

Volume 48, Number 4, April 1978

**Free Will Baptist**

# GEM

**"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"**





# Sunday School Attendance Averages 1977-78

CHURCH	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Bethel, Festus		111	103		89	88	83	93	89	98	94	111
Calvary, Conway	131	147	135	119	116	138	122	133	124	124	121	111
Coppermines	78	86	80	84	86	90	85	84	75	84	77	86
Cuba	62	74	83	88	88	89	81	82				
Farmington	393	386	369	362	368	360	374	447	383	395		414
Kansas City, First	18	23	18	19	17	20	16	18	13	14	16	12
Kirksville	116	112	100	102	95	102	103	105				
Fourth	154	149	155	143		101	117	134				
Lebanon, First	148	142	132	126	112	142						
Myrtle	60	69	60	54	58	52						
Parkview				82		74						
Richwoods	39	47	43	35	30	35	44	43	30	36	25	
Trinity	224	231	201	192	170	201	203	200	171	197		180
Twin Oaks	105	109	92									
Willow Springs		113	108	119	115	116	101	115	104	111	93	110

WHY NOT SEND IN YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGES TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GEM.

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

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Clarence Burton, editor

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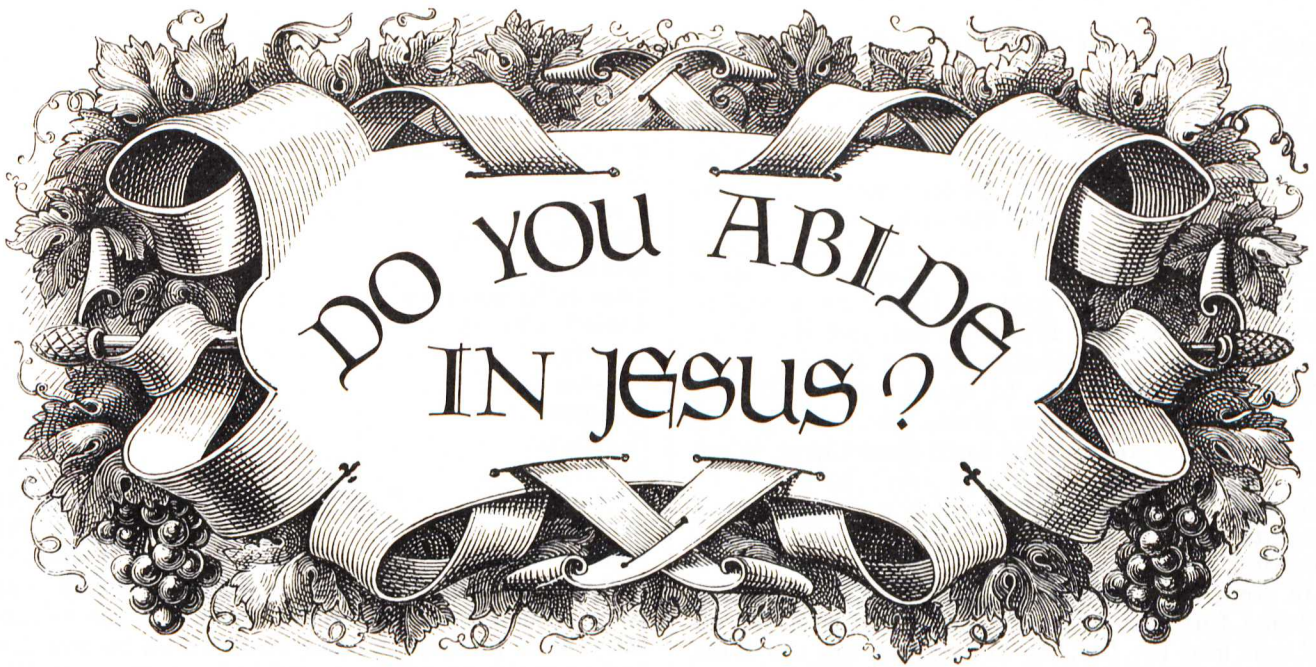
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by Darrell Strain

In 2 Corinthians 13:5 we read, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"

As the Apostle Paul wrote, it is a good thing that we examine ourselves from time to time to see if we are abiding in the faith. A sharp businessman knows that it is necessary to take inventory on a regular basis so that decisions may be made on a sound business basis. So it is with a Christian; inventory should be taken to see if he is abiding in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, dear reader, please note: I am not asking you about that experience you had with Jesus some years, months, weeks, or days ago, but about right now. Are you abiding in Jesus Christ? How do I determine my position? How do I run this inventory? this check of the faith? this abiding? How do I find out? Let's go to the Scriptures (John 15).

One of the first signs of abiding in Jesus Christ is that we bring forth fruit. You, if you abide in Jesus Christ, are bringing forth fruit. What fruit? The Bible says that the first and foremost concern on the mind of the Lord Jesus Christ was the winning of lost souls. Now I am sure that all the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians are also included if you are to be a successful soul winner. However, we are often prone to say as an excuse that I'll just cultivate those items listed in Galatians and not pay any attention to the soul winning. But, dear reader, the truth is that, if you cultivate the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians, you are going to be a soul winner. Now the Scriptures state that you will not only bear fruit when you abide in Jesus, but also that you will bear *much* fruit. The truth of the Bible plainly stated is that, if you as a born again Christian are abiding in Jesus Christ, you are bearing fruit and then much fruit (John 15:5). What about it? If you are not bearing fruit, what's the problem? The plain

answer from the Bible is that we are not abiding in Jesus Christ.

