



# GEM

Missouri Free Will Baptist

## Magazine

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*"O Give Thanks Unto  
the Lord, for He is  
Good..."*



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# from the Editor



## God is Good

*Psalms 107:1 O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

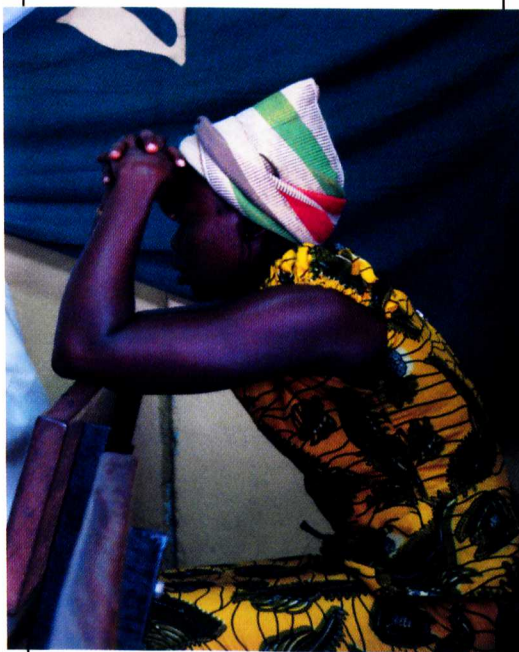
The kids were all cute as they stood at the front of the church. Since it was Thanksgiving Sunday, their teacher had them in a line, allowing them to recite the things for which they were thankful. They were saying the usual. God, Mommy and Daddy, and Jesus pretty well topped the list. I was watching the little guy on the end of the line as it grew closer to his turn. His eyes were red and his nose was runny. He had obviously been in trouble in class again.

When his turn finally arrived he took a great, sobbing breath and blurted out "I am thankful for my Mommy so maybe I won't get a spanking when I get home!" Snickers turned into full-blown laughter as the kids filed back to sit with their parents for the rest of the service. An embarrassed mother received her little petitioner into her arms with the assurance that at least this one time, he would probably be spared what he justly deserved.

When David wrote Psalm 107 he was much like that little lad. He was thankful for the Lord and his goodness. But it was the fact that his mercy was everlasting that had David more excited. David had been the recipient of God's mercy many times. So often, in fact, that it makes the assertion that David was a man after God's own heart a bit hard to understand. You would think that a man like David, hand selected to be king by God himself, giant

slayer, psalmist extraordinaire, yet adulterer and murderer would have learned his lesson eventually. I mean, we learned early on, right?

No, most of us are more like David than we like to admit. We are called of the Lord to be his children and we know what it feels like to worship him, even using the very psalms that David wrote. Yet we



are capable and sometimes guilty of sins equally heinous. David has nothing on us. But amazingly and thankfully David was right in his praise of the Lord in this psalm.

God is good. And while we like to look at his blessings on us and list them in the positive column, we are often most thankful that he is merciful and does not give us what we deserve. He rather responds to our cry of forgiveness and offers not only pardon but power. Help not to commit those sins again. His great desire is to hear a prayer for

sustaining assistance rather than sobbing admission of failure. A "help me Lord" is sweeter to his ears than a "forgive me Lord."

I am not saying God is stingy with his forgiveness; He is not. David said it best, "...His mercy endureth forever!" But I am sure God would love to see us progress to the place as His followers that we are winning victories. It is His goal for us to be conquerors through Him. He knows the battle far better than do we. He knows our enemy intimately; after all, he created him. We just fight him. His weapons are supernatural, ours are carnal. It's great to know that help is just a breath away, as long as that breath carries a petition to Him who loves us supremely.

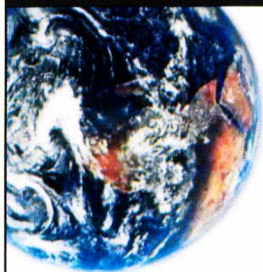
It's a great occupation to seek ways to let those we love know how much we appreciate them and how thankful we are for their very existence. No one is more worthy of our praise and thanksgiving than the Lord. As we look for ways to express our hearts to Him, remember that He already knows what is there. The greatest thanks we can offer is to fulfill the verse that follows in this passage. *Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;*

God loves to come to the aid of his children. Sometimes that redemption is a daily process, as should be our praise of Him.

***Both the cover photo and the photo that accompanies this article are believers from the Abobo FWB Church in Abidjan, Ivory Coast***



# Missouri Show-Me Missions



## New Roof for Springbrook

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. once said, "Think of giving not as a duty, but as a privilege." Within my circle of experience, going back to my first pastorate in St. Peters during the mid-90's, I can think of very few churches that epitomize that quote like Pastor Rick Dement and the First Free Will Baptist Church of O'Fallon. They have built a reputation for their selfless giving of time, energy, talent and money. This selflessness starts at home, has touched many churches throughout the state, and extends around the globe. As Paul said of the church at Rome, "your faith is being reported all over the world."

Our new mission work in Blue Springs, MO - Springbrook FWB Church (formerly Blue Springs FWB) - was the privileged recipient of this selflessness during the first weekend of October. The roof on the church parsonage was in severe need of replacement. Hearing of this need, I was contacted in early September by Roger Drennan, a member at O'Fallon, who said he was putting together a group of men from his church and possibly a couple of others to come and perform the work on our roof. I actually called him back the next day intending to talk him out of it. I knew the damage on the roof went beyond just replacing shingles. We had two layers to be torn off, and most likely a lot



of wood to be replaced as well. Roger simply said, "This is our ministry." Soon after, Bro. Drennan and Jerry Pogue, owner of Arrowhead Building Supply, came to visit our property and look at the roof. Before leaving, they said that they would not only have a crew to do the work, but would also be providing the materials at no cost to our church!

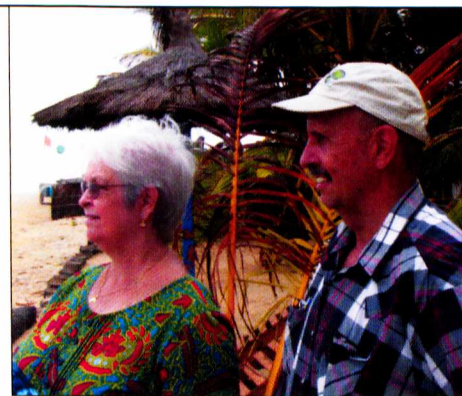
The crew arrived on Friday, October 3 with several men from the O'Fallon church as well as the Nettle's family from Stonebridge the mission work in Troy. Behind them was a boom truck from Arrowhead Building Supply, all the way from St. Peters, with the materials. I cannot remember a nicer weekend weather-wise in recent months. One of the men said, "It's obvious God is behind us on this." There was one small cloud that went over late on Saturday with a few raindrops, just to remind us Who was in control. Thank God for the beautiful weekend!

