



Missouri Free Will Baptist

GEM Magazine



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Article & Photo Submission Deadline

January/February issue.....deadline: November 30th
March/April issue.....deadline: January 31st
May/June issue.....deadline: March 31st
July/August issue,deadline: 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 mofreewillbaptist@gmail.com or stan@mofwb.org

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

Business Office:
202 West Commercial,
P.O. Box 991,
Lebanon, Missouri 65536,
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Editor - Stanley Bunch
Layout & Design - Carrie Myers



from the Editor, Stan Bunch



"Where are the 74?"

A recent review of the MOFWB church directory revealed that over half the FWB pastors in Missouri are retirement age or older. In 2022, Missouri FWB local association reports indicate that we have 149 churches, 195 ordained ministers, and 28 licensed ministers. Interestingly, we are reporting a total of 223 preachers—which is 74 more licensed or ordained ministers than the number of affiliated churches. We also regularly hover around 20 churches without a pastor. Where are the 74 ministers?

Some of them are elderly, physically unable, in a season of preparation, or in an area of ministry other than pastorate. But the situation of the majority is unknown. When an inquiry is made, there is little information regarding their whereabouts or standing in the association.

Difficult questions can make us uncomfortable, but usually challenge us and make us think deeper.

- Do some of our ordination boards need to invest more thought into their ordination process and their ongoing efforts to hold ministers accountable for the commitments they've made?
- Does a candidate who is not currently pastoring, nor who plans to for the foreseeable future, actually need to be ordained? (Exceptions might be missionaries, chaplains, and youth and music ministers.)
- Does a person who desires to preach occasionally and not serve as the pastor of a local flock need to be ordained? A license to preach connotes approval by an association and should be sufficient.
- Given the times in which we live, would it be wise to review our associational records or minutes to determine who holds ministerial creden-

tials? Should associations provide their churches with an annual list of those licensed and ordained ministers and deacons who are in good standing? There are dozens of ministers and deacons who were at some point recognized by a local association, yet their whereabouts, personal situation, or ministry involvement is often unknown. This information is important, especially if one of those were to commit a crime and the media were to learn that at some point they were licensed or ordained by one of our associations. That is a horrible thought, but it has happened.



- Is there a difference between the command to preach the gospel and a divine calling as a pastor? (Eph. 4:11-12) Free Will Baptists believe that the call to pastor a congregation is a God-given conviction and calling, and not a mere career choice.
- Should we be challenging godly and committed laymen to develop preaching and public communication skills so they can, as opportunity and need allow, step into the pulpit and proclaim the Word of God? We're not trying to force them into the mold of a pastor, but if we're all called to share God's Word, then should lay leaders be able

to do this on at least a basic level?

The committed and godly laymen in our churches are an unmined resource for ministry. Given proper training and oversight they can fill pulpits with Biblical preaching, start small group ministries, lead evangelistic campaigns, and perform other valuable ministry tasks. Those dedicated individuals know they have not been called as a pastor. They do not desire to be ordained. They simply want to fulfill the command to preach the gospel as a child of God. In my opinion, that is a noble desire.

A look at the New Testament passages that deal with the laying of hands is a serious matter. The act of praying over the individual or couple is the bestowment of a blessing on their ministry. It also assumes that the sending congregation has observed character, service, and other evidence that the individual has most certainly been God-called and gifted to perform the ministry for which he is being ordained.

We might consider the ordination process more like a soldier receiving marching orders rather than a certificate of accomplishment. An ordination certificate should never engender pride or arrogance in the person receiving it. A failure to perform the ministry for which one was ordained should result in the individual returning their license or ordination credentials to the body that originally presented them. There are exceptions to that statement, such as those who are providentially hindered in some way due to health or age. However, what about the rest of the 74? We need them to keep their promises—and we need to keep the promises we've made to them.



from the Missions Director, Steve Reeves



"To God be the Glory"

For the last four years it has been my privilege to pastor a very small town Free Will Baptist church. When my wife and I first went to the church there were some services with only nine or ten people attending. As God has blessed, we have had a slow but steady growth, and on October 22, 2023 we were blessed by the Lord to have sixty one in attendance.

I have been asked to explain how this has happened and all I can say is "To God be the glory, great things He has done." But I do know what God has instructed us to do up to this point.

First we must realize that Zechariah 4:6 is absolutely true and necessary for the work of God to be accomplished.

Zechariah 4:6 "Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."

The first thing that Jesus instructed the church to do was to preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:15 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Secondly, the church was instructed to teach the new disciples all things that Jesus had commanded them, and to live it in their daily lives. After salvation,

in depth teaching of who God is, who Jesus is, who the Holy Spirit is and who we are to God is so very important so that the church will know that it is Jesus' church. He is the head of the church and we can only stand and withstand when we are founded and standing on the solid rock.

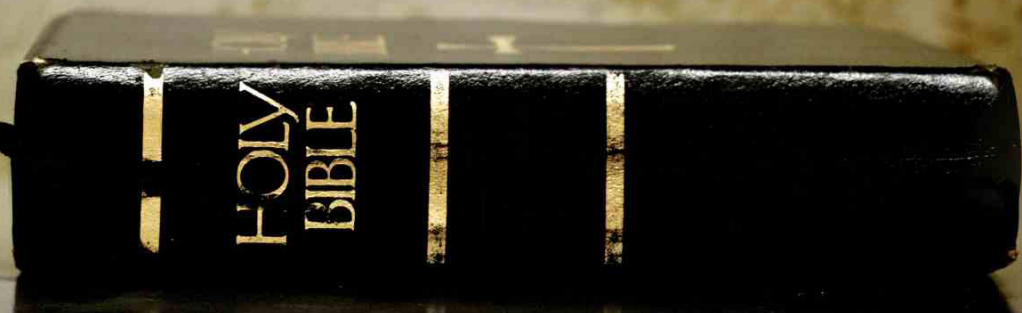
Matthew 16:15-18 "He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

If a deep scriptural foundation is not laid from the books of the Bible to the teaching and working of the trinity, Gods people will not have the truth and material to share with their family and friends when they ask about Jesus and His church. As the old song says: It is no secret what God can do... if we will do all that God teaches us to do.

