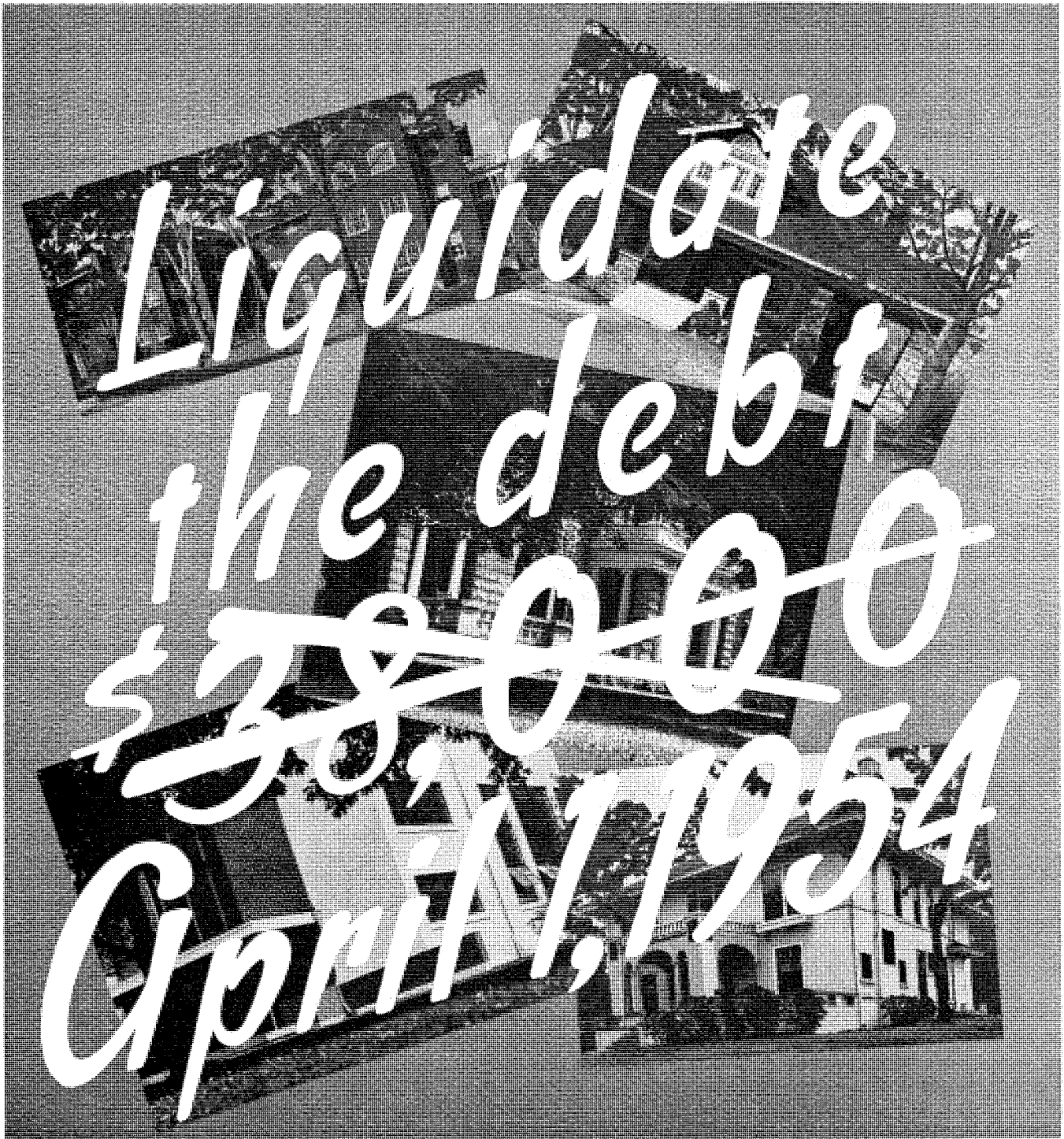


# Contact

of the  
National Association  
of Free Will Baptists

FEBRUARY, 1954

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



(SEE STORY ON PAGE 12)



# Personally...

Some great American is reported to have said, "I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." It is time for those who believe in that American principle to stand up and be counted.

The religious persecution which for so long has made up the bulk of church news coming from Italy, Spain and South America is now being felt in our own country. A lawsuit is now being tried in the U.S. district court at Albuquerque, New Mexico, to gain for 90 Jemez Indians their religious freedom. The suit charges that the predominantly Roman Catholic Jemez Pueblo, where the 90 live, has deprived them of freedom of worship.

The Protestants claim they were refused the right to have a church of their own or to use their homes for prayer meetings or services. They also say they were denied the right to bury their dead in the communal cemetery or to establish a cemetery of their own. The suit charges further that the non-Catholic residents had been threatened "with loss of their birthrights, homes, personal property and the right to share in community work if they did not become Catholics."

Actually, there is nothing new about the story, but the setting makes the difference. New Mexico is much closer home than Spain. The whole incident is just further proof that the words "tolerance," "fair play" and "religious freedom" strangely disappear from Roman Catholic vocabularies when they are in the majority.

### Cuban Missionary Writes

"My heart was thrilled with joy as I saw many of the Protestants from all over the island coming together for a fellowship meeting. On the first night of this meeting there was a parade in which all the Evangelicals marched together singing, 'Onward Christian Soldiers.' I am sure your heart would have been thrilled, too, to see this host of about 2,000 Christians going forth for Christ. My faith was greatly increased as I thought of what could be done for Christ in Cuba with all these witnesses."—Lucy Wisheart, Pinar del Rio, Cuba.

### Appreciates Greetings

"I was 'snowed under' with Christmas greetings and it is taking me some time to reach all of my many friends who remembered me. I am unable to repay them, but I rest assured that as Paul said to the Philippians, my God shall and is able to repay. I wish you success with the new paper which gave so much space to your unprofitable servant."—Rev. John H. Wolfe, Pawnee City, Nebraska.

### Subscribes for Husband

"I have been reading the January issue of CONTACT and enjoyed it very much. I would like to have it sent to my husband in Korea. Please send him the back issues, also."—Mrs. Max Perry, Cottdonale, Fla.

### Story Is Inspiration

"The story of Rev. John Wolfe was a real inspiration. We need to hear more about men like him. Especially would our youth be helped by the study of life as these great Christians lived it."—Bill E. Patrick, Sapulpa, Okla.

## Contact

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# Preaching and Practicing

*Rev. Charles A. Thigpen, Pastor, Highland Park Church, Detroit, Michigan*

To most ministers, "ministerial ethics" means the way they feel they should treat their brother ministers; and, even more, the way they feel their brother ministers should treat them. Even though this is our present consideration, we do not want anyone to think that the minister's responsibility begins and ends with his conduct toward his brethren in this sacred work. This is only one phase of the minister's social responsibility.

It is clearly established in the mind of every Bible student that God calls to the task of proclaiming His Gospel. This calling is very sacred. Paul states in Ephesians that God endows the several ministers, "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." The call to be a minister for Christ is the highest calling that can be experienced by mankind today.

The eminent evangelist of by-gone days, Sam Jones, once said, "The pulpit is not a prison, it's a throne, and the preacher is not a prisoner but a king!" Ministers are, using Paul's characterization, "ambassadors" for Christ. This group, therefore, and their conduct one to the other, is the burden of our consideration. We are presupposing that the minister is a Christian, a gentleman and one who has responded soul and body to God's call to salvation and also to God's call to proclaim His word.

## *Begin with Golden Rule*

As we look to the Bible, which is our rule not only of faith but also of practice, for a scriptural basis for our thinking let us begin with the "golden rule". "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12). Unselfishness, love and consideration for others is the very essence of ministerial ethics and etiquette. There must be a genuine spirit of "in honour preferring one another."

Let us first of all think of the minister's duty to his predecessor. There is always a predecessor and his successor owes much to him. Most ministers would agree that the best plan of work when one first takes over a local church is to study carefully the former pastor's methods and plans and continue them as best one can.

There should be no radical break with these plans at the beginning. Every wise builder must leave many works incomplete.

If he were a man of vision, he was not only building for the present, but his eyes were cast toward the future and some definite plans had been formulated and the church was moving in this general direction. For a new man to come in and immediately endeavor to erase everything that in any way resembled the former leader would be most disastrous.

## *Consider Which Program*

Most new ministers will find, after careful prayer and consideration that the church's program as a whole is proper and that the changes that he feels imperative can be added bit by bit. He must deal with each item on its own merits and not on the basis of who started it.

Under no circumstances should he remove a thing that has taken a place of prominence unless he is positive that he is correct in doing so. Even then, it is well to put something better in the place of that which has been taken away.

The successor should remember that for months or even years the harvest he is reaping is that which his predecessor had sown. It is always God that gives the increase, but he that planteth and he that watereth should be one in spirit. God had a work for the former minister to perform. He now has a work for you to do.

## *Each Has a Job*

There are no two ministers whose works are alike in every particular. God had a job for your predecessor, and now that you have taken the helm, there is a job for you. The new pastor never helps himself by underrating his predecessor's work.

The minister will have to deal with the former pastor's special friends and also his enemies. Concerning the former group it may be said that there are some people in every church who will never feel toward a present pastor as kindly as they do to a certain former one. There is also an oversensitive group who feel that the former pastor slighted them.

The new minister should always remember that it is unchristian and unethical to speak ill of the character or work of another minister. If he speaks well of his predecessor to both of these groups, he will be enacting the "golden rule." The special friends group will like him all the more for this and the antagonistic group will see that they are getting nowhere in convincing him

of the former man's faults. A minister should be very cautious in his actions and words to this latter group because they might feel if he agrees with them that he is condoning their lukewarm spiritual condition. He should remember that this same group will also criticize him to the next pastor when he comes along.

## *Duties to Successor*

There are also certain duties the minister should perform in relation to his successor. It is natural for a new minister to turn to the former shepherd of this flock for advice and help. There are always the plans, half-done, all-done or un-done. Then there are many hidden, though important, matters the incoming man should be aware of.

A broad survey of the field should first be given and if time permits, the details may be discussed. The entire church roll should be gone over. The various boards and their functions should be related. The previous plans and methods should be stated, but the predecessor of tact will make it clear that the situation is now entirely in the hands of his competent successor.

Of course, there will be facts the retiring minister will not divulge, such as things which were entrusted to him confidentially and also information which would hinder the new man from rendering his best pastoral help to everyone.

## *When Leaving Leave*

Every minister should give his successor a good but sincere build-up to the people and then, as quickly as possible, move on to his new work. This is very important. When a man leaves a charge, let him leave it. No man should be constantly going back or writing back to check-up on the work. It is natural that there will be genuine concern about his former work. This should serve as an incentive to pray for it, but remember, let the new man take care of the pastoral duties.

