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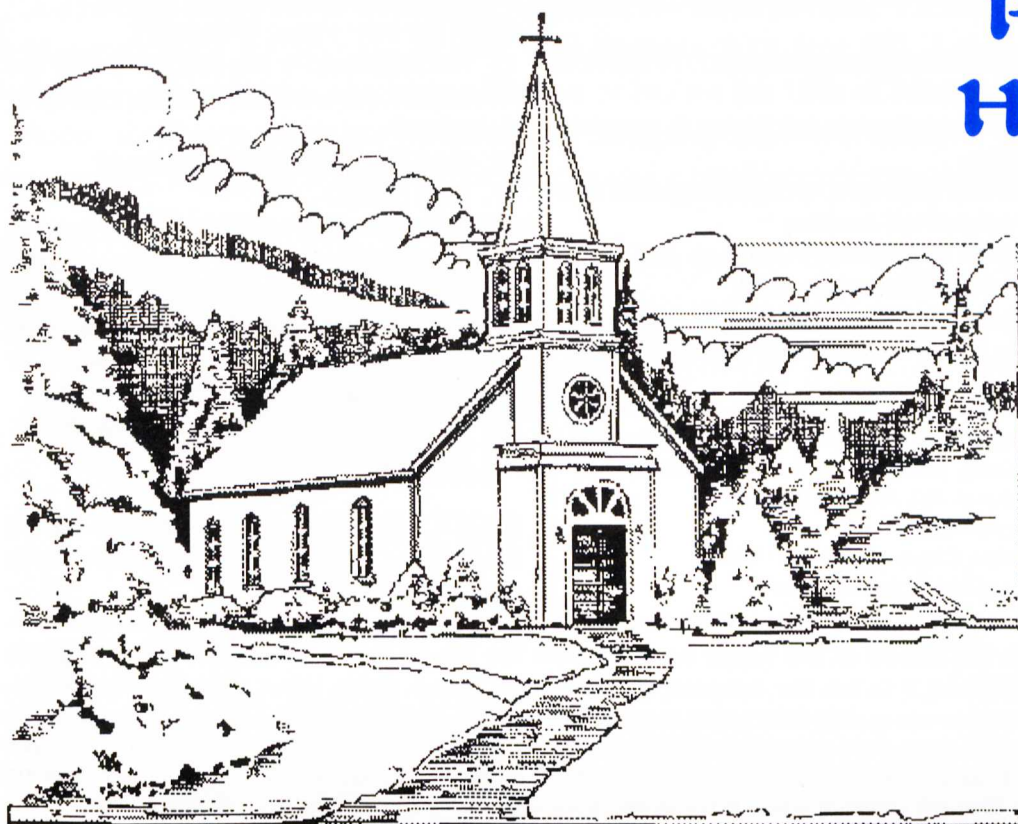
# GEM

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

Volume 72, No.1, January 2001



May you be  
blessed  
with a  
New Year  
of  
Peace and  
Happiness!







## OFTEN ASKED QUESTIONS

Pastor R.E. Dablemont

### GOD'S SPECIAL PEOPLE... How Important Are Senior Adults To The Local Church?

In our local church we call them KEEN-AGERS. Don't confuse them with TEEN-AGERS; they don't sit in the back row of pews and pass notes, giggle, and whisper. Some of them can probably remember when they did, (many years ago) but they probably wouldn't admit it.

Every church is blessed by the presence of Senior Adults. One becomes one by turning 55 years old...(excuse me)...I mean 55 years young. They don't like to be called "old." Taking advantage of the discounts at restaurants does present quite a dilemma for them; they must admit their age! However, in our culture, 55 is far too young now to be called a Senior Adult, so they are reluctant to join the Senior Adult Sunday School Class at this age. Most of them are in their 60's, 70's, and 80's and some in their 90's. Having lived through the progressive stages of life successfully, they deserve the title of "God's Special People" for the following reasons:

**WISDOM**--Years of Sunday School and Bible study coupled with years of life experiences walking with God have taught them the answers to the questions that many of us are still searching for.

**WIT**--Spend an afternoon with one and you'll hear stories and anecdotes that will touch your heart making you laugh and cry.

**DEDICATION**--They are the most consistent in regular worship attendance of any age group and they are the most responsible and faithful stewards (tithers and givers) in every local church.

**WORK**--They will take on any job around the church that needs to be done and gladly do it, even though often in poor health.

**ATTITUDE**--They are the first to give compliments and the last to complain; they know the value of a cheerful disposition.

**COMPASSION**--They are full of love for all people, having learned from relationship with God and life the truth and value of self-sacrifice.

**PRAYER**--When they pray (and they do so frequently) God hears and answers for they have learned the lesson of dependence upon God.

Whatever you call them, don't call them "old." Just thank God for the chronologically gifted people in your church--the KEEN-AGERS, they are truly GOD'S SPECIAL PEOPLE.

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.

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## A New Year's Test For Self-Examination

(These are questions from the Holy Club of Oxford in John Wesley's days over 200 years ago but just as relevant for us today)

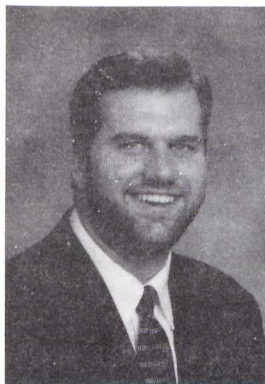
1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am a better person than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
2. Am I honest in all acts or words, or do I exaggerate?
3. Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence? Can I be trusted?
4. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work or habits?
5. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
6. Did the Bible live in me today?
7. Do I give it time to speak to me each day?
8. Am I enjoying prayer?
9. When did I last speak to somebody else with the object of trying to win that person for Christ?
10. Am I making contacts with other people and using them for the Master's Glory?
11. Do I pray about the money I spend?
12. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
13. Do I disobey God in anything?
14. Do I insist upon doing something for which my conscience is uneasy?
15. Am I defeated in any part of my life? Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
16. How do I spend my spare time?
17. Am I proud?
18. Do I thank God I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisee who despised the publican?
19. Is there anybody whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
20. Do I grumble or complain constantly?
21. Is Christ real to me?

(NOTE: The Holy Club members asked themselves these 21 questions each day in their private devotions.)

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.