Preach the Word! Teach in depth the instructions in the Word, by the work of our teacher the Holy Spirit!

Ephesians 4:15. "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."

Director's Note: Mike Fields is pastor of Lighthouse FWB Church in Haskell, OK. Mike has pastored churches in Oklahoma, Missouri, Texas and Mississippi. He and his wife, Diane, have been married for 48 years.



MMB SHOW ME plan Updates

- STATE -

Grace Fellowship (Cape Girardeau): The Church continues to do well with several community outreaches during the holiday season.

Mosaic (Rolla): The Church now has 3 community groups, with about 20 in each group. Faron recently did a wedding ceremony for a Nigerian couple.

Bradley Mercer (University of Missouri): Bradley began a weekly group called 'Let's Speak English.' Attendance is regularly between 15-25. Thirty-five international students came to a special Thanksgiving meal.

Matt and Justine Fleming (Freedom Point, Florissant): Matt and their launch team have recently started having their launch team meetings at a Southern Baptist Church in Florissant. They recently baptized a new couple. Pray as they continue to look for a suitable meeting place for the new church.

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 and Kate are busy helping get the rented facility ready for the new church launch in Saporro.

Turnbough (Spain): Praise God for the Turnboughs' 20 years of ministry in Spain. They are excited about new families starting to share the ministry in the Villalba Church.

Duncan (Ecuador): Carol recently visited a pueblo and spent the day seeing patients. When she was done, she received a payment of guaba (check it out on Google). God doesn't always pay in dollars.

Provow (Bulgaria): Josh continues to minister to the towns of Shumen, Novi Pazar, Kaspichan, and Vhetovo. Praise God for these opportunities.

- NORTH AMERICAN -

Webster/Mitchener (Florida): Connect Church continues to reach out to their communities. They are now seeing the return of the 'snowbirds' for the winter. The Mitcheners are working hard to build a youth group.

Garrett (Illinois): Adam has been sharing the Gospel with the soldiers around him and has the opportunity to lead a Bible Study. He has earned the nickname "Father Garrett".

Schmidt (Arizona): Steve and Amanda have been getting involved in their new community by attending Chamber of Commerce meetings and helping out at the local soup kitchen. They held their first interest meeting with 9 new people present.

Captain Michael Beatty: Mike has had the opportunity to baptize 50 recruits who have given their hearts to Jesus this fall

Director's Note: As of January 1, 2024, Restore Church in Potosi will be a self-supporting bi-vocational church. The Missouri Mission Board gives a special word of thanks to Rob and Lisa Gerst for continuing the work in Potosi. Rob is now working full-time as a chaplain at the Farmington Correctional Facility and pastoring Restore Church. Please keep them in your prayers

De Soto 1st

Desoto 1st is thankful that God is moving, stirring hearts and souls to follow HIM.”
Pictured below are baptisms performed by Pastor Tim Hackett and Children’s Director Bro. Rob Wilkerson.

Top L-R: Shey, Sam, Mary, Nick B, Avery Bottom L-R: Brittany, Payton, Nick S, Pat



Fellowship

Great things are happening at the Fellowship Church in Park Hills. In the month of November, they have seen two salvations and 21 people have joined the church. This photo is from Sunday, November 19, when 13 people joined. We have at least three to baptize in December.



Calvary Chapel

On October 15, 2023, Racel Williams, Olivia Williams and Addisyn Choate were baptised at Calvary Chapel.

Kaysen Jewell was baptised at the church in Buffalo on November 19th, 2023.



Mt. Zion Cuba

On October 15, 2023 five were baptised by pastor Daniel Allen at Brush Creek in Laclede County.

Ashlae Simmons, David Simmons, Cheyenne Broyles, Dane Horn, Barrett Horn.



Verdella

Tami Helms was baptised on October 8, 2023 by Pastor Randy Sprenkle.

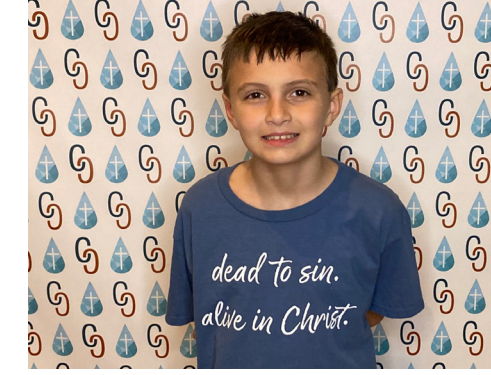
On the same day Quinlan Braker requested to be baptised by Wade Sprenkle because he teaches Children’s Church.



Thayer

Thayer had the privilege of baptising four on June 25th and six on November 5th.

“We praise the Lord for the great things He has been doing at Thayer.”



In Loving Memory



Rev. Lester Oralee Davis, Springfield, was born March 18, 1941 in Niangua, MO, son of Mildred Marie "Jane" Henderson. Since the age of four he was raised by his

mother and her husband, Lloyd Marquis. He departed this life on October 16, 2023 in his home at the age of eighty-two.

Lester was a Free Will Baptist pastor and missionary. He did missionary work in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, and Littleton, New Hampshire. He preached at several churches in Iowa, Texas, and Missouri. Lester was active in Men's Encounter Ministry. He served in the United States Army. Lester enjoyed reading, studying history, and fishing. He worked in automobile mechanics, and later taught it.

