



GEM

Missouri Free Will Baptist

Magazine

Happy New Year!

Inside:

First Service at Stonebridge Page 4

Being Free Will Baptist in the 21st CenturyPage 10

Volume 79 / Number 1 / January, 2008

In this issue:

From the Editor..... Page 3

Missouri Show-Me Missions:

First Service at Stonebridge Page 4

Thanks to the Longs Page 5

From St. Croix to Overland Park Page 6

Across the State:

Missouri Life Page 7

King's Way Celebrates Page 8

2008 State Calendar..... Page 9

Being Free Will Baptist in the 21 Century..... Page 10
by Jeff Myers

Hands of Encouragement..... Page 12
by Mark Vandivort

2007 National Leadership Conference Page 13

November Financial Report..... Page 14

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Business Office:
202 West Commercial,
P.O. Box 991,
Lebanon, Missouri 65536,
Gary Fry, Editor.

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From the Editor

Holy Bones

Wise Men's Bones Part of Catholic Relics Exhibit said the headline in the Arizona Daily Star newspaper. "Tiny fragments of bone believed to be remains of the three wise men who visited the newborn Jesus will be on display in Tucson for two days this week" it continued. What had really caught my attention was a subheading that said "This is the closest I'm going to get to God in my physical lifetime." These words were from an official of one of the sponsoring agencies of the exhibit. As I continued to read the article, I discovered that the exhibit was also to feature relics from the manger, fabric from the Virgin Mary's veil and Joseph's coat, and a bone fragment from St. Elizabeth, who was the Virgin Mary's ninth cousin. And here I was, nowhere near Arizona and several days late.

I shook my head and smiled as I went on to read other articles, but my thoughts kept coming back to those bones in Tucson. The article said that there had been no scientific verification for the authenticity of the relics. In other words, there is no way to prove whether these are the remains of the men who came to visit young Jesus or not. Again the official of the sponsoring agency said "We need tangible things to make our minds work. Scientific testing isn't as important as the meaning in the hearts of the people who visit the relics." I suppose he was saying that truth is not as important as what you believe.

I'm glad Free Will Baptists don't have relics. At least I don't think we do. Or could it be that our relics are just not of a physical nature? Could it be that we have those things that we cling to and venerate as faithfully as those who go in for relics you can touch (if they were not sealed behind glass?)

We teach and preach that all we need is the truth of God's word and our faithful commitment to live by that

truth based on our personal relationship with Christ. We are critical of those who add tradition and extra-biblical writing to their requirements for God's approval. We rightly label them cults.

What are our relics? Maybe music or preaching styles or Bible versions or worship practices or... In truth, anything that we adopt as gospel that is just personal preference is in danger of becoming a relic. Now we all have our personal preferences. I am convinced that mine are best. But I am willing to allow you the right to be wrong.

A relic can be anything that becomes the basis of our faith rather than God and His word. If we are priding ourselves in our practices we are in danger of becoming a hindrance to the work of God. It might be the list we hand a new convert. Keep this we tell him and you will validate your faith in and standing with God, not to mention our ministry. And while God has certainly called us to come out from the world and be separate,

He never intended for our separateness to be an object of worship. We are advised to adorn the doctrine of God. That means that the lives we live and the doctrine we preach and practice must have a sound Biblical basis. It must be provable in a world looking for answers. Personal preferences don't have unassailable footing. Only God's Word stands when the world looks to see if it really works in all circumstances.



The guy who helped sponsor the relic display was wrong. Truth does matter, not just what you believe. We don't need relics, we need the Word. Praise God we have It in all Its truth and glory.

I remember reading about two churches who both claimed to have the skull of St. Peter. It was a highlight of their existence and attracted many visitors and offerings. When asked how both churches could have the skull of the same saint, one of the clergy answered, "Oh, that's easy, we have St. Peter's skull as a young man!"

Let us never be so foolish as to allow our desire for validation with the world or the church or any other group move us to abandon our stand on the Word. Luther said, "*a simple layman armed with Scripture is greater than the mightiest pope without it*"

Sola Scriptura.

Missouri Show-Me Missions



First Service in New Stonebridge Building

For the past 4 months there has been a buzz in Troy, MO about the new church being built. Several of those who pass by on a regular basis on hwy J out of Troy have been keeping track of how fast the basement was dug and how expedient the upper level church has come together as well. When the sign went up announcing that the first service was going to be December 2 most everyone in town knew it.

On December 1st a group of men and ladies came from the Oak Hill FWB church in Union to lend a hand in making sure everything was ready for the opening day. They worked all day putting finishing touches on the sanctuary, bathrooms, foyer and building classroom walls downstairs. Terry told them that the December 2nd first-service would not have been as special had they not shown up and supplied the much needed labor to make the church more complete. This was just one more area in which God has blessed this church in the past 18 months.

December 2nd, as it turned out, wasn't the most ideal day to have a first-service scheduled. Forty mile per hour wind gusts, periodical torrential rain and falling temps kept many of the curious ones away for that special service. But it didn't stop any of those who had been praying and working for this day to come. Just over 50 showed up despite the weather to be a part of this completed step in the church's short history.

Even though the weather wasn't bright and shiny that Sunday morning the atmosphere inside was of glowing smiles as they met for prayer and a continental breakfast before the worship hour. When time had come to begin the service it seemed to me that Pastor Terry just couldn't smile big enough. You could see that he was proud, excited, and about as happy as a kid on Christmas morning who had just gotten what he had been hoping for.

Brother Jordan Rhea led the church in some wonderful music between testimonies, prayers of praise and a short sermon from Pastor Terry that ended with the Pastor's mother, who hasn't known the Lord very long, standing to tell him how proud of him she is and letting it end with a mom and son hug. There was more than one comment that morning that had the understanding, "to whom much is given, much is expected." So the Stonebridge FWB church in Troy, MO understands that this is not the end, but just another beginning step in the work of the Great Commission of our Lord to reach our local, region, country and world with the Gospel.

