



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

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Editor - Stanley Bunch
Layout & Design - Carrie Myers



from the Editor, Stan Bunch

Bless Others and Hold Your Breath

Read these Bible verses carefully.

"Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." - Ecclesiastes 11:1

"I have shown you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" - Acts 20:35

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2

"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again." - Proverbs 19:17

"For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." - Matthew 25:35-36

"But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." - Hebrews 13:16

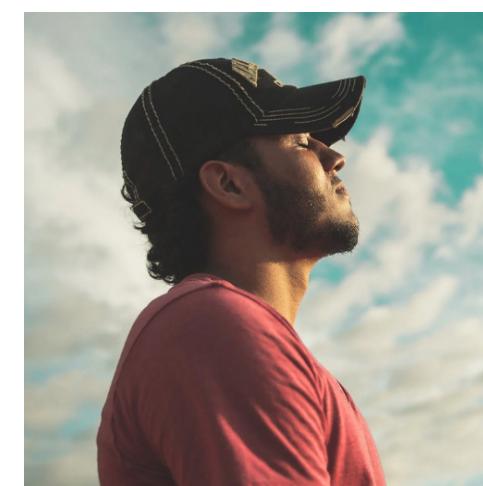
These passages and many more deal in various contexts with the principle of generosity. When we think of generosity, our minds often gravitate towards money or material things. This might include sharing a few dollars with a person in need, giving to a cause, or passing on items we no longer need.

However, generosity involves principles much deeper than material possessions. Let's delve into the New Testament book of Acts, Chapter 11. The church in Jerusalem faced persecution yet boldly proclaimed the gospel (vs. 19). Those who were scattered weren't native Hebrew speakers and were relatively new to the Christian faith (vs. 21). Despite this, they were highly motivated to share the gospel, resulting

in many new believers in Antioch. God blessed their evangelism (vs. 20-21).

The Jerusalem church, the mother church, learned about the transformative work happening in Antioch. How should they respond, especially amidst persecution? Often, when we feel under fire, the challenge to be generous isn't always welcomed. The Jerusalem congregation desired to learn more about Antioch's happenings, so they sent a brother to minister and report back. They chose Barnabas.

Notice, they sent one of their best leaders to minister to others (Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-27; 11:24). The Jerusalem congregation was so generous that they sent one of their most godly, committed, and spiritual leaders as their emissary. They sent their best, knowing they might never receive him back or that God might direct him elsewhere. This generosity flows from a transformed heart passionate about Gospel transformation.



Over a year, Barnabas and Saul (Paul) taught and discipled the Antioch believers. The Jerusalem believers rejoiced in God's work in Antioch. Meanwhile, a famine loomed over Judea, and Jerusalem faced increased persecution (Acts 11:27-12:4).

A prophet from Jerusalem warned of

the impending famine, and something marvelous happened. "Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul" (Acts 11:29-30). The Jerusalem Christians generously shared their best messenger with the Antiochians. In turn, the Antiochians sent a generous financial love offering to those who initially set the example of generosity.

God returned the bread to the Judean believers. They experienced the principle that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

The hymn "Give of Your Best to The Master" is a fitting challenge:

Verse 1 - Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth; Throw your soul's fresh, glowing ardor, Into the battle for truth. Jesus has set the example, Dauntless was He, young and brave; Give Him your loyal devotion; Give Him the best that you have.

Refrain: Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth; Clad in salvation's full armor, Join in the battle for truth.

Verse 2 - Give of your best to the Master; Give Him first place in your heart; Give Him first place in your service; Consecrate every part. Give, and to you will be given; God His beloved Son gave; Gratefully seeking to serve Him, Give Him the best that you have.

Verse 3 - Give of your best to the Master; Naught else is worthy His love; He gave Himself for your ransom, Gave up His glory above. Laid down His life without murmur, You from sin's ruin to save; Give Him your heart's adoration, Give Him the best that you have.

(Hymn written by Howard B. Grose)





from the Missions Director, Steve Reeves



A Note From Steve:

The Missouri Mission Board is happy to announce that we are launching a new Hispanic ministry in Grandview, Missouri. Central FWB Church closed in February, leaving their building and assets to MOFWB Missions. Because of the high percentage of Spanish-speaking people living in the area, especially near the facility, we believe God is leading us to pursue this ministry at this time. Victor and Valerie Sanchez will be the new Church Planters. They have moved to Grandview and are already beginning to work in their new service field. I asked Victor to write the following article to allow him to introduce himself and his family to MOFWB.

DON'T LOSE FOCUS

I was 24 years old and had been attending services on Sundays at 10:00 am at the Cedars of Lebanon Free Will Baptist Church in Pinar del Río, Cuba when I received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

Called To Pastoral Ministry

I had been working as a Fine Arts teacher at a primary school for six years. In 2014, my Lord called me to leave my job and begin studies in Bible and Theology at Cedars of Lebanon Theological Seminary.

Praying Was How I Met My Valerie

One of my constant prayers was to be able to get married, start a family, and serve my Lord. In 2016, while serving at a Christian youth camp, I met Valerie, who was from Michigan, USA.

