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Photo by Carrie Mgers



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202 West Commercial,
P.O. Box 991,
Lebanon, Missouri 65536,
1-866-532-6537

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To submit an article or photo for consideration in the GEM e-mail them to carrie@mofwb.org or stan@mofwb.org





Why Association Meetings

Verbal reactions to local church association meetings vary greatly. *"That was as boring as watching paint dry!"* *"That was worth coming to!"* *"This is the best thing going on in my life."* *"If something was actually getting done, I might consider attending."* I have heard these comments, most usually from the tongues of ministers. Most of us have experienced the range of emotions behind the comments. If you haven't, well, God bless you, and please pray for the rest of us.

The origin of association meetings among Baptists dates to the 18th century or before. In 1707, five churches near Philadelphia met and formed the first association of Baptist churches in America. By the late 19th century, that association had 81 member churches, the result largely of their associational missions/church planting efforts.

Free Will Baptists met in Hollis, Maine on Saturday December 6th, 1783, to form an association of churches. *"The object of this meeting would be to ascertain the state of the churches, consult upon the general interest of religion, adjust difficulties, inquire into the fellowship of those present, examine candidates for the ministry, and ordain them if advisable, and engage in public worship and the celebration of the ordinances."*

Several things motivated Benjamin Randall and others to consider joining congregations together in the formation of local associations. They

found that they needed to share experiences and trials, receive teaching from the scriptures, combine efforts in evangelizing the lost, and that coming together with common personal and ministry needs and goals would be pleasing to God and blessed by Him. They weren't wrong. Congregations in other areas began forming local associations which met "quarterly" with the same passions and desires motivating them.

It is interesting to note that there were several ingredients in the meetings, which lasted 2-3 days. Time was given to corporate prayer and worship, teaching, preaching, and fellowship. **Reading through early history, one sees the common denominator of accountability in the Free Will Baptist and other Baptist groups associational meetings.**

Two hundred and fifty years after these early organizational meetings, we have done a fairly good job keeping the "quarterly" part in the meetings. We have slipped considerably when it comes to the areas of praying, teaching, giving account of the spiritual climate of our congregations, and especially accountability as individuals and churches.

Some of the ministers and deacons among us rarely attend the meetings of the association to which they should be giving an account of their ministry. Some have never been to a state as-

sociation meeting. With our desire to experience a renewal of interest in our quarterly meetings, some adjustments will need to be made. Some suggestions might be:

- Provide teaching, training, and seminars that deal with current needs. (The MOFWB Mission Association has done a good job of this.) Provide experienced and qualified speakers.
- Consider young families and youth. Some associations provide age-appropriate activities for the youth during the business portion of the meeting.
- Strongly suggest "require" licensed and ordained ministers and deacons to submit an annual report of their ministry and attend meetings unless providentially hindered. This will only work if the person is accountable and the meetings are productive
- Be creative & don't be afraid to try something new and change the process. This generates more interest.

Association meetings can be a great investment of our time and can be very effective and rewarding. Most people won't mind investing 2-3 hours every few months if what they invest in is rewarding, relevant, and helpful.

Pastors, leaders, moderators, the ball is in our court. The interest and effectiveness of association meetings depend upon our leadership. In what way can we help people come away from our meetings saying, **"that was worth coming to!"**



from the Missions Director, Steve Reeves



HELP MAKE the CALL



I remember very well that hot July Saturday night in 1976. I was an 18-year-old high school graduate attending a revival service at Verdella FWB Church. Rev. Tommy Brashear was the evangelist. To be honest, I don't remember anything the preacher said. I do remember the unmistakable call of God to preach the Gospel. It was as if God was seated in the pew beside me, asking me to change my plans for His. I said, 'yes.' I said yes because my dad, Rev. Lavelle Reeves, always taught me to seek God's will for my life. I said yes because Rev. Clarence Burton counseled me to be open to God's leadership and direction. I said yes because I realized how great a debt I owed to the One who gave His all for me.

I remember sitting in a Monday night class at Hillsdale College (now Randall University) later that fall. I took the Missionary Principles and Practice class with Professor Reford Wilson, not because I had an interest in missions but because I needed a class to fill out the schedule. God had other plans for me. For the first time in my life, I was confronted with the needs of the world. I was challenged with the question, 'Is it fair for anyone to hear the Gospel twice until all the world has heard it once?' Once again, I offered my future to the God who knows the future.

Saying 'yes' to God has meant saying 'no' to many things this world offers. I have never regretted God's calling or my decision to say 'yes' to His call. It has been the honor of my life.

Let me talk to the pastors, the parents, and the grandparents reading this article. I probably would never have sought God's will if the adults in my life had not taught me and reminded me that God made me for a purpose because of my dad, Bro. Burton, Bro Wilson, and others, I made it my priority to listen for God's voice. Those men did not call me; they left that to the Lord. They did encourage me to seek Him.

What about you? Who are the young people in your church that need to know that God calls ordinary people, and He might call them? What about your kids or grandkids? Are you

faithful to teach them that God has a plan for their lives and for them to seek to discover that plan, no matter what it is?

We have a shortage of preachers, pastors, church planters, and missionaries. Is it because God is no longer calling? I don't believe that. Is it because the needs of lost people have drastically changed for the better? Look around you; we know that is not true. It seems the world is more spiritually lost than ever. The answer must be that we are not teaching and letting our young people discover that there is more to life than following their own plan.

It is a scary proposition. What if God calls your kids? They might end up in Madrid, Spain, Chitre, Panama, or Shumen, Bulgaria. They might trade the salary of an engineer or a businessman/businesswoman for the salary of a pastor or missionary. It might mean being separated from them for years at a time.

