

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Volume 56, No. 1, January-February 1986



Do you share God's love?

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES 1984-1985

CHURCHES	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV
Belton	38	36	36	44	40	42	40	45	49	47	52	54
Bethel	111	98	101	121		91	85					102
Calvary Fellowship	191	193	197	256	206	198	202	190	179	183		
Cape Girardeau	66	62	68	75	71	63	67	68	69	71	79	67
Copper Mines	83	70	60	72	81	75	71	73	79			
Cuba	75	69	68	77	78	82	71	74	70			
Farmington	694	545	598	800	685	686	623	674	628	629	771	662
Flat River, First	165	147		192	180	182	166	141		160	173	166
Grace	192	154	159	217	182	169	171	170	176		207	179
Grant Avenue	85	64	88	96	112	89	95	93	90		102	98
Hannon	77	62	75	74	82	70	75	77	79	79	79	78
Harmony, K.C.			76	114	90	81	73	75		68	72	69
Hartville	96	102	76	114	95	91	92	78	91			
Houston	83	74	68	69	69	65	64	54	41	61	63	61
Jones Creek					114	86	95	65	86	112	88	84
Monett	130	162	175	166				150	144	151	160	
Myrtle	45	40	35	48	41	45	41	40		46	47	46
New Hope		37	47	64	74	70	73	75	80	90	115	
New Life Fellowship	56	65	53	95	77	56	62	57	48	71	77	75
O'Fallon	142	126	110									
Parkview	82	57	67	77	79	70	70	85	75	88	85	89
Richwoods	40	35	43	53	51	53	50					
Rock Chapel	64	62	61	60	65	62	61	55	59	61		
Thayer					144							
United, West Plains	93	78	81	88	94	91	93	89	80	85		
West Plains, First												
Willow Springs	88	66	69	84	97	83	80	81	80	82	89	90

Sixth Annual Writers' Conference

May 16, 17, 1986

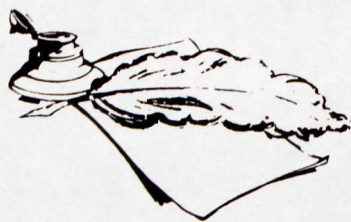
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Clarence Burton, editor

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

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This magazine is published bi-monthly.

Allocations For District Associations

To Raise \$6,000 To Help Host

National Association Convention in 1988

As you recall, the Missouri State Association voted in 1983 to host the National Association Convention in 1988. It will meet in Kansas City, Missouri. This allocation was adopted by the General Board the following year. It has been mailed to District Clerks in 1984. This is a gentle reminder to everyone lest we forget. One District Association, Northwest Association, has sent in its allocation. Others may have received theirs and are holding it at the local association. That's fine; but please remember that this should be at the State Office by May 1988.

Allocations:

Bootheel	\$175.00
Cave Springs	760.00
Central Western	350.00
Greater Kansas City	450.00
Greater Springfield	400.00
Indian Creek	400.00
Laclede	140.00
Liberty	400.00
Mission	800.00
Niangua	180.00
Northeast	190.00
Northwest	70.00
South Central	170.00
Southeast	400.00
St. Francois	700.00
St. Louis	650.00

This allocation was based on the number of churches and the numerical size of the churches in the District Association.



Churches, People & Events

100TH ANNIVERSARY FOR THE PLEASANT RIDGE CHURCH

Mrs. Alice Johnson, church reporter, writes: On Sunday, September 26, 1985 the Pleasant Ridge Free Will Baptist Church, near Urbana, Missouri celebrated its 100th Anniversary. Brother Lee Pitts, a deacon in the church, gave this brief history. The original name of the church was the Pleasant Ridge Chapel #1. It was built in the year 1885. The land was deeded to the church and cemetery by Thomas R. Miller. George Washington Burns, a deacon, helped make the pews.



First Church Building Pleasant Ridge Church

Charter members were: Mr. & Mrs. Will Walker, Mr. & Mrs. A.J. House, and Mr. & Mrs. G.W. Burns. The church united with the Association in 1885. That year the Association met with the Willow Springs Church. Churches that were represented were Mt. Zion, Black Oak, Prospect, Mill Creek, Benton Branch, Willow

(continued on page 4)

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(continued from page 3)

Springs and Pleasant Hope.

The attendance in 1887 was thirteen members. By January 1891 it had grown to 33 resident members. This note of interest concerning the history, in 1901 services were dismissed for two months because of an out-break of smallpox. In 1910 Brother Roy Shaw was

ordained as a deacon. The present building was built in 1920. An addition was built in 1981 that provides a Fellowship Area, classrooms and indoor plumbing facilities.

Former pastors present for the service were Reverend Len Gardner and Reverend Jeff Bennett.

Reverend Don Anderson is the present pastor.

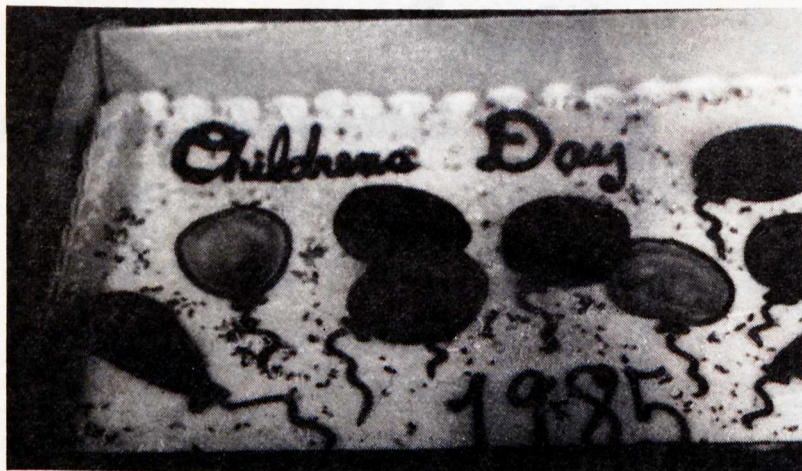
CHILDREN'S DAY AT OAK HILL

The Oak Hill Free Will Baptist Church, St. Clair, Missouri held it's annual Children's Day Service, Sunday, September 8, 1985.