A Change to Face

In 2018, I finished my Bachelor studies at the Seminary and began my trip to the U.S. with a Fiancé Visa to marry Valerie. I had to face a new language, culture, and context. I thought the call to ministry was over for me. My wife and I stayed focused on God through prayer and His Word. "The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever; Do not forsake the work of your hands." Psalms 138:8

God Glorified in The Change

In the process, we were praying and looking for a local church to attend. I met other brothers in Christ who helped me and with whom I had the opportunity to learn. In 2019, we took our first missionary trip to Cuba with a group of seven. At that time, God gave us the gift of having our firstborn son, Benaiah. From 2020-2022, God opened the door to continue my studies in Theology and Bible. In 2021, I was ordained as a pastor through our beloved Chapel (FWB) Church and began serving as the Associate Pastor. I remember praying, "Lord, open a door where



I can use Spanish to serve You in full-time ministry..." In 2022, by the grace of God, we had our second son, Silas. In 2023, we took our second missionary trip to Cuba with a group of twelve. In that year, I was also able to begin my Master's studies in Pastoral Ministry.

God Answers Our Prayer

In January 2024, God called us to plant a Hispanic church in Grandview, MO. After praying, we chose the name Iglesia Esperanza, or Hope Church. The vision is to work on three pillars: giving glory to God, evangelizing, and discipling.

If you ask me what has helped us face all the changes and challenges, I would tell you that the most important thing has been keeping ourselves focused on Jesus Christ in prayer and his promises. My family and I are very excited to see what God will do in this new ministry. My desire and prayer is that we can minister to and guide many to Christ, and they will be saved.

~ Victor Sanchez



MMB SHOWME plan Updates

- STATE -

Grace Fellowship (Cape Girardeau): Grace Fellowship enjoyed a great day on Easter and had good attendance. They served breakfast before church and had an Easter egg hunt after worship.

Mosaic (Rolla): Even though attendance was down for Easter (it fell during spring break, and many of their students were away), they still had 90 people attend. They are reaching more families who live in Rolla full-time.

Bradley Mercer (University of Missouri): Bradley and Rejoice Church welcomed five international students to the Easter service. These five heard the Gospel for the first time. Bradley and his fiancé, Madison, were married on April 5.

Matt and Justine Fleming (Freedom Point, Florissant):

The new church's first service was on Easter. There were 131 in attendance, and eight people prayed to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. Three days later, Justine and Matt welcomed their new son, Liam Michael, to the Fleming family.

- INTERNATIONAL -

Bailey (Japan): The KCC Church had a wonderful Easter Service. Ken and Judy will be coming to the States this summer. They will visit our churches and raise funds for a new building for their church in Tokyo.

Speer (Japan): Speer (Japan): Daniel, Kate, and their children are settling nicely in their new home in Saporro. The Hope Alive Church is doing well.

Turnbough (Spain): Matthew and Brooke and the Villalba Church had a joint Easter service with the FWB Church in Alpedrete.

Duncan (Ecuador): Duncan (Ecuador): Adam, Carol, and family will be coming to the States this summer for stateside ministry. They will arrive in St. Louis on May 25. Caleb and Moriah will be participating in ETeam during June.

Provow (Bulgaria): Provow (Bulgaria): Josh and family will be in the states this summer to visit churches and to raise funds for their new building in Shumen.

- NORTH AMERICAN -

Webster/Mitchener (Florida): Connect Church baptized seven people during their Sunrise service on Easter. The church continues to grow and reach out to their community.

Garrett (Illinois): The Bridge Church had a very busy Easter season with several outreach events.

Schmidt (Arizona): Steve and Amanda have been busy meeting and getting to know people in their new city. Pray for them as they try to launch two or three Bible Study groups this year.

- CHAPLAINS -

Captain Michael Beatty: On March 24 Captain Beatty baptised 38 soldiers. Captain Mike is being restationed to Ft. Riley, Kansas, this summer. Pray for him and his family during this transition.

Medical Chaplain Cody Alley: Cody continues to lead a fruitful ministry with the patients and staff at Mercy Hospital in Lebanon, MO. He has also been instrumental in working with some of our FWB Churches who are without a pastor.

Together We Reach Out Further
momissions.com/give



Fellowship



Fellowship Church was blessed to have two Baptism Sundays in February and one in March!

On February 11 Maycee Wampler, Audrey Huebner, & Harper Kell were baptised. Then on February 18th pastor Curt Gwartney baptised Anabelle Oakley, Ella McCullough, Maddox Bleckler, & Bohdi McMillian

On March 17 the church in Park Hills celebrated the baptisms of Kendall Edgar and Piper Hulsey.



Sunday, February 25, 2024 was a very special day for Faith Chapel Church in West Plains. Twenty-nine children were dedicated to the Lord!

The following children were dedicated: Lakelynn Epley, Kinley Smith, Kaci Smith, Remie Smith, Kennedy Smith, Anniston Carroll, Alivia Carroll, Sutton Carroll, Stone Carthan, Corbyn Harris, Daxtyn Harris, Holdyn Harris, John Luke Leist, Thomas Marcum, Mylea Hayes, Jetson Hayes, Judson Hayes, Alice Bruyr, Emily Bruyr, Ada Roberts, Blakely Roberts, Lincoln Fox, Rhyett Harrill, Watson Harrill, Ethan Danford, Alexander Danford, MaKadah Lockett, and Evalyn Blaylock. ~ Jason Roberts, pastor

Farmington

Devin Hughes and his wife Breckyn were baptised by Pastor Roger Hogan on Sunday, March 3rd.



Mt Zion Cuba

Mt. Zion Cuba held a river baptism on March 10. Pastor Daniel Allen baptised Alissa Messer and Jarren Simmons with the help of Mike Allen & Jason Parker at Brush Creek.



Ozark Family Church

Pastor Gary Mitchener had the privilege of baptising Hayleigh Thomas on April 7. What a great way to celebrate Easter Sunday!