Lester was preceded in death by his parents, and his brother, Roger Marquis.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Patricia (Hosiner) Davis; three children, Greg Davis (Donna), White House, TN, Bryan Davis (Lisa), Rogersville, and Becci Hair, Springfield; siblings, Dennis Marquis, Mountain Grove, and Carol Cummins, Rogersville; ten grandchildren; and twelve great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were Saturday, October 21, 2023 at Ozark Family Church with burial following in Seymour Masonic Cemetery, Seymour, MO.

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TOGETHER
WE REACH
OUT
FURTHER!

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Sunday



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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

ORGAN OF THE MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST
FOR FREE WILL BAPTIST EVERYWHERE



95 Years of the GEM Magazine

First Editorial to appear in the GEM Magazine.

Editorial

ANNOUNCEMENT

With love and gratitude toward those who have made this paper possible and called us to service, we take real pleasure in giving you this first issue of our new paper, "The Free Will Baptist Gem." It is our purpose to set forth here the mission or purpose of this paper, and how and why it came to be started.

Some of our brethren, connected with the Free Will Baptist work in Missouri, impressed with the idea that an Orphanage, an Old Minister's Home, and a denominational paper were needed in Missouri, sent a circular letter to Free Will Baptists over the State, asking their co-operation in getting the matter before the Missouri State Association for consideration.

This Association convened with Mt. Zion Church near Platteburg, Missouri, October, 17-20. At this State Association of free Will Baptists the business committee offered a resolution recommending that a free Will Baptist paper be published in Missouri, not for Free Will Baptists of Missouri only, hut for Free Will Baptists everywhere. After considerable discussion, motion carried to adopt the resolution. A committee of nine was appointed composed of the following: Elders B.F. Brown, C.E.Mann, J.F. Miller, H.M. McAdams, E.T. House, Winford Davis, H.C. Crase, and Sisters Anna Reed and Mary Snidow. The committee agreed and recommended that a monthly paper or magazine be published at \$1.00 per year, and that it be called "The Free Will Baptist Gem." The editorship was offered to Eld. B.F. Brown of Tecumseh, Oklahoma and he was asked to state on what terms and conditions he would take the work. Bro. Brown offered to accept the work on condition that he receive all the income from subscriptions, job printing and so on, the Missouri State Association to guarantee him an income of \$1200.00 per year if expenses should run that high, above that he would ask nothing. It was agreed that the paper shall be published at Tecumseh, Oklahoma until such a time as the plant shall be moved to some point in Missouri, Bro. Brown agreeing to move by July 1, 1929. When such move is made the State Association agrees to pay the cost of moving the machinery and furnish a room for housing the same. This is the substance of the committee report which, on motion, was adopted by the Association.

This first issue of the paper contains twenty-four pages. Subsequent issues will contain not less than sixteen pages and as many more as the support will justify, but judging from the attitude of its friends and the spirit of those who had a part in arranging for this publication, there will be friends who will write articles for publication, get subscriptions, and do whatever they can to make our paper worth while.

After reading the above editorial announcement through, will you join with us to help boost our circulation by getting from one to ten to take the paper?

~ B.F. Brown of Tecumseh. Oklahoma

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Ass't Clerk	Eld. E.T. House	Santa Rosa, Mo.

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To view the full first issue form January 1929 uses this QR Code →
or visit mofwb.com/gem-magazine/gem-vol-1-no-1



"WE ARE CLOSING THE CHURCH, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?"

This is a question that a Spirit-filled believer will never appreciate hearing. It is painful to the person asking as well as the listener. Nevertheless, those conversations happen. Lifeway Research reports that in 2019 about 4500 churches closed with about 3000 being started. There are several reasons.

- Large corporations and LLCs have purchased what was for generations, family farms around the rural community church. This leaves the community with the elderly who prefer to live life where they call "home." As they pass on, the congregation dwindles.

- Strife and division. Some congregations have the DNA of fussing, which results in eventual closure.

- Church bosses, power struggles, wrongly focused ministry, selfishness, inwardly focused, and a failure to reach the lost that God has placed around them. A fictitious example, in 1960 14th FWB Church in Gortlesville was located in a middle-upper-class neighborhood. In 1990 the houses in the area were approaching 50 years old and the owners were selling or renting them and moving to the new sub-divisions. The 20-30 minute drive to attend church was not a big deal. After their children married they did not want to live in the old neighborhood because the houses were older, the neighbors were different from them with some having questionable habits and life stories. 14th Church had become a commuter church and failed to reach the community around them. The assets of the church were considerable but eventually the few who remained were unable to maintain the property. When the money ran out, they began looking at options.

- Another fictitious example: Weforgothepointe Church bit off more debt than they could chew and a lack of finances is forcing them to close.

These are only a few of the multiple reasons why a church may eventually close its doors and cease to minister. What can be done?

1. Give The Property To A Healthy Free Will Baptist Ministry That Needs It

Yep, just give it away. Before selling off so many chunks that what remains isn't worth much, find a healthy, thriving congregation or other ministry and give it to them. Sign the deed over to another Free Will Baptist ministry. FWBs aren't the only group in God's kingdom but we are family. Let's bless our family members. Giving the property to the

Missouri Free Will Baptist State Association Mission Board or local Free Will Baptist Association are excellent options. We honor the vision of those who started the church with the desire that it be Free Will Baptist.

2. Sell The Property And Donate The Proceeds

In many situations, the church property is no longer in an ideal ministry location but is well-suited for other purposes. If so, the best course of action may be to sell the property for top dollar, and then donate the money to effective ministries that can carry on a portion of the church's mission and passion.

3. Invite Other Ministries To Share The Use (And The Bills) Of Your Property

When you find other churches or ministries that can use your property during your empty hours, they get a blessing, your church gets help paying the bills, and the property gets used for more ministry.

