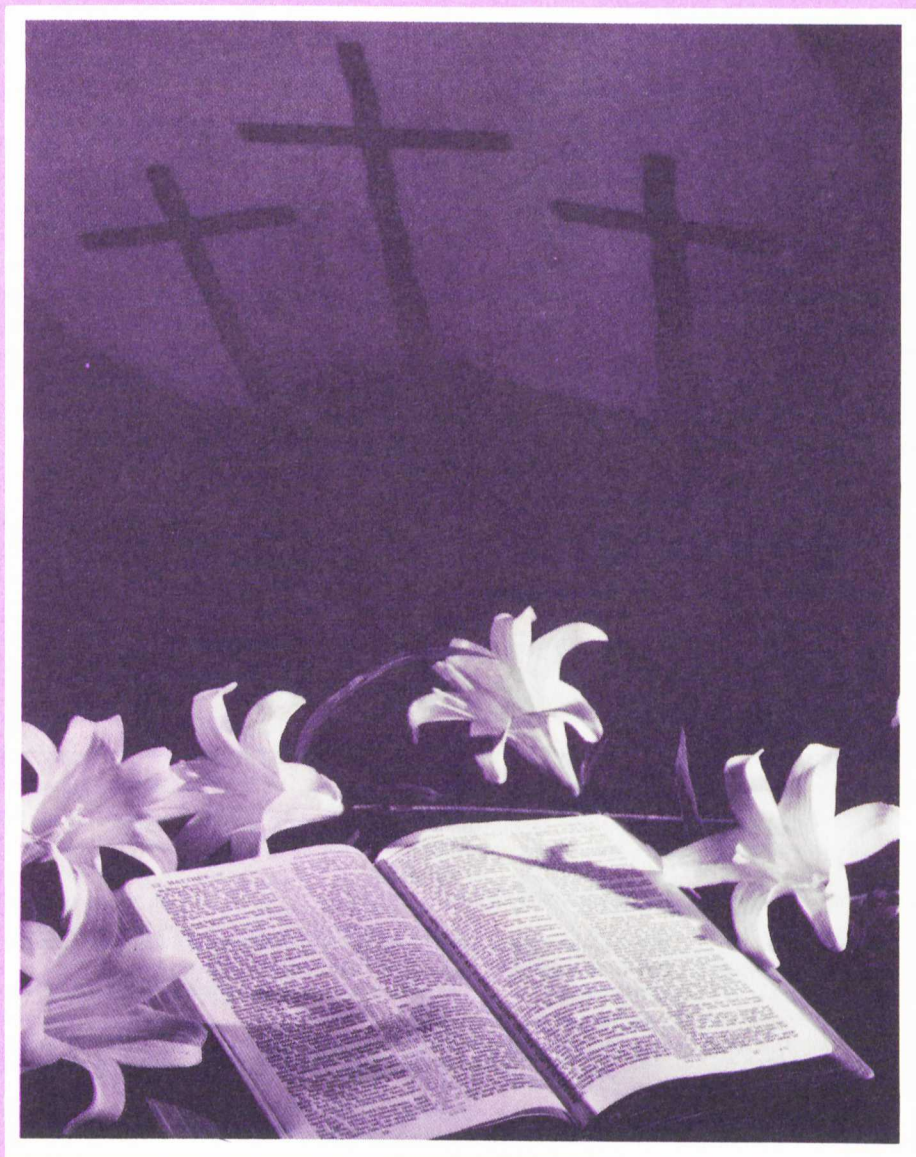


**Free Will Baptist**

April, 1974  
Volume 44  
Number 4

**Gem**





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### THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Published monthly by the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists  
Headquarters: 303 West Commercial, Lebanon, Missouri 65536

Publication and Business Office: 13 Tanglewood, Carl Junction, Mo 64834

Andy W. Lay, editor.

Address all correspondence relating to the GEM, including subscription and mailing information, to the above address.

Woman's Auxiliary news may be mailed to Mrs. Kathy Lay, 13 Tanglewood, Carl Junction, Mo 64834.

The sermons and articles published in the GEM represent the personal views of the authors and not necessarily the views and policies of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists or of the editor.

All items for publication must be in the hands of the editor no later than the 15th of the month preceding the issue month.

Subscription Rates: Single subscription, \$2.50 per year cash in advance. Church plan, \$2.00 per year consisting of five subscriptions or more. The Church Plan will continue until it is canceled by the church.

Second Class Postage paid at Joplin, Missouri and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to the Free Will Baptist GEM, 13 Tanglewood, Carl Junction, Mo 64834

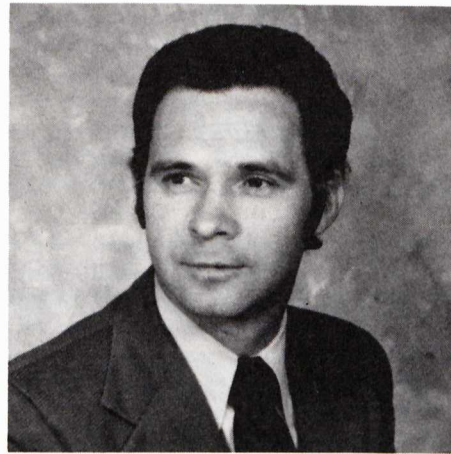


# A Short History — of — Baptism

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by  
Russel Spurgeon,  
*Pastor, Trinity FWB Church, Bridgeton, MO*

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Within the framework of the American Judeo-Christian community, a variety of concepts is held in regard to the word, the act, the meaning, and the mode of "baptism." When one says he has been baptized, it may mean that as an infant he was sprinkled, while to the hearer it may signify being immersed as an adult—this act being preceded by a born-again experience.

