



Missouri Free Will Baptist

GEM Magazine



Better TOGETHER

Volume 96 / Number 4 / July-August, 2025

MOFWB leaders praying over intern Easton Truett





In this issue:

From the EditorPage 3

Missouri MissionsPage 4

Church NewsPage 6

MOFWB State MeetingPage 8

In Loving MemoryPage 10

Complete HonestyPage 11

From Our BoardsPage 12

Evangelism Conference.....Page 14

Ministry Gems.....Page 15

MOFWB CalendarPage 16

Retiree Conference.....Page 17

Financial ReceiptsPage 18

Available Churches and Fill-in List.....Page 19



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

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

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

Articles and Photos may be submitted by e-mail to carrie@mofwb.org

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

Subscription rates:
Single subscription,
\$11.00 billed annually

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

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

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

Editor - Stanley Bunch
Layout & Design - Carrie Myers



from the Editor, Stan Bunch



53 Ways You Can Be
Better TOGETHER
in 2025-2026

In January 2024, the State Executive Committee decided to adopt “Better Together” as the theme of our 2025 State Association meeting. Since then, we have been working with our Planning Commission to make this theme the overarching ministry theme for all of our state ministry from the 2025 State Meeting until the 2026 State Meeting. We appreciate the positive feedback and input we have received.

We hope to provide Free Will Baptists across Missouri with helpful ideas to consider as we try to put this theme into practice. We want first to mention some biblical themes/emphases that we think connect to the idea of being “better together.” Second, we will provide 53 practical examples of how to be better together.

Themes Related to “Better Together”:

- Unity, Relationship,
- Ministry Partnership
- Church Membership
- Accountability
- Healthy denominationalism/associationalism
- Avoiding and resolving conflict
- The many “one anothers” passages in Scripture
- Friendship
- Trusting others
- Overcoming Loneliness
- Collaboration

**Practical Examples for How to Be “Better Together”:
(in no particular order):**

1. Pray regularly for other churches, pastors, and state ministry boards/leaders.
2. Participate in your local association and/or encourage others who aren’t to do so.
3. Encourage greater cooperation among ministries in your church where it doesn’t currently exist.
4. If you’re a pastor, start meeting regularly with another pastor whom you can encourage, pray with, or discuss a helpful book with.
5. If your church is in a strong financial position, consider helping another church to send a pastor to the minister’s retreat, or pastor’s wife to the ministers’ wives’ retreat. (Be sure you have already provided this blessing to your own pastor and his wife first!)
6. As your church is blessed financially, increase your contribution not only to COOP, but Show Me Missions.
7. Choose not to gossip about other church members, church leaders, or churches in your community.

8. Partner with another local church to host a July 4th celebration, New Year’s Eve celebration, or some other civic/cultural event.

9. Partner with another local church to host a missions conference, youth rally, men’s or women’s rally, or some other strategic ministry event.

10. Donate excess ministry supplies to other churches, such as communion supplies, VBS materials, Bible studies, etc.

11. Partner with another church to plan a missions trip together. Two smaller youth groups would benefit, but a smaller group would also benefit from a larger group helping with the overhead.

12. Church leaders can encourage volunteers from an area of abundance to go and temporarily help out another church needing musical help, pulpit supply, etc.

13. Be willing to adjust a meeting/service time to accommodate another church’s needs.

14. Multiple churches/pastors from one association can actively encourage and help resource a newly licensed or ordained man as he prepares and begins in ministry.

15. Churches can urge newcomers from other sister churches to pursue reconciliation with the other church before considering moving their membership.

16. Pastors can invite another pastor to attend a conference/seminar with them and help share the expenses.

17. Teach prospective church members in new member classes about the importance of fellowship with other believers and emphasize our obligations to them.

18. Churches within close proximity can consider combining resources and commitment by merging to form a stronger congregation.

19. Associations that are within the same region can consider merging to form a larger, potentially stronger association.

20. Associations within the same region can plan occasional joint meetings to encourage each other and learn from each other.

21. Organize a pastors’ book discussion group in your area.

22. Plan a parenting/grandparenting seminar with another church in your area.

23. Provide a ministry internship to someone in your church, another area church, or a Christian college student.

Continue reading on page 13



from the Missions Director, Steve Reeves



WHY YOUR CHURCH NEEDS A WEBSITE

I used to love my daily newspaper. It was dropped off in my driveway every morning. I always spent a few minutes with the front page stuff, and then I would go straight to the sports section. I would catch up on the Cardinals, Tigers, Royals, Chiefs, Rams (yes, it was a while ago), etc. Then I would look over all the pages and read things of interest to me. I haven't looked at a newspaper in years. I don't want to spend the money, and I want to get news more quickly.

Now, when I first get up, I go to my laptop and I start looking online for my news (you have to be careful because there is a lot of fake stuff), sports, and weather. In fact, I now go to the internet for information on just about anything. If I want to find out about a restaurant, I check out their website, read their menu, and check their reviews. If I need a plumber or an electrician, I do the same. I find a lot of useful information in just a few clicks.

Where am I going with this? You and your church are trying to reach people in an online world. Almost everyone now uses Google, Instagram, X, etc., as their sources of information. If they are looking for a church, they will do the same. Ninety percent of the folks who are considering coming to your church will look for information about your church online. If they don't find you, they will not come. You may or may not like this, but this is our world. There may be many bad things online, but we can use the internet for good as well, for sharing the Gospel.

Long before they ever step through your front door, they have checked you out online. If they can't find you, they won't look further. Your front door is now your website. In fact, your website is now more for your prospective guests than it is for your members. Most churches have a Facebook page where most of their member news and information is shared.

Let me give you several reasons why your church needs a website...

1. A church needs a website to serve as a 24/7 online presence, enabling them to share information, connect with members and prospective visitors.

2. Websites help communicate within the congregation through announcements, newsletters, etc.

3. Churches can use their websites to offer spiritual resources such as sermons, devotionals, prayer requests, online giving, and volunteer opportunities.

4. A well-designed website can attract new visitors and members by promoting the church's mission, values, and community, making it easier for people to find and connect with the church.

