

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

Volume 70, No. 12, December 1999



For unto us a
child is born,
unto us a son
is given: and the
government shall be
upon his shoulder:
and his name
shall be called
Wonderful,
Counsellor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting
Father,
The Prince of
Peace.
Isa. 9:6



The Youth Look

By Ann Poletti

Often, we must be reminded that everything God creates is potentially holy. We never have to ask, "Where's the beauty?" in a child's smile, a sunset, or an unexpected blessing. However, beauty may be harder to see in tragedy, conflict, or death.

I always know where my kids have been by the fingerprints I find on a white countertop or a smudge on the window. By remembering that God's fingerprints are everywhere, we should be challenged to search deeper into bad situations to find Him.

Just because we can't see Him (or His beauty) in circumstances, does not mean He is not there.

*God's
fingerprints
are
everywhere.*

Tabernacle Moving Forward

The ground for the new Tabernacle has been broken and leveled, and by the time you read this article we hope to be getting started on pouring the floor pad as well as having all the rough-in plumbing done. It's an exciting time to see something you have been talking and praying about for years finally get underway. We, as your camp board, understand that it took the blessings of God to get this project started,

and that it will take the blessings of God to finish it. Since this is a project that the state voted to do, it will take every church, every outreach of the church, every family, as well as every individual to get this work accomplished for the glory of Jesus Christ, while putting our trust in God that He will meet the need as we do our part. Nehemiah 2:20 says, "The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build."

*"The God of heaven,
he will prosper us;
therefore we his servants
will arise and build."*

This being the time of the year that we celebrate Christmas—the time when God gave mankind the greatest gift of all, His Son, Jesus Christ, and, in turn, died that He might give us the gift of eternal life—wouldn't it be wonderful to give, not just a gift to one another, but to give something that will bring glory to Jesus for decades to come? Our youth camp is the greatest mission field to reach young people, and what a joy to the heart of Jesus to see His people dedicated to the task of building a new tabernacle "for His glory," as Solomon was when he built the temple. 1 Kings 5:5 says, "I purpose to build a house unto the name of the Lord my God." Let us all purpose in our hearts to finish the task set before us.

*THE YOUTH CAMP BOARD PRAYS
YOU AND YOURS HAS A CHRIST
CENTERED AND VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS.*

Thank You!



Since September 1989, Dennis and Jeannie Bowman have been doing the layout, printing, and mailing of the Gem magazine. They have been faithful to the task and congenial to work with. They are to be commended for a job well done. Thank You!

Birthdays

By Diane McClaren

Life's but a training ground,
preparing for our future home;
Each year fulfilling God's plan,
becoming His perfect one.

Around us spiritual warfare rages,
but mercifully it's concealed;
When we reach our heavenly home,
life's mysteries will be revealed.

Praise God—He's sent us help,
the Holy spirit whispers sweet relief;
As we encounter doubts and fears,
a still small voice brings peace.

If we will just remember—
the battle's already won;
It was for this reason,
God sent His only Son.

Christ's blood covers all our sin,
His perfection is for us to claim;
Clinging always to Jesus,
without Him we can't attain.

The paths we choose along the way,
with His help, our true best friend;
Guiding us through the refiner's fire,
united with Him at life's end.

All items for publication must be in the hands of the editor no later than the 10th of the month preceding the issue month. Business Office: 202 West Commercial, P.O. Box 991, Lebanon, Missouri 65536, Nathan Ruble, Editor. Address all correspondence relating to the GEM, including subscription and mailing information, to the above address. The sermons and articles published in the GEM represent the personal views of the authors and not necessarily the views and policies of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists or of the editor. Subscription rates: Single subscription, \$4.50 per year, cash in advance. Church Plan, \$4.00 per year, consisting of five subscriptions or more. The Church Plan will continue until it is canceled by the church. This magazine is published monthly.

May God Bless You With A
Very Merry Christmas
And A Happy New Year



*From the Employees of the
State Office and the Lebanon Bible & Book Store*

Nathan Ruble

Harren Livingston

Connie Myers

Amita Hancey

Judy Luce

Jim Parker

Rolla Church Dedicates Building

Unbelievable! It doesn't look like the same place! These were some of the comments heard when the First Free Will Baptist Church met October 10 to dedicate to the Lord their newly remodeled facilities. The church building has undergone a complete face lift from the basement to the rafters. The ceiling in the sanctuary was changed from a flat ceiling to a vaulted ceiling. Every room, sanctuary, fellowship hall, classrooms, and bathrooms have been tastefully decorated and made new. The congregation is to be commended. During the dedication service Pastor Jim Parker thanked all of those who worked to bring the church



Remodeled Sanctuary

to this day.

He gave special recognition to all of those who supplied the material and the labor to complete the remodeling job.

A special recognition was given to Mrs. Bertha Kesler. Sister Kesler was a faithful member of the church and the one who made it all possible. When the Lord called her home to be with Him, she bequeathed a sum of money to the church to be used in remodeling. A plaque with her picture will be displayed in the church in her memory.

Rev. Nathan Ruble preached the dedication message and led in the act of dedication. The Second Coming Trio provided the special music for the day. An open house was held in the afternoon.

The Rolla Church is to be commended on their labors and their vision for reaching the lost. They are a faithful supporter of state and national ministries.



Pastor Parker

Echoes From The Past

History of the Missouri State Association Its First Session

Brother C. E. Mann of Queen City, Missouri has been kind enough to furnish an Introduction and the First Session Proceedings.

