

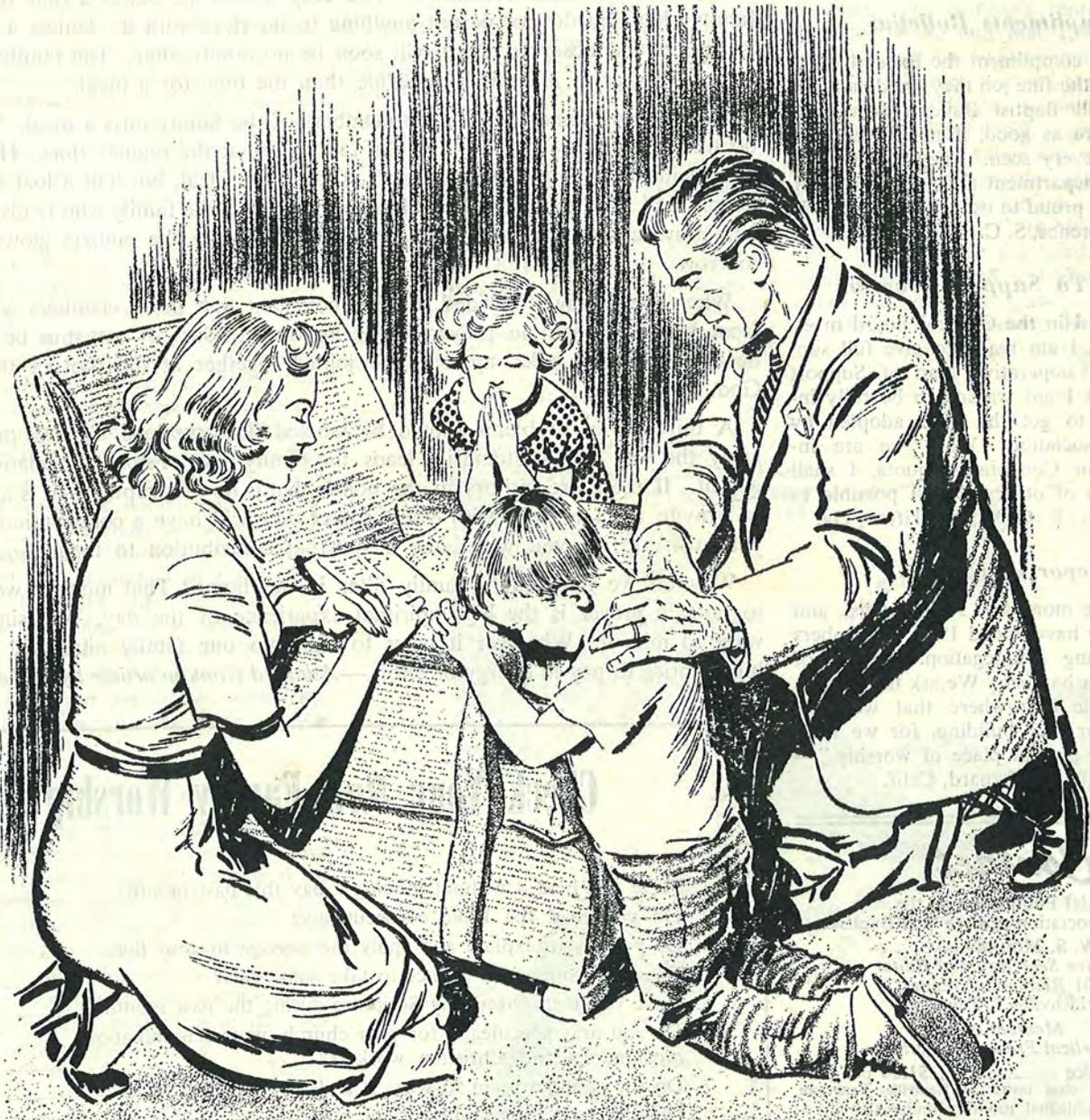
# Contact

of the  
National Association  
of Free Will Baptists

NOVEMBER, 1954

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

## CHRISTIAN HOME ISSUE



The Family Altar

X  
Rev. Henry Melvin  
RFD 2, Box 13C  
Winterville, North Carolina



**Writes from Korea**

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sending me the paper, CONTACT, these many months I have been in Korea. My wife subscribed for me and the paper has been a wonderful blessing to me and a great spiritual help to my life. Now that it is possible that I will come home soon, please change my address."—Max Perry, c/o APO, San Francisco, Calif.

**Compliments Bulletins**

"I want to compliment the Executive Department on the fine job they are doing with the Free Will Baptist Bulletin Service. I think they are as good, if not better, than any I have every seen. They are a credit both to the department and to the denomination. I am proud to use them."—Rev. W. A. Hales, Florence, S. C.

**Ready To Support Program**

"As I stated in the General Board meeting last July, I am ready to give full support to the Cooperative Plan of Support any time, but I am waiting to be fully informed and to get the plan adopted by our state association. When we are informed of our Cooperative quota, I shall with the help of others, do all possible to raise it."—Rev. E. C. Morris, Tifton, Ga.

**Reports Progress**

"During the months of July, August, and September we have added 19 new members to our growing congregation. Sixteen of them came for baptism. We ask the prayers of our people everywhere that we may soon have our new building, for we have outgrown our present place of worship."—Rev. Arthur Billows, Oxnard, Calif.

**Contact**

Official Publication of the  
National Association of Free Will Baptists  
W. S. MOONEYHAM  
Executive Secretary and Editor  
3801 Richland Avenue  
Nashville 5, Tenn.

Member of  
Evangelical Press Association

Subscription Price .....\$1.00 per year  
Entered as second class matter at Nashville, Tennessee

CONTACT is published monthly under the direction of the Executive Committee of the General Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Committee members are Charles A. Thigpen, George W. Waggoner, Mark M. Lewis, Henry Melvin, J. B. Bloss, J. L. Welch, John H. West.

**Yes, the Family Altar Has Problems**

There is just no way to maintain a family altar unless somebody wants to keep it going. Unfortunately, even the desire for a family altar is not enough, for the best laid plans do go awry. The best regulated households have their days of complete confusion. What happens to the family altar then?

The easiest set of problems to deal with is that which should be called "Materials for Family Worship Misplaced." It happens everywhere but how nobody knows. The obvious remedy for this problem is to have a special place to keep the materials used in the family altar. Still the emergency will come. As a temporary substitute, you can always ask each member of the family to repeat a Bible verse. The members of the family can join hands and bow together in silent prayer for each other. Another procedure is for the entire family to repeat in unison some familiar Scripture passage such as the twenty-third Psalm or the Lord's Prayer.

Another set of problems which make it difficult to maintain a family altar might be headed "Crowded Schedule." The easy answer is: Select a time of day for the family altar and do not permit anything to interfere with it. Unless a definite time is chosen and observed there will soon be no family altar. The family altar should rank no lower in a family's schedule than the time for a meal.

But there are times when some members of the family miss a meal. What do you do then? The other members of the family eat at the regular time. Have a family altar with some members missing? That is not ideal, but half a loaf is better than none. And even though it be only one member of the family who reads God's Word and prays at the appointed hour, that one will keep the embers glowing until the morrow.

When the family is divided, have a covenant that those members who are away from home will join in prayer at the appointed hour. It will thus be possible for hearts which are miles apart to be joined together at the foot of the throne of God.

A third set of problems should be labeled "Interruptions." Illness or a trip takes away the one who customarily leads the family altar. Friends or relatives come for a visit. If there are visitors in the home, that is no interruption—it is an opportunity. Invite them to join with you. Either they will have a contribution to make to your worship, or you will make a spiritual contribution to them.

Why do we maintain a family altar in our home? That moment we join hands to bow in prayer is the high spiritual experience of the day. We simply do not want to miss it. Whatever it takes to maintain our family altar will not be too high a price to pay in energy or effort.—Adapted from an article by Duke K. McCall.

**Check Your Own Family Worship**

- |   | Yes   | No    |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1. Have you held it without missing a day this past month?  | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Do you read the Bible consecutively?   | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Do you try to explain and apply the passage to your lives?                                       | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Does everyone get a chance to take some part?  | _____ | _____ |
| 5. Have you memorized any Scripture during the past month?  | _____ | _____ |
| 6. Do you pray specifically for your church, your denomination, missionaries and Christian workers? | _____ | _____ |
| 7. Do the children seem to want it and look forward to it?  | _____ | _____ |
| 8. Does it draw your family closer together?  | _____ | _____ |
| 9. Have you explained to the children why you have it?  | _____ | _____ |
| 10. Have you varied the procedure any during the past month?  | _____ | _____ |

(Give yourself ten points for each "yes". A score of eighty is exceptionally good.)

# Revival Fires Burn on Family Altars

*Editor's note:* This is a condensation of the sermon preached last July at the annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists by Dr. Thigpen. Our "Sermon of the Month" writer is moderator of the national association and pastor of Highland Park Free Will Baptist church.

**Rev. Charles A. Thigpen**  
Highland Park, Michigan

of all they will ever do for him. Parents should not just sit around and watch children grow—they must constantly train them for the Lord.

## The Father's Place

The father is God's deputy as head of the home. He is the high priest in spiritual matters. He is God's representative. In Joshua 24 we find that Joshua chose the religion for his whole family. "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua is here saying that he will serve the Lord, that his wife will serve the Lord and also that his children will serve the Lord.

Abraham commanded his household in  
*(Continued on page 6)*

*"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged" (Col. 3:17-21).*

Religious leaders far and near are crying out for real revival in our time. If we are going to have this revival, and if the revival accomplishes the great task that it should, it must be vitally connected with the home.

The story is told of the late Henry W. Grady who made the statement as he stood before our magnificent capitol building in Washington, D. C., that this building represents the real heart of America. He said that here is where the nation-shaping ideas are formed. A little later he published in his newspaper, the *Atlanta Constitution*, that he had been mistaken in his former statement. He said that the heart of America is the home. "The home is the foundation of American society. It is the very heart and core of America. The issues that really shape our destiny and affect this nation and the world are made in the home," he said.

