

Free Will Baptist

GEM

"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"

Volume 45, Number 12, December, 1975



Sunday School Attendance Averages 1974-75

CHURCH	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Aurora			23	20	68							
Berkeley, First	330	331	319	341	364							
Bethel, Festus	86	85	93	89	105	97	89	76	90			
Copper Mines	79	81	74	73	85	79						
DeSoto	144	137	144	136	144	146	153	138	133	150		
Evangel, Webb City	73	77	80	59	72	72	60	53	58			
Farmington	207	191	191	203	283	253	228		211	236	256	301
Fellowship, Flat River	340	341	333	315	366							
First Mission, K. C.										62		81
Flat River, First	126				148							
Fourth, St. Louis	161	162	150	154	224	191	174	132	148			
Grace, Arnold	256	220										
Hazel Creek				30	56	52	49	44	44	41	56	62
Leadington	58	51	49	52	84	87						
Mine La Motte		48	54	54	64	57	45	55	57	54		50
Mtn. Grove, First			260	238	271	285	265	284	264	266	278	289
Myrtle	48	44	42	43	49	54	50	51				
O'Fallon	87	69	70	76	100	83	75	82				
Oskaloosa	29	27	31	31	31	29	29	29	25			
Parkview, Desloge	81	82										
Richwoods	33	31	37	34	43	35	39	35	36			
Salem		32	35	36	40	41	34		45	38	48	
South Freemont, Spfd.		89	83	85	82	90						
Southside, St. Louis	173	160	156			207						
Springfield, First	187	190	205									
Thayer	138	162	150	146								
Trinity	217	208	215	240	228	189	198	160	185	227	248	
Twin Oaks	73	75	71	75								
Victory, Avondale	174		192		211	166	181				183	175
Willow Springs	93	97	91	83	95	97	99	91	92	96	95	

Publication and Business Office: 303 West Commercial, Lebanon, Missouri 65536

Clarence Burton, 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 Shirley Bowden, 303 West Commercial, Lebanon, MO 65536.

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 Lebanon, MO and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to the Free Will Baptist GEM, P.O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65536.

Rev. Andy Lay began his work as Gem editor October, 1972. He terminated it last month. Every reader of the Gem appreciates the fine work he has done. The publication has been informative, readable, and unbiased. It is comparable to any state and national publication.

So from all the Gem readers we say, "Thanks, Andy, for a job well done."

Clarence Burton, editor



A PASTOR'S WIFE

by Frances Bowman



Brother Burton asked me to write an article about my life as a pastor's wife. Time and space will not permit me to go into details so I will just recall some of my most memorable experiences.

We were saved just a short while and Cliff answered the call to preach. The evening he came home and said, "Frances, I'm going to preach tonight," did not make me aware that this was the beginning of a completely new life. Soon I was to become a pastor's wife.

The first job I remember was time-keeper. Cliff asked me to signal him at the end of thirty minutes. He was to start giving the invitation when I gave him the signal. I don't believe he was ever convinced that he had only preached seven minutes, and that included the invitation.

It seemed so easy for Cliff to dedicate his life to Christ. But, I was a stubborn, self-willed person, who, like Jacob, spent many nights wrestling with the Lord.

It didn't take long to find out that a preacher is a marked man and a preacher's wife is a marked woman. People watched the way we dressed, the way we handled our children, and the way we kept the parsonage. It seemed everyone's eyes were upon me. I really wanted to be a good preacher's wife but so often I forgot to pray about these things. Finally, one day the Lord spoke to my heart and said, "You please me, and you won't have to worry about the way you do things—I'll help you please the people."

The pastor's study has always been in our home and it is easy to remember the lonely hours while Cliff studied. I can still hear him say, "Frances, be still. I'm studying." What a blessing it was when my stubborn will was broken and I said, "Lord, he is not mine anymore—he belongs to you also." And then I also said, "Lord, here is my little boy . . . and please, Lord, try to do something with me." I soon found so many things to do I would almost wish Cliff could find more time to study.

God was not only good in letting me be a pastor's wife—He let me be a mother. Like every pastor's wife, I have felt the need to be both mamma and daddy, when the pastor was away doing the Lord's

work. I laugh when I remember our children longed for the day they would be fourteen so they could go with us as we visited in the hospital, rather than sit alone in the waiting room. But they understood. I remember also the many times we would plan for an evening with the children and the phone would ring—someone needed us and we would go. So many times my heart has been broken because some people expect so much of the preacher's children and often times the people cared so little for them. But we always taught our children how much God loved them and what a privilege it is to serve Him. I am thankful that neither of them, Kathy nor Dennis, have resented being a part of a busy pastor's family. Our son announced his call to the ministry at the age of twelve and has been involved in the Lord's work through the years. Kathy dreams of the day God will give her a preacher husband, just like dad. But, she said, "Mama, they don't make men like dad anymore." We always found God's grace sufficient in bringing up our children.

