

THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST

GEM

*Remember the
Together Way
Rest of the Family
Offering
in September*

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September 2002

Keith Burden Elected Executive Secretary

Reverend Keith Burden, 48-year-old Oklahoma pastor, was elected executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists during the 66th annual convention in Memphis July 21-25. He succeeds Melvin Worthington who retired after 23 years.

Burden's election came Wednesday morning in Memphis Convention Center with the largest attendance in 17 years. The vote culminated a year in which the Executive Committee, acting as a search committee, interviewed candidates and recommended Burden to the denomination's General Board. The General Board recommended him to delegates who made the decision to elect.

Keith Burden began preaching as a 16-year-old high school junior in Poteau, Oklahoma. He graduated from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College (Moore, OK) in 1976, attended Free Will Baptist Bible College Graduate School in Nashville and completed a master's degree at Moody Bible Institute Graduate School.

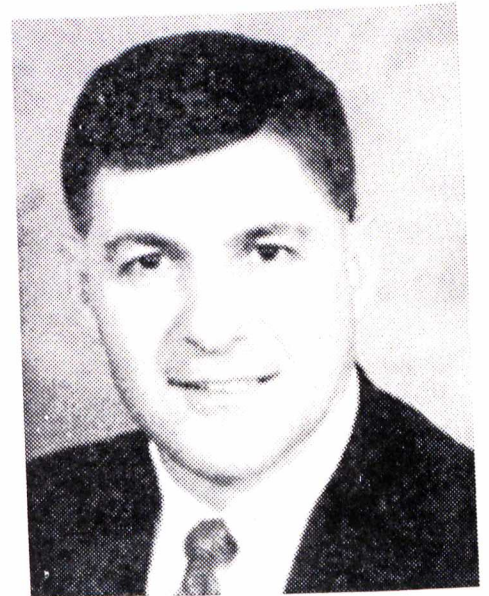
He has pastored five churches—one in California and four in Oklahoma: First FWB Church, Holdenville, OK (1975-'77), First FWB Church, Locust Grove,

OK (1977-'80, 1999-2002), Harmony FWB Church, Fresno, CA (1980-'83), West Tulsa FWB Church, Tulsa, OK (1983-'87), First FWB Church, Ada, OK (1987-'99). He was pastor at First FWB Church in Locust Grove when elected executive secretary.

Reverend Burden is well-known on the broader denominational scene. He served 18 years as assistant clerk of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 15 years as clerk of the Oklahoma State Association of Free Will Baptists, three years as National Association clerk and three years as moderator of the Oklahoma State Association.

A writer, statistician and lead singer in a men's quartet, Burden will move to Tennessee in late August and begin his duties as executive secretary September 1. He plans to consult with his predecessor for a time to effect a smooth leadership transition. Both men will attend September's steering committee meeting with the Florida State Association to plan the 2003 national convention. They will also participate in the October general session of the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches, Inc., which meets near Nashville.

Keith and Debbie Burden have two



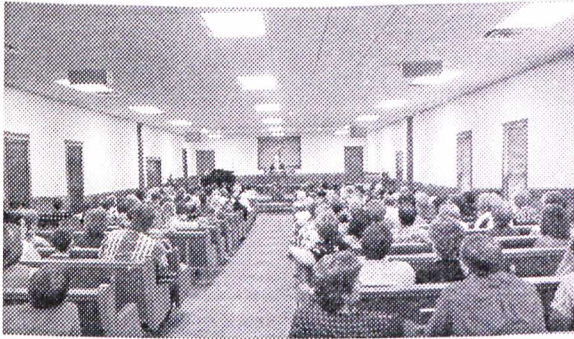
children: Jennie (Mrs. Jeff) Blair who gave birth to the Burden's first grandchild in June, and Katie Burden who is a freshman at Hillsdale FWB College.

Mrs. Debbie Burden is a preacher's daughter and a graduate of Hillsdale FWB College. A pianist and children's choir director, Debbie served seven years on the Hillsdale College Board of Trustees. She is secretary of Women Nationally Active for Christ (WNAC), an auxiliary to the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

**More Convention News
on Pages 8 - 9**

Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church Dedicates Addition

Special services dedicating the newly remodeled and expanded facilities of the Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church were conducted Sunday, June 30, 2002. The Macedonia Church, located southeast of Monett, has been serving the spiritual needs of the community for over a century and a quarter. Recent growth has seen Sunday morning attendance as high as 188 and led to the decision to expand to accommodate those taking part in the services.



Improvements have included remodeling and expanding the auditorium to seat 250 or more, adding a much larger pulpit and choir area, installing a new baptistry behind the choir and pulpit, designing a new kitchen and expanding the fellowship hall, and adding three new classrooms. A baby grand piano and clavichord

and new sound system have been installed in the sanctuary. The church now has a little more than eight thousand square feet under roof.

The regular morning Sunday School and worship service on June 30 was followed by a fellowship dinner. A special dedication service was held at 2 p.m. Speakers included Pastors Russ Neill of Purdy and Larry Wormington of Monett, both of whom grew up in the Macedonia Church. Pastor Lee Neill gave the afternoon message. Music was provided by the congregation, by the Morlan Family and the Messengers Quartet, both of the church, and by the Zionaires Quartet which includes Bob Cantwell who was contractor for the building and remodeling.



**Russ Neill, Lee Neill,
Larry Wormington**



32 YEARS PERFECT SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The First Free Will Baptist Church of DeSoto, Missouri, began giving perfect Sunday School attendance awards in 1969. From 1969 until 2001, (32 years) Mrs. Roberta Berry never missed a Sunday. In 2001 a short stay in the hospital ended her outstanding record. Sister Berry was not only faithful in her attendance, she was also active in serving. She taught the ladies' Sunday School Class for many years, and her husband, Lawrence, was the first trustee of the church. He died during the first phase of the church building program.

The church recently honored Sister Roberta with a plaque for her faithfulness.



**Richard White Presenting Plaque
to Sister Berry**

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.

\$4,000 And A Multitude Of Prayers

by Doug Earls

A part of the vision for Calvary Chapel is that one day the church will send out mission teams. After a few years of praying for God to open the right door, He opened the door to Panama. God brought to our church a business man, David Beltz, who has a heart for missions. David is a partner in a world wide agri-business and travels extensively. He and his wife have led fourteen mission groups over the past ten years. God brought David together with Calvary Chapel and Stan Bunch, and He did miraculous things.

As a pastor I have always wanted our church to not just support missions, but be a part of missions. The vision of partnering with churches in another country has always tugged at my heart. As the day of our departure approached, my anxiety level increased. I had thought that 8 to 10 people would be all that would respond, but God had other ideas. Twenty-Four not only signed up to go, but paid their way to go to Panama. As I looked at the list I knew how sacrificial this was for many families. I prayed "God, what are we doing taking all these people to Panama." God spoke back, "I'm taking them to Panama. Just have faith and let me work." Calvary Chapel stepped out in faith, and God did miraculous things.