Now please note some things the Bible does *not* say. It does *not* say without a college education you can't bear fruit; it does *not* say without a training course in public speaking or without the gift of gab (whatever that is) that you can't bear fruit. Neither does the Bible say any of the other things which you are using for an excuse for not doing what Jesus said you would do if you were abiding in Him. Let's at least be honest with ourselves and with God. The reason that we are fruitless is because we are *not* abiding in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice also that the Bible says that when you abide in Jesus that you are clean. Remember that, if you are not abiding in Jesus Christ, you can become clean and abide in Him by honestly applying 1 John 1:9.

Note also that the Scriptures teach in John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

Oh, what a Scripture! I have probably received more criticism from fellow preachers from preaching on this verse of Scripture than on any portion of the Bible. I believe the Bible means exactly what it says and says exactly what it means. However, when I have shared this belief with other ministers and Christians, many have cornered me and said, "You know that this Scripture really means this or that you have to change it to say 'if this' or 'if that.'" No, that's not what the verse teaches. It says very simply that when we abide in Jesus and His words abide in us that we can ask what we will and it will be done unto us. The truth is that when we abide in Jesus it changes the way we pray and the way God receives the prayer. James 5:16 tells us, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." When you abide in Jesus, it changes the



things you ask for from selfish interest to the interest of others.

I firmly believe that God can and wishes to send a great revival to the churches and Christians who will abide in Jesus Christ. I believe that God is looking for Christians who will believe His Word and practice their belief in their everyday walk of life.

When we fail to have revival in our churches, we often excuse ourselves and say, "Well, you know in the last days folks are going to be harder to win to Jesus." The real truth is that we have not ever taken our responsibility seriously enough to pray on a regular basis, much less to knock on a door and witness to someone about Jesus. The real reason is that we fail to abide in the Lord Jesus Christ. When you abide in Jesus, you just can't help but be concerned about the lost to such a degree that it prompts action of prayer, weeping, and sowing according to Psalm 126:6.

In John 15:2 we note that every branch that fails to bring forth fruit is taken away and gathered up and cast into the fire. As we begin to use the Bible as a light by which we inspect our fruit-bearing, it appears that our churches are filled with withered branches that are not producing fruit. Oh that God would speak to us about this sin of neglect, that God would convince us through His Holy Spirit that He (God) takes this so personally.

What about you who have read this message? Has the Holy Spirit spoken to you about your fruit-bearing or lack of fruit-bearing? Let me ask you a personal question. How many people did you win to Jesus in 1977? How many people did you explain the plan of salvation to in 1977? Don't you see what it is that the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about? You have been fruitless during 1977. Not one soul have you won to Jesus. Why? Let me remind you again that the Bible answer is failure to abide in Jesus.

You reply, "I can't get out." Then ask God to send someone to your home or your bed or wherever you are and tell him how to be saved. Oh, you're scared! Then ask God for and believe that God will give to you exactly what He said in 2 Timothy 1:7—the spirit of *power* and of *love* and of a *sound mind*. You did *not* get that spirit of fear from God. Satan has given that to you. Would you now bow your head and confess your sins to Jesus? Ask His forgiveness and begin to love Jesus as you need to love Him that you might abide in Him and bring forth much fruit.



About the Writer: Rev. Darrell Strain is pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Alton, Missouri. He is also a teacher with the Alton School District. He has held various positions in Cave Springs District Association. At present he is serving as assistant clerk.

## Report on Funds for National Association 1978

Inasmuch as this State Associational year is nearing the end, it might be well to note and be reminded of the proposed amount for each association.

Cave Springs	\$425.00
Central Western	425.00
Indian Creek	600.00
Greater Kansas City	600.00
Laclede County	100.00
Liberty	400.00
Mission	800.00
Niangua	125.00
Northeast	150.00
Northwest	50.00
St. Louis	500.00
St. Francois	500.00
Madison County	400.00

Some associations have raised the money and some associations are holding money in the association until the goal is reached. It would be well for each association to check and note what amount is needed to meet the goal. At the pleasure of the association the money is to be sent to the promotional secretary inasmuch as he is to serve as the collection agent. Monies that have been turned in have been placed in a special savings account as directed by the Missouri State Association. Checks should be made payable to Missouri State Association and marked "Special Fund, National Association, 1978."

**MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church Delegate \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor or Church Clerk

## Contributions to the Youth Camp for the months of January and February

Verdella Church	\$20.00
First, Flat River	20.00
First, K. C.	20.00
New Home	20.00
New Life	20.00
Willow Springs	20.00
Myrtle	34.89
Hannon	30.00
Berean	10.00
Oskaloosa	10.00
New Rock Springs	10.00
Hazel Creek	30.00
Mountain Valley	42.14
Fourth	20.00
Faith	10.00
Olivet	10.00
Copper Mines	100.00
Thayer	10.00
Ladies' Auxiliary	15.00





# CAN WE AFFORD IT?

by Joe Braddy

In reference to a proposal to the General Board from the Southeast Missouri District Association concerning a retirement program for our pastors, there seems to be some questions regarding its feasibility.