Dear Brother Brown:

Complying with your request for a statement regarding things leading unto, and the organization of the Missouri State Meeting of Free Will Baptists, I submit the following:

Introduction

During the early part of my Christian life, and ministerial work, it was my pleasure to have for my spiritual advisor, Rev. G. S. Latimer, now of Washington, Kansas, but at that time pastor of churches in the Northeast Missouri Yearly Meeting. At one time Rev. Latimer was clerk of the old Missouri State Meeting. From him I learned much of the work and results accomplished under this organization. It was my privilege to attend the last session of this conference and, being a boy, I failed to give it the attention and thought I should. Therefore I was handicapped some years later when I sought to bring about the organization of the present state work.

In the winter of 1905, I met Rev. T. C. Ferguson at the Schuivier County Quarterly Meeting and from him, learned of the work in Northwest Missouri, Central Western Missouri and Southeastern Kansas. This was during my second year in the ministry. With a desire to know more of our Missouri work, I began a campaign of correspondence, but for several years was unable to gather the information desired, or the cooperation hoped for.

During the fall of 1912, I assisted Rev. W. H. McKown of Carlow, Mis-

souri in a revival meeting, and later he assisted me in a revival at our home church. While associated together, we began to lay plans for uniting our Free Will Baptist work in Missouri. As a result of our plans, and at the close of the revival, I began corresponding with ministers and clerks of the different associations I knew of. Letters were sent to elders W. H. McKown, T. C. Ferguson, J. J. Wood, R. W. Waterman, S. B. Lewis, and G. S. Latimer, also Mr. Jerry Ahart, clerk of Northwest Missouri Association. I also visited in person, Elders P. H. Veach, W. D. McFarland, James Shoop, C. A. Phillips, W. B. Fadley, and several others in the interest of an organization. I made two trips into the Northwest Missouri Association, sat in council with the Northwest Missouri Association executive board, and visited a number of other meetings in order to determine the wishes of the people. Rev. Waterman of the Laclede County Association was the only one corresponded with who failed to answer my letters, and Rev. T. C. Ferguson was the only one offering objections. But upon being elected moderator at the second session of the State Meeting at Hannon, Missouri, he put forth his best efforts for the enlargement of the work, and for several years was a tireless worker, sacrificing both time and means for advancement of the cause.

After over a year's correspondence, and traveling, we succeeded in getting the question submitted to the Northeast and Northwest Missouri Associations, the Central Western and Southeastern Kansas Associations, and the St. Francois County Quarterly Meeting, resulting in a called meeting to be held with the Philadelphia church, near

Pattonsburg, Missouri, beginning November 25, 1914.

Proceedings Of The 1914 Session

The meeting called to meet with the Philadelphia church, near Pattonsburg, Missouri on November 25, 1914, for the purpose of organizing a state conference of Free Will Baptists, assembled at 7:30 p.m. on the appointed date.

Rev. C. E. Mann, chairman of the Northeast Missouri Association, was elected to deliver the introductory sermon and address of welcome. The Scripture selected was Psalm 122: 1.

Thursday Morning

A quorum not being present, praise and prayer services were conducted until 11 o'clock, at which time the Gospel message was brought by Rev. C. E. Mann.

Thursday Afternoon

A quorum being present, the conference was called to order by Rev. C. E. Mann, and the object of the meeting outlined. Upon nominations Rev. W. H. McKown was elected moderator and C. E. Mann, clerk. The afternoon was spent in discussing the feasibility of an organization. Rev. W. H. McKown was selected to bring the Gospel message Thursday night, and Rev. S. B. Lewis to bring the Gospel message Friday morning at 11 o'clock.

Business was suspended until Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The messages brought by Rev. McKown and Rev. Lewis were very instructive and helpful and broadened our field of information of the work accomplished by the old State Conference, of which both ministers had been members.

Continued on page 9

Southeast District Association Celebrates 100th Anniversary



Dr. Jack Williams of the little known but glorious history of the Free Will Baptists in America in both the Friday evening and Saturday morning services. When Brother Jack speaks about the history of Free Will Baptists, he makes you glad to have the name on the sign.

Rev. Mark Turrell, pastor of the Copper Mines church, moderated the historic session and Rev. Gary Tune, chaplain at the Potosi Prison, served as Clerk.

Rev. Lloyd Durbin shared a report of the quarterly historical committee. He said that while the quarterly was meeting for the 401st time, their research revealed that the organization is actually 106 years old.

The first session of the quarterly meeting was held February 10, 1893, at Marquand, Missouri, with Rev. John Goodwin serving as moderator. In its beginning, it was called the Scott County quarterly meeting. The churches which joined together to form the quarterly were Marquand, Mine La Motte (organized in 1875), and Blodgett. Blodgett was located 20 miles south of Scott City, Missouri. The ministers present in that first meeting were Rev. Jeremiah Woods, Rev. Wm Revelle, Rev. John Goodwin, Rev. Fred Comber, and Rev. E.M. Chandler.

Since its inception, the quarterly has undergone many changes. The quarterly added new churches, some of them continue to flourish today and some of them were lost. The First Free Will of Fredericktown was organized

The Southeast District Association met for its 401st session October 8,9 at the Twin Oaks Free Will Baptist Church located near Fredericktown. Dr. Jack Williams, editor of *Contact* magazine, and a member of the National Historical Commission, was the guest speaker. He highlighted some

in April 25, 1911 and Old Bethel Church was organized in 1932. The Twin Oaks Church had its beginning in 1933, and the New Hope church was received in 1975. Trace Creek, Marble Creek, Silvermines, Shady Grove, Little Rock Creek, and Marquand are a few of those churches that no longer exist as Free Will Baptist Churches. Several of the churches have undergone name changes since their inception. In 1898 the quarterly met with the Concord church, later the name of the church was changed to Union Light. Likewise, the Copper Mines church was named the Golden Gate Church in its beginning. The First Free Will Baptist church of Fredericktown was received into the association as the First Free Church.