5. Websites can be accessed by people who are sick, traveling, or homebound, allowing them to stay connected to their church family through features like live streaming and online resources.

6. A church website demonstrates that the church is modern, relevant, and engaged with the world around them. We should not be like the world, but we are in the world, and we have been called to reach the world. The only way to reach them is by meeting them where they are.

7. A church website is a place to share your beliefs, values, and mission with a larger audience. Whether through blog posts, podcasts, or videos of your sermons, you can extend your message to those beyond the physical boundaries of your church.

I am not a website expert, but I know people who can help you with this issue. Please contact me, and I will be glad to share more information. I just want to encourage you to build a website if your church does not already have one or to improve your website if you do. In the next issue of the GEM, I will share how to build a website.



- STATE -

Paxton - Grace Fellowship (Cape Girardeau): Grace Fellowship has several summer outreach events planned. Pray for a good response from the community.

Thebeau/Chapman - Mosaic (Rolla): Mosaic Church continues to have many first time guests. The church has added several new families. See Ministry Gems pg 15

Fleming - Freedom Point (Florissant): The church had nearly 140 in attendance for Easter with one person coming to know Jesus.

Sanchez - Esperanza (Grandview): The church will be hosting IMPACT KC (a yearly outreach event hosted by NAM) this July at the FWB National Convention in KC.

- NORTH AMERICAN -

Webster - Connect (Florida): Connect Church is in need of more space. Rented space is very expensive in Central Florida. They are looking at the possibility of going to two Sunday morning services

- INTERNATIONAL -

Mercer (University of Missouri): Bradley and Madison are expecting their first child later this year! Pray for them as they continue to serve the international students of Missouri University.

Bailey (Japan): The KCC Church is looking for a new

facility to purchase. The one they were looking at is no longer available. They had 40 in attendance for Easter.

Speer (Japan): Pray for several summer outreach events that the church has planned. Pray also for Daniel as he finishes language study and moves into active ministry.

Turnbough (Spain): The Villalba Church has recently added several new families. Pray for them as they carry out summer outreach events.

Duncan (Ecuador): Adam has been working on clean water projects with several of the churches and local authorities in their area.

Provw (Bulgaria): Pray for the needed funds to come in by the end of the year for the new facility in Shumen. Pray also for the Provw family as Josh and Bea marry in July.

- CHAPLAINS -

Hospital Chaplain Cody Alley - Pray for Cody as he is involved in training and equipping other chaplains across Missouri.

- Women's Ministry -

RETREAT - September 19-20 at Westgate Branson Woods Resort - Register before August 1st to avoid a late fee. See page 17 or mofwb.com/calendar-events

Esperanza



Pastor Victor Sanchez had the honor of baptizing seven on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025 at the new Hispanic work in Grandview.

Pictured holding their certificates.

Benaiah M. Conner Sánchez - age 5 - USA
Bany Yoel Bello Alarcón - 18 - México
Alan Omar Martínez Acevedo - 15 - México
Emmanuel Alexander Robbins Huitron - 17 - México
Marcial Bello Aguilar - Cuba
Maikel Yero Álvarez - Cuba
Henry Anael Portillo Guerra - Honduras

Richwoods 1st



Above baptized last year: Pastor Richard Wisdom, Erin G., Elexis G., Jason G., Steven H., Jeff S., Corey C., and Eli K.

Baptized on April 27th (left to right): Jinson G., Marc M., Steve S. and Pastor Richard Wisdom



Ozark



Ozark Family Church baptized seven on Easter Sunday. All seven are pictured here with pastors, Gene Crewse and Gary Mitchener.

Grace



Natalie Mueller was baptized and united in membership with Grace Church in Arnold on Mother's Day (May 11).

Springfield 1st



Baptism services were held in April and May at First FWB, Springfield. Pictured are Dakota Sims, Kennedy Walters, Carol Crews, Tim Aldridge and Pastor Charles Horton.

Bro. Charles has pastored the church for ten years.

Ozark Family



Ozark Family Church baptized two. Congratulations to Bryanna & Adalyn.

Calvary Chapel

In April the church in Buffalo celebrated new life in Christ with three individuals were baptized



Henley Ann Rogers



Brooke Grogan



Knight Cashion

Christ Chapel

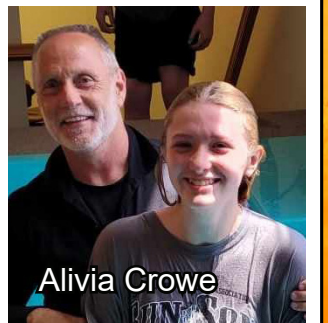
Baptisms at the church in St. Clair, MO. Duke West pastor the church.



Connor Dubuque



Cora Conner



Alivia Crowe



Matthew Crowe



Emily Lowe & Jay Tilson



Addie Wilson



Ryder Hawkins



Gavin Drake

More to come in the next issue.



Better TOGETHER

MOFWB 112th State Meeting

Missouri State Association Clerk Justin Lawson convened the 2025 MOFWB Convention on Monday evening June 2nd.

The General Board met earlier that day and recommended two items to be presented to the voting delegates.

1. The adoption of a 2026 COOP budget of \$1,000,000.00. m/s/a
2. That brother Ken Simpson be considered as Missouri's National Association General Board member beginning in 2026. Moderator Jackson Watts gave a brief explanation for this recommendation. m/s/a

All state ministry board reports were submitted and approved. Reports from all National FWB ministry boards were received.

MOFWB Ministry Board members elected were as follows:

- Niangua Youth Camp - Tim Hodges, Ray Paxton
- Youth Ministry – Luke Tyler, Chelsea Brawley
- Missouri Mission – Carl Short, Cody Alley, David Beltz, Randy Gaddis
- Retiree Ministry – Wayne Phillips
- Christian Education – Scott Keith
- Historical Commission – Stanley Jones, Keith Garrison

MOFWB General Board (by association):

- Mo-Ark – Jeff Holman
- Niangua – Cliff Smith
- Northeast – Tim Hodges
- Northwest – David Sherman
- Ozarks – Bill Young
- South Central – Josh Chapman
- Southeast – Raymond Michael
- St. Francois – Seth Romines
- St. Louis – Ken Simpson
- Tri-County – Russell Johnson

General Officers:

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

Executive Committee - Andy Rains, Ken Simpson

Naaman Dement and family led in Spirit filled worship with a special presentation by MOFWB CTS winners.

