

Vol. 53, No. 4, July-August, 1983

Free Will Baptist

USPS 209-480

GEM

"Voice Of Missouri Free Will Baptists"



SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES 1982-83

CHURCHES	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY
Bethel	101	108	109	97	93	98	95	93	122	149	110	114
Calvary Fellowship												
Central	76	85	101	109	104	100						
Copper Mines	80	70	73	78	70	72	68					
Cuba	71	65	73	78	83	87	78	85				
De Soto	136	148	144	148	146	146	142					
Farmington	646	624	679	697	745	779	707	708	684	778	776	696
Flat River, First	179	150	176	181	189	166	185	192	169	184	184	164
Fourth		84	100	95	124	104	101	117	115	117	114	97
Fredericktown		168	169	173	194	184						
Grace	157	143	167	195								
Grant Avenue	148	150	166	172	158	168	156	159				
Hannon	93							98	88	94	88	
Happy Home	62	66	69	70	74	67	72	76	75			
Harmony, K.C.	72	58	62	64	64	58	66	72	73	92	81	69
Hartville	90	94	91	93	102	98	98	98				69
Houston	72	61	61	61	61	55	63	63	62	62	56	
Monett	143	125	141	143	145	144	141					
Marshfield	67	53	60	59	59	61	59	68	69	71		
Myrtle	45	59	50	45	52	41			38	52	48	51
Neosho						78						
New Hope, Fredericktown	55	44	44	42	42	48	47		51	67	63	
O'Fallon	53	54	53	68	67	62	63	62	57	61	51	49
Parkview	55	45	45	47	47	40	46		40	41	45	41
Richwoods					49	49	48	43	40	53		
Terrill Road									40			
United, W.P.	82	85	81	91	80	79	69	65	61	79	87	56
Victory, K.C.	75	69	80	70					65	70		80
Willow Springs	94	97	102	91	101	98	93	91	76	91	101	95
Cape Girardeau									89	89	90	89
West Plains, First	75	85	90	83	110	97	91	81	70	83	94	89

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

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.

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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. This magazine is published bi-monthly.

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

Discipling The New Disciple

By Jim McAllister

Our Lord told His disciples to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Most would agree that the first "teach" refers to "evangelizing." If that be true, the second "teach" refers to "edifying." In my opinion this is the discipling process and for me it is "follow-up."

For years I won souls to Christ and saw them come in the front door and slide out the back. It seemed to me there must be a way to close that back door. There was, and for us it was a one-on-one follow-up program. We borrowed the lessons printed by the National Home Missions Department and put a new wrinkle to them. We hired a man and trained him to teach the lessons to the new convert in the new Christian's home. The success was phenomenal. We actually diminished our percentage of losses to a minimum.

The follow-up when taught one-on-one should encourage faithfulness to God. After all, every area of Christian growth is covered. In fact, attendance in God's house helps the new Christian mature as he feeds on the Word of God in follow-up. Bible doctrines are taught, and biblical resistance toward the cults is established. The follow-up lesson helps the new Christian grow as he is edified, exhorted, and encouraged. Follow-up should produce love for Christ, self-denial, self-control, love for other Christians, biblical stewardship, and doctrinal purity.

Now how does follow-up work? First, the pastor must decide that discipling new converts is as important as winning them. He must then convey this idea to the church organization.

Second, someone must be taught to teach follow-up. The one-on-one part of follow-up is important. You cannot improve on the personal touch of person to person teaching. This person must not be a novice; he must be a dedicated Christian and one who is totally loyal to the pastor and church. It will take a great amount of time, so the follow-up teacher must share the burden of the pastor in discipling the new convert. He must be one who can keep his mouth shut and refrain from gossiping, and yet be compelled by his loyalty to the pastor to share with him any unusual information he discovers that may help alleviate possible problems in the new Christian's life.

Third, one must overcome the natural difficulty of follow-up, namely, how to get the new convert to willingly take the lessons. More and more pastors tell us that this is one of their most difficult obstacles. We've discovered that there are steps that can be taken that will adequately take care of this problem. As soon as the decision or conversion occurs, the altar workers or personal soul-winner introduces the new convert to the first follow-up lesson. He briefs him as to the purpose of the lesson, the fact that everyone takes the lessons, sets a time and place for the lesson, explains how to do the lessons, and tries hard to excite the convert in the joy of finishing the course of study. Be stern, don't take no for an answer. Be confident it is God's will for every new convert and convey this same confidence to the new Christian.

Fourth, the teacher must be persistent in his teaching. The convert will try to cancel the meetings, or avoid them, but the teacher must persist in completing the course and giving the new Christian a graduation diploma on completion. Deal with the problems and needs in both early and latter stages of Christian growth. Teach the converts to be loyal to the pastor, to help others find Jesus, encourage them to be baptized and join the Free Will Baptist Church. They should also be urged to be disciples of the follow-up, encouraging other new converts to complete the course.

Nothing will work with everyone. Those of us who have worked for years with new converts know that one very important ingredient that is involved in successful Christian growth and maturity or failure in these areas is character. There are some who have never succeeded in anything in life; for many of these people completion of the follow-up series is doubtful. We are still required, as pastors and church leaders, to attempt to mature all our new converts even though we will see several fail, mostly due to a lack of character development in their lives. There will be enough who will complete the course to encourage the pastor and Christian workers to keep on in the discipling program. Follow-up works, and will cut the losses in the church.

continued in next issue



Missouri State Youth Competitive Winners

Music and Arts

Amy Pointer
 Shell Hall
 Lisa Dixon
 John and Charri McClure
 David Walls
 Wendy Durham
 Deana Saylor
 Bryant Hackworth

Church

South Fremont
 Rock Chapel
 Hartville
 Monett
 Berkeley
 Trinity
 Hartville
 Berkeley