There will naturally arise occasions when a family desires the former minister to return and officiate at a wedding or a funeral. This is understandable and can best be arranged through the present pastor of the church.

There is an ethically correct procedure in accepting invitations to other churches. When a minister is invited to fill the pulpit

*(Continued on page 12)*

# The Worth of a Man

Mrs. C. C. Sheffield, Newton, Georgia

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free" (Galatians 5:1).

If you were asked to sum up in a few words why America means so much to you, you would probably answer with all sincerity, "Because the principle at the heart of American democracy is our belief in the worth of the individual."

You are not like anybody else, for no two people are exactly alike. Scientists through trying hours of research, and with thousands of different kinds of leaves, have never found two to be alike. So even though God created man in His own image, he individualized every one by some difference. Inherent in the hearts of all humanity, however, is the longing for freedom of the spirit.

But if the desire for freedom and peace burns in the hearts of all people, why is there so much war and misery in the world today? Because greedy, selfish leaders, whose eyes see only a false dream of power and supremacy, suppress the very souls of their people. We may wonder how it is that human spirits can be crushed, warped and twisted into believing false doctrines taught by false leaders.

## Room to Grow Essential

A flower that is left in a pot which is too small for it will soon become root-bound. Its roots will, for lack of space, become entangled in a mass. With no space in which to spread out, the flower will wither and die, failing to perform its God-given task of growing to its fullest, blooming its prettiest, brightening up a small corner of the earth. So it is with people.

How humble and thankful each American should be to realize that our fore-fathers, great men all, knew that the human spirit in bondage is colder than the coldest mountain top in the world. It was their faith in God and in this principle that drove them from England and Europe to the faraway country of America where they could find release for their enslaved spirits.

Through our fundamental belief in God and the recognition of the worth of the individual we have established the American way of life. Just what is this oft-spoken of "American way of life," we ask? It is justice in the face of injustice; it is faith in the face of pessimism and unbelief; it is tolerance in the face of intolerance. But not tolerance only, for no one wants only to be tolerated.

## American Way Defined

It is seeking to understand others who are different, regardless of race, color or

creed. It is the searching for truth in the face of lies; it is the observing of rules and principles laid down by God and followed through by our fore-fathers. It is seeking to build rather than destroy; it is right thinking and right living in the face of evil and wrong. It is seeking to sow the seeds of liberty and freedom in the hearts of people by love, not force, and to implant faith and courage instead of fear in human hearts. It is upholding the value of truth, honor, understanding, kindness, justice, humility, peace, forgiveness and unselfishness.

But could we say that the whole of America is without flaw. Not while there is evil, corruptness and rottenness gnawing at the very foundation of our way of life. A bad apple in a barrel of good ones left there long enough soon contaminates all; a beautiful rose garden left untended will soon be choked by the weeds. What, then, is the hope for our great land?

As long as there are those who recognize the danger of the rotten apple and seek to rid the barrel of it, the rest will remain good. As long as some recognize the danger of the weeds and with grit and determination cull them out, there will be beautiful rose gardens. So it is with our country. As long as individuals play their important parts with right thinking and right living, upholding right and opposing wrong, we can keep our country blessed.

## Evil Must Be Met

But we have not reached the point where we can become complacent. For decades the blood of American boys has soaked the soil of foreign lands. Our nation has not fought these wars as the aggressor. We have fought to free the bodies, minds and souls of men. Sometimes the pathway of duty may be obscured, but we must keep the faith of our forefathers burning strong in our hearts. If evil and wrong, manifested in Communism and other enslaving ideologies, are allowed to engulf small parts of the world unchecked, unhampered, crushing, smothering, gaining momentum as it goes along, the whole world like the barrel of apples, will soon be spoiled.

We must not fail our job, regardless of trouble, heartache and sorrow, if we expect to keep to the road of truth and right. We

are our brothers' keepers, and as long as time shall be we must fight to preserve our—and their—way of life. We must continue to struggle to provide greater security for all the people of all the world, seeking to give new hope and glory to civilization, instilling in the hearts of the human race that all are brothers, images of the same Maker. Simply dreaming of a better world will not make it so—action arising from our dreams is necessary.

## People Are Like Leaders

Great truth is the statement that the people are as good or as bad as their leaders. Because this is so, we must have leaders who stand for the truth, for freedom, for righteousness. And we can have them only as individuals take advantage of their privilege of voting and cast their ballots for that which they believe is right.

Man is a God-designed creature—born with a nature created for right living, but born with a free will to reach out and mould his own destiny. The worth of a man cannot be measured by man if his faith is in God.

There are many, many wrong ways to do a thing, but very few right ways. Finding the right way, through hope climaxed by faith, is our high privilege. And as we find it we must pass it on to others—our families, our children and our friends. Our lives thus lived, added together with others of the same motives and desires, will be an immeasurable power for good in the world. As long as these truths are pursued by men, as long as the worth of the individual is recognized and the individual proves his worth, our American way of life can be preserved and our magnificent country will remain the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Our Father up in heaven made the human race,  
Implanting seeds of goodness, though some  
men's souls are base.

He gave each man a choice to find his destiny;  
Our great American fathers knew souls must  
ever be free.

They braved the mighty ocean  
With danger close beside,  
With God their silent partner they fought and  
bled and died

That all the generations, who after them would  
come

Could have a land of freedom from battles  
fought and won.

As long as men are living who seek for worldly  
gain

And hold men's souls in bondage or fast in  
slavery chains,

I know that our great country will ever stand  
for right

Upholding peaceful measures, but failing, then  
will fight.

As long as true Americans will heed to free-  
dom's call

And standing all together will fight, the great and  
small,

With faith in God, Our Maker, we'll keep our  
flag unfurled,

Release men's souls from fetters, bring peace  
to all the world.

As long as life remains, as long as time shall be,  
I pray that God and men will keep America  
free!





# The Prayer Fellowship

Rev. C. F. Bowen, Director  
Pastor, East Nashville Church

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him 'it is sin'" (James 4:17).

Every one of us knows that it is a good thing to pray. We all know that it is a good thing to pray every day, and that it is a good thing to pray concertedly or together. If we know these things are good to do, then we should read again the verse of Scripture above and act accordingly. Failing to do so, we commit the sin of omission. Let us follow through again this month at nine o'clock each day and pray for the suggested persons and things offered here.

This month we begin an additional plan. We offer you suggested Bible readings with your prayer suggestions. These Scripture passages are selected by the Rev. George Waggoner, clerk of our National Association of Free Will Baptists. We hope you will find them most useful.

Mon., Feb. 1—(II Chron. 20:15-21) Pray for the semi-annual meeting of the National Home Mission Board at the national headquarters building in Nashville, Tennessee. The meeting starts today at 1:30.

Tues., Feb. 2—(Eph. 6:10-18) Pray for the special missionary service held in the churches of Middle Tennessee, sponsored by our Home Mission Board.

Wed., Feb. 3—(Gen. 22:6-13)—Pray for the great missionary rally held in the Memorial Auditorium at the Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee, this evening at 7:30.

Thurs., Feb. 4—(Mark 9:23-29)—Pray for continued support for our national headquarters program.

Fri., Feb. 5—(Rom. 10:8-17)—Pray for the leadership of the Lord in the planning for our denominational Cooperative Program of Support. This may be the plan we have waited for.

Sat., Feb. 6—(Psalm 37:1-7)—Pray for your own church officers and Sunday school teachers as they make last minute plans for tomorrow.

Sun., Feb. 7—(James 5:13-16)—Pray for your pastor as he brings God's message to you today.

Mon., Feb. 8—(Dan. 3:13-18)—Pray that more Christians in your church may become winners of souls this month.

Tues., Feb. 9—(Prov. 3:1-10)—Pray for our increasingly expansive home mission work. More new churches are being added. Pray for these also.

Wed., Feb. 10—(Isa. 26:1-4)—Pray for additional offerings for the "Lights for Cuba" program. About \$1,000 is needed now. Help turn the electric lights on in our mission school there.

Thurs., Feb. 11—(James 1:1-8)—Pray

**Editor's note:** Are you praying with us daily for world-wide Christianity and the Free Will Baptist cause? If you are a daily prayer warrior and will join with us in this prayer crusade, send your name and address to The Prayer Fellowship at national headquarters and we shall be glad to send you free your membership card.

If you will join us, please let us know so that we may enroll you with the hundreds of others as we fellowship daily around private and family altars.

for Rev. Raymond Riggs as he continues to make contacts for our foreign mission program.

Fri., Feb. 12—(Gal. 3:1-12)—Pray for Rev. Raymond Riggs and possibly others who will make a complete survey of the needs on our mission fields in India during the spring months.

Sat., Feb. 13—(Phil. 3:7-14)—Perhaps at this very moment your Sunday school teacher is praying about tomorrow's lesson. Share his responsibility by praying for him now. Pray also for Miss Laura Belle Barnard who has a birthday today.

Sun., Feb. 14—(Heb. 2:1-4)—Pray for your pastor today.

Mon., Feb. 15—(Luke 17:1-6)—Pray for continued support of our national paper, CONTACT.

Tues., Feb. 16—(Phil. 4:4-20)—Don't forget today the work of our missionaries in our Cuban field of endeavor.

Wed., Feb. 17—(Jer. 33:1-3)—Pray for the thousands of prayer meetings that will be held in our churches and others tonight.

Thurs., Feb. 18—(Heb. 10:18-25)—Pray for the balance of the money needed to pay off all debts at our Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Fri., Feb. 19—(James 2:14-20)—Pray for all the newly ordained ministers in our denomination. Pray for those who are seeking ways and means of entering school.

Sat., Feb. 20—(John 6:32-40)—Pray for those who will lead you in your Free Will Baptist League tomorrow night.

Sun., Feb. 21—(Matt. 18:1-6)—Pray for your pastor today. He will preach today. He will preach better if you will.

Mon., Feb. 22—(Heb. 11:32-40)—Pray for the program-planners of our national meetings which will convene this summer.

Tues., Feb. 23—(Matt. 7:25-34)—Pray for the National Free Will Baptist League Board as it makes important plans for the immediate future.

Wed., Feb. 24—(Matt. 17:17-21)—Pray for the National Sunday School Board as it makes plans to move its work to the national headquarters building. Help them pray for the right choice of a promotional director.

Thurs., Feb. 25—(I John 5:1-5)—Our

## Headquarters Fund Moves up to \$1,000

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Late offerings to the Thanksgiving headquarters campaign boosted the amount received to \$1,012, Rev. W. S. Mooneyham, executive secretary, has announced. The largest offering received came from the Wolverine association of Michigan, who gave \$200.