Faron Thebeau (Mosaic Church, Rolla) delivered the first sermon on Monday night followed by Josh Bush (Crosspoint FWB Church, Wichita, KS) and Bob Thompson (Randall University). Each preached a powerful and challenging sermon.

We were blessed to receive the three brothers, Zach Parent (Moderator) Pastor Josh Bush, and Pastor Manuel Galvan from our sister state, Kansas.

Former MOFWB Executive Directors Nathan Ruble and Gary Fry were recognized as having led the way for many years in helping Missouri Free Will Baptists to surpass \$1,000,000.00 in 2024 COOP giving.

May God continue to be glorified in all we do as His servants.



Missions Celebration



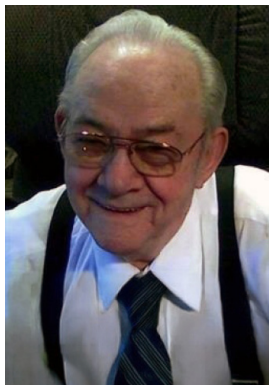
Tuesday morning at the State Meeting the Missouri FWB Women's board hosted their annual Missions Celebration Service. Russ Neill presided the meeting. Melissa Nisbett accompanied by Diane Branstetter led worship. Frank Webster shared with us about Connect Church in Summerfield, Florida. Their main

focus is connecting with the retirement community and being the hands and feet of the Great Commission, Reach, Preach and Teach people about God and all that He has done. They continue to have an amazing impact on the community and are quickly outgrowing their space. He ended the service the same way he ends all services at Connect Church, "Have you seen enough and have you heard enough, for Jesus to be enough."

MO FWB Women's ministry is blessed to witness and help support our amazing missionaries and church plants connected to our great state. If you or your women's group would like to know more please reach out to Jeri Morgan 417-531-3137.



In Loving Memory



Rev. Bill Knapp

Billy Dale Knapp was born in Sleeper, MO on August 27, 1936 to Woodrow and Eva Decker Knapp. He passed away Sunday, May 25, 2025 in Nixa Nursing and Rehab. He was eighty-eight years, eight months and twenty-nine days.

Billy lived his entire life in the Lebanon area and gave his heart to Jesus at a young age. He loved God and followed the Lord's will by answering the call to the ministry.

On August 29, 1956, Billy was united in marriage to Sharlene Mathews and together they shared many wonderful memories while raising their three boys. Sharlene passed

away in 2008. In 2016, Billy married Betty Waterman.

Billy is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Scharlene; two brothers, Rev. Bob Knapp and Don Knapp; daughter-in-law, Shelly Knapp.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Knapp; sons, Randy (Carrie) Knapp of Long Lane, MO, Rodney Knapp of Pierce City, MO and Reggie Knapp of Lebanon, MO; sister, Joyce (James) Hicks of Lebanon, MO; sister-in-law, Lois Knapp of Lebanon, MO; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren,

Billy worked as a bi-vocational pastor. He served as pastor at Free Will Baptist churches in Lebanon, Conway, Buffalo, and Cedar Ridge. He most recently pastored the Dallas County Community Church. He was very faithful and his ministry spanned forty years.

Services were held on May 28th at Holman Howe Funeral Home in Lebanon.



Sonya McGinley

Sonya Lynn McGinley, 53, passed away May 27, 2025, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis.

She was born July 7, 1972, in West Plains, MO, to Dennis Adams and Debbie Brixey Adams. She married Dennis McGinley in 1996. Sonya lived on CC High-

way her entire life. She worked at Fairview School for twenty-six years, where she attended elementary and middle school. Mrs. McGinley loved her church and church family deeply. She served with her husband for

thirty years in ministry at United Freewill Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband, Dennis; three children, Garel (Jessie) McGinley, Eli (Gracie) McGinley, and Parker McGinley; her parents, Dennis and Debbie Adams; her in-laws, Laverne Jones, Dennis and Francis McGinley; one grandson on the way; brother, Josh (Ashlea) Adams; nieces and nephew; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Her grandparents, Garel and Vivian Adams and Junior and Betty Brixey preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held June 2, 2025, at Robertson-Drago Funeral Home with burial in the Union Grove Cemetery.

which detailed the airplane crash that took the life of her husband and two other ministers in 1980.

Carolyn is survived by her son, Chad Lombard; her three grandsons; her sisters Shirley Barnett and Pat Herbert (Jon) and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Don, her parents Homer and Wilma Clark, and her brother-in-law, Bill Barnett.

Funeral services were led by Reverend Keith Garrison on Wednesday, June 4, at Ridgecrest Baptist Church, where she was a member, with burial at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Mountain Grove, MO.

Carolyn Lombard (no picture available)

Carolyn Lombard, 81, of Springfield, MO, passed away peacefully on May 30, 2025. She grew up in Mountain Grove, MO and obtained her bachelor's degree in education from the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville. There, she met her husband, Rev. Don Lombard. Together, they dedicated their lives to ministry and were instrumental in building and leading the First FWB Church of O'Fallon, MO, where they served for many years. Carolyn's professional career was spent teaching elementary school. Carolyn contributed to two books during her life. "Upon this Rock: Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists 100 Years," and "Plucked from the Burning: Embracing God's Purpose,"

To read the full obituaries for these that have gone on, visit our state website at mofwb.com/gem-magazine/gem-links-articles or scan here



COMPLETE HONESTY

"Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight!

Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!" Psalms 32:1-2 (NLT)



Complete honesty, you have got to be kidding me. The thought of being completely honest is horrifying. If anyone knew what I had done, no one would want to be around me. At least that's what I tell myself and believe in this moment of secrecy. The psalmist says that when I am completely honest, I will find a life free of guilt, full of forgiveness and joy. But everything within me says, "That is crazy!" Complete honesty requires confession. If people know what I have done they will stop loving me, they will stop being my friend, and she will no longer want to be in a relationship with me. These are the lies that I tell myself. Charles Spurgeon once said, "It does not spoil your happiness to confess your sin. The unhappiness is in not making the confession."