I imagine that many reading this stood before a preacher one day in the past with their little babies in their arms. You dedicated your little ones to the Lord for Him to use as He saw fit. Did you mean it, or was it just for show? In reality, our children are on loan from heaven, and God has the right to call them and use them as He sees fit.

Let me close this writing by encouraging pastors and teachers to teach your young people about God's call. Pastors, when you give an invitation, occasionally call for young people to respond to a call to ministry or missions. When they come to you for advice, remind them to listen to God's voice and teach them to pray, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening. Parents, Grandparents, be ready to lead your kids to seek God with all their hearts. Be prepared to let them go when God leads them to go to a Christian college or serve on an international mission field.

May we all pray to the Lord of the Harvest that He would send laborers into His fields and train and prepare them when He does.



MMB

SHOW ME plan

updates

- STATE -

Grace Fellowship (Cape Girardeau): Hosted a Round-Up Sunday on March 26, 2023 with over 90 in attendance.

Mosaic (Rolla): The church is developing a tentmaker missions program for overseas missions. They have several engineering students interested in this program.

Restore (Potosi): Hosted a Gentleman Warrior Conference on March 25, 2023. There were 46 participants.

Bradley Mercer (University of Missouri): Bradley graduated from Welch College in May. Pray that his support will be raised and he can be in Columbia, MO by the fall semester 2023.

Women's Ministry: This year's Women's Celebration Service is scheduled for June 6 at 10:30 am at our State Meeting in Springfield. Bradley Mercer will be the speaker.

- International -

Baileys (Japan): Ken baptized a lady from the church in March. Their congregation is growing as God is bringing new people regularly.

Speer (Japan): The Speers departed for Saporro Japan on March 19, 2023. Pray for Daniel as he goes to language school each day.

Turnbough (Spain): The church in Villalba continues to grow and disciple new believers. The food distribution ministry is opening many opportunities for witness and service.

Duncan (Ecuador): Ecuador had a moderate earthquake hit the southern part of the country in March. Carol was able to go and assist with the medical effort.

Provow (Bulgaria): Josh is very busy these days with the churches in Shumen and Novi Pazar. God is opening doors of witness all around this Gospel deprived area of Bulgaria.

- North American -

Webster (Florida): David and Lindsey Mitchener and family have moved to the Villages to join the church planting team at Connect Church.

Garrett (Illinois): Adam was deployed to the National Guard in February. Pray for him and his family while he is away.

- Chaplains -

Captain Michael Beatty: Captain Michael Beatty (Ft. Leonard Wood) has recently taken the leadership of the youth program for military personnel stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood.

Medical Chaplain Cody Alley: Continue to lift him up in prayer as he ministers to patients and hospital staff.



Director's Note: A special thanks to Matthew and Jennifer Cromer for their years of service to Grace Fellowship, our church plant in Cape Girardeau. The Cromers have moved on to a new ministry.

DeSoto 1st

The picture is of Matthew Rogers being baptised by our children's church director Bro. Rob Wilkerson under the ordained interim pastor Bro. Millard Sasser.



Belton

The Belton Free Will Baptist Church started the new year off right. Pastor James Mize baptized Emma Rae McClain on New Year's Day after a glowing testimony.



Fellowship

On March 5, Fellowship Church in Park Hills, celebrated the baptisms of seven new converts. Pastor Curt Gwartney had the privilege of baptizing Tom Goad, Bryan Launius, Owen Launius, Alyvia DeGonia, Makenzye DeGonia, Dica Wallace, and Gracie Beer.



Mt. Pisgah

David and Sheila Carroll have served the Mt. Pisgah congregation in Cabool for over 20 years. During those years the congregation has grown and made additions to the building. The Carrolls were blessed with a beautiful money tree as well as a meal in their honor.





"I Love To Tell The Story"of Jesus and His glory..... of Jesus and His love! The story of Jesus' love and the story of His blessings on a small country church in the Ozarks. The story of the people who make up the family of the Hopewell Free Will Baptist Church in Tunas, MO.

As 2022 approached, the church was reminded they had been a part of this Ozarks community for 100 years. The question was, how do we show our love for the Lord and His church?

It was decided this was not to be accomplished in one day, but rather we would spend the year of 2022 celebrating God's church. Each month a Sunday or two was set aside for a special activity that was to be led by church members. In January, a time capsule

was introduced, and members spent the entire year collecting things to be placed in the 100-year time capsule. Other activities included commemorative T-shirts and coffee cups, 1922 period memorabilia display, "Decoration Day" celebration, "Dinner on the Grounds" of the original Hopewell Church site, remembrance of weddings that had taken place at Hopewell, ice cream social, honoring pastors of the church throughout the years, homecoming celebration, and their first Brush Arbor Revival.

We spent an entire year honoring the Lord, the church, past and present Pastors, families, events, and memories that made the church a part of this community. Our theme for the year was displayed on a banner in the church yard. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." May the Lord find us always faithful to Him.



On February 26th the church celebrated Membership Sunday. Twelve members were recognized for their faithful service to Hopewell Church. They were each presented with a recognition certificate and gift.

