



**Volume 74 • Number 6**  
**June 2003**



## **FREE WILL BAPTISTS TO MEET IN TAMPA**

The 2003 convention theme is "Founded On The Rock—Focused On the Future." Five ministers, all of whom lead national agencies, will deliver major addresses: Ron Hunter (Sunday School and Church Training Department), Larry Powell (Home Missions Department), Keith Burden (Executive Secretary), Matt Pinson (Free Will Baptist Bible College) and James Forlines (Foreign Missions Department). Kenneth Akers, who leads the Master's Men Department, will teach the Adult Sunday School Class.

Meeting simultaneously with the National Association are the 36th annual National Youth Conference (NYC), with an expected 1,500 registrants and the 68th annual Women Nationally Active for Christ (WNAC) Convention with more than 1,000 women anticipated.

The four-day NYC which includes Bible competitive activities as well as a music and arts festival will rally around the theme, "Stand Still," from Psalm 46:10. NYC will conduct separate worship services for youth at Tampa Convention Center. Numerous seminars are scheduled for attendees. Several hundred teens will participate in "Reach That Guy" service and work projects within the Tampa community. The youth will meet with adults Wednesday evening for a combined worship service at Tampa Convention Center.

The two-day WNAC theme is "Lifting Up Our Eyes." During a WNAC Monday afternoon seminar, the Free Will Baptist French Muslim Team will present a 60-minute challenge. The Tuesday business session convenes at Tampa Convention Center. The WNAC keynote service will feature foreign missionary to Ivory Coast, Deleen Cousineau. Rosalie Ranquist with New Tribes Mission will address the Fellowship Luncheon at noon Tuesday.

Monday afternoon, the Pastor/Laymen Conference meets in Tampa Convention Center. Participants at the two-hour conference will hear Canadian educator and evangelist Ted. S. Rendall.

The Tuesday morning Home Missions/Foreign Missions Rally in Tampa Convention Center will draw some 1,000 ministers and laymen for the two-hour session with John Weaver (*Inside Afghanistan* writer) and Mike Cousineau, foreign missionary to Ivory Coast.

The Tampa Marriott Waterside will serve as headquarters hotel for the national convention, National Youth Conference

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# THE YOUTH LOOK

by Ann (Poletti) Robertson

When I was little, my mother used to sew a great deal. I would sit at her knee and look up from the floor as she embroidered. From the underside, I watched her work inside the little round hoop she held in her hand, and I complained how messy it looked from where I sat. She would just smile at me and gently say, "You go play for awhile and I'll let you see it from my side when I'm finished."

I would wonder why she used some dark threads along with bright ones and why they were so jumbled from my view. A few minutes would pass before I'd hear her call for me to sit on her knee.

I became thrilled as well as totally surprised when I saw a completed flower or beautiful sunset. All this from a tangled mess on the underside!

"You were only seeing it from underneath," she would explain. "You never realized that there was a plan on the top. I was just following the design."

So many times, I have looked to Heaven and said, "Father, what are You doing?" only to get the answer, "I am embroidering your life."

"But it looks like such a mess to me," I cry. "The threads all seem so dark; why can't they be bright?"

The answer comes: "You go about your business and one day I'll bring you to Heaven; put you on My knee, and allow you to see the plan from My side."



## KIDS HELP MAKE "LIGHT OF HOPE" BURN BRIGHTER

Young singers Timolyn Hardy, age 10, and Briana Adams, age 12, members of

the United Freewill Baptist Church in West Plains, performed inspirational songs at a "Light of Hope" candle lighting ceremony in support of Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month on April 3, 2003. The rally was sponsored by CASA members (Court Appointed Special Advocates) who serve as advocates for children who are abused or neglected, and was in conjunction with the National CASA "Light of Hope" in New York.

Timolyn and Briana are vocal students and frequent soloists at the United Freewill Baptist Church in West Plains, Missouri.

## CHURCH IN NEED OF A PASTOR

**First Free Will Baptist Church  
Cape Girardeau Missouri**

Contact Person:

Donald Gregory  
3631 Old Hopper Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
Home Phone: 573-339-0797  
Cell Phone: 573-587-7621  
e-mail shirleygregory21@a.o.i.

## OZARK 1<sup>ST</sup> TO CELEBRATE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

You are invited to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Ozark, July 13, 2003. Dinner will be served following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. An afternoon service will be held at 1:30 P.M.

## Ministers' Wives

Debbie Beck would like to know if you be interested in having a ministers' wives retreat? If you are interested please fill out the response and mail it to Mrs. Debbie Beck, P.O. Box 221, Fredericktown, MO 63645.

### Response:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Church: \_\_\_\_\_  
My Husband is:  
An ordained Minister \_\_\_\_\_  
Licensed Minister \_\_\_\_\_

**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.





## Reverend Archie Stanley Cooper 1907 - 2003

Reverend Archie Cooper, 95 of Kirksville, Missouri, passed away Sunday morning (April 27, 2003) at Kirksville Manor Care Center in Kirksville.

The son of Byron Isaac and Cleo Virginia (Muncy) Cooper, Archie was born July 10, 1907 in Mystics, Missouri. On October 16, 1927, Archie was united in marriage to Verdie Summers and to this union two daughters were born. Verdie preceded Archie in death in 1945. In 1946, he was united in marriage to Gladys Wellman Peterson who preceded Archie in death on January 30, 1997.

Also preceding him in death were his parents: one daughter, Phyllis Beth Cooper at the age of eight; three brothers, Hobart, Walter and Kyle Cooper; two sisters, Kathryn Brown and Faith Hyatt and a son-in-law, Reverend Edwin Eloë.

Archie is survived by two daughters, Betty Lou (Cooper) Eloë of Lincoln, NE and Patricia (Peterson) Townsend of Riverside, CA; one son and daughter-in-law, Charles

and Jean Peterson of Kansas City, MO; one brother and sister-in-law, Horace and Helen Cooper of Green top, MO; five grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren and two sister-in-laws, Mildred Cooper of Brashear, MO and Dorothy Cooper of Greentop, MO. Archie is also survived by several nieces, nephews and a host of friends across the country.