What is complete honesty? How do I confess?

The first step of complete honesty begins with me confessing some things to myself that are true. I must confess that my sin is my fault! Yes, others may have acted wrong towards me, hurt me, abandoned me, yet it is my reaction to their sin that I must own. Others may have planted seeds, that circumstances and events may have fertilized, but I am the one who allowed sin to grow. I need to tell myself this truth. It is painful, but it is true. When I see others as the fault of my sin, I am powerless to change my situation and to find victory. Therefore, the first step of complete honesty is confession of my sin, in all its ugliness, to myself. Now I am ready to take the next step towards a clean heart, forgiveness, and joy.

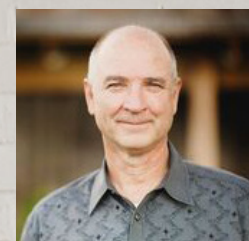
The second step of complete honesty is the confession of my sin to God. This confession is not because He needs to know something, for there is nothing He does not know. He knows all my sins before I do and before I am even honest with myself about them. Confession is the process of "agreeing with that which is true". Throughout God's word

He states that He created humanity for holiness, purity, and to reflect His image. So, when I confess my sin to God I am agreeing with Him that my thoughts, motives and/or actions were unholy, impure, and contrary to His image. It is in that agreement that I can now walk truthfully with God (Amos 3:3). If I do not confess my sin to God, I will find myself walking in shame, guilt, and loneliness. Saint Augustine put it this way, "In failing to confess, Lord, I would only hide You from myself, not myself from You." In my complete honesty with God I experience, through Jesus, a clean heart, forgiveness, joy, and the power of the Holy Spirit to take the third step of complete honesty.

The third step of complete honesty is the confession of my sin to those that God will use to help me make restitution where needed, seek reconciliation where appropriate, and to build and maintain a life that reflects His image. We are called to live in relationships and community (Hebrews 10:24-25), but sin separates and seeks to destroy relationships and community. When my sin has created separation within a relationship and/or my community, it is my responsibility to be completely honest about my sin with others so we may be reconciled (Galatians 6:1-10). Confessing my sin to a fellow follower of Jesus, who I trust, can bring about hope and healing to my relationships and within my community (James 5:16). My honesty with someone else who can pray with me, hold me accountable, and give me guidance; empowers me to live in healthy relationships and community.

Are you completely honest? What confessional step(s) do you need to take to develop honesty?

"A man's very highest moment is, I have no doubt at all, when he kneels in the dust, and beats his breast, and tells all the sins of his life." -Oscar Wilde



Robert Posner pastored two churches for 26 years before a moral failure brought his world crashing down around him. After years of recovery and reconciliation, today, he and his wife Judy are Certified Professional Mentors™ and founders of 2416 Ministries, helping men build and maintain a life that is pursuing Biblical sexual integrity and helping wives find healing from the trauma of betrayal. Members of First Free Will Baptist Church, Duncanville TX. Parents of three and grandparents of five.

From Our Boards

C.E Board

There are some things that are just Better Together!

Peanut butter and jelly. Macaroni and cheese. And, according to Forrest Gump, peas and carrots. These things complement each other. Together they create something greater than just the sum of their parts. At the Missouri Free Will Baptist State Association Meeting in June, our state leaders announced a year long emphasis on being Better Together. We, the collective churches of our State Association and each as individual members, make up something greater than just the sum of the parts. We are the body of Christ. We are called to unity and Gospel partnerships. We are compelled to love one another just as Christ loved us. And when we do we will find that we are truly Better Together. Throughout the year our various state ministries will be looking for ways to encourage churches and church members to practically live out this concept. A few ways I and my church are trying to live this out are:

- I am meeting regularly with another Free Will Baptist pastor from another town for encouragement and fellowship.

- Our church is passing on excess ministry supplies to other churches.
- We are supporting the State COOP Plan which helps fund state and national ministries.
- I listen regularly to the "Better Together Podcast" sponsored by the Free Will Baptist Executive Office. (You can find this podcast - hosted by Dr. Eddie Moody - at nafwb.org or wherever you get your podcasts.)

These are just a few of over 50 ideas given out at the State Association Meeting. We would encourage you to look at the list by scanning the QR code and consider trying out four or five of these ideas as a church or an individual over this next year. We are excited to see what God will do when we remember that we are Better Together.

53 Ways You Can Be
"Better Together"
in 2025-2026 (PDF) →



Camp Board



JOB OPENING

The job
description
and details
can be found
scanning this
QR code →



Search Underway for Camp Director/ Superintendent

Interested applicants can send their resumes to:

