



Missouri Free Will Baptist

GEM Magazine

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Photo by Carrie Myers





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July/August issuedeadline: May 31st
September/October issue.....deadline: July 31st
November/December issue.....deadline: September 30th

Article & Photo Submissions

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



LET'S JUST GET ALONG

Sibling rivalry is alive and well. Brenda and I spent a few days with our son Jonathan and his family on our way to the National Convention. Even though we raised three highly opinionated children, I think we had forgotten that it is possible to fuss about things that, in a few hours, days, or weeks, will be forgotten. It does matter who sits next to the door in the car. It really matters if one sibling gets a large Slurpee on their day out with grandma and another a medium. Packages of cookies must be counted and divided equally according to St. Justice.

As I was preparing to pull two of the grandkids on a tube behind a jet ski, an animated dialogue commenced between them. Were they going on the sit-down tube or the lay-down tube? Picture me, through clenched teeth, asking, "can't we just get along? The tube you are going on doesn't matter. I have decided that I am going to take you full throttle, and in 5 minutes, you'll be in the water anyway!" Shouts erupted! One saying, "Yes! go as fast as you can!" The other said, "No! I don't like going fast!" My effort to stop the fussing fell flat as they began another winless debate. For the record, I dumped them off the tube on purpose.

At times Christ's followers can be like siblings and small children. We can fuss over some rather insignificant issues. However, there are signs that we may be maturing and learning from our past mistakes. We understand that not all issues are insignificant, and some merit serious debate.

In times past, it was not all that uncommon to see someone walk out of a business session, at times spouting off some childish statement or threat. Such behavior is unwarranted and dis-

pleasing to God. There are ways to dialogue and disagree while maintaining décor and respect for those of a differing opinion.

During the June 2023 Missouri State Convention, we discussed what, to us, is a fairly serious topic. I heard godly men, who hold differing points of view on a subject, say the same thing. "We don't want these issues to become divisive. Let's just get along." We dealt with a serious matter with grace, maturity, and harmony. I believe God is honored and glorified when we behave in that manner. Granted, we are not speaking of cardinal Christian doctrines but rather points of opinion



and areas where the interpretations of scripture passages have differed for centuries. When dealing with foundational doctrines of our faith, there is a time that taking a stand and dividing may, or will be necessary. That has seldom been the case among Free Will Baptists.

More recently, during the National Convention in Raleigh, NC we witnessed a similar display of unity. Two matters were discussed in a very respectful, calm, and harmonious fash-

ion. In previous years we might have heard accusations of being legalists or compromisers, or worse. Not this year. After the meeting, those of differing views and convictions on the matters visited and had a friendly and fruitful dialogue. Again, this honors and glorifies God.

Can we come together as brothers and sisters in Christ and have a serious and transparent dialogue about delicate practices and matters, and respectfully listen and speak to each other without insinuating by a statement or question that another is a legalist or watering down the Word?

The scripture speaks of this attitude of determining to "get along." I read through over 50 translations of Psalm 133:1 and they all said something to the effect of:

Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

...when brothers **truly** live in unity.... when the people of God live together in peace...how pleasing it is when God's people all come together as one.....for God's people to live together in harmony.....**when brothers and sisters get along.**

At this year's state and national conventions, we heard very encouraging reports of what God is doing among Free Will Baptists. I believe that part of the reason is that God is honored and glorified and that He blesses us when we are determined to come together and get along as His children.

Now, let's go for a tube-ride, I'll let you choose which tube we ride on and how fast we go, and I won't call you any names.



from the Missions Director, Steve Reeves



ETEAM 2023

Who in their right mind would take six teenagers that they don't know, without their parents, on a 4,400 mile trip to another country for 12 days? Well, no one ever accused me of being right-minded. My wife, Linda, and I were privileged to lead ETEAM Southern Spain this summer. We traveled with six amazing teenagers, Mackenzie, Georgia, Abby, Elizabeth, Xavier, and Joseph, to our former home and field of ministry in Spain. This was our second time leading an ETEAM.

Our team was fantastic. They prepared, prayed, served, and ministered to the people in Spain in a way that brought much glory to the Lord. They even endured a missed flight and an unplanned night in London on the way. They experienced Paella and tortilla (real tortilla), mosto and tapas, café con leche and Casera. They met teenagers from around the world, led VBS for MKs (missionary kids), worked in an NGO, prayed, sang, and lived together. We became a close team and a spirit-led team. It was hard to say goodbye.

I believe ETEAM is the best program FWB has for our high school students. It was started by Ken Eagleton Senior, a former FWB missionary to Brazil. He and his wife, Marvis, and son, Terry, led ten high schoolers to Brazil for two weeks in the summer of 1992. The goal was to give teenagers a taste of the mission field and give God a chance to touch their hearts with the needs of a lost world. Every year since then (with the exception of 2020), Eteamers have been going all around the world. The number of former eteamers now numbers in the thousands. Many of our FWB missionaries today served on ETEAM at some point. Thank God for the vision that Brother Eagleton had over 30 years ago.



Any FWB high school student who has finished their freshman year can apply. He/she must fill out an application, have references from their pastor and others who know them, have a growing walk with the Lord, and be willing to serve and be a part of a team. The applications are received at IM, looked over, prayed over, and around 100 students a year are chosen to serve on one of 10 teams going to various parts of the world. If chosen, the student must raise prayer and financial support (just like a missionary). The process starts in late summer, and the eteamers are chosen in December. Teams begin to come together through text messages, Zoom meetings, Facebook groups, etc. Then, in early June, they meet on the campus of Welch College for a week of training, followed by 12 days on their mission field. They work hard, learn much, experience more, and have a summer they will never forget.

I want to thank FWB International Missions for such a wonderful program. Leslie Nichols and Lauren, and Cody Herren work very hard all year to make it such a tremendous opportunity. If you are a FWB high school student, I encourage you to apply. Go to **IMINC.ORG** and follow the links to ETEAM. If you know a FWB high school student, I encourage you to encourage them to apply. By the way, they can always use more ETEAM leaders. If you have an interest in leading a team, go to the same website and apply. You don't have to be crazy to do it, but it helps.