Back row: Gayla Button-1971 (52 yrs) Martha Bishop-1950 (73 yrs) Archie Bishop-1971 (52 yrs) Bill Bishop-1966 (57 yrs) Quinten Bishop-1970 (53 yrs) John Bishop-1973 (50 yrs) Bill Dampier-1973 (50 yrs) Forrest Stidham-1974 (49 yrs) Front row: Peggy Stark-1962 (61 yrs) Betty Fowler-1973 (50 yrs) Mariann Parrack-1956 (67 yrs) Single Picture: Susan Bishop Duncan-1973 (50 yrs)





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

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

Women's Celebration Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. *Everyone is welcome!*

Pre-registration Runs April 1 - May 25 at mofwb.com

Room Cost: \$98.00 + tax

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

2023 Nominating Committee Recommendations

With the best interest of God's ministry among Missouri Free Will Baptist in mind, we the members of the nominating committee make the following nominations:

CE Board

2023 Replacing Mark Elliott	Nomination: Mark Elliott	Term expiring 2028
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Mission Board

2023 Replacing Bob Thebeau	Nomination: Bob Thebeau	Term expiring 2026
2023 Replacing Curt Gwartney	Nomination: Curt Gwartney	Term expiring 2026
2023 Replacing Gary Mitchener	Nomination: Aaron Pontious	Term expiring 2026

Retiree Ministry Board

2023 Replacing Ron Blanks	Nomination: Ron Blanks	Term expiring 2028
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Youth Camp

2023 Replacing Tim Hodges	Nomination: Ray Paxton	Term expiring 2025
2023 Replacing Andy Rains	Nomination: Andy Rains	Term expiring 2028

Youth Ministry

2023 Replacing Seth Moon	Nomination: Seth Moon	Term expiring 2028
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Historical Preservation Committee

2023 Replacing Gary Fry	Nomination: Gary Fry	Term expiring 2026
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Randall University Trustee

2023 Replacing Steve Reeves	Nomination: Lyle Hoover	Term expiring 2026
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Executive Committee

Nominations: Moderator - Jackson Watts	Assistant Moderator - Rick Dement
Clerk - Justin Lawson	Assistant Clerk - Mark Headrick



In the interest of promoting a healthy and effective state ministry, we the 2023 Nominating Committee submit this year's nominees for boards and state offices. In consideration of prior suggestions from the Missouri General Board, we have confirmed (1) that nominees are supporters of Missouri COOP, (2) that they have demonstrated both a heart and ability for the position for which they are nominated, and (3) that all nominees have been contacted and expressed a willingness to serve.

Prayerfully Submitted,
Rick Dement, chairman
Bob Thebeau
Jacob Jones
Jay Tilson
Dan Talbott, posthumously

Women's Ministry Celebration

June 6th
10:30 a.m.

Special Speaker: Bradley Mercer



Bradley Mercer once hoped to be a professional basketball player in the NBA, but the Lord had other plans for him! He is now excited to serve the Kingdom as a minister to international students at University of Missouri and pioneer this unique ministry opportunity.



Missions Update by Steve Reeves
& WNAC Update by Ruth McDonald



April
First

2023 MO Youth Ministry CTS Expo

The CTS Bible and Ministry Expo in 2023 was a great weekend at Calvary Fellowship in Fenton. Seven of our churches with youth had entries in Bible, music, drama, art, and other events as well. This event is an amazing way to encourage our students to engage the Bible and use their gifts to serve the church! If you have not been a part of the CTS, we hope that you will consider participating in 2024, and use this as a tool to equip your students and families.

To the pastors, coaches, and parents, your commitment to patiently teach and direct students in ministry makes this event possible. Most of all, to our students, we are

so grateful that you were willing to work and sacrifice in order to serve Christ with your time and abilities.

Many of our students will be representing Missouri at the Vertical Three Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina this July.

We hope that you'll consider joining us next year for CTS 2024. More details will be available this fall, but it is never too early to begin planning! If you have any questions, our board would love to serve you and help you as you become involved.

~ Ryan Aker,
Chairman, Youth Ministry Board



SAVE THE DATE

E3 Conference
November 4th, 2023
at Hartville 1st FWB Church

For student 6th-12th grade.

2023 Competition Results

Name - Church Grade Place

Bible Memorization (Individual and Group)

Rhett Gariss - Verdella	K	1st
Lauren Lawson - Wolf Creek	K	2nd
Paisley Sprengle - Verdella	1	1st
Ava Gariss - Verdella	1	2nd
Ava & Paisley - Verdella	1	1st
Hartville 1st Grade Group - Hartville	1	2nd
Lukas Garrison - Wolf Creek	2	1st
Hartville Duo - Hartville	2	1st
Nora Lawson - Wolf Creek	3	1st
Brandon Garrison - Wolf Creek	3	2nd
Nora & Brandon - Wolf Creek	3	1st
Trenton Nisbett - First Lebanon	4	1st
Kenzie Pettus - Wolf Creek	5	1st
Grace Brittenham - Macedonia	5	2nd
Joy Brittenham - Macedonia	8	1st
Colton Nisbett - First Lebanon	8	2nd
Colton & Alexa - First Lebanon	8	1st
Reagan Pettus - Wolf Creek	10	1st
Wolf Creek Girls - Wolf Creek	10	1st
Hope Brittenham - Macedonia	11	1st
Elijah Nisbett - First Lebanon	11	2nd
Hope & Mallie - Macedonia	11	1st

Bible Millionaire

Lebanon 1st Millionaire - First Lebanon	4-6	1st
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Bible Sword Drill

Kenzie Pettus - Wolf Creek	4-6	1st
Grace Brittenham - Macedonia	4-6	2nd

Bible Bowl

Hartville Bible Bowl - Hartville	10-12	1st
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Vocal Solo

Ava Gariss - Verdella	1-3	1st
Gensen Rae Culver - Wolf Creek	4-6	1st

Male Vocal Solo

Carter Garrison - Wolf Creek	10-12	1st
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Female Vocal Solo