Nevada Free Will Baptist Church
c/o Jacob Jones
1030 S. Clay
Nevada, MO 64772

or email them to:
pastorjdjonesnevadamo@gmail.com

Youth Ministry Board



53 Ways You Can Be Better TOGETHER in 2025-2026

24. Participate in a disaster relief project for affected churches.
25. If your church doesn't have any campers, sponsor a camper from another church.
26. If you've never attended a district association or state association, go and take someone with you.
27. Volunteer to take a turn serving as an officer, board, or committee member in your district association.
28. Volunteer to be a sponsor or helper at Camp Niangua.
29. Provide a scholarship for someone or a couple to attend the Retiree Retreat.
30. Visit a church planter to learn more about their ministry and needs.
31. Intentionally attend a FWB church while on vacation and encourage them.
32. Include your church, missionaries, and/or the State Association in your final estate distribution plan.
33. Challenge your church and other churches to include the Missouri Mission Board or State Association in your Church By-law dissolution clause. If your church ever closes, this will keep Free Will Baptist assets at work doing Free Will Baptist ministry.
34. Tithe regularly to your local church and allow your children and/or grandchildren to physically put it in the offering plate or box.
35. Meet bi-weekly with another pastor, leader, or friend of the same gender to pray for local ministries, churches, schools, and community leaders.
36. Send an encouraging card or email to pastors in your area.
37. Communicate in a timely way with your district moderator and clerk to alert them of substantial changes in your church, or to submit your annual report.
38. Organize an event with other churches to honor and pray for teachers, police officers, emergency workers, and other community leaders.
39. Listen to the "Better Together Podcast" sponsored by the Free Will Baptist Executive Office and tell others about it.
40. Buy an extra copy of the most helpful and biblically based book you have read recently and give it to a new and/or growing believer.
41. If you are over 60 years of age, approach someone under 30 and offer to pray for them. If you are under 30, do the opposite.
42. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you when you are being overly negative and critical in your attitude or comments toward other believers.
43. Accept correction, reproof, and rebuke as you want and think others should.
44. Be intentional to point out a positive trait in someone and encourage someone every time you attend worship or a meeting.
45. Tell the leaders of your church, association, and other ministries how much you appreciate their commitment and service.
46. Give an appreciation gift card to your Sunday School teacher, pastor's wife, pastor's children, or another person who has ministered to you.
47. After your pastor has served seven years in your local church, propose to the leadership that a sabbatical be given to him and his family.
48. Encourage your pastor to take his vacation time and be sure to utilize other preachers in the church as needed.
49. Sponsor an annual appreciation dinner for your association leaders, with the association paying the bill and gratuity.
50. A district association can cover a struggling church's annual dues for one year until the church stabilizes.
51. Memorize Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 and Romans 12:4-8, and read 1 Corinthians 12:14-27 daily for 30 days.
52. Confess any sinful spirit of independence and criticism and determine to be a productive, positive servant of God for the benefit and edification of Christ's body.
53. Always pray over your attitude, comments, and opinions prior to sharing them publicly.

~Jackson Watts & Stan Bunch

August 22 & 23 at Camp Niangua

evangelism conference

The conference is for anyone involved in local church ministry. Attendees will be encouraged, trained, & receive resources to help in the ministry. There will be training for discipleship, ministry with children, ladies ministry, missions, & practical soul winning.

Prayerfully ask God to make it possible for you to set aside less than 24 hours to be better prepared to serve Him.

Speakers and Topics:

- David Crowe - North American Ministries
- Kevin Barnett - Discipleship - Sutton FWB Church, Pocahontas, AR
- Steve Greenwood - Donnelson Fellowship - Childrens' Ministry
- Joan Wilson - Verdella FWB Church - Ladies Ministry - Hanna Project & more
- Steve Reeves & Stan Bunch - Practical Soul Winning



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 or QR



Don't Forget....

If you plan to stay overnight in the camp dorms, bring bedding with you.

Other Accommodations

Holiday Inn - Marshfield, MO
Double Queen - \$140
Reserve by August 8th.
Ask for Allie or Jennifer • Code is FWB

Sponsored by...



Conference Schedule

Friday

- 4:00 Registration (Dining Hall)
- 5:30 Dinner
- 6:00 - 6:30 Prayer
- 6:45 - 7:30 Kevin Barnett
- 7:45 - 8:30 David Crowe
- 8:45 - 9:30 Breakout Sessions (by groups)

Saturday

- 7:00 Breakfast
- 8:00 - 8:45 Breakout Sessions (by groups)
- 9:00 - 9:45 David Crowe
- 10:00 - 10:45 Breakout Sessions (by groups)
- 11:00 - 11:45 Kevin Barnett



Ministry Gems
News Tidbits from Around the State



2025 National FWB Convention Hosting - Has your church donated to help with the need of hosting the upcoming national convention? Check the MOFWB website to know. mofwb.com

PRAISE THE LORD! For nearly two years we have been praying for the Mosaic Church in Rolla to secure land on which to build. While Faron Thebeau was preaching at the recent state convention Josh Chapman was representing the Mosaic Church at the Rolla City Council meeting. As Faron took the pulpit the council voted to approve the land purchase of 4 acres for the Mosaic Church. Now, let's get behind this great ministry and help them build a facility.

50 Years is a long time, and in this case a great testimony. The Mill Creek Church in Fredericktown helped Raymond and Debbie Michaels celebrate 50 years of marriage. Congratulations Debbie & Raymond!

Please press the pause button and pray for all the ministries that will take place during the National Convention July 20-23. In particular, Missouri pastors Aaron Pontious and Doug Earls who will be speaking Sunday morning and Monday evening.

Please pray for the Youth Camp Board as they prayerfully seek a new person to oversee the ministries of the camp at Niangua.

Would you like to serve on a Missouri State Free Will Baptist Ministry Board or Commission? Each year the nominating committee seeks out committed persons to fill various board positions. Perhaps you would like to serve but feel hesitant to tell someone. Please go to the MOFWB.com website and fill out this very short form.

- Youth Camp Board
- Retiree Board
- Youth Ministry Board
- Christian Education Board
- Mission Board
- Historical Commission
- Planning Commission
- Women's Ministry Board
- Nominating/Resolutions/Credentials Committee



This information will only be accessible to the Executive and Nominating Committees of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Youth Evangelistic Team (YET) - Applications are due July 21, 2025. YET is a ministry team selected from among the top-scoring contestants in Bible memorization, music, drama, and sign language. The students serve as the worship ministry team during the teen services of the VIII Conference. To be eligible, you must participate in the CTS Ministry Expo and be in grades 9-12.



Truth & Peace Leadership Conference - The premier leadership training conference for Free Will Baptist high school students.

Applications and more information can be found on the Vertical Three website. Scan the QR Code above.

Recovery from addictions, divorce, bankruptcy, pornography, abuse, and other life issues is difficult. Perhaps the ministry that is having the most rapid growth and impact in communities is that of Recovery Ministries. Drug and alcohol abuse is a serious issue around you. Several FWB churches are seeing people saved and victorious over addictions. For more information contact pastors Randy Gaddis, Melvin Moon, or Mark Elliott. They can inform you about beginning a recovery ministry.

Please pause right now and pray for the students who have made commitments to Christ during the Niangua Youth Camp sessions. Also, take mental note to send a card of thanks (with a gift card would be great) to those who served as cabin sponsors.