Ministers attending Saturday Session

The quarterly meeting has undergone two name changes since its inception. In 1919, the name was changed from the Scott County quarterly to the Madison County quarterly. Today the association is known as the Southeast Association.

The historical records reveal that the churches of the association from the beginning were interested in reaching and training people for the Lord. As early as the second session in 1893, the churches were encouraged to put forth every effort to establish Sabbath Schools. In 1959, the association began to investigate the possibility of starting a church at Viburnum. The State Home Mission board gave the association a gift of \$300 and loaned them another \$300 to purchase a lot in Viburnum. Later that year the association borrowed \$5,000 to build a church building. Today the Viburnum church is a member of the St. Francois Association, but continues to support state and national ministries. In 1965 the quarterly meeting gave \$500 to help establish a church in Cape Girardeau. The St. Francois quarterly and the State Home Mission board also gave \$500 each toward that project.

The churches of the Southeast Association continue to be concerned about reaching and training people to serve the Lord.



Moderator, Mark Turrell & Clerk, Gary Tune

News From Jackson

Dear Friends and Supporters for Missions in the State of Missouri,

We want to thank you all for the faithful support of *your mission work* here in Jackson, Missouri. It is through your prayers and your giving that we are able to help get a new Free Will Baptist church here in southeast Missouri. The Lord has blessed us in so many ways since we came and started the new church. We are blessed with some good workers who have been such an asset to us.

First the good news: This past Sunday, **Wallace Thomas** was here with **his wife**; he had visited our church at our Father's Day Supper in June and was back in our services Sunday morning. **His daughters**, who come to our church on an irregular basis, said the Father's Day Supper was the first time he had been in church for about 20 years. He made a decision for Christ Sunday morning. They live across the river in Illinois, but are only about 15 miles away from the church. We are praying this will have an effect on their daughters, who have spiritual problems, and that they will get in church regularly.

We have a new family, **Larry and Harryette Burnette**, who started coming three weeks ago and have been here every service, with the exception of a couple of evening services. They are in agreement with the Free Will Baptist doctrine and the standards we hold to. The thing, or should I say the persons, who influenced them our way was Brother Ken Goff and the workers at our Youth Camp, when she attended there with a group from a previous church where they attended.

We also had a family of three, **Lonnie and Jeanette Shepherd, and their daughter Megan**, who were first-time visitors Sunday morning. They moved here from Alabama recently where she had visited some of our Free Will Baptist churches. He is a business owner and would be a real asset to our church if he started serving the Lord in the ministries of our church. We also had two first-time visitors in our Sunday evening service, **Pam Avery** and **Barb Shelton**, and they indicated they would come back.

Now, the other news: When I wrote the previous letter to you, our supporters, I told you of **Robbie and Lisa Gerst and their three boys** moving here from Virginia to help us in our youth work. Robbie felt the Lord was directing him into the pastorate and will be leaving November 19 to pastor the Free Will Baptist Church in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Pray for this new direction in this family's lives.

Your faithful prayers and support are being used of the Lord to affect lives for eternity here in Jackson, Missouri. We have had several families come and go, which is a common thing in a mission work, but thank the Lord for those who have continued to come, and for the new family, the Burnettes, as they have indicated they will continue coming to our church. We still believe if we will plant and water, that God will give the increase. And if He gives the increase, it will not be of our doing but His doing, which will build a church to His honor and glory. Pray for all those I have highlighted in the letter, and especially **pray for us**. God bless you, and again, thanks for your prayers and support.

In His service,
Vernon and Ada Long

PINKERTON UPDATE

Because of night-time dangers, busy schedules and undependability of public transportation, our prayer meetings are ALWAYS poorly attended, yet ALWAYS a precious time.

We heard the report from an evangelistic campaign held upcountry last weekend. Several from the ABJ Group assisted. They told of electricity being shut off just minutes within the ending of a film being shown. The next night, after services when Christians were witnessing, a huge down pour of rain ended contacts. So, the devil was at work, but ALSO the Lord: THIRTY DECISIONS WERE RECORDED. Pray for the follow-up.

We heard about a young University Student from our church who left the house to go buy bread. A man with a knife in her back demanded her money. She saw another man walking towards her & signaled to him that she was in danger—not knowing that he as a friend to the man holding the knife. They took her money, but did NOT harm her.

When Pastor Silas was with the Evangelistic Group, a man entered his court yard. Madame had just left to go get Love at school—but had locked the house before leaving. The man demanded the house keys, but the young girl there did not have them. He had several keys, but none worked so went outside to get a rock to break the lock. As he left, the young girl closed & locked the gate. He returned, but just sat on the front step outside waiting for Madame to return home. Meanwhile, Pastor Silas' neighbor girls came home, so the man left.

There are several types of public transport in town: local taxi that can only travel in designated areas of town, bigger busses that carry 22 people, the huge busses that pack people like sardines and the metered taxi. The first two groups are now on strike...causing the already overcrowded ones to be more so.. People are in jail because of this problem..there is much unrest. TV coverage showed 20 public busses that had windows broken due to demonstrators. The national newspaper offices were rocked & people were injured.

The University is open, but student leaders are not allowing students to attend classes until all of their demands (some justified, others not) are met by the gov'm't. Things are not looking good. Fuel prices have increased, causing prices on all other items to also be raised.