## Home Problem Is Greatest

This revival that we so need must be related to the home because history shows that our great men were not fashioned on the battlefield but in the cradle and by the fireside of their childhood homes. Our nation should fear disloyalty and contention at the fireside more than any political force. America has many problems, but the greatest problem is not Communism or the race issue—the greatest problem we face is the breakdown of the Christian home. Therefore, if we can spark revival fires on family altars and get our homes to once again produce real Christian character the next generation will be better equipped to do great things for God than even this present generation.

The Word of God explains that in the Christian home there is a rightful place for

each member of the family and a proper relationship between these members. In order for revival fires to burn in the home, both parents must be saved and endeavor to serve God individually as well as to glorify him together. The children should be accepted as a gift from the Heavenly Father. This home, made up of parents and child or children is the greatest educational institution in the world.

It is the greatest educational institution not because of its physical plant but because it is here that all the basic information of life is learned. Dr. Clarence H. Benson says that by the time a child is three years of age, the parents have done more than half





*The Olivers gather around for family devotions before going to bed. Kathy, the youngest member, reads the Ten Commandments from the family Bible. Other members of the family are (left to right) Mrs. Oliver, Ted, Mr. Oliver, and Steve.*

# Religion Is A Family Affair

for the John Olivers of  
Nashville

W. S. Mooneyham

Maybe it's because both Mr. and Mrs. John Oliver were reared in parsonages—or maybe it's because they are both school teachers and know a lot about young people. But whatever the reason, it is easy to see that both these Free Will Baptist parents are sold on the idea that religion is a family affair.

The Olivers, who live in Nashville, Tennessee, have three good reasons why they feel so strongly about Christianity in the home. Their reasons are named John Stephen, Ted Randell, and Patricia Kathleen.

That the Oliver home is a Christian home is easy to see when you first walk into the living room. In a prominent spot in the room is the large family Bible. It is a new one bought recently to be used in family devotions. The many illustrations and pictures make it a favorite book with all the children. But there is more to the Oliver family religion than a big Bible.

"A home religion that doesn't work outside the home isn't much religion," Mr. Oliver says, so when the five of them leave for school every morning they take the family religion with them. And the 750 students at West End high school where Mr. Oliver is principal have an opportunity to share in it.

"How are you able to make any of this work in the public school?" he is asked by those who think the Supreme Court ruling forbade any mention of religion in the public school. The school principal, who has been in the teaching profession for twenty-five years, explains that emphasis may be placed on the principles of Christianity so long as it is not done from a sectarian viewpoint.

"Not many people would object to having their children learn and practice the Golden Rule and the Sermon on the Mount,"

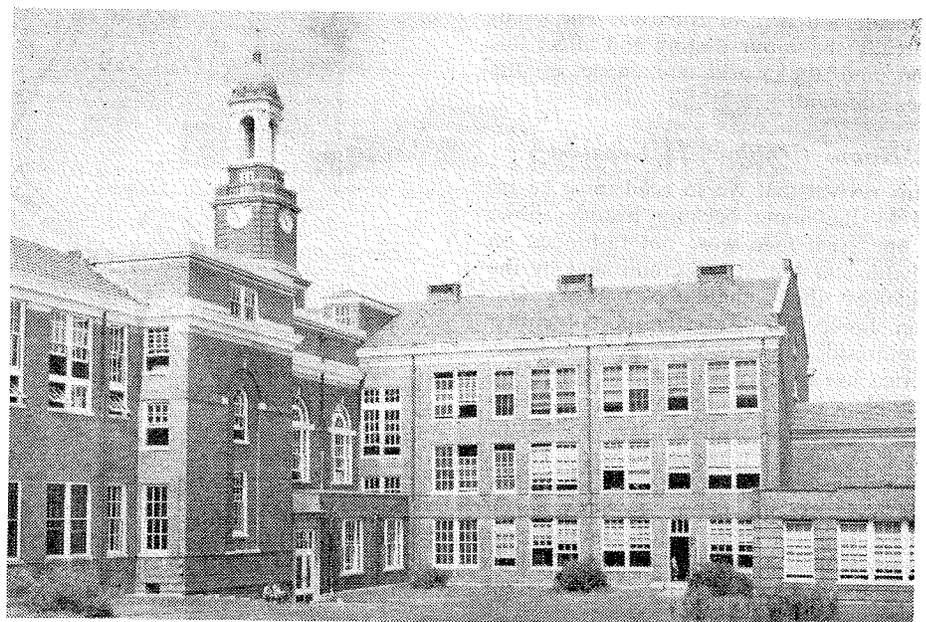
he adds. Students at West End high school conduct devotions every morning over the school's inter-communication system. Included each morning is a passage from the Bible, some brief comment, and prayer. Some of these have been so fine that he has requested the students to compile them into a booklet, and thinks perhaps the school paper will select and print the best of them.

Mrs. Oliver teaches at Hattie Cotton grade school in East Nashville. Steve, who is the oldest child at 11, is in the sixth grade. Ted, 9, is in the fourth, and Kathy, 7, is a second grader.

You might think that with the busy schedule which the family has to follow

every day it would be difficult to work in family worship. It isn't always easy, they confess, but they do observe family devotions as regularly as they eat. In fact, sometimes they combine the two. Often devotions will be held at the breakfast table before the day's activities begin. Sometimes they will hold hands around the table and pray the Lord's Prayer or some other prayer together. These are times to which the whole family looks forward.

At night the children take turns reading from the family Bible before going to bed. Sometimes Mr. Oliver is not able to be with the family because of his social and civic obligations, but Mrs. Oliver rarely leaves the children at night. While it is



*West End high school in Nashville where John Oliver is principal. Here the family religion is shared with 750 students in daily devotions.*

true that she is a teacher, she considers that her first job is as a mother.

The children usually get home before either of the parents in the afternoon, so they practice their music for an hour and a half. All three are learning to play the piano and the boys are also taking violin lessons. After their music practice they are free to play until supper. From supper till bedtime is study period, and bedtime always comes at 8:30 except in special cases.

When asked about two problems which parents confront in the home, television and comic books, the children themselves gave the answer.

Said young Kathy about television: "We can watch what we want to except when mother or daddy thinks a program isn't good for us." During the commercials when a product is advertised which the children think is wrong, they voluntarily turn the volume down too low for listening and distort the picture until the commercial is over. They all agreed, however, that they were usually too busy to watch television at all.

Steve answered the question about comic books. "We read some comic books like most other kids, but I think the books that mother and daddy have bought for us are a lot more interesting." This statement was followed by an invitation to look over the children's library. It was easy to see why comic books went begging for readers at their house. In their library were all of the children's classics and educational books in attractive volumes, plus plenty of character-building youth magazines. Sunday

school quarterlies also occupied a prominent place on the shelves.

Church work comes natural with all the Olivers. Mr. Oliver's father was James H. Oliver, a Free Will Baptist preacher in the middle Tennessee area for 35 years. He died in 1939. Mrs. Oliver's father is now retired from the Methodist ministry and lives in Nashville. By coincidence, both of their fathers were also teachers.

All of the family are members at East Nashville Free Will Baptist church. Kathy, who was the last one of the children to confess Christ, was baptized this summer. Mr. Oliver is minister of music at the church. He is an ordained deacon and chairman of the official board, and is also a Sunday school teacher, having taught the Men's Bible class for over 15 years.

On occasion he will supply a pulpit, but his work at East Nashville church occupies most of his Sundays. His oldest brother, Henry, is an ordained Free Will Baptist preacher and is principal at East Nashville high school.

Mrs. Oliver has taught a class of young people and is now on the staff of substitute teachers for the Sunday school. The family rarely misses Sunday school and the morning worship service.

All of the adages about the Christian home and Christian families, such as, "The family that prays together, stays together," fit the Olivers. They have been married sixteen years and have a happy home. They are sure that by making their religion a family affair they have every chance in the world to keep it that way.



Steve, Kathy, and Ted prefer the books and magazines in their own library to comic books, they say. They spend a great deal of time with the children's classics and youth magazines.

## Attendance Reported By 23 Churches

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Twelve states were represented in the reports of Sunday school averages for September, only 23 churches in the twelve states sent reports. Four of the 23 churches reported the average attendance in League for the month.

Both averages will be printed if they are reported early in the month. Send the averages on a postcard along with the name of the church to CONTACT, 3801 Richland Ave., Nashville 5, Tenn.

Averages for September were as follows:

	SS	League
<b>ARKANSAS</b>		
Phillips Chapel, Springdale	153	
Willoughby church, Warren	113	
Mount Harmony, Saffell	63	
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>		
Kerman	126	54
Oxnard	75	
<b>GEORGIA</b>		
First church, Thomaston	52	40
<b>ILLINOIS</b>		
Bear Point, Sesser	90	
<b>KENTUCKY</b>		
Virgie	56	
<b>MICHIGAN</b>		
Highland Park	404	
<b>MISSOURI</b>		
Fellowship church, Flat River	178	
Fredericktown	177	
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>		
Hickory Chapel, Ahoskie	133	34
Warden's Grove, Lowland	128	
St. Mary's church, New Bern	296	
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>		
Capitol Hill, Oklahoma City	222	
Lawnwood, Tulsa	187	
Central Ave., Oklahoma City	127	
Tecumsch	102	
Okmulgee	56	20
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>		
Lockhart	172	
<b>TENNESSEE</b>		
Elizabethton	211	
Bethlehem, Ashland City	130	
<b>TEXAS</b>		
Odessa	87	

## Missionaries' Expenses Listed by Secretary

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—An initial cost of nearly \$3,000 will be involved in getting Rev. and Mrs. Wesley Calvery on the field as missionaries to Japan, according to an announcement from the Foreign Missions office.

"We are badly in need of some people who will underwrite some of the needs of these missionaries," Rev. Raymond Riggs, promotional secretary, said. Some of the items included in the initial expense are steamship tickets to Japan, \$750; balance on automobile to be used on mission field, \$500; freight on automobile, \$450; October salary, \$150, and incidentals involved in going and establishing a work, \$1,000.