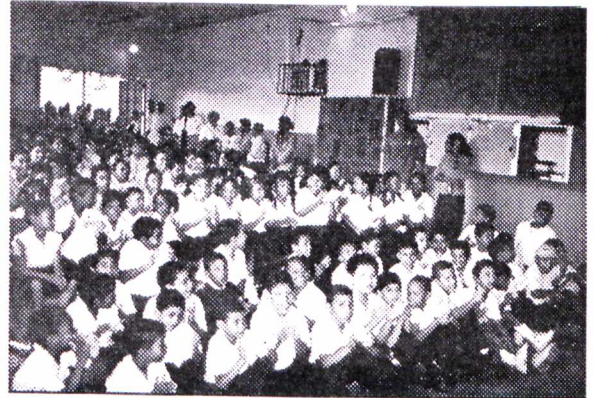
The group purchased their own plane tickets and paid for much of their expenses. The church family helped with some expenses and gave \$2,000 for a building project. The Buffalo First Free Will Baptist Church heard about

our trip and sent \$2,000. With this \$4,000 the group was able to put in a sanctuary ceiling and fans at the San Vicente Church in Chibre, pour a large concrete floor for the Nueva Esperanza Church soup kitchen, paint both churches and money was sent to a new church to purchase paint. God opened the door for our group to hold a two day evangelistic crusade in an area where the San Vicente Church is praying to establish a new work. The teens in the group passed out tracks, worked with the



Panamanian youth in sports evangelism and served as ambassadors for Christ. The highlight of our trip was something totally unplanned. We had planned on doing a VBS, but the school was in session. The schools in Panama have been experiencing a tremendous amount of violence. The director of the Chibre district school invited our group to talk to the whole school grades 4-9. With a one day notice the group developed skits and testimonies. We thought we would impact 100 children's lives at VBS, but God allowed us to impact around 1,000. The gospel was presented in the public school and each student received a track dealing with salvation..

Next year, Lord willing, we will be returning to Panama. Already our members have established relationships with our brothers



and sisters in Panama. Our hearts were touched that last day as our host church, San Vicente, presented us gifts of love and treated us to ice cream and cake. It choked me up to eat the ice cream, because I knew what a financial burden it was to provide this treat of love. Pastor Tomas tearfully thanked us for the work we had done. What he didn't realize was it was we who had been blessed more than their church would ever know. We hugged and cried tears of joy as we said good bye to our friends. Missionary Stanley Bunch said it best as we drove away. He simply said, "Lord, bless Tomas and the church. Just keep them strong for you."

Calvary Chapel has stepped out in faith to partner with our churches in Panama. God is doing tremendous things. Next year, Lord willing, we will be going to Chitre, Panama, to begin a five year commitment to building projects and ministries. We ask that you join us in prayer for our mission team. Pray specifically that the doors will continue to open in the schools. We have been invited back to Chibre and are praying for the doors to open in other districts. If your church would like to help purchase building materials and tracks, please send your donotations to Stan Bunch and designate them for the Panama building project. If someone in you church is interested in going with our group next year, please contact our church. Above all, please pray for us. Sometimes I have wild ideas. What if the State of Missouri partnered with our churches in Panama? I wonder what God would do?



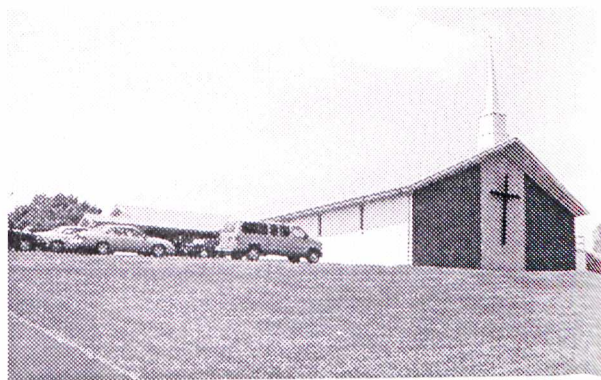
Kingsway Celebrates 30 years

Those attending the 30th anniversary celebration of the Kingsway Free Will Baptist Church in Springfield, Missouri, received a warm welcome from Pastor Bill Ragsdale and the Kingsway congregation.

Singing during the morning worship service gave expression to the joy felt by those in attendance. Rev. Nathan Ruble delivered the morning message.

A delicious lunch was prepared and served by the ladies of the church following the morning service. The fellowship hall was decorated with photos taken over the last 30 years. It was a great time of fellowship.

The afternoon was given over to special music provided by present and past members, a baptizing, and a pie in the face of the pastor. The former pastors present shared greetings and reminisced about their time at the church. Founding pastor, Gene Terry, baptized two during the afternoon service. The day was concluded with a bit of fun as Pastor Bill Ragsdale took a pie in the face. This was to fulfill a bargain he had made with the congregation if they reached their attendance goal. They did and he did graciously.



Kingsway had its beginning in June 1972, when 32 people gathered at the home of David Latimer to discuss the possibility of starting a church on the north side of Springfield. The meeting was spent in prayer and in discussing the various issues involved in starting a mission church. They agreed to hold their first service on August 2, 1972. A second meeting was held in July at the home of Rev. Gene Terry. At that time they adopted the Free Will Baptist church covenant and chose Kingsway as the name of the new church. They were assisted in this meeting by Dr. J.D. O'Donnell, Jesse Young, and Russell Weisman. The church had its beginning with 22 charter members.

The church met in rented facilities until property was acquired in 1973. A church building was erected and the first service was held in the new facility on September 30, 1973, and the building was dedicated on



Pastor and Mrs. Bill Ragsdale

the first Sunday of October 1973.

Five ministers have pastored the church during its 30 year history: Rev. Gene Terry, Rev. Johnny Land, Rev. Darrell Mitchell, Rev. Don Carter, and the present pastor, Rev. Bill Ragsdale.

Kingsway church has impacted many lives during its short history and it continues to be a beacon shining in the community.



**Founding Pastor
Rev. and Mrs. Gene Terry**

The Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

Communication. . . it means such different things to each of us. God relates to all— whether it's the one who cannot tolerate silence or the one who craves listening to quiet.

God does not scream above the voices of today's busy lifestyles. He waits for us to tune our hearts to His still, small voice. Often what He wants from us is to

communicate with Him through communion.

This type of communion is not unlike the married couple who settles into their easy chairs in the living room to separately read the newspaper "together." It is not unlike those who take long walks in comfortable silence. Nor is it unlike the youthful love which is happy to stay on the phone

for three hours and not say much, just to know that special someone is on the other end of the phone.

