

THE  
FREE WILL BAPTIST

# GEM

Volume 76 Number 1  
January 2005



When I was a child, I laughed, I wept,

Time crept;

When as a youth, I dreamed and  
talked,

Time walked;

When I became a full grown man,

Time ran;

When older still I daily grew,

Time flew;

Soon I shall be traveling on,

Time gone.

--Author Unknown



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## Churches Seeking A Pastor

New Prospect  
Long Lane, MO  
Contact:  
Joan Roberts  
417-345-8982

Trinity Church  
Cabool, MO  
Contact:  
Don Wells:  
417-962-4010  
Loyd Morris  
417-962-3574

Faith Church  
Lemay, MO.  
Contact:  
Madge Hasty  
314-638-348

Willow Springs  
Mtn. Grove, MO  
Contact:  
Wayne Fry  
417-926-5294

Byrd Church  
Myrtle, MO  
Contact:  
Joe Garrison  
417-938-4628

South Fremont  
Springfield, MO  
Contact:  
Richard Pointer  
417-865-8117

## the GEM

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## From the Editor

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### Another Year...

*Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be  
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee.  
Another year of progress, another year of praise,  
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.*

*Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace,  
Another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face;  
Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast;  
Another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.*

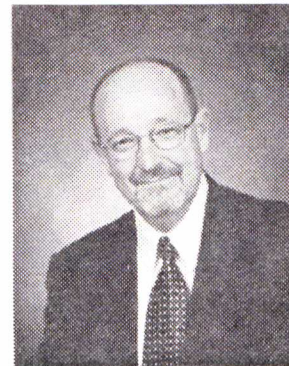
*Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,  
Another year of training for holier work above.  
Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be  
On earth, or else in Heaven, another year for Thee.*

This hymn was written by Francis Ridley Havergal in 1874 as a poem for the cover of her New Years card to be sent to all her friends. She was feeling optimistic over the coming year for her prospects were bright. An American publisher had contracted to represent her books and poems in America and she looked forward to a much needed income from their sale. Only days after writing these sentiments, she received word that the publisher had been ruined in the Stock Market crash of 1873. She said this poem was even more her thoughts and wishes after her disappointment. She said that her "victorious faith was brightening daily!" and that her disaster was met with a "song rather than a sigh!"

Havergal's first stanza expresses a truth many of us have trouble with. "Father", she says, "let this new year be one with you whether it is in working or in waiting."

I do not wait well. Now I am sure that you do wait well, but I must confess to a certain impatience in daily living. I like microwaves, not crock pots! I will do without rather than have to wait in line for what ever I want or need. More than two people ahead of me in the check out line is cause for despair. I know, patience is a virtue but I also know that to pray for patience is to invite tribulation!

I am quite sure that God is just as pleased with us when we wait patiently for His direction and commission to act as he is when we are busy working in His vineyard. I am afraid that many of us are too often drawn into the wrong action because we are unwilling to wait on His direction. That old admonition



to "do something, even if it is wrong" is bad advice! There have been very few times that I have acted on my own that it turned out even remotely successful. By now I have learned that David's admonition in Psalm 46:10 to "Be still and know that I am God..." is advice I need often.

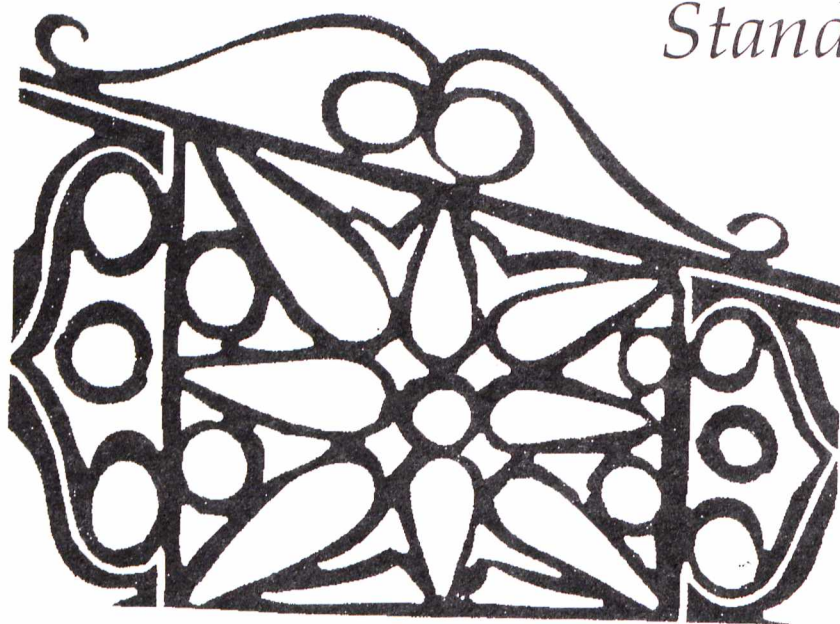
I think I will pray as did Havergal that whether I am working or waiting, I will do it as if the Lord were with me. I am sure that if I practiced his presence more faithfully it would produce calm in my "waitless" soul.

Her idea in the last stanza was that another year is dawning and we don't have a clue what is ahead for us. But if we are with the Lord we really do not need to know what is ahead. He does. Isn't it great that all the things we worry about concerning the future are just so much insignificant detail to the Lord. The things that stress us because we don't know that is going to happen are so clear to Him. He has already put in place the thing we will need in the moment they do happen. That is why we are able to sing with Francis Havergal, "Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be On earth, or else in Heaven, another year for Thee."

You may or may not have noticed that this issue of the Gem is 4 pages larger than usual. We are hoping to expand to 16 pages on a regular basis so that we can feature more church news from around the state. You can help us by sending articles and pictures about what is happening in your church family. When your church rejoices in God's great blessings, we want to rejoice with you! Appoint someone in your church as reporter and keep us informed.

Don't miss Dr. Miley's moving account of his near death experience and subsequent recovery on page 4-5. We were all praying for his recovery and it is great to read that God has and is blessing him. He is one of God's choice, longterm servants and we are glad that he hails from Missouri!





