

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Volume 60, No. 11, November 1990



"Sing unto the Lord with Thanksgiving"

(Psalm 147:7)

Forget Not All His Benefits

Psalms 103:1-5

by Clarence Burton

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord O, my soul, and forget not all His benefits:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases:

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies;

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagles."

President George Washington, the first president, made this First Thanksgiving Proclamation: Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly implore His protection, aid and favors....Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these states to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the Beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His care and protection of people of this country and for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

Signed — George Washington, 1789

Thanksgiving Day! A national holiday in the United States, commemorating the harvest of the Plymouth Colony in 1621. To be sure they did not have what we have today, and they did not have what many others in the world enjoyed, but they recognized that everything they had was a gift and blessing from God. They did not forget! They thanked God!

President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, again amid difficulty, officially proclaimed the last Thursday of November as the day set apart for the national giving of thanks to Almighty God.

I am thankful that we have this day set aside as a day in which we give special thanks to God for all His benefits. Sure I know, I agree, that every day ought to be a day of Thanksgiving, and for the genuine Christian surely it is. But, I am also grateful for, and enjoy Thanksgiving Day. In my home as a boy, and in my home as a father this has been a time for the family to get together. What wonderful memories I have, as a child, when grandpa and grandma, uncles and aunts, and cousins met together to visit, to sing, to play, and to gather around the table that was filled with meat, potatoes, beans, corn, greens, cornbread, chocolate cake, mincemeat, and yes, pumpkin pie! Grandpa led in a prayer of Thanksgiving. He spoke slowly and sometimes his voice quivered with emotion as he led all of us in thanking God for His abundant blessings!

This time together on Thanksgiving taught me by precept and example that God is the Giver and we are the receiver of every good and perfect gift! I have endeavored to pass this on to my children and grandchildren.

The Scripture teaches that we are to be grateful. The Lord spoke through Isaiah (1:2, 3), "Hear O heavens and give ear O earth; for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner and the ass his master's crib; but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider." They were guilty of the sin of base ingratitude!

In Luke 17:11-19 the account is given of the ten lepers who were healed by Jesus. And one fell down on his face and at the feet of Jesus, and thanked Him for healing him of the awful disease. And Jesus said, "...but where are the nine?" The apostle Paul states, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father..." (Eph. 5:20).

Let us give special thanks for:

I. Life

Carlyle said, "Every man should put himself at zero, and then reckon every degree upward from that point as an occasion for thanks." Precisely on that scale does the Bible compute our mercies. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed," the Bible states.

A young lady, alone and lonely in St. Louis, was walking in a shopping mall, becoming more depressed as the minutes passed by, feeling sorry for herself. She met a man on crutches, who had only one leg; she met a little girl trying to walk with her tiny legs in braces; she met a young boy with only one arm and a "nub" for another; and, she met a young lady, presumably about her age, paralyzed from her neck down, who was being pushed in a wheelchair. She stopped, she cried, and then she said, "Forgive me Lord for being so ungrateful — I am rich!"

II. Love

Just one verse of Scripture that expresses so wonderfully God's love for us, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) This verse shows that God's love is Expensive — (His Son), Extensive (Whosoever will) and Eternal (Everlasting life).

III. Liberty

Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

The Truth has made the believer free from:

A. The Penalty of Sin. Jesus said, "He that believeth on

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Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." In Christ I am free from the penalty! Thank God for this freedom.

B. The Pleasure of Sin. The apostle Paul said, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new." (2 Cor. 5:17) The pleasure of sin no longer has the tug and pull that it once had. The believer has a new nature, a new desire and a new motive. Thank God for this freedom!

C. (Shall ultimately be saved from) The Presence of Sin. The apostle John states, "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever

worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Rev. 21:27) It is difficult to imagine what it will be like to live in a place where no sin, absolutely no sin, can enter. Thank God the Bible, God's Holy Word, speaks explicitly about this city whose builder and maker is God. How beautiful Heaven must be: the home of the happy and free; fair haven of rest for the weary. How beautiful Heaven must be! What a day that will be, when my Jesus I shall see. When I look upon his face; the One Who saved me by His grace. When He takes my by the hand and leads me to that Promised Land. What a day, glorious day, that will be!

Thankful! Yes, praise God from Whom all blessings flow!



Reports from the Churches

BLESSINGS AT GRACE CHURCH — The Grace Free Will Baptist Church, Arnold, Missouri, continues to grow, writes Leamon Killian, church reporter. Recently, several have been baptized and united with the church. The church is looking forward to revival services with Rev. Bob Thomas. The pastor, Rev. Glen Rekhop, is working very hard to make this one of the best revivals the church has ever experienced.

The summer slump is over and the church is trusting that the attendance will increase and that as the church increases numerically it will grow spiritually.



Rev. & Mrs. Nauman, Dale Huddle (left side), Sunday School Superintendent, and members of the church.

MYRTLE CHURCH CELEBRATES 87TH ANNIVERSARY — On Sunday, October 14, 1990, the Myrtle Free Will Baptist Church held its annual Homecoming Service in observance of its 87th Anniversary.

Rev. George Nauman, pastor, gave members and friends of the church a warm welcome at the beginning of the Morning Worship. He introduced Rev. Clarence Burton to deliver the Morning Message. He used as his subject "The Blessed Church." He commended the Myrtle Church for its faithfulness in serving the Lord in that community, and for the outreach of the church in its support of the State and National ministries through cooperative and designated giving. The Myrtle Free Will



The pastor and his wife, and former members.

