

# Contact

of the  
National Association  
of Free Will Baptists

APRIL, 1955

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



## Lo! He Is Risen

*The vault men sealed is open now,  
The stone is rolled away;  
And angels clad in shining garb  
Stand watch, where Jesus lay.*

*For him is past the darksome  
night—*

*He's left the silent tomb.  
The sun again doth brightly shine,  
And sweetest flowers bloom.*

*Let all the saved of earth rejoice  
And ring their happy lays,  
'Tis Easter day—the Lord is risen,  
To Him be endless praise.*

—Anna L. Berney

photo Harold Lambert



## Personally . . .

Anything that proposes a departure from the common procedure as does the Cooperative Plan of Support is bound to come in for some misunderstanding. A few of these which have arisen are discussed below:

(1) "It takes away the right of the local church to give its money where it wants to," a few have said. This misunderstanding probably comes from the action of quite a few churches in giving all of their contributions through the cooperative channel. Actually, the Cooperative Plan does not destroy the right of the local church to give where it chooses.

A statement that bears repeating for emphasis is that *any church or individual can give money for any cause it wishes and all earmarked funds will go to the cause for which they are sent.* In no case will earmarked funds be diverted. The Cooperative Plan simply provides a channel so that those churches which want to do so can support the entire denominational program regularly with one check. A church that wishes to earmark its offerings will *always* have that right.

(2) "It will lead toward an ecclesiastical dictatorship," some express their fears. On the contrary, the Cooperative Plan allows more people to direct the financial affairs of the denomination than our present system does. A budget committee and advisory council on which is represented every state will supervise the allocations for receiving and disbursing denominational funds. This will assure a fair and equitable share for both the states and the agencies.

No one single person or no group of persons will control the Cooperative Plan. Delegates on the floor of the national association will always be the authority for setting up the plan year by year. A central treasurer to handle the funds could no more control the program than the treasurer of a business or corporation could dictate the policies of the organization he serves.

(3) "Churches which support through the Cooperative Plan have a tendency to set a ceiling on their giving," others complain. A certain amount of truth must be admitted for this statement. Practically every person, as well as the churches, is able to give only a certain amount. That is their limit. But this is not the fault of the Cooperative Plan. Wherever and however these churches gave their money, they would give only a certain amount. The Cooperative Plan does not set a ceiling on anyone's giving.

While the church is encouraged to tithe to the Cooperative Plan, it is also encouraged to give offerings above the tithe to whatever cause it can as often as

it can. The system of tithes and offerings is the Biblical plan for support of the kingdom of God. It will work for the denomination as well as for the local church. Thank God for the many churches that are finding it so.

\* \* \*

We gladly welcome into the CONTACT family our new subscribers this month. Among this number are about 60 who are receiving the paper through the courtesy of the Southside church in Paintsville, Ky. These sixty families represent the resident membership of the Southside church which recently adopted the "Every Church Family" Plan on the recommendation of their pastor, Rev. Homer Willis.

We would commend to every church what the Southside church and the Fellowship church in Flat River, Mo., have done. They have enrolled their families as subscribers to CONTACT, and when the members give their tithes and offerings to the church they are helping provide for the church paper just like they get the other literature of the church.

To send the church paper to sixty families will cost the church only \$5 a month, or much less than most other literature. It is so simple: The church sends the names and addresses of all church families whom they want to receive the paper. We check this list against our present subscription list and if there are those from the church who are already subscribing, the remainder of their subscriptions is credited to the church account.

These families would receive CONTACT monthly in their own mailboxes, but the church is sent an invoice monthly or quarterly and the members never have to bother with renewing. We'll be glad to furnish information about your particular church situation and send lists for enrolling every church family. Why not write about it today?

\* \* \*

Just before press time we received word that two other churches have started the "Every Church Family" Plan. This most encouraging news comes from the Pocahontas, Ark., church where Rev. J. Reford Wilson is the pastor, and from the Airport church, Tulsa, Okla., where Rev. Dale Munkus is pastor. One church enrolled about eighty families and the other is sending CONTACT to twenty-four families.

The plan is catching on because pastors realize the importance of providing denominational literature for their members, many of whom would neglect to subscribe if it were left up to them. We predict for each of these churches a more active and loyal congregation. At least, we'll do our best through CONTACT to help make it so.

CONTACT

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# Because He Lives

In John 14:19 is found one of the most profound statements in all of life: "*Because I live, ye shall live also.*" Profound in the fact of what it declares and by the Person who declares it.

What a mighty declaration Jesus makes in this statement! It is one of the two basic facts that undergird the Christian religion. Without its truth the gospel of the atonement becomes an impotent gospel and leaves the Christian believer without hope. Can this great declaration of Jesus be substantiated? Let us see:

## All the Facts Agree

In looking at the fact of the resurrection there are two great lines of truth: internal and circumstantial. In the facts of the internal line of proof we have four accounts of the resurrection with that sufficiency of agreement and variances of facts that would normally come from four different witnesses.

There is such definite agreement as to the facts that it is obvious that the witness is giving firsthand testimony, yet with those variances that always come from the testimony of eye witnesses, especially when they are giving testimony to give a certain "slant" of the facts that will meet the requirements of the circumstance and condition. This is the type of variance to be found in the four accounts of the resurrection as recorded in the Gospels.

## Eye Witness Accounts

The testimony of the four witnesses bears all the earmarks of eye witnesses. Such testimony is always different from that of the witness who has obtained his information from another source, such as having studied the recorded facts of another or the repeating of that which has been told him. Their testimony is artless, straightforward and simple.

There is the relating of the accidental details such as the issuing forth of water and blood from the side of the Lord as well as the recording of his dying cry. The expressed doubt of the disciple Thomas is so true to life—that in all groups there is always at least one doubter of the facts—that it makes for a definite proof. If there had been collusion in an effort to prove the resurrection, would not all of the testimony

## Henry Melvin

been presented entirely from the positive angle? The individual doubt of a person would not have been permitted.

## Reaction of Disciples

The insight into the lives of the two men, John and Peter, as revealed in their reactions upon hearing that the Lord was risen is an interesting bit of internal testimony. John, the younger of two disciples, outruns the older Simon Peter in the race to reach the tomb, but note the difference when the empty tomb is reached.

John, true to his nature waits reverently at the tomb, but impetuous Simon Peter upon arriving rushes boldly in. And then again from the written record comes another highly interesting bit of testimony from these same two disciples as to the recognition that John and Peter give to Jesus; it is always that John is the first to recognize Jesus and cry out, "It is the

Lord," but it is always the impetuous Simon to "tumble in the water" upon his recognition of the Lord!

