



Missouri Free Will Baptist

GEM

Magazine

Volume 94 / Number 6 / November - December, 2023





The Official Publication of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists

In this issue:

From the Editor	Page 3
Missouri Missions	Page 4
Church News	Page 6
2023 Evangelism Conference	Page 10
Mission for Missions	Page 11
From Our Boards	Page 12
2023 Two Man Scramble	Page 12
Free Indeed: 2023 MO Women's Ministry Retreat.....	Page 13
20 Reasons to Give to the NAM Offering.....	Page 14
Ministry Gems.....	Page 16
2024 MO FWB State Calendar	Page 17
Financial Receipts	Page 18
Available Churches and Fill-in List.....	Page 19

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

Articles and Photos may be submitted by e-mail to mofreewillbaptist@gmail.com

The sermons and articles published in the GEM represent the personal views of the authors and not necessarily the views or policies of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists or the Editor.

Subscription rates:

Single subscription,
\$11.00 billed annually

Church Plan,*
\$10.00 (per subscription),
consisting of ten
subscriptions or more,
billed annually.

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

This magazine is published bimonthly and has been in regular publication since 1929.

Editor - Stanley Bunch
Layout & Design - Carrie Myers



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SHAME ON ME!

During a recent church event I attended, something happened that repulsed me, later provoking guilt and repentance. Walking down a hallway, I met a person with obvious male features, yet dressed in leggings, a skirt, and a blouse.

I consulted with a close friend & brother. Is that person male or female? I'm sure my tone was condescending, if not judgmental & sarcastic. I can say my attitude is because of my 'raisin' or 'good' Christian standards. I can say that, but I don't think God agrees.

I spoke to the person in the skirt, with the only response being a nod, bolstering my suspicions. As we crossed paths several times during the afternoon event, I realized or assumed that he or she was part of another local church team that had come to support the event. Later, that assumption was confirmed.

Transparency and confession can be risky. Some will understand what I want to say and the challenge before us. Others might not. Because of what is happening in our culture, I think I need to take the risk.

I despise the transgender issue. I consider it ungodly, unbiblical, sinful, and an affront to a healthy social order. Precious youth and others with genuinely serious emotional and psychological needs are being exploited by those with a diabolical political or social agenda.

A young man dressed as a female, or vice versa, joining a Christian church group and helping at an evangelistic outreach with hundreds of people present has something going on mentally that is a serious issue. The average, right-thinking person would not expose themselves to potential rejection, ridicule, and stares.

But the real issue I want to get at is not the young person I mentioned. Yes, that is a serious need and is most likely being dealt with. The real issue is my attitude and reaction. May I dare to share some of my initial thoughts and questions? Thankfully, I held my tongue and didn't state them.

Why would a church bring someone like that as a part of their group? That older gentleman must be his grandfather and is probably patronizing or approving his behavior. How can they let him be a part of their group? Isn't that the same as approval of his actions? And other similar thoughts.

PRAY For them

On the other hand, Jesus had a meal with a prostitute. He asked for water from a woman of questionable moral repute. He dined with gluttons, drinkers, and other sinners. They all had social, emotional, and psychological issues. He loved them, saw their potential through His grace, and did not reject them. He knew who they could become through repentance, faith, and forgiveness.

The older gentleman I mentioned previously. I wonder if he was praying without ceasing for the young man to overcome the family abuse and rejection he had possibly received. Perhaps he was a foster parent for a misguided

young person, and the church group was praying and working together, not to approve the actions of a cross-dresser, but rather to demonstrate Christian love and compassion.

The young man. Who could he be? Has he been sexually abused by a perverted uncle? Has he been bullied and called a sissy so much that he has assumed that is who he is? Until this church group stepped up, are the only ones who accepted him those of similar persuasion and lifestyle? Has he become so hardened by rejection that he simply doesn't care what others think anymore, including Christians?

Going back to my thoughts and questions. Driving home, Brenda and I discussed this, and the repulsion grew. Over the next few days, the Holy Spirit, in His gentle manner, began to deal with my heart attitude. Why did I assume the worst of the church group, the older man & their motives? Why had I assumed the young man was just another youth attempting to make a statement? Perhaps my assumptions were correct. Even if they were, I have no right to judge any of them, but I most certainly have an obligation and privilege to intercede for them in prayer.

Praying for them brings me to the heart of God, who desires that none should perish but that all should come to repentance. The Holy Spirit spoke to my heart. "You don't know any of them. You haven't prayed for them." I needed to ask forgiveness for my attitude.

My convictions regarding this issue have not changed. I'm thankful for the faithfulness of the Holy Spirit to convict, teach, and correct us when our sinful, self-righteous attitude is as repulsive to God as that of a cross-dresser.



from the Missions Director, Steve Reeves



A Passion for International Students

We are missions-minded people, aren't we? As Free Will Baptists, we will go to whatever end to ensure that the gospel reaches every part of the earth just as our Lord promises. We share a beautiful conviction to reach the unreached, whether it be by sending our missionaries or supporting them from home, which makes me so proud to be a part of this denomination. This conviction should never change, but perhaps there is room for an addition in our strategic endeavors to reach the world for Christ.

There are currently over 1 million international students who have come from every part of the world to study in the United States at our residential colleges and universities. This number is rapidly increasing each year since the end of COVID-19, growing exponentially faster than the number of willing people to meet them where they are with the gospel. Students come from all over the world, from countries that are closed to Christianity, from the very countries where we send our missionaries, and the countries that we haven't yet. They come with expectations to reach their desired level of education for future jobs, to practice general English speaking skills, to learn American tradition and culture, and to make American friends, along with many others. Could it be that within these students' expectations is an opportunity for the church to get the truth of the gospel message to the one who is already searching for so much? Absolutely, it is.