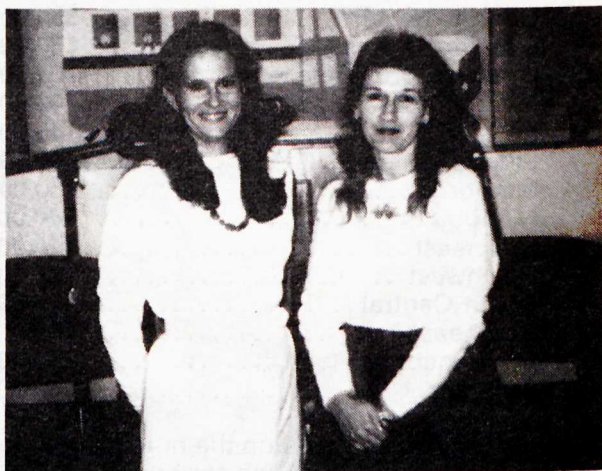
The pastor, Reverend Jay Tilson, expressed gratitude to the Sunday School and Church for the fine response in making this special day a 'great day'. The children under the direction of and with the help of Mrs. VeeAnn Tilson and Mrs. Rhonda Witt presented

an enjoyable and interesting musical "Down on the Creek Bank" The adults enjoyed it as well as the children. Reverend Dan Minkler, youth minister, Farmington Free Will Baptist Church, delivered the message. He explained and emphasized the need for and the plan of salvation.

A favorite food for children, pizza, was served in Fellowship Hall following the Morning Service.



A Special Cake



The directors, VeeAnn and Rhonda



Rev. & Mrs. Jay Tilson



Mark Richardson's Sunday School Class

HOMEcoming SERVICE AT MYRTLE



**Pastor, Glynn Campbell;
S. S. Superintendent, Dale; Deacon, Vergil Wisehart**

The Myrtle Free Will Baptist Church observed its annual Homecoming Service Sunday, October 13, 1985. The pastor Reverend Glynn Campbell, gave a warm welcome to the visitors and members of the church. Special music was provided by the church quartet. Reverend Clarence Burton, executive



Longtime members of the church: Vergil Wisehart, Finis Sorrell and Frances Harberson

secretary, delivered the Homecoming Message. The ladies served a delicious meal, following the morning service, in the Fellowship Hall.

Out of town visitors included Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Cantrel, Okachobie, Florida and Mr. & Mrs. Bill Wilson, Willow Springs, Missouri.

REVEREND LEN GARDNER HOME WITH THE LORD

Funeral services were held, Sunday, November 10, 1985, at the Pleasant Ridge Free Will Baptist Church for Reverend Len Gardner. Brother Gardner passed away Thursday, November 7, 1985.

The ministers officiating at the funeral service were Reverend Grover Terry and Reverend Don Anderson. Interment was at the Climax Springs Cemetery in Climax Springs, Missouri.

Reverend Gardner had served as pastor in the Niangua District Association for many years. He had served as pastor of the Pleasant Ridge Church over twenty years. He had resigned the church about a year before his death. As was stated in the service, Brother Gardner's life could well be marked with one outstanding quality, faithfulness. And, of course, he had many other qualities which made his life a useful instrument in the Lord's work and a blessing to many co-workers and friends.

Brother Gardner served in many different capacities in the Lord's work. He had served as moderator of the Niangua Association, a member of the executive committee and also served for a number of years as General Board Member of the Missouri State Association.

Editor's Note: My deepest sympathy goes to Sister Gardner and other members of the family. Brother Gardner will live long in my memory as a dear brother-minister and a strong servant of the Lord.

TWIN OAKS CHURCH CONTINUES TO GROW

The Twin Oaks Free Will Baptist Church, near Fredericktown, Missouri was host to the Madison County Youth Rally. The large attendance saw a film regarding missionary work in Africa. It was a challenge to see a young African, Victor, work for the Lord among his own people. This should inspire us to do more, writes Mrs. Madeliene McFarland, church reporter.

The church continues to do well in attendance and souls being saved. There have been some rededications, professions of faith and some being baptized in our own Jordan River, known as Castor River, not far from the church. One of the things that is blessing the church is a program to train the youth in Bible Study, visitation and helping in the care of the elderly.

The pastor, Brother Bob Thebeau has served as evangelist in two revivals and is now praying for an 'old fashion revival at Twin Oaks'.

Senior Citizens day was held on November 24th. There was some good special singing and a sermon by one of the older ministers. The church has one charter member that is still living, Sister Emma Martin.

On Sunday, October 10th, the church was blessed with a great number of Brother Ray Thomas' family present for the service. They had to use four pews.

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In Memory of Brother Ray Thomas

Brother Ray Thomas went to be with the Lord on November 5, 1985. Services were held at the Twin Oaks Church with burial in the church cemetery. The ministers officiating at the service were Reverend Bob

Thebeau and Reverend Truman Huffman. Brother Thomas was the oldest deacon at the church. He was faithful in teaching the Word. He taught his Sunday School class on Sunday, November 3, before he passed away on November 5, 1985. Surely we can believe that he laid down his cross and was given a crown.

DEDICATION SERVICE AT CAPE GIRARDEAU



Outside View



Inside Auditorium



The pastor and Advisory and Trustee Boards - Bob Montgomery, David Lane, Kirk Durbin, Rick Smith, and Rick Reed (Jim Long not present)



Rev. & Mrs. Hogan and pastor's father and mother - Mr. Hogan was general contractor

On Sunday, October 27, 1985 the First Free Will Baptist Church held a Dedication Service for its new beautiful building. There are several outstanding features that characterize the church. It is located in a choice area in Cape Girardeau. The structure and layout reflects a 'church look' that is very accommodating to the needs of the congregation. The spacious auditorium will seat approximately three hundred fifty with proper classrooms to satisfy the Sunday School attendance. The church structure also accommodates a spacious choir area, pastor's study and lovely nursery.

The Dedication Service was opened with the congregation singing "The Church's One Foundation", followed by Brother David Lane, a deacon, leading in prayer. The pastor, Reverend Roger Hogan, gave a warm welcome to an auditorium pleasantly filled with members and friends of the church. He stated, "The Lord has blessed from the beginning to the end of this building program. It has not been easy, but with good people that have determination and a desire to get the job done, we are at this point of dedication today. May the Lord bless the members and friends of the church that have helped make this possible".