It shall not be the purpose of this article to deal extensively with all of the arguments to prove one point of view relative to the correct mode and method of baptism. It shall briefly trace the origin of baptism from paganism through early Christianity then look at the development of the modes of this act through the early and medieval church into contemporary times.

Religious rites, or acts, usually derive their outward form from common social acts, but men give to them a new spiritual significance. So it is with baptism: rites of cleansing and purification are age-old and are found in almost all the religions of mankind.<sup>1</sup>

Even the most primitive people seem to feel an inherent need for a visible act of some type that they can symbolically cleanse themselves from guilt and sin. In pre-Christian baptismal practices among the pagans, sacred baths were taken not only in the Hellenistic mystery cults (and in the Attis and Mithra cults even a blood bath), but also in Egypt, Babylonia and India, where the waters of the Nile, the Euphrates and the Ganges respectively were used in the rite. The meaning attached to these sacred baths was in the first place a cleansing from moral and ritual impurities, but also an increase of vital strength or a bestowal of immortality.<sup>2</sup> The ancient Celts and Teutons practiced rites of cleansing and initiation long before Christian influences reached them.

"Among the Greeks and Romans the new born child was bathed and named. Among the peoples, baptism with blood or with saliva was practiced."<sup>3</sup>

To many of the "ancient" religions, water was male converts were concerned, occupied a secondary place beside circumcision, though it gradually

presumably thought of as alive, especially water which welled up out of the earth and moved of its own accord as a river or stream. Even lakes and seas which seemed to be in constant motion were thought to be living.

These living and protective qualities which the pagans felt that water had vastly influenced their practices, especially at times of birth, war, and death. Even the modern day use of the term "Achilles heel" is testimony to the deeply ingrained belief they had in the protective quality which water possessed.

The practice of baptism in the Judeo-Christian context seems to find its origin in the Mosaic Law which prescribed baths for the removal of various kinds of ritual impurities, e. g., after being cured of leprosy (Leviticus 14:8ff.), after contacting personal uncleanness (Leviticus 15:11, 13, 16, 18, 27), etc.

Related to the Jewish ceremonies of purification was the baptism which was prescribed for new converts in later Judaism. "From a simple bath of purification proselyte baptism seems to have slowly developed into a recognized rite of initiation (probably before 50 A. D.) which at first, at least as far as became as important as this older ceremony."<sup>4</sup>

As one comes to the period of time of the New Testament it is generally conceded that the early church practiced believers' baptism, usually immersion. The baptism of John was different from both the proselyte baptism, which was a product of a legalistic concept of uncleanness and from the baptism of the mystery religions. It was a baptism of repentance. "The account of Jesus' reception of baptism in the Jordan is given by all four evangelists (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:19ff; Luke 3:21ff; John 1:29-34) and it formed, together with the preaching and baptism of John, an important element in the catechesis of early Christianity."<sup>5</sup>

From the many texts in the Book of Acts it is clear that the practice was to administer baptism to those who believed in the preaching of the apostles. That baptism was the natural conclusion following pronouncement of faith, and that the mode was immersion is stated by Catholic scholar Hartman. He



says, "We can conclude from the beginning of the apostolic preaching baptism was regarded as an established institution which formed the normal conclusion of the announcement of salvation."

"It is evident that the action performed in baptizing was immersion as is clear from the terminology itself and can be seen from the manner in which the Ethiopian chamberlain was baptized (Acts 8:36-39), from a burial into Christ's death (Romans 6:3f; Col. 2:12), and from the technical term (Eph. 5:26; Titus 3:5), which can only mean 'bath.'"<sup>6</sup> However, that the churches of the post-apostolic age did not long remain faithful to apostolic precept and example in all respects would be generally admitted and perhaps should not surprise us for Christianity arose in an age of religious ferment.

During the greater part of the second century the idea prevailed that baptism without repentance and faith was of no value. But as already noted, in paganism one of the universal features was the belief in the efficacy of external rites. Rites similar to baptism and the Lord's Supper existed in paganism and were regarded as possessing magical virtue. By the end of the second century these views began to find expression in the church.<sup>7</sup>

The *Didache*, or *Teaching of the Twelve*, a very early manual of instruction for Christian converts, written between A.D. 110 and 120, prescribed in Chapter 7 the recitation of certain formulas as a prelude to baptism in running water. Affusion was recommended as a possible alternative to immersion only when necessary, as in the case of sickness.<sup>8</sup>

Even though the concept of baptism by immersion only was broken by this instruction, affusion and sprinkling did not become the mode of baptism immediately for Tertullian of Carthage of about A.D. 200 describes the baptism in terms of the adult when he says, "When we are going to enter the water, but a little before, in the presence of the congregation and under the hand of the president we solemnly profess that we disown the devil, his pomp, and his angels. Hereupon we are thrice immersed, making a somewhat ampler pledge than the Lord has appointed in the Gospel."<sup>9</sup>

However, when Novatian became ill and could not be baptized by immersion he submitted to clinic baptism (water poured on him in bed). Later after he recovered he refused to be baptized by immersion saying that if the one was good enough to die by, it was good enough to live by. He seems to have been the first prominent and influential churchman to have been affused.