As a pastor's wife, Hebrews 13:2 has meant much to me. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." It makes me happy to share what I have with others. I have always felt our home belonged to the Lord. It has always been fun to never know who would be at the table for the next meal. The Lord always provided food. I appreciated the kind remarks by someone such as Greg McAllister who thought I could cook the best grilled cheese sandwiches in the world.

I have always loved the church and the need to be faithful. I always tell our ladies that there is one job I do in the church that I refuse to let anyone else do—be the pastor's wife. I am glad to be a pastor's wife.

Every morning as I awake I ask God to help me throughout the day. I remember one morning the doorbell rang and it was a young couple about ready to separate. Cliff was at the hospital. I was glad that I could tell them that God loved them and He has the answer to every problem. That afternoon a funeral was held for one of our loved ones and that

night we shared the happiness of a bride and groom as they began life's road together. This along with cooking, cleaning, washing, and visitation is an average day for a pastor's wife. However, every day is a new day with new experiences and joys.

Most everyone knows Cliff has been sick this past year. We know God loves and understands. We don't know the future but we know who holds the future.

For many years this has been our poem and the feeling of our hearts.

Let me hold your hand as we go down hill,
We've shared our strength, and we share it still.
It hasn't been easy to make the climb,
But the way was eased by your hand in mine.

Like the lake, our lives have had ripples too,
Ill health, and worries, and payments due,
With happy pauses along the way,
A graduation and a raise in pay.

At the foot of the slope we will stop and rest,
Look back, if you wish; we have been truly blest.
We've been spared the grief of being torn apart
By death, or divorce or a broken heart.

The view ahead is one of the best,
Just a little further and then we can rest.
We move more slowly, but together still,
Let me hold your hand as we go down the hill.

I thank God that He chose me to be a pastor's wife.

Missouri State Home Missions Giving: October 5 through November 5, 1975

Thayer	46.50
Flat River, First	16.45
South Fremont	118.00
Central	40.00
Grace	25.00
Salem	10.00
Independence	25.00
Byrd	5.00
Purdy, First	23.00
Myrtle	105.52
Merl's Chapel	77.75
Olivet	225.00
Columbia	30.00
Mine LaMotte	10.00
Poplar Bluff	2.45
Rock Chapel	20.00
Berkeley	300.00
DeSoto	50.00
Fellowship	15.00
Aurora	23.61
Buffalo	77.84
Hazel Creek	10.00
O'Fallon	30.25
Victory	207.46
Hannon	71.00
Fourth	26.23
Sedalia	10.00
Cooperative Receipts	1,854.39
Total	3,455.45

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

CHURCHES PEOPLE AND EVENTS

GROWTH AT VIBURNUM

by Linda Ragsdale

Nineteen hundred seventy-five has been a glorious year for us at Viburnum FWB Church. We have had 42 souls saved and many families join the church. The Lord has blessed us with 30 baptisms, many of which represented complete families uniting for Christ and working for His cause.

With a sizeable increase in attendance, we decided we could set a goal of 100 average in Sunday school. We reached that goal and our pastor, Rev. Troy C. Burney, had to sing "How Great Thou Art" from the church roof. What a blessing it was to see him up there!

At press time, the Viburnum Church had a revival scheduled to begin November 17 with Rev. R. E. Helsley, pastor of the Wolf Creek FWB Church, serving as evangelist.

MRS. LOGSDON BACK IN STATE

Mrs. Ettie Mae Logsdon, widow of Rev. Leslie Logsdon, has informed us that she is now back in Missouri after spending a few months in California. She would appreciate cards and letters from her many friends in the state. Her address is 8610 E. 114th St., Kansas City, MO 64834.

CALVARY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH ON THE MOVE

The Calvary Fellowship FWB Church in Fenton is praising the Lord for the two souls saved in services October 19. They also report increase in Sunday school attendance. Pastor Duaine Hanson expressed his gratitude to the church for the successful way they hosted their quarterly meeting on October 25.

Laymen's day services were planned for November 16 and the Trinity Gospel Singers were scheduled to be in concert at Calvary Fellowship on December 6, concluding a "penny vote" contest sponsored by the Calvary's Ladies' Circle.

The church reporter writes, "We just can't praise the Lord enough for all the blessings."