# Minister's Retreat



Stonecroft Conference Center  
Branson, Missouri

March 19 - 21, 2001

## *Speaker*

Rev. Matt Pinson, a native of Pensacola, Florida, is pastor of Colquitt Free Will Baptist Church in Colquitt, Georgia. He teaches religion and history at Bainbridge College in Brainbridge, Georgia.

## *Cost*

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

## REGISTRATION FORM

Please Print:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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.*

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When brighter suns and skies  
Proclaim the opening year,  
What various sounds of joy arise  
What prospects bright appears!

Earth and her thousand voices give  
Their thousand notes of praise;  
And all that by His mercy live,  
To God their offering raise.

Thus, like the morning, calm and clear,  
That saw the Saviour rise,  
The spring of heaven's eternal year  
Shall dawn on earth and skies.

No winter there, no shades of night  
Obscure those mansions blest.  
Where, in thy happy fields of light,  
The weary are at rest.

*Make a New Year's  
Resolution to adopt  
more shares in the  
Missouri  
Show-Me Plan.  
Together we make  
a difference.*



## Let's Chat!

by Phillis Detherage

### Elephants Never Forget

*But Zion said the Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Isaiah 49:14*

Birthdays are murder for me. Not my own you understand but trying to remember others! Would you believe that I even forgot my own birthday one year! I'm being honest here! You would think that a person could at least remember his or her own birthday, especially one that loves to get presents as much as I do! I don't mean to forget my loved ones. I certainly don't forsake them, but I just seem to have so many other things on my mind that I don't remember them. I've tried everything imaginable! Different calendars, cardholders and now a computer reminder calendar. (We'll see if it works or not!)

Forsaken is a pretty ugly word when we think of it in relation to ourselves. No one wants to be forsaken or forgotten. All of us need to feel connected to others in some way and all of us need to feel important to someone, yet there are many of us that cry out just as Zion did in Isaiah. Often we feel alone and floundering in the depths of our personal struggles. Often we wonder if any one cares about what we are facing or if any one can understand.

I know that I've been in that place. Wondering where to turn or what to do to find help or encouragement. Did God forsake me? No. Hebrews 13:5 answers that by saying that God will, "Never leave thee, nor forsake thee." So what happened? Why did I feel forsaken and alone? Chances are, God told me to go one way and I chose to go another. God didn't leave me, I left him. He turned right and I turned left.

A great example of that is with my son Joshua. When we go out, he hates to walk in front of us. He always wants to be behind us. We asked him why once, and he said that he was afraid that we would turn or go another direction, he wouldn't see us, and we would get separated. That is what happens with us and God sometimes. First, we are in the

wrong spot to begin with - in front. We are supposed to follow God, and we can't do that from the front. Second, God is trying to show us the correct direction for us, but we are too busy looking at all of the wonderful worldly distractions. Separation is inevitable!

This also reminds me of my dog Harry. He loves the meaty smell of cheaper dog foods but they make him sick; when we give him something that is good for him, he curls his nose and acts offended. He doesn't see the bigger picture. He just sees what he wants. Isn't that like God and us? So often we don't see the bigger picture, therefore God must be wrong. No, God isn't wrong and we are quick to find this out when we reach the end of our chosen path. If anyone is forsaken or forgotten, I'm afraid that it is God. We just end up paying the price for it.

Not all circumstances are our own doing. Sometimes, we pay the price for the sin of others also. Sometimes, it's the result of others sin on our lives. Does God forsake us then? No. It just calls for a greater trust and faith in God on our part. We can't always change our circumstances but God can sustain us in them. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, "My grace is sufficient for thee". God will never leave us, or forsake us. We will never be forgotten in the midst of troubles.

Remember, God is like an elephant He never forgets our needs, only our sin!

Not forgotten nor forsaken  
By a loving, caring God.

I shall not be shaken  
As life's path I humbly trod.

I'll hold my head up to the sky  
And feel his presence near.

For some day soon I shall fly  
To meet those oh, so dear.

Not forgotten nor forsaken  
Shall be my victory cry!  
In slumber, to be awakened  
Where no one will ever die!

My loved ones may linger here  
Their service to complete.

But they too need never fear  
For death they shall defeat.

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# February is Missouri State Home Missions Month!





## A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A BIBLE

**January 1** - Family made New Year's resolution to read me daily. They began with Matthew chapter one.

**January 2,3,5,8** - The first few nights of the New Year, they read me regularly.

**January 20** - No activity recently.

**February 11** - Owner used me for a short time. He had been asked to substitute as Bible class teacher, and needed to look up some verses during breakfast. We went to Bible Study, but I was put in car after class, before morning sermon.

**February 14** - Owner got into argument about St. Valentine, and paged through me in his car, but couldn't find anything in me about Valentine's Day!

**March 7** - Spring cleaning going on. I was dusted and put back in old place, on the shelf. I had been in owner's car since February 11th.

**March 17** - Owner got into another argument about what the Bible says about Lent. He searched me in vain about such "holy" days!

**April 20** - Grandma here for a visit. I was in her lap all afternoon., She spent most of her time in First Corinthians, chapters 13 and 15.

**April 21,22,23** - Grandma read me every afternoon this week! (It's so nice to be used, and appreciated!)

**May 4** - I have a few green stains on my pages. Some early spring flowers pressed in me.

**June 18** - I look like a scrapbook! They have stuffed me full of clippings from the newspaper. One of the daughters got married!

**June 27** - They packed me in suitcase with clothes and other things. Vacation trip, I guess.

**July 5** - I'm still in suitcase, although nearly everything else has been removed. I thought they'd at least take me out on the Lord's Day!

**July 11** - Home again. Put me back in my old place. Quite a journey, 'though I do not see why they took me along. Stayed in suitcase the whole time!

**August 10** - Read by several family members over three-day period. Seems

they got into family "row" about modesty, lasciviousness, public swimming, etc. Read all they could find about this subject! I never learned what they concluded!

**September 29** - They used me once today ... read from the Psalms. One of them is quite sick. They even had prayer!

**September 30** - Right now, I am cleaned up and my leather cover has been waxed. I've been placed on display in the center of the coffee table. I think their preacher is coming over.

**October 19** - I now have lots of company on the coffee table. A comic book, TV Guide, Time Magazine, and a Movie World on top of me. Wish I were read as much as they are.