Category

I
 I
 I
 V
 VI
 VI
 VII
 VIII

Age

Adventurer
 Herald
 Crusader
 Herald
 Adventurer
 Herald
 Herald
 Crusader

Bible Tic Tac Toe

Willow Springs

Bible Bowl

First, Mtn. Grove

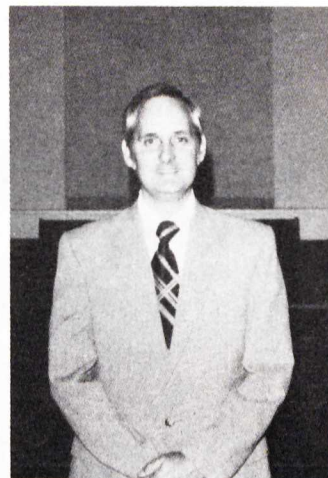
Bible Memorization

Bible Sword Drill

Grade 1
 Grade 2
 Grade 3
 Grade 4
 Grade 5
 Grade 6

Stacey Eppeley
 Amy Henderson
 Bryson Pellham
 Michelle Cooper
 Jon Ray Smith
 David Keesling

Hartville
 Hartville
 Hartville
 Hartville
 Hartville
 First, Mtn. Grove



The Host Pastor

The judges

“1983—The Year Of The Bible”

Churches People *And* Events

Report and photos of Missouri State Association, 1983 in the next issue of the Gem.

Vacation Bible School at Myrtle

The Myrtle Free Will Baptist Church held its Vacation Bible School June 20 through 24. The school had five classes with two teachers working with each class. There was an average attendance of 46 pupils and workers of 61. The highest attendance for one day was 69. The offerings for the school totaled \$54.70. This was sent through the State Office to be applied to the Fulcher Account. The pastor, Reverend Glynn Campbell, states, "We thank God for the good attendance and especially for the ones that helped."



Farewell Day for Brother Turner

Easter Sunday, April 3, 1983, was the last Sunday at the Fredericktown Free Will Baptist Church for Pastor John Turner. He accepted the pastorate of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Joplin, Missouri.

On Saturday evening, April 2, the church gave Brother John and his family, Karla, Eric and Jason a farewell dinner and party. The dinner included all the trimmings (including roasted hot pickles). Many happy memories were reviewed with presentations of gifts. A humorous reading was given by Jane Bowling of the trip made to the National Association last year at Fort Worth, Texas.

Rae McDowell gave a touching and yet humorous tribute she had written about Brother Turner. She titled it "What's In A Name?"

The festivities ended with the presentation of a beautiful friendship quilt to the Turner family. It had been made by the ladies of the church. It was stated

that the quilt not only had the names of the church families, but it was also filled with deep love and appreciation from a church family to a loving and caring pastor. Their wish—a wonderful and happy future in the Lord Jesus Christ!



Pastor Turner, Karla, Eric, Jason

Sweetheart Banquet at Hannon

The teens of the Hannon Free Will Baptist church hosted a Spring Sweetheart Banquet for the teens of the Verdella, Oskaloosa, and Hannon churches. A contest was held between the churches with two couples from the Hannon and Verdella churches to be crowned queen and king. The votes were made at a penny a vote with the money accumulated being given to the Youth Camp for the Swimming Pool Project.

Following the banquet supper the group enjoyed singing led by the sponsor, Danny Dickey. Then, the votes were counted and the couple from the Verdella Church had the most votes. Randy Sprinkle and Tracy Holsinger were crowned king and queen.



Richwoods Church in New Building

Mrs. Junior Lewis, church reporter, writes, I want to let you know that we had services in the basement of our new church building on Wednesday evening, March 30, 1983. We were host to a Community Easter Sunrise Service the following Sunday.

On that Sunday we had an attendance of 78 in Sunday school and 94 at the morning worship.

We are so thankful for the blessings of the Lord and for the good pastor He has given to us, Reverend James Parker. A revival is scheduled for May 22-27. Brother Earl Ames will be serving as the evangelist.

Heaven's Express, a gospel singing group, is available for singing and homecomings. They may be contacted at: Les Bequette, Route 2, Box 349, Fredericktown, MO 63645, Ph 314-783-6502

Christian Workers Appreciation Banquet

The Trinity Church, Bridgeton, Missouri held a Christian Workers Appreciation Banquet Saturday evening, May 14, 1983. The pastor, Reverend Millard Sasser, stated to the ones at the banquet, "This is an effort of the church to show our appreciation to those of you that work so faithfully in fulfilling your positions of responsibility."

Reverend Clarence Burton was the guest speaker for the occasion. The special music was presented by Rhonda Hodges, Mike Wilhite and Mrs. Margie Sasser.



Christian Workers Appreciation Banquet-Trinity

Jim Williams-Carthage, Missouri

Jim Williams is a native of Missouri having grown up in the Joplin area where he attended Joplin High School and Joplin Junior College. He also has taken correspondence courses from Moody Bible Institute and Luther Rice Seminary.

He was saved in 1956, having grown up in the home of a preacher. In fact, his father started the First Free Will Baptist Church at Joplin. He was ordained to the ministry in 1975 and started the Southside Free Will Baptist Church of Englewood, Colorado. That church is now self-supporting and has its own pastor.

Brother Williams and his wife Grace have three children. They will be moving to Carthage, Missouri to begin a new work as Joint Project workers with the

Missouri State Mission Board and the National Home Missions board as soon as their support is raised. Send contributions for the Carthage project-Jim Williams account to Missouri State Mission Board, c/o Rev. Roger Harwell, 7920 Harris, Raytown, MO 64138, or to National Home Missions, Post Office Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.



Personnel Changes

John Turner to First Church, Joplin, MO
Nick Hollis to First Church, Fredericktown, MO

Clown Day at Harmony

The Children's Church at the Harmony Free Will Baptist church in Parkville, Missouri had a Clown Day. This was a climax to an attendance/offering campaign between the boys and girls.