- STATE -

Grace Fellowship (Cape Girardeau): They have had a good summer with growth, salvations, and baptisms. They are also doing some maintenance projects around the building.

Mosaic (Rolla): They have outgrown & sold their property and are transitioning to a rented space. They hope to buy land and build a more adequate facility soon.

Restore (Potosi): Rob is now working at the Correctional Facility in Farmington alongside another of our FWB pastors, David Watkins. Please pray for these men and their ministries.

Bradley Mercer (University of Missouri): Bradley will move to Columbia on September 13. If you want him to come for a service, please contact Steve Reeves.

Matt and Justine Fleming (Freedom Point, Florissant): ★ MO FWB Missions welcomes Matt and Justine Fleming and their sons Malachi and Jonah, to the family. The Flemings are from Granite City, IL. **Matt and Justine are planting a NEW FWB Church in Florissant, MO. Please be in prayer for them as they build their launch team and reach out to the lost and unchurched of North County in St. Louis. If you know of someone in north St. Louis that is unchurched please send their contact information to Steve Reeves. They hope to launch the church this fall. Please be in prayer for this new work. Matt and his launch team have been busy with several outreach events. A couple from Florissant recently gave their lives to the Lord.**

Women's Ministry: Please be in prayer for the Women's Retreat and those traveling to and from Branson on September 22 & 23. This year's speaker will be Gail Haas (storiescomealive.org) and Lebanon 1st will be leading worship.

- International -

Bailey (Japan): Ken and Judy hosted an ETEAM in June. The church is doing well with several new people.

Speer (Japan): Daniel, Kate, and family continue to settle into

their new home in Saporro. Daniel is in language school. Pray as they make contacts with their neighbors.

Turnbough (Spain): Matthew and Brooke, and family have had a busy summer. The Villalba Church continues to do well.

Duncan (Ecuador): Antioquia Christian School held their first graduation in July. Adam and Carol have been busy with ETEAM and other groups that have come on mission trips this summer.

Provow (Bulgaria): Josh has been unable to drive in Bulgaria for a few months now. He finally received his new driver's license in August. He preaches regularly in three cities each weekend.

- North American -

Webster/Mitchener (Florida): Connect Church had a Friend Day in July with 80 in attendance. They have several preparing for baptism. The Websters and Mitcheners are doing a great work.

Garrett (Illinois): Adam is now over halfway finished with his deployment with the National Guard. Please pray for him, Rebecca, and the children while he is away.

Schmidt (New Mexico): Steve and Amanda have closed the work in New Mexico. They have been approved by NAM to begin a new work in Casa Grande, Arizona, a suburb of Phoenix.

- Chaplains -

Captain Michael Beatty: Mike continues to be super busy working with and discipling recruits in Ft. Leonard Wood.

Captain David Dodson: David has been reaching out to some of the younger, unmarried soldiers where he works. He is doing a Bible Study and life skills training with them each Tuesday in the barracks.

Major Kevin Trimble: Kevin and Darla have been restationed to Columbia, South Carolina.

Medical Chaplain Cody Alley: Continue to lift Cody in prayer as he ministers to the patients and staff at Mercy Hospital in Lebanon. Pray for Cody's family as well.

Richwoods 1st

Great things are happening at First FWB in Richwoods!



Above: Three people were recently baptized:
Paul B, Penny & Ramona R.



Left: Baby Samuel, all
the way from Germany,
was dedicated.

Right: 3 members
added to their records.



Lebanon 1st



Pastor Andy Rains had
the privilege of baptizing
Logan Stubblefield during
the morning service on
August 6th at the church
in Lebanon.

Seymour

Five joined the church on June 25. Left to right Helen Mallory, King Davis, Sally Findley, Doloris Wilkerson, Cali Ogle with Pastor Matt Ogle



Resolve

On Sunday, July 23, Pastor David Beltz baptized father and son Bob and Cameron Council.

We are grateful for this thriving
church that was a former Missouri
Missions start.



Calvary Chapel

Calvary Chapel is thankful for the wonderful celebration service held June 25th! They heard powerful testimonies, saw eight people baptized and gave God glory for the great things He is doing! May we continue to ask and expect for Him to work in and through our lives!



Zeke Hamilton and Donnie Hamilton with Pastor Mark Elliott



Sue Mason and Leah Hammilton with Pastor Mark. Alissa Zimmerman with Bro. Brandon Mankey



Lily Hamilton (Bro. Mark) Fynlee Covert (Bro. Brandon) and Evlyn Hamilton (Bro. Mark)

Verdella

The congregation of Verdella in Liberal recently celebrated four baptisms. Pastor Randy Sprenkle baptized Jacye Worman, Coby Pingree, Abigail Bogart (who was saved at youth camp,) and Campbell Lucas.





2023 CAMP!

Another year and another incredible summer at Camp Niangua! God is good!

Beginning in May and running well into August, the camp has been a hive of activity this summer. This year three new rental groups are using the property for their summer camps.

During our three sessions, we had roughly 1000 camp attendees over our three weeks of camp. It

was an amazing thing to see Missouri Free Will Baptists together, and there was such a good spirit at camp each week.

During the preteen camps, we had a couple of new faces around the camp. We had two couples from the Retiree retreat join us for camp. They brought their campers to camp and helped around the camp during the week. They were a wonderful help, and we are thankful for their willingness to come. If that's something that might interest you, please contact Bruce Moore or one of your camp board members, and we'd be happy to discuss this with you further.

During Teen Camp, Aaron Pontius (Rejoice FWB; Columbia, MO) was our evangelist for the week. He spoke to us about purpose and encouraged/challenged our attendees to walk close to the Lord and to find their purpose in Him.

Preteen camp picked up where teen camp left off. Session One's evangelist was Johnny Miller (Cavanaugh FWB; Ft. Smith, AR).