Infant baptism seems not to have been practiced until around A.D. 250 for Clement of Alexandria indicates no acquaintance with such a practice when about A.D. 188 he writes, "For instruction leads to faith, and faith with baptism is trained by the Holy Spirit."<sup>10</sup> However by A.D. 250 Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage advocates the baptism of infants just born. He did so on the ground that they needed to be cleansed from original sin.<sup>11</sup>

Yet, it does not appear that it became widely practiced immediately for the Council of Laodicea in A.D. 267 ordered all those admitted to baptism to be able to repeat the creed. But in A.D. 604 Pope Gregory I drew up a liturgy for the service of infant baptism. Thereafter, only occasionally did minority groups oppose the practice. Thus, the medieval church drifted along with political and economic concerns overshadowing spiritual practices and matters.

Although occasionally a concerned individual or group would try to bring reform of some of the godless practices, nothing of major significance broke until men began to rediscover God's Word and began to translate it into the common language of the people. The rediscovery of the Word brought about the Lutheran Reformation and the subsequent reformations after it. It is in 1602 at Gainsborough in Lincolnshire that a Separatist church is formed under John Smyth who later decides their baptisms are invalid through affiliation with a Mennonite group. However, there is no evidence that the Mennonites practiced baptism by immersion. It appears that several years later (about 1619) the Rhynsburgers introduced immersion under the influence of the Polish Socinian Antipedobaptists, who may have derived it from the Swiss and Augsburg Antipedobaptists.<sup>12</sup>

It was in 1640 that Richard Blunt and some others of John Spilsbury's congregation became convinced that baptism by sprinkling or pouring, whether administered to believers or adults, or to infants, was not the form of baptism employed by the apostles. They sent Richard Blunt to the Rhynsburgers who practiced immersion where he received instructions concerning how to administer the ordinance.<sup>13</sup> By 1644, fifteen Particular Baptist ministers incorporated a definition of baptism by immersion in a confession of fifty articles of faith to which they affixed their signatures.

From this point on the Baptist churches in England began to develop associations and statements of faith, although at this point in history the General Baptists (founded in 1610-11) were yet baptizing by affusion. It was from these groups that many came to America to escape government pressure in the late 1600's in England. Noteworthy is the Philadelphia Association organization and their adoption in 1742 of its statement of faith the *London Confession of Particular Baptists* in 1689. This was the first organization of Baptist churches in America. This was destined to give direction to American Baptists in theology and practice.

Though Baptists disagree upon many points of church doctrine, the one central theme which has made them great in America has been their dogmatic adherence to the Bible as the infallible Word of God. And the one ordinance which they have practiced almost unanimously is baptism by immersion.



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## CHURCHES PEOPLE and EVENTS

### GREETINGS FROM GRACE CHURCH

by Lin Roberts

We are enjoying the best attendance of any winter in the history of our church, for which we are thankful. The average attendance for January was 226. Our goal for March is to average 300 or more. The Lord blessed us with a record annual attendance last year of 219.

Missouri Bible Institute, meeting here at Grace Church, is progressing very nicely. There are around 40 enrolled for the classes held each Thursday night.

We are looking forward to our spring revival beginning March 24. Rev. Wayne Bookout, of Sand Springs, Oklahoma, will serve as our evangelist.

On April 7, the film, "Thief in the Night," will be shown at our church. It deals with the second coming of Christ.

### TWIN OAKS CHURCH LOSES OLDEST DEACON

Funeral services were held February 20, 1974, for Mr. Thomas J. Pirtle, of Route 2, Fredericktown, Missouri. He was 85 and had served as a deacon of the Twin Oaks Church for many years.

Rev. Truman Huffman and Rev. O. D. Matthews officiated. "Aboard the Old Gospel Ship" was the subject of Rev. Huffman's message.

"He was faithful to his church to the end," writes Madeline McFarland, reporter for the Twin Oaks Church.

## UP COMING DATES TO REMEMBER

April 20	Youth Camp Work Day
April 21	Foreign Missions Call-a-thon
April 26-27	Hillsdale FWB College Junior-Senior Day
May 10-11	Church Growth Seminar, Trinity Church, Bridgeton
May 13-15	Ministers' Workshop at State Youth Camp
June 10-14	Teen Week at Youth Camp
June 17-21	Junior High Week at Youth Camp
June 24-28	Elementary Week at Youth Camp
July 14-18	National Association at Wichita, Kansas
August 19-22	Missouri State Association at Flat River

Note: We will be glad to publish the dates and places of the various associations' annual meetings if you will send them to the GEM office.

### REVIVAL AT MYRTLE

by Church Clerk, Bernice Cantrell

The Myrtle FWB Church of Myrtle, Missouri, enjoyed a rich and rewarding weekend revival February 23-24. Inspiring messages were brought by Brother Gary Elder from Free Will Baptist Bible College of Nashville, Tennessee.

Messages Saturday evening and Sunday morning were climaxed by a youth service on Sunday evening. The following churches participated: Clifton, Cotton Creek, Walnut Grove, Pleasant Hill, and Myrtle.