Does it seem that you're reading your local newspaper? Civilization has reached Abidjan! This city is just as modern as most any in the USA. We also have crime, drugs, unrest, high percentage of HIV carriers, political problems...SEE THE GREAT NEED FOR THIS CITY TO BE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN FOR CHRIST?

Next week the few remaining FWB Missionaries left on the field: (Robert & Pam West, Ernest & Elaine Holland, Alice Smith, Taci Epps, Jerry & myself) will be taking care of mission business. Pray with us for God's wisdom.

Happy to be serving ..
Carol for the Abidjan Believers,
Bryans (USA) and Jerry Pinkerton



State Association Receives Check

State Executive Secretary Nathan Ruble is shown receiving a check in the amount of \$9,330.00 from Gene Loomis of the Loomis Insurance Agency. This group retro premium refund is based upon a good loss experience of the churches insured with Brotherhood Insurance. The money will be used for ministerial scholarships. If you would like information concerning Brotherhood Insurance, you may contact Gene Loomis at 1-800-743-7205.

MO MINISTERIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____
 Date of Birth: _____
 Are you Licenced? _____ Ordained? _____
 Name of MO church where you are a member _____

 Pastor's Name _____
 Date graduated from High School _____
 Name of High School _____
 Name of the School you will be attending the Spring semester 2000. _____
 Are you pursuing an Undergraduate degree _____
 Graduate degree _____
 Last semester grade point average (high school or college) _____
 You will be enrolling as a: (circle one)
 Freshmen Sophomore Junior Senior
 Graduate Student

Minister's Retreat

March 20 - 22, 2000
 Stonecroft Conference Center
 Branson, Missouri

Speaker

Dr. Jack Williams, Editor of *Contact Magazine*, will be the guest speaker.

Cost

Double Occupancy - \$70.00 per person (Cost includes two nights lodging, five meals and two snacks.)

REGISTRATION FORM

Please Print:

Name _____ Home Phone () _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Church _____

I would like to room with _____

A \$20 non-refundable deposit is required for each person. Please return this registration from to: Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, P.O. Box 991, Lebanon, MO 65536. Registration forms must arrive at the state office on or before the 10th of March.

Note: Minister's wives are welcome to accompany their husbands.

2000 Calendar

Ministers Retreat

March 20 - 22, 2000
Stonecroft Conference Center, Branson, MO

State Youth Competitive Activities

May 5 - 6, 2000

Senior Adult Retreat

Group I

May 15 - 17, 2000

Group II

May 17 - 19, 2000

Stonecroft Conference Center, Branson, MO

Missouri State Convention/

Woman's Auxiliary Convention

June 5 - 7, 2000

1st FWB Church O'Fallon & Fort Zumwalt High School

Youth Camp

Teen Camp, June 18 - 23, 2000

Pre - Teen Group 2, July 23 - July 28, 2000

Pre - Teen Group 1, July 30 - August 4, 2000

Please Note: There will only be one Teen session this year.

Group 1

Greater Springfield

Indian Creek

Central Western

Mission

Cave Springs

Liberty

MO-ARK

Niangua

Laclede

Group 2

Greater Kansas City

South Central

Northeast

St. Louis

St. Francois

Mid-Rivers

Bootheel

Northwest

National Convention, NYC & WNAC

July 16 - 20, 2000

Anaheim, Calif.

Missouri Women Active For Christ Retreat

August 18 - 19, 2000

Stonecroft Conference Center

Preacher/Layman's Retreat and All Boards Meeting

September 11, 2000

Youth Camp, Niangua, MO

Suggestion: Put this information on your Church Bulletin Board.

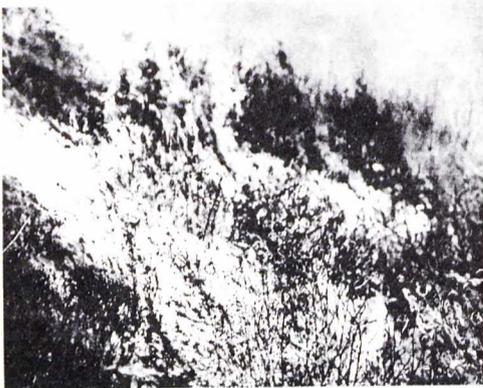
"Look For The Blessings"

By Kathy Thebeau

When Bob had his bad wreck in December, we realized that it was the protection of God that kept him and Ben alive. But I want to look at some of the physical aspects that contributed to his survival. He was driving our big, heavy Mercury Marquis that was equipped with a seat belt and driver-side air bag. The impact crumpled the front end of the car nearly to the windshield. The air bag came out and cushioned the blow. He didn't have his seat belt on, so he did get a scar from hitting the windshield even with the air bag. So, in a wreck that could have taken his life, he was spared. It helped that the hood of the car was so long and heavy. But above everything else, he was saved because of that little air bag that was packed into that little, tiny space in the center of the steering wheel. So, although it happened so quickly and was so unexpected, he had what he needed because of the safety preparation of the car.

We run into all kinds of situations on our Christian walk. Out of nowhere come attacks from Satan. We may look like a Christian on the outside. We may know the Word of God. We may appear to be in control of the situation. But if we don't really have Jesus Christ in our heart, chances are we won't withstand the attack. We may come away wounded and even have lasting scars, but with Jesus tucked away in our heart, Satan's attacks can't destroy or kill us spiritually. So, it really is what is on the inside that counts. Let's be prepared!