Thank you Missouri Free Will Baptists for your prayers and support that made this church possible. Please keep up the good work that we may see more of God's hand in this and our other missions endeavors.

Frank Webster



Thank You, Vernon & Ada Long

After nine short years under the leadership of Vernon and Ada Long, the State sponsored work in Jackson will be under self-support status as of January 1, 2008. The First Free Will Baptist church in Jackson, MO is just one of many accomplishments in the ministry of Vernon and Ada. Not long after their marriage in February of 1956 they attended a mission church in Crystal City, MO in which Vernon was ordained as a deacon and served on the St Louis Association's Executive Board. If we stopped there, we can see that they were always working for the Gospel but this is just the beginning.

While Vernon was serving as a deacon and serving on the associational level, he was also involved in spreading the Gospel as a DJ for 12 years at a local radio station. In his spare time he promoted Southern Gospel concerts during that time as well. That's a pretty busy life, right? Well, he also started a water pollution control business which was used to supplement his pastor's salary, not Vernon's personal salary because he had yet to become a pastor. But this was to supplement

a salary for his pastor, A.B. Brown, while Pastor Brown was attending seminary training.

In August of 1973 while still serving as deacon and doing all the above mentioned, he answered the call to the pastorate. He attended Missouri Baptist College in St Louis then moved to Nashville in June of 1974 where he again got a job as a DJ. After graduating from FWW Bible College in 1977 he & Ada moved to Virginia to serve in an associate pastor position.

Then in June of 1979 the Lord moved them from supporting roles to a Pastoral ministry when they took a struggling church in Jackson, TN and stayed there 10 years securing that church. After accomplishing that, the Lord moved upon them



to come back to Missouri to pastor the Leadington FWW church until Vernon was impressed to approach the Missouri Mission Board about starting a church in Jackson, MO. He was, of course, hired to do so, and he took off running.

After meeting in some houses in Jackson for a while, the emerging church was able to assume a small church building, and the new group of followers went to work to make it their home. The church is now home to several dozen who have become followers of Christ through this ministry, and the church building has been paid off with some assistance of the Missouri Mission Board.

Several people have come to know the Lord through the ministry of Vernon and Ada Long. Only the Father knows how many came to know Him through the radio ministries, the Gospel concerts, the many revivals Vernon conducted and now through his e-mail sermon series that he sends out weekly. The

Lord has, does and will use this willing couple, and we are glad to have been a small part of it.

Missouri Free Will Baptist Mission Board

Frank Webster; Director



From St. Croix to Overland Park

The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians that he learned to be content in whatever state he was in. We realize that Paul didn't actually mean a state to live in but I must say that scripture has a way of speaking to our circumstance. We have ministered to Churches in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, The Island of St. Croix and now we are moving to Overland Park Kansas. You may ask why would we leave a place like St. Croix. We did not really want to leave but we knew God was leading us back to the states.

After filling in for a couple of Sunday Services in Overland Park we began to feel God pulling us towards Kansas. We spent a lot of time in Study and Prayer seeking Gods direction for our family and for Overland Park. House hunting, getting know the area, and meeting new people are just a few of the things we are focused on now as we believe God has called us to Overland Park.

The normal time frame for raising funds for a Home Missions church is 8 to 12 months. We believe the Church in Overland Park needs a Pastor now and waiting to raise funds would be a great detriment to the Church. We are trusting God to provide the needed support so we can move to Kansas by the first of the year 2008.

We will be contacting pastors to ask if we can come and present the great need for a church in Overland



Park. Our goal is for Missouri to help support the work with \$1,300 each month. We will also be asking for a S.W.A.T. team to come and help: SWAT stands for Servants, Willing, And, Temporary. We have developed a plan that we believe will allow the work to be self supporting in 30 to 36 months. Please be part of the work by helping us with your Prayers and Support. Church Planting is Physical, Financial and most of All a Spiritual Battle please Pray.

God Bless,
Scott, Dawn, Matthew, Sara, and Katie Real

Answered Prayer in Spain

Dear friends and family,

We are very thankful today to have Brooke's visa in hand. We submitted the paperwork back in August and finally after three months it was approved.

This visa is essential in order for her to obtain her residency card. We praise the Lord it was approved. Thank YOU to many of you who prayed for this.

Happy New Year

Matthew, Brooke & Andrew Turnbough



A recent picture of Andrew.

Raymore Harvest Report

I am sorry it has been so long since you have heard from us. The Lord has been and still is blessing us. Our building has been slow in completion for a number of different reasons, but is gaining speed! We should be sheet rocking here after the first of the year.

We tried "trunk or treat" this year and it was a big success! On Oct 31st we set up in our parking lot with games, puppet shows and candy. We had lots of children and parents. While we handed out candy to the children, we gave out

ink pens with our church information on it to the adults. So many of the parents thanked us for what we were doing in providing a safe place for the children. I think we had at least 50 children come by!

In November we had "Harvest Festival Fun Days". We went out to our land and had a hayride and games and grilled hot dogs. We had a nice turn out for the day!

In December, we had a Christmas program with the children and then had a Kansas City Christmas dinner. Of course this means B-B-Q!!! We

catered in some of the area's finest Barbecue.

In years past we would go to Ryan's but it is getting a little expensive for larger families and we were looking for a change.

On Dec 23rd we had a candlelight service and serve communion which is sure to be a beautiful morning. We would like to wish all of our friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

God Bless You,
Gene & Sandy Howell

Missouri Life....



