



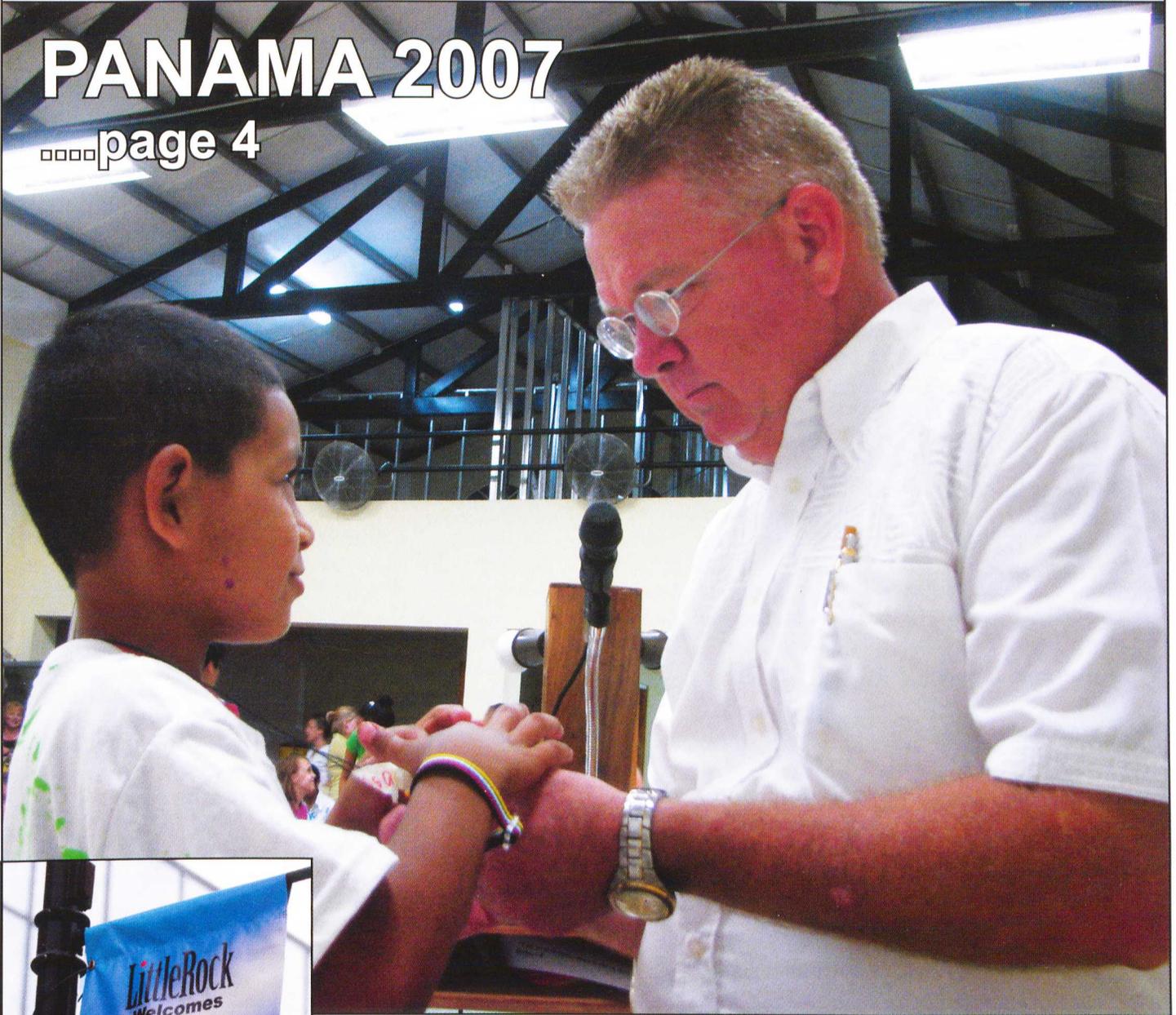
GEM

Missouri Free Will Baptist

Magazine

PANAMA 2007

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Cover: Missionary Stan Bunch shares the gospel beads with a student at the recent Bible School held at the Chitre Church in Panama.

All items for publication must be in the hands of the editor no later than the 1st day of the month preceding the month of issue.

Business Office:
202 West Commercial,
P.O. Box 991,
Lebanon, Missouri 65536,
Gary Fry, Editor.

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

Articles and Photos may be submitted by e-mail to gwfry@mofwb.org

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From the Editor

A Penny in Panama



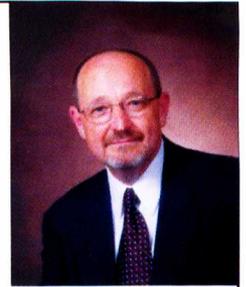
It was just a penny. I received it in change earlier that morning and didn't even look at it until the afternoon when paying for a purchase. I saw it as I sorted through the change in my hand. It was a wheat penny. It was not worth a great deal, but they always catch my attention. As I looked closer, I saw that it was minted in 1950. That is the year of my birth. Minor coincidence. Bigger coincidence...that day happened to be my birthday!

Now to some, that might have been a great sign from someone, somewhere. To me it was a thought starter. What are the odds that I would receive a wheat penny on my birthday minted in the year of my birth? But that was not what captured my thought, it was the word coincidence. That's not a word or reality in which I have ever placed much stock.

I take great comfort and encouragement in that God is in control of this world. I am convinced that He is actively concerned about everything that happens to his children. That would lead me to believe that the events of my life are under his direction and that the best course of action for me is to follow Him.

I was having these thoughts as I rode in a van following two other vans loaded with 35 people down a busy street in Panama. We were there to help Stan and Brenda Bunch with their Bible School, do construction on an addition to their church, and for youth evangelism.

I began to think about what a perfect team God had assembled. There were experienced builders and workers who knew just what to do to assist the Panamanian workers on the building. From doing steel work high in the air to shoveling gravel, digging footings, mixing the concrete in a ditch and building walls with metal studs, they could do it all. There were people with a world of experience in working with children.



They knew just what to do even though the materials they had carefully prepared were in luggage lost in an airport somewhere. Bible school still happened and over 50 kid's lives were touched.