The unfortunate reality is international students' expectations are only partly met. Yes, they will get their education and acquire the jobs that they desire if they remain diligent in their studies, as any student would! Maybe this is a freedom that they never had in their country of origin. 80% of international students never get welcomed into an American home. When I share this glaring statistic with fellow laborers, I like to ask them, how does this make you feel as a disciple-maker? The common response is "sad" or "ashamed." I would agree! It makes me feel as if we, as Christ's church,

are disregarding the opportunities that exist all around us to minister to the uttermost parts of the earth, even in our very own backyards, or it was never on our radar, to begin with. This is my plea to all readers of this publication that we, as a church, need to step up to the plate and respond! Do you want to reach the nations? The nations are right here in front of you.

These are not your typical students either. These students are the cream of their crop, the absolute brightest! We have the opportunity to make a disciple of future world leaders in their respective fields of study, so when they return to the land they call home, they can begin multiplication in their areas of influence. This is disciples who make disciples on a global scale. This is your prime opportunity to not just have an impact on an individual but to play a part in a revival across the nations. Jesus, in John 4, says to his disciples that the fields are white for harvest, imploring them to be reapers in the abundant harvest that is before them. Can we do the same with this golden opportunity that we have to change the world?

~ Bradley Mercer



Director's Note - Bradley is our International Missionary to Columbia, MO! Yes, that's right, we have an IM missionary in our state. Bradley has begun working to reach the more than 4,000 international students on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia. He is from Raleigh, North Carolina and is a 2023 graduate of Welch College. He is also engaged to be married to his fiancé, Madison, next spring. Please be in prayer for

Bradley and this important ministry. If you would like to have him for a service in your church please contact me. ~SR



Thanksgiving Greeting From Steve & Linda

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday of the year. It is good that we have one season of the year when we look around us and give thanks for all the ways God has blessed us. I want to give thanks for you for your faithfulness in giving to the Show Me Plan, State Missions, International Missions and North American Ministries. We would not be able to start a single church, send a single missionary or reach a single lost person without your faithful giving. Thank you for giving to the Lord. Thanks also for letting me serve as your Missions Director. It is my honor and my joy to be a part of Missouri Free Will Baptists. ~ Steve



MMB SHOW ME plan updates

- STATE -

Grace Fellowship (Cape Girardeau): Cape Girardeau: About 30 people from Grace Fellowship, Leadington, and Buffalo met in August to reseal the parking lot.

Mosaic (Rolla): The new rented space is working well, and the church continues to grow. Continue to pray for the international student ministry.

Restore (Potosi): Restore Church had a baptism in September.

Bradley Mercer (University of Missouri): Bradley moved to Columbia on September 13. He has been very active in meeting international students.

Matt and Justine Fleming (Freedom Point, Florissant): They are having difficulty finding an adequate meeting space for the new church. Their launch date has been pushed back to March 2024. They have 35 attending pre-launch meetings.

Women's Ministry: The 2023 Women's Ministry Retreat was a success with 155 women in attendance!

- INTERNATIONAL -

Bailey (Japan): Ken and Judy are helping to raise money so their church can have its own building. They need about \$400,000.

Speer (Japan): Daniel goes to Saporro each day for language school. He has had several opportunities to share the Gospel.

Turnbough (Spain): The Villalba congregation fought the local government for 20 years over the right to build a church building. Now, because of the social outreach ministry, a couple from the church has been asked to serve a role in city government.

Duncan (Ecuador): Adam and Carol are now ministering in several villages near Misaualli. They are studying the Quichua language.

Provow (Bulgaria): Josh has his Bulgarian driver's license again. He continues to be busy ministering in 4 towns each week.

- NORTH AMERICAN -

Webster/Mitchener (Florida): Connect Church had their first baptism; two were baptized. The church also recently had their first Communion service.

Garrett (Illinois): Adam's time with his military service is about up. Pray for him as he adjusts back to life as a dad, husband, and church planter.

Schmidt (Arizona): Steve and Amanda are hard at work meeting people and sharing the Gospel in Casa Grande, AZ. So far, the reception has been very positive.

- CHAPLAINS -

Captain Michael Beatty: Mike continues to be very involved in the youth ministry, discipleship, and preaching at the chapel services at Ft. Leonard Wood.

Captain David Dodson: Continue to pray for David as he works with the Green Beret in Florida.

Major Kevin Trimble: Kevin is now training the chaplains who will train new chaplains.

Medical Chaplain Cody Alley: Continue to pray for Cody as he works with the patients and staff at Mercy Hospital in Lebanon.

Purdy 1st

Pastor Russ Neill has baptized four young people over the past 12 months.

Left to right: Paison Taylor (saved at camp), Emma Yardley, Callen Terry, Josie Brown (saved at camp)



"On Sunday, August 20th, Rev. Russ Neill, Pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Purdy, recognized 24 members of the congregation who are involved in the education process as students, staff, or members of the school board. A total of 41 members of the church family are directly involved in the education system. That's 54% of the congregation!"

Calvary Chapel

Recent baptisms at the church in Buffalo.