Good crowds enjoyed the spirit filled messages along with lots of special music. Several young people came to the altar and were reborn and rededicated into a life for God.

### GROWTH AT NEOSHO

by Vicki Butler

The Lord has really blessed our church since our pastor, Rev. Don Davis, came in June, 1973. Our church has grown from the 30's to the 50's. Four people have joined our church since January 1, 1974, and 10 souls have been saved.

We now have a church bus which is helping to bring the young people in. This has resulted in a youth choir being formed under the direction of Mrs. McCollough and Vicki Butler.

We are so thankful that our church is growing in attendance. These are just a few ways the Lord has blessed us.

### 7% BONDS FOR SALE

The Victory FWB Church in Avondale still has



some 7% church bonds for sale. The church is willing to discount the bonds for large quantity sales. For more information contact Rev. Lawrence Thompson, 3416 North Bellefontaine, Kansas City, Missouri 64117.

## REPORT FROM JONES CHAPEL

Miss Betty Flaxbeard, reporter for the Jones Chapel FWB Church, writes that the work at Jones Chapel has been experiencing the blessings of the Lord.

The Show-Me-State Singers, from the Jones Chapel Church, have recently sung at the Victory FWB Church in Springdale, Arkansas. They will be appearing soon at the 88 FWB Church near Fort Smith, Arkansas, and in an open air crusade near Anderson Missouri. They request the prayers of the *GEM* readers for their gospel music ministry.

## COLUMBIA WORK PROGRESSING

Pastor Mark Vandivort of the Columbia FWB Church writes, "We are working hard trying to get into our new building by Easter. God has added six families during the past six months. Our attendance is running from 40 to 60. Mr. and Mrs. Houston Zimmerman who have been very faithful to our church have recently been transferred. Brother Vandivort wrote: "Pray with us that we may see our congregation doubled during the next six months and become self supporting by 1975."

## DR. MALLORY AT TRINITY

Dr. Arthur Mallory, the Missouri State Commissioner of Education and an active Baptist layman, was the guest speaker at Trinity FWB Church in Bridgeton Sunday morning, March 17.

## DR. BEEBEE AT BERKELEY

Dr. Wally Beebee, otherwise known as Mr. Bus, will conduct a bus clinic for the area on Tuesday, May 7, at Berkeley FWB Church, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Interested persons may contact Pastor Clarence Burton at 314-522-9996 for further details.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SEMINAR TO BE AT TRINITY

Dr. Elmer Towns, noted Sunday school builder, Dr. Holland London of the California Graduate School of Theology, along with Rev. Roger Reeds, FWB National Sunday School Department director, will be the speakers at the Midwest Sunday School and Church Growth Seminar to be held at the

Trinity FWB Church, 12143 Old St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, May 10-11.

This seminar is sponsored by the National Sunday School Department for the benefit of the churches in the midwest region.

## REV. BILL EVANS TO CENTRAL

Rev. Bill Evans has recently resigned the pastorate at First FWB Church of Farmington to accept the call of the Central FWB Church in Kansas City. Rev. Evans is the assistant moderator of the Missouri State Association of FWB.

## MINISTERS' WORKSHOP

The State Youth Camp Board has set the dates for the annual Ministers' Workshop. This year's workshop will be held May 13-15 at the State Youth Camp near Niangua, Missouri. The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, May 13, and end at noon on Wednesday, May 15. Rev. Bill Jones, president of Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Oklahoma, will be the guest speaker.

Cost of the Workshop will be \$6.00 per person, which will include room, board, and insurance. The Youth Camp Board urges all ministers to attend.

## YOUTH CAMP WORK DAY SET

The State Youth Camp Board announced that they are calling a work day on April 20 to prepare the camp for this summer's camping activities. Laymen, ministers, their wives, and young people are invited to come to the Camp and participate in this service for the Lord.

## "TEAM UP" INSURANCE OFFERED TO CHURCHES

The National Board of Retirement and Insurance has announced a Free Will Baptist sponsored insurance program for our churches. The program, offering comprehensive casualty, property, and liability insurance from one insurance carrier, offers member churches several advantages. This program is expected to achieve considerable savings in insurance costs. Three key advantages of "Team Up" are:

1. All insurance is placed through one company (Pacific Employers Group, an INA subsidiary), featuring competitive or reduced premium costs through mass buying power. All the premiums are placed in a common pool.

2. The insurance underwriting company provides our participating members with a loss control program that has features impacting on the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), as well as helping to reduce losses and promoting safety.



3. Further cost reductions through year-end dividends can be obtained if enough members are in the program and their collective losses are low. Of course, these dividends cannot be guaranteed in advance, but last year the insurance carrier returned many dividends in excess of \$200 for each \$1,000 (20% dividend) of insurance premiums. Dividends are returned to you in cash.

Your Department of Retirement and Insurance has authorized independent insurance agents affiliated with MarketDyne International to contact each member and explain the program in detail. If you want more information immediately, contact Harold Baird, MarketDyne International, P.O. Box 29724, Atlanta, Georgia, 30329. Telephone 404-636-9481.

### MISSOURIANS GIVE TO NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS

The National Home Mission Board reports that 28 individuals and churches from Missouri contributed to National Home Missions in January of this year a total of \$957.40. Top giver for the month was the First FWB church of DeSoto, which gave \$100.00.

