



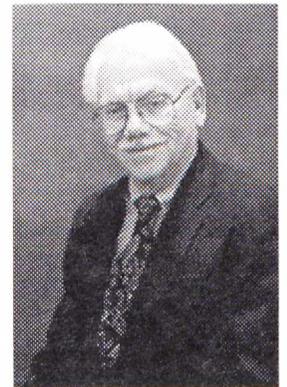
MISSOURI STATE
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Volume 74 • Number 5

May 2003



Rev. Max Courtney



Rev. Dale Skiles

90th Annual Session
Missouri State Association
of Free Will Baptists

Cowan Civic Center
Lebanon, MO
June 2-4, 2003



Rev. Jim Williams

Theme:
"Guarding Our Heritage"



Rev. Keith Burden



Pastor & Mrs. Gary Parker

FOURTH CHURCH CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

by Sue Winchester

March 23, 2003 marked a special day for Fourth Church. It was the 50th anniversary of its existence. Weeks prior to that we had worked and planned for this occasion. The Lord blessed our efforts with

a wonderful day of praise and fellowship.

There were 135 in the morning service. Recognition of any past pastors of the church was made. Rev. John Rhodes and Rev. Nathan Ruble were in attendance. Greetings were read from Rev. Ken Dodson, Rev. Clarence Burton, and Rev. Steve Lytle and his wife, Judy who weren't able to attend.

From 1980-1986 Fourth had a school, Fourth Christian Academy. Some of its students were in attendance and were recognized.

Special music was rendered by David Pickett who sang a song he wrote. A ladies trio consisting of Camille Thiele, Marilyn (Anex) Johnson, and myself also sang. The latter have been at Fourth Church for over 20 years.

Rev. Nathan Ruble, a former pastor, preached the morning message. The scripture text was Joshua 3:1-6. Though the memories of the past are so precious, we must look ahead and focus on the future.

As we look ahead, we must do as in Verse 5....."Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you".

Following the morning service, we feasted on the fine food prepared by our women in the fellowship hall.

After the dinner, our hearts were blessed with gospel singing by the Golden Street Singers. Forty people came for the singing. So the total for the day was 175.

Once the singers had packed up their equipment and the sanctuary was ready for the evening service, we came together for an early evening service.

There was a time for testimonies. Then our present pastor, Rev. Gary Parker, preached an encouraging message taken from Acts 2:41-47.

I had the privilege of writing up the history and highlights of Fourth. I would like to close with an excerpt from those pages. "May today be more than nostalgia, but a renewed commitment to keep Fourth a lighthouse for lost souls in this community".



Former Pastor John Rhodes with Jan Piper



Full Fellowship Hall

Jefferson City Mission Work Changes Name

Since we will not be regularly meeting at Westport in the future, we are now Jordan Free Will Baptist Church. Our church is changing. We recently purchased about six acres where we will be able to build and grow. Our land is about four miles South on Highway 54. The land is visible from Highway 54 and is a great location which may get even better. The city of Jefferson City is proposing an annexation that would almost put us inside the city. We are now meeting in the D.A.V. building about one block from our land.

We have had several visitors, one saved, and several rededications this month. God is blessing us. Our church is like family. We are now enjoying Sunday evening services. Our Wednesday service is our youth service. We looked at AWANA and other youth programs, but we created our own. We call it S.T.A.R.S. (Student Training And Recreation Service). Children earn star bucks by scripture memory, attendance, bringing Bible, answering questions and activities. We study lessons, sing and learn new songs, as well as play games. When they accumulate enough star bucks, they can buy prizes from the prize store. Since God is blessing us with children, we are ministering to them.

Pray for us. We need helpers. I know God will send us workers and we will be grateful. Thank you for supporting Missouri Home Missions which allows us to serve Christ here in Jefferson City, Missouri.

All items for publication must be in the hands of the editor no later than the 5th 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.

JOPLIN FIRST CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY AND DEDICATES NEW BUILDING



New Family Life Center

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Joplin celebrated two special events on Sunday April 6th, the Fiftieth Anniversary of the church and the dedication of a new Family Life Center. The warm welcome of pastor Richard Robinson; the great music of the choir directed by Larry Beck; and the gospel message preached by former pastor Dr. Alton Loveless in the morning worship service gave expression to the joy and

thanksgiving of the occasion.

Over two hundred people attended the afternoon service to remember and testify of God's blessings during the past fifty years. Special music was provided by the church choir and Robert Nutting, and Rev. Dale Skiles, Director of Missouri State Home Missions, delivered a challenging devotion.

Charter members, Fred and Barbara Oxendine, led in recognizing events and individuals in the history of the church. They gave special recognition to the family of the founding pastor, Rev. Paul Williams. Brother Paul is deceased. His wife, Opal, and several of the family were present and shared memories of the church. They read the roll of pastors who had pastored the church and gave opportunity for those who were there to share their memories. The church was pastored by: Paul Williams 1953 -1963, Ted Davis 1963 - 1966, Alton Loveless 1966 - 1970, Andy Lay 1970 - 1973, N.R. Smith 1974 - 1981, Jim Shepherd 1981 -1983, John Turner 1983 - 1984, Richard Robinson 1984 - present.

The church began with 19 charter members. Eight of those were present for the service. Sister Oxendine also gave recognition to the eight ministers which have been called

to preach while attending the Joplin church: Randy Bishop, Otho Boyd, Tim Eaton, Lester Nutting, Josh Sooter, Matt Sooter, Jim Williams, Martin Wilson.

Two missionaries have been called from the church and were recognized: Marta (Eaton) Greenman and Paula McClure.

Following the anniversary service the congregation was dismissed from the sanctuary to the family life center for the dedication service. The ladies of the church had the family life center beautifully decorated for the occasion. The 8250 square feet addition has given the church new class rooms, a fully equipped kitchen, and a gym.