# Standing at the Gate of Death

by Dr. Laverne Miley

*"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil" (Psalm 23:4).*

Many of us have memorized this beautiful psalm, but have you ever walked through the valley of the shadow of death? Have you ever stood before the gate of death? I want to share with you an experience I had just over two months ago.

My wife, Lorene, and I had spent the months of May, June, and July at the Christian Discipleship Center at Cortez, Colorado, working among Native Americans trying to overcome alcohol addiction. When the session ended, we began the 1500 mile trip home to Nashville. I did not feel normal but could hardly describe the strange feeling I was experiencing.

A week after we arrived in Nashville, I consulted our personal physician and again ten days later, but he was unable to make a diagnosis. Although physically I seemed normal, it was evident that mentally I was deteriorating rapidly. I could no longer balance a check book (even simple mathematical procedures were beyond me). I could not formulate words to converse on the telephone or work a crossword puzzle. I tried to teach a Sunday school class, but couldn't even quote Scriptures that I had memorized years ago. Eventually I had to give up driving; I couldn't remember how to get from our home to familiar places.

Finally an MRI was ordered for Saturday, September 4. Chronic bleeding around the brain was causing a massive subdural hematoma to push the brain to one side. A neurosurgeon was called in and

assembled a team to operate immediately. Acute bleeding apparently had begun the day before and he told my wife following surgery, "If we hadn't taken it out when we did, it would have killed him."

I was walking through the valley of the shadow of death but felt no fear. Hadn't Paul written: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain"? (Phil. 1:21). Those words were to be a real comfort to me in the days ahead. My only concern was leaving my beloved wife of 57 years. We had labored together as one all those years and the thought of leaving her behind brought sadness to my heart.

I remember being taken to the operating room, but I have basically a lapse of memory for the next week. The second day following surgery, Labor Day, a CT scan revealed that bleeding had resumed, so once again they had to open my skull to evacuate the blood and stop the bleeding.

It was during this time that I was for the most part in "another world." At one period, I saw before me a type of gate like nothing I had ever seen. The darkness surrounding it was foreboding, but I could make out a "gate" in the form of a wheel having spokes radiating from the hub. The hub was actually a passageway through which a bright light was shining. Although the light was brilliant, there was no way to reach it without passing through the gate, which did not open. It seems I stood before this gate for a long while. Was this the gate of death? I do not know. I see nothing in Scripture that is described in this manner.



My wife tells me that after the second surgical procedure, I apparently had something wonderful to tell her and was concerned that she knew about it. Even though I spoke slowly and deliberately, she could not understand a word. To her, it was a foreign language. Whether or not I was trying to tell her what I had seen, I do not know.

We who know the Lord believe that death is the doorway to heaven. Thank God that is true. We must pass through the experience of death to go to be with the Lord. But the Scripture says that death is our enemy: "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (1 Cor. 15:26). If what I saw represented the gate of death, the only attractive thing about it was the light shining through from the other side—the Light of the World. Isaiah writes that the Lord "will swallow up death in victory" (Isa. 25:8). Paul quotes Isaiah and adds: "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:54,57).

Four days following the second surgery, I was moved to another facility for rehabilitation therapy. The next evening I was back in surgery for the third time. The CT scan showed more bleeding. The following Sunday, September 12, I remember waking up in ICU. It seemed surreal to be alive. My right arm was paralyzed, but I was alive! The arm soon began to regain its function and today is normal. I was moved to the floor the next day and then to rehab and one week later came home.

Today, two months following the last surgery, I feel that for the most part I am back to normal. I have no physical disability, my memory does not seem to be affected, I can quote those beloved Scriptures that I memorized years ago, I can solve mathematical problems, and I can speak and be understood—to God be the glory!

The question still remains: Why did God see fit to spare me and bring me back from death's gate? I'm sure that the fervent prayers of hundreds of God's people, my brothers and sisters in Christ, played a vital part in bringing about this miracle. I shall ever be grateful to those who prayed. Surely God saw fit to lengthen my time on earth in order to bring glory and praise to Him. I remember that when Hezekiah was at the point of death, God gave him an additional 15 years (2 Kings 20:6). Hezekiah disappointed God and acted foolishly. Above all, I do not want that to happen to me. Now that God has given me an extended time on earth, I do want to accomplish His will, whatever it may be. "He that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (1 John 2:17b).

*"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:20, 21).*

Dr. LaVerne D. Miley is a former medical missionary to Ivory Coast and professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville TN.

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## Denominational Magazine Names Managing Editor

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ANTIOCH, TN — The 2004 session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists authorized creation of a single denominational magazine to replace six existing departmental publications. Executive Secretary Keith Burden said the oversight committee (directors of participating departments) selected 32-year-old Eric Thomsen as the magazine's managing editor.



A former national youth coordinator and teen curriculum editor, Thomsen is currently director of art and marketing at Randall House Publications. The Florida native has served 10 years as minister of youth at Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church in Ashland City, Tennessee.

Eric graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1995. He is pursuing graduate studies at Trevecca Nazarene University. He and his wife, Jennifer, recently settled outside of Nashville with their five-year-old daughter, Victoria Elizabeth.

Mr. Thomsen will assume editorial responsibilities January 3, 2005. The oversight committee plans to announce the name of the new magazine in the near future. Target date for the start-up issue in Spring 2005.





## McDonalds UpDate

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Dear friends,

Thank you so much for your continued prayer and support for us during these past few months, which have been very difficult for our family. On Nov. 2, Donnie's mother, Mrs. Katherine McDonald, went to be with the Lord. She had fallen ill just a few weeks after our return to the U.S. this summer and was finally diagnosed with late-stage lymphoma. Less than one month later, she was gone. We will all miss her greatly, but the Lord is near and we are so grateful for the godly and faithful example she left to each of us. Many decisions remain concerning the ongoing care of Donnie's dad and we would appreciate your prayers for wisdom.

As many of you know, my (Ruth's) mother, Mrs. Leah Postlewaite of Mountain Grove, MO has also been ill. She is currently undergoing a series of tests with a neurosurgeon to determine her diagnosis. It is definitely a season during which we depend upon your prayers for all of us.