**November 11** - Owner came home from services today ... all upset over something the preacher had said. Snatched me up to hunt for a certain verse, but never could find it.

**November 22** - Family members took turns, searching me for Bible passage about Thanksgiving Day. They found a lot about being "thankful" and "giving thanks"; but no fourth Thursday.

**December 15, 16** - Quite a family discussion about when Christ was born. Each one had different ideas! I was read at different times by several of them. They were disappointed when I did not mention the date of Christ's birth!

**December 20** - Another big family "hassle" over whether a daughter should attend a holiday-dance. Various family members combed through my pages, seeking to justify "their position" on the issue. Father of the family finally put his foot down and decreed that no daughter of his was going to a dance!

**December 2,6** - Family has new TV set. Shelf space I formerly occupied was needed, so they put me inside a cabinet. Expect to get out ... hopefully ... around January 1st!

Author unknown Adapted  
by Luther W. Martin

## The Youth Look

by Ann  
Poletti



**I**t's in all of  
us. ... that  
pesky human  
nature that

wants to have a "back-up plan" in the event God isn't sufficient or doesn't mean what he says. David was no exception.

In 2 Samuel, we are told that David decided one day that he needed to know how many fighting men he had in his army. Because God had always made it clear to the nation of Israel that HE was the source of their strength, not the army, this was a sin against the law of God. But David knew that, didn't he? Hadn't God proven Himself in David's life already? It was the human nature that came out of David.

Joab, David's general, was aware of how serious David's action was. He asked why King David would want to do such a thing. Nevertheless, human nature won out and David numbered the troops. As always, God judged the sin and 70,000 lost their lives as a result of a plague smitten upon the nation.

Not a smart move on David's part, you say. Yet we are all the same, aren't we? We like to get ahead of God or "help Him out" and find ourselves relying on numbers or the logical instead of the All-Powerful.

The wealthy can count their millions -- until the stock market crashes and they lose everything they have. Then all that's left is God upon Whom they must rely for their next meal. He's all they need.

We can count our trophies for successes until we are failures and the trophies rust, the accolades cease. Then all that's left is God from Whom we are told we are worthy. He's all we need.

*LORD, remind me in this new year that you are what I rely on. Don't force me to have to recall this by hitting bottom but, if I have to, remind me to look up. You have done so much in my life already that I should never look to my own resources again; remove the power human nature often has over me and remind me that you are my ever-present strength. YOU ARE ALL I NEED!!*





## WHEN I'VE FAILED

**ROB FROST**

On 29 November 1761 John Wesley wrote in his journal: Many have, and many do daily experience an unspeakable change. After being deeply convinced of inbred sin, particularly of pride, anger, self-will and unbelief, in a moment they feel all faith and love; no pride, no self-will, or anger: and from that moment they have continual fellowship with God, always rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks.

This work of transformation and change is an ongoing process. On a number of occasions over the years I've had to return to the Lord to ask Him to deal, with aspects of my being which I know have displeased Him. When I feel that I've failed, I need to face up to my sin and remember again the extent of His redeeming power-

The address read "The Chapel", and as there was no letter-box in the church, the postman had pushed it under the front doors as best he could. The contents, of the letter were bewildering. The writer, using prison notepaper, begged me to go to a nearby prison to visit him.

A week later, after-all the formalities had been completed, I was led down a long gray corridor and into a small interview cell. Keys rattled and the lock turned and I was led in to meet the prisoner. Two detectives arrived and sat behind me.

The prisoner had asked if he could make his confession to me, but with the police present. It was a horrific story of a murder and a life of sin. Eventually the man's life was transformed by the power of Christ. The prisoner could tell a new story: a story of repentance, forgiveness, and of a new beginning.

I never cease to be amazed by the wonder of the Christian Gospel. No matter how low we have sunk, how far we have strayed, or how foolish a life we have, lived, there is room in the love of Jesus for forgiveness and a new beginning. Many of us who are long-established Christians need to discover again the transforming power of this redemption.

I have a friend who is the minister of a small Yorkshire chapel. He is a keen artist, and often involves the whole congregation in celebrating their faith creatively.

One Sunday I watched as his congregation turned up with all kinds of rubbish they'd collected: scrap paper, empty boxes, and useless trash. Gradually they sorted through the refuse, and over the days that followed they discovered ways

of using it artistically.

By the following Sunday the mound of rubbish had been transformed into a powerful illustration of the cross. The twisted, broken scraps of refuse had been redeemed into something beautiful and elegant.

This is the work of redemption. This is what the Lord wants to do within us all, if only we'll let Him. He wants to take away the filth and sin of our lives, and forgive us. He wants to take away the guilt and shame, and transform us. He wants to turn us away from selfishness, and redirect us.

The "Daybreak" musical tour was absolutely exhausting. Every day we traveled to a different town to setup several tons of equipment, rehearse the local choirs and drama groups, and present the musical to a packed theater.

In the production I played the part of Simon Peter. Night after night I had to stand alone on the stage in a blinding spotlight and enact "the denial."

As the last chords of the last song faded, the lengthy de- rig in Southampton Guildhall began. Props, costumes and PA equipment were packed and trundled on trolleys to the waiting truck.

I looked up at the Guildhall clock; it was just after midnight. It was my turn to travel overnight in the truck. I clambered into the cab next to the driver and wrapped my coat around me. We were bound for Cornwall. . . it was going to be a very long night. The roads were covered with mist. The noise of the engine made conversation impossible; and no matter how I tried I couldn't find a comfortable position to sleep

Hour after hour we rolled along in this kind of unreal world. My thought turned back to the previous evening's performance. The sounds and images rolled around my mind and I relived Peter's denial.

I looked again at my own life, and the words of Peter's denial returned to haunt me. The swirling mist in front of the headlights created an eerie feeling of unreality.

As my mind backtracked down the years I began to feel a failure as a disciple of Jesus. I felt that there were areas of my life which I still needed to yield to His Lordship. I felt that I loved the work more than I loved the Lord.

As soon as we arrived in Cornwall I found a room and knelt to pray. I was broken. I offered every aspect of my life and ministry back to the Lord and asked Him to change me from within.

Today, reflect on those aspects of your life which are not pleasing, to the Lord. Do you really want to live in a continuing cycle of failure, selfishness and despair? Allow the Redeemer to transform those areas which you know are flawed; allow Him to change those wrong attitudes, that unyielded thought life, that root of selfishness and weakness. Hand over the trash in your life, and let Him get to work on redeeming you!