Have you heard people say, "Is God still calling young men to preach the gospel?" Yes, God is still calling, but only a few are answering the call. Could it be because we're not making the ministry attractive to them due to the below-average salaries and few or no fringe benefits? The Bible teaches, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

Not only does below-average salaries and few benefits keep our young men from entering the ministry, but also our older ministers are affected. Higher salaries and good benefits in public jobs often obstruct a minister's decision to leave his job to pastor a church on a full-time basis where few or no fringe benefits are available.

Does the pastor need a retirement program? Can we afford one for him? We can easily see that the present social security retirement is inadequate for today's retiree, and, most likely, it will be inadequate tomorrow. Therefore, a supplement retirement is a must.

Some of our full-time pastors sacrifice other needs in order to contribute a few dollars each month to our national retirement program or to purchase an IRA annuity plan from some other source in order to help meet their needs when retiring. But in most cases this is not enough, and most of the pastors cannot afford to contribute adequate amounts.

The idea of a joint-effort retirement program is to motivate the pastor, the local church, and the State Association to provide something that the pastor can rely on when he is unable to perform as he does now. By this, we mean, if the pastor contributes a small amount of his salary each month, or annually, then the local church and State Association would match his contribution.

Can we afford it? I think we can. Most of our national and state officers and employees are provided retirement benefits. The National Foreign Missions Department contributes to our missionaries as follows: Those who are commissioned and on the field from one to five years, \$25.00 per month; six to ten years, \$50.00 per month; eleven to fifteen years, \$75.00 per month; and sixteen years and over, \$100.00 per month. Besides this, the wives receive a \$20.00 contribution to their retirement twice per year.

The National Home Missions Department gives our missionaries and employees a bonus of 2% of their salary per month which is held until they terminate their employment. Then the employee receives this bonus in a lump-sum payment.

I sincerely believe that the local churches and our State Association can make this retirement program a reality. Rome wasn't built in a day. The early Church started with just a few dedicated people, and this proposal is designed to begin small and build into an adequate program which Missouri Free Will Baptists will be proud of, and the young men and veteran ministers will be encouraged to "Preach the Word."

Under the proposed retirement program, the pastor will contribute \$200.00 annually, the local church \$200.00 annually, and the State Association \$200.00 annually, totaling \$600.00 per year for each pastor. For a pastor who is 25 years old, this would give him a cash annuity of more than \$149,000 at age 65 under our present national retirement program.

This may not mean very much to our older ministers, but it will help to encourage our younger men to go into the ministry fulltime. Paul wrote to Timothy saying, "For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, the labourer is worthy of his reward." I believe that the Lord will help us to accomplish this goal. **CAN WE AFFORD NOT TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM SUCH AS THIS?**

About the writer: Reverend Joe Braddy is the pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Fredericktown, Missouri. He is a member of the executive committee of the general board, a member of the audit committee and moderator of the Southeast Missouri District Association. He is active in state and national work.



## CHURCHES PEOPLE AND EVENTS

the growth of the Sunday school: February, 1977-158; March-160; April-162; May-148; June-154; July-182; August-193; September-204; October-211; November-172; December-195; January, 1978-190; February-238."

### Pastor Appreciation Day at Aulsbury

The members of the Aulsbury Chapel Church claimed Sunday, December 18, as "Pastor Appreciation Day." Immediately following the morning worship a fellowship dinner was enjoyed by everyone. A "money tree" was presented to Reverend and Mrs. Earl Ames and their daughter Lea Ann. The church also presented gifts of jewelry to the women. An unusual gift that was presented to Brother Earl was a Pioneer chain saw.

The congregation met in the church auditorium at 3 o'clock for a tribute service to the pastor. Joe Pirtle, of the Twin Oaks Church, shared many memories and gave many complimentary remarks. Brother Pirtle was ordained as a deacon at the same time Reverend Ames was ordained as a minister.

A very nice letter from Reverend William Emerson of Clarksville, Tennessee, was read. Also, Sister Cheryl Johnson read a very nice letter from Reverend Ronnie Graham of Clarksville, Tennessee. A cassette tape was sent by Reverend and Mrs. Rick Cash of Fayette, Alabama. Numerous members of the congregation expressed their warm and kind feelings for their pastor.

The following poem was written by the church reporter, Helen Tripp.

Happy yes, always a smile, this man  
God called, and sent our way  
A big job to fill, which he can  
And he does, each and every day.

The children, he dearly loves.  
He visits the sick, and with them prays,  
Tells the lost of Grace from above  
How God will walk with us each day.

And a friendly neighbor  
But still, "Brother Earl" would rather  
Serve God, and for His Lord labor.



### Ordination Service at Hopewell

On Sunday, December 4, 1977, the general board of the Niangua Association met at the Hopewell Free Will Baptist Church in order to examine Brother Gary Slavens for the ministry. Reverend Frank Linton served as chairman; Reverend Len Gardner served as clerk; and the other member was Brother Vernon Arendale.

Reverend Milan Ruble, pastor of the Hopewell Church, presented the Bible as God's Holy Word. Reverend Frank Linton gave the ministerial charge, and Reverend Len Gardner led the prayer of consecration with the laying on of hands.

