

The GEM



Missouri State Association

of Free Will Baptists

Volume 73 • Number 5

May 2002

89th Annual Session

Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists

Cowan Civic Center
Lebanon, MO
June 3-5, 2002

Theme:

"Comprehending the Scope
of His Love"



**Rev.
Rick
Dablemont**



**Rev.
Rob Morgan**



**Rev.
Lee Neill**



**Rev.
Dale Cochran**



**Rev.
James Forlines**



SPEAKERS FOR THE 89TH SESSION OF THE MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION

The 89th session of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists will be held June 3 - 5, 2002, at the Cowan Civic Center in Lebanon, Missouri. The theme of this year's convention is "Comprehending the Scope of His Love." Four speakers - Rev. Rick Dablemont, Rev. Lee Neill, Rev. Dale Cochran, and Rev. James Forlines - will develop the theme.

The Monday evening message will be delivered by former Moderator, Rev. Rick Dablemont. The Missouri native was born in Licking, Missouri. He has pastored two churches since answering the call to preach, the Big Creek Free Will Baptist Church, 1982 - 1983 the Cuba Free Will Baptist Church since 1984. Brother Rick has served as Assistant Clerk, Clerk, Assistant Moderator, Moderator, General Board member and Executive Committee member of the Missouri State Association. He presently serves as Director of the Missouri Bible Institute program and as a Trustee of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. He has also held a number of offices in the South Central District Association.

Brother Dablemont holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Language Arts from the University of Missouri - Rolla, Missouri and a Master of Arts degree from Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.

Rick and his wife, Judy (J.J) have four children, Roderic, Rochelle, Jacob, and Jonathan.

The Christian Education Board will be sponsoring a workshop with Rev. Rob Morgan Tuesday morning. Rob Morgan pastors the Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He has written 12 books, including the *Preacher's Sourcebook*, an annual publication of sermon ideas and outlines for pastors and Christian workers.

Rev. Lee Neill will fill the pulpit Tuesday evening. He was born in Monett, Missouri, and was converted in 1950, and ordained to preach in 1978 at the Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church. He has pastored the Macedonia church since 1977. Lee has also served the Indian Creek Association in a number of leadership roles and as a member of the General Board of the state association.

Brother Neill received a Bachelor of Sci-

ence degree in Education from Southwest Missouri State University in 1961 and a Master of Science degree in Guidance and Counseling from the same school. He is presently working on a Doctor's degree at the American Seminary in Oklahoma.

He and his wife Darline have five children: Rick, Cindy, Mark, Russ, and Amy.

The Wednesday morning worship service will have Rev. Dale Cochran delivering the message. He was born in Waynesville, Missouri, converted in 1979, and ordained to preach in 1982. Dale attended Hannibal La Grange College in Hannibal and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies from the Institute for Christian Workers Bible College. He pastored the First Free Will Baptist Church in Rolla (1981-1987). He served as a State Home Missionary and founded the Hannibal Free Will Baptist Church in Hannibal, Missouri and led the church to self-support status. (1987-present).

Brother Dale has served as a member of the Missouri State General Board, Moderator of the South Central and Mid-Rivers Associations, and on the Executive boards of those associations.

Dale and his wife Barbara have three daughters, Kimberly, Tonya, and Tina.

Rev. James Forlines, General Director of the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Department, will be our speaker for the Wednesday evening service. He was born in Nashville, Tennessee, and ordained to the ministry in 1980.

Brother James is a 1980 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, and he did graduate work at Free Will Baptist Bible College and the Anderson School of Theology. James served as Youth Pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Gastonia, North Carolina (1980-1982). He then pastored two churches: the First Free Will Baptist Church in Chesterfield, Indiana (1982-1986), and the Allen Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Batesville, Arkansas (1986-1998). Besides pastoring, he served as Teen Editor for Randall House Publications (1993-1998), Moderator of the Arkansas State Association (1994-1998), and Foreign Mission Board Member (1994-1998).

James and his wife Anita have three children, Daniel, Rachel, and Rebekah.

IT'S TIME TO FREAK OUT YOUR NEIGHBORS!

Pastor R. E. Dablemont

Sometimes the path of life is narrow and we bump head on into people who just don't like us. Some people in fact really dislike us, even hate us, and mistreat us. It might be a co-worker, an employer, or a neighbor. We become defensive when we are not liked or accepted. When we are hated, cursed or spitefully used, the normal human reaction is to lash out, to return the insult, to strike back, to seek revenge.

Jesus gives this advice:

"But I say unto you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to them who hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them who spitefully use you." (Luke 6: 27-28, KJV)

Our culture cries out today, "If you want to survive, get tough, be bad, get in their face, get even!" It seems almost like we are in a continual contest for who can be the meanest, the baddest dude in town! But it never solves problems; it only adds fuel to the flames of hatred. Misunderstandings grow larger, violence increases, and the list of tragedies grows longer and longer!

Quite to the contrary, Jesus says, LOVE, DO GOOD, BLESS & PRAY FOR YOUR ENEMIES. He also says it PAYS to do this: "Love your enemies and do good...your reward shall be great...and ye shall be the sons of the Highest, for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil" (Luke 6:35, KJV).

As Christians, we are in the FREAKING OUT BUSINESS. God intends for us to STUN and SURPRISE people with repeated acts of undeserved charity, mercy, and kindness for this is precisely what Jesus Christ did for each of us. While we were His enemies, separated and alienated from Him, He still loved us and acted on our behalf. It is a sad comment on our society that although

(continued on page 10)

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.



CHRIS GIRARD ORDAINED TO THE MINISTRY

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Cape Girardeau was blessed on Sunday March 10. After an "Old Fashion Sunday" and a Pot Luck Dinner, ordinationservices were held for Chris Girard. The services began at 3:00 PM with a song led by Randy Sanders, after which an opening prayer was given by Bob Shepard. Special music was by Erin Girard, Felicia Girard and Marvin Miller. The message was given by Rev.

Berlie Turnbough. Rev. Howard Anderson then gave the charge. The ordination prayer was led by Deacon Randy Sanders and Deacon Don Gregory. After the benediction by Robert Miller, a handshake of fellowship and encouragement was extended to Rev. Chris.

Chris is employed by Fox Television and WB as Head Engineer. His Wife Felicia is an RN in the surgical department at St Francis Hospital. Chris will work as Associate Pastor, Worship Leader, Children's Church Director, and Head of Children's Ministries for the Church. He is a dedicated pastor and an asset to the church and community of Cape Girardeau.