*Excerpt from Living Waters for Your Parched Prayers, by Rob Frost, published by Cook Communications Ministries. Rob Frost is an evangelist in Great-Britain and the leader of See Teams, an evangelistic program in Great Britain, France, Poland, and Estonia. He also takes over 500 people on Share Jesus Missions each year. Used by permission.*





## Holland Highlights

You could hear a pin drop in our church. Some nodding their heads identifying with the words he was saying, others bowed their heads in shame, because he was describing their life as it was now. Fighting the tears, (mine were flowing freely) Jair spoke his brother's name.

"Osmir would come over to my apartment and tell me about Jesus. I would laugh and make fun of him. I called him names. I was the oldest in my family but never the one that was responsible. My family didn't depend on me, they couldn't. They depended on Osmir. Osmir continued to look me up and I continued to reject him and his Jesus. But, I know he never stopped praying for me. . . Then my dad was killed, and I started felling the pain of a sinful heart. My eyes were opened."

Now the tears were streaming down his face, as well as Adriana's as she listened to her husband. I remembered her reason for getting saved. She had said she knew Jesus was real because she saw Him in Jair. He treated her differently. He stayed at home with her more. She was ready for the same Jesus that had transformed her husband. Jair closed his testimony with these words. "My dad never got to see the Jair that Jesus had help me to become. And I never got to help my dad see Jesus. But thank God the rest of my family has seen Jesus and my son will see Jesus in my life too. Let Jesus transform you before it's too late."

He sat down. God had spoken to His church through a changed life, a simple person. Jair had used simple words but there was power in each statement he had said. Jair didn't preach. He simply shared what Christ had done in his life. As someone once said, "It was one beggar giving other beggars the Bread of Life." That's evangelism, like I would imagine Jesus to be very pleased with.

How long has it been since you have shared Bread with another beggar?

Mary Holland

## News of the Pinkertons



**N**ews here isn't all that good politically (is it there?) We're just passing through another crisis...Legislative elections are this Sunday. More destruction, damage and deaths... The Lord gave protection & we were never in danger. We praise HIM and thank you for your continued prayers.

News about His Church is great...We're to the overflow point for Sunday am services..The Children's SS Class was divided into two age groups last Sunday. Several of the adults are helping . A new cell group has been started at the University.

News about the Mission House. Jerry works & works..He is now finishing the painting on the window frames & started screening. We only lack a few essentials: water, electricity, phone & neighbors! Papers have been signed & the required price paid. The promise was given by both water and electric people..We'll be there Monday for the hook-ups...That was last Monday..haven't seen them since! Maybe next Monday?? Still hoping to move before the end of 2000.

Families in USA are doing okay. Youngest Grand to become three this next Tue..He was only hours old last time we saw him....guess he isn't the only one aging, hu?

Just wanted to say HI, WE THANK GOD FOR YOU & WISH YOU A VERYMERRY CHRISTMAS..MERRY EVERYDAY. HAPPY NEW YEAR..... ALL BECAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST.

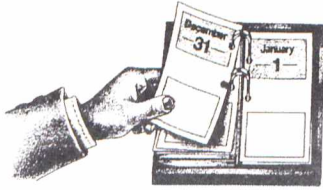
Jerry & Carol Pinkerton

**H**e stepped to the pulpit, and then stood dead silent, hiding his shaky knees behind the dark wood that separated him from the congregation. My stomach tightened in knots for him. He was nervous. I was nervous. In his face, showed the intensity of the moment. I put my head down and prayed that God would give him the words to start.

He too put his head down as if he were searching for the words to say. I grew anxious and the whole church, packed out that night, shifted in their seats. The church grew perfectly still, except for the pounding of my heart, as Jair lifted his head. His eyes were full of tears as he began his testimony. . . "I can never put into words what Christ has done in my life. I have to be honest, I'm not here as a new Jair. I'm not even a better Jair. I'm not even Jair. I was born again. The old Jair is dead.

It's not easy to get up and give your testimony in front of your friends, family and strangers. But, Jair wanted to. The words that he had said just floated in my head. He was right. He wasn't Jair. He wasn't the same guy I saw a year ago. He looked and acted differently. He even talked differently. He continued. . . "I was waiting for death. I went to places that I knew I might not return. I did things that I knew could kill me. I ran with people who were dangerous. I knew that I wouldn't grow old. Because of my lifestyle, I didn't expect to be here much longer. Lots of other people my age had already died."





## HOW TO BE A COLOSSAL FAILURE THIS YEAR

by Gordon Sebastian

If there is any one thing that breaks my heart, its looking out over the congregation and not seeing the faces of some, who use to be among our very best workers. But it happens! Each year it happens! Good, solid members of Peace Church fall prey to Satan's devices and thus, join the growing ranks of spiritual failures. Often I find myself wondering who and how many will be next? Perhaps you have considered throwing in the towel and joining their club. If so, I can give you a 3-step plan found in your Bible - a "sure fire" plan that always succeeds in producing genuine failures for God. It's the plan followed by Lot and he wife as set forth in Genesis, chapter nineteen.

**Step one:** Be willing to tolerate the wickedness of this world (verses 1-14). Had there been just 10 righteous souls in Sodom, God would have spared the city. However, before any head-count could be made, the men of Sodom tried to rape the two angels who were sent to check out the city. Wow! That was enough for God! This city was to be destroyed. Peter informs us that the wickedness was so great in Sodom that Lot's soul was vexed every single day that he lived there (11 Pet 2:7,8). So, why didn't Lot just pack up his belongings and walk away from this place? He learned to tolerate the wickedness of the world. That's why! You see, that's how Satan's plan for our downfall begins. He places before us a very small wickedness. If we tolerate that, then he sends us a little more to tolerate. This is kept up until the Christian is finally overwhelmed and overcome by the world around him. Because he too, couldn't bring himself to walk away at first, he now finds himself unable to do so. He now tolerates things that used to disgust him. He has fallen so low that he finds no problem with tolerating the "Austin Powers" of today's sick society.

