmington \$11,900.00

\$5,000 and Over

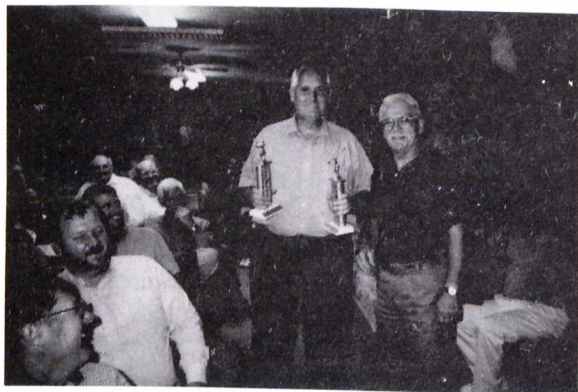
Trinity, Bridgeton \$9,993.35
Macedonia, Purdy \$9,633.50
Gospel Light, East Bonne Terre \$9,420.00
First, Mountain Grove \$9,110.00
United, West Plains \$8,367.41
Freeman Chapel, Stewartsville \$6,480.00
First, Springfield \$6,436.47
First, O'Fallon \$6,319.00
First, DeSoto \$5,805.00
First, Monett \$5,670.13
Grace, Arnold \$5,239.60

And the Winners Are!

Everyone who participated in the annual Missouri Association Golf Tournament enjoyed the game and the fellowship. The winners are all smiles.



Winners: Ken Haney with trophies and Don Walker



Jerry Norris' team tied for first but received second place trophies



Rick Dablemont receives a trophy from Dale Skiles for being the closest to the pin

The Color of Music

Patrick & Barbara Kavanaugh

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." —Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

Russian composer Aleksandr Scriabin was born in Moscow on January 6, 1872. Compositionally, he is best remembered for his piano works and his symphonies, notably his fourth, the Poem of Ecstasy. Scriabin is also remembered for his innovative interest in the mysterious relationship between certain musical notes and the color spectrum.

Throughout history, both musicians and artists had sensed an illusive bond between visual color and aural pitch, but no one had quite understood this association. Scriabin determined not only to conquer the problem, but also to use all the senses in his compositions. For his last symphony, he invented a special color keyboard, projecting colors onto a screen synchronized to the music. He envisioned works using music, dance, drama, poetry, colors, and even various perfumes.

Unfortunately, a premature death put an end to his aspirations, but he left us with a portrayal of a man with a vision. Practically every day of his last decade was spent pursuing his theory. He let nothing get in his way. Although his work remained unfinished, it fascinates musicians, artists, and even scientists today.

There is nothing better than understanding God's call for your life and then actually living out that calling. Discovering what God has planned for you can be difficult and take time, but you're never too young to seek His will and start living for Him.

Get out a set of paints, put on your favorite music, and paint what the music inspires. Thank God for giving each of us a mission in life, and ask Him to help you discover His mission for your life.

Excerpt from Devotions From The World of Music by Patrick & Barbara Kavanaugh. Used with permission from David C. Cook Communications Ministries.

Remember the Together Way Special Offerings

APRIL

FOREIGN MISSIONS

SEPTEMBER

REST OF THE FAMILY

NOVEMBER

HOME MISSIONS

DECEMBER

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

FWBBC

Freshman Class Officers

Free Will Baptist Bible College freshmen elected class officers early in the school year and chose a Pastoral Training major from Florida to serve as president. Paul Bryant is the son of FWBBC alumni and is from Vero Beach.

Nicole Crowe, an Elementary Education major from Nashville, will serve as vice president. Cori Justice, who is also studying Elementary Education, was elected secretary-treasurer and is from Clarksville, Tennessee.

Devin Lee, chaplain, is a Youth Ministry major and comes from Fredericktown, Missouri. Assisting him as worship leader is Joshua Riggs, a Missions student from Joelton, Tennessee.

Please pray for these and other student leaders as they serve this year.