The service opened with the Chairman of the Trustee Board, Lynn Oxendine, recognizing Rev. Lester Nutting who led in the opening prayer. Brother Oxendine then had the Trustees and the Deacons come forward for where they were recognized for their labors on behalf of building the new center. The congregation gave them a standing vote of thanks as they applauded. Special recognition was given to Trustee Matt Vanorman. He was presented a gift of appreciation for his unselfish work in



Church Leaders Recognized

the building of the new building. Pastor Richard Robinson and his wife Betty were also singled out and applauded for their leadership and service to the church.

Pastor Robinson shared his appreciation for the congregation and for the leaders of the church. He spoke of their willingness to give and of their willingness to labor to see the fulfillment of the church's vision for the new facility to become a reality. He then introduced Nathan Ruble, Executive Secretary of the Missouri State Association, who shared greetings and commendations from the state association. He then spoke from 1 Kings 8. At the conclusion of his message, he invited the chairman of the Trustees, Lynn Oxendine, and the chairman of the Deacons, to come forward. He presented them with a beautiful plaque which had been prepared for the church by Pastor Richard and Sister Betty Robinson and their family. The plaque is inscribed with the date of the building and the names of those leaders who were involved in leading the church in building the new building. Rev. Randy Rains, a former member of the church and youth pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Farmington, prayed the prayer of dedication.

Cake and punch was enjoyed by the congregation as they fellowshiped following the service.



Pastor & Mrs. Richard Robinson



**Richard Robinson, Dale Skiles, Nathan Ruble,
Tim Eaton, Alton Loveless**

ROY THOMAS - GONE HOME



Dr. Roy L. Thomas, former General Director of the Home Missions Department of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, went home to be with the Lord Sunday night, March 23, 2003, at his home in Greeley, Colorado. His battle against pancreatic cancer was bravely fought, and victory was his when he left this life and stepped into a hero's welcome in Heaven - the place he had preached about for fifty years.

Dr. Thomas was born in Greeley, Colorado, and grew up on a farm near Buhl, Idaho. After high school graduation, he attended the University of Idaho in 1948-49. He served in the U. S. Air Force the years of 1951-1955, with foreign service in Korea and Japan.

He accepted Christ as his Savior in 1951 at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Buhl, Idaho, but was immediately sent to Korea. After returning to the states, he was ordained as a Free Will Baptist minister in 1954, and also was married to his wife, Pat, who is a native of Hobbs, New Mexico. He organized the First Free Will Baptist Church of Artesia, New Mexico, that same year.

After serving the Artesia congregation for two years, he moved to Nashville, Tennessee, to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College. He graduated with honors from that institution in 1960 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. While a student he pastored two different churches in Tennessee—Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Church and First Free Will Baptist Church, Springfield, Tennessee.

Dr. Thomas was sent to Denver, Colorado, as a home missionary by the National Home Missions Board in 1961 where he established the First Free Will Baptist Church of that city. The church became self supporting in two years, after which he served for two terms on the National Home Missions Board. He furthered his education by earning a Masters of Divinity Degree from Luther Rice Seminary in 1978, and was granted a Doctor of Divinity Degree from Bethany Seminary in 1989.

In December 1970 he was appointed as Associate Director of the National Home Missions Department, Nashville, Tennessee, and became General Director in 1978. He served in that position until his retirement in December 1995, making a total of 25 years on the National Home Missions staff, and a total of 35 years' affiliation with the Department.

While he served as General Director of the Home Missions Department, there were over 200 churches established

SPEAKERS FOR THE 90TH SESSION OF THE MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION

The 90th session of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists will be held June 2 - 4, 2003, at the Cowan Civic Center in Lebanon, Missouri. The theme of this year's convention is "Guarding our Heritage." Four speakers - Rev. Max Courtney, Rev. Jim Williams, Rev. Dale Skiles and Rev. Keith Burden will develop the theme.

The Monday evening message will be delivered by Rev. Max Courtney. The Missouri native was born in Licking, Missouri. He was converted in 1949 at the Tyrone Free Will Baptist Church and was ordained to preach in 1953.

During his 53 years in the ministry, Brother Courtney has pastored ten churches in Missouri and two churches in Illinois. He has been in his present pastorate at the New Life Free Will Baptists Church since 1998.

Brother Max has held a number of leadership positions in Missouri State Ministries. He served on the State Youth Camp Board for 13 years. He has also served on the State General Board and Executive Committee and as Moderator of both the South Central and Mission District Associations. While in Illinois, he served as State Youth Ministries Director and Foreign Missions Director.

He and his wife Ruth have one daughter, Phyllis.

Rev. Jim Williams will fill the pulpit Tuesday evening. He was born in Carterville, Missouri, and was converted in 1952, and ordained to preach in 1974 at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Joplin, Missouri.

He has pastored two churches, the Southside Free Will Baptist Church in Denver, Colorado, and the Free Will Baptist Church of Carthage where he presently pastors. He founded the Carthage church while serving as a National Home Missionary.

Brother Jim has held a number of offices both on the District and State level in Missouri and Colorado. He presently serves as the Assistant Moderator of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists. He holds a master's degree from the Denver Theological Seminary.

Jim and his wife Grace have three children, Dennis, Denise, and Tammi.

The Wednesday morning worship service will have Rev. Dale Skiles delivering the message. He was born in Salem, Missouri, and was converted in 1958. Dale was ordained to preach the gospel in 1959 at the Richwoods Free Will Baptist Church. He has pastored 5 churches in Missouri and one in Iowa. Two of those churches, St. Joseph and Bettendorf, Iowa, he served as a home missionary in founding the churches.