When all of this is paid there will be a balance in the Calvery account of just a little over \$300, Mr. Riggs said. The Calverys were scheduled to sail October 29 from San Francisco.

# Revival Fires

(Continued from page 3)

religious matters. God said of him in Genesis 18:19, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him." God had confidence in Abraham that he would lead his household aright spiritually.

## Failure of Eli

Eli, however, is an example of a slack father. There are many Christians today just like Eli. They feel that they are too busy serving the Lord to train their children for God. Many ministers excuse themselves from this God-given duty, but in the sight of God, the training of his children should come first. God says, "For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not" (I Samuel 3:13). Eli failed God in his family relationship.

It is the husband's job to be the head of the house in spiritual things. He is to take the initiative. He is to be the master teacher in the home university. He is to be the chief example of a Christian life. He is the one responsible to God for the family altar in the home.

The wife is to be the associate teacher in this school. Usually she has more opportunity to teach the children than the husband because she is with them more during their early years.

## Parents To Teach

To the husband and wife God speaks in Deuteronomy 6:6-9, "And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates." Note how intensive this teaching is to be done. The parents' hearts shall possess God's truth and openings should be made from morning until night to impart Biblical truths to their children. The ears of men have always been dull of hearing God's truth; therefore this task of the parents is not to be just a little schooling on Sunday—it is a daily undertaking.

We find another admonition very similar to this in Deuteronomy 11:18-21. The closing verse of this passage give some results to the faithful parent-teacher: "That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land to do which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give them,

as the days of heaven upon the earth." God promises days "as days of heaven upon the earth," if the children are taught His word properly. When God makes a statement it is truth. When God repeats a truth, there is special need for that truth. God knew of the failure to train the new generation, therefore throughout the book of Deuteronomy, parental responsibility is stressed.

## Outside Teaching Not Adequate

This type of training was put into effect in the young life of Timothy and he is commended by the Apostle Paul in the following way, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Outside agencies cannot do adequate Bible teaching. The Sunday school does not have enough time, to say nothing of lack of equipment and trained teachers. The minister in his preaching cannot touch on every phase of the Word of God in his limited time. The vacation Bible school training is fine, but it lasts for only two weeks out of the year and only a small group takes advantage of attending. The public school makes no attempt to teach God's Word. And furthermore, teaching outside the home cannot meet the home problems of training the child morally and spiritually.

Every Christian home should begin the day with a season of brief Bible study and prayer. This helps everyone in the family to start the day off right. The Bible teaching should be sufficiently varied as not to become boring. It is a good plan to read the Bible through consecutively, reading only short portions at a time.

## Ways To Use Bible

Story telling may be used to great advantage, especially where young children are involved. The parts of the Bible that lead themselves to story form may be studied by the parent and then told very effectively. The use of flannelgraphs, object lessons and pictures all are useful means of conveying truths to youths. Also the memorizing of Bible verses is a very worthwhile thing to do during the early morning worship period.

With this proper daily beginning, the parents should continue throughout the day to patiently remind the child of the Bible truth touched upon. In my own home we taught our three-year-old son at the family worship period the verses, "Be ye kind one to another." Throughout that day and subsequent days his mother and I have tried to commend him when he is kind to others and reprove him when he fails to be kind, always relating our remarks to the verse of Scripture.

Scripture should be used to teach needed lessons as the need arises. One night our son became frightened because of an electrical storm. The Bible verses that tell

of God's presence and of His protection of His own proved to be a real comfort to him. I believe this made a lasting impression on his young mind.

## Place of Prayer

A family altar which represents real family worship, is never complete without prayer. All the family should be gathered together for this. Even the smallest child should be included as he sits on parent's lap. Many fathers have only taught their children to kneel while they themselves prayed. Everyone should take part in the prayer period. The child should be taught to pray when he is able to repeat words after Mother and Dad.

We should not just wait until he can compose a prayer of his own. That time will come much more quickly if we teach him early to repeat a prayer after us. Certain memorized prayers as the Lord's prayer and "Now I lay me down to sleep" are very good to be taught to the children. Many times I find myself praying a prayer that I learned as a small child from my parents. Someone has said that the last thing that the devil is able to rob from a person is that which he learned at the feet of his parents.

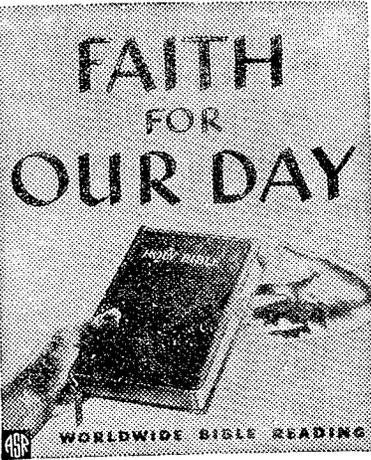
I could not stress enough the importance of this prayer period. Just think of it, finite man, creature of a day, talking to the eternal God of heaven and earth! And then the great privilege, to teach our children to talk to God and give thanks and praise unto him as well as to bring to Him our burdens, needs and problems. Our children form their life-long attitude toward God from the way we act during this worship period. May God help us to worship him in spirit and in truth as we approach the throne of grace bringing our children with us.

## Family Altars Urged

If, as Free Will Baptists, we can inspire our people to have family altars in their homes, these revival fires that we so desire will not only burn in our homes, but in our churches as well. As we do this we will have no need to be afraid that we are building a superstructure on a poor foundation. Our foundation in our homes and churches will be none other than the Lord Jesus Christ himself.

May God help each of our pastors to set an example of real family worship in his own home. Then may each one preach on it—not just once, but periodically and inquire as he visits as to how effective the family altars in his congregation are becoming. After preaching on this, give an invitation even as Joshua of old for parents to take a stand for God and the old-fashioned family altar.

Finally, let me suggest a slogan for Free Will Baptists. Recognizing the importance of the home as the greatest educational institution in the world, let us make, "Every Christian home a Bible Institute."



For the eleventh year, the American Bible Society is sponsoring the Worldwide Bible Reading program from Thanksgiving through Christmas.

Setting aside a time each day for a specific Bible reading has received the support of people on all continents.

The readings are without note or comment, and one may use whatever version of the Bible he prefers.

Below are the readings for each day, in the theme of personal faith as selected by numerous people from many denominations:

Nov. 25 Thanksgiving	Psalms 1
26	Psalms 23
27	Psalms 27
28 Sunday	John 1:1-34
29	Psalms 37
30	Psalms 46
Dec. 1	Psalms 51
2	Psalms 91
3	Psalms 103
4	Psalms 121
5 Sunday	Isaiah 40
6	Isaiah 53
7	Isaiah 55
8	Matthew 5
9	Matthew 6
10	Matthew 7
11	Luke 15
12 Universal Bible Sunday	John 3
13	John 10
14	John 14
15	John 15
16	John 17
17	Romans 8
18	Romans 12
19 Sunday	1 Corinthians 13
20	1 Corinthians 15
21	Ephesians 6
22	Philippians 4
23	Hebrews 11
24	Revelation 21
25 Christmas	Luke 2:1-20

"Count me as a firm believer in the family altar. I am thoroughly convinced that a wide-spread return to the practice of regular worship in the home would work miracles in meeting the many critical problems of modern life. Let the family altar become the center around which life revolves and we will regain the spiritual resources so badly needed."—Luther W. Youngdahl, former governor of Minnesota.



# The Prayer Fellowship

C. F. Bowen, Director

Someone has said, "The devil trembles when he sees the weakest Christian on his knees." How true that must be! We know this: the Holy Spirit can use a praying Christian, and when we may not be able to do some things as well as others do them, we can at least pray. Remember, "It is not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord." Let us really pray this month.

*Mon., Nov. 8*—(Luke 20:1-18)—Pray for the work of our national Sunday school board which has set up its office at our headquarters in Nashville.

*Tues., Nov. 9*—(Luke 20:19-47) Pray for Rev. William Mishler, promotional director of our national Sunday school board.

*Wed., Nov. 10*—(Luke 21:1-24)—Pray for the new churches organized last month.

*Thurs., Nov. 11*—(Luke 21:25-38)—Pray for Rev. Kermit Esther as he takes over the new work in Memphis, Tennessee. This is a strategic church.

*Fri., Nov. 12*—(Luke 22:1-30)—Pray for the Wesley Calverys as they begin their mission activities in Japan. They sailed October 29.

*Sat., Nov. 13*—(Read your Sunday school lesson)—Pray for your pastor as he plans for tomorrow's services.

*Sun., Nov. 14*—(Luke 22:31-62)—Pray for your church services today.

*Mon., Nov. 15*—(Luke 23:63 to 24:35)—Pray for our "Chapels for Cuba" campaign sponsored by the national league board.

*Tues., Nov. 16*—(Luke 23:26-49)—Pray for the new pastors who have moved to new fields of activities.

*Wed., Nov. 17*—(Luke 23:50 to 24:12)—Pray for the revivals being held this month in our churches.

*Thurs., Nov. 18*—(Luke 24:13-35)—Pray for the students in our Bible college in Nashville, Tennessee.

*Fri., Nov. 19*—(Luke 24:36-53)—Pray for the students in the Mt. Allen Junior college in North Carolina.

*Sat., Nov. 20*—(Read your Sunday school lesson)—Pray for your Sunday school teachers.

*Sun., Nov. 21*—(John 1:1-28)—Pray for your pastor as he preaches today.

*Mon., Nov. 22*—(John 1:29-51)—Pray for a spirit of thanksgiving in these wonderful days.

*Tues., Nov. 23*—(John 2:1-25)—Pray for more subscribers to all of our church papers, especially CONTACT, our national publication.

*Wed., Nov. 24*—(John 3)—Pray for the prayer meetings being held in our churches and elsewhere tonight.

*Thurs., Nov. 25*—(John 4:1-30)—Pray for peace in our time.

*Fri., Nov. 26*—(John 4:31-54)—Pray for the work of our superannuation boards.

*Sat., Nov. 27*—(Read your Sunday school lesson)—Pray for your league officers.

*Sun., Nov. 28*—(John 5:1-31)—Pray for your pastor as he preaches today.