Reverend Cooper lived most of his life in Adair County and was a preacher of fifty-three years. Archie was ordained for the ministry by the Free Will Baptist Association at the Hazel Creek Church in Adair County on September 4, 1937. He served at the New Harmony Church from 1938 to 1947 and at the age 69 returned to pastor from 1966 until 1995. He also ministered at Low Ground, Baring, Refuge, Jewel and Sublette churches. Archie also spent thirty-two years, every morning, six days a week at 6:15 a.m. serving many counties on KIRX with his morning meditations that he thought of from scripture, prayer and often a poem. Throughout Archie's amazing career, he ministered over nine hundred weddings and twenty-eight hundred funerals.

Archie did many things down through the years to support his family. He was manager of Groceries at the MFA in Novinger, MO, drove a school bus, drove a highway truck, farmed, did some carpentry work, and in his later years, he and his wife, Gladys were custodians at the Kirksville Savings and Loan.

Archie was recently recognized as the KTVO Heartland Hero. Reverend Archie was a devoted member of the New Harmony Baptist Church.

## Springfield First Welcomes New Pastor

The First Freewill Baptist Church in Springfield, MO, welcomed new pastor Rev. Alvin Hook and wife Gaye on March 9, 2003. Pastor Alvin is already putting the men of the church to work as they cooked breakfast Easter Sunday morning. Twenty-Six men of the church showed up at 6:30 AM and enjoyed fun and fellowship fixing a delicious meal for about 75 members of the congregation. The men also enjoyed a fishing and turkey

hunting week-end on Truman Lake.

Bro. Alvin promises to have something for the women soon. We are very thankful to have Pastor Alvin and Sister Gaye with us. Our congregation is growing, and we look forward to many exciting things happening under their direction. If you do not have a church home in the Springfield area, please come and enjoy a service with us. We are located at 2635 W. Nichols.





# Weekend of Champions

"I was in prison and you came to Me."

By J. Mark Vandivort



**R**on piloted his C-141 cargo jet on many missions to Vietnam, taking over loads of bombs and bringing back bodies of dead American soldiers. After the war, this high achieving graduate of the Air Force Academy busied himself with his business, family and church. However, there was a sinful, secret dimension to Ron's life. Eventually, he was pulled into a deep vortex of depression to the point of becoming suicidal.

In sharing his testimony with our church, he related that he had spent time in a federal prison. While there he submitted himself with a broken heart to God for forgiveness and mercy. Ron's faith was strengthened and firmly established through an evangelical, Christian, prison discipleship ministry.

When I learned that Ron and his wife Rita were coordinating the Oklahoma City Bill Glass "Weekend of Champions" I felt that I should volunteer as a "freshman teammate" (Several people from our church served in volunteer positions). Bill Glass (former Baylor All American and NFL All-Pro) has directed personal evangelism campaigns in prisons since 1972.

Someone in the hotel elevator noticed my nametag. "What is a Weekend of Champions?"

I explained, "It is highly successful athletes, Nascar drivers, performers (and numerous other celebrities) along with 600 volunteers sharing the love of Jesus Christ with prison inmates. We tell them that Jesus died for their sins. By repenting of sin and inviting Him into their hearts, they can experience forgiveness of sin, peace, and salvation for their souls." By that time the elevator had reached the 3rd floor and I had received that "sorry I asked look". I can only pray that the seed of truth will take root and grow.

My preparation for the "Weekend of Champions" began with the study of a 36 page "Basic Training Manual" and workbook. This included scripture memory and reflection on the personal

evangelism methods of Jesus, Peter, and Paul. Also, when one is contemplating going behind prison walls and sharing Jesus face-to-face with inmates, one tends to spend some extra time in prayer - letting God clean up hands and heart.

During the Thursday evening training session our leader emphasized seeking an open door to share the salvation Bible verses - speaking out loud - "faith comes by hearing". Also, we were taught to enroll interested inmates in a beginning Bible correspondence course. A veteran "teammate" took me under his wing and gave me person-to-person coaching. The idea of a veteran accompanying a Freshman felt very supportive.

I was assigned to a team of 8 men to witness in a certain section of a prison. Our program agenda had been carefully prepared and orchestrated. However, we were often moment-by-moment dependent upon the leadership of the Holy Spirit. And the spiritual warfare was sometimes severe. (Ephesians 6:12). I prayed that God would lead me to the men He wanted me to talk with. He answered that prayer! Several men prayed (out loud) for salvation and rededication. Also, a common struggle of several men with whom I talked was their struggle to forgive other people. (Matthew 6:12,14,15).

What types of people volunteer for a "Weekend of Champions"? I met Jeff, a UPS driver, while standing in line at the prison mess hall, waiting for our meal of beans, cornbread, spinach and Jell-o.

Fred, one of our team members, said that he had spent several years in the "joint" - angry and mean. However, a visiting preacher had given him a gospel tract that he had stored away. During a time of deep despair he got out that tract and read of Jesus' love for Him. Then and there he invited Jesus into his heart.

Other teammates included a truck driver from South Dakota, a financial

planner from Dallas, and an electrical engineer from Silicon Valley. Several high level state government officials shared with the inmates their testimony of faith in

Jesus Christ.

I spoke with a young Missouri man that hours earlier had just returned from piloting his B-2 bomber over Baghdad. God was being glorified through his testimony of faith in Jesus Christ. I heard one "biker" say that he was going to ride back to Iowa to get his wife so she could get in on the witnessing experience. He had to keep that "two wheeler" rollin' in order to make it back before the "week-end" was over.

A champion bull rider said that he was impressed with Oklahoma's Lieutenant Governor, Mary Fallin, when he saw her weeping as she shared Jesus with some female inmates. He said that if your eyes leak your head won't swell.

Both Friday and Saturday night services, which were conducted in large Oklahoma City churches, were devoted to inspiration and sharing. Some of the most jubilant sharing was from people who for the first time in their lives had won a person to Jesus Christ! There was "rejoicing" in heaven! One woman said that she was assigned to a room where boys ages 5-10 were housed. She shared with them hugs and the love of Jesus.

Bill Glass told us that most incarcerated youths have never received expressions of love, value, or belonging from their father or a father substitute. Some dedicated men are working on that problem.