The **United Free Will Baptist Church of West Plains, MO** is pleased to announce that Bro. **Jason Roberts** is their new Senior Pastor. He joins the staff of Bro. Clarence Burton (Associate Pastor), Bro. Daryl Haney (Minister of Education), and Bro. Dennis McGinley (Youth Pastor).

Bro. Jason and his wife, Mary Ann, have made their home in West Plains for nearly 20 years. They have 3 children, Hannah, 16, Jake, 13, and Luke, 6.

Send your items for **Missouri Life** to info@mofwb.org or Gem, P.O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65536



Progress at camp...it's great to see the walls and roof go up on the new boys dorm! Delayed by last years ice storm and then the camping season, work is under-way again and plans are to have the new building fully functional by camping season this year.

Shortly after this photograph was taken, the roof went on making it possible to work inside whatever the weather. Please pray for this very important effort and don't forget your offering for the building fund!

Pray for the upcoming camping season as well. Lives are changed every year because of the prayers and contributions of Missourians who care about kids. Many of our full-time workers in our state look back to their days at Camp Nian-gua as influential in their decision to serve Christ.



The folks at **Ozark First** recently surprised **Pastor Gary Michener** with refreshments and a plaque. They were celebrating Bro. Gary's 30 years of service to the Lord in ministry. Many of those have been spent at the Ozark church Bro Gary started as a mission many years ago. Congratulations Bro. Gary!



King's Way Celebrates 35 Years

On October 14, 2007 King's Way Free Will Baptist Church celebrated their 35th anniversary in Springfield, Missouri, and everyone received a warm welcome from Pastor Derek Terry and the King's Way congregation. There was singing in the morning worship service by the group "Family Tradition" of Lebanon, Missouri, and Rev. Mike Bennett delivered the morning message.

A delicious lunch was prepared and served by the ladies of the church following the morning service. It was a great time of fellowship.

In the afternoon there was more special singing by "Family Tradition" and some of the former pastors were present with their families and shared some memories of their time spent at King's Way.

The church began with a meeting on June 24, 1972 at the home of David Latimer. There were a total of 32 people present to discuss a new Free Will Baptist Church on the north side of Springfield.

Those present were Gene Terry and family, Gary Kisse and family, Bob Johnson and family, Troy Skinner and family, David Latimer and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Day and Miss Pat Russell. This group of individuals prayed, elected people to hold special offices and read the constitution and by-laws for a mission Free Will Baptist Church. They agreed for the first service to be

held August 2, 1972. At that time they adopted the Free Will Baptist church covenant and chose King's Way as the name of the new church. The church had 22 charter members.

The church first met in a rented facility on North Kansas Expressway. Soon after the church was started a plot of land was secured at 2615 N. Park. The new church building was erected and the church was dedicated on the first Sunday of October in 1973 with Rev. Gene Terry officiating. Six ministers have pastored the church during the past 35 years. Rev. Gene Terry, Rev. Johnny Land, Rev. Dan Talbot, Rev. Darrell Mitchell, Rev. Don Carter, Rev. Bill Ragsdale and the current pastor, Rev. Derek Terry.

King's Way church has impacted many lives during its history and continues to be a beacon of light on the hill, shining for the community.

-Church Reporter, Anna Cobb



Called into the ministry and ordained at King's Way, Rev. Derl Allen and Dawn. Son of the late Rev. Derl Hicks



Founding Pastor Rev. Gene Terry and Donna, 1972-1978; 1989-1994



Previous Pastor Rev. Dan Talbot and Sharon 1980-1984



Previous Pastor Rev. Don Carder and Marie 1994-2000



Previous Pastor Rev. Bill Ragsdale and Loretta 2001-2003



Current Pastor Rev. Derek Terry and Donna 2003 to present



Family Tradition from Lebanon, MO



MOFWB

2008 Calendar

January 14-15

Executive Committee Retreat... Keeter Center, Hollister, MO

March 10-12

Ministers Retreat...Cross Pointe Retreat Center, Rocky Mount, MO

May 12-14

Senior Adult Retreat...Clarion Hotel, Springfield, MO

June 1-2

SCM Competitive Activities...Clarion Hotel, Springfield

June 3

MOWAC Annual Convention...Clarion Hotel, Springfield, MO

June 2-4

MOFWB Annual Meeting...Clarion Hotel, Springfield, MO

June 8-13

Teen Camp, Group One

June 15-20

Teen Camp, Group Two

July 20-24

National Association of FWB...Charleston, West Virginia

July 27- August 1

Pre-teen Camp, Group Two

August 3-8

Pre-Teen Camp, Group One

September 11-13

WNAC Retreat...Ridgecrest, North Carolina

September 19-20

MOWAC Retreat...Clarion Hotel, Springfield, MO

November 14-15

State Youth Retreat...Windermere Retreat Center, Roach, MO

A New-Year Inventory

Alan and Heidi had been married ten years with two small children when a favorite uncle came to visit for the holidays. Uncle George reminded them about the necessity of a personal year-end inventory and gave them the following questions to answer:

1. Are we, along with our family, aware of where our will and living trust can be found?

2. Are our executors, trustees and guardians of our children living and capable of carrying out their duties?

3. Do these trustees, friends and professionals know about all our assets and financial obligations?

4. Are our wishes regarding asset distribution still valid?

5. Have there been any major tax changes, that would adversely affect the settlement of our estate?

6. Have minor children been financially provided for as needed?

7. Are the people we intend to benefit still alive and in need of our help?

8. Have we considered remembering our charitable interests with a gift?

For more information on answering these questions, please call or e-mail.

Free Will Baptist Foundation
5233 Mt. View Road
Antioch, TN 37013
Telephone: 877-336-7575

Email at foundation@nafwb.org

Being Free Will Baptist in the 21st Century

Postmodernism: What's the Big Deal?