Baptist Church is the "home" church for Vivian Burton who lived in that community until she graduated from high school.

The ladies served a delicious noon meal in the Fellowship Hall.

At the afternoon service the pastor introduced Kelly and Pam Johnson for the special music and singing. They blessed the congregation with fine gospel music.

It was a good day "in the Lord" with hearts warmed and pleasant memories rekindled.



Children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of the late Finis and Lillie Sorrell.



Rev. & Mrs. Burton with former members of the church.



Program Personalities



Anniversary Gathering



Rev. & Mrs. Cooper, and members of the church.



Rev. Ronnie Graham - grandson of former pastor.

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT NEW HARMONY

— On Sunday, September 30, 1990, the New Harmony Free Will Baptist Church celebrated its 100th Anniversary! Former members, along with the members and friends of the church, came from California, Nebraska, Iowa and downstate Missouri for the celebration. It was a large crowd that brought with them excitement and joy for this special occasion. The morning service began with a congregational singing. Rev. Archie Cooper, pastor, led in the Invocation Prayer.

Doyle Talbert, member of the church, served as director for the day's activities. He introduced Oda Beall who read a delightful poem, "Country Church." Following this, Kelly Fry sang a beautiful song, "Forever Friends." Mr. & Mrs. Beall directed an enjoyable skit, "In The Beginning." The play characters were Joe Summers, David Summers, Curtis Talbert and Chris Talbert. (The short 3-act play presented a brief history of the building of the church building.)

Two former pastors were introduced by Rev. Cooper: Sister Sharpless and Rev. Noel Turner. They gave cordial greetings to the church and congregation. Following this, Cathy Lindquist presented, on behalf of the New Harmony Church, a plaque to Rev. Cooper, Sister Sharpless, and Rev. Turner. A plaque was also presented to Rev. Burton as a representative of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists. This was followed by a beautiful medley of songs by the Buchanan Sisters (Elaine Turner, Louise Gregory, Annabelle White and Martha Ross).

Rev. Clarence Burton, state executive secretary, was introduced by Brother Talbert to deliver the Morning Message. Rev. Burton recognized Brother Cooper and his wife, Sister Cooper, for the commendable work they had done in serving the New Harmony Church and the contribution they had made to the ministry of the Northeast District Association. The congregation responded with a standing applause for the Coopers. Brother Burton used as his Scripture Text, Phillipians 1:6. The Lord Commenced a Work, He Continued a Work and He will Complete His Work.

Following a delicious dinner served under a tent, near the church building, the Afternoon Service began with the congregation singing "Sweet Hour of Prayer." A beautiful special in song was presented by Ada Lindquist and Jennifer Jackson. Rev. Monte Peterson gave an interesting "Reminiscent Rememberings" of boyhood days at New Harmony Church. The Wildwood Quartet presented a very enjoyable Gospel Concert to climax the wonderful day's activities. As someone so correctly stated, "It was a beautiful day, with sweet fellowship, and the memories will linger long."



The pastor - Rev. Cooper & former pastors.



Frank and Debbie Webster with ones baptized.

NEOSHO CHURCH CONTINUES TO GROW — At a Water Baptism Service the First Free Will Baptist Church, Neosho, Missouri, baptized eight young people who recently made profession of faith in Jesus.

The pastor, Rev. Bob Hudson, stated that these young converts were influenced to accept Christ as Saviour through the ministry of the Youth Minister and his wife, Frank and Debbie Webster. Frank is a student at Crowder College and serving as part-time Youth Minister. He has been licensed as a Free Will Baptist Minister. Debbie is employed as an elementary school teacher. They have two children, Tara and Lisa.

The Youth Department has grown to the 20's for the Sunday Morning and the 30's for the Wednesday Evening Service, states the pastor.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED AT WILDERNESS CHURCH — Ruthene Simpson, church reporter, writes, Sunday, August 12th, was a very special day for the Wilderness Free Will Baptist Church located northeast of Alton, and a member of the Cave Springs Association. It was a day set aside by the church to observe its 50th anniversary as a member of the Cave Springs Free Will Baptist Association. Although the church has been active for probably over 100 years, this was the first celebration of its existence. To observe this occasion, the church decided to have an all day singing with dinner on the ground. And what a day it was!!

The day was a beautiful day, with the sun shining and a cool breeze blowing. The men of the church fixed breakfast at the community center for the visiting singers while everyone prepared a meal to take for noon. The services started at 10:00 and the church was full. Approximately 100 people attended the morning service and God's Word was preached in song. The special music was presented by the original Believer's Quartet from St. Louis which had re-organized just for this occasion. The quartet consisted of James Dodson of Wilderness, Finis Barr and Doyle Fullbright of St. Louis and Frank Atchison of Williamsville. Singing with the Believers in the morning service also was the Leroy Chronister Quartet from Alton. This quartet is made of Leroy Chronister, Judy and Darrell Holman, and Dwight Holmes, all of Alton. What a good time we had hearing God's praise in song and feeling the sweet spirit of God.