Though many of our days and much of our time and energy have been consumed with these health crises, we have also tried to stay busy in the ministry. After a busy summer traveling to the National Association, the Arkansas State Meeting, etc., in mid-August we assumed our responsibilities as the Missionaries in Residence at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville. Donnie is teaching classes to missions students and we are enjoying getting to know many of the young people on campus. Weekends have presented us with opportunities to minister in churches, women's retreats, and conferences.

In mid-September, we were thrilled to be able to return to Japan for one week to attend the

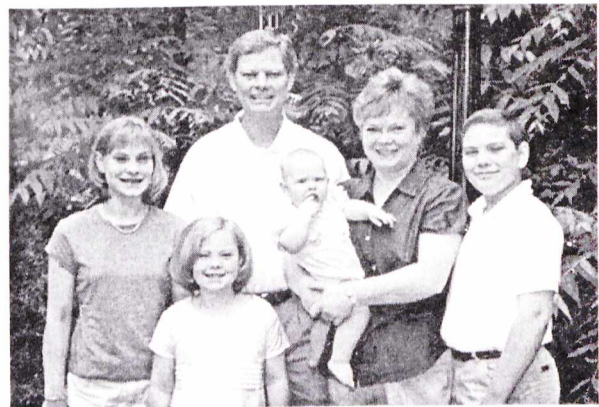
celebration of the 50th anniversary of Free Will Baptists in Japan. What an affirming and encouraging time that was!! It was wonderful to see Japanese Christians and their spirit of unity, excitement, and a new vision for the future. It was also personally gratifying to see folks from each of the three churches we've had a part in planting and to know that "God gives the increase!"

We have shared with many of you about the conversion of a young man, Akira Sato, in the Good News Chapel this past January. We shared how he desired to follow through with baptism but, as a minor, sought and was denied permission from his parents. We are thankful to report that, after turning 20 (legal age in Japan) in September, he was baptized in October by missionary Ken Bailey.

We also enjoyed the visit of Japanese Pastor Ishii and his young family for one week in October. He and Donnie had several ministry opportunities at the Bible College and in local Free Will Baptist churches.

Our children have adjusted well to life in the U.S. Katie is a junior at Hillsboro High School; Evan is a freshman doing home school; Amy is a 5th grader at West End Middle School; and Caroline is in a local 4-year-old Christian kindergarten. Caroline will be having eye surgery at Vanderbilt Children's hospital on Nov. 18 to correct a problem with alignment.

These first months of stateside assignment have been challenging, to say the least. We would appreciate your prayers that we will somehow be able to find time for refreshment and restoration during the remaining months in the U.S. Ministry opportunities and exciting possibilities await us in the very needy country of Japan. Pray that the Lord will fill us and equip us to resume our ministry there next summer.



Your servants for Jesus' sake,

Donnie and Ruth McDonald  
(Katie, Amy, Caroline and Evan)



# The Turnboughs

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Dear Friends,

*Greetings from Spain!* We give thanks to God for His faithfulness. He has been faithful to supply all our needs during 23 years of service in the country of Spain. We give Him thanks for YOU who have been used of Him to make this possible. Many of you have stood with us since we left the USA in 1981. We are also thankful for the people God has given us here. He is forming His church, and it is a blessing to be a part of it.

Susan and I have asked Spain's Field Council permission to begin a transition in our ministry focus toward National Leadership Development: -For several years our Field Council Strategy has called for someone to develop this ministry. We believe the Lord is leading us in this direction. However, we will continue to work with the Villalba Church through the remainder of this term of service, and upon our return from Stateside Ministry (2006) we will begin to transition toward this ministry focus. Our plans are to help develop and promote training for all believers of all levels in our existing churches, as well as for existing spiritual leaders. We pray that these efforts will help to stimulate the spiritual growth of believers in our churches, and therefore increase the pool of possible spiritual leaders. Along with a focus on National Leadership Development, we will team together with Sam and June McVay to focus more intensely on the development of our field's vision project of a National Ministry Center. Our prayer is that this center become FWB headquarters for the work in Spain, housing a retreat/camp center, headquarters for the National Association of FWBs in Spain, for the FWB mission in Spain, for the National Leadership Training Center, for future work with the NGO in Spain, as well as a place to receive and house visiting groups from the USA.

The Lord is working in Spain. There are three new church planting efforts under way.

1. *Jose Manuel*, the former pastor of the first FWB church in *Alcalá de Henares*, resigned that church and has begun a second church plant in the same city of 150,000 people. At this time a group of around 30

people are meeting in a storefront building loaned to them by the local chapter of Gideons International. *Jose Manuel* was elected President or Moderator of the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists at the recent meeting in Panama. The next international convention is scheduled to take place in Europe, as a joint-effort between Free Will Baptists in Spain and France.

2. *Juan Carlos*, a graduate of the FWB Seminary in Cuba and former pastor there, has begun a second church plant in the city of *Colmenar Viejo*, a city in the Madrid Province of around 40,000 people. Along with his wife, daughter and in-laws, they are now holding weekly meetings in a rented storefront building. This past Sunday, *Jhon Fredy*, a young believer in training as a pastor in the Villalba Church preached there. One young lady has made a profession of faith in the eight weeks of its existence.



Jeff and Susan Turnbough

3. For some time the *Sierra Church Planting Team* has been working to make contacts for a third church plant in *Alpedrete*, a town of 10,000 people, close to Villalba. Anthony and Lea Edgmon and Tim and Kristi Johnson are spearheading this effort. These two couples are doing a great job of becoming a part of the community, making contacts and plans to plant a church in this town that has never had an Evangelical church in its history. Please pray that the Lord will give them

much fruit for their labor.

Thank you for your prayers for these new church-planting efforts, as well as for the three existing FWB churches in Spain: *Alcalá de Henares*, *Villalba*, and *Santurce*.

Eight people recently followed the Lord in Christian baptism. All of them were young, but five of them are part of the youth group that Susan teaches and directs in the Villalba Church. Please pray for these new believers -that God will protect their hearts and enable them to continue to grow in their faith.

The architect for the building of the Villalba Church called me this week to say that the plans are ready. I am anticipating a call to go and sign them, so that we can submit them to the proper authorities and

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# Rev. John Williams Honored for 25 Years in the Ministry

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On October 10, 2004; the children of Brother John Williams surprised him with a 25 year Anniversary Service at Wolf Creek Freewill Baptist Church.