By Jeff Myers

Well, we're seven years into the new millennium, and I have to be honest - I'm a little disappointed. As a kid growing up in the 70s and 80s, the year 2000 and beyond promised all kinds of exciting and exotic innovations. But it's 2007 and I still don't have my flying car, robot butler, and other than the occasional trip to airport, I'm still waiting on those sidewalks that move for you. All that aside, there are significant changes. Right about the time I finally figured out how to set the clock on my VCR, we get DVD players. We have cell phones that take pictures, surf the internet, record video, play video games, text message, play music, schedule appointments, and, oh yeah...you can make phone calls on them, too.

Some major changes have also taken place right within the walls of our churches. Just 15 years ago, most of us had never seen a church with modern praise music or video projection systems. Youth Pastors were only for large churches with big budgets. In fact 15 years ago most of our churches didn't even have budgets. We weren't familiar with terms like seeker-sensitive, purpose-driven, emerging church, postmodernism, or media minister. Of course, there was also no internet, wi-fi, or venti non-fat vanilla latte with a triple shot of espresso.

Whether you like the changes to the church and society or not, one thing is certain - they ARE changing. And as usual, society changes MUCH faster than the church can keep up with. One of the biggest societal changes that the church is having trouble catching up to is this thing called postmodernism. For several years now, we have heard about the dangers of postmodernism and how we need to reject it and keep a watchful eye for its influence. However, I've found that when asked, most of us don't really know what it is we're supposed to be watching out for. So what's all the fuss about?

WHAT IS POSTMODERNISM?

First, let me say what it isn't. Postmodernism isn't a trend or a fad. It won't go out of style like pet rocks or parachute pants. POSTMODERNISM IS A MAJOR CULTURAL SHIFT. For the last 400-500 years we have lived in what has been called The Modern Era. It was brought about by the periods known as the Renaissance

and the Enlightenment Period. What we are privileged to witness at this point in history is the transition out of The Modern Era and into The Postmodern Era.

As a general rule, if you're age 40 or above, the way you live your life and view truth, logic, and reason tends to fall along Modern Era lines. As a result, you might feel unease or even frustration with the direction our society is moving and thinking. You are a modern person living in a postmodern world.

If you're in your 30s, you're probably very confused. This tends to be the generation that started to really feel that things were changing. They have one foot in The Modern Era and one foot in the Postmodern Era. This generation tends to feel that "things aren't right, but we're not quite sure how to change it". However, those of you in your 20s and younger tend to get the postmodern world and feel very comfortable in it. (By the way, look at your churches. Chances are the 20s demographic is the one you're having the most trouble reaching!)

There are major differences in how moderns and postmoderns think and live. As we look at the following seven major differences (there are many more, but these seven will give you a good primer), please keep in mind that I'm speaking in generalizations. There are always exceptions to these statements. In fact, hopefully most of you reading this will take exception to these descriptions because they are descriptions of the values of the world we live in. As Christians, you should see areas in both modern and postmodern philosophy in which God's Word calls us to a different value. Hopefully you'll also notice that while some of these ideological shifts are shifting away from Kingdom values, many of them are actually shifting toward Kingdom values. The point is that the values of The Modern Era aren't necessarily more "Christian" than the values of this new Postmodern Era.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Logic vs. Experience (1)

Moderns tend to value a more rational way of thinking. They take actions based on reason and forethought. A modern with an extra \$1,000 to spend is likely to invest in their future or make



improvements to their home. Post-moderns tend to live for the experience. This accounts for the rise of extreme sports and reality television.

A postmodern with an extra \$1,000 to spend might be seen hiking in Europe or spending the weekend at a resort spa being pampered. Life is not necessarily about wealth and acquisition; it's about your experience. As a result postmoderns tend to value spiritual experiences over the modern value of scientific evidence. Postmoderns are very open spiritually...probably too open.

Exclusive vs. Relative

To a modern, the world was black and white. Things were either true or false, liberal or conservative, good or evil, fact or fiction... Everything could and should be categorized and labeled. This way of thinking drives postmoderns crazy! Between black and white are a million shades of grey. Because of their value on personal experience, postmoderns see truth as a complicated matter. Something can be true for you, but not true for me. Television comedian, Stephen Colbert, has even coined a term for this - truthiness. Webster's Dictionary (yes, it's even in the dictionary) defines truthiness as "truth that comes from the gut, not books" (2).

Individualistic vs. Communal The modern world placed a high value on individual achievement. Being the "self-made man" was something to strive for. This was especially true of the "cowboy" mentality of Americans. The postmodern world finds its self-worth in a community of friends and in team achievement. Where moderns were more self-centered (remember the "me generation" of the 80s?), postmoderns tend to be much more concerned with the greater good.

Volunteerism is at a high among young adults and teens. SIDE NOTE: You may be thinking, "How can this be true? The teens at our

church are completely self-centered." Teens may not be the best measure of this value, because developmentally teens by nature are egocentric. Trust me, even Moses couldn't believe how self-centered his teens were!

Functional vs. Creative

This shift can be seen primarily in art and architecture. The Modern Era saw a major decrease in large, beautiful cathedrals whose designs were commissioned by artists and artisans. Churches became simple and functional, because it made better financial sense.

Before moderns came about, a church's design itself was an act of worship. Postmoderns are returning to this value. They love the beauty and subjectivity of art and seek to infuse art and the creative spirit into every facet of life. They haven't abandoned functional design, but rather, seek to intertwine function and beauty.