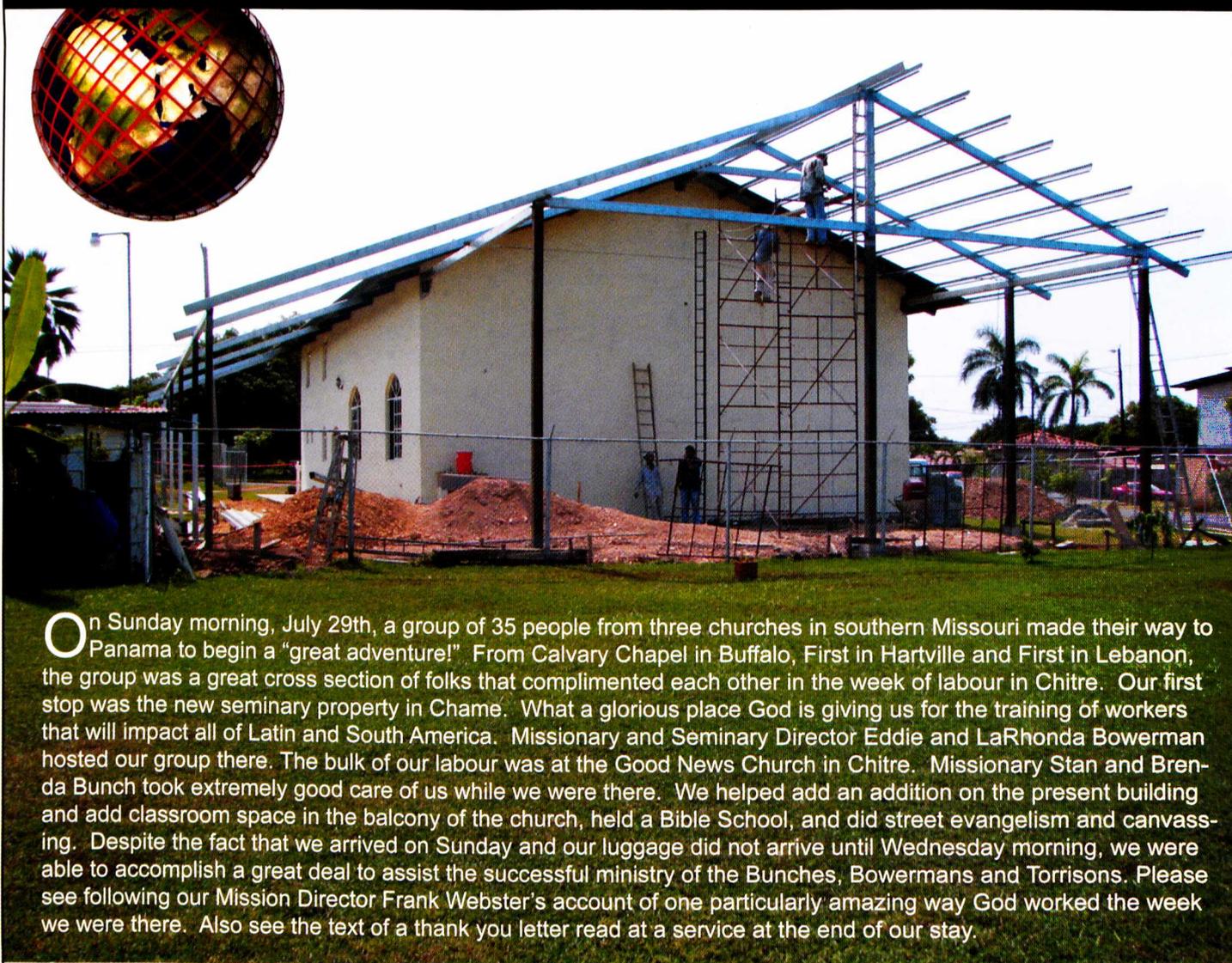
There were teens and their youth workers who immediately bonded with the Panamanian teens, creating friendships that will last for a lifetime. There were computer gurus who knew how to keep all the folks back home informed about our daily activities on a computer blog. There were even drivers who quickly adapted to the frantic pace of Panamanian traffic and could with blaring horn, jockey for position like a native.

Some might pronounce us fortunate to have such a team in that place at that time. Fortune had nothing to do with it. God had assembled this team. Many could tell stories of how God has provided time off, money from unexpected sources, and passports at the last minute. God knew what he wanted done and he knew who he wanted to do it. He also knew how we would benefit from being there. He helped us strengthen our relationships with Him and each other. Isn't it great to be the children of a God who can work on so many levels at once.

We brought home a great many precious memories of people and places and God's great love. We brought home souvenirs, lots of souvenirs. We seriously strengthened the economy of Panama while we were there. My favorite is probably that penny. I will keep it as a reminder that with God there are no coincidences. He has a great plan at work and my goal is as stated by Henry Blackaby in his "Experiencing God" series. We must find out where God is at work and join ourselves to him. God is definitely at work in Panama.



Missouri Show-Me Missions



On Sunday morning, July 29th, a group of 35 people from three churches in southern Missouri made their way to Panama to begin a "great adventure!" From Calvary Chapel in Buffalo, First in Hartville and First in Lebanon, the group was a great cross section of folks that complimented each other in the week of labour in Chitre. Our first stop was the new seminary property in Chame. What a glorious place God is giving us for the training of workers that will impact all of Latin and South America. Missionary and Seminary Director Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman hosted our group there. The bulk of our labour was at the Good News Church in Chitre. Missionary Stan and Brenda Bunch took extremely good care of us while we were there. We helped add an addition on the present building and add classroom space in the balcony of the church, held a Bible School, and did street evangelism and canvassing. Despite the fact that we arrived on Sunday and our luggage did not arrive until Wednesday morning, we were able to accomplish a great deal to assist the successful ministry of the Bunches, Bowermans and Torrison. Please see following our Mission Director Frank Webster's account of one particularly amazing way God worked the week we were there. Also see the text of a thank you letter read at a service at the end of our stay.

Street Ministry

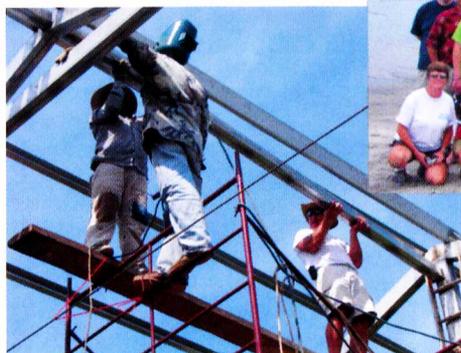
You just never know when the Lord will show up and turn a "dreaded situation" into an "ordained appointment". There was an obvious case of that on the trip to Panama that Deb and I were very thankful to be a part of this past end of July and first of August. First, I will explain the "dreaded situation" part of the equation. In preparing for the mission trip, there were three areas to volunteer for: VBS, Evangelism and Construction. I volunteered for the construction crew thinking this would allow me to meet some of the men going on the trip, which was

accomplished. However, upon getting to the job site, I quickly realized that I was probably most suited for the Panamanian backhoe crew. That consisted of swinging picks and pushing shovels – a lot. After nearly two days of spreading dirt then digging one foot by two foot foundation trenches, I was getting pretty tired. In fact I commented to my comrades Melvin Moon, Curtis Dowden and Austin Moore that I was going to have to take a break until Deb got back from town because I was sure she would want to be here for the heart attack.

We did finally finish the trenching part of the week, but then found

out that in order to keep the work from going to waste by a rain storm, we had better fill them with some concrete. "No problem", I thought; get the truck here. The truck arrived – with sand, rock, and cement – separately. One of our crew asked if there was a mixer and was told that there sure was and was quickly handed a shovel and instructions on how to mix the three ingredients. "Take 3 wheel barrows full of sand and dump that in the street by the curb. Then take 3 wheel barrows full of rock and dump that on top. Then take two sacks of cement and apply to the pile. Then add water, sweat, and shovels." There is our "dreaded situation."