Plus, after working with them it can become a natural launch-point for giving the property away to a ministry that your church members already know and love. Numerous FWB churches share their facilities with other biblical Christian groups. This is good use and stewardship of our facilities. (South Fremont, Victory, Central)

4. Close Your Church And Give The Property To A Church Plant or Restart Ministry

The Cabool FWB Church closed several years ago and turned the property over to the Missouri FWB Mission Board. The MMB did a church restart with Pastor Randy Gaddis and his wife Shonnie. The new First Day FWB church is regularly enjoying over 200 in attendance and seeing new converts on a regular basis.

The Mosaic FWB Church in Rolla is a restart from the Rolla FWB Church that was closed. The building, finances, and all resources were donated to the MMB and the Mosaic restart is the result. Mosaic outgrew its first facility and is now averaging over 100 each Sunday with regular salvation and baptism decisions.

Yes, there will be a lot of churches closing their doors in the coming decades. But there will also be a lot of new churches starting up. Probably not enough to make up for the closures, but we can help increase their odds of survival by helping them with one of the hardest aspects of a church plant – financial resources and a place to meet.

~SB



Church Leadership... Bad or Good?

What Does Bad Leadership Look Like in Church

Before we dive into the steps it takes to create healthy and productive church leadership, you'll need to know what bad leadership looks like. Keep an eye out for these signs that your church isn't where it should be. If you see one or several of the problematic signs, it might be time to make a change. Church is a place where you give and receive love and care, grow in your faith and know God! But when abuse or neglect happens, it can be devastating.

Here Are Some Signs Of What Bad Church Leadership Looks Like:

1. There are too many expectations placed on members, making them feel like judging contests rather than performing.
2. There are never enough expectations placed on members and they are often taken advantage of as a result.
3. The decisions in your church are determined by the politics in your church, which is made up of conflicting individuals.
4. Gossip is one of the biggest signs of bad church leadership. It's a sign of distrust and underhanded leadership.
5. A church pastor calls all the shots, and this will ultimately destroy the congregation.
6. Conflict has become normal in your church culture.
7. Everyone's constantly blaming each other when problems arise.

The church is a place of safety and refuge. Being the stop for sinners seeking heaven can give people a sense of pride and purpose. But providing refuge to others constantly can be too much for some people. It's incredibly important to spot toxic traits in your leadership before it's too late.

Steps to Being a Good Church Leader

As a church leader, you have many roles and responsibilities. Apart from a person who guides other people, how do you know what church leadership competencies to seek? The following church leadership competencies will help you be better equipped with the knowledge necessary to lead well.

If you are a church leader, remember you cannot do everything yourself. Still, if you wish to be effective in ministry, it will require some attention to developing a few skills, having a few objectives that are right for you, and the right means of getting there. If you commit yourself to this task, you will find yourself moving toward leading more effectively.

Your church needs strong leadership. Without one, it would be a ship without a rudder, drifting wherever the currents take it.

Here are the must-have leadership competencies that you'll need:

1. Servant Leader
2. Models the Faith
3. Self-Development
4. Able to Teach
5. Equipping Others
6. Embodies the Spirit of Love

Although the focus above was on good traits of church leadership, authentic leaders are also accountable to their followers. Authentic faith-based leaders are also accountable to their communities. In order to serve and lead the church, a person must exude love. As lead pastor of a church, you are responsible for recognizing and filling leadership voids with the appropriate power and ability that can only be expressed through genuine acts of love embodied in the manner of 1 Corinthians 13.



This article is a partial reprint from "The Ultimate Church Leadership Guide."
To access the entire guide go to www.VancoPayments.com/egiving.

From Our Boards

Christian Education Board



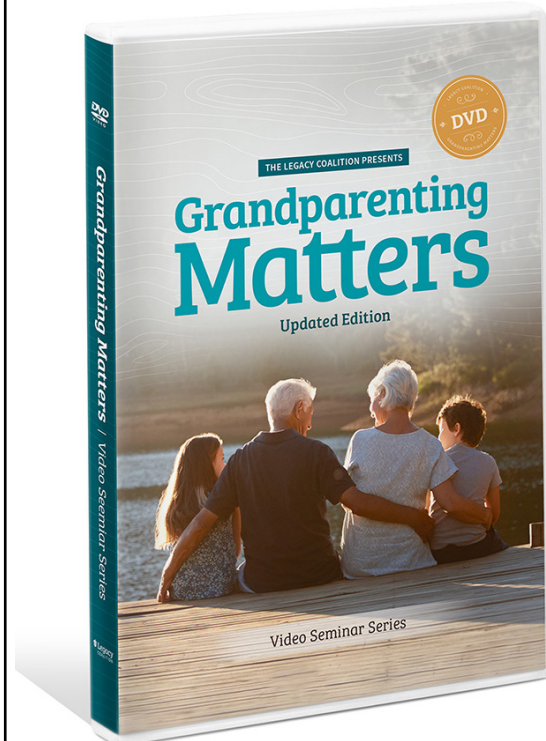
Who are you bringing along?

In my recent reading of the book of Acts, Paul's commitment to discipling leaders really stood out. There is a host of individuals who Paul identified, called, trained, mentored, and released to be the next leaders and disciple-makers. Of course, we think of Timothy, but he was just one. There's Silas, Lydia, Apollos, Aquila and Priscilla, Luke, and even the deserter John Mark who eventually came back around. In addition, Paul mentions many traveling companions. It seemed Paul had

a habit of mentoring those around him as he went on his missionary journeys. He had a vision for multiplying ministry. It's the question we all need to ask ourselves: who else can do what I'm doing? I believe the need for the next leaders is possibly the greatest challenge the church faces today. The Missouri Free Will Baptist Christian Education Board has a heart to help face that challenge in every way we can. The 2024 Minister's Retreat is going to directly address this concern. We are excited to have Tommy Swindol, lead pastor of The Donelson Fellowship in Nashville, TN, as our main speaker. The theme of his sessions will revolve around "How to Raise Up the Next Generation of Leaders." The four sessions will help us know how to effectively equip and empower the next generation to lead God's Church in a powerful, Spirit-filled way. We really hope you can join us March 4-6, 2023 at Cross Pointe Retreat Center in Rocky Mount, MO for these sessions. Registration cost is \$125 this year and is due January 31st. You can register online at mofwb.com or by contacting the State Office. But maybe the greatest thing we should all consider is who should we bring along? Who are the potential leaders around you that you need to begin inviting and mentoring? Let's follow Paul's example and identify and invest in those who can do what we are doing.