The Service began with congregational singing. Special music was offered by Brother John's children, Susan Keith, and the Rankin family. Brother John's eldest daughter, Shawn Felker, conducted the service which included a slide presentation, the reading of a brief history, testimonials from his children and fellow pastors, and the presentation of a commemorative plaque. A beautiful bouquet of flowers was presented to Sister Bernetta for her faithfulness to his ministry. In conclusion, Brother John's son-in-law, Brother Ron Felker, gave a moving testimonial along with scripture and the dismissal prayer.

Brother and Sister Williams expressed their gratitude to God, who made these 25 years possible, to their children for being such an important asset to the ministry, to their parents and to all who had made it such a special day. It was a very heart warming and emotional service. All of Brother and Sister Williams' children and grandchildren were in attendance as well as their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Williams and Mrs. Maydell Dake along with many other relatives and friends. A reception followed in the church basement.

Following is a brief history of Brother John's ministry which was read that day.

On March 16, 1957, a son, John Barry Williams was born to Edward C. Williams and Joan (LaFrances) Williams. The event took place at the Samaritan Hospital in Troy N.Y. The fact that his name was John and he was born on the 3rd month and the 16th day, thus John 3:16, held little significance at the time, but would later become his trademark. John lived with his family in Averill Park, N.Y. until the fall of 1973 when they moved to Norwood, MO. The first family to welcome them was the Dakes, whose daughter, Bernetta, became John's wife on March 15, 1975

In September of 1976, one of John's dreams

became a reality when he was able to purchase a dairy farm in Hartville.

By then he had been blessed with a daughter, Shawn Marie, and soon to follow was Michelle Maydell and then Aimee Johnette.



In July of 1979, while milking his cows, a neighbor pulled in and broke the bad news that his beloved dog, Heidi, had been in the road and was hit and killed. This was a wake up call for John along with the persistence of neighbors that week stopping by to invite him to a revival going on down the road at the New Hope Baptist Church. John carried the dog to the barn, tears running down his cheeks. As he walked into the barn, he noticed a Bible that his dad had given him a few months earlier. When he picked it up his eyes fell upon 2 Samuel 15: 15 which read, "And the king's servants said unto the king, behold, thy servants are ready to do whatsoever my lord the king shall appoint." John knew what the Lord wanted him to do. He knelt down right there in the pit of the milk barn and answered the call to preach. That same week, he announced his calling during the revival at New Hope, and three nights later preached his first sermon there. He was later licenced and ordained into the Freewill Baptist Association.

In his early ministry he was blessed to have good preacher role models. Brother RE. Helsley was truly a blessing to him as he shared his wisdom and gave much needed encouragement.

Soon after his calling he was asked to pastor

*John knew what the Lord wanted him to do. He knelt down right there in the pit of the milk barn and answered the call to preach.*



the Peace Valley Community Church at Norwood, where he and his family had attended since his move from N.Y. state. As the building was a community building, the church as not able to organize. Therefore, land was purchased just up the road and the Victory Hill Freewill Baptist Church was founded. Many memorable thing happened while at Victory Hill. One was the birth of their fourth daughter, Kati Sue, and he also baptized three sets of brothers at the same time, Rick and Greg Dugger, Junior and Joe Johnstone and Denver and Danny Cottengim.

In December of 1981, the pastor of the Oak Grove General Baptist Church in Wasola, was killed in a farming accident. John was asked to fill the remainder of his term and was there until September of 1982.

He then felt the calling to pastor the Union Grove (Caudle) Freewill Baptist Church, Norwood MO. He started his work there in September of 1982, which was also the month his first son, John Barry Williams Jr. was born. It wasn't long until the church was overflowing and the new church was built. John and Bernetta's second son Jordon was born there in February of 1987 and in May of the same year John ended his pastorate there.

John went into full time evangelistic work for a time, but it wasn't long until the Lord called him to pastor again. This time it would be the Oak Grove Freewill Baptist Church in Norwood. The church had just built a new auditorium and was ready to grow. Everyone was eager and many great things happened there, including the birth of Joseph Boone in 1990. His ministry there spanned from August 1988 through March 1991. From there he filled in for a time at Victory Hill and also did evangelistic work.

In 1990 John was blessed to have the opportunity to preach at the State Association of Freewill Baptists. No one could have imagined at that time where that experience and others would lead him. Shortly thereafter John found himself in full time evangelistic work. In one year during this period he preached more than 30 revivals. If you don't think that is a lot, just ask his wife and kids. In 1995, John Jr. was 13 years old and John was busier than ever, and don't think Bernetta didn't have a full plate herself, trying to tend to seven kids, and run a farm while John was going "from revival to revival. It became very evident to the whole family

that something needed to change, but what they were not sure of.

Brother James Cameron accompanied John to almost every revival he held. He was a deacon at the Lead Hill Freewill Baptist Church in Mansfield. His heart was burdened for his little church, as they had no pastor and the attendance was down to six. The Lord began dealing with John about making some changes in his

ministry and he knew after much prayer and soul searching what he had to do. It was a very hard decision. He knew it would be better for his children to have a home church, and to have him home more, but there were no young people at Lead Hill and he worried the kids would have a hard time adjusting. When they went there, each family member had to take on a job, including teaching, singing and piano playing. But God was faithful



John's family sings at celebration

and a year later Lead Hill Freewill Baptist Church won a plaque at the State Meeting for 262% increase in attendance on Roll Call Sunday. A new sanctuary was built and Lead Hill soon became home to all of them. While therebetween October 1995 and January 2001 the five older children were married. His son-in-law, Ron Felker also accepted the call to preach during his time there, and was truly a blessing as he worked side-by-side with John as the Associate Pastor. (Ron is now pastoring the Oak Grove General Baptist Church at Wasola.) John ended his pastorate at Lead Hill in 2002 and at that time had been blessed with 12 grandchildren.

At the present John is the pastor of the Wolf Creek Freewill Baptist Church. There is no doubt this is where God intended for him to be. All one has to do is take a quick review of the past year and it is very clear that God's hand was in it. Good things are happening at Wolf Creek. Land has been purchased on Hwy 5 for a new building. Four more grandchildren have been added to the family and one is on the way.