THANKSGIVING REPORT FROM KING'S WAY CHURCH

The King's Way Church in Springfield is building a new auditorium. The 46' x 92' addition is connected to the old structure making a "T" formation. Red carpet and padded pews are planned for the interior. Hopefully it will be completed by next February.

The church reports the Lord is blessing with fine attendance. The average for last quarter was 102. A revival is being planned next year with Rev. Tommy Breashear as the evangelist. The prayer of the church is that souls will be saved and the auditorium filled. Rev. Gene Terry is the pastor.

NEW LIFE CHURCH PROSPERING

The New Life FWB Church in Licking, Missouri, is prospering according to statistics sent by the church reporter, Harold E. Lane. During the past two months one soul was saved and several lives were rededicated to the Lord. The church's Sunday school increased by nine over the July average. A high attendance of 87 was recorded.

New Life's youth are active. Recent activities have included a hay ride and weiner roast. A fund raising was held for two children in the community who have been hospitalized with serious health problems: Pam and Robbie Buckner. A basketball goal has been erected and a baseball diamond cleared on the church property.

Mr. Lane writes, "During the summer Tom Owens left us to start a new church at Union, Missouri, and Brother Max Courtney came as our new pastor. Our church wishes Brother Owens much success and happiness in his new field of service. We are very proud of our new pastor and all of us will work very hard to help him in his new field with us."

BIG DAY AT O'FALLON

The First Free Will Baptist Church of O'Fallon observed Homecoming and Old Fashioned Day on Sunday, October 26. The goal set for this day was 150. The goal was exceeded and all records were broken with an attendance of 160 for Sunday school and more for the morning worship.

Rev. Clarence Burton, State Promotional Secretary, delivered the morning message with the church choir presenting the special music. In the afternoon the Gabe Wallace Family were the featured singers, with other groups from the church and the local area singing also.

The pastor, Rev. Don Lombard, states: "It was a good day! The Lord blessed! The people of the

church worked hard to make this day possible. The people were not only dressed in an old-fashioned way but they worshiped in an old-fashioned way of love and dedication to the cause of Christ."

GATEWAY HAS REVIVAL

The Spirit of God brought revival to Gateway Church on October 19 through 25. Rev. Clarence Burton, our State Promotional Secretary, was the evangelist. There were two saved. The whole church experienced a time of spiritual renewal and strength.

November has been designated as Home Mission month at Gateway Church. Sunday, November 2, was "The Message of Missions." Rev. Tom Owens, new State Missionary to Union, Missouri, was the guest speaker. Sunday, November 9, was "The Messengers of Missions." Emphasis was placed on who is a missionary? "The Methods of Missions" was the theme of November 16. In the evening the film, "Like a Mighty Army," was shown. The pastor emphasized the need of personal evangelism. Sunday, November 23 was "Old—Fashioned Sunday." Everyone came dressed old-fashioned. Services were held by kerosene lamp. Sunday, November 30 was "Mission: Go." Everything learned throughout the month will be put into action as the church seeks to "GO!"

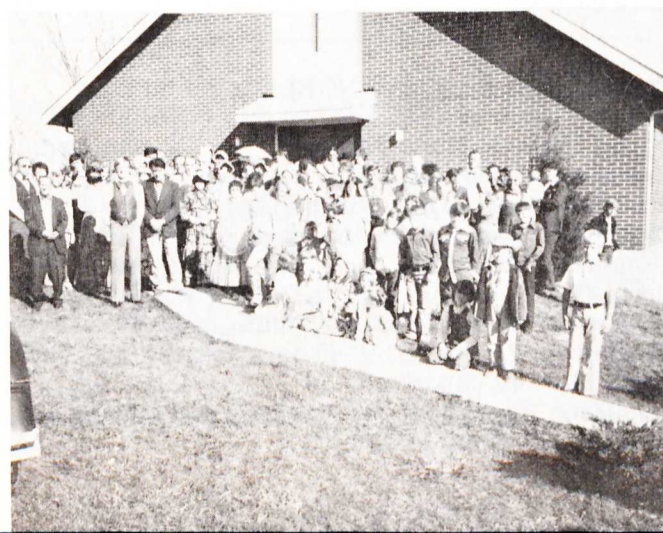
JAMES WARD LISTED IN WHO'S WHO

James Vernon Ward, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Ward, 6600 Virginia, in St. Louis, was recently selected to appear in this year's edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*, according to officials at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. The faculty of the school chose Ward for this honor as one of 14 selected from the student body of 540.