~ Mark Elliott, Board Chairman

Retiree Board



Grandparenting Matters

The State Retiree Board is always looking for tips and resources dealing with retiree ministry. An excellent tool to encourage and train Christian Grandparents is, GRANDPARENTING MATTERS by Legacy Coalition. This is a six session video series with Larry Fowler as the presenter.

Most grandparents have never thought about their Biblical role and responsibilities in this season of life. This video series will help the Christian Grandparent become more intentional on their role as a grandparent. The main goal of this series is to help grandparents pass on their faith by reaching the hearts of their grandchildren.



The churches that have used the material have seen wonderful results and highly recommend the series. The material is available to order at legacy.churchgrowth.org

~ Doug Earls, Board Member



March 4-5

Cross Pointe Retreat Center.
Rocky Mount, MO

Cost: \$125

How to Raise Up the Next Generation of Leaders



Speaker: Tommy Swindol

Tommy is the lead pastor at The Donelson Fellowship in Nashville. He is married to his wonderful wife, Jessica, and they have two beautiful daughters, Anna Claire and Emily. Tommy gets the opportunity to speak all over the country and is passionate about discipleship and sharing the truths of God's Word in a relevant and challenging way.

Register online at www.mofwb.com

Register **BEFORE** January 31
to avoid a \$10 late fee.



2024 Missouri Book Club Books



- *David Mathis, Workers for Your Joy*
- *Jonathan Leeman, How The Nations Rage*
- *Carl Trueman, Strange New World*
- *Eugene Peterson, A Long Obedience In the Same Direction*

For more information contact
Jackson Watts (jacksonwatts@hotmail.com) or
Faron Thebeau (faron.mosaicrolla@gmail.com)



2023 CTS EXPO



For questions contact: **Ryan Akers - 636-484-0277**
ryan@cfcfenton.org

Two ways to register:

- Go to mofwb.com under the calendar/events tab you will find a PDF document that you can download and print.
- Registration form located in the back of the Competition Guidelines booklet.

→ Remember, a registration form has to be completed for each entry a student participates in.

Mail your completed entry forms to: **Calvary Fellowship**
C/O Ryan Akers
1811 Smizer Station Rd.
Fenton, MO 63026

Forms must be postmarked by:
→ **March 1** ←



Hey, do you know when the next CTS Expo is?

Yes, it's April 6

Where is it at?

First FWB Church in Lebanon

Do you have an address for the church?

280 Van Buren Street

NOTE:
An up-to-date copy of the Competition Guidelines is available through Randall House Publications. You can call them directly at (800) 877-7030 or randallhouse.com



HOW Sweet IT IS TO BE Loved BY YOU

2024 Ministers' Wives' Retreat

APRIL 19 AND 20

Cross Pointe Retreat Center
COST \$75

SPEAKER: **Ruth McDonald**

Questions?
Becky Gwartney (beckygwartney@hotmail.com)
Brenda Bunch (brndbnch@yahoo.com)
Linda Reeves (lbreeves@hotmail.com)

Keep up to date using our

FACEBOOK






Missouri Free Will Baptist 2024 State Calendar



January 19-20	Marriage Retreat - Chateau on the Lake Branson, MO
January 28	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

MISSOURI WILL BE HOSTING THE NAFWB CONVENTION



IN 2025 IN KANSAS CITY!

In order to help cover the expense of the event, the MOFWB Executive Committee is asking each church give a love offering of \$400.00. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact the State Office at 417-532-6537 or stan@mofwb.org

OUR GOAL IS \$50,000

As of December 1st we have received \$11,838.00



Ministry Gems

News Tidbits from Around the State



This issue, you are holding right now, marks the 95th Anniversary of the GEM Magazine.

- The first issue was published January, 1929.
- The cost of a subscription - 1.00.
- The magazine was published in Tecumseh, OK
- The editor was Eld. B. F. Brown
- The State Moderator was Elder. T. C. Ferguson, Ash Grove, MO



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.

Randall House Name Change - Randall House recently changed its name to D6 Family Ministry to reflect their broader mission.

D6 Family Ministry equips teachers and parents with the everyday building blocks founded in Scripture, which will determine the stability of one's faith and life trajectory. D6 provides the generational discipleship resources you need for life.



Listen to ONE on the Go - Beginning in the October-November issue, ONE Magazine added a listening feature to its articles for those who prefer an audio option.

Go to onemagazine.com, click on the current issue, then click the article you want to hear. Under the article's title, you'll find an audio bar. Click the play button to listen to the article.

ONE Magazine is a bi-monthly magazine published by the eight national departments of the NAFWB.

Dear Reader: PLEASE STOP READING, and call your pastor and encourage him to register today for the MOFWB Minister's Retreat. Mofwb.com

Do you need follow-up, discipleship, or training resources? The MOFWB and NAFWB websites offer a great deal of help for churches. Mofwb.com/resources and Ministry Resources – National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc (nafwb.org)

Randall House & D6 Ministries offer teacher training for Sunday School Teachers and workers. Contact them at 800-877-7030

What does the average unbeliever expect at your church?