## Testimony of Message

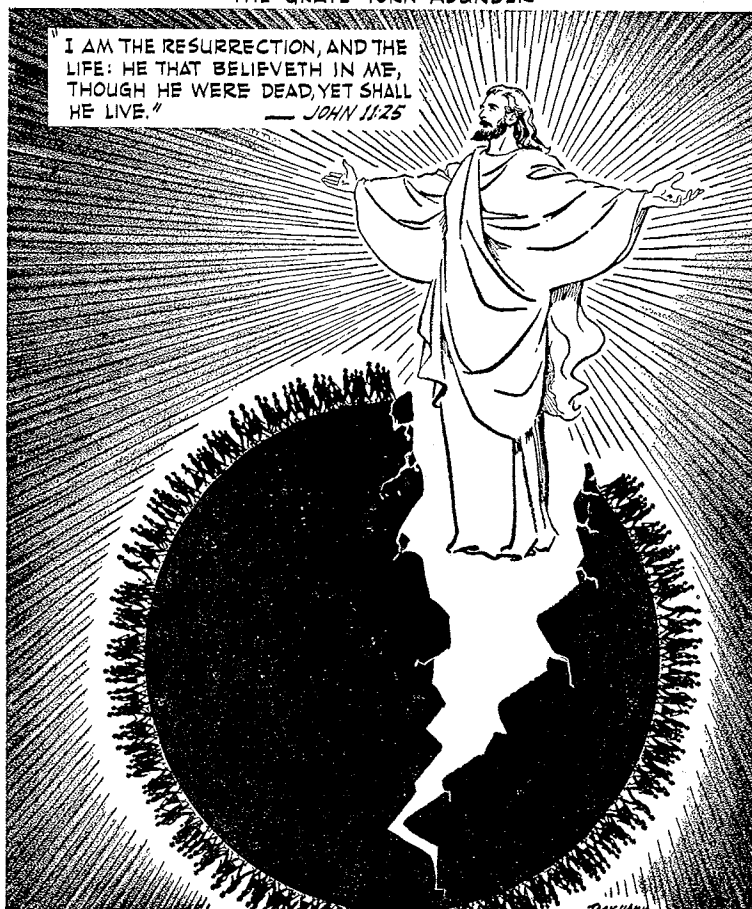
When we look at the circumstantial evidence that surrounds the resurrection of Jesus we are again faced with a great array of facts. For instance, it is to be remembered that the apostles preached the resurrection of Jesus to the very people that had crucified Him!

They could nor would ever have dared to preach a fabrication of lies in the face of the people of that day. They were preaching this great fact to people that knew the resurrection of Jesus to be an incontrovertible fact. It is equally refreshing to the faith of Christians today when they recall that unless the resurrection had not been a fact that the apostles would not have made it the very cornerstone in their creed and went out preaching it fearlessly.

Then there is that evidence that comes

(Continued on page 6)

## THE GRAVE TORN ASUNDER



The author is pastor of Reedy Branch church, near Greenville, N. C., and is former business manager of the Free Will Baptist Bible College.

# State Directors Appointed for Loyalty Appeal

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Half of the state directors for the "Loyalty Gift Appeal" have accepted their responsibilities and have expressed assurance that their states will have no difficulty in meeting the campaign goals, Rev. W. S. Mooneyham, executive secretary, has announced.

"We are waiting to hear from the other directors before stating their names," Mr. Mooneyham said in announcing the appointment of those who had accepted.

Directors who have already notified the executive department of their willingness to serve are Rev. W. H. Ryland, Alabama; Rev. O. T. Dixon, Arkansas; Rev. Wade Jernigan, Arkansas; Rev. D. W. Poole, Florida; Rev. M. L. Hollis, Mississippi; Rev. J. C. Griffin, North Carolina.

Rev. Delbert Akin, Oklahoma; Rev. W. A. Hales, South Carolina; Rev. Charles Sapp, Texas; Mr. E. J. Kilgore, Virginia, and Rev. Rolla Smith, Missouri.

The "Loyalty Gift Appeal" is a special campaign authorized by the national association last year to pay off the indebtedness on the denominational headquarters building. The campaign, scheduled to climax on Sunday, May 22, with "Loyalty Gift" day in all the churches, will have \$15,000 as its goal, the secretary said.

There will actually be three appeals made, he said. The first will be a mail appeal using "Loyalty Gift" seals. The seals, which are two-color reproductions of the Free Will Baptist church sign, will be sent to about 8,000 people asking for a special mail contribution for the seals. The second phase will be an appeal to individuals who might be in position to make substantial contributions.

The final, and largest, appeal will be on May 22 when all Free Will Baptist churches will be asked to receive special offerings to raise the amount necessary to pay off the mortgage on the building and provide for needed repairs. Special "Loyalty Gift" envelopes are being prepared for use by the churches.

The goal for this part of the campaign is \$11,500, Mr. Mooneyham said. This amount has been allocated out to the various states who will be participating in the campaign. State goals are as follows: Alabama, \$450; Arizona, \$50; Arkansas, \$450; California, \$400; Florida, \$250; Georgia, \$850; Illinois, \$300; Kentucky, \$250; Michigan, \$800; Mississippi, \$300; Missouri, \$1,300.

New Mexico, \$50; North Carolina, \$1,950; Ohio, \$250; Oklahoma, \$1,000; Oregon, \$25; South Carolina, \$300; Tennessee, \$1,200; Texas, \$600; Virginia, \$500, and West Virginia, \$500.

The state chairmen are being asked to appoint district chairmen who will be responsible for urging all local churches to participate in the campaign.

## Bible Reading Theme Will Be "Take-Read"

NEW YORK, N.Y.—The American Bible Society has chosen "Take-Read" for the theme of its 12th annual worldwide Bible reading program, according to an announcement made by Dr. James V. Claypool, who, as secretary of the Society's program for promoting the use of the Bible, heads up this observance. The theme has been taken from the St. Augustine conversion story.

This program has become so popular that last year the Bible Society printed and distributed over 14,000,000 copies of the Scripture reading lists. This year, for the first time, the Society is making this program a Christmas time and Christmas period, extending the readings from Thanksgiving through December 31. The Society hopes, by stressing the reading of the Christmas story, that it will encourage participation, in this primary way, to "Put Christ into Christmas."

For the fourth year, the worldwide Bible readings will be embossed in Braille for the blind who personally wish to follow the reading program. While the ink-print reading list is prepared in the size of a bookmark, that will fit conveniently in the Bible, the embossed list the blind must use requires four pages, each page the size of an eight by eleven letterhead.

Universal Bible Sunday, the high point of the program, will fall this year on Sunday, December 11. Dr. Francis C. Stifler, former editorial secretary of the Bible Society, will prepare the brochure that is mailed early in the fall to Protestant pastors throughout the country.

## Thirty-three Given Awards At Close of Bible Institute

WETUMKA, Okla.—Thirty-three certificates were awarded at the close of the first Bible institute conducted at the new school opened here by Oklahoma Free Will Baptists. The six-weeks course was concluded the last of February. Night classes were held.

The new school, which was authorized by the state convention last year, will operate on the institute level until a properly recognized faculty has been secured, Rev. Elvis Priest, director of the school, said.