(L-R) Joshua Riggs, Nicole Crowe, Devin Lee, Cori Justice, Paul Bryant

BE A PRAYER SAINT

Patsy Turnbaugh

God hears every prayer we pray
Things may not always go our way
But God knows what's best for everyone
So always pray for His will to be done

Pray for our country, it's on a downhill slide
Pray for God to be our leaders' guide
There's many lost souls, so pray for them
Some of these souls will come to Him

Pray for the sick, God heals, you know
Give your troubles to Him in times of woe
Pray for the person who didn't do you right
Maybe someday he too, will see the light

Pray for our church, that we serve with pride
For on that cross, it was for us He died
Pray for the missionaries who teach God's Word
They sacrifice a lot for the truth to be heard

Pray for our pastor, God will give him the wisdom
To lead us through the troubled times to come
God will give him the courage and determination
To stand unyielding, for what he believes in

Say a prayer of thanks for the blessings God sends
Be thankful for good health, family and friends
When times are bad, don't be brought down
Trust in God to turn things around

Pray for yourselves, and other people, too
When you're in need, we'll pray for you
Just call out His name, God will be there
Never underestimate the power of prayer



CHRISTIAN FOOTBALL

Quarterback Sneak - Church members quietly leaving during the invitation.

Draw Play - What many children do with the bulletin during worship.

Half time - The period between Sunday School and worship when many choose to leave.

Bench Warmer - Those who do not sing, pray, work, or apparently do anything but sit.

Backfield in Motion - Trip to the back (restroom or water fountain) during the service.

Staying in the Pocket - What happens to a lot of the money that should be given to the Lord's work.

Two-minute Warning - The point at which you realize the sermon is almost over and begin to gather up your children and belongings.

Instant Replay - The preacher loses his notes and falls back on the last week's illustrations.

Sudden Death - What happens to the attention span of the congregation if the preacher goes "overtime".

Trap - You're called on to pray and are asleep.

End Run - Getting out of church quick, without speaking to any guest or fellow member.

Flex Defense - The ability to allow absolutely nothing said during the sermon to affect your life.

Halfback Options - The decision of 50% of the congregation not to return for the evening service.

Blitz - The rush for the restaurants following the closing prayer.

Author unknown - an e-mail contribution

Evolution ???

Maybe there is something to this idea of evolution proposed by Charles Darwin. Maybe people did descend from lower animals, for church folk often seem stubborn as MULES about church work; sly as a FOX in their own business dealings; busy as BEES in spreading the latest gossip; blind as a BAT to the world's needs; quiet as a MOUSE in spreading the Gospel; but have eyes like a HAWK to see the mote in their brother's eye. They are eager as a BEAVER about a bazaar and bar-b-que, but lazy as a DOG about prayer meeting; mean as SNAKES when things don't go their way; gentle as a LAMB when they need the pastor's aid; noisy as CROWS for the church to advance, but slow as SNAILS in visiting the unchurched. Many are night OWLS on Saturday night, but BED BUGS on Sunday morning, slippery as EELS on Sunday night and scarce as HEN's teeth during revival !!!

Copied from The Voice in the Wilderness.

Worship Service Averages April 2000 - September 2000

Churches:	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
Belton	50	43	44	50	50	54
Buffalo 1st	105	100	86	96	109	104
Calvary Chapel	252	232	223	217	243	230
Calvary Fellowship	313	298				
Cape Girardeau	70	61	55	55	44	61
Copper Mines	68	63	63	56	63	
Cuba	140	139	135	130	130	128
Columbia	37		27	30	31	31
Crossroads - Wentzville	69	62	70	66	72	64
Cross Roads - Lebanon					124	
DeSoto	219	219	199	210	197	195
Fredericktown 1st	54					
Hannibal	70	64	58	59		
Hannon	144	140	134	127	134	
Harmony - Parkville	95	94	91	91	92	
Hartville	158	150	169	130	157	172
Hopewell	43	40	39	40	39	39
Houston	* 47	72	65	67	55	77
Hurryville	116	112	102	100	114	108
Joplin 1st				99		
Lebanon 1st		129	130	127	122	114
Lebanon FWB	88	64	63	64	73	59
Mill Creek	100	94	84	92	94	87
Mine La Motte		57	46	56	56	
Monett 1st		65				
Mt. Pisgah	74	68	78	78	74	72
Myrtle	40	32	33	33	30	
New Life - Licking	70	74	69	64	60	57
O'Fallon 1st	132	103	118	115	119	105
Ozark 1st	172	147	143	151	150	138
Oskaloosa	17				15	
Parkview - Desloge	114	112	112	97	91	
Pleasant Hill	48	51	53	48	50	44
Purdy	70	69	69	63	71	
Richwoods	32	26	36			
Rock Chapel	* 43	54	59	48	51	48
Rolla 1st	51				40	37
Southside		21	22	20		
Springfield 1st	150	143	126	134		
Thayer	215	179	186	196	185	198
Trinity	104	89	84	81	87	
Twin Oak				76	90	72
Union Grove	142	150	129	136	139	
United	555	568	515	482	594	648
Willow Springs	67	66	66	60	64	72