Pray for over 100 FWB youth who served on E-Team this year. Many of our current missionaries and church planters served on E-Team in the past.

This past month marks an historic occasion for the Springfield Chapter of Child Evangelism Fellowship of Missouri. For the first time in the history of the chapter, the number of children attending Good News Club in the sixteen-county area has exceeded one thousand students. There have been ninety-four of these children born-again this school year. The Lord is blessing children through the ministry of over two hundred Good News Club volunteers in the Southwest Missouri Region.

For more information about Good News Clubs contact Southwest MO Director Kelly Rehm at 417-298-9330.



Missouri Free Will Baptist 2025 State Calendar

July 7-11	Pre-Teen Camp - Camp Niangua, Session 2
July 20-23	NAFWB Convention & National Youth Conference, Kansas City, MO
August 22-23	Evangelism Conference - Camp Niangua
September 19-20	MOFWB Women's Ministry Retreat - to be determined
October 27-29	Retiree Retreat - to be determined
November 8	E3 Conference - United FWB Church, West Plains, MO
November 3	General Board Meeting - State Office, Lebanon, MO



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



Retiree Conference

We are Better Together!

**OCT.
27-29**

**Lodge of
the Ozarks,
Branson**



MONDAY EVENING
The Lesters

TUESDAY MORNING
Dr. Doug Earls



TUESDAY EVENING
Dr. Eddie Moody

- Single \$155/person
 - Double \$110/person
 - Triple \$105/person
 - Quadruple \$100/person
- \$75 deposit per person required with registration**

Attendees will provide
their own lunch Tuesday.

Hotel check-in begins
at 3:00pm on Monday.

ALL pastors are
welcome to attend!

Registration payment may be made by check or
cash. (Payable to the MOFWB Sr. Board)

NOTE: If, AFTER YOU HAVE REGISTERED,
YOU FIND YOU CANNOT ATTEND, PLEASE LET
BRO. RON KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
417-257-9723 OR RONBLINDAFB@GMAIL.COM