I desire communion with the Lord's presence whether there's communication or not. I have come to value the relationship as well as the fellowship.

Mountain Grove 1st 75 Years "Its All About Him"

It was not hard to discern that something special was taking place at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Mountain Grove July 14th. A large striped tent covered one end of the parking lot and smoke wafted up from large barbeque grills as parking attendants directed the traffic. Almost five hundred people gathered to help the church celebrate its 75th anniversary.

From the registration area to the sanctuary there were old photos and colorful banners that reminded the people of the great history of the church. It was a time of renewing old acquaintance and enjoying fellowship and worship.

Pastor Gary Fry welcomed the congregation and reminded them that the theme of this 75th anniversary celebration was, "Its all about Him." The celebration music included a youth and a ladies handbell choir, toddler church singers led by Michael and Marilyn Walker, Junior Church choir led by Jeanette Dalton, the sanctuary choir, the church trio, and Carol Dale.

Missouri State Congressman Van Kelly presented the church a flag which had flown over the state capitol. He commended the church on its ministry and vision. Missouri Executive Secretary Nathan Ruble delivered greetings

and congratulations on behalf of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists. Former Pastor Lynn Wood delivered the morning message. At the conclusion of the sermon special recognition was given to former pastors and youth pastors of the church. Each received a beautifully framed artist's sketch of the church.

During registration each member of



the congregation was given a slip of paper on which to place their name and a message. These slips were tied to balloons which were launched before noon meal. The church had also prepared a time capsule to be stored away for the future.

A real picnic type lunch was enjoyed under the tent: grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, baked beans, salads, and tables loaded with deserts. However, lunch was not just about eating, it was a time that folks renewed old acquaintance and caught up on the latest news.

Special music was the order of the afternoon service. Many of the former members shared in this fun time. During the day there was also time for people to tour the church and school facilities and to make inquiries concerning the new radio station and the new property recently received to house the Christian academy.

The past and present ministry of the First Free Will Baptist Church reflects the fact that, "It Is All About HIM."



The following paragraph, written by Sister Lea Mae Postlewaite, is what she was told about the beginning of the church.

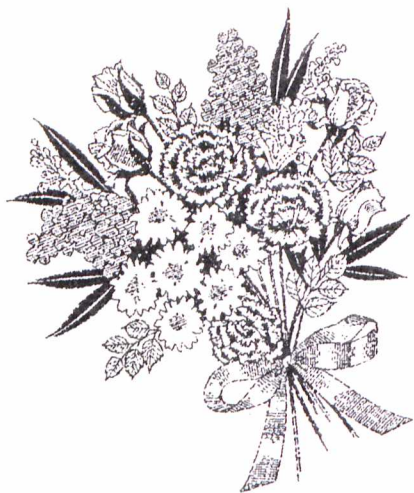
"In 1927, there was a small group of believers in Christ and Free Will Baptists who met together for worship in various homes in Mountain Grove, Missouri. On Sunday, July 23, 1927, this group, consisting of a part of four families, met for the purpose of organizing a Free Will Baptist church. They met in a store building located where the city fire department is now. The 15 perspective memberes sat on nail kegs in the store, which was owned and operated by Brother John Henry Plunk. I can imagine that it was a time of rejoicing when these people were organized into a "God fearing, Bible believing church." Brother George Scott Sr., Brother L.j. Gearing, and Brother John H. Plunk made up the advisory committee. Brother John Kock was elected pastor and Ellen Gearing clerk."

The following men have pastored the church: John Koch, George W. Scott Sr., Chester Dauber, George W. Scott Jr., Homer Smith, Eli Burney, Ocie Allen, Willard Day, Fred Kirby, O.T. Dixon, Gene Rogers, Luther Gibson, Lynn Wood, and since 1981, Gary Fry.



Edwin Wade, Lynn Wood and Pastor Fry





Flowers for Sunday School Teachers

Marlene LeFever

mother finds answers for her daughter.

I called Amy's Sunday school teacher. "Hey," I blurted out before we'd even said our hellos, "what comes after rock?"

That teacher cared, not only about Amy, but also about Amy's parents. She was instrumental in bringing me into the Sunday school program. God knew I had empty holes in my life that didn't prepare me for being a parent. He used that willing Sunday school teacher to show me how to fill them up.

Bill: A Teacher Is Born

"You're a scoutmaster. Surely you can handle fifth-grade Sunday schoolers." And that's how Bill became a volunteer.

"I was a new Christian and was worried that I didn't know enough. I started with an easy story - Noah. I knew I had to keep the boys busy, and the Lord knew I needed help. We researched the ark and built a scale papier-mache' model six feet long. We went to a lake to study how a flood affects an area. As I struggled with how to teach the Bible, the Holy Spirit taught those kids through me."

The class asked Bill to move up with them when they went to sixth grade, and he was honored. Now that first class is grown, and four of those boys are spending their lives in full-time Christian service. "There is no way I could have been that good a teacher," Bill said. "The Lord knew I needed the encouragement of success at that early point in my Christian life, and He helped me. I've got a word for new teachers. Don't be overwhelmed. With God's help, you'll never be inadequate."

Clean Feet

The teen class did a foot washing to

demonstrate its willingness to serve. The teacher Janet knew it had been great fun, but did it mean anything to them beyond clean feet? "After class," she said, "I discovered that an ice storm had left my car covered with thick sheets of ice. A teen was chipping the ice for me. 'Just being a servant,' she explained. 'You know, like we talked about.'"

Important Home

Not long ago Christians in China needed to register with the government and many were persecuted. Paul, a first-generation Chinese American, was a pastor with a problem. He couldn't get Chinese people to come to a church to learn about Jesus. They just couldn't shake the idea that even in America someone would turn them in for attending. So Paul turned his home into a church. "These people feel safer in my home, studying the Bible, coming to know Jesus, even being baptized. I live in a very important home," he said. "It's a Sunday school classroom, a worship center, and a fellowship area all in one."

No Flowers?

Norma used to cry her eyes out because her teaching seemed to yield no success no flowers in sight, not even the hint of anything green pushing up through the pavement. But she kept on teaching, working hard on her lessons and even making individualized love cards for each child. "Probably use them for dart practice," she grumbled while she worked on them.

Years later, she ran into one of those boys, and was absolutely astounded when he told her, "You know them bits of paper you made for me? I still, got 'em!"

Norma was holding flowers when she said, "God hung on to that boy, and He used my cards as glue."

Marlene LeFever's newest book, Flowers from God (Cook, 2002) is available at Christian bookstores or through on-line ordering at www.cookministries.com. "I loved collecting these stories," she said. "If you remember a special teacher who touched your life, say thanks by sharing these stories with him or her." This excerpt is used by permission of Cook Communication Ministries.