One teammate said that a group of men who attended a previous "Weekend of Champions" had helped stimulate a spark of enthusiasm for personal soul winning in their church.

As I walked out of the hotel with my luggage, I stopped to talk with Terry, a roofing contractor. He said, "I hope I see you in Columbia, Missouri, June 27- - 29".

Continued on page 6



# Update From Our Nat'l Home Missionaries

## Mile High

Scott & Rebecca Cheatham

Hello again to you, our faithful supporter in the Lord's work of building a strong Free Will Baptist Church in Denver, Colorado. I normally take this time to bring you a couple of notes regarding the work but felt led to share differently with you this time than in the past couple of months. I want to let you know both the Good and the Bad regarding our situation here....

### First off: THE GOOD

- People are being saved here at Mile High. We've had five professions of faith in just the past couple of months. Several more have rededicated their lives to the Savior.
- Attendance is up. Excitement is at an all time high since we began our work here in July of 2001.
- We've recently baptized four new men and women into God's family.
- All of this is a blessing and shows the desperate need of reaching folks with the Gospel here in Colorado. Ours is now the only Free Will Baptist work in Denver. The ONLY one. It is crucial we keep on keeping on for the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Now...THE BAD (Or as I like to call it, Satan's battle for our work)

- Our Missions account is lacking nearly one thousand dollars a month of just breaking even with our expenses to stay in the field. We have the supporters on our list but very few individuals are giving. (For those of you who've been faithful, and to our base of church support, thank you so much and please continue with us. We desperately need your help to stay on the mission field.)
- Doing the work that needs to be done here to make this church self supporting is a full time job and then some...But I may be forced to seek extra employment if the situation doesn't improve. That would rob me of valuable time needed to do the things that need to be done in order to be successful. It's not an ideal situation and one our church families aren't fond of either, but I can't find any other way to try to muster the added support I need to stay out of the red. Leaving the field to travel to churches again to try to raise additional support isn't a good option either. The families here at Mile High need stability. Being gone for several weeks at a time would likely be disastrous. Since there are so few Free Will Baptist Churches in the state, finding a substitute preacher isn't easy, and it would cost us in honorarium fees, not to mention the fact that I wouldn't be able to be in town to minister to the new families and the needs of our existing families.
- Perhaps your church could help us by taking up a one time offering to help with our account or perhaps join our list of supporters? We need everyone to make this work. We're turning the corner here but we need YOU to keep the momentum going. I don't know what else to say but please, if you can, help us and God Bless You!

## St. Croix, Virgin Islands

Ken and Paula Dodson

Dear Friends,

The month of March was a revival month for us. We had only five services but they were great. We heard five different island preachers and enjoyed each one very much. Some brought singers from their churches and one brought his entire choir. That, along with our own choir singing a special each night, made for a wonderful time. We had a singspiration on Sunday night and when our people finished all their special songs, I looked at Pastor and said, "God has truly blessed us with talent here." We have seen five people saved so far this month, and we still have several days to go. Praise God!

We hear you are getting the nice weather again back home. We will be traveling back to the states for a missions conference in Missouri in April. We will be in a total of ten different churches in three weeks. Please help us pray that we might see others decide to serve God in their own church or on a mission field. We will also be trying to raise more money for our gym. Thus far, a little over \$100,000.00 has been received. We all got excited at church when Pastor told us that.

We are going to be losing our principal after June. Brother Reiter has done a wonderful job. He will be taking a church in another state. In the next newsletter I will be able to tell you where he will be serving. We truly want the Lord's blessings for Kenny, Melinda, Krystal, and Karl. This is one sweet family who works very hard for the Lord. Our new principal is going to be Rev. Scott Real from McAlester, Oklahoma. Our daughter, Dawn, and husband Scott, with three of our grandchildren will be moving here in May. Please pray for them as this is a big move and a big challenge for them.

We are sad as we write to you today. This is the 25th of March and we are at war. Our prayers and support are with our President and the fine men and women who are standing in the gap. I was thinking about war, not just the one we're in, but the war we are in every day against Satan. It is so very real, and some days the fighting is harder and stronger than the day before. I love Psalm 27:3 "Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident." What are you confident in today? Not many things stay the same, but I know my God shall supply ALL my needs.

We have a nice young man from Missouri with us this month. His parents spent a week then left him for another three weeks. We are working Jonathan Bigelow really hard. Gary and Shannon, you would be proud of him. The only trouble is all those teenage girls hanging around all the time. Jonathan and pastor painted the porch the other evening. I would have helped, but thought I had done enough when I came out to call them to supper and ran my hand all the way down a rail that they had just painted. I'm so glad God gave me a man that just smiles



Later, during a sharing time at our men's prayer breakfast, our pastor said that he would like to see 40 men from our church go witness at another "Weekend of Chaplains". (Women teammates are needed in the female facilities). A retired pastor made the observation that considering the time and money invested, this had been some of the best evangelism training he had ever experienced.

During the weekend 1900 decisions for Christ had been recorded!

(Some names have been changed to protect privacy).

(If you are interested in knowing about a "Weekend of Champions" scheduled in your area, write to: Weekend of Champions, PO Box 761101, Dallas, TX 75376-1101 or call (972) 298-1101).



Darrel Nichols and Stan Bunch, as guest speakers during our Spring Missions Emphasis Week the first of April. Both missionaries have been serving with Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions since 1983. Darrel and his wife, Lila, served in Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa. Stan and his wife, Brenda, serve in Panama. Darrel and Lila and Stan and Brenda are all former Hillsdale students.

Darrel used several snake skins to help illustrate the deadly dangers believers face when they allow sin or disobedience to God into their lives. He also spoke in several classes and with the help of his daughter Sarah, a current Hillsdale student, demonstrated the cultural differences the missionaries face as they minister in Cote d'Ivoire.

Stan explained to our students the need for evangelism here, as well as around the world. He then very effectively challenged our students to commit themselves to evangelize the lost all around them and not wait until they are called to the mission field.

Hillsdale students, faculty, and staff appreciate Darrel and Stan for giving their time to challenge us to get involved in world missions.