Ward graduated from Cleveland High School in 1971 and enrolled that fall at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He was chosen Vice President of his Junior Class in college, served three years as member of The Evangel Players, a dramatic company that tours for the school, and pastored in the Nashville area for two years.

The criteria evaluated in his selection included

O'Fallon Free Will Baptist Church



James Ward



scholarship, participation and leadership in academic and extracurricular activities, service to the school, and prospect of future usefulness as a citizen.

Ward is a senior completing his ministerial studies this spring. He will be awarded a certificate in honor of his selection to *Who's Who* at commencement exercises next May.

Free Will Baptist Bible College, which specializes in the training of ministers, missionaries, and other Christian workers, is one of more than 1,000 colleges participating in the *Who's Who* program. Many prominent Americans, including former Secretary of the Treasury John B. Connally, Jr.; former quarterback Bart Starr; and Roger Mudd, national news commentator for CBS, are past recipients of the award in the program's 40-year history.

REV. GEORGE HIBBITTS PROMOTED TO GLORY

Rev. George Hibbitts passed from this life on September 18, 1975. He lived most of his life in the Farmington and Fredericktown communities. He was instrumental in starting three Free Will Baptist churches: Farmington, Hurryville, and DeSoto. Mrs. Mildred Rider writes that Brother Hibbitts used to say, "What earthly good are you if you can't tell someone about Jesus."

BIBLE CONFERENCE AT SOUTH FREMONT

Pastor Wagner reports the South Fremont Church has scheduled a Bible Conference January 23-25. Dr. Robert Picirilli will be the speaker.

DESIGNATED MONEY GIVEN THROUGH THE STATE OFFICE

Hazel Creek FWB Church	
Missouri State Home Missions	10.00
Buffalo FWB Church	
Missouri State Home Missions (Union, Mo. Mission) ..	77.84
First FWB Fredericktown	
FWBBC	100.00
Hillsdale	100.00
National Home Missions	100.00
Foreign Missions	100.00
Sedalia FWB Mission	
Mo. State Home Missions	10.00
Hickory Grove FWB Church	
Foreign Mission Steve Lytle Acct.	27.11
First FWB Church Mtn. Grove	
Hillsdale Bible College	130.00
Foreign Missions Gen. Fund and one missionary acct. .	25.00
Natl. Home Missions Gen. Fund	
and two missionary accts.	20.00
Olivet FWB Church	
National Home Missions - two missionary accts.	30.00
Foreign Missions - six missionary accts.	80.00
Hartville FWB Church	
National Home Missions - one missionary acct.	54.70
Evangel FWB Church	
Foreign Missions - three missionary accts.	90.80
New Harmony S. S.	
Foreign Missions - two missionary accts.	62.18
Low Ground FWB Church	
National Home Missions - one missionary acct.	5.00
TOTAL	\$1,022.63

On The National Front

CHURCH COVENANT ON PLASTIC BOOKMARK

The National Sunday School Department has published the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant on a colorful, round-cornered bookmark measuring 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 3".

They are packaged in quantities of 100 and retail at \$10.00 per hundred or 15¢ each when sold in quantities less than one hundred. Each package has about an equal amount of red, blue, yellow, and white bookmarks in it.

The new church covenant bookmarks may be ordered from our state bookstore, P. O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65336.

REEDS RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE

Dr. Roger Reeds, director of Free Will Baptist Sunday School Department and native Missourian, recently was honored by the California Graduate School of Theology. Dr. Holland London, president of the school, presented Dr. Reeds with an honorary degree of doctor of letters.

Author and lecturer Elmer Towns was present for the presentation. He said, in part, "I have known Dr. Reeds since 1959. We worked together in St. Louis when the National Sunday School Convention met there. He was pastor of the Southside Free Will Baptist Church in St. Louis and I was a young professor at Midwest Bible College. A number of years ago Dr. Reeds was brought by your denomination to Nashville, Tennessee, to the position he now has. At that time the Sunday School Department was very small. You know how the Sunday School Department has grown. A few years ago I wrote a story about Dr. Reeds and how he has helped to turn the Free Will Baptist denomination around. I hope Free Will Baptists realize how fortunate they are to have a man like Dr. Reeds who holds this very strategic position."

CONFERENCE ON EVANGELISM AT TULSA

The National Home Missions Board is sponsoring a conference on evangelism January 5-7, 1976, at the West Tulsa Free Will Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Speakers for the event will be Rev. Paul Thompson, Mr. Bob Pack, Mr. Eddie Pack, Mr. David Boggs, Mr. Bill Pitts, all of the Welch Avenue FWB Church in Columbus, Ohio, and Rev. Bob Shockey and Rev. Roy Thomas of the National Home Missions department.