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles." Isaiah 40:31



"Help Build The Fire" Report By Bob Thebeau

This past September marked the third time that I have attended the "Help Build The Fire" revival effort at Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. I personally am very thankful for the spiritually renewing effect it has had upon my life each year. A combination of thirteen sermons from nine different men of God along with some of the most uplifting gospel music from several different groups—plus the many times of altar prayer and the great fellowship make me believe that is an event that every child of God should experience.

Preachers, Deacons, Lay-people, if you are looking for a place to go to refresh yourself, to relax and, at the same time be renewed in the Lord, then mark your calendar for June 12-13 for the year 2000. You'll find this Smoky Mountain experience will be a spiritual treat for your souls.

Echoes- Continued from page 4

A quorum not being present, praise and prayer services were conducted until 11 o'clock, at which time the Gospel message was brought by Rev. C. E. Mann.

Thursday Afternoon

A quorum being present, the conference was called to order by Rev. C. E. Mann, and the object of the meeting outlined. Upon nominations Rev. W. H. McKown was elected moderator and C. E. Mann, clerk. The afternoon was spent in discussing the feasibility of an organization. Rev. W. H. McKown was selected to bring the Gospel message Thursday night, and Rev. S. B. Lewis to bring the Gospel message Friday morning at 11 o'clock.

Business was suspended until Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The messages brought by Rev. McKown and Rev. Lewis were very instructive and helpful and broadened our field of information of the work accomplished by the old State Conference, of which both ministers had been members.

Friday Afternoon

Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, the house was called to order by the clerk. The chairman then read a lesson from Isaiah 12th chapter, after which we were led in prayer by James Hardin of the Northeast Missouri Association.

Letters from the different associations were called for and read. Letters were received from the Northeast Missouri, the Central Western Missouri and Southeastern Kansas Associations and the St. Francois County Quarterly Meeting.

A motion was made and seconded that the letters be received, delegates seated, and that we proceed.

The Letters

To the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, when convened with the Philadelphia church, near Pattonsburg, Missouri, November 25, 1914. The Central Western Missouri and Southeastern Kansas Associations of Free Will Baptists send greetings, praying God's blessings upon you in all your deliberations. May His presence pervade in every session of your Association in mighty power. This Association feels it has much to thank God for. His power was felt in every session of this year's meeting of our association.

This Association has a membership of 634, and church property valued at \$9,800.00

We send as delegates to sit with you, Brothers W. H. Potts and A. W. Hartley of Wagoner and Stockton churches respectively.

The Association desires that a Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists be organized, and we hereby request that this Association be admitted to the body as a member.

We earnestly pray that your coming together will be highly blessed of God, and that an Association which will greatly help to glorify God will be the ultimate result. B. F. Brown, clerk

Dated at Hannon, Missouri, October 10, 1914.

To the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, while in session with the Philadelphia church near Pattonsburg, Missouri, November 25-28, 1914. Greetings in Jesus' name: The Northeast Missouri Association of Free Will Baptists prays God's blessings upon you in all your deliberations.

This Association is in fine condition spiritually and has many things to praise God for, especially for the number of souls who have turned to Him during the past year.

Our Association voted unanimously for a state conference and desire membership to the same.

Statistics: Number of churches, 9; resident membership, 639; non-resident membership, 160; total membership, 799; number of additions the past year, 246; number dismissed, 6; number of professions in meetings, 320; number of ministers, 11; names of delegates: Rev. J. F. Duckworth, Rev. Chas. A. Phillips, Rev. C. E. Mann, W. D. Houghton and J. M. Hardin and wife.

(Signed)

C. E. Mann,

Chairman of Association

As was true for many of the Western states, Free Will Baptist work in Missouri was a product of the General Conference in New England. The movement had developed in the late 19th century and had grown rapidly. By 1890, the state boasted enough Yearly Meetings and local Associations to merit the formation of a State Conference. Under the direction of J. H. Culley, president of the Conference for at least five years, the new state meeting prospered briefly and then began to decline. By 1896, the Conference was reduced to two yearly Meetings and four or five Quarterly Meetings. By the end of the century, the State Conference had disbanded. But in spite of its short life, this first attempt at a state-level organization gave testimony to the early maturity that Missouri Free Will Baptists had achieved.

At least a few of the leaders of the original State Conference continued their ministries into the 20th century, and by 1905, they had begun to spark interest in a new State Association. C. S. Lattimer, William McKown, and C. E. Mann of the old Conference, joined T. C. Ferguson, R. W. Watterman, J. J. Wood, S. B. Lewis and others of the younger ministers in a campaign that would result in the birth of a new Missouri State Association in 1914. The new Association embraced seven Associations and one independent Quarterly Meeting. Most of the Associations included at least a few churches in Kansas and the Indian Creek Association listed one congregation in American Falls, Idaho.

(This article was printed from an early issue of the Gem.)

February Is State Home Mission's Month



Paul Ketteman
Memorial
Christmas
Fund Drive
For
Free Will Baptist
Bible College

December is Free Will Baptist Bible College's month in the denomination's Together Way stewardship plan. Every church is asked to respond with a gift to the college in December.