Goal of the campaign was \$4,000 which would have paid the second mortgage due this spring, Mr. Mooneyham said. There were no immediate plans for raising the additional funds needed.

"The fund will not be closed," he said, and urged those who had not given to make their offering this month.

Contributions received since the last report included the amount from Michigan and these others:

Cofer's Chapel, Nashville, Tenn. ....	\$50.00
Third church, St. Louis, Mo. ....	18.90
Hickory Chapel, Ahsokie, N. C. ....	16.17
W. K. O'Brien, Anderson, Texas ....	10.00
Mrs. Walter Sheffield, Colquitt, Ga. ....	5.00
D. J. O'Donnell, Ashville, Ala. ....	5.00
Bill E. Patrick, Sapulpa, Okla. ....	2.50
Verna G. Edson, Mesilla Park, New Mexico .....	2.00
D. H. Cannon, Amory, Miss. ....	1.00
Anonymous, Marfork, W. Va. ....	1.00

## Missionary Services Scheduled for Georgia

TIFTON, Ga.—Rev. Raymond Riggs, promotional secretary for the Board of Foreign Missions will be in Georgia for a series of services February 20-28. The plans for the services were announced by Rev. E. C. Morris, promotional secretary for the Georgia State Association.

While in the state Mr. Riggs will visit all of the district associations. Details of some of the services have not been announced.

Services will be held Saturday night and Sunday morning, February 20-21, in the Chattahoochee Association, but the churches where the services will be have not been selected. Other services have been scheduled as follows:

Sunday night, 21 .....	New Ebenezer Church
Monday (all day), 22 .....	Christian Hill Church
Monday night, 22 .....	South Georgia Association
Tuesday, 23 .....	South Georgia Association
Wednesday, 24 .....	Corinth Church
Thursday (all day), 25 .....	Midway Church
Friday (all day), 26 .....	Bellview Church
Saturday night, 27 .....	Patmos Church
Sunday morning, 28 .....	Patmos Church
Sunday night, 28 .....	First Church, Albany

Bible College faculty and students need your prayers constantly. Pray for them today.

Fri., Feb. 26—(John 14:8-14)—Pray for great revivals in our churches during the coming month.

Sat., Feb. 27—(Matt. 18:19-22)—Pray for your pastor today as he waits before the Lord for those last minute instructions for tomorrow's services and sermons.

Sun., Feb. 28—(Heb. 11:1-6)—Today is Rev. Daniel Cronk's birthday. Pray for him and his wife, Trula, as they labor in our mission fields in India.

# Around the Religious World . . .

## Assemblies of God Plan Largest Convention

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—A comparatively small religious denomination, the Assemblies of God, will conduct the world's largest Sunday school convention here March 30-April 2. The biennial gathering breaks a twelve year tradition to leave the headquarters city of Springfield, Mo.

The decision was made because the southern Missouri town does not have facilities to accommodate convention crowds which are expected to exceed eleven thousand.

Theme of the convention will be "Set Your Sunday School Aflame!" Characteristic event of the convention will be the two and a half hour classes studying various age-groups, visual teaching aids, classroom equipment, how to reach the unchurched, teacher training, curriculum, and week-day religious activities. There will be thirty-three such classes during the three-day meet.

More than twenty-five different denominations were represented at the 1952 convention. Special banquets and other events will be provided at the 1954 gathering for delegates from various religious groups.

## WCTU Announces Contest For Temperance Sermons

EVANSTON, Ill.—Ministers of the United States are invited to preach a special temperance sermon in 1954 in honor of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in its 80th anniversary year.

To stimulate the idea, the WCTU headquarters has announced that cash awards will be made for the best sermon manuscripts submitted. Award money totalling \$2,700 will be divided in five regional contests and the national contest.

Manuscripts considered must require not less than twenty minutes nor more than thirty minutes for delivery and must be sermons preached by resident pastors at their Sunday morning church services on some Sunday, January through October, 1954. For additional details send inquiry direct to Sermon Manuscripts, National WCTU, 1730 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, Illinois.

## World Bible Societies Observe 150th Anniversary

NEW YORK, N. Y.—An unprecedented program of worldwide scope to re-awaken interest in Bible reading and to supply Scriptures to people who want them will be launched in 1954, it was announced recently by the American Bible Society.

The program will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the first national group, the British and Foreign Bible Society. Among the program's goals

will be the increase of distribution of the 24 national Bible societies from 20 million volumes annually, the present total, to 25 million in 1954, and to 50 million by 1960.

One of the focal points of the observance will be the World Good Will Book, a compilation of signatures by people all over the world who will contribute to a fund to make Scriptures available to others.

"The World Good Will Book will be one of the greatest mass statements of faith in human history," said Rev. Robert T. Taylor, general secretary of the American society. "People in more than 60 nations will sign their names on the pages of this book of testimony to their love for the Bible, their faith in its teachings and their desire to share it with others."

## Swiss Protestant Pastor Is Expelled from Spain

MADRID—(RNS)—Rev. Johann Aerni, Swiss pastor of an American Protestant chapel at Archena, Murcia Province, was expelled from Spain after officials refused to renew his residence permit or grant permission for reopening the chapel.

The Archena chapel is sponsored by the Evangelical Alliance Mission of Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Aerni, who served the chapel as pastor before and during the Spanish Civil War, was previously expelled in 1940 for alleged contacts with left-wing groups in the Loyalist cause. The pastor denied the charge. He was permitted to return to Spain in 1951.

## Florida Church Corporation Sets Stock at \$250,000

COTTONDALE, Fla.—The Florida Free Will Baptist Church Corporation met at the state camp near here January 2 and began work on a program which was adopted at the 1952 session of the state association.

The charter adopted by the officers and directors calls for \$250,000 worth of stock to be issued which shall be used as a loan fund for new churches, new educational buildings or the repair of old buildings.

New officers elected by the directors included W. E. Holley, president; Rev. Chester Pelt, vice-president; Rev. Rufus Hyman, secretary; W. W. Eiland, treasurer, and Rev. D. W. Poole, promotional secretary. Members of the board of directors are James Ditty, Rev. D. F. Pelt and Rev. I. O. Cook.

The business office of the corporation was changed from Chipley to Marianna, Fla.

## Missionary Conference Scheduled Feb. 14-19 at Reedy Branch Church

WINTERVILLE, N. C.—The Reedy Branch Free Will Baptist Church near here will be host to a missionary conference scheduled for February 14-19, according to Rev. Henry Melvin, pastor.

The pastor will conduct the services on Sunday and Rev. Raymond Riggs, promotional secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, will arrive on Monday to conduct the rest of the conference. Theme for the six days will be "Look on the Fields."

Services will be held at 7:30 each evening during the conference, except on Sunday when both morning and evening services will be held. Two films will be shown, the pastor said. The first one of these will be a missionary message on film by Dr. Oswald J. Smith, pastor of Peoples' Church in Toronto, Canada, on Tuesday night. "Regions Beyond" will be shown the closing night.

Mr. Riggs will bring two messages on the "March of a Revival Church" and "Feeding the Hungry Multitudes." These will come on Monday and Friday nights. Rev. Joseph Ange, Durham pastor, is scheduled to speak Wednesday night on "A Local Pastor's Responsibility to Foreign Missions."

The Thursday evening message, "We Look on Africa," will be brought by Rev. Harold Stevens, returned missionary to that country. Others appearing on the program include Miss Zalene Lloyd, returned missionary to India, who will discuss the work in that country, and Sgt. Alfred E. Cates who served with the U.S. Army in Japan and did missionary work while there.

The Leagues of the host church will appear on the conference program with a missionary play scheduled for Monday night.

## Alabama Youth Rally Draws 250 Attendance

CORDOVA, Ala.—About 250 people attended the first session of the Alabama state youth rally meeting here before Christmas. Rev. Charles Hollingshead, student at the Free Will Baptist Bible college and president of the state League work, presided over the sessions.

Rev. Sam Ziady, missionary candidate to the Near East, was principal speaker and brought three messages during the rally.

When the count was taken, Sylacauga Unity church led the others, except the host church, with 22 present. Sulphur Springs Church was next with 20 and Eldridge and Adamsville tied for third place with 18 each.

Programs were presented by various churches. A demonstration Sword Drill, conducted by six girls, was won by Wilma Aldridge from Eldridge.



REV. I. J. BLACKWELDER

## Missions Progress Told By Pioneer Officer

by Rev. Raymond Riggs

A lot of progress is represented in the difference between \$27 and \$75,000—and no one knows that better than does Rev. I. J. Blackwelder of Alma, Georgia.

Twenty-seven dollars was the first money entrusted to his care as the newly elected secretary-treasurer of foreign missions of the old General Conference. The \$75,000 is the foreign mission budget for 1953-54. The offering, the first one taken since the Free Will Baptist foreign mission work was lost to the Northern Baptists in 1910, was received at an annual session of the General Conference in June, 1930, at Vernon, Alabama.

The office of secretary-treasurer of foreign missions was created so some one would be responsible for the money. For four years Brother Blackwelder was the only person connected with the office, but in 1935 other men were added and the group became known as the Foreign Mission Board.

It was not until four years after the first offering that the General Conference assumed the support of a missionary. During the 1934 session at Horse Branch Church, Turbeville, S. C., Mr. R. Paul, a native Indian missionary who was connected with the Ceylon and India General Mission, was assigned to the General Conference of Free Will Baptists for support, Brother Blackwelder remembers.

"Mr. Paul's support amounted to only \$10 a month, or \$120 a year, which we paid in quarterly amounts of \$30. We continued to support him for several years even after Miss Laura Belle Barnard left for India," he recounted.

The total receipts for foreign missions from 1930 to 1934 were \$543.61, the records show. The next year, however, receipts jumped to \$281.93. And from 1935

## Foreign Mission Services in Five States Net Over \$7,000

*Oklahoma*—Churches in this state were nearer reaching their 1953-54 quota for foreign missions on December 29 than at any time in the past several years, Rev. E. S. Sunday, chairman of the state Mission Board, announced shortly after the first of the year.

Up to that date the churches had paid and pledged all but \$255 of their \$5,500 suggested quota. Nearly \$4,500 in cash and pledges was raised in services conducted by Rev. Raymond Riggs in sixteen churches during the first part of December.

Cash offerings from the sixteen churches totalled \$698 and the pledges, which are to be paid by June 30, amounted to \$3,861. Three conversions and 164 consecrations were witnessed in the services conducted by the promotional secretary. Tulsa First Church, of which Rev. John H. West is pastor, raised \$1,124 in cash and pledges while the Lewis Avenue Church in Tulsa, pastored by Rev. E. M. Kennedy, gave \$751.35.

The Wewoka Church gave the largest cash offering and their total gifts in cash and pledges amounted to \$400.