## Hillsdale Missions Emphasis Week Was SSSuper!

by Jerry Banks

Hillsdale was blessed to have two veteran missionaries,

## BRING FWBBC TEACHERS RIGHT INTO YOUR HOME!

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE—Free Will Baptist Bible College has an offer for people who want to study the Bible at home. The Lifetime Learning Program brings some of FWBBC's best teachers right into your living room through video to teach courses like Free Will Baptist Doctrines, Old Testament Survey, and Marriage And The Family.

These outstanding courses may be taken for college credit or just for your own enjoyment and spiritual growth.

The following are currently available, with more to come soon:

### Course Teacher

Old Testament Survey: Law and History .....	Dr. Garnett Reid
Old Testament Survey: Poetry and Prophecy .....	Dr. Garnett Reid
New Testament Survey: The Gospels .....	Dr. Stanley Outlaw
Psalms .....	Dr. Garnett Reid
Eschatology (Last Things) .....	Rev. Leroy Forlines
Systematic Theology I, II .....	Rev. Leroy Forlines
Free Will Baptist Doctrines .....	Dr. Robert Picirilli
Homiletics .....	Rev. Ralph Hampton
Marriage And The Family .....	Dr. LaVerne Miley

If you would like more information, check our website at [www.fwbcc.edu/prospective\\_student/lifetime.html](http://www.fwbcc.edu/prospective_student/lifetime.html) or contact:

Lifetime Learning

c/o Free Will Baptist Bible College

3606 West End Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37205

Phone: 1-800-76-FWBBC

## Theological Symposium

**The 2003 Theological Symposium** will be held October 27-28 on the campus of Hillsdale FWB College, Moore, Oklahoma. Those who wish to submit a paper are encouraged to do so.

Papers should be 10-15 pages in length, double spaced, and should be related to the Bible, theology, Christian culture, or some related topic. You may submit your paper by August 1, 2003, to:

Matt Pinson  
3606 West End Avenue  
Nashville, TN 37205  
[president@fwbcc.edu](mailto:president@fwbcc.edu)

The symposium is sponsored by the Commission for Theological Integrity of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.



## The Bartons Make New Commitment



The Bartons, a Gospel singing family, from the United Free Will Baptist Church located in West Plains, Missouri, have resigned from their 5-year position as Music Coordinators of the 8:15 A.M. Sunday morning service effective the last Sunday of March. They used a Southern Gospel Praise and Worship format in this service and witnessed the attendance grow from an average of 61 to the present average of 225. The church is pastored by Rev. Glenn Murray.

The Bartons will be traveling on weekends as they return to the music ministry that they had formerly been a part of. They will do this as an extension of the work of United Free Will Baptist Church. The Bartons have shared the stage with most of the professional groups, many regional groups, and

countless local groups. Last year they released two national singles with New City Talent. They also were a part of the line-up of professional Gospel groups who performed on the Carnival Cruise Lines Gospel Music Cruise in January 2003. A new recording project is now in the organizational stage. It will be released in early summer under a record label not yet announced.

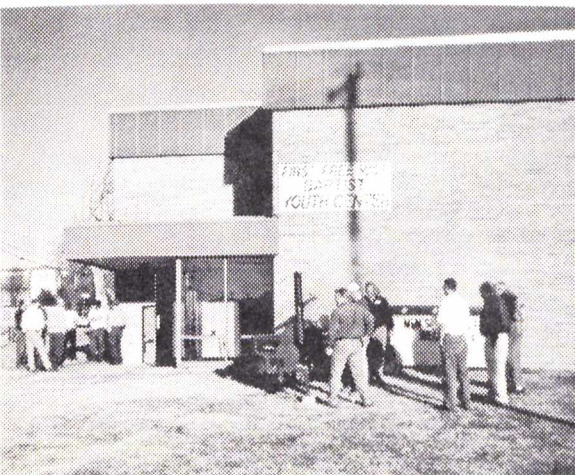
The Bartons look forward to renewing their acquaintance with all the many Pastors and promoters they have met in former years. Their program will feature Southern Gospel, Progressive Southern, and traditional music. The Bartons consist of Curt and Linda Barton, and their children- Andrea and Adam.

Linda writes many of their recorded compositions. She just released her first book entitled, "The ABC's of Performing, Song-Writing, and Music Leadership" under her own publishing company, Lady-Barton Music. Their website will give more information about their recording projects, as well as other information. ([www.the-Bartons.com](http://www.the-Bartons.com).) Another book about her life is now being penned and will be released at a later date.

The Bartons can be contacted through their website-email, or by writing The Bartons, 1347 Southern Hills Ctr., West Plains, MO. 65775, or by calling 417-256-9185. They will begin this new chapter of their life with dates in Arkansas, Kentucky, Kansas, Missouri, and Tennessee. The Bartons and the United Free Will Baptist Church are excited about what God has in store for them.

## News from the Ozark Church

The 6th Annual Men's Rally for Christ was again a great success this year! Over 230 men met together for a time of fellowship, singing, praising the Lord, special music, and the preaching of the Word. Our

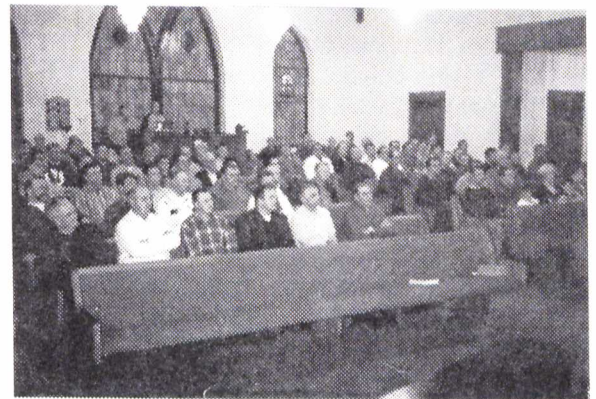


Men Cooking Dinner

guest speaker this year was Rev. Roger Hogan from the First FWB Church in Farmington. A spiritual challenge

was given to the men to be soulwinners for Christ. Rev. Nathan Ruble gave a charge for the men to be godly men and leaders.

Our 7th Annual Men's Rally for Christ is being planned for Friday, March 5, 2004 with speaker Rev. Fred Warner. Dinner starts at 5:45 p.m. and worship service at 7 p.m. We encourage you to bring a van load of men and join us! Gary Mitchener, Pastor.