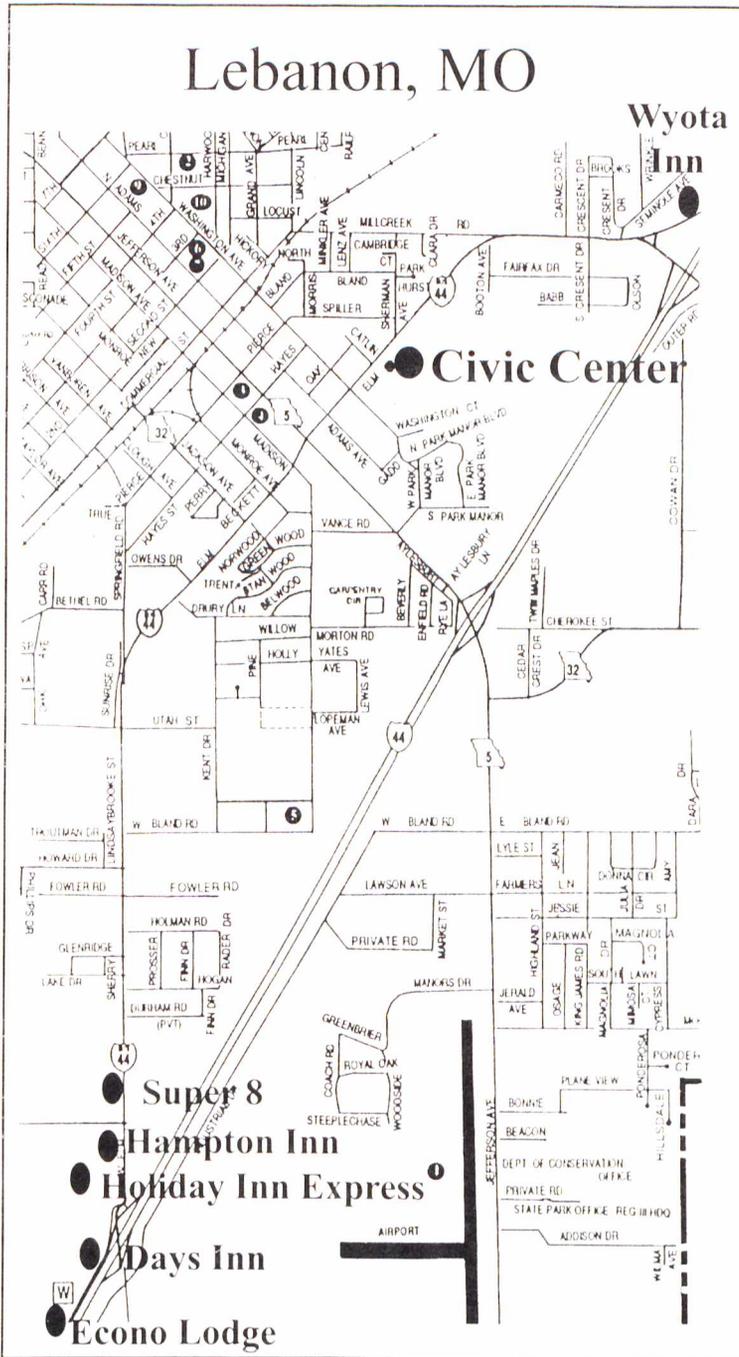
Bother Skiles has served on the Missouri State Home Mission Board for 22 years and presently serves as Director of State Home Missions. He has served the state as Moderator and Chairman of the Youth Camp Board. He served 3 years on the National General Board and Executive Committee.

He and his wife Elaine have three daughters, Crystal, Carla, and Laura.

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MOTEL INFORMATION FOR MISSOURI FREE WILL BAPTISTS STATE MEETING



Missouri Free Will Baptists Convention Cowan Civic Center Lebanon, MO June 2 - 4, 2003

Super 8 Motel

1831 West Elm- I44 Exit 127
Phone 417-588-2574



Reservations 1-800-800-8000

1 bed, 1-2 people \$49.29 + tax
2 beds 1-2 people 53.90 + tax
Add \$3 for each additional person
Children under 11 stay free
Continental Breakfast

Wyota Inn

Interstate 44 Exit 130
Phone 417-532-6171



Reservations 1-866-996-8246

Single - \$49.50+ tax
Double - 52.50+ tax
Triple 55.20 + tax
Quad 57.00 + tax
Restaurant Breakfast included in price of room. When you book your reservation, tell the clerk this is the price quoted for FWB.

Holiday Inn Express



I44 - Exit 127
1955 W. Elm St.

Phone 417-532-1111

Reservations 1-800-465-4329

Single \$62.50 + tax
Double 67.50 + tax
Add \$5 for each additional person
Large Continental Breakfast

Hampton Inn



930 Ivey Lane - I44 Exit 127
Phone 417-533-3100

Single \$69.00 + tax
Double \$76.00 + tax
Under 18 stay free
Large breakfast Bar
Senior Rate same as single

Days Inn

I44 - Exit 127
Phone 417-532-7111

Single \$42.88 + tax
Double 46.88 + tax
3 - 4 people 54.88 + tax
Continental Breakfast

Econo Lodge

I44 - Exit 127
Phone 417-588-3226

Single \$35.95 + tax
Double 39.99+ tax
Add \$5 for each additional person
Continental Breakfast



PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

2003 SESSION
CAMP NIANGUA FREE WILL BAPTIST YOUTH CAMP
HCR - 83, BOX 22, NIANGUA, MO. 65713
PHONE — (417) 473-6444



DATE _____ Please Print Name/Address Legibly

NAME _____ AGE _____ SEX _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE NO. (_____) _____ FRIEND'S NO. (_____) _____
 CHURCH _____ F.W.B. yes _____ no _____
 If not F.W.B, What FW.B. church have you come with? _____
 Have you been treated by a physician within the past 6 months? _____ Brief nature of Treatment: _____
 Are you taking medication now? _____ Do you have it with you? _____ Are you allergic to any medicine? _____
 What medicine? _____ Do you have allergies to weeds, pollen, insects, etc? _____
 Please list what you are allergic to: _____

All medication must be dispensed by the Camp Medical Attendant and stored at the First Aid Center. Your medication will be dispensed according to the directions on the bottle or prescription. This is done to insure the safety of your child as well as the safety of others. Your cooperation is imperative!