Brother Gary Slavens was accompanied in the service by his fiancée, Alberta Lowrance of Lebanon, Missouri. They were united in marriage in a beautiful double ring ceremony on January 28, 1978. Reverend Milan Ruble officiated at the wedding. The couple will be making their home in Lebanon, Missouri. Reverend Slavens is employed as a caseworker with the Missouri Division of Family Services in Hickory County, Missouri. He is also clerk of the Niangua Association.

### Progress at First Church in Flat River

Brenda Hoehn, church reporter, writes, "The Lord is truly blessing the church. We are having some 'growing pains' but we like that. In December the church ordained two deacons, Brother Jerry Ramsey and Dave Cook. They are a blessing to the church. In a recent business meeting the church voted to purchase another bus. We praise the Lord for all He is doing. The following report will indicate

### Jones Family Gospel Sing

The Jones Family Evangelistic Team will present its Fourth Annual Gospel Sing, Friday, May 12, at 7:30 p.m. This will be held at the Nelson Community Center in Lebanon, Missouri. Tickets: adults \$2.00, with groups of 20 or more \$1.50. children under 12 will be admitted free. The guest group will be the Ward Boys from Fayetteville, Arkansas. (No advance tickets)





## Growing at Grace

Church reporter Bonnie Adams writes, "Several important events have taken place at Grace. The Fulcher family, missionaries to Panama, were with the church on February 12. The Trinity Junior Choir presented a musical entitled 'Rock on the Head' on Sunday, January 29. A valentine program sponsored by the Crusaders For Christ included the 'Newlywed Game' and 'The Odd Couple'; the young people raised \$134.00 of which one-half will be given to the John Metcalf fund. Sunday, March 5, was 'picture taking' Sunday. Reverend Ronald Creech, director of development at the Free Will Baptist Bible College, preached on Sunday evening, February 26.

### Mortgage Burning Ceremony at Cuba

On Sunday, February 19, the Cuba Free Will Baptist Church held a mortgage burning service following the morning worship service.

In 1970, under the leadership of Reverend Cletus Nichols, the church stepped out on faith and built the parsonage. "This January, 1978, the church made the final payment and for the first time in the history of the church it is debt free," writes the pastor Reverend Daniel Martin.

The service began with an inspiring message delivered by Reverend Nichols. This was followed with the mortgage burning. The following assisted with the ceremony: pastor, Reverend Daniel Martin, Reverend Cletus Nichols, and board members, Bud Blume, Jim Vance, Paul Dickens, Kenneth Thurmond, and Houston Wycoff.

The church then enjoyed a fellowship dinner and special singing was presented by the Journeymen Quartet and the Gospelaires.

The church reporter writes, "We praise the Lord for His goodness and thank Him for the great things He has done for our church. We are expecting greater blessings from Him as we continue to work for the Lord."

The 36-member choir of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College presented a very enjoyable program on Sunday, March 10. The church choir directed by Ron Long always enhances the regular services at the church. Plans are under way now for Vacation Bible School with Mr. and Mrs. Willard Hovis serving as co-directors.

My Sunday school class, the soul-winners, has undertaken the responsibility of improving the church cabin. Dana, my daughter, and I have already volunteered to serve as cabin sponsors.

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### Available for Pastorate

Reverend Don Bieberdorf writes that he is available for pastorate or supply preaching. He may be contacted at this address and telephone number: Route 5, Box 310AA, Neosho, Missouri 64850, telephone, 417-451-1430.

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### The First Quarter at South Side

A call for unity and a snow shovel could have best expressed the sentiments of the South Side church during the month of January. The previous statement was reflected in the New Year's sermon by our pastor, Reverend Grover Terry. Many of us are eager for the weather to change. This has given us a "taste" of what the shut-in goes through, not only during the winter months.

The highlight of February was a successful Sweet-heart Banquet held for our deserving youth. We appreciate the young people who are a vital part of the church.

We are anxious for our upcoming spring revival. Reverend Clarence Burton will be the evangelist during the days of March 22-26. Pray for the revival that the Lord will bless in a wonderful way.

Brother Jim Spindel made a bit of history when he was ordained as South Side's most recent deacon. He was ordained last November. It seems Jim is the youngest man to hold this office in many years or perhaps ever in the church. The record indicates that Brother Elmer Snell was 30 years of age when he was ordained. Jim is not yet 30. Even though Jim is quite young, he is more than qualified for the office of deacon. Along with his duties as deacon, Jim and his wife Sherry direct the Children's Church.