Pictured bottom, left to right:

Jill Gruber August 27

Gabe Williams September 3

Liam, Simeon, & Bear Nordlund September 3

Top row left to right:

Natalie Burkle and Allison Sweaney September 10

Otis Vanover September 17



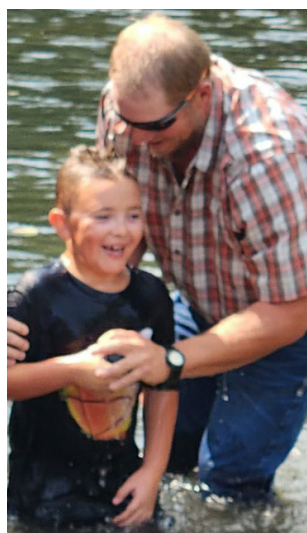
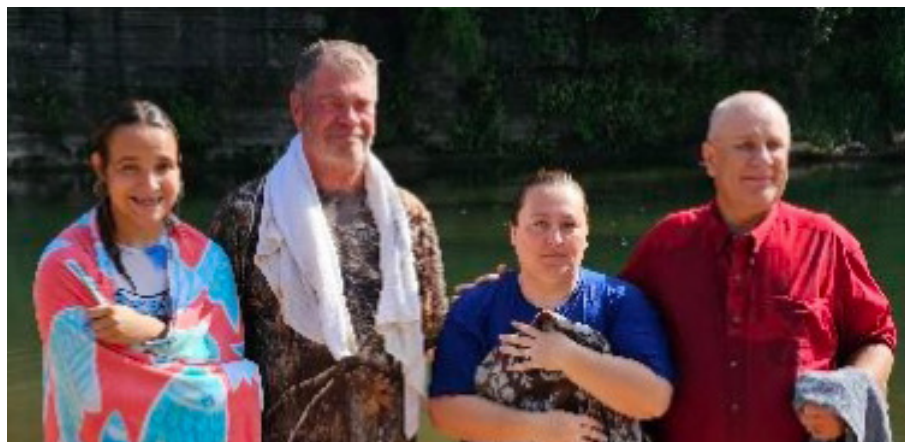
Black Oak

On September 10 Bro Bill was honored to baptize (front left) Landon Petty, Kezli Massie, Maevery Liest, Bryor Liest, Kenzie Shockley, Gracie Shockley, (middle left) Jimmy Woodruff, Kyle McGlothlin, Alex Hix, Gabby Woodruff, Elijah Baken, Cynthia Cardwell, (back left) J.W. Cypara, Bro Bill Young, Faith McGlothlin, Tabitha McGlothlin, Carroll Caudle, Carey Gilmore & Michael Minton. All Glory to God & our Savior Jesus Christ.



Houston

On Sunday, September 10 the church in Houston held a river baptism. Pastor Danny Delcour baptized Ronnie Floyd, Jennifer baker, Lane Wildhaber, and Alexis Suda.



Mt. Zion "Cuba"

"Any day with a baptism is a great day, but two baptisms, a rebaptism, and six new church members is a truly blessed day!"

Sunday, September 17 Andrew Millsap, Brayden Dixon, and Jason Simmons were baptized by pastor Daniel Allen (pictured left to right)

Springfield 1st

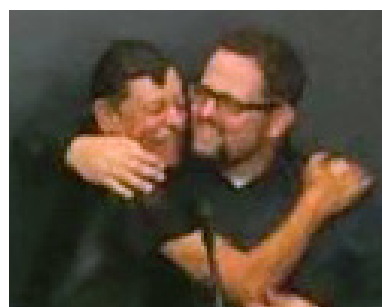
Jayda Walters accepted Jesus as her Saviour at Niangua Youth Camp this summer and was baptized by Pastor Charles Horton on Sept. 17.

Springfield First Free Will Baptist Church sent in \$15,000.00 for the World Mission Offering.



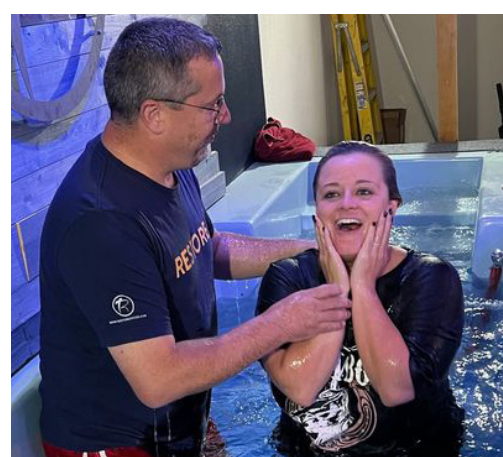
Hazel Creek

Pastor Tim Hodges had the honor of baptizing Elliott Rodgers, Leela Findling, and Steve Felding (pictured top to bottom) on Sunday, September 17th, at the church in Kirksville.



Restore

A Baptism was held at Restore Church in Potosi on September 17. Rob and Lisa Gerst are our Missouri Church Planters there.



Rejoice

Pastor Aaron Pontious baptized his son Sullivan, Alasia Jackson, Dylan Kemp, Noah Nease, Presley Nease on September 24 at the church in Columbia.



Send your

BAPTISMS PHOTOS

TO

carrie@mofwb.org

Please include the
date of the baptism,
names and location.



Oak Hill

On September 24th, the Oak Hill FWB Church celebrated the baptism of Jacob and Alyssa Seay at the Bourbeuse River.

That same day, Pastor Leroy performed a wedding ceremony for Doug and Connie Seay.



On September 17th, Oak Hill FWB Church ordained Bro. Lindell Wood as a deacon. Pastor Leroy Bryant brought the message. Pastor Jay Tilson gave the charge. Pastor Don Martin, Rev. Ed Fields, Rich Webb, and other ordained leaders prayed and anointed Bro. and Sis. Wood.



Panama

Pastor Cirilo Mendoza recently baptized four new believers in Chitré, Panama. The deacons and elders of this church are involved weekly in starting multiple mission works in neighboring communities. They are also involved in ministry to those incarcerated in the Juvenile Detention Center, which also allows them to oversee the community service of those who are released. Several of those who have served their community service under the supervision of the church have become believers. As we step through one door of ministry opportunity God opens another.





Following are only a few of the comments received from attendees of the Evangelism Conference.

- ~ The speakers tied in scripture & personal experience to show knowledge of their successes and failures.
- ~ Excellent food at all meals.
- ~ Solid knowledge by speakers and experience.
- ~ They spoke from practice, not theory.
- ~ The strategies for outreach shared were not complicated.
- ~ Hearing living examples of sharing our faith is better than just hearing philosophies of why we should.
- ~ We wish we had known how great and empowering this conference was going to be. (to bring others)
- ~ Speakers spoke from a passionate heart.
- ~ The Messy Church seminar helped me reevaluate how I approach younger people.
- ~ The session on Prayer and Fasting provided a lot of information that will be very helpful.