EMERGENCY MEDICAL STATEMENT " I _____ (Parent/Legal guardian), by my signature below, hereby authorize the Youth Camp Board, or their representative(s) to authorize such emergency treatment necessary to maintain the life or health of my child whose name appears upon this form. I am signing this statement in the presence of a witness, and by my signature, I authorize the attending physician and/or hospital staff to treat my child for any injury or condition that would threaten His/Her life or well being."

Father or Legal Guardian of Camper _____

Mother or Legal Guardian of Camper _____

"I _____ do hereby swear that I have seen the parents or legal guardians of this camper, read the above EMERGENCY MEDICAL STATEMENT. I have personal knowledge that the person/s who have signed this EMERGENCY MEDICAL STATEMENT are indeed the parents or legal guardians of this camper. I do hereby further swear that I have personally witnessed the person whose signature/s appear above, place their signature/s upon this form. I further swear that I am an adult and of sound mind."

WITNESS: _____

Please list below the following information:

Family Physician's Name: _____ Physician's Phone Number: (_____) _____

Please list below, names and numbers where you may be reached in case of an emergency:

1. _____ PH. _____

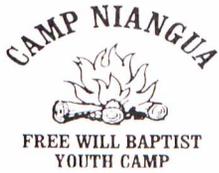
2. _____ PH. _____

Camp Fees: \$55.00 per camper \$15.00 per sponsor

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING!

THE CAMP DRESS CODE IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. CLASS & ACTIVITY TIME -. Girls & women may wear dresses, skirts or split skirts, that cover the knees or full length jeans or slacks. Shirts, blouses or sweaters must be full length & cover the shoulder. No spaghetti strap, tank-tops etc.
2. WORSHIP TIME— Girls & women may wear dresses or skirts that cover the knees. Blouses or sweaters must be full length and cover the shoulder. No spaghetti strap, tank-top, etc.
3. CLASS & ACTIVITY TIME. Boys & men may wear full length slacks or jeans. Shirts are to be full length & cover the shoulder. No fish net, tank-top/muscle shirts, etc.
4. WORSHIP TIME. Boys & men may wear full length slacks or jean. Shirts are to be full length & cover the shoulder. No fish net, tank-top/muscle shirt, etc.



SWEAT PANTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR ANYONE TO WEAR AT CAMP. WE SUGGEST ALL GARMENTS WORN AT CAMP BE, "LOOSE FITTING." PLEASE BRING ONLY THE APPAREL THAT IS ACCEPTABLE BY THE ABOVE STANDARDS.

IT IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT EVERYONE SHOWER & WEAR CLEAN CLOTHES TO EACH WORSHIP SERVICE.

By placing your signature upon the following line, you are making a promise to abide by the rules of the Youth Camp to the best of your ability. No one can be registered as a camper, without signing!

"I _____ have read carefully the rules and regulations of the Youth Camp and do hereby PROMISE to keep these rules and regulations to the best of my ability. I also understand that disciplinary action may be taken against me should I break them."

SIGNATURE OF CAMPER _____

"SPECIAL INSURANCE NOTICE, PLEASE READ WITH CAUTION"

The Youth Camp Insurance Carrier is Church Mutual Insurance Company. The Insurance coverage provided by the camp is called Excess Insurance. The following is a brief description of coverages provided by Church Mutual.

1. Coverage is (ONLY) for accidents. There is no coverage for charges due to sickness.
2. Should an accident occur, all charges must be submitted to the campers (PERSONAL/PRIVATE) insurance carrier first.
 - A. If the personal/private insurance carrier has a deductible, Camp insurance will pay the deductible, not exceeding its own limits.
 - B. If a balance exists after the personal/private insurance carrier has paid to its limits, Camp Insurance will pay the unpaid balance, (not to exceed Church Mutual insurance limits).
 - C. If there is (NO) personal/private insurance, Camp Insurance shall serve as primary carrier and pay up to its limits.
3. Please keep in mind, any coverage by Camp Insurance shall be for accidents only. There is no benefits for any kind of sickness.

PLEASE NOTE— THE INSURANCE COVERAGE PROVIDED BY MISSOURI STATE F.W.B.. YOUTH CAMP IS VERY EXPENSIVE AND LIKE MOST INSURANCE CARRIERS, THEY ARE VERY STRICT REGARDING INFORMATION SUBMITTED TO THEM THEREFORE [FAILURE OR REFUSAL] ON YOUR PART TO SUPPLY ANY NEEDED INFORMATION, WILL AUTOMATICALLY MAKE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY & ALL OF THE UNPAID BALANCE.

4. Since all claims must be submitted to your insurance carrier first, It is necessary that you submit the name, address & phone no. of your insurance provider, on the line provided below. If you have no personal insurance provider, please indicate on the appropriate line.

Name Of Personal Insurance Provider _____
 Street _____ City _____ State _____, Zip _____
 Phone(_____) _____ Policy No. _____

Please check on line, if you have no personal/private insurance coverage: _____

The Youth Camp Board would like to thank you for your cooperation regarding this very important insurance issue.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING

The Youth Campgrounds and the equipment thereon has been dedicated to the Lord for use in His service.

- (1) No one shall deface, destroy, or diversify any of the property or equipment. Anyone doing so will be required to pay for damages.
- (2) No one shall bring/use tobacco, narcotics, or alcoholic beverages on the campgrounds. Those who do, may be expelled from the camp and refused further privileges.
- (3) No profanity shall be tolerated BY ANYONE AT ANYTIME!