Sunday School Averages May 1999 - October 1999

Churches:	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Belton	32	37	37	42	38	39
Calvary Chapel	121	119	130	134	139	
Cape Girardeau	47	50	55	48	63	41
Copper Mines	55	53	52	53	56	
Cuba	113	113	112	107	107	115
Columbia	23	25	28	28	29	23
DeSoto	146	151	154	160	161	
Farmington	326		322	351	403	350
Hannon	116	127	103	119	119	121
Hartville	105	106	97	104	91	90
Hazel Creek	58		59	57		
Hopewell	30	26	35	29		27
Houston	43	44	46	47	42	40
Lebanon FWB	52	47	47	49	46	45
Lebanon 1st	109	107	99	99	95	
Mill Creek	63	60	61	62	61	67
Monett	51	51	46	50	47	60
Myrtle	37	34	35			
O'Fallon 1st	61	65		65	51	62
Oskaloosa	14					
Ozark	104	111	108	104	108	111
Park Hills	114	112	106	113		
Purdy	48	46	43	54	56	
Richwoods	27	27	25	26		
Rock Chapel				46	41	41
Rolla 1st	30	26	28	27		30
Southside	31					
Springfield 1st	115	118	116	115	117	117
Thayer	141	147	143	144		140
Trinity	67	69	60	69	68	69
United	316	321	305	326	316	326
Willow Springs	55	50	52	54	69	52

The above is only a partial listing- there are 184 Free Will Baptist Churches in Missouri. Each church is encouraged to send in their Sunday School average each month.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

October 1999

Cooperative Disbursements

October 1999	\$44,762.37
18.50% MO St Home Miss. Bd. .	8,281.04
17.50% Executive Office	7,833.41
3.00% General Fund	1,342.87
.50% Show-Me Plan	223.81
8.50% Youth Camp Board	3,804.80
2.50% Youth Ministries Board .	1,119.06
2.50% Christian Education Bd. .	1,119.06
2.50% Senior Adult Ministries Bd	1,119.06
9.00% MO Retirement	4,028.62
30.50%	
National Ministries, Hillsdale and California	
Christian College	\$ 13,652.52
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	
1.00% C.C.C. (\$136.52)	
5.00%	Missouri State Conference
Center Fund	\$2,238.12
Total	\$44,762.37

Co-op

Aulsbury Chapel	\$173.07
Bailey	\$183.00
Beacon	\$1,500.00
Belton	\$313.18
Berean	\$100.00
Bethel - El Dorado Sprs	\$54.83
Bethel - Northview	\$225.00
Bialek Chapel	\$210.00
Black Oak	\$257.13
Bourbon	\$135.38
Bourbon	\$78.76
Cabool 1st	\$445.52
Calvary Chapel	\$775.14
Calvary Fellowship	\$553.84
Cape Girardeau 1st	\$217.18
Carthage	\$205.77
Central	\$888.38
Christ Chapel	\$249.82
Clifton	\$66.48
Columbia	\$190.32
Copper Mines	\$419.80
Cornerstone - Mtn. Gr	\$403.80
Crossroads - Wentzville	\$549.00
Cuba	\$596.00
DeSoto 1st	\$1,000.00
Emmanuel	\$28.37
F & H - Aurora	\$48.55
Faith & Hope - Wil. Sprs.	\$40.00
Farmington 1st	\$3,085.83
Fellowship - Park Hills	\$800.00
Fordland	\$534.70
Fourth	\$330.57
Fredericktown 1st	\$312.00
Freeman Chapel	\$315.95
Grace - Arnold	\$1,288.00
Grant Avenue	\$946.57
Greenfield	\$265.00
Hannibal	\$200.00
Hannon	\$701.81
Hartville	\$660.00
Hopewell	\$170.00
Houston 1st	\$276.92
Hurryville	\$517.97
Jackson	\$159.00

Joplin 1st	\$523.81
Koshkonong	\$118.00
Lead Hill	\$220.70
Lebanon	\$427.67
Lebanon 1st	\$753.45
Lone Star	\$54.90
Macedonia	\$118.16
Merls Chapel	\$146.00
Millcreek	\$433.98
Mine La Motte	\$76.14
Monett 1st	\$372.05
Mountain Grove 1st	\$1,579.35
Mt. Grove 1st	\$1,218.88
Mt. Pisgah	\$329.00
Neosho 1st	\$95.00
New Home - Lebanon	\$360.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	\$70.00
New Life - Licking	\$495.82
North Five	\$158.71
North Five	\$133.16
Number One	\$78.60
Oak Grove - Mt. Grove	\$184.95
O'Fallon 1st	\$681.00
Olivet	\$430.26
Overland	\$105.00
Ozark 1st	\$1,232.02
Park Hills 1st	\$690.90
Parkview	\$402.66
Pleasant Hill	\$213.53
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	\$53.00
Potosi 1st	\$136.28
Republic	\$100.00
Richwoods 1st	\$610.00
Rock Chapel	\$341.18
Rolla 1st	\$205.00
Royal Oak	\$89.00
Seymour	\$242.00
Smyrna	\$79.00
Springfield	\$216.00
Springfield 1st	\$1,064.88
Stockton	\$182.47
Thayer	\$799.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	\$898.38
Union Grove	\$376.00
Union Light	\$157.50
United	\$1,923.61
Unity	\$365.00
Verdella	\$506.16
Viburnum	\$346.48
Victory - Alton	\$305.29
Victory - K. C.	\$1,420.26
Waynesville 1st	\$499.23
Wilderness	\$978.00
Willow Springs	\$226.27
Wolf Creek	\$466.04
Total	\$44,762.37

Show-Me Plan

Aulsbury Chapel	\$150.00
Barker, Rev. J.	\$15.00
Beacon	\$235.00
Belton	\$150.00
Berean	\$30.00
Berry, R.	\$15.00
Bethel - El Dorado	\$139.69
Bethel - El Dorado	\$260.43
Bethel - Festus	\$45.00
Big Creek	\$55.00
Bishop, B. J.	\$30.00
Black Oak	\$30.00
Bourbon	\$15.00
Bourbon - Alton	\$15.00
Braisher, M.	\$30.00
Buxton, G.	\$30.00
Cabool	\$135.00
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo	\$105.00
Calvary Fellowship	\$2,512.50
Carter, J.	\$15.00
Central	\$295.00