School property has been made available to the state convention by the Progressive association who purchased it from the city of Wetumka. The property consists of a building with ten classrooms and eight acres of land for future expansion.

Plans call for developing the school into both a Bible training and Liberal Arts college, Mr. Priest said. It is currently being operated by the Board of Education of the state convention.

## Will Your Pastor Go?

Nothing hurts more than for a boy to see other boys go off to school and he has to stay home to gather crops. Not that crop-gathering is bad for a boy; he knows better than that. He knows that the cotton must be picked and the corn harvested. But he also knows that he has a lump in his throat when he thinks of the other boys "book-learning" over at the school house. The lump gets larger when he remembers that they are getting ahead of him.

Well, your pastor may be that little boy, wishing and wishing that he could join his brethren when they gather in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists July 12-14. He needs to be there to help plan denominational progress for the important years ahead and he needs the inspiration of the messages and the fellowship with his brethren.

He will come back not only a better preacher, but a new preacher. Your church will never be the same again. You say, "But it costs too much." You will be surprised—not only at how little it will cost, but at the dividends realized in the life of your pastor.

And remember this, *you* can be the one that gets the project of sending him started. See that his expenses are included in the church budget, or give a gift to the church for that purpose and ask others to join you. Soon it will be accomplished and your church will be headed toward the grand experience of helping your pastor become a wiser, more dedicated Christian. Remember when you send your pastor to the national convention you are not just helping a man, you are investing in leadership.—*Free Will Baptist Bulletin Service*

## Forms Ready for Delegates to NAE

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Free Will Baptist ministers who plan to attend the 13th annual convention of the National Association of Evangelicals April 19-22 in Chicago should write the denomination's executive department in order to be certified as a delegate. This announcement came from Rev. W. S. Mooneyham, executive secretary.

It will be necessary for the minister to have a form which is available from the executive department in order to qualify as a delegate. All those who plan to attend should write for the form so they may vote, the secretary said.

Theme for the convention is "Fellowship One with Another." Sessions will be held in the Sherman hotel.

## Denominational Calendar for 1955

### APRIL

Simultaneous Revival Month  
Foreign Missions Emphasis to be climaxed with special Easter offering.  
April 10—Foreign Missions Sunday.  
April 18-22—National Association of Evangelicals meets at Sherman Hotel in Chicago, Ill.

### MAY

Loyalty Gift Month  
Special appeal May 15-22 to clear \$15,000 indebtedness on denominational headquarters building.  
May 22—Loyalty Gift Sunday

### JUNE

Sunday School Emphasis  
West Virginia state convention meets June 10-11 at Gordon church, six miles east of East Rainelle on U. S. Highway 60.  
California state convention meets June 15-17 at Arvin.  
Kentucky state convention meets June 17-18 at Prestonsburg.

### JULY

Annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists meets July 12-14 at Tulsa, Oklahoma.  
Woman's National Auxiliary Convention meets July 11-12 at Tulsa, Oklahoma.

### AUGUST

Summer Camp Month with youth emphasis

### SEPTEMBER

Christian Education Emphasis

### OCTOBER

Superannuation Month with emphasis on national and state programs for assistance to aged ministers.

### NOVEMBER

State Missions Month climaxed with special Thanksgiving offering.

### DECEMBER

National Home Missions Month climaxed with special Christmas offering.  
Universal Bible Sunday on December 11.

## My Daily Prayer

"Oh Lord, give me a backbone as big as a saw leg; and ribs like the sleepers under the church floor. Put iron shoes on me, and galvanized breeches and find me a rhinoceros hide for a skin; and hang a wagon load of determination up in the gable end of my soul; and help me to sign the contract to fight the devil as long as I've got a fist, and bite him as long as I've got a tooth and then gum him till I die. All this I ask for Christ's sake. Amen."—*Selected*

APRIL, 1955



# The Prayer Fellowship

J. REFORD WILSON, Director

"Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, That calls me from a world of care, And bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known." The words of this familiar hymn call us to united prayer that the great and mighty things of God may bless our efforts for Christ. In answer to prayer God releases His power even in "mysterious ways his wonders to perform" in individual lives, in churches, in states and in nations. How wonderful to pray, to wait and to watch for the results!

*Fri., April 8*—Pray that many will give liberally to the special offering for foreign missions Easter Sunday.

*Sat., April 9*—Pray for your teacher and pastor that tomorrow the Holy Spirit may use what they say to quicken each one to a greater devotion to the risen Christ and the Church.

*Sun., April 10*—Pray for the missionaries that the offering received today may enable them to meet the physical and spiritual needs of those to whom they minister.

*Mon., April 11*—Pray for those who were converted in the services yesterday that they may be strong in the Lord.

*Tues., April 12*—Pray for the high school graduates who will soon choose what college they will attend that they may be guided by the will of God.

*Wed., April 13*—Pray that hundreds more of Free Will Baptists will join daily in this prayer fellowship. Tonight at prayer services would be a good time to mention it.

*Thurs., April 14*—Pray for the churches and evangelists now engaged in revival services in the "Crusade for Christ."

*Fri., April 15*—Pray for President Eisenhower and your congressman that they may seek the wisdom and will of God to govern the affairs of our nation.

*Sat., April 16*—Pray for an understanding of the Sunday school lesson and the pastor's sermon that you may grow in the knowledge of Christ.

*Sun., April 17*—Ask God to help you put into practice the truths learned in services today.

*Mon., April 18*—Pray for our Free Will Baptist representatives who attend the National Association of Evangelicals this week in Chicago, Illinois.

*Tues., April 19*—Pray for Dan and Trula Cronk, missionaries on furlough from India, that they may be refreshed and strengthened while they visit in the homeland.

*Wed., April 20*—Pray for the workers in Tulsa, Oklahoma who are making plans for the meeting of the National Association there July 11-14.

*Thurs., April 21*—Pray for the writers of our Sunday school and League literature.

*Editor's note:* With a word of deep appreciation to Rev. C. F. Bowen for his work and contributions over the months for this column, we introduce a new writer this month. He is Rev. J. Reford Wilson, pastor in Pocahtontas, Ark., and member of the Board of Foreign Missions. We have decided to change "Prayer Fellowship" directors every twelve months in order to give our readers the privilege of sharing the heart-throbs and burdens of many pastors and leaders.

*Fri., April 22*—Pray for the work of the Woman's Auxiliary. Pray that more women may be enlisted in this organization.

*Sat., April 23*—Pray for the superintendents of Free Will Baptist orphanages.

*Sun., April 24*—Pray for your choir, your director, pianist and organist that the music may be a real blessing to the services today.

*Mon., April 25*—Pray for the work of the Home Missions department and the new churches recently organized.

*Tues., April 26*—Pray for the work of the Sunday school department and the conventions of the different states.

*Wed., April 27*—Pray for the work of the League department and the planning of summer youth camps.