Industrial vs. Environmental

To the modern mind, improving industry was thought to be the greatest legacy the world could leave for their children. And thank God this was so! As slow as Free Will Baptists can be to change, I can't remember anyone calling for us to return to the good ol' days of The Dark Ages. Our world is a vastly more comfortable place to exist thanks to 500 years of modern thinkers. However, postmoderns look at the current state of our planet as one scarred by pollution, toxic dumping, the decimation of the rainforests, and urban sprawl. They passionately believe that if changes aren't made our planet will be irreparably damaged. Therefore, a more environmentally friendly society is now the greatest legacy that we can leave to our children.

Local vs. Global

This change has largely been brought about by improved forms of communication, cable or satellite television, and the internet. Physical mail sent through the post office is known as "snail mail". Faxes and e-mail provide a cheaper, more convenient

method of communication. In fact, for those of you who think you're with it because you use e-mail, I read a recent article that called e-mail "the new snail mail" (3). Most young people greatly prefer text messaging on their cell phones because with text messaging you get an immediate response. If someone's not at their computer, it might be a few hours before your e-mail is responded to. With the internet the idea of international borders has become a thing of the past. Young people not only have close friends in their schools, they have close internet friends in Paris, Amsterdam, Johannesburg, and all over the globe.

Compartmentalized vs. Authentic

For moderns it was very common to compartmentalize their lives. They were often one man at work, a different man at home, and yet a different man at church. How many of you have been shocked to find out that the sweet, patient deacon from your church is a foul-mouthed tyrant on the job? Or the seemingly perfect couple in your Sunday School class is struggling with substance abuse and infidelity at home? Postmoderns highly value the authentic and can quickly see through emotional facades. They don't try to be somebody that they're not. Whether at work, school, home, or church, they want the freedom to be themselves. They also expect their friends and leaders to do the same.

Continued next Month: Part II
ARE POSTMODERNS A LOST CAUSE?

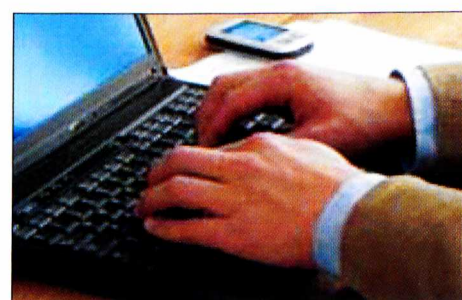
Jeff Myers is the Youth Pastor at First Church in Lebanon. He is married to Jamie and together they enjoy their children, Molly, Isaiah and Isla



COUNTRY CHAPLAIN

Hands of Encouragement

By J. Mark Vandivort



My friend, Jack, sat on the stage awaiting his turn to speak. I observed his hands as he stroked his chin, adjusted his tie, and buttoned his suit coat. As the time neared for him to be introduced, he opened a thin briefcase and removed a manila folder.

Everything about my friend, whom I hadn't seen in person for several years, looked fine. His suit fit well and his cowboy boots were nicely polished. It was his hands that caught my attention. Hands that had struck his keyboard, typing out words of encouragement, instruction, and counsel, mixed with his characteristic humor. Sometimes I would laugh out loud.

Spoken words are also valuable in communication. Some words take root in our minds and are remembered for a lifetime. People's words are sometimes recorded and replayed.

In today's world of video-technology I believe there is still significant value in "written" words of encouragement. Written words also make history. They can be read and reread and meditated on, sometimes for thousands of years.

For example, through the ages men and women such as William

Tyndale have literally given their life's blood in order to translate the words of the Bible into a language of the common people. Today, Bible translators are giving a lifetime of their rich talents to translate the Scriptures into the "heart language" of people groups around the world.

People take great risks to write (or speak) words of encouragement. For example, first-century Christians were afraid of Saul (Jewish name) who later became better known as Paul (Greek name). The persecuted Christian community in Jerusalem doubted that, Saul, their former persecutor, had become a believer in Jesus.

But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus (Acts 9:27, NKJ).

Barnabas became noted for his courageous cross-cultural teaching and mentoring. And Paul's written letters have, for 2,000 years, helped clearly define faith, doctrine, and practice.

Books and magazine articles often include interesting messages that have been written from one friend

to another; words that live on through the generations.

Hands of encouragement. Your hands. My hands. They can reach around the world through a kind and gentle touch, a friendly smile or a handshake, a letter of encouragement, appreciation or sympathy, a spoken word of praise, or a phone call to say you care. The possibilities seem endless.

What can you do? Is there a teacher who had a positive influence on your life? Could you teach an adult to learn to read? Do you know someone experiencing deep grief or loss? Reach out to them with your "hands of encouragement" and brighten their day.

(I have heard numerous people say that they have received a letter of encouragement from my friend Jack. He's Dr. Jack Williams, Director of Communications, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee.)

(Noble Free Press,
P.O. Box 298,
Noble, OK 73068,
11/16/07).



BLUEPRINT FOR LEADERSHIP: 2007 FWB LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

-NASHVILLE, TN

Participants from 22 states gathered at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel, December 3-4, for the 2007 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference. The annual meeting explored the theme, "Blueprint for Leadership."

Keynote speakers Garnett Reid, Jack Williams, and Jeff Manning approached leadership from unique perspectives. Using Moses as an Old Testament example, Reid listed 10 characteristics of a godly leader. Williams, member of the Free Will Baptist Historical Commission, gave listeners a "tour" of denominational leadership, highlighting lessons learned along the way. Jeff Manning based his message on 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12, citing the life of Paul as a New Testament example of positive leadership.

When asked about his role in this year's conference, Williams responded, "I've attended Leadership Conferences for 35 years. These events do for denominational life in December what the national convention does in July — they provide direction, bring state and national leaders together on an intimate scale, and serve as pressure-release valves for important issues that might arise."