\* \* \*

*Arkansas*—Arkansas scored again for foreign missions when Rev. Riggs stopped there for six services before returning to the office in Nashville after the itinerary in Oklahoma.

The six services were held at Bethel Church, Rosebud; Walnut Street Church, Ft. Smith; Greenbrier Church; Macedonia Church, New Edinburg; Rose Hill Church, Monticello, and Mt. Pleasant Church, Hamburg.

"Our tally sheet shows that in these services there were 570 people in attendance and 54 young people dedicated their lives to God for service. Cash offerings amounted to \$190 and pledges totalled \$790," Mr. Riggs said. "Arkansas is the first and only state to have reached her quota for foreign missions during the first half of the church year. No doubt they will double their quota by June 30," he added.

to 1936, the first year Miss Barnard was in India, contribution to foreign missions reached an all-time high of \$1,300.69.

As was said in the beginning, the difference between that amount and the present budget represents a lot of progress. Much of it is due to the sacrificial work of men like Brother Blackwelder, who himself served as foreign missions treasurer for eleven years.

He is presently pastoring two Georgia churches, Jakin and Bay Church at Moultrie.

*Tennessee*—Over \$500 in cash and pledges for foreign missions was raised in four services in East Tennessee early in January. Rev. Raymond Riggs conducted the services at Wooddale, Holston Hills and Knoxville First. Three churches, Valley View, East Sweetwater and Old Sweetwater, met together for a combined service.

Attendance at the services totalled 285 and thirty-three lives were consecrated. Offerings amounted to \$552.37.

\* \* \*

*Florida*—Tommy and Barbara Willey, whose parents direct Free Will Baptist missionary work in Cuba, visited a number of Florida churches during the Christmas holidays in behalf of foreign missions. All of the services were arranged by Rev. D. W. Poole, promotional secretary for the state.

A total of sixteen services were held and offerings from the services were \$257.34. Counting what the state had already done for foreign missions, these offerings raised nearly half of their quota. With six months to go the churches lacked \$540.50 of their suggested quota of \$1,000.

\* \* \*

*Missouri*—Over \$1,000 was given and pledged in three special foreign mission services conducted January 10, 17 and 21 in Southeast Missouri. The services were held at the First and Fellowship churches in Flat River and at Fredericktown by Rev. Raymond Riggs. Cash offerings were \$278.36 and pledges amounted to \$740.

## Tennessee Olivet Church Adopts Second Missionary

GUTHRIE, Ky.—Olivet Free Will Baptist Church, a progressive rural church near here, has assumed the support of its second missionary. Rev. Ben Barrus, pastor, has announced that the congregation has decided to underwrite the salary of Mrs. Trula Cronk, missionary to India.

This action taken by the church is in addition to their native Cuban pastor, whom they support at \$30 a month. Mrs. Cronk's salary is \$75 a month, bringing their regular monthly gifts to foreign missions to \$105.

Olivet is the second church in the Tennessee Cumberland Association to assume the support of a missionary, and the only church which supports two. East Nashville Church underwrites the salary of Miss Lucy Wisheart in Cuba.

# The Thrilling Story of How God Is

# Re-Opening the Door

Rev. Damon C. Dodd, Promotional Secretary, Home Mission Board

"We thought the Free Will Baptist denomination was a dead issue and we'd about given up hope of ever finding one of our churches anywhere. Thank God, we were wrong!" Thus spoke the Rev. John Ruth of Houlton, Maine, in an interview with this writer December 31, 1953.

The meeting took place in the study of Rev. Ruth in Houlton and marked the end for Maine Free Will Baptists of a 43-year period of mystery as to what had become of Free Will Baptists of the U.S.A. It was also the climax of an intensive 5 year search on the part of the Board of Home Missions for a definite contact with the Free Will Baptists of the northeast.

Before unfolding this dramatic reunion story, it will be necessary to recount a more stirring drama; one marked by brilliant success and ignominious defeat; a story of joy and sorrow—and at last, of hope again.

## Story of Randall

February 7, 1749, should be a sacred day for Free Will Baptists for on that date was born one who was destined of God to shape the religious thinking of a nation yet unborn. Benjamin Randall was born into a modestly well-to-do family. His early life was pretty well routine.

Randall was educated as thoroughly as his day would permit and when the war for independence came, he was commissioned a lieutenant in General George Washington's army. He fought well and was a distinguished soldier, earning many valorous awards for his bravery.

After the war was won, Randall went back to his home in New Hampshire and engaged in various business pursuits. He became much interested in religion thru the preaching of George Whitefield and even though he was a Congregationalist, he became convinced that there was a deeper experience for him.

## Experience with God

One day while walking thru a cornfield on a farm which he owned, Randall was seized with an overwhelming urge to pray. He knelt down between the corn rows and gave vent to his desire. According to his own statement, "I lost all sense of time and location. My heart was heavy within me and I had an intense longing to be done with my heavy burden."

This happened about 10:30 one Thursday morning. When the man came to himself he was stretched prone on the ground and was so exhausted that he could hardly arise.

The sun was just sinking in the west, but, said Randall in his memoirs, "It seemed to me that a new day was dawning for me. Never had known such relief, such sweet peace within. I had been to Jabbok, had wrestled and prevailed."

Soon thereafter Randall began to preach. His was a doctrine that was contrary to that which prevailed in his day. The three things that characterized the prevailing beliefs were (1) personal, unconditional election and reprobation; (2) absolute perseverance of the elect, (3) God ordains whatsoever come to pass.

## Doctrines Described

The doctrine of Randall and his followers is described in I. D. Stewart's *History of the Free Will Baptists*, Vol. I, as follows: "They believed in the foreknowledge of God but denied that it necessitated the acts of man. Both the invitations and threatenings of the Gospel, its warnings and admonitions, imply free moral agency, and they impressed upon dying sinners the words of the Savior, 'Ye will not come unto me that ye might have life.' Such are the motives of piety and the freedom of choice that the persistent sinner was assured that he would stand self-condemned, eternally reiterating the sentence, 'thou hast destroyed thyself.' So important was their estimate of this sentiment 'freewill' that it was reproachfully forced on them as part of their name."

In the same volume by Stewart, pp. 26-27, he says, "Free Will Baptists did not introduce a new religion, they only labored to reconstruct the Apostolic platform. And standing upon it, their success was the Apostolic spirit revived."

The new movement attracted widespread attention, so that by 1825 it was a force to be reckoned with. On October 11, 1827, the "Freewillers" met in Turnbridge, Vermont at the call of Randall and organized into a General Conference. The meeting lasted four days, and 20 official delegates elected Rev. Enoch Place as moderator and Rev. Hosea Quimby as Clerk.

## Churches Spread Rapidly

By this time Free Will Baptist churches had been organized in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. Free Will Baptist missionaries had gone into Ohio and had also followed the western frontiers, establishing churches as they went. In a few years there were Free Will Baptist churches in every part of the country.

All went well until January 19, 1890. At that time, General Conference was incorporated and in the regular triennial session October 10-17, 1892, the 81 delegates attending the session in Lowell, Massachusetts adopted the proposed constitution and by-laws. October 2-9, 1895, at Winnebago City, Minnesota, 96 delegates voted to adopt a resolution, requiring all constituent bodies to deed their properties and make all funds payable to the General Conference of Free Will Baptists. At the same time, all local churches were to do likewise in relation to the district or state associations to which they belonged.

With the stage thus set, in 1898, August 25-September 1, the General Conference meeting at Ocean Park, Old Orchard, Maine, elected a committee to work out merger agreements with the Northern Baptist Convention. According to the testimony of some elderly Free Will Baptists now living who were closely connected with General Conference, the reasons given for desiring such a merger were "to increase Free Will Baptist prestige and to enhance the possibilities of ambitions and aspiring Free Baptist ministers to enlarge the sphere of their ministry."

## All the Work Lost

From the minutes of the 36th session of the General Conference held in Ocean Park, Maine, August 22-23, 1917, p. 63, the following is taken which graphically depicts the actual merging of the two bodies and the loss of Free Will Baptist identity: "After three years of discussion and preparation, in October 1911, the two people took decisive steps toward combining as one denomination. The General Conference (of F.W.B.) on October 5, 1911, actually turned over to the Baptist societies, the American Baptist Foreign mission society and the American Baptist Home Mission society, the funds, functions, properties, and powers then in condition for transfer, previously belonging to the General Conference of Free Baptists, and these societies became the agents for Free Baptists for the prosecution of Home and Foreign Mission work."

If that had been all, perhaps the present-day Free Will Baptist story would read differently. But note the further action, taken at the same time. "Since 1911, the action thus begun has been continued. Property and funds have been further turned over, as fast and as far as legal and ecclesiastical considerations permitted; and in the different states the movement toward



# to Our New England Work

union and consolidation has been taken up and carried on, bringing state organizations and the funds and functions of the two peoples within the states into one common state organization."

## *A Few Held Out*

These minutes were officially signed by Joseph W. Mauck, President, Hillsdale, Michigan, and Lewis B. Stillman, Clerk, Saco, Maine.

So reads the story. Fifty thousand Free Will Baptists capitulated and went without protest to the new group. At least seven colleges and seminaries, two foreign mission fields, \$180,000 in Home Missions funds, and \$250,000 in denominational sinking funds were only part of the spoils which the Northern Baptist hordes took into their camp.

Free Will Baptists in the north and northeast were almost completely wiped out. Only a few hundred remained as "hold-outers" against the new group.

For a few years all went along smoothly. And then the vicious shadow of modernism and liberalism appeared over the Northern Baptist convention. Fundamental groups began to withdraw and in almost every instance they were the Free Will Baptist churches that had been "churnapped" into the convention. By 1930 there were scores of independent churches in the north and northeast who had restored the "Free" and "Free Will" Baptist signs over their doors and were operating as independents.

In the meantime the Free Will Baptists of the South and midwest came together and formed the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Rumors were abroad that Free Will Baptist churches existed in the north and northeast, but no one investigated and the matter was dropped.

## *First Contact Made*

In 1946 the Rev. Charles Young of Pennsylvania visited the Free Will Baptist mission in Cuba and in the course of conversation mentioned that he had visited churches of our name in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania, and New York.

This writer took up a personal investigation on his own, and on returning to the states in 1947, began to make inquiries as to the actual existence of these churches. A trip to Crozer Seminary, Chester, Pennsylvania, in 1951 verified their actuality and nine of them were contacted through correspondence.

Then on December 16, 1953 came the answer to prayer for which we had been waiting.

A letter from Houlton, Maine, addressed to the National Association, 433 E. Bend

Drive, Nashville, Tennessee, written by Rev. John Ruth, gave me the names and location of two Free Will Baptist churches in northern Maine that needed help.