Now here's the "ordained appointment" part. As we were adding our "water, sweat, and shovels" to our first mix, one of the Panamanians who was selling some fruit via his bicycle stopped to watch the gringos. It didn't take him long to feel sorry for us. He then walked over, took a shovel and showed us how it is supposed to be done. It was quite obvious that this guy had done this mixing concrete in the street stuff before. After showing us how to properly work the mix, he then worked the wheel barrow for us to dump the mix in the trench.



After a few hours of his welcomed help, it was decided that we should purchase his fruit, even though none of us really liked the stuff. Our foundation lead man, John Chastain, bought them all and maybe a little more as a thank you. He was also promptly invited to bring his family to the VBS program that evening. Not only did HE show up, but he brought his wife, baby, and mother-in-law too. Can you believe that after Pastor Stan Bunch preached the message of "One Way to Heaven – through Christ" that the mother-in-law made a commitment to Christ that night? And, our cement worker/fruit seller friend and family committed to returning to the church for further instruction!!

All of this happened because a few tired and inexperienced "gringos" were mixing concrete in the street poorly. You just never know when the Lord will show up and turn a cement job into a "street ministry."

-Frank Webster

Chitre, August 2, 2007

Beloved Brethren,

May God richly bless you.

We want to express to you our profound gratitude for all you have done for our church in such a short time. You have been a blessing to us. Thank you for the arduous work you have done: in the construction and remodeling of our church, the Vacation Bible School, the work with the young people... more than everything thank you for the desire to serve. You have done so much for our church and for our community.

You have all given time, work, money; a sacrifice that we greatly appreciate. We feel indebted to you for all that you have done. "Therefore, my beloved brethren be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." I Corinthians 15:58

We know, appreciate, and can feel that for you to work for the Lord not only gives you satisfaction, but also joy. Having worked with you, your enthusiasm for serving the Lord is contagious.

Our desire is that God continues to bless you and use you to encourage and help others.

We will be praying for you.

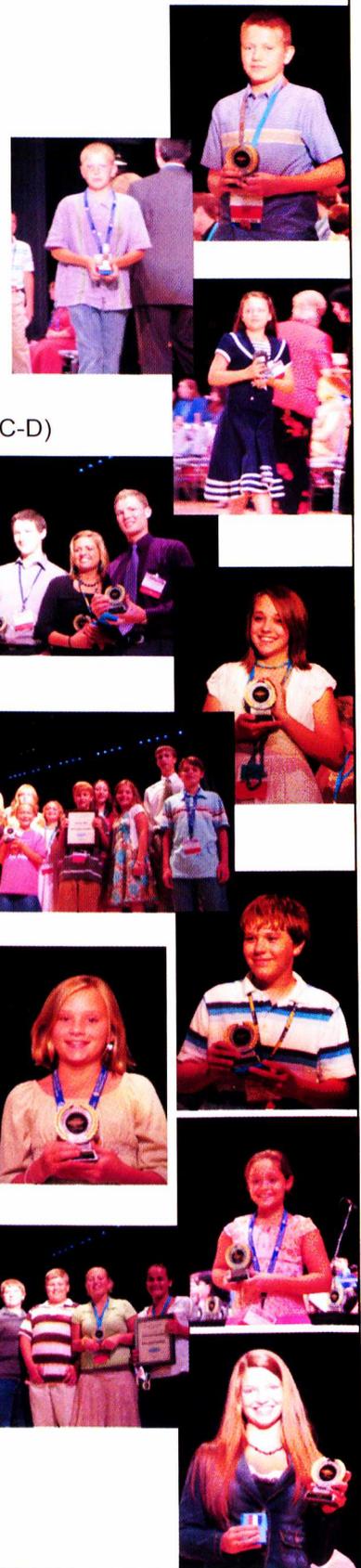
Thank you again. We appreciate your support. God bless you,

Your brothers in Christ from the Good News FWB Church

SCM Competition Results

Forty eight students from Missouri came home from the recent National Youth Conference Competitive activities with trophies! Among stiff competition, our Missouri students stood out for their preparation and talent. Our congratulations to them and all our Missouri Youth who participated in this years event. Please find listed below the results of their labor.

Placement	Entry Name	Age Code	Competition Code
3rd	Emily Applegate	B - Grades 4-6	4th Grade Bible Memorization
2nd	David Easley	B - Grades 4-6	6th Grade Bible Memorization
2nd	Mikaela Carter	C - Grades 7-9	7th Grade Bible Memorization
1st	Garrett Pratt	C - Grades 7-9	8th Grade Bible Memorization
1st	Ashley Applegate	C - Grades 7-9	9th Grade Bible Memorization
1st	Phillip Easley	D - Grades 10-12	10th Grade Bible Memorization
1st	Christine Harkey	D - Grades 10-12	11th Grade Bible Memorization
3rd	First O'Fallon	D - Grades 10-12	Bible Bowl
3rd	Amanda Brinkhoff	D - Grades 10-12	TruthQuest
1st	Alexis Williams	A - Grades 1-3	1.10 - Vocal Solo (Age A-B)
3rd	Holly Rains	D - Grades 10-12	1.30 - Female Vocal Solo (Age C-D)
1st	Reynolds Duet	B - Grades 4-6	2.20 - Duets
1st	Hazel Creek Ensemble	C - Grades 7-9	2.50 - VE (5-12)
1st	Mica Hoskins	B - Grades 4-6	3.10 - Woodwind Solo
2nd	Zachary Keith	B - Grades 4-6	3.20 - Brass Solo
2nd	Andrew Bass	C - Grades 7-9	3.20 - Brass Solo
1st	Josh Soles	D - Grades 10-12	3.20 - Brass Solo
2nd	Lisa Bromley	B - Grades 4-6	3.30 - Bowed String Solo
1st	Garrett Pratt	C - Grades 7-9	3.30 - Bowed String Solo
1st	Jeni Dixon	D - Grades 10-12	3.50 - Percussion Solo
1st	Hartville Duet	B - Grades 4-6	4.10 - IE (2-4)
1st	Handbell Choir	D - Grades 10-12	4.20 - IE (5+)
3rd	Joel Williams	C - Grades 7-9	5.10 - Keyboard Solo
1st	Danielle & Mikaela	C - Grades 7-9	5.20 - Keyboard Ensemble
1st	Ahnika Littlefield	B - Grades 4-6	6.10 - Famous Speech
2nd	Lucas Moffat	A - Grades 1-3	6.30 - Individual Drama
2nd	Kirsten Wagner	C - Grades 7-9	6.30 - Individual Drama
2nd	Nathaniel Brinkhoff	B - Grades 4-6	6.40 - Illustrated Storytelling
1st	Amanda Brinkhoff	D - Grades 10-12	6.40 - Illustrated Storytelling
1st	Jones Chapel Puppets	C - Grades 7-9	6.60 - Live Puppetry
1st	Trinity Puppeteers	C - Grades 7-9	6.70 - Recorded Puppetry
2nd	Megan Sevits	A - Grades 1-3	7.10 - Short Story
3rd	Morgan Sevits	B - Grades 4-6	7.10 - Short Story
3rd	JoHanna Brinkhoff	C - Grades 7-9	7.10 - Short Story
1st	Katherine Fry	C - Grades 7-9	7.10 - Short Story
1st	Amanda Brinkhoff	D - Grades 10-12	7.10 - Short Story
2nd	Hazel Creek Website	D - Grades 10-12	8.20 - Web page Design
3rd	Brittany Sickmeier	D - Grades 10-12	9.10 - Painting
3rd	Braden Keith	A - Grades 1-3	9.20 - Graphics
3rd	Mitch Wagner	B - Grades 4-6	9.20 - Graphics
1st	Jonathan Brinkhoff	A - Grades 1-3	9.30 - 3-D Art
1st	Brittany Sickmeier	D - Grades 10-12	9.30 - 3-D Art
1st	Chelsey Baker	B - Grades 4-6	9.40 - Photography
1st	Mack Reynolds	A - Grades 1-3	9.50 - Fabricated Art
1st	JoHanna Brinkhoff	C - Grades 7-9	9.50 - Fabricated Art
3rd	Megan Sevits	A - Grades 1-3	9.60 - Promotional Graphic Art
3rd	Morgan Sevits	B - Grades 4-6	9.60 - Promotional Graphic Art
1st	Katherine Fry	C - Grades 7-9	9.70 - Computer Art