The crew brought twenty sheets of new plywood sheathing with them. But, by mid-morning on Friday, we were already estimating how many more might be needed to get the roof in shape to hold the new shingles. I believe it was a much bigger job than anticipated! The men must have been stepping on the backs of angels for none to have fallen through to the ceiling below. Imagine a dozen men walking on a tight trampoline...that's close to how it felt moving around on the roof. Amazingly, by the end of the first

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## The Pinkertons Stateside



Jerry and I have been back in the USA for 6 months. From the huge, surprise welcome at the airport, to buying a home in Mtn. Grove, visiting Camp & churches, plus the National Association in W. Va it's been an eventful time.

Our baggage from Africa finally arrived. We've seen & enjoyed seeing two of our three Sons and their families. We've had great visits with Carol's Mom & her three sisters. It's been wonderful to be with Family/Friends. Of course, we deeply miss our African Family/Friends. Those who are able have sent emails which thrill our hearts-& cause a few tears to flow.

Here's their report:

The 3 African Pastors in Abidjan are taking turns to visit/preach & lead the latest group of Believers (4th Church) who are meeting each week in a rented room of a school.

They have even prepared a budget to meet expenses!! All of this planning has been done by the African Pastors..how pleased & proud we are of their desire to keep reaching out.

Last month there were 30 pastors who met in Abidjan for a Pastor's Retreat. All FWB Pale Faces are in the US (Andersons & Alice Smith, now US on furlough, plan to return next spring/summer. ) Meaning, once again, the African leadership is well prepared to organize such an event. Praise God.

When Pastor Samuel writes, he always adds this phrase, " By the Grace of God all goes well here." Thank you for praying for our African Pastors.

The Bible Institute is in session again. Pastor Paul and Robert now direct the young students. I'm not sure, but think there are 6 students.

Jerry and I continue to visit churches to give Halleluiahs Reports of what God is doing in the Ivory Coast. We will be with International Missions until the end of Jan 2009. May we suggest that if you are financially supporting our Mission Account through the Show Me Plan that you begin supporting The David Dodson Account?

You've been most faithful. Please know that we are grateful for your years and years of loyal prayer and \$ helps. We will always need your prayers, but send the \$ to help others.. With thankful appreciation.

Jerry & Carol Pinkerton

## News from the Lytles

Judy and I would like to take this opportunity to tell the folks in Missouri - and all who might read the GEM - how thankful we are to be returning to the field in 2009. We are excited, too! As you might imagine, the hardest part is leaving our boys, our daughters-in-law, and those four very special grandchildren! The other day my six year old granddaughter climbed in my lap and out of the blue said: "Papa, I don't want you to go."

I explained to her how the Lord was leading us and because He has been so good to us we want to please Him by doing what He

has called us to do. I told her that we're going to talk on the phone and even have a camera (webcam) where we can see each other, and that we'll come for a visit once a year, and that maybe she and her mommy, daddy and brother might come see us! So she was happy with that.

We're very appreciative of the mission committee for recommending our inclusion again in the Show-Me Plan. We have been in Missouri several weekends already (August 10-13 - Mission Association; September 14 - Calvary Fellowship and Graces Churches; September 28 - Twin Oak and Mine LaMotte

Churches; and October 5 - South Central Association.) It's been a joy to reconnect with some we've known down through the years, and to visit new churches as well.

We hope to leave for Panama in late January to begin our field assignment, taking the months of March-May to minister in Uruguay. We have already begun our special assignment on behalf of the missions committee of the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches.

We're very grateful for your prayers as we prepare to go - they are truly our lifeline!

In Christ,

Steve Lytle



# Thieves Break Into Bivens' House On IBLAC Campus



## ....Cash Stolen

Altamira, Tamps. Mexico.

Sunday, July 20th, Bud & Ruth Bivens returned to their house on the IBLAC Bible Institute campus to find that thieves had broken in through the front door while they had been away on a trip. Maintenance man Brother Efrain Segura and his wife Juana met them at the gate with the news.

Segura had turned on the exterior security lights at dusk on the 17th. That night, as he made a late night check of the campus he noticed the lights were off. Thinking the bulbs had burned out he went to check and found the light near the back door smashed. He quickly went to the front porch where he found the light bulb laying on a chair and the wooden door standing open. He rushed inside to the stairway to the Bivens' bedroom. That door, which is usually secured with a pad lock, was also standing open.

He quickly left the house and ran to the main building to get reinforcements. With Julio and Vicki Garcia they checked the house and could find nothing out of place except a disarray of papers near the dresser upstairs.

Ruth Bivens hurried upstairs to check the dresser. There she found papers scattered all over, including an empty envelope on the floor that had contained \$1,200 for the Bible Institute. She immediately checked the little pot where they kept their petty cash. It was also empty. The Bivens had exchanged money for the E-TEAM right before they left so the little pot held more than usual, probably around \$300.

Upon investigation the men found that someone had cut the chainlink fence behind the tabernacle to enter the property. Armed with some kind of strong, metal bar, they had smashed the light then tried to break into the metal back door. Failing there they went to the front porch, removed that light and the little sleigh bells from the screen door, then broke the wooden, entry door loose from the lock. Segura believes he may have interrupted the thieves since nothing was missing but the money. He elected not to call the police, fearing they would only case the house and a worse theft would be in the making. "You cannot trust the police here," he said. "This is not the United States."

The Bivens always leave a lamp on a timer in the living room. It is set to come on before dusk and go off about 11 p.m. And, they usually leave a vehicle in the drive to give the appearance of someone in the house. However, leaving on their trip in a hurry, they did not think to pull the school into their drive.

Because of storms in the area the electricity had been off and the clock re-set so it did not come on as planned. The house where the Bivens live is right beside the Pan American Highway, and a small road runs immediately behind their back door. Dozens of people walk by the house at all hours of the day and night and certainly notice that Americans live there, and that they sleep upstairs.

Bivens has installed motion sensor lights that come on if someone walks near and they now lock the door with the deadbolt lock. The deadbolt would not have stopped these thieves, but might have slowed them down a bit. The school funds have been replaced with money from the Bivens' account.

## MEXICAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION CONVENES IN ALTAMIRA

Altamira, Tamps. Mexico. The 47th annual convention of the Mexican National Association of Free Will Baptists convened on the IBLAC Bible Institute campus July 25-27th.

Guest speaker, Rev. Mark Riggs, former missionary to Spain, spoke throughout the convention using the theme "Returning to our First love." He gave the Pastoral Exhortation during the Pastors' meeting on Friday then spoke in all of the worship services, Friday night, Saturday night, and Sunday morning. Using sermon titles: "Awakening the Church"; "Indifference in Service"; and "Holy Living," he saw the altars fill at the end of each message as he exhorted the church to love one another and reach out to the lost. The Sunday morning service saw the large tabernacle nearly filled as 900 faithful joined together in worship.



# Missouri Life....

## King's Way Welcomes New Pastor



Kings' Way is happy to welcome Reverend Charles Horton and his wife Norma as their new pastor. Brother Charles and Sister Norma started in the ministry 38 years ago and are both very excited to be apart of this time at King's Way.



The church has started a van ministry and feels very blessed to have this as an outreach to the community. Our Vacation Bible School "Back to School" carnival was a big success with almost 100 in attendance. Along with food, fun and games, families also received back to school supplies. The teens of the church presented a puppet show titled "Choose Jesus." A family who attended the VBS is now involved with our church, and it's such a blessing to see God working through acts of kindness...reaching one family at a time for His Kingdom!



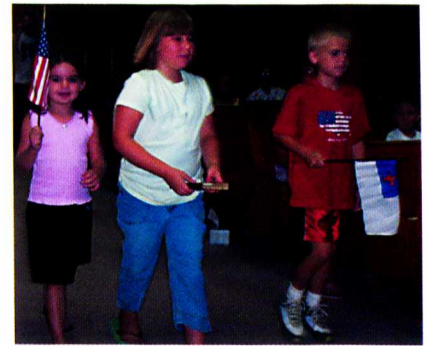
We are also excited about our new "members" at King's Way. Pictured are the grand daughters of Jeff and Sherry Johnson and their daughter, Tera. Sherry is holding Tera's daughter, Daisie Jo and Jeff is holding Abigale. Abigale's mom is Tiffany, (not shown) Both babies received a New Testament Psalms and were prayed over as God's gifts from Heaven. The church has another expecting mom and the nursery and children's church is growing by leaps and bounds! We welcome these little ones!

King's way is proud that the Spirit of God is moving, people are working and souls are getting saved. It is such a wonderful thing to have so many children as the future leaders and workers of today! We love our pastor, Reverend Charles Horton and his lovely wife, Norma and appreciate their dedication!

We give thanks to the Lord that we are able to count our many Blessings!

## Clifton's Second Annual VBS Reaches Community

The church was decorated from top to bottom with interesting scenes depicting the 2008 Vacation Bible School theme "God's Big Backyard." Music, Bible stories, crafts, activities, and snacks were planned and prepared as the



church prayed that God would bless our mostly adult congregation with many children during our VBS week. The first evening as the time approached to begin our program, the joyous sounds of children's voices were heard in the sanctuary. We knew that God was hearing and answering our prayers!

Each evening as we greeted new visitors, recited the pledge to the Christian flag, the American flag, and the Bible, and interacted with the children and teens in the various areas, we were constantly reminded of God's promises, presence, and provision. Using Bible stories such as "The Good Samaritan," children and teens learned about the importance of serving Jesus, family, and others.

On Friday evening, everyone gathered at Mammoth Spring State Park, Mammoth Spring, Arkansas, for our Backyard Bash. As our picnic concluded and the gospel music singers and musicians gathered, water balloons and water guns began to appear. Soon nearly everyone was part of the action! Even though Bro. Darrell Mitchell, pastor, had the largest water gun imaginable, he became a special target of the children's water balloons. Even the musicians and singers were not exempt from the fun-filled water fight!

Our 2008 VBS program concluded with a Sunday evening awards program. After each class shared something special they

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# Windermere 2008

November 21-22



## Music Guest:

**Michael Gungor Band**

*All I Need Is Here*

The Michael Gungor Band's debut, is titled *All I Need Is Here*. Michael wrote or co-wrote all 12 selections and is characterized by his impassioned lead vocals atop an organic, often experimental, rock style.

Living out their message close to home, Michael and the band have begun a series of outreach events in the Denver area called "Bloom." Also, the Michael Gungor Band is frequently on the road, leading worship at churches and events around the country. They've been featured at various Teen Mania "Acquire the Fire" youth conferences. "I love worshipping with youth," Michael says. "They're at a very formative time in their lives of figuring out for themselves who God is. With every service, our end goal is not just to play our songs, it's to experience the love of God and perhaps see who He is a bit more clearly, and discover ourselves more clearly in Him," Michael relates.

Comprised of Michael, his wife Lisa, as well as friends Michael Rossback, Brad Waller, and Brad Nyght, the Denver-based ensemble is anything but a stereotypical worship band. Rooted in the progressive worship vein of David Crowder\*Band or Hillsong United, the Michael Gungor Band's unique musical identity is further shaped by such diverse influences as Pete Dinklage, Sigur Ros, and Chris Thile, among others. The group's creative pulse alone has earned them a respected platform from which to share their message.



60 MINUTES WITH GOD

TRUTH & PEACE '08

SEEK THE LORD AND HIS STRENGTH. PSALM 105:4

## Directions

From St Louis:  
Take I-44 West to Hwy 5  
(Lebanon, Mo).  
Hwy 5 North to Hwy 54  
Turn West (left) on Hwy 54  
Turn right on Hwy AA  
Follow the signs to Windermere

From Springfield:  
Take Hwy 65 North to Hwy 54  
Turn East (right) on Hwy 54  
Turn left on Hwy AA  
Follow the signs to Windermere

## Guest Speaker: Zane Black

Getting high, girls, and alcohol, describe how Zane tried so hard to find satisfaction without Jesus Christ in his life. It was not until after High School that Zane discovered that following Jesus is the greatest adventure in life. Zane is passionate about sharing the new Life and purpose that he has found in Jesus with students around the nation. Zane currently works for Timberline Lodge, a Torchbearer Bible school in Winter Park Colorado as the "Director of Careless Activities," teaching at the school and hanging out with students.