*Mon., Nov. 29*—(John 6:1-21)—Pray for the missionaries who labor on the fields of India. Ask God for strength and power for each.

*Tues., Nov. 30*—(John 6:22-42)—Pray for our missionaries who labor on the fields of Cuba. Ask God for special power and victory for each of them.

*Wed., Dec. 1*—(John 6:43-71)—Pray diligently for the success of our Co-operative Plan of Support adopted last summer by the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

*Thurs., Dec. 2*—(John 7:1-31)—Pray for Dr. L. C. Johnson and Rev. W. B. Raper, presidents of our colleges.

*Fri., Dec. 3*—(John 7:32-53)—Pray for the sick and needy of your community.

*Sat., Dec. 4*—(Read your Sunday school lesson)—Pray for your pastor as he plans tomorrow's services.

*Sun., Dec. 5*—(John 8:1-32)—Pray for your church services today, especially for your pastor.

*Mon., Dec. 6*—(John 8:33-59)—Pray for the missionary work of our church in Africa and Japan.

*Tues., Dec. 7*—(John 9:1-38)—Pray for a sweeping revival in our churches.

# Heroes of the Faith

*Editor's note:* Part Eight of "The Free Will Baptist Story" reads like a modern Hebrews 11 listing the heroes of the faith to whom Free Will Baptists owe so much. Previous chapters have dealt with the religious and social background to the Arminian movement, its beginnings in Europe, and the migration to America. CONTACT plans to issue the entire series of articles in book form when they have been concluded.

The Free Will Baptist movement in North Carolina led by Paul Palmer, although sparked by an intense desire on the part of the colonists for spiritual food, was not all that it could have been under different circumstances. History reveals at least three outstanding weaknesses which almost resulted in the premature death of the "Free Willers."

(1) There was not a sufficient number of local churches to take care of the many converts which Palmer and his associates made. Those who professed faith and were baptized were in many instances left to their devices insofar as perpetuating their Christian experience was concerned. Myriads of the converts were never taken into a church organization of any kind until the Particular Baptists came along and took them into their churches.

(2) So few in number were gospel preachers that services were conducted in the more remote sections only once or twice a year. This gave rise to carelessness brought on by the lack of teaching and led to worldliness and laxity in living and also made the converts easy prey of false doctrines. Many of the people could neither read nor write and could not fend for themselves in the way of grace. When the rare occasion came for them to hear a preacher, they came great distances afoot and in carts and wagons for the services. So eager were they to learn more about how to live right that they were willing to spend a week in laborious travel for one or two days of gospel preaching.

### *Some Converts Not Genuine*

(3) Palmer and his Free Will Baptist contemporaries, while not actually preaching baptismal regeneration, nevertheless baptized rather profusely and in many instances left that impression. They were so governed by the ever-present shortage of preachers and the urgent necessity of getting as many people saved and baptized as possible, that they were too lenient in their demands for evidence of genuine salvation on the part of their converts. It seems that while they did not openly admit the unconverted to baptism, they did consider willingness to be baptized sufficient evidence of conversion.

**Damon C. Dodd**

**Promotional Secretary**

**Home Mission Board**

The danger of such a position can readily be seen in that on such grounds the grace of God in salvation was set aside for the initiatory measure of baptism before some of the baptized were actually saved.

It is more than likely, however, that the larger proportion of Palmer's converts were actually saved. But whether converted or unconverted, they were soon very numerous and also uncompromising adherents of Baptist principles. The fact that these Free Will Baptists were increasing so rapidly and were propounding so vigorously their Baptist faith brought on still another problem.

### *Established Church Aroused*

The Church of England had not been able to get a foothold in North Carolina due to its formality, coldness, and monarchial manner. Palmer's great successes had won for him the public praise of Governor Everard in 1729 and this served to further infuriate the bigoted established Churchmen. Aroused by all this, they began to organize a resistance movement.

They tried to pass legislation imposing special taxes for the erection of churches in New Bern, Bath, Wilmington, Edenton, and Brunswick. As a further measure these churchmen, as justices of the courts, were refusing to grant Baptists the rights of the Toleration Act by keeping them from registering their churches as places of public worship. An appeal by the Free Will Baptists from one such ruling resulted in the imposition of severe fines and public whippings for the church leaders. However, an irate and aroused public, along with honest, God-fearing lawmen, soon put an end to such abuses and the Baptists were granted the right of having their meeting places registered and approved for public worship.

### *Palmer Gets License*

Palmer was always one to stay well within the bounds of prevailing law whenever possible to do so without compromising his doctrine or curtailing his ministry. In order to be fully protected against the maliciousness of the Established Churchmen, he registered in Perquimans county in 1738 for license as a dissenting preacher. A document found by Mr. J. R. B. Hatha-

way in the court house at Edenton bears out this fact:

"North Carolina

Permission is hereby granted Paul Palmer, of Edenton, a Protestant minister to teach or preach the Word of God in any part of the Province (he having qualified himself as such) pursuant to an Act of Parliament made in the first year of King William and Queen Mary intitled an 'Act for Toleration Protestant Dissenters.'

Given under my hand at Edenton for the 4th day of October Anno Dom., 1738."

(Not signed)

This paper is endorsed across the back, "To be registered for Paul Palmer."

Perhaps the leaders of the Church of England had cause to be alarmed, for the slow progress of their own church seemed all the slower in comparison to the almost phenomenal growth of the Free Will Baptist group. In a previous chapter it was pointed out that Palmer established churches in Chowan, Camden, and Onslow. In all probability he and his fellow-workers also organized churches in New Bern, Beaufort on Bay and Neuse rivers, Swift Creek in Craven county, Pungo in Beaufort county, and Mattamuskeet in Hyde county. While all of these churches cannot be credited personally to Palmer, they were all made up of his converts and constituted by preachers of the Free Will Baptist faith.

### *Church Leader Writes*

Rev. Alexander Bath, in a letter written in 1760, expresses the general feeling among Established Church leaders thus:

"Of late years this province is overrun with a people that at first called themselves Anabaptists, but having now refined upon that scheme, have run into so many errors and I may say almost bewitched the minds of the people that scarcely will they listen to anything that can be said in defense of the church we belong to."

As has been noted in foregoing statements, Paul Palmer was not alone in the great work which was going on in the Free Will Baptist revival. There were others as godly and fearless and dauntless as was he who were giving themselves unstintingly in the promulgation of the gospel message. Here we want to give brief biographies of some of the more outstanding ones among them.

## **Joseph Parker**

From all accounts which we can find concerning his life and ministry, we are convinced that a more noble, self-sacrificing servant of God ever lived than Joseph Parker. Born in 1705 (?) the fourth child of Joseph Parker, Sr., he was brought up in a Christian home and early in life came

to know the Free Will Baptist movement through the connection which his father, as one of its earliest leading laymen, had with it.

Of his early life we know very little, since no records have been found which bear directly on it. By 1729 the Meherrin and the Tuscarora Indians were confined to reservations on the Roanoke river, and although this controlled, they remained more or less savage and resentful toward the whites, regarding them as intruders. Few white settlers ventured into the immediate surroundings due to fear of Indian violence.

### **Given Equal Credit**

It was into this country that Joseph Parker and Sarah, his wife, came about 1730. Parker, at the age of 25, began his zealous evangelistic labors in this region, going near and far preaching the gospel. So numerous were these labors that some historians give him equal credit along with Palmer as one of the founders of the Free Will Baptist Church.

Among the churches which he established we have a well-founded record of one—the Meherrin church. In 1845, Wheeler, the historian of the Meherrin church which by then no longer held Free Will Baptist connections, wrote an article which sheds much light on the later years of Mr. Parker's life.

"The house was built of hewn logs and was 20 by 25 feet in size. His (Parker's) labors were confined principally to the people of this immediate vicinity until 1773, when he removed . . . south of Tar River . . . Elder Parker was a consistent Christian, a zealous and successful minister. While pastor of the church, he lived on the farm on which he first settled when removing from Camden . . . The land . . . for the church was given by Elder Parker . . . As the population increased Elder Parker again removed.

### **Parker Remained Loyal**

"His course was southward and he finally settled about 40 miles above New Bern, in a region of the country embraced in the present limits of Lenoir county. Here he and his wife lived in limited circumstances, supported by a few members of the Free Will Baptist Church. He preached occasionally on Conetoe Creek and also on Pungo River.

"In Dobbs county (since divided into Wayne, Lenoir, and Greene counties), Elder Parker was highly esteemed. It was to this county his labors were mostly confined, rarely preaching at any other place but at Wheat Swamp, near which church he settled. *In the great reformation which took place among the Baptists of North Carolina, Elder Joseph Parker, William Parker, and Winifield refused to unite. As the reformed Baptists were styled Separates, the Parkers and their adherents assumed the title of Free Will Baptists.*

### **Churches Listed**

"Joseph Parker departed this life about

1791 or '92 and was buried in Robert Wyrington's burial ground, on Wheat Swamp . . . Rev. Lewis Whitfield, an aged Baptist minister in Cartaret County, says that Elder Joseph Parker was a 'square-built man' with broad face, about five feet, eight inches high, and in his later years wore on his head a cap continually. His manner of preaching was full of animation . . . No monument marks the spot where his ashes repose."<sup>1</sup>

Among the churches established by Joseph Parker were Bertie, later known as Sandy Run; Lower Fishing Creek, near Enfield; Little Contentnea, in present Greene County; Meherrin church; Swift Creek (a branch of Fishing Creek church); and perhaps Rocky Swamp.

Joseph Parker was a true and faithful servant of Jesus Christ. With a soul burning with missionary zeal he carried the gospel from frontier settlement to frontier settlement even to extreme old age. None was more untiring in his labors, more devoted to the cause, or more loyal to his convictions than Elder Joseph Parker.

## **William Sojourner (Surgenor)**

Among the brighter lights of the Free Will Baptist movement, that of William Sojourner shone out as brightly as any of them. He was a native Virginian, having lived originally in Isle of Wight County. Just prior to his coming to North Carolina in 1742 a plague had swept his home county, leaving a terrible death toll behind. As a result, many of the survivors left Virginia to seek a more healthy climate.