## *Dyer Brook Story Told*

One of them, whose story appears herewith, was the Dyer Brook Church, Dyer Brook, Maine.

This church was organized July 1, 1867, as a union church, but was bought by the Free Will Baptists in 1897 for "\$50.00 and other valuable considerations." The deed was made to the Free Will Baptists and is so recorded today in Houlton, Maine.

In 1923, at a called business meeting, the church voted unanimously not to join the Northern Baptist group, known as the United Baptist Convention of Maine.

In spite of all of this, on or about November 15, 1953, the officials of the United Baptist Convention sent men to the church, who loaded the pews, pulpit furniture, stove, and other appurtenances into trucks and took them off and sold them. At the same time the church was put up for sale.

## *Furniture Is Returned*

Incensed and indignant at such high-handed methods, some of the people of the town went to Houlton and found that the deed was still in order, whereupon they demanded that all the furnishings and property be restored as it was.

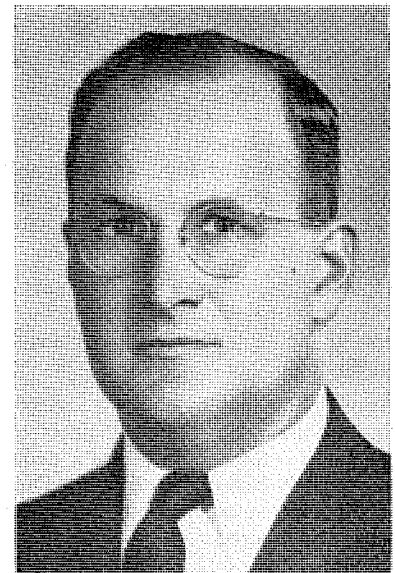
Without an argument, it was done as required. The pews, which had been sold in Bangor, Maine, some 150 miles away, were brought back and set in the exact spots from which they had been removed, as was the rest of the furniture.

It was on the heels of this occurrence that I went to Houlton under the auspices of the Home Mission Board.

I was met by Rev. Ruth and entertained in his home. He is at present an independent preacher, but is pastor of two churches that still maintain their property under Free Will Baptist deeds. He is a graduate of Bob Jones College and is personally acquainted with Rev. Charles Thigpen, pastor of Highland Park Church in Detroit.

## *Old Member Weeps*

Brother Ruth and I visited the Dyer Brook community and talked with some of the members of the Free Will Baptist church there. One dear old lady, who has been a member of the Dyer Brook church since 1897, wept when she learned that the Free Will Baptist denomination still existed. Said she, "We thought there wasn't any such thing. That's what they've been telling around here for the past 40 years." And her story was corroborated everywhere we went.



Rev. John W. Ruth, pastor of two independent Free Will Baptist churches in Maine, may be the link through which the Free Will Baptist denomination may be able to reclaim some of the work which was lost during the merger years of 1910-1913. The 40-year-old minister is a graduate of Bob Jones University. He has also had training in several Maine colleges and at the Missionary Training Institute, Nyack, N.Y. A native of the state of Maine, he is presently pastor at Linneus and New Limerick.

Dyer Brook church is beautifully situated on a hill which gives it the appearance of keeping a holy vigil over the little town of Dyer Brook. U.S. highway #2 runs immediately in front of the church.

The building itself is an imposing white frame structure, approximately 40' x 60' with a Sunday school wing forming an ell on the north side. A high bell tower is erected over the entry way. The building and grounds have been well kept in spite of the fact that there has been no regular schedule of services for at least 12 years.

## *Building Is New*

There is no other active church in the town of Dyer Brook and the citizens must go nine miles to the next town to attend services.

This rural Free Will Baptist church has a new building. The original one was destroyed by fire and insurance money was paid to the trustees. The United Baptist convention officials tried to claim the money. In order to keep them from getting it, the trustees rebuilt the church and deeded it to the local congregation.

The Linneus church, of which Brother Ruth is pastor, is a beautiful one. Located in the town of Linneus, Maine, it is a white frame building, attractively appointed inside, with several Sunday school rooms in the basement. This is a full-time church and it

(Continued on page 12)

# Church Bell Is Silent This New Year's Eve; Ringer Is in Hospital

VAN, W. Va.—For the first time in 27 years the old bell at the Freddie Free Will Baptist church here was silent New Year's eve. The reason was that Paul Linville was absent.

Linville, who started tolling the bell to "ring out the old and ring in the new" way back in 1925 when he was just nine years old, was in the hospital. "I was proud of the record and tried to hold off coming to the hospital until after the first of the year, but I couldn't make it," he sighed from his hospital bed.

How did he ever get started ringing the bell in the first place? "Others put off dynamite and blew whistles—I decided to ring the bell," he explained.

Ringling the bell has been a serious ritual with Linville. He has his time to start ringing and a time to stop and a cadence to keep. Shortly before midnight on December 31 for twenty-seven years he walked to the church and waited.

At one minute before midnight of the last day of the year he began pulling on the bell and when the new year was just 60 seconds old the ringing stopped. And when the two-minute period was over the bell had sounded loud and clear 24 times—12 times for the old and the same number for the new.

"I don't know how long I'll have to stay in the hospital, but I hope to be ringing the bell for 1955," Linville said.

## Cofer's Chapel Makes \$400 Gift to Missions

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Members of the Cofer's Chapel church gave an offering of \$400 for foreign missions at a special missionary service Sunday, January 17. The entire Sunday school and Sunday morning worship offerings were given to foreign missions.

Featured in the special service were students at the Free Will Baptist Bible college, many of them candidates for foreign missionary service. Presiding over the service was Marvis Lee, president of the Foreign Missions Fellowship at the college.

Others appearing on the program were Barbara Hancock, Leah Nichols, Barbara and Tommy Willey, Elro Driggers, Eugene Norris, Mary Frances Hess, Sammy Wilkinson, Jane Smith, Rachel Rollins, Anita Kaminsky, Kathryn Newton, Janice Pittman, Wanda Jones, Julia Pate, Ada Beth Hickman, Lissie Turnage and a number of mission volunteers.

Rev. J. L. Welch, pastor, praised the students for the spiritual depth of the service and the congregation for the large offering.

### Bulletins Wanted!

The editor of CONTACT would like to be placed on the mailing list of every church that publishes a weekly or monthly bulletin. Already many churches send us their bulletins, but we would like to have scores of them coming in from many different states. If you'll place us on your mailing list we can promise you a newsy and more informative CONTACT.

## Record Number of Sunday Schools Report

Sunday school averages for December from 22 churches in six states have been reported to CONTACT. This is the largest number yet reported. To get your church included simply write the monthly average on a card together with the name of the church and address it to CONTACT, 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee.

League averages will also be listed if they are reported. Averages for December were as follows:

State	Church	S.S.	Leagues
ARKANSAS	Pocahontas Church	155	
	Phillips Chapel Church, Springdale	150	
	Mt. Harmony Church, Saffell	58	
MISSISSIPPI	First Church, Columbus	117	
MISSOURI	Third Church, St. Louis	99	41
FLORIDA	First Church, Panama City	16	
OKLAHOMA	First Church, Tulsa	330	
Lawnwood Church, Tulsa	158		
New Home Church, Tulsa	140		
Wewoka Church	127		
Turley Church	122	48	
Oilton Church	111		
First Church, Sulphur	108		
Bristow Church	100		
Henryetta Church	84		
Shahan Church	82		
Duncan Church	62		
Lone Oak Church	47		
TENNESSEE	First Church, Elizabethton	209	
	Loyal Chapel Church, Columbia	190	
	Heads Church, Cedar Hill	85	23
	Dodson Branch Church, Cookeville	56	

### SERMONETTES

Spend your life for something that will outlast it.

Be alive while you are living.

The great use of life is growth unto God.

It is wonderful to keep on living after you are dead.

If Christ is worth knowing, he is worth sharing.

Reverence for God, and God alone, enables a man to walk through life free and unafraid.

## Mrs. Nancy C. Parker, Church Worker, Dies

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Funeral services were held January 20 at the East Nashville Free Will Baptist church for Mrs. Nancy Catherine Parker, 74. Prior to a long illness, Mrs. Parker was an active leader in her church. An outstanding phase of her work was the major part she had in establishing the Free Will Baptist Home for Children at Greeneville, Tennessee.

Because of her ceaseless activity for this project she was named the first chairman of the board of directors of the home. In a letter received the day she died, Mrs. Trula Cronk, who was reared in the home and now a missionary to India, said: "In the early days of the orphanage when she was chairman of the board, she seemed to us almost like a grandmother. No one took more individual interest in us that she did. She used to encourage me no end with praising my cooking when she would visit the orphanage."

Mrs. Parker served as president of the Cofer's Chapel Woman's Auxiliary for seventeen consecutive years and was a charter member of both the Nashville and district auxiliary convention. She also played a major role in procuring property for the East Nashville church, of which she was a member at her death. She is survived by her husband, Mr. E. D. Parker.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. C. F. Bowen and Rev. J. L. Welch.

## Complete Cuban Drive By League Conference; Secretary Encourages

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—"We are urging our Leagues to make every effort to reach our 'Lights for Cuba' goal before the sixth nation-wide League conference meets June 15," Rev. C. F. Bowen said in his February report to the Leagues across the denomination.

Up to January 15 the fund stood at \$1,359.24, over half of the \$2,500 needed to make it possible for the mission station in Cuba to have electric lights. Rev. T. H. Willey, director of the mission work in Cuba, reported that light poles had already been purchased at a cost of \$780, so they would be ready when enough funds were available to complete the project.

Latest receipts are as follows:

Georgia State Association	\$ 3.00
Missouri State Association	23.58
North Carolina Mission Board	8.00
Bethany Church, Timmonsville, S. C.	50.00
Marlboro Church, Farmville, N. C.	3.00
Pocahontas Leagues, Ark.	2.79
Mrs. Miles Gower, Cedar Hill, Tenn.	1.00
Coppermines Church, Fredericktown, Mo.	10.00
Youth Rally, Fountain, N. C.	12.80
Dawson Grove Church, Enfield, N. C.	9.00
Tennessee Woman's Auxiliary Convention	26.50
Ozias Church, Kirkland, Ga.	15.18
Porterville Church, Calif.	10.00
Henryville Church, Okla.	5.00
Morehead City Church, N. C.	5.12
Lewis Ave. Church, Tulsa, Okla.	10.00

## "Crusade for Christ" Set for March-April

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Under the banner, "The Church Points the Way," the Free Will Baptist nation-wide revival effort will be launched March 1 and continue through April 30.

The evangelistic campaign has been designated "Crusade for Christ" and every Free Will Baptist church in the United States is being urged to plan a revival some time during the months of March and April.