*Thurs., April 28*—Pray for the Woman's Auxiliary department and the YPA and GTA organizations which they sponsor.

*Fri., April 29*—Pray for the Foreign Missions department and especially for the Cuban convention of Free Will Baptists which begins today.

*Sat., April 30*—Pray for the executive department, especially for the "Loyalty Gift Appeal" to pay off the indebtedness of the denominational headquarters building to climax May 22.

*Sun., May 1*—Pray for every Free Will Baptist pastor that today he may deliver God's message to his people.

*Mon., May 2*—Pray for the Free Will Baptist Bible College and its Board of Trustees.

*Tues., May 3*—Pray for the Mount Allen Junior College in North Carolina and for the school effort being undertaken by Oklahoma Free Will Baptists.

*Wed., May 4*—Pray for the Board of Foreign Missions as they meet today in their annual session. Their responsibility is great as they consider the needs of the missionary fields, the opening of new fields, the approving of missionary candidates, etc.

*Thurs., May 5*—Pray for the Michigan missionary conference now being held in Highland Park.

*Fri., May 6*—Pray for the work of the home missionaries in Shelton, Nebraska and Tampa, Florida.

*Sat., May 7*—Remember that your pastor has many duties to perform. Pray today for him and his family.

## Because He Lives

(Continued from page 3)

from the fact that if Jesus did not rise from the dead, would there not have been some evidence that He did not? Remember, they were preaching the resurrection to the ones that had crucified Him!

### What Does It Mean?

Some may say: "Grant the fact of His resurrection, but has it any importance?" Something of its importance is seen in that it is mentioned 104 times in the New Testament and was the cardinal theme of the apostle's preaching. The theme song of the early Church might well have been: "The Lord is risen indeed."

And when we consider that the resurrection is one of the two fundamentals of the Christian faith, we are certainly faced with its importance. Despite the extreme importance of the atoning work of Jesus on Calvary and the absolute necessity that He be the "Lamb of God," yet to minimize the importance of the resurrection of Jesus is to make for a powerless Gospel in the life of the believer as well as to leave him without hope of the *redemption* of his body and the *assurance* of eternal life.

To believe or preach a gospel minus the resurrection is like trying to run a train minus one of its tracks. The atonement, or death of Jesus, and the resurrection of Jesus are parallel truths. They each complement the other. The resurrection power makes the Gospel a dynamic power in the life of the believer.

### Righteousness Declared

The poet has written: "How firm a foundation is laid for your faith in His excellent Word." Truly the foundation of the atoning and resurrection truths form a sure foundation for every believer for out of the resurrection comes the assurance that the Christian is born unto a living hope, unto an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, an inheritance that fadeth not away.

Further results of the resurrection in the life of the believer is seen in that God has declared that He will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ, and since the believer is justified by faith in the crucified and risen Saviour he finds himself to be declared righteous in the Lord Jesus Christ; thus the judgment will not fall upon the believer for his righteousness has been purchased as a result of his judgment having been born by Christ.

### Because He Lives

Out of the resurrection is given to the believer an ever-living High Priest who continually makes intercession for him. How can we fail in the Christian warfare or in our daily Christian living when we avail ourselves of this "ever-living" High Priest who constantly pleads our case before the Father's throne? What encouragement in times of stress, strain and temptation to know that our ever-living high priest is interceding for us!

What a prayer for overcoming Christian living is expressed by the Apostle Paul in Phil. 3:10, "That I may know Him, and the *power* of His resurrection . . ." There is the secret for the believer: constant overcoming through the dynamic resurrection power. As well as the glorious fact that not only do we live this life through His resurrection power but unto us, the believer, is given the guarantee that because Jesus lives, we, too, shall live! And so, let every believer

"Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee;  
And hail Him as the matchless King thro' all eternity."

"Crown Him the Lord of love! Behold His hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:  
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends his wond'ring eye at mysteries so bright."

"Crown Him the Lord of life! Who triumphed o'er the grave;  
Who rose victorious to the strife for those He came to save:  
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high;  
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die."

"Crown Him the Lord of heav'n! one with the Father known,  
One with the Spirit thro' Him giv'n from yonder glorious throne!  
To Thee be endless praise, for thou for us hast died;  
Be thou, O Lord, thro' endless days adored and magnified."

—Bridges

## The Affirmative Mood

The peacock, the albatross, and the nightingale became fast friends. One day the sparrow found them in deep discouragement.

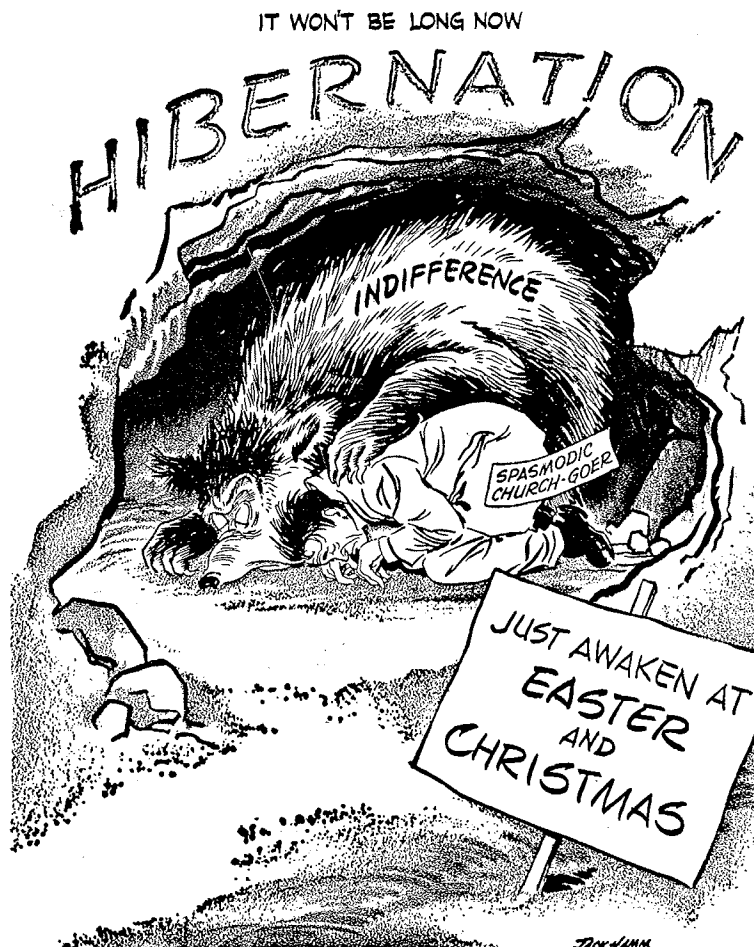
"What is the matter?" asked the sparrow. The peacock answered, "Yesterday I watched the albatross soaring in the air. That must be wonderful to look down upon the earth and soar with the wind. But I cannot even get off the ground."