NEW PASTOR AT HAZEL CREEK

Karen Sponsler, reporter
Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church

Rev. Rick Chapman recently accepted the pastorate of Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church, 8 miles northwest of Kirksville, MO. Bro. Rick came from Fredericktown where he had been a chaplain with Hospice for about 2.5 years. Bro. Rick has pastored Mill Creek and Columbia Free Will Baptist Churches and served as an associate pastor of Grace Free Will Baptist at Arnold, MO. Bro. Rick and his wife Susie have three children, Sarah, Joshua, and Rebekah.

It is Hazel Creek's desire for Rick and Susie to have a long and fruitful ministry with us, serving the Lord and winning souls for Him. Please pray

that Hazel Creek will see a lot of new souls saved in 2002.

TRINITY TO CELEBRATE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Trinity Free Will Baptist Church, at 12143 Old St. Charles Road, Bridgeton, MO 63044, will be observing a Fortieth Anniversary Celebration on June 26 thru June 30. There will be three nights of revival services on June 26, 27, and 28 with former pastors preaching. A Community Family Day will be hosted on Saturday, June 29, with food and fun for all ages. Our Anniversary service will be on Sunday, June 30, with a church dinner following. Rejoice with us as we celebrate beginnings in a garage setting in 1962 to the present place of worship. Everyone is invited to celebrate with us. If you can't be present, we'd enjoy hearing from you.

HANNON YOUTH TO SERVE ON SUMMER MISSION FIELDS

The following article was written by Melisha Thompson, who will be with the World Cup 2002 Team in Japan this summer.

We're not even halfway through spring semester and my friends and classmates are already planning their summer vacations. They can't wait to get away from school and take a break. Well, I've been planning my summer break, too, but it doesn't involve surfing or snowboarding. I'm going on a real adventure.

Six of us from the Hannon Free Will Baptist Church in Liberal, MO, have the awesome opportunity to serve our Savior overseas this summer through the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Department. Adam Montee, Ashley Montee and I are serving on the World Cup 2002 Team in Hokkaido, Japan, which is a team consisting of seventeen college students. People will be flooding the streets for this event, and we will have the opportunity to share Jesus with many of them through drama, singing and other forms of street evangelism. Approximately, the dates of WC02 are May 17-June 14.

Teen's Equipped and Active in Missions, better known as E-TEAK is the missions department's summer mission program for high school students. Six teams are being sent out this summer. Kerrie Morgan and Aaron Montee will be serving in Puerto Rico through E-TEAM. Juli McAdams will be going with a team to the Virgin Islands. Ministry work on these teams will be varied from singing and acting to painting and sweeping-

We all have big tasks ahead of us. One is to raise the necessary funds we need for travel, lodging and ministry. We have been working together to raise the \$16,800.00 that we need. Our church has pledged half of that money and God has been providing, as we knew He would. If the Lord leads you to help support us in this way, we would be very thankful. All donations can be sent to the Hannon Mission Team, Hannon FWB Church, P. O. Box 9, Liberal, MO 64762.

Our second and most important task

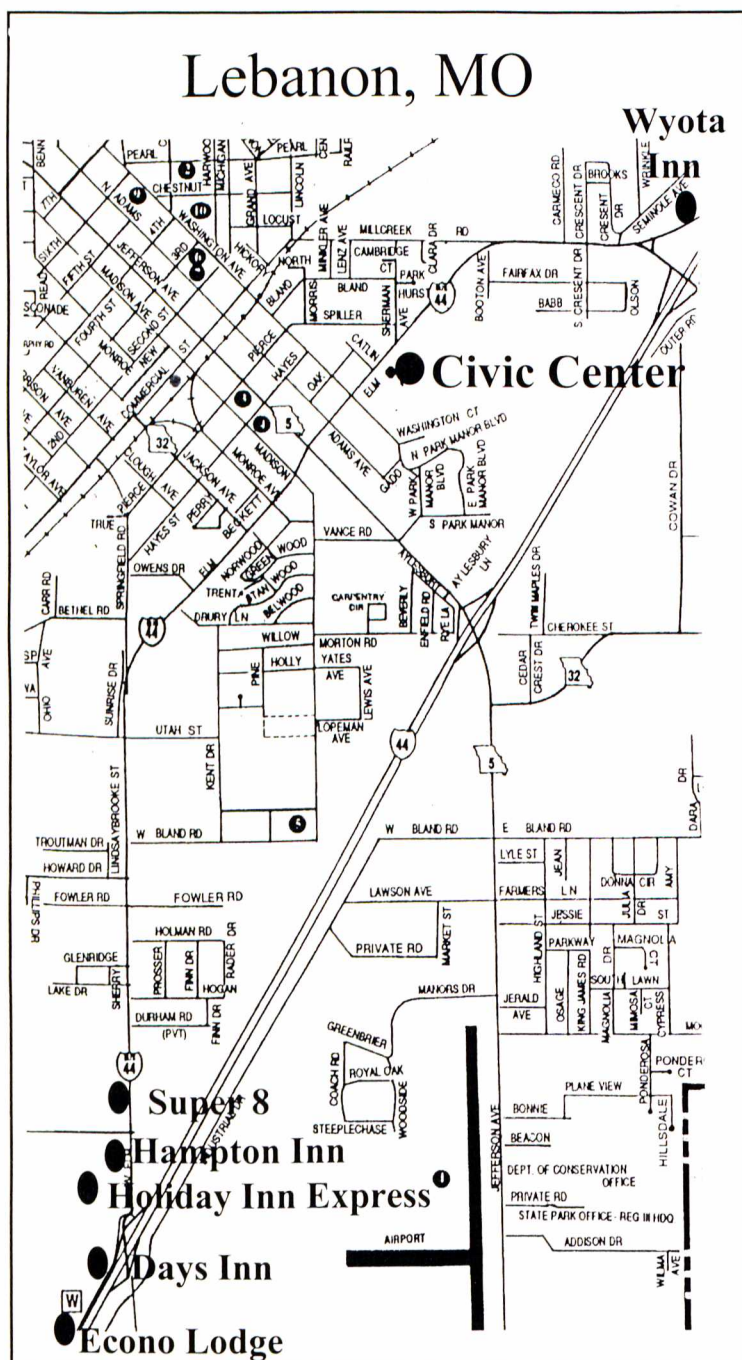
(continued on page 10)

Editor's Note: In the last issue of the Gem the name of the authors of the two cover stories were inadvertently left off. The article "Killing in the Name of Religion" was written by Rev. Mark Vandivort and the article "The Dynamics of Spiritual Life" was written by Pastor Rick Dablemont

MOTEL INFORMATION FOR MISSOURI FREE WILL BAPTISTS STATE MEETING

Lebanon, MO

Wyota



Super 8 Motel

1831 West Elm- I44 Exit 127
Phone 417-588-2574

Reservations 1-800-800-8000

1 bed, 1-2 people \$48.34 + tax
2 beds 1-2 people 52.14 + tax
3 people 54.99 + tax
4 people 57.84 + tax
Children under 11 stay free

Continental Breakfast



Wyota Inn

Interstate 44 Exit 130
Phone 417-532-6171

Reservations 1-866-996-8246

Single - \$52.00 + tax
Double - 55.00 + tax
add \$5 for each additional person
Restaurant Breakfast included
in price of room



Holiday Inn Express

I44 - Exit 127
1955 W. Elm St.