Revival packets have been prepared and are being mailed out to the churches over the country. Included in the packet are a three-color poster, prayer lists, report blank and a special offering envelope.

In addition to the revival the churches are requested to receive a special offering for national home missions. This may or may not be done in connection with the revival, as suits the particular case.

A special part of the crusade will come during April when "Stewardship Emphasis Month" will be observed. This will be sponsored jointly by the Home Mission Board and the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention. Details of this will be announced later.

## New Organizations Are Reported in Arizona

TUCSON, Ariz.—Sgt. B. W. Hutchison, Jr., has been called as pastor of the new Free Will Baptist Church here. Sgt. Hutchinson is with the Air Force and is stationed at Tucson.

This is the third Free Will Baptist Church in the state of Arizona. The others are located in Phoenix. One of these was organized last summer by Rev. E. E. Morris of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Rev. George McLain was instrumental in setting up the new church in Tucson.

Plans are in the making for new Free Will Baptist organizations in Casa Grande and Chandler, Arizona. When these churches are set up, it is hoped that a Free Will Baptist association can be perfected. It will mark the first time that there has even been an association of Free Will Baptist churches in that state.

Rev. Burns is pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Phoenix and Rev. George McLain is pastor of the new church. Rev. Wade Jernigan, Modesto, California, and Rev. J. L. Waltman, Turlock, California, are planning the organizations in Casa Grande and Chandler.

## New Organization

GREENVILLE, N. C.—The Grace Free Will Baptist church was organized here December 10 by Rev. Rashie Kennedy, former pastor of Greenville First church. When the charter membership roll was closed January 3, 129 members had united with the new church.

A revival was conducted from December 10 to January 3 by Rev. James Earl Raper, which resulted in 12 additions.

The church was organized on a full-time

## "NEW CHURCH OF THE MONTH"



*Rapid and substantial growth has marked the short history of the Airport Mission sponsored by the First church at Tulsa, Oklahoma. The building shown above was provided by the First church and was dedicated less than a year ago. Rev. A. A. Coursey first served as mission pastor and was followed by Rev. Tommy Roberts. On February 1 of this year Rev. Dale Munkus became associate pastor at the First church and took over the work at the mission. Rev. John H. West is First church pastor.*

*The building contains an auditorium, two assembly rooms and seven classrooms. The property is valued above \$10,000, and Sunday school attendance averages around 75.*

## Kerman Church Hosts Home Mission Rally

KERMAN, Calif.—Highlighting the home mission theme, "For Christ in the Homeland," a history-making session of the California state mission rally, meeting here at the Free Will Baptist church all day Thursday, January 14, struck a note of optimism that left everyone of the 150 persons in attendance convinced that home missions is a *must*.

This first Home Missions Rally was attended by a representative group from every section of the California Free Will Baptist work. Rev. Earl Jenson, Turlock pastor, presided.

The session came at the half-way mark of the state-wide home missions itinerary of Rev. D. C. Dodd, who was the feature speaker. Dodd brought the morning message from the subject, "How Much Is Enough?"

Emphasizing the need of faithfulness and activity, the speaker raised the question, "How much is enough preaching? How much is enough missions and praying?" Several lives were dedicated to the Lord in the service.

The afternoon session saw the Woman's Auxiliary of the Kerman church presenting the home missions play, "Soup, Sand, and Sagebrush." It presented a beautiful message of surrender and sacrifice being honored of the Lord. The program closed with Rev. Dodd giving a detailed report on the national home missions program.

basis and Reverend Kennedy was called as pastor. The congregation is scheduled to begin construction of new building soon, he reports.

## Missions Conference Set for February 14-17 Near Chipley, Florida

CHIPLEY, Fla.—The second in a series of conferences on Home Missions and Evangelism will be held with Piney Grove Church, Chipley, Florida, February 14-17. The meeting will be under the direction of Rev. D. C. Dodd, promotional secretary for home missions and Rev. J. B. Bloss, board chairman.

The conference will feature evangelistic preaching at morning and evening services with emphasis on soul winning. Rev. Bloss will be the preacher in these meetings.

The theme of the conference, "For Christ in the Homeland," will be carried out in the study sessions. Rev. Dodd will conduct a class in Home Mission Methods. In addition there will be a visual education workshop on Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

Panel discussions on our denominational needs in the homeland and our denominational possibilities of the present will be on the program for Wednesday morning. A question and answer forum will be a part of this hour.

The Rev. Chester Huckaby, Piney Grove pastor, announces that his church will furnish free meals and lodging to all who attend the meeting.

Appearing on the program in addition to Dodd and Bloss will be Rev. D. W. Poole, Florida state promotional secretary, Rev. C. A. Huckaby, local pastor, Rev. Bonnie Hughes, Chipley pastor, Rev. Rufus Hyman, state association clerk, Mr. Ernest Owen of Chipley, Rev. J. M. Rich, and Rev. Kermit Esther.

## "Liquidate the Debt" Campaign for College Will Climax on April 1

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—By noon on April 1 Dr. L. C. Johnson, president of the Free Will Baptist Bible college, hopes to be able to scratch out the \$38,000 debt which hangs over the college property.

The five buildings shown on the front cover, valued at \$250,000, have been acquired in the last twelve years and every foot of the property is clear of debt except for a \$38,000 loan which was made to purchase the Richland apartment building.

"After much prayer I have asked the Board of Trustees to give me the go-ahead on raising the money and paying off the indebtedness," Dr. Johnson wrote 1,000 pastors over the denomination. "Unanimously and enthusiastically they approved the plan."

Here is the plan as outlined by the president: A special service is planned for Thursday morning, April 1, during the Bible conference. "We are asking 300 churches to have a one hundred dollar gift on hand to be presented at this service," the president explained.

"Where it is possible we are requesting every church making a gift to have a representative present to make the gift on behalf of the church," he said. Where this is not possible, someone at the Bible College will present the gift in the name of the church.

College officials are optimistic about the campaign. A great many pledges have already been received and it looks as if the goal of \$100 each from 300 churches will be realized. "We know there are some churches planning to give more than one hundred dollars," Dr. Johnson said. "There are a number of churches that have always been loyal to the Bible College that cannot give a hundred dollars. We hope the larger and smaller gifts will make up the \$8,000 needed after the 300 churches have given one hundred dollars.

"If that special offering totals \$38,000, we can stamp 'Paid in Full' on everything under the name of the Free Will Baptist Bible college," he concluded.

The plan was presented in a chapel service to the student body at the school and they voted to make a gift of \$1,000. Members of the college faculty added to this to make the total gift from students and faculty more than \$1,500.

College officials are calling upon every pastor in the denomination and every interested layman to join hands with them in the campaign of hard work and sacrificial giving to liquidate the debt and clear the way for future progress.

California is the first state to reach their suggested quota for Home Missions, according to Rev. Damon C. Dodd, promotional secretary for the Board of Home Missions. Mr. Dodd has just returned from a very successful itinerary among the churches in that state. During his itinerary they exceeded their \$800 quota by a few dollars.

Some now two states join the gold star list—Arkansas for being the first to reach her quota for foreign missions and California, taking the lead among all the states in home missions. Congratulations!

### Re-opening the Door

(Continues from page 9)

carries on a complete program including Sunday school and women's work.

#### New Limerick Keeps Property

It was organized as a Free Will Baptist Church in 1870.

New Limerick church, New Limerick, Maine, was organized a Free Will Baptist church by Rev. John Dyer, August 15, 1870. During the campaign by the United Baptist convention, the church refused to join the convention, but compromised by deeding the parsonage to them. This was later sold.

The church was moved to its present site some years later, but still the convention persisted in trying to claim it. To stave off the false claims, the congregation voted to change the deed to the New Limerick Union church, which is the form of the present deed.

However, they are now planning to write a new deed to the property and designate it, The Free Will Baptist Church of New Limerick, Maine.

#### Present Plans Outlined

The members of Dyer Brook church want a Free Will Baptist pastor. Brother Ruth wants a Free Will Baptist team to work with him in his churches this summer. He has expressed a deep desire to cast his lot with the Free Will Baptist National Association. Another rural Free Will Baptist church in the same area needs a pastor.

What will we do about it? I predict that the Home Mission Board at its semi-annual session in Nashville, February 1-3 will make arrangements to send a team to Northern Maine to work this summer. But that alone isn't sufficient. Someone must volunteer to go there as pastor of Dyer Brook Church and the neighboring rural church. Brother Ruth has promised his wholehearted support and fellowship.

In the course of this contact, I learned of other Free Will Baptist churches in Southern Maine, and in Gonic and Laconia, New Hampshire. The next few months will reveal an enormous job for us to do as other possibilities come to life.

This is the hour! We must not, cannot fail. Let us rise to the occasion and reclaim that which is rightfully God's and ours.

of another church for a service, he should always make sure that the invitation is known and approved by the preacher in charge. The "rights" of the pastor should never be forgotten by the invited minister, even though his own people may overlook the fact. It is improper for a minister in this manner or otherwise to interfere directly or indirectly with the church work of another minister.

#### Greet the New Pastor

A word may properly be said concerning responsibility toward the new or visiting minister. When any new person moves into a community custom demands that the first visit be made by the local people. This is a courtesy which the present minister should remember when a new one comes to town. A warm friendly welcome and the privilege of getting acquainted is all that the old law of hospitality demands. Ministers are busy, but should never be too busy to greet a brother minister as he begins a new work.

Finally, let us consider the duty to ministers of other denominations. Ministers should not be in competition with each other but rather with the evil they fight. Unchristian rivalry and professional jealousy are indeed abominable. There should be respect for every other minister even though he may not cross his "t's" or dot his "i's" in the same way you do.

An argumentative, critical, antagonistic spirit toward ministers of another denomination does not show forth the spirit of Christ. Let us remember that it is harder to live the golden rule in relation to this group—but equally as important as to ministers of our own denomination.

#### Beware of Proselyting

Someone has very wisely said, "our field is the world and not some other church; and our mission is to feed, not steal sheep." May God help that none of us ever will be guilty of the charge of proselyting. The harvest of the unsaved is as large as ever. We look out upon the same whitened harvest fields as did our Lord. Every Christian minister may reach out and gather all he can for his Master without interfering in any way with the work done by his brother.

Occasionally a member of one church seeks of his own volition to join another. After questioning to determine if this is being done in sincerity and because the person feels that God is directing this move, he may be properly admitted.

Proselyting is a very serious charge and a minister who practices such is soon known by all to be a common "sheep-stealer." Let us always avoid such but exercise brotherliness toward our ministerial friends and toward the whole household of faith.

May we heed Paul's words in Romans 12:9-11, "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord."