Macy Garren - Macedonia	7-9	1st
Lily Evans - Calvary Fellowship	10-12	1st

Duet

Kaylee & Nora - Wolf Creek	1-3	1st
Lily and Alahna - Calvary Fellowship	10-12	1st

Trio

Macedonia Trio - Macedonia	10-12	1st
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Quartet

Hartville Quartet - Hartville	1-3	1st
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Ensemble

Wolf Creek Cubs - Wolf Creek	4-6	1st
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Name - Church Grade Place

Woodwind Solo

Jodi Bettendorf - Hartville	7-9	1st
Josie Wiecezorek - Hartville	10-12	1st

Brass Solo

Brady Parker - Thayer	7-9	1st
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Plucked String Solo

Trenton Nisbett - First Lebanon	4-6	1st
Colton Nisbett - First Lebanon	7-9	1st
Allie Garren - Macedonia	10-12	1st

Praise Band

Farm Road 1100 - Macedonia	10-12	
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Keyboard Solo

Mallie Clifton - Macedonia	10-12	1st
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Individual Sign Language

Hope Brittenham - Macedonia	10-12	1st
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Illustrated Storytelling

Nora Lawson - Wolf Creek	1-3	1st
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Dramatic Duo

Mallie & Macy - Macedonia	10-12	1st
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Group Drama (3+)

Three Little Hams - Macedonia	10-12	1st
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Painting

Addy Moon - Hartville	1-3	1st
Addison Cole - Macedonia	4-6	1st
Allie Garren - Macedonia	10-12	1st

Drawings

Kyndall Dubois - Thayer	1-3	1st
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Mixed Media

Natalee Lawson - Wolf Creek	10-12	1st
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Single Photo

Logan Stevens - Verdella	1-3	1st
Lydia Rushing - First Lebanon	4-6	1st
Hope Brittenham - Macedonia	10-12	1st

Photo Essay

Hope Brittenham - Macedonia	10-12	1st
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Conceptual Art

Lauren Lawson - Wolf Creek	1-3	1st
Micah Morgan - First Lebanon	4-6	1st
Allie Garren - Macedonia	10-12	1st

Personal Experience Essay

Addison Cole - Macedonia	4-6	1st
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From Our Boards

Christian Education

As a Pastor, there are three events that I look forward to each year. One is attending the Ministers Retreat, the second is attending the State Meeting of Free Will Baptists and thirdly the National Convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. There's three reasons why:

#1. I enjoy the fellowship of coming together with brothers and sisters in Christ, getting to see them, visit with them, laugh with them, sometimes cry with them and enjoy the love of being a part of the family of God.

#2. I enjoy the ministry that comes from the preaching; the teaching, praying, equipping, encouragement and many times conviction that I receive from God's Word, because of the sermons and seminars!

#3. I look forward to the business sessions that takes place in our State and National meeting that keep us apprised of what's going on in our movement and ministry. I like the fact that we Free Will Baptists are autonomous in our government and that it starts in the local church, going all the way up to our National offices, departments, ministries, etc.

We're living in the perilous times the Bible talks about (II Timothy 3:1-5) and that's why we must stand together, stay together and pray together. Attending these events reinforces that for each of us. Hope to see you there!!

Submitted by Rev. Roger Hogan C.E. Board

MOFWB State Meeting
June 5-7
Oasis Hotel & Convention Center

NAFWB Convention &
National Youth Conference
July 16-19
Raleigh, North Carolina

2023 MO Women's Ministry Retreat September 22-23 Westgate Branson Woods Resort

FREE *indeed*
John 6:36

Registration forms,
online registration &
more information at
MOFWB.COM

Speaker: Gayle Haas
storiescomealive.org

"A Visit with Corrie ten Boom"
a Dutch Holocaust survivor
who helped Jews escape the
Nazis during World War II.

\$50 registration fee + room



Speaker,
Brandon Moore

Randall University Students



Eighty five men attended the 2023 Ministers/Leaders Conference held at Cross Pointe Retreat Center. Brandon Moore challenged us with practical principles on church revitalization and outreach. This retreat is always a highlight for those who attend. The spiritual instruction is excellent, and the laughter, food, and relaxing atmosphere are second to none. Naman Dement, Richard Wisdom, and Leroy Bryant blessed us with worship in song. All who attended were given a complimentary book. There is something special about hearing several dozen male voices praising God as one. A special thanks to the MOFWB Christian Education Board members, Mark Elliott, Roger Hogan, Jay Tilson, Melvin Moon, and Joshua Kennon. **WOULD YOU HELP US?** We would like to break the 100 attendance barrier for this retreat. Plan now to join us March 5-7, 2024.

~Stan Bunch

MINISTER'S RETREAT March 6-8, 2023





Ministry Gems

News Tidbits from Around the State



Two students were saved at the **Bailey FWB Church** on Sunday April 2. Pastor Darrell Strain and the church is rejoicing.



The Baileys celebrated a baptism at their church in Japan on April 2! "Mrs. "A" was baptized, some new members gave their testimonies, and we had a first-time visitor! God is good ALL the time!"

MOFWB Handbooks are available from the state executive office and will be available at the state meeting. The handbook explains the function of the various boards, committees and ministries of the MOFWB State Association.

Did you know that baptists in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were divided over the singing of "modern" hymns, and especially congregational singing? The use or singing of Psalms was to be done by the minister or an individual as a form of testimony. There was bitter opposition to congregational hymn singing. What we think is a modern

day controversy over traditional and contemporary singing is not really a new issue. **2 Quotes from the past:**

"My present concern is with the share of Baptists in introducing hymn singing into the regular worship of 'English congregations. In this they took a leading part, but not without a vigorous and sometimes even bitter controversy in the denomination. Foremost among the protagonists was Benjamin Keach, 1640-1704, whose name deserves to be held in honour not only among Baptists but by the Church at large."