Session Two continued the exciting camp season. Seth Moon (Hartville FWB; Hartville, MO) was the evangelist for the week.

During our camp sessions, we rejoice in over 36 salvations, multiple recommitments to Christ, two calls to ministry, and many reports of students taking new steps of faith in their spiritual lives. We had numerous testimonies of God working in the dorms through conversations and evening devotions.



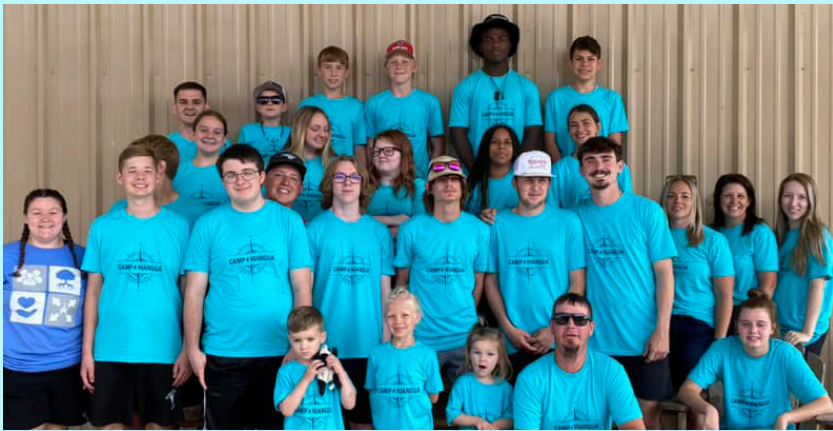
2024 Camp Dates:

- Teen Camp: June 10-14
- Pre-Teen Camp Session 1: June 24-June 28
- Pre-Teen Camp Session 2: July 8-12

Thank you, Missouri, for the privilege of working with the students of our state. We are excited to continue serving and to continue the ministry of Camp Niangua!

Andy Rains, Chairman,
Jacob Jones, Mark Henry, Ben Ryan, Ray Paxton





AS FOR you

2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION

RALEIGH NORTH CAROLINA

The 2023 National Association of Free Will Baptists held in Raleigh, NC was excellent in so many ways. Facilities were very good, meal selections were plentiful, music and worship were superb and engaging, the preaching was challenging, and fellowship was enjoyed. The North Carolina Association of Free Will Baptists are to be commended for hosting a very enjoyable convention.

During the business sessions the following items were dealt with:

- Elected for the General Board for unexpired terms in 2024: Lanney Ard (SC) and Gary Hill (VA).
- Elected for the Executive Committee in 2024, replacing Chris Todd (SC) is Dick Terry (OK). Elected to 2026 terms on the Executive Committee were: Stan Bunch (MO), Wayne Hale (Mid-ATL), and Daniel Edwards (IN)
- The clerk read the nomination for the 2027 term as assistant moderator. Jackson Watts was elected.
- The clerk read the nominee for the 2027 term as clerk. Randy Bryant (FL) was elected.
- Executive Board member Chris Todd and Assistant Moderator William Smith, who served from 2004-2023, were recognized for their service to the denomination.
- **Voters approved a name change for Randall House. The new name will be D6 Family Ministry.**
- Travis Moots (NC), William Smith (GA), and Joshua Chapman (MO) were elected to 2029 terms on the FWB Board of Retirement.
- For the board of the FWB Foundation, Jonathan Locklear (MI), Melissa Haralson (AR), and Bob Thompson (OK) were elected to 2029 terms on the board. Hubert Stafford (GA) resigned from the 2025 term on the board. Matt Mouser (GA) was elected to fulfill the unexpired term.
- Brian Williams (David Marks Assn.), Josh Baer (NC), And David Sexton (VA) were elected to 2029 terms on the Board of North American Ministries.
- David Crowe (TN) was elected to the 2028 term on the FWB Historical Commission.
- Sam Harris (NC) was elected to the 2026 unexpired term on the FWB Music Commission, and Daniel Webster (TN) was elected to the 2028 term.
- Stephen Lopes was elected to the 2028 term on the FWB Media Commission.
- Matthew Pinson gave the report of the Commission on Theological Integrity and was elected to the 2028 term on the commission. He also gave a special report on the resolution referred to the commission at the 2022 National Convention dealing with the ordination of those divorced and remarried. M/S/C
- A motion was made to bring the previous year's resolution from the table which dealt with the ordination of persons who are divorced and remarried. The motion failed.
- Ron Hunter gave the Vertical 3 report. Motion passed to receive the report. Allen Pointer was recognized with a plaque for his years of service with Truth & Peace.
- MO Youth Ministry Board Chairman Ryan Akers was selected to be the new director for Truth & Peace.
- The Missouri Mission Board (MMB) had a booth display. Several thousand visitors received information and a packet of M&Ms to remind them to pray for Missouri Missions.
- MOFWB Executive Bd member Andy Rains (Lebanon 1st) spoke Sunday evening at the Vertical Three Conference.
- MMB Church Planter Faron Thebeau preached a Spirit-filled sermon on Monday evening. Josh Chapman provided scripture reading prior to the message.
- MO pastor Doug Earls presented a workshop.
- Jodi Simpson sang with the worship team. Lee Ann Wilfong served with WNAC.
- Many others from Missouri served and ministered. Apologies for any omissions.



