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Photo by Carrie Myers



In this issue:

From the Editor .....	Page 3
Missouri Missions .....	Page 4
Church News .....	Page 6
In Loving Memory .....	Page 7
A Call to Repentance .....	Page 8
MOFWB State Convention .....	Page 9
Be the Church that Embraces Children, Not Just Tolerates Them .....	Page 10
How to Have Heart-To-Heart Talks .....	Page 11
From Our Boards	
Marriage Retreat: A New Way to Love .....	Page 12
A New Director for Women Active for Christ .....	Page 13
Ministry Gems .....	Page 14
A Look Back .....	Page 15
MOFWB State Calendar .....	Page 17
Financial Report .....	Page 18
Available Churches and Fill-in .....	Page 19

### From the Historical Commission

If you, your church, or association have any minutes, old GEMs, or other MOFWB memorabilia, we would love to have them for our state archives.

**PLEASE CONTACT:**  
Keith Garrison 417-860-0294  
or Gary Fry 417-349-0016  
or Darrell Strain 417-331-4188

Thank You!

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.

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\*The Church Plan will continue until it is canceled by the church.

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Editor - Stanley Bunch  
Layout & Design - Carrie Myers



The MOFWB Executive Committee met in January to devote time to prayer, discussion, and seeking God’s guidance for several items, one of which is the upcoming MOFWB State Convention, June 5-7, 2023 in Springfield, MO.

These committed men of God were led to adopt a state convention theme of “Resolved.” One thought kept coming up in the dialogue which is the need for pastors to be passionate, dedicated to the task, and resolved to fulfill the calling of God upon their life. The congregation will be faithful and zealous to the same degree as the pastor. The spiritual leader is the key to the spiritual vitality of the local congregation. A lethargic, apathetic, and unresolved pastor will result in a congregation with the same spiritual deficiencies. We are asking God to forgive us and correct us.

How is God going to correct us and restore our resolve as a State Association of churches? During the 2022 National Free Will Baptist Convention, delegates approved a “Resolution of Repentance” see page 8. **The first call to repentance deals with pride, arrogance, and taking the glory that belongs only to God. “To God be (all) The Glory”** is a hymn that should linger in our subconscious as we talk about attendance figures, buildings, baptisms, salvation decisions, and sermon responses. For ministers, it is tempting to become prideful when altar responses are happening or the ministry is flowing in a positive direction.

**We are also admonished to repent of our failure to evangelize all peoples.** We must repent of our failure or apathy in reaching the “misfits and down and outers” around us. A few years

ago in one of the MOFWB fall All Boards Meetings, we were discussing the need to reach those of other ethnicities or races who live among us. One pastor commented to another that “this topic isn’t an issue with us in our church” and then left the meeting. Race issues may not be something that affects your congregation simply because you live in an area that is predominately white & conservative. You can however, rest assured that prejudice is an issue and sinful attitude among you. Would you pray and help your congregation repent of the failure to reach the unwed, divorced, cohabiting, or prison-record mothers around you? Has prejudice kept you from attempting to reach that guy with multiple tattoos who is an alcoholic or meth addict? What about the local lawyer or physician that has more money than anyone in the county, is arrogant, and thinks he comes from a shelf or two higher than everyone else? (oops, my prejudice just stuck its face out) May we pray and repent of unknowingly or willingly picking & choosing who we want to reach with the gospel and have attend our church.

**We have been guilty of allowing matters of opinion and preference to divide us.** Is rallying a group of folks who think like me to sway a vote at the local church or association meeting the mature and proper way to deal with a matter of opinion or preference? Have we been guilty of becoming divided, suspicious, and forfeiting precious fellowship over the songs we sing, days we worship and meet together, Bible translations, or body art and jewelry? Worse yet, have I added fuel to the fire of this division?

One of the first challenges we put forth to the MOFWB State Association was

that of setting aside specific times for fasting and prayer personally and as a congregation. We have tried to mention the challenge on a regular basis. I am calling on pastors, deacons, and church board members to lead the way in setting aside four days of fasting and prayer. Thursday, **March 2**; Thursday, **June 1**; Thursday, **September 7**; and Tuesday, **November 7**. The November date is a date adopted by the voting delegates of the 2022 NAFWB Convention.

I would ask you to read the Resolution of Repentance to your congregation and make copies available for them to read and contemplate in private.

The heart cry of the NAFWB and MOFWB Executive Committees and that of countless brothers and sisters among us is that this resolution and the following verses might reflect our heart’s desire.

*Psalm 139:23-24:*  
“Search me, O God,  
and know my heart:  
try me, and know my  
thoughts: And see if there  
be any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way  
everlasting.”

*Psalm 51:10:*  
“Create in me a  
clean heart, O God;  
and renew a right  
spirit within me.”





from the Missions Director, Steve Reeves



# A MISSION FIELD IS AT OUR DOORSTEP



How would you like to be an international missionary? Seem impossible? Nothing is impossible with God. How about being an international missionary and never leaving Missouri? Not possible? Not so fast, my friend.



There are nearly one million international students in the United States this year. Over 23,000 internationals are studying in Missouri. At the University of Missouri in Columbia alone, there are over 1,400 students from 110 countries. If you live near a college campus, the chances are reasonable; you have a mission field close by where no one else is working.

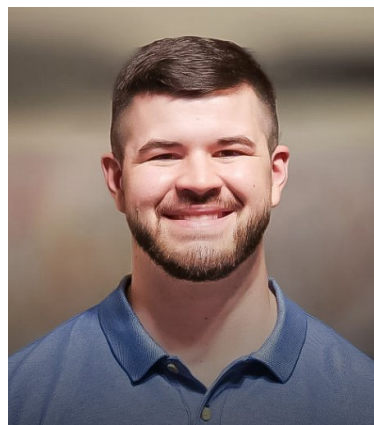
Mosaic Church, our church plant in Rolla, MO, has several internationals that attend regularly. If you were to attend a service at Mosaic, you would probably sit near someone from another country. Mosaic regularly has between 8-12 countries represented each week.

**A sad fact is that 80% of international students will never be invited into an American home while they are living here.** As visitors to the United States, many would gladly accept an invitation because they want to meet 'real' Americans. They are young, live in a new place, are open to new ideas, and are open to new experiences. All that translates into a mission field waiting to be worked.