- ~ Inspiring, loved all of it.
- ~ Each session was impactful in a different way.
- ~ Speakers spoke firmly and with authority.

Preperations have begun for the 2024 conference. Please pray for us as we attempt to make the 18 hours we are at the camp as impactful as possible. We desire God's leadership in what we plan to provide in 2024. **THE DATE WILL BE AUGUST 16-17, 2024** (Pastor, please begin planning now to bring a group from your church)

Here is what you can expect:

- Engaging speakers with knowledge and experience
- Helpful breakout sessions
- Motel options
- Practical ways to have gospel conversations with practice time.




The Mission Association held its annual Missions Conference on Saturday, August 5, at Cornerstone Free Will Baptist Church. There were 15 Go Global missionaries to 4 different countries from IM in attendance. They shared their calling and experiences in the field and presented us with some challenges missionaries face while ministering in a foreign country. There were approximately 80 in attendance at the Missions Conference.

The Mission Association Missions Coordinator, Scott Anderson, visited 21 of our 23 churches for a Sunday morning service leading up to the conference. August 6 could be considered the Mission Association's "Mission Sunday," with missionaries holding services in 16 different Mission Association churches that day.


Weekend total raised for missions: \$33,817.44.

The Mission Association also held a missions fundraiser on Saturday, August 19, at Hartville Free Will Baptist Church with a chili cook-off, bible trivia tournament, dessert auction, and silent auction. There were nearly 120 in attendance. Jimmy Kiser was the auctioneer for the dessert auction, and Melvin Moon emceed the event. Eleven teams from various churches competed in the Bible Trivia tournament. Total raised that night for missions was \$3600. The event was an excellent time of fellowship that was truly enjoyed by all.





For more info about GO GLOBAL, or to see how you can host an event. Visit their IM page using this QR Code





Out of a dozen chilis sampled and voted on, Melvin Moon took 1st place in the Chili Cook-Off.

Bible Trivia Winners
 Cornerstone FWB took 1st place
 Wolf Creek FWB took 2nd place
 Hartville FWB took 3rd place



From Our Boards

Christian Education



Although the individuals addressed and the specific locations mentioned may be different, Peter's message is equally relevant for every generation of those who are selected by God the Father, sanctified by the work of the Spirit, and sprinkled by the blood of Christ Jesus -1:1-2. All such as these are indeed "strangers in the world," and those in the unbelieving world "think it strange that you do not run with them to the same excess of riot" -4:4.

Consider three things the apostle encourages the followers of Christ to do while living as strangers in this world:

(1) PRAISE God for a "living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" -1:3. Ponder what was involved in providing this living hope! The heavenly Father's passionate objective -John 3:16; the Son's persistent obedience - Philippians 2:5-8; and the Spirit's productive operation -1 Peter 1:2, 22.

(2) PREPARE yourselves to live a godly life -1:13-

16. "Gird up the loins of your mind" -1 Peter 1:13 (KJV); "Prepare your minds for action" (NIV). This is more than merely acquiring knowledge about godly living. It is a preparation "for action!" The apostle stresses the need for disciplined behavior ["be sober" (KJV); "be self-controlled" (NIV)], rather than conforming to the attitudes and lifestyle you had when you lived in ignorance of God -1:14. This requires that our relationship with the Lord and His objectives for us become a priority. "Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed" - 1:13 {NIV}.

(3) PROMOTE "the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light" - 2:9. You who once were not part of God's family ("chosen generation"), are now "the people of God" -2:9, 10. You are "a royal priesthood," having access to the Throne of God -Hebrews 10:19-20; able to "offer to God a sacrifice of praise -Hebrews 13:15; You are a holy (unique, special) nation belonging to God -2:9. Bought by the sacrifice of Christ -1:18; born of the Spirit of Christ -1:3; and blessed for the service of Christ -2:9, "that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."

May we truly praise God for the living hope we have through our risen Savior; prepare ourselves to live like the members of God's family we now are; and promote His greatness and goodness as we declare and demonstrate the wonders of His grace.

~ Jay Tilson, CE Board Member



GOLF TOURNAMENT



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place

We had a wonderful day at Sullivan, MO Golf Course. Our Missouri Missions Golf Tournament returned after a three-year absence. Leroy Bryant has led this fundraiser for our state missions program since its beginning fifteen years ago. Forty-eight golfers raised a record \$4,855.00. Thanks to everyone who played and to everyone who sponsored this event. Most of all, thanks to Leroy for all his hard work (and Peggy too). Winners this year were the Baileys (Fellowship, Park Hills) who shot a 2 under par 69 in the 2-person scramble event.





2023 MO Women's Ministry Retreat

September 22-23 Westgate Branson Woods Resort



Corre Ten Boom

Gayle Haas



MO Women's Ministry Board



FREE *indeed*

"The speaker was awesome so thankful she came to our Retreat."

"Corrie ten Boom" is phenomenal! Enjoyed this so much!"

"The team prepared a wonderful retreat!"

"Everything was well organized from beginning to end!"

These are just a few of the many positive comments following the Women's Ministry 2023 retreat. Approximately 155 women gathered together to fellowship, worship, cry, laugh, eat, have fun, and praise God because we are "Free Indeed," as promised from our theme verse in John 8:36.

Our speaker, Gayle Haas, appeared in two sessions as Corrie ten Boom, who endured Nazi concentration camps, trusting in God throughout the torture. We often forgot she wasn't the "real" Corrie! In the final session, Gayle spoke to us as herself, and we were blessed again!

A special thank you goes to the entire

Women's Ministry Board for their work in planning and preparing a fantastic retreat.