Faron Thebeau



Josh Chapman



Andy Rains



Jodi Simpson



Ryan Akers



Ruth McDonald
And Lee Ann Wilfong



YOUTH COMPETITION

NAME	CATEGORY	PLACEMENT	GRADE LEVEL	CHURCH
Brynlee Moon	0.K5-Bible Memorization-Kindergarten	THIRD	A - Grades 1-3	Verdella
Trenton Nisbett	0.04 - Bible Memorization - Grade 4	SECOND	B - Grades 4-6	First, Lebanon
Grace Brittenham	0.05 - Bible Memorization - Grade 5	THIRD	B - Grades 4-6	Macedonia
Kenzie Pettus	0.05 - Bible Memorization - Grade 5	FIRST	B - Grades 4-6	Wolf Creek
Colton Nisbett	0.08 - Bible Memorization - Grade 8	FIRST	C - Grades 7-9	First, Lebanon
Joy Brittenham	0.08 - Bible Memorization - Grade 8	FIRST	C - Grades 7-9	Macedonia
Reagan Pettus	0.10 - Bible Memorization - Grade 10	SECOND	D - Grades 10-12	Wolf Creek
Wolf Creek Girls	0.10g - Group Memorization - Grade 10	FIRST	D - Grades 10-12	Wolf Creek
Elijah Nisbett	0.11 - Bible Memorization - Grade 11	THIRD	D - Grades 10-12	First, Lebanon
Hope Brittenham	0.11 - Bible Memorization - Grade 11	SECOND	D - Grades 10-12	Macedonia
Hope & Mallie	0.11g - Group Memorization - Grade 11	FIRST	D - Grades 10-12	Macedonia
Grace Brittenham	0.55 - Bible Sword Drill - Grade 5	THIRD	B - Grades 4-6	Macedonia
Kenzie Pettus	0.55 - Bible Sword Drill - Grade 5	FIRST	B - Grades 4-6	Wolf Creek
Kaylee & Nora	2.20 - Duets	FIRST	Grades 1-3	Wolf Creek
Macedonia Trio	2.30 - Trios	FIRST	D - Grades 10-12	Macedonia
Allie Garren	3.40 - Plucked String Solo	FIRST	D - Grades 10-12	Macedonia
Farm Road 1100	4.30 - Praise Band	FIRST	D - Grades 10-12	Macedonia
Hope Brittenham	7.52 - Photo Essay	FIRST	D - Grades 10-12	Macedonia
Allie Garren	7.80 - Conceptual Art	FIRST	D - Grades 10-12	Macedonia
Addison Cole	8.20 - Personal Experience Essay	FIRST	B - Grades 4-6	Macedonia

The MOFWB State office congratulates these students on a job well done!

CrossPointe's Men's Prayer Breakfast

Early during 2000 my son-in-law, Mike Lewis, invited me to attend the Wednesday morning Men's Prayer Meeting in Pastor Joe Grizzle's office. Following a time of sharing and prayer, some would leave for work and a few of us would accompany Pastor Joe for a light breakfast and coffee.

One Wednesday morning, Tony Garbiso said, "While attending two different churches prior to CrossPointe, I helped start a Men's Prayer breakfast. I would like to start one here." Two or three men immediately responded: "I would like to help." Consequently, CrossPointe's Wednesday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast has continued for 23 years (except during the COVID shut-down). Men have shared prayer requests, and rejoiced together upon hearing the report of answered prayer.

Tony purchased supplies and he and his "kitchen helpers" began cooking about 4:00 a.m. (or earlier). The menu usually featured biscuits and gravy, eggs-cooked-to-order, hash browns, bacon or sausage, and coffee (plus other drinks). Occasionally, other breakfast items were featured. Tony enjoyed experimenting a little. Sometimes a comment could be heard, "That gravy had a 'bite' to it."

A basket was set on the counter with a "hand-written" sign: "Offering". Tony's hand-written sign continued to appear on the counter several years after his "home going".

Through the years, scores of men have rotated in and out of the kitchen—some have gone on to their "eternal reward". In Tony's absence, committed leaders have assumed "leadership" on the kitchen crew, maintaining a well-coordinated operation providing a hearty breakfast for all who choose to show-up at 6:00 a.m. for breakfast, fellowship, prayer and praise.

More about Tony: He was World War II veteran, having flown, as a gunner; on a large number of missions (He began attending Crosspointe with his daughter Becky Bowen and family.). One side of his calling card read: God Bless America. Followed by his name and phone number. The back side of his card read: "If we meet and you forget me, you have lost nothing, but if you meet JESUS CHRIST and forget HIM you have lost everything". John 3:16.

~ J. Mark Vandivort



Missouri Free Will Baptist 2023 State Calendar

September 22-23

MOFWB Women's Ministry Retreat
Westgate Branson Woods Resort
Branson, MO

October 14

Flourish (WNAC)
Ozark Family Church
Ozark, MO

November 4

E3 Conference
First FWB Church,
Hartville, MO

October 13-14

NAM Boot Camp
Camp Niangua

October 23-25

Retiree Retreat
Lodge of the Ozarks,
Branson, MO

November 6

General Board Meeting
State Office,
Lebanon, MO

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

From Our Boards

Christian Education

In 1 Cor 9:9, Paul says - For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." He then explains that this wasn't written for oxen but for us. He applies it to the church's responsibility to take care of their leaders and pastors.

Your Christian Education board exists to provide and promote resources for discipleship and ministry in our local churches. One important way we do this involves building up our pastors and ministry leaders. The fact is that most of them are overworked and undercompensated. Many are bi-vocational, which means they literally have two full time jobs! More pastors are leaving vocational ministry these days than are entering.

Our annual Minister's Retreat is one tool we provide to build up our pastors and ministry leaders. It is a casual, relaxed atmosphere where you can be yourself. We worship, laugh, and learn together. We have freedom to share both burdens and blessings with each other. More than once, I have interacted with pastors who were about to throw in the towel but attending the retreat brought fresh strength and revival. It's not uncommon to see a group of guys praying

and weeping together, and in another part of the room see a group laughing hysterically and enjoying fellowship.

It's not too early to make plans to attend and for churches to plan to send pastors, deacons, and ministry leaders to the next retreat which is March 4th – 6th, 2024. Make sure it gets on your calendar! Invest in your leaders and provide for them to attend! If your pastor is bi-vocational, he may have to use a couple of uncompensated personal days off from his other job to attend. Think about not only covering his expenses but also compensating him for the missed work. He invests his life in you, why not invest in him. We also invite ministerial students from our colleges to attend. You could also be a part of this by helping provide scholarships for them and others to attend. Contact our board or the State Office to find out more.