Our Missouri Free Will Baptist Mission Board is partner-

ing with International Missions to put a missionary on the Mizzou campus. His name is Bradley Mercer. Bradley grew up in Virginia. He is a senior at Welch College. His goal is to be in Columbia by the fall semester of 2023. Bradley has an interest in being an International Missionary. He has the heart for it. He has worked in evangelism while he has been at Welch. He regularly has gone into downtown Nashville to witness to those he meets on the streets. Bradley has already been making contacts in Columbia ahead of his move to Missouri.

I want to ask two things of you: 1. Support Bradley Mercer! Pray for him. Invite him to visit your church. Support him financially. Since he is an IM missionary, you can simply give through the usual channels. 2. Look around you. Is there a college campus near you? Get connected with their international student association. Become a language partner. Invite a student into your home for a meal. Invite them to your church. Welcome them with open arms and the Gospel.



The face of missions is changing. The opportunities to interact with internationals are all around you. Don't get so caught up in world events that you forget that Jesus loves that international near you just as much as He loves you. What's more, you have been sent by Jesus Himself to take the Gospel to the world. Imagine the day when we send 'missionaries' back to their own countries to be light for their own people. Imagine the day when we stand before God's throne in that numberless throng of people from every tribe and language and people and nation. Perhaps someone you reached out to will be there. All glory to the Lamb!

~ Steve



MMB

SHOW ME plan

updates

## - STATE -

**Grace Fellowship (Cape Girardeau):** The Church continues to do well. Their Christmas plans were interrupted by a broken water line on Christmas Eve. The line has been repaired. They are focused on their Kid's Ministry and home groups.

**Mosaic (Rolla):** This group is in need of more space for their worship times. Please ask God to lead them to the place He has for them.

**Restore (Potosi):** The Prison ministry continues to go well. The Church is actively involved in outreach each month.

**Bradley Mercer (University of Missouri):** Bradley is in the process of training and raising support. He hopes to be in Columbia in time for the fall semester.

## - International -

**Baileys (Japan):** Ken and Judy had a good Christmas Season with many opportunities for witness. Please pray and give, as their account is declining.

**Speer (Japan):** Daniel and Kate have been working on getting all their paperwork done in order to leave for Japan at the end of February.

**Turnbough (Spain):** The Villalba Church had a good Christmas Season. They were able to share the Gospel at various times.

**Duncan (Ecuador):** Adam and Carol and family are now in Misahualli, Ecuador. They are in the process of determining their day-to-day responsibilities and ministry.

**Provow (Bulgaria):** Josh and the Hanna Project team were able to have Operation. Christmas Child outreaches in 12 towns, most of which have no Gospel witness. They shared the Gospel with over 650 people.

## - North American -

**Webster (Florida):** Frank and Debbie held their first pre-launch meeting with their launch team and had 13 attend. They have moved into their rented facility.

**Garrett (Illinois):** Adam has been deployed with the National Guard. He will probably be away for up to a year. Please pray for him, Rebecca, and the children while he is away.

**Schmidt (New Mexico):** Steve and Amanda continue to have regular Sunday meetings in their rented facility. Please pray for them as they share the Gospel and disciple those who respond.

## - Chaplains -

**Captain David Dodson:** Pray for David and his family as he continues to work with Green Berets and their families.

**Major Kevin Trimble:** Pray for Kevin and Darla as he works training chaplains for deployment and pastoring the military post-church.

**Captain Michael Beatty:** Mike and his family are stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood. He works with new recruits. Every Sunday, he is involved in three times of worship.

**Medical Chaplain Cody Alley:** Continue to lift Cody up in prayer as he works and ministers to the patients and staff at Mercy Hospital in Lebanon.



## Jones Chapel

A baptism service was held December 4, 2022 at Jones Chapel in Stella, Missouri. Pastor Brad White baptised Gracie and Wyatt.



## Calvary Chapel

Pastor Mark Elliott baptised Tucker Elam on January 15, 2023 at the church in Buffalo, Missouri.



## South Central Association



The South Cental Association licensed Duke West & Nick Lewis as ministers. The members of the association also voted to ordain Josh Chapman & accept the ordination of Captain Michael Beatty.

## In Loving Memory



### Rev. Dan Talbott



Rev. Danny (Dan) Lynn Talbott of Lebanon, MO, age 79, passed away January 24, 2023 in his home.

Dan was born to Clarence Talbott and Sylvia January Talbott on May 20, 1943 in Guymon, OK. He spent the early years of his life in Oklahoma and Kansas before moving to Missouri when he was sixteen years old. His family lived in the Cedar Ridge community near Long Lane, Missouri. He graduated from Buffalo High School and married Sharon Mathews on August 12, 1962. Dan and Sharon eventually moved to Lebanon, Missouri.

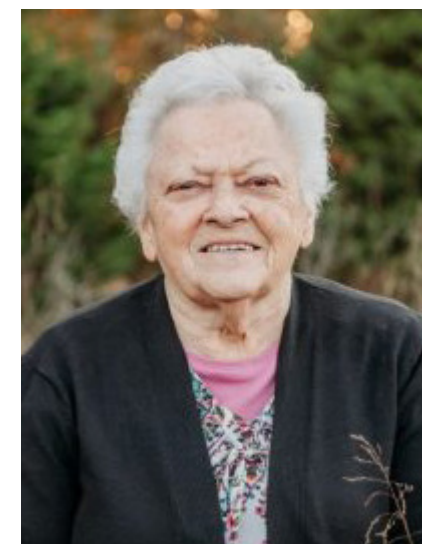
First and foremost, Dan was a servant to the Lord. He was saved when he was 24 and later accepted the call to preach. He pastored churches in Missouri and Oklahoma including Dove Bible Church, New Home in Wright County, Lynn Street FWB, Liberty FWB, Kingsway FWB, Marshfield FWB, Calvary FWB and Unity FWB. Dan had been the pastor at Parkway FWB in Sedalia from 2007 until the time of his passing.

He was very respected in the MOFWB and local association, and served on various boards and committees over the years.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sharon; children: Renee (husband David) Inman of Springfield, MO, Kurt (wife Kim) Talbott of Edmond, OK, and Kris (wife Morgan) Talbott of Conway, MO; 9 grandchildren; 4 precious great-grandchildren; 4 sisters; and many other relatives and friends.

Dan was preceded in death by his parents and an infant sister, Anita.

### Rosalee Reed



Elfa Rosalee Reed was born on her family's farm in Alton, MO, July 11, 1941. She departed this life January 28, 2023, at the age of 81 years.

She married James Lee Reed on July 6, 1958, and to this union two children were born, Karen LaRue and Jarvis Lee.