- That it will be boring.
- That people will be unfriendly to them, especially if they are different.
- That you will ask them for money.
- To be unsure about what you do with the children.

Fixes:

- Prepare early for the music, announcements, who does what, the sermon, and everything.
- Do not make exception of persons. Greet and love everyone equally.
- Make the offering an act of worship and expression of gratitude to God.
- Have very clear communication with parents about the children's ministry. A written pamphlet would be great.

THANK YOU IDEA! The next time you go to the store, buy 2-3 boxes of small generic thank you cards then send a few to people who bless you each week.

Wolf Creek Church put out the spread recently. Pastor Bruce Moore and the congregation provided a delicious steak dinner for over 150 men who are participating in recovery ministry. John Stroup of Freeway Ministries was the speaker. The men live in group houses in the Niangua/Mountain Grove/Mansfield area while they are going through recovery and discipleship. Through these ministries God is saving souls, restoring families, and being glorified. Pastor Moore stated that the greatest impact of the night was on the members of the church who ministered to the men and rejoiced in witnessing wrecked lives transformed through the power of God.

Mission Association recently invited pastors Doug Earls and Wayne Phillips to speak at their quarterly meeting on the topic of "Engaging Retirees in Ministry." The meeting was very helpful and challenging.



Welch College and Welch Divinity School are seeking to assist our pastors with quality, affordable programs in ministry, theology, and biblical studies. We currently offer three programs that local pastors may find beneficial.

First, Welch Divinity School is pleased to offer a fully accredited, residential MDiv degree. The Master of Divinity program is designed for students looking to prepare for a lifetime of service in pastoral ministry, chaplaincy, or academia. The MDiv is an 85-hour program designed to be completed residually, with some online components. Qualifying undergraduate students may be admitted to the accelerated BA-to-MDiv program. The accelerated BA-to-MDiv allows students to complete both their undergraduate and graduate studies in a timeline of only 5-6 years. It is our prayer that this MDiv program is used to train serious leaders in theology, biblical languages, and ministry to be used by God to further His kingdom. Please pray with us that God would send students to further build this MDiv program. Those interested in the MDiv program may go to welch.edu/divinity for more information.

Second, the Welch M.A. in Theology and Ministry is becoming a popular program with pastors and ministry leaders who want quality, online education to aid

them in their local church ministry or study of Scripture. The Welch MATM degree is an advanced degree that focuses on developing skills and knowledge in the area of Christian ministry. There are two tracks specially designed to meet student needs: the traditional track has a thesis component for those who wish to pursue further studies, and the ministry track includes a course from the Welch MDiv degree curriculum in place of the summative research experience. This program is perfect for a full-time pastor who is interested in deepening their knowledge of Scripture and improving their education in ministry and theology. Terms are every eight weeks, and classes are offered in a hybrid format incorporating Zoom class meetings and individual reading and writing assignments. All classes in the MATM program meet virtually once a week. Those interested in the MATM program may go to welch.edu/matm for more information.

Our new Certificate of Biblical and Ministry Studies is geared toward those who might not have a college education or have a degree in a completely secular field. The certificate is a fifteen-hour program designed to give students deeper knowledge in biblical studies and church leadership. Terms are every six weeks. This program is an incredible, extremely affordable opportunity for bi-vocational pastors, Sunday School teachers, or anyone who would benefit from a Bible College study through Scripture and discipleship without the time to physically attend college. Students will take Bible surveys and discipleship courses. Anyone interested may go to welch.edu certificate to learn more. We ask that local churches continue to pray for our Welch students. Pray that God would give them clarity and focus as they study; that God would use our graduates to further His kingdom; and that God would send more students to our ministerial and MDiv programs. There is a great need for pastors and church leaders in our day and age, and Welch Divinity School wants to help fill that need. For any questions about the Divinity School or any of these programs, feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Jacob Johnson
Divinity School Recruiter
jacob.johnson@welch.edu
662-825-2219



Welch College Offering

The last Sunday in February will be the Welch fund offering.
All gifts and contributions go directly to reducing tuition costs for students.

January - February, 2024 / GEM Magazine / Page 17

Financial Report

Please note: The amounts listed are for two months,
October - November, 2023

COOP Disbursements

October-November, 2023

19%	MO Missions.....	\$30,009.03
21.5%	Gen/Exec.....	\$33,957.59
8.5%	Youth Camp.....	\$13,425.09
2%	Youth Ministry.....	\$3,158.85
2%	Christian Education .	\$3,158.85
2%	Retiree Ministry	\$3,158.85
9%	State Retirement ...	\$14,214.81
3%	Show-Me	\$4,738.27
33%	Nat'l Ministries.....	\$46,278.19
	Randall U (.1121).....	\$5,842.76
	Total Disbursed.....	\$157,942.28

RECEIPTS

COOP

Alton	\$200.00
Amity.....	\$221.50
Aulsbury Chapel	\$1,879.40
Bailey	\$792.00
Bailey Chapel	\$133.10
Belton	\$1,039.22
Black Oak	\$1,410.70
Byrd	\$697.20
Calvary Chapel.....	\$9,423.40
Calvary Fellowship	\$8,235.68
Clifton Sunday School	\$27.70
Copper Mines	\$1,798.84
Cornerstone	\$488.00
Cuba	\$1,302.00
De Soto 1st.....	\$3,544.00
Faith Chapel	\$1,841.20
Faith- Fair Grove	\$562.60
Farmington 1st.....	\$7,568.99
Fellowship.....	\$3,915.00
First Day	\$2,199.59
Fredericktown 1st	\$1,450.00
Freeman Chapel.....	\$484.00
Generations	\$1,077.27
Good News.....	\$871.50
Gospel Light	\$800.00
Grace	\$4,320.16
Grace Fellowship.....	\$2,175.00
Grant Avenue.....	\$724.16
Hannon	\$2,445.00
Hartville.....	\$3,445.00
Hazel Creek.....	\$3,172.37
Hopewell.....	\$1,713.00
Houston 1st	\$1,700.00
Hurryville.....	\$751.00
Koshkonong.....	\$1,130.31
Leadington	\$2,178.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$5,995.26
Lebanon Green Hills.....	\$811.50
Liberty - Gatewood	\$91.00
Marshfield	\$587.00
Mill Creek.....	\$347.60
Mine La Motte	\$68.43
Monett 1st.....	\$759.20
Mosaic	\$2,452.71
Mountain Grove 1st	\$2,659.37
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$955.00
Neosho 1st	\$1,966.00
Nevada	\$2,189.43
New Hope.....	\$565.00
New Life- Licking	\$1,243.76
Number One	\$25.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$4,511.68
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove ...	\$595.58
Oak Hill	\$1,148.00
One Accord.....	\$1,336.90