MRS. R. B. CRAWFORD



# Woman's Auxiliary

"His Command — Our Task"

MRS. H. B. SLOAN, Executive Secretary

## Auxiliary Organized At Arkansas Church

ROSE BUD, Ark.—Fourteen names were placed on the charter membership roll when a Woman's Auxiliary was organized December 2 at the Mt. Bethel Free Will Baptist Church near here.

Officers elected for the new organization were Mrs. Lawnie Coffman, president; Mrs. Ernest Turner, first vice-president; Mrs. Lyle Turner, second; Mrs. James Turner, third; Mrs. Vernon Kelley, fourth, and Mrs. Wilbur Lawrence, fifth.

Secretary-treasurer of the group is Mrs. Richard McKay.

## Campaign Begins To Raise \$800 for Headquarters Furniture

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—"When a family buys a new home, the man is usually most concerned about the payments, heating and cooling systems, the grounds, etc.," Mrs. H. B. Sloan, executive secretary of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, writes in a letter to the women of the denomination.

"The main interest of the woman is the arranging and furnishings of the interior of the home, such as curtains, drapes, lamps and the things that help to make the home appear cozy and warm.

"The Free Will Baptist family has purchased a new home—a headquarters building where all phases of its work may be directed from one central location," Mrs. Sloan explains. "During the WNAC Executive Committee meeting in October we noted the need of furniture for the reception and conference rooms and knowing that you would like to assume some of the family's responsibility, agreed to give you an opportunity to help in making these rooms, used by the entire family, warm and inviting."

The estimated cost of the project is \$800 which has been broken down into suggested amounts for each state. The Georgia State Auxiliary convention has already responded with an offering of \$50, Mrs. Sloan said, which was used to purchase a desk for the reception room.

Suggested quotas are: Alabama, \$40; Arkansas, \$10; California, \$40; Florida, \$20; Georgia, \$40; Illinois, \$25; Kentucky, \$20; Michigan, \$40; Mississippi, \$20; Missouri, \$70; North Carolina, \$140; Ohio, \$10; Oklahoma, \$80; South Carolina, \$90; Tennessee, \$90; Texas, \$45; Virginia, \$10; and West Virginia, \$10. Offerings should be sent to the WNAC office at the headquarters address.

## President's Message For the New Year

by Mrs. R. B. Crawford  
Greenville, North Carolina

"Wherefore, I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though we know them, and be established in the present truth" (2 Peter 1:12).

The Woman's Auxiliary of Free Will Baptists has some of the greatest opportunities to honor Christ and extend His kingdom as any group of women anywhere. Peter in writing to Christians admonished them of the gifts and promises of the Gospel and exhorted them to add to their faith those virtues that would make their lives fruitful. Then he said, "I will not be negligent to put you in remembrance of these things."

As an organization, we have set up for ourselves, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, I believe, some aims which, if we diligently work toward, will not only change our own lives but will do much toward taking the Gospel to the utmost part of the earth. As your president, I would not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these aims even through you know them.

If we fail as individuals in our local auxiliaries to pray, to study, to serve in the community, to give of our tithes and offerings our own lives will be dwarfed and the lives of others cannot be strengthened through us. We cannot enlist tithers in this great work; neither can we train our youth.

My challenge to you is to take stock of your own life. If there is that which is lacking, make a complete surrender of your life to Christ. Increase your faith, by studying the Word. Then add to your faith knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity. "For if these things be in you and abound they make you that he shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:8). If

## Texas Women Assist At Christmas Party

FT. WORTH, Texas—A Christmas party for patients at the United States Public Service hospital here was made a happier occasion by the addition of fifteen cakes baked by the Woman's Auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church.

The party was sponsored by the Navy Mothers Club of Fort Worth, of which Mrs. C. B. Thompson, wife of the pastor at the First Church, is chaplain.

This active Auxiliary also recently sponsored a chicken supper and furnished the church's new kitchen with the proceeds.

### Just Released!

Local Guidebook .....	15c
Stewardship Packets .....	15c
Stewardship Tracts .....	40c per 100

you do these things and abound, your Auxiliary will be fulfilling the purpose where unto it was organized and will be a real spiritual influence in your community, state, nation, and even in the world.

We are being informed as never before of specific needs in our over-all denominational program through *The Free Will Baptist, College Bulletin*, our new publication, *CONTACT, The Missionary News Letter*, and other bulletins and letters. As has been true in the past, "To see a need is a call to service." If the women of the denomination are the first to respond there will be no lack! The needs will be met!

Let us be mindful each day of the new year of the theme for 1954, His Command — My Task.

## Amarillo Auxiliary Elects New Officers

AMARILLO, Texas—New officers to serve for the first six months of 1954 were elected recently by the Woman's Auxiliary of the First Free Will Baptist Church here.

Those elected were Mrs. Reba Minor, president; Tola Huddelston, vice-president; Jean Baker, youth chairman; Emma Holman, mission study chairman; Opal Allison, program chairman; Louise Walker, secretary; Neva Wilson, treasurer; Ara Williams, benevolence chairman; Barbara Miller, song leader, and Doris Simpson, pianist.

# Glancing Around the States . . .

## **Missouri League Convention Meets at St. Louis Church**

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The best-attended session of the Southeast Missouri League convention in some time was held January 16 at the Third church in St. Louis. Eight of eleven Leagues in the district were represented. The program consisted of a Bible drill and a playlet by the Young People's League of the host church.

## **Right Christmas Giving Shown by Missouri Church**

MYRTLE, Mo.—Instead of exchanging gifts as usual, members of the adult Sunday school classes here gave offerings to the church for use in spreading the gospel. The offerings were made at the annual Christmas program observed by the church. Two visiting ministers brought messages at the church during the holiday season. They were Rev. Adam Scott, Durham, N. C., and Rev. Clarence Burton, Nashville, Tenn. Rev. George W. Scott is pastor.

## **North Carolina District Holds Three Meetings**

AYDEN, N. C.—Elm Grove church near here was host to three district meetings the last of January. The second union meeting was held Saturday, January 30, while the League convention met Saturday night. The Sunday school convention was held Sunday. Rev. J. C. Lynn is pastor of the host church.

## **Social Band District Meets in Arkansas**

POCAHONTAS, Ark.—Rev. Billy Rogers, pastor of Sutton church, brought the introductory sermon at the quarterly meeting of the Social Band association January 30-31. Sessions were held at the Alice Brooks church. Rev. Carl High also spoke during the meeting. Rev. Dewey Thompson discussed Sunday school expansion.

## **Texas District Holds Quarterly Conference**

BECKVILLE, Texas—The quarterly meeting of the Texas association met January 8-9 with the Union Arbor church near here. Pastors and delegates from ten local churches were present. Theme of the meeting was "Honoring God." Among the items of business adopted were two resolutions calling for \$100 to be raised for the college liquidation fund and the appointment of a committee to arrange for an extension school to be conducted in the area.

The next session will meet at the Stewart church, near Tatum, with Rev. Huey Gower as host pastor. Rev. Gaston Clary is moderator of the quarterly meeting and Mrs. Gladys Berry is clerk.

## **Company Magazine Features East Birmingham Church**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The East Birmingham Free Will Baptist church was featured recently in *The Bull Ladle*, magazine of an Alabama steel company. Rev. J. J. Staab, pastor, is an employee of the firm publishing the magazine. The church was organized December 15, 1952. Said the reporter who attended a service at the church: "There is a religious fervor there that is too often absent in churches today."

## **Oklahoma Church Has Teacher Training Course**

BRISTOW, Okla.—The second teacher training course within three months was conducted January 24-February 5 at the Free Will Baptist church here. Rev. N. R. Smith is pastor and taught the course.

## **Tennessee Leagues Set District Convention**

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Rev. W. S. Mooneyham, executive secretary of the national association, will bring the message at the League convention of Cumberland association February 6. The convention will be held at New Hope church, north of Nashville. Convention theme is "Be Thou Our Guide Through '54." Others on the program include Stanley Pentecost, Ben Barus, Mary Elizabeth Griffith and Rev. C. F. Bowen. Leagues of the host church will present a playlet to close out the meeting.

## **Mission Work Started By Oklahoma Church**

DUNCAN, Okla.—A mission church has been started at Comanche, Okla., by the First Free Will Baptist church of Duncan. Comanche is a small town seven miles south of here. The mission is under the direction of Jerry Rhoades and a good response has been reported. Rev. Roy Hearon is pastor of the Duncan church.

## **Denominational Rally Held at Paintsville**

PAINTSVILLE, Ky.—A denominational rally was held Saturday and Sunday, January 30-31, at the Southside church here. Speakers for the rally were Reverends Raymond Riggs, Damon Dodd and W. S. Mooneyham, all from headquarters in Nashville. Prior to the week end rally, two of the secretaries conducted services in eight churches in the five district conferences.

Mr. Riggs spoke at the England Hill church, Ashland; Louisa church; Betsy Lane church, and Dunham church, Jenkins. Mr. Mooneyham was at the First church, Ashland; Sandy City church, Ashland; Van Lear church, Paintsville, and Cline Street church, Pikeville.

## **Building Plans Laid By Little Rock Church**

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Lots have been purchased and construction is scheduled to begin around March 1 on a building for the new Free Will Baptist church here. The church was organized October 18, with Rev. Homer Parker as pastor.

## **Oklahoma Education Board Holds Ministers' Institute**

BRISTOW, Okla.—A one-day institute for ministers was conducted here January 5 by the Christian Education Board of the Oklahoma state association. Classes were taught in doctrinal theology, ethics and pastoral work. The Board is sponsoring an extension school from the Free Will Baptist Bible college during May. Exact dates and place will be announced later.

## **New California Church Reports Good Services**

NATIONAL CITY, Calif.—Even though the nearest sister church is 130 miles away, twelve members of the Free Will Baptist church here are holding on until other churches will be organized nearer them. Rev. F. C. Berry is pastor of the church, which was organized last September with nine charter members. The congregation is worshipping in a rented building until they are in position to construct their own.

## **Oklahoma District Organizes Conference**

SHAWNEE, Okla.—Rev. Paul Pursell, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist church here, was elected president of a district Ministers and Deacons' conference organized December 11. Meetings are held monthly at the campground of First Oklahoma association. Other officers are Rev. Bailey Thompson, Pleasant Hill, vice-president, and Rev. Carl Walters, Shawnee, secretary-treasurer.

Speakers at the second meeting of the conference January 8 were Rev. John Bean and Rev. E. E. Morris, both of Oklahoma City. "The Possibility of Apostasy," will be discussed by Rev. Ralph Staten, Wewoka, and Rev. I. W. Yandell, Oklahoma City, at the February 12 meeting.