Leadington

On Sunday evening, February 25, the Leadington FWB Church held an ordination service for new deacon, Steve Anderson. Bro. Steve and his wife, Donette, have been faithful and active members of the church for about twenty years. They undertook the shut-in's ministry several years ago and were faithful to not only visit, but also did needed repairs, ran errands, and generally adopted, and spoiled them with love. Pastor Bob Thebeau is excited to work with Bro. Steve and already relies on him as his newest deacon.

Bro. Devin Lee, moderator of the St. Francois District Association, was present for the ordination service and prayed over the Andersons in their new position.





Make plans to join us at the
**Missouri State Association
of Free Will Baptist**
111th State Convention
June 3-5, 2024

at the Oasis Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield, MO

*Loving God
Loving People*

Missions Celebration
June 4th at 10:30 am

*Everyone is encouraged
to attend*
Hosted by:
MOFWB Women's Ministry

Includes breakout sessions on Tuesday!

Sponsored by the Christian Education Board

- ♥ 9:00 am - Faith & Politics - Missouri Book Club
- ♥ 2:00-4:00 pm. - Training New Leaders - Doug Earls

**Register NOW-May 25 at mofwb.com
or QR CODE →**

Room Cost: \$98.00 + tax
All individuals are responsible for making their own
hotel reservations. Call the Oasis at 417-866-5253



2024 Nominating Committee Recommendations

CE Board

Replacing Roger Hogan Nomination: Roger Hogan Term expiring 2029

Mission Board

Replacing Russ Neill Nomination: Russ Neill Term expiring 2027

Replacing Barry Reel Nomination: Rick Chapman Term expiring 2027

Replacing Richard Robinson Nomination: Randy Sprenkle Term expiring 2027

Retiree Ministry Board

Replacing Doug Earls Nomination: Doug Earls Term expiring 2029

Youth Camp

Replacing Jacob Jones Nomination: Jacob Jones Term expiring 2029

Youth Ministry

Replacing Layton Smith Nomination: Layton Smith Term expiring 2029

Historical Preservation Committee

Replacing Darrell Strain Nomination: Darrell Strain Term expiring 2027

Randall University Trustee

Replacing Ray Paxton Nomination: Ray Paxton Term expiring 2027

Executive Committee

Nominations: Moderator - Jackson Watts
Clerk - Justin Lawson Assistant Moderator - Rick Dement
Assistant Clerk - Faron Thebeau

In the interest of promoting a healthy and effective state ministry, we the 2024 Nominating Committee submit this year's nominees for boards and state offices. In consideration of prior suggestions from the Missouri General Board, we have confirmed (1) that nominees are supporters of Missouri COOP, (2) that they have demonstrated both a heart and ability for the position for which they are nominated, and (3) that all nominees have been contacted and expressed a willingness to serve.

Prayerfully Submitted,
Ken Simpson, chairman
Keith Garrison,
Melvin Moon,
Josh Chapman,
Lee Ann Wilfong

Speakers:

Monday Evening
Cody Alley

Tuesday Evening
John Holesapple Sr.

Wednesday Evening
David Beltz

Music:
Calvarymen Quartet
& Faith Chapel Quartet


Missions
Celebration

With a Missions Update by
MO Missions Director Steve Reeves



The service will
be led by
Richard Robinson

The celebration is hosted by MO FWB Women's Ministry



**June
5th
10:30
a.m.**

Our special
speaker will be
Faron Thebeau



In Loving Memory



Peggy Bryant



Peggy J. Bryant, 64, of Bourbon, MO, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, March 24, 2024 surrounded by her loving family at Mercy Hospital in Saint Louis.

Peggy Jean Bryant was born on December 8, 1959, in Rolla, MO, to James and Jean (Methena) Smith. She grew up in Sullivan, where she attended school.

In June of 1980 that Peggy met the love of her life, Leroy Bryant. They were united in marriage at Faith Assembly on October 18, 1980, and together they were blessed with three children. The family made their home in Bourbon.

Peggy's love for music was a cornerstone of her life. In 1986, she and Leroy accepted Christ as their personal Savior, which transformed their love of music into a ministry. They shared the gospel through spiri-

tual songs in many churches. Peggy and Leroy's devotion to their ministry was unwavering, serving in various roles such as children's ministry directors and Sunday school teachers, and eventually pastoring the Oak Hill Free Will Baptist Church of Union since 2001. Peggy's faith was her guiding light, never faltering, even in the face of life's many challenges.

Peggy is survived by her husband, Leroy Bryant; three children: Billy (Cassie) Bryant of Sullivan, MO, Kristina Britton and boyfriend Joseph Suttmueller of Union, MO and Amanda (SSG Shannon Michael) Webb of Fort Hood, TX; bonus daughter, Shaquita (Stefan) Cooke of Saint Louis, MO; eleven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two sisters, Kellie (Alna) Pounds of Sullivan, MO and Tammy (Mark) Shipman of Saint James, MO; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Services were held at Oak Hill FWB Church, under the directions of Eaton Funeral Home. Duke West and Jay Tilson officiated the service.

From Our Boards

Christian Education Board

State Meeting 2024

I've been a pastor for over 42 years and have attended every State Meeting even before becoming a pastor. The reasons I love attending: They have always been a blessing to me. I look forward to seeing my fellow preachers, their families, and the leaders from our National Offices. Many of those men and women, who have wonderfully served our state and denomination have passed on to Glory Land, but I still cherish their memories. They inspired me, encouraged me, helped and have loved me. I can say the same about our current pastors, preachers and leaders. Missouri Free Will Baptist are a great people, we have awesome leadership, wonderful fellowship, a great spirit, and a desire to work together for the Kingdom of God!