Defining Leadership

Tuesday workshops featured a variety of presenters including Ken Akers (TN), Richard Atwood (TN), Richard Davis (TN), Douglas Earls (MO), Neil Gilliland (TN), Ray Lewis (TN), J. Matthew Pinson (TN), Rebecca Pugh (TN), and Michael Waddell (AL). The seminars addressed a wide range of leadership topics from "Financial Safeguards for Leaders" to "How to Identify Your Leadership Style."

Attendee Don Matchett (AR) expressed his enthusiasm. "The seminars were great! Very inspiring! It was a great choice of both speakers and topics."

Business at Hand

Denominational leaders handled a lengthy slate of business at the conference. The Nominating Committee of the National Association of Free Will Baptists met Tuesday afternoon to recommend nominees for board and commission vacancies



to be filled at the 2008 convention in Charleston, West Virginia. Will Harmon (AR) chairs the seven-person committee.



Other national boards and committees met in conjunction with the conference including the Executive Committee, Home Missions Board, International Missions Board, the Board of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, the Board of Retirement and Insurance, Randall House Publications Board, and the boards of Master's Men and Women Nationally Active for Christ, and the Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees.

The Heart of Leadership

Keith Burden, executive secretary of the National Association, summed up the meeting by saying, "This year's conference proves again that Free Will Baptist speakers need not take a back seat to anyone. The messages were excellent — encouraging, to the point, and speaking to the very heart of leadership."

The 2008 Leadership Conference will meet December 8-9, at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville, TN.

Missourians who attended the conference were, Rick Dement, Kenny Simpson, Kenny Panduku, the Jacksons, the Bakers, the Thebeaus, Doug Earls, Lonnie Glor, and Gary Fry. Dr. Earls presented a seminar based on materials he has prepared and presented to the Palmer Leadership Institute.

Financial Report

Coop Disbursements

November 2007..... **\$56,266.37**

19.00% St HM\$10,690.60
17.00% Exec. Office.....\$9,565.28
3.00% Gen. Fund.....\$1,687.99
8.50% Youth Camp.....\$4,782.64
2.50% Youth Min.....\$1,406.66
2.50% CE\$1,406.00
2.50% Senior Adult.....\$1,406.00
9.00% Mo Retmt.....\$5,063.99
3.00% ShowMe Plan.....\$1,687.99

33.00%\$18,567.90
National Ministries

Total\$56,266.37

Coop Plan

Amity.....\$67.20
Aulsbury Chapel\$188.82
Bailey.....\$191.00
Bailey Chapel\$98.00
Beacon\$3,000.00
Belton\$333.58
Bethel- El Dorado Springs \$225.23
Bethel- Marshfield.....\$1,158.71
Black Oak\$508.00
Cabool 1st\$378.97
Calvary Chapel\$815.67
Cape Girardeau 1st\$691.00
Central\$790.67
Christ Chapel.....\$287.00
Clifton\$40.54
Cornerstone.....\$684.38
Crossroads-Wentzville.....\$649.00
Cuba\$554.00
DeSoto 1st.....\$1,360.00
Farmington 1st.....\$3,614.09
Fellowship- Park Hills\$1,200.00
Fordland\$495.00
Fourth\$193.50
Fredericktown 1st.....\$310.00
Freeman Chapel.....\$320.90
Generations\$484.97
Gospel Light\$200.00
Grace\$1,303.41
Grant Avenue.....\$801.73
Hannibal\$743.00
Hannon\$1,105.00
Hartville.....\$1,121.00
Harvest- Raymore\$474.20
Hopewell.....\$466.00
Houston 1st\$214.90
Hurryville.....\$718.97
Jackson\$209.90
Kings Way\$505.59
Koshkonong.....\$175.00
Lead Hill.....\$270.00
Leadington 1st.....\$443.27
Lebanon 1st.....\$1,803.53
Lebanon Greenhills\$545.39
Marshfield\$218.99
Merls Chapel\$179.00
Mill Creek.....\$605.68

Mine LaMotte.....\$77.07
Monett 1st.....\$423.12
Mt. Pisgah.....\$600.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....\$1,506.90
Myrtle.....\$262.97
Neosho 1st\$1,330.00
Nevada\$205.00
New Hope\$328.00
New Life- Licking\$391.83
Niangua\$161.93
Number One.....\$135.79
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove.....\$211.80
Oak Hill.....\$427.00
O'Fallon 1st\$2,052.12
Olivet\$444.00
Ozark 1st.....\$1,678.00
Palabras De Vida Eterna.....\$363.98
Park Hills 1st.....\$803.39
Parkview\$350.00
Pleasant Grove- Urbana.....\$149.00
Pleasant Hill.....\$172.92
Pleasant Home\$24.50
Potosi 1st.....\$162.54
Purdy 1st\$950.00
Raymondville 1st.....\$106.04
Rejoice.....\$519.50
Rock Chapel.....\$332.56
Rolla 1st.....\$278.00
Salem\$30.00
Seymour\$539.00
Smyrna\$80.00
Springfield 1st.....\$1,325.32
St. Francois Assn.....\$99.20
Stockton\$181.21
Thayer\$970.00
Trinity.....\$833.66
Union Grove\$646.00
Union Light\$200.00
United\$1,389.69
Unity\$530.00
Viburnum\$460.00
Victory- Alton\$518.16
Victory- KC\$498.57
Waynesville 1st.....\$726.20
West Plains 1st.....\$728.00
Willow Springs.....\$362.30
Willow Springs 1st.....\$101.00
Wolf Creek.....\$855.31
Total\$56,266.37

Show-Me Plan

Walnut Grove.....\$15.00
Lebanon Greenhills\$25.00
Merls Chapel\$30.00
Rolla 1st.....\$30.00
Faith & Hope-Willow Spngs \$45.00
Willow Springs 1st.....\$45.00
Black Oak\$60.00
Happy Hill\$60.00
Myrtle\$75.00
Palabras De Vida Eterna.....\$75.00
Maggart, Roxanne.....\$100.00
New Hope.....\$150.00
Olivet\$155.00
Copper Mines.....\$200.00
New Home- Hartville.....\$210.00
Leadington\$271.00
Neosho 1st.....\$315.00