In 1742, William Sojourner came to the section of North Carolina near the present site of Scotland Neck and organized the Kehukee church, named for a nearby creek. A number of the members of the Free Will Baptist church from Isle of Wight County had come with Sojourner and they probably constituted, to at least a large degree, the Kehukee church. They immediately built a church house and chose Sojourner as their pastor. The house was forty by twenty feet and in 1772 the church had 150 members.

### **Dies at Early Age**

While very little is known of his life, it is known that he was a man of wisdom and influence. During his short ministry he baptized several who afterwards became prominent ministers. The Kehukee church was regarded as the leading church of all west of the Roanoke and many other churches came out of her during the pastorate of Sojourner.

He had the care of Kehukee church for seven-and-a-half years until his death in February, 1749, or 1750 at the age of 43 years. His wife was Mary West, and his children were Jacob, Ann, and Tamar.

## **Dr. Josiah Hart**

Among the men whom William Sojourner met and became most intimately associated with in Edgemcombe province was Dr. Josiah

## **Anniversary Issue**

With this issue of CONTACT we begin our second year of publishing. One year ago we issued Vol. 1, No. 1 with only a handful of pre-publication subscriptions. Now, twelve months later, this issue will be mailed to more than 4,200 subscribers. For this we are grateful.

Between 800 and 1,000 subscriptions expire with this issue, however, and it is important that these first subscribers renew. Without these renewals we will have a long climb back to our present circulation. Your renewal will be a wonderful anniversary present. Use the enclosed blue envelope to renew today!

Hart. Of his early life we have nothing, but that he was a man of prominence is borne out by the records of his activity as a citizen and leader in the province. He was, in all probability, a convert of Sojourner's and was called into the gospel ministry under his pastorate. Whether this be the case or not, we do know that Dr. Hart became a fervent evangelist and rose high among leading churchmen of his day.

He made his headquarters in what is now Warren county, N. C., where he soon gathered a congregation and organized a church known as Fishing Creek or Reedy Creek. He inaugurated a program of evangelism which enlisted the services of many able ministers and resulted in adding many converts to the Baptist cause.

### **Proves Outstanding Leader**

Dr. Hart baptized or ordained most of his fellow-workers. Among them were William Walker, who was pastor at Reedy Creek; Henry Ledbetter and James Smart; John Thomas, who became pastor at Toisnot; Charles Daniel; and he assisted Sojourner in the ordination of John Moore as pastor of the Falls of Tar church. He led this great assemblage of preachers to much success so that by 1755 there were sixteen Free Will Baptist churches in the province.

One of the great revivals conducted by Dr. Hart was at Reedy Creek where "great numbers came and were baptized." Many who thus came were from a great distance and when they returned to their homes they were out of touch with the mother church at Reedy Creek. Branch churches were set up at Benefield's Creek, 28 miles away; Sandy Creek, 17 miles away, and Giles Creek, 25 miles off.

Further information on the life and labors of Dr. Josiah Hart is difficult to arrive at. Suffice it to say, however, that his influence and leadership made it possible to get the gospel into many places where others would have hesitated to go.

(Continued next month)

<sup>1</sup>History of North Carolina Baptists, pp. 166-167, Paschall.



*This is the first picture to be sent to the states of Brenda Kay Hanna, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Carlisle Hanna, missionaries to India. Brenda Kay was born on the mission field June 28, a little over two years after the entire denomination was saddened by the death of their first child, 8½-month-old Sheila Marie. The Hanna's are stationed at Kishanganj, in North India.*

## Annual Missionary Conference Set for Thanksgiving Week at Nashville

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The annual missionary conference has been scheduled for Thanksgiving week, according to an announcement from the department of Foreign and Home Missions. Dates of the conference will be November 23-25. Sessions will be held at the Free Will Baptist Bible College.

The conference theme will be "I Am Debtor . . . I Am Ready to Preach," taken from Romans 1:14, 15. Featured speakers will be Dr. L. C. Johnson, Bible college president; Rev. John Ruth, Houlton, Maine, and Rev. and Mrs. Harold Stevens, missionaries to Africa.

A goal of \$2,500 has been set for a special thanksgiving offering to missions to be given Wednesday night. Churches are asked to prepare a special offering for the occasion and send or have it brought to the conference. Gifts will be presented at the altar, where the offering will be divided equally between home and foreign missions.

Presiding over the sessions of the conference will be Rev. Raymond Riggs and Rev. Damon C. Dodd, promotional secretaries of the two departments. Below is the entire conference program:

### *Tuesday Evening, November 23*

- 7:30—Conference opens with congregational singing—Mr. Ross Dowden  
Scripture reading and prayer—Rev. T. G. Hamilton
- 7:50—Introducing the conference program and conference personalities—Rev. Raymond Riggs
- 8:00—Special music—Bible College music department
- 8:05—The Message—"I Am Debtor to Christ"  
Messenger—Dr. L. C. Johnson

### *Wednesday Morning, November 24*

- 8:30—To His Glory, We Sing—College music department  
Scripture reading and prayer—Rev. Luther Sanders
- 8:45—"Where Christ Has Not Been Preached, I am Debtor"—Tommy Willey
- 9:15—Special music—Bible College

- 9:20—Message—Mrs. Josephine Stevens
- 10:05—Congregation sings
- 10:10—Message—Rev. John Ruth
- 10:55—Recess
- 11:15—Morning Worship  
Congregational singing  
Reading of the scripture and prayer  
—Rev. E. C. Morris
- 11:10—Special music—Bible College
- 11:15—Message by Rev. Harold Stevens
- 12:00—Benediction

### *Wednesday Afternoon*

- 1:30—Worship Time—Song, Bible College music department  
Scripture reading and prayer—Rev. Robert King
- 1:45—"I Am Debtor to the Unconverted in the Homeland"—Galen Dunbar
- 2:10—Special music—Bible College
- 2:15—"The Call of the North"—Rev. John Ruth
- 3:00—Benediction

### *Wednesday Evening*

- 7:00—College Speech department presents vespers
- 7:45—Message—Rev. and Mrs. Harold Stevens  
"We Are Ready to Consecrate our Lives to His Service"—The Service of Consecration.  
Special music  
The Service of Giving, with the gifts being brought to the altar.  
Benediction

### *Thursday Morning, November 25*

- 8:30—"Come Ye Thankful People, Sing"—Mr. Dowden  
"Giving Thanks Always to God . . ."—Morning Meditations—Rev. Laverne Miley
- 9:30—Special music
- 9:35—Message—Rev. Damon C. Dodd
- 10:15—Congregational singing
- 10:20—"For this, we are thankful"—The Thanksgiving praise service led by Rev. Raymond Riggs
- 10:45—Recess
- 11:10—The Morning Worship Hour
- 11:15—Message—Mrs. Josephine Stevens
- 12:00—Final benediction

## Director Writes about "Chapels for Cuba"

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Rev. T. H. Willey, director of Free Will Baptist missionary work in Cuba, writes as follows regarding the "Chapels for Cuba" project:

"I have just returned from my monthly conference with the pastors in the Havana and Matanzas zone. We meet once a month to study the progress and needs of the churches.

"This month we met with our Christian friend, Suarez, who is one of the biggest contractors in Havana. Mr. Suarez has drawn up plans for a church building which we hope will meet the approval of all our workers. The plan he presents is that his company will build and finance the churches. He has the equipment to make his own blocks and has developed a roof especially adapted to the tropics.

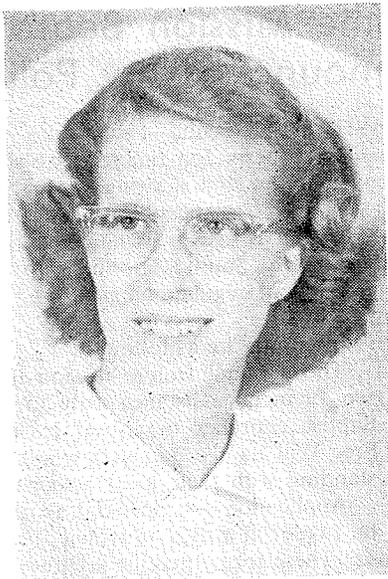
"His plan of finance is a cash deposit of one-third the cost of the building and six per cent interest on the balance, to be paid like rent by the local congregations according to their ability. The members of the churches who can offer labor will get a high salary rate to apply on the building. The plans are to include an apartment in the church building for the pastor, which will eliminate rent.

"Johnny Cuba is very persevering in his effort to get a building in Guines. He has located a lot with a house, in which he can live, for \$700. It will need about a \$100 investment, however. Our mission and the local church together are paying \$30 a month for his rent now. If the mission board can get the loan, the \$30 can be paid monthly on the loan, and within two years we will have our own property in Guines.

"It is really a wonderful town. There is a large American textile company, about fifty canning plants, and great numbers of small industries. There have been fifty new converts since Cuba went there. There is an average of \$25 entering regularly into the funds of this church, so the building could be constructed largely by the members. If these is any possible way of getting a loan of \$800 with the understanding that it be paid back at \$30 a month, I can inform Cuba at once.

"The work in general moves steadily ahead. We are trying to get a lot in a new growing community in Pinar del Rio. I don't think we can expect to build anything in Pinar for less than six or eight thousand dollars. If we can pay down a third or half of the cost, the more the interest will be reduced. The value of this is that the local congregation can make the payments on the balance as if they were paying rent.

"The pastors are enthusiastic about this plan. Melitino in Jaruco, Estenio in Jibicoa, and Mario in Canasi de Matanzas all want to start building as soon as possible. This is really one of the most important advances in our work."



WANDA EDWARDS

## Graduate Nurse Ready To Sail as Missionary

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Negotiations are underway with the Indian embassy in Washington to obtain a visa for Miss Wanda Edwards to enter India as a medical missionary, the Board of Foreign Missions has revealed.

Miss Edwards has just completed her nurse's training in the School of Nursing at the St. Louis City Hospital, St. Louis, Mo. She is now on the staff of the hospital awaiting assignment to the mission field.