If there's anything that now concerns me is the lack of attendance. Through the years there has been

large gatherings of God's people at the State Meeting, but that's changed. Preachers, Pastors, lay leaders and church congregations, let's change that this year. I know we're all busy, but let's take some time to come together like those days in the past. Put this year's State Meeting June 3-5 on your calendar. You'll be blessed, enriched, uplifted and stirred spiritually! We all need that is these days! There's going to great preaching, singing, business and fellowship. Looking forward to seeing you there!

~ Roger Hogan



REGISTER

evangelism mofwb conference

August 16&17 at Camp Niangua

Speakers include:

- David Crowe - Free Will Baptist North American Ministries
- David Archer - Retired pastor and revitalization pastor. West Tulsa FWB
- Casey Pontious - Pastor's wife, mother, and devoted Jesus follower.
- Children's Ministry Speaker - TBD

EVERYONE is invited to attend this **FREE** conference!

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

REGISTER ONLINE AT MOFWB.COM
beginning June 1st



Women's Ministry Retreat Matter of the Heart

Ezekiel 36:25-27

Sept.
20-21 @ Westgate Branson
Woods Resort



Speaker: Laurie Bennett



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

COST: \$60
registration
fee + room



The CTS Bible and Ministry Expo in 2024 was a great weekend at First Free Will Baptist Church in Lebanon. Seven of our churches with youth had entries in Bible, music, drama, art, and other events as well. We had a total of 84 entries in these categories as students were able to use their gifts to minister in their churches and grow in their knowledge of the Bible.

To the pastors, coaches, and parents, your commitment to patiently teaching and directing students in ministry makes this event possible. Most of all, to our students, we are so grateful that you were willing to work and sacrifice to serve Christ with your time and abilities.

Name	Church	Grade	Place
Bible Memorization			
Lauren Lawson	Wolf Creek	1	1st
Brynlee Moon	Hartville	1	2nd
Kaylee Sue Dedmon	Wolf Creek	2	1st
Hailey Hutsell	Hartville	2	2nd
Hinton & Wyatt	Hartville	2	1st
Lukas Garrison	Wolf Creek	3	1st
Arik & Josiah	1st Lebanon	3	1st
Addy & Lilly	Hartville	3	2nd
Brandon Garrison	Wolf Creek	4	1st
Wolf Creek Kids	Wolf Creek	4	1st
Trenton Nisbett	1st Lebanon	5	1st
Kenzie Pettus	Wolf Creek	5	1st
Grace Brittenham	Macedonia	6	2nd
Morgan Twins	1st Lebanon	6	1st
Colton Nisbett	1st Lebanon	9	1st
Joy Brittenham	Macedonia	9	2nd
Hope Brittenham	Macedonia	12	1st
Ashley Williams	Wolf Creek	12	2nd
Mallie & Hope	Macedonia	12	1st
Wolf Creek Girls	Wolf Creek	12	2nd

Name	Church	Grade	Place
1st Lebanon	1st Lebanon	4-6	1st
Copper Mines	Copper Mines	4-6	2nd

Many of our students will be representing Missouri at the Vertical Three Conference in Tampa, Florida, this July.

We hope that if you have never participated in CTS or want more information about how to get involved, you'll reach out to our board. The training that students receive today is invaluable. While we understand there are many commitments that beg for our time, understand that CTS is investing eternally in our students. Thank you for investing, and we hope that if you have never participated before, you'll make plans to be a part of CTS 2025!

~ Ryan Akers

Name	Church	Grade	Place
Bible Sword Drill			
Nora Lawson	Wolf Creek	4	1st
Kenzie Pettus	Wolf Creek	4	1st
Grace Brittenham	Macedonia	6	2nd

Name	Church	Grade	Place
Bible Bowl			
Macedonia	Macedonia	10-12	1st

Name	Church	Grade	Place
Vocal Solo			
Bella Bowman	Copper Mines	1-3	1st

Name	Church	Grade	Place
Male Vocal Solo			
Joel Bettendorf	Hartville	7-9	1st
Carter Garrison	Wolf Creek	10-12	1st

Name	Church	Grade	Place
Female Vocal Solo			
Maddie Brown	Hartville	7-9	1st
Hannah Keith	Wolf Creek	10-12	1st

Name	Church	Grade	Place
Duets			
Cross Duet	Thayer	4-6	1st
Garrison Duet	Wolf Creek	10-12	1st