Phone 417-532-1111

Reservations 1-800-465-4329

1- 4 people \$79.00 + tax
Large Continental Breakfast



Hampton Inn

930 Ivey Lane - I44 Exit 127
Phone 417-533-3100

Single \$67.00 + tax
Double \$74.00 + tax
Under 18 stay free
Large breakfast Bar
Senior Rate same as single

Days Inn

I44 - Exit 127
Phone 417-532-7111

Single \$42.88 + tax
Double 46.88 + tax
3 - 4 people 54.88 + tax
These rates may vary as the new rate list
was not available Continental Breakfast

Econo Lodge

I44 - Exit 127
Phone 417-588-3226

Single \$35.95 + tax
Double 39.99+ tax
These rates may vary as the new rate list
was not available Continental Breakfast

**Missouri Free Will
Baptists Convention
Cowen Civic Center
Lebanon, MO
June 3 - 5, 2002**

PROGRAM

MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Theme: "Comprehending the Scope of His Love"
Scripture: Ephesians 3:17-19

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2002

10:30 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting.....State Office
1:30 p.m. General Board Meeting..... State Office

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2002

MISSOURI STATE WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST CONVENTION

Theme: "Call 9-1-1"
Psalm 91:1

9:00 a.m. Registration
9:30 a.m. Congregational Singing
Prayer
Welcome Judy Ruble
Response Reva Baker
Special Music Melissa Kiser
Morning Devotion. Shelley Braisher
Seating of Delegates
Appointment of Committees
Greetings from Missionaries and National Ministries
Recess
11:00 a.m. Congregational Singing
Prayer
Congregational Singing
Offertory
Special Music Stephanie Brawley
Message Micah Derby
(Missionary Appointee to France)
Benediction
1:30 p.m. Congregational Singing
Skit (presented by State Officers) "The 'Bored' Meeting"
Business Session
Recitation (presented by Diana Anderson) .. "Where Was God?"
Congregational Song "God Bless America"
Benediction
Song Leader: Debbie Beck Pianist: Stephanie Brawley

7:30 p.m. MONDAY EVENING WORSHIP Cowan Civic Center

Message.....Rev. Rick Dablemont
"God's Love Enlightens the Sinner"

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 4, 2002 Cowan Civic Center

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Workshop.....Rev. Rob Morgan
11:00 a.m.- 12:00 a.m. Worship.....Rev. Rob Morgan
Members of the C.E. Board will preside over the workshop and the morning worship service.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 4, 2002

1:30 P.M. Business Session.....Cowan Civic Center
PresidingRichard Robinson, Moderator

7:30 p.m. EVENING WORSHIP Cowan Civic Center

Message.....Rev. Lee Neill
"God's Love Exhorts the Saints"

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 5, 2002 Cowan Civic Center

9:00 a.m. Devotional Message.....Rev. Raymond Michaels
BusinessPresiding - Moderator Richard Robinson

11:00 a.m. MORNING WORSHIP

Message.....Rev. Dale Cochran
"God's Love is Expressed in Compassion for Others"

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 5, 2002

1:30 p.m. Business ...Presiding - Moderator Richard Robinson

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 6, 2000 Cowan Civic Center

7:30 p.m. EVENING WORSHIP
Message.....Rev. James Forlines
"God's Love Extends to the Whole World"

Three things you can do to help make the State Convention a Success.

1. Pray for the officers, speakers, and musicians.
2. Attend and participate in meeting.
3. Encourage others to attend.

FWBBC SPRING WELCOME DAYS

Free Will Baptist Bible College hosted 210 prospective students and 50 sponsors from 18 states for the spring Welcome Days, March 28-29, according to Jeff Caudill, Acting Director of Enrollment Management. Sixty visitors were high school seniors, who came to give the college a close examination.

This was one of the event's largest spring attendances. It included delegations from 75 churches. The largest state representations were Tennessee(39), Missouri (38) and Illinois (30). Other states with 10 or more were North Carolina (21), South Carolina (17) and Virginia (13). The largest church group was 11 from Virginia Beach Free Will Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Mr. Caudill was very pleased with the event. "Spring 2002 Welcome Days was a great success!" he said. "God really used Thursday's drama and choir presentations, as well as the Friday chapel to encourage and challenge all our guests. The college made a great impression!"

The next Welcome Days will be held November 14-16, 2002. For information, please contact the Enrollment Management Office (Telephone: 1-800-76-FWBBC; E-mail: recruit@fwbbc.edu).



PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

2002 SESSION
CAMP NIANGUA FREE WILL BAPTIST YOUTH CAMP
HCR - 83, BOX 22, NIANGUA, MO. 65713
PHONE — (417) 473-6444



DATE _____ Please Print Name/Address Legibly

NAME _____ AGE _____ SEX _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE NO. (____) _____ FRIEND'S NO. (____) _____
CHURCH _____ F.W.B. yes _____ no _____
If not F.W.B, What FW.B. church have you come with? _____
Have you been treated by a physician within the past 6 months? _____ Brief nature of Treatment: _____
Are you taking medication now? _____ Do you have it with you? _____ Are you allergic to any medicine? _____
What medicine? _____ Do you have allergies to weeds, pollen, insects, etc? _____
Please list what you are allergic to: _____

All medication must be dispensed by the Camp Medical Attendant and stored at the First Aid Center. Your medication will be dispensed according to the directions on the bottle or prescription. This is done to insure the safety of your child as well as the safety of others. Your cooperation is imperative!