The albatross spoke next. "But when I try to sing only miserable squawks come from my throat. Have you heard the beautiful melodies of the nightingale? If I could only sing like that."

Then the nightingale spoke. "But yesterday when we were going along the garden path, everyone exclaimed over the beauty of the peacock. No one even glanced at my dull and drab feathers."

"Why, you are all looking at life wrong," declared the sparrow. "The albatross is made to fly, not to sing. The nightingale is made for song, not for beauty. The peacock is made for its beautiful plumage."

Forget the things others can do better than you can; do the things you can do; and do them to the best of your ability.—J. Frank Lansing





From a weak, struggling church of 31 members of eight and one-half years ago, the First church in Marion, N. C., has grown to a membership of around 450 and has completed the fine church plant shown above. All this has been done under the leadership of Rev. J. E. Floyd, who came to the church in 1946.

Dedication services for the new building were held last July in connection with home-coming day and Mr. Floyd's eighth anniversary. The structure is brick and includes an auditorium with a seating capacity of 400, and a two-story educational addition with 15 rooms, church offices, pastor's study, and a nursery. The church property, including an adjacent parsonage, is valued at \$50,000.

For nearly four years the church has supported on the mission field Miss Volena Wilson, a member of the church. The congregation contributes \$75 a month to pay her salary in India.

## West Virginia Church Lost In Tragic Fire

VAN, W. Va.—A tragic fire completely destroyed the Freddie church here Sunday morning, February 27. The children had just begun arriving for Sunday school and as they stood watching it burn, some of them cried out loud while others just stood with tears streaming down their cheeks.

The congregation is now faced with the problem of rebuilding the church. The membership of the church is small, although it ministers to about 120 children in this mining town. Most of the children in the Sunday school come from unchristian homes, a member says, and the only religious training they get is in the Sunday school.

An item that makes the rebuilding plans doubly difficult is that quite a number of the members are out of work due to a layoff at the mine where most of them work. Services are being held temporarily in the local school building, but the congregation is anxious to begin rebuilding.

There are no doubt many sister churches who are able to send an offering to assist in the reconstruction efforts. Rev. E. T. Dykes is pastor of the church. Contributions should be sent to the Freddie Free Will Baptist church, c/o Naomi Sitton, clerk, Van, West Virginia.

## North Florida Church Begun With Nine Charter Members

QUINCY, Fla.—A new Free Will Baptist church was organized here March 13 with nine adult members. The organization was under the sponsorship of the promotional department of the state association and Rev. D. W. Poole, promotional secretary, will serve as supply pastor until a regular pastor is called.

Rev. Robert Wilfong, home missionary stationed in Ybor City, brought the organizational sermon. Mr. Poole examined the character of the church, Rev. W. E. George presented the Bible, Rev. Daniel Rivers, moderator of the North Florida conference, presented the church covenant, and Rev. H. A. Grubbs led in the prayer of consecration.

The hand of fellowship was given by Rev. Rufus Hyman, representing the state association, and Mr. Rivers, for the North Florida conference. Special music was brought by Rev. and Mrs. Calvin Williams.

A Sunday school and Free Will Baptist League were organized, and church officers were elected as follows: Mrs. M. H. Cleveland, clerk; Mrs. Arthur Bass, treasurer; Mr. M. H. Cleveland, choir director, and Mr. A. G. Bass, Sunday school superintendent. Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Bass were installed as deacons.

## Memorial Fund Gains One-third of Total Needed

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Free Will Baptist ministers have given \$161.50 toward the memorial that is to be erected on the site of the first Free Will Baptist church, near Cisco, North Carolina. According to Rev. Damon C. Dodd, who is handling the project, the offerings have come from 64 individuals in 19 states and represent approximately 3½ per cent of the Free Will Baptist ministers.

Those who have contributed are as follows:

*Alabama*—Herman O'Donnell, Ira C. Gow, O. L. Fields, William Ryland. *Arizona*—J. D. Stepp. *Arkansas*—Glen Dipboye, Wayne Tucker, J. Reford Wilson. *California*—Cecil Thurman, Sylvester Crawford. *Florida*—James E. Nichols, Walter Eldridge.

*Georgia*—W. J. Childree, J. N. Barnes, J. D. Little, H. J. Kelly. *Illinois*—C. J. Kettelman. *Kentucky*—F. S. Vanhoose. *Kansas*—Mrs. Mary Wellbaum. *Maine*—John W. Ruth. *Mississippi*—M. L. Hollis, W. E. Armstrong, G. C. Lee, Sr., W. O. Knight.

*Missouri*—Mrs. Mildred Gilliam, Glen Jones, George Scott, Kenneth Turner, Mrs. B. A. Stafford, E. C. Stafford, Edith Marbut, Paul Williams. *North Carolina*—M. L. Johnson, Bruce Barrow, Billy Morris, Mrs. Ada Wilson, R. H. Jackson. *Oklahoma*—C. A. Dressler, Roy Hearon, Melvin Bingham, Bill Ketchum, I. L. Florence, Ben Pixley.

*South Carolina*—Clarence E. Lambert. *Tennessee*—Roger Reed, Crit Holman, J. B. Bloss, Paul Woolsey, R. E. Cutshaw, J. C. Biddle, Robert Hill, E. M. French, W. S. Mooneyham, Damon C. Dodd. *Texas*—J. E. Timmons, E. J. Wilson, Charles Sapp.

*Virginia*—Billy A. Melvin, Ronald Creech, James M. Cassell, O. H. Deaton. *West Virginia*—G. E. Pauley, Otis S. Smith, Samuel S. Clay.

The monument marking the site of the first Free Will Baptist church on the North American continent will be erected and dedicated as soon as contributions make it possible. Approximately \$340 more is needed to finance the project.

A special appeal is being sounded for ministers to make the monument possible with their gifts, but all who give will be receipted for the offering and will receive free a memorial booklet of the occasion after the monument has been set and dedicated.

Offerings should be addressed to the Free Will Baptist Memorial Fund, 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

## Growing Through the Years

*Editor's note:* With Part Thirteen we begin our second year with this very popular series. Mr. Dodd, the author, is the promotional secretary for the Home Mission Board. Plans are underway to issue the entire series in book form when they have been completed.

Benjamin Randall, God's man for God's purpose, found himself designated by the Holy Spirit to head up a religious movement that was destined to change the attitudes and practices of many people in relation to the church and her place in society.

Standing on what he believed to be the teachings of God's Word, he advocated a departure from a state-controlled church, opposed the puppet-pastor who was supported by the taxes of unregenerated men, and preached vigorously the right and privilege of every individual to be saved by the plan of salvation as set forth in the Bible.

As could be expected, such a revolutionary departure from the accepted way soon drew fire and Randall and his followers found themselves highly unpopular in their own home towns. However, they were so convinced of the rightness of their position that they faced up to all opposition and prosecuted with unusual fervor the way of free will, free grace, and free salvation. The Lord soon added to their number other able leaders whose influence and ability lent much to the success of their cause. Two of these men, Tingley and Hibbard, we will mention briefly here.