Name	Church	Grade	Place
Trios			
Wolf Creek Trio	Wolf Creek	10-12	1st

Name	Church	Grade	Place	Name	Church	Grade	Place
Quartets				Painting			
Kid's Quartet	Hartville	1-3	1st	Hinton Moon	Hartville	1-3	1st
HS Quartet	Hartville	10-12	1st	Allie Garren	Macedonia	10-12	1st
Ensemble				Drawings			
Wolf Creek Cubs	Wolf Creek	4-6	1st	Addy Moon	Hartville	1-3	1st
Wolf Creek Ensemble	Wolf Creek	10-12	1st				
Woodwind Solo				Mixed Media			
Jodi Bettendorf	Hartville	10-12	1st	Natalee Lawson	Wolf Creek	10-12	1st
Plucked String Solo				Single Photo			
Trenton Nisbett	1st Lebanon	4-6	1st	Charlie Cogdill	Macedonia	1-3	1st
Colton Nisbett	1st Lebanon	7-9	1st	Lilly Morgan	1st Lebanon	4-6	1st
Allie Garren	Macedonia	10-12	1st	Addison Cole	Macedonia	7-9	1st
IE (Duet, Trio, Quartet)				Macy Garren	Macedonia	10-12	1st
Andy & Allie	Macedonia	10-12	1st	Photo Essay			
Praise Band				Macy Garren	Macedonia	10-12	1st
Farm Road 1100	Macedonia	10-12	1st	Needlework			
Individual Sign Language				Cheyenne Bowman	Copper Mines	10-12	1st
Hope Brittenham	Macedonia	10-12	1st	Conceptual Art			
Hands of Worship	Macedonia	10-12	1st	Laura Lawson	Wolf Creek	1-3	1st
Illustrated Storytelling				Micah Morgan	1st Lebanon	4-6	1st
Logan Stevens	Verdella	1-3	1st	Joy Brittenham	Macedonia	7-9	1st
Individual Drama				Allie Garren	Macedonia	10-12	1st
Macy Garren	Macedonia	10-12	1st	Personal Experience Essay			
Recorded Puppetry				Charlie Cogdill	Macedonia	1-3	1st
Wolf Creek Kids	Wolf Creek	4-6	1st	Josie Wieczorek	Hartville	10-12	1st
Wolf Creek Girls	Wolf Creek	9	1st	Devotion			
24				Anniston Rains	1st Lebanon	4-6	1st
We congratulate these students on a job well done!							
TEEN CAMP							
June 10-14							
PRE-TEEN CAMP *							
Session 1 - June 24-2							
Session 2 - July 8-12							
* You choose the week that works best for your church.							





'Manage His Household Well': A Challenge for All Dads

He was a smiling young pastor, fresh out of seminary with vision and ideas. His preaching was clear, true to Scripture, and practical. The church felt blessed to have him. There was one problem. His children were out of control, and everybody knew it. A few of the elders tried to say something, but he wouldn't listen to any suggestions. "Kids will be kids," he said. The church realized they'd never examined his home life. They regretted this oversight when other leadership issues inevitably came to light.

In 1 Timothy 3, Paul lists qualities for church leaders. He doesn't focus on talents but on character qualities. In the list, we find these words: "He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?" (1 Tim. 3:4–5). This same quality is necessary for deacons (1 Tim. 3:12), and when we look at the elder qualities in Titus 1, household management is prominent.

However, when I survey young pastors and ask, "Do you manage your household well?" I hear answers like, "I don't know" or "I hope so." Why this disconnect between what Scripture clearly prescribes and our own understanding? Would we tolerate the same fuzziness on other qualities like being argumentative, a drunkard, or greedy? Recovering the importance of these passages will elevate our homes and our churches.

Challenge from the Beginning

It's easy to skip over 1 Timothy 3 if you're not a pastor or aspiring pastor. Yet these qualities are for everyone. Every Christian should pursue each character quality Paul outlines. That includes managing our households well. Current leaders, aspiring leaders, and even young women (1 Tim. 5:14) are to keep a watchful eye over their families. Why would Paul make home leadership an aspect of godliness?

The idea of ruling well was inaugurated at the beginning of time. Adam and Eve were created to manage and rule over creation (Gen. 1:28). We, as their offspring and God's image-bearers, are also given that mandate. This ruling and oversight will not stop but continue for all eternity in the new creation: the redeemed "will reign forever and ever" (Rev. 22:5). From the first chapter of the Bible to the last, God made men and women to rule and manage. Part of our sanctification is growing in that ability.

The first domain we're to oversee is our homes.

What Managing Well Doesn't Mean

Let's be clear on what managing our households well doesn't imply. This phrase doesn't mean our homes are always serene and problem free. Anyone who manages people should expect complications. Sinners leading sinners always have issues.

It also doesn't mean a leader's children must all be believers. Many have argued this based on a misunderstanding of Titus 1:6, but this wrong understanding adds salt to the wound of the parent with a prodigal, and it should be rejected. Titus 1:6 is a restatement of 1 Timothy 3:4–5; the best translation is not believing children but faithful children. The power to change hearts belongs to the Holy Spirit, and no parent can grant saving faith to their child.

What Managing Well Does Mean

Now let's turn our attention to what the qualification does mean. Paul focuses on one aspect of parenting: "With all dignity keeping his children submissive."

Keep your children submissive? That's certainly offensive to 21st-century ears. Should we gloss over Paul's unenlightened and backward view of parenting?

On the contrary, it's we who have it backward. In Eph-

sians 6:1–3, God commands children to obey and honor their parents. Training for obedience doesn't suppress our children, rather it pleases the Lord (Col. 3:20) and will result in life going well with them. Titus 1:6 states the same principle in different words. The overseer is to have faithful children who aren't wild and disobedient. Unlike Eli or David, he takes action to correct his children (1 Sam. 3:13; 1 Kings 1:6).

But Paul states not only the result of leadership but also the manner: "with all dignity." Perhaps this is better translated "without losing your dignity." Or as the NIV translates it, "worthy of full respect." In other words, the father-overseer has submissive children without losing his cool. He's comfortable exercising his authority but isn't an oppressive dictator using fear to control his children. He leads with authority and affection.

As John Stott writes, "Although pastoral ministry is a servant ministry characterized by gentleness, a certain authority is also attached to it. One cannot expect discipline in a local church if pastors have not learned to exercise discipline in their home."

A dad who leads this way is obvious. His children love being with him and he loves being with them. And yet he's still their dad. Appropriate to his kids' ages, he is mindful he's been charged by God to train them and instruct them to maturity. He takes the lead to make sure they're obedient to their parents' directives.