Church reporter, Sue Winchester

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### IMPORTANT DATES:

- Deadline for CTS Competitive Activities, April 15
- Church Evangelism Conference, April 24-26
- First Church, Farmington, Missouri
- CTS Competitive Activities, May 6
- First Church, Joplin, Missouri
- Work Day at Youth Camp, May 13
- Missouri State Association General Board, June 5
- Sunday School and CTS Youth Service, (evening) June 5
- Woman's Auxiliary State Convention, June 6
- Missouri State Association, June 6-8, Flat River, Missouri
- Youth Camp Dates:
  - Elementary, June 11-16
  - Junior High, June 18-23
  - Senior High, June 25-30
- National Association of Free Will Baptists, July 17-20, Kansas City, Missouri



## COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

February 1978

Faith	\$145.51
Pleasant Ridge	29.40
Oak Hill, Union-St. Clair	255.27
Beacon	388.40
Cape Girardeau	150.00
Mountain Grove, First	726.73
Kansas City, First	80.58
Central	300.00
Monett, First	291.71
Waynesville, First	110.00
Alton	84.18
Number One	29.83
Faith, Fair Grove	115.60
Purdy	113.00
Moberly Mission	46.28
Sedalia Mission	57.10
Macedonia Sunday school	8.00
Hartville	121.77
Berkeley	478.81
Royal Oak	20.00
Hannon	197.00
Poplar Bluff	15.00
Mt. Pisgah	56.00
Bailey Chapel (Niangua Assoc.)	21.00
Oskaloosa	30.10
Walnut Grove	125.25
Fordland	129.05
South Fremont	28.00
Kirkville, First	172.36
Fredericktown, First	216.55
Wayside	65.00
Happy Home	47.05
Mountain Grove, First	453.13
Olivet	200.00
Jones Family Evangelistic Team	56.90
Byrd	21.75
DeSoto	500.00
Hopewell	132.26
Shiloh	16.30
Lebanon, First	287.00
Hurryville	98.50
O'Fallon	400.00
South Side	356.94
Pleasant Hill	74.08
Farmington	791.67
Grace	689.00
Granby (July-Dec.)	142.76
Copper Mines	115.00
Verdella	60.76
New Rock Springs	40.00
Mill Creek	81.62
Mill Creek Sunday school (Oct.-Nov.-Dec.)	32.00
Merl's Chapel	50.44
Joplin	288.28
Malden	80.47
Bethel	590.00
Buffalo	131.62
Thayer	123.16
Dexter (Sept.-Oct.)	115.00
Dexter (Nov.-Dec.)	125.00
Freeman Chapel	95.89
Liberty, Phillipsburg	116.00
Carterville	36.26
Marshfield	86.16
Bobbie Ross	2.00
Parkview	50.00
Leadington	234.00
Mine La Motte	32.62
New Harmony Sunday school	7.30
Fourth	475.00
Community	33.36
Community	42.38
Wolf Creek	137.30
Eastern Gate	144.00
Myrtle	90.02
Viburnum	15.00
Moberly	42.00
Willow Springs	169.14

Central	240.00
Sedalia	23.94
Purdy	89.00
Poplar Bluff	35.00
Rock Chapel (Jan.-Feb.)	388.79
Hannon	131.00
El Dorado Springs, First	5.00
Total Cooperative Receipts	\$13,429.33

## COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

February 1978

20.00% Missouri State Home Missions	\$2,685.87
16.25% Promotional Department	2,182.27
4.50% General Fund	604.32
5.25% Youth Camp	705.05
2.00% Gem	268.58
2.00% Sunday School & CTS	268.58
2.00% Christian Board of Education	268.58
52%	6,983.25
7.00% Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	940.06
13.00% Foreign Missions	1,745.82
9.00% Free Will Baptist Bible College	1,208.64
7.00% Executive Department	940.05
6.50% National Home Missions	872.91
2.50% Retirement and Insurance	335.73
2.50% CTS	335.73
.25% Laymen's Board	33.57
.25% Theological Commission	33.57
41%	5,506.02
Total Disbursements	\$13,429.33

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

## MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS GIVING FEBRUARY 5 through MARCH 5, 1978

Olivet	\$ 250.00
Grace	30.00
Flat River, First	84.18
Victory	62.00
South Fremont	140.00
Myrtle	21.24
Myrtle Auxiliary	54.82
DeSoto	100.00
Farmington	5.00
Hazel Creek DVBS	42.69
Moberly	8.47
Fourth	44.05
Hannon	131.00
Macedonia Auxiliary	75.00
Grace Auxiliary	85.00
Hannon Auxiliary	50.00
Carterville Auxiliary	30.00
Verdella Auxiliary	10.00
Cabool Auxiliary	7.00
Sedalia	35.92
Mountain Grove	12.50
Central	37.53
Monett	25.00
Bethel	14.00
Thayer	11.00
Lebanon	2.00
New Harmony Sunday school	22.00
Kingsway	40.28
Cooperative Receipts	2,685.87
Total	\$4,116.55

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



**MISSOURI DESIGNATED GIVING  
February 1978**

**NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS**

Oak Hill, Union .....	\$34.33	
Bob Francis .....	\$34.33	
Mountain Grove, First .....	\$178.50	
Mark Vandivort .....	\$136.00	
Leland Horton .....	30.00	
General Fund .....	12.50	
Monett, First .....	\$30.00	
Larry Powell .....	\$30.00	
Olivet .....	\$55.00	
Vergel Maness .....	\$ 5.00	
Mark Vandivort .....	25.00	
Leland Horton .....	25.00	
South Side .....	\$254.00	
Bob Francis .....	\$254.00	
Bethel .....	\$35.00	
Bob Francis .....	\$35.00	
Thayer .....	\$3.00	
Mark Vandivort .....	\$3.00	
Fourth .....	\$31.00	
Vergel Maness .....	\$19.00	
Bob Francis .....	12.00	
Total .....	\$620.83	

**MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS**

Mountain Grove, First .....	\$12.50	
General Fund .....	\$12.50	
Central .....	\$37.53	
David Kirby .....	\$37.53	
Monett, First .....	\$25.00	
General Fund .....	\$15.00	
Dale Smith .....	10.00	
Bethel .....	\$14.00	
David Kirby .....	\$14.00	
Thayer .....	\$11.00	
General Fund .....	\$2.00	
David Kirby .....	7.00	
Tom Owens .....	2.00	
Lebanon, First .....	\$2.00	
General Fund .....	\$2.00	
New Harmony Sunday School .....	\$22.22	
David Kirby .....	\$22.22	
Kingsway .....	\$40.28	
General Fund .....	\$40.28	
Total .....	\$164.53	

**FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE**

Bethel .....	\$22.35
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**HILLSDALE FREE WILL BAPTIST COLLEGE**

Mountain Grove, First .....	\$188.00
Monett, First .....	21.72
Total .....	\$209.72

**FOREIGN MISSIONS**

Beacon .....	\$22.20
Jerry Pinkerton .....	\$22.20
Mountain Grove, First .....	\$450.00
General Fund .....	\$450.00
Monett .....	\$58.94
General Fund .....	\$58.94
Walnut Grove .....	\$10.00
Lynn Miley .....	\$10.00
Kirkville, First .....	\$133.94
Bill Fulcher .....	\$75.94
Jim McLain .....	24.00
Jerry Pinkerton .....	34.00
Olivet .....	\$95.00
Jim McLain .....	\$ 5.00
Lonnie Sparks .....	5.00
Bobby Poole .....	40.00
Mabel Willey .....	20.00
Jerry Pinkerton .....	10.00
Lynn Miley .....	10.00
Howard Filkins .....	5.00
Kingsway .....	\$50.28
Joe Haas .....	\$50.28

South Side .....	\$122.68
Charolette Tallent .....	\$112.68
Jerry Pinkerton .....	10.00
Bethel .....	\$36.50
Charolette Tallent .....	\$15.00
Jerry Pinkerton .....	21.50
Thayer .....	\$13.00
Dale Bishop .....	\$5.00
Jerry Pinkerton .....	8.00
New Harmony SS .....	\$44.26
Laverne Miley .....	\$22.13
Jim McLain .....	22.13
Lebanon, First .....	\$50.00
Clint Morgan .....	\$25.00
Jerry Pinkerton .....	25.00
Fourth .....	\$172.00
Steve Lytle .....	\$116.00
Bill Fulcher .....	25.00
Jerry Pinkerton .....	15.00
Charolette Tallent .....	16.00
Niangua .....	\$20.00
General Fund .....	\$20.00
Total .....	\$1,278.80

**MISSOURI STATE YOUTH CAMP**

Fourth .....	\$10.00
Oak Hill, Union .....	10.00
Mountain Grove, First .....	30.00
Thayer .....	10.00
Fourth .....	10.00
Total .....	\$70.00

**BOB CARR ACCOUNT**

Merl's Chapel .....	\$40.48
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**MOM SAID SO**

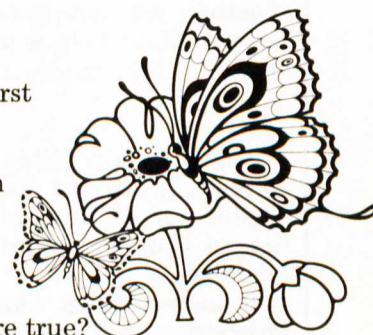
I believed there was a God,  
Because Mom said there was;  
I believed that Jesus was His Son.

I believed the Bible was true,  
Because Mom said it was;  
I believed there was Heaven to  
gain and Hell to shun.

I believed I needed to be born again,  
Because Mom said I did;  
I believed it was right to  
walk with the Lord.

I believed that character was important;  
That honest work was noble;  
That integrity was vital;  
That sinfulness was bad;  
That righteousness was good,  
Because Mom said they were.

Oh, I was just a child when I first  
believed these things,  
And now I am a man;  
But I still believe them, though  
for different reasons.  
Yet still I wonder;  
Would I ever have come to  
believe them,  
If Mom had not said they were true?  
I am so glad I had a Mom that I could believe!



—Andy W. Lay





# Points for Pastors

by Jim McAllister

Reaching people for Christ is one of the key purposes of the church. The busy pastor will be trying every possible method to reach as many as quickly as possible.

Many pastors have discovered that the bus ministry is a good way to reach children and open doors to homes in the community.

One of our men, a deacon, has a bus route in our town. He is actually the pastor of about 60 children and their families. He ministers to more people weekly than the average preacher. He does this while holding down a full-time job and being a father and a husband.

Any spirit-filled man or woman, and even a teenager, can run a bus route and be successful if he or she will go about it right—trust the Lord and work hard.

I am not attempting to tell you how to build a bus route. Wally Beebee can do that. I'll just tell you what we are doing.

First, we have a man serving as the bus minister. He is an associate pastor, a full-time minister. He

directs this ministry using many Christian laymen. His job is to solicit bus workers, lay out routes, set goals, develop promotion schemes, make sure the buses are in good mechanical condition, and lead in visitation.

Second, we have a different bus driver for each bus (5 routes) each week. That means we have about 17 drivers.