# MISSOURI STATE W.A.C. RETREAT

AUGUST 15 & 16

THIS YEAR'S PROJECT

## Footprints to Kansas City

We hope to reach our goal for the 2002 WNAC Convention Fund by getting enough foot prints to reach K.C.!

For every \$25.00 your WAC gives, you will get a footprint to add to the "highway" leading to Kansas City. Bring your offerings with you to Retreat and get your footprints. Let's reach our goal at this Retreat!



## Bivens Update

April was probably our best month yet, in many ways. On Roll call Sunday, we broke our record with 39 attending, and we averaged 26 for the month, which is our best average. We also had 16 first-time visitors (Hispanic) keeping our string intact of having at least one new visitor each Sunday since we started.

On April 27, we had a crew from Oklahoma come up and work on the church property. There were 17 men and women from the seniors group of Rejoice FWB church in Owasso, headed up by Lynn Wood. Three of these men had come to Puerto Rico to help us build the church there. There were 6 from Wood crest FWB in Catoosa, Oklahoma (our home church) with two who had come to Puerto Rico also; Don and Nat Allen from Grace FWB church in Broken Arrow. Don and Nat also came to Puerto Rico twice to help us do the electricity. They really got a lot done. They replaced all the venetian blinds in the church; cleaned the windows inside and out; put down carpet in the trailer; put down linoleum in the trailer kitchen; removed the wall in the trailer between the kitchen and dining giving us a good sized room for fel-

lowship; put the water line in to the trailer; (they will come back and re-plumb the trailer as it is not giving us water in each outlet;) cleaned the trailer kitchen until it was spotless; folded and sorted several bags of clothes; put down tile in the church entryway; put down linoleum in the church bathroom; moved the church kitchen out to the trailer kitchen; painted the fence posts and gate; put in a raised vegetable garden; burnt all the brush; tore down and burned the old privy; installed a new pressure line on the water tank; etc. You can see what a blessing they were to us and our people. We had our Guatemalan ladies make 'pipian' which is a Guatemalan dish of rice, chicken and salsa made from pumpkin seeds; sesame seeds; cinnamon, etc. It was a big hit. We had a bi-lingual service before lunch; singing 'At the Cross' in both languages. All seemed to have a good time.

We have a new fence around our parking lot with a cattle guard. This helps tremendously. Thanks to Larry Wormington from New Life FWB in Monett and David and Michael Brittenham from Macedonia FWB. All the churches in the Indian Creek Association have been and continue to be very helpful.

Ruth had surgery on her right wrist for carpal tunnel syndrome Monday morning at 6 am in Springfield. We then drove to Park Hills church where she spoke that night to the mother-daughter

banquet with 90 women. While she was speaking at the banquet, Travis Harrison (he came to Mexico with some of the Missouri preachers when we were there and stayed several weeks and worked on the seminary) asked me to speak to his English - as a -second language class (all Mexican), and since it was Cinco de Mayo (5th of May), one of their national holidays, we had a hamburger cookout. I gave my simple evangelical 'speech' and seven of the eight were saved. I think he can start a mission there with them. He speaks some Spanish and does very well. The one young man who did not respond has a wife and child in Mexico. Pray for him and for Travis as he works with them. His English class is on Sunday nights during the regular worship service, and this is a great opportunity for him to start a Bible study with them. He has had a burden for the Mexicans ever since his visit to Mexico in 1996.

Keep praying for us. We just added a new member today, as we took Eufemia to Joplin to the birthing center, and she had a 9 lb 14 oz baby boy named Angel. We hope she will be able to attend service Sunday on Mother's day with little Angel.

We continue translating for the police department when needed, the emergency room, and I go to Cassville every week to work with the first-graders who don't yet speak good English. Next year I hope to get in the Monett and Purdy classrooms, as this is a great way to meet newly arrived Hispanics.

We had no damage from the tornadoes, though they passed just to the north

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## Speaker

*Teri Peacock*

Teri Peacock travels all over the United States and has also performed in Israel using the gifts God has given her to proclaim His Gospel.

# Missouri Women Active For Christ Retreat

**STONECROFT CONFERENCE  
CENTER**

**AUGUST 15 - 16, 2003**

*Theme:*  
*"Walking Worthy"*

## 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 16, 2003. 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.



## Bivens - continued from page 8

of Monett and demolished Pierce City.

We will be going to Mexico with a team of builders from S. Carolina next week. They will build a church at a mission in Altamira, Mexico and the next week we will stay to translate for a team from locust Grove, Ok (Curt Gwartney) as they paint the church and do some back yard bible clubs. We had scheduled these two teams back last year when we thought we would be in Mexico this year, and I felt obligated to keep my promise to them. Darren Dodson and a young man from Guatemala, will be in charge of out services while we are gone.

Bud and Ruth Biven

## Dodson continued from page 5

and doesn't yell!!! A little later Jonathan let out a yell. A gecko had fallen on him and had run around to his back. He almost fell off the porch rail. Don't tell his dad, we told him we were taking good care of him. You're welcome to visit anytime, but don't you all count on leaving your teenagers for three weeks. We have enjoyed him so much, we might just keep him.

Thank you again for your prayers and support. If you could send a special offering to Home Missions, it would be greatly appreciated. I told our ladies about the Home Missions Office needing an extra offering, and our WNAC group led by Rosie Sanchez raised \$500 and sent it to the Benjamin Randall Fund. We praise God that they saw the need.

Ken and Paula Dodson.