Youth Camp Dates

Teen Camp, Group 1, June 8 - 13, 2003
 Teen Camp, Group 2, June 15 -20, 2003

 Pre - Teen Group 2, July 27 - Aug 1, 2003
 Pre - Teen Group 1, Aug 3 - Aug 8, 2003

Group 1

Greater Springfield
 Indian Creek
 Central Western
 Mission
 Cave Springs
 Liberty
 MO-ARK
 Niangua
 Laclede

Group 2

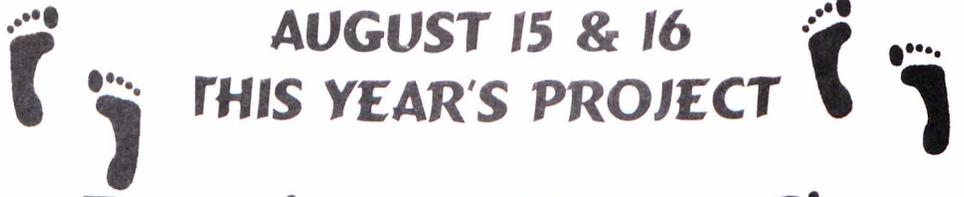
Greater K. C.
 South Central
 Northeast
 St. Louis
 St. Francois
 Mid-Rivers
 Bootheel
 Northwest



MISSOURI STATE W.A.C. RETREAT

AUGUST 15 & 16

THIS YEAR'S PROJECT

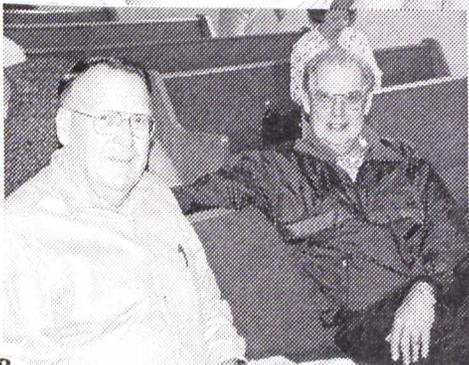
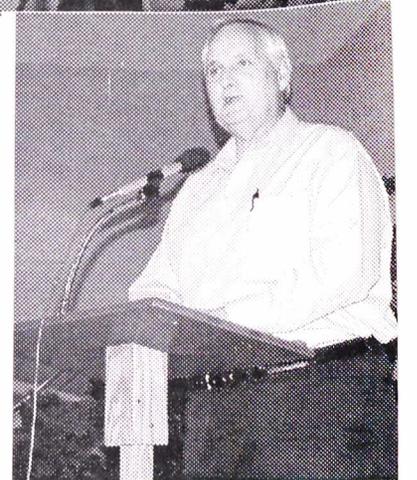
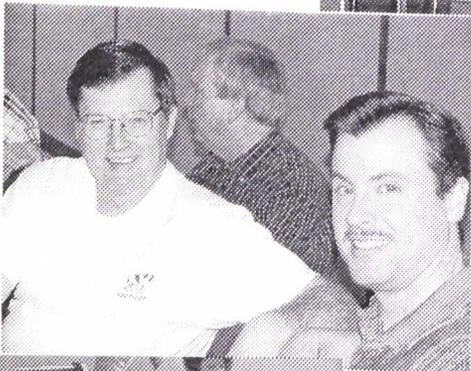


Footprints to Kansas City

We hope to reach our goal for the 2002 WNAC Convention Fund by getting enough foot prints to reach K.C.!

For every \$25.00 your WAC gives, you will get a footprint to add to the "highway" leading to Kansas City. Bring your offerings with you to Retreat and get your footprints. Let's reach our goal at this Retreat!

2003 Minister's Retreat





Speaker
Teri Peacock

Teri Peacock travels all over the United States and has also performed in Israel using the gifts God has given her to proclaim His Gospel.

Missouri Women Active For Christ Retreat

**STONECROFT CONFERENCE
CENTER
AUGUST 15 - 16, 2003**

Theme:
"Walking Worthy"

RETREAT PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

For those STAYING at the Conference Center
Cost: \$55.00 per person

List the ladies that will be staying in the same room (each room has 2 double or queen size beds). You may copy this form or add a sheet for additional names.

1/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone(____) _____ Church _____

2/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone(____) _____ Church _____

3/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone(____) _____ Church _____

4/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone(____) _____ Church _____

RETREAT PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

For those NOT STAYING
at the Conference Center

List the ladies attending the retreat, but providing their own accomodations. Check which meals they will be eating at Stonecroft. The cost for registration and all meals will be \$32.00

1/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____ Church _____
_____ Registration Fee \$17.00 _____ Friday Dinner \$10.00
_____ Saturday Breakfast \$5.00

2/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____ Church _____
_____ Registration Fee \$17.00 _____ Friday Dinner \$10.00
_____ Saturday Breakfast \$5.00

3/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____ Church _____
_____ Registration Fee \$17.00 _____ Friday Dinner \$10.00
_____ Saturday Breakfast \$5.00

4/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____ Church _____
_____ Registration Fee \$17.00 _____ Friday Dinner \$10.00
_____ Saturday Breakfast \$5.00

in order to accommodate the maximum number of ladies attending, there must be 4 ladies to each room. Rooms are assigned as reservations are received. **Reservations will not be accepted before June 16, 2003. Due to limited space and the purpose of the retreat, we request no babies please.**

Total amount inclosed: \$ _____. PLEASE SEND **ONE CHECK** FOR ALL REGISTERING WITH YOUR GROUP. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: MISSOURI STATE WAC (no cash please). As in years past, no refunds will be given, but substitutions may be made. **PLEASE SEND FORM, CHECK, AND SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE TO:** Judith Ruble - 610 Hunters Creek Dr. - Lebanon, MO 65536.

throughout the North American continent and the U.S. owned islands of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Under his leadership, the Home Missions Department sponsored thousands of Evangelism and Church Growth Conferences, and the Old Time Camp Meeting at the National Convention. He also started the Church Extension Loan Fund, the Helping Hands Church Building Team, the Associate Missionary Program, the Aquila and Priscilla Program, the Tentmaker Program, and developed many Evangelism and Church Growth publications. He also authored the books, Planting and Growing a Fundamental Church and published The Journal of Benjamin Randall, and many other historical Free Will Baptist and church growth books and materials.