DOWN TO THE RIVER

Free Will Baptists Flood Little Rock

The angry, brown waters of the flooded Arkansas River churned beneath Statehouse Convention Center as more than 6,000 Free Will Baptists met for worship, fellowship, and business July 15-18. Much has changed in the thirteen years since the convention visited Little Rock in 1994.

The denomination has grown by more than 70,000 members, according to a statistical report published by the Executive Office. The statistics reflect 313,444 members in 2006, up from 243,244 in 1994.

Denominational budgets doubled in a decade. The \$13 million budget approved in 1994 pushes the \$26 million mark in 2007. No one had heard of an NGO in 1994, but in 2007 The Hanna Project, the first Free Will Baptist NGO (Non-Governmental Organization), dominated the convention program with nine presentations in three days.

ONE Magazine was a dream in 1994, but in 2007, the 56-page publication representing eight denominational agencies is reality. Delivered free to more than 60,000 homes six times a year, the magazine is a testimony to denominational cooperation and the vision of new leadership.

In recent years, the IMPACT program has turned the focus of the convention outward. On

Saturday, July 14, nearly 400 Free Will Baptists from across the nation arrived early for the annual one-day evangelistic campaign. Volunteers came armed with Bibles, hammers, paintbrushes, and willing hearts—ready to share Christ with the city. Before the day ended, volunteers provided more than 1,400 hours of service, visited 874 homes, and spoke to 480 people. They shared the gospel 35 times and rejoiced when one person professed a new faith in Christ.

Rousing Worship

More than one convention attendee remarked, “The services this week were the best in years.” Each service seemed to build on the one before as Keynote Speakers Roy Harris, TN; Joe Grizzle, OK; Eddie Moody, NC; Wendell Walley, CA; and Nelson Henderson (AR) addressed the 2007 convention theme, “Helping One Another.”

Convention Music Coordinator Chris Truett delivered an inspiring program that featured a mass choir with more than 100 voices, an orchestral ensemble, and a vocal accompaniment group. Every service featured rousing specials and enthusiastic congregational singing.

On Monday evening, Darrin Dwyer shared a moving testimony, describing for listeners how God used his suffering after the tragic death of his

five-year-old son in December 2006 to surprise him. “As I look back,” Darrin said, “I am glad that I have joined the ‘fellowship of suffering,’ because it was only in suffering that I came to understand that God is sufficient.”

A Missions Revolution took place on Monday afternoon when the annual missions rally opened with music by Central Asian group Zavet. Attendees were challenged to find revolutionary ways to fulfill the Great Commission in their churches. Jim McAllister (CA), Bobby Ferguson (TX), and Karl Sexton, (VA) shared personal revolutions from their own churches that changed their perspectives on ministry.

The 2007 Preaching Conference featured Florida pastor Paul Smith and David Crowe, director of development for the Home Missions department. On Tuesday evening, father-son duo, Trent and Wendell Walley, tag-teamed the service when Trent (IN) led worship before his dad took the pulpit.

The 2007 convention concluded in spectacular fashion as thousands of Free Will Baptists crammed into the convention hall for a combined worship event. After the annual “Parade of Nations” featuring missionaries from home and abroad, Arkansas native Nelson Henderson challenged the congregation to “help reach the world.” As the service came to an end, missionaries returned to the stage a final time, creating a memorable visual spectacle for everyone present.

continued next page



Responsible Business

Executive Office – Executive Secretary Keith Burden announced a \$500,000 financial turnaround in four years, as the agency retired more than \$100,000 in debt, establishing \$400,000 in cash reserves since 2003.

Burden praised first-year convention coordinator Roy Harris for his excellent planning. He lauded the efforts of the ONE Magazine staff in producing the publication that goes free into 60,000 homes and recently expanded from 48 to 56 pages per issue.

International Missions – General Director James Forlines delivered a glowing report describing a “wave” of 84 missionary candidates who will graduate from FWB colleges in the near future. He described unprecedented growth of new converts, new churches, and new workers on international fields. Yet his report was greeted by more than 20 delegates who crowded microphones to express concerns, ask questions, and cheer on the director’s proposal to restructure the current missions funding system.

In order to “get the wave on the field,” Forlines explained, the denomination needs to return to more undesignated missions giving. The International Missions Board will launch a study and meet with state leaders and pastors in order to make a strategy recommendation to the denomination by 2008. If the plan is approved, it will be fully implemented by the department by

2010 or 2011.

“If all the funds sent to International Missions in the past 10 years had been undesignated,” Forlines said, “no missionary account would have ever been in the red, no missionaries would have had to come off the field early to raise support, all needs would have been met, and we would never have had a general fund deficit.”

Some delegates appeared stunned at the suggestion. Others quickly offered verbal support. Still others wondered if the proposed study would respect the donor’s right to designate funds. In any case, resolution of the issue appears to lie three or four years in the future.

With afternoon adjournment approaching, Forlines paused to recognize retired missionaries Bobby and Sue Aycock (Brazil) for 40 years of faithful service. When he presented the respected couple a plaque of appreciation, delegates responded with a lengthy standing ovation.

Free Will Baptist Bible College

– “We continue to be a name you can trust in education,” President Matt Pinson told delegates Wednesday morning, during his upbeat, fast-paced report.

Citing the largest graduating class in 23 years, a budget surplus of \$239,000, and four new degree programs to be launched by 2009, Pinson called the next five years “heady days” for the school. He asked for wisdom, prayer, and patience.

He updated delegates on plans to relocate the campus. Thirty-five potential buyers have contacted the college since mid-March when the previous buyer cancelled the contract. One offer from a potential investor, however, exceeds that amount. Administrators continue to narrow the search for a site for the new campus.

Enrollment at FWBCC has increased 37% since 2001 with a 22-year-high of 420 students during the 2006-2007 academic year. Ministry enrollment, up by 40%, is the fastest-growing program on campus.

Randall House – Sales surged to \$4 million in 2006, and the agency made \$250,000, thanks mostly to printing curriculum in-house, according to Executive Director Ron Hunter. Their award-winning literature design swept multiple categories in publishing industry awards for the second year in a row.