Make plans now to attend next year's retreat—you will love it!

~ Lee Ann Wilfong



Worship Leaders - Lebanon First FWB

20 REASONS to Give to the ✧ Mission North ✧ America Offering

November 19, 2023, is the day set aside for the North American Ministries' annual Mission North America Offering (MNAO). On this day, we come together and focus on giving generously to extend the work of Free Will Baptists in North America. We ask every church to give their congregation an opportunity to participate in this special offering to help underwrite many areas of work in which NAM is involved. Here are 20 great reasons you should consider giving:

1 Your gifts cover the costs of **recruitment, assessment, and training for all new church planters**. Currently, we have **40 English-speaking church planters**. Pray more people would answer God's call on their lives to become church planters and plant Free Will Baptist churches in needy areas of North America.

2 Your gifts cover the cost of **printing directories, maps, and other materials** to promote the ministry of our church planters to Free Will Baptist churches and individuals.

3 Your gifts cover the cost of our biennial **Church Planters Summit**, a time of fellowship, study, prayer, training, and encouragement when all our church planters spend a few days together.

4 Your gifts make it possible to **operate our home office**. The office handles accounting, payroll, receipts, bookkeeping, etc., for all church planters. The NAM office is the hub for sharing information and news of how God is building His Kingdom through NAM.

5 Your gifts help cover the cost of **encouragement to church planters** as NAM directors visit their church plants to offer their time, prayers, help, and counsel.

6 Your gifts **relieve deficit church planter accounts**. Keep in mind all funds that come into NAM designated for church planters go directly to these church planters' account as long as they are a part of NAM. NAM does not charge any kind of administrative fee from our church planters.

7 Your gifts cover the costs of **NAM representatives' travel to associational meetings and churches** to share how God is working in church plants and other areas of ministry.

8 Your gifts make it possible to **provide biennial regional training sessions for church planters**. Every other year, this is a time of assessment, counsel, training, and sharing best practices for church planters in smaller regional settings.

9 Your gifts help with the expenses of the **Disaster Response Team ministry of NAM and Master's Men**. This growing ministry provides equipment, training, supplies, and volunteers to help those impacted by disasters.

10 Your gifts help cover the costs of **IMPACT projects** every year on the Saturday before our National Convention. IMPACT provides an opportunity for Free Will Baptists to serve churches and ministries in the cities where our convention meets.

11 Your gifts help **provide Bible studies and support for Free Will Baptist men's ministries**. Currently, we offer 21 Bible studies for churches to use in training their men to be godly leaders in their churches and homes.

12 **NAM cross-cultural ministries** benefit from your generous gifts. Currently, we have eight Hispanic church planters and 48 bi-vocational Hispanic missionaries. Not only are we working hard to reach the growing Hispanic population in North America, but we are also partnering to reach other ethnic groups who are now our neighbors.

13 Your gifts help cover the costs of **translating materials into Spanish** as we provide our training materials, social media posts, etc., into the heart language of thousands of Hispanics living in our neighborhoods.

14 Your gifts help cover the costs of **providing training through the Hispanic Bible Institute** currently being relocated to Parkers Chapel FWB Church in Greenville, North Carolina. New classes will begin in January 2024.

15 Your gifts help cover the costs of **providing endorsements, encouragement, support, and oversight for Free Will Baptist chaplains**. We want to come alongside our military chaplains and their families as they serve military men and women. NAM also endorses and provides support to chaplains serving in police departments, sheriff's departments, hospitals, etc., as well as the Secret Service.

16 **Pastor's Boot Camps**, offered both in our Tennessee office and regionally, provide free training to established church leaders. So far, 242 pastors and church leaders have received training through these boot camps, and we have eight regional boot camps scheduled in seven states.

17 NAM partners with the Executive Office and other departments to **provide professional counseling to struggling Free Will Baptist pastors and their families**. Your gifts cover the cost of this valuable and needed ministry.

18 Your gifts help cover the cost of materials, training, assessment, and encouragement for **the revitalization of our struggling churches**.

19 **The National Youth Evangelistic Team (YET)** receives a significant part of their funding from your generous gifts to the MNAO. This group of talented high school students minister in Free Will Baptist churches each summer.

20 Your gifts help cover the costs of **ONE Magazine**. This valuable resource provides the latest news and information concerning the Free Will Baptist denomination.

These are only a few of the many reasons you should prayerfully consider what God would have you give to the Mission North America Offering this year. The MNAO is scheduled for November 19, 2023, but you can make a special gift at any time through your local church, by mail, or online at fwbnam.com/mna.

At North American Ministries, we are praying for our Free Will Baptist churches and individuals to give generously and help us reach our goal of raising \$750,000. As we continue to work together to see His Kingdom built and the gospel taken to the ends of the earth, what will you do to help make that happen?



About the Author: Sam McVay brings more than 40 years of ministry experience among Free Will Baptists to his role as church relations officer for North American Ministries. Sam travels to churches and various meetings promoting the work of NAM and challenging everyone to fulfill their role in building God's Kingdom in North America and beyond.



MISSION NORTH AMERICA OFFERING

November 19, 2023



NORTH AMERICAN
MINISTRIES

Willing
gather | give | go



Ministry Gems

News Tidbits from Around the State



Archives of The GEM - The MO Free Will Baptist GEM (1929-present), published by the Missouri State Association, grew to widespread regional, even national, distribution across the denomination. One of the longest-running Free Will Baptist periodicals, the GEM continues to be published today. The Historical Commission invites you to enjoy reading nearly a century of amazing history in the GEM Magazine.



D6 Releases on Audible - For the first time ever, D6 Family Ministry has released two new books on Audible. Listen and be inspired. Whether you're seeking rest for your weary soul or a fresh perspective on life, we've got you covered with our latest releases: *Rest: Overcoming Spiritual Fatigue* and *A View from Joy's Window*.