**Step two:** Determine to make only partial commitments to God (verse 16). Why on earth did Lot linger? Why did he have to be forced by angels to escape Sodom? Simple! He had been so programmed to compromise and half-hearted responses to God, that it was only natural for him to balk at fully obeying the Lord. In fact, Lot was so use to spiritual mediocrity that he found the simple life style of Abraham's country living unacceptable. That was part of his past life with the Lord and he didn't want any part of that. So, he begged God to let him settle in a city (verses 18-20). Christian, I must warn you! God has never accepted half-heartedness! It makes Him sick on His stomach (Rev. 3:16). Jesus said, 'He that forsaketh not all that he hath cannot be my disciple.'

**Step three:** Fail to get away from Sodom's control when you've gotten away from Sodom's border (verse 26). Lot's wife got out of Sodom, but Sodom never got out of her. She looked back with a deep desire to return. Her heart was still

full of Sodom's parties, people, pleasures, and prosperity. Sodom succeeded in ruining Lot's wife and we are commanded to remember what it did to her. Like an adder, it bit her and destroyed her. The Bible is replete with examples of those who longingly looked back at some "Sodom" in their lives after being delivered. There were Samson, Acan, Saul, Solomon, Judas, Demas and others. Peter tells us about these spiritual "dogs," who return to their own vomit (11 Peter 220-22). You can spot them today in our fair city. You'll find them at the bars of O'Cool's and Applebee's drinking their beer - church members, who once knelt at our altar. You'll hear of their lying on beds of adultery - church members, who use to serve God at Peace Church. Were they ever saved? Only God knows the answer to that question. All we are told is that they have gone back to their own vomit; that their latter end is to be worse for them than the beginning; that they would be better off if they had never known the way of righteousness. They got out of Sodom, but Sodom never got out of them!

Have you pitched your tent toward Sodom? If so, turn around! Go back! If you have made the mistake of settling in this city of sin, escape now! Escape to the Mountain of God! Sodom is marked for destruction by God.. Please, I beg you!

*Editor's Note: This article was reprinted from the January 2000 Peace Promoter. Bro. Sebastian is pastor of the Peace FWB Church of Wilson, NC. It is a message of timeless significance.*

### Recipe For A Happy New Year

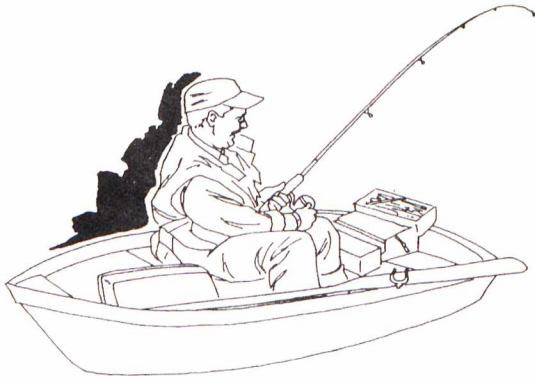
Take twelve fine, full-grown months, see that they are thoroughly free from all old memories of bitterness, rancor, hate and jealousy; cleanse them completely from every clinging spite. Pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past. Have them as fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty one equal parts. This batch will keep for just one year. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time, ( so many persons spoil the entire lot in this way), but prepare one day at a time, as follows:

Into each day put twelve parts of Faith, eleven of Patience, ten of Courage, nine of Work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), eight of Hope, seven of Fidelity, six of Liberality, five of Kindness, four of Rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of salad- don't do it), three of Prayer, two of Meditation, one of well-selected Resolution. If you have no conscientious scruples, put in about a teaspoonful of Good Spirits, a dash of Fun, a pinch of Folly, a sprinkling of Play, and a heaping cupful of Good Humor!!

Pour into the whole Love, add Libitum and mix with Vim. Cook thoroughly in a fervent heat; garnish with a few Smiles and a sprig of Joy; serve with Quietness, Unselfishness and Cheerfulness and a Happy New Year will be a certainty

*This was found in an Amish cook book under their Dis & Dat section: Reprinted From the Trinity Owls Newsletter.*





## Information Concerning Missouri State Retirement Program

In order for a pastor, associate pastor, or full-time youth minister to participate in the Missouri Retirement Program, the church he is serving must support the Missouri State Cooperative Program with the full 10% of its regular tithes and offerings. This ministry is funded through cooperative giving. (The associate pastor and/or full-time youth minister must receive his salary from the church as a full-time employee.) The individual must also enroll with the Board of Retirement & Insurance in Nashville, Tennessee. The enrollment fee is \$10.00. This may be paid through the State Office, but it goes to the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement & Insurance.

A Retirement Pension Enrollment Form supplied by the State Office shows the three plans for participation in the program..

Plan 1 is defined as Full Employer participation with the church contributing at least 5% of the base salary. A \$25,000 term life insurance policy is mandatory with this plan. The premiums are deducted from the employer contributions.

Plan 2 is defined as an Individual Plan with the employer or the individual contributing at least 3% of the base salary. The term life insurance is optional for Plan 2.

Plan 3 is an introductory plan. The individual or the employer contributes at least \$ 10.00 per month. The life insurance is not available with this plan.

Tax Deferred Contribution information: Only 25% of base salary is allowed for total tax deferred contributions. The 25% includes both Salary Reduction Agreement (SRA) ( this SRA form may be obtained from the State Office or the Board of Retirement & Insurance) and employer (church) contributions. Base salary is taxable income which excludes

benefits such as housing allowance. Ministers may include compensation for honorariums, revival offerings, etc.. Older ministers may, under certain circumstances, exceed the 20% by completing a form.

A new SRA may be filed once in any 12 month period. It is not retroactive. Increases may not be credited prior to the date of signature.

It is a member's responsibility to maintain and keep accurate records for tax liability and reports to IRS. It is recommended that you keep all SRA forms, semiannual statements, and correspondence, and that you seek competent counsel in all tax matters. All tax deferred contributions are subject to income taxes the year of withdrawal or distribution. Early withdrawals may be subject to an added 10% penalty. At retirement, distributions for ordained members may be designated housing allowance and tax free (determined by current IRS regulations). Distributions from tax deferred funds to unordained spouses are subject to taxes.

Twice each year, shortly following January 1 and July 1, the Board of Retirement & Insurance, who holds the money in trust, disburses the amount stated by the Missouri State Association to the account of the participant. Presently the amount is \$400.00. Before this transfer is made the treasurer of the local church is asked to sign a form, sent from the State Office, stating that the church has supported the Missouri State Cooperative Program with the full 10% of its regular tithes and offerings.