January receipts from Missourians to Free Will Baptist Bible College totaled \$1,285.06. In February Missourians gave \$2,691.12 to the school. Top giver for February was Central FWB in Kansas City, which gave \$217.50. Top giver for January was the First FWB Church of Farmington, which gave \$203.56.

The Free Will Baptist Home for Children of Greeneville, Tennessee reported receipts from Missouri to have been \$1,143.92 in December and \$1,199.62 in January. The Children's Home invites FWB's from across the country to attend their annual Homecoming Day, May 11, 1974, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

### ERROR IN BIBLE COLLEGE BULLETIN NOTED

Mr. Bert Tippet, Director of Publications of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee, calls readers' attention to an error in the current issue of the Bible College *BULLETIN*. He writes, "Due to an editorial error in the January/February issue of the Free Will Baptist Bible College *BULLETIN*, the current Missouri Project was reported to be \$175,000. The copy should have read \$125,000. Gifts to the project currently stand at \$7,130, plus uncashed checks in checkbooks."

### BIBLE COLLEGE ENROLMENT INCLUDES MISSOURIAN

The second semester enrolment figures from Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee

show 31 students enrolled for the first time this semester. Among them is Roger Neal Vaughn of Cuba, Missouri.

### FOREIGN MISSIONS SPONSORS CALL-A-THON

April 21 has been designated Call-a-thon Sunday by the Foreign Missions Department. Foreign Missions encourages FWB churches to give their Sunday school offering on that day to the Call-a-thon projects.

"Our needs are many, and the plans for some projects rely heavily on the response we receive from Call-a-thon participation," writes Rev. Don Robirds, the Director of Communications of the Department.

Participating churches are encouraged to phone in the amount of their offering between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. that Sunday. The number to be called is (615) 244-3470.

Let us have 100% participation of Missouri churches.

### FROM THE FULCHERS IN PANAMA

"While most of you there in the States have been experiencing cold, snowy weather, we here in Panama have entered our dry season. The days are hot and windy and already the grass is turning brown. This is always our busiest season.

"This month we had our D.V.B.S's. At Agua Buena the attendance was 136-167 during the week. There was a full church for the closing program on Sunday night. At San Juan we had 66-85 attend. We praise the Lord for the opportunity of teaching these children the Word.

"The van that we were able to purchase has been a great help in our work. Bill uses it every Sunday morning and night to pick up people who live long distances from the church. Thanks to all of you who gave offerings to help us get our bus. Especially we are grateful to the churches of Missouri for the special offerings they sent for this project."

—excerpts from the Fulchers Newsletter

### FROM THE PINKERTONS IN IVORY COAST

"At last the dream has become reality! The five P's are all on Ivory Coast soil. Jerry's boat arrived January 29 at 11:30 p.m. It was really great to have our family reunited. It took from Wednesday morning until Saturday noon to get everything through customs. We had to pay \$2,800 customs for the car and barrels. As of January 1 the customs on each car had been raised from 45% to 60% of the value of the car. I felt as if I had put in a long, hard day with a chain saw in the Missouri woods.



"Soon after the customs ordeal we had the joy of unpacking those barrels that had been stored since August of 1972. It was just like Christmas again! We thought of you as the articles were removed. Some of you had given clothing, books, hand lotion, and many other gifts. We thank you for sharing with us. Also, there were the items from the Provision Closet at Nashville—beautifully colored sheets, fluffy towels, and lots of Tupperware. It is our prayer that God will bless you. We'll never know each one that helped by giving and praying, but God does and that's what counts.

"Our first Sunday up country started with services at Bondouyo at 7:00 a.m. There were two other services that morning at Nassian and Talhini. It was sure good to have the Palmers with us in those first services. The people were friendly and we are anxious to get better acquainted with them. Since that time, we have visited the stations at Doropo and Bouna and have come to Bouake to see our boys. This is the first time we have been together since September 3, 1973. The boys are all doing fine here and have adjusted quickly. Naturally, we are very proud of them.

"It was while we were at Bouna on the 13th that we received the telegram telling of the death of Carol's father on the 5th. Death is always a shock, but for the Christian there is the consolation from the Father above and the Spirit within. We have that consolation.

"We are in the process of seeking God's place of service for us and would appreciate you praying with us about this matter. The field is so great, with needs in every part, and so few to do the labor.

"Just the joy of being here is worth every bit of the effort, all the time of preparation, and every trial along the way. Someone said, and I understand it more fully now, 'If God calls you to be a missionary, don't stoop to be a king.'"

—exerpts from the Pinkerton's Newsletter

#### FROM THE FILKINS IN IVORY COAST

"This second trimester has sure been different than the first. We had more problems in the first two weeks than we had all last session. Discipline, changing social rules, sickness, etc., and we sure felt the need of prayer support. Howdy spends a lot of time driving the bus, as there is no one else with a chauffeur's license, and I've taken on a sewing class. It seems there is never enough hours in a day. One of the dorm fathers had a blood vessel to rupture in the lining of his brain in December and he has been in the hospital at Ferke until this week. Another couple had to come and fill in. Now the wife of the new couple has hepatitis. That's the dorm we fill in for one day a week (and they for us), so we haven't taken much time off. We have two confirmed cases of hepatitis on campus, so our family took shots of gamma globulin last night as a preventive since we

were in direct contact with it. It cost about \$40, but that is better than six weeks in bed. Your first year, healthwise, is always hard anyway.