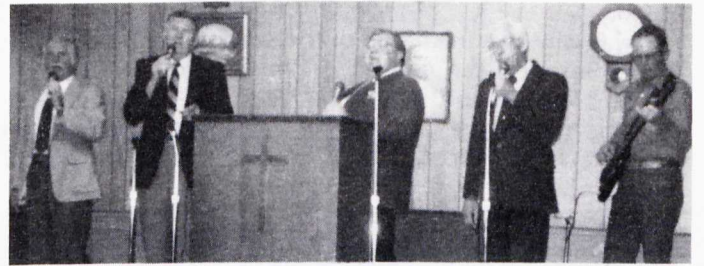
After a bountiful lunch, we assembled again in the church with even more people. We estimated 250 people attending in the afternoon. Starting off the services were the "Voices in the Wilderness" who had made a special effort to reorganize just for this event. This quartet consists of Frances Simpson and her daughters, Donnita Simpson of Creve Couer, Kris Fitchpatrick of Monett, and Leanda Warren of Blue Springs, Mo. Following them the "Believers" once again sang and then the Leroy Chronister Quartet rendered songs of praise. The Believers concluded

the services and the finale was a joint effort by all the groups singing with the congregation. What a good time we had all afternoon.

We don't know for sure, but we estimated that at least 15 churches were represented. Two former pastors were present and many former and present non-resident members were present to celebrate with the church. A church history was written and was available to everyone that attended. And plans are already being made to repeat this day in 50 years, if the Lord delays His coming. The Believers are already booked for that date!!



Leroy Chronister Quartet



Believers Quartet - Ron Scott, pianist



Voices in the Wilderness



25TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED BY THE BLANKS — The First Free Will Baptist Church at West Plains, Mo. held a Surprise Anniversary Party for the pastor and his wife, Ronnie and Linda Blanks, on Sunday, August 19, 1990. (Rev. Blanks was involved in VBS at Wentzville on the date of the anniversary, August 15.)

The church reporter stated, "It was a great day for the pastor and his wife as they celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary. It was also a great day for the church as they shared this memorable experience with this wonderful couple."

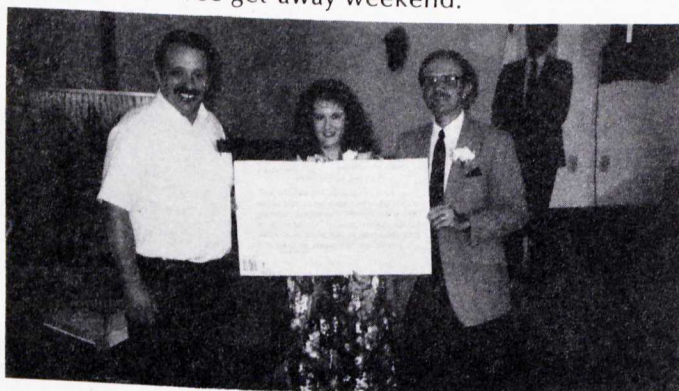
PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY AT OAK HILL — On Sunday, September 16, 1990, the Oak Hill Free Will Baptist Church, near Union, Missouri, held a Pastor Appreciation Day, writes the church reporter. The special day, planned by the entire church family, was a complete surprise for the pastor, Rev. Jay Tilson, and his family.

The Morning Worship Service began with the choir entering the sanctuary with a large Appreciation Banner.



The choir, congregation & banner.

Leroy Bryant was in charge of the service. He recognized Elaine Stringer, the church organist, who read a poem she had written entitled "A Salute to Jay." Flowers were then presented to Jay and Ve Ann. Mark Richardson presented a certificate and cash that entitled the pastor and wife to a "free get-away weekend."



Mark, Ve Ann & Jay.

The special speaker for the occasion was Rev. Clarence Burton who used as his subject "The Pastor." The service was followed with fellowship and a delicious dinner.

Rev. Jay Tilson has served as pastor of the Oak Hill Church for approximately ten years. The church has seen constant growth over the past few years, numerically and spiritually. The folks of the church not only love the Lord, they love each other.



Leroy, Ve Ann & Jay.

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY FOR THE KILLIANS

— On Saturday, September 22, 1990, a 50th Golden Anniversary was held for Leamon and Mildred Killian by friends and family at the Grace Free Will Baptist Church in Arnold, Missouri.

The Fellowship Hall at the Grace Church was beautifully decorated with Love Birds, gold and white table coverings and a beautiful arrangement of flowers. This was done by Wanda and Karla Huett.

The three-tier Wedding Cake was baked and decorated by Ruth Howard. Ruth and Teresa Shoults served as attendants for the cake and punch.

A delicious meal of Ham, Cheese, Potato Salad, Vegetable and Fruit Trays with punch and coffee was served at 4:30 in the afternoon.

Rev. Glen Rehkop, pastor of the church, read a brief history of the Killians' 50 years together.

Over one hundred relatives and friends gathered for the occasion to celebrate with Leamon and Mildred this memorable event.

Leamon and Mildred expressed their thanks for the ones who gathered and for the many beautiful and useful gifts.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Congratulations to a wonderful couple!



SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AVERAGES APRIL - SEPTEMBER 1990

CHURCHES	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
Belton		52	40	52	54	90
Calvary Fellowship	222	196	199	186	189	
Cape Girardeau			62	51	58	81
Central	108	96	105	100		
Copper Mines	70	64	73			
Cuba	66	65	74			
DeSoto		202	195	189	194	200
Farmington	381	361	328	334	359	374
Flat River, First	151	120	119	126	128	
Hannon	90	80	81	84	78	85
Harmony	78	69	68	64	90	75
Hartville	101	102	93	90	98	116
Hopewell			42		40	39
Houston	77	72	77	68	75	68
Lebanon, First	97	82	90	84	88	96
Myrtle	36	37	34	36	30	31
O'Fallon	40	33	38	33	38	44
Parkview	70	60	54	62	53	60
Richwoods	31	33	33	33	34	
Rock Chapel	72	75	81	66	80	
Springfield, First	128	125	122	129	126	117
Thayer	125		116	109	119	121
United, West Plains	203	172	187		189	178
Victory, K.C.	73	72	75	65	71	
Willow Springs	67	65	67		67	71

The above is only a partial listing — there are 170 Free Will Baptist churches in Missouri. Please send your Sunday School average attendance each month, plus those that have been omitted.