Chism, B.	\$5.00
Chrisman, M.	\$30.00
Columbia	\$60.00
Cook, J.	\$600.00
Copper Mines	\$150.00
Copper Mines - Teen S.S. Classes	\$30.00
Copper Mines - Yg. Adult Class	\$15.00
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove	\$368.25
Cuba	\$167.87
Darnell, W.	\$15.00
DeSoto 1st	\$460.00
DeSoto 1st - Auditorium Class	\$15.00
DeSoto Yg. Adult SS Class	\$45.00
Faith - Oak Grove	\$175.00
Faith & Hope - W.S.	\$60.00
Farmington 1st	\$825.00
Fellowship	\$822.61
Fordland	\$163.00
Fourth	\$210.00
Francis, N.	\$15.00
Fredericktown 1st	\$150.00
Freeman Chapel	\$540.00
Garrett, R.	\$15.00
Gospel Light	\$735.00
Grace	\$300.00
Graham, S.	\$15.00
Grant Ave.	\$230.00
Greenfield	\$360.00
Hannon	\$951.81
Harris, F.	\$45.00
Hartville	\$195.00
Houston 1st	\$315.93
Hurryville	\$300.00
Hurryville Sr. Adult S.S. Class	\$15.25
Jackson	\$30.00
Jones Chapel	\$210.00
Joplin 1st	\$75.00
Leadington	\$180.00
Lebanon 1st	\$150.00
Macedonia Aux.	\$1,000.00
Maggart, D.	\$45.00
Matthews, C.	\$50.00
Matthews, C.	\$54.00
Matthews, G.	\$350.00
Matthews, G.	\$200.00
Merl's Chapel	\$90.00
Mill Creek	\$90.00
Mill Creek Young Adult S.S.C.	\$15.00
Mine La Motte	\$45.00
Missouri State Womans Aux.	\$405.60
Monett 1st	\$255.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$400.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$485.00
Mt. Pisgah	\$75.00
Mt. Zion - Thayer	\$30.00
Neosho 1st	\$150.00
New Home - Hartville	\$150.00
New Home - Lebanon	\$150.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	\$105.00
New Life - Licking	\$126.65
New Testament	\$15.00
Noel, D.	\$15.00
Oak Grove - Houston	\$15.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$130.00
Old Bethel	\$720.00
Ozark 1st	\$10.00
Park Hills 1st	\$237.27
Parkview - Desloge	\$321.00
Parson, O.	\$15.00
Pinkerton, J.	\$45.00
Pleasant Grove - Anderson	\$45.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	\$50.00
Purdy	\$255.00
Reagan, Jimmie	\$300.00
Rehkop, Lon	\$30.00
Richardson, O.	\$15.00
Richwoods	\$52.50
Rock Chapel	\$225.00
Rogers, B.	\$15.00
Royal Oak	\$120.00
Ruble N.	\$35.00
Southeast MO Assn.	\$90.00
Springfield 1st	\$515.00
Thayer	\$227.50
Thomas, E.	\$50.00
Trinity	\$439.11
Union Light	\$120.00

United - West Plains	\$300.00
Unity	\$75.00
Verdella	\$786.16
Viburnum	\$85.00
Victory - Alton	\$305.29
Victory - K.C.	\$495.00
Walker, B.	\$100.00
Waynesville 1st	\$384.75
West Plains 1st	\$186.00
West Plains 1st Aux.	\$30.00
White, R.	\$15.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	\$85.00
Willow Springs 1st	\$150.00
Total	\$24,638.17

Foreign Missions

Beacon	\$140.00
Calvary Fellowship	\$208.33
Cape Girardeau	\$86.89
Chapman, A.	\$20.00
Cuba	\$27.98
Faith - St. Louis	\$30.00
Farmington 1st	\$25.00
Fourth	\$50.00
Gospel Light	\$60.00
Grant Ave.	\$76.00
Greenfield	\$20.00
Harmony Fellowship (Colorado)	\$138.00
Houston 1st	\$50.00
Joplin 1st	\$10.00
Minor, K.	\$10.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$30.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$20.00
Neosho 1st	\$15.00
New Testament	\$70.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$10.00
Thayer	\$60.00
Trinity	\$305.00
Union Light	\$10.00
Verdella	\$1,000.00
Victory - K.C.	\$40.00
Total	\$2,512.20

State Home Missions

Beacon	\$4.00
Belton	\$50.00
Berean	\$15.00
Calvary Fellowship	\$70.00
Central	\$40.00
Cuba	\$27.98
DeSoto 1st	\$90.00
DeSoto 1st Children's Church	\$20.00
Farmington 1st	\$135.00
Fellowship - Park Hills	\$110.00
FWB Home Missions Dept.	\$100.00
Gospel Light	\$60.00
Grace - Arnold	\$55.00
Larry Wormington	\$30.00
Lebanon Bible & Bookstore	\$315.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$75.00
Mt. Grove 1st	\$50.00
New Home - Hartville	\$10.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$48.50
Ozark 1st	\$10.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	\$20.00
Richard White	\$10.00
Southeast MO Ass'n	\$90.00
Thayer	\$62.50
United	\$25.00
Total	\$1,522.98

Nat'l Home Missions

Beacon	\$257.25
Belton	\$50.00
Bob Thebeau	\$5.00
Bud Rogers	\$20.00
C. T. Christensen (Belton)	\$10.50
Calvary Fellowship	\$4,503.44
Carthage	\$42.50
DeSoto 1st	\$619.00
DeSoto 1st Auditorium Class	\$10.00
F & H - Aurora	\$48.55
Farmington 1st	\$240.00
Fordland	\$140.00