Dr. Thomas is the father of two children—a son, Mark, a former home missionary who pastors Highland Hills Free Will Baptist Church, Greeley, Colorado and a daughter, Patsy who is the wife of Howard Gwartney, former home missionary who pastors East Valley Free Will Baptist Church, Mesa, Arizona.

Since retirement in December 1995, Dr. Thomas has been an evangelist, conducting over 150 revival meetings and conferences in almost every state where Free Will Baptists have churches, and in some foreign countries

Rev. Keith Burden, Executive Secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, will be our speaker for the Wednesday evening service. He was born in Poteau, Oklahoma and ordained to the ministry in 1975.

Brother Keith is a 1976 graduate of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, and has a Master of Arts degree from Moody Bible Institute. He has pastored 5 churches in Oklahoma and 1 in California. He has held a number of district and state offices during his ministry and served eighteen years as Assistant Clerk of the National Association and two years as clerk. Brother Burden was elected Executive Secretary during the National Convention in 2002.

He and his wife Debbie have two children, Jennifer and Katie.

Financial Report

March 2003

Worship Service Averages November 2002- February 2003

Churches:	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Belton	44	37	37	46
Buffalo 1 st	134	128	104	123
Cabool	41	41	38	40
Calvary Chapel	264	277	264	293
Calvary Fellowship	358	374	379	341
Cape Girardeau		58	59	
Clifton	65	70	60	75
Copper Mines	55	52	62	
Columbia	54	54	53	
Crossroads- Wentzville	66			
De Soto	230	211		233
Green Hills	28	20		
Hannon	137	126	127	
Harmony - Parkville	72	83		
Hartville	194	201	183	204
Hopewell	31	33		
Houston	60	54	43	60
Hurryville	97	85	95	101
Joplin 1 st	108	105	105	
Kingsway	35	33	33	36
Lebanon FWB	53	56	50	57
Lebanon 1 st				150
Macedonia- Purdy	165	164		
Mill Creek	96	93	103	103
Myrtle	28	33		
New Life - Licking			60	
Oak Hill- Union	57	59	51	
O'Fallon 1 st	150	169		170
Ozark 1 st	167	163		158
Pleasant Hill	25	31	22	
Richwoods 1 st	51	42	52	
Rock Chapel	57	48	42	45
Rolla 1 st	30	39	44	37
Springfield 1 st	102	102		
Terrill Road	69			
Thayer	147	152	146	
Trinity	85			
Union Grove	118	119	122	128
United	667	586	531	670
Victory- KC	104	102	100	114
Willow Springs-Mtn. Grove	66			75

Cooperative Disbursements

March 2003	\$52,5751.95	Central	\$4,145.11
18.50% MO St Mission Bd	\$9,725.23	Clifton	\$39.20
17.00% Executive Office	8,937.23	Columbia	\$504.41
3.00% General Fund	1,577.16	Copper Mines	\$504.58
.50% Show-Me Plan	262.85	Cornerstone- Joplin	\$500.00
8.50% Youth Camp Board	4,468.62	Cornerstone- Mtn. Grove	\$422.21
3.00% Y.C. Restricted Funds	1,577.16	Crossroads- Wentzville	\$553.00
2.00% Youth Ministries Bd	1,051.44	Crossroads-Lebanon	\$439.71
2.00% Christian Ed. Bd	1,051.44	Emmanuel	\$132.92
2.00% Senior Adult Min Bd	1,051.44	Faith & Hope- Willow Springs	\$86.00
9.00% Missouri Retirement	4,731.48	Farmington 1st	\$2,816.27
		Farmington 1st	\$3,340.97
31.50%	16,560.16	Fellowship	\$1,200.00
National Ministries, Hillsdale and		Fourth	\$256.96
California Christian College		Fredericktown 1st	\$179.00
Foreign Missions Board		Freeman Chapel	\$391.80
National Home Missions Board		Gospel Light	\$100.00
Same Allocation		Grace	\$1,126.00
Free Will Baptist Bible College		Grace	\$1,323.95
Hillsdale FWB College		Grant Avenue	\$1,738.04
Executive Department		Green Hills	\$130.35
Layman's Board		Hannibal 1st	\$506.00
Radio & TV Commission		Hannon	\$936.00
Theological Commission		Harmony	\$445.58
Historical Commission		Hartville	\$1,111.71
Board of Retirement & Insurance		Harvest	\$215.26
1.00% California Christian College		Hickory Grove	\$168.00
		Hopewell	\$218.00
3.00% MO Show-Me Plan	1,577.16	Houston 1st	\$403.22
Total	\$52,571.16	Hurryville	\$472.73
		Jackson	\$129.81
The Co-op allocation for National		Joplin 1st	\$690.47
Ministries is undesignated this year,		Kingsway	\$197.75
with FWBBC and Hillsdale receiving an		Koskonong	\$90.00
equal amount. California Christian		Lead Hill	\$230.80
College will continue to receive 1%.		Leadington	\$381.60
		Lebanon	\$432.02
		Lebanon 1st	\$963.04
		Liberty- Neavada	\$125.00
Co-op		Lone Star	\$54.00
Aulsbury Chapel	\$165.28	Macedonia- Niangua	\$89.35
Bailey	\$171.00	Marshfield	\$293.00
Bailey Chapel	\$196.00	Merls Chapel	\$107.00
Belton	\$252.50	Mill Creek	\$472.43
Berean	\$43.00	Mine La Motte	\$97.19
Bethel- El Dorado Springs	\$304.64	Monett 1st	\$568.80
Bethel- Marshfield	\$675.00	Mt. Pisgah	\$307.00
Black Oak	\$245.17	Mtn. Grove 1st	\$1,811.85
Cabool 1st	\$214.84	Neosho 1st	\$95.00
Calvary Chapel	\$1,360.57	New Hope	\$70.00
Carthage	\$320.00		