The past 25 years have gone by quickly and God has truly blessed. John has held numerous revivals here in Missouri as well as the states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Ohio, West Virginia and New York. He has also preached at youth camps and conducted many weddings and funerals. John has said many times that one of the things he is most thankful for is that all his children have been saved and baptized and are all active in church. We want to thank God and give him the glory for every soul that has been saved and every accomplishment that has been made.



## Farmington First Church Announces New Pastoral Staff Member

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Alton Loveless, former General Director of the National Sunday School and Church Training Department, and Randall House Publications, Nashville, Tennessee, has been selected to the pastoral staff of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Farmington.

Before assuming this role, Dr. Loveless had published more than 510 articles and conducted over 1100 seminars in 48 states and 35 foreign countries. He has been widely used as a Christian education consultant, workshop leader, or minister by 68 denominations in churches of all sizes.

His training in Christian education began with Scripture Press Publications, which opened the door to a broad and diverse knowledge of what churches have done, or are doing, to build a great church. His interest continued in church growth and teacher training while he served as the President and CEO of Randall House Publications, where he created *Outreach magazine*, a publication on church growth with an emphasis on the training of workers. This full colored magazine has been praised by people both in and out of the denomination.

Alton, a Free Will Baptist minister for 49 years, attended Hendrix College, graduated from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, and earned a Ph. D. in Business Administration from Columbia Pacific University. He has been awarded a number of honorary degrees and business awards.

He and his wife, Delois, have two sons and five grandchildren, who live in Tulsa, Oklahoma and Columbus, Ohio.

Roger Hogan, pastor of the Farmington church, states "We are happy to have him join our pastoral staff and look forward to have him work with us."

The following testimonies have been published about brother Loveless:

*"Few people have a greater knowledge of the changes happening in our society and how it will affect the church*



*and Sunday school. His skill in teacher training workshops and tutorials in interpersonal relationships have created speaking opportunities around the world,"* stated Dr. Jack Williams, editor of Contact magazine.

Art Blakely, former National Sales Manager of Scripture Press made this observation of brother Loveless. "You have three great strengths in your workshops. First, you have audience awareness, sensing their needs, attitudes and feelings. Second, your workshop grows from a deep well of Christian Education knowledge. Third, the manner and methods you use always seem to communicate. You have a unique ability to bring your knowledge and the needs of your audience together."

*"His manner of presenting the materials in everyday language is a great asset and guards against anyone getting the idea that he thinks he has all the answers. It was a real pleasure to attend while he was in Europe."* Ronald J. Callaway, Missionary.

*"Our Association enjoyed several seminars and teacher training workshops conducted by Alton Loveless. The pastors, Sunday school officers, teachers, and youth leaders who participated were both informed and inspired. Brother Alton's presentation was spiritually sound, conducted with compassion and filled with timely truths,"* Rev. Fred Hanson, Atlantic Canada Association

Small Free Will Baptist Church in Belton, MO. is seeking a Christian volunteer to begin a Youth Ministry. Contact Pastor James Mize, at 816-322-5925 or leave a message at 816-331-1932.



## FWBBC Announces New Faculty/Welcome Days Attendance

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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE — Jackie Rasar, a 2000 FWBBC graduate, will return to the college in January to teach psychology, according to Dr. Milton Fields, Academic Dean. Jackie is a native of Decatur, Illinois, and was an active member of the First Free Will Baptist Church before she came to the Bible College in 1996. She graduated from FWBBC with a B.S. in psychology in May 2000. In 2004 she completed her studies at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for a M.Div. in Christian Counseling. She says, "I hope that my love for counseling will add to the psychology program at FWBBC by providing the students with practical applications for ministry opportunities and a solid educational foundation for continuing education needs. I am looking forward to serving Christ at FWBBC."

Dr. Fields says, "Jackie was a campus leader here. Comments from those who knew her at Southern Seminary indicate that she continued her leadership role and dedication to academic excellence there." He adds, "Jackie has already begun to work on a post master's emphasis in psychology. We feel she will be a tremendous benefit to our students and our psychology program." We welcome Miss Rasar back to FWBBC.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE Free Will Baptist Bible College counted 224 visitors for its fall Welcome Days, November 11-13, 2004, according to Matt Markins, Enrollment Management Director and the planner for the event. Welcome Days is the semi-annual openhouse the college hosts for prospective students

Visitors came from 83 churches in 17 states. The largest church groups, with eight each, came from First FWB Church, Florence, Alabama, and Horse Branch FWB Church, Turbeville, South Carolina. The largest state representations were from Tennessee (41) and North Carolina (34).

Mr. Markins says, "Once again, Welcome Days is a fresh reminder of why this place exists: To equip and empower students to love and dedicate themselves to God and his world wide enterprise to reach the nations for His glory". He adds, "We look forward to when these Welcome Days students will be admitted to FWBBC. It will be exciting to see how God uses them when they join our student body in a year or two."

The next Welcome Days at FWBBC is scheduled for March 24-26, 2005.

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## Lebanon First Christmas Boxes

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Tens of thousands of churches have discovered that participating in Operation Christmas Child is a unique opportunity to become involved in global evangelism. Any church can take part in this

project of Samaritan's Purse, regardless of size or budget. All that is required are empty shoe boxes, a variety of small gifts, and a desire to take God's love to hurting children around the world.

Caring congregations across the country fill the boxes with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and an assortment of other gifts, and take them to Operation Christmas Child drop-off locations in November. Shoe box gifts are then sent to regional Processing Centers, where thousands of volunteers prepare them for overseas shipment. Shoe box gifts are a tangible demonstration of God's love to children and families living in difficult circumstances, and prepare hearts to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. As the gifts are distributed, local Christians offer colorful storybooks about Jesus to the children in their own language.

First Free Will in Lebanon has participated in this exciting and fulfilling project annually. This year, 70 shoe boxes from their congregation joined the expected 6.6 million from all over the world that will help make Christmas real to a child in need.





## Farmington First Celebrates Fifty Years!

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By Rev. Richard Barker

This last December 29, 2004 the Farmington Church celebrated fifty years of service to it's members and the Free Will Baptist Denomination. Throughout this year the Church has been pleased to have all the living pastors who have served over the years for a year-long celebration of its fifty years.