The directors of the Children's Church, Phil and Sharon Ledgerwood, added some incentive to the competition by agreeing to take a pie in the face if they were on the losing side. Well, Sharon, enjoyed the pie! Everyone enjoyed the program.



Sharon Ledgerwood and the clown

Ken and Judy Bailey Day, Sunday September 18

The Missouri State Association voted to set Sunday, September 18, as Ken and Judy Bailey Day. The Baileys, missionary appointees to Japan, have had to make a slight delay in their departure date because of lack of needed funds. They need approximately \$1,000 in monthly faith commitments.

Every church is asked to receive a special offering for the Baily Account on Sunday, September 18! Let's help them arrive in Tokyo, Japan by November 1, in order that they might begin language school in January 1984. Please send your offering to the State Office or the Foreign Missions Office as quickly as possible.

Summer Activities at Aulsbury Chapel

Chuck Lotz, reporter for the Aulsbury Chapel Church reports the average attendance for January, February, and March was 113.

Aulsbury Chapel had a great week of preaching with Reverend Roger Hogan, pastor of the Cape Girardeau Free Will Baptist Church. The revival did not have the expected result, but there is a need for a revival throughout our land.

The Master's Men will be sponsoring a three-day revival with Reverend Truman Huffman serving as the evangelist. The date will be June 21-24. The fall revival is scheduled for August 21-26 with Brother Charley Miller serving as the evangelist.

We are looking forward to our Vacation Bible School. We always praise the Lord for His work that He does through VBS. This year, Reverend Brian Peters, from Free Will Baptist Bible College will be bringing the messages with puppets, objects lessons, and singing. There will also be adult classes.

Reverend Earl Ames is the pastor.

Missouri Students on Dean's List at FWBBC

One hundred and twenty-five students made an average of B or higher and were placed on the Free Will Baptist Bible College Dean's list of honor students following mid-term examinations in early March. The following are students from Missouri. B Honor Roll: Martin McWilliams, senior; Virginia Reeves, senior; Cindy Fry, junior; Craig Mills, junior; Lisa Wallace, sophomore; Edward Howe, Freshman; Allen Pointer, Freshman; Julia Ritter, Freshman.

Editor's note: Congratulations!

FWBBC Graduates 73

Free Will Baptist Bible College graduated 73 students, including the first to complete the new

Graduate Program. Jerry Crews a member of the Richmond Free Will Baptist Church, Richmond, California was the first to complete the new Graduate Program. Of the ones graduating, 22 received the Bachelor of Arts, 30 Bachelor of Science, nine Christian Worker's Bible Diploma and 11 Associate of Science in Business.

Missouri graduates are Virginia Reeves, BA, from Flat River and Ruth Ann Cartee, CWB, from Leadington.

Editor's note: Congratulations!

Hillsdale Graduates 36

Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College graduated 36 students during graduation ceremonies May 13, 1983. Twenty Bachelor of Arts in Theology and sixteen Associates in Arts degrees were awarded. Missouri graduates are Stacey Hampton, AA, from Springfield, Belinda Letterman AA, from Conway, and Scott McCully AA, from Monett.

Editor's note: Congratulations!

A WORD OF REASSURANCE FROM FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Friends have indicated that a word of reassurance from us, relative to the wine issue, would be helpful. Apparently there are some misunderstandings abroad, and we are happy to clarify by issuing this two-part statement:

1. Every teacher here is committed to total abstinence, as both the Biblical and the Free Will Baptist practice. We are unalterably opposed to any use of alcoholic beverages. We will not tolerate any teaching that undermines that position.

2. Following the National Association last summer, the Bible faculty met and agreed that we will not even bring up the issue of whether the wine in John 2 was fermented, and that if a student should ever bring up that subject the teacher will handle it with caution and integrity. Regardless of any personal opinion on the technicalities involved, no teacher will be permitted to make any effort of any kind to influence any student to believe that there was fermentation involved, or otherwise to make any issue of it.

Wanted: Kindergarten teacher for school year 1983-84. First Free Will Baptist Church, 15323 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, Louisiana Ph. 504-293-4406. There will be no more than fifteen students per class. Please write Larry Russell for more information.

A MINISTRY FOR HILLSDALE

Edwin Wade, President

Greetings from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College!

Thanks to each of you for your part in the College's ministry in the field of Christian education. We are grateful for the opportunity to be fellow servants with you in God's vineyard. We cherish the warm fellowship and rapport in our associations together.

Basically, the purpose of Hillsdale is to provide an opportunity for our young people to receive a college education in a Christian environment. Second, the purpose consists of offering training in the crucial areas of Christian service. And third, the four year program is designed to prepare the student for graduate study.

Hillsdale is actively involved in activities that will accomplish this purpose. The results are evident in the lives of those who are serving in the pastorate, in second man positions, in Christian schools, and on the mission field.

The challenge of a worthwhile ministry is great. It is the prayer of the administration, faculty, and staff that this challenge will be met in a manner that will please God and be of service to Free Will Baptists.

Appeal From Sunday School and Church Training Department

Reverend Harrold Harrison has made an appeal to all churches to complete a simple, one page questionnaire. This will furnish information about church membership, Sunday school enrollment, average attendance, etc. Every church that received the questionnaire is asked to please respond.

Free! Criswell's Handbook for Pastors

Your church may obtain a free copy of Criswell's *Handbook For Pastors* by W. A. Criswell for your pastor when your entire Vacation Bible School offering is received in the National Home Missions office designated for Home Missions. The Home Missions Department states that you may designate your offering for the William Reagan or the Miguel Vera accounts. Or, you may designate some other Home Missionary. Make certain the VBS offering is indicated as coming from VBS.

Mail offerings to the Missouri State Association, P.O. Box 991, Lebanon, Missouri, 65536 or National Home Missions, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee.