"Lots of activities are coming up—Sweetheart Banquet, class trips, games, outings, and we are involved in them so we'll have no trouble keeping busy. Please pray for physical strength, spiritual insight, and God's love to fill us when you remember us."

—exerpts from the  
Howard Filkin's Newsletter

#### INVITATION TO MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION

"Please accept our personal invitation to you to attend the Missouri State Association which will convene at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Flat River, Missouri. The church is located on the corner of Cedar and Emerson Streets.

"Our hearts are thrilled already over the coming blessings of God during the 1974 session of the Missouri Association meeting. We feel it will be well worth your time to come to Flat River, which lies deep in the beautiful Ozarks of Missouri.

"Flat River is a town which is known the world over for its 100 years of lead mining and was made to be the lead mining capital of the world. During your stay in Flat River you will not want to miss the thrill of climbing the huge chat piles which are lasting markers in the lead belt area.

"All of us at First FWB Church extend unto all the Free Will Baptist friends of Missouri a warm welcome to come to this beautiful setting of the 1974 session of the Missouri State Association which will start on Monday night, August 19, and continue through Thursday, August 22, at noon.

"It is our suggestion that as soon as possible you contact motels for reservations, since this is the Ozark area. In the next month's edition of the GEM we will try to have the names of motels in the area."

In Christ,  
(Signed) Kenneth H. Goff

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#### COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS FEBRUARY—1974

Grant Ave , Springfield	243.02
Pleasant Grove	22.53
Parkview (Jan.)	50.00
First F.W.B. Mission, K.C.	52.00
Independence F.W.B. Mission	51.00
Beacon (Jan.)	208.05
Victory (Jan.)	306.40
Gospel Light, Bonne Terre	45.00
Byrd	10.00
Salem	20.00
Hurricane (Jan.)	70.28
Olivett (Jan.)	130.00



Hannon	111.30
Happy Home	11.40
Grace (Jan.)	335.86
Union Grove Church & S.S.	60.00
Carterville	16.57
Pleasant Ridge	25.10
Garfield	21.68
Royal Oaks, Kansas City	49.00
Belton	91.00
Purdy, First	36.52
Fordland F.W.B. Church	25.00
Rock Chapel	23.05
Gateway, St. Louis	14.00
Leadington	87.93
Farmington, First Church	290.90
Verdella	62.95
Trinity, St. Louis	130.00
Cabool	87.46
Lebanon, First	500.00
Copper Mines	90.00
De Soto, First	254.00
Thayer	83.19
Houston	66.00
Cuba	128.00
Fourth, St. Louis	261.55
Central, Kansas City (Feb.)	120.00
Monett, First (Feb.)	224.25
Marshfield	79.96
Twin Oak	200.00
Columbia Free Will Baptist	73.00
Grant Ave., Springfield	285.42
Mine La Motte	15.62
Pleasant Grove	22.83
Happy Home	35.66
Divine Trinity, Potosi	25.00
South Side, St. Louis	211.00
Fellowship, Flat River (Feb.)	50.00
Parkview, Desloge (Feb.)	50.00
Carterville	15.63
Aurora FWB Mission	24.29
Victory	354.62
Bethel of Festus	40.00
Berkley	300.00
First FWB, West Plains	160.00
Beacon (2 months)	443.44
Hickory Grove	8.86
Fifty-three Churches	\$6,810.32

## February DISBURSEMENTS—1974

20.00% Missouri Missions	\$1362.06
15.00% Missouri Promotional Dept.	1021.55
05.50% Missouri Youth Camp	374.57
04.00% Missouri General Fund	272.41
04.00% Missouri State College Comm.	272.41
02.50% Missouri Gem	170.26
01.00% Missouri C.T.S. & S.S.	68.10
52% seven Mo. Depts.	3541.36
07.00% Hillsdale College	476.73
Total	2792.23
	6810.32
13.00% Foreign Missions	885.34
09.00% FWB Bible College	612.93
07.00% National Executive Dept.	476.73
06.50% Nat'l Home Missions	442.67
03.00% Nat'l. C.T.S. Dept.	204.30
02.00% Dept. of Retirement and Insurance	136.20
00.25% Layman's Board	17.03
00.25% Theological Comm.	17.03
41% Eight Nat'l Depts.	2792.23
100% Total disbursed	\$6810.32

Total cooperative receipts for past eight months—\$56,189.52.

February being a short month, we are behind schedule less than \$500.00 toward Missouri's projected goal. Rally Brethren! Let's go over the top in the next four months.