"For the General Baptists almost all agreed with Grantham. They disapproved of "promiscuous singing" of believers with unbelievers, and thought the use of "set forms" for singing or for any other purpose unspiritual. So their General Assembly was disturbed when it was reported to them in 1689 that some of their churches were actually using metrical Psalms by Barton, "which," they declared, "appeared so strangely foreign to evangelical worship that it was not conceived anywise safe for the churches to admit such carnal formalities," though it was permissible for one worshipper to sing by himself to lead the praises of the congregation just as one might lead its prayers."

~ The Baptist Contribution to Early English Hymnody;
Hugh Martin

In Loving Memory



Rev. Bill Adkisson

Rev. Billy Adkisson, 84, of East Prairie, MO, passed away February 11, 2023. He was born July 3, 1938, in Windyville, MO, to Rudolph and Alice Adkisson.

Bill married Peggy Sue Marshall March 19, 1955.

After moving to Ontario, CA. At the invitation of a friend, Bill & Peggy began attending church and he accepted Jesus as his savior and quickly expressed his desire to become a minister. He and Peggy enrolled in Bible College.

Upon graduation Bill accepted a pastorate in Gardena, CA beginning a 53 year ministry journey. He pastored churches in 9 states.

Bill was a pioneer church planter with The Free Will Baptist denomination of Nashville, TN and served as a missionary in Canada. Bill and Peggy later developed a love for the

people of Mexico and over several years sponsored trips to assist in building churches, and together raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for an orphanage/school to be built in Tuxtepec, Oaxaca, Mexico where 16 boys and 16 girls now reside and attend school.



Surviving are sons, Eddie Adkisson (Marsha Bain), Gary Adkisson (Glenda Sutton); daughter In-Law, Debbie Brooks Adkisson; 5 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren, sister Sue Martin and a host of nephews, nieces, and cousins.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by son Kirk Adkisson; a granddaughter; 6 brothers; 2 sisters



Due to the recent tornadoes in Mississippi the **Missouri Free Will Baptist Disaster Recovery Team** went to Amory, MS to help with the recovery efforts there. They were able to stay at the Mississippi FWB Campground and assist FWB teams from Alabama and Florida. A special thanks to David Beltz, Missouri Mission Bard (MMB) member, who helped coordinate this effort.

~Steve Reeves



evangelism mo f w b conference



August 25-26 at Camp Niangua

Speakers and Topics include:

Will Harmon - Why Evangelize &
Passion for Evangelism

Larry Lacefield - Soul Winning & Evangelism

Aaron Pontious - Messy Church

John Weaver - Prayer & Fasting

Steve Reeves & Stan Bunch - Effective
Fishing Bait

EVERYONE is invited to attend!

For more information email stan@mofwb.org
or call the State Office at 1-866-532-6537

REGISTER ONLINE AT MOFWB.COM

NO FEE

To attend this conference.

However a donation box will be
in place for those that would like
to help off set the cost.

The conference will begin with dinner at 5:00pm
Friday evening. The first session will start at 6:45.
Two additional 45 minute breakout sessions will
follow. Breakfast Saturday morning will be at
7:00am with four sessions to follow.
The conference will end by noon on Saturday.

Overnight lodging will be provided in
the camp dorms. Please bring bedding
and toiletries with you.

D6 EveryDay Foundations

We're super excited to share with you some of the enhancements in the next iteration of D6 EveryDay Curriculum – D6 EveryDay Foundations. Launching September 2023.

D6 EveryDay Foundations curriculum helps you build confidence in the unchanging, enduring, and authoritative Word of God.

The three-year scope and sequence includes an overview of the Old and New Testaments, emphasizing major characters and themes, as well as the application of God's Word to current cultural issues. In a day of eroding morals and shifting values, how do you equip people to stand for Truth? People need a confident knowledge of God's Word and its application for real life. D6 provides biblical exegesis, scriptural principles, and studies of key Old and New Testament characters. This foundation of Christ and the unshakeable Word of God constructs a solid groundwork for one's faith.

But is what happens at church enough? No! Even if the student never misses a single Sunday in the three-year cycle, the task is too much for curriculum alone. We must also depend on the work of the Holy Spirit and the partnership of families so the Truth goes beyond head knowledge to heart knowledge and anchors in a permanent place. Combining both at church and at home tools, D6 helps churches equip parents with the mortar to hold together the building blocks of faith.

Let me cover the two primary changes that will impact you and the churches you represent and serve.

***D6 EveryDay Foundations* will be published in two-month blocks instead of 13-week quarters, so you'll order six times a year instead of four.**

Why this change?

Research and surveys show many churches and groups prefer 4 to 10 week Bible studies over longer studies. So beginning in September 2023 D6 EveryDay Foundations will transition to two-month blocks rather than 13-week quarters, while still following a three-year scope and sequence.

Six two-month blocks provide:

- More starting points making it easier for newcomers to join in existing classes and groups
- More times to emphasize and promote discipleship
- More opportunities to grow by starting new groups

D6 EveryDay Foundations facilitates a new opportunity to grow and promote generational discipleship every two months. Six opportunities every year for churches to:

- Promote their church's discipleship initiatives
- Invite people to their Sunday School or Life Groups
- Emphasize and encourage at-home discipleship through devotional study guides

D6 EveryDay Foundations will cover the same number of lessons every year in six blocks, rather than four quarters. Classic curriculum will follow the same two-month block schedule, so churches using D6 and Classic can order both together.