## **Texas Church Will Tithe To Cooperative Program**

BRYAN, Texas—Ten per cent of the annual budget of the Bryan Free Will Baptist church will go to the denominational Cooperative Program, Rev. Charles Sapp, pastor, has announced. Special offerings taken for denominational causes as the need arises will not affect the budget allotment, he said. The 1954 budget of the church is \$11,938.97.

# Glancing Around the States . . .

## Phoenix Church Starts Plans for Building

PHOENIX, Ariz.—A building fund has been started to provide a permanent home for the new Free Will Baptist church here. Organized last August with 26 charter members, the congregation is having services in a rented building at 38th Street and East Indian school Road. Rev. George McLain, pastor, says he would be glad to get the names and addresses of anyone living in the city who might be interested in the church. He may be reached at 2001 West Van Buren, Phoenix, Ariz.

## Illinois District Has Quarterly Meeting

BENTON, Ill.—The Franklin County quarterly meeting was held January 29-31 at the youth tabernacle here. There are 22 churches in the quarterly meeting.

## Arkansas Fellowship Meeting Sets Date

POCAHONTAS, Ark.—Rev. Glynn Campbell, Walnut Ridge, and Rev. Carl High, Peach Orchard, will be speakers for the monthly fellowship meeting of the Social Band association. The meeting is set for February 8 at the Arbor Grove church. Sixteen churches were represented at the January fellowship meeting.

## Henryetta Church Has Watch Night Service

HENRYETTA, Okla.—A watch service was held New Year's eve at the Free Will Baptist church here. The Rainbow county singing convention, of which Rev. Homer Young, pastor, is president, attended the service. The Henryetta church is in a Sunday school contest with the Weleetka church.

## Six New Organizations Planned for Florida

DOTHAN, Ala.—At least six new churches will be organized in Florida if present plans materialize. The announcement was made by Rev. D. W. Poole, promotional secretary of the state association. Services are already being held or are planned for the near future in all of these places, he said.

## Organizational Revival Held at Miami, Oklahoma

MIAMI, Okla.—A revival was scheduled to begin February 8 at Miami, Okla., from which it was hoped that a new church would come. A building has been rented at 320 South Main street as a temporary location for the church. Services were under the direction of the Home Mission Board of First Mission association. Members of this board are Rev. E. M. Kennedy, Rev. H. E. Staires and Rev. John H. West, all of Tulsa.

## Brotherhood Organized At Amarillo, Texas

AMARILLO, Texas—A men's brotherhood was organized in January at the First Free Will Baptist church here. Officers elected included Kenneth Walker, president; Cecil Blackstock, vice-president; Walter Baker, secretary-treasurer; Leonard Robinson, program chairman, and Harvey Brannum, benevolence chairman. Fifteen charter members came into the organization. The group will meet the second Saturday night of each month.

## Texas District Meeting Receives New Church

HUNTSVILLE, Texas—The new Bayshore church at Bay Cliff, Texas, organized last September, was represented at the quarterly meeting of the Central Texas association January 3. The meeting was held at the Pine Prairie church near here. Pastor of the new church is Rev. B. M. Daniels. All eleven churches in the district were present. Rev. Herbert Richards, Dallas, brought the morning message on the subject, "God's Relationship to Man."

## Hobbs Church Is Host To Texas District

HOBBS, N. Mex.—The Northwest Brazos association met January 28-30 in a quarterly session at the Free Will Baptist church here. Associational business was handled Thursday night and Friday. The Leagues of the district met Saturday in their first convention since the organization. Rev. L. C. Pinson is pastor of the host church.

## Progressive Association Holds Quarterly Session

WELEETKA, Okla.—"Partners in Kingdom Progress" was the theme of the quarterly meeting of the Progressive association meeting here January 28-29. Rev. Ralph Staten, Wewoka pastor, preached the introductory sermon. Various pastors in the association spoke on assigned subjects during the day.

## St. Louis Church Seeks Addresses of Prospects

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—"In this city of more than a million people there must be many Free Will Baptists who have moved here

## Mission Established In Portland, Oregon

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—According to reports reaching the office of the National Home Mission Board, a Free Will Baptist mission has been established in Portland, Oregon, under the leadership of Rev. Ernest Pearson, formerly of Springfield, Oregon.

Rev. Pearson only recently resigned as pastor of the Springfield church to go to Portland. He has moved to that city with his family and plans to establish a Free Will Baptist Church there.

Until recently, there had not been a pastor available for the Springfield church. At the close of a home mission service at Concord, Calif., however a young minister came forward and volunteered to go to Springfield.

with whom our churches in this city have no contact," says Rev. James Barker, pastor of the Third Free Will Baptist church. "If you have a friend, relative or anyone in your church who has moved to St. Louis, we appeal to you to send the name and correct address to us. The names you send to us will be given to the pastor of the church nearest them. We have active, working churches who will contact these people," he says.

Mr. Barker emphasizes if these people are not reached, they soon grow cold and may be lost. "Help us reach them," he pleads. Address all information to Rev. James Barker, 2612 Minnesota, St. Louis 18, Missouri.

## Central Texas District Organized League Convention

HUNTSVILLE, Tex.—A district League convention was organized January 3 at the Pine Prairie church near here. Rev. Troy Lee McDonald, North Zulch pastor, directed the organization. After prayer by Sally Jon Hibbetts and a devotional by Jane Berry, the following officers were elected: George Davis, Jr., Pine Prairie, president; Patsy Akin, Huntsville, vice-president; Barbara Williams, Bryan, secretary; Bernice Shelly, Pine Prairie, corresponding secretary; John Moehlman, Bryan, treasurer, and Rev. Troy L. McDonald, North Zulch, sponsor.

The executive committee of the convention will meet February 21 to make plans for a program in April.

## Eight Churches List Revival Campaigns

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—A number of revivals, already held or scheduled for the near future, have been reported to CONTACT. Here is the list as we have received it:

Haven Church, Florence, S. C.  
First Church, Shawnee, Okla.  
Lawnwood Church, Tulsa, Okla.  
First Church, Amarillo, Texas  
Turley Church, Okla.  
Holdenville Church, Okla.  
Highland Park Church, Mich.  
Vera Church, Okla.

**Evangelist**  
T. G. Hamilton  
John H. West  
Jess Stepp  
I. L. Florence  
Hattie Newman  
Ronald Creech  
Harold Pitts  
Doyle Dipboye

**Pastor**  
R. Luther Sanders  
Paul Pursell  
E. M. Kennedy  
James Minor  
Doyle Dipboye  
Elvis Priest  
Charles Thigpen

# For Your Information

Postman brought a number of interesting letters this month. Among them was a letter from Rev. William C. Schult, Brooklyn, N. Y., who says, "I am writing because your organization is just what I have been looking for." He carries on an independent ministry in that city. We're writing him . . . Just before CONTACT went to press Rev. C. F. Bowen announced his resignation as pastor of East Nashville church. No detailed future plans revealed, but denominational League work may be a factor . . . Ohio State Association meets March 25-27 at the Welch Avenue Church in Columbus. Rev. Delbert Gould, 739 East 11th Ave., is host pastor.

Rev. T. H. Willey says in a letter that hardwood posts, cut in the Cuban hills, were delivered January 20 for the "Lights for Cuba" project. Cost was \$780. . . . Bible conference dates are March 28-April 1. Speakers have not yet been announced, but they'll be good, as usual. Sessions meet on the campus at FWBBC. . . . Who can beat it? On Sunday, January 3, every pupil but one at Trinity Church, Ft. Worth, Texas, brought a Bible to Sunday school. Rev. M. L. Sutton and his congregation must have broken some sort of record.

Orders for more than three dozen of the new church sign have been received in the Home Missions office. Some churches should buy two or three—one for the highway into town, one for the street corner leading to the church and one to mount on the church or in the church yard. They are beautiful, practical and inexpensive. . . . Reservations have already been made for Rev. Raymond Riggs to leave for India, March 11. He will spend six to eight weeks making an intensive study of Free Will Baptist missionary work and its problems in that country. If Georgia churches raise sufficient funds, Rev. E. C. Morris, state promotional secretary, will make the trip with him.

A new face in the reception room greets visitors to headquarters. She is Mrs. Ray Turnage who takes over while Mrs. G. C. Lee, Jr. awaits the arrival of their first baby. Mrs. Turnage is from Healdton, Okla. . . . We should be able to announce the complete plan of the Cooperative Program of Support in the March CONTACT. Special meeting was held February 3 in Nashville to approve the details. Many churches are already inquiring about it and some are even taking action. Another Oklahoma church (Barnsdall) sends a check for five per cent of their Sunday school and Sunday night offerings. They're tithing them, and the other five per cent goes to associational projects.

## Our Servicemen Write . . .

Dear Editor:

My hearty congratulations to CONTACT for a job well done. I received my first edition a few days ago and enjoyed it immensely. I certainly believe CONTACT will prove beneficial to our steadily growing denomination.

I would like to report from Japan, where Christianity is progressing rapidly. I am a member of the U.S. Army now stationed in Japan, but I have the privilege of working in a small Japanese church in the town of Chitose, near our camp. I have been trying to help Rev. Kishimoto, the Japanese pastor, in his fight against Satan.

I have noticed the Japanese people are hungry for the gospel of our Christ. The Sunday school has grown from an average of 35 to about 85, so you can readily see that God is blessing the work in Japan.

Since I am no linguist and cannot speak the Japanese language well, jobs are limited in the church for me. I try to help just by being an "ambassador for Christ," representing Him by the life I live before the people.

We recently started a new Saturday night service which we call the "GI Gospel Hour," a service composed of special singing, testimonies and preaching. Many souls have been won to Christ in this service. Besides the blessing of souls being saved, it has helped the relationship between the Japanese people and the soldiers and proves to the Japanese there are some good Christian soldiers.

All the while I was busy noticing the rapid progress of the Chitose church, I was oblivious to the growth of our own chapel here at camp. Our chapel has a seating capacity of about 275, and for the past several weeks we have had well over 350 soldiers attending.

It is imperative for us to conduct our Sunday morning service in the camp theater to accommodate the great number attending. We are going to convert the theater into a chapel, and we pray that soon it, too, will be filled to capacity. I am working along with the Chaplain in this service and we see prospects of many souls being brought to Christ.

In about three months I will return home and be able to continue my ministry there. I desire your prayers for the Christian work over here in Japan. I will be looking forward to each edition of CONTACT because I know it will be a blessing to me.

Prayerfully,  
Cpl. L. Donald Hill  
Service Company  
5th Cavalry Regiment  
APO 201-1, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

(Editor's note: As often as we can get interesting letters from our servicemen, we will share them with our readers. Corporal Hill is from St. Louis, Mo.)

### DIVINE MAGNETISM