Ozark 1st	\$9,454.87
Ozark 1st - Heritage	\$828.03
Park Hills 1st	\$1,575.04
Parkview	\$520.00
Pleasant Home	\$376.80
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$332.00
Purdy 1st	\$2,000.00
Rejoice	\$2,747.00
Republic.....	\$552.30
Resolve.....	\$200.00
Richwoods 1st	\$870.00
Rock Chapel	\$1,141.10
Safe Harbor	\$150.00
Seymour	\$1,653.00
Smyrna	\$241.00
Springfield 1st.....	\$1,881.00
Stockton.....	\$462.72
Stonebridge	\$967.21
Thayer	\$3,942.00
Trinity	\$1,507.79
Twin Oak.....	\$2,802.56
Union	\$60.00
Union Light	\$385.60
United	\$4,860.60
Unity	\$1,030.00
Verdella.....	\$1,506.83
Victory- Alton	\$2,377.37
Victory- KC	\$1,696.38
Waynesville 1st.....	\$1,211.20
West Plains 1st.....	\$1,453.00
Wilderness.....	\$1,148.97
Willow Springs	\$1,685.60
Wolf Creek.....	\$2,297.00
Total	\$157,942.28

Show-Me Plan

Alan Kinder.....	\$100.00
Aulsbury Chapel	\$60.00
Belton	\$350.00
Black Oak	\$360.00
Brent Emmerson.....	\$100.00
Bruce Moore	\$200.00
Byrd	\$50.00
Calvary Chapel.....	\$90.00
Cleo Reeder	\$60.00
Coon Creek	\$200.00
Copper Mines	\$300.00
Cuba	\$186.80
De Soto 1st.....	\$1,640.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$1,370.00
Farmington 1st- WAC	\$100.00
Fellowship.....	\$630.00
First Day	\$1,099.79
Frank Webster	\$120.00
Fredericktown 1st	\$400.00
Freeman Chapel.....	\$720.00
Gary Tune	\$48.32
Generations	\$306.79
Gospel Light	\$1,800.00
Grace	\$1,008.00
Grant Avenue.....	\$25.00
Hannon	\$1,050.00
Hartville.....	\$350.00
Hopewell WAC	\$25.00
Jason Sander	\$47.58
Jerry Rader.....	\$20.00
Josh Provow	\$100.00
Leadington	\$400.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$643.84
Lebanon 1st WNAC.....	\$400.00
Lebanon Green Hills.....	\$243.45
Liberty Association.....	\$5,103.46
Macedonia - Purdy	\$3,000.00
Melvin Haas	\$60.00
Mill Creek.....	\$70.00
Mine La Motte	\$300.00

MOFWB COOP	\$4,738.26
Mosaic	\$50.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$555.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$160.00
Mt. Zion- "Cuba"	\$160.00
Myrtle	\$200.00
Neosho 1st	\$500.00
New Hope	\$400.00
New Life- Licking	\$272.00
Number One	\$60.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$3,543.74
Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove ...	\$230.00
Oak Hill	\$84.00
Ozarks Association	\$1,000.00
Ozark 1st	\$650.00
Ozark 1st - Heritage	\$350.00
Park Hills 1st	\$311.50
Pleasant Grove- Anderson	\$300.00
Pleasant Home	\$400.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$140.00
Porter Chapel	\$6,377.80
Purdy 1st	\$900.00
Rejoice.....	\$85.00
Republic.....	\$65.00
Resolve.....	\$200.00
RHP Commission	\$67.90
Richwoods 1st	\$412.98
Rock Chapel	\$400.00
Rodney Bunton	\$1,000.00
Southeast Association	\$120.00
Springfield 1st.....	\$800.00
Stockton.....	\$536.10
Stockton Auxiliary	\$90.00
Thayer	\$1,350.00
Trinity	\$165.00
Trisa Johnson	\$47.58
Twin Oak Auxiliary	\$110.00
Union	\$45.00
Union Light	\$650.00
United	\$950.00
Unity	\$490.00
Verdella.....	\$1,506.83
Victory- KC	\$489.28
Virginia Bunton	\$600.00
Walnut Grove	\$325.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$879.22
West Plains 1st WNAC	\$50.00
Willow Springs.....	\$395.15
Wolf Creek	\$400.00
Total	\$50,952.11

Missouri Missions

RHP COMMISSION	\$430.00
Alden Redfield	\$100.00
Calvary Fellowship	\$1,200.00
Cuba	\$70.05
De Soto 1st.....	\$170.00
Farmington 1st	\$5.00
Judith Lemons	\$47.58
Lebanon 1st.....	\$18.83
Loretta Minney.....	\$50.00
Mosaic	\$3,250.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$2,500.00
Oliver Adamson	\$120.00
Ozark 1st	\$20.00
Ozark 1st - Heritage	\$200.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$50.00
Republic	\$25.00
Ryan Akers	\$100.00
Scott Keith	\$100.00
Thayer	\$55.00
Waynesville 1st	\$299.00
William Moore.....	\$50.00
Total	\$8,860.46