Audible is an incredible resource for those who love books, but struggle to find the time to sit down and actually read. Audible allows you to experience your favorite books in a whole new way--by listening to them! With Audible, you can easily consume an entire book while going about your daily activities, allowing you to squeeze in a little bit of reading time no matter how busy your schedule may be.

Welch College Enrollment Continues its Post-COVID Recovery - The college enrolled 393 students for its fall 2023 semester, slightly higher than last fall's enrollment of 388, according to Matthew McAfee, Provost of Welch College.

Stepping through open doors in Chitre, Panama

The Good News FWB Church in Chitré, Panama is continually stepping through open doors. The church has begun a ministry to the hearing-impaired with the first convert being baptized recently (pg. 9.) This congregation now ministers to three language groups simultaneously, Spanish, English, and sign language.

Editor's Note: We rejoice in what God is doing through this congregation and are challenged to step through open doors and develop ministries such as this.



MARRIAGE MATTERS 2024

Sign-up Here!

JANUARY 19-20, 2024

CHATEAU ON THE LAKE RESORT & SPA

INCLUDED
FRIDAY SMALL PLATE DINNER
GUEST ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS
CONFERENCE ADMISSION
SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST



SPECIAL GUESTS:
STEVE & DEBBIE WILSON



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Missouri Free Will Baptist 2024 State Calendar



January 19-20	Marriage Retreat - Chateau on the Lake Branson, MO
January 30	Show-Me Plan Commitment Sunday
March 4-6	Minister's Retreat - Cross Pointe Camp & Retreat Center, Rocky Mount, MO
April 6	CTS Ministry EXPO - First FWB Church, Lebanon, MO
April 19-20	Ministers' Wives' Retreat - Cross Pointe Camp & Retreat Center, Rocky Mount, MO
June 3-5	MOFWB State Meeting - Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield, MO
June 4	Women's Celebration and CE Board Seminars
June 10-14	Teen Camp - Camp Niangua
June 24-28	Pre-Teen Camp - Camp Niangua, Session 1
July 8-12	Pre-Teen Camp - Camp Niangua, Session 2
July 21-24	NAFWB Convention & National Youth Conference, Tampa, Florida
August 16-17	Evangelism Conference - Camp Niangua
September 14	CO-ED 2 Person Scramble - Sullivan Golf Course, Sullivan, MO
September 20-21	MOFWB Women's Ministry Retreat - to be determined
October 28-30	Retiree Retreat - Lodge of the Ozarks, Branson, MO
November (TBA)	E3 Conference - to be determined
November 4	General Board Meeting - State Office, Lebanon, MO

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



March 4-5, 2024

**Register BEFORE January 31
to avoid a late fee.**

MOFWB.COM

Speaker: Tommy Swindol

Financial Report

Please note: The amounts listed are for two months,
August - September, 2023

COOP Disbursements

August-September, 2023

19% MO Missions.....	\$34,153.98
21.5% Gen/Exec.....	\$38,647.92
8.5% Youth Camp.....	\$15,279.41
2% Youth Ministry.....	\$3,595.16
2% Christian Education.....	\$3,595.16
2% Retiree Ministry.....	\$3,595.16
9% State Retirement.....	\$16,178.20
3% Show-Me.....	\$5,392.73
33% Nat'l Ministries.....	\$52,670.29
Randall U (.1121).....	\$6,649.78
Total Disbursed.....	\$179,757.79

RECEIPTS

COOP

Amity.....	\$253.30
Bailey.....	\$2,127.00
Bailey Chapel.....	\$347.00
Belton.....	\$1,520.36
Bethel- Marshfield.....	\$3,182.55
Black Oak.....	\$1,484.23
Byrd.....	\$726.95
Calvary Chapel.....	\$11,099.76
Carthage.....	\$19,403.54
Christ Chapel.....	\$2,590.00
Copper Mines.....	\$2,097.46
Cornerstone.....	\$344.00
Cross Roads- Lebanon.....	\$1,166.00
Cuba.....	\$1,151.00
De Soto 1st.....	\$3,167.00
Faith- Fair Grove.....	\$595.80
Faith Chapel.....	\$1,897.53
Farmington 1st.....	\$7,118.39
Fellowship.....	\$3,915.00
First Day.....	\$4,649.20
Fredericktown 1st.....	\$1,190.00
Freeman Chapel.....	\$1,687.00
Generations.....	\$942.62
Good News.....	\$664.62
Gospel Light.....	\$800.00
Grace.....	\$3,839.67
Grace Fellowship.....	\$2,360.00
Grace Pointe.....	\$615.00
Grant Avenue.....	\$1,989.69
Hannon.....	\$2,273.00
Hartville.....	\$5,890.00
Hopewell.....	\$1,408.67
Houston 1st.....	\$1,277.90
Hurryville.....	\$767.00
Koshkonong.....	\$564.60
Leadington.....	\$1,917.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$5,014.13
Lebanon Green Hills.....	\$843.90
Liberty.....	\$85.10
Liberty - Gatewood.....	\$116.00
Marshfield.....	\$586.00
Mill Creek.....	\$799.94
Mine La Motte.....	\$70.67
Monett 1st.....	\$1,031.70
Mosaic.....	\$2,960.52
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$2,215.12
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$850.00
Neosho 1st.....	\$1,560.00
Nevada.....	\$1,497.27
New Hope.....	\$3,309.79
New Life- Licking.....	\$1,215.30
Number One.....	\$75.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	\$4,653.99
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove.....	\$795.40
Oak Hill.....	\$1,225.00