Hunter expressed his intention to revisit long-standing contracts with state bookstores in an effort to curtail dwindling unit sales (which have dropped 26% between 1989 and 2003). Delegates approved a motion from the floor requesting the agency to meet with state leaders and bookstore managers to discuss concerns and to seek resolution.

Home Missions – Two standing ovations punctuated the Home Missions report from General Director Larry Powell. The first came

continued on page 10



Abidjan Investment Report

9 Aug 2007, Abidjan

Cool greetings from Abidjan... It might be hard to believe but Carol is wearing woolen socks; we have a light blanket on the bed & it has drizzled rain all morning..the sun just appeared at 3:30pm. And we hear that true, hot African Weather is visiting the USA. We know it will soon return here so in the meantime, we're glad to have dry non sticky-stinky skin. And trust you'll soon have more comfortable weather.

Pastor Amiezi Paul and Family were over for the noon meal

yesterday. It's been a while since our table was crowded with younger kids...They enjoyed the food and behaved like royalty.. (well, most of the time. We did have a few games of hide & seek going with giggles galore!) Pastor Paul is such a fine, Godly, considerate man.. He is working on finishing up his thesis in Theology at the Christian & Missionary Alliance Seminary. He was impressed by drive-in banking, McDonalds & such in the US, plus being at the National Assoc in Little Rock & finding it so highly organized! He enjoyed meeting many fine people, he said. He was in the US for one month promoting the Hanna Project.

Jerry is getting the truck in best-possible shape. He & a truck full of passengers will go upcountry-5-6 hours to attend the IC National Association (Aug 15-18). This year only delegates attend as it is only

for business. Some sticky issues will be discussed, so please pray for all to seek the Lord's leadership in voting. I don't know about USA voting, but have noticed here that sometimes people watch to see how their friend's vote, then do the same rather than voting on personal convictions.

With travel going/returning he'll be gone about 4-5 days. Because of my dislike for rough roads, I've gladly given my space in the truck to others & will be happy to stay home with the computer, dog & Parrot!

Check out www.fwbgo.com/Missionaries and check our box for some recent photos, ok?

The Lord's blessings as you continue to serve HIM on your section of His Harvest Field..

Thanks for investing in the African Field. -Jerry and Carol

Berea is Booming.....

We just got home from Association of Free Will Baptist churches in Mexico convening in Monterey, MX. The reports were exciting as new churches were reported and Missions beginning. We now have 50 churches in Mexico and 1 in Santiago, Chile and just opened in Costa Rica.

Bro. Chris Dotson, our Director came directly from Costa Rica to the meeting in Monterey where he had just extended the influence of Berea Ministries and Free Will Baptist in that great country. The work there has taken off.

The Mexican Assoc. has accepted bot Chile and Costa Rica into their Assoc. We were thrilled to see Bro. Larry Powell and Bro. Keith Burden bring reports and greeting from Nashville.

The fellowship was refreshing with the harmony of the meeting. Sunday morning service we saw a young man saved, a young preacher ordained into the ministry. The Pastor's children had their Bibles opened and reading (with tears) as their Dad was being ordained. We also witnessed a Young preacher and wife bring their new baby for dedication service. We had it all in the Sunday Moring service: SALVATION, DEDICATION, AND ORDINATION. God really blessed the meeting.

We were thrilled at the announcement of Bro. Luis (Berea's Director in Mexico) will be representative with Bro. Tom Marberry at the Internation Convention in France.

Thanks for all that churches in MO are doing to help Berea apread the gospel in Mexico. -Bill Adkisson, Berea Representative

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when he announced the retirement of Free Will Baptists' only active-duty Navy Chaplain Robert Cooper after 27 years. The second followed a similar announcement about the retirement of Richard Adams, director of development. Both men received plaques of commendation and briefly addressed delegates. Powell called Adams "the finest fund-raiser in the denomination" and announced the establishment of a \$1 million dollar perpetual endowment in his name.

He called 2006 a record-setting year with 14 new church planters in nine states and three church planters reaching self-supporting status. Six church-planting teams were authorized in the past six months, and 55 Hispanic students have graduated from the Gwen Hendrix Bible Institute (South Carolina). The graduates have started 33 churches in nine states.

Master's Men – Master's Men celebrated their 50th year of service in 2006 and doubled in the last 10 years. Director Ken Akers offered a free, three-minute DVD to pastors or churches interested in organizing a chapter. The agency added eight new chapters this year.

Board of Retirement – Director Ray Lewis reported a record-breaking 24.5% rate of earning during the last half of 2006. The agency enrolled 102 new participants and recorded 22 percent growth to increase managed funds to \$39.5 million. Lewis hopes to reach \$50 million in managed funds by 2007.

Free Will Baptist Foundation – General Director Bill Evans delivered his final report to the convention. He retires July 31, after serving 14 years as director. He introduced successor, David Brown, who promptly quipped, "Bill Evans wears a size 10.5, and I wear a size 13...but I still have big shoes to fill."

Board Chairman Waymon Fields presented a plaque of appreciation to Evans as delegates delivered a standing ovation to the popular director.

Commissions – The Commission for Theological Integrity presented a proposed Treatise appendix on marriage. The proposal will lay on the table for one year and be presented to delegates in 2008 for consideration. To read the proposed statement, visit www.onemag.org.

The Historical Commission distributed copies of their second in a series of historical pamphlets, "Free Will Baptists and the Perseverance of the Saints," written by Robert Picirilli.

The Music Commission is developing a music ministry website and discussed the recent reprint of The Free Will Baptist Hymnbook: Rejoice.

The Media Commission indicated plans to meet with Executive Secretary Keith Burden to reorganize.

In further action, delegates:

- Voted to meet in Louisville, KY, in 2017.
- Recommended the Executive Committee evaluate the nominating process and bring recommendations to the 2008 convention.
- Adopted a Treatise change defining "standing delegates" to the national convention.
- Welcomed the Eastern Iowa Association of Free Will Baptists into membership.
- Approved the Ridge Church Committee Report authorizing funding for repairs on the First FWB Church in New Durham, NH.
- Thanked the Arkansas State Association for hosting the 71st annual session.
- Instructed the moderator to appoint a nine-person committee to study a proposal by the International Missions Department to restructure missions funding.
- Requested Free Will Baptist Bible College to make financial reports available to delegates at registration.

Extras

Attendees at the International Missions sold-out event, Celebrate!, were treated to a multi-sensory experience. Dr. Henry Blackaby greeted the group via video, congratulating their interest in missions, celebrating FWB breakthroughs, and challenging them to greater involvement.

A video presentation demonstrated the breakthrough impact of The Hanna Project. International Missions regional directors—Dale Bishop, Stan Bunch, Clint Morgan, and Jeff Turnbough—shared breakthroughs on their fields.

After a dramatic video celebrated the breakthrough growth of churches overseas from one in 1935 to 934 churches at the end of 2006, the celebration concluded as Carlisle Hanna, veteran missionary to India, asked God to break down the barriers to the gospel around the world.