This is only a partial listing. There are 184 FWB churches in Missouri. Each church is encouraged to send in their Worship Service average each month.
(* S.S. Avg.)

Financial Report September 2000



Cooperative Disbursements

September 2000 \$43,518.76

18.50% MO Home Miss. \$8,050.97
17.50% Executive Office 7,615.78
3.00% General Fund 1,305.56
.50% Show-Me Plan 217.59
8.50% Youth Camp Board 3,699.09
3.50% Y.C Restricted Fds. 1,523.16
2.00% Youth Ministries Bd ... 870.38
2.00% C.E. Bd 870.38
2.00% Senior Adult Min Bd .. 870.38
9.00% Retirement Program 3,916.69

30.50% 13,273.22

National Ministries, Hillsdale ..
and CCC

Foreign Missions Board
National Home Missions Bd

Same Allocation

FWB College

Hillsdale FWB College

Executive Department

Layman's Board

Radio & TV Commission

Theological Commission

Historical Commission

Board of Retirement

1.00% CCC

3.00% Missouri State Conference

Center Fund 1,305.56

Total \$43,518.76

Co-op

Amity \$188.71
Aulsbury Chapel \$113.35
Belton \$334.33
Berean \$55.00
Bethel - El Dorado Springs \$65.65
Bethel - Northview \$240.00
Black Oak \$390.04
Blue Springs \$425.00
Bourbon \$55.91
Buffalo 1st \$100.00
Byrd \$67.00
Cabool 1st \$313.35
Calvary Chapel \$1,125.14
Calvary Fellowship \$634.00
Carthage \$412.16
Central \$753.06
Christ Chapel \$268.45
Clifton \$46.30
Columbia \$259.42
Copper Mines \$477.44
Cornerstone - Mt. Grove \$494.72
Cuba \$511.00
DeSoto 1st \$1,300.00
F & H - Aurora \$64.30
Faith & Hope - Willow Sps ... \$123.88
Farmington 1st \$3,164.53
Fellowship \$1,200.00
Fordland \$617.52
Fredericktown 1st \$364.00
Freeman Chapel \$318.48

Friendship \$272.06
Grace \$1,305.00
Grant Avenue \$1,140.69
Hannibal \$300.00
Hannon \$836.35
Harmony - Parkville \$526.00
Hartville \$807.00
Hazel Creek \$613.51
Hopewell \$187.00
Houston 1st \$317.63
Jackson \$535.74
Hurryville \$210.40
Jones Chapel \$597.54
Joplin 1st \$684.48
Koshkonong \$255.00
Lead Hill \$307.77
Lebanon \$386.13
Lebanon 1st \$872.57
Lone Star \$72.80
Macedonia - Niangua \$114.87
Meris Chapel \$181.00
Mill Creek \$532.01
Mine La Motte \$65.78
Monett 1st \$313.78
Mt. Pisgah \$342.00
Mt. Zion - Gower \$58.70
Myrtle \$175.67
New Harmony \$263.80
New Hope - Fredericktown \$70.00
New Life - Licking \$342.03
North Five \$126.20
Number One \$53.19
Oak Grove - Mt. Grove \$164.38
O'Fallon 1st \$992.00
Oskaloosa \$509.60
Overland \$115.00
Ozark 1st \$1,198.11
Park Hills 1st \$672.13
Parkview \$452.47
Pleasant Hill \$186.40
Pleasant Home \$246.70
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana \$62.00
Potosi 1st \$133.00
Republic \$100.00
Rock Chapel \$421.23
Rolla 1st \$224.00
Royal Oak \$74.00
Seymour \$423.00
Springfield 1st \$922.69
St. Peters \$1,008.00
Stockton \$202.94
Terrill Road \$238.00
Thayer \$822.00
Trinity - Bridgeton \$792.00
Twin Oak \$1,307.00
Union Grove \$426.00
Union Light \$131.00
United \$1,522.35
Unity - Lebanon \$400.00
Verdella \$473.95
Viburnum \$302.00
Victory - Alton \$288.86
Waynesville 1st \$380.63
West Plains 1st \$694.00
Willow Springs \$283.88
Total \$43,518.76