Gospel Light	\$60.00
Grace - Arnold	\$161.25
Grant Avenue	\$121.66
Greater Springfield Dist. Ass'n.	\$845.00
Hannon	\$421.08
Harmony Fellowship (CO)	\$169.00
Hartville	\$100.00
Houston 1st	\$80.00
Jackson	\$30.00
Jerry Rader	\$20.00
Joplin 1st	\$20.00
Macedonia Auxiliary	\$100.00
Merls Chapel	\$60.00
Monett 1st	\$133.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$90.00
Mt. Pisgah	\$25.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	\$45.00
Nathan Ruble	\$10.00
Neosho 1st	\$35.00
New Home - Hartville	\$10.00
New Testament	\$150.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$48.50
Park Hills 1st	\$169.09
Richwoods 1st	\$297.00
Rock Chapel	\$52.26
Thayer	\$120.00
Trinity - Bridgeton	\$15.00
Union Light	\$96.00
United	\$150.00
United Youth Group	\$170.00
Unity	\$50.00
Verdella	\$10.00
Viburnum	\$129.00
Victory - K. C.	\$381.42
Waynesville 1st	\$50.00
West Plains 1st	\$348.00
Wolf Creek	\$75.00
Total	\$10,793.50

Youth Camp

Cabool 1st	10.00
Thayer	50.00
Hartville	10.00
Hannon	15.00
New Home - Hartville	10.00
Mt. Pisgah	15.00
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove	25.00
Mountain Grove 1st	20.00
Lebanon Bible & Bookstore	195.00
Verdella	50.00
Willow Springs	10.00
Trinity	14.00
Park Hills 1st	46.75
DeSoto 1st	55.00
Berean	15.00
Ozark 1st	10.00
Total	\$550.75

Camp Development Fund

Willow Springs	5.00
West Plains 1st	25.00
Houston 1st	100.00
Oak Hill	350.00
Mountain Grove 1st	775.00
Wolf Creek	177.05
Total	\$1,432.05

Free Will Baptist Bible College

Beacon	6.00
Farmington 1st	132.00
Thayer	50.00
Verdella	101.23
DeSoto 1st	40.00
Nathan Ruble	15.00
Total	\$344.23

Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College

Farmington 1st	90.00
Thayer	55.00
Hannon	50.00
Grant Avenue	8.00
Joplin 1st	75.00

Victory - K. C.	116.01
Neosho 1st	50.00
Total	\$444.01

California Christian College

Farmington 1st	78.00
Total	\$78.00

Trula Cronk Home for Children

Farmington 1st	15.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	30.00
Hannon	100.00
Belton	90.00
Unity - Lebanon	10.00
DeSoto 1st	55.00
Total	\$300.00

Rev. John McClure

Monett 1st	65.00
Thayer	10.00
Gospel Light	80.00
Mountain Grove 1st	85.00
Carthage	15.00
Grace - Arnold	15.00
Central Western District Women's Auxiliary	15.00
Total	\$285.00

Youth Ministries Board

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	105.00
Total	\$105.00

Senior Adult Ministries

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	105.00
Total	\$105.00

C. E. Board

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	105.00
Total	\$105.00

Missouri Retirement Program

Lebanon Bible & Book	142.50
Total	\$142.50

Stewardship Commission

Lebanon Bible & Book	225.00
Total	\$225.00

Missouri State WAFC

Belton	15.00
Total	\$15.00

Steve Smith

Farmington 1st	20.00
DeSoto 1st	55.00
Total	\$75.00

Brian Brinkhoff

New Testament	10.00
Total	\$10.00

North Carolina Flood Relief

Royal Oak	302.00
Oak Hill	241.05
Total	\$543.05

Scholarship Fund

Brotherhood Insurance Co.	9330.00
Total	\$9,330.00

The Spirit of Christmas



Christmas! Say it again! C h r i s t m a s! Just saying the word starts the mind to remembering days gone by and brings an expectation of the celebration to come. Many feelings are associated with the word; things like warmth, togetherness, and joy. Christmas is all these things and more.

As we stand this side of the cross, surely we must be humbled by God giving us so great a gift. The gift that makes Christmas more than just feelings. It is a time for Christians to renew their commitment to serving the one who commended His love to us while we were yet sinners.

As you read the Gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus, Mary the mother of our Lord stands out as an example of submission and commitment. When the angel Gabriel appeared to her, he told her she would bear a Son of the Most High and would have an eternal throne and kingdom. Mary's reaction to this announcement was, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word..." (Luke 1:38) Her words of submission reveal that Mary was willing to serve God.

Mary was willing to serve God where she was.

She lived in a village called Nazareth which was located seventy miles northeast of Jerusalem. It was a place that was held in contempt by many in that day. Nathaniel said, "can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" God still calls for His people to serve Him where they are. Too often we excuse our lack of service on our particular circumstances and surroundings.

Mary was willing for God's Word to govern her life.

She was willing, knowing that it might mean that she would face shame, disgrace, and even death. God's Word must still be the Christian's final rule of faith and practice, allowing it to have the final say in every aspect of life.

Mary was willing to praise God for His blessings knowing all that could befall her.

In the passage of Scripture known as the Magnificat she extolled the mercy, power, and immutability of God. Real commitment will always lead to praise.

I hope Christmas will help us as Missouri Free Will Baptists to say, as Mary did there so many years ago, "Behold the servant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your Word..."

"Behold
the maidservant
of the Lord!
Let it be to me
according to your
word..."

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