Pastors, Sunday school workers, and laymen are encouraged to plan to attend.

15 MISSOURI STUDENTS ENROLLED AT FWBBC

Fifteen students are enrolled at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, who list Missouri as their home state. They are (first row) Sue Vancil, Fourth Church, St. Louis; Diane Chapman, Lone Star Church, Marshfield; Charolette Tallent, Southside Church, St. Louis; Susan Combs, Garfield Church, Couch; Robin Stuart, First Church, Farmington; (second row) Den Dodson, Hurryville Church, Elvin; John England, Pleasant Hill Church, Thayer; Jerry Hefner, Grant Avenue Church, Springfield; Alvin Hook, First Church, Kansas City; Ken Fox, Victory Church, Kansas City; (third row) Jeff Turnbough, Ken Humphrey, South Fremont Church, Flat River; Richard Greenup, First Church, Columbia; Vernon Long, Bethel Church, Festus; and Joseph Day, First Church, Lebanon.



FROM THE HORTONS IN DES MOINES

Correspondence was received this month from the Leland Horton family who serve as national home missionaries in Des Moines, Iowa. They wish GEM readers a Happy Thanksgiving and express appreciation for our support of their work.

Cooperative Receipts, October 1975

Gateway	\$15.00
Hurryville	75.55
Willow Springs	132.35
New Rock Springs	64.00
Alton	37.35
Beacon	100.00
Fredericktown, First	586.53
Hartville	29.53
Evangel	96.43
Byrd	14.00
Old Bethel	30.00
Southside	257.00
Grace	493.14

Union Mission	20.00
Olivet, Marshall	130.00
First, Kansas City	109.00
Hannon	174.00
Fellowship, Flat River	50.00
Number One	34.93
Cape Girardeau	141.00
Gospel Light, Bonne Terre	79.31
Freeman Chapel	81.12
Salem	20.00
Bethel	150.30
Macedonia Sunday School	100.00
Columbia	110.00
Fordland	25.00
Pleasant Ridge	21.00
Belton	89.00
Independence	68.00
Central, Kansas City	120.00
Mill Creek July-Aug.-Sept.	173.45
Mill Creek Sunday School	16.26
Faith, Lemay	157.66
Farmington	480.48
Berkeley	477.84
DeSoto	360.00
New Life	65.25
Merl's Chapel	47.56
Thayer	151.10
Flat River, First	983.40
Copper Mines	75.00
Sedalia Mission	10.00
Trinity	260.00
Cuba	48.30
Hickory Grove	40.25
Rock Chapel	28.26
Cape Girardeau	139.20
Aulsbury Chapel	190.76
Marshfield	166.02
Purdy	47.00
Richwoods	109.00
Niangua	49.10
Happy Home	36.33
Verdella	65.36
Mtn. Grove, First	343.74
O'Fallon	40.12
Pleasant Grove	18.81
Gateway	20.00
Mine La Motte	19.81
Fourth, St. Louis	297.86
New Rock Springs	50.00
Waynesville	83.66
Grace	479.57
Oskaloosa	17.83
Monett	269.44
Total Cooperative Receipts	\$9,271.96

Please send all checks to Missouri State Association P. O. Box 991, Lebanon, Missouri 65536

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS October, 1975

20.00% Missouri State Home Missions	\$1,854.39
16.25% Promotional Dept.	1,506.69
04.00% General Fund	370.88
05.50% Youth Camp	509.96
02.50% Gem	231.80
01.75% Sunday School & CTS	162.25
02.00% Missouri Bible Institute	185.44
52% Seven State Depts.	\$4,821.41
07.00% Hillsdale Bible College	649.04
13.00% Foreign Missions	1,205.35
09.00% Free Will Baptist Bible College	834.48
07.00% Executive Department	649.04
06.50% National Home Extension	602.68
02.50% CTS	231.80
02.50% Retirement & Insurance	231.80
00.25% Layman's Board	23.18
00.25% Theological Commission	23.18
41% National Assn. of FWB	3,801.51
Total Disbursements	\$9,271.96

CO-OP

A WORKABLE PLAN

By Glen Rehkop

If an organization of any kind is going to be a success, it will be because its members are cooperative, working together, and each one doing his fair share.