Assimilating New People Into The Church

By Howard Gwartney

All of us would agree that every church needs some kind of plan to reach people for Jesus Christ. We *want* to make disciples and genuinely want to see new people become active, responsible members of our local church. Yet, in many churches we simply "hope" that new people will feel comfortable in our church, make a decision for Christ (get saved), and become mature, friendly, giving, growing, reproducing church members. We too often depend on osmosis to bring the new person from the point of decision to maturity as a disciple. Our thinking is, "Well, if they'll just come to all the services, start reading their Bible, pray and give faithfully, they'll make it." While all those things are important and would certainly be a part of the daily life of a Christian—discipleship DOES NOT happen by accident. Therefore, our churches need to plan not only to *reach* new people but also to make them feel a part of our church and become a mature disciple of Jesus Christ. That's assimilation: The process through which a new person sees his church status not as "joining" but as "belonging" and becoming a disciple who is an active, responsible, reproducing (soulwinning) church member.

Below is a list of practical suggestions which can aid your church in the assimilation process. Some of these you could begin next Sunday.

1. Assimilation *does not* happen by accident! You must plan in order to be effective.
2. Have clean, attractive church grounds. That says you care.
3. Have greeters meet people at the door with a handshake, smile, etc.
4. Have church members wear name tags.
5. Show them where the nursery is, restrooms, water fountains, the auditorium, etc. Make them as comfortable as possible in this "new setting."
6. Show them where they are to go—which classroom, introduce the teacher/other members, etc.
7. Appoint someone to sit with them during the services.
8. Recognize visitors during the service in a non-threatening way.
9. Contact them by phone on Sunday or Monday—offer to be of service. Tell them how glad you were to have them visit your church.
10. Write a personal letter.
11. Contact them for a personal visit.

12. Offer the services of the church. Sunday school, home Bible study, softball, ceramics classes, baby sitting pool, sewing circle, youth activities, church dinners, club programs, ministries, seminars, etc.

13. Find out their needs and meet them if possible. What are their hobbies, interests, etc.

14. Use smaller groups. They are more effective in assimilating. Your Sunday school can be one of the best tools your church has.

15. Begin new groups with newcomers. Newcomers feel closer to other newcomers.

16. Having friends in the church greatly aids the assimilation process. Encourage members to develop new friendships with new people.

17. View new people as assets, not liabilities.

18. Mature church members need to adopt new Christians. This takes training.

19. Have a new members class.

20. Get people involved in a growth group Bible study outreach program. Attend the October 10 & 11 workshop to find out more about this program.

21. Keep track of attendance at all services.

22. Ask them how they are getting along. Check up on your new people.

23. Provide an information packet about your church.

24. Use every opportunity to expose new people in the ministry of your church through: advertising, signs, new ministries, sports and social activities, attractive brochure, follow up visit.

25. Make them become accountable to others in the church for prayer, Bible study, church attendance, memorization, witnessing, etc.

26. Give them a role, task, or responsibility. Places where some new people could serve: Hospitality committee, greeter, class officer, etc.

27. Include "new blood" each year on your boards.

28. Don't assume anything about an individual who presents himself for membership in your church: (especially transferred or statement candidates).

a) Don't assume that they are saved, if their lives show no evidence of salvation. Make sure they know Christ.

b) Don't assume new members will automatically grow in grace.

c) Don't assume that by simply attending all the services at your church that the new member will grow spiritually. I know of people in churches who attend every service who are spiritually dead.

d) Don't assume that every person can be assimilated in the same way.

29. Invite their help in a project: remodeling the building, painting, making refreshments for an activity, etc. New people need to have a sense of being needed in the church.

30. Assume that the whole assimilation process depends upon the church.

31. Every church can be effective in assimilating new members if they will *purpose to do so, plan to do it, pray* that it will be done, *pay* so it can be done. It costs to have a growing church!

32. We must be willing to "chuck" the things that are not working and be willing to risk to try new things that "may" work.

About the writer: Howard Gwartney is serving as pastor of the Central Free Will Baptist Church in Grandview, MO. He is actively involved in the state and national ministries and is presently serving as chairman of the Sunday School and C.T.S Board of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Leaving Our First Love

Revelation 2:4, 5

In the short time I've been saved and in the ministry, I've come to realize that not everyone who professes Jesus as his Savior genuinely loves, commits, and serves Him with all his heart. As a matter of fact, often those who should normally be looked to as mature saints in the faith are those who seem the least committed.

I see them attending church on Sunday morning, many of them teach or hold some other position of responsibility in the church, yet when Sunday night or Wednesday night come they're not in attendance. I realize that in some churches this perhaps is the exception but generally speaking this is the situation in many or most churches.

You can't help but notice the "New Convert" who is so zealous for the Lord. He doesn't miss any of the services. He is eager to go on visitation and to get involved. Yet as he looks to the older more "mature" Christians as examples he sees little excitement, lack of commitment and seemingly little concern about what the Bible says about our first concern, simply loving and serving the One who died for us.

I think it's interesting that in the last book of the Bible, John, inspired of the Holy Spirit, wrote to the church. (The church is the body of believers and so when the Lord addressed the church He's addressing you and me.) The Lord told John to write "I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy

first love." God gave them credit for all the good there was in them but He was plain to tell them that He had something against them. When God deals with the church or an individual, He deals with facts.

In the beginning, the early church had great power and great love. The Lord was first in their lives. It is evident that within a few years they began to slip. No church or individual backslides suddenly; they do it a little at a time. They began to slip and slide; fall here a little and there a little; their love begins to cool; their interest begins to fall and after a while their interest has faded out and their love is cold. They have left their first love. God holds it as something "against" us when we leave our first love.

It may help us in applying this thought to ourselves if we will consider somewhat, as to what this first love is.