The Farmington church was started as a mission church in the home of Raymond Grindstaff in the city of Farmington. The pastor of the mission was Rev. Charles Moyer. Rev. Dean Burpo later became pastor of the mission and served until Nov 21, 1954. A tent revival was held in Farmington that started on Sep 11 and ran 12 days until Sep24, 1954 The evangelist was Rev. Daymon Dodd of Nashville TN.

At the close of the revival the church was in a partial state of organization because there were no deacons or trustees. On December 5, 1954 Rev. James Barker was elected pastor. On December 18, 1954 Bro. Clyde Gross was elected deacon and Bro. George Heart trustee and the church was in full organization. There were 29 charter members at that time. A committee was appointed to negotiated the purchase of the church property at 305 W. Columbia from the Farmington Methodist Church. The church voted to purchase the building for \$25,000. They moved into the new building and held their first service on Wednesday evening December 29, 1954. Rev. James Barker served the church until June 30, 1963.

Rev. Everett Hellard was elected pastor and served until August 1965. The Mackie property was

purchased in April of 1964 and was used as Sunday school and Junior Church facility. On September 12, 1965 Rev. Bob King was elected pastor and served until July 1969. Rev. Bill Evens was elected pastor in July 1969 and served until 1974. During that time the Gideon property was purchased, it was first rented and then used for classrooms and eventually torn down and used for new parking area. The Cole property was purchased and used as a parsonage for the Bigaloes. The Pinkertons, missionaries to the Ivory Coast lived there while on furlough in 1975-76. The building was removed and the property used as parking in 1979.

Rev. James McAllister was elected pastor on April 3, 1974 and served until June 4, 1986. In January of 1975 construction of the three story educational building was started. In August of 1977 the Farmington Christian Academy opened with 65 students. The school was kindergarten through ninth grade. Gene Wilfong served as principal, in 1978 the new activities building was started. The school was expanded to the 12th grade. The church had grown to an enrolment of 1522 at this time.

Rev. Tim Eaton was elected pastor in June 1986 and served until Aug. 1989.

Rev. Roger Hogan is the current pastor and was elected on Aug. 23, 1989. The church to this day has served the Farmington community and continues to grow. The church has purchased 13 acres just out side the city limits and is looking forward to building a new facility to better serve the members and the community. The church continues to be a great supporter of missions and many men have been and continue to be called into the ministry. Continue to pray for the Farmington Free Will Baptist Church.

## "Fun In The Son"



First Free Will Baptist Church of O'Fallon, MO took their "Fun in the Son" summer program to Grace Gardens Care Center where they made baby blankets for Free Will Baptist Family Ministries Hope Center.



# 2005 Minister's Retreat

March 14-16, 2005

Stonecroft Conference Center  
Branson, MO

Speaker: Ron Owens

Ron Owens was born in Nova Scotia, Canada, the son of pioneer church planters in the Maritime Provinces. He was raised in Switzerland where he and his parents moved when he was a teen. At age 16 he was saved in a crusade in Germany.

He received his education at Bible College and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester NY. He married Patricia in 1959 while completing a music degree at the University of Southern Louisiana.

He and his wife have ministered world wide and he is a founder of the International Congress On Revival. He has served under the ministry of both Dr. Stephen Olford and Dr. Henry Blackaby.

It was while serving with these two men that God began giving Ron scriptural insights into the area of Worship. The Owens have ministered in the Soviet Union and other Eastern Bloc countries through their musical *Paid In Full*. The musical was translated into Russian and performed at the Pushkin Theater in Moscow, sponsored by the Russian World of Culture Center. The Owens are currently working as part-time Worship and Music Consultants with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. They currently reside in Bella Vista, Arkansas.



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## Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_  
I would like to room with \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$70.00 per person double occupancy

A \$20.00 non-refundable deposit is required for each person.

Please send this form to MOFWB, PO Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65536

For more information call the State Office at 417-532-6537

Registration forms must arrive in the State Office on or before March 7th, 2005



continued from the Turnboughs on page 7

begin this long-awaited process. Please continue to pray for the Nehemiah Project, and that we will soon see a new building on this empty lot!

We give thanks to God that he has opened the door for our daughter Melissa to attend nursing school in Jackson, Tennessee. As most of you know, she finished her degree in Biblical Studies and Missions at FWBCC this last year. Her long-held desire is to become a nurse practitioner. A good Christian school, Union University offers 24 students per year (that already have a bachelor's degree) the opportunity to do an accelerated nursing program. Melissa was accepted, is now living on campus at Union, and begins the one-year program in January. We appreciate your prayers for her. We give thanks to God that Matthew and Brooke (our son and daughter-in-law) are integrating into ministry here in Villalba. Please pray for them as they apply for full-time or career missionary status this next year. Thank you for partnering with us, so that together we can make a difference in Spain. As the Apostle Paul prayed concerning the Philippian believers, may God credit your earthly and temporal gifts as fruit to your heavenly and eternal account.

Here for HIS glory, Jeff & Susan Turnbough

# Ladies!

Don't forget to register  
for the upcoming

## Pursue His Heart 2005 National Retreat

### March 3-5

### Chateau on the Lake Branson, MO

Registration Deadline is  
January 31st.  
For more information call WNAC  
1-615-731-6812