Flowers from God! Every volunteer Sunday school teacher gets them. But sometimes we're too busy to realize that flowers have arrived. We miss the precious moments in the Sunday rush to get the puppets out and the paste put away and the potty breaks in before it's really too late and the answer given to that question we weren't prepared for and ...

There is no greater calling than teacher, no more important job in the church. These stories celebrate Christian education volunteers like you and me.

Rock Flowers

Lanie didn't know how to be a parent. She had grown up in an abusive home and her parents were never around. At sixteen, she was thrown out. Through a series of miracles, she ended up in college, met Christ, and married a Christian man. This is Lanie's bouquet to her daughter's preschool Sunday school teacher:

When I became a parent, I was totally unprepared. I'd never seen good parenting and had no idea how to help my daughter understand about Jesus. So when a friend suggested my two-year-old Amy should be in Sunday school, I enrolled her. If that's what good parents did, I'd do it.

One day I overheard Amy singing, "The wise man built his house upon the rock. She sang that one line over and over and over because it was the only line she remembered.

"Mommy, she finally asked me, "what comes after rock?" I'd never been to Sunday School. I had no idea. But I did know that a good



had gone. (retired). It didn't make my day, but I understand what I think she intended to say????

Now, I guess it's time to hush. His Blessings on you & yours.

Jerry & Carol Pinkerton

Greeting

I suppose you've heard about the seven armed thieves who entered our campus for missionary children at Bouake. Thankfully school is out for the summer, but a Building Team was out placing the tin roof on the new church there and staying in our Free Will Baptist Dorm. They witnessed the death of the African Guard who was shot by the robbers. Mike Cousineau was beaten on the face requiring stitches, taken hostage and fled into the bush while they fired shots at him. They took his vehicle, but police found it later. It was a frightening situation and we can easily see God's hand of protection over His children. Jerry & I are in Abidjan...we hope to enjoy a few weeks at our home here before returning to Bouna and the beginning of another year for the Bible Institute.

Pastor and Madame Samuel and Jerry and I met with Pastor Silas and the leaders of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Abidjan last Sunday. It was decided that the 1st church would continue their vision of beginning a second Church. We would assist Pastor Samuel in starting the third Free Will Baptist Church of Abidjan. Right now, we're looking for housing and location of a meeting place for the church...**PLEASE PRAY WITH US ABOUT THESE NEEDS.** Pastor Samuel wants to move in September so they can get their children into schools...Jerry & I will be at Bouna until the end of December, then return to Abidjan. We are thrilled at the great possibilities that await us... and fully dependant upon the Lord for His direction & help.

I saw a lady missionary friend in the grocery store yesterday. Like me, she sometimes speaks before she thinks...with arms open toward me and a large smile on her face she said, "Oh, I'm so very glad to see you. I thought all the Old Ones (missionaries)

THIEVES INVADE ICA, COUSINEAU TAKEN HOSTAGE

On July 17, 2002, about 6:30 p.m., seven armed robbers forced their way onto the International Christian Academy campus in Bouake, Cote d'Ivoire. Mike Cousineau, who serves as business manager for the school while also being involved in church planting, was alerted about the situation.

Some of the thieves went to Brethren Dorm, the Free Will Baptist dormitory on campus, while the others entered the house of a staff family and took as many valuables as they could find. Upon leaving the house, they saw Cousineau's vehicle approaching and fired several shots at the car. They then forced Mike into the back seat and drove to Brethren Dorm.

Two building teams from the U.S. were staying at Brethren Dorm while working on the Bouake church construction project. The robbers had forced everyone, including Terry and D.D. Vandivort who were the houseparents, and a guard, to lie face down on the floor. When the second group arrived with Mike, the men seemed to become frustrated and struck Mike in the face with their weapons several times. Upon leaving the dorm, one of the robbers shot the guard as he lay on the floor, killing him instantly.

After forcing Cousineau into his vehicle, the agitated group left campus, telling Mike they were going to kill him. When they turned off the main road into the bush and stopped the car, Mike took advantage of the opportunity to run. He dodged bullets and managed to get to an area of tall grass where he hid. Eventually he was able to get some help and return to campus. Mike suffered cuts and bruises to the right side of his face and a slight fracture of the right eye socket.

BIBLE COLLEGE ACCREDITATION REAFFIRMED

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE- An announcement from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone number 404-679-4501) has reaffirmed Free Will Baptist Bible College's regional accreditation for 10 years, according to Dr. Milton Fields, Academic Dean. This means that FWBBC will not have to undergo another SACS examination until 2011.

The announcement was made recently by Dr. James T. Rogers, Executive Director of SACS's Commission on Colleges.

FWBBC President Matthew Pinson says, "We are very happy about the recent decision of the Commission on Colleges to reaffirm our accreditation. SACS accreditation assures the transfer of our credits to other colleges as well as the quality and credibility of the education we offer."

The Bible College is also accredited by the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges, which is expected to reaffirm its accreditation later this year.

The college's teacher education program is approved for licensure by the Tennessee State Department of Education, further evidence that a FWBBC education is a quality education.

THEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM NOVEMBER 4 - 5, 2002

The Commission for Theological Integrity is sponsoring the annual Free Will Baptist Theology Symposium on November 4 - 5, at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Guests will assemble on Monday evening, November 4, at 6:30 p.m. and continue Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. through the evening. There is no pre-registration and the cost for a bound volume of papers is \$20.00, payable at registration. College students will receive a complimentary volume for attending the sessions. Any questions, contact Leroy Forlines at 615-383-1340 or leroyf@fwbbc.edu.

MORE 2002
NATIONAL
CONVENTION

NEWS



In other action, convention delegates .

Elected . . . members to 37 positions on the following boards and commissions:

General Officers (4), General Board (13), Executive Committee (3), Free Will Baptist Bible College Trustees (4), Foreign Missions Board (4), Sunday School and Church Training Board (4), Commission for Theological Integrity (1), Media Commission (2), Music Commission (1), Historical Commission (1).

Registered . . . 7,959 people in three concurrent conventions, including 720 ordained ministers, 144 deacons, 50 local church delegates, 84 state delegates, 56 home missionaries, 28 foreign missionaries, 3,398 for the National Youth Conference and 968 for the WNAC convention.

Adopted . . . a \$22.2 million denominational budget for the following agencies: Foreign Missions-\$7.4 million; Home Missions-\$5 million; Free Will Baptist Bible College-\$4.6 million; Sunday School and Church Training-\$3.6 million; Executive Office \$796,000; Retirement and Insurance-\$391,000; Master's Men-\$135,000; Free Will Baptist Foundation-\$135,000; Music Commission-\$34,000; Historical Commission-\$4,600; Commission for Theological Integrity-\$6,500; Media Commission-\$10,000.