Zane was featured in the Dare2Share series "The Gospel Journey" and was guest speaker at the Dare2Share Survivor Tour. An extreme sports enthusiast, Zane loves to skateboard and snowboard. Zane will also be one of the featured speakers with the 08-09 Dare2Share Invincible Tour.

Registration 4:00pm/ Supper 5:30pm/ Doors open 7:00pm

## Cost

If post marked by:  
October 31- \$45  
November 10 - \$50  
At the Door - \$55

(Substitutions \$5 at Registration)  
No Returns/Refunds  
Special accommodations  
will be made at requestor's expense

## Notice!

Please bring your own  
bedding and towels for bathing

## Contact Info:

Mo State Youth Board  
(573) 756-8933  
(Randy Rains)  
Windermere  
(573) 346-5200

## Mail Registration To:

Missouri State Youth Board  
305 West Columbia  
Farmington, Mo 63640



# Derbys Request Leave of Absence

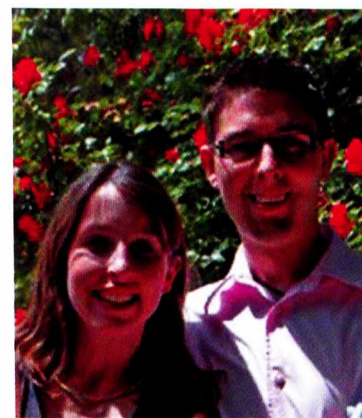
Antioch, TN — On Tuesday, September 9, 2008, the Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions voted to accept Micah and Becky Derby's request for a one-year leave of absence from the Mission. Their leave of absence begins October 1, 2008, and extends to September 30, 2009. Their situation's uniqueness led to two unusual provisions. The family will remain on the Mission's health insurance for 18 months, due to the generosity of Missouri Free Will Baptists who are underwriting the expense. The Board also approved a visit to France in 2010 to maintain contact and unity with their ministry team.

The Derbys married in January 2003 and departed for France in December of that year. While home on stateside assignment in

April 2007, Becky received a diagnosis of breast cancer. Although surgery and treatments led to doctors declaring her cancer free in September 2007, her physicians felt they could not give her a five-year medical clearance.

In his e-mail requesting the leave of absence, Micah expressed the couple's appreciation for the "graciousness and provision for us during this past year...We are so incredibly thankful that we work for such a godly organization."

The Derbys expressed a desire to "continue a significant relationship with our team ...even though we may not be able to participate in the daily activities, we will be doing what we can stateside to continue to promote this work." Micah and Becky expect to serve as liaisons for



the Mediterranean Team in the States while looking forward to returning to full-time service.

Deputy Director of Field Operations Jeff Turnbough indicated, "The Derbys have demonstrated remarkable trust in God as they have journeyed through this difficult time. God is using them in special ways to impact lives for His Kingdom, and we look forward to the time when they can do that once again through international missions."

## New Roof for Springbrook continued from page 3

day we had both layers of old roofing torn off, and almost half of the new shingles on.

As much as I enjoyed the blessing of the new roof, I also enjoyed the fellowship around the meals. We ate very well those couple of days, thanks to Jim and Mary Moody from the O'Fallon church (and help from my wife, Kimberly - thanks, honey!). We had a great time just hanging out for a few moments after supper on Friday night. It was a big encouragement to our family, and almost had the feel of a men's retreat as we shared together.

The crew was back to work early Saturday morning, finishing the replacement of bad wood and

completing the installation. We were joined on Saturday by a few more men from the O'Fallon church, without whom the job may not have been completed. The men came up with some great ideas to help with attic ventilation, and went above and beyond in their care and workmanship. When the day was done, we were blessed with a beautiful new roof, and a shining testimony in the community to the "newness" of life we are hoping to breathe into the mission work. Their gift of time, talent, and materials leaves us with some much needed funds to help with outreach, publicity, and other needed projects on the property.

The experience was like something straight from the early New Testament church - an older,

established church in one area coming to the need of younger new church in another. In doing so, they have not only blessed the younger church, but also provided a glowing example to others through their selflessness and giving. I pray that Springbrook Church may one day grow to be that kind of church as well, one that multiplies the blessings once shared with them by the graciousness of others.

"What you are doing is much more than a service that supplies God's people with what they need. It is something that will make many others thank God." (2 Corinthians 9:12 - CEV)

-Missionary Pastor  
Dennis Moore



had learned in their class, each student was given a certificate for their participation in the week's activities. The children and teens presented several special songs, and Bro. Darrell shared a devotional. The evening ended with enjoying refreshments and admiring all the great craft projects that had been completed during the week.

With an average attendance of 18 children and teens each night, exceptional attendance at both the Backyard Bash (including three sets of twin girls!) and the Sunday evening service, and two teens being led to Christ, the Clifton Church congregation has much to be thankful for!

If you are in the Thayer area, please stop by and worship with us. The church is located just off Highway 19 North on C.R. 213.

### Trinity Welcomes New Pastor



August 17, 2008 was an exciting day at Trinity Free Will Baptist Church in Bridgeton, Mo. You could feel the excitement upon entering the church as the congregation welcomed Brother Dale Cochran, Sister Barb and daughter Tina as our new pastor.

Brother Dale preached a challenging message and encouraged the church for growth. He asked us to look at the empty balcony

and stated his vision was to see the balcony filled with teens. Everyone agreed to catch his vision for Trinity Church.

Lunch was served in the fellowship hall. A decorated cake with a welcome from the church was inscribed on it was served with ice cream for dessert. IT WAS A GREAT DAY! We look forward to serving our wonderful Lord with Brother Dale and family as our Pastor.

We ask that you pray for Trinity FWB Church. It is our heart's desire to evangelize our community and world.

### Heaven Welcomes John Jones!



John David Jones Minister of Music

Born April 18, 1953 John grew up in a large family loving gospel music. He gave his heart and life to Jesus Christ at an early age. He married Rhonda, served in the Navy, graduated from OST in Oklahoma, and he and Rhonda raised two girls. The girls graduated from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.

John always encouraged children everywhere they attended church to be involved in music. His family helped children participate in competition at the state and national levels. While living in Missouri, he has been a judge for CTS (SCM) competition and has provided the sound system for the state meeting the last two years.

His job led him to Texas where his family attended First Free Will Baptist in Houston. He was given the charge to help start Westside Free Will Baptist in Katy, Texas.