Grow Your Skills

How can we grow in this aspect of our sanctification?

1. Ask your wife. Start by bringing your collaborator into the picture. Does she think you're leading well? Does she wish you'd be less passive? Or does she worry that you're overbearing and micromanaging?

2. Ask your children. Older children can be brutally honest. They observe and have opinions. Ask them if there are ways you can grow.

3. Don't expect perfection. Instead, assess if your children are on a trajectory toward obedience. As the leaders, we're responsible for the atmosphere of the home. We should expect our children to obey us because God commands it. But we aren't surprised when our children disobey us because they're sinful. Since there's sin in every heart, a godly father will receive problems in the home as personal training assignments from the Lord.

If we recover the importance of this qualification, we'll recover the priority of godly living in the home. But just as important, we'll be developing ministry leaders with a vital quality that's sorely missing—experiential wisdom. How many young pastors graduate from seminary with a load of biblical knowledge but only a little relational wisdom? Both are needed to lead God's household. The home is where we learn relational leadership wisdom, and it's the first place we display it to the glory of God.

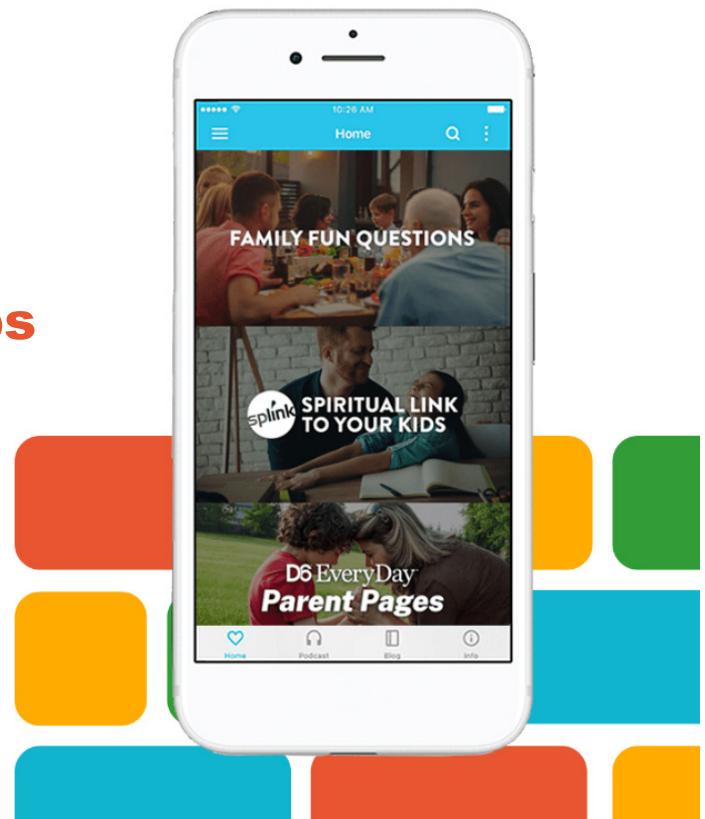
~ Chap Bettis is the author of *The Disciple-Making Parent*, *Parenting with Patience*, and *Parenting with Confidence*.

Taken from thegospelcoalition.org



Parenting At Your Fingertips

Download the free D6 Family App to access all the at-home discipleship resources for families! This app is updated weekly with biblical discipleship content and is available for download in the Apple and Android app stores.



Ministry Gems

News Tidbits from Around the State

Rock Chapel interim pastor Dan Minkler reports 5 people who were saved recently. Praise be to God. Dan is from the Farmington area and pastored FWB churches in California for many years.



The Church of Faith International (former Beacon FWB) rejoiced with over 200 present on Easter Sunday. Regular attendance is approximately 80. Anthony Andrews is the pastor and is in the process of uniting with the Greater KC Association of FWB.

Welch College "Exceeds Expectations" in Tennessee Top Ten Teacher Education Programs. Welch College recently announced that it was among the ten teacher education programs in the state of Tennessee that "exceeded expectations" on the annual Educator Preparation Report Card. The Report Card evaluated teacher preparation programs at 42 Tennessee institutions. Welch's overall percentage of points earned in the Report Card's performance rating ranked fourth in the state.

Two Students From MO Make Welch College Provost's "B" Honor Roll - Ellie Simpson, senior and Abigail Long, sophomore.



NAFWB
IN 2025
IN KANSAS
CITY!

Beacon	.....	\$400.00	Grant Avenue	.....	\$400.00
Belton	.....	\$100.00	Leadington	.....	\$400.00
Berean	.....	\$200.00	Lebanon 1st	.....	\$400.00
Calvary Fellowship	.....	\$400.00	Liberty Association	.....	\$2,938.00
Calvary Chapel	.....	\$400.00	Mill Creek	.....	\$400.00
Cuba	.....	\$100.00	Mt. Pisgah	.....	\$200.00
DeSoto FWB	.....	\$400.00	Nevada	.....	\$400.00
Fellowship	.....	\$300.00	Oak Hill	.....	\$400.00
Fredericktown 1st	.....	\$400.00	Resolve	.....	\$400.00
Grace	.....	\$200.00	Shiloh	.....	\$500.00
			Springfield 1st	.....	\$500.00
			Stockton	.....	\$400.00
			Trinity	.....	\$700.00
			Twin Oak	.....	\$500.00
			Verdella	.....	\$400.00
			West Plains 1st	.....	\$400.00
			TOTAL Received	.....	\$12,238.00

In 2020 we asked each Missouri FWB Church to give \$100 per year (a total of \$400 each) to help toward hosting the 2025 National Free Will Baptist Convention in Kansas City. We are happy to be able to bless our sister FWB churches by hosting the national convention. We have listed the churches that have responded thus far. Any gift toward this event is a blessing for you and others.