Approved . . . the Budget Committee's recommendation that gifts received through The Together Way Plan be allocated to national ministries on the following basis: (1) Underwrite the Executive Office administrative budget above designated gifts, not to exceed 45% of cooperative gifts; (2) Disburse the balance of cooperative gifts according to these percentages: Free Will Baptist Bible College-23%; Foreign Missions-23%; Home Missions-18%; Retirement and Insurance-14%; Master's Men-14%; Free Will Baptist

Foundation-6%; Commission for Theological Integrity-0.5%; Historical Commission-0.5%; Music Commission-0.5%; Media Commission-0.5%.

Gave . . . a Wednesday evening missionary offering topping \$21,700. Undesignated funds will be divided between Home and Foreign Missions.

Loved . . . the short walk, trolley rides and flat terrain between the major convention hotels and convention center. The downtown streets were safe for pedestrian travel.

Heard . . . five sermons in convention worship services delivered by the following men: Alton Loveless (Tennessee), Carl Cheshier (Oklahoma), Kerry Steedley (U.S. Army Chaplain), Melvin Worthington (Tennessee) and Curtis Linton (Oklahoma).

Gathered . . . in Memphis Convention Center Monday afternoon to hear pastor and author Stan Toler speak in a two-hour Pastors/Laymen Conference on building a ministry team.

Filled . . . every seat in Heritage Ballroom at Memphis Marriott to hear Teri Peacock speak Tuesday noon at the WNAC Fellowship Luncheon. More than 350 people were on hand for the event.

Thanked . . . the Tennessee State Association for their splendid work hosting the 2002 convention. This marked the eighth time the convention has met in Tennessee.

Joined . . . WNAC attendees and delegates Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. to hear Tim and Kristi Johnson, foreign missionaries to Spain, speak at Memphis Convention Center.

Listened . . . carefully Tuesday morning during the Theological Trends Seminar while Ron Callaway delivered a powerful message on the omnipresence of God and open theism. More than 400 people attended the 90-minute session. Callaway later fielded questions from attendees.

Praised . . . the Music Commission and Scott Bullman who arranged four days of solos, choirs, quartets, trios and rousing congregational singing. A convention highlight occurred Sunday evening during a 90-minute Free Will Baptist singing convention set in the Gaither homecoming style presentation.

Invested . . . more than \$3 million in the Memphis economy. This includes

hotel rooms, food, shopping, gasoline and more.

Placed . . . the Mexican Association of Free Will Baptists on probation for one year. If the Mexican Association brings its documents into conformity with the Treatise regarding autonomy of the local church, probation will be removed.

Accepted . . . the Association of the Free Will Baptists of Mexico (formerly the aggrieved minority) into the National Association as a district association. Luis Felipe Tijerina was elected as their General Board member.

Raised . . . National Association representation fees to \$100 per church per year. The new representation fees take effect at the 2004 national convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

Required . . . badges to be worn for attendance at all future convention events. This action takes effect in 2003 at the national convention in Tampa, Florida. This vote makes pre-registration more attractive for attendees. Some 3,800 conferees pre-registered for Memphis.

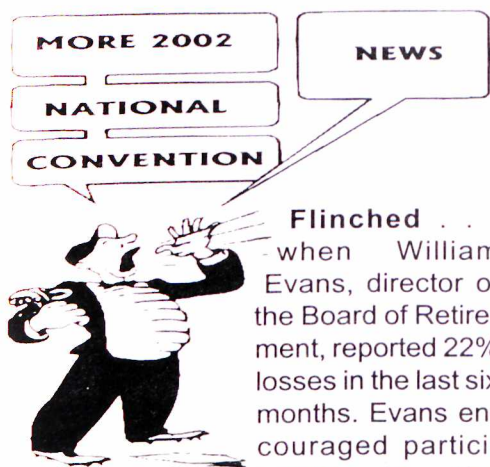
Gave . . . a standing ovation to retiring executive secretary Melvin Worthington Tuesday evening before he preached at the convention. Then hundreds stood in line for two hours at the Marriott Hotel in order to shake Worthington's hand during a gala reception in his honor.

Named . . . Melvin Worthington "Executive Secretary Emeritus." Dr. Worthington is the first person to hold the title. He will retire to his home in Ayden, North Carolina, later this fall.

Wept . . . with Free Will Baptist Bible College as a Wednesday morning video presentation recalled the life and ministry of Dr. L. C. Johnson who died June 26 at age 88. Johnson was the first president of FWBBC and twice served as moderator of the National Association.

Adopted . . . the re-stated charter of the Master's Men Department.

Waved . . . 5,000 flags Monday evening in the worship service when U. S. Army Chaplain Kerry Steedley stepped up to preach his rousing sermon. Eleven Free Will Baptists chaplains were honored, veterans saluted and stirring patriotic music sung. It was America at its best and the Free Will Baptist people at their happiest.



Flinched . . . when William Evans, director of the Board of Retirement, reported 22% losses in the last six months. Evans encouraged participants in the

denomination's retirement program to resist panic and to look at long-term results. Over the past 10 years, the agency registered a 9% annual increase.

Embraced . . . the new Free Will Baptist Bible College president, J. Matthew Pinson, who gave his first report to delegates. Pinson said that relocation plans have been put on hold while the college addresses rebuilding the student body and retooling the pastoral ministries program. A 21% increase in giving this year enabled the college to reduce a \$600,000 deficit to \$45,000.

Nodded . . . their understanding when Home Missions director Larry Powell announced that all cross-cultural workers have been placed on designated support. He also announced that five new home missionaries were appointed in 2001, that applications for five new churches have been received for 2002. Home missionaries reported 1,000 converts in 2001 and made 211,000 contacts in their local communities.

Caught . . . their collective breath when Foreign Missions director James Forlines reported an attack by armed gunmen on Free Will Baptist missionaries and workers in Africa. He announced that the department may send out as many as 10 E-teams in 2002. Oversees attendance at Free Will Baptist churches has tripled since 1992, surging from 6,329 to 18,892. Personnel will be trying to spend 25% less than the adopted budget in 2003. Eight career missionaries and six short-term missionaries were sent out in 2002.

Said . . . goodbye to Alton Loveless who retires in August after eight years as general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Depart-

ment. Hundreds attended a Monday evening reception to honor Dr. Loveless. He was busier than usual during the convention—he preached the opening sermon Sunday morning, taught a seminar Tuesday afternoon, reported to the General Board Monday and gave his farewell presentation to delegates Wednesday afternoon. He introduced his successor, Ron Hunter, who shared a PowerPoint presentation and described his vision for the agency.

Waited . . . as Music Commission member Chris Truett announced 2003 plans to publish a companion to The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book: Rejoice. The commission plans a fall 2002 survey before proceeding with efforts to publish a new hymnal.

Focused . . . every eye on Nathan Ruble (MO) as the Publications Committee chairman explained plans to conduct a reader survey before making recommendations to the 2003 convention regarding the feasibility of combining six national publications into one (Aim, Contact, Heartbeat, Master's Men Newsletter, FWBBC Bulletin and Outreach).