The beautiful special music was provided by Christin Hogan, daughter of the pastor and Mrs. Hogan, and Pam Durbin. Reverend Clarence Burton, executive secretary, Missouri State Association, preached the dedicatory message. He stated, "I commend the pastor and the folks of the church for the planning and putting together of this impressive and accommodating building. You will enjoy and use this for many years. But that which will make this church beautiful and attractive to the people of this city and community is the people of this church. People win people to the Lord. The most expensive piece of furniture in the church is the empty pew. This church will be effective as a soul-winning church, only, as you make it".

The prayer of dedication was offered by a deacon, Brother Robert Montgomery. The Act of Dedication was led by the pastor, and the service was concluded with the congregation singing, "When We All Get To Heaven".

NORTHEAST MISSOURI DISTRICT RETREAT

"Lift Them Up" was chosen for the theme of the Northeast Missouri F.W.B. Woman's Auxiliary District Retreat held at Camp Of The Hills, west of Kirksville, Missouri, September 13 and 14.

Friday evening a crackling fire in the dining hall fireplace gave just the right atmosphere for Ruby English, Kirksville, to lead the group in fun time. Her Bible games sparked an evening of merriment and fellowship. The ladies from the Columbia Church furnished delicious snacks and beverages for the social hour.

Assembly Saturday morning brought more songs with guitar accompaniment by Sandy Young, Columbia. Hazel Creek offered a very moving song special. Youngsters from Stahl, Hazel Creek, Martinstown and Moberly presented an impromptu, yet timely puppet skit about church attendance.

In the dining hall each auxiliary had a table display and short talk about a country where F.W.B. Missionaries labor for God. Many beautiful and interesting artifacts from each nation were shown and literature about each missionary family was distributed.

Later, in the Chapel, a large wooden cross embellished with tiny nails was placed near the stage. President Maize Sevit requested that the name of a friend or relative needing specific prayer be written on a piece of bright paper. A solemn procession passed by the cross, impaling the prayer requests on the nails to be "lifted up" to Him.

More relaxing and fellowship around a lovely cooperative carry-in dinner, then Oda Beall, New Harmony, gave a report on the state retreat held in August near Niangua, Missouri.

Joan Filkins, Norman, Oklahoma, brought the special message on "Lifting Up The Home". She admonished the audience to stifle negativeness in our approach to family affairs and thus lift up our husbands and children in a more positive, spiritual way.

With the dismissal prayer it was hoped that all present would return home with a renewed desire to

exalt their heart, eyes, hands, voices, youth and home to a greater service to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Mrs. Oda Beall is the reporting secretary.

REVEREND COURTNEY RECEIVES PLAQUE



Rev. Tilson and Rev. Courtney

The South Central District Association presented a plaque to Reverend Max Courtney for his faithfulness in serving the association. Brother Courtney had served as clerk and member of the executive committee. Reverend Jay Tilson, moderator, made the presentation.

Reverend Courtney accepted the pastorate of the Alexander Free Will Baptist Church. For the Gem readers, his address is Route 1, Box 102B, Thebes, ILL.

DISTRICT AUXILIARY MEETS

The St. Francois District Auxiliary met with the First Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, September 21, 1985. Representatives from 12 Auxiliaries shared a day of fellowship. The meeting was presided over by the President Ann Phillips. Auxiliaries represented were Aulsbury, Farmington, Fellowship, Flat River First, Fredericktown First, Mill Creek, New Hope, Union Light.

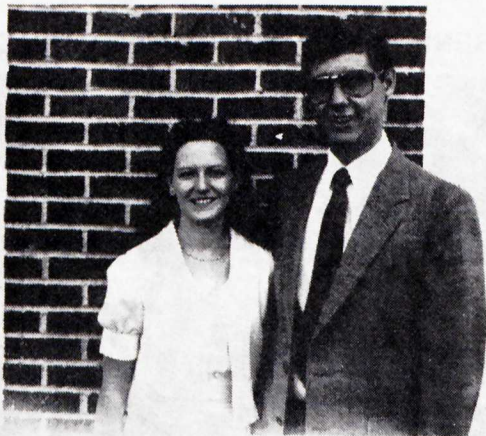
The theme for the day was "Ask, Seek & Knock", based on Matthew 7:7 & 8. Attendance prizes were won by Patsy Griffin (she was the 10th person to sign the Registration) & Jesse Hufford (she was the 40th person to sign). The significance being that the President was 40 on the 10th day of September.

The morning session consisted of the Roll Call of Auxiliaries, Welcome, Response and a Devotion by Betty Reeves. The group was then called into Business Session where the several items of business was transacted. The Host Auxiliary prepared a lovely Salad

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

Luncheon for the noon meal and the dining room was beautifully decorated in Auxiliary colors (lavendar & white).



Steve & Linda Reeves

In the afternoon, special guests Steve & Linda Reeves presented the program. Steve & Linda are Missionary Appointees to Spain and are now doing deputational work.

The St. Francois District voted to give them \$75.00 as a personal love offering for being with us. The Missions Action Chairman has a project for the day of bringing stationary and postage stamps, to be divided and sent to the students from the Auxiliary churches that are at Hillsdale or Free Will Baptist Bible College.

The next District Meeting will be held at the Fredericktown First Free Will Baptist Church and the Farmington Church will have the Program on the 3rd Saturday in March, 1986.

BLESSINGS AT PARKVIEW

Betty McQuire, church reporter writes: Spring begins a long time before it bursts forth in all its showy splendor. Away back in midwinter forces were stirring beneath the half-decayed leaves of the forest floor. So it was with Parkview Free Will Baptist Church in Desloge. Only now does the casual observer see revival, but long months ago earnest church members together with their dedicated pastor were sowing in secret and watering with burdened tears. The winter has been long. Had not God given brief glimpses of spring into the lives of growing new souls, surely despair would have set in. However, the faithful, experienced petitioner knows how to look beneath the leaf mold for the promised spring.

Spring arrived with the soul-rejoicing revival with Rev. Russell Wright October 13-18, 1985. We saw eleven people either saved or rededicated. Six of these were children. Our spirits rejoiced to see our kids feel free to come to the altar. We were especially thankful for two young couples who walked the aisle together. Two more persons joined the church during these services. The following Sunday two more came to the altar. Since January 1, 1985, we have had ten join the church and baptized five.

In the past two years, we have seen our Sunday morning attendance double. Our Sunday School

average for August was 75; September 88; October 85. We have built a ramp on the building front to assist those who have difficulty with steps. This summer we bought a bigger, better van. We have seen Michael Looney successfully complete the six month trial period for a deacon. We expect to rejoice in seeing him ordained soon. "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." (Psalms 126:3).