She is the daughter of Mrs. Eunice Edwards Desloge, Mo., and a member of the Leadington Free Will Baptist church in Missouri. Before entering nurse's training she attended the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville.

After mentioning the primary need of prayer that visa, passage, and necessary funds would all be obtained, Mr. Riggs listed many pieces of equipment which would be needed by the missionary.

"In the purchase of equipment for missionaries, we can always save money by buying in quantities, so we suggest if you would like to help equip another soldier for Christ to send the money and we shall endeavor to provide these tools and equipment," Mr. Riggs said.

Among the many items needed are an eight-foot Servel kerosene refrigerator, with repair kit; a gasoline iron and two flat irons; foam rubber mattress; four-quart pressure cooker; two dozen dish cloths and three dozen dish towels; two dozen of both towels and wash cloths; a dozen each of single sheets, double sheets, pillow cases, and two foam rubber pillows.

Tableware, including stainless steel silverware, heavy plastic dishes, and tablecloths; kitchenware; camping equipment; a tool kit; luggage, including footlockers and half trunks; medical equipment, and a gasoline washing machine.



# Woman's Auxiliary

"His Command — Our Task"

MRS. H. B. SLOAN, Executive Secretary

## Reports from the Field

WARREN, Ark.—The women of the Willoughby Free Will Baptist church met September 27 for the purpose of organizing a Woman's Auxiliary under the supervision of the pastor's wife, Mrs. Reedy Saverance. The organization was completed with 18 charter members. Officers were elected as follows: Edra Saverance, president; Dorothy Briant, enlistment chairman; Vera Freer, youth auxiliary chairman; Ruby White, program-prayer chairman; Helen White, study course chairman; Clyde Andrews, personal service chairman; Marie Adams, recording secretary; Mae Delle Doggett, corresponding secretary, and Laurene Doggett, treasurer-stewardship chairman.

The Auxiliary will meet twice a month on the second and fourth Monday nights.

\* \* \*

HIGHLAND PARK, Mich.—A new Auxiliary group was organized in September at the Highland Park church, bringing the total Auxiliary organizations in the church to four. They include a Go-Tell Band for girls 9 to 13, a Young People's Auxiliary for girls from 14 years old until marriage, a Young Woman's Auxiliary for marriage to 35 years, and a Woman's Auxiliary for those over 35.

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FREDERICKTOWN, Mo. — Seventy women from local Auxiliaries in Southeast Missouri association met here September 14 for a district workshop. Mrs. Blanche Pogue, district convention president, presided over the session. Mrs. Eunice Edwards is secretary. The next workshop will be held in January at the Desloge church.

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NASHVILLE, Tenn.—"The Sacrifice of Praise" has been chosen as the theme for the pre-Thanksgiving "Week of Prayer" which will be observed by Woman's Auxiliaries all over the denomination, according to Mrs. C. F. Bowen, national literature chairman. Material for the week of prayer has been prepared by Mrs. K. V. Shutes and is given in the Year Book. Scriptures for the special emphasis have been taken from Hebrews 13:15; I Thessalonians 5:18, and Philippians 4:6.

An offering for state missions is to be received during the week. It is named the "Alice Lupton Offering" in honor of the first WNAC president.

OXNARD, Calif.—A Woman's Auxiliary has been organized at the new Free Will Baptist church here. The organization was formed with eight charter members. Mrs. Jenell Billows is president; Mrs. Bernice Allison, vice-president, and Mrs. Clifford Wright, secretary-treasurer.

\* \* \*

CONWAY, Ark.—A Young People's Auxiliary was organized at the new Free Will Baptist church on September 9. Elected as officers were Glenna Ruth Loveless, president; Catherine Clay, vice-president; Glynda Stone, secretary, and Patrice Clay, treasurer.

\* \* \*

CUSHING, Okla.—New officers have been elected for the Woman's Auxiliary for the Free Will Baptist church here. Serving for the coming year will be Mrs. Woodrow Matthews, president; Mrs. Willis Walker, vice-president; Mrs. Burl Tuttle, young people's chairman; Mrs. H. B. Walker, study course chairman; Mrs. Walter Shelton, program chairman; Mrs. Truman Nichols, benevolence chairman; Mrs. Edna Rowland, secretary; Mrs. Melvin Long, treasurer; Mrs. Hubert Whitaker, song leader, and Mrs. Burl Tuttle, pianist.

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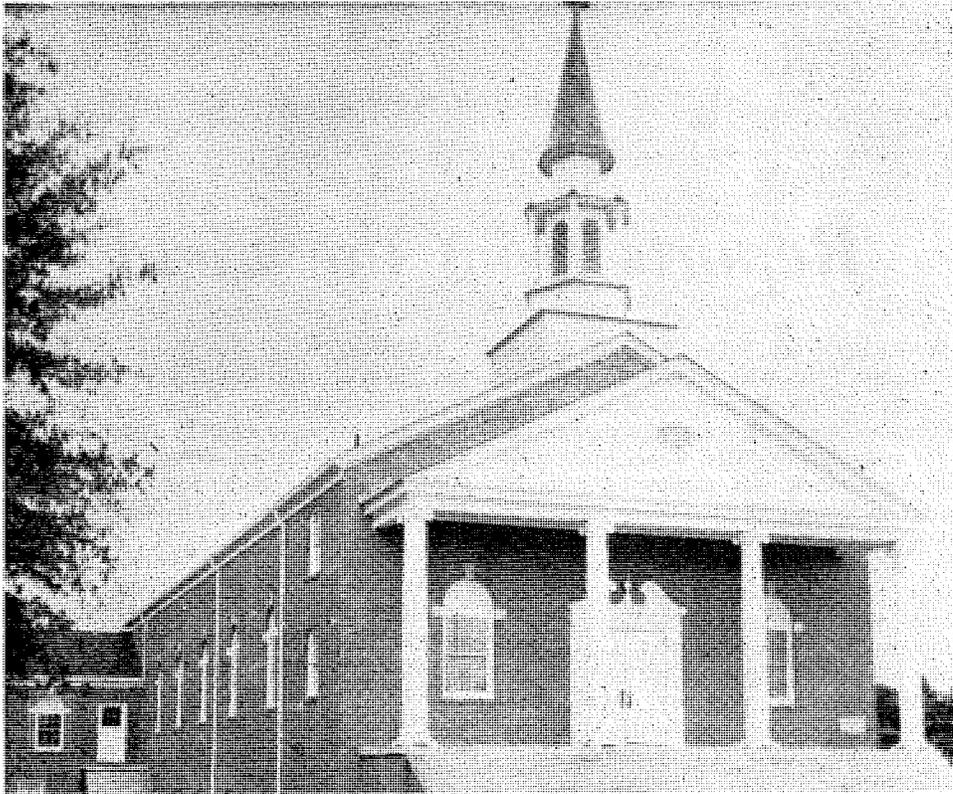
KERMIT, Texas—A Young People Auxiliary was organized at the Free Will Baptist church here September 24. Mrs. Troy Haston was elected sponsor of the group which held its first meeting October 1. YPA officers include Rexie Thompson, president; Nancy Fielding, vice-president; Mary Louise Lane, secretary-treasurer, and Ellen Johnston, song leader.

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NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Program books for GTA's, YPA's, and Woman's Auxiliaries for 1955 will soon be off the press, according to Mrs. C. F. Bowen, literature chairman. "Early orders mean early response in mailing out literature." Mrs. Bowen said in urging local Auxiliary secretaries to order their literature needs as soon as possible. Orders which are sent now will be filled as soon as the program books are received from the printers, she said.

A check or money order should accompany all orders, and they should be addressed to Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, 3801 Richland Ave., Nashville 5, Tennessee.

# CHURCH OF THE MONTH



The church plant shown above was finished this year by the Sherron Acres Free Will Baptist church, Durham, N. C., at a cost of \$100,000. The new auditorium was occupied for the first time on Easter Sunday. All of the work was begun and completed under the leadership of Rev. Fred A. Rivenbark, who served as pastor from 1949 to 1954. The educational building was finished in 1951. The building has a full basement and an auditorium that will seat 527 people, including a balcony. The two-story educational building forms a "T" at the back of the new auditorium. Rev. Wayne Smith came to the church as pastor in September of this year.

## New Church Organizations Reported in Three States

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The culmination of two years of planning and preparation for Free Will Baptists in Farmington, Missouri, came on Friday night, September 24, when twenty members were organized into the First Free Will Baptist of that city, according to a report from the national home mission office.

The organization came at the close of a twelve-day revival meeting which was conducted by Rev. Damon C. Dodd, promotional secretary for the national Home Mission Board and was designated a partial organization. The charter will be left open for thirty days, after which the remaining officers will be elected and the organization completed.

Rev. Dean Burpo, who has been serving the group as leader for the past few months, was elected pastor and Mrs. Ada Nichols clerk-treasurer. Plans are being made to purchase lots and begin a building program immediately.

A new Free Will Baptist church is reported in Flint, Michigan. The Friendship General Baptist church at Jane and Olive Street in that city voted to come over to the Wolverine Association of Free Will Baptists of Michigan. Their pastor, the Rev. Harold Lucas, came with them and

is the pastor of the Friendship Free Will Baptist church.

Revs. Willard Day, Wm. Reeves, and Leo Curtis organized a Free Will Baptist Church in Lebanon, Missouri, September 23 with eleven charter members. Several prospective members are expected to declare themselves soon. Lebanon is located in southwest Missouri and is a prosperous town of 6,000. This is the second Free Will Baptist church in the city.

New churches are also reported in Merced, Blythe, Upland, and Ontario, California. The Upland group is working for the purchase of a church in that city valued at \$100,000 and reports reaching the home mission office are that they are buying it for \$30,000.

The Ontario group also has plans to purchase a completely equipped church building in their city. Ontario is located just about twenty-five miles from Los Angeles and the pastor of the church is Rev. Francis W. Boyle.

Rev. Joe Mooneyham, state director of home missions in California says, "This is one of the best prospects for Free Will Baptists in California which I have ever seen." This church was organized August 6 with twenty-three charter members.