Upon retiring from Conoco Pipeline, John and Rhonda began their dream-- "John's Music Room" [recording studio]. For twelve years he did what he truly loved. He sang, wrote songs, and produced gospel music. The last ten years was in Ozark, Missouri where he and Rhonda were members of First Free Will Baptist church.

John's Music Room's motto was: "The world could use a lot more of good Christian and family music!" And he spent his life doing just that.

A Christian encourager, John will truly be missed. Two songs written by him were: "I'm Happy Now" --"In My New Home"

John Jones entered Heaven on August 12, 2008 from an unexpected blood clot.

We'll see you soon, John!

-Ruth VanGenderen (Jones)

*Missouri Free Will Baptists will certainly miss the wonderful musical influence John had on so many of our state ministries and churches. John and his wife Rhonda have provided the sound and often the video for our State Meetings for the last few years as well as playing the keyboard for the meetings and singing. Even this past year when John was suffering from the effects of the chemotherapy he was undergoing, he and Rhonda still engaged in their ministry providing for our needs during the Meeting. A comment was made during John's memorial service that he was probably "playing piano for Heaven's choir right about now" I expect that might just be true.*

-Ed



# Missouri WAC Retreat a Great Success

Over 220 women met at the Clarion Hotel September 19-20, 2008 for Missouri W.A.C. retreat. It is always a special blessing as old and new friends come together for a time to renew and refresh with each other. Excitement was in the air from the first moment that we stepped into the Clarion. When ladies came to register there were smiles and hugs upon seeing each other. Many that they had not seen for a year.

Our first service began at 1 :00 p.m. and you could tell that this was to be a great time. Prelude music by the Gospel Echoes set the stage and God's spirit came upon the place. A skit with the theme "WHAT NOT TO WEAR" written by Lee-Ann Wilfong was presented by several ladies. Andi Pirtle led us in congregational singing with Brenda Vandivort at the piano.

Speaker Diane Thomas Bridgmann from North Carolina was introduced. Diane blessed our hearts as she shared from God's word what christian women should not wear. Missionaries in attendance were introduced. Attending were Brenda Bunch, Kendra Dodson. Sandy Howell, Kimberly Moore, Carol Pinkerton. Missouri is blessed to have these ladies that have given their hearts and lives to share the gospel to the world.

At 7:00 P.M. the 2nd session began. Prelude music was presented by a duet from Calvary Fellowship. They prepared our hearts for worship and worship we did. Congregational singing by Andi and then Diane spoke on WHAT TO WEAR. After Diane spoke Judy Pierce sang "Put Your New White Robe On". We praised our Lord with hands

raised, smiles, tears, shouts, and thanksgiving. We serve a Mighty God and His Spirit was in our midst. To Him be all honor and Glory.

Retreat project was 20/20/20 fund. A church was on the podium and ladies brought boxes decorated as bricks to brick the church one brick at a time .. Total amount of project donations was \$3436.00. We were dismissed with our hearts full and overflowing.

Prayer groups met together for a time of prayer later in the evening. Saturday morning breakfast was at 7:30 and our final session started at 9:00. Little did we know what God had arranged and prepared.

After congregational singing, Diane was introduced. She shared the story of the prodigal son, however she looked at the parents side instead of the son. Diane's son had disappeared and for 2 years she did not know if he was alive. After she shared her story, she introduced her son Chris and he told his story. Some of the things that he shared his mother had never heard. We were blessed by what God has done and what he will continue to do. There was not a dry eye in the house. Special Music for the services was presented by: Kim Miller, Mary White and Celisa Harris. Thanks ladies for blessing our hearts. We then were dismissed to go home and share "WHAT NOT TO WEAR"

Make plans to join us in 2009 at the Clarion on September 25-26 (NEW DATES)



Speaker Diane Thomas Bridgmann



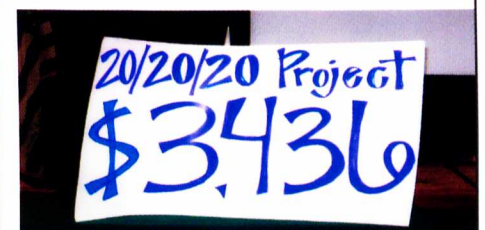
Current MOWAC Officers



Part of overflow crowd



Offering bricks





# Two Missouri Students Chosen for Hillsdale Groups

## 2008-2009 Hillsdale NewLife Singers



Hillsdale is proud to announce that Carley Keith from Hartville, Missouri, has been selected to minister through the Music Ministry Team – NewLife Singers. Carley is a member of the First FWB Church of Hartville and a freshman at Hillsdale.

The NewLife Singers will be divided into two ministry teams. One is a mixed group with four men and four women and the second is a ladies sextet. The groups are comprised of the following students:

Ladies Sextet: Lyndsey Barentine, Edmond, Oklahoma; Michelle Fink, Plano, TX; Erin Hale, Woodward, OK; Heather Pope, Owasso, OK; Brittany Real, Yukon, OK; Megan Rial, Pryor, OK.

Mixed Group: Jordan Basham, Mesa, AZ; Krystal Beasley, Indianapolis, IN; Crosby Brooks, Wellington, KS; Derrick Davis, Baton Rouge, LA; Chad Dandurand, Wellington, KS; Ben Hoggard, Ardmore, OK; Carley Keith, Hartville, MO; Christa Valentine, Tulsa, OK.

To schedule either of the music teams for worship services, youth rallies, association meetings, or any other ministry event please call Bob Thompson, Vice President of Institutional Advancement at (405) 912-9000 for availability. For information about concert dates please visit our website at [www.hc.edu](http://www.hc.edu) or email Sherri Sloan at [ssloan@hc.edu](mailto:ssloan@hc.edu).

## 2008-2009 Hillsdale Players Drama Team



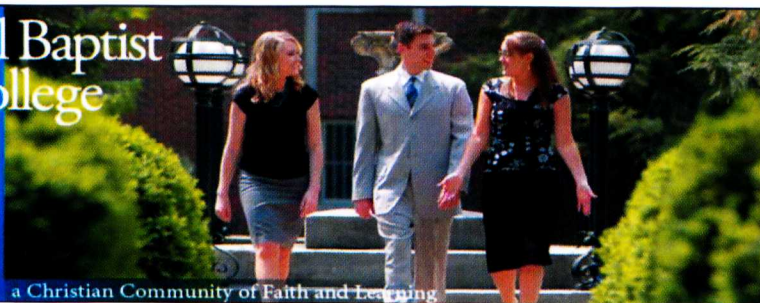
Hillsdale is proud to announce that Ashley Cleveland from Monett, Missouri, has been selected to minister through the Drama Ministry Team – Hillsdale Players. Ashley is a freshman at Hillsdale.