Read . . . a single-spaced, one-page report from the Educational Task Force detailing efforts to gather surveys from high school students, college students, ministers and parents. Task Force members expect to make a more extensive report to delegates at the 2003 convention.

Set . . . a record for the city of Memphis when members gave 162 units of blood in a blood drive spearheaded by the National Youth Conference.

Reached . . . out into the Memphis community when 600 Free Will Baptist youth worked at local food banks, visited the elderly, organized a blood drive and more in their "Reach That Guy" campaign.

Lauded . . . Convention manager Dean Jones who reported standing-room-only at youth worship services. The youth conference recorded 250 decisions by participants, including 12 salvation decisions. More than 1,700 Free Will Baptist students participated in Bible competition activities and music and arts events.

Bought . . . copies of books just published by Free Will Baptist authors—Robert Picirilli, Matt Pinson, George Lee and Raymond Riggs. Several book

signings in the exhibit hall were well-attended.

Struggled . . . with the oppressive heat in downtown Memphis, and tried to find a way to move past numerous street people who populated the Main Street Mall area.

Roared . . . with enthusiasm during the NYC Awards Ceremony Wednesday night after the convention missionary service. NYC competitors picked up certificates, trophies and well-deserved praise.

Walked . . . through the expanded exhibit area, signed up for door prizes, visited nearly 80 exhibit spaces filled with information, ideas and giveaway items.

Agreed . . . to join Master's Men director Ken Akers in the third annual "Operation Saturation" on Saturday, September 28. Materials have been printed and packaged for the evangelism push in cooperation with home missionaries across the country in some 50 simultaneous sites.

Chuckled . . . when moderator Carl Cheshier stepped aside and called on 74-year-old evangelist Wade Jernigan for the Wednesday morning devotion. Jernigan preached 10 minutes telling delegates, "It's time to let Jesus speak for Himself." He got up, spoke up, shut up and sat down . . . and he wore an American flag necktie while he did it!

Congratulated . . . WNAC executive-secretary treasurer Marjorie Workman when she announced that WNAC gave more than \$548,000 to missions outreach last year.

Grabbed . . . (and paid for) more than 700 copies of The Fruit of Our Hands, a new cookbook published by WNAC that features 1,200 recipes from 850 cooks.

Sympathized . . . with North Carolina pastor Henry Van Kluyve who had a light heart attack Thursday as the convention ended, with Tennessee layman James Vallance who injured his foot on the "Watch Your Step" sign while exiting the trolley, with assistant moderator Tim York who thought he might have to walk back to eastern Kentucky after parking attendants misplaced his car (they found it).

Adjourned . . . before 10:30 a.m. Thursday to meet in Tampa, Florida, at Tampa Convention Center for the July 20-24, 2003, session.

Share The Gospel! Purchase a Share in the Show-Me Plan

Worship Service Averages April 2002- July 2002

Churches:	Apr.	May	June	July
Beacon	106	110		
Belton		46	47	47
Buffalo 1st	127	122	120	131
Cabool	40	45	38	39
Calvary Chapel	250	232	226	226
Calvary Fellowship	340	323	301	315
Cape Girardeau 1st	52			
Copper Mines	52	52	48	
Columbia	57	49	48	47
Crossroads-Wentzville	88	58		
De Soto	229	204	210	222
Hannibal	88			
Hannon	135	139	136	126
Harmony - Parkville		87		
Hartville	202	197	186	191
Hopewell	30	32	33	35
Houston	67	65	62	67
Hurryville	106	100	88	87
Joplin 1st	106	104		
Kingsway			34	35
Lebanon FWB	51	49	41	44
Macedonia- Purdy	156	158	145	
Mill Creek	82	82	74	84
Mt. Pisgah	64	76	68	78
Myrtle	28	35	34	30
New Life - Licking	72	59	65	
Oak Hill- Union	56	58	62	60
O'Fallon 1st		153	144	139
Ozark 1st	176	188	179	183
Pleasant Hill	25	29	31	24
Purdy		58		
Richwoods 1st	42	51	44	
Rock Chapel		62	58	47
Rolla 1st	33	30	31	35
Springfield 1st	153	140	135	
Sunnyview	55	52	50	56
Terrill Road	47	54		
Thayer	160	128	145	125
Trinity	67		80	
Union Grove		117	112	115
United		578	617	582
Westport- Jeff. City			11	
Willow Springs-Mtn. Grove	87	76	73	

This is only a partial listing. There are 187 FWB Churches in Missouri. Each church is encouraged to send in their worship averages.

Financial Report July 2002

Cooperative Disbursements

July 2002	\$58,148.62
18.50% MO Home Missions	\$10,757.49
17.00% Executive Office	9,885.27
3.00% General Fund	1,744.46
.50% Show-Me Plan	290.74
8.50% Youth Camp Board	4,942.63
3.00% Y.C. Restricted Funds	1,744.46
2.00% Youth Ministries Board	1,162.97
2.00% Christian Ed. Board	1,162.97
2.00% Senior Adult Board	1,162.97
9.00% MO Retirement Prog	5,233.38
31.50%	18,316.82
National Ministries, Hillsdale and	
California Christian College	
Foreign Missions Board	
National Home Missions Board	
Same Allocation	
Free Will Baptist Bible College	
Hillsdale FWB 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	1,744.46
Total	\$58,148.62

Co-op

Amity	\$195.35
Aulsbury Chapel	\$325.78
Bailey	\$235.00
Bailey Chapel	\$239.00
Beacon	\$2,500.00
Belton	\$300.60
Berean	\$75.00
Bethel- El Dorado Springs	\$450.47
Bethel- Northview	\$319.00
Black Oak	\$583.00
Buffalo 1st	\$210.00
Byrd	\$106.00
Cabool	\$380.92
Calvary Chapel	\$1,696.38
Carthage	\$240.00
Christ Chapel	\$450.73
Clifton	\$76.47
Columbia	\$538.58
Copper Mines	\$321.06
Cornerstone	\$617.59
Crossroads-Wentzville	\$965.00
DeSoto 1st	\$1,400.00
Emanuel- Colorado	\$52.90
Faith & Hope- Aurora	\$119.00
Faith & Hope- Willow Springs	\$142.80
Fordland	\$812.61
Fourth	\$345.59
Fredericktown 1st	\$471.00
Freeman Chapel	\$416.70
Gospel Light	\$100.00
Grace	\$1,681.80
Grant Avenue	\$1,216.03
Greenfield	\$368.00
Hannibal	\$605.00
Hannon	\$1,280.00
Harmony	\$495.00
Hartville	\$1,259.00