North American Missions

Bailey	\$100.00
Belton	\$298.93
Carrie Myers	\$50.00
Cuba	\$70.05
De Soto 1st.....	\$605.00
Grace	\$40.00
Hartville.....	\$125.00
Hopewell WAC	\$50.00
Houston 1st	\$100.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$100.00
Lebanon 1st Women	\$700.00
Loretta Minney	\$50.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$65.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$100.00
Neosho 1st	\$20.00
New Hope	\$100.00
New Testament.....	\$40.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$80.00
Ozark 1st	\$400.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$100.00
Rock Chapel	\$395.00
Southeast Association	\$90.00
Stockton	\$70.00
Trinity	\$140.00
Twin Oak Auxiliary	\$60.00
Union Light	\$170.00
Waynesville 1st.....	\$220.00
West Plains 1st.....	\$90.00
Total	\$5,178.98

International Missions

Black Oak	\$200.00
Bruce Moore	\$160.00
Central Western ASSOC ..	\$910.00
Copper Mines	\$1,050.00
Cuba	\$140.10
De Soto 1st.....	\$760.00
Donna Rash	\$100.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$255.00
Fellowship.....	\$690.00
Fredericktown 1st	\$540.00
Freida Hays	\$50.00
Generations	\$226.79
Gospel Light	\$1,230.00
Grace	\$1,412.50
Hannon	\$3,365.00
Hartville.....	\$490.00
Houston 1st	\$878.97
Jones Chapel.....	\$1,256.32
Jones Chapel WNAC.....	\$150.00
Leadington	\$300.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$475.00
Lebanon 1st Women	\$100.00
MO FWB Mission Board ..	\$750.00
Mill Creek.....	\$150.00
Mill Creek- Young Adult ..	\$25.00
MO FWB Mission Board ..	\$750.00
Mosaic	\$280.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$2,545.00
New Hope.....	\$200.00
O'Fallon 1st	\$1,145.00
Oak Hill	\$168.00
Ozarks Assoc.....	\$2,140.75
Ozark 1st	\$2,524.75
Ozark 1st - Heritage	\$50.00
Park Hills 1st.....	\$350.00
Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$100.00
Rejoice	\$1,690.00
Second Free Will	\$200.00
Southeast Association	\$90.00
Stockton.....	\$110.00
Stonebridge	\$300.00
Thayer	\$70.00
Trinity	\$40.00
Twin Oak Auxiliary	\$80.00



On December 7th, Aaron Loomis and Karl Williams from Brotherhood Mutual Insurance presented a "Faith Ministry Reward" of \$5,000 to the MOFWB. We appreciate Brotherhood Mutual caring for our churches and contributing to the ministries of our state in this way. Brotherhood provides resources and helps for churches, schools, mission groups, and others.



<https://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/resources/>

Union Light	\$150.00
Verdella.....	\$1,451.37
Victory- KC	\$204.82
Waynesville 1st.....	\$440.00
Total	\$29,994.37

ACM

Bailey.....	\$120.00
Total	\$120.00

Berea Ministries

Bailey.....	\$70.00
Total	\$70.00

Ch-TN

Bailey.....	\$200.00
Belton	\$20.00
Bruce Moore.....	\$40.00
De Soto 1st.....	\$160.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$50.00
Grace	\$1,063.00
Hartville.....	\$100.00
Mill Creek.....	\$25.00
Myrtle.....	\$240.00
Purdy 1st	\$576.00
Union Light	\$246.27
Unity	\$300.00
Total	\$3,020.27

Young Children's Home

Thayer	\$211.00
Total	\$211.00

MO CE

RHP Commission	\$45.26
Total	\$45.26

MO Retiree Ministry

RHP Commission	\$295.26
Total	\$295.26

MO Youth Ministry

RHP Commission	\$45.26
Total	\$45.26

Rainbow Ministries

Stockton.....	\$30.00
Total	\$30.00

Randall U

Fellowship.....	\$60.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$330.00
Thayer	\$200.00
Total	\$590.00

Welch College

De Soto 1st.....	\$120.00
Farmington 1st.....	\$200.00
Mountain Grove 1st	\$330.00

Available Churches

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

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

Jason Williams

Ozark, MO
417-260-7078

Please note these changes in missions:

• Steve & Amanda Schmidt are now missionaries in Casa Grande, Arizona.

• Ken & Rejane Eagleton returning to American soil for their new "home base." Kenneth will continue serving with IM as the Director of Field Partnerships.

• Gifts given to Getsemani Children's Home now show up under Rainbow Ministry.

• Rob & Lisa Gerst and the Restore Church in Potosi have gone self-supportive as of January 1.

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 info visit mofwb.com/links-printable-forms



Missouri State Association
of Free Will Baptists
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Lebanon, MO 65536

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NEW RELEASE
FROM **D6**

Together,
let's sow
the seeds of
unwavering faith
in the hearts
of our children,
ensuring a strong
foundation for
generations
to come.



THE FAITH OF OUR CHILDREN

Eight Timely Research Insights
For Discipling The Next Generation

MATT MARKINS

We are excited to introduce to you a remarkable new book that will undoubtedly transform your approach to children's ministry—"The Faith of Our Children: Eight Timely Research Insights for Discipling the Next Generation" by Matt Markins.

As a children's ministry leader, you know the profound impact early faith formation can have on young lives. In *The Faith of Our Children*, Matt Markins, president, and CEO of Awana, a global leader in child discipleship, delves into the primary areas that lay the foundation for a lasting faith.

This book serves as an indispensable guide, equipping you and your team with the insight and systems needed to cultivate faith that endures.



randall house

store.randallhouse.com