## Worship Service Averages January 2003- April 2003

Churches:	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
Beacon	93	93	105	113
Belton	37	37	46	53
Buffalo 1 <sup>st</sup>	128	104	123	145
Cabool	41	38	40	36
Calvary Chapel	277	264	293	292
Calvary Fellowship	374	379	341	412
Cape Girardeau	58	59		52
Clifton	70	60	75	
Copper Mines	52	62	55	
Columbia	54	53		
De Soto	211		233	259
Green Hills	20			
Hannon	126	127		127
Harmony - Parkville	83			
Hartville	201	183	204	
Hopewell	33			34
Houston	54	43	60	45
Hurryville	85	95	101	108
Joplin 1 <sup>st</sup>	105	105		
Kingsway	33	33	36	34
Lebanon FWB	56	50	57	58
Lebanon 1 <sup>st</sup>			150	152
Macedonia- Purdy	164			
Mill Creek	93	103	103	
Myrtle	33			
New Life - Licking		60	70	
Oak Hill- Union	59	51		
O'Fallon 1 <sup>st</sup>	169		170	158
Ozark 1 <sup>st</sup>	163	158	163	
Pleasant Hill	31	22		33
Richwoods 1 <sup>st</sup>	42	52		
Rock Chapel	48	42	45	47
Rolla 1 <sup>st</sup>	39	44	37	40
Springfield 1 <sup>st</sup>	102		125	134
Terrill Road	54	56	60	
Thayer	152	146		168
Trinity			72	
Union Grove	119	122	128	
United	586	531	670	681
Victory- KC	102	100	114	118
Willow Springs-Mtn. Grove			75	

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

April 2003

### Cooperative Disbursements

April 2003	\$68,107.98
18.50%MO Home MissBd	\$12,599.35
17.00%Executive Office	11,578.35
3.00%General Fund	2,043.24
.50% Show-Me Plan	340.54
8.50%Youth Camp Board	5,789.18
3.00%Y.C. Restricted Fds	2,043.24
2.00%Youth Ministries Board	1,362.16
2.00%Christian Ed Bd	1,362.16
2.00%Senior Adult Min	1,362.16
9.00%Missouri Retirement	6,129.72

31.50%	21,454.01
INational 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	2,043.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$68,107.98</b>

The Co-op allocation for National Ministries is undesignated this year, with FWBCC and Hillsdale receiving an equal amount. California Christian College will continue to receive 1%.

### Co-op

Alton	\$200.00
Amity	\$207.27
Aulsbury Chapel	\$264.43
Bailey	\$263.00
Bailey	\$190.00
Bailey Chapel	\$181.00
Belton	\$368.23
Berean	\$115.00
Bethel- El Dorado Springs	\$458.99
Bethel- Northview	\$675.00
Black Oak	\$469.98
Buffalo 1st	\$200.00
Byrd	\$168.64
Cabool 1st	\$371.26
Calvary Chapel	\$1,520.70
Cape Girardeau	\$661.48
Central	\$1,245.84
Christ Chapel	\$543.70
Clifton	\$59.25
Columbia	\$608.93
Copper Mines	\$618.21
Cornerstone	\$535.68
Crossroads- Wentzville	\$728.00
Cuba	\$683.00
DeSoto 1st	\$1,900.00

Faith & Hope- Willow Springs	\$152.82
Fellowship	\$1,200.00
Fellowship	\$1,500.00
Fordland	\$1,519.60
Fourth	\$374.85
Fredericktown 1st	\$279.00
Freeman Chapel	\$561.10
Gospel Light	\$100.00
Grace	\$1,761.25
Grant Avenue	\$2,229.53
Hannibal	\$804.00
Hannon	\$1,350.00
Harmony	\$735.76
Hartville	\$1,642.00
Harvest	\$262.80
Hazel Creek	\$601.20
Hopewell	\$305.00
Houston 1st	\$220.98
Hurryville	\$733.29
Jackson	\$228.14
Joplin 1st	\$977.99
Kingsway	\$272.48
Koskonong	\$114.00
Lead Hill	\$365.67
Leadington	\$691.67
Lebanon 1st	\$1,408.41
Liberty- Nevada	\$240.00
Lone Star	\$48.70
Macedonia-Niangua	\$119.40
Meris Chapel	\$160.00
Mill Creek	\$658.67
Mine La Motte	\$88.24
Monett 1st	\$837.39
Mountain Grove 1st	\$1,727.27
Mt. Pisgah	\$431.00
Myrtle	\$404.21
New Hope	\$70.00
New Life- Licking	\$523.06
Niangua	\$302.29
North Five	\$47.13
Number One	\$205.67
O' Fallon 1st	\$2,005.00
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove	\$210.30
Oak Hill	\$715.00
Olivet	\$560.00
Overland	\$95.00
Ozark 1st	\$1,448.25
Ozark 1st	\$1,901.15
Palabras De Vida Eterna	\$140.00
Park Hills 1st	\$748.99
Parkview	\$651.80
Pleasant Hill	\$180.80
Pleasant Home	\$273.30
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana	\$105.00
Potosi 1st	\$203.29
Republic	\$100.00
Richwoods	\$755.00
Rock Chapel	\$388.00
Rolla 1st	\$487.00
Royal Oak	\$88.00
Seymour	\$537.00
Smyrna	\$160.00
Southern Hills	\$712.07
Springfield 1st	\$1,618.07
Terrill Road	\$50.00
Thayer	\$3,232.00



Trinity .....	\$1,249.37
Twin Oak .....	\$1,478.00
Union Grove .....	\$536.00
Union Light .....	\$172.00
United .....	\$2,138.49
Unity .....	\$550.00
Verdella .....	\$700.11
Victory- Alton .....	\$892.36
Victory-KC .....	\$962.34
Waynesville 1st .....	\$549.94
West Plains .....	\$1,083.00
Westport .....	\$155.00
Willow Springs- Mtn. Grove .....	\$444.46
Wolf Creek .....	\$339.73
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$68,107.98</b>