A church or denomination certainly is not any different. If a church is to grow and do the work that God intended, it will come about by cooperation of the membership. Every person in a church has a place of responsibility to fill. In chapter 12 of First Corinthians, the apostle Paul drew a parallel between the human body and the Church. He declared that the body is made up of many members and that all members work together to make the body function properly. And so it is with the Church. If the Church is going to function properly, every member must shoulder his responsibility. The same thing is true with our State and National work. If every church in the denomination would feel the need to carry its share of the load there would be no real need in any phase of the work.

This writer is convinced that the Cooperative Plan of Support is a very workable plan and if all the churches would support this plan our State and National needs would be met without very much difficulty.

Let me insert at the very beginning that cooperative giving (that is, 10%, a tithe) should be the minimum and not the maximum of our giving. However, giving 10% of our churches' income to the Cooperative Plan would be much more than many of us are giving now.

The purpose of this article is to tell how the Lord has blessed in this writer's ministry because the churches in which I have pastored supported the Cooperative Plan.

What is the Cooperative Plan? If I understand the plan correctly, the intent is to give 10% of the churches' income to the State and National work. As the money is sent to the State Treasurer, he in turn allocates the money to the various phases of the State and National work. In fact, 52% goes to the State departments. 7% goes to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College and 41% goes to the 8 National departments. I don't know of any better way to support all the State and National departments than the Cooperative Plan of support.

I have found this system to be a real blessing to the church. The three churches of which this preacher has had the privilege to serve as pastor all supported the Cooperative plan by giving 10% of their income. To be sure, there were times when meeting the bills were close. However, I don't know of a time that we were unable to meet all of our obligations.

I am convinced that God will bless the church that will tithe its income just as He will bless the

individual that will obey the Lord's command and give the Lord's tithe.

If the 8 different departments of the National Association are worth having, such as Foreign Missions, FWB Bible College, National Executive Department, National Home Missions, National CTS Department, Department of Retirement, Layman's Board, Theological Commission, then they are worth supporting.

If the 7 departments in our State Association are worth having, such as Missouri Home Missions, Missouri Promotional Department, Missouri Youth Camp, Missouri Bible Institute, Missouri General Fund, Free Will Baptist Gem, Missouri CTS and Sunday School Department, then each one deserves our support.

If Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College is worth having, then it is worth our support; and one way in which we can support each department is by supporting the Cooperative Plan.

The writer believes and preaches that God will bless the individual that will be obedient to the Word and tithes because the Bible gives us this promise (Malachi 3:10). Furthermore, I believe that God will bless the church which after it receives the tithes and offerings from its constituents will in turn tithe that income so that the 16 National and State departments might be aided.

I am convinced that tithing is God's plan for the support of His great institution, the Church. I am further convinced that the Cooperative Plan is a workable plan for the support of the denominational departments. And let me again further emphasize—let our Cooperative giving not be the maximum giving, but rather, a minimum.

Editors note: Rev. Glen Rehkop is pastor of the Grace Free Will Baptist Church in Arnold, Missouri. The Grace Church led the state in cooperative giving last year. The church is also involved in designated giving.



Promotional Secretary's Corner

by Clarence Burton

The words of the song, "Let's Just Praise The Lord," express the way I feel. The Lord has blessed in so many ways!

October was a good month for *Cooperative Giving*. I trust that every pastor and church involved in this plan of support shares in this joy of giving for a worldwide ministry. I am making my report concise this month in order that we have space for some material omitted last month.

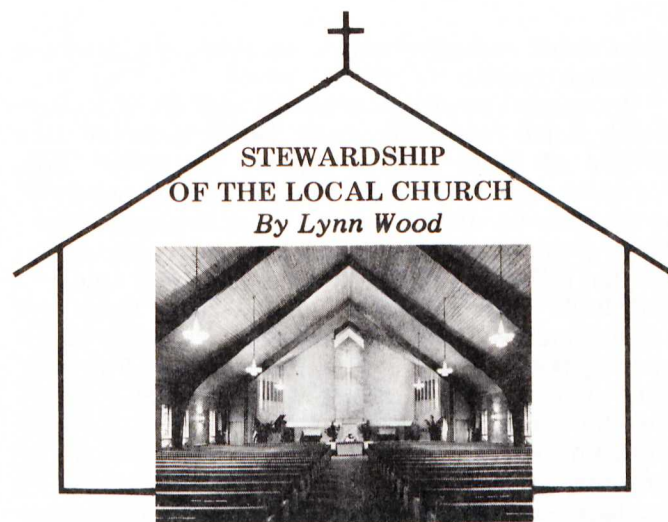
On Sunday, October 5, I was with Rev. Kent Tallent and the Hazel Creek Church. That afternoon I was with the New Harmony Church for an area Sunday School Convention. Rev. Archie Cooper was the host pastor. (Brother Cooper has had a radio

ministry in the Kirksville area for 27 years.)