## Home Mission Board Announces New Policy

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Faced with ever-increasing requests for financial assistance to new churches and desiring to distribute funds as fairly as possible, the national Home Mission Board in its annual meeting in Spartanburg, South Carolina, last July adopted a set of regulations governing gifts to new churches.

The regulations are as follows:

(1)—The national Home Mission Board will give financial assistance only to Free Will Baptist churches organized by reputable Free Will Baptist ministers who are in good standing with their local associations.

(2)—Application for financial assistance must be made on forms provided for that purpose. These forms may be secured from the national Home Mission office, 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee, or from your state Home Mission director.

(3)—In states where there is a Home Mission Board, the national board will work in cooperation with that Board in the matter of organizational activity. However, the national board does not propose to match funds in every instance with the state board in giving financial assistance to new churches.

(4)—The national Home Mission Board will make gifts to new Free Will Baptist organizations on the following basis:

Charter Membership	Amount of Gift
7-12 .....	\$ 50.00
13-20 .....	75.00
21-30 .....	100.00
31-40 .....	125.00
Over 40 .....	150.00

Note: The charter membership must be composed of not less than 40% adult members.

(5)—In the matter of organizing new Free Will Baptist churches the following is suggested:

(a)—The area in which the church is to be located should be approved by the state home mission director. Where there is no state director, the national promotional secretary should be informed of the proposed location and invited to come and inspect and approve it.

(b)—A complete church census should be taken to determine the prospects for immediate church membership and also the long-range prospect for church and Sunday school growth.

(c)—The evangelist should be approved by the sponsoring boards and must be approved by the national board if funds are to be paid from that board to the church.

(d)—The church must be organized according to the National Association Treatise of Faith and Practice and must agree to support the entire denominational program.

(e)—Any request for assistance from the national Home Mission Board must be made on forms provided for that purpose and under no circumstances will funds be issued unless this form has been properly executed.

## Copies Available

A limited number of additional copies of this special "Christian Home Issue" have been printed for those pastors or Christian workers who would like to distribute them in their churches or communities. They may be ordered at the rate of ten for \$1; 25 for \$2, or 50 for \$4.

There are many homes which need the messages and articles in this issue. The good which they would do in such homes could not be valued. Order early, for the supply is definitely limited. Address orders to CONTACT, 3801 Richland Ave., Nashville, Tenn.

## Ten Reasons For a Family Altar

1. It will sweeten home life and enrich home relationship as nothing else can.
2. It will dissolve all misunderstanding and relieve all friction that may enter the home.
3. It will hold our boys and girls to the Christian ideal and determine their lasting welfare.
4. It will send us forth to our work for the day in school, home, office, store, and factory, true to do our best and determined in what we do to glorify God.
5. It will give strength to meet bravely any disappointments and adversities as they come.
6. It will make us conscious through the day of the attending presence of a divine Friend and Helper.
7. It will hallow our friendship with our guests in the home.
8. It will reinforce the influence and work of the church, the Sunday school, and agencies helping to establish the Christian ideal throughout the world.
9. It will encourage other homes to make a place for Christ.
10. It will honor our Father above and express our gratitude for His mercy and blessing.—*Christian Digest*

## SPARENTS

Sparents are those  
Who "spare the rod"  
When offsprings need  
Attention.  
Then find their troubles  
Multiplied  
In ways too sad  
To mention!

—Alice Graves

## In What Do You Trust?

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in God. . ."; "Cursed is the man that trusteth in man . . ." (Jeremiah 17:7, 5.) The distance and difference between these two verses from God's word are immeasurable and unfathomable to all who have not read the Bible. But to those who have searched the scriptures both statements are very perspicuous. They simply mean that all who trust in man and the arm of flesh are headed for destruction, and all who trust in God will be the happy recipients of every promise found in his Holy Word.

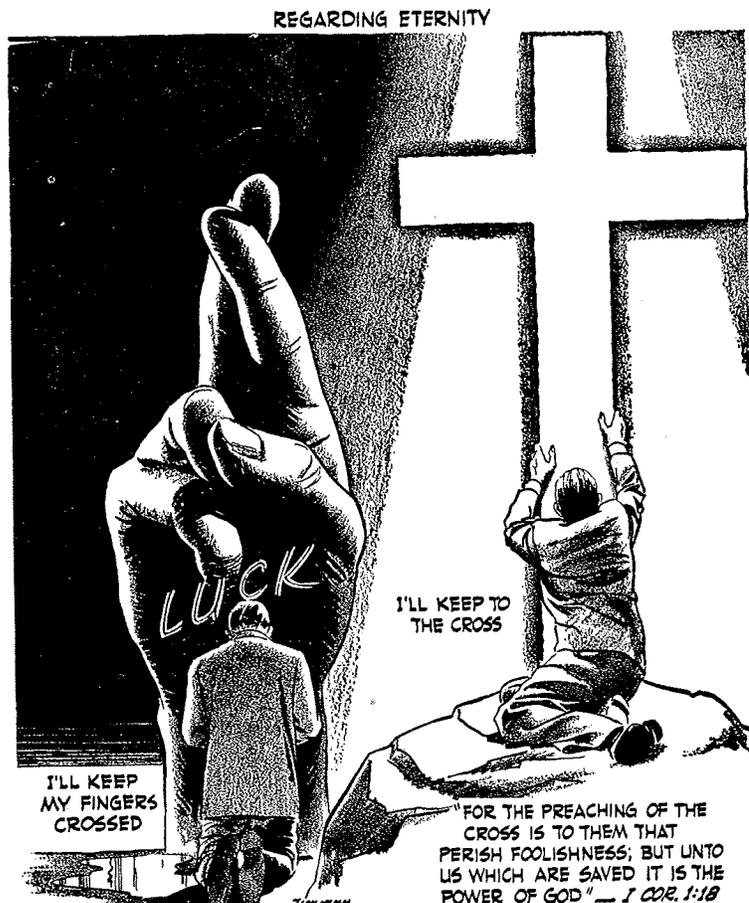
A few years ago a man who was known as the "human fly" was performing before a multitude of excited people who had thronged the streets of one of the great eastern cities. As the cautious performer moved slowly up the wall of a sky-scraper, he passed the window-line of the twenty-third story and was nearing the top, just a few more inches and another dangerous act would have been performed. But in making his last lift he wanted to be sure of his hold. After a few seconds he saw what he thought was a protruding brick and felt sure that once he could get his powerful finger-tips fastened to it he could, with the greatest of ease, lift himself to safety. But when he leaped to grab for his final hold

the thing that he had thought was a protruding brick turned out to be a spider web, and when he threw his weight and fastened his fingers to the web, he tumbled to his death. In his clinched fist was the last thing in which he put his trust—a spider web.

Every person puts his trust in someone or something. Many carry emblematic representations such as a four-leaf clover, a rabbit's foot, a good luck charm or some other inanimate object to bring or change their luck. Many are trusting in political power, or wealth to bring about happiness, but all of these fail. God only can shape the character or determine the destiny of man.

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord," and "cursed is the man that trusteth in man." This means that one can trust in self, which many are doing. They too will come to the sad realization some day that God is all-powerful.

If the world seems to be against you and you have tried everything within your own power to change the situation, why not trust God right now! He will save you and keep that which you give Him. Isaiah said, "Behold God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid . . ." Can't you trust Him now?—*Willard C. Day*



# Glancing Around the States . . .

BEN BARRUS, News Editor

## **Savannah First Church Has Layman's Sunday**

SAVANNAH, Ga.—The First Church of Savannah recognized Sunday, September 19, as Layman's Day by having all the services conducted entirely by the laymen of the church. Rev. Louis Moulton, pastor, reports that the laymen were enthusiastic about their participation and the services were well received by the congregation. Mr. Moulton plans to make layman's Sunday an annual or semi-annual occasion in his church, and he sincerely recommended it to other churches as a means of training their laymen.

## **South Georgia Association Convenes at Spring Grove**

JESUP, Ga.—The seventy-seventh annual session of the South Georgia association met September 22-23 at the Spring Grove Free Will Baptist church near Jesup, Georgia. The theme of the meeting, based on I Peter 4:10, was "Christ Exalted through Stewardship." Rev. T. G. Hamilton served as moderator and Rev. Louis H. Moulton is clerk of the association.

## **Arkansas Church Reports Increase**

HOT SPRINGS, Ark.—The First Free Will Baptist church of Hot Springs, Arkansas, which was organized on January 24, 1954 with 16 members, reports an increase to 43 members. Rev. J. B. Ewing, pastor, has placed the church on a full program of church activities including league and woman's auxiliary.

## **Anniversary Celebrated By Pocahontas Church**

POCAHONTAS, Ark.—The fifteenth anniversary of the Pocahontas Free Will Baptist church was recognized by a special service on Sunday, September 9. Rev. J. Reford Wilson, pastor, announced that the church has grown from 21 members in 1940 to a 276 membership.

Mr. Wilson also announced the new church officers for the ensuing year which include Miss Alta Lee Miller, church clerk; Mr. Earl Smith, treasurer; Mr. Paul Hatfield, choir director; Mr. Earl Smith, Sunday school superintendent; and Mr. Johnny Sago, league director. Mr. Veral Jones and Mr. Joe Jarett have been voted by the church to be ordained as deacons.

## **New Leagues Organized By Fort Worth Church**

FORT WORTH, Texas—A senior and junior league have been organized at the

Trinity Free Will Baptist church in Fort Worth. Rev. M. L. Sutton, pastor, declared that "here (in the leagues) is the potentiality of a great soul-winning group in our church." Mr. J. H. Palmer has been named the superintendent of the senior league and Mr. Chester Hall heads the junior group.

## **Dallas Church Joins Y.F.C.**

DENTON, Texas—The First Free Will Baptist church of Dallas joined with the West Fork district Youth for Christ at its last meeting held in Denton. The rally meets monthly over the district.

## **Alabama Association Meets in November**

NORTHPORT, Ala.—The Alabama state association of Free Will Baptists will convene November 11-13 at the First Free Will Baptist church at Northport, Alabama. The meeting is scheduled to commence at 10:00 a.m.