Porter Chapel\$325.39
Cornerstone.....\$513.00
Hannon\$805.00
Macedonia- Purdy\$17,000.00
Pleasant Hill.....\$45.00
Crossroads-Wentzville.....\$50.00
Willow Springs.....\$122.79
Mill Creek.....\$170.00
Hartville.....\$240.00
Parkview\$242.00
Grant Avenue.....\$245.00
Rock Chapel.....\$255.00
United\$300.00
Waynesville 1st.....\$383.35
Farmington 1st.....\$500.00
Freeman Chapel.....\$720.00
Grantham, Judy.....\$15.00
Chrisman, Mona.....\$30.00
Mt. Zion- Thayer.....\$30.00
Jackson\$65.00
Calvary Chapel\$105.00
Greenfield\$120.00
Cuba\$138.50
Mt. Pisgah.....\$165.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....\$565.00
Fellowship.....\$639.00
O'Fallon 1st\$11,250.00
Shelly, Larry.....\$15.00
Pleasant Grove- Urbana.....\$50.00
Monett 1st.....\$68.00
Mine LaMotte.....\$75.00
Viburnum\$85.00
Harvest- Raymore\$100.00
Cabool 1st\$105.00
Houston 1st\$120.00
Belton\$150.00
Lebanon 1st.....\$150.00
Generations.....\$165.75
MO WAC\$551.33
Hurryville.....\$627.50
Thayer\$645.00
DeSoto 1st.....\$732.50
Brown, Angela\$15.00
Ozark 1st.....\$34.00
Pinkerton, Jerry\$45.00
Burns, Jack.....\$60.00
Unity\$75.00
O'Fallon 1st\$168.76
Fordland\$250.00
Faith- Fair Grove\$254.75
Victory- KC\$300.00
Campbell, Lewis.....\$360.00
Springfield 1st.....\$545.00
Barker, James.....\$15.00
Berry, Roberta.....\$15.00
Eastern Gate\$15.00
Hopewell.....\$30.00
Richwoods 1st.....\$52.50
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove.....\$79.00
Farmington 1st- Msngs Cls. \$90.00
Fourth\$90.00
Coon Creek\$121.38
Central\$180.00
Fredericktown 1st.....\$180.00
Osborn, Donald.....\$180.00
Union Light\$225.00
Pleasant Home\$300.00
Park Hills 1st.....\$333.02
Grace.....\$407.78
Beacon\$447.00
Trinity.....\$465.00
Gospel Light\$1,000.00
Bethel- Festus\$45.00
Number One.....\$60.00
New Life-Licking.....\$65.00

Indian Creek Ladies Aux.....\$72.50
Bethlehem\$100.00
Palabras De Vida Eterna.....\$100.00
Merls Chapel\$250.00
Indian Creek Assoc.....\$259.81
Pleasant Grove- Anderson \$523.69
Jones Chapel.....\$525.00
Generations\$554.00
Carthage.....\$927.50
Purdy 1st\$1,095.50
Neosho 1st\$1,200.00
Neosho 1st Ladies Aux.....\$1,200.00
Monett 1st\$1,351.50
New Life- Monett\$2,201.50
Macedonia- Purdy\$4,714.00
MO Cooperative Plan.....\$1,687.99
Total\$63,806.29

State Home Missions

Bethlehem\$25.00
Bookstore\$540.00
Carthage.....\$231.87
Crossroads-Wentzville.....\$50.00
DeSoto 1st.....\$110.00
Fordland\$10.00
Generations.....\$138.50
Gospel Light\$160.00
Grace\$40.00
Grant Avenue.....\$40.08
Indian Creek Assoc.....\$64.95
Indian Creek Ladies Aux.....\$18.13
Jones Chapel.....\$131.25
Lebanon Greenhills\$109.07
Macedonia- Purdy\$8,378.50
Merls Chapel\$62.50
MO WAC\$71.32
Monett 1st.....\$337.88
Myrtle.....\$85.00
Neosho 1st\$350.00
Neosho 1st Ladies Aux.....\$300.00
New Life- Monett\$550.37
Oak Hill.....\$15.00
O'Fallon 1st\$11,403.75
Ozark 1st\$10.00
PalabrasDeVida.....\$25.00
Pleasant Grove- Anderson \$130.93
Pleasant Grove- Urbana.....\$20.00
Purdy 1st\$273.87
Thayer\$1,550.00
United\$25.00
Unity\$70.00
Waynesville 1st.....\$50.00
Total\$25,377.97

National Home Missions

Beacon\$15.00
Bethel- Festus\$50.00
Bethlehem\$50.00
Carthage.....\$463.75
Central\$265.00
Copper Mines.....\$109.00
Cuba\$83.10
DeSoto 1st.....\$210.00
Farmington 1st.....\$740.00
Fellowship- Park Hills\$295.85
Fordland\$95.00
Fourth\$50.00
Fredericktown 1st.....\$30.00
Generations\$277.00
Gospel Light\$80.00
Grace\$129.00
Grant Avenue.....\$65.09
Hartville.....\$30.00