Did you know 1% of churches have an ongoing emphasis on evangelism?

The Hope Initiative - The Hope Initiative is for pastors and churches looking to reinvigorate their commitment to evangelism. Expand your outreach and connect with your community through this simple, reproducible 30-day program. Contact the NAFWB Executive Office or the MOFWB Executive Office for more information.



To celebrate the 65th anniversary of Randall, we are embarking on our most ambitious fundraising campaign to date - raising \$650,000 so that more young people can be IMPACTED by the transformational experience that is a Randall education. To donate go to ru.edu/impact65/



THE SUBJUNCTIVE CHAPLAIN

One of my favorite heroes from history is President Theodore Roosevelt. Writing to his Secretary of War, Elihu Root, President Roosevelt said...

"I want to see that hereafter no chaplain is appointed in the Army who is not a first-class man - a man who by education and training will be fitted to associate with his fellow-officers, and yet who has in him the zeal and the practical sense which will enable him to do genuine work for the enlisted men. Above all, I want chaplains who will go in to do this work just as the best officers of the line or staff or the medical profession go in to do their work. I want to see that if possible we never appoint a man who desires the position as a soft job." (emphasis mine)

(emphasis mine)

Roosevelt wanted chaplains willing to bring the presence of God to our military. Chaplains like CH Emil Kapaun, who brought God's presence to fellow POWs during the Korean War, or the Four Immortals of the USS Dorchester, who gave their lives to ensure Soldiers survived the sinking ship. Roosevelt wanted "first-class" men who brought the presence of God; motivated by the Holy Spirit, not by personal ambition.

In John 15:9-17, Jesus encouraged His Disciples, and throughout this passage (in the Greek), Jesus uses the subjunctive mood. The subjunctive describes potential action (*if* you do such, this will happen). Verse 14 is an example of this subjunctive mood, "Ye are my friends, *if* ye do whatsoever I command you." We are friends of God only if we are obedient to the Father. In the same way, a chaplain can only bring the presence of God *if* he chooses to place the needs of service members before his own. John 15:9-17, describes three ways chaplains bring God's presence to our military.

First, Jesus brought the presence of God to the Disciples through His offer of joy. Jesus said (verse 10), "*If* ye keep my commandments..." Ancient Jews saw the Commandments as prescriptions of godly living, obedience, and righteousness, resulting in lasting joy.

Subjunctively, Jesus says that if we keep His commandments (which He received from the Father), and abide in His love, we will experience joy. Yet, for the Disciples to keep His commandments, Jesus must teach them. In the same way, chaplains bring God's presence through performing religious services such as chapel, Bible studies, retreats, prayer meetings, Gospel-centered instruction, Bible-based training, and morale building events. I find joy in my Thursday night Bible study with my junior enlisted Soldiers, who come out to worship, fellowship, and connect with Jesus.

Next, Jesus brought the presence of God to His Disciples by bringing them into relationship with Himself. Jesus called His Disciples "friends" (verse 15), and the Jews had four components of true friendship: loyalty, equality, mutual sharing, and *intimacy*. Jesus intimately shared His heart with the Disciples, bringing them into His Father's work. Likewise, chaplains bring God's presence to the military through the intimacy of confidentiality. Confidentiality affords service members to say whatever they want without fear of exposure, thereby allowing me to speak the Gospel into people's hearts.

Lastly, Jesus brought the presence of God to His Disciples by calling them. Jesus, in verses 16-17, declared His choosing of the Disciples, commissioning them to carry on the Father's work. Yet, the subjunctive mood is present in the Greek, and the Disciples had the choice to accept or not. Chaplains also bring God's presence by living out their God-given calling. An effective chaplain understands that a calling influences every aspect of his life. This requires integrity, intimately walking with Jesus, and love for service members. Yet, all this begins with a decision to follow Jesus and obey His commandments.

A Chaplain's work is demanding. We live Galatians 6:2 daily. We go from cheerful, to engaged, to weeping with a service member, to cheerful again, to prophetically advising a commander, and then stoic as we complete our staff

work. We visit a service member contemplating suicide. We grieve with those who are grieving and then within a few minutes we rejoice with another. A 3:00 AM call from the commander awakens us after a service member beat his wife, hospitalizing her. We arise put on our uniform and go minister to the spouse, and then drive to the MP station to minister to the service member. We visit service members in jail who molested their child. We minister the love of Jesus to them, just as much as we minister to the traumatized child. We often work long days, only to come home to a congealed meal in the microwave. We then wake up early the next morning to do it all over again. Sundays are workdays, and Saturdays are the only day we have with our families. What would motivate a chaplain to do this? LOVE!

Jesus said in John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Our society teaches that love is a feeling. This is wrong! Love is not feeling, rather love is denying ourselves for someone else's benefit, "...that a man lay down his life for his friends." John the Baptist said it well (John 3:30), "He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease." This self-denial is love's basic definition, and love begins with its basic form – a choice.



About the Writer - Captain Michael Beatty serves our military personnel at Fort Leonard Wood. His wife Stephanie and their daughters are also involved in serving soldiers.