Grace Matthews Home With The Lord

Grace Catherine Matthews was born November 7, 1896 in Centralia, Illinois, the daughter of A.J. and Sadie Pitchford. She passed from this life September 26, 1990, at the age of 93. She was a resident of the Stockoff Nursing Home in Fredericktown, Missouri.

She married Dempsey O. Matthews on November 27, 1916 in Fredericktown, Missouri. He preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Naomi Scott; a granddaughter, Agnes Joan Scott; five brothers; and three sisters.

Surviving are sons, Rev. O.D. Matthews, Fredericktown; Paul Matthews, Marquand; Norman Matthews, Cape Girardeau; Don Matthews, St. Louis, Missouri; daughter, Blanche Matthews, Fredericktown; sister, Bernice Luck, Farmington, Missouri; thirteen grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

Chapel Services were held September 29, 1990 at Wilson Funeral Home. Burial was in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery. Reverends James Barker and Joe Braddy were the officiating ministers. Her grandsons served as pallbearers.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sister Grace Matthews was a wonderful Christian. I had the privilege of serving as her pastor, and I know that she will be missed by her family and friends.

The Beauty of Biology by Pam Hudson

There are few doctrines of the Bible that seem more foolish to the natural man than that of supernatural creation. But creation is most definitely one of the supremely important "things of the Spirit of God." The Christian realizes that it is *by faith*, not by empirical observations, that he understands that the ultimate origin of the universe is *ex nihilo*.

The following is a quote from a new (1990) release college level biology textbook: "The sun and the planets probably formed from aggregates of dust particles and debris about 4.6 billion years ago. Intense heat produced by gravitational energy and radioactivity of some atoms caused the earth to become stratified into a core, mantle, and crust." O.K., so

HOW? Pieces of meteorites, rock samples from the moon and from Mars, as well as rock samples from the earth, all *date* about 4.5-4.6 billion years old, and all contain the chemical elements found in *life*.

Is it important to the Christian to realize that the earth in fact is NOT billions, or even millions of years old, but just a few thousand? Should a Christian *be bound* to a strict interpretation of a *literal* six day creation? Can a Christian *back up* scientifically what we believe by faith concerning the ultimate origins of the earth? Emphatically, we respond *yes!*

A number of Biblical references point to the fact that man was created at the same time as the material universe. For example, our Lord states that "from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female" (Mark 10:6). By extensive geneology records in the Bible, we realize that the line from Adam is just not millions of years long, but just a few thousand. Recently genetic researchers have been tracing mitochondrial DNA (a direct inheritance from the mother) and have come to the conclusion that the original *mother* of the human race cannot possibly be more than several thousand years as opposed to millions of years that the archeologists have led us to believe by their methods of *dating*.

Just how do scientists go about *dating* the earth? The most common method is by the use of radioactive isotopes found in a sample. Radioactive samples are known to *decay* at a constant rate; therefore, if one knows the rate of decay, and the amount of radioactive isotopes of the sample, one can figure the age of the sample. However, there are a couple of huge assumptions made by the use of this method. First is the assumption that the sample was 100% radioactive at its origin; and secondly, all evolutionary scientists agree that the primitive rate of *decay* is greatly different than the present rate.

Nevertheless, we do not believe that the earth is *billions* of years old; yet, we can believe that it dates very old. At creation, it is entirely possible (and very probable) that God imposed a superficial appearance of history to the earth. In other words, there could be no genuine creation of any kind without an initial appearance of age inherent in it. When God made Adam, he appeared to be several years old (a grown man with an apparent history);

the trees most assuredly had rings as though they were many years old; rabbits and deer were full grown, etc. When Christ performed miracles, of creation, he created with an appearance of age. During the feeding of the five thousand, loaves and fishes appeared, not barley seeds, not barley plants, not fish eggs, not growing fish, but a meal with a superficial appearance of history. When the water was made into grape juice, H₂O became C₆H₁₂O₆. No grape seeds appeared, no grape vines, just grape juice.

I have always been a firm believer in God and special creation, but for a long time, I tried to *fit* the Bible with what *science* had to say. For example, I really felt that the earth was really billions of years old and that creation week was probably in fact billions of years. But the Lord opened my eyes and I realized that science must *fit* with what the Bible says, not the other way around, and that creation took place in six days.

Creation was instantaneous...sudden. Supernatural acts of God were often spontaneous. A raging storm **SUDDENLY** ceased; a large supply of fishes **SUDDENLY** appeared; a man born blind **SUDDENLY** had his sight; and a dead man **SUDDENLY** appeared at the door of his tomb.

The most common argument against a literal six day creation is in 2 Peter 3:8 "with the Lord one day is as a thousand years..." But notice, we are not told that God's days last a thousand years...to say as is very different than saying *is*. God alone has the infinite power to create in a day what mortal man cannot do in *billions* of years. **BY FAITH**, we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God (Romans 4:17).