EMERGENCY MEDICAL STATEMENT "I _____ (Parent/Legal guardian), by my signature below, hereby authorize the Youth Camp Board, or their representative(s) to authorize such emergency treatment necessary to maintain the life or health of my child whose name appears upon this form. I am signing this statement in the presence of a witness, and by my signature, I authorize the attending physician and/or hospital staff to treat my child for any injury or condition that would threaten His/Her life or well being."

Father or Legal Guardian of Camper _____

Mother or Legal Guardian of Camper _____

"I _____ do hereby swear that I have seen the parents or legal guardians of this camper, read the above EMERGENCY MEDICAL STATEMENT. I have personal knowledge that the person/s who have signed this EMERGENCY MEDICAL STATEMENT are indeed the parents or legal guardians of this camper. I do hereby further swear that I have personally witnessed the person whose signature/s appear above, place their signature/s upon this form. I further swear that I am an adult and of sound mind."

WITNESS: _____

Please list below the following information:

Family Physician's Name: _____ Physician's Phone Number: (____) _____

Please list below, names and numbers where you may be reached in case of an emergency:

1. _____ PH. _____

2. _____ PH. _____

Camp Fees: \$50.00 per camper \$15.00 per sponsor

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING!

THE CAMP DRESS CODE IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. CLASS & ACTIVITY TIME -. Girls & women may wear dresses, skirts or split skirts, that cover the knees or full-length jeans or slacks. Shirts, blouses or sweaters must be full length & cover the shoulder. No spaghetti strap, tank-tops etc.
2. WORSHIP TIME— Girls & women may wear dresses or skirts that cover the knees. Blouses or sweaters must be full length and cover the shoulder. No spaghetti strap, tank-top, etc.
3. CLASS & ACTIVITY TIME. Boys & men may wear full length slacks or jeans. Shirts are to be full length & cover the shoulder. No fish net, tank-top/muscle shirts, etc.
4. WORSHIP TIME. Boys & men may wear full length slacks or jeans. Shirts are to be full length & cover the shoulder. No fish net, tank-top/muscle shirt, etc.



SWEAT PANTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR ANYONE TO WEAR AT CAMP. WE SUGGEST ALL GARMENTS WORN AT CAMP BE, "LOOSE FITTING." PLEASE BRING ONLY THE APPAREL THAT IS ACCEPTABLE BY THE ABOVE STANDARDS.

IT IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT EVERYONE SHOWER & WEAR CLEAN CLOTHES TO EACH WORSHIP SERVICE.

By placing your signature upon the following line, you are making a promise to abide by the rules of the Youth Camp to the best of your ability. No one can be registered as a camper, without signing!

"I _____ have read carefully the rules and regulations of the Youth Camp and do hereby PROMISE to keep these rules and regulations to the best of my ability. I also understand that disciplinary action may be taken against me should I break them."

SIGNATURE OF CAMPER _____

"SPECIAL INSURANCE NOTICE, PLEASE READ WITH CAUTION"

The Youth Camp Insurance Carrier is Church Mutual Insurance Company. The Insurance coverage provided by the camp is called Excess Insurance. The following is a brief description of coverages provided by Church Mutual.

1. Coverage is (ONLY) for accidents. There is no coverage for charges due to sickness.
2. Should an accident occur, all charges must be submitted to the campers (PERSONAL/PRIVATE) insurance carrier first.
 - A. If the personal/private insurance carrier has a deductible, Camp insurance will pay the deductible, not exceeding its own limits.
 - B. If a balance exists after the personal/private insurance carrier has paid to its limits, Camp Insurance will pay the unpaid balance, (not to exceed Church Mutual insurance limits).
 - C. If there is (NO) personal/private insurance, Camp Insurance shall serve as primary carrier and pay up to its limits.
3. Please keep in mind, any coverage by Camp Insurance shall be for accidents only. There is no benefits for any kind of sickness.

PLEASE NOTE— THE INSURANCE COVERAGE PROVIDED BY MISSOURI STATE F.W.B.. YOUTH CAMP IS VERY EXPENSIVE AND LIKE MOST INSURANCE CARRIERS, THEY ARE VERY STRICT REGARDING INFORMATION SUBMITTED TO THEM THEREFORE [FAILURE OR REFUSAL] ON YOUR PART TO SUPPLY ANY NEEDED INFORMATION, WILL AUTOMATICALLY MAKE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY & ALL OF THE UNPAID BALANCE.

4. Since all claims must be submitted to your insurance carrier first, It is necessary that you submit the name, address & phone no. of your insurance provider, on the line provided below. If you have no personal insurance provider, please indicate on the appropriate line.

Name Of Personal Insurance Provider _____
 Street _____ City _____ State _____, Zip _____
 Phone(_____) _____ Policy No. _____

Please check on line, if you have no personal/private insurance coverage: _____

The Youth Camp Board would like to thank you for your cooperation regarding this very important insurance issue.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING

The Youth Campgrounds and the equipment thereon has been dedicated to the Lord for use in His service.

- (1) No one shall deface, destroy, or diversify any of the property or equipment. Anyone doing so will be required to pay for damages.
- (2) No one shall bring/use tobacco, narcotics, or alcoholic beverages on the campgrounds. Those who do, may be expelled from the camp and refused further privileges.
- (3) No profanity shall be tolerated BY ANYONE AT ANYTIME!

Youth Camp Dates

Teen Camp, Group 1, June 9 - 14, 2002
 Teen Camp, Group 2, June 16 -21, 2002

 Pre - Teen Group 2, July 28 - Aug 2, 2002
 Pre - Teen Group 1, Aug 4 - Aug 9, 2002

Group 1

Greater Springfield
 Indian Creek
 Central Western
 Mission
 Cave Springs
 Liberty
 MO-ARK
 Niangua
 Laclede

Group 2

Greater K. C.
 South Central
 Northeast
 St. Louis
 St. Francois
 Mid-Rivers
 Bootheel
 Northwest

Free Will Baptist National Convention to Meet in Memphis

The National Association of Free Will Baptists meets in Memphis, Tennessee, July 21-25, 2002, for its 66th annual session. Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington says he expects 8,000 delegates and visitors from 40 states at Memphis Convention Center for the five-day meeting. For the eighth time, Tennessee's 22,000 members and 223 churches will host the national convention. The National Association first met in Tennessee in 1935 (Nashville), then returned to Nashville in 1938, 1943, 1951, 1962, 1971 and 1985.

The National Association of Free Will Baptists includes 2,500 churches and 215,000 members in 40 states. The denomination supports 114 missionaries in 10 foreign countries and 78 home missionaries in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

National convention delegates are expected to approve denominational budgets which will exceed \$22 million. Moderator Carl Cheshier (president of Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Oklahoma) will gavel the voting body through electing 30 board and commission members and general officers. Each national agency and commission will submit an annual report to delegates during the two-day convention business session on Wednesday and Thursday.