GRAND HOMECOMING DAY AT SEDALIA

The Lord blessed with a great Homecoming Day at the Sedalia Free Will Baptist Church, writes the church reporter. The Sunday School attendance was forty-one and the Morning Worship was fifty-three. The Ellis Family provided the special music for the Morning and Afternoon Services. The attendance in the afternoon was over seventy-five. The folks brought a "carry-in" dinner which provided plenty of food.

The pastor of the church is Reverend Leonard Sanger.

MORTGAGE BURNING SERVICE AT UNITY CHURCH, LEBANON

A Special Mortgage Burning Service was held at the Unity Free Will Baptist Church, Lebanon, Missouri. The service took place on Sunday evening, October 27, 1985. The mortgage note was for the two-acre tract of land the church purchased for the purpose of building its present building. As was stated, it reflects faithfulness of the church in its stewardship, to pay the note this quickly. Pictured in the Note Burning



Rev. Mike Hutsell and deacons

Ceremony is the pastor, Reverend Mike Hutsell, and three deacons, Eugene Reed, Stan Vandergrift and Dave Sperry.

VICTORY AT CUBA

Sunday morning, November 3, 1985 was a time of great joy for members of the Cuba Free Will Baptist Church. The day had previously been targeted by pastor Dabblemont and the congregation as "105 in '85". In the summer of 1984 when the Sunday School attendance and Worship Service was averaging in the 50's and 60's, the leaders and staff of the church joined the pastor in a commitment to pray and work for a growth campaign the next year. On November 4, 1984 the "105 in '85" began with a prayer of dedication.

Three times in 1985 the attendance had reached 100. On November 3, one year from the kickoff date, the church saw the promise of God fulfilled. The Sunday School attendance was 107 and the Morning Worship was 127. May God get the glory for this success.

Pastor Dabblemont is very thankful. He is very excited about the eight men and women now participating with him in the Thursday evening soul-winning and visitation program. Updated S.S. averages, July, 74; August 70; September 68; and October 77.

NEW HOPE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH



New Hope Free Will Baptist Church, located in Catherine Place, held Friend Day Sunday, October 27. Members of the church's congregation brought their friends to church with them that day. Church pastor, the Rev. Gary Tune, reported that 181 attended Sunday School and 183 attended morning worship services that day. That nearly doubled the church record for attendance. In the top photo, Mayor Leota Reagan, a special guest, awarded first place in a decoration contest to the Primary Class. Each class decorated their room and Mayor Reagan judged the contest. She is pictured with members of the Primary Class and their teacher, Martha Waggoner, right. In the side photo, Rev. Tune, left, presents a plaque to Delmar Welker who brought the most friends to church that day, ten. The Rev. Tune said that later it was discovered that Melvin and Vivian Tesson had also brought ten people and so they will be awarded a plaque. The Rev. Tune also presented Mayor Reagan with a corsage.

The month of October was a great month for the Sunday School. It was awarded first place in division G for the National Sunday School Campaign. There was a 69.12% increase.



GRACE CHURCH CAME ALIVE IN '85

Grace Free Will Baptist Church in Arnold, Missouri has been enjoying the presence of the Lord, with souls being saved at the altars, writes Leaman Killian, church reporter.

Revival services were held October 7-11 with Reverend Joe Grizzle, from Norman, Oklahoma serving as evangelist. The revival theme was Revival and Family Life. The building was nearly full for each service. Each service was more challenging than the one before. Many folks came for dedication, rededication and for profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.



Grace Young People Putting Up Placards

October was the month for our Sunday School campaign. The average attendance was 207. The Final Sunday was "Friend Day". The youth of the church put up placards all over the church except in the auditorium. It was an eventful month. Thank God for Brother Joe Govreau, our youth pastor. He is doing a tremendous job with the young people. The youth have recently started publishing a monthly News Letter and it is very effective in giving the news and spreading the gospel.

Now, let me mention the reason why the Lord has been blessing in such a wonderful way. The church has been praying. For six weeks during September and October there were five homes opened for Cottage Prayer Meetings. Each one was well attended, and the presence of the Holy Spirit was felt in each service.

As I think back to the request of the pastor in the beginning of 1985 it reminds that it has come to pass. He said, "Let's come alive in '85". I believe that we have done that at the Grace Church. May the Lord continue to bless our church and all the Gem readers as we work for Him. Reverend Glen Rehkop is the pastor of the church.

EIGHT STUDENTS SELECTED FOR WHO'S WHO

The 1986 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges will include the names of eight students from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. They join an elite group of students selected from more than fourteen thousand institutions of higher learning in all fifty states and several foreign nations. From Missouri, Curtis Dale Holland was named this year.

IMPORTANT EVENTS AT HILLSDALE

February 24-16 Bible Conference (Additional Information Forthcoming)

March 21 & 22 On Campus Days

April 18 & 19 Missouri Teen Retreat (Niangua, MO)

FOR SALE: Church Bus, 1968 International, V/8, 42 passenger, clean, like new tires and paint. Contact-Rev. Johnny Hale, 918-371-6243

RANDALL HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

Aunt Ruth's Puppet Scripts (Book 1) are scheduled for release by end of February. These versatile materials are packed full of Bible truth with down-to-earth applications for children's everyday living. This self-contained format allows easy access and portability. It retails at \$14.95

The Sunshine Basket, a booklet containing thirty-one meditations on Scripture is the title of a soon-to-be released devotional for shut-in's. The freelance writer, Lula MacPherson Guthrie, writes out of personal knowledge and experience. It would be ideal for physically handicapped persons. It retails for \$1.95

FWBBC ENJOYS GREAT MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

Both, National Home Missions Department officials and the administration of Free Will Baptist Bible College, agree that the recent Missionary Conference held at the college was outstanding in every respect.

Home Missions Associate Director, Tryman Messor said that it was the greatest missions conference they had ever had. He thanked the administration for hosting the conference and said that "gracious words of encouragement from the school's staff were a boost to the Home Missions Department and the missionaries". President Thigpen agreed with Brother Messor's evaluation. "It was one of the best ever", he said.

Free Will Baptist Bible College hosts an annual Missionary Conference each fall and alternates between the Home and Foreign missions fields.