Show-Me Plan

Aulsbury Chapel	\$90.00
Barker, Rev. J.	\$15.00
Belton	\$165.00
Berean	\$30.00
Berry, R.	\$15.00
Bethel - El Dorado	\$181.31
Bethel - Festus	\$15.00
Big Creek	\$55.00
Bishop, B. J.	\$15.00
Black Oak	\$30.00
Bourbon	\$15.00
Buffalo 1st	\$60.00
Burns, J.	\$566.00
Buxton, G.	\$30.00
Cabool	\$135.00
Cabool	\$135.00
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo	\$120.00
Calvary Fellowship	\$3,857.00
Cartee, J.	\$15.00
Central	\$277.00
Chism, B.	\$5.00
Chrisman, M.	\$30.00
Columbia	\$130.00
Copper Mines	\$150.00
Copper Mines - Hi. Teen, Teen, Jr. Class	\$30.00
Copper Mines - Yg. Adult Cl.	\$15.00
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove	\$287.00
Cuba	\$141.00
Darnell, W.	\$15.00
DeSoto 1st	\$552.50
DeSoto 1st - Auditorium Class	\$15.00
Faith & Hope - W.S.	\$60.00
Farmington 1st	\$795.00
Fellowship	\$858.99
Fordland	\$160.00
Fourth	\$30.00
Fredericktown 1st	\$150.00
Freeman Chapel	\$540.00
Garrett, R.	\$30.00
Gospel Light	\$825.00
Grace	\$274.00
Graham, S.	\$15.00
Grant Ave.	\$340.00
Greenfield	\$180.00
Hannibal - WNAC	\$30.00
Hannon	\$1,056.35
Harmony - Parkville	\$59.74
Hartville	\$240.00
Hazel Creek	\$439.01
Houston 1st	\$416.00
Hurryville	\$300.00
Hurryville Sr. Adult S.S. Class	\$23.25
Jackson	\$30.00
Jones Chapel	\$345.00
Joplin 1st	\$135.00
Kirk, G.	\$75.00
Kirksville 1st	\$118.78
Leadington	\$365.00
Lebanon 1st	\$150.00
Lebanon F.W.B.	\$30.00
Maggart, D.	\$45.00
Maggart, D.	\$45.00
Matthews, G.	\$250.00
Merl's Chapel	\$200.00
Mill Creek	\$105.00
Mill Creek C. W. F.	\$45.00
Mill Creek Young Adult S.S.C.	\$15.00
Mine La Motte	\$45.00
Missouri State Womans Aux.	\$679.68
Monett 1st	\$290.00
Mt. Pisgah	\$75.00
Myrtle	\$75.00
Myrtle	\$75.00
New Harmony	\$1,319.05
New Home - Hartville	\$150.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	\$105.00
New Life - Licking	\$80.25
Noel, D.	\$15.00

Oak Grove - Houston	\$15.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$207.00
Ozark 1st	\$30.00
Park Hills 1st	\$221.63
Parkview - Desloge	\$229.75
Pinkerton, J.	\$45.00
Pleasant Home	\$75.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	\$50.00
Reagan, Jimmie	\$600.00
Rehkop, Lon	\$60.00
Richardson, O.	\$15.00
Richwoods	\$37.50
Rock Chapel	\$240.00
Rogers, B.	\$15.00
Rolla 1st	\$30.00
Royal Oak	\$120.00
Ruble N.	\$45.00
Springfield 1st	\$515.00
Thayer	\$260.00
Thomas, E.	\$30.00
Trinity	\$570.00
Union Light	\$150.00
United - West Plains	\$444.54
Unity	\$75.00
Verdella	\$753.95
Viburnum	\$65.00
Viburnum	\$75.00
Victory - Alton	\$288.86
Waynesville 1st	\$554.79
White, R.	\$15.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	\$70.00
Willow Springs 1st	\$150.00
Total	\$24,959.93