Ozark 1st.....	\$8,853.71
Ozark 1st - Heritage.....	\$782.63
Park Hills 1st.....	\$1,526.01
Parkview.....	\$509.00
Pleasant Home.....	\$255.20
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana.....	\$299.00
Rejoice.....	\$4,122.00
Republic.....	\$1,121.65
Resolve.....	\$200.00
Restore.....	\$340.00
Rock Chapel.....	\$1,221.66
Safe Harbor.....	\$300.00
Seymour.....	\$1,645.00
Smyrna.....	\$239.00
South Fremont.....	\$1,325.00
Springfield 1st.....	\$1,910.00
Stockton.....	\$420.89
Stonebridge.....	\$1,418.08
Thayer.....	\$3,730.00
Trinity.....	\$1,798.55
Union.....	\$60.00
Union Light.....	\$420.70
United.....	\$5,121.63
Unity.....	\$1,170.00
Verdella.....	\$1,680.35
Viburnum.....	\$749.00
Victory- Alton.....	\$2,033.30
Waynesville 1st.....	\$1,351.43
West Plains 1st.....	\$4,683.00
Wilderness.....	\$1,072.04
Willow Springs.....	\$1,279.29
Wolf Creek.....	\$2,192.00
Total.....	\$179,757.79

Show-Me Plan

Alan Kinder.....	\$200.00
Belton.....	\$525.00
Black Oak.....	\$360.00
Brent Emmerson.....	\$150.00
Bruce Moore.....	\$100.00
Byrd.....	\$50.00
Calvary Chapel.....	\$90.00
Cheryl Bell.....	\$48.32
Cleo Reeder.....	\$90.00
Copper Mines.....	\$300.00
Cross Roads- Lebanon.....	\$60.00
Cuba.....	\$193.20
De Soto 1st.....	\$1,650.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$505.00
Farmington 1st- WAC.....	\$100.00
Fellowship.....	\$565.00
First Day.....	\$2,324.60
Frank Webster.....	\$180.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	\$340.00
Freeman Chapel.....	\$2,160.00
Gary Tune.....	\$96.64
Generations.....	\$278.28
Gospel Light.....	\$1,800.00
Grace.....	\$939.00
Grant Avenue.....	\$50.00
Hannon.....	\$1,000.00
Hartville.....	\$350.00
Hopewell WAC.....	\$25.00
Jason Sander.....	\$71.37
Jerry Rader.....	\$40.00
Josh Provow.....	\$150.00
Justin Beck.....	\$9.70
Leadington.....	\$400.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$590.59
Lebanon Green Hills.....	\$253.17
Mill Creek.....	\$140.00
Mine La Motte.....	\$300.00
Mission Association.....	\$5,000.00
MO Youth Camp.....	\$1,006.94
MOFWB.....	\$25.00
MOFWB COOP.....	\$5,392.74

Mosaic.....	\$50.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$530.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$23.50
Mt. Pisgah WAC.....	\$75.00
Mt. Zion- "Cuba".....	\$160.00
Myrtle.....	\$200.00
Nathan Ruble.....	\$500.00
Neosho 1st.....	\$500.00
New Hope.....	\$400.00
New Life- Licking.....	\$263.00
Number One.....	\$180.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	\$3,723.85
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove.....	\$340.00
Oak Hill.....	\$84.00
Ozark 1st.....	\$500.00
Ozark 1st - Heritage.....	\$300.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$253.50
Pleasant Grove- Anderson.....	\$300.00
Pleasant Home.....	\$400.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana.....	\$140.00
Rejoice.....	\$210.00
Republic.....	\$205.00
Resolve.....	\$200.00
RHP Commission.....	\$85.85
Richwoods 1st.....	\$388.97
Rock Chapel.....	\$400.00
South Fremont.....	\$90.00
Springfield 1st.....	\$1,000.00
Stockton.....	\$205.00
Stockton Auxiliary.....	\$45.00
Stonebridge.....	\$30.00
Thayer.....	\$1,350.00
Trinity.....	\$180.00
Trisa Johnson.....	\$71.37
Twin Oak Auxiliary.....	\$110.00
Union.....	\$45.00
Union Light.....	\$650.00
United.....	\$950.00
Unity.....	\$490.00
Verdella.....	\$1,680.35
Viburnum.....	\$90.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$842.80
West Plains 1st WNAC.....	\$75.00
William Parvin.....	\$92.18
Willow Springs.....	\$247.69
Wolf Creek.....	\$400.00
Total.....	\$41,573.87

Missouri Missions

Alden Redfield.....	\$150.00
Cuba.....	\$72.45
De Soto 1st.....	\$575.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$5.00
Hannon.....	\$100.00
Howard Easley.....	\$200.00
Judith Lemons.....	\$71.37
Loretta Minney.....	\$75.00
Matthew Barton.....	\$729.58
Mosaic.....	\$3,000.00
Mt. Pisgah WAC.....	\$60.00
Oak Hill.....	\$5,000.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	\$1,500.00
Oliver Adamson.....	\$180.00
Ozark 1st.....	\$20.00
Ozark 1st - Heritage.....	\$200.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana.....	\$50.00
Republic.....	\$50.00
Resolve.....	\$100.00
Restore.....	\$200.00
RHP COMMISSION.....	\$543.72
Ryan Akers.....	\$150.00
Scott Keith.....	\$150.00
Thayer.....	\$80.00
William Moore.....	\$75.00
Total.....	\$13,337.12

North American Missions

Bailey.....	\$300.00
Belton.....	\$450.04
Bruce Moore.....	\$100.00
Carrie Myers.....	\$50.00
Christ Chapel.....	\$1,500.00
Copper Mines.....	\$100.00
Cuba.....	\$72.45
De Soto 1st.....	\$610.00
Grace.....	\$20.00
Hartville.....	\$100.00
Houston 1st.....	\$100.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$1,393.00
Lebanon 1st Women.....	\$750.00
Loretta Minney.....	\$75.00
MO FWB Mission Board.....	\$750.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$70.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$100.00
Neosho 1st.....	\$10.00
New Hope.....	\$100.00
New Testament.....	\$40.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	\$90.00
Ozark 1st.....	\$375.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$100.00
Rock Chapel.....	\$335.76
South Fremont.....	\$105.00
Stockton.....	\$70.00
Trinity.....	\$140.00
Twin Oak Auxiliary.....	\$70.00
Union Light.....	\$170.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$220.00
West Plains 1st.....	\$200.00
Total.....	\$8,566.25