The Players, Hillsdale's traveling drama ministry group, will soon be ministering to churches. The group is comprised of the following students:

Brian Biswell, Stroud, Oklahoma  
Ashley Cleveland, Monett, Missouri  
Gary Greeson, Lexington, Oklahoma  
Amber Johnson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

The Players are very pleased to communicate God's message through live performance. The Players will focus on two themes this year: Choices and Conformity. Through group sketches, reader's theatre, and humorous interpretation, the Players will touch hearts. We want to make real the message that each of us has a choice to make – will we be part of God's kingdom or will we choose to turn from Him? The Players will be appearing this fall at several youth events and can be booked through the college development department for midweek events or Sunday morning worship services. The team is led by former Church Planter to Overland Park, Kansas, Shelle Braisher. Please call Sherri Sloan (405) 912-9452 or email [ssloan@hc.edu](mailto:ssloan@hc.edu) for availability.





## U.S. News & World Report Ranks FWBBC Among America's Best Colleges

NASHVILLE, TN — Free Will Baptist Bible College received notification in mid-August that the institution is ranked among “Best Baccalaureate Colleges” (South Region, Third Tier) in U.S. News & World Report’s 2009 edition of America’s Best Colleges guidebook, according to President Matt Pinson. Highlights of the college rankings will be published in the September 1, 2008, issue of U.S. News.

President Pinson said, “We are so pleased to be ranked among America’s best colleges in this prestigious national study. This is another confirmation to our alumni and denominational constituency that their investment in FWBBC has produced exceptional dividends in the academic marketplace. I hope this report encourages more potential students and their parents to look at FWBBC first when considering a college.”

The “Best Baccalaureate Colleges” category where FWBBC is ranked includes 319 institutions that focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs in the liberal arts, and in professional fields such as business, nursing, and education. The colleges in this category are ranked within four geographic regions: North, South, Midwest, and West.

The U.S. News rankings offer the opportunity to judge the relative quality of institutions based on widely accepted indicators of excellence: peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving, and more.

FWBBC received particularly high marks in four strategic areas — percent of classes with under 20 students (84%), student/faculty ratio (9/1), freshman retention rate (69%), and graduation rate (41%).

Provost Greg Kettelman said, “Our inclusion in U.S. News’ list of best baccalaureate colleges indicates that by several important measures, including our standing with peer institutions, FWBBC continues to provide high quality college education for our students and our denomination.”

This is the first time FWBBC has been ranked in the annual America’s Best Colleges guidebook. More information is available about the rankings and methodology at: <http://www.usnews.com/articles/education/best-colleges/2008/08/21/about-the-rankingsmethodology.html>.

## James Stevens And Lee Greenwood Featured in Concert

NASHVILLE, TN — Dr. James Stevens, chair of the Music Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College, and noted country music vocalist/composer Lee Greenwood were the guest artists during a September 14 gospel music concert at First Baptist Church in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee.

Dr. Stevens said, “The grand piano was moved to the center of the stage, and I played for the choir and orchestra as the choir sang 10 numbers in mostly a Southern Gospel and somewhat Gaither Homecoming style presentation. The church was packed, and we had a wonderful evening of music and fellowship.”

Greenwood sang with the choir and orchestra as Stevens played “I Bowed on My Knees and Cried Holy.” After the choir presentation, Mr. Greenwood sang a number of his well-known hits, including “God Bless the U.S.A.”

A frequent presenter at national and international music events, Dr. Stevens has won numerous ASCAP Standard Awards for Composition and written more than 300 songs. He has been a member of the FWBBC faculty since 2004.

“My role at Free Will Baptist Bible College was emphasized when I was introduced Sunday night,” Stevens said. Lee Greenwood has been named Male Vocalist/Artist of the Year four times by the Country Music Association.



# Financial Report

## Coop Disbursements

September 2008..... **\$62,349.38**

19.00% St HM .....\$11,846.38  
17.00% Exec. Office.....\$10,599.39  
3.00% Gen. Fund.....\$1,870.48  
8.50% Youth Camp.....\$5,299.69  
2.50% Youth Min.....\$1,558.73  
2.50% CE .....\$1,558.73  
2.50% Senior Adult.....\$1,558.73  
9.00% Mo Retirement...\$5,611.48  
3.00% ShowMe Plan...\$1,870.48

33.00% .....\$18,268.80  
National Ministries  
Hillsdale .....\$2,306.49  
**Total .....\$62,349.38**

## Coop Plan

Amity.....\$771.15  
Aulsbury Chapel .....\$473.64  
Bailey.....\$376.39  
Bailey Chapel .....\$616.00  
Belton .....\$2,173.50  
Berean .....\$203.39  
Bethel- El Dorado Springs.....\$289.00  
Black Oak .....\$221.00  
Byrd .....\$683.04  
Calvary Chapel .....\$1,045.00  
Carthage.....\$80.82  
Christ Chapel.....\$259.00  
Clifton .....\$1,600.00  
Copper Mines .....\$1,362.38  
Cornerstone.....\$1,616.40  
Crossroads- Wentzville.....\$288.15  
Cuba .....\$612.10  
DeSoto 1st.....\$692.00  
Farmington 1st.....\$2,677.80  
Fellowship.....\$170.80  
Fordland .....\$1,104.02  
Fourth .....\$139.00  
Fredericktown 1st.....\$892.53  
Freeman Chapel.....\$371.82  
Generations .....\$895.00  
Gospel Light .....\$47.61  
Grace.....\$918.00  
Grant Avenue.....\$593.00  
Hannibal .....\$608.69  
Hannon .....\$1,300.00  
Harmony.....\$525.00  
Hartville .....\$491.10  
Hopewell.....\$300.00  
Houston 1st .....\$2,115.24  
Hurryville.....\$95.00  
Jackson .....\$200.60  
Kings Way .....\$3,542.80  
Koshkonong.....\$466.27  
Lead Hill.....\$526.00  
Leadington .....\$430.92  
Lebanon 1st.....\$50.00  
Lebanon Greenhills .....\$388.44  
Marshfield 1st.....\$417.00  
Merls Chapel .....\$30.00  
Mill Creek.....\$864.00  
Mine La Motte .....\$670.00  
Monett 1st.....\$1,761.00