Houston 1st	\$62.50
Indian Creek Association Offering .	\$129.91
Indian Creek Ladies Aux.....	\$36.25
Jackson	\$50.00
Jones Chapel.....	\$262.50
Macedonia- Purdy	\$9,357.00
Mammoth Spring	\$106.60
Merls Chapel	\$150.00
Monett 1st.....	\$1,175.75
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$30.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	\$70.00
Neosho 1st	\$700.00
Neosho 1st Ladies Aux.....	\$600.00
New Life- Monett	\$1,100.75
New Testament.....	\$75.00
Oak Hill	\$75.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$178.75
Olivet	\$100.00
Ozark 1st	\$259.00
PalabrasnDeVida.....	\$50.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$180.68
Pleasant Grove- Anderson	\$261.84
Purdy 1st	\$547.75
Rader, Jerry	\$20.00
Richwoods 1st	\$65.25
Rock Chapel.....	\$75.42
Rolla 1st.....	\$130.50
Thayer	\$2,248.54
Trinity	\$40.00
Union Light	\$96.00
United	\$155.00
Unity	\$90.00
Victory- KC	\$15.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$245.00
West Plains.....	\$215.00
Total	\$21,992.78

International Missions

Belton	\$50.00
Cuba	\$55.40
DeSoto 1st.....	\$80.00
Generations.....	\$48.65
Grant Avenue.....	\$15.00
Hartville.....	\$45.00
Houston 1st	\$47.50
Mammoth Spring	\$12.23
Mtn. Grove 1st	\$40.00
New Testament.....	\$55.00
Olivet	\$75.00
Ozark 1st	\$50.00
Pleasant Home.....	\$38.33
Rejoice.....	\$200.00
Rolla 1st.....	\$120.50
Thayer	\$10.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$70.00
Total	\$1,012.61

Designated Giving

Berea Ministries

Hartville \$150.00	
Fellowship-Park Hills	\$30.40
Jackson	\$15.00
Total	\$195.40

Victor Torrez

United Youth Group	\$600.00
Total	\$600.00

Trula Cronk Home

Hannon	\$100.00
Myrtle.....	\$27.00
New Hope.....	\$50.00

Hartville.....	\$50.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$20.00
Belton	\$25.00
Desoto 1st	\$55.00
Unity	\$20.00
Grace	\$31.25
Union Light	\$20.00
Total	\$398.25

C. E. Board

Book Store.....	\$140.00
Total	\$140.00

FWBBC

Fellowship-Park Hills	\$10.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$165.00
Desoto 1st	\$40.00
Thayer	\$50.00
Beacon	\$100.00
Hopewell.....	\$10.00
Total	\$375.00

Hillsdale

Farmington 1st.....	\$100.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$25.00
Grant Avenue.....	\$170.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$170.00
Generations	\$51.05
Monett 1st.....	\$146.00
Thayer	\$50.00
Beacon	\$100.00
Total	\$812.05

Missouri Retirement

Book Store.....	\$200.00
Total	\$200.00

Senior Adult Board

Book Store.....	\$140.00
Total	\$140.00

Youth Camp

Cornerstone	\$100.00
Lebanon Bible And Book Store.....	\$540.00
Rolla 1st.....	\$20.00
Hartville.....	\$10.00
Niangua	\$25.00
Rock Chapel.....	\$20.00
Willow Springs.....	\$50.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$15.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$25.00
Desoto 1st	\$55.00
Thayer	\$50.00
Ozark 1st	\$10.00
West Plains 1st.....	\$25.00
Trinity	\$9.00
Total	\$954.00

Youth Camp Development..

Hannon	\$100.00
Indian Creek Association	\$2,241.25
Myrtle.....	\$58.00
Oak Hill	\$15.00
Total	\$2,414.25

Youth Ministries Board

Book Store.....	\$140.00
Total	\$140.00

YWAM

Belton	\$25.00
Total	\$25.00

Total October Giving:

\$174,717.11

Funds to date:

11/30/07

Cooperative Plan:

\$696,721.15

Show-Me Plan

\$333,721.11

Available Churches

The following churches are looking for a pastor. If your church is available, please let us know in the Gem office and we will gladly list your contact information. If your church is listed and finds a pastor, please let us know to remove your listing.

First Church

Cape Girardeau, MO

Contact:

Don Gregory

573-339-0797

or

Dave Lane

573-334-1106

Victory Church

Alton, MO

Contact:

Rev. Garland Barton

417-778-6370

gbarton000@centurytel.net

King's Way Church

Springfield, MO

Contact:

Everett Sawyer

417-582-1354

417-209-6726

Parkway Church

Sedalia, MO

Contact:

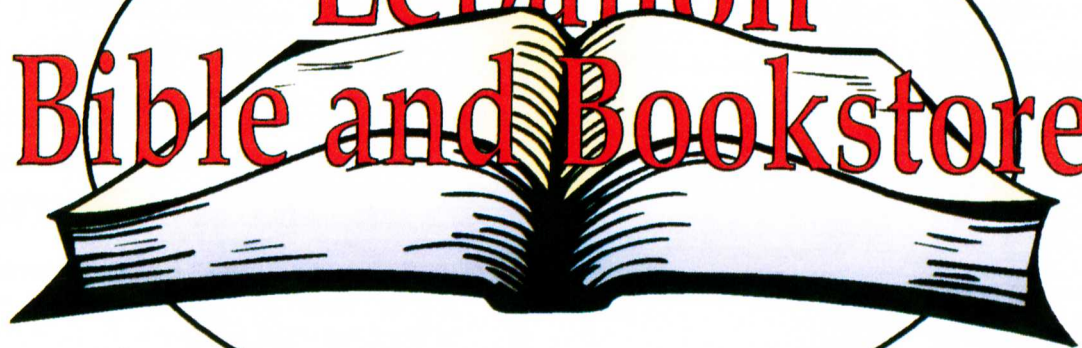
Audrey Bigelow

660-826-3880

660-475-0375



Lebanon Bible and Bookstore



Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists

Thanks for helping make 2007 one of our best years yet!

1-800-261-0571



Missouri State Association
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