Harry Beatty—Treasurer

## DESIGNATED MONIES

Macedonia Church of Liberty Association	
FWBBC Missouri Project	100.00
Olivett FWB Church, Marshall, Mo.	
Seven accounts	85.00
Aurora FWB Church	
Six accounts	65.25
Hickory Grove Sunday School	
One account	22.26
Total designated money through State Office	272.51
Rev. Harry Beatty, Treasurer	

## MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSION GIVING: FEBRUARY 5 THRU MARCH 5, 1974

Overland	10.00
Leadington	7.00
Mine LaMotte	10.00
Grace	25.00
Cabool	30.00
Salem	10.00
Fourth	80.89
Rock Chapel	20.00
Independence	36.00
Don Lombard	50.00
Hartville	10.00
Olivet	235.00
Victory	174.00
Parkview	15.00
DeSoto, First	50.00
Central	20.00
Houston	44.05
Thayer	9.00
Willow Springs	13.00
Myrtle	12.73
Low Ground	5.00
Copper Mines	7.00
Mill Creek	15.00
Madison Co. Qtly. Mtg.	75.00
South Fremont	92.00
West Plains, First	20.00
Fellowship	56.00
Hannon	66.85
South Side	6.00
Kansas City, First	25.00
Fredricktown, First	20.00
Columbia	5.00
W.N.A.C.	32.50
Aurora	17.25
Cooperative Receipts - Feb.	1,362.06
Total	2,666.33

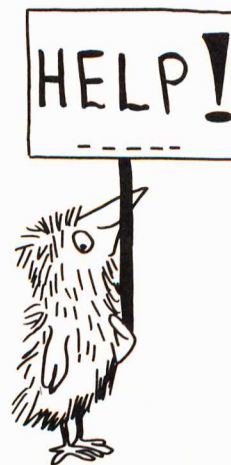
Secretary-Treasurer

Rev. Lawrence Thompson  
3416 N. Bellefontaine  
Kansas City, Mo. 64117



Woman's Page GEM April  
Kathy Lay, Editor

HELP!!! I cannot print news on our Woman's Page that I do not know about and I cannot share with you things I have not heard about. I did not receive ANYTHING this month, so PLEASE send me some news from your auxiliary or anything you have to share with our Co-Laborers. Let us not let this happen again. (Kathy Lay, 13 Tanglewood, Carl Junction, MO 64834)



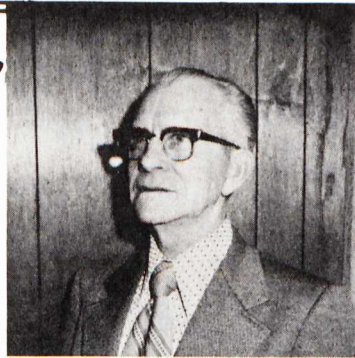
### SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES 1973-74

Church	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan.	Feb
Aurora	47	62	52	30	26	19	26					
Beacon, Raytown	67	86	85	80	71	96	79	78	77	81	81	
Berkeley, First			302	296	289	316	323	342	347	348	330	309
Bethel, Festus		83	80	86	96	79						
Copper Mines	85	91	77	87	86	95	87	80	74	76	68	74
Cuba	88	98	80	85		78	72	82	72	71	72	70
Desoto	189	189	159	159	143	158	150	156	161	149	155	
Evangel, Webb City										44	46	45
Farmington		161	139	139	131	129	132	142	134	138		
Fellowship, Flat River	407	390	322	310	277	298	384	432		391		
Flat River, First	178	215	159	149	150	149						
Fourth, St. Louis	154	143	112	110	125	123	133	147	132	141	164	
Grace, Arnold	241	255	194	209	189	220	202	240	238	232	226	200
Jefferson City	43	40	36	31	34	43	51		56			
Jones Chapel	86	83	84	86	86	91	101	90	85	91		
Joplin, First	139	116	106	100	102	101	95	94	95			
King's Way, Springfield	64	66	67	61	68	56	70	79	90	90	80	
Kirkville	117	114	112	103	101	95	99	101	105			
Leadington	59	63	65	62	60	59	43	46	50	47		
Lebanon, First	160	166	144	143	134	119	191		125		128	144
Mine LaMotte	42	51	46	55	43		37	43	44		44	40
Monett, First	219	207	198	219	209	200	196	240	208	195		
Mountain Grove, First	263	269	299	256	248	265	267	283	265	276	238	228
Myrtle	63	52	50	45	52	54		47	46	49	44	44
O'Fallon	72	72	70	53	50	60	65	82	78			
Parkview, Desloge	90	106	97	83	83	87	96	100	100	98	78	75
Richwoods	34	35	40	34	36	30	31	30	26	33	22	27
Salem	42	39	41	40	37	49	43	45	40	44	34	
South Fremont, Spfd	77	75	71	74	72	77	83	76		80	80	
Southside, St. Louis	156	154	144	130	132	130	130	126	140	127		
Springfield, First	212	231	200	195	176	174	196	208				
Thayer	153	181	149	159	173	152	152	156	144	157	156	151
Trinity, Bridgeton	194	200	160	153	159	157	184	174	179	192	189	182
Twin Oaks	55	51	71	58	59	56	59	57	55	58	52	
Victory, Avondale	181	174	165	155	138	160	164	233	210	188	189	188
Willow Springs	94	94	95	91	94	95	98	100	96	93		

Other churches are invited to send their Sunday School attendance averages for publication.



Promotional  
Secretary's  
Corner



To encourage Russell Boulevard congregation and Pastor Ralph Hastings Jr., I visited them and delivered the Sunday morning message February 3. The pastor served communion following the preaching service.

Sunday evening I delivered the sermon in Gospel Light FWB Church at Bonne Terre. Rev. John Schebaum is their pastor. The church purchased property in East Bonne Terre subdivision recently. They tithe to Missouri Cooperative Fund. The Moyer Family Singers from the Hurryville Church were present rendering a special song service.