***D6 EveryDay Foundations* new Teaching Essentials (replacing the current Teaching Resources)**

We're bringing back the former terms for teaching components — Teaching Essentials. We're also expanding the usability of the Teaching Essentials by offering one Teaching Essential Kit for each age range (not age group)—preschool, elementary, teen, and adult. Every Teaching Essential Kit will include a teaching guide (teacher/lesson book).

Teen and Adult will use a hybrid Teaching Guide plus Essentials—adult teaching essentials are downloadable with the code in the adult teaching guide (no extra adult teaching essentials to order).

Why this change?

- The new Teaching Essentials will accommodate a wider age range in a class while also allowing greater adaptability for students.
- We still offer the appropriate devotional study guides for every age group
 - Cuddle Time Storybook—ages 2-5
 - Adventure Guide—K-2nd grade
 - Explorer's Guide—3-5 grades
 - Velocity—young teen/middle school
 - Forward—high school
 - Brink—young adults without children
 - Fusion Family—parents with children at home
 - Fusion Next—adults with grown children
- We will still offer Bible Teacher (spiral Bound), Bible Scholar, and Depth in the Classic curriculum line.

New Ordering Options

To make ordering easier we're offering to set up church accounts on auto-ship level-billing standing orders.

- We offer level monthly billing on automatic bank draft—easier to budget
- On auto-ship standing orders you know your account is current and you receive your resources at the right time
- When you opt into level-billing on a bank draft we lock-in your cost for the duration of the iteration (we allow 10% adjustment on your order without losing your locked-in rate)
- Obviously a resource going from 13 lessons to 8 will be less expensive, however purchasing 6 times a year rather than 4 will cost a little more, but this increase will feel no different than a normal price increase. And you can lock-in your rate for the duration of this iteration of the curriculum)

And... *D6 EveryDay Foundations* is reducing the number of components making it easier to know exactly what you need.

We are excited about the new enhancements in *D6 EveryDay Foundations*. If you have any questions, our team will gladly assist you. And again, we'll be sending more information over the next few weeks.

Serving together,
David Womack

Director of Customer Sales
Randall House Publications and D6 Family Ministry





Missouri Free Will Baptist 2023 State Calendar

All events & additional information, as it becomes available, can be found at mofwb.com

June 5-7	MOFWB State Meeting - Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield
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 4	E3 Conference - First FWB Church, Hartville, MO
November 6	General Board Meeting - State Office, Lebanon, MO

MISSIONS FUNDRAISER



GOLF TOURNAMENT

August 12th
Sullivan Golf Course
8:00 Sign in • 9:00 Start

2 PERSON SCRAMBLE
(bring your own partner)

\$100/player • Mulligans \$5 each
(fee includes greens, gold cart & lunch)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE July 31

[mofwb.com/ calendar-events](http://mofwb.com/calendar-events) or
contact Leroy Bryant 636-744-6565
or pastorleroyb@gmail.com

Financial Report

Please note: The amounts listed are for two months,
February-March, 2023

COOP Disbursements

February-March, 2023

19% MO Missions.....	\$32,054.31
21.5% Gen/Exec.....	\$36,271.98
8.5% Youth Camp.....	\$14,340.09
2% Youth Ministry.....	\$3,374.14
2% Christian Education ..	\$3,374.14
2% Retiree Ministry	\$3,374.14
9% State Retirement ...	\$15,183.62
3% Show-Me.....	\$5,061.21
33% Nat'l Ministries.....	\$49,432.30
Randall U (.1121).....	\$6,240.97
Total Disbursed.....	\$168,706.90

RECEIPTS

COOP

Amity.....	\$297.50
Aulsbury Chapel	\$754.23
Bailey.....	\$1,523.00
Bailey Chapel	\$215.00
Belton.....	\$877.96
Bethel- Marshfield.....	\$647.36
Black Oak.....	\$1,463.07
Byrd.....	\$771.00
Calvary Chapel.....	\$10,796.26
Christ Chapel.....	\$2,141.00
Copper Mines.....	\$2,197.92
Cornerstone.....	\$380.84
Cuba.....	\$1,314.00
De Soto 1st.....	\$3,872.00
Faith- Fair Grove.....	\$443.40
Faith Chapel.....	\$1,616.93
Farmington 1st.....	\$6,264.37
Fellowship.....	\$5,220.00
First Day.....	\$4,456.93
Fredericktown 1st.....	\$1,500.00
Freeman Chapel.....	\$2,360.00
Generations.....	\$4,896.35
Good News.....	\$560.12
Gospel Light.....	\$800.00
Grace.....	\$4,572.81
Grace Fellowship.....	\$2,490.00
Grace Pointe.....	\$630.00
Grant Avenue.....	\$1,998.89
Hannon.....	\$2,076.50
Hartville.....	\$7,190.00
Hopewell.....	\$673.00
Houston 1st.....	\$2,251.20
Hurryville.....	\$323.00
Koshkonong.....	\$645.75
Leadington.....	\$1,827.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$5,111.77
Lebanon Green Hills.....	\$806.83
Liberty - Gatewood.....	\$180.50
Marshfield.....	\$945.00
Mill Creek.....	\$1,028.69
Mine La Motte.....	\$80.85
Monett 1st.....	\$359.50
Mosaic.....	\$1,953.96
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$2,111.40
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$1,175.00
Neosho 1st.....	\$2,001.00
Nevada.....	\$1,294.38
New Hope.....	\$4,371.58
New Life- Licking.....	\$1,309.14
Number One.....	\$25.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	\$6,850.81
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove ..	\$547.20
Oak Hill.....	\$1,849.00
One Accord.....	\$1,541.40
Ozark 1st.....	\$8,761.53