Exhibition

No national convention is complete without a visit to the exhibition hall. This year's exhibits provided aisle after aisle of products and services for churches and individuals. Each of the denomination's departments and colleges were represented among the exhibitors.

The hall is more than a marketplace. It is a gathering place where old friends reunite and new acquaintances meet. Throngs flock to the hall before and after the evening services. Many delegates stopped by the Eastern Iowa Association of Free Will Baptists' booth to welcome them to the denomination.

Expectations

Convention goers can begin making plans to attend the 72nd Free Will Baptist National Convention in Charleston, West Virginia, July 20-23, 2008. The convention theme will be "Walking in the Light."

Hopewell Honors Grads and Mothers



Hopewell Free Will Baptist Church recently honored two groups in their morning service. First was their High School graduates for 2007. Pastor Nathan Ruble presented Bibles and concordances to Alona Button, daughter of Carl and Gayla Button and Riley Bishop, son of Quinten and Rebecca Bishop. Also honored in the service were all the mothers present. Pastor Ruble gave each mother a candle and flower to show the church's appreciation for their faithfulness. There were 23 mothers present.

Bethany Sprenkle Receives Leadership Award



Bethany Sprenkle, from the Verdalla FWB Church was recently selected as the Most Outstanding Female Leader by the staff of the Truth and Peace Student Leadership Conference. Bethany, who will be a senior this fall, just completed her third year in the conference, leading a small group, and being seen by all of the staff as a model for high school leadership within the conference.

"Bethany is a solid leader," said Allen Pointer, Director of Truth and Peace. "She has grown into someone that everyone in the conference respects for her heart of service, her love for people, and her commitment to Christ. She is a leader of other student leaders."

This award is one of two given by the staff each year at the conclusion of the conference. Matthew Collum from Tennessee was the other staff selection from the seventy-eight students who were a part of the conference this past summer. These two awards are the highest given in the conference of

high school leaders from Free Will Baptist youth groups in seventeen states.

If you are a high school student leader, or know of a student who would benefit from an intensive three-week leadership conference, contact the Truth and Peace Student Leadership Conference at Randall House Publications. Call the Student and Children's Ministry offices at 800-877-7030 or go to www.randallhouse.com for more information. Applications are due October 31, 2007.

Jeni Dixon Chosen

Each year at our National Youth Conference, a group of outstanding competitors are chosen to represent our national youth on the Youth Evangelistic Team. Chosen for their ability to communicate through music and drama, the team will hold services across the denomination next summer. Chosen for this year's team is Jeni Dixon. Jeni and her family attend the First Church in Hartville.



Hillsdale Hosts Truth and Peace

This summer Hillsdale had the privilege of hosting the 2007 Truth and Peace Leadership Conference. The students were on campus for 10 days before departing for the National Convention in Little Rock.

During their stay here the students were able to experience life at Hillsdale. They also got to visit several places in Oklahoma City, such as Feed the Children and the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Memorial Museum. It was great to have Truth and Peace here and look forward to hosting them in the future.



ATTENTION

All Hillsdale Alumni, Supporters
and Future Saints

Please make plans to join us for a great evening of food and fellowship. This will be a wonderful time to visit with old friends, alumni, current students and faculty.

October 14, 2007 5:00pm
Grant Avenue Free Will Baptist Church
1060 S. Grant Avenue
Springfield, MO 65807

Dinner will be served. Please rsvp by October 1, 2007 to Hillsdale College at 404-912-9458 or alumni@hc.edu. or you may contact Travis Watkins at 417-877-1927, tw0806jw@aol.com

Victory Church Vandalized !

The following is an entry from Pastor Kevin Williford's blog about the recent drive by shooting vandalism of Victory Church in Kansas City. -Ed

As I pulled into the parking lot of my church today, I immediately noticed that vehicles of one of my trustees and one of my board members sitting in the parking lot. This struck me as odd and I knew something was up. As I pulled into my usual parking spot just outside the window of my office I noticed the reason for their being at the church. The front doors of our church were riddled with bullet holes and had been reduced to shattered glass. We had been the victims of a drive by shooting.

As I got out of my car and entered the doors of our place of worship, I felt sick. The first thing I noticed was that the letters from our message board were strewn across our foyer floor as were shards of broken glass. My first thought was that we had been broken into and vandalized. My men reassured me that the church had not been broken into -- the letters had been scattered when one of the bullets hit the message board after going through the glass. They also quickly informed me that no one had been injured in the shooting, which brought a great deal of relief.

One of the first things we did was to call the police, and then we called our insurance company. As we waited for the police investigator to arrive we made our own survey of the damage, taking pictures and documenting the damage for the insurance company. We were able to locate several of the spent bullets which we pointed out to the investigating officer when he arrived so that he could retrieve them.

As we surveyed the damage, I felt so sick... so vio-

lated! Why would anyone do such a thing? Why would anyone do such a thing to a church! Why would they do this to our church? What had we done to anyone that they would be so angry as do such a thing? Isn't there any respect for the church anymore in our society? Isn't there any fear of God? The more I thought about it, the worse I felt.

I'll admit that I am glad I was not alone. It was such a strange and awful feeling seeing the church I love so much with bullets embedded in her walls. I am glad that I did not have to bear the sight alone. I suspect the others must have felt the same way, because while they never said anything we all chose to sit outside and wait rather than remain inside where we had to view more of the damage.

There is a part of me, that part that feels violated, that dreads having to go back and sit in my office. That part of me that says, "I don't want to be in a building that people have been shooting at."

But as I think about it more, this shooting reinforces how important our church is to our community. What community needs the church more than the one where people driveby and randomly fire 9mm's? Who is there that needs to hear the good news of God more than the miserable person who pulled that trigger? This shooting serves as a reminder of the great spiritual needs that are around us, everyday in our own community.

I am still sick at the thought of what was done to my church, but I am undaunted! I am going to continue to preach the love of Christ to this community. Our church will repair and we will go on. I will not let fear motivate me! I will not back down; I will not be intimidated! This community, and these people need the message of the living God and God has placed me in this community as his ambassador. I will be faithful in delivering his message until we have so captured the hearts of our community with the Gospel that such things as this drive by shooting no longer occur. Our community needs us, may we not shrink back in fear. Instead, let us sound the trumpets and advance on in the power of God!