There are several options at retirement. Space will not permit including all of this information. Please do not hesitate to call, write, or come by for any help that is needed.

## In Memory of Ann Livingston

In the illness and passing of our loved one, we wish to express our special thanks to all for their condolence and help during this very trying time. To Rev's Ken Goff and Alvis Paul for their kind words and comforting message; to the New Life Quartet for the special songs and music; to Holman Howe Funeral Home for the caring and professional manner in handling the arrangements; to Dr. Schwartzman and staff; to St. John's Hospital and those in the cardiac care unit; to each relative, friend and neighbor for their kind expressions of concern, prayers, visits, calls, cards; for (the beautiful flowers and plants and for the many memorials to the Gideons. A special thank you to the Niangua Free Will Baptist Church who displayed genuine Christian care and concern during this time. Our sincere thanks to each of you.

Warren Livingston  
Denise and Stephanie Courvier  
Debbie and David Mahew Sr  
Jessica and David Mahew Jr

## In Memory of Effie Ruble

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,  
or sat quietly in a chair,  
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,  
If so we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest  
Words, as any friend could say.  
Perhaps you were not there at all,  
Just thought of us that day,  
Whatever you did to console our  
hearts, We thank you so much.  
whatever the part.

We thank you for the prayers and  
support.

God bless you for every act of  
kindness you showed our family in the  
loss of our mother.

Edward Ruble & family  
Milan Ruble & family  
Nathan Ruble & family  
Opal Mooney & family  
Jolene Weddle & family



## Worship Service Averages June 2000 - November 2000

Churches:	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Belton	44	50	50	54	58	45
Buffalo 1st	86	96	109	104	113	114
Calvary Chapel	223	217	243	230	233	
Calvary Fellowship			296	300	328	300
Cape Girardeau	55	55	44	61		62
Copper Mines	63	56	63	64	64	64
Cuba	135	130	130	128	123	
Columbia	27	30	31	31	28	34
Crossroads - Wentzville	70	66	72	64		81
Cross Roads - Lebanon			124	124	129	119
DeSoto	199	210	197	195	208	200
Hannibal	58	59	58	66	60	62
Hannon	134	127	134	152	180	154
Harmony - Parkville	91	91	92	97	92	
Hartville	169	130	157	172	181	167
Hopewell	39	40	39	39	38	35
Houston	65	67	55	77	60	62
Hurryville	102	100	114	108	97	102
Joplin 1st		99	93	92	82	99
Lebanon 1st	127	122		114	129	130
Lebanon FWB	63	64	73	59	52	50
Mill Creek	84	92	94	87	91	95
Mine La Motte	46	56	56			
Mt. Pisgah	78	78	74	72	78	
Myrtle	32	33	33	30	30	30
New Life - Licking	69	64	60	57	56	
O'Fallon 1st	118	115	119	105		103
Ozark 1st	143	151	150	138		148
Parkview - Desloge	112	112	97	91		
Pleasant Hill	53	48	50	44	51	40
Purdy	69	63	71	73	71	76
Richwoods	36	30	31	38		
Rock Chapel	59	48	51	48	59	
Rolla 1st			40	37	32	
Southside	22	20			21	
Springfield 1st	126	134				125
Thayer	186	196	185	198	197	
Trinity	84	81	87		94	
Twin Oak		76	90	72	75	73
Union Grove	129	136	139	148	136	132
United	515	482	594	648		
Willow Springs	66	60	64	72	73	

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.)

### A Familiar Voice

Benjamin Franklin once said, "Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors and let every New Year find you a better man."

### Time Is

Too slow for those who wait,  
Too swift for those who fear,  
Too long for those who grieve,  
Too short for those who rejoice,  
But for those *who* love the Lord  
Time is Eternity.

### Axioms for Action

Translate your resolutions into definite deeds or else you will forget them.

There was never a time like now to square yourself with God.



## Financial Report August 2000



### Cooperative Disbursements

<b>November 2000</b> .....	<b>\$54,510.07</b>
18.50% MO Home Miss	\$10,084.36
17.50% Executive Office	9,539.26
3.00% General Fund	1,635.30
.50% Show-Me Plan	272.55
8.50% Youth Camp Board	4,633.36
3.50% Y.C. Restricted	1,907.85
2.00% Youth Ministries Bd	1,090.20
2.00% C.E. Board	1,090.20
2.00% Senior Adult Bd	1,090.20
9.00% MO Retirement	4,905.91
30.50%	16,625.58
National Ministries, Hillsdale and	
California Christian College	
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% CCC	
3.00% Conf Center Fd	1,635.30
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$54,510.07</b>

### Co-op

Alton	\$200.00
Amity	\$215.80
Aulsbury Chapel	\$213.55
Bailey	\$246.00
Bailey	\$153.00
Bailey Chapel	\$300.00
Belton	\$353.79
Berean	\$35.00
Bethel - El Dorado Sps.	\$89.76
Bethel - Marshfield	\$262.00
Bethel - Marshfield	\$188.00
Bethel - Marshfield	\$252.00
Black Oak	\$417.17
Blue Springs	\$408.00
Bourbon	\$63.57
Buffalo 1st	\$100.00
Byrd	\$88.85
Cabool 1st	\$259.82
Calvary Chapel	\$1,255.42
Central	\$863.73
Christ Chapel	\$360.68
Clifton	\$59.65
Copper Mines	\$531.00
Cornerstone - Mtn. Gr.	\$461.60
Cross Roads - Lebanon	\$1,351.00
Crossroads - Wentzville	\$853.00
Cuba	\$715.00
DeSoto 1st	\$1,700.00
Emmanuel - Colorado	\$51.54
Faith & Hope - Aurora	\$73.65
Faith & Hope - Willow Sps.	\$165.74
Farmington	\$3,358.43
Fellowship	\$1,500.00
Fordland	\$758.30