Rosalee and James Lee served in many churches in Missouri and Arkansas. She was a Sunday school teacher and church pianist. Additionally, she played piano for a gospel group comprised of James Lee Reed, Gary Mitchener, Susan (Combs) Nicholson, and LaRue (Reed) Bennett.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Reverend Davie Combs and Claudia (Huff) Combs; her husband of 62 years James Lee Reed; her daughter Karen LaRue Bennett; and her sister Evalee Lasater.

She is survived by her son Jarvis Reed (wife Kelli); 1 grandson; 1 son-in-law Dean Bennett; 3 granddaughters; 8 great-grandchildren; 2 nieces; and many great-nieces and nephews, friends, and extended family.

**Editor's Note** - Due to space constraints, obituaries may be condensed. To read the obituary visit our website at [mofwb.com/gem-magazine/gem-links-articles](http://mofwb.com/gem-magazine/gem-links-articles)



# A CALL TO REPENTANCE

2023

## National Association of Free Will Baptists Resolution of Repentance

**WHEREAS** God has graciously brought about the existence of the National Association of Free Will Baptists and used them for His glory, and

**WHEREAS** God alone is Worthy of all honor and glory and power; but we have pridefully sought to steal His glory by claiming ministry successes as our own, and have been complacent and callous toward our spiritual condition and others,

**WHEREAS** God has created all peoples in His image for His glory and called us to love them and reach them with the Gospel, regardless of race, ethnicity or socio-economic status, we have instead failed in our attitudes and actions, particularly by failing to evangelize and disciple all peoples in our communities.

**WHEREAS** God has called us to unify amid our diversity to accomplish His work in the world, we have instead divided over matters of opinion and preference, failing to focus on His priorities, and often displayed a critical spirit toward leadership and those not in our group, creating factions among us resulting in a state of crisis revealed by:

- the decline of nearly five hundred churches
- the decline of Sunday School enrollment by nearly 75,000
- the decline of ordained ministers by 1,100
- the decline of ordained deacons by 2,500
- and the staggering reduction in baptisms to an annual average of 1.6 per church, and

**WHEREAS** God's Word warns that failure to obey His precepts results in chastisement, weakness, and removal of His blessing, and

**WHEREAS** God has called His church to be a community of holiness and reconciliation, and because we have sorely neglected the practice of Biblical and redemptive church discipline and are in desperate need of godly sorrow and urgent repentance; Therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that we as a denomination corporately acknowledge our sin before God and implore Him to forgive us as we repent of these sins, evidenced by changes in attitude and action. Be it further

**RESOLVED** that those of us who are redeemed by God's power and strong hand to individually call upon the Lord in fervent prayer and fasting, pleading for Him to hear our prayer and grant us as members and churches of the National Association of Free Will Baptists fruitfulness in obeying His Word. Be it finally

**RESOLVED** that we set aside the first Tuesday in November which commemorates the organization of The National Association of Free Will Baptists as a day of fasting and prayer as evidence of our resolve and repentance.



*Make plans to join us at the*  
**Missouri State Association  
of Free Will Baptist  
110th STATE CONVENTION  
June 5-7, 2023**

**at the Oasis Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield, MO**



*"Resolved"*



## Speakers:

**Monday Evening - Aaron Pontious**

**Tuesday Evening - Roger Hogan**

**Wednesday Morning - Chris Durham**

**Wednesday Evening - Clint Morgan**

**Women's Celebration  
Service**

**June 6th at 10:30 a.m.**

*Everyone is encouraged  
to attend*

**Includes breakout sessions on Tuesday!**

**Sponsored by the Christian Education Board**

- 9:00 a.m. - The Ingredients of a Healthy Association
- 2:00 p.m. - "Serving Storm-Tossed Families" presented by Faron Thebeau & Jackson Watts (Missouri Book Club)
- 3:00 p.m. - A Serious Approach to Pastoral Calling and Care: A Discussion on the Issue of Ordination

**Pre-registration Runs April 1 - May 25 at [mofwb.com](http://mofwb.com)**

**Room Cost: \$98.00 + tax**

**All individuals are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. Call the Oasis at 417-866-5253**





## Be the Church that Embraces Children, Not Just Tolerates Them

There are two kinds of restaurants—those that embrace children and those that tolerate children. You know this reality if you're a parent, especially if you have multiple small children. When my family of six storms a restaurant, I can tell immediately whether the establishment will embrace my children or tolerate them.

In a recent occurrence, the host looked at my brood with eyes wide: "Oh, my. You have . . . a lot of kids." I was not offended. Serving large families at a restaurant is tough. Odds are at least one of my kids will have a meltdown before the food arrives, and a one hundred percent probability exists that large portions of something will fall to the floor.

Rarely are we treated rudely, but I can tell which restaurants merely tolerate my children. I understand the tension. Feeding my kids is hard work. It's why we pay money to have someone else do it! My wife and I don't get angry; we just don't return to the places where my kids are a burden. When we discover a restaurant that embraces children, we go back.

There are two kinds of churches—those that embrace children and those that tolerate children. Most churches are not rude towards kids, and I've never seen a church sign stating "No Kids Allowed." However, the families visiting your church will know whether you embrace their kids or not. The churches that welcome children have a higher likelihood of families returning—not just once but often!

Embracing children means understanding that messy is healthy. Children do not learn to eat cleanly. They turn dining room tables into abstract impressionist works. More food ends up in the hair than in the mouth. You'll need a hazmat suit to serve spaghetti. Children learning to take in God's Word, worship, and love Jesus are just as messy. The dirt line on church walls about two feet high is there because little hands are dragging as kids walk the halls. Messy is healthy.

Embracing children means valuing noise over perfection. Children make noises in worship. Children make noises in classes. Children make noises in the parking lot. They cry. They laugh loud. They scream and yell. Some churches tolerate the noise. Other churches value the noise. I've heard of churches

not allowing children below a certain age in the worship service. It's ridiculous.

Embracing children means protection at all costs. Child security is a discipleship issue—and one of the most important! If you believe in the Great Commission, you will create robust security measures for children. Jesus says, "I am with you always." A low-security church teaches children, "I am with you sometimes."

Embracing children means consistent promotion in multiple venues. Check your worship guide. What is in there about children? Check your social media feeds, email newsletters, and worship service announcements. If kids are not there, then you are not embracing children.