New Life- Licking	\$385.93
Niangua	\$248.36
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove	\$151.20
Oak Hill	\$406.00
Olivet	\$450.00
Overland	\$80.00
Palabras De Vida Eterna	\$67.50
Palabras De Vida Eterna	\$47.50
Park Hills 1st	\$1,036.28
Park Hills 1st	\$752.88
Parkview	\$481.50
Pleasant Hill	\$91.63
Pleasant Home	\$212.30
Pleasant Ridge	\$87.00
Potosi 1st	\$156.65
Republic	\$100.00
Rock Chapel	\$224.65
Rolla 1st	\$346.00
Royal Oak	\$44.00
Seymour	\$471.00
Springfield 1st	\$929.85
Stockton	\$396.71
Terrill Road	\$50.00
Thayer	\$918.00
Trinity	\$1,796.28
Union	\$60.00
Union Grove	\$360.00
Union Light	\$188.00
United	\$1,743.21
Unity	\$500.00
Verdella	1262.27
Victory- Alton	\$413.23
Victory- KC	\$561.16
Waynesville 1st	\$1,226.44
Westport	\$95.00
Willow Springs- Mtn. Grove	\$320.79
Wolf Creek	\$349.54
Total	\$52,571.95

Show-Me Plan

Barker, Rev. J.	\$30.00
Beacon	\$260.00
Belton	\$165.00
Berean	\$30.00
Berry, R.	\$15.00
Bethel - El Dorado	\$354.64
Bethel - Festus	\$45.00
Black Oak	\$60.00
Brown, J.	\$15.00
Burns, J.	\$60.00
Buxton, G.	\$30.00
Cabool	\$105.00
Calvary Chapel - Buffalo	\$105.00
Cartee, J.	\$15.00
Central	\$504.00
Columbia	\$75.00
Copper Mines	\$150.00
Copper Mines - Teen & Jr. Cl.	\$30.00
Copper Mines - Yg. Adult Class	\$15.00
Cornerstone - Mtn. Grove	\$335.00
Cornerstone- Joplin	\$300.00
Cross Roads - Lebanon	\$60.00
Darnell, W.	\$15.00
Eastern Gate	\$80.00
Faith - St. Louis	\$20.00
Faith & Hope - W.S.	\$120.00
Farmington 1st	\$797.00
Farmington 1st	\$905.00
Fellowship	\$537.10
Fourth	\$75.00
Fredericktown 1st	\$30.00
Freeman Chapel	\$540.00
Gospel Light	\$1,000.00
Grace	\$926.00
Grace	\$537.00
Graham, S.	\$85.00
Grant Ave.	\$250.00
Hannibal - WNAC	\$15.00
Hannon	\$1,036.00
Happy Hill	\$60.00
Happy Hill	\$60.00
Harmony	\$46.47
Hartville	\$240.00
Harvest	\$20.00
Houston 1st	\$314.00

Hurryville	\$500.00
Hurryville Sr. Adult S.S. Class	\$15.00
Jackson	\$40.00
Jones Chapel	\$270.00
Olivet	\$75.00
Leadington	\$195.00
Lebanon 1st	\$150.00
Lebanon F.W.B.	\$30.00
Macedonia - Purdy	\$1,000.00
Maggart, D.	\$45.00
Matthews, G.	\$45.00
Merl's Chapel	\$200.00
Mill Creek	\$140.00
Mill Creek C. W. F.	\$15.00
Mill Creek Young Adult S.S.C.	\$15.00
Mine La Motte	\$75.00
Missouri State Women Active For	
Christ	\$1,062.92
Monett 1st	\$45.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$535.00
Mt. Pisgah	\$75.00
Neosho 1st	\$135.00
New Home - Hartville	\$210.00
New Hope - Fredericktown	\$105.00
New Life - Licking	\$142.35
New Testament	\$15.00
Niangua	\$30.00
Noel, D.	\$15.00
Number One	\$60.00
Oak Grove - Houston	\$30.00
Oak Hill - Union	\$20.00
Olivet	\$30.00
Palabras De Vida Eterna	\$20.00
Palabras De Vida Eterna	\$15.00
Park Hills 1st	\$310.89
Park Hills 1st	\$225.87
Parker, G.	\$15.00
Parkview - Desloge	\$266.50
Pinkerton, J.	\$45.00
Pleasant Hill	\$45.00
Pleasant Home	\$330.00
Pleasant Ridge - Urbana	\$50.00
Pogue, R.	\$15.00
Richwoods	\$52.50
Rock Chapel	\$225.00
Rolla 1st	\$30.00
Royal Oak	\$120.00
Ruble N.	\$45.00
Shelton, B.	\$100.00
Springfield 1st	\$530.00
St. Francois Dist. Assn.	\$6.25
Stockton	\$168.04
Thayer	\$245.00
Trinity	\$930.00
Union - Success	\$180.00
Union Light	\$150.00
United	\$300.00
Unity	\$75.00
Verdella	\$1,807.27
Victory - Alton	\$45.00
Victory - K.C.	\$60.00
Walnut Grove	\$15.00
Waynesville 1st	\$489.90
Westport- Jeff. City	\$60.00
Willow Springs - Mtn. Grove	\$90.00
Willow Springs 1st	\$150.00
Total	\$22,999.70

Foreign Missions

Belton	\$30.00
Carthage	\$10.00
Central	\$140.00
Farmington 1st	\$37.50
Farmington 1st	\$20.00
Grace	\$30.00
Grace	\$15.00
Grant Ave.	\$15.00
Harvest Youth Group	\$12.71
Matthews, A.	\$15.00
Mine LaMotte Teens	\$10.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$10.00
New Testament	\$55.00
Pleasant Home	\$62.30
Pleasant Ridge(In Memory of B. Pierce)	\$10.00
Thayer	\$939.00

Trinity	\$387.95
Victory - K.C.	\$10.00
Waynesville 1st	\$125.00
Total	\$1,934.46