Hazel Creek	\$581.08
Hopewell	\$415.00
Houston 1st	\$427.35
Hurryville	\$537.58
Jackson	\$151.25
Joplin 1st	\$797.43
Kingsway	\$233.50
Kirksville 1st	\$133.18
Koshkonong	\$233.00
Lead Hill	\$256.15
Lebanon	\$282.81
Lebanon 1st	\$1,059.28
Lone Star	\$54.00
Macedonia- Niangua	\$96.27
Marshfield	\$188.96
Merls Chapel	\$232.00
Mill Creek	\$623.93
Mine LaMotte	\$79.19
Monett 1st	\$714.86
Mountain Grove 1st	\$1,877.80
Mt. Pisgah	\$504.00
Mt. Zion- Gower	\$66.90
Myrtle	\$333.08
Neosho 1st	\$190.00
New Home- Lebanon	\$641.01
New Hope	\$70.00
New Life- Licking	\$490.21
Niangua	\$364.07
North Five	\$35.53
Number One	\$225.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$1,278.00
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove	\$226.31
Oak Hill	\$1,455.61
Olivet	\$520.00
Overland	\$105.00
Ozark 1st	\$1,446.62
Park Hills 1st	\$670.92
Park Hills 1st	\$796.33
Parkview 1st	\$648.50
Pleasant Hill	\$168.90
Pleasant Home	\$247.90
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana	\$104.00
Potosi 1st	\$215.17
Republic	\$100.00
Republic	\$100.00
Richwoods 1st	\$574.00
Rock Chapel	\$430.07
Rolla 1st	\$354.00
Royal Oak	\$152.00
Seymour	\$580.00
Southern Hills	\$537.00
Springfield 1st	\$1,138.96
Stockton	\$312.33
Terrill Road	\$50.00
Thayer	\$1,024.00
Trinity	\$1,232.24
Twin Oak	\$1,582.00
Union Grove	\$462.00
Union Light	\$202.00
United	\$2,252.61
Unity	\$500.00
Verdella	\$1,232.55
Victory- Alton	\$685.82
Waynesville	\$518.86
West Plains 1st	\$914.00
Westport- Jeff. City	\$44.00
Wilderness	\$1,127.50
Willow Springs- Mtn. Grove	\$326.22
Wolf Creek	\$347.42
Total	\$58,148.62

Show-Me Plan

Amerivision	\$26.34
Barker, Rev. J.	\$15.00
Beacon	\$875.00
Belton	\$165.00
Berean	\$30.00
Berry, R.	\$15.00
Bethel - El Dorado Springs	\$500.47
Bethel - Festus	\$45.00
Black Oak	\$60.00
Bowers, C.	\$57.50
Brown, A.	\$15.00
Buffalo 1st	\$60.00
Burns, J.	\$60.00
Buxton, G.	\$30.00
Cabool	\$105.00
Calvary Chapel	\$105.00
Cartee, J.	\$15.00
Chrisman, M.	\$30.00
Columbia	\$75.00
Copper Mines	\$150.00
Copper Mines - Teen & Jr Cl	\$30.00
Copper Mines - Yg. Adult Class	\$15.00
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove	\$312.00
Darnell, W.	\$15.00
DeSoto 1st	\$552.50
DeSoto 1st - Auditorium Class	\$15.00
Faith & Hope - W.S.	\$120.00
Faith- LeMay	\$20.00
Fordland	\$250.00
Fourth	\$60.00
Fredericktown 1st	\$150.00
Freeman Chapel	\$540.00
Garrett, R.	\$15.00
Gospel Light	\$1,000.00
Grace	\$333.75
Graham, S.	\$15.00
Grant Ave.	\$340.00
Greenfield	\$180.00
Hannon	\$3,530.00
Happy Hill	\$60.00
Harmony - Parkville	\$50.69
Hartville	\$240.00
Hazel Creek	\$387.39
Houston 1st	\$330.00
Houston 1st	\$417.00
Hurryville	\$300.00
Hurryville Sr. Adult S.S. Class	\$69.00
Jackson	\$45.00
Jones Chapel	\$210.00
Joplin 1st	\$75.00
Leadington	\$211.00
Leadington	\$220.00
Lebanon 1st	\$150.00
Lebanon F. W. B.	\$30.00
Macedonia - Purdy	\$1,000.00
Maggart, D.	\$45.00
Matthews, G.	\$45.00
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
Missouri Cooperative Plan	\$1,744.46
MO WACT	\$923.08
Monett 1st	\$215.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$895.00
Mouser, J.	\$60.00
Mt. Pisgah	\$75.00
Mt. Zion- Thayer	\$30.00
Myrtle	\$75.00
Neosho 1st	\$375.00
New Home - Lebanon	\$540.00
New Home- Hartville	\$210.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	\$105.00
New Life - Licking	\$325.75
New Testament	\$15.00
Noel, D.	\$15.00
Oak Grove - Houston	\$30.00
Oak Hill - Union	\$20.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$123.00
Olivet	\$30.00
Ozark 1st	\$30.00
Park Hills 1st	\$221.27
Park Hills 1st	\$288.89
Parker, G.	\$15.00

Parkview - Desloge	\$359.75
Pinkerton, J.	\$45.00
Pleasant Grove - Anderson	\$135.00
Pleasant Hill	\$45.00
Pleasant Home	\$330.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	\$50.00
Reiter, K.	\$30.00
Richwoods	\$67.50
Rock Chapel	\$225.00
Rogers, F.	\$15.00
Rolla 1st	\$30.00
Royal Oak	\$120.00
Ruble, N.	\$45.00
Southeast MO Assn.	\$90.00
Southern Hills	\$116.00
Springfield 1st	\$530.00
Stockton	\$188.00
Thayer	\$300.00
Trinity	\$570.00
Union Light	\$150.00
United - West Plains	\$300.00
Unity	\$75.00
Verdella	\$1,832.55
Walnut Grove	\$15.00
Waynesville 1st	\$441.10
West Plains 1st	\$237.00
Westport- Jeff City	\$5.00
White, R.	\$15.00
Wilderness	\$213.10
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	\$94.00
Willow Springs 1st	\$150.00
Total	\$27,438.09

Foreign Missions

Beacon	\$55.00
Belton	\$15.00
Bethel - Festus	\$135.00
Chapman, A.	\$20.00
Fordland	\$25.00
Gospel Light	\$80.00
Grant Ave.	\$36.00
Houston 1st	\$40.00
Houston 1st	\$40.00
Kings Way V. B. S.	\$122.93
Kirksville 1st	\$19.45
Lewis, D.	\$10.00
Matthews, A.	\$15.00
Minor, K.	\$10.00
Neosho 1st	\$50.00
New Testament	\$80.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$135.00
Park Hills 1st	\$5.00
Rock Chapel	\$22.00
Thayer	\$15.00
Trinity	\$377.73
Total	\$1,308.11