Foreign Missions

Calvary Fellowship	\$855.00
Central	\$30.00
Chapman, A.	\$20.00
Cuba	\$23.50
Faith - St. Louis	\$20.00
Farmington 1st	\$20.00
Gospel Light	\$60.00
Grant Ave.	\$51.00
Greater Kansas City	\$1,347.00
Haney, A.	\$20.00
Harmony Fellowship (CO)	\$316.00
Houston 1st	\$40.00
Lewis, D.	\$10.00
Minor, K.	\$10.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$25.00
Thayer	\$65.00
Trinity	\$135.60
Total	\$3,048.10

Nat'l Home Missions

Belton	\$70.50
Calvary Fellowship	\$3,790.82
Carthage	\$35.00
Cuba	\$70.50
DeSoto 1st	\$631.00
DeSoto 1st Auditor SS Class	\$10.00
F & H - Aurora	\$64.30
Farmington 1st	\$290.00
Fordland	\$50.00
Fourth	\$50.00
Gospel Light	\$80.00
Grace	\$176.00
Grant Avenue	\$47.00
Greater K. C. Dist Ass'n.	\$4,041.00
Hannon	\$501.82
Harmony Fellowship	\$382.00
Hartville	\$100.00
Houston 1st	\$50.00
Jackson	\$60.00
Joplin 1st	\$20.00
King, Brenda (DeSoto 1st)	\$5.00
Merl's Chapel	\$110.00

Monett 1st	\$181.00
Mt. Pisgah	\$25.00
Myrtle	\$40.00
Myrtle	\$40.00
New Harmony	\$1,319.05
New Home - Hartville	\$10.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$52.00
Park Hills 1st	\$207.21
Pleasant Home	\$40.00
Rader, Jerry	\$20.00
Richwoods 1st	\$50.00
Rock Chapel	\$111.00
Rogers, Bud (DeSoto 1st)	\$20.00
Ruble, Nathan	\$10.00
Thayer	\$185.00
Thebeau, Bob (DeSoto 1st) ...	\$5.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	\$10.00
Union Light	\$96.00
United	\$150.00
United Youth Group	\$170.00
Unity	\$50.00
Verdella	\$10.00
Viburnum	\$81.00
Viburnum	\$91.00
West Plains 1st	\$70.00
Total	\$13,678.20

State Home Missions

Belton	\$60.00
Central	\$10.00
DeSoto 1st	\$90.00
DeSoto 1st Children's Church	\$20.00
Farmington 1st	\$140.00
Fellowship	\$110.00
Gospel Light	\$80.00
Grace	\$70.00
Larry Wormington	\$30.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store	\$288.75
O'Fallon 1st	\$52.00
Ozark 1st	\$10.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	\$20.00
Richard White (DeSoto 1st) ...	\$10.00
Thayer	\$50.00
United	\$25.00
Waynesville 1st	\$50.00
Total	\$1,115.75

Youth Camp

Hartville	10.00
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove	25.00
Cabool 1st	20.00
New Home - Hartville	10.00
Willow Springs	10.00
Mt. Pisgah	15.00
Hannon	50.00
Thayer	50.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store	157.50
Rolla 1st	20.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	14.00
DeSoto 1st	55.00
Park Hills 1st	37.61
Ozark 1st	10.00
Buffalo 1st	50.00
Total	\$534.11

Camp Development Fund

Myrtle	228.00
Bethel Fellowship	100.00
Cabool 1st - Teens In Action ..	400.00
Rock Chapel	560.00
New Home - Hartville	500.00
Thayer	1,000.00
New Home - Lebanon	1,000.00
Verdella	1,010.00
West Plains 1st	110.00
Houston 1st	100.00
Freda Clair	1,000.00
Total	\$6,008.00