## Financial Report November 2004

<b>Cooperative Disbursements</b>		<b>CO-OP</b>			
November 2004 .....	\$57,814.70	Amity .....	\$115.80	Gospel Light .....	\$100.00
18.50% St Home Miss .....	\$10,695.72	Aulsbury Chapel .....	\$233.77	Grace .....	\$1,898.72
17.00% Exec. Office .....	\$9,828.50	Bailey .....	\$226.00	Grant Ave .....	\$1,250.64
3.00% Gen. Fund .....	\$1,734.40	Belton .....	\$276.80	Green Hills- Lebanon .....	\$526.52
.50% Show-Me Bd. ....	\$289.08	Berean .....	\$126.00	Hannibal .....	\$912.00
8.50% Youth Camp .....	\$4,914.25	Bethel- El Dorado Springs ..	\$596.54	Hannon .....	\$990.00
2.50% Youth Min. ....	\$1,445.37	Bethel- Rogersville .....	\$255.00	Harmony .....	\$499.00
2.50% CE .....	\$1,445.37	Bethel- Rogersville .....	\$403.92	Hartville .....	\$2,106.00
2.50% Senior Adult .....	\$1,445.37	Black Oak .....	\$698.42	Harvest- Grandview .....	\$214.80
9.00% Mo Retirement .....	\$5,203.33	Byrd .....	\$108.00	Hazel Creek .....	\$323.91
		Calvary Chapel .....	\$1,704.59	Hopewell .....	\$305.00
		Cape Girardeau 1st .....	\$676.32	Houston 1st .....	\$368.65
33.00% .....	\$19,078.86	Central .....	\$1,119.23	Hurryville .....	\$658.89
National Ministries and Hillsdale		Christ Chapel .....	\$378.00	Indian Creek Assn. ....	\$142.50
		Clifton .....	\$92.90	Jackson .....	\$178.48
		Columbia .....	\$559.18	Joplin 1st .....	\$791.67
		Copper Mines .....	\$471.67	Kings Way .....	\$290.88
3.00% Show-Me Plan .....	\$1,734.45	Cornerstone .....	\$641.92	Koshkonong .....	\$138.00
Total .....	\$57,814.70	Crossroads- Wentzville .....	\$860.00	Lead Hill .....	\$290.36
		Cuba .....	\$515.00	Leadington .....	\$461.10
		DeSoto 1st .....	\$1,500.00	Lebanon 1st .....	\$1,570.56
The Coop allocation for the National		Faith & Hop .....	\$120.00	Liberty .....	\$100.00
Ministries is undesignated this year		Faith Chapel- Mtn. Grove ..	\$228.40	Macedonia- Niangua .....	\$141.99
with FWBCC and Hillsdale receiving		Farmington 1st .....	\$2,817.95	Merls Chapel .....	\$165.70
an equal amount. CCC will continue		Fellowship .....	\$1,500.00	Mill Creek .....	\$771.49
to receive 1%.		Fordland .....	\$642.49	Mine La Motte .....	\$95.96
		Fourth .....	\$268.08	Monett 1st .....	\$939.33
		Fredericktown 1st .....	\$282.00	Mountain Grove 1st .....	\$2,036.80
		Freeman Chapel .....	\$419.50	Mt. Pisgah .....	\$503.00
				Myrtle .....	\$464.76
				New Home- Lebanon .....	\$237.60
				New Hope - Fredericktown ..	\$345.19
				New Life- Licking .....	\$718.03
				Niangua .....	\$253.44
				North Five .....	\$11.10
				Number One .....	\$217.26
				Oak Hill .....	\$633.00
				O'Fallon 1st .....	\$1,612.00
				O'Fallon 1st .....	\$1,795.22
				Olivet .....	\$1,100.00
				Overland .....	\$75.00
				Parkview .....	\$475.62
				Plabras De Vida Eterna .....	\$100.00
				Pleasant Hill .....	\$317.29
				Pleasant Home .....	\$144.60
				Pleasant Ridge-Urbana .....	\$111.00
				Potosi 1st .....	\$144.10
				Republic .....	\$100.00
				Rock Chapel .....	\$468.92
				Rolla 1st .....	\$376.00
				Salem .....	\$30.00
				Seymore .....	\$517.00
				Smyrna .....	\$125.00
				Springfield 1st .....	\$1,644.18
				Thayer .....	\$1,303.43
				Union Grove .....	\$442.00
				Union Light .....	\$190.00
				United .....	\$2,735.87
				Unity .....	\$412.50
				Victory - Alton .....	\$938.14
				Waynesville 1st .....	\$1,789.00
				West Plains 1st .....	\$770.00
				Wolf Creek .....	\$608.02
				<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$57,814.70</b>



**Show-Me Missions**

Berry, R.	\$15.00
Farmington 1st	\$533.00
Freeman Chapel	\$720.00
Grant Avenue	\$340.00
Greenfield	\$200.00
Green Hills- Lebanon	\$60.00
Myrtle	\$75.00
O' Fallon 1st	\$88.00
Pleasant Hill	\$45.00
Rock Chapel	\$210.00
Rolla 1st	\$30.00
Brown, J.	\$15.00
DeSoto 1st	\$702.50
Hartville	\$240.00
Mill Creek	\$140.00
Mill Creek- Young Adult	\$15.00
Mill Creek CWF	\$15.00
Mt. Pisgah	\$75.00
New Beginning	\$291.60
New Home- Hartville	\$210.00
Rock Springs	\$138.60
Thayer	\$415.00
Porter Chapel	\$996.53
Cornerstone	\$322.00
Cuba	\$117.00
Jerry and Carol Pinkerton	\$45.00
Mt. Zion- Thayer	\$30.00
Number One	\$60.00
O' Fallon 1st	\$88.00
Pleasant Home	\$300.00
United	\$343.36
Victory- Alton	\$45.00
Hannon	\$1,050.00
Jackson	\$35.00
Monett 1st	\$60.00
Palbras De Vida Eterna	\$15.00
Royal Oak	\$156.00
Unity	\$75.00
Walker, H.	\$10.00
Belton	\$165.00
Calvary Chapel	\$105.00
Oak Grove- Houston	\$30.00
Walnut Grove	\$15.00
Black Oak	\$60.00
Chrisman, M.	\$30.00
Faith	\$20.00
Fordland	\$250.00
Hannibal WNAC	\$15.00
Hazel Creek	\$194.35
New Beginning	\$191.30
New Home- Lebanon	\$90.00
Richwoods	\$52.50
Faith & Hope	\$103.00
MO WAC	\$496.71
Mountain Grove 1st	\$940.00
Bethel- El Dorado	\$596.54
Central	\$150.00
Fellowship	\$812.57
Houston 1st	\$287.00
Indian Creek Assn.	\$2,965.00
Joplin 1st	\$75.00
Lebanon 1st	\$150.00
Mine La Motte	\$75.00
Parkview	\$302.50
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana	\$50.00
Louis Willhite	\$180.00
Grace	\$416.00
Jack Baldwin	\$20.00
Berean	\$60.00
Bethel- Festus	\$45.00
Copper Mines	\$225.00
Harmony	\$40.83
Roxanne Maggart	\$45.00
Olivet	\$60.00
Willow Springs- Mtn. Grove	\$243.00
Willow Springs 1st	\$3,075.00
Barker, J.	\$15.00
Harvest- Grandview	\$50.00
Gospel Light	\$1,000.00