### *Tingley Was Yale Graduate*

Pelitia Tingley was graduated from Yale University in 1761, after which he studied theology for two years and then commenced to preach for the Congregationalists. Having preached over a year at Gorham, Maine, as a candidate, he gave a negative answer to the town to settle there in 1776.

Later he conducted religious services in New Market, New Hampshire. It was summer, very warm, and the sanctuary was ventilated for comfort. While he was reading his sermon, a gust of wind carried a part of his manuscript sailing through the window. This proved to be an important event in his life. He retired from that meeting with the resolution never again to attempt preaching till he had attained to a gospel that the winds could not take from him.

He sought God with prayer and tears till

### *Damon C. Dodd*

he received a new endowment of power through the Holy Spirit. On careful study, Mr. Tingley became convinced that sprinkling is not baptism, and that none but true believers are fit subjects. He embraced the doctrinal sentiments of Randall, and was a factor much needed at the time, especially in the work of organization.

### *Hibbard Joins Randall*

Daniel Hibbard was one of the first Baptist ministers to be ordained in Maine. He embraced the Calvinistic views and preached them faithfully. When he heard of Randall's doctrine, he carefully studied it and became convinced that this was both Biblical and sound, whereupon he embraced Free Baptist principles and allied himself with Mr. Randall.

The work of Mr. Randall prospered greatly, but he was deeply troubled because of the alienation between himself and his former associates. He greatly felt a need of someone who could provide fellowship and comradeship. Another source of worry was the meaning of certain difficult passages in the Bible. He had no person to whom he might resort or with whom he might counsel. As to books, practically all that were in print in his day taught Calvinism, and almost the only existing textbook on free salvation was the Bible.

### *Corn Field Experience*

Having no one to whom to go, Mr. Randall turned frequently to his God and his Bible with the hope of finding a solution to the questions that troubled him. It was during one of these times that he had a most unusual experience, which I quote to you from Mr. Randall's personal diary.

"Sometime in July (1780), being in great trial of mind because of such texts, and desiring solitude, I walked to a remote place on my farm, where I found a field of corn, which I entered. My soul being in great agony, I sat down upon a rock and prayed that my heavenly Father would teach me. All at once it seemed as if the Lord denied

my request. This increased my trial and I said, Lord, why may I not be taught? I then saw that my heart needed much purifying and refining. I said, Lord, here am I, take me and do with me as thou wilt.

### *Troublesome Text Cleared*

"And oh, the flaming power that instantly possessed my soul! It would be impossible for me to give one an adequate idea of the experience, unless he had passed through the same. The power increased in my soul until it stripped me of everything as to my affections. I tried to recollect my brethren and connections, but had no feeling save of the awful majesty of God, before whom I sank, as it were, into nothing.

"Then it appeared that I saw a white robe brought and put over me, which completely covered me, and I appeared as white as snow. A perfect calm, an awful reverence, pervaded my soul. A Bible was then presented before the eyes of my mind, and I heard a still, small voice saying, 'Look therein.' I looked in at the beginning of Genesis and out at the closing of Revelation. I saw the seals of those difficult texts all unloosed and their explanations were seen in perfect harmony with a general atonement and a universal call."

### *Randall Is Ordained*

In March, 1780, Mr. Randall had united with the Crown Point church. It soon became evident that for the best interests of the cause, he should be ordained to the ministry of preaching the gospel. Usage called for two ordained ministers to lay hands on the candidate, and these were available in the persons of Elders Lock and Lord.

Accordingly, the council, headed by these two men, met on Wednesday, April 5, 1780, in New Durham, New Hampshire. Elder Lord preached the sermon from Acts 13:1, 2. He also gave the charge. Elder Lock gave the hand of fellowship and offered the prayer of consecration. Thus Benjamin Randall was so ordained as to comply with ecclesiastical demands.

Soon after his ordination, Randall called a meeting of the New Durham brethren, preparatory to organizing them into a church. Mr. Randall was appointed to draw up the Articles of Faith and the Church Covenant and have them ready at the next meeting.

## ***Northern Church Organized***

Accordingly, on June 30, 1780, the group came together to officially organize the church. After a devotional service, Mr. Randall read his report which was accepted without change. This done, four men and three women came forward, signed the covenant, and as an expression of their fellowship and union, joined hands.

Then Elder Randall presented the scriptures to them as their only rule of faith and practice, extended the hand of fellowship, and while all knelt, offered the prayer of consecration. Though not accepting the prefix "Free Will" before their name until twenty years later, thus was organized in due form the first Free Will Baptist church in the north.

The new church did not choose officers until early September when others had united. Then a full board was chosen and Elder Randall was elected pastor. In respect to the pastor, it was understood that he could go on evangelistic tours as God might direct.

## ***Meetings Scheduled***

The church agreed to maintain weekly meetings of a devotional nature, consisting of "voluntary prayer, singing, and exhortations by the brethren and sisters present." All were expected to attend and have some part in the services. Should the pastor be absent on meeting day and no other minister be available, the members were to carry on the services.

This New Durham church entered into an agreement to have a meeting once each month which each member would be duty bound to attend, and there give an outline of his religious life during the previous month. At the close of any such meeting, appropriate church business might be taken up for consideration and official action.

## ***Second Church Organized***

In November, 1780, Mr. Randall, in company with a deacon, Robert Boody, made a trip to Maine in response to urgent requests from a church in Little Falls, and Gorham, Maine. No results are recorded as to the contact at Gorham. However, at Little Falls a precious revival resulted after which a church was organized with 100 members.

In February, 1791, an invitation came from a Brother Jewell, a Baptist, for Mr. Randall to come to Tamsworth, New Hampshire, which was a new town then, recently settled. A revival broke out and several people were converted. A church was organized in the western part of the town with a goodly number of members. Following this effort, the preacher went to Barrington, since named North Strafford, New Hampshire, and organized another strong church.

From Mr. Randall's journal, we take the

following which tells of an evangelistic journey of the kind that were frequent during his ministry. "Early in the fall of 1781 I was deeply impressed with a desire to take a religious tour eastward as far as the Kennebec River. But discouraging conditions confronted me, it being near the close of the war and money scarce, of which I had but little. Then, too, it was unusual for a minister to go about and preach, such being regarded with suspicion on the part of many.

## ***Evangelistic Tour Described***

"On the last day of September I set off alone and traveled to Saco River, where I found a brother willing to accompany me to the end of my journey. The Lord granted His presence and prospered us on our way. The people showed us much kindness as we traveled."

Their first service was held on October 1 on Ker's Island, near Georgetown, and so impressed were the people that they requested a second service. Randall complied with their request and preached again the next forenoon. At this meeting many were converted and a substantial church was formed there. That afternoon Mr. Randall held a service at Woolwich, where a number of people lived who had free sentiments. They had become tired of the old lifeless, religious formality and had been praying earnestly for a fiery, God-fearing evangelist to come to them and preach free salvation and heartfelt religion.