Embracing children means investing in KidMin. Is your children's minister the lowest-paid ministry team member? Does your children's budget match your worship budget? A church that embraces children will invest in the ministries supporting children. A church that tolerates children will give the monetary leftovers to them. If it is easier to cut your children's budget than your technology budget, then you likely are not embracing children in your church.

Embracing children means understanding church at their level. A lot of churches will seek out the perspective of parents. You should! Helping parents create God-centered homes, not child-centered homes, is one of the core elements of family discipleship. However, you should not neglect the perspective of a child. Ask about their experiences, their feelings, and their opinions. When you understand church at a child's level, you are better positioned to guide the child towards Christ.

In Luke 18, Jesus invited the children. In Mark 10, Jesus embraced the children. Churches that welcome and embrace children are like Jesus. Jesus becomes angry at the disciples for discounting the value of children. The next time a child cries out in church, don't get angry at the child. Instead, get angry at the person who is angry at the child. Children are a blessing, so churches should make them a priority. Be the church that embraces children, not just tolerates them. \*

\*See the Jan./Feb. issue of the GEM for Child Evangelism info.

Written by Sam Rainer. This article is adapted from his book, *The Church Revitalization Checklist: A Hopeful and Practical Guide for Leading Your Congregation to a Brighter Tomorrow* (Tyndale House Publishers, Copyright © 2022). This adaption was published on ChurchAnswers.Com in July of 2022.



## How to Have Heart-To-Heart Talks

"Daddy, can we talk?" Upon hearing this question parents may wonder, Is this a ploy to avoid bedtime? Or it could create concern that something awful might be revealed. But having faith conversations and heart-to-heart talks can be as normal as eating every day.

When questions like this are asked, how can parents maximize heart-to-heart talks? First, lay down your phone, make eye contact, and help your child feel as comfortable as possible as she shares the question that is on her mind. Here are a few tips as we raise and disciple D6 kids regarding heart-to-heart talks:

**1. Have these talks often.** It is our desire as parents of younger children that they will feel comfortable talking with us now and in the future.

**2. Don't be anxious.** Most of us have had conversations with family members, friends, and co-workers that take a wrong turn, bring negativity, or end up hurting the relationship. If conversations with your kids become normal, no matter the topic, expect the outcome to be good.

**3. Constantly remind your child that they should come to you when they need to talk about issues of faith and life.** One way to practice this is to talk to them about your faith, prayers, and spiritual growth.

**4. Ask good questions throughout the week.** Deuteronomy 6 teaches us to impress God's Word on our children as they wake up, walk along the way, and go to sleep. Ask questions every now and then about the topics they are learning in church. It doesn't have to be trivia or an

oral exam. As you are driving down the road, you could say something like, "Hey, on Sunday at church we learned about the resurrection of Jesus. What do you think it was like for his friends to see Him again?" The free SPLINK resource ([d6family.com/splink](http://d6family.com/splink)) is also a great tool with questions you can ask your kids each week.

**5. Give your child undivided attention.** This can be difficult since we are very busy people, and many times their questions come at a time you didn't plan. Turn off anything electronic, close the door, look them in the eyes and listen. Try to give your child the same attention God gives you when you pray.

**6. Finish well.** After you listen to your child, give an appropriate response. This can be a hug, a plan for next time, a prayer, a Bible verse, advice, a story from your childhood, discipline, bringing others into the conversation, and more. However you chose to end the conversation, your goal is to help, but more importantly, to set the stage for future conversations like this as they grow up. We want these heart connections to be strong. That way, when we do have conversations about painful topics, our hearts are connected. Both you and your child know that your mutual love can survive difficult times.

**7. Keep it private.** To build trust for your child to have the confidence to ask difficult and potentially embarrassing questions, don't talk about this publicly. It should not be used as an illustration in a sermon or class. And it certainly should not be referenced in a humorous manner to friends or coworkers. It will break trust if your child hears that their private conversation with you has been shared with others.



D6 is a movement intentional about empowering parents, homes, marriages, leaders, and churches to live out the story of Deuteronomy 6. This Scripture paints a beautiful picture for the family and of God's heart for discipleship at home. The family is God's original small group. D6 provides resources to align the church and home to accomplish God's design of generational discipleship.

[d6family.com](http://d6family.com)

[www.randallhouse.com](http://www.randallhouse.com)



## From Our Boards

### Christian Education

## A New Way to Love Marriage Retreat

### Update from the Marriage Matters 2023 Conference:



At Chateau on the Lake Resort & Spa in Branson, Missouri



We had another beautiful Marriage Matters Conference in January. The title for the conference was "A New Way to Love" based out of the book of Philippians. The 3rd annual conference was dedicated to

help equip couples with the tools to give their marriages a strong foundation through a God-centered relationship and serving one another. The conference was hosted at Chateau on the lake in Branson, Missouri and created an environment for couples to unplug from the day-to-day life and focus on God and their spouse.

Steve and Debbie Wilson, of Marriage Matters Now, were the conference speakers and did a fantastic job incorporating scripture and real-life testimony into the weekend. We focused on turning complacency into intentionality. Complacency makes us want comfort over God, while intentionality is having a purpose greater than ourselves. The content gripped the hearts of many, and there were nine decisions for Christ. These steps in faith can change generations!

We are so excited to announce that we are already in the process of scheduling next year's conference. We will be opening registration soon. Visit the following website: [www.legacyresources.org](http://www.legacyresources.org) for event details.

~ Melvin Moon, C.E. Board Member



## A New Director for Women Active for Christ



Missouri Free Will Baptists are familiar with Donnie and Ruth McDonald—as missionaries to Japan. However, they now have new titles. After 37 years serving in Japan as international missionaries, Donnie and Ruth have returned to the states; however, they are not done serving the Free Will Baptist denomination. They are just serving with different titles. Bro. Donnie will be working with IM, Inc., as Field Ministry Personnel Associate. And Sister Ruth....We are excited to announce her new title: WNAC Executive Director!

Although they now live in Tennessee, Sister Ruth has roots in Missouri. Her parents, as well as a lot of other relatives, have been actively involved in Missouri churches for many generations.

Missouri ladies welcome Ruth and are anticipating many years of laboring together with her at the helm of the WNAC office. She stepped into the role officially on November 1, 2022. She had previously spent several months learning about the position and working before then, even while still in Japan, thanks to internet and cell phones!