The testimony of an honest evolutionist could be expressed in terms of Hebrews 11:3 as follows: "By faith, I, an evolutionist, understand that the worlds were not framed by the word of any God, so that what is seen has indeed been made out of previously existing and less complex visible things, by purely natural processes, through billions of years." Thus, it is not a matter of the *facts* of science versus the *faith* of Christians. In the fundamental issue, the ultimate origin of the earth, it is more a question of whether one puts his trust in the written word of the personal and living God, who was there when it all happened, or else put his trust in the ability of the human intellect.

Minute Meditation

by Gene Crewse



Even them will I bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.

Isaiah 56:7

This is the portion of scripture Christ was referring to in Matthew 21:13 when he cleansed the temple of money changers and those that sold doves. The message we need to consider is that God's house was prepared to be a place where people were to gather together, bring their offerings, and pray and rejoice in their God.

Churches that have stood for years can have the purpose for which they were organized reversed when pollution creeps in through various avenues. Praise and joy and wonderful works

of God are not evident sometimes because God's house does not hold a high enough esteem in the eyes of those that attend.

If we would not allow things that are contrary to God's will to come to church with us, but would allow Christ to take His whip to our hearts, we, too, could see the wonderful works of God performed in our respective churches.

I like the way one preacher outlined Matthew 21:12-17. He said, "It was a house prepared for worship, but became a house polluted by wrong motives. Next, it was a house purified by Christ and his holiness. Finally, it became a house praising God and his wonderful works being done."

Isaiah tells us what God's house ought to be. Hopefully, Christians will see to it that that is what it remains.



Looking Out My Parsonage Window

by Ve Ann Tilson

Earthquake...December 3, 1990... procedures...insurance. These are but a few of the buzz words that are being heard daily on television and radio, written in the daily newspapers, and spoken in our daily conversations. If you live anywhere in the proximity of the New Madrid fault line, it appears to be the news of the times.

One might wonder why the sudden panic. It seems that one scientist has predicted a 50/50 chance of an earthquake on or about December 3, 1990. Lots of schools, businesses, and individuals have stored away food supplies, etc., in preparation of the predicted disaster. Earthquake insurance has been purchased to protect homes and earthly belongings. (And all this, based upon the calculations of one man, who has, it would seem, predicted with some degree of accuracy, a few other quakes.)

But as we stop to reflect upon the situation, we should remind ourselves that no one is GUARANTEED a tomorrow in this world. The important question should be: "Have we made preparation for that FINAL DAY?" If it is wise to get "earthquake" insurance to offer some protection against the material losses that we MIGHT experience, then what of the wisdom in obtaining insurance and preparing ourselves for what we MUST experience? ("...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." - Heb. 9:27 and "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" - Heb. 10:31.) The chorus of a song comes to mind:

"Insured beyond the grave, protection on the soul...

When this old house you're living in, the hands of death will hold.

Your policy will pay your fee and cover you with clay.

What have you got, if you are not insured beyond the grave?"

Is your insurance premium paid???



Youth Look

by Ann Poletti

(I found this poem in a book and found it very appropriate for going into the Thanksgiving season. Even when things don't look bright, don't we have a lot of blessings to count?)

COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

Perhaps we have not counted
All our blessings one by one;
Perhaps we have not bothered
To remember whence they come;
And maybe we have taken
Just for granted all the things,
That the Good Lord has created
And the gifts that nature brings:

The autumn hills in glory robed,
A golden field of grain,
A sunset's dazzling splendor
Or the Milky Way's great plain,
The starry sky's sublimity,
The ocean's mighty power,
The wonder of creation
In the petal of a flower.

And so, if we have failed to show

By word or act or deed,

That we are thankful unto Him

Who fills our daily need,

May this day show we're grateful

When we add up all the sum,

Of the blessings we remember,

As we count them one by one.

—Author Unknown

We thank God for the miraculous things that we, as Christians, have come to realize He's so capable of doing. But, it's easy to fall into **expecting** God to perform the daily "Miracles" instead of appreciating the fact that He fills our needs because He loves us and wants us to love and praise Him in return. In this blessed season let's ponder the wonderful things God does for us (even in everyday life) and picture ourselves without these daily blessings. I think we'll all find much to be thankful for.



Missouri State Home Missions Board Report

\$30,000 Already Raised For The Project Gideon

If you want a miracle from God, you have to attempt the impossible. It is the goal of the Wentzville Mission to raise \$90,000 for our new building to be built. This exercise of good stewardship would then free the church to devote all of its time, energies and resource to reaching the city of Wentzville for Jesus Christ.

There are nearly 15,000 Free Will Baptists in Missouri. If just 300 (that's about .02%) would give a one time offering of \$300, we can reach our goal of \$90,000 and finish the building debt free.

Already, more than 125 people or churches have responded and have made a commitment to Project Gideon. We are over a third of the way to this impossible task. Would you prayerfully consider the possibility of making this one time gift that will have an eternal impact for precious souls for which Jesus died? Would you allow the Lord to use you to become one of the 300 that will build this church for the glory of God?

When you make that \$300 gift: (1) Your name or the name of a loved one in memory will be engraved on the big cross that will remain in the lobby of the new Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church. (2) There will be a special photograph personally sent to you of the new building that you helped to build! (3) You will receive a personal invitation to the dedication ceremony and will receive special recognition for your loving and sacrificial contribution.

The Wentzville mission will be grateful for your gift of any size. However the Lord directs you to give, on behalf of Missouri State Home Missions, we would like to express our most sincere appreciation. Please designate and send your gift right away to:

Missouri State Home Missions
Rev. Dale Skiles, Treasurer
4534 McCullough
Springfield, MO 65804

Letter From The Mayor

To Whom It May Concern:

The Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church will be contacting you for donations for their new building, and as Mayor of the City of Wentzville, I would like to inform you a little about the church.

The Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church has been in existence for nearly five years. The church purchased its property in 1986, and has progressed to the building of its first unit in 1990. I was guest speaker at the official groundbreaking for the new building.

Wentzville is located in St. Charles County, which is the fastest growing county in Missouri, and one of the fastest growing in the nation.

Since the inception of the Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church, they have maintained a high standard of integrity and they are a good influence in our Wentzville community.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Lee Barton
Mayor

Contribution Made to Carthage Church by Youth Group at Camp

"We are told in the Bible that we are to become as a little child, and this has become apparent by a contribution the children at Youth Camp made to the Carthage Church," writes Rev. Jim Williams.

One of the Pre-teen Camp groups gave a check in the amount of \$305.19 to the Mission Church at Carthage. One of the major concerns, at this time, is the building indebtedness, and so the entire amount will be applied to that. It is the prayer of the Mission Church that many churches and adults will follow the example set by the youth at camp.

Rev. Williams states, "The church wants to express a hearty thanks for this contribution!"

Youth Camp Board Report

The Youth Camp Board announced at the All Boards Meeting that there would be no more rotation for District Associations. The groups, Group I and Group II, will be set as it was in 1987.

Group I

Greater Springfield
Bootheel
Indian Creek
Central Western
Mission
Cave Springs
Liberty
Niangua

Group II

Greater Kansas City
Northwest
South Central
Northeast
St. Louis
St. Francis
Laclede

NOTE: A vote was taken at each camp session in 1990 and it is the vote of the campers that the District Associations be set permanently with the same group.

Dates for 1991:

Teen Camp, Group I — June 16-21
Teen Camp, Group II — June 23-28

Pre-Teen Camp, Group I — July 28-August 2
Pre-Teen Camp, Group II — August 4-9

NOTE: This information could be placed on the church bulletin board.

Essentials of Evangelism

by Stanley Jones

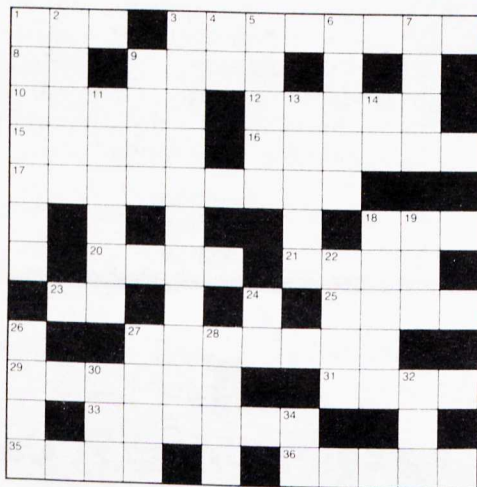
Revival within our homes! That is my prayer. In fact, I don't believe revival will come to our churches and communities without our homes being affected.

Our churches are reflections of our homes. A praying church is composed of praying families. A soul-winning church is made up of soul-winning families. A Bible practicing church is made up of Bible practicing families.

Our churches will never rise above what our families are.

When our families return to the principles found in Ephesians, chapter 5 and 6, and in Colossians, chapter 3, revival will come to our homes. The natural result of such a revival will be better and stronger churches that spill over into the community. God send such a revival!

Puzzle #2



ACROSS

1. "... cometh in the morning." (Ps. 30:5)
3. "... the stone was cut out of the _____ without hands" (Dan. 2:45)
8. Jacob's altar at Salem: _____-elohe-Israel (Gen. 33:20)
9. A stringed instrument (Is. 5:12)
10. John baptized Jesus in the Jordan _____. (Mark 1:1-11)
12. "... the _____s, and the garlick." (Num. 11:5)
15. Beds made of _____ (Amos 6:4)
16. An idol (II Kings 17:31)
17. "... ye shall _____ it in the seventh month." (Lev. 23:41)
18. The son of Haran (Gen. 11:31)
20. "... the sun and the _____ shall be dark" (Joel 2:10)
21. "... of _____, the family of the Eranites." (Num. 26:36)
23. "And this shall _____ a sign unto you" (Luke 2:12)
25. "... _____ my voice" (Jer. 7:23)
27. A king (Acts 25:26)
29. "... The spirit of Elijah doth rest on _____." (II Kings 2:15)
31. John was baptizing in A _____ (John 3:23)

33. The _____ of Sodom and Gomorrha were turned to ashes. (II Peter 2:6)
35. A parasitic insect (I Sam. 26:20)
36. A constellation (Job 9:9)

DOWN

1. Zacchaeus lived in _____. (Luke 19:1,2)
2. A flowering fruit tree (Job 15:33)
3. _____ forth her first son and called Him Jesus. (Luke 2:7)
4. "... whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond _____ free." (Eph. 6:8)
5. The Lord built His church _____ rock. (Matt. 16:18)
6. Balaam saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their _____s. (Num. 24:2)
7. Son of Helem (I Chr. 7:35)
9. "And they shall say to you, See _____." (Luke 17:23)
11. "Then said I, Lo, I come: in the _____ of the book it is written of me." (Ps. 40:7)
13. A chemical (Prov. 25:20)
14. An exclamation—in the Bible it is most often written "O."
18. Jacob became his servant. (Gen. 29:15-20)
19. "... _____ Jesus." (Acts 17:7)
22. "... _____s upon our heads" Used as an emblem of servitude (I Kings 20:31)
24. The men of Bethel and _____ numbered 223. (Ezra 2:28)
26. "Though thou exalt thy _____ as the eagle" (Obad. 4)
27. "... to the strangers scattered throughout ... _____." (I Pet. 1:1)
28. "... nor the clouds return after the _____." (Eccl. 12:2)
30. "He casteth forth his _____ like morsels" (Ps. 147:17)
32. A plain (Neh. 6:2)
34. "Let your light _____ shine" (Matt. 5:16)