Registration Form

DEADLINE Monday, September 29

There is no guarantee of a room after the deadline

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Church _____ Pastor _____

List All Persons Staying In a Room

Special needs: _____

WOMEN'S MINISTRY RETREAT → SEPTEMBER 19-20

WESTGATE BRANSON WOODS RESORT

**MOST EXCELLENT
WAY → LOVE**

Speakers: *Grannie Carter & Gayle Haas*
STORIESCOMEALIVE.ORG

COST: \$60 REGISTRATION FEE + ROOM
LATE FEE OF \$10 AFTER AUGUST 1

**REGISTRATION FORMS, ONLINE REGISTRATION
& MORE INFORMATION AT MOFWB.COM**



Financial Report

Please note: The amounts listed are for two months,
April-May, 2025

COOP Disbursements			Nevada	\$2,059.47	Kevin Williford.....	\$40.00	William Moore.....	\$25.00
19% MO Missions.....	\$35,537.28		New Hope.....	\$642.00	Leadington.....	\$275.00	Total	\$18,965.08
21.5% Gen/Exec.....	\$40,213.24		New Life- Licking	\$1,378.75	Lebanon 1st.....	\$653.24	North American Ministries	
8.5% Youth Camp.....	\$15,898.26		Number One	\$50.00	Lucille Franklin.....	\$600.00	Bailey.....	\$100.00
2% Youth Ministry	\$3,740.77		Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove ...	\$478.73	Macedonia - Purdy	\$8,000.00	Belton	\$275.19
2% C.E. Board	\$3,740.77		Oak Hill	\$931.00	Mountain Grove 1st	\$120.00	Cuba	\$86.25
2% Retiree Ministry	\$3,740.77		O'Fallon 1st	\$10,673.07	Mt. Pisgah.....	\$207.00	De Soto 1st.....	\$547.00
9% State Retirement	\$16,833.45		One Accord.....	\$1,025.70	Mt. Pisgah Women	\$25.00	Grace.....	\$170.00
3% Show-Me	\$5,611.15		Ozark 1st - Heritage	\$723.46	Myrtle.....	\$150.00	Hartville.....	\$100.00
33% Nat'l Ministries	\$54,803.54		Ozark Family Church	\$9,816.93	Neosho 1st	\$500.00	Hopewell WAC	\$50.00
Randall U (.1121).....	\$6,919.11		Park Hills 1st.....	\$2,829.79	New Hope.....	\$400.00	Lebanon 1st.....	\$400.00
Total Disbursed.....	\$187,038.32		Parkview.....	\$869.00	New Life- Licking	\$352.00	Loretta Minney.....	\$25.00
RECEIPTS			Pleasant Home.....	\$399.30	Number One	\$120.00	Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$70.00
COOP			Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$538.00	Oak Grove- Mtn. Grove ...	\$325.00	Mt. Pisgah.....	\$50.00
Alton	\$200.00		Purdy 1st	\$2,000.00	Oak Hill	\$84.00	New Hope.....	\$100.00
Amity.....	\$190.60		Republic.....	\$1,153.48	O'Fallon 1st	\$7,305.72	New Testament.....	\$40.00
Bailey.....	\$1,005.00		Resolve.....	\$200.00	Ozark 1st - Heritage	\$425.00	Park Hills 1st.....	\$160.00
Bailey Chapel	\$337.40		Richwoods 1st.....	\$896.00	Ozark Family Church.....	\$550.00	Rock Chapel	\$278.61
Belton	\$1,011.90		Rock Chapel	\$1,079.04	Park Hills 1st.....	\$259.00	South Fremont.....	\$45.00
Berean	\$523.30		Safe Harbor	\$225.00	Pleasant Grove- Anderson	\$300.00	Southeast Association	\$50.00
Bethel- Marshfield.....	\$2,617.26		Seymour	\$1,960.00	Pleasant Home	\$400.00	Stockton.....	\$60.00
Black Oak	\$1,922.32		Smyrna	\$355.00	Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$140.00	Trinity.....	\$20.00
Byrd	\$809.00		South Fremont.....	\$1,312.00	Purdy 1st	\$900.00	Twin Oak Auxiliary	\$70.00
Calvary Chapel	\$7,288.47		Springfield 1st.....	\$2,412.00	Republic.....	\$105.00	Union Light	\$50.00
Calvary Fellowship	\$8,504.28		Stockton.....	\$472.09	Resolve.....	\$200.00	Waynesville 1st.....	\$120.00
Christ Chapel.....	\$2,422.00		Stonebridge	\$1,845.60	Richwoods 1st.....	\$445.24	Total	\$2,867.05
Clifton Sunday School	\$11.30		Thayer	\$3,970.00	Rock Chapel	\$800.00	International Missions	
Copper Mines	\$2,676.83		Trinity	\$862.70	Rodney Buntun.....	\$5,000.00	Alvin Hook	\$50.00
Cornerstone	\$1,081.00		Twin Oak.....	\$1,883.98	South Fremont.....	\$150.00	Berean.....	\$25.00
Cuba	\$1,124.00		Union	\$60.00	Southeast Association	\$120.00	Black Oak	\$200.00
De Soto 1st.....	\$4,549.00		Union Light	\$436.00	Springfield 1st.....	\$600.00	Central Western Assoc	\$327.00
Esperanza FWB	\$808.47		United	\$5,135.96	Stockton.....	\$120.00	Christ Chapel.....	\$100.00
Faith - Fair Grove	\$828.60		Unity	\$1,610.00	Stockton Auxiliary	\$120.00	Copper Mines	\$1,150.00
Faith Chapel	\$1,709.30		Verdella.....	\$1,843.88	Thayer	\$1,350.00	Cuba	\$172.50
Farmington 1st.....	\$8,925.07		Viburnum	\$320.50	Trinity	\$75.00	De Soto 1st.....	\$1,366.00
Fellowship.....	\$3,915.00		Victory- Alton	\$3,799.69	Trisa Johnson	\$23.79	Farmington 1st.....	\$205.00
First Day	\$3,554.74		Victory- KC	\$1,663.40	Twin Oak Auxiliary	\$110.00	Fellowship.....	\$1,555.00
Fredericktown 1st.....	\$1,330.00		Waynesville 1st.....	\$1,850.45	Union	\$45.00	Fredericktown 1st	\$640.00
Freedom Point.....	\$547.43		West Plains 1st.....	\$5,022.00	Union Light	\$650.00	Fredericktown 1st - Ladies	\$300.00
Freeman Chapel.....	\$1,001.00		Wilderness.....	\$2,078.20	United	\$950.00	Freida Hays	\$25.00
Friendship	\$350.25		Willow Springs.....	\$2,427.46	Verdella.....	\$1,843.88	Friendship.....	\$60.00
Generations	\$1,062.45		Wolf Creek.....	\$2,235.00	Viburnum	\$30.00	Generations	\$111.84
Good News.....	\$756.10		Total	\$187,038.32	Victory- KC	\$472.68	Gospel Light	\$1,490.00
Gospel Light	\$800.00		Show-Me Plan		Waynesville 1st	\$1,001.37	Grace	\$1,409.00
Grace	\$4,140.47		Alan Kinder	\$200.00	Willow Springs.....	\$426.01	Hannon	\$150.00
Grace Fellowship.....	\$2,550.00		Belton	\$175.00	Wolf Creek	\$200.00	Hartville.....	\$440.00
Grace Pointe.....	\$850.00		Belton	\$175.00	MOFWB COOP	\$4,547.08	Houston 1st	\$1,082.04
Grant Avenue.....	\$1,627.21		Black Oak	\$360.00	Total	\$57,303.62	Leadington	\$300.00
Hannon	\$1,356.78		Brent Emmerson.....	\$50.00	Missouri Missions		Lebanon 1st.....	\$450.00
Hartville.....	\$4,570.00		Byrd	\$50.00	Bailey.....	\$100.00	Lebanon 1st.....	\$200.00
Hazel Creek.....	\$3,519.71		Calvary Chapel	\$90.00	Calvary Fellowship	\$1,449.99	Mill Creek.....	\$200.00
Hopewell.....	\$1,672.00		Cleo Reeder	\$30.00	D6 Family Ministry	\$70.22	Mill Creek- Young Adult	\$50.00
Houston 1st	\$1,319.12		Copper Mines	\$300.00	De Soto 1st.....	\$1,641.00	Mission Association	\$154.00
Hurryville.....	\$814.00		Cuba	\$230.00	Esperanza FWB	\$60.00	MO FWB Mission Bd	\$2,200.00
Koshkonong.....	\$1,289.10		D6 Family Ministry	\$70.22	Farmington 1st.....	\$1,120.00	New Hope.....	\$200.00
Leadington.....	\$1,453.00		De Soto 1st.....	\$1,641.00	Farmington 1st- WAC	\$50.00	Oak Hill	\$168.00
Lebanon 1st.....	\$5,824.63		Fellowship.....	\$1,125.00	Fellowship.....	\$1,125.00	O'Fallon 1st	\$2,125.00
Lebanon Green Hills.....	\$300.00		First Day	\$1,776.91	Fredericktown 1st - Ladies	\$500.00	One Accord.....	\$75.00
Liberty	\$1,200.00		Frank Webster	\$60.00	Friendship	\$60.00	One Accord.....	\$75.00
Liberty - Gatewood	\$228.60		Fredericktown 1st	\$400.00	Grace Fellowship	\$5,000.00	Ozark Family Church.....	\$200.00
Lucille Franklin.....	\$600.00		Freeman Chapel	\$1,440.00	Lebanon 1st.....	\$14.14	Ozark Family Church....	\$1,661.31
Marshfield	\$352.28		Gary Tune	\$96.64	Loretta Minney.....	\$25.00	Park Hills 1st.....	\$244.00
Marshfield	\$239.83		Generations	\$191.84	Mosaic	\$9,000.00	Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$100.00
Mill Creek.....	\$902.31		Gospel Light	\$1,800.00	Mt. Pisgah Women	\$20.00	Rock Chapel	\$50.00
Mine La Motte.....	\$66.43		Grace	\$1,091.00	O'Fallon 1st	\$1,500.00	South Fremont.....	\$115.00
Monett 1st.....	\$1,099.30		Grace Pointe.....	\$650.00	Oliver Adamson	\$110.00	Southeast Association	\$100.00
Mosaic	\$1,084.11		Grant Avenue.....	\$210.00	Ozark 1st - Heritage	\$200.00	Stockton.....	\$150.00
Mosaic	\$1,394.57		Hannon	\$500.00	Ozark Family Church.....	\$20.00	Thayer	\$250.00
Mountain Grove 1st.....	\$2,111.17		Hartville.....	\$350.00	Pleasant Ridge- Urbana ..	\$50.00	Trinity.....	\$20.00
Mt. Pisgah.....	\$1,248.00		Hopewell WAC	\$125.00	Republic.....	\$50.00	Twin Oak Auxiliary	\$30.00
Neosho 1st	\$1,839.00		Hopewell WAC	\$125.00	Ryan Akers	\$50.00	Union Light	\$150.00
			Jerry Rader.....	\$40.00	Scott Keith	\$50.00	Verdella.....	\$1,668.77
			Joshua Provow	\$50.00	Thayer	\$60.00	Victory- KC	\$383.18
							Walnut Grove.....	\$350.00
							Waynesville 1st.....	\$590.00
							Total	\$22,917.64