Nat'l Home Missions

Belton	\$15.00
Calvary Chapel	\$15.00
Carthage	\$5.00
Central	\$25.00
Columbia	\$25.00
Farmington 1st	\$400.00
Farmington 1st	\$280.00
Fourth	\$50.00
Fredericktown 1st	\$5.00
Gospel Light	\$240.00
Grace	\$63.00
Grace	\$18.00
Grant Avenue	\$10.00
Hannon	\$656.00
Houston 1st	\$25.00
Jackson	\$50.00
Monett 1st	\$5.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$80.00
Mt. Pisgah	\$25.00
Neosho 1st	\$50.00
New Home- Hartville	\$10.00
New Testament	\$115.00
Park Hills 1st	\$188.63
Park Hills 1st	\$1,027.54
Richwoods	\$67.00
Rock Chapel	\$62.75
Ruble, N.	\$10.00
St. Francois Assn.	\$6.25
Thayer	\$140.00
Trinity	\$149.82
Union Light	\$96.00
United	\$150.00
Unity	\$50.00
Verdella	\$60.00
Victory- KC	\$45.00
Westport	\$30.00
Wolf Creek	\$75.00
Total	\$4,324.99

State Home Missions

Belton	\$25.00
Bethel- Festus	\$15.00
Fellowship	\$100.00
Gospel Light	\$80.00
Grace	\$40.00
Grace	\$55.00
Joplin 1st	\$10.00
Lebanon Bible & Book	\$330.00
Macedonia- Monett	\$100.00
McNay, J.	\$75.00
Neosho 1st	\$25.00
New Testament	\$50.00
Niangua	\$71.80
Palabras De Vida Eterna	\$50.00
Pleasant Ridge	\$20.00
Republic	\$25.00
St. Francois Assn.	\$12.50
Thayer	\$110.00
Trinity	\$89.82
Union	\$45.00
United	\$25.00
Waynesville 1st	\$50.00
Total	\$1,404.12

Youth Camp

Hartville	10.00
Lebanon Bible & Bookstore	180.00
New Home-Hartville	10.00
Niangua	20.00
Rolla 1st	20.00
Union	30.00
Cornerstone	25.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	10.00
Thayer	55.00
Mt. Pisgah	15.00
Willow Springs-Mtn. Grove	10.00
Hannon	50.00
Park Hills 1st	30.85
Cabool	10.00

Park Hills 1st	32.60
Verdella	20.00
Trinity	18.00
Total	\$546.45

Camp Development Fund

Houston 1st	100.00
Rock Chapel	46.00
Total	\$146.00

C. E. Board

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	\$130.00
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Senior Adult Ministries

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	\$130.00
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Youth Ministries Board

Lebanon Bible & Book Store	\$130.00
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Free Will Baptist Bible College

Farmington 1st	150.00
Ruble, N.	15.00
Thayer	50.00
Verdella	252.45
Farmington 1st	150.00
Total	\$617.45

Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College

Beacon	2.00
Farmington 1st	175.00
New Home-Hartville	200.00
Thayer	50.00
Joplin 1st	75.00
Hannon	100.00
Farmington 1st	150.00
Total	\$752.00

Women Nationally Active for Christ

Ruble, J.	\$10.00
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Trula Cronk Home for Children

Farmington 1st	15.00
Belton	10.00
New Hope	30.00
Hannon	100.00
Unity 20.00	
Farmington 1st	15.00
Total	\$190.00

Rev. John McClure

Farmington 1st	5.00
Grace	15.00
Mtn. Grove 1st	25.00
Grace	15.00
Carthage	15.00
Farmington 1st	5.00
Total	\$80.00

Cornerstone FWB Church

(Brian Brinkoff)	
New Testament	\$10.00

Vergel Maness

Grace	100.00
Grace	100.00
Gospel Light	80.00
Total	\$280.00

Morgan Wood

Belton	\$20.00
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Urban Impact

Scott and Melanie Lundeen	
Verdella	\$631.16

Berea Ministries

Hartville	\$150.00
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Victor Torrez

United Youth Group	\$200.00
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Living in Fear

by Micah Derby

As most of my fellow Missourians are aware, my departure for France is coming very soon. I have traveled from one side of Missouri to the other visiting with you and sharing my burden for the lost French Muslim people.

During my travels I have been asked many questions concerning my ministry, but it seems one of the most common questions, especially in light of recent events, is are you scared for your life, do you have fear?

On the one hand, yes I'm scared. Thoughts of leaving my family, friends, my home church, and taking my wife to a new place to minister among a people who do not exactly like us because of where we are from and who we serve as our God are very prevalent in my mind. Knowing well that one day my faith in Christ could cost us our lives - to be honest, it can be a little frightening.

Then, there is the other hand - no, I am not scared. When I think of what God has done in my life to bring me where I stand today, how could I be scared?

I know no fear because God has commissioned all who believe in Him to go and bring people into fellowship with Christ.

I know no fear because we live in a world with over one billion Muslim believers who worship a god who does not hear them, and if I live my life in fear, how will they know the love of Christ's eternal gift of salvation?

Lastly, I know no fear because God has brought me and my wife to this point in our lives, and we have the security in our faith that one day we will live eternally with Him no matter the cost during this life. He has been preparing us all our lives for this moment, and our lives' purpose will come to fruition on August 27, 2003, as we will walk confidently onto our plane as it departs for the country of France. In France, we will boldly seek to bring new worshipers to the throne so that through your obedience of supporting His work and our obedience of going, many will come to know Him as their savior.

Harvest Free Will Baptist Mission

We want to thank each of you for your prayers. The Lord is blessing and we are growing. Two additional families have started coming recently.

We are desperately praying the Lord will open a door for us to acquire some property or building. It won't be long before we outgrow our present space.

We had our high attendance this past Sunday with 45 in attendance!

This Sunday, April 6th starts our revival services. Bro Scott McNay will be serving as our evangelist. We have had several cottage prayer meetings and services to prepare for these services. We know that revival starts in our hearts first.

Continue to hold our mission church before the Lord.

Our hope is to have our first Communion and Foot Washing service on Easter and look forward to a great fellowship in the Lord.

In Christ,
Bro Gene, Sandy, Jon Howell



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