Ozark 1st - Heritage	\$716.82
Park Hills 1st.....	\$1,896.13
Parkview.....	\$591.00
Pleasant Home.....	\$341.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$310.00
Rejoice.....	\$6,085.00
Republic.....	\$985.16
Resolve.....	\$200.00
Restore.....	\$282.00
Rock Chapel.....	\$2,225.33
Safe Harbor.....	\$75.00
Seymour.....	\$2,358.00
Smyrna.....	\$246.00
Springfield 1st.....	\$1,870.00
Stockton.....	\$375.99
Stonebridge.....	\$1,499.72
Thayer.....	\$4,339.00
Trinity.....	\$1,278.80
Union.....	\$60.00
Union Light.....	\$96.60
United.....	\$2,372.18
Unity.....	\$1,050.00
Verdella.....	\$1,603.23
Viburnum.....	\$277.00
Victory- Alton.....	\$2,396.25
Waynesville 1st.....	\$1,357.70
West Plains 1st.....	\$8,254.00
Willow Springs.....	\$2,120.06
Wolf Creek.....	\$1,093.00
Total.....	\$168,706.90

Show-Me Plan

Aulsbury Chapel	\$90.00
Belton.....	\$350.00
Black Oak.....	\$360.00
Brent Emmerson.....	\$150.00
Bruce Moore.....	\$200.00
Byrd.....	\$50.00
Calvary Chapel.....	\$90.00
Carol Dale.....	\$23.64
Cheryl Bell.....	\$96.64
Cleo Reeder.....	\$90.00
Coon Creek.....	\$200.00
Copper Mines.....	\$300.00
Cuba.....	\$236.40
De Soto 1st.....	\$1,620.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$1,465.00
Farmington 1st- WAC.....	\$100.00
Fellowship.....	\$820.00
First Day.....	\$2,228.46
Frank Webster.....	\$180.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	\$610.00
Freeman Chapel.....	\$1,440.00
Gary Tune.....	\$96.64
Generations.....	\$677.45
Gospel Light.....	\$1,800.00
Grace.....	\$927.00
Grant Avenue.....	\$45.00
Hannon.....	\$1,050.00
Hartville.....	\$725.00
Hopewell WAC.....	\$75.00
Jason Sander.....	\$71.37
Jerry Rader.....	\$40.00
Jones Chapel.....	\$500.00
Josh Provow.....	\$150.00
Leadington.....	\$940.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$516.45
Lebanon Green Hills.....	\$242.05
Macedonia - Purdy.....	\$2,000.00
Mill Creek.....	\$210.00
Mine La Motte.....	\$300.00
MOFWB.....	\$50.00
MOFWB COOP.....	\$5,061.21
Mosaic.....	\$50.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$580.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$851.00

Mt. Pisgah WAC.....	\$50.00
Mt. Zion- "Cuba".....	\$160.00
Neosho 1st.....	\$500.00
New Hope.....	\$400.00
New Life- Licking.....	\$260.00
Number One.....	\$60.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	\$4,755.91
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove ..	\$320.00
Oak Hill.....	\$812.00
Ozark 1st.....	\$525.00
Ozark 1st - Heritage.....	\$300.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$211.00
Pleasant Home.....	\$400.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$140.00
Rejoice.....	\$195.00
Republic.....	\$155.00
Resolve.....	\$200.00
RHP Commission.....	\$85.75
Richwoods 1st.....	\$629.20
Rock Chapel.....	\$400.00
Springfield 1st.....	\$800.00
Stockton.....	\$465.50
Stockton Auxiliary.....	\$90.00
Stonebridge.....	\$60.00
Thayer.....	\$1,576.00
Trinity.....	\$480.00
Trisa Johnson.....	\$71.37
Twin Oak Auxiliary.....	\$165.00
Union.....	\$45.00
Union Light.....	\$350.00
United.....	\$475.00
Unity.....	\$490.00
Verdella.....	\$1,603.23
Viburnum.....	\$30.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$880.00
West Plains 1st WNAC.....	\$75.00
Willow Springs.....	\$441.00
Wolf Creek.....	\$200.00
Total.....	\$46,514.27

Missouri Missions

Alden Redfield.....	\$150.00
Calvary Fellowship.....	\$1,200.00
Cuba.....	\$88.65
De Soto 1st.....	\$390.00
Devena Harwick.....	\$200.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$5.00
Howard Easley.....	\$550.00
Judith Lemons.....	\$71.37
Loretta Minney.....	\$75.00
Mosaic.....	\$3,000.00
Mt. Pisgah WAC.....	\$85.00
Oliver Adamson.....	\$180.00
Ozark 1st.....	\$20.00
Ozark 1st - Heritage.....	\$200.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$50.00
Republic.....	\$50.00
Restore.....	\$300.00
RHP COMMISSION.....	\$543.10
Ryan Akers.....	\$150.00
Scott Keith.....	\$150.00
Thayer.....	\$75.00
William Moore.....	\$75.00
Total.....	\$7,608.12

North American Missions

Bailey.....	\$200.00
Belton.....	\$277.80
Carrie Myers.....	\$25.00
Copper Mines.....	\$175.00
Cuba.....	\$88.65
De Soto 1st.....	\$885.00
De Soto 1st Joy Makers ..	\$500.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$5.00
Farmington 1st- WAC.....	\$314.00
Grace.....	\$40.00