As the Missouri Women's Ministry board chairman and WNAC board member, I can assure the ladies of Missouri that Sister Ruth is ready and more than happy to help your women's ministry groups. You no longer have to be a dues-

paying member to be a part of WNAC. If you are Missouri FWB women laboring together in your church, you ARE a part of WNAC! And Sister Ruth is YOUR executive director. The WNAC has many resources and wants to share them with you. When you call the WNAC Office at 877-767-7662 or 615-731-6812, you will be able to speak with Ruth or with Phyllis York, Administrative Assistant. They want to hear from you, AND they want your prayers and support. The FWB women through WNAC have ministered to thousands of women, community projects, all mission endeavors, and other ministries. **Women across the nation have supported mission works in the amount of approximately a quarter million dollars annually.** We could also mention the non-cash gifts, including the Provision Closet, a "Walmart" for missionaries, minus the cash register. Some of their material needs are met at no cost to them, thanks to women's ministries across the nation donating goods. For more information about how you can help stock the Provision Closet or for any other help you may need, call the WNAC office.

~Lee Ann Wilfong

Missouri FWB Women's Ministry Coordinator

## MINISTERS' WIVES' RETREAT

Cross Pointe Retreat Center April 21 & 22, 2023

**SPEAKER: Fawn Gibson**  
**HAVE QUESTIONS?**

Contact Becky Gwartney ([beckygwartney@hotmail.com](mailto:beckygwartney@hotmail.com)),  
Brenda Bunch ([brndbnch@yahoo.com](mailto:brndbnch@yahoo.com)) or  
Linda Reeves ([lbreeves@hotmail.com](mailto:lbreeves@hotmail.com)) for answers.

Like Missouri FWB Pastor's Wives on facebook  
for information and updates.  
Visit [mofwb.com](http://mofwb.com) for registration forms.





# Ministry Gems

News Tidbits from Around the State



Aaron Loomis visited the State Office to presented MOFWB with a partnership check for \$10,000 from **Brotherhood Mutual**.

Insurance Claims can be complicated and take more time than we expect. How many hymnals does your church have? How many TVs or screens, brand & size? How many crock pots, forks, knives, and kitchen utensils? Those are silly questions, you may think. Not in the case of a tornado or fire. Providing your insurance provider with an annual inventory of your church properties will help speed up the claim process. This might be a good task for a youth group or retiree group to perform.

**Welcome to Pastor Chris Durham**, his wife Kattie, and their family. The Durhams are the new pastoral family of the Mountain Grove First Free Will Baptist Church.

The **Rejoice FWB** Church congregation in Columbia is excited to announce that Luke Tyler, and his fiancé Chloe Lawson, have accepted a position to join the Rejoice Church staff beginning this summer!!!

The MOFWB State Office received a nice **"thank you"** card from Tucker Dinwiddie a scholarship recipient attending Randall University. Tucker is a grandson to Jack Dinwiddie pastor of Marshfield FWB Church.

Brother Stan, and others, thank you so much for getting this scholarship sorted and sent in. This is a huge blessing to us. We also are extremely thankful for all of your prayers. I, myself, am extremely

The **Seymour FWB** Church has called Matt Ogle as their pastor. Matt has served previously with the Nazarene Church.

Do you love great music? Then make plans to attend **Jones Family Singers Gospel Reunion**  
Friday, April 14th, 7:00 p.m.  
Stoutland High School Gym  
7584 State Road T  
Stoutland, MO

**Panama, Central America.** Pastor Mark Elliott accompanied by Stan & Brenda Bunch attended the 60th anniversary of the Panamanian Free Will Baptist Association. An estimated 450 believers were in attendance for this special event. Former Panama missionaries Steve and Judy Lytle were also present, along with FWB International Missions leaders. Two "Evenings of Encouragement," sponsored by the Calvary Chapel Church, MOFWB and IM-Inc, were attended by pastors and wives, much like the ones celebrated in Missouri in 2022.



thankful for this scholarship because it helps me gain a further education. We are always praying for you all as well. Again, we thank you for this opportunity.

- From Tucker and the Dinwiddie Family



## A LOOK BACK

### 35 Years - 1988

The 52nd National Association of Free Will Baptists was held in Kansas City, MO on July 17-21.

The 75th session of the MO FWB was held in Mountain Grove, MO.

### 40 Years - 1983

Bro. Jack Day baptized Keith Cantrell and Tony Medlock at the camp on September 3rd. This was the first baptism in the newly completed pool.

### 45 Years - 1978

The 42nd National Association of Free Will Baptists was held in Kansas City, MO.

### 50 years - 1973

From the January 11 issue of the wall Street Journal: Free Will Baptists were named by WSJ staff reporter Barry Newman, as "one of the small conservative church organizations that is growing."

Regular church services were begun in April by a group of FWB in Potosi, MO at their property on Hwy 21.

Bro. Clarence Burton reported the COOP giving was \$100 ahead of the projected \$85,00.00.

### 60 Years - 1963

The Missouri Mission Board met in January to organize the Olivet FWB Church in Marshall, MO.

The Free Will Baptist hymn book was first published.

~ Carrie Myers

## A few noteworthy memories as we take a look through our GEM Magazine archive.

### 15 Years - 2008

Free Will Baptist Bible College (now Welch College) selected Gallatin for their new campus.

March 27, Jerry and Carol Pinkerton returned to the states after 34 years as missionaries in the Ivory Coast. Over seventy people gathered at the airport to welcome them home.

### 20 years - 2003

Mt. Pisgah FWB celebrated their 75th anniversary and Myrtle FWB celebrated 100 years.

Bro. Nathan Ruble submitted his resignation during the State Meeting at the Cowan Civic Center in Lebanon.

### 25 Years - 1998

The Missouri Mission board announce that Bro. Steve Reeves and his family would be moving to Columbia, MO to begin a new work.

Bro. Russ Neill accepted the pastorate of First FWB in Purdy, MO.

### 30 Years - 1993

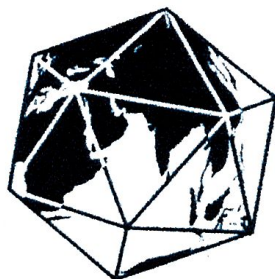
Carthage FWB organizational services was held. Bro. Jim Williams was elected pastor.

The Missouri Mission Board announced a new work in Ozark, MO with Bro. Gary Mitchener as pastor. Their first service was held July 11 with 48 people attending.

The archives room at the MOFWB State Office in Lebanon, houses physical copies of the GEM going back to the 1930's. Digital copies of the GEM, beginning with 2009, can also be found on the state website at mowb.com.