2007 Missouri WAC Retreat

September 14-15

Clarion Hotel, Springfield

"Prepare the Fields"



Marjorie Workman



Sandy Atwood

Financial Report

Coop Disbursements

July 2007.....	\$64,241.72
19.00% St HM	\$12,205.93
17.00% Exec. Office.....	\$10,921.09
3.00% Gen. Fund.....	\$1,927.26
8.50% Youth Camp.....	\$5,460.55
2.50% Youth Min.....	\$1,606.04
2.50% CE	\$1,606.04
2.50% Senior Adult.....	\$1,606.04
9.00% Mo Retmt.....	\$5,781.75
3.00% ShowMe Plan	\$1,927.25
33.00%	\$21,199.77
National Ministries	
Total	\$64,241.72

Coop Plan

Alton	\$200.00
Amity.....	\$57.40
Aulsbury Chapel	\$171.83
Bailey.....	\$203.00
Bailey Chapel	\$178.00
Belton	\$345.92
Berean.....	\$142.00
Bethel- El Dorado Springs.....	\$264.26
Bethel- Marshfield.....	\$616.12
Black Oak	\$407.27
Blue Springs	\$36.00
Byrd.....	\$358.34
Cabool.....	\$349.25
Central.....	\$862.97
Christ Chapel.....	\$473.00
Clifton	\$47.83
Copper Mines	\$505.49
Cornerstone.....	\$663.16
Crossroads- Wentzville.....	\$632.00
Cuba	\$476.00
DeSoto 1st.....	\$1,625.00
Faith & Hope- Aurora.....	\$245.87
Faith- Fair Grove	\$299.20
Farmington 1st.....	\$2,831.30
Fellowship- Park Hills	\$1,200.00
Fordland	\$505.11
Fourth	\$156.94
Fredericktown 1st.....	\$391.00
Freeman Chapel.....	\$491.90
Gospel Light	\$100.00
Grace.....	\$1,686.34
Grant Avenue.....	\$1,284.92
Greenfield	\$232.00
Hannibal	\$698.00
Hannon	\$538.00
Harmony	\$423.57
Hartville	\$1,218.00
Hazel Creek.....	\$897.39
Hopewell.....	\$488.00
Houston 1st	\$292.37
Houston 1st	\$279.02
Hurryville.....	\$615.59
Jackson	\$149.96
Joplin 1st	\$594.22
Kings Way	\$372.44
Koshkonong.....	\$110.00
Lead Hill.....	\$231.27
Leadington.....	\$660.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$3,166.70
Lebanon Greenhills	\$392.00
Macedonia- Niangua	\$154.48
Marshfield.....	\$207.63
Merls Chapel	\$245.38
Mill Creek	\$644.50
Mine LaMotte.....	\$73.31
Monett 1st.....	\$574.91
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$556.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	\$1,539.67
Myrtle.....	\$298.04
Nevada	\$245.00
New Hope.....	\$281.00
New Life- Licking	\$380.00
Number One	\$165.73
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove.....	\$217.35
Oak Hill.....	\$756.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$1,987.32
Ozarks 1st.....	\$2,209.98
Park Hills 1st.....	\$5,710.40
Parkview.....	\$451.25
Pleasant Hill.....	\$158.85
Pleasant Ridge- Thayer.....	\$50.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana	\$131.00
Potosi 1st.....	\$161.84
Rejoice.....	\$584.50
Richwoods 1st.....	\$1,227.00
Rock Chapel.....	\$349.45
Rolla 1st.....	\$287.00
Salem	\$30.00
Seymour	\$589.00
Southern Hills	\$673.00
Springfield 1st.....	\$1,081.43
Stonebridge	\$527.60
Thayer	\$1,795.00
Trinity.....	\$1,630.17
Twin Oak.....	\$2,146.00
Union	\$60.00
Union Grove	\$563.00
Union Light	\$170.00
United	\$1,588.75
Unity	\$500.00
Viburnum	\$380.00
Victory- Alton	\$604.02
Victory- KC	\$1,591.89
Waynesville 1st.....	\$417.66
Willow Springs.....	\$401.00
Willow Springs 1st.....	\$105.00
Wolf Creek.....	\$574.66
Total	\$64,241.72

Show-Me Plan

Barker, James.....	\$15.00
Belton	\$190.00
Berean.....	\$40.00
Berry, Roberta	\$15.00
Bethel- Festus	\$45.00
Black Oak	\$60.00
Bourbon.....	\$30.00
Brown, Angela	\$15.00
Burns, Jack.....	\$60.00
Cabool	\$120.00
Central.....	\$95.00
Chrisman, Mona	\$30.00
Coon Creek	\$85.29

Copper Mines.....	\$365.00
Cornerstone.....	\$504.00
Crossroads- Wentzville.....	\$50.00
Crossroads-Lebanon	\$180.00
Cuba	\$127.50
DeSoto 1st.....	\$747.50
Eastern Gate	\$30.00
Faith & Hope- Willow Springs.....	\$45.00
Faith- Lemay.....	\$5,000.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$545.00
Fellowship- Park Hills	\$770.36
Fordland	\$250.00
Fourth	\$90.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	\$165.00
Freeman Chapel.....	\$720.00
Gospel Light	\$1,000.00
Grace.....	\$390.00
Grant Avenue.....	\$340.00
Greenfield.....	\$120.00
Hannon	\$538.00
Happy Hill	\$60.00
Harmony	\$59.12
Hartville.....	\$240.00
Hazel Creek.....	\$269.22
Hopewell.....	\$30.00
Houston 1st.....	\$269.00
Hurryville.....	\$631.00
Jackson	\$52.00
Joplin 1st.....	\$282.48
Leadington.....	\$230.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$300.00
Lebanon Greenhills	\$25.00
Merls Chapel	\$30.00
Mill Creek.....	\$140.00
Mill Creek CWF	\$15.00
Mill Creek Young Adult.....	\$15.00
Mine LaMotte.....	\$75.00
MO WAC	\$839.51
Monett 1st.....	\$15.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$150.00
Mt. Zion-Thayer	\$30.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	\$570.00
Myrtle.....	\$75.00
New Home- Hartville.....	\$210.00
New Hope	\$150.00
New Life- Licking	\$88.00
Number One	\$60.00
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove.....	\$164.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$145.57
Ozarks 1st	\$34.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$1,850.04
Parkview	\$228.15
Pinkerton, Jerry	\$45.00
Pleasant Grove- Anderson	\$270.00
Pleasant Hill.....	\$45.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana	\$50.00
Porter Chapel	\$918.79
Richwoods 1st.....	\$62.50
Rock Chapel.....	\$255.00
Rolla 1st.....	\$30.00
Southeast Assoc.....	\$90.00
Southern Hills	\$375.00
Springfield 1st.....	\$515.00
Stonebridge	\$160.00
Thayer	\$540.00
Trinity.....	\$870.00
Union	\$45.00
Union Light	\$225.00
United	\$384.95
Unity	\$75.00
Viburnum	\$85.00
Victory- KC	\$925.00
Walnut Grove.....	\$15.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$482.09

Willow Springs.....	\$90.00
Willow Springs 1st.....	\$45.00
CO-OP	\$1,927.25
Total.....	\$28,635.32

State Home Missions

Berean.....	\$20.00
Bookstore	\$540.00
Copper Mines	\$75.00
Crossroads- Wentzville.....	\$50.00
DeSoto 1st.....	\$110.00
Fordland	\$10.00
Gospel Light	\$160.00
Grace.....	\$40.00
Grant Avenue.....	\$114.25
Lebanon Greenhills	\$78.22
MOWAC	\$154.49
Myrtle.....	\$85.00
Oak Hill.....	\$30.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$145.56
Ozarks 1st	\$10.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana	\$20.00
Southeast Assoc.....	\$150.00
Thayer	\$50.00
United	\$25.00
Unity	\$70.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$50.00
Total	\$1,987.52