## ***Converts Were Baptized***

This strange evangelist seemed to be an answer to their prayers. Word of the first service spread rapidly and the next day a great number gathered for the service. Mr. Randall preached from Phil. 2:9 and as he preached, the Holy Spirit began to move. Several people accepted Christ and at the close of the service the preacher baptized five persons. Out of the 300 persons present, not more than four or five had ever witnessed a baptism by immersion.

Randall and his companion returned to Parker's Island and preached for a few days, after which they returned to Woolwich, where Mr. Randall baptized a number of persons and organized a church. Before leaving that part of the country, Randall had organized churches in Georgetown, Squam Island, and Durham.

This tour required 37 days and 400 miles of travel and during the time 47 meetings were conducted. He remained at home only a few days and then, in answer to another call, went to Gorham and Scarboro, where revivals resulted in the conversion of several, who joined the Little Falls Church.

## ***Churches Face Problems***

It was about this time that Samuel Weeks, a Baptist minister of East Parsonfield, Maine, came out with his entire church and

took a stand with Randall. Soon thereafter, another group known as the Gray and Glovehester church did likewise. These churches were well organized on the same model as the New Durham Church and they looked to Mr. Randall for oversight and leadership.

However, inasmuch as there was no connecting organization, they each stood as independent churches, except that they were identical in doctrine and polity. Sensing a need of cooperation and unity among these churches, Mr. Randall began to pray for some kind of a plan that would enable these groups to come together in a mutual endeavor and common fellowship.

In the meantime, problems were arising among the churches, brought on by the emissaries of false doctrines, and as had happened to the Free Will Baptist movement in the south, some of the people were led astray. The strongest of these false movements was Shakerism, which was flourishing in New York.

## ***Some Work Lost***

Two of the representatives of Ann Lee, the prophetess of Shakerism, came in and went to work proselyting Mr. Randall's churches. He immediately set about to counteract this influence and after a short while was successful, but not before some of the work had been lost.

Prosperity continued, in spite of this side issue, and along about this time a substantial church at Gorham, Maine, came in with Randall. Soon thereafter, a Baptist minister by the name of Daniel Hibbard brought his congregation over into Randall's camp and in July of the following year the old Crown Point church, having disbanded, now came together again and called Mr. Randall to come and reorganize them into his group. As a pledge of good faith, they signed a covenant which Mr. Randall himself formulated.

## ***Organizational Plan Considered***

On September 26, 1782, Mr. Randall went on another eastern tour, concluding it at Little Falls. Having sent word to several of the brethren beforehand to meet him there, he joined them in a conference at which they discussed the best methods of strengthening the work and uniting it. It was here that Randall presented a plan of organization and suggested a name for the body.

It was agreed by all present that these plans be thought over and prayed about, and that they should be laid before the churches for their consideration. Their conclusions were to be reported at a meeting to be held on Saturday, December 7, when, if reports were favorable, the movement would be fully inaugurated.

Next Month: *The Pattern Set for the Future*



# Woman's Auxiliary

"His Command — Our Task"

MRS. H. B. SLOAN, *Executive Secretary*

## Rules Announced for Stewardship Contest

BRISTOW, Okla.—Rules for the annual stewardship oration contest sponsored by the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention have been announced by Mrs. Paul Pursell, youth chairman of the WNAC. The contest will be held during the annual convention July 11-12 at Tulsa, Oklahoma, she said.

The rules are as follows:

1. Boys and girls between the ages of twelve and eighteen are eligible for the contest.
2. Each state in the convention may represent with one speaker.
3. The speech must be on stewardship, and may or may not be original.
4. Time limit will be ten minutes. Five points will be deducted for each minute or fraction thereof over the allotted time.
5. Contestants will be judged on the following basis: value of speech in teaching stewardship, 50 per cent; poise, 10 per cent; expression and interpretation, 10 per cent; memorization, 15 per cent, and enunciation, 15 per cent.
6. Names of contestants and oration titles should be sent to Mrs. Paul Pursell, Box 997, Bristow, Oklahoma, not later than June 15.
7. Suitable awards will be given the winner and runner-up.

Rev. Lloyd Reddick brought the morning message.

Convention officers are Mrs. Wanda Nelson, president; Mrs. Lettie McFarland, vice-president; Mrs. Beatrice Dudley, treasurer; Mrs. Lou Groves, secretary, and the following chairmen: Mrs. Dovie Blair, youth auxiliary; Mrs. Woolery, study course; Mrs. Wanda Rogers, program, and Mrs. Anne Scott, benevolence. The next meeting will be in May at the Shafter church.

HECTOR, Ark.—A YPA was organized at the Welcome Home church January 2 with nine members. Mrs. H. R. Condley, auxiliary president, led in the organization assisted by Mrs. Roy McCuin and Mrs. C. A. Crouch.

Officers were elected as follows: Mrs. R. C. Crouch, sponsor; Shirley Condley, president; Betty Condley, recording secretary; Jeraldine Bone, program chairman, and Mary Edna Coffman, personal service chairman. Meetings will be held the second Wednesday night of each month.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.—The state auxiliary workshop was held here March 15 at the Capitol Hill church. Theme for the day was "Enlarging Our Efforts Through Instruction." Rev. Weldon Wood, Ada, brought the morning sermon. Topics discussed during the day included "More Effective Study", "Stewardship and Prayer", "Vacation Bible School", "Points of the Standard", and "Christ Calls Us To Live."

## Reports from the Field

POCAHONTAS, Ark.—The district Woman's Auxiliary convention of the Social Band association met here February 21. The four local groups represented were O'Kean, Sharum, Sutton, and Pocahontas. Mrs. Earl Smith, president, was in charge. The devotional was given by Mrs. Inez Bibb.

A playlet, "Lighting Your Way by Giving Your All," was presented by a cast made up from the four local auxiliaries present. The convention voted to sponsor a workshop to meet May 16 at the Sutton church.

MOULTRIE, Ga.—An installation service was held February 9 at the Midway church for new officers of the Woman's Auxiliary. The officers include Mrs. J. B. Rice, president; Mrs. J. K. Johnson, vice-president; Mrs. Charles Anderson, youth auxiliary chairman; Mrs. E. L. Dunlap, study course chairman; Mrs. Walter Sloan, program-prayer chairman; Mrs. Raiford Sloan, personal service chairman; Mrs. R. C. Ferguson, recording secretary and treasurer, and Mrs. Mattie Gay, corresponding secretary.

Mrs. Maxine Franks of the Corinth church conducted the installation service. Rev. Mance Cason is pastor of Midway.