For one thing, it is a spirit of responsiveness to spiritual impressions. The "New Convert" is full of enthusiasm, his heart burns within him. He is demonstrative, alert, affectionate. He has a spirit of gratitude for the blessings enjoyed. The new-born Christian feels that he owes all to his Savior. (Later on many Christians live like God owes them.) He loves Jesus because Jesus first loved him and is filled with a desire to do something in return. A strong sense of gratitude is an element in first love.

It is seen also in a spirit of zeal and consecration to God's service. An earnest desire to reach other souls is a usual mark of first love.

But what are some causes of the Christian's deviation from first love?

1.) Neglect of the means of grace. It is when we cease Bible study, secret prayer, and regular attendance at church and Sunday school that we begin to backslide into sin. The spirit of compromise on commitment, standards, and conviction. Compromising is always dangerous.

2.) Bad companionship. "He that walketh with wise men is wise, but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." It will not do for the Christian to keep up too much worldly association.

3.) Over engrossment in business. It is one of the laws of our nature that we cannot be interested in two dominant things at a time. One thing only must be chief, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." It is our duty not to be slothful in business, but it is sin to be so engrossed in business that we "leave our first love."

4.) Indulging in secret sins. There is no quicker or surer way to bring about spiritual decline. Little sins mar our communion with God, decrease devotion, and make way for larger sins.

Then there is the guilt of declension from our first love. Religious declension is not merely a misfortune. One carefully chosen word in our text must not be missed—the word "Left". It is not lost; as if by accident our first love was gone. It is "left" indicating that backsliding is in some sense willful. The guilt of religious declension is great because the condition shows marked ingratitude to Christ for what He did

for us in our so great salvation. The guilt is great because we allow ourselves to grow cold and indifferent. By a little watchfulness we could prevent it. The guilt is great too, because it throws the weight of our example against Christ. In this way one can cause others to stumble or fall.

How do we get back to our "first love"? These three steps are plainly indicated in verse 5.

1.) "*Remember*" Stop and think how far you have fallen or drifted away. Contrast present conditions and commitments with what they once were.

2.) "*Repent*" Repentance is an intelligent sorrow over sin. "Godly sorrow worketh repentance." It is real regret that the sin was ever committed. It brings confession and it turns us "right about face."

3.) "*Do the first works*" Repentance opens the way to resumption. Begin over again. Repent of sin as you did at the beginning. Seek God's help as you did then. Lay the foundation over again. It often happens that some flaw in the material or construction renders a building useless, a failure for purpose, and a disgrace to the architect. He knows that to make alterations or to put more work on it will only make it a botch. He finds it wiser to start with the lowest stones and do the entire work as it ought to be. If you've left your "first love," "do thy first works," begin at the bottom. Begin again and build better. Remember, repent, do thy first works. First love will come again, and first blessedness, and first usefulness, too.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Roger Hogan is presently serving as pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. This is his first pastorate and he is doing a commendable job. He is serving as the General Board member from the Bootheel District Association. He is actively involved in the state ministries and is supportive of the national ministries.



Congregation: Cape Girardeau Church

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

April 1983

18.50% Missouri State Home Missions.....	\$4,421.39
16.00% Promotional Office & Gem	3,823.91
4.50% General Fund	1,075.47
5.50% Youth Camp	1,314.47
2.00% Christian Board of Education	477.99
2.00% Sunday School & CTS	477.99
7.00% Retirement Village	1,672.96
5.00% MO State Retirement Program	1,194.97
6.00% Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	1,433.96
11.00% Foreign Missions.....	2,628.94
8.00% FWBBC	1,911.95
6.00% Executive Office	1,433.96
6.00% National Home Missions	1,433.96
2.00% National Board of Retirement & Ins.....	477.99
.25% Layman's Board	59.75
.25% Theological Commission	59.75
Total Disbursements.....	\$23,899.41

This is the first month of the new state associational year. It has been a good month. The Lord is continuing to bless! We pray this month will be reflective of the eleven months to follow; each pastor working with each church to cooperate in carrying the gospel of Christ throughout the entire world. May the Lord bless each one for his faithfulness.

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

May 1983

18.50% Missouri State Home Missions.....	\$3,036.94
16.00% Promotional Office & Gem	2,626.55
4.50% General Fund	738.71
5.50% Youth Camp	902.88
2.00% Christian Board of Education	328.32
2.00% Sunday School & CTS	328.32
7.00% Retirement Village	1,149.12
5.00% Retirement Program	820.79
6.00% Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	984.96
11.00% Foreign Missions	1,805.75
8.00% FWBBC	1,313.28
6.00% Executive Office	984.96
6.00% National Home Missions	984.96
2.00% National Board of Retirement & Ins	328.32
.25% Layman's Board	41.04
.25% Theological Commission	41.04
Total Disbursements.....	\$16,415.94

This is the second month for this new year 1983-84. Even though this month's receipts are a little below normal, the last month's receipts bring the average to the two month projected goal.

We have so much for which to be grateful. The Lord supplies our every need. Let's continue to trust Him and believe that through His faithful servants and churches the projected goal will be met.

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

April 1983

Viburnum	123.67
Flat River, First	26.19
United, West Plains	100.00
Cape Girardeau	117.97
Hannon	184.35
Royal Oak	23.00
New Rock Springs.....	79.99
Mtn. Valley	167.26
Pleasant Ridge	48.00
Olivet.....	250.00
Verdella	326.25
Victory, Alton	178.00
Marshfield	144.31