Third, each bus has a captain. He is in charge of the bus, the bus visitation, and the riders. He visits every Saturday and rides the bus every Sunday. He goes to the door when the riders do not come out on Sunday morning.

Fourth, each bus has a secretary who keeps records (triplicate) on the riders, helps take them to their classes, and gives copies of the records to the Sunday school superintendent.

Fifth, we knock on every door in our town and surrounding towns at least once each year. We try to have about 5 workers visiting for each bus. They visit about 3 hours every Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sixth, we have a man who services the buses and keeps them ready to go.

Seventh, we print the bus scores (riders) in the bulletin every Sunday.

Eighth, we have occasional attendance crusades and promotional schemes to increase attendance and promote interest in the bus ministry.

Ninth, we use the bus to reach children and then use the open door to reach parents. We have averaged reaching about 20 bus parents each year for the past 3 years. We have two men now in Bible College training for the ministry who were reached as a result of bus workers reaching their children.

Tenth, the bus ministry will work if you pray, have good clean buses, work hard (3 hours per person per week), and organize properly. Also remember you must have a good Sunday school and Children's Church to maintain an effective bus ministry. We have grown in three and one-half years from two buses and 30 riders to four buses and a van and 150 riders. So can you.

## Thompson Public Relations Director at Hillsdale

Reverend Bailey Thompson has accepted the position of Public Relations Director at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. His responsibilities will be involved with fund raising and student recruitment. He states, "This will be no easy task, but I feel that together we can give Hillsdale the thrust that is needed. Your help is a must because I cannot do it alone."

MOORE, OK—Free Will Baptist young people competing across a five-state area this spring will be eligible for \$200 scholarships to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, according to Hillsdale President Bill M. Jones.

Students from Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Texas will be eligible for the scholarships.

To qualify, competitors must be high school sophomores, juniors, or seniors. A scholarship will be awarded to the winner in each category of these age groups of state competition.

"If a group—such as a choir—has more than four people," President Jones explained, "the winning group will be asked to select four people in their group to receive the scholarships."

Only one scholarship per year will be awarded to an individual. Competitors may win each year for three years and be awarded three scholarships, however.

The scholarships will become effective upon the student entering Hillsdale, President Jones said. One-half (\$100) will be applied to the first semester of the first year, with the other half (\$100) applied to the second semester of the same year. The scholarships will be awarded in addition to any other scholarships the student may have.

These scholarship certificates will be awarded during finals at competition in each of the five states this spring.



# From the Desk of the Promotional Secretary



by Clarence Burton

February was like January—cold and icy! By the time you read this in March the flowers may be blooming and the birds singing again. Perhaps the cold winter will enable us to appreciate spring a little more.

I read an interesting story concerning A. A. Hyde, the Mentholatum King. Early in life he made a fortune in real estate. When the boom burst in the 1930's and the country was devastated by drouth and his fortune gone, this man was motivated by the Sermon on the Mount to see if he could determine where he had missed the road.

It was then that Mr. Hyde really discovered for the first time that everything really belongs to God—our lives, our abilities, and our possessions. He recognized that "it is required of a steward that he be found faithful." Mr. Hyde said to himself: "I was a fool. When I had money, I would give nothing. If God will trust me again with such a stewardship, I solemnly covenant and promise that I will begin by giving the minimum of a tithe of my income and that I shall regard the rest, not as my own but His, to be used for the great causes of God's Kingdom." Then he began to manufacture Mentholatum. Without advertising, the business began to grow and Mr. Hyde, true to his covenant, began to tithe even while heavy in debt. He eventually went from one-tenth to nine-tenths. He said that giving was such a joy! What a privilege and joy to invest in the Lord's work.

On Friday, February 3, I met with Reverend Rufus Coffey, Dr. Jack Williams, Dr. Malcolm Fry, and the steering committee from the Kansas City area in preparation for the 1978 session of the National Association. There is a lot of prayer and preparation necessary for the National Youth Conference and the National Association. We can be thankful for the correlation and provisions that we enjoy each year. The following day I met with the Greater Kansas City District Association. Reverend and Mrs. Bill Evans and the Central Church entertained the association in a wonderful way. Reverend Dennis Bowman always serves the association well as moderator.

The following Sunday, I was with the Liberty Mission. Reverend and Mrs. Jerry Norris are serving this new work. I spoke at the Sunday school hour and the morning worship. I know most of these folks and it was a pleasure being with them. There is much talent in this work, and under the leadership of the pastor I anticipate it growing in the Lord. On the following Saturday, I met with the First Quarterly Meeting. This conference was well attended and Reverend and Mrs. Lynn Wood and the First Church in Mountain Grove handled everything in a very efficient manner. The Quarterly Conference functions well under the capable leadership of Brother Wood. The following Sunday I had services scheduled with Reverend Hollis and Reverend Crenshaw but the services were cancelled because of the snow storm.

The following Friday, I met with the Niangua Quarterly Conference and the Hopewell Church. This is a fine church with a fine pastor and family, Reverend and Mrs. Milan Ruble. Reverend Len Gardner, the moderator, always serves in his capacity very well. Sunday, February 19, was a beautiful day and Vivian and I were with the First Church in Farmington. The auditorium was full with some in the balcony. This church is still growing under the capable leadership of the pastor, Reverend Jim McAllister. Everything functions well at this church and the song service always gives me the urge to preach just before I step into the pulpit. We always enjoy being with the parsonage family and the church family.