Nat'l Home Missions

Beacon	\$105.00
Belton	\$40.00
Carthage	\$5.00
Chapman, A.	\$10.00
Columbia	\$25.00
DeSoto 1st	\$301.00
DeSoto 1st Auditorium Class	\$10.00
Faith & Hope- Aurora	\$119.00
Fordland	\$40.00
Fourth	\$50.00
Fredericktown 1st	\$30.00
Gospel Light	\$160.00
Grace	\$80.00
Grant Avenue	\$17.00
Hannon	\$768.00
Hartville	\$100.00
Houston 1st	\$35.00
Houston 1st	\$35.00
Jackson	\$35.00
Joplin 1st	\$40.00
King, B.	\$5.00
Macedonia- Purdy	\$100.00
Monett 1st	\$105.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$60.00
Mt. Pisgah	\$25.00
Myrtle	\$86.00
Neosho 1st	\$200.00

New Home-Hartville	\$10.00
New Testament	\$140.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$70.50
Park Hills 1st	\$147.09
Park Hills 1st	\$169.63
Rader, J.	\$20.00
Richwoods 1st	\$55.00
Rock Chapel	\$76.65
Rogers, B.	\$15.00
Ruble, N.	\$10.00
Thayer	\$295.00
Thebeau, B.	\$5.00
Trinity	\$71.61
Union Light	\$96.00
United	\$150.00
United Youth Group	\$170.00
Unity	\$50.00
Verdella	\$20.00
Westport- Jeff City	\$5.00
Wolf Creek	\$75.00
Total	\$4,237.48

State Home Missions

Belton	\$25.00
Berean	\$15.00
Copper Mines	\$75.00
DeSoto 1st	\$90.00
DeSoto 1st Children's Church	\$60.00
Gospel Light	\$80.00
Grace	\$70.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store	\$330.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$25.00
Myrtle	\$77.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$70.50
Ozark 1st	\$10.00
Pleasant Home	\$59.62
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana	\$20.00
SEMO Assoc.	\$90.00
Skiles, D.	\$200.00
Springfield 1st V. B. S.	\$198.42
Thayer	\$60.00
Trinity	\$61.61
United	\$25.00
Waynesville	\$50.00
Westport- Jeff. City	\$5.00
White, R.	\$10.00
Total	\$1,707.15

Youth Camp

Park Hills 1st	41.50
New Home- Hartville	10.00
Rolla 1st	20.00
Lebanon Bible & Bookstore	180.00
Westport- Jefferson City	5.00
Hartville	10.00
Cabool 1st	10.00
Niangua	20.00
De Soto 1st	65.00
Cornerstone	25.00
Thayer	60.00
Mountain Grove 1st	10.00
Mt. Pisgah	93.55
Ozark 1st	10.00
Hannon	50.00
Verdella	10.00
Willow Springs- Mtn. Grove	10.00
Buffalo 1st	150.00
Berean	15.00
Trinity	9.00
West Plains 1st	25.00
Park Hills 1st	24.32
T. Ruble (Bill Eden Memorial)	20.00
R. Mooney(Bill Eden Memorial)	20.00
D. Anderson(Bill Eden Memorial)	10.00
A. Anderson(Bill Eden Memorial)	25.00
Lebanon FWB Ladies Auxillary(Bill Eden Memorial)	50.00
New Home- Hartville(Bill Eden Memorial)	20.00
G. Sheets(Bill Eden Memorial)	25.00
J. Welch(Bill Eden Memorial)	20.00
New Home- Lebanon (Bill Eden Memorial)	100.00
G. Boyer (Bill Eden Memorial)	15.00

J. Hayes(Bill Eden Memorial)	50.00
Hartville(Bill Eden Memorial)	25.00
M. Eden(Bill Eden Memorial)	90.00
C. Dibbens	10.00
C. Hickerson	20.00
Total	\$1,353.37

Camp Development Fund

Myrtle	140.00
Rock Chapel	278.50
Houston 1st	100.00
Total	\$518.50

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

Ruble, N.	15.00
De Soto 1st	40.00
Thayer	50.00
Verdella	246.50
Beacon	125.00
Total	\$476.50

Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College

Joplin 1st	75.00
Thayer	50.00
Neosho 1st	110.00
Monett 1st	100.00
Hannon	100.00
Grant Avenue	4.00
Beacon	125.00
Total	\$564.00

Southeastern FWB College

Springfield 1st	\$20.00
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Trula Cronk Home for Children

Myrtle	3.00
De Soto 1st	90.00
New Hope	30.00
Unity	65.00
Hannon	100.00
Belton	80.00
Total	\$368.00

Rev. John McClure

Carthage	15.00
De Soto 1st	10.00
Monett 1st	85.00
Mountain Grove 1st	47.50
Central Western Ladies Auxillary	45.00
Grace	15.00
Total	\$217.50

Richard Stanley

Chapman, A.	\$10.00
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Cornerstone FWB Church

(Brian Brinkoff)	
New Testament	\$10.00

Ivergel Maness

Gospel Light	80.00
Grace	100.00
Total	\$180.00

Morgan Minkler

Belton	\$65.00
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Women Nationally Active for Christ

Ruble, J.	\$10.00
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Sex And Pastoral Counseling

By J. Mark Vandivort

Cal Thomas wrote: "... Sexual sin by clergy is not exclusively Catholic. In the March 30 issue of World magazine, an evangelical Protestant publication, writer Lynn Vincent describes the 'lurking sex scandal' within Protestant churches. Vincent cites Joe E. Trull, co-author of Ministerial Ethics(1993), who helped write the clergy sexual abuse policy for the Baptist General Convention of Texas:

'From his study of literature on clergy sexual abuse, (Trull) concludes that 'from 30 to 35 percent of ministers of all denominations admit to having sexual relationships- from inappropriate touching and kissing to sexual intercourse- outside of marriage.' Mr. Trull estimates that 'at least half' of that contact occurs in pastoral counseling. ..."(Cal Thomas, The Catholic(universal) problem, The Daily Oklahoman, P. O. Box 25125, Oklahoma City, OK 73125; p. 6-A, 6/18/02)

When I read, 'at least half of that [sexual] contact occurs in pastoral counseling,' I resolved to put in writing

a conviction that I have had for several decades. **LET WOMEN COUNSEL WOMEN.**

Paul wrote this instruction concerning women's function in the church:

"They are to give good counsel and be teachers of what is right and noble" (Titus 2:3, Amplified Bible).

Can you improve on God's plan? I believe God's way is the best and most effective way of dealing with women's counseling needs.

Husband and wife counseling teams are good in many women's counseling needs. My wife and I often counseled as a team. However, there were certain situations where the counseling in our ministry seemed best by "women only".

If the first century Christian woman could be trained and trusted to "give good counsel," could not the 21st century church trust and train its women to counsel women?



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