Happy Home	303.88
Mill Creek	119.65
DeSoto	600.00
Grace	712.00
Twin Oak	400.00
Mine La Motte	25.00
Way Side	388.33
Lebanon, First	89.79
Fredericktown, First	431.00
Hurryville	99.00
Macedonia	20.00
Bailey Chapel	49.00
Parkview	186.54
Old Bethel	111.00
Oak Hill, Fredericktown	36.47
Friendship	104.87
Merl's Chapel	58.81
Berkeley	463.15
Berkeley	506.11
Farmington	1,150.00
Neosho.....	60.00
Leadington.....	393.48
Oskaloosa	18.93
Monett	471.43
Faith, Fair Grove	130.02
Freeman Chapel	115.00
Hartville.....	189.65
Lebanon, First	91.62
Community	66.09
Gospel Light	128.58
Gospel Light	90.26
New Home	40.24
Terrill Road.....	100.00
Hopewell	447.00
Rock Chapel	255.48
Union Grove	129.00
Flat River, First	613.95
Richwoods	300.00
Union.....	60.00
Belton	166.00
Mt. Pisgah	80.00
Berean	7.43
Pleasant Home	402.20
Koshkonong	81.00
Fordland	292.02
Copper Mines	160.27
Cabool	206.09
Aulsbury Chapel	843.11
South Fremont	350.00
Waynesville	88.94
Kingsway	100.00
Lebanon, First	75.82
Cape Girardeau	88.12
Seymour	60.42
Liberty	180.00
Wolf Creek	221.68
Trinity.....	708.43
Pleasant Hill	26.77
Cape Girardeau	68.10
Eastern Gate	51.00
New Rock Springs.....	264.69
Myrtle	150.94
Rolla	140.74
Flat River, First	662.95
Fordland	347.98
Willow Springs.....	238.42
Cope	29.30
Tyrone	39.48
Thayer	366.00
Byrd.....	16.00
Verdella	143.00
Terrill Road.....	72.00
Bethel	465.00
Number One	31.95
O'Fallon	280.00
Trinity.....	699.93

Sikeston	79.48
Farmington	1,150.00
Joplin	607.05
Calvary Fellowship	1,436.52
Lebanon, First	98.51
Hurryville	121.66
Fellowship	160.00
St. Francois, District	19.50
Interest on account	208.60
Total	\$23,899.41

**COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS
May 1983**

Hannon	\$ 230.76
Mill Creek	121.16
Belton	171.18
Sedalia	100.00
Olivet	250.00
United, West Plains	100.00
Union Grove	110.00
New Harmony	6.68
Hopewell	143.00
Friendship	92.94
Grace	710.00
Marshfield	237.67
Pleasant Ridge	59.00
Parkview	199.96
Mine La Motte	22.15
Purdy	654.62
DeSoto	650.00
Macedonia	20.00
Victory, Alton	170.00
Lebanon, First	57.79
Bailey Chapel	50.00
Oak Hill, Union	276.58
Columbia	50.00
Grant Avenue	461.52
Monett	466.54
Beacon	674.35
Wolf Creek	153.73
Cape Girardeau	88.66
Kingsway	50.00
Victory, K.C.	100.00
Hartville	195.60
Mt. Pisgah	96.00
Mt. Zion, Thayer	65.56
Lebanon, First	119.46
Royal Oak	14.00
Faith, Fair Grove	145.44
Berean	9.53
Fredericktown, First	350.00
Waynesville	82.08
Pleasant Hill	33.82
Black Oak	10.00
Freeman Chapel	111.90
Cabool	224.29
Byrd	34.32
Cape Girardeau	74.81
Mt. Zion, Gower	45.58
Copper Mines	172.29
Gray Summit	95.75
Black Oak	10.00
Gospel Light	135.22
Happy Home	245.74
Eastern Gate	13.00
Cape Girardeau	73.76
Farmington	1,150.00
Koshkonong	135.00
Flat River, First	586.16
Cape Girardeau	83.04
Rolla	115.12
Mtn. Grove, First	626.11
Thayer	230.26
Seymour	77.28
Lebanon, First	116.97

Jones Chapel	406.23
Neosho	75.00
Leadington	382.00
Lebanon, First	66.52
Berkeley	578.81
Willow Springs	215.44
Rock Chapel	227.60
Lebanon, First	80.02
Grant Avenue	576.90
Terrill Road	122.00
Bailey Chapel	58.00
Sikeston	118.34
Myrtle	240.32
Fordland	377.00
Columbia	50.00
Interest on account	241.35
Mtn. Grove, First	578.25
Merl's Chapel	56.78
Total	\$16,415.94

**MISSOURI DESIGNATED GIVING
April & May 1983**

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Hannon	\$4,123.06
Pinkerton	\$2,007.75
McLain	1,957.75
Lytle	50.00
Bunch	107.56
Olivet	\$100.00
Poole	30.00
Inscoc	30.00
Sparks	20.00
McLain	10.00
Pinkerton	10.00
United, West Plains	\$26.14
Pinkerton	26.14
New Harmony	\$154.03
Miley	20.39
McLain	20.39
Call-a-thon	113.25
Marshfield	\$30.00
Tallent	25.00
Bailey	5.00
Pleasant Ridge	\$40.00
General Fund	20.00
McLain	20.00
Columbia	\$204.24
Tallent	35.00
McCullough	15.00
General Fund	59.24
McLain	90.00
Pinkerton	5.00
Grant Avenue	\$2,619.15
Pinkerton	1,793.90
Tallent	325.00
Hersey	260.00
Haas	40.00
Bailey	132.25
McLain	30.00
Deficit Accts	93.00
Richards	5.00
General Fund	30.00
Monett	\$685.14
Sparks	140.00
Miley	20.00
Tallent	350.14
General Fund	155.00
Dickens	30.00
Waynesville	\$40.00
Deficit Accts	40.00
Carl & Faith Hiatt	\$45.00
Pinkerton	45.00
Faith Chapel	\$30.00
Pinkerton	10.00
McLain	20.00