Mountain Grove 1st.....\$2,020.68  
Mt. Pisgah.....\$636.29  
Myrtle.....\$258.24  
Neosho 1st .....\$437.29  
Nevada .....\$372.60  
New Life- Licking .....\$346.22  
Niangua .....\$619.26  
O'Fallon 1st .....\$618.00  
Olivet .....\$491.69  
Ozark 1st .....\$659.67  
Palabras Di Vida Eterna.....\$94.00  
Parkview .....\$145.00  
Pleasant Hill- Thayer .....\$245.73  
Pleasant Ridge- Alton.....\$2,237.21  
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana.....\$757.00  
Potosi.....\$500.00  
Rejoice.....\$849.60  
Rock Chapel .....\$548.00  
Rolla .....\$554.91  
Salem .....\$438.55  
Seymour .....\$283.41  
Smyrna .....\$462.21  
South Fremont.....\$425.86  
Springfield 1st.....\$460.00  
Stockton.....\$900.00  
Thayer .....\$1,485.02  
Trinity.....\$75.32  
Twin Oak.....\$331.30  
Union Grove .....\$3,168.41  
Union Light .....\$587.75  
United .....\$176.00  
Unity .....\$111.00  
Verdella.....\$791.80  
Viburnum .....\$801.89  
Victory-Alton .....\$710.00  
Waynesville 1st.....\$101.17  
West Plains 1st.....\$464.55  
Willow Springs.....\$229.15  
Willow Springs 1st.....\$570.00  
Wolf Creek .....\$1,430.00  
**Total .....\$62,349.38**

## Show-Me Plan

Belton .....\$162.00  
Berean .....\$40.00  
Bethel- Festus .....\$45.00  
Black Oak .....\$180.00  
Brown, Angela .....\$15.00  
Burns, Jack .....\$70.00  
Calvary Chapel .....\$105.00  
Copper Mines .....\$165.00  
Cornerstone.....\$461.00  
Crossroads- Wentzville.....\$50.00  
Cuba .....\$160.00  
DeSoto 1st.....\$777.50  
Eastern Gate .....\$30.00  
Faith&Hope- Willow Springs.....\$90.00  
Faith- Fair Grove .....\$198.80  
Farmington 1st.....\$465.00  
Farmington 1st- Msgn Class.....\$90.00  
Fellowship.....\$885.88  
Fordland .....\$250.00  
Fourth .....\$90.00  
Fredericktown 1st.....\$180.00  
Freeman Chapel.....\$720.00  
Generations .....\$356.76  
Gospel Light .....\$1,000.00

Grace.....\$686.00  
Grant Avenue.....\$390.00  
Grantham, Judy .....\$15.00  
Greenfield.....\$120.00  
Gregg, James.....\$15.00  
Hannibal .....\$60.00  
Hannon .....\$355.00  
Harmony.....\$71.78  
Hartville.....\$297.10  
Hopewell.....\$30.00  
Houston 1st .....\$195.00  
Hurryville.....\$515.50  
Jackson .....\$55.00  
Jones Chapel.....\$315.00  
Leadington .....\$230.00  
Lebanon 1st.....\$110.00  
Lebanon Greenhills .....\$25.00  
Macedonia- Purdy .....\$21,000.00  
Maggart, Roxanne .....\$100.00  
Maggart, Roxanne .....\$100.00  
Merls Chapel .....\$30.00  
Mill Creek.....\$140.00  
Mill Creek CWF .....\$15.00  
Mill Creek Young Adult.....\$15.00  
Mine La Motte .....\$75.00  
MO Cooperative Plan .....\$1,870.48  
MO WAC .....\$1,067.76  
Monett 1st.....\$70.00  
Mountain Grove 1st.....\$820.00  
Mt. Pisgah.....\$150.00  
Mt. Zion- Thayer .....\$30.00  
Myrtle.....\$75.00  
Neosho 1st .....\$150.00  
New Home- Hartville.....\$210.00  
New Life- Licking .....\$69.50  
O'Fallon 1st .....\$124.00  
Olivet .....\$30.00  
Olivet .....\$30.00  
Ozark 1st.....\$34.00  
Palabras Di Vida Eterna.....\$15.00  
Parkview .....\$239.00  
Parkway .....\$30.00  
Pinkerton, Jerry .....\$45.00  
Pleasant Hill- Thayer .....\$45.00  
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana.....\$50.00  
Porter Chapel .....\$800.55  
Richwoods 1st.....\$52.50  
Rock Chapel .....\$285.00  
Rolla .....\$30.00  
South Fremont.....\$70.00  
Springfield 1st.....\$175.00  
Stockton.....\$15.00  
Thayer .....\$310.00  
Trinity .....\$450.00  
Union Light .....\$225.00  
United .....\$550.00  
Unity .....\$75.00  
Verdella.....\$994.60  
Viburnum .....\$85.00  
Walnut Grove.....\$15.00  
Waynesville 1st.....\$459.00  
Willow Springs.....\$153.26  
Willow Springs 1st.....\$45.00  
**Total .....\$41,491.97**

## State Home Missions

Berean .....\$15.00  
Book Store.....\$540.00  
Crossroads- Wentzville.....\$50.00  
Eastern Gate .....\$120.00  
Farmington 1st.....\$5.00  
Fordland .....\$10.00  
Gospel Light .....\$80.00  
Grace.....\$50.00

Grant Avenue.....\$243.12  
Lebanon Greenhills .....\$75.28  
Macedonia- Purdy .....\$100.00  
MO WAC .....\$7.50  
Myrtle.....\$85.00  
Neosho 1st .....\$25.00  
O'Fallon 1st .....\$124.00  
Ozark 1st.....\$10.00  
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana.....\$20.00  
St. Loius Association WAC.....\$200.00  
Thayer .....\$75.00  
United .....\$25.00  
Unity .....\$70.00  
Waynesville 1st.....\$50.00  
**Total .....\$1,979.90**