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Financial Information

SEPTEMBER 1990

COOPERATIVE DISBURSEMENTS

18.50% Mo. State Home Missions Board	\$ 4,658.79
17.50% Exec. Off. & Gem	4,406.96
3.50% General Fund	881.39
8.50% Youth Camp Bd.	2,140.52
2.50% Youth Ministries Bd.	629.57
2.50% C.E. Board	629.57
2.50% Sr. Adult Ministries Board	629.57
5.00% Mo. State Retirement Program	1,259.13
30.50% Nat'l. Ministries, Hillsdale & Calif. Christian College	7,680.70
Foreign Missions Board	
National Home Missions Board	
Same Allocation:	
Free Will Baptist Bible College	
Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	
Executive Department	
Layman's Board	
Radio & TV Commission	
Theological Commission	
Historical Commission	
Board of Retirement & Insurance	
1% Calif. Christian College (\$76.80 included in \$7,680.70)	
9.00% State Office & Bookstore Bldg.	2,266.43
Total	\$25,182.63

The Lord is so good! We thank Him for His blessings and faithfulness through the faithful churches that are so consistent in supporting this unified plan of support. So we praise God, from Whom all blessings flow! We pray His continued blessings on those who share in this ministry.

The allocation for National Ministries goes undesignated for this year with FWBCC & Hillsdale receiving an equal amount. California Christian College will continue to receive the 1%.

SEPTEMBER 1990 RECEIPTS COOPERATIVE

Cope	\$ 34.00
Monett	483.65
Springfield, First	521.00
Royal Oak	80.00
Heritage	70.52
Seymour	78.00
West Plains	439.02
Houston	285.90
Calvary, Conway	172.35
Beacon	600.00
Columbia	75.00
Hazel Creek	369.01
Hannon	334.65
Sedalia	100.60
Pleasant Ridge	100.00
Stockton	101.45
Blue Springs	155.00
Oak Hill, Fredericktown	135.58
Rolla	66.34
Mt. Zion, Gower	46.60
Carthage	110.00
Riverview, IA	647.28
Marshfield	211.81
Overland	123.37
Victory, Alton	148.00
Clifton	33.67
Unity	243.44
Lebanon	461.40
Crossroads	100.00
Berkeley	249.42
Oak Grove, Norwood	102.14
Parkview	323.30
Mine La Motte	50.55
Hopewell	139.00
Lingo	37.12
Flat River, First	409.95
Beacon	500.00
Bailey Chapel	55.00

Thayer	481.00
Fredericktown, First	410.48
Calvary Chapel	98.00
Faith, Lemay	25.00
Black Oak	235.95
Koshkonong	79.45
Liberty	240.00
Belton	316.72
Potosi	103.09
Freeman Chapel	186.11
Cabool	348.47
Mt. Pisgah	203.00
Lone Star	47.40
Leadington	321.00
Grant Avenue	655.83
New Life, Licking	143.24
Twin Oak	804.17
Copper Mines	208.55
Terrill Road	91.42
Beacon	500.00
Trinity	755.79
Eastern Gate	243.00
Friendship	345.56
Hurryville	172.00
New Harmony	18.03
Harmony	762.00
United, W.P.	657.67
DeSoto	825.00
Kirkville	52.45
Viburnum	195.35
Farmington	1,622.35
Pleasant Hill	61.29
Bootheel Association	11.60
Waynesville	224.44
Rock Chapel	289.24
Macedonia	20.00
Salem	30.00
Beacon	500.00
El Dorado	43.30
Wolf Creek	323.43
Grace	500.00
Joplin	782.10
Mountain Grove	1,589.89
Pleasant Home	379.92
Alton	225.00
Willow Springs	206.05
Marshfield	174.33
Cape Girardeau	479.84
Total	\$25,182.63

YOUTH CAMP

Hannon	\$ 15.00
Thayer	30.00
Mt. Pisgah	10.00
Leadington	20.00
Parkview	10.00
Trinity	14.00
Buffalo, First	50.00
DeSoto	50.00
Fordland	20.00
Calvary Fellowship	39.00
Bethel, El Dorado	15.00
Mountain Grove	20.00
Willow Springs	10.00
Total	\$303.00

JOHN McCURE ACCOUNT

Monett	\$ 5.00
Berkeley	10.00
Thayer	12.00
Farmington	20.00
Grace	20.00
Total	\$77.00

HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Beacon	\$ 25.00
Hannon	50.00
Thayer	30.00
Grant Avenue	5.00
Farmington	84.58
Calvary Fellowship	35.75
Total	\$233.33

FWBCC

Thayer	\$ 25.00
Freeman Chapel	125.00
Leadington	20.00
Grant Avenue	50.00
Parkview	10.00
DeSoto	35.00
Farmington	175.00
Calvary Fellowship	35.75
Total	\$475.75