International Missions

Belton.....	\$249.00
Black Oak.....	\$200.00
Bruce Moore.....	\$160.00
Carthage.....	\$3,080.00
Christ Chapel.....	\$3,000.00
Copper Mines.....	\$800.00
Cuba.....	\$144.90
De Soto 1st.....	\$870.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$128.00
Fellowship.....	\$660.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	\$760.00
Freida Hays.....	\$75.00
Generations.....	\$2,490.28
Gospel Light.....	\$1,000.00
Grace.....	\$2,086.00
Hannon.....	\$82.00
Hartville.....	\$6,250.00
Hopewell WAC.....	\$100.00
Houston 1st.....	\$850.00
Jones Chapel.....	\$750.00
Jones Chapel WNAC.....	\$150.00
Leadington.....	\$100.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$495.58
Mill Creek.....	\$200.00
Mill Creek- Young Adult.....	\$50.00
MO FWB Mission Board.....	\$750.00
Mosaic.....	\$280.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$1,571.00
Neosho 1st.....	\$351.00
New Hope.....	\$200.00
Oak Hill.....	\$892.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	\$2,145.00
Ozark 1st.....	\$295.00
Ozark 1st - Heritage.....	\$100.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$250.00
Parkway.....	\$340.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana.....	\$100.00
Rejoice.....	\$5,990.00
Second Free Will.....	\$100.00
South Fremont.....	\$545.00
Stockton.....	\$80.00
Stonebridge.....	\$100.00

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

MOFWB Scholarship

The MOFWB Executive Office offers a scholarship to full-time MO FWB students attending FWB Colleges, including online studies.

Women's Ministry

The MO Women's Ministry offers a scholarship to female students enrolled full-time at a Free Will Baptist college. She must be a resident of Missouri & a member of a Free Will Baptist church. Deadline to apply: May 15



For more information on these scholarships and to download an application visit our state website.

mofwb.com/ministries/scholarships

Thayer \$611.26
Trinity \$40.00
Twin Oak Auxiliary \$80.00
Union Light \$150.00
Verdella \$1,336.07
Waynesville 1st \$430.00
West Plains 1st WNAAC \$130.00
Total \$41,597.09

ACM
Bailey \$360.00
Total \$360.00

Berea Ministries
Bailey \$210.00
Total \$210.00

Ch-TN
Bailey \$600.00
Belton \$20.00
Bruce Moore \$40.00
De Soto 1st \$160.00
Farmington 1st \$50.00
Grace \$1,060.00
Hartville \$100.00
Mill Creek \$50.00
Myrtle \$300.00
Union Light \$100.00
Unity \$300.00
Total \$2,780.00

Young Children's Home
Thayer \$108.00
Total \$108.00



\$1,000,000.00

Let's make history! The Missouri State Association is on the cusp of reaching one million dollars in COOP financial support for 2023. Would your church consider giving a special financial gift to Missouri COOP in an effort to help us reach this historical milestone? We praise God for the faithfulness and generosity of our churches who support COOP. Missions, Camp, Retirees, Youth, Christian Education as well as national and international ministries are blessed through your faithful giving.

Available Churches

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

One Accord
Nixa, MO
Contact: Larry Bassham
417-824-0946

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

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

Trinity FWB
Bridgeton, MO
Contact: Harold Bailey
314-494-9868

MO CE Bd
RHP Commission \$57.23
Total \$57.23

MO Retiree Bd
RHP Commission \$57.23
Total \$57.23
MO Youth Ministry Bd
RHP Commission \$57.23
Total \$57.23

Rainbow Ministries
Stockton \$30.00
Total \$30.00

Randall U
Christ Chapel \$639.00
Fellowship \$100.00
Mountain Grove 1st \$330.00
Thayer \$200.00
Total \$1,269.00

Welch College
Christ Chapel \$639.00
De Soto 1st \$120.00
Farmington 1st \$100.00
Fellowship \$20.00
Mountain Grove 1st \$330.00
Thayer \$200.00
West Plains 1st \$1,335.00
Total \$2,744.00

WNAAC
Stockton Auxiliary \$10.00
Twin Oak Auxiliary \$20.00
Total \$30.00

Youth Camp
Cuba \$100.00
De Soto 1st \$160.00
Hartville \$100.00
Mountain Grove 1st \$100.00
Mt. Pisgah \$30.00
Oak Hill \$84.00

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

Gene Howell
Ozark, MO
618-926-5000

Scott McCully
Joplin, MO
417-236-4382

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

Lindell Richardson
Desloge, MO
573-366-1850

Bill Ruble
Grovespring, MO
417-531-2528

Jason Williams
Ozark, MO
417-260-7078

Ozark 1st \$20.00
RHP Commission \$228.94
Stockton Auxiliary \$30.00
Thayer \$200.00
Trinity \$34.00
West Plains 1st \$75.00
Willow Springs \$100.00
Total \$1,261.94

Youth Camp Development
Myrtle \$50.00
Union \$30.00
Verdella \$504.10
Total \$584.10

Thank you!



Missouri State Association
of Free Will Baptists
202 West Commercial
PO Box 991
Lebanon, MO 65536

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Nashville, TN

Serving Missouri Free Will Baptists Since 1929

*And she shall bring forth a son,
and thou shalt call his name JESUS:
for he shall save his people from their sins.*

~ Matthew 1:21



*Wishing you all a very merry and blessed Christmas!
From the MO FWB State Office and Missions Office*

Stanley Bunch

Steve Reames

Carrie Myers