On Saturday, October 11, I responded to an invitation from Rev. O. D. Matthews to be with the Madison County Quarterly Meeting. This meeting convened with the Old Bethel Church. Rev. Smith was the host pastor. The following day I was with Rev. Keith Johnson and the Thayer Church.

On Sunday, October 19, I began a revival with Rev. Roy Pearson and the Gateway Church. We experienced a fine revival—good fellowship in the Lord. The following Sunday I was with Rev. Don Lombard and the O'Fallon Church for Homecoming Day. The goal for 150 in Sunday school was exceeded by 10. The record was broken with 160. On Sunday evening I was with Rev. Glen Jones and the Second Free Will Baptist Church in Lebanon.

I certainly enjoyed the fellowship of these pastors, their families, and the churches. The Lord is blessing Free Will Baptists in Missouri. Let us continue to love Him, praise Him, and serve Him. I pray that, as the Holy Spirit leads, every church will share in *Cooperative Giving*. It is a plan that enables every Christian to share in supporting a total ministry for the Lord.



Just as surely as individuals are accountable for their personal stewardship, a church is equally responsible for its stewardship. Most of us would agree that our tithe and offerings given to God through our church should almost be taken for granted. We would like to feel that our congregations accept this as God's plan. Surely this is God's method of financing His church and its outreach.

In this item we are looking at the responsibility of a local church in its worldwide outreach. What should be the attitude of each church toward denominational programs?

A few years ago a study was made to determine what percentage of a church's income should be given outside to meet the quotas and budgets of state and national departments. At that time 22% of a church's total income was needed to reach the proposed goals. The average then was about 17%, which meant that some or perhaps all the various

ministries of our denomination were coming short of their goals.

These percentages may have changed but they probably are relatively close today with the increase in gifts and offerings to local churches.

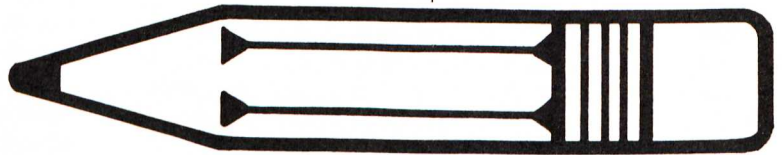
It would be well for every church to take a good look at its outside giving. Ask some of the following questions: Are we supporting all our state programs, i. e., State Missions, Cooperative Plan, Christian Education, Youth Camp, Sunday School, and CTS. Are we totally denominational minded? Do we support Missions, Bible Colleges, Auxiliaries, CTS, and Sunday school departments?

Just as a Christian is encouraged to be totally involved in all programs so should your church. If a pastor serves on a board, he will usually push for its support a little harder, and this he should do; however, none of our "children" should be neglected. A bus ministry cannot suffice for missions giving; missions gifts cannot take the place of giving to Christian Education, etc. Building programs sometimes get blamed for a church's failure to give for worldwide causes. I am firmly convinced that no church can build a building with missions money or Christian education money and be God blessed.

We in the state of Missouri are greatly blessed with many local, state, and national programs of which we are a part. Everyone of us can be justly proud of the fact we are totally involved in all OUR denominational efforts. We dare not fail the Lord and, as He has said, "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Editors note: Rev. Lynn Wood is pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Mountain Grove, Missouri. The church is involved in a full stewardship program—contributing very well to state and national ministries.

FOR THE YOUTH



THE NEED TO KNOW

By Gary Fry

"Hey, man, how come you go to that church you do?"

"Because I'm a Free Will Baptist."

"Oh yea, well why is that any different from any other church?"

"Well, they believe the way I believe."

"How's that?"

"Come with me and I'll tell you about it. You see, we believe"

Sound familiar? To many young people, the above is a dialogue they have experienced many times. Adults may not find their beliefs challenged too frequently by their peer groups, but the youth of our churches are finding many people of other churches and even other religions are questioning them about their faith. Doctrinal issues are being discussed in the school hallways as well as in the churches. It is no longer enough to merely say, "I'm a Christian." One must now know why he is a Christian and what he believes.

This interest in Christianity is surely a good thing. It is wonderful to be asked to talk about Christ. There is, however, another aspect of this situation that bears examining. We must ask what the motive is of those questioning our religion. There are many today who come teaching doctrine contrary to our Free Will Baptist beliefs and, more seriously, contrary to the teachings of God's Word. These are undoubtedly those referred to in the Bible as the false teachers who come teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.