Fredericktown 1st	\$336.00
Freeman Chapel	\$379.23
Friendship	\$321.72
Grace	\$1,530.00
Grant Ave.	\$1,199.67
Hannibal	\$483.00
Hannon	\$1,159.00
Harmony	\$614.00
Hartville	\$1,175.00
Hopewell	\$260.00
Houston 1st	\$419.36
Hurryville	\$482.32
Jackson	\$204.62
Jerual	\$70.69
Jones Chapel	\$633.08
Joplin 1st	\$802.85
Koshkonong	\$238.00
Lead Hill	\$333.80
Lebanon	\$357.78
Lebanon	\$376.59
Lebanon 1st	\$1,206.10
Lone Star	\$53.00
Macedonia - Niangua	\$139.96
Merl's Chapel	\$264.00
Mill Creek	\$629.27
Mine La Motte	\$63.33
Monett 1st	\$374.99
Monett 1st	\$386.85
Mountain Grove 1st	\$1,529.52
Mt. Pisgah	\$427.00
Mt. Zion - Gower	\$122.50
Myrtle	\$233.17
Myrtle	\$176.30
Neosho 1st	\$190.00
New Hope - Fred.	\$70.00
New Life - Licking	\$443.89
Niangua	\$241.00
Niangua	\$225.00
North Five	\$113.83
Number One	\$92.25
Oak Grove - Mtn. Grove	\$204.50
O'Fallon 1st	\$1,325.00
Olivet	\$430.00
Overland	\$150.00
Ozark 1st	\$1,878.30
Parkview	\$571.05
Pleasant Hill	\$264.78
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Gr.	\$257.60
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	\$107.00
Rejoice - Columbia	\$368.70
Republic	\$100.00
Republic	\$100.00
Rock Chapel	\$481.03
Rolla 1st	\$270.00
Royal Oak	\$101.00
Salem	\$180.00
Seymour	\$564.00
Smyra	\$80.00
Southside	\$138.42
St. Francois Dist. Assn.	\$36.00
St. Peters	\$642.00
Stockton	\$230.73
Terrill Road	\$245.00
Thayer	\$997.00
Trinity	\$1,236.59
Union Grove	\$534.00
Union Light	\$136.00
United	\$1,911.60



Unity .....	\$360.00
Verdella .....	\$614.49
Viburnum .....	\$462.00
Victory - Alton .....	\$282.17
Waynesville 1st .....	\$844.32
West Plains 1st .....	\$773.00
West Plains 1st .....	\$677.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Gr. ....	\$366.76
Wolf Creek .....	\$326.31
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$54,510.07</b>

#### Show-Me Plan

Belton .....	\$165.00
Berean .....	\$30.00
Berry, R. ....	\$15.00
Bethel - El Dorado .....	\$279.52
Bethel - Festus .....	\$45.00
Big Creek .....	\$55.00
Bishop, B. J. ....	\$15.00
Black Oak .....	\$30.00
Bourbon .....	\$15.00
Buffalo 1st .....	\$60.00
Buxton G. ....	\$30.00
Cabool .....	\$135.00
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo .....	\$120.00
Central .....	\$360.00
Chrisman, M. ....	\$30.00
Copper Mines .....	\$150.00
Copper Mines - Junior Cl. ....	\$15.00
Copper Mines - Teens .....	\$15.00
Copper Mines - Yg. Adult Class ..	\$15.00
Cornerstone - Mtn. Gr. ....	\$369.00
Cross Roads - Lebanon .....	\$180.00
Cuba .....	\$189.30
Darnell, W. ....	\$15.00
Darnell, W. ....	\$15.00
DeSoto 1st .....	\$552.50
DeSoto Auditorium Class .....	\$15.00
Faith - St. Louis .....	\$20.00
Faith & Hope - W.S. ....	\$60.00
Farmington 1st .....	\$850.00
Fellowship .....	\$772.68
Fordland .....	\$250.00
Fourth .....	\$60.00
Fredericktown 1st .....	\$150.00
Freeman Chapel .....	\$540.00
Garett, R. ....	\$15.00
Gary Parker .....	\$15.00
Gospel Light .....	\$825.00
Grace .....	\$261.00
Graham, S. ....	\$15.00
Grant Ave. ....	\$340.00
Greater Springfield Dist. Assn ..	\$1,114.00
Greenfield .....	\$180.00
Hannon .....	\$1,359.00
Happy Hill .....	\$30.00
Harmony - Parkville .....	\$19.13
Hartville .....	\$240.00
Houston 1st .....	\$303.00
Hurryville .....	\$300.00
Hurryville Senior Ad. Cl. ....	\$16.00
Jack Burns .....	\$276.00
Jackson .....	\$40.00
Jones Chapel .....	\$285.00
Joplin 1st .....	\$145.00
Leadington .....	\$176.00
Lebanon .....	\$30.00
Lebanon 1st .....	\$150.00
Lebanon F.W.B. ....	\$30.00
Macedonia - Purdy .....	\$2,000.00
Maggart, D. ....	\$45.00
Merl's Chapel .....	\$200.00
Mill Creek .....	\$105.00
Mill Creek Young Adult S.S.C. ...	\$15.00
Mine La Motte .....	\$45.00
MO Women Active for Christ ...	\$591.32
Monett 1st .....	\$275.00
Monett 1st .....	\$260.00
Mountain Grove 1st .....	\$785.81

Mt. Pisgah .....	\$75.00
Myrtle .....	\$75.00
Myrtle .....	\$75.00
Neosho 1st .....	\$375.00
New Home - Hartville .....	\$150.00
New Home - Hartville .....	\$600.00
New Hope - Fredericktown .....	\$105.00
New Life - Monett .....	\$150.00
New Testament .....	\$30.00
Noel, D. ....	\$15.00
Oak Grove - Houston .....	\$15.00
O'Fallon 1st .....	\$90.00
Ozark 1st .....	\$30.00
Parkview - Desloge .....	\$285.06
Pinkerton, J. ....	\$45.00
Pleasant Home .....	\$105.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana .....	\$50.00
Purdy .....	\$570.00
Reagan, Jimmie .....	\$600.00
Rejoice - Columbia .....	\$100.00
Richardson, O. ....	\$15.00
Richwoods .....	\$52.50
Rock Chapel .....	\$223.00
Rogers, B. ....	\$15.00
Rolla 1st .....	\$30.00
Royal Oak .....	\$120.00
Ruble N. ....	\$45.00
South Central Association in Memory of	
Ann Livingston & Effie Ruble ....	\$50.00
Thayer .....	\$255.00
Thomas, E. ....	\$30.00
Thomas, E. ....	\$30.00
Trinity .....	\$555.00
Union Light .....	\$150.00
United - West Plains .....	\$503.61
Unity .....	\$75.00
Verdella .....	\$1,164.49
Viburnum .....	\$65.00
Victory - Alton .....	\$282.17
Wayesville 1st .....	\$494.90
Waynesville 1st .....	\$458.45
West Plains 1st .....	\$150.00
White, R. ....	\$15.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove .....	\$70.00
Willow Springs 1st .....	\$150.00
Willow Springs 1st .....	\$124.95
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$24,768.39</b>