Hartville.....	\$125.00
Houston 1st.....	\$100.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$1,200.00
Loretta Minney.....	\$75.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$70.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$100.00
Neosho 1st.....	\$120.00
New Hope.....	\$100.00
New Testament.....	\$80.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	\$100.00
Ozark 1st.....	\$300.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$100.00
Rock Chapel.....	\$415.00
Stockton.....	\$65.00
Trinity.....	\$150.00
Twin Oak Auxiliary.....	\$105.00
Union Light.....	\$85.00
Union Light WAC.....	\$50.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$220.00
West Plains 1st.....	\$220.00
Total.....	\$6,290.45

International Missions

Berean.....	\$550.00
Black Oak.....	\$200.00
Bruce Moore.....	\$160.00
Calvary Fellowship.....	\$170.00
Christ Chapel.....	\$135.00
Copper Mines.....	\$650.00
Cuba.....	\$177.30
De Soto 1st.....	\$940.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$100.00
Fellowship.....	\$790.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	\$480.00
Freida Hays.....	\$75.00
Generations.....	\$2,108.74
Gospel Light SS.....	\$1,060.00
Grace.....	\$750.00
Grant Avenue.....	\$20.00
Hartville.....	\$575.00
Hopewell WAC.....	\$300.00
Houston 1st.....	\$857.00
Jones Chapel.....	\$800.00
Jones Chapel WNAC.....	\$150.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$502.34
Lebanon 1st Women.....	\$300.00
Mill Creek.....	\$300.00
Mill Creek- Young Adult ..	\$75.00
MO FWB Mission Board.....	\$2,250.00
Mosaic.....	\$280.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$100.00
New Harmony.....	\$3,000.00
New Hope.....	\$200.00
Oak Hill.....	\$602.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	\$2,025.00
Ozark 1st.....	\$265.00
Ozark 1st - Heritage.....	\$100.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$150.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$100.00
Rejoice.....	\$2,700.00
Second Free Will.....	\$200.00
Stockton.....	\$80.00
Trinity.....	\$20.00
Twin Oak Auxiliary.....	\$120.00
Union Light.....	\$75.00
Union Light WAC.....	\$50.00
Verdella.....	\$4,556.79
Waynesville 1st.....	\$430.00
Total.....	\$29,529.17

DESIGNATED

ACM

Bailey.....	\$240.00
Total.....	\$240.00

Berea Ministries

Bailey \$140.00
Total \$140.00

Ch-TN

Bailey \$400.00
 Belton \$20.00
 Bruce Moore \$40.00
 De Soto 1st \$160.00
 Grace \$1,040.00
 Hartville \$150.00
 Mill Creek \$75.00
 New Hope \$974.07
 Union Light \$50.00
 Unity \$300.00
Total \$3,209.07

Young Children's Home

Thayer \$131.00
Total \$131.00

Getsemani CH

Stockton \$30.00
Total \$30.00

Rainbow Ministries

De Soto 1st Joy Makers .. \$500.00
Total \$500.00

Randall U

Fellowship \$110.00
 Mountain Grove 1st \$330.00
 Thayer \$200.00
 West Plains 1st \$1,724.00
Total \$2,364.00

Welch College

De Soto 1st \$120.00
 Farmington 1st \$200.00
 Mountain Grove 1st \$330.00
 Ozark 1st \$859.25
 Thayer \$200.00
Total \$1,709.25

WNAC

Stockton Auxiliary \$10.00
 Twin Oak Auxiliary \$30.00
 Union Light WAC \$50.00
Total \$90.00

Youth Camp

Cuba \$100.00
 De Soto 1st \$160.00
 Hannon \$50.00
 Hartville \$150.00
 Hopewell WAC \$50.00
 Mountain Grove 1st \$100.00
 Mt. Pisgah \$30.00
 Oak Hill \$126.00
 Ozark 1st \$20.00
 RHP Commission \$228.68
 Stockton Auxiliary \$30.00
 Thayer \$200.00
 Trinity \$34.00
 Union \$30.00
 West Plains 1st \$75.00
 Willow Springs \$150.00
Total \$1,533.68

Youth Camp Development

Verdella \$480.97
Total \$480.97

Available for Fill-In

Cody Alley
 Lebanon, MO
 573-664-6945

Danny Hill
 Springfield, MO
 417-210-3699

Rich Barker
 Park Hills, MO
 573-664-6947

Gene Howell
 Ozark, MO
 618-364-7671

Jack Brown
 Kansas City, MO
 816-267-0550

Scott McCully
 Joplin, MO
 417-236-4382

Tim Deckard
 Alton, MO
 706-464-5956

Dan Minkler
 St. Robert, MO
 559-977-2299

Ed Fields
 Cuba, MO
 573-368-0746

Lindell Richardson
 Desloge, MO
 573-366-1850

Donnie Greenwood
 Marshfield, MO
 417-597-5808

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

Kirkville, 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

AS FOR
 you

2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION

RALEIGH, NC | JULY 16-19



Missouri State Association
of Free Will Baptists
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Lebanon, MO 65536

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2023 CAMP!



CAMP NIANGUA

Teen Camp: June 12-16

*Pre-Teen Camp: Session 1: June 26-30
Session 2: July 10-14*

DEADLINES: Teen: May 21

Pre-Teen: June 11

COST INCREASE:

CAMPERS \$135 • SPONSORS/WORKERS \$75 • PRE-CAMPERS \$15



Send us your camp pictures!

The GEM needs pictures of your children and teens at camp for publication in the Sept.- Oct. issue. Please send pictures to carrie@mofwb.org before July 15th.

Note: Not all pictures received will be used in the GEM due to limited space and quality of the picture.