Fourth	\$45.00
Leadington	\$195.00
New Hope- Fredericktown	\$150.00
Union Light	\$150.00
Waynesville 1st	\$465.50
Springfield 1st	\$545.00
Fredericktown 1st	\$90.00
CO-OP	\$1,734.45
Total	\$25,392.84

**NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS**

Belton	\$25.00
Central	\$50.00
Cuba	\$58.50
DeSoto 1st	\$305.00
Farmington 1st	\$1,076.00
Fordland	\$46.00
Fourth	\$50.00
Fredericktown 1st	\$20.00
Gospel Light	\$160.00
Grace	\$160.00
Grant Ave	\$72.53
Hannon	\$693.00
Houston 1st	\$30.00
Indian Creek Assn.	\$5,375.00
Jackson	\$22.50
Jerry Rader	\$20.00
Joplin 1st	\$60.00
Monett 1st	\$5.00
Mt. Pisgah	\$25.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	\$45.00
Myrtle	\$80.00
New Home- Hartville	\$10.00
Oak Hill	\$65.00
O'Fallon	\$71.00
O'Fallon	\$61.00
Richwoods 1st	\$42.00
Rock Chapel	\$86.06
Thayer	\$185.00
Thayer	\$1,000.00
Union Light	\$96.00
United	\$150.00
Unity	\$50.00
Waynesville 1st	\$50.00
West Plains 1st	\$60.00
Wolf Creek	\$75.00
Total	\$10,379.59

**State Home Missions**

Berean	\$30.00
DeSoto 1st	\$100.00
Fellowship	\$125.00
Fordland	\$10.00
Gospel Light	\$160.00
Grace	\$55.00
Grant Ave	\$62.54
Indian Creek Assn.	\$175.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	\$540.00
Myrtle	\$85.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$71.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$61.00
Plabras De Vida Eterna	\$100.00
Pleasant Ridge-Urbana	\$20.00
Republic	\$25.00
Rolla 1st	\$288.00
Thayer	\$50.00
United	\$25.00
Unity	\$62.50
Waynesville 1st	\$55.00
Total	2100.04

**FOREIGN MISSIONS**

Belton	\$75.00
Cape Girardeau	\$63.00
Central	\$80.00
Cuba	\$19.50

DeSoto 1st	\$30.00
Farmington 1st	\$25.00
Grant Avenue	\$30.12
Hartville	\$35.00
Houston 1st	\$60.00
Indian Creek Assn.	\$55.00
Matthews, A.	\$15.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$50.00
Noel, D.	\$15.00
Pleasant Home	\$43.66
Rock Chapel	\$12.00
Rolla 1st	\$288.00
Thayer	\$10.00
Waynesville 1st	\$90.00
Total	\$996.28

**Berea Ministries**

Hartville	150.00
Total	150.00

**Brian Brinkoff**

Unity	\$12.50
Indian Creek Assoc.	\$10.00
Total	\$22.50

**Trula Cronk Home for Children**

Farmington 1st	\$150.00
New Life-Monett	\$825.37
Myrtle	\$25.00
Desoto 1st	\$55.00
Hannon	\$100.00
New Life-Monett	\$243.25
Unity	\$20.00
New Hope Fredericktown	\$20.00
Belton	\$30.00
Total	1478.62

**Christian Education Board**

Lebanon Bookstore	\$140.00
Total	\$140.00

**Executive Fund**

Lebanon Bookstore	\$200.00
Bourbon	\$32.00
Pleasant Home	\$16.00
New Home- Lebanon	\$24.00
Nadine Locke	\$4.50
Kings Way	\$4.00
Total	\$280.50

**Free Will Baptist Bible College**

Green Hills- Lebanon	\$10.00
Desoto 1st	\$40.00
Hartville	\$224.00
Thayer	\$50.00
Oak Hill	\$10.00
Total	\$334.00

**Hillsdale**

Farmington 1st	\$180.00
Thayer	\$50.00
Oak Hill	\$10.00
Hannon	\$100.00
Monett 1st	\$100.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$200.00
Joplin 1st	\$75.00
Total	\$715.00

**Indian Bible College**

Desoto 1st	\$10.00
Total	\$10.00

**George Lemelin**

Jackson	\$67.50
Cape Girardeau	\$80.00
Total	\$147.50

**Missouri Retirement**

Lebanon Bookstore	\$200.00
Total	\$200.00

**Morgan Wood**

Belton	\$25.00
Total	\$25.00

**Robbie Rutledge**

Unity	\$12.50
MO WAC	\$139.47
Total	\$151.97

**Scholarship Fund**

Lebanon Bookstore	\$100.00
Total	\$100.00

**Senior Adult Board**

Lebanon Bookstore	\$140.00
Total	\$140.00

**Victor Torez**

United	\$200.00
Total	\$200.00

**Master's Men**

Jay Blacksher	75.00
Total	75.00

**Youth Camp**

Lebanon Bookstore	\$540.00
New Life-Monett	\$825.37
Rock Chapel	\$40.00
Rolla 1st	\$20.00
Desoto 1st	\$65.00
Hartville	\$10.00
Mt. Pisgah	\$15.00
New Home-Hartville	\$10.00
Thayer	\$50.00
Cornerstone	\$25.00
Hannon	\$50.00
New Life-Monett	\$243.25
Mountain Grove 1st	\$10.00
Willow Springs- M G	\$10.00
West Plains 1st	\$25.00
Berean	\$15.00
Total	\$1,953.62

**Youth Camp Development**

Myrtle	\$40.00
Houston 1st	\$100.00
Total	\$140.00

**Youth Ministries Board**

Lebanon Bookstore	\$140.00
Total	\$140.00

**FWB Family Ministries**

Belton	\$30.00
Total	\$30.00



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