## National Home Missions

Bethel- Festus .....\$50.00  
Carthage.....\$135.00  
Copper Mines .....\$50.00  
Cuba .....\$96.00  
DeSoto 1st.....\$235.00  
Farmington 1st.....\$762.85  
Fellowship.....\$440.99  
Fordland .....\$70.00  
Fourth .....\$50.00  
Fredericktown 1st.....\$30.00  
Gospel Light .....\$80.00  
Grace.....\$258.00  
Grant Avenue.....\$93.12  
Hartville .....\$30.00  
Houston 1st .....\$62.50  
Jackson .....\$40.00  
Macedonia- Purdy .....\$100.00  
Mammoth Spring .....\$207.51  
Merls Chapel .....\$25.00  
Monett 1st.....\$75.00  
Mountain Grove 1st.....\$90.00  
Mt. Pisgah.....\$30.00  
Neosho 1st .....\$50.00  
New Testament.....\$20.00  
O'Fallon 1st .....\$149.00  
Olivet .....\$140.00  
Ozark 1st.....\$276.00  
Rader, Jerry .....\$20.00  
Richwoods 1st.....\$65.00  
Rock Chapel.....\$84.00  
Rolla .....\$159.00  
South Fremont.....\$40.00  
Thayer .....\$190.00  
Trinity .....\$40.00  
Union Light .....\$96.00  
United .....\$5.00  
Unity .....\$100.00  
Verdella.....\$10.00  
Waynesville 1st.....\$728.26  
**Total .....\$5,183.23**

## International Missions

Copper Mines .....\$100.00  
Cuba .....\$64.00  
DeSoto 1st.....\$65.00  
Fellowship.....\$40.00  
Generations .....\$67.93  
Grant Avenue.....\$15.00  
Hartville .....\$45.00  
Houston 1st .....\$47.50  
Leadington.....\$100.00  
Monett 1st.....\$215.00  
Mountain Grove 1st.....\$43.00  
Olivet .....\$80.00  
Ozark 1st .....\$50.00  
Rejoice.....\$250.00



Rolla .....	\$129.00
South Fremont.....	\$40.00
Springfield 1st.....	\$123.54
Thayer .....	\$5.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$70.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$1,549.97</b>

## Designated Giving

### Berea Ministries

Hartville.....	\$150.00
Jackson .....	\$15.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$165.00</b>

### Victor Torrez

United .....	\$200.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>

### Brazil Project

Verdella.....	\$230.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$230.00</b>

### Trula Cronk Home for Children

Belton .....	\$25.00
De Soto 1st.....	\$55.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$5.00
Fourth .....	\$667.00
Grace.....	\$28.00
Grace.....	\$26.00
Hartville.....	\$50.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$40.00
Myrtle.....	\$35.00
Union Light .....	\$50.00
Unity .....	\$50.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$1,031.00</b>

### C. E. Board

Book Store.....	\$140.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>

### Free Will Baptist Bible Collge

Carthage.....	\$50.00
De Soto 1st.....	\$40.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$165.00
Olivet .....	\$25.00
Olivet .....	\$25.00
Thayer .....	\$75.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$380.00</b>

### Hillsdale

Farmington 1st.....	\$100.00
Fellowship.....	\$10.00
Fordland .....	\$10.00
Generations.....	\$84.41
Grant Avenue.....	\$25.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$170.00
Thayer .....	\$75.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$474.41</b>

### Missouri Retirement

Book Store.....	\$200.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>

### Mile High Ministries

Verdella.....	\$434.80
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$434.80</b>

### Senior Adult Board

Book Store.....	\$140.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>

### Youth Camp

Berean .....	\$15.00
Cornerstone.....	\$100.00
De Soto 1st.....	\$55.00
Generations.....	\$450.00
Hartville.....	\$30.00
James Gregg.....	\$40.00
Book Store.....	\$540.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$50.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$15.00
Nevada .....	\$510.00
Niangua .....	\$25.00
Ozark 1st.....	\$10.00
Rock Chapel.....	\$33.00
Rolla 1st.....	\$20.00
Thayer .....	\$75.00
Trinity.....	\$9.00
United .....	\$25.00
Verdella.....	\$10.00
Willow Springs.....	\$161.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$2,173.00</b>

### Youth Camp Development

Belton	dorm fund .....	\$126.00
Bethel- El Dorado Springs.		\$159.46
Byrd .....		\$50.00
Grant Avenue	dorm fund .....	\$50.00
Hannon .....		\$100.00
Marvin Cochran	dorm fund .....	\$250.00
Monett 1st.....		\$218.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....		\$3,500.00
Myrtle.....		\$55.00
New Life- Licking .....		\$228.20
Ozark 1st.....		\$1,000.00
Rock Chapel	dorm fund .....	\$100.00
United	dorm fund .....	\$1,647.80
West Plains 1st.....		\$542.00
Wolf Creek.....		\$2,500.00
<b>Total .....</b>		<b>\$10,526.46</b>

### Youth Ministries Board

Book Store.....	\$140.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>

### Getsemani Children's Home

Marshfield FWB Church .....	\$50.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>

### Harvest FWB Native American Mission

Marshfield FWB Church .....	\$50.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>

## 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.

### Hannibal Church

Hannibal MO  
Contact:  
Melvin Miller  
Phone: 573 248-0499  
Address;  
P.O.Box 1465,  
Hannibal Mo. 63401  
Bill Moore  
Phone; 573-822-6066  
Address;  
1500 Bird ST.  
Hannibal, Mo. 63401

### First Church

Cape Girardeau, MO  
Contact:  
Don Gregory  
573-339-0797  
or  
Dave Lane  
573-334-1106

### Overland Church

Overland, MO  
Contact:  
William Coffman  
314-429-4374

### Grace Church

Arnold MO  
Contact:  
Glyn Gilman,  
C/O Grace FWB Church  
2258 Tenbrook Road  
Arnold MO 63010

### Lebanon Green Hills Church

Lebanon, MO  
Contact:  
Milan Ruble  
417-588-3996

### Unity Church

Lebanon, MO  
Contact:  
Ron Cook  
417-588-8831  
Tom Holloway  
417-532-8045

### Liberty Church

Gatewood. MO  
Contact:  
Glen Gazaway  
Rt 9 Box 516  
Gatewood, MO 63942  
573-255-3172

**Total September  
Giving  
\$116,425.98**

**Cooperative Fund  
to Date  
\$594,582.54**

**Show-Me Fund  
to Date  
\$263,416.87**



**WORKS!**



# Fall Couples Retreat

Clarion Hotel, Springfield

"Making Room  
for Romance"

November 13-15 2008



Speakers,  
Steve and Susan Tucker,  
Eagle Family Ministries

Register online at [www.mofwb.org](http://www.mofwb.org) or call 1-866-532-6537

\$175 per couple  
Includes two nights lodging...  
breakfast both days...  
lunch on Friday...  
all conference sessions



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of Free Will Baptists  
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