IMPORTANT EVENT AT SOUTHEASTERN COLLEGE

March 30 - April 2 Evangelism Conference (Additional information forthcoming)

MISSOURI STUDENTS AT FWBBC MAKE DEAN'S LIST

On the Dean's List for the Honor Roll from Missouri: Travis Harrison, Flat River; Melanie Forrester Harvey, St. Louis; Allen Pointer, Springfield; Julia Ritter, Farmington; and Donna Reeves, Farmington.

FWBBC BIBLE CONFERENCE MARCH 9-13

Free Will Baptist Bible College will hold its annual Bible Conference, March 9-13 on campus. The featured speakers are Dr. John Whitcomb, Dr. Howard Vickers, Reverend Ralph Hampton and Reverend Bob Shockey.

Points for Pastors

by James McAllister

Most churches suffer because of lack of financial support. To hear some of our people talk, you would think we are a poor people. Well, we aren't. Actually, we are a wealthy people. Our homes, cars, furniture, and bank accounts prove it. Our people, including preachers, take expensive vacations, go to the Holy Land, and send our children to expensive colleges. We aren't poor.

Then why do our churches suffer with small offerings, and our denominational ministers suffer so greatly with depleted bank accounts? I submit that it is due to a failure on our part as pastors and leaders to obey the Lord.

First, we disobey by not developing a biblical method of stewardship. We have failed miserably in this area, and no one seems to care. We suffer in every area of our ministry because of a lack of money, and yet we do nothing about it. Surely somewhere there is a leader that can lead us out of this tragic failure.

Second, we disobey by not tithing and giving. An older man asked me one time what I thought he should do with several hundred acres of property. Taxes were eating him up, inflation meant a big tax if he sold it, and his children didn't want it. When I suggested giving it to the Lord's work, he said, "Well, I'm not going to do that." We simply have become adept at stealing from God. Surely we will have to answer to God for this sin.

Third, we still give on emotional impulse and not in obedience to God's will. We give to a particular missionary, to buy a new piano, or to a favorite evangelist or music group. We seldom give because God's word tells us to give.

Fourth, we can't seem to understand that God has a cause great enough to cause us to sacrifice. Our new TV's, cars, guns, clothes, and vacations are much more important to us (including we preachers) than the cause of Jesus Christ.

There is a way to support the entire program of God's church. It's called tithing. Every Christian is commanded by the Lord to tithe. Every church should tithe through the cooperative plan of support, and then members and churches alike should give offerings and gifts to support God's church. There will come a day of reckoning for Free Will Baptists.

Dr. Whitcomb is professor of Theology and Old Testament and director of Doctoral Studies at Grace Theological Seminary in Winona Lake, Indiana. His messages will center on Scientific Creationism, opposing the theory of evolution which is prominent in the teaching and philosophy of today. Dr. Vickers is professor of Missions and Church History and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tennessee. Reverend Ralph Hampton and Reverend Bob Shockey serve on the college faculty and are well known throughout the denomination.

GOSPEL GENERATION SINGERS

Curtis Barton, manager, Gospel Generation Singers, writes, this past year we have sung for several County Fairs, at Dogpatch USA, political gatherings for the State of Arkansas and of course many churches. The purpose of this singing group is to do that which the Lord would have us do.

The Gospel Generation Singers has a variety of talent. Gary and Joyce Smith and their son Matt, Loren Barton, plays bass guitar as well as sings, Randall Lovelace writes as well as sings. Linda and I have managed this group for several years but we have never been as excited as we are now.



Gospel Generations

If you need some good family entertainment for your gatherings, please contact us at this phone number, 417-256-0001.

Essentials of Evangelism

by Stanley Jones



There is a growing concern today over the moral decline in America. While this concern is a just one and one shared by this writer, I have another concern with this problem. Or, I should say, I have a concern with the proposed solution to the problem.

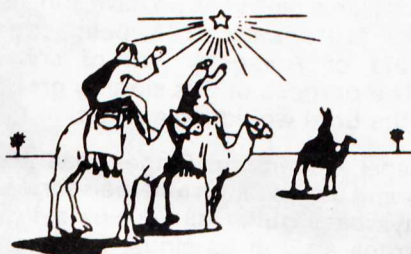
Many people are eager to get involved with "cleaning up America" or joining the Moral Majority or taking a pornograph statistical report in hand and picketing their local convenience store or censoring text books. But I hope these attacks on the moral problem of our society are not a cop out.

Now you may think I am opposed to trying to make America a better place in which to live. But, that's not

the case. I have worked on local moral problems even when it was not popular among fellow ministers. And the future may find me at it again. But, I don't believe that riding the moral issue band wagon is the whole of the solution.

It is my conclusion that the solution to the moral problem of America is less than adequate unless it includes a healthy heaping of evangelism. A man and nation may be conformed to a particular standard through legislation, but it takes conversion of the soul to transform a life and change the moral conviction. In fact I believe it is somewhat hypocritical for a Moral Majority member not to be involved in winning souls on a personal basis.

Let's clean up America! But, while we are involved in secondary projects, we surely must be involved in the primary effort of changing America by changing hearts through evangelism.



Christmas Greetings From Our Missionaries

DONNIE and RUTH McDONALD — Thank you for your prayers and gifts. From our financial status, at present, it will be impossible for us to leave for Japan in December. We lack approximately \$12,000 in cash and \$1,300 in faith commitments.

STAN and BRENDA BUNCH — Thanks for being so faithful. We have plans to depart for Panama January 20, 1986. Also in January we will be taking Alicia to see the orthopedic surgeon in Columbia, Missouri. Please pray for her.

STEVE and JUDY LYTLE — During the Christmas Season we pray God's richest blessings will be yours. Thank you for your daily prayers, letters and faithful financial support.

BILL and PEGGY ADKISSON — Thank you for your generosity in meeting the needs of our account. Pray for us that we will see a self-supporting church established here.

VERNON and ADA LONG — We wish you and yours a joyous Christmas season and a New Year overflowing with the blessings and sustaining love of the Lord. Thanks for your love, prayers and faithful support.

VERGEL and ALENE MANESS — Thank you for all you do to help support the work here in Vineland. We experienced an increase in every service in September over the previous month.

CARLISLE and MARIE HANNA — We send special thanks to all of you that helped us to get back to India

on schedule. Prayers were answered in regard to customs and police registration. Our church attendance in Sonapurhat continues to be very good.