National Home Missions

Bethel- Festus.....	\$50.00
Central.....	\$220.00
Copper Mines.....	\$105.00
Cuba.....	\$76.50
DeSoto 1st.....	\$255.00
Faith- Lemay.....	\$2,000.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$821.18
Fellowship- Park Hills	\$364.99
Fordland.....	\$85.00
Fourth.....	\$50.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	\$30.00
Gospel Light.....	\$160.00
Grace.....	\$131.00
Grant Avenue.....	\$89.24
Hannon.....	\$550.00
Hartville.....	\$30.00
Hazel Creek.....	\$10.00
Houston 1st.....	\$130.00
Jackson.....	\$50.00
Mammoth Spring.....	\$85.90
Merls Chapel.....	\$25.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$30.00
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	\$50.00
New Testament.....	\$75.00
Oak Hill.....	\$120.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	\$145.56
Ozarks 1st.....	\$303.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$2,163.01
Rader, Jerry.....	\$20.00
Rejoice.....	\$148.68
Richwoods 1st.....	\$48.00
Rock Chapel.....	\$77.00
Rolla 1st.....	\$249.50
Thayer.....	\$75.00
Trinity.....	\$60.00
Union Light.....	\$96.00
United.....	\$155.00
Unity.....	\$90.00
Victory- KC.....	\$50.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$220.00
West Plains 1st.....	\$1,248.55
Willow Springs.....	\$64.00
Total.....	\$10,807.11

International Missions

Belton	\$45.00
Copper Mines	\$100.00
Cuba	\$51.00
DeSoto 1st.....	\$60.00
Grant Avenue.....	\$15.00
Hartville.....	\$45.00
Hazel Creek.....	\$149.74
Houston 1st.....	\$110.00
Joplin 1st.....	\$57.38
Mtn. Grove 1st.....	\$73.00
New Life- Licking.....	\$235.00
New Testament.....	\$55.00
Ozarks 1st.....	\$25.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$51.00
Rejoice.....	\$552.84
Rolla 1st.....	\$219.50
Springfield 1st.....	\$199.73
Thayer.....	\$5.00
Victory- KC.....	\$605.84
Waynesville 1st.....	\$70.00
Willow Springs.....	\$44.00
Total	\$2,769.03

Designated Giving

Berea Ministries

Hartville	\$150.00
Total.....	\$150.00

Victor Torrez

United Youth Group	\$200.00
Total.....	\$200.00

Cronk Home for Children

Belton	\$25.00
Hartville.....	\$50.00
Hazel Creek.....	\$44.87
Myrtle.....	\$28.00
New Hope.....	\$50.00
Willow Springs.....	\$20.00
Hannon.....	\$100.00
Union Light	\$20.00
Unity	\$20.00
Desoto 1st	\$55.00
Grace.....	\$29.00
Total.....	\$441.87

C. E. Board

Book Store.....	\$140.00
Total.....	\$140.00

Free Will Baptist Bible Collge

Hazel Creek.....	\$44.87
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$165.00
Fellowship-Park Hills.....	\$10.00
Desoto 1st.....	\$40.00

Hopewell.....	\$10.00
Thayer.....	\$50.00
Total.....	\$319.87

Hillsdale

Farmington 1st.....	\$25.00
Grant Avenue.....	\$25.00
Hazel Creek.....	\$44.87
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$170.00
Southern Hills- KS.....	\$105.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$100.00
Joplin 1st.....	\$62.55
Thayer.....	\$50.00
Total.....	\$582.42

Missouri Retirement

Book Store.....	\$200.00
Total.....	\$200.00

Senior Adult Board

Book Store.....	\$140.00
Total.....	\$140.00

Youth Camp

Hartville.....	\$10.00
Hazel Creek.....	\$89.74
Cornerstone.....	\$100.00
Book Store.....	\$540.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$25.00
Berean.....	\$20.00
Oak Hill.....	\$15.00
Rolla 1st.....	\$20.00
Trinity.....	\$9.00
Trinity.....	\$9.00
Union.....	\$30.00
Willow Springs	\$75.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$15.00
West Plains 1st.....	\$25.00
Desoto 1st.....	\$55.00
Ozark 1st.....	\$10.00
Thayer.....	\$50.00
Total.....	\$1,097.74

Youth Camp Development

Myrtle.....	\$55.00
West Plains 1st.....	\$210.00
Oak Hill.....	\$15.00
Thayer	\$2,000.00
Total.....	\$2,280.00

Youth Ministries Board

Book Store.....	\$140.00
Total.....	\$140.00

YWAM

Belton	\$25.00
Total.....	\$25.00

Available Churches

The following churches are looking for a pastor. If your church is available, please let us know in the Gem office and we will gladly list your contact information. If your church is listed and finds a pastor, please let us know to remove your listing.

First Church

Houston, MO

Contact:

Pearl (Bud) Richardson

417-967-3703

Danny Carter

417-967-4279

Parkway Church

Sedalia, MO

Contact:

Audrey Bigelow

660-826-3880

660-475-0375

Victory Church

Alton, MO

Contact:

Rev. Garland Barton

417-778-6370

gbarton000@centurytel.net

First Church

Mtn. Grove

Contact:

Joe Robertsonson

417-926-3396



Funds to date:

07/31/07

Cooperative Plan:

\$439,967.06

Show-Me Plan

\$185,152.39

**Total July Giving:
\$113,706.00**

local author

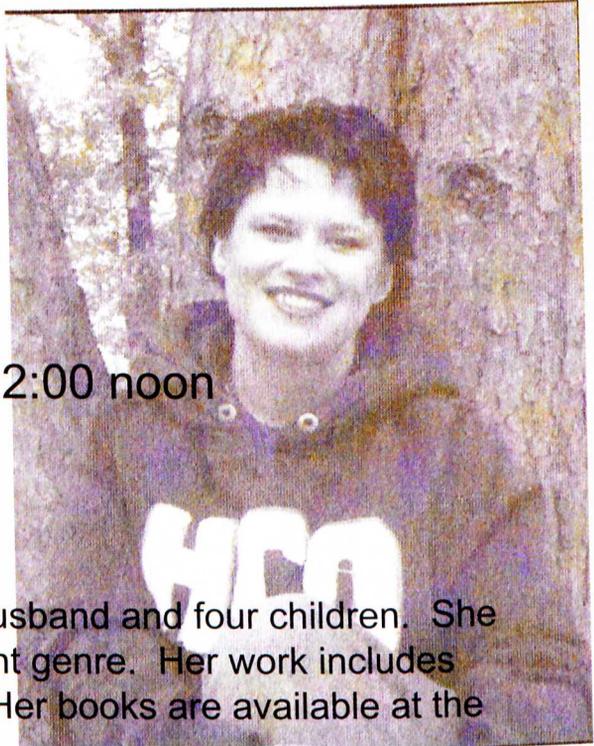
Tracy Bateman

will be at the
Lebanon Bible and Bookstore

September 29 from 10:00am till 12:00 noon

for a booksigning party.

Tracy lives in the Lebanon area with her husband and four children. She is the author of 25 books in several different genre. Her work includes The Penbrook Diaries, and other novels. Her books are available at the Bookstore.



For more information please call 1-800-261-0571



Missouri State Association
of Free Will Baptists
202 West Commercial
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