#### Show-Me Plan

Barker, Rev. J. ....	\$15.00
Belton .....	\$165.00
Berean .....	\$30.00
Berry, R. ....	\$15.00
Bethel - El Dorado .....	\$558.99
Bethel - Festus .....	\$45.00
Black Oak .....	\$60.00
Brown, J. ....	\$15.00
Buffalo 1st .....	\$120.00
Bunton, V. ....	\$2,000.00
Burns, J. ....	\$60.00
Buxton, G. ....	\$30.00
Cabool .....	\$105.00
Calvary Chapel .....	\$105.00
Cartee, J. ....	\$15.00
Central .....	\$180.00
Chrisman, M. ....	\$30.00
Columbia .....	\$75.00
Cooperative Plan .....	\$2,043.24
Copper Mines .....	\$150.00
Copper Mines - Teen & Jr. Class .....	\$30.00
Copper Mines - Yg. Adult Class .....	\$15.00
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove .....	\$340.00
Cuba .....	\$159.50
Darnell, W. ....	\$15.00
DeSoto 1st .....	\$552.50
DeSoto 1st - Auditorium Class .....	\$30.00
Faith - St. Louis .....	\$30.00
Faith & Hope - W.S. ....	\$120.00
Fellowship .....	\$488.25
Fellowship .....	\$775.66
Fordland .....	\$500.00
Fourth .....	\$60.00
Fredericktown 1st .....	\$30.00
Freeman Chapel .....	\$540.00
Garrett, R. ....	\$15.00
Gospel Light .....	\$1,000.00
Grace .....	\$422.00
Graham, S. ....	\$75.00
Grant Ave. ....	\$315.00
Hannon .....	\$1,450.00
Happy Hill .....	\$60.00
Harmony .....	\$49.42
Hartville .....	\$240.00
Harvest .....	\$50.00
Hazel Creek .....	\$400.80
Houston 1st .....	\$301.00
Hurryville .....	\$500.00
Hurryville Sr. Adult S.S. Class .....	\$16.00
Jackson .....	\$35.00
Joplin 1st .....	\$75.00
Leadington .....	\$220.00
Lebanon 1st .....	\$150.00
Maggart, D. ....	\$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
Mission Assn. ....	\$2,595.38
MO Women Active For Christ .....	\$801.87
Monett 1st .....	\$60.00
Mountain Grove 1st .....	\$430.00
Mouser, J. ....	\$60.00
Mt. Pisgah .....	\$75.00
Mt. Zion - Thayer .....	\$30.00
Myrtle .....	\$75.00
New Beginning .....	\$176.42

New Home - Hartville .....	\$210.00
New Home - Hartville .....	\$210.00
New Hope .....	\$135.00
New Life - Licking .....	\$108.25
Niangua .....	\$30.00
Noel, D. ....	\$15.00
Number One .....	\$60.00
Oak Grove - Houston .....	\$30.00
Oak Hill .....	\$20.00
O'Fallon 1st .....	\$128.00
Olivet .....	\$30.00
Ozark 1st .....	\$45.00
Ozark 1st .....	\$15.00
Palabras De Vida Eterna .....	\$15.00
Park Hills 1st .....	\$224.70
Parker, G. ....	\$15.00
Parkview .....	\$18.10
Parkview .....	\$451.00
Pinkerton, J. ....	\$45.00
Pleasant Grove - Anderson .....	\$270.00
Pleasant Hill .....	\$45.00
Pleasant Home .....	\$330.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana .....	\$50.00
Pogue, R. ....	\$15.00
Richwoods .....	\$52.50
Rock Chapel .....	\$330.00
Rogers, B. ....	\$15.00
Rolla 1st .....	\$30.00
Royal Oak .....	\$120.00
Ruble N. ....	\$45.00
Southeast MO Assn. ....	\$90.00
Southern Hills .....	\$90.00
Springfield 1st .....	\$530.00
Thayer .....	\$355.00
Trinity .....	\$450.00
Union Light .....	\$150.00
United .....	\$360.49
Unity .....	\$75.00
Verdella .....	\$1,005.11
Victory - Alton .....	\$45.00
Victory - K.C. ....	\$60.00
Walnut Grove .....	\$15.00
Westport .....	\$30.00
White, R. ....	\$30.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove .....	\$75.00
Willow Springs 1st .....	\$150.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$26,289.18</b>

#### Foreign Missions

Belton .....	\$15.00
Cabool .....	\$74.00
Central .....	\$55.00
Chapman, A. ....	\$20.00
Cuba .....	\$31.90
Fordland .....	\$20.00
Fourth .....	\$50.00
Grace .....	\$15.00
Grant Ave. ....	\$20.00
Harvest Youth Group .....	\$12.39
Houston 1st .....	\$296.00
Lewis, D. ....	\$20.00
Matthews, A. ....	\$15.00
Minor, K. ....	\$10.00
Mission Assn. ....	\$1,297.68
Myrtle .....	\$80.00
O'Fallon 1st .....	\$25.00
Ozark 1st .....	\$200.00
Pleasant Home .....	\$64.56
Rock Chapel .....	\$17.00
Thayer .....	\$410.00
Trinity .....	\$82.60
Victory - K.C. ....	\$20.00
Waynesville 1st .....	\$130.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$2,981.13</b>

#### Nat'l Home Missions

Belton .....	\$15.00
Central .....	\$25.00
Columbia .....	\$25.00
Cuba .....	\$95.70
DeSoto 1st .....	\$245.00

Fordland .....	\$40.00
Fourth .....	\$50.00
Fredericktown 1st .....	\$5.00
Gospel Light .....	\$240.00
Grace .....	\$33.00
Grant Avenue .....	\$10.00
Hannon .....	\$1,065.00
Houston 1st .....	\$75.00
Jackson .....	\$55.00
King, B. ....	\$5.00
Monett 1st .....	\$5.00
Mountain Grove 1st .....	\$50.00
Mt. Pisgah .....	\$25.00
New Home-Hartville .....	\$10.00
New Home-Hartville .....	\$10.00
O' Fallon 1st .....	\$68.00
Oak Hill .....	\$78.00
Park Hills 1st .....	\$159.90
Rader, J. ....	\$20.00
Richwoods .....	\$66.00
Rock Chapel .....	\$94.39
Ruble, N. ....	\$10.00
Thayer .....	\$235.00
Thebeau, B. ....	\$5.00
Trinity .....	\$82.47
Union Light .....	\$96.00
United .....	\$150.00
Unity .....	\$50.00
Verdella .....	\$10.00
Victory-KC .....	\$55.00
West Plains 1st .....	\$65.00
Westport .....	\$15.00
Wolf Creek .....	\$75.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$3,418.46</b>