One major business concern will be electing a new executive secretary to succeed Melvin Worthington who has held the post 23 years. Oklahoma pastor Keith Burden will be recommended to the General Board as Worthington's successor. The decision goes on to the voting delegates Wednesday morning as one of the first items of business in Memphis. The 2002 convention theme is "Obedience: Our Obligation." Four ministers, including a military chaplain, will deliver major addresses: Alton Loveless (Tennessee), Carl Cheshier (Oklahoma), Colonel Kerry Steedley (Chaplain), Melvin Worthington (Tennessee) and Curtis Linton (Oklahoma).

Meeting simultaneously with the National Association are the 35th annual National Youth Conference, with an expected 2,500 registrants and the 67th annual Women Nationally Active for Christ (WNAC) Convention with more than 1,000 women anticipated.

The four-day National Youth Conference (NYC) which includes Bible competitive activities as well as a music and arts festival will rally around the theme, "Jesus 24/7: All His Ways, All My Days." NYC will conduct separate worship services for youth at Memphis Convention Center. Numerous seminars are scheduled for attendees. Several hundred teens will participate in "Reach That Guy" service and work projects within the Memphis community. The youth will meet with adults Wednesday evening for a combined worship service at Memphis Convention Center.

The two-day VVNAC theme is "For Such A Time As This." WNAC's Monday afternoon seminars will meet in Marriott Hotel. Debe Taylor (Arkansas) will speak on "Having a Difficult Time?" Later, the Grifton FVVB Church (North Carolina) will present the drama, "Is There Hope for Me?" The Tuesday business session convenes at Memphis Convention Center. The WNAC keynote service will feature foreign missionaries to Spain, Tim and Kristi Johnson. Teri Peacock with Bell-Peacock Ministries will address the Fellowship Luncheon at noon Tuesday.

Monday afternoon, the Pastor/Laymen Conference meets in Memphis Convention Center. The two-hour conference will focus on leadership with Oklahoma City-based pastor and author Stan Toler, speaking. More than 2,000 are expected to attend.

The Tuesday afternoon Home Missions/Foreign Missions Rally in Memphis Convention Center is expected to attract more than 1,000 ministers and laymen for the two-hour session with Richard H. Harris, vice president of the Church Planting Group.

The Memphis Marriott will serve as headquarters hotel for the national convention, the National Youth Conference and WNAC. Worship services and plenary business sessions will meet at Memphis Convention Center.

Nine Tennessee Free Will Baptists serve on the national Steering Committee to coordinate the 2002 convention:

Charles Thigpen (Nashville)	-	Chairman/Steering Committee
Terry Eagleton (Nashville)	-	State Moderator
Gwyn Pugh (Atoka)	-	Registration Committee Chairman
Jon Justice (Clarksville)	-	Hospitality Committee Chairman
Kent Barwick (Columbia)	-	Prayer Committee Chairman
Tim Osborn (Cordova)	-	Ushering Committee Chairman
Rebecca Pugh (Atoka)	-	State WAC President
Jeff Caudill (Nashville)	-	NYC Advisor

MOWAC Update

Can we talk? Can we talk about money? I know it isn't good manners, but it is necessary. We really didn't want to do it, but we must raise the price for WAC Retreat from \$50.00 to \$55.00. Prices for securing Stonecroft have gone up every year, and the time has come for the cost increase to be passed on. This price increase was approved only after careful thought, planning, and a great deal of prayer.

Diane Thomas Bridgman, our retreat guest speaker, will elaborate on Growing in our Commitment. The retreat project is to bring pledges for the 2004 fund for hosting the National Women Active for Christ Convention in Kansas City. We look forward to seeing you there.

THE MUSINGS OF A MAN

BY GEORGE LEE

"The MUSINGS of a Man," is a new book from Muser Publishing Co. This book contains 265 stories, anecdotes and life experiences of Rev. George C. Lee, retired minister residing in Goldsboro, North Carolina. Rev. Lee takes his readers back to the days of his youth, growing up in Calhoun City, Mississippi, the youngest child and only boy, in a family with six sisters. His father was pastor of many rural Free Will Baptist Churches in northeast Mississippi for 60 years. The book contains dozens of interesting stories of the author's formative years and travels with his dad, school days, married life and nearly fifty years as a Free Will Baptist minister.

Jack Williams, editor of Contact Magazine said in the preface, "This romp through the Great Depression, three major wars, seven pastorates, five decades in the pulpit and a stint with a Southern Gospel quartet will pull you down memory lane and leave you parked in the weeds shaking your head. You'll like some of the anecdotes he includes and admire his nerve at mentioning others. But one thing you won't do is set the book down and walk away. There's something here that draws the reader back for another dose of Musings"

"The MUSINGS of a Man" sells for \$ 12.00 per copy, plus \$ 3.00 for shipping. Copies may be obtained through Rev. George C. Lee, 303 Veronica Avenue, Goldsboro, NC 27534. You can call him at (919) 734-7670 and email to him at geleege4esn.net



Speaker
**Diane Thomas
Bridgman**

Well-Known Speaker
and Writer from
North Carolina

Missouri Women Active For Christ Retreat

**STONECROFT CONFERENCE
CENTER**

AUGUST 16-17, 2002

Theme:

"Growing in Our Commitment"

RETREAT PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

For those STAYING at the Conference Center

Cost: \$55.00 per person

List the ladies that will be staying in the same room (each room has 2 double or queen size beds). You may copy this form or add a sheet for additional names.