#### Foreign Missions

Central .....	\$30.00
Chapman, A. ....	\$20.00
Cuba .....	\$31.55
Farmington 1st .....	\$10.00
Fordland .....	\$10.00
Gospel Light .....	\$60.00
Grant Ave. ....	\$79.00
Harmony Fellowship- Colorado ..	\$180.00
Houston 1st .....	\$20.00
Minor, K. ....	\$10.00
Neosho 1st .....	\$30.00
New Home - Hartville .....	\$200.00
New Testament .....	\$140.00
O'Fallon 1st .....	\$25.00
Rock Chapel .....	\$65.00
Thayer .....	\$65.00
Trinity .....	\$380.12
Willow Springs 1st .....	\$41.65
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$1,397.32</b>

#### Nat'l Home Missions

Alan Chapman .....	\$10.00
Belton .....	\$58.50
Bob Theabeau .....	\$5.00
Bud Rogers .....	\$25.00
C. Degonia .....	\$5.00
Cuba .....	\$94.65
DeSoto 1st .....	\$648.00
DeSoto Auditorium Class .....	\$10.00

Faith & Hope Aurora .....	\$73.65
Farmington 1st .....	\$290.00
Farmington 1st .....	\$10.00
Fordland .....	\$40.00
Fourth .....	\$50.00
Gospel Light .....	\$80.00
Grace .....	\$151.00
Grant Ave. ....	\$42.00
Greater Springfield Dist. Assn. ....	\$1,114.00
Hannon .....	\$695.00
Harmony Fellowship - Colorado ..	\$213.00
Hartville .....	\$100.00
Houston 1st .....	\$50.00
Jackson .....	\$65.00
Jerry Rader .....	\$20.00
Joplin 1st .....	\$20.00
Macedonia - Purdy .....	\$1,700.00
Merl's Chapel .....	\$60.00
Monett 1st .....	\$140.00
Monett 1st .....	\$166.00
Mountain Grove 1st .....	\$60.00
Mt. Pisgah .....	\$25.00
Myrtle .....	\$40.00
Myrtle .....	\$255.00
Neosho 1st .....	\$250.00
New Home - Hartville .....	\$10.00
New Home - Hartville .....	\$200.00
New Life - Monett .....	\$100.00
New Testament .....	\$340.00
O'Fallon 1st .....	\$48.00
Pleasant Home - Mtn. Gr. ....	\$104.53
Richwoods 1st .....	\$114.00
Rock Chapel .....	\$119.38
Ruble, N. ....	\$10.00
Thayer .....	\$389.80
Tracy Huffman .....	\$15.00
Trinity .....	\$40.00
Union Light .....	\$96.00
United .....	\$150.00
United Youth Group .....	\$170.00
Unity .....	\$50.00
Verdella .....	\$10.00
Viburnum .....	\$72.00
West Plains 1st .....	\$25.00
Willow Spings 1st .....	\$41.65
Wolf Creek .....	\$75.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$8,746.16</b>

#### Youth Camp

Niangua .....	20.00
Rolla 1st .....	20.00
Cabool 1st .....	10.00
Thayer .....	50.00
Cornerstone - Mtn. Gr. ....	25.00
Hartville .....	10.00
Mt. Pisgah .....	15.00
New Home - Hartville .....	10.00
Mountain Grove 1st .....	10.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Gr. ....	10.00
Ozark 1st .....	10.00
Lebanon Bible & Book .....	157.50
DeSoto 1st .....	55.00
Verdella .....	10.00
Hannon .....	15.00
Buffalo 1st .....	50.00
Trinity .....	14.00
Niangua (Dec) .....	20.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>511.50</b>

#### Camp Development Fund

Myrtle .....	142.00
Rock Chapel .....	200.00
Joyful Learning Center - Festus ...	100.00
Houston 1st .....	100.00
West Plains 1st .....	155.00
Wolf Creek ( Penny March) .....	77.84
Myrtle .....	146.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>920.46</b>

#### C. E. Board

Lebanon Bible & Book Store .....	113.75
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$113.75</b>

#### Senior Adult Ministries

Lebanon Bible & Book Store .....	113.75
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$113.75</b>

#### Youth Ministries Board

Lebanon Bible & Book Store .....	113.75
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$113.75</b>

#### Free Will Baptist Bible College

Thayer .....	50.00
Farmington 1st .....	171.00
N. Ruble .....	15.00
DeSoto 1st .....	40.00
Verdella .....	122.89
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>398.89</b>

#### Hillsdale Free W ill Baptist College

Joplin 1st .....	75.00
Grant Ave. ....	2.00
Thayer .....	50.00
Farmington 1st .....	129.00
Farmington 1st .....	25.00
Neosho 1st .....	110.00
Hannon .....	50.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>441.00</b>

#### Trula Cronk Home for Children

Thayer .....	5.00
Farmington 1st .....	15.00
Belton .....	70.00
New Testament .....	30.00
Unity .....	10.00
DeSoto 1st .....	80.00
Hannon .....	100.00
Myrtle .....	8.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>318.00</b>

#### Rev. John McClure

Thayer .....	5.00
Gospel Light .....	80.00
Mountain Grove 1st .....	22.50
Monett 1st .....	35.00
DeSoto 1st .....	10.00
Trinity .....	20.00
Grace .....	15.00
Central Western District Aux. ....	15.00
Monett 1st .....	35.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>237.50</b>

#### Rest of the Family

Hannon .....	300.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>300.00</b>

#### Cornerstone FWB Church

(Brian Brinkhoff)	
New Testament .....	20.00
Merls Chapel .....	50.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$70.00</b>

#### Morgan Minkler

Belton .....	25.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>25.00</b>

#### Richard Stanley Indian Bible College

Farmington .....	10.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>10.00</b>



*Thank You for Giving to the Lord*



**World Missions Offering  
April 29, 2000**

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

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