Financial Report

Please note: The amounts listed are for two months,
February-March, 2024

COOP Disbursements

February-March, 2024

19% MO Missions \$25,376.16

21.5% Gen/Exec \$28,715.13

8.5% Youth Camp \$11,352.49

2% Youth Ministry \$2,671.17

2% Christian Education \$2,671.17

2% Retiree Minsity \$2,671.17

9% State Retirement.. \$12,020.29

3% Show-Me \$4,006.76

33% \$39,133.65

Randall U (.1121)..... \$4,940.74

Total Disbursed..... \$133,558.74

RECEIPTS

COOP

Amity..... \$107.50

Aulsbury Chapel..... \$886.86

Bailey..... \$1,290.00

Bailey Chapel \$205.00

Belton \$1,049.23

Bethel- Marshfield..... \$4,711.11

Black Oak \$1,421.35

Byrd \$406.00

Calvary Chapel..... \$10,431.49

Christ Chapel..... \$1,652.34

Copper Mines \$1,999.49

Cornerstone..... \$461.00

Cross Roads- Lebanon... \$553.00

Cuba..... \$1,864.00

De Soto 1st..... \$3,145.00

Faith Chapel..... \$1,767.74

Faith- Fair Grove \$497.50

Farmington 1st..... \$7,413.19

Fellowship..... \$3,915.00

First Day \$2,408.95

Fredericktown 1st..... \$1,130.00

Freeman Chapel..... \$895.00

Generations..... \$874.43

Good News..... \$628.10

Gospel Light..... \$800.00

Grace..... \$6,304.69

Grace Fellowship..... \$2,353.00

Grant Avenue..... \$978.60

Hannon..... \$2,303.00

Hartville..... \$3,385.00

Hopewell..... \$1,232.00

Houston 1st..... \$1,408.31

Hurryville..... \$852.00

Koshkonong..... \$888.42

Leadington..... \$1,222.93

Lebanon 1st..... \$4,447.88

Lebanon Green Hills..... \$575.98

Liberty..... \$1,200.00

Marshfield..... \$309.00

Mill Creek..... \$691.50

Mine La Motte..... \$64.97

Monett 1st..... \$582.10

Mosaic..... \$3,666.50

Mountain Grove 1st..... \$1,129.90

Mt. Pisgah..... \$855.00

Neosho 1st..... \$1,620.00

Nevada \$2,583.25

New Hope..... \$420.00

New Life- Licking \$1,226.06

Number One..... \$50.00

O'Fallon 1st..... \$4,228.85

Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove ... \$368.88

Oak Hill..... \$375.00

Ozark 1st..... \$7,951.89

Ozark 1st - Heritage \$636.80

Park Hills 1st..... \$1,306.42

Parkview \$458.00

Pleasant Home \$392.50

Pleasant Ridge- Urbana .. \$281.00

Rejoice..... \$1,427.00

Republic..... \$1,028.02

Resolve..... \$200.00

Rock Chapel..... \$1,187.25

Safe Harbor

Seymour \$890.00

Smyrna \$205.00

Springfield 1st..... \$1,907.00

Stockton..... \$263.00

Stonebridge

Thayer \$3,568.00

Trinity..... \$653.90

Union \$60.00

Union Light

United \$2,270.14

Unity \$1,000.00

Verdella..... \$1,768.62

Victory- Alton

Waynesville 1st..... \$1,144.70

West Plains 1st..... \$954.00

Willow Springs..... \$743.23

Wolf Creek..... \$3,271.00

Total \$133,558.74

New Home- Hartville..... \$650.00

New Hope..... \$400.00

New Life- Licking

Number One..... \$120.00

O'Fallon 1st

Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove

Oak Hill..... \$166.00

Oak Hill..... \$42.00

Ozark 1st..... \$475.00

Ozark 1st - Heritage

Park Hills 1st..... \$66.00

Park Hills 1st..... \$400.00

Pleasant Home

New Testament..... \$60.00

O'Fallon 1st

Ozark 1st

Park Hills 1st..... \$50.00

Park Hills 1st..... \$243.00

Rock Chapel..... \$35.00

Stockton..... \$319.00

Thayer..... \$1,350.00

The Hasting Trust DTD..... \$40.00

Trinity..... \$75.00

Trisha Johnson..... \$71.37

Twin Oak Auxiliary

Union..... \$45.00

Union Light

West Plains 1st..... \$650.00

Willow Springs..... \$156.00

Wolf Creek..... \$400.00

Total \$44,542.79

Missouri Missions

Alden Redfield \$150.00

Cuba \$34.35

De Soto 1st..... \$220.00

De Soto 1st..... \$1,710.00

Farmington 1st..... \$5.00

Grace Fellowship..... \$5,000.00

Hannon..... \$50.00

Howard Easley

First Day \$1,204.48

Judith Lemons

Lebanon 1st..... \$32.97

Loretta Minney..... \$75.00

Mosaic \$7,000.00

Mt. Pisgah WAC

Neosho 1st \$264.08

Neosho 1st

Neosho



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MINISTER'S RETREAT

The annual MOFWB Minister's Retreat was excellent. 88 men were present with 15 of them being ministerial students from Randall University. A conflict of schedules prevented Welch students from participating in the retreat. Pastor Tommy Swindol (Donelson Fellowship FWB- Nashville) was the speaker. Personal discipleship was the topic that was presented. The main thought was that we are to live out our faith before others. Next, we mentor someone and encourage them as they live out their faith. Then, they live out their

faith before others, and finally the disciple with begin to disciple another new believer, completing the ministry of a disciple being used to disciple others.

Challenging questions were presented. Are you being discipled and mentored? Are you discipling and mentoring someone else? Are you and your congregation reproducing disciples? Those are convicting questions.

~ SB