BILL and GLENDA FULCHER — Thank you for your prayers and financial support. We want to continue this work and trust that you will stand with us. We desperately need your help. We had a high attendance of 90 in October and an average of 66.

FRED and EVELYN HERSEY — Wishing you, our friends and supporters a very Merry Christmas. We are grateful for the opportunities we have to proclaim the old, old story — Christ the Saviour is born.

CLINT and LYNETTE MORGAN — Our address is now 606 McDonald Ct., Nashville, TN 32712. Lynette is suffering from severe fatigue. She seems to be regaining her strength. Leaving the Ivory Coast was difficult for us. Thanks for your prayers and support.

WALTER and MARCIA ELLISON — Thank you for your sincere devotion in praying and supporting our effort in spreading the gospel. In August we began the Bible Institute here in Montevideo, in order that the nationals could be trained. Many missionaries in South America feel that the day is coming when missionaries from North America will not be welcome. So, we need to train these that we win to the Lord.

BOB and ROSA LEE THOMAS — Greetings and thank you for what you have given to the work in Ft. Collins. Your faithfulness has enabled us to devote much of our time to the work of winning souls and training them in

the Lord. We had a good month in October with new families attending, one saved and one rededication.

BOBBY and GENEVA POOLE — For 25 years we have been blessed with your faithfulness. We know that God has been faithful in rewarding your faithfulness. May you have the Spirit of Christmas which is peace, the gladness of Christmas which is hope, and the heart of Christmas which is love.

KEN and MARVIS EAGLETON, SR. — Free Will Baptist missionaries continue to herald the angels' song, as we celebrate the 1985 Christmas season. We will be remembering especially your faithfulness in praying and giving to missions.

DALE and SANDRA BISHOP — Once more we would like to thank you for your faithfulness to the Lord and for your faithfulness in praying for and supporting the work in Japan. We are presently working in two new areas of Sapporo. The first place has a Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. and the other at 3:00 p.m. (Sunday).

LONNIE and ANITA SPARKS — We are reminded once again of the time when "the dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give us light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet in the way of peace." (Luke 1:78b, 79) Thanks for your support, and may your hearts glow brightly with the joy like that of long ago.

LARRY and PRISCILLA INSCOE — Seasons Greetings to everyone. On October 9, six of our recent converts followed the Lord in baptism. Several more plan to be baptized. Our account is still a thousand dollars deficit. We would appreciate your effort in helping to meet this need. We are so thankful for what you have done.

Minute Meditation

by Gene Crewse



"For Mordecai the Jew was next unto King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethern, seeking the wealth of his people and speaking peace to all his seed." Esther 10:3

I spoke of this verse at our last Quarterly Meeting and felt impressed to share it in this article. I have become more aware of the fact that if God's work is to be carried on in His way, we need men such as Mordecai.

There are four things I will bring to your attention about this man. First, notice his position. The scripture says he "was next unto King Ahasuerus and great among the Jews." He was a leader of the people of God which carried a great deal of responsibility but earned him respect from the people.

Secondly, notice his personality. He was "accepted of the multitude of his brethern." Just as Paul became all things to all people and Christ increased in favor with God and man, we need men with like personalities. It is not impossible to have compassion for people without compromise of principles.

Third, we see his purpose as "seeking the wealth of the people." Some electronic preachers have interpreted this to mean 'take all they have.' We need men who will seek the welfare of the people instead of the whims of the pastor.

Finally, we see his proclamation as, "speaking peace to all his seed." Just as Christ proclaimed and left his peace, so must the man of God. Even in conflicts the peace of Christ must be proclaimed.



Financial Information



COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS OCTOBER 1985

18.50%	Mo. State Home Missions	\$4,361.23
17.00%	Exec. Office & Gem	4,007.61
3.50%	General Fund	825.10
10.50%	Youth Camp	2,475.30
1.75%	Christian Bd. of Educ.	412.55
1.75%	SS & CTS Board	412.55
2.50%	Retirement Village	589.36
5.00%	Mo. State Ret. Program	1,178.71
39.50%	Nat'l. Assoc. & Hillsdale	9,311.82

(Hillsdale \$1,414.45)

Foreign Missions

Free Will Baptist Bible College

National Home Missions

Executive Office

Board of Retirement & Insurance

Layman's Board

Theological Commission

Total \$23,574.23

With a heart full of gratitude we give thanks to the Lord for His wonderful blessings on His ministry and our labor. May He continue to bless those who labor so faithfully in supporting the total ministries in our state and national work through cooperative giving.

OCTOBER 1985 GIVING COOPERATIVE AND DESIGNATED

(* More than one check)

Oskaloosa	\$	42.61
Marshfield		168.46

Victory, Alton	235.00
Columbia	25.00
Hartville *	478.81
New Life, O'Fallon *	950.00
Union Light	191.23
Mine La Motte *	63.96
Pleasant Ridge	90.00
Leadington	600.00
Fordland	575.00
United, West Plains	363.64
Old Bethel	167.63
Fredericktown, First	252.00
Trinity	407.32
Flat River, First	849.61
Olivet *	600.00
Lebanon, First	483.58
Unity	170.94
Seymour	156.00
Hickory Grove	43.00
Union Grove	158.00

Belton	211.60
Berkeley	420.85
Bethel	455.00
Number One	37.83
Eastern Gate	162.81
Lone Star	40.08
Mt. Zion, Gower	66.10
Mt. Pisgah	150.00
Bailey Chapel	48.00
Royal Oak	31.00
Springfield, First	113.00
Hurryville	135.00
Wilderness	316.35
New Harmony *	17.84
Parkview	363.40
El Dorado Springs, First	5.00
Calvary Chapel	208.00
West Plains, First	102.00
South Fremont	426.00
Mill Creek	205.06
Berean *	31.98
Hopewell	162.00
Oak Hill, Fredericktown	88.91
Faith, Lemay	142.00
Monett	732.37
De Soto	760.00
Gospel Light	216.00
Terrill Road	207.00
Grace	1,143.00
Freeman Chapel	152.33
Viburnum *	475.63
Rock Chapel	292.36
Richwoods	446.00
Aulsbury Chapel	230.18
Cabool	336.27
Pleasant Home	327.64
Pleasant Hill	58.74
Verdella *	363.65
New Hope, Fredericktown	525.59
Beacon *	1,544.92
Black Oak	10.00
Lingo	40.77
Wolf Creek	256.51
Grant Avenue	620.76
Myrtle	224.96
New Rock Springs *	151.70
Byrd	66.00
Happy Home	537.22
Hannon *	538.28
Cape Girardeau	564.77
Thayer	578.00
Neosho	71.25
Merl's Chapel	80.55
Joplin	355.85
Willow Springs	263.46
Interest on Account	165.74
Total	\$23,574.23