Youth Ministries Board

Lebanon Bible & Book Store ..	113.75
Total	\$113.75

Senior Adult Ministries

Lebanon Bible & Book Store ..	113.75
Total	\$113.75

C. E. Board

Lebanon Bible & Book Store ..	113.75
Total	\$113.75

Free Will Baptist Bible College

Farmington 1st	171.00
Nathan Ruble	15.00
Thayer	50.00
Thayer	(Re-Location Fund) 1,000.00
Verdella	94.79
DeSoto 1st	40.00
Ozark 1st	50.00
Total	\$1,420.79

Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College

Farmington 1st	154.00
Joplin 1st	75.00
Hannon	50.00
Thayer	50.00
Grant Avenue	8.00
Total	\$337.00

California Christian College

Pleasant Home	35.54
Total	\$35.54

Rev. John McClure

Central Western Auxiliary	60.00
Monett 1st	35.00
Gospel Light	80.00
Carthage	15.00
Thayer	5.00
MO Women Active For Christ ..	101.15
Grace	15.00
Loyde Snodgrass Family	70.00
Total	\$381.15

Trula Cronk Home for Children

Myrtle	31.00
Farmington 1st	30.00
Hannon	100.00
Belton	100.00
Unity	10.00
DeSoto 1st	80.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	30.00
Total	\$381.00

Rest Of Family Offering

Myrtle	100.00
Total	\$100.00

Cornerstone FWB Church

Merl's Chapel	100.00
Total	\$100.00

Steve Smith

Farmington 1st	20.00
Total	\$20.00

Richard Standley -Indian Bible Col

Grace	10.00
Total	\$10.00

St. Francois District WAFC "What Is That In Thy Hand?"

The St. Francois District Women Active For Christ met at the DeSoto First Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, September 16. Registration began at 9 a.m. and concluded following a noon luncheon hosted by the DeSoto women. There were 54 women and 10 children present for the meeting.

The session was presided over by District President Kathy Thebeau. The theme, "What Is That In Thy Hand?" was carried out in the decorations, both in the sanctuary and the luncheon area, as well as in the music selections. Special music was presented by Jamie Degonia (DeSoto) who sang "Handful of Weeds", and by Julie Fortner (DeSoto) who sang "What Happened To Your Hands?" The scripture text was taken from Ecclesiastes 9:10: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave, whither thou goest." The program was presented by the DeSoto "Drama Team" (Mary White and Julie Hoggard), in the absence of the Mill Creek women. The project for the meeting was a special offering for Missionary Kids, sent to the Provision Closet. A total of \$375.00 was presented.

A long-time tradition of the St. Francois District WAFC is to present their project money in a creative way, utilizing the theme—in this case, hands. As usual, each presentation was unique. The following article was read by LeAnn Wilfong as the Leadington FWB WAFC presented their monetary gift to our project, the Missionary Kids:

What can be said about HANDS? We have all heard about the game, HANDS Down, and we've heard Mom say, "Wash your HANDS." We've been asked for a HAND-out, or we have even been asked to lend a HAND. Sometimes we give a HAND for a good performance or we've been told to HAND it over. Ministers have laid HANDS on the sick. Ruth got HANDFULS of purpose from Boaz. We have asked someone to HAND us something; most have even given our HANDS in marriage. But first, we held HANDS, maybe even had to say "HANDS-off!" or give a slap on the HAND. Oh yeah, watch out for aslip of the HAND. Maybe the left HAND doesn't even know what the right HAND is doing. I'm sure you remember "HANDS Across America." And we all know He's got the whole world in His HANDS. None of which should be confused with HANDsome, HANDle, HANDkerchief, HANDel's Messiah or HANDy Andy, although HANDS probably play a big part in all those words, too. So . . . all we have left to say is "From our HAND to yours, here's our offering for the MK's."

Our special guest for the day was Mavis Revelle, from Calvary Temple Church in Fredericktown, Missouri. She is an accomplished pianist who truly exemplified the use of hands in her gospel piano recital, interspersed with her testimony and scripture references. It was a beautiful expression of using hands to glorify God.

The next district WAFC meeting for the St. Francois Association will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2001 at the Mine La Motte Free Will Baptist Church.

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

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

FWB Bible College
Library & Faculty
3606 West End Ave.
Nashville TN 37205

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