1/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone(____) _____ Church _____

2/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone(____) _____ Church _____

3/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone(____) _____ Church _____

4/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone(____) _____ Church _____

RETREAT PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

*For those NOT STAYING
at the Conference Center*

List the ladies attending the retreat, but providing their own accommodations. Check which meals they will be eating at Stonecroft. The cost for registration and all meals will be \$32.00

1/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____ Church _____
_____ Registration Fee \$17.00 _____ Friday Dinner \$10.00
_____ Saturday Breakfast \$5.00

2/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____ Church _____
_____ Registration Fee \$17.00 _____ Friday Dinner \$10.00
_____ Saturday Breakfast \$5.00

3/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____ Church _____
_____ Registration Fee \$17.00 _____ Friday Dinner \$10.00
_____ Saturday Breakfast \$5.00

4/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____ Church _____
_____ Registration Fee \$17.00 _____ Friday Dinner \$10.00
_____ Saturday Breakfast \$5.00

In order to accommodate the maximum number of ladies attending, there must be 4 ladies to each room. Rooms are assigned as reservations are received. **Reservations will not be accepted before June 18, 2002. Due to limited space and the purpose of the retreat, we request no babies please.**

Total amount inclosed: \$ _____. PLEASE SEND **ONE CHECK** FOR ALL REGISTERING WITH YOUR GROUP. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: MISSOURI STATE WAC (no cash please). As in years past, no refunds will be given, but substitutions may be made. **PLEASE SEND FORM, CHECK, AND SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE TO:** Judith Ruble - 610 Hunters Creek Dr. - Lebanon, MO 65536.

the music of our culture once reflected this timeless truth: "What the world needs now is love sweet love." Today far often, lyrics promote hatred and violence and revenge. It's time now once again for us to freak out our neighbors, to show them a different song by loving them, doing good to them, blessing & praying for them! "Love is a sweet, sweet thing!"

Worship Service Averages December 2001- March 2002

Churches:	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Beacon	107	115	107	
Belton	56	46	48	48
Buffalo 1st	109	105		132
Cabool	37	42	42	44
Calvary Chapel	240			
Calvary Fellowship	325	342	316	384
Cape Girardeau 1st		59	53	
Copper Mines	49	43	48	
Columbia	47	46	55	
Crossroads-Lebanon	85			
Crossroads-Wentzville	68	73	72	
De Soto	226	212	217	233
Hannibal	91	84		
Hannon	151	137	135	
Harmony - Parkville		68	74	
Hartville	202	189	197	241
Hopewell	35	38	31	41
Houston	73	61	64	73
Hurryville	99	96	93	
Joplin 1st	101	92	107	
Lebanon 1st	130		108	94
Lebanon FWB	50	48	52	53
Macedonia- Purdy	165	163	160	
Mill Creek	80	85	88	93
Mine LaMotte	40			
Mt. Pisgah	73	67	89	84
Myrtle	29	30	33	43
New Life - Licking	75	82	72	68
Oak Hill- Union	53	56	62	64
O'Fallon 1st	158	156	156	
Ozark 1st	180	177	181	202
Pleasant Hill	32		26	27
Purdy		63	56	67
Richwoods	41	41	42	
Rock Chapel	57	65		69
Rolla 1st	32		37	42
Springfield 1st	138	127	159	
Sunnyview	45	45	47	
Thayer	187	171		181
Trinity	83	95	77	73
United	554	584	570	662
Willow Springs-Mtn. Grove	74	63	69	

This is only a partial listing. There are 184 FWB Churches in Missouri. Each church is encouraged to send in their worship averages.

**Share in the Great
Commission.
Adopt a share of the
Show-Me Plan.**

is to prepare ourselves spiritually. More than anything, we are asking for your prayers. Pray that God will more fully reveal Himself to us and that by His grace we may lovingly and boldly proclaim the hope that we have in Christ. Also pray for those whom God will be bringing into our paths, that they may accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. We can't tell you how powerful your prayers are and how much we appreciate them.

We have faith that God is going to do amazing things this summer, in the souls we come in contact with and in our own souls. We are so grateful to be a part of His work. We've jumped on the bandwagon for missions, and we're not jumping off. Join us, there is a place for you.

Financial Report March 2002

Cooperative Disbursements

March 2002 \$45,838.43

18.50% MO Home Miss. Bd ..	\$8,480.11
17.00% Executive Office	7,792.53
3.00% General Fund	1,375.15
.50% Show-Me Plan	229.19
8.50% Youth Camp Board	3,896.27
3.00% Y.C. Restricted Funds	1,375.15
2.00% Youth Ministries Board ..	916.77
2.00% C.E. Board	916.77
2.00% Senior Adult Board	916.77
9.00% Missouri Retirement	4,125.46
31.50%	14,439.11
National Ministries, Hillsdale and	
California Christian College	
Foreign Missions Board	
National Home Missions Board	
Same Allocation	
Free Will Baptist Bible College	
Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	
Executive Department	
Layman's Board	
Radio & TV Commission	
Theological Commission	
Historical Commission	
Board of Retirement & Insurance	
1.00% California Christian College	
3.00% Show-Me Plan	1,375.15

Total \$45,838.43

Co-op

Amity	\$154.68
Aulsbury Chapel	\$232.56
Bailey	\$211.00
Bailey Chapel	\$202.00
Belton	\$347.95
Berean	\$37.00
Bethel- El Dorado Springs	\$99.23
Bethel- Northview	\$366.00
Black Oak	\$417.02
Blue Springs	\$20.00
Byrd	\$164.48
Cabool	\$307.98
Calvary Chapel	\$1,247.99
Cape Girardeau	\$183.57
Carthage	\$280.00
Central	\$989.63
Christ Chapel	\$381.93
Clifton	\$65.60
Columbia	\$498.55
Copper Mines	\$365.37
Cornerstone	\$457.43
Crossroads- Wentzville	\$790.00
Cuba	\$639.30
DeSoto 1st	\$1,470.00
Emmanuel- Colorado	\$95.36
Faith & Hope- Aurora	\$70.46
Faith & Hope-Willow Springs	\$114.36
Farmington 1st	\$2,988.23
Fellowship	\$1,200.00
Fordland	\$565.11
Fourth	\$196.32
Fredericktown	\$400.00
Freeman Chapel	\$492.50
Gospel Light	\$100.00
Grant Avenue	\$1,120.82
Hannibal	\$506.00
Hannibal	\$580.00
Hannon	\$860.00
Harmony Fellowship	\$99.00
Harmony- KC	\$431.00
Hartville	\$1,100.00
Hopewell	\$207.00
Houston 1st	\$404.13
Hurryville	\$494.89
Jackson	\$180.60
Joplin 1st	\$685.76
Kirksville 1st	\$95.71
Koshkonong	\$127.00
Lead Hill	\$298.32
Lebanon	\$270.96
Lebanon 1st	\$934.80
Lone Star	\$73.00
Macedonia- Niangua	\$132.92
Marshfield	\$205.00
Merls Chapel	\$141.00
Mill Creek	\$500.84
Mine LaMotte	\$105.92
Monett 1st	\$659.98
Mt. Pisgah	\$362.00
Mt. Zion- Gower	\$52.50
Mtn. Grove 1st	\$1,388.98
Myrtle	\$235.57
Neosho 1st	\$95.00
New Hope	\$70.00
New Life- Licking	\$437.76
Niangua	\$180.91
North Five	\$178.20
Number One	\$133.17
O' Fallon 1st	\$1,145.00
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove	\$158.46
Oak Hill	\$1,297.61