#### State Home Missions

Berean .....	\$15.00
Bethel- Festus .....	\$35.00
Copper Mines .....	\$75.00
DeSoto 1st .....	\$90.00
Fellowship .....	\$100.00
Fellowship .....	\$125.00
Fordland .....	\$20.00
Gospel Light .....	\$80.00
Grace .....	\$70.00
Greater Springfield Assn. ....	\$100.00
Lebanon Bible & Bookstore .....	\$330.00
Mission Assoc. ....	\$1,297.69
Myrtle .....	\$91.00
Niangua .....	\$36.55
O' Fallon 1st .....	\$68.00
Ozark 1st .....	\$10.00
Ozark 1st .....	\$10.00
Palabras De Vida Eterna .....	\$100.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana .....	\$20.00
Republic .....	\$25.00
Southeast MO Assoc. ....	\$90.00
Thayer .....	\$105.00
Trinity .....	\$62.47
United .....	\$25.00
Waynesville 1st .....	\$50.00
White, R. ....	\$10.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$3,040.71</b>

#### Youth Camp

Cornerstone .....	\$25.00
Hartville .....	\$10.00
Mt. Pisgah .....	\$15.00
Ozark 1st .....	\$10.00
Park Hills 1st .....	\$35.50
Rolla 1st .....	\$20.00
West Plains 1st .....	\$25.00
De Soto 1st .....	\$55.00
Lebanon Bible & Book Store .....	\$180.00
New Home-Hartville .....	\$10.00
Niangua .....	\$20.00
Berean .....	\$15.00
Mountain Grove 1st .....	\$10.00
Thayer .....	\$50.00
Cabool 1st .....	\$10.00
Hannon .....	\$50.00
Willow Springs-Mtn. Grove .....	\$10.00
Buffalo 1st .....	\$100.00

New Life-Monett .....	\$131.00
Ozark 1st .....	\$10.00
Trinity .....	\$9.00
New Home-Hartville .....	\$10.00
Verdella .....	\$10.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$820.50</b>

#### Camp Development Fund

Myrtle .....	\$144.00
Rock Chapel .....	\$50.00
Houston 1st .....	\$100.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$294.00</b>

#### Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College

Joplin 1st .....	\$75.00
Oak Hill .....	\$10.00
West Plains 1st .....	\$560.00
Monett 1st .....	\$100.00
Thayer .....	\$50.00
Hannon .....	\$100.00
Fordland .....	\$20.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$915.00</b>

#### Free Will Baptist Bible College

Oak Hill .....	\$10.00
Ruble, N. ....	\$15.00
De Soto 1st .....	\$40.00
Thayer .....	\$50.00
Verdella .....	\$140.02
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$255.02</b>

#### Rev. John McClure

Mountain Grove 1st .....	\$25.00
Grace .....	\$15.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>

#### Trula Cronk Home for Children

Myrtle .....	\$2.00
De Soto 1st .....	\$55.00
Nosser, M. ....	\$25.00
Stephens, T. ....	\$10.00
New Hope .....	\$30.00
Unity .....	\$20.00
Belton .....	\$15.00
New Life-Monett .....	\$131.00
Hannon .....	\$100.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$388.00</b>

#### Youth Ministries Board

Lebanon Bible & Book Store .....	\$130.00
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#### Senior Adult Ministries

Lebanon Bible & Book Store .....	\$130.00
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#### C. E. Board

Lebanon Bible & Book Store .....	\$130.00
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#### Vergel Maness

Myrtle .....	\$96.00
Gospel Light .....	\$80.00
Grace .....	\$100.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$276.00</b>

#### Morgan Wood

Belton .....	\$25.00
Harvest .....	\$40.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$65.00</b>

#### Women Nationally Active for Christ

Ruble, J. ....	\$10.00
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#### Victor Torrez

United Youth Group .....	\$200.00
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#### Berea Ministries

Hartville .....	\$150.00
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#### Scott & Melanie Lundeen

Verdella .....	\$350.05
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#### Richard Standley

Chapman, A. ....	\$10.00
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#### 2004 National Convention

Leadington .....	\$75.00
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# MISSION MOMENT – MUSIC

By Curt Holland

As I write this article today, Ash Wednesday, Brazil and many other countries around the world have just finished "celebrating" what Brazil calls, CARNIVAL! Brazil extends their weekend as unbelievers dance in the streets, party every night and listen to loud samba music. In the USA this "celebration" is called Mardi Gras.

In using the word MUSIC for this month's title, I have in mind the cultures in which our missionaries live. Music many, times, expresses and explains our cultural situation. If you don't believe me just take this little test. When I say Nashville, TN, what do you think of?

I don't want to focus on the music of Mardi Gras or Carnival. However, I would like to examine more closely the cultural settings and contexts in which we present the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our SHOW-ME missionaries and state missionaries face a variety of challenges and cultures as they seek to reach people around the world with the message of salvation and attempt to plant churches.

I personally don't believe that our missionaries have been called, commissioned or encouraged by the Lord to plant Missouri, Oklahoma or even Tennessee Free Will Baptist Churches in Brazil or any other part of the world. We have been called to sow the seed of the gospel that is found in Scripture. Paul told Timothy to teach others "...that which you have heard of me."

The gospel seed grows best in natural, well-prepared soil. It is very difficult to grow oranges in MO, yet they grow easily in Brazil. It is very easy to see the beauty of a maple tree in MO, but in Brazil it would probably dry up. Soybeans grow well in both countries. Why? Because MO has the soil, fertilizer, pesticides and etc. that help soybeans grow tall and healthy. Brazil too, has learned how to plant, produce and price soybeans in such a way that they make an impact on the world market.

The seed of the gospel is much like the soybean seed. It can not be a plant that was nourished in one country and then transplanted into another culture with the idea that it will thrive and produce. When soybeans first showed up in Brazil, they did not come as mature plants, but only in seed form. Each seed had to be planted in soil and then nurtured for growth. The gospel must be introduced as a seed that will be planted and nourished within the new culture, society and soil of the hearts of the hearers. The plants that grow will be different, but the seed is always the same.

When the Lord led us to sow the gospel seed and plant the Sao Jose FWB Church in Brazil, we made a strategic decision. We wanted to be sure that the music, worship, evangelism and leadership development was Brazilian and not from MO, OK or TN! The soil is different in Brazil, Spain, Africa and India, but the believers that grow from these seeds into mature plants will some day gather around the throne of the One and Only LORD OF THE HARVEST!



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