~ Melvin Moon
C.E. Board Member



**MARCH
4-6 2024**

PASTOR'S BOOT CAMP

Missouri Missions & North American Ministries are hosting a boot camp conference designed to assist pastors as they adjust to an ever-changing culture.



October 13-14 AT CAMP NIANGUA

NOTE: Bring your own bedding.



**SPEAKERS: Dr. Eddie Moody (NAFWB)
& Brad Ransom (NAM)**

**Cost: \$30.00 per registrant
INCLUDES 3 MEALS • PAY AT THE DOOR**

**REGISTER
HERE →**



**More information at MOFWB.COM or
contact Steve Reeves 573-808-4454.**

WHEN LIFE
DOESN'T
make sense

Flourish

WNAC

OCTOBER 14

Ozark Family Church

Speakers:

Becky Gwartney.
Debbie Taylor &
Marion Pilgram



REGISTER
← HERE

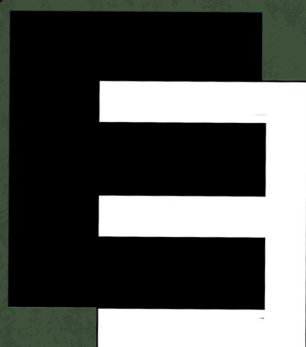
Registration
8:00 am

MORE INFO @ MOFWB.COM

SAVE THE DATE!!!

NOVEMBER 4 AT HARTVILLE FWB CHURCH!

MORE INFORMATION COMING ON THE
MISSOURI FWB YOUTH MINISTRIES FACEBOOK PAGE.



Elevate | Equip | Encourage

Fall
Retreat



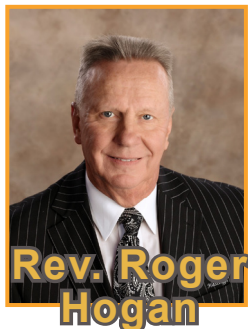
SPEAKER: JON FORREST





Retiree Retreat

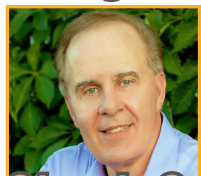
Lodge of the Ozarks,
Branson, Missouri



Rev. Roger Hogan



The Lesters



Chuck Crain

**There will be
door prizes &
give-aways!**

Retreat Cost:

- Single \$140.00/person
- Double \$100.00/person
- Triple \$95.00/person
- Quadruple \$90.00/person

OCTOBER 23-25

The 2023 Retiree Retreat will be held at the Lodge of the Ozarks in Branson. A \$15 deposit per person is required with registration. Retreat fees cover 2 nights stay, 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners. Attendees will provide their own lunch on Tuesday. Hotel check-in begins at 3:00pm on Monday. Registration payment may be made by check or cash. (Payable to the MOFWB Sr. Board) After registration if you later find you cannot attend, please let Bro. Ron know as soon as possible 417-257-9723 or ronblindafb@gmail.com

**ALL pastors regardless
of age are encouraged
to attend!**



Registration Form
(DEADLINE Monday, September 22)

MAIL TO: Ron Blanks
9172 County Road 6990
West Plains, MO 65775

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Church _____ Pastor _____

List All Persons Staying In a Room

Special needs: _____



Ministry Gems

News Tidbits from Around the State



QR Codes - We will begin using more QR codes throughout the GEM Magazine for quick access to registrations, websites, etc. Simply scan the code using the camera on your smart phone, a link will appear, then touch the link and it will open in your phone's browser.



Both Bracey and Talbot wrote chapters for the book. Order your copy at www.welch.edu/welchpress.

HELP START NEW CHURCHES - Plan to receive a special offering for the Mission North America Offering. See page 19.

The Calvary Chapel Church - Buffalo (Pastor Mark Elliott) has partnered for a short time with the Central Church in Grandview (Pastor Alan Kinder). They have helped with outreach evangelism and in other ways. We encourage churches to partner together to become stronger.

The Hazel Creek Church in Kirksville has called Tim Hodges as pastor. He and Jessica began this ministry on August 20th.

Cavan Guzman, grandson of Jack & Jeannie Dinwiddie - Marshfield First FWB, was ordained by the Liberty Association as a minister of the gospel on August 5th.

Donnie Greenwood received an extension of license as a minister from the Liberty Association on August 5th.

The Mission Association raised over \$21,000.00 for missions during their recent missions conference. Scott Anderson is to be commended for organizing and promoting missions in this Association.



What is COOP? What is the function of all the MOFWB State Ministries? These and other questions are answered in The MOFWB State Association Handbook. If you would like copies for your association please contact the State Executive Office.

Complimentary Subscriptions - The Missouri State Association provides a complimentary subscription to this magazine for all Missouri FWB pastors, FWB State Executive and Promotional Directors, and FWB Colleges. If you do not receive the GEM please email the MOFWB Executive Office and provide us with your contact information to begin receiving it. mofreewillbaptist@gmail.com

The **Southeast FWB Association** reports a great camp session with good attendance and several salvation decisions.

FOUND - Black large print, ultra thin, Bible with gold leaf edged pages. Found after a service of the State Meeting in Springfield. If this is your Bible please call the State Office at 1-800-866-532-6537 and we will get it back to you.



"As You Go" Podcast - FWB Women's Ministries launched their brand new podcast, "As You Go," at the 2023 National Convention. The podcast, focused on "growing as disciples and disciplers," will feature interviews with special guests as well as devotional thoughts from Executive Director Ruth McDonald. The first four episodes are available now wherever you get your podcasts.