Available
for Fill-In

Cody Alley
Lebanon, MO
573-664-6945

Rich Barker
Park Hills, MO
573-664-6947

Lynn Beck
Springfield, MO
417-812-3823

Jack Brown
Kansas City, MO
816-267-0550

J.D. Chadwell
Mansfield, MO
417-224-5894

Gene Howell
Ozark, MO
618-926-5000

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

Lindell Richardson
Desloge, MO
573-366-1850

Jason Williams
Ozark, MO
417-260-7078

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

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

Ch-TN
Bailey..... \$400.00
Belton..... \$20.00
De Soto 1st..... \$160.00
Derik Frederiksen \$96.64 | Grace..... | \$86.00 | Hartville..... | \$100.00 | Mill Creek..... | \$50.00 | Myrtle..... | \$100.00 | Union Light | \$100.00 | Unity | \$300.00 | Total | \$1,412.64 | **Total** | **\$2,825.28** |

Young Children's Home
Thayer \$85.00 | **Total** | **\$85.00** |

MO CE
D6 Family Ministry..... \$46.81
Total **\$46.81** |

MO Retiree
D6 Family Ministry \$46.81 | **Total** | **\$46.81** |

MO Youth Ministry
D6 Family Ministry..... \$46.81
Total **\$46.81** |

Getsemani Children's Home
Stockton..... \$30.00
Total **\$30.00** |

Rainbow Ministries
Union Light \$300.00 | **Total** | **\$300.00** |

Randall U
Farmington 1st..... \$200.00
Fellowship..... \$60.00
Grace..... \$50.00
Thayer \$200.00 | **Total** | **\$510.00** |

Welch College
De Soto 1st..... \$120.00
Thayer \$200.00 | **Total** | **\$320.00** |

WNAC
Fredericktown 1st - Ladies \$200.00
Lucille Franklin..... \$300.00
Stockton Auxiliary \$10.00 | Twin Oak Auxiliary | \$10.00 | **Total** | **\$520.00** |

Youth Camp
Cuba \$148.78 | D6 Family Ministry | \$187.24 | De Soto 1st..... | \$160.00 | Hartville..... | \$100.00 | Lucille Franklin..... | \$300.00 | Mt. Pisgah..... | \$30.00 | Myrtle..... | \$50.00 | Oak Hill | \$84.00 | Ozark Family Church..... | \$20.00 |

Thank you for
supporting these
FWB ministries!!



By supporting
COOP your church
can have an impact
around the world
through MOFWB
ministries.

To What or to Whom Are You Listening?

Driving, mowing, or just sitting, are great times to listen to edifying and helpful information. There are great podcasts available for teaching, training, encouragement, and fresh ideas for Christians.



Better Together
Dr. Eddie Moody



Revitalize and Replant
Mark Clifton



Rural Pastor
Andy Addis



D6 Family Ministry

Page 18 / GEM Magazine / July-August, 2025

July-August, 2025 / GEM Magazine / Page 19



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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #1369
Nashville, TN

Serving Missouri Free Will Baptists Since 1929

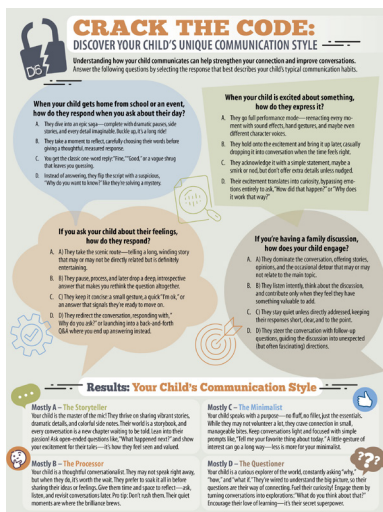


Free Download from



Crack the Code: Discover Your Child's Unique Communication Style

The first step to drawing out your child's heart is understanding how they speak. "Crack the Code" is a free resource designed to help you do just that! Does your child share every detail in vivid color like a storyteller, or do they need time to process before opening up? Maybe they keep it short and sweet like a minimalist, or turn the conversation around with endless curiosity like a questioner.



This tool will help you uncover those nuances by answering a few simple, thoughtful questions tailored to your child's communication habits. This quiz-style resource gives you insights to:

- ✓ Ask questions in ways that resonate
- ✓ Discern when to lean in and when to give space
- ✓ Foster empowering, not intrusive, conversations
- ✓ Strengthen the bond to deeper faith talks

Once you understand their style, you'll approach conversations in safe and inviting ways. More than getting them to talk—it's about showing their voice is valued, their thoughts are worth hearing, and their heart is worth pursuing.



Ministry Leaders: Share this download with parents! Send it directly or print and distribute to spark fun discussions, strengthen relationships, and make faith conversations more natural at home.

**DOWNLOAD
NOW**