Much of the false doctrine being taught today is easily recognizable as such and may be avoided. There are other doctrines false and harmful. These doctrines and ideas are incorporated with other fundamental beliefs and as such are being used with

great speed and effectiveness to confuse and hinder Christian youth.

A surface knowledge is not enough when you are doing battle with the devil. He is, after all, the author of these false doctrines, no matter how harmless they may seem. The knowledge necessary is available to all who seek to know the truth. God's Word promises us that if we know the truth, we will be free (John 8:32). The truth comes from studying the Bible with the help of the Holy Spirit for understanding. Other helps available are publications such as books, pamphlets, and magazines written by fundamental writers. Along with personal study of the Bible must come the benefits of the educational programs of the local church. These should be designed in a manner so as to give the student a working knowledge of the Scriptures and prepare him to face the ever-increasing flood of false doctrine the modern Christian must face.

Another excellent source of knowledge of God's Word is the Bible College system we as Free Will Baptists have the right to be proud of. Our colleges in Nashville, Tennessee, Moore, Oklahoma, and Fresno, California, are institutions that are equipped to offer to the student an outstanding religious as well as secular education. These, along with state institutes provide for those willing to learn a ready source of training so necessary in our age.

There is a need to know. Let's satisfy this need with a good dose of the Word of God and be able to stand against the onslaught of the devil.

Editor's note: Gary Fry is serving as Minister of Youth at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Mountain Grove. Mr. Fry is a graduate of the Free Will Baptist Bible College.



Woman's Page

Shirley Bowden, Editor

REPORT FOR THE STATE TREASURER, BLANCHE WISEHART

State Projects on hand as of October 31 Balance	
"Fill Filkins Workshop"	380.50
Missouri State Home Missions Loan Fund	
Willow Springs Aux.	2.60
Houston Aux.	50.00
Mtn. Grove Aux.	5.03
Grace Aux.	19.00
Southside Aux.	2.96
Trinity Aux. (Marie Hanna)	7.31
Bethel Aux. (Festus)	5.61
Indian Creek Dist.	200.00
Total	\$292.51

BOOK REVIEW

A new book has just arrived at the Lebanon Bible and Book Store entitled *Courage and Submission*. This is a study of Ruth and Esther: two women in two time periods of Hebrew history; two God-ordained destinies with each woman uniquely combined in the characteristics of courage and submission.

The one, a Gentile, accepted a romantic role in God's design for Israel as the great grandmother of King David, and thereby the ancestress of Jesus Christ.

The other, a Jewess, became a gentile monarch's daring queen. She was God's "right person in the right place" and the link in reestablishing Israel in their land.

The book has a teacher's manual, a student's book, and a student's workbook. The book is an excellent one to use in home Bible studies, or as a study course for the Auxiliary.

Due to space last month here are two more pictures from the State Retreat.



State Officers

left to right
Barbara Harwell
Blance Wisehart
Frances Bowman

Jean Francis
Helen McAllister
Sandy Smith
Lucille Beatty



Co-Labourers who were on the program, and those who helped out wherever they were needed.



THE STORY THAT NEVER GROWS OLD

by Clarence Burton



Luke 2:1-20

What a beautiful story! We have heard it and read it many times yet it never grows old. This story has been told more often than any other story, and yet it is full of charm, and men tell it in all lands and joy over it as if it were an event that happened yesterday. It is fresh and new at every Christmas, and many people throughout the world lay aside their cares and burdens and rejoice that the Christ-Child was born.

Why has this story never grown old?

One reason is because it is a true story. There is no fiction about Jesus being born of a virgin; about the angelic chorus from Heaven singing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men"; about the star in the east directing the wise men from the east to Jerusalem. This story took place just as the Word of God declares. The story is fascinating and the miracle of it is beyond human logic but it is true. Thank God it is true!

Another reason it has never grown old is because of its message. The angel told Joseph, "And she shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Gabriel said to Mary, "He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give him the throne of David; and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." What a message! Jesus will save us and we shall live with Him in His kingdom forever and forever. This offers hope to the hopeless and help to the helpless. What a wonderful time of the year for man to receive the message from Heaven. What a joy it brings to the heart of man to repent of his sins toward God and trust Jesus Christ as personal Savior.

Have you received this message? My prayer is that you will. The greatest Gift ever offered to man is stated in John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God loved and He gave. This is the Christmas story and it will never grow old.

As you celebrate Christmas this year—

May the peace of Christmas
enfold you,
May the comfort of Christmas
cheer you,
And may the spirit of Christmas
abide with you.

From all the Gem family, a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

Clarence, Vivian, and John