MISSOURI STATE YOUTH CAMP

Oskaloosa	\$ 20.00
Victory, Alton	25.00
Leadington	20.00
Trinity	30.33
Olivet	50.00
Lebanon, First	17.34
New Rock Springs	20.00
Hannon	30.00
Bethel, Festus	490.00
Berkeley	25.00
Thayer	20.00
Mt. Pisgah	10.00
Coon Creek	10.00
Greater Springfield Assoc.	34.00
Verdella	20.00
Bethel, El Dorado	13.88
Wolf Creek	10.00
Myrtle	37.50
Bob & Glenda Keith	10.00
Total	\$893.05

JOHN McCLURE ACCOUNT

Monett	\$220.00
Bethel, Festus	20.00
Total	\$240.00

CHILDREN'S HOME

Myrtle	\$7.00
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NAT'L. BOARD OF RET. & INS.

Grant Avenue	\$1.00
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FOREIGN MISSIONS

Oskaloosa	\$ 94.00
Marshfield	5.00
Columbia	21.50
Pleasant Ridge	20.00
Leadington	285.00
Fordland	80.00
Fredericktown, First	5.00
Trinity	271.46
Flat River, First	185.81
Olivet	100.00
Belton	25.00
Hannon	762.05
Clifford Hoover	30.00
Brent & Cindy Thompson	50.00
Berkeley	156.00
Bethel	65.00
Thayer	26.00
Joplin	10.00
New Harmony	118.90
United, W. P.	28.67
West Plains, First	83.00
South Fremont	80.00
Monett	717.82
Fourth	110.00
Eastern Gate	10.00
Freeman Chapel	308.00
Viburnum	327.08
Rock Chapel	10.00
Pleasant Home	46.25
Liberty, Phillipsburg	100.03
Verdella	1,133.84
Beacon	2,088.50
Black Oak	76.76
South Side	355.00
Faith Chapel	10.00
Myrtle	72.00
Lebanon, First	15.00
Indian Creek Assoc.	158.50
Grant Avenue	450.00
Total	\$8,491.17

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Beacon	\$225.00
Grant Avenue	50.00
Leadington	20.00
Total	\$295.00

HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Hannon	\$100.00
Willow Springs	20.00
Beacon	225.00
Grant Avenue	10.00
Total	\$355.00

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Marshfield	\$ 5.00
Columbia	21.50
Leadington	115.00
Fordland	35.00
Olivet	40.00
Berkeley	232.00
Bethel, Festus	90.00
Thayer	101.60
Mt. Pisgah	50.00
Joplin	166.00
South Fremont	2.00
United, West Plains	25.00
Lebanon, First	100.00
Monett	140.00
Viburnum	178.00
Rock Chapel	139.11
Wolf Creek	10.00
Grant Avenue	23.00
Myrtle	73.00

Bob & Glenda Keith	10.00
Indian Creek Assoc.	10.00
Total	\$1,566.21

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS

Marshfield	\$ 5.00
Columbia	5.00
Pleasant Ridge	10.00
Leadington	65.00
Trinity	50.00
Flat River, First	72.36
Olivet	400.00
Belton	25.00
Hannon	361.14
Berkeley	120.00
Bethel, Festus	30.00
Thayer	25.00
Joplin	100.00
New Harmony	59.46
United, West Plains	33.68
West Plains, First	25.00
South Fremont	17.00
Monett	124.62
Viburnum	2.00
Rock Chapel	10.00
Verdella	15.00
Beacon	698.00
Myrtle	42.50
Lebanon, First	15.00
Bethel, El Dorado	71.00
Indian Creek Assoc.	35.00
Total	\$2,416.76

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS NOVEMBER 1985

18.50%	Mo. State Home Missions	\$3,791.17
17.00%	Executive Office & Gem	3,483.78
3.50%	General Fund	717.25
10.50%	Youth Camp	2,151.75
1.75%	Christian Board of Education	358.62
1.75%	SS & CTS Board	358.62
2.50%	Retirement Village	512.32
5.00%	Mo. State Ret. Program	1,024.64
39.50%	Nat'l. Assoc. & Hillsdale	8,094.66
	(Hillsdale \$1,229.57)	
	Foreign Missions	
	Free Will Baptist Bible College	
	National Home Missions	
	Executive Office	
	Board of Retirement & Insurance	
	Layman's Board	
	Theological Commission	
Total		\$20,492.81

This month is the eleventh month of this year, which means that we are nearing the end. The Lord has blessed over and over again, and we are so thankful. Based on the cooperative gifts received thus far, if next month is a normal month, we will reach our goal for this year. I stand amazed and awed at that which the Lord is doing. He continues to bless through the faithfulness of His people. May the Lord bless every pastor and lay person who has a burden for cooperative and designated giving. We humbly pray His continued blessings. Please continue to remember this ministry in your daily prayers.

NOVEMBER 1985 GIVING COOPERATIVE AND DESIGNATED

Calvary, Conway	\$ 152.00
Mine La Motte	35.67
Fordland	485.00
Farmington	1,150.00
Bethel, Festus	342.00
Trinity	354.70