The state archives room is available for you to research MOFWB history. Call 417-532-6537 or email [carrie@mofwb.org](mailto:carrie@mofwb.org) for more information or contact a member of the Historical Commission (see page 2.)





# Perspectives™

April 23-28, 2023

at Camp Niangua



- Six-day intensive course
- Explore different aspects of God's global purpose
- Multi-faceted learning experience
- Available for college credit

## How does the intensive work?

### Register

Clear your calendar - it's going to be an epic week with pastors and leaders from all around the world. Space is limited, so don't wait. Register today.

### Prepare

Once you register, you will order your Reader & Study Guide. We ask that you prepare by completing lessons 1-5 before you arrive on April 23.

### Arrive

Check-in opens at 4pm on Sunday, April 23. We're going to get through the entire lecture portion of the course and it will be intense. We'll have 15 instructors and 15 lessons in just 6 days!

### Finish Strong

Once the Intensive is over, we'll send you home with a whole "new perspective" on God and the world. We'll give you everything you need to complete the course work by July 31, 2023.

## Your Investment

Certificate   Credit (Undergrad)   Credit (Graduate)

\$599\*

\$849\*

\$849\*

\*Lodging and meals included in cost above



Scan to learn more  
& register.

Pastors, ministry staff, missionaries,  
and students from all over the world are invited.



CONTACT

Jerry Gibbs  
jgibbs@iminc.org



## Missouri Free Will Baptist 2023 State Calendar

All events & additional information, as it becomes available, can be found at [mofwb.com](http://mofwb.com)

March 6-8	Minister's Retreat - Cross Pointe Camp & Retreat Center, Rocky Mount, MO
April 1	CTS Ministry EXPO - Calvary Fellowship, Fenton, MO
April 15	Backyard Volleyball Tournament - 1st FWB Church, Lebanon, MO ←
April 21-22	Ministers' Wives' Retreat - Cross Pointe Camp & Retreat Center, Rocky Mount, MO
June 5-7	MOFWB State Meeting - Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield, MO
June 6	Women's Celebration and CE Board Seminars
June 12-16	Teen Camp at Camp Niangua
June 26-30	Pre-Teen Camp at Camp Niangua, Session 1
July 10-14	Pre-Teen Camp at Camp Niangua, Session 2
July 16-19	NAFWB Convention & National Youth Conference, Raleigh, North Carolina
August 12	CO-ED 2 Person Scramble - Sullivan Golf Course, Sullivan, MO
August 25-26	Evangelism Conference - Camp Niangua
September 22-23	MOFWB Women's Ministry Retreat - Westgate Branson Woods Resort
October 23-25	Retiree Retreat - Lodge of the Ozarks, Branson, MO
November TBD	E3 Conference
November 6	General Board Meeting - State Office, Lebanon, MO



## "BACKYARD VOLLEYBALL" CO-ED Tournament for MO State Missions

April 15 at Lebanon First • Tournament begins at 9:00

Registration fee \$120 per team

Register  
before  
April 1

For more information contact: Josh Chapman 636-781-0765  
Layton Smith 417-207-3229 or Steve Reeves 573-808-4454

Download a registration form & flyer at [mofwb.com](http://mofwb.com)

March-April, 2023 / GEM Magazine / Page 17



# Financial Report

Please note: The amounts listed are for two months,  
December, 2022 - January, 2023

## COOP Disbursements

### December 2022 - January 2023

19% MO Missions.....	\$27,147.00
21.5% Gen/Exec.....	\$30,718.98
8.5% Youth Camp.....	\$12,144.71
2% Youth Ministry.....	\$2,857.58
2% Christian Education ..	\$2,857.58
2% Retiree Ministry .....	<b>\$2,857.58</b>
9% State Retirement ...	\$12,859.11
3% Show-Me .....	\$4,286.37
33% Nat'l Ministries.....	\$41,864.54
Randall U (.1121).....	\$5,285.52
<b>Total Disbursed.....</b>	<b>\$142,878.97</b>

## RECEIPTS

### COOP

Alton .....	\$200.00
Amity .....	\$272.80
Bailey .....	\$1,292.00
Bailey Chapel .....	\$229.00
Belton .....	\$719.20
Bethel- Marshfield.....	\$1,682.70
Black Oak .....	\$908.90
Byrd .....	\$946.00
Calvary Chapel.....	\$6,598.85
Calvary Fellowship .....	\$7,129.20
Christ Chapel.....	\$1,955.00
Clifton Sunday School .....	\$25.50
Copper Mines .....	\$1,626.20
Cornerstone.....	\$82.11
Cuba .....	\$1,383.00
De Soto 1st.....	\$2,901.00
Faith- Fair Grove .....	\$770.60
Faith Chapel .....	\$507.70
Farmington 1st.....	\$7,046.31
Fellowship.....	\$3,875.00
First Day .....	\$3,563.90
Fredericktown 1st .....	\$1,025.00
Freeman Chapel.....	\$1,036.00
Good News.....	\$443.44
Gospel Light .....	\$800.00
Grace .....	\$3,918.29
Grant Avenue.....	\$1,141.18
Hannon .....	\$2,341.00
Hartville.....	\$3,930.00
Hazel Creek.....	\$1,649.59
Hopewell.....	\$1,122.00
Houston 1st .....	\$1,551.23
Hurryville.....	\$615.00
Koshkonong.....	\$394.80
Leadington.....	\$1,380.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$5,757.91
Lebanon Green Hills.....	\$520.60
Liberty - Gatewood .....	\$185.30
LifePoint.....	\$500.00
Marshfield .....	\$709.20
Mill Creek.....	\$791.01
Mine La Motte.....	\$56.23
Monett 1st.....	\$1,077.10
Mosaic.....	\$1,724.28
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$2,144.43
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$875.00
Neosho 1st .....	\$1,454.00
Nevada .....	\$1,290.08
New Hope.....	\$447.00
New Life- Licking.....	\$947.18
Number One .....	\$50.00
O'Fallon 1st .....	\$3,653.90
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove ...	\$460.29
Oak Hill .....	\$1,150.00
One Accord.....	\$1,142.71