There is a great Christian thought here. A man's circumstances may be such that he cannot become a missionary or a preacher. Life may have put him in a position where he must get on with a secular job, staying in one place and carrying out the routine duties of life and living. But where he cannot go, his money and his prayers and his practical support can go. Not everyone can be, so to speak, in the front line; but by supporting those who are there, he can make himself an ally of the truth. When we remember that, all giving to the wider work of Christ and his church must become not an obligation but a privilege, not a duty but a delight. The church needs those who will go out with the truth, but it also needs those who will be allies of the truth at home. ~ James Moffatt on Gaius of 3rd John



Welch College Press Publishes New Book, Christians in Culture - This book was written by ten Welch College faculty to equip readers to engage the spheres of culture in a manner that is equal parts biblical and winsome. This book was edited by Matthew Steven Bracey and Christopher Talbot, each of whom teach courses in theology and culture.

In Loving Memory



Rev. Vernon Long

Rev. Vernon Eugene Long, 88, passed away June 12, 2023 at the Baptist Home in Ironton, MO. He was born to the late John D. Long and Myrtle 'Moyers' Long on April 15, 1935 in Patton, MO.

Bro. Vernon pastored several churches in Missouri including the Parkview Church in Desloge, Leadington First, and started a mission church in Jackson, MO.

He is also preceded in death by his wife, Ada Long (2015) and daughter, Cynthia Craig.

He is survived by his daughter, Sheila 'Long' Haas and husband Melvin; son, Matt Long and wife Marsha; 8 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; brother-in-law, Robert Propes; and by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

The visitaion and funeral were held Thursday June 15, 2023 at Horton-Wampler Funeral Home in Park Hills with Rev. Bob Thebeau officiating. Interment was at Old Pendleton Cemetery, Doe Run, MO.

Rev. Charles "Herb" McMillian

Born on January 17, 1931, Herb grew up in the Marquand and Fredericktown areas. He established and operated a successful grocery store until he enlisted in the Army at age 20. After serving during the Korean Conflict, he returned home to Fredericktown in November 1952. Beginning in 1957, he served as a Sergeant for his National Guard unit in Farmington for three years.

On December 5, 1955, he married Doris Elaine Francis and together they raised three sons: David (Barb) McMillian, of Park Hills, Darrell (Julie) McMillian of Imperial, Roger (Jane) McMillian of Park Hills.

Herb was grandfather to seven and great-grandfather to seventeen.

Herb was a true patriot and had a strong love for both his country and his family. His greatest enjoyment, however, came from his years of dedicated church service with MOFWB as an ordained minister. He served throughout Madison, St. Francois and Washington Counties over 40+ years.

Visitaion was held June 30, 2023, at Gospel Light FWB Church with the funeral on Saturday, July 1. Pastor Larry Allison officiated. His interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery in Leadington with full military honors.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of C.Z. Boyer and Son Funeral Home in Desloge.



Editor's Note -

Due to space constraints, obituaries may be condensed. To read the full obituary visit our website at mofwb.com/gem-magazine/gem-links-articles or use this QR code.



Financial Report

Please note: The amounts listed are for two months,
June - July, 2023

COOP Disbursements

June - July, 2023

19% MO Missions.....	\$31,414.39
21.5% Gen/Exec.....	\$35,547.87
8.5% Youth Camp.....	\$14,053.81
2% Youth Ministry.....	\$3,306.78
2% Christian Education ..	\$3,306.78
2% Retiree Minsity.....	\$3,306.78
9% State Retirement ..	\$14,880.50
3% Show-Me.....	\$4,960.17
33% Nat'l Ministries.....	\$48,445.46
Randall U (.1121).....	\$6,116.38
Total Disbursed.....	\$165,338.92

RECEIPTS

COOP

Alton.....	\$200.00
Amity.....	\$136.90
Bailey.....	\$1,628.00
Bailey Chapel.....	\$248.00
Belton.....	\$436.90
Black Oak.....	\$1,375.40
Byrd.....	\$465.70
Calvary Chapel.....	\$9,777.98
Calvary Fellowship.....	\$8,133.33
Clifton Sunday School.....	\$60.30
Copper Mines.....	\$1,873.91
Cornerstone.....	\$351.88
Cross Roads- Lebanon.....	\$2,007.00
Cuba.....	\$1,130.00
De Soto 1st.....	\$3,191.00
Faith- Fair Grove.....	\$920.10
Faith Chapel.....	\$1,556.93
Farmington 1st.....	\$6,867.41
Fellowship.....	\$3,915.00
First Day.....	\$3,650.37
Fredericktown 1st.....	\$1,170.00
Freeman Chapel.....	\$986.00
Generations.....	\$1,058.96
Good News.....	\$686.59
Gospel Light.....	\$800.00
Grace.....	\$3,703.47
Grace Fellowship.....	\$2,690.00
Grace Pointe.....	\$750.00
Grant Avenue.....	\$1,036.53
Hannon.....	\$2,315.00
Hartville.....	\$3,700.00
Hazel Creek.....	\$3,111.53
Hopewell.....	\$1,262.00
Houston 1st.....	\$1,062.00
Hurryville.....	\$760.00
Koshkonong.....	\$639.70
Leadington.....	\$1,882.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$4,389.01
Lebanon Green Hills.....	\$707.50
Liberty - Gatewood.....	\$365.62
Lucille Franklin.....	\$500.00
Marshfield.....	\$485.00
Mill Creek.....	\$591.40
Mine La Motte.....	\$146.65
Monett 1st.....	\$1,279.70
Mosaic.....	\$1,953.72
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$1,406.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$920.00
Neosho 1st.....	\$1,717.00
Nevada.....	\$1,184.30
New Home- Lebanon.....	\$1,620.00
New Hope.....	\$472.00
New Life- Licking.....	\$1,084.88
Number One.....	\$50.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	\$3,731.35

Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove ..	\$265.40
Oak Hill.....	\$1,346.00
One Accord.....	\$1,425.25
Ozark 1st.....	\$8,788.35
Ozark 1st - Heritage Campus.....	\$700.90
Park Hills 1st.....	\$2,236.00
Parkview.....	\$610.00
Pleasant Home.....	\$711.10
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$305.00
Purdy 1st.....	\$2,000.00
Rejoice.....	\$4,588.00
Republic.....	\$1,018.45
Resolve.....	\$200.00
Restore.....	\$308.00
Richwoods 1st.....	\$918.00
Rock Chapel.....	\$1,685.15
Seymour.....	\$1,438.00
Smyrna.....	\$213.00
South Fremont.....	\$1,865.00
Springfield 1st.....	\$1,839.00
Stockton.....	\$342.50
Stonebridge.....	\$513.99
Thayer.....	\$3,625.00
Timothy Eaton.....	\$100.00
Trinity.....	\$1,605.11
Twin Oak.....	\$2,123.75
Union.....	\$60.00
Union Light.....	\$234.30
United.....	\$8,914.92
Unity.....	\$1,300.00
Verdella.....	\$1,574.05
Viburnum.....	\$987.00
Victory- Alton.....	\$1,803.31
Victory- KC.....	\$1,755.40
Waynesville 1st.....	\$1,417.53
West Plains 1st.....	\$4,641.00
Willow Springs.....	\$1,284.44
Wolf Creek.....	\$2,452.00
Total.....	\$165,338.92

Show-Me Plan

Alan Kinder.....	\$100.00
Belton.....	\$175.00
Black Oak.....	\$360.00
Brent Emmerson.....	\$50.00
Bruce Moore.....	\$100.00
Byrd.....	\$50.00
Calvary Chapel.....	\$90.00
Cheryl Bell.....	\$96.64
Cleo Reeder.....	\$30.00
Coon Creek.....	\$600.00
Copper Mines.....	\$300.00
Cuba.....	\$176.80
De Soto 1st.....	\$1,580.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$2,000.00
Farmington 1st- WAC.....	\$100.00
Fellowship.....	\$580.00
First Day.....	\$1,825.18
Frank Webster.....	\$60.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	\$340.00
Freeman Chapel.....	\$1,440.00
Gary Tune.....	\$96.64
Generations.....	\$302.93
Gospel Light.....	\$1,800.00
Grace.....	\$981.00
Grant Avenue.....	\$50.00
Hannon.....	\$1,000.00
Happy Hill.....	\$180.00
Hartville.....	\$350.00
Hopewell WAC.....	\$100.00
Jason Sander.....	\$23.79
Jerry Rader.....	\$40.00
Josh Provow.....	\$50.00
Leadington.....	\$400.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$1,377.50

Lebanon Green Hills.....	\$212.25
Lucille Franklin.....	\$500.00
Macedonia - Purdy.....	\$6,000.00
Matt Barton.....	\$1,800.00
Mill Creek.....	\$140.00
Mine La Motte.....	\$600.00
MO Youth Camp.....	\$2,008.13
MOFWB.....	\$25.00
MOFWB COOP.....	\$4,960.16
Mosaic.....	\$50.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$270.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$123.70
Mt. Pisgah WAC.....	\$25.00
Mt. Zion- "Cuba".....	\$160.00
Neosho 1st.....	\$500.00
New Hope.....	\$400.00
New Life- Licking.....	\$250.00
Number One.....	\$120.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	\$2,975.12
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove ..	\$170.00
Oak Hill.....	\$84.00
Ozark 1st.....	\$500.00
Ozark 1st - Heritage.....	\$300.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$194.00
Pleasant Home.....	\$400.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$140.00
Purdy 1st.....	\$900.00
Rejoice.....	\$210.00
Republic.....	\$180.00
Resolve.....	\$200.00
Richwoods 1st.....	\$424.79
Rock Chapel.....	\$400.00
Rodney Bunton.....	\$1,000.00
South Fremont.....	\$180.00
Southeast Association.....	\$120.00
Springfield 1st.....	\$1,010.50
Stockton.....	\$546.00
Stockton Auxiliary.....	\$90.00
Stonebridge.....	\$30.00
Thayer.....	\$1,350.00
Trinity.....	\$180.00
Trisa Johnson.....	\$23.79
Twin Oak Auxiliary.....	\$110.00
Union.....	\$45.00
Union Light.....	\$675.00
United.....	\$2,375.00
Unity.....	\$490.00
Verdella.....	\$1,574.05
Viburnum.....	\$120.00
Victory- KC.....	\$481.08
Virginia Bunton.....	\$600.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$961.81
West Plains 1st WNAC.....	\$75.00
Willow Springs.....	\$312.37
Wolf Creek.....	\$400.00
Total.....	\$554,777.23

Missouri Missions

Alden Redfield.....	\$50.00
Cuba.....	\$66.30
De Soto 1st.....	\$355.00
Devena Harwick.....	\$200.00
Howard Easley.....	\$498.70
Judith Lemons.....	\$23.79
Loretta Minney.....	\$25.00
Mosaic.....	\$2,900.00
Mt. Pisgah WAC.....	\$20.00
NAM.....	\$200.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	\$750.00
Oliver Adamson.....	\$60.00
Ozark 1st.....	\$20.00
Ozark 1st - Heritage.....	\$200.00
Peace FWB Church.....	\$200.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$50.00
Republic.....	\$50.00
Restore.....	\$200.00

Ryan Akers.....	\$50.00
Scott Keith.....	\$50.00
Thayer.....	\$25.00
William Moore.....	\$25.00
Total.....	\$6,018.79

North American Missions

Bailey.....	\$200.00
Belton.....	\$139.69
Carrie Myers.....	\$25.00
Copper Mines.....	\$225.00
Cuba.....	\$66.30
De Soto 1st.....	\$500.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$5.00
Grace.....	\$40.00
Hannon.....	\$50.00
Hartville.....	\$100.00
Houston 1st.....	\$100.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$200.00
Loretta Minney.....	\$25.00
MO FWB Mission Board ..	\$750.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$35.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$100.00
Neosho 1st.....	\$20.00
New Hope.....	\$100.00
New Testament.....	\$40.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	\$70.00
Ozark 1st.....	\$450.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$100.00
Rock Chapel.....	\$278.00
South Fremont.....	\$210.00
Southeast Association.....	\$90.00
Stockton.....	\$70.00
Trinity.....	\$140.00
Twin Oak Auxiliary.....	\$70.00
Union Light.....	\$170.00
Union Light WAC.....	\$100.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$220.00
West Plains 1st.....	\$150.00
Total.....	\$4,838.99