Harmony, KC		\$105.00
Pinkerton	\$100.00	
Turnbough	5.00	
South Side		\$369.92
Tallent	\$369.92	
Fredericktown, First		\$84.91
Turnbough	\$10.00	
Miley	9.91	
General Fund	7.50	
Bunch	52.50	
Bailey	5.00	
Black Oak		\$33.75
Aldridge	\$20.25	
Haas	13.50	
Freeman Chapel		\$477.42
Pinkerton	\$477.42	
Houston		\$25.00
Tallent	\$25.00	
Leadington		\$420.00
Turnbough	\$50.00	
Tallent	20.00	
Filkins	40.00	
Coward	5.00	
Pinkerton	40.00	
Miley	40.00	
McLain	40.00	
Eagleton	40.00	
Lytle	40.00	
Richards	40.00	
Bailey	45.00	
Hanna	20.00	
New Hope, Fredericktown		\$20.00
Tallent	\$20.00	
Dale & Marge McCurry		\$10.00
Tallent	\$10.00	
Viburnum		\$159.25
Turnbough	\$10.00	
Pinkerton	74.25	
Bailey	55.00	
Tallent	20.00	
Eastern Gate		\$60.00
Tallent	\$20.00	
Van Hook	20.00	
Pinkerton	20.00	
Farmington		\$416.00
Pinkerton	\$406.00	
Bailey	10.00	
Mona Chrisman		\$5.00
Pinkerton	\$5.00	
Aulsbury Chapel		\$120.00
Pinkerton	\$60.00	
Bailey	60.00	
Mtn. Grove, First		\$741.04
Cousineau	\$ 20.00	
Tallent	105.00	
Turnbough	20.00	
Hanna	50.00	
Crowson	8.00	
General Fund	60.00	
Call-a-thon	478.04	
Indian Creek Ass'n (Merl's Chapel)		\$200.00
Filkins	\$100.00	
Richards	100.00	
Thayer		\$21.00
Tallent	\$11.00	
Pinkerton	10.00	
Jones Chapel		\$60.00
Tallent	\$60.00	
Neosho		\$132.07
Bailey	\$32.00	
Caton	85.07	
Cousineau	10.00	
Wode	5.00	
Berkeley		\$429.50
Filkins	\$190.00	
Lytle	50.00	

Tallent	50.00	
Deficit Accts	139.50	
Fourth		\$320.00
Lytle	\$300.00	
Tallent	20.00	
Myrtle		\$161.00
Tallent	\$90.00	
Bailey	71.00	
Fordland		\$99.00
Pinkerton	\$65.00	
Tallent	34.00	
Joplin		\$75.00
Morgan	\$70.00	
Tallent	5.00	
Bethel		\$25.00
General Fund	\$25.00	
Kirksville		\$5.00
Pinkerton	\$5.00	
Trinity		\$301.97
General Fund	\$111.97	
McLain	75.00	
Tallent	10.00	
Wode	10.00	
Morgan	75.00	
Payne	20.00	
Evangel		\$100.00
Pinkerton	\$100.00	
Oskaloosa		\$146.00
Pinkerton	\$146.00	
Doug Hoover		\$50.00
Tallent	\$50.00	
Marshfield		\$30.00
Bailey	\$5.00	
Tallent	\$25.00	
O'Fallon		\$25.00
Pinkerton	\$25.00	
Total		\$13,323.59

WORLD VISION
April 1983

Flat River, First \$500.00

YOUTH CAMP
April & May 1983

Hannon	\$ 35.00
Hartville	20.00
Mt. Pisgah	70.00
Pool	\$50.00
General Fund	20.00
Leadington	40.00
Mtn. Gove	80.00
Willow Springs	20.00
Myrtle	113.50
General Fund	39.50
Pool	74.00
Olivet	10.00
James Crawford	15.73
Aulsbury Chapel	20.00
Thayer Youth & Church	520.00
Pool	\$500.00
General Fund	20.00
Lebanon	66.46
Grant Avenue (Pool)	24.00
New Rock Springs	14.40
Kingsway (Pool)	125.00
South Fremont (Pool)	75.00
Wolf Creek	500.00
Bethel	25.00
Hanna & Verdella (Pool)	340.00
Oskaloosa (Pool)	10.00
Union Grove (Pool)	200.00
Neosho (Pool)	32.00
Calvary Fellowship (Pool)	100.00
Total	\$2,456.09

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE
April & May 1983

Leadington.....	\$ 40.00
Eastern Gate.....	20.00
Farmington.....	250.00
Trinity.....	8.00
Total.....	\$318.00

HILLSDALE FREE WILL BAPTIST COLLEGE
April & May 1983

Hannon.....	\$100.00
Grant Avenue.....	18.00
Mtn. Grove., First.....	50.00
Willow Springs.....	40.00
Monett.....	125.00
Trinity.....	8.00
Thayer.....	68.00
Total.....	\$409.00

BOB CARR ACCOUNT
April & May 1983

Grant Avenue.....	\$65.00
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JOHN MCCLURE ACCOUNT
April & May 1983

Monett.....	\$35.00
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NATIONAL BOARD OF RETIREMENT & INSURANCE
April & May 1983

Grant Avenue.....	\$2.00
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NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Hannon.....	\$30.00	\$30.00
Elder.....	\$30.00	
Olivet.....		\$40.00
Maness.....	\$40.00	
United, West Plains.....		\$13.07
General Fund.....	\$13.07	
Marshfield.....		\$83.00
O'Dell.....	\$20.00	
General Fund.....	23.00	
Maness.....	40.00	
Columbia.....		\$104.23
Vandivort.....	\$45.00	
General Fund.....	59.23	
Grant Avenue.....		\$111.00
Vandivort.....	\$11.00	
General Fund.....	90.00	
Maness.....	10.00	
Monett.....		\$188.00
Lewis.....	\$40.00	
Elder.....	10.00	
Lake.....	128.00	
Fulcher.....	10.00	
Wolf Creek.....		\$20.00
Vandivort.....	\$10.00	
Warren Walls.....		\$5.00
Vandivort.....	\$5.00	
Mt. Pisgah.....		\$150.00
Maness.....	\$50.00	
Lewis.....	50.00	
Vandivort.....	50.00	
South Side.....		\$10.00
Fulcher.....	\$5.00	
Maness.....	5.00	
Fredericktown, First.....		\$138.00
Lewis.....	\$10.00	
Pegram.....	4.00	