I left on Monday, along with Edwin Bowden, Russell Spurgeon, Don Lombard, and Don and Sharon Ruble for the N.A.E. Convention which met in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The convention was a spiritual uplift and the fellowship was refreshing. All of the commission members from Missouri were present (Reverend Andy Lay and his mother were present), and other Free will Baptists from other states and departments were in attendance. (An article will appear in this issue of the *Gem* concerning the convention.)

The last Sunday in February we were with Reverend and Mrs. Wayne Wagner and the South Fremont Church. We enjoyed the fellowship and the entire service was conducive to preaching the gospel. We had a tasty anniversary dinner with Dr. and Mrs. Irvin at the Wagners. (Maxine is a fine cook.) The month closed out with the Youth Camp Board meeting at the State Office on Monday, February 27. This board has a tremendous task in preparing for the youth camp sessions along with other activities. They are making plans for another wonderful encampment this summer.

This has been another great month. We thought the giving might be a little below average but it wasn't. It was a little above. We thank God for this and the wonderful spirit of giving that is evident throughout our state association. The Lord is giving us another fine year, and for this we are eternally grateful. May I again express our thanks for your wonderful hospitality!

Please mail all checks to and make payable to Missouri State Association, P. O. Box 991, Lebanon, Missouri 65536.



# Woman's Page



Shirley Bowden, editor

## HANNON HAPPENINGS

The twice postponed monthly meeting of the Hannon Woman's Auxiliary was finally held at 7:30 p.m., March 7, in the home of "Blue" and Janie Dickey. Thirteen of the 16 members were present for a lively meeting full of old and new business. Mrs. Gary Elder, our pastor's wife, gave two thought provoking lessons entitled, "Are You a Thief" and "Happy Is That People."

The nominating committee, consisting of Alice Hoover, Margaret Smith, and Irene Thomas, presented their recommendations for the new officers. They are listed as follows: President, Juanita Smith; Vice President, Jo Hastings; Secretary, Nera Meadows; Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, Barbara Hopkins; Prayer Chairman, Loretta Hoover and Alice Hoover; Card Chairman, Reba Rouse; Missions Chairman, Betty Selvey; Reporter, Virginia Hoover.

Sunday, March 13, 1978, was the last day which recipes could be turned in for the cookbook the ladies are sponsoring. This is the auxiliary's project to raise money for the installation of stained glass, or plexi-glass, windows in the church. Other projects have also been set aside to purchase these windows.

Janie Dickey concluded the meeting by serving refreshments.

(Submitted by Mrs. Virginia Hoover)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JUNE 6, 1978. THIS WILL BE THE DATE OF OUR WOMAN'S AUXILIARY STATE MEETING. IT WILL CONVE NE AT THE FELLOWSHIP FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH IN FLAT RIVER, MISSOURI. MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND.**

## Francises to the Field

Balance Forward 1/31/78	\$542.70
Bethel Auxiliary, Festus	\$83.68
Bethel Auxiliary, West Plains	25.00
Cuba Auxiliary	10.00
Farmington Auxiliary	235.17
Fredericktown Auxiliary	50.00
Grace Auxiliary	8.50
Kirksville Auxiliary	30.53
Myrtle Auxiliary	100.00
O'Fallon Auxiliary	25.00
Oak Hill Auxiliary	9.22
South Side Auxiliary	6.20
Willow Springs Auxiliary	5.01
Lebanon Auxiliary	39.92
Total 3/15/78	\$628.23

GEM  
REV R OCFEY  
653 RIVER ROUGE  
NASHVILLE TN 37209

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## Pinkertons on Wheels

Balance Forward 1/31/78	\$726.14
Bethel Auxiliary, Festus	\$10.41
Bethel Auxiliary, West Plains	25.00
Farmington Auxiliary	45.00
Fredericktown Auxiliary	50.00
Grace Auxiliary	8.50
Kirksville Auxiliary	48.53
Lebanon Auxiliary	39.92
Macedonia Auxiliary	400.00
Myrtle Auxiliary	50.00
O'Fallon Auxiliary	25.00
South Side Auxiliary	24.30
Thayer Auxiliary	120.00
Willow Springs Auxiliary	5.01
Total 3/15/78	\$851.67

## Missouri State Home Mission Loan Fund

Balance Forward 1/31/78	\$155.18
Bethel Auxiliary, Festus	\$10.41
Bethel Auxiliary, West Plains	25.00
Grace Auxiliary	8.50
Farmington Auxiliary	9.00
Fredericktown Auxiliary	50.00
Myrtle Auxiliary	50.00
Mountain Grove Auxiliary	10.00
Northeast Mo. District	30.00
O'Fallon Auxiliary	25.00
South Side Auxiliary	6.20
Willow Springs Auxiliary	6.61
Total 3/15/78	\$230.72

## 1978 Kansas City Mo. Convention Expense

Balance Forward 1/31/78	\$69.35
Fredericktown Auxiliary	\$42.00
New Harmony Auxiliary	18.00
Viburnum Auxiliary	30.00
Myrtle Auxiliary	30.00
Waynesville Auxiliary	9.00
Bethel Auxiliary, West Plains	33.00
Total 3/15/78	\$162.35