On Wednesday evening, February 6, I delivered the sermon in Cabool Church following prayer meeting. Pastor Courtney reports souls being saved at their altars in their weekly services. They support Missouri Coop monthly.

Pastor Chesley Hill and Willow Springs Church hosted First Mission Quarterly Meeting Thursday, February 7. More than 20 churches represented with delegates. Ministers preaching were: Umfleet, Vandivort, Burney, McNaris, and Helsey. I gave the 1974 Cooperative Allocation report. Several purchased Bibles from Missouri Portable Bible Stand. They gave a nice gift from their treasury to Columbia Mission Church.

On Thursday night I visited Missouri Bible Institute in progress in Mountain Grove FWB Church. Several ministers, pastors, and laymen are taking the four courses offered. Twenty-eight students are enrolled.

Five State Mission Board members, plus other Christian workers intently interested in mission projects, assembled in Aurora Church Friday evening, February 8, for the installation service of Rev. Dale Pitts and family. Brethren let us rally behind this work, both in prayer and giving.

Pastor McAllister and Monett Church congregation hosted Indian Creek Quarterly Meeting, Saturday, February 9. Most of their churches sent delegates. Rev. Campbell and Rev. Gentry each delivered gospel sermons at designated times. Their attendance and interest was better than usual. I gave

the Cooperative Program and several purchased Bibles from Missouri Bible Store Portable Stand.

Sunday morning, February 10, in response to an invitation from Pastor Campbell and Macedonia FWB Church I delivered the sermon there. There was shouting in the camp. Their church choir and trio rendered some lively special numbers. They have won some new people to the Lord recently.

The same Sunday evening I shared another good service with Pastor McAllister and Monett Church. I delivered the evening sermon. Monett Church has supported the Cooperative Program consistently through the years, plus supporting several state, national, and foreign missionaries' accounts.

Greater Kansas City Quarterly Meeting assembled with Pastor Land and First Church on Friday night, February 15. Six churches plus two missions represented with delegates and participated in special singing from each church. A layman gave their devotional service. In the business session they issued license to the ministry to two young ministers from First Mission Church: Rev. Loren Simmons and Rev. Alvin Hook. I gave the Cooperative Report to which 100% of their churches give regularly. Some purchased Bibles from Missouri Bible Store.

Pastor Ralph Cook and Royal Oaks FWB Church have their new sanctuary and Sunday school rooms completely finished and furnished. Royal Oaks church is located in North Kansas City, Missouri, at 73rd and Lingley Streets. I enjoyed a good service with them on Sunday morning, February 17. I was pleased to have an old time minister friend and his wife present in this service, Rev. and Mrs. Verl Tate. They live in this area and attend Royal Oaks. This church has participated in Cooperative Giving since its inception, plus additional missions giving. In January, 1974, Pastor Cook assumed full time ministry here.

Victory FWB Church's pastor, Rev. Lawrence Thompson, made use of the baptistry in First Mission Church Sunday afternoon to baptize 10 new converts. Lively testimonies ascended from both the congregation and candidates.

We enjoyed another good service in the First Church Sunday evening. New commitments and zeal was manifest among this congregation. Brethren, please remember them in prayer. Incidentally, they tithe to the Cooperative Plan.

On February 18 five members of Missouri College Commission, plus other ministers met in Jefferson City. After dinner we toured the property being acquired by Capitol City FWB Church.

In the absence of Pastor Evans, I delivered two sermons in Farmington First Church on February 24. We enjoyed two good services. The flu epidemic and snow hindered the attendance. Their church ranks in the top five in cooperative giving in Missouri State Association.

Thanks to 53 February cooperative co-partners who sent a total of \$6,810.32. Remember to send your cooperative gifts to my address at 2244 Tenbrook, Arnold, MO 63010.



GEM  
REV RONALD CREECH  
BOX 277 E DURHAM STA  
DURHAM NC 27703

COMP

## The Parable of The Pitcher

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Behold a ball team went forth to play a game of ball. Just as the umpire was saying, "Batter up," the catcher for the home team arrived and took his place. But the center fielder and the second baseman did not arrive until after the second inning. The first baseman didn't come at all, but later sent his regrets saying he had to go to a chicken dinner at Aunt Mary's. Also the third baseman likewise failed to show up, having been up late the night before and he preferred to spend the day in bed. The left fielder was away visiting another ball game across town. The short stop was present but left his glove at home. The right fielder was there, but he was so upset with the rest of the team he had no enthusiasm for the game. Warily, when the pitcher entered the box, he looked around to see his teammates, and lo, his heart was heavy when he saw so many empty places in the line-up. The game had been announced and the visitors were already in the stands to see the game. There was nothing left for him to do but go ahead and pitch and hope for the best. So the pitcher tightened up his belt, stepped into the box and did his best to put the ball over the plate. But for some strange reason he just couldn't seem to do so. At the close of the game, the home team was badly beaten. After hearing of the defeat, the rest of the team decided that a new pitcher should be hired. It must have been he who lost the game.

Behold, a preacher went forth to preach . . . but, that's another story . . . or is it?

—Contributed by  
Pastor Melvin Knott, Kirksville