Olivet	\$590.00
Ozark 1st	\$1,828.00
Parkview	\$657.00
Pleasant Hill	\$124.93
Pleasant Home	\$183.70
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana	\$67.00
Potosi 1st	\$198.66
Republic	\$100.00
Rock Chapel	\$327.30
Rolla 1st	\$197.00
Royal Oak	\$87.00
Salem	\$90.00
Seymour	\$497.00
Smyrna	\$57.00
Springfield 1st	\$984.94
Stockton	\$251.70
Thayer	\$933.00
Trinity	\$866.04
Union	\$60.00
Union Grove	\$441.00
Union Light	\$198.00
United	\$1,733.44
Unity	\$570.00
Verdella	\$593.30
Victory- Alton	\$252.95
Waynesville 1st	\$402.04
West Plains 1st	\$808.00
Willow Springs- Mtn. Grove	\$309.98
Wolf Creek	\$328.03
Total	\$45,838.43

State Home Missions

Belton	\$50.00
DeSoto 1st	\$90.00
Fellowship	\$100.00
Gospel Light	\$80.00
Lebanon Bible & Bookstore	\$330.00
Merls Chapel	\$10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	\$25.00
Myrtle	\$80.00
O' Fallon 1st	\$64.00
Ozark 1st	\$10.00
Pleasant Home	\$33.99
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana	\$20.00
Thayer	\$55.00
Trinity	\$43.30
Union	\$45.00
United	\$25.00
Waynesville 1st	\$50.00
White, R.	\$10.00
Wormington, L.	\$30.00
Total	\$1,151.29

Show-Me Plan

Barker, Rev. J.	\$15.00
Belton	\$165.00
Berean	\$30.00
Berry, R.	\$15.00
Bethel - El Dorado	\$248.47
Bethel - Festus	\$45.00
Black Oak	\$60.00
Blue Springs	\$20.00
Brown, A.	\$15.00
Burns, J.	\$60.00
Buxton, G.	\$30.00
Cabool	\$105.00
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo	\$105.00
Cartee, J.	\$30.00
Chrisman, M.	\$30.00
Columbia	\$75.00
Cooperative Plan	\$1,375.15
Copper Mines	\$150.00
Copper Mines - Teens, Jr. Cl.	\$30.00
Copper Mines - Yg. Adult Class ..	\$15.00
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove	\$326.56
Cuba	\$205.00
Darnell, W.	\$15.00
Dendish, F.	\$15.00
DeSoto 1st	\$552.50
DeSoto 1st - Auditorium Class ...	\$15.00
Faith - St. Louis	\$20.00
Faith & Hope - W.S.	\$120.00
Farmington 1st	\$975.00
Fellowship	\$541.41

Fordland	\$250.00
Fourth	\$45.00
Fourth	\$15.00
Fredericktown 1st	\$150.00
Freeman Chapel	\$540.00
Garrett, R.	\$15.00
Gospel Light	\$1,000.00
Graham, S.	\$420.00
Grant Ave.	\$310.00
Greenfield	\$180.00
Hannon	\$980.00
Happy Hill	\$60.00
Harmony - Parkville	\$47.49
Hartville	\$240.00
Hastings, H.	\$15.00
Hurryville	\$300.00
Hurryville Sr. Adult S.S. Class ...	\$22.50
Jackson	\$45.00
Jones Chapel	\$330.00
Joplin 1st	\$75.00
Leadington	\$195.00
Lebanon 1st	\$150.00
Lebanon F.W.B.	\$30.00
Macedonia - Purdy	\$1,000.00
Maggart, D.	\$45.00
Matthews, G.	\$90.00
Merl's Chapel	\$200.00
Mill Creek	\$140.00
Mill Creek C. W. F.	\$15.00
Mill Creek Young Adult S.S.C.	\$15.00
Mine La Motte	\$75.00
MO Women Active For Christ ..	\$548.56
Monett 1st	\$215.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$360.00
Mouser, J.	\$60.00
Mt. Pisgah	\$75.00
Mt. Zion - Thayer	\$30.00
Myrtle	\$75.00
Neosho 1st	\$210.00
New Home - Hartville	\$150.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	\$105.00
New Testament	\$15.00
Noel, D.	\$15.00
Oak Grove - Houston	\$30.00
Oak Hill - Union	\$20.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$191.00
Olivet	\$59.00
Ozark 1st	\$60.00
Parker, G.	\$15.00
Parkview - Desloge	\$297.72
Pinkerton, J.	\$45.00
Pleasant Hill	\$15.00
Pleasant Home	\$330.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	\$50.00
Reiter, K.	\$30.00
Richwoods	\$67.50
Rock Chapel	\$210.00
Rogers, F.	\$15.00
Rolla 1st	\$30.00
Royal Oak	\$120.00
Ruble N.	\$45.00
Shelton, B.	\$100.00
Springfield 1st	\$545.00
Stockton	\$30.00
Thayer	\$275.00
Thomas, E.	\$15.00
Trinity	\$465.00
Union - Success	\$180.00
Union Light	\$450.00
United - West Plains	\$403.34
Unity	\$75.00
Verdella	\$883.30
Victory - Alton	\$252.95
Walnut Grove	\$15.00
Waynesville 1st	\$417.75
White, R.	\$15.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	\$88.33
Willow Springs 1st	\$150.00
Total	\$20,248.53

Foreign Missions

Belton	\$35.00
Chapman, A.	\$20.00
Cuba	\$41.00
Farmington 1st	\$22.50

Fordland	\$25.00
Fourth	\$50.00
Fredericktown 1st	\$45.00
Gospel Light	\$80.00
Grant Ave.	\$56.00
Harmony Fellowship (Colorado) ..	\$15.00
Lewis, D.	\$10.00
Matthews, A.	\$15.00
Minor, K.	\$10.00
Neosho 1st	\$20.00
New Testament	\$80.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$95.00
Rock Chapel	\$19.00
Thayer	\$10.00
Trinity	\$176.32
Union Light	\$200.00
Total	\$1,024.82