International Missions

Black Oak.....	\$200.00
Bruce Moore.....	\$80.00
Copper Mines.....	\$675.00
Cuba.....	\$132.60
De Soto 1st.....	\$795.00
Donna Rash.....	\$200.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$100.00
Fellowship.....	\$640.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	\$480.00
Freida Hays.....	\$25.00
Generations.....	\$222.93
Gospel Light.....	\$1,030.00
Grace.....	\$775.00
Hartville.....	\$400.00
Hopewell WAC.....	\$250.00
Houston 1st.....	\$888.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$785.75
Mill Creek.....	\$200.00
Mill Creek- Young Adult ..	\$50.00
MO FWB Mission Board ..	\$750.00
Mosaic.....	\$280.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$50.00
New Hope.....	\$200.00
Oak Hill.....	\$392.00
O'Fallon 1st.....	\$2,025.00
Ozark 1st.....	\$290.00
Ozark 1st - Heritage.....	\$100.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$250.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$100.00
Purdy 1st.....	\$210.00
Rejoice.....	\$3,150.00
Second Free Will.....	\$300.00
South Fremont.....	\$1,100.00
Southeast Association.....	\$90.00

MISSION NORTH AMERICA OFFERING

November 19, 2023

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Acts 9:6, "...Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

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

Berea Ministries
Bailey..... \$140.00
Total \$140.00

Ch-TN
Bailey..... \$400.00
Belton \$10.00
Bruce Moore..... \$20.00
De Soto 1st..... \$160.00
Grace..... \$1,051.00
Hartville..... \$100.00
Mill Creek..... \$50.00
Purdy 1st..... \$617.50
Thayer..... \$60.00
Union Light..... \$100.00
Unity..... \$300.00
West Plains 1st..... \$1,306.00
Total \$4,174.50

Young Children's Home
Thayer..... \$37.00
Total \$37.00
Getsemani CH
Stockton..... \$30.00
Total \$30.00
Randall U
Fellowship..... \$60.00

Mountain Grove 1st..... \$165.00
Thayer..... \$200.00
Total \$425.00

Welch College
De Soto 1st..... \$120.00
Farmington 1st..... \$300.00
Fellowship..... \$20.00
Mountain Grove 1st..... \$165.00
Thayer..... \$200.00
Total \$805.00

WNAC
Stockton Auxiliary..... \$10.00
Twin Oak Auxiliary..... \$20.00
Union Light WAC..... \$76.31
Total \$106.31

Youth Camp
Cuba..... \$100.00

De Soto 1st..... \$160.00
Hartville..... \$100.00
Lucille Franklin..... \$500.00
Mary C Hatfield..... \$250.00
Mountain Grove 1st..... \$50.00
Mt. Pisgah..... \$30.00
Nevada..... \$135.00
Oak Hill..... \$84.00
Ozark 1st..... \$20.00
Stockton Auxiliary..... \$30.00
Thayer..... \$200.00
Tri-Valley Developl Servic.. \$50.00
Trinity..... \$34.00
Union..... \$30.00
West Plains 1st..... \$1,510.00
Willow Springs..... \$100.00
Total \$3,383.00

Youth Camp Developmen
Verdella..... \$472.22
Total \$472.22

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

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

Ralph Douglas
Grovespring, MO
417-849-2577

Ed Fields
Cuba, MO
573-368-0746

Donnie Greenwood
Marshfield, MO
417-597-5808

Danny Hill
Springfield, MO
417-210-3699

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

Jason Williams
Ozark, MO
417-260-7078

Thank you
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\$567,261.27

SHOWME plan

\$178,736.82



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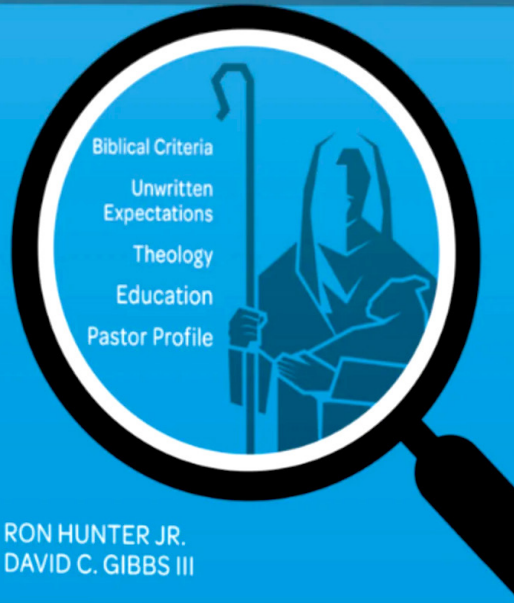
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D6 NEW RELEASE

How to Find the Right Pastor

A HANDBOOK FOR PASTORAL
AND STAFF SEARCH COMMITTEES



BOOK & WEBSITE

To help your church find the right pastor.

How to Find the Right Pastor
A Handbook for Pastoral and Staff Search Committee
Written by Ron Hunter, Jr and David C. Gibbs

A ministry leader and a Christian attorney combine their skills to help your search committee find just the right pastor for your church. This book covers five phases of the search process: 1) Prepare for Your Search, 2) Build the Profile, 3) Finding and Narrowing to Your Top 3 to 5 Candidates, 4) First Interviews With Top 3 to 5 Candidates, and finally 5) Top Candidate Visit and the Vote. You will discover and identify the issues most likely to cause tension later. Explore key categories of review like the biblical criteria expected, educational expectations, geographical predispositions, work and ministry experience, spouse expectations, kid-related issues, involvement within the church leadership, social organizations, political involvement, and so much more.

Features:

Readers will receive answers to their questions quickly in the concise yet informative chapters while finding the table of contents to work more like an index in order to offer easily available help.

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