Ozark 1st .....	\$7,721.85
Ozark 1st - Heritage .....	\$559.99
Park Hills 1st.....	\$1,613.82
Parkview .....	\$591.00
Pleasant Home .....	\$314.40
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$244.00
Purdy 1st .....	\$2,000.00
Rejoice.....	\$4,334.21
Republic.....	\$1,292.40
Resolve.....	\$200.00
Restore .....	\$222.00
Richwoods 1st.....	\$791.00
Rock Chapel .....	\$2,108.40
Safe Harbor .....	\$75.00
Seymour .....	\$1,197.00
Smyrna .....	\$176.00
South Fremont.....	\$1,385.00
Springfield 1st.....	\$1,837.00
Stockton.....	\$304.70
Stonebridge .....	\$1,622.27
Thayer .....	\$3,426.00
Trinity .....	\$1,378.91
Twin Oak .....	\$1,491.17
Union Light .....	\$356.20
United .....	\$1,515.48
Unity .....	\$1,060.00
Verdella .....	\$1,803.32
Viburnum .....	\$725.00
Victory- Alton .....	\$1,712.70
Victory- KC .....	\$1,512.50
Waynesville 1st.....	\$1,436.95
West Plains 1st.....	\$3,860.00
Wilderness .....	\$944.25
Willow Springs .....	\$1,095.73
Wolf Creek .....	\$1,972.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$142,878.97</b>

### Show-Me Plan

Belton .....	\$350.00
Black Oak .....	\$360.00
Brent Emmerson.....	\$100.00
Bruce Moore .....	\$100.00
Byrd .....	\$75.00
Calvary Chapel.....	\$90.00
Carol Dale.....	\$47.76
Cheryl Bell .....	\$96.64
Cleo Reeder .....	\$60.00
Copper Mines .....	\$300.00
Cuba .....	\$293.60
De Soto 1st.....	\$1,595.00
Devena Hardwick .....	\$96.95
Doyle Van Genderen .....	\$600.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$915.00
Farmington 1st- WAC.....	\$100.00
Fellowship.....	\$845.00
First Day .....	\$1,781.96
Frank Webster .....	\$120.00
Fredericktown 1st .....	\$460.00
Freeman Chapel.....	\$1,440.00
Gary Tune.....	\$96.64
Gospel Light .....	\$1,800.00
Grace .....	\$1,018.00
Hannon .....	\$1,000.00
Happy Hill .....	\$360.00
Hartville.....	\$350.00
Hopewell.....	\$82.29
Hopewell WAC .....	\$25.00
Indian Creek Assoc.....	\$8,512.64
Jason Sander .....	\$47.58
Jerry Pinkerton .....	\$300.00
Jerry Rader .....	\$40.00
Josh Provow .....	\$100.00
Leadington.....	\$400.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$376.62
Lebanon 1st Women .....	\$800.00
Lebanon Green Hills.....	\$156.18

Liberty Assoc .....	\$4,171.01
Macedonia - Purdy .....	\$13,000.00
Mill Creek .....	\$140.00
Mine La Motte.....	\$300.00
MOFWB COOP .....	\$4,286.37
Mosaic .....	\$50.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$575.00
Mt. Pisgah .....	\$20.00
Mt. Pisgah WAC .....	\$25.00
Mt. Zion- "Cuba" .....	\$1,160.00
Myrtle.....	\$200.00
Neosho 1st .....	\$750.00
New Hope .....	\$400.00
New Life- Licking .....	\$246.00
Number One .....	\$120.00
O'Fallon 1st .....	\$3,038.11
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove ...	\$480.00
Oak Hill .....	\$84.00
Ozark 1st .....	\$575.00
Ozark 1st - Heritage .....	\$300.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$94.00
Pleasant Grove- Anderson	\$300.00
Pleasant Home .....	\$400.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$165.00
Porter Chapel .....	\$4,679.70
Purdy 1st .....	\$825.00
Rejoice.....	\$135.00
Republic.....	\$205.00
Resolve.....	\$200.00
Richwoods 1st.....	\$454.82
Rock Chapel .....	\$497.00
Rodney Bunton .....	\$1,000.00
South Fremont.....	\$120.00
Southeast Assoc.....	\$120.00
Springfield 1st.....	\$750.00
Springfield 1st WAC .....	\$900.00
St. Francois Assoc.....	\$12,197.05
Stockton .....	\$135.00
Stockton Auxiliary .....	\$45.00
Stonebridge .....	\$206.00
Thayer .....	\$1,550.00
Trinity .....	\$195.00
Trisa Johnson .....	\$47.58
Twin Oak Auxiliary .....	\$110.00
Union Light .....	\$700.00
United .....	\$475.00
Unity .....	\$490.00
Verdella .....	\$1,803.32
Viburnum .....	\$90.00
Victory- KC .....	\$397.50
Virginia Bunton .....	\$600.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$920.00
West Plains 1st.....	\$1,716.00
West Plains 1st WNAC.....	\$75.00
Willow Springs .....	\$448.89
Wolf Creek .....	\$400.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$88,659.21</b>

### Missouri Missions

AAlden Redfield.....	\$100.00
Calvary Fellowship .....	\$1,200.00
Cuba .....	\$103.35
De Soto 1st.....	\$385.00
Devena Harwick .....	\$194.20
Farmington 1st.....	\$5.00
Howard Easley .....	\$668.00
Indian Creek Assoc.....	\$8,512.65
Judith Lemons .....	\$47.58
Liberty Association.....	\$1,390.00
Loretta Minney.....	\$50.00
Mosaic .....	\$3,000.00
Mt. Pisgah WAC .....	\$20.00
Oliver Adamson .....	\$120.00
Ozark 1st .....	\$20.00
Ozark 1st - Heritage .....	\$200.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$25.00

Republic.....	\$50.00
Restore .....	\$100.00
Ryan Akers .....	\$100.00
Scott Keith .....	\$100.00
Stockton Auxiliary .....	\$45.00
Thayer .....	\$25.00
William Moore .....	\$50.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$16,510.78</b>

### North American Ministries

Bailey .....	\$200.00
Belton .....	\$411.87
Carrie Myers .....	\$50.00
Copper Mines .....	\$200.00
Cuba .....	\$103.35
De Soto 1st.....	\$570.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$355.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	\$100.00
Grace .....	\$1,040.00
Hartville.....	\$50.00
Houston 1st .....	\$100.00
Indian Creek Assoc.....	\$17,650.30
Lebanon 1st.....	\$200.00
Lebanon 1st Women .....	\$300.00
Loretta Minney.....	\$50.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$110.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$100.00
Neosho 1st .....	\$20.00
New Hope .....	\$100.00
New Testament.....	\$40.00
Oak Hill .....	\$100.00
O'Fallon 1st .....	\$60.00
Ozark 1st .....	\$1,276.00
Parkway.....	\$1,118.00
Rock Chapel .....	\$146.00
South Fremont.....	\$140.00
Southeast Assoc.....	\$90.00
Springfield 1st WAC .....	\$500.00
Stockton.....	\$30.00
Trinity .....	\$100.00
Twin Oak Auxiliary .....	\$70.00
Union Light .....	\$170.00
Union Light WAC .....	\$50.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$220.00
West Plains 1st.....	\$1,479.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$27,299.52</b>