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Niangua	\$ 55.00
Richwoods	57.00
Monett	954.00
West Plains, First	25.00
Houston	109.53
Beacon	80.00
Columbia VBS	75.00
Columbia	23.23
Hannon	389.65
Sedalia	20.62
Pleasant Ridge	30.00
Blue Springs	56.00
O'Fallon	35.00
Carthage	45.00
Southside	185.00
Unity	60.00
Lebanon	80.00
Berkeley	50.00
Oak Grove, Norwood	68.06
Parkview	196.00
Flat River, First	81.98
Thayer	45.00
N. Akeman	10.00
South East District	25.00
Calvary Chapel	20.00
Calvary Chapel S.S.	25.00
C. Layman	10.00
Belton	306.76
Oak Grove, Cabool	65.00
Freeman Chapel	268.82
Macedonia	10.00
Mt. Pisgah	200.00
Leadington	210.00
A. Jenkerson	25.00
Grant Avenue	377.77
Mountain Grove	493.99
Parkview Mission Group	60.00
Trinity	168.37
S. Hart	20.00
Eastern Gate	74.50
New Harmony	90.19
United, West Plains	23.00
DeSoto	300.00
Kirkville	25.00
Viburnum	100.00
Fordland	145.71
Farmington	255.00
Rock Chapel	144.00
Calvary Fellowship	924.32
Grace	24.75
Joplin	70.00
Pleasant Home	47.99
Willow Springs	10.00
Marshfield	20.00
Total	\$7,271.24

NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

Richwoods	\$ 71.26
Monett	10.00
Columbia	23.22
Hannon	5.00
Blue Springs	10.00
Berkeley	10.00
Oak Grove, Norwood	34.03
Parkview	72.15
Flat River, First	15.00
Thayer	187.00
South East District	25.00
Mt. Pisgah	100.00
Leadington	100.00
A. Jenkerson	10.00

Grant Avenue	21.00
Mountain Grove	245.00
Parkview Mission Group	10.00
Trinity	5.00
Eastern Gate	10.00
Buffalo, First	100.00
United, West Plains	45.00
DeSoto	200.00
Kirkville	5.00
Viburnum	53.00
Fordland	10.00
Rock Chapel	166.45
Bob Keith	10.00
Wolf Creek	10.00
Grace	125.00
Joplin	15.00
Pleasant Home	10.00
Marshfield	28.31
Total	\$1,741.42

MISSOURI HOME MISSIONS

Richwoods	\$ 10.00
Monett	25.00
West Plains, First	288.25
Columbia	35.00
Hannon	167.33
Pleasant Ridge	10.00
O'Fallon	25.00
Carthage	5.00
Marshfield	21.13
Southside	15.00
Lebanon	20.00
Berkeley	10.00
Flat River, First	101.98
Thayer	35.00
J.W. Rader	25.00
Belton	55.00
Macedonia	25.00
Leadington	80.00
A. Jenkerson	5.00
Grant Avenue	219.11
Mountain Grove	22.00
Trinity	40.00
New Harmony	90.18
United, West Plains	13.00
DeSoto	50.00
Viburnum	13.00
Fordland	48.00
Farmington	60.00
Calvary Fellowship	143.82
Cuba	158.12
Grace	35.00
Joplin	5.00
Marshfield	37.43
Total	\$1,893.35

Answers to Puzzle #1

G	E	N	E	S	I	S	A	T
O	V	E	N	T	A	B	L	E
P	E	T	E	R	T	O	M	B
H	G	A	L	A	L	E		
E	A	L	M	O	N	D	T	
R	E	B	A	V				H
W	N	I	L	E	B	E		
O	Z	E	M	A	D			
O	R			H	O	S	H	E
D	O	S	E	R	P	E	N	T



Points for Pastors

by James McAllister

When I realize what is involved in becoming a denominational leader, I will come to the knowledge that I must find my role in the program of God and fill it. I see the great task—win souls. We need more and larger churches; we need fundamental churches; we need Free Will Baptist churches; we need soul-winning churches. A denomination can build colleges to train its God-called preachers and missionaries. It can send missionaries to the world; it can organize evangelistic campaigns; it can carry out the “great commission” through cooperation and union.

Now where do I fit in? Where do you fit in? What role should we play? Some men are missionaries; some are

leaders in various areas of the church. They may be a pastor, college president, missionary, music director, state moderator, executive secretary, youth director, church builder, or evangelist.

To put a Christian down who takes on a job or position or even desires one of these positions is unfair, unchristian, and dishonest. We must have people do these things. These positions must be filled. They require dedicated, committed, and sacrificing people. One must give up time, energy, money, and often family. The cost can be high, but it must be paid. I appreciate a Melvin Worthington, Roy Thomas, or Eugene Waddell.

I didn't ask God to place me in Fresno, California. I didn't ask for this thankless job of president of California Christian College. God put me here. He called me to Harmony Church. I believe He put me on the various boards and committees I have been elected to serve on.

You fit in here, also. You help build a denomination and thus have a part in world evangelism by tithing, giving to missions and colleges, by teaching, visiting, singing, serving on a board in the church, driving a bus, and winning souls. You can help in youth camp, join the alumni association of the college, encourage young preachers and pastors, cooperate with those who are trying to build this demonination.

I don't agree with those people who say you must compromise convictions, Christian standards, doctrinal purity, or biblical integrity. It isn't true. I believe those comments come from people who are weaklings, failures or egotists. I know why I do what I do. Let's respect and share with those men and women who give so much. Let's all become a part of a worldwide ministry that can reach thousands all over the world.

You can be a leader in this beloved denomination. Do it!

MO. STATE ASSOC. OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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