Shockey.....	10.00	
General Fund.....	75.00	
Barron.....	39.00	
Leadington.....		\$220.00
O'Dell.....	\$40.00	
Long.....	40.00	
Fulcher.....	40.00	
Vandivort.....	50.00	
Maness.....	50.00	
Dale & Marge McCurry.....		\$10.00
Nason.....	\$10.00	
Viburnum.....		\$50.00
Lewis.....	\$10.00	
Maness.....	20.00	
Vandivort.....	20.00	
Eastern Gate.....		\$40.00
Vandivort.....	\$20.00	
Lewis.....	20.00	
Farmington.....		\$100.00
Thompson.....	\$80.00	
Maness.....	20.00	
Rolla.....		\$100.00
Vandivort.....	\$100.00	
Mtn. Grove, First.....		\$142.36
Lewis.....	\$15.00	
Maness.....	92.36	
Vandivort.....	35.00	
Bob & Glenda Keith.....		\$20.00
Vandivort.....	\$20.00	
Thayer.....		\$61.00
Maness.....	\$13.00	
Highway Helpers.....	41.00	
Evangelism.....	7.00	
Berkeley.....		\$601.90
Fulcher.....	\$375.00	
Lewis.....	30.00	
Maness.....	15.00	
Deficit Accts.....	181.90	
Rock Chapel.....		\$218.52
Lake.....	\$218.52	
Myrtle.....		\$243.70
Fulcher.....	\$54.70	
Evangelism.....	20.00	
Highway Helpers.....	10.00	
Elder.....	66.00	
Maness.....	88.00	
General Fund.....	5.00	
Fordland.....		\$51.00
General Fund.....	\$33.00	
Maness.....	18.00	
Flat River, First.....		\$10.00
J. D. Norris.....	\$10.00	
Doug Hoover.....		\$50.00
Fulcher.....	\$50.00	
New Rock Springs.....		\$180.00
Vandivort.....	\$180.00	
Neosho.....		\$5.00
Lake.....	\$5.00	
Southeast District Ass'n.....		\$100.00
Barron.....	\$100.00	
Trinity.....		\$8.00
General Fund.....	\$8.00	
Harmony, KC.....		\$20.00
Lake.....	\$15.00	
Maness.....	5.00	
Bethel.....		\$62.50
Elder.....	\$37.50	
General Fund.....	25.00	
O'Fallon.....		\$45.00
Fulcher.....	\$25.00	
Adkisson.....	20.00	
Joplin.....		\$40.00
Lake.....	\$40.00	
Roger Ross.....		\$5.00
Maness.....	\$5.00	
Total.....		\$3,276.28

THE GEM
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Lebanon, Missouri 65536

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A Tribute To Two Special Grandmothers

Mrs. Esther Hovis
Who passed away Oct. 22, 1982 at the age of 85.

Mrs. Edith Underwood
Who passed away Nov. 11, 1982 at the age of 76.

Grandmothers are something this old world could not live without. Many people never remember having a grandmother. (They have certainly missed a special piece of life.) Others may not appreciate the "gem" the Lord has loaned them for a season. (This is sadder still.)

To have only one grandmother for a good portion of your life is a blessing. But to have two grandmothers living until you're 34 years old—well, that's really a double blessing! And for them both to be Christian, God-fearing women, is just more than one could ever ask. I'm privileged to say that I am one of those triply blessed grandchildren.

Within the past three weeks, both my dear grandmothers have gone on to their heavenly home of which they talked and sang about so often during their life time.

What a happy time some glad tomorrow when we lay our heavy burden down... it will all be joy in that sweet home.

In the Sweet Forever was a favorite song at the Copper Mines Free Will Baptist Church where they were both long time members.

We know they are in Heaven praising Christ their Savior and reunited with friends and loved ones that preceded them to their everlasting home of peace and joy. I could not want to bring them back to this world of pain and suffering. That would be cruel and selfish of me. But we grieve. Our hearts break and we weep. Why? Because we loved them dearly and we will miss their words of wisdom, their acts of kindness, and simply, we will miss their presence among us.

Grandmothers have a way of making you feel special—super special! I know now that the letters I

wrote to Grandma Underwood when I was six years old were nothing to brag about. Why, words were misspelled and letters were formed incorrectly. But she kept them until her death and would show them with pride to anyone halfway interested.

And photographs! Their homes (like so many grandmothers' homes) were filled with snapshots and photos of the children, grandchildren, and "greats" as Grandma U. would laughingly and lovingly refer to her seventeen great-grandchildren. Her latest "great" was born on her 76th birthday. How proud that made her!

My Grandma Hovis may not have been as vocal, but we will always have the memories of her on the farm in her print dress and apron. There was always a lot of work to do, but she would patiently show us how to churn butter, kill and dress an old hen, or bottle feed an orphaned baby lamb. We knew she loved us because she proved it by her actions thousands of times.

We always received Bible training from both my grandmothers. They read their Bibles daily and practiced living what they learned. They taught us faithfulness to the Lord's house by their own faithful attendance. They taught us honesty by being truthful, and they taught us how to love by giving of themselves.

My Grandma Hovis had five children. They are all born-again Christians, living for the Lord. Her ten grandchildren were all saved at early ages and most are actively serving God.

Grandma Underwood reared two children who are both saved and serve the Lord. My uncle is a deacon and my mother is a deacon's wife. All eight grandchildren accepted Christ as Savior during childhood years.

Thank you God for giving me grandmothers who had eternal values and who were fine examples to us all. Time will heal in part the sadness our hearts feel today, but our memory of them will never fade away because it is pleasant, good, and lovely.

Written Nov. 12, 1982 (the day after the death of Grandma Underwood) By: Judy Lytle