### International Missions

Black Oak .....	\$200.00
Bruce Moore .....	\$80.00
Christ Chapel.....	\$120.00
Copper Mines .....	\$700.00
Cuba .....	\$206.70
De Soto 1st.....	\$920.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$100.00
Fellowship.....	\$650.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	\$460.00
Freida Hays .....	\$50.00
Gospel Light .....	\$1,030.00
Grace .....	\$1,020.00
Grant Avenue.....	\$39.00
Greater Springfield Assoc	\$410.00
Hannon .....	\$155.00
Hartville.....	\$350.00
Hopewell WAC .....	\$100.00
Houston 1st .....	\$847.00
Indian Creek Assoc.....	\$8,512.65
Lebanon 1st.....	\$426.62
Mill Creek .....	\$200.00
Mill Creek- Young Adult .....	\$25.00
Mosaic .....	\$260.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$125.00
New Harmony.....	\$8,094.00
New Hope.....	\$200.00
Oak Hill .....	\$318.00
O'Fallon 1st .....	\$2,080.00

Ozark 1st .....	\$240.00
Ozark 1st - Heritage .....	\$100.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$50.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$100.00
Rejoice.....	\$1,464.16
Second Free Will .....	\$200.00
South Fremont.....	\$695.00
Southeast Assoc.....	\$90.00
Stockton.....	\$40.00
Trinity .....	\$40.00
Twin Oak Auxiliary .....	\$80.00
Union Light .....	\$150.00
Union Light WAC .....	\$50.00
Verdella.....	\$2,260.66
Victory- KC .....	\$195.62
Waynesville 1st.....	\$420.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$33,854.41</b>

### DESIGNATED

<b>ACM</b>	
Bailey .....	\$240.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$240.00</b>

### Berea Ministries

Bailey .....	\$140.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>

### Ch-TN

Bailey.....	\$400.00
Belton .....	\$110.00
Bruce Moore .....	\$20.00
De Soto 1st.....	\$160.00
Grace .....	\$1,120.00
Hartville.....	\$100.00
Mill Creek .....	\$50.00
Myrtle.....	\$200.00
New Hope.....	\$100.00
Union Light .....	\$159.13
Unity .....	\$300.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$20.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$2,739.13</b>

### Young Children's Home

Thayer .....	\$128.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$128.00</b>

### PMI-USA

Verdella.....	\$800.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>

### Randall U

Fellowship.....	\$80.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$330.00

Thayer .....	\$200.00
West Plains 1st.....	\$250.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$860.00</b>

### Samaritan's Purse

Ozark 1st - Heritage .....	\$10.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>

### Welch College

De Soto 1st.....	\$120.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$200.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$330.00
Thayer .....	\$200.00
West Plains 1st.....	\$250.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$1,100.00</b>

### WNAC

Fredericktown 1st - Auxi ..	\$400.00
Stockton Auxiliary .....	\$10.00
Twin Oak Auxiliary .....	\$20.00
Union Light WAC .....	\$50.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$480.00</b>

### Youth Camp

Cuba.....	\$150.00
De Soto 1st.....	\$160.00
Doyle Van Genderen .....	\$400.00
Hannon .....	\$50.00
Hartville.....	\$100.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$100.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$30.00
Myrtle.....	\$60.00
Oak Hill .....	\$84.00
Ozark 1st .....	\$20.00
Stockton Auxiliary .....	\$30.00
Thayer .....	\$200.00
Trinity .....	\$34.00
West Plains 1st.....	\$50.00
Willow Springs.....	\$100.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$1,568.00</b>

### Youth Camp Development

Verdella.....	\$540.99
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$540.99</b>

**CORRECTION:** A couple of over-sights in the financial report of the last issue have been brought to our attention. First, the dates of the financial report incorrect. The report was for October-November. The second, is a COOP correction:

New Hope .....	\$572.00
Fordland .....	\$3,395.07

We apologize for the errors.

## Available for Fill-In

**Cody Alley**  
Lebanon, MO  
573-664-6945

**Rich Barker**  
Park Hills, MO  
573-664-6947

**Jack Brown**  
Kansas City, MO  
816-267-0550

**Tim Deckard**  
Alton, MO  
706-464-5956

**Ed Fields**  
Cuba, MO  
573-368-0746

**Donnie Greenwood**  
Marshfield, MO  
417-597-5808

**Danny Hill**  
Springfield, MO  
417-210-3699

**Scott McCully**  
Joplin, MO  
417-236-4382

**David Mitchener**  
Ozark MO  
417-840-2164

**Lindell Richardson**  
Desloge, MO  
573-366-1850

**Jason Williams**  
Ozark, MO  
417-260-7078

## Available Churches

**First Free Will**  
DeSoto, MO  
Contact: Rodney Garrett  
636-208-6414

**Friendship**  
Branson, MO  
Contact: George Christoffersen  
417-331-3997

**Hazel Creek**  
Kirksville, MO  
Contact: Karen Sponsler  
TEXT - 660-626-3978

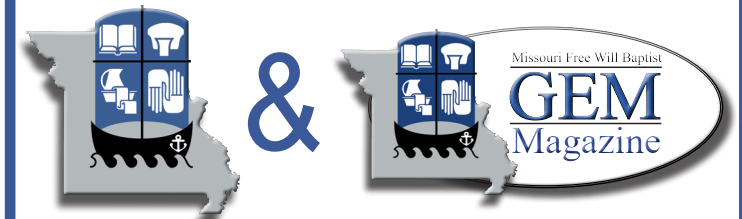
**Mt Zion "Cuba"**  
Grovespring, MO  
Contact: Jason Parker  
417-531-3993

**Pleasant Home**  
Mtn. Grove, MO  
Contact: Shirley Reed  
417-948-2365

**Pleasant Ridge**  
Alton, MO  
Contact: Glenn Booker  
417-270-0994

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**MO FWB State Office and Gem Magazine**







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## ORDER WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

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Collection of adventure stories takes young readers to Bible times and a closer look at Easter events

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