Nat'l Home Missions

Belton	\$101.00
Blue Springs	\$5.00
Carthage	\$5.00
Chapman, A.	\$10.00
Columbia	\$25.00
Cuba	\$123.00
Degonia, C.	\$15.00
DeSoto 1st	\$481.00
DeSoto Auditorium Class	\$10.00
Faith & Hope- Aurora	\$70.47
Farmington 1st	\$425.00
Fordland	\$30.00
Fourth	\$50.00
Fredericktown 1st	\$25.00
Gospel Light	\$160.00
Grant Avenue	\$12.00
Hannon	\$516.00
Harmony Fellowship	\$138.00
Hartville	\$100.00
Huffman, T.	\$20.00
Jackson	\$50.00
Joplin 1st	\$70.00
King, B.	\$5.00
Macedonia- Purdy	\$100.00
Merls Chapel	\$50.00
Monett	\$105.00
Mt. Pisgah	\$25.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	\$60.00
Myrtle	\$106.00
Neosho 1st	\$110.00
New Home- Hartville	\$10.00
New Testament	\$160.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$64.00
Pleasant Home	\$21.39
Rader, J.	\$20.00
Richwoods	\$61.00
Rock Chapel	\$55.75
Rogers, B.	\$15.00
Ruble, N.	\$10.00
Thayer	\$270.00
Thebeau, B.	\$5.00
Trinity	\$53.30
Union Light	\$96.00
United	\$150.00
United Youth Group	\$170.00
Unity	\$50.00
Verdella	\$10.00
Wolf Creek	\$75.00
Total	\$4,298.91

Youth Camp

Hartville	10.00
Niangua	20.00
Rolla 1st	20.00
New Home- Hartville	10.00
Mt. Pisgah	15.00
DeSoto 1st	55.00
Stephens, T.	10.00
Hannon	50.00
Lebanon Bible & Bookstore	180.00
Union	30.00
Cornerstone	25.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
Willow Springs- Mtn. Grove	10.00

Trinity	9.00
Verdella	10.00
Thayer	55.00
Cabool 1st	10.00
Total	\$539.00

Camp Development Fund

Myrtle	30.00
Rock Chapel	243.00
Monett 1st Ladies Auxillary	110.00
Houston 1st	100.00
O' Fallon 1st	500.00
Total	\$983.00

C. E. Board

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	\$130.00
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Senior Adult Ministries

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	\$130.00
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Youth Ministries Board

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	\$130.00
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Free Will Baptist Bible College

Farmington 1st	152.16
Ruble, Nathan	15.00
De Soto 1st	40.00
Ozark 1st	15.00
Verdella	118.66
Thayer	50.00
Total	\$390.82

Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College

Farmington 1st	172.84
Joplin 1st	75.00
Hannon	100.00
Grant Ave.	2.00
Thayer	50.00
Neosho 1st	50.00
Total	\$449.84

Trula Cronk Home for Children

Myrtle	5.00
Farmington 1st	30.00
Belton	50.00
De Soto 1st	55.00
Hannon	100.00
Unity	20.00
New Hope	30.00
Bethel- El Dorado Springs	10.00
Total	\$300.00

Rev. John McClure

Monett 1st	85.00
Central Western Ladies Auxillary ..	15.00
Carthage	15.00
Chapman, A.	10.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	47.50
Total	\$172.50

Cornerstone FWB Church

(Brian Brinkoff)	
Merls Chapel	50.00
New Testament	10.00
Total	\$60.00

Vergel Maness

Gospel Light	\$80.00
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Indian Bible College

(Richard Standley)	
Chapman, A.	\$10.00

Women's Nationally Active for Christ

Ruble, J.	\$10.00
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Morgan Minkler

Belton	\$50.00
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NEWS FROM THE JACKSON MISSION

The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

Dear Prayer Partners and Faithful Supporters:

It has been a while since we have given you a report of your mission work in Jackson, MO. It is really the Lord's mission work and by your prayers and giving you have made it possible for us to serve as your missionaries.

The past year of 2001 was not a very good year for our church, as we had some come and go during the year, and it seemed there were more going than coming. Through the ups and downs, the Lord continued to bless us in our services. Even though our attendance was not what we would have liked for it to be, our finances continued to remain stable. Praise the Lord! from the time we started the mission here in Jackson, we have not had to ask the MO State Mission Board for any financial help. We have been able to pay all of our bills and even send in money to our account some months.

Our people have continued to have a positive attitude, along with Ada and me, even when the attendance was low some weeks. I have come to realize in missions work over the years that the people's attitude reflects the missionary's attitude, and that is why I know the Lord is answering your prayers for me and Ada. If it were not for your prayers, and the Lord's assurance that He will build His Church, we would have been discouraged many times. True, we are disappointed a lot, when people will tell you they are going to be in your services on Sunday, or will tell you the Lord has led them to come and help you, then they do not continue to come. One lady even said she had prayed about coming to our church, and the Lord directed her to come, and she has not been here since the Sunday she told me that. There is a big difference in being disappointed and discouraged, and I know were it not for your prayers and God's grace we would have been discouraged many times.

Praise the Lord!! We did have a record attendance on Roll Call [Easter] Sunday, with 67 present in our morning service. This was with some of our people not being there, and some coming later for the afternoon service, that we did not count, who have been there in our morning service. We had some first time visitors who we are doing follow-up on, and I believe we will reach some of them for the Lord and get them coming to our church.

Your prayers and gifts are surely appreciated and we want to do the best we can to build a strong church. We know that we can only do that with the Lord's help and that is why your prayers and support are so important to us. God bless you.

Yours in His service, Vernon and Ada Long

I love this little thought that was recently shared with me about Condition vs. Position. I am so thankful for the position God has granted me through Christ's redeeming blood (Ephesians 1:7).

How much time do you spend worrying about your condition instead of focusing on your position? You see, your condition will never change until you begin understanding your position. Conditions are temporary. . . they come and go; our position in Christ is eternal. Paul taught that any man in Christ is a new creature: forgiven, redeemed, and perfected in Gods' eyes. Redeemed means payment of ransom. It depicts our sins holding us in a prison under a death sentence, but when the blood of Christ is shown on us, all claims against us are thrown out of court, the prison doors swing open, and we are free!!! No matter how hard we try or how dedicated we become, there is no way — ABSOLUTELY NO WAY — we could pay the debt. Only Jesus could do that because only He could offer up the sacrifice of a sinless life.

It's not enough, however, to issue a declaration of emancipation. After all, the slaves need to know about this available freedom! The last person on earth who wants them to know is the slave-master. He wants the slaves to not know of freedom so they feel enslaved in their minds and live their lives accordingly. Therefore, when the devil points to our condition, remind him of our position in Christ. Some areas may still be under construction but God loves us 100% and has offered full redemption.

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