Cope	34.70
Bailey Chapel	39.00
Lone Star	33.19
Walnut Grove	95.00
El Dorado Springs, First	5.00
Number One	37.40
Pleasant Ridge	68.00
Macedonia	20.00
Springfield, First	100.00
Harmony, K.C.	328.00
Victory, Alton	195.00
Royal Oak	48.00
Sedalia	20.35
Parkview	236.00
Fredericktown, First	272.00
St. Francois District	19.50
Berkeley	338.22
Eastern Gate	188.95
Belton	227.07
Mill Creek	160.72
Tyrone	43.92
United, W.P.	297.69
Marshfield	147.15
West Plains, First	79.00
Freeman Chapel	125.55
Oak Hill, St. Clair	172.62
Houston	240.00
Houston	164.00
Salem	60.00
Union Grove	140.00
Gospel Light	180.00
De Soto	760.00
New Hope, Fredericktown	370.13
Cabool	298.15
Flat River, First	593.12
Mt. Zion, Gower	52.74
Hurryville	154.00
Rolla	171.28
Olivet	300.00
Leadington	550.00
Faith, Lemay	88.00
Seymour	155.00
Black Oak	35.00
Rock Chapel	248.06
Hopewell	190.00
Pleasant Home	163.42
Columbia	25.00
Wolf Creek	215.05
Mt. Pisgah	112.00
Copper Mines	178.59
Calvary Chapel	140.60
Grace	867.00
Lingo	36.72
Grant Avenue	496.25
Koshkonong	170.00
Pleasant Hill	60.73
Cope	41.85
Hartville	223.59
New Rock Springs	59.55
Tyrone	44.88
New Life, Fellowship	421.00
Myrtle	138.02
Union Grove	145.00
Lone Star	31.75
Waynesville	111.17
Number One	39.50
Hannon	278.42
Bethel, Festus	334.00
Trinity	335.85
Mill Creek	175.99
Harmony	473.00
Fordland	590.00
Hazel Creek	249.79
Beacon	1,010.59
Farmington	1,150.00
Interest on account	192.54
Cape Girardeau	296.46
Lebanon, First	407.88
Unity	309.00
South Fremont	366.00
Total	\$20,492.81

MISSOURI STATE YOUTH CAMP

Farmington	\$130.00
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Bethel	72.08
Trinity	60.66
Victory, Alton	25.00
Berkeley	25.00
Olivet	25.00
Bethel, El Dorado Spg.	13.88
Leadington	20.00
Coon Creek	10.00
Wolf Creek	10.00
Mt. Pisgah	10.00
Lebanon, First	25.00
New Rock Springs	10.00
Myrtle	30.00
Hannon	15.00
Total	\$481.62

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Leadington	\$20.00
Houston	20.00
Grant Avenue	50.00
Total	\$90.00

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Fordland	\$ 70.00
Farmington	165.00
Bethel, Festus	100.81
Trinity	20.00
Harmony, K.C.	63.00
Berkeley	165.00
United, West Plains	35.00
South East District	100.00
Marshfield	5.00
Houston	55.78
Olivet	20.00
Rock Chapel	257.42
Pleasant Home	30.00
Leadington	115.00
Columbia	30.17
Wolf Creek	10.00
Mt. Pisgah	50.00
Mission, 1st Quarterly	250.00
Black Oak	90.21
Grant Avenue	2.00
Myrtle	148.00
Total	\$1,782.39

MISSOURI STATE HOME MISSIONS

Farmington	\$ 155.00
Bethel, Festus	217.00
Trinity	760.00
Pleasant Ridge	10.00
O'Fallon	5.00
Sedalia	25.00
Grace	70.00
Berkeley	67.00
Belton	25.00
United, W.P.	41.70
Marshfield	5.00
West Plains, First	30.00
Flat River, First	20.00
Olivet	70.00
Hartville	72.50
Leadington	170.00
Rock Chapel	10.00
Pleasant Home	5.00
Columbia	5.00
Berkeley	138.68
Eastern Gate	100.00
Grant Avenue	2.00
Unity	100.00
Lebanon, First	278.00
Myrtle	35.00
Fordland	271.55
Hannon	154.21
Beacon	370.00
Harmony, K.C.	40.00
Total	\$3,252.64

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Myrtle	\$ 107.00
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Clifford Hoover	30.00
Cindy Thompson	25.00
Hannon	344.63
Niangua	31.65
Bethel, Festus	70.00
Trinity	179.17
Fordland	50.00
Beacon	330.66
Monett	525.00
Farmington	879.00
Lebanon, First	100.00
Pleasant Ridge	35.00
South Side	340.00
O'Fallon	5.00
Harmony, K.C.	5.00
Sedalia	20.00
Berkeley	165.00
Eastern Gate	10.00
Belton	25.00
United, W.P.	34.70
South Fremont	55.00
West Plains, First	57.00
Freeman Chapel	279.65
Houston	125.00
Flat River, First	28.00
Olivet	50.00
Leadington	270.00
Faith Chapel	10.00
Pleasant Home	25.00
Columbia	479.51
Grant Avenue	206.00
Fourth	135.00
Total	\$5,031.97

HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Houston	\$40.00
Grant Avenue	8.00
Hannon	50.00
Total	\$98.00

NAT'L. BOARD OF RETIREMENT & INS.

Grant Avenue	\$1.00
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CHILDREN'S HOME

Myrtle	\$2.10
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JOHN McCLURE

Farmington	\$65.00
Bethel, Festus	30.00
Total	\$95.00

You support your state
university
with your taxes.



How do you support your
Bible College?

Calendar Of Events

ADVANCE CELEBRATION:

Training Seminar for District Coordinators,
Tuesday, February 4, 1985, 10:00 a.m.

Place: First Free Will Baptist Church, Lebanon, Mo.
3rd & Van Buren

"Launch The Advance Celebration,"
Sunday, March 16, 1985

"Victory Sunday," Sunday, April 27, 1985.

Every church is asked to receive a special offering for the Advance Celebration Project. Hopefully, much of the goal of \$100,000 will be reached. We will be hearing more about this Foreign Missions Project from the co-directors, Reverend Millard Sasser and Reverend Tim Eaton, as they visit the Quarterly Meetings and District Associations.

MISSOURI STATE COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES will be held at the Monett Free Will Baptist Church, Saturday, May 3, 1985.

ROLL CALL SUNDAY, March 30, 1985.

ENTRIES FOR STATE COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES,
April 15, 1985, deadline.

ENTRIES FOR NOMINATIONS, TEACHER AND SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR,
April 15, 1985, deadline.

MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES, June 2 - June 5, 1985.

Woman's Auxiliary and Church Growth Services
Place: Nelson Community Center, Bland Road,
Lebanon, Missouri

YOUTH CAMP:

Pre-Teens

Group I June 15 - 20

Group II June 22 - 27

Teens:

Group I August 3 - 8

Group II August 10 - 15

Cost: Same as last year. Adult worker - \$15.00;
Camper - \$25.00.

**MO. STATE ASSOC. OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS**
303 West Commercial
Lebanon, Missouri 65536

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
INDEP. MO. 64050
PERMIT NO. 331