## **Highland Park Church Celebrates Homecoming**

DETROIT, Mich.—The Highland Park Free Will Baptist church had its annual homecoming services October 8-10. The Sunday service was an all-day affair with dinner being served at the church. Rev. Raymond Riggs, former pastor, was guest speaker and a feature of the meetings was his showing pictures taken in India and the Holy Land. Rev. Charles A. Thigpen is pastor of the Highland Park church.

## **Annual Meeting Held By Polk Bayou Association**

SANDTOWN, Ark.—The Polk Bayou association convened for its annual session September 10 at Pool's Chapel church near Sandtown. Rev. Henry Doyle served as moderator. Rev. H. A. Lewis delivered the keynote message and Rev. Eagan preached the memorial message.

## **Okmulgee Church Has New Location**

OKMULGEE, Okla.—The First Free Will Baptist church has a new location at 11th and Oklahoma Street. The church has purchased three lots and converted an existing dwelling into a church. On Sunday, September 26, the Sunday school had a rally day with a record attendance of 67. The service was highlighted by the presentation of Bibles to the two members who brought the most visitors to church during the pre-

ceding quarter. A new teen-age class has been added which started with one member and now has increased to 12.

## **Oklahoma Children's Home Has New Superintendent**

RINGLING, Okla.—Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Rupp have assumed their duties to superintend the children's home located near Ringling, Oklahoma. They succeed Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Cain.

## **N. C. State Convention Elects New Officers**

MIDDLESEX, N. C.—New officers of the North Carolina state convention were elected when the convention met September 14-16 at the state orphanage here. The newly elected officers include Rev. D. W. Alexander, president; Rev. N. B. Barrow, vice-president; Rev. R. N. Hinnant, secretary, and Mr. Rom Mallard, treasurer.

## **Hull Road Mission School Set for October 24-31**

SNOW HILL, N. C.—A mission school was scheduled for the Hull Road Free Will Baptist church October 24-31. Rev. Burkette Raper, pastor, announced that the teachers for foreign missions and home missions were Rev. Raymond Riggs and Rev. Damon Dodd respectively.

## **Revival Scheduled by Texas Home Missions**

FORT WORTH, Texas—Revival services were conducted in the home mission tent at Fort Worth October 18-30. The evangelist was Rev. W. B. Chaffin and the music was led by "Doc" Baber, music director of the First Free Will Baptist church in Fort Worth.

## **Arkansas Social Band Holds Annual Session**

SEDGWICK, Ark.—The eighth annual session of the Social Band association convened at Poplar Valley church at Sedgwick September 16-18. Twenty-three churches were represented at the meeting. Rev. Reford Wilson and Rev. Carl High served as moderators and Mr. Raymond McNutt served as clerk.

## **Messex Resigns From Cairo Church**

CAIRO, Ga.—Rev. Woodrow Messex has resigned from the Cairo church effective November 1. The new church building was constructed under his ministry.

# Glancing Around the States . . .

## Parsonage Makes Way For New Auditorium

TULSA, Okla.—The Lewis Avenue Free Will Baptist church has moved its parsonage in order to make room for a new 90' x 40' auditorium. Rev. Ernest M. Kennedy, pastor, said that the new structure will be erected this fall.

## Hickory Chapel Holds Homecoming Services

AHOSKIE, N. C.—The building fund for the Hickory Chapel church was swelled by \$1,159 during homecoming day services October 3. The special day, which opened a revival at the church, was highly successful according to the pastor, Rev. Walter Reynolds. Rev. Wayne Smith, pastor at Sherron Acres church in Durham, brought the homecoming sermon.

## Texas State Convention Will Meet at Henderson

HENDERSON, Texas—The Texas state association will hold its annual session at

the Jameson Memorial church here November 2-4. Rev. C. B. Thompson, Fort Worth, is moderator, and Rev. Noah Tuttle is host pastor.

## Oklahoma City Church Holds Training Course

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.—A Sunday school teacher training course was conducted at the Central Avenue church here during October. Edmond Warner, state Sunday school worker, taught the course. Melvin May, assistant superintendent, was in charge of arrangements.

During the month of September the church witnessed ten professions of faith and eight additions to the church. Rev. Jack R. Dodson is pastor.

## Durham Church Sets Missionary Conference

DURHAM, N. C.—The second annual missionary conference will be held November 24-28 at the Edgemont church here, according to Rev. Joseph G. Ange, pastor. Featured speakers will be Rev. Raymond

Riggs, promotional secretary for the Foreign Mission Board, and Mrs. Mabel Willey, missionary to Cuba.

## Tecumseh Church Plans New Parsonage

TECUMSEH, Okla.—Plans for construction of a new parsonage were approved recently by the congregation of the Free Will Baptist church here. Initial steps toward its construction will be taken as soon as the current project of redecorating the church auditorium is completed. Rev. Delbert Akin is pastor.

## South Carolina Church Has First Anniversary

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Anniversary services were held October 3 at the Free Will Baptist church here, which was one year old. Rev. Julius Sawyer preached the sermons during the day. The church begins its second year with Sammy Wilkinson as superintendent of the Sunday school. New League officers are E. H. Sawyer, president; Mrs. Lanie Pierce, vice-president; Jimmie Pierce, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. E. H. Sawyer, Bible quiz leader; and Mrs. Eugene Waddell, social committee chairman.

Anyone who knows of people around Columbia who would be interested in the church are urged to send their names and addresses to Mrs. James W. Pierce, 1129 Woodlawn Ave., Columbia, S. C.

## Oklahoma City Gets New Church Organization

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.—A new Free Will Baptist church was organized July 19. The church is located on St. Clair Ave., N.W. Since the organization the group has purchased a church building with an auditorium and four class rooms. The attendance now averages about 45. Rev. Ira W. Smithey is pastor and Mrs. Denver Wynn is church clerk.

## Alabama Church Nearing Completion

JASPER, Ala.—The congregation of the Free Will Baptist church here expects to have their new building nearly completed by Christmas, according to the pastor, Rev. W. H. Ryland. They have been having services in the basement for almost a year. The auditorium floor is now under construction. When completed, the building will provide ample educational space, the pastor said. It was organized three years ago by Rev. A. J. Lambert. Recently his son, Carlton, has accepted the position as associate pastor of the church.

## Tulsa Airport Church Builds New Parsonage

TULSA, Okla.—A new parsonage has recently been completed by the Airport church here. The church, which was started as a mission by the First Free Will Baptist church, was organized less than a year ago. Rev. Dale Munkus is pastor.

## Thirty Churches Report Revivals

Church	Evangelist	Pastor	Date	Dec.	Add.
Wilson, N. C.	W. A. Hales	Earl Glenn	Oct. 4-10		
Mt. Elon church, Pamplico, S. C.	W. A. Hales	Paul Ketteman	Oct. 11-17		
First church, Elizabethton, Tenn.	Luther Gibson	Harvey Hill	Oct. 4-15		
Odessa, Texas	Weldon Wood	James F. Minor	Sept. 20-29	4	
Hull Road church, Snow Hill, N. C.	Damon C. Dodd	Burkette Raper	Oct. 17-24		
Haven church, Florence, S. C.	W. A. Hales	W. A. Hales	Oct. 31-Nov. 7		
First church, Thomaston, Ga.	Raymond Riggs	L. S. Anthony	Oct. 17-23		
Phillips Chapel, Springdale, Ark.	J. A. Gage	Tommy Day	Sept.	14	
Hobbs, New Mexico	Gilbert Pixley	L. C. Pinson	Sept. 6-14	6	9
Miller's Chapel, Tenn.	Leo Sharp	Jimmy Jones	Sept. 12-26	7	7
Highland Park, Mich.	Charles Thigpen	Charles Thigpen	Sept. 5-12	10	12
McAlester, Okla.	John H. West	Johnnie Postlewaite	Sept. 26-Oct. 3		
Lawnwood church, Tulsa, Okla.	Pixley twins	H. E. Staires	Oct. 4		
Hot Springs, Ark.	J. B. Ewing	J. B. Ewing		7	10
Crusader's church, Detroit, Mich.	Thurman Pate	Thurman Pate	Oct. 3-17		
First church, Hazel Park, Mich.	C. F. Bowen	Mark M. Lewis	Oct. 10-16		
St. Mary's church, New Bern, N. C.	Louis Moulton	Cecil Campbell	Oct. 11		
Fredericktown, Mo.	Willard Day	William Newsome	Oct. 3-17		
Tecumseh, Okla.	Lonnice DaVoult	Delbert Akin	Sept. 19	5	
Warden's Grove church, Lowlands, N. C.	W. S. Mooneyham	T. O. Terry	Sept. 19-26	13	12
Richmond, Calif.	Charles Sapp	Dean Moore	Sept.		17
Lockhart, S. C.	L. H. Clayton	A. F. Lawter	Sept. 19-Oct. 2	10	4
Harmony church, Lake Butler, Fla.	Louis H. Moulton		Aug. 2	6	6
Ozias church, Pearson, Ga.	Louis H. Moulton	K. V. Shutes	Aug. 23	11	11
New Hope church, Jesup, Ga.	Louis H. Moulton	C. D. Rentz	Sept. 6	33	30
Hannon, Mo.	Willard Day	Harold Hoover	Oct. 24-Nov. 5		
Russellville, Ark.	Willard Day	O. T. Dixon	Nov. 8-18		
Bristow, Okla.	E. M. Kennedy	N. R. Smith	Oct. 24		
Okmulgee, Okla.	N. R. Smith	John Elliston	Nov. 8		
Desloge, Mo.	Willard Day	John Long	Nov. 21-Dec. 1		

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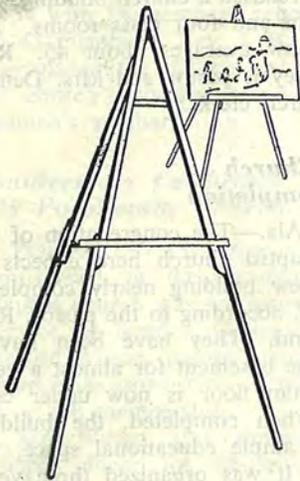
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