HUNTSVILLE, Texas.—The Central Texas district Woman's Auxiliary convention met March 8 at the Pine Prairie church, near here. Rev. E. O. Zoellers, North Zulch pastor, brought the morning message. Mrs. A. F. Halbrook, district president, addressed the women on, "Citing WNAC Chief Aims."

The following officers spoke during the day on the theme, "Declaring His Glory Now": Mrs. Ava Hellard, Mrs. O. E. Fulton, Mrs. H. R. Berry, Mrs. A. J. Akin, and Mrs. Martha Mize. Devotionals during the day were brought by Mrs. Edgar Morris and Mrs. Ted Daniels.

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The new Woman's Auxiliary Manual of Methods has been turned over to the printer, according to Mrs. H. B. Sloan, executive secretary of the WNAC. The manuscript was reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee at their meeting March 26.

The manuals will be ready for distribution shortly, Mrs. Sloan said. Orders will be accepted now and will be filled

immediately upon receipt of the books from the printers, she said.

MARION, N. C.—Boys and girls of the First church in Marion have recently organized the "Volena Wilson Missionary Band." The group was named in honor of Miss Volena Wilson who is serving as a missionary to India from the church. Officers have been elected as follows: Bobbie Epley, president; Diane Floyd, vice-president; Betty Pittman, secretary, and Barbara Mason, treasurer.

BRISTOW, Okla.—New officers for the GTA were elected early in March. They were Joyce Mounce, president; Karen Rogers, vice-president; Sharron Willeford, secretary; Clarice Jean Hall, treasurer, and Georgann Hill, personal service chairman.

KERMIT, Texas.—The district Auxiliary convention of Northwest Brazos association met here February 24. The three auxiliaries reporting were Amarillo, Odessa, and Hobbs, New Mexico. Mrs. L. C. Pinson reported that two new auxiliaries at Andrews, Texas, and Sayre, Okla., were expecting to be organized before the next district meeting and the auxiliary at Kermit would be reactivated.

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The second meeting of the Cumberland district YPA was held at the Mt. Zion church, north of Nashville. Fifteen churches were represented with 150 people in attendance. A contest to name the organization was won by Jean Frances Harris of Friendship church, who submitted the name "Christian Youth Ambassadors."

A playlet, "Joy Cometh in the Morning," was presented by the East Nashville young people under the direction of Mrs. Earl Bracey. Charles Riggs led the devotional for the meeting and special music was given by young people from Sylvan Park, Olivet, and Friendship churches. A new YPA was organized at Mt. Zion as a result of the first district meeting, leaders report, and three more prospective organizations are in sight.

BAKERSFIELD, Calif.—The district Auxiliary convention of the Southern association met here February 4. Local organizations were represented from Lamont, Porterville, Tulare, and Bakersfield.



MRS. EUNICE EDWARDS

Did you ever notice what a difference a pair of high heels make in a woman's height? Oh, I don't mean in inches. I mean in her morale.

For example, this morning I saw a woman at the post office who had on a print dress and a coat (vintage: depression), but she had on a pair of high heeled pumps. You should have seen her walk down the sidewalk! Straight and tall and confident.

You've watched amusedly as a teen-ager teetered on a pair of spikes. It's much like a baby in a high chair reaching for the moon. But look at the difference in her speech, dress and thinking as that same little teen-ager masters those spikes!

Yes sir, there's nothing quite like a pair of high heels to give a woman a feeling of all-rightness, of importance. She, too, reaches for the moon. Notice, if you will, the efficient young secretaries in an office. Their heels seem to echo the staccato beat of the typewriters. They know *what* they are doing, *where* they are going, and *why*.

Then look at the dainty, white-haired lady all dressed up for church on Sunday morning. Her heels may not be spikes, but they're not the regular everyday flats, either.

Now, why can't we apply this to spiritual things? Why can't we think tall and confidently as we go to church? I ask you, don't you enjoy services more when you go to church with your heart and mind on God—with your head held high? Why do we insist on going to church with our heads, so to speak, between our knees? Can't we trust God with our burdens and problems?

I heard a woman say that she had been having trouble getting a dress for her little girl out of a piece of cloth since the material wasn't as much the pattern required. "But," she added, "I got it all worked out during the sermon this morning." That woman wore "flats" to church that morning. She had her mind on humdrum, earthly things. She wasn't thinking tall that day.

Sometimes we behave as though we think God is not capable of watching the roast for us. Put aside all the everyday cares at church. Our duties will be waiting when we get home. My duties have never vanished while I was at church, but somehow they seemed easier to do when I reached home if I permitted God to speak to my heart while at worship.

Let's wear our "high heels" to church! Let's think tall and, by faith, reach for the moon.

# Is Life a Crazy Quilt?

The Apostle Paul lived a victorious life and died a courageous death. Through many hours of sacrificial toil on the mission field and through horrifying days in prison he achieved the highest honor—"a crown that fadeth not away." But Paul used a pattern for his life. He did not build it to please himself, but to please God who had chosen him to be a good soldier.

Planning is an important part of nearly every person's routine. They plan their work and play, their spending and saving, but many leave off that which is most important—the plan for life. And these who aimlessly drift through their allotted day come to the end a misfit.

A young veteran said, "When I was kid, my grandmother made what she called a crazy quilt. It had no pattern or plan. Whatever scrap of cloth happened to turn up, grandmother put it into her quilt. One day I asked her what that quilt would look like when it was finished.

"I don't know, son," she laughed, "It's a crazy quilt, and you just put in whatever comes along." The young veteran paused a long time before he continued, "You know, I think life is sort of a crazy quilt. There's no pattern to it. You just put in whatever

comes along, and no telling what you'll end up with."

Is he right? Is life like a crazy quilt? Is it an assortment of things, or pieces with no pattern? Those who live thoughtfully know that life is not like that. We know what will be the end and on what side we shall stand in the judgment. If we do not build according to God's blueprint, life will be wasted.

But we have a pattern, Jesus Christ. You cannot go wrong as you walk in his footsteps. The Scriptures are linked together in perfect harmony to guide the lost person into purposeful and abundant living. Jesus is the Door (John 10:9) and the Way (John 14:6), and there is no other name given under heaven or among men whereby we must be saved.

Someone has said, "An artist can take a fifty-cent piece of canvas, paint a picture on it and make it worth \$1,000. That is art. But God can take a worthless, sinful life, wash it in the blood of Christ, put His Spirit in it, and make it a blessing to humanity. *That is salvation!*" Won't you trust Christ? Not only does He *have* the answer to your life—He *is* the answer.—Willard C. Day

## WHEN IT COMES TO ETERNITY



## Along the Missionary Newsfront

**SERVICES IN MISSOURI . . .** An itinerary in Missouri during February in behalf of foreign missions resulted in offerings amounting to \$1,282.02 and pledges totalling \$515. The services were conducted by Rev. Raymond Riggs, promotional secretary for the Foreign Mission Board. Twelve services were held. The itinerary was arranged by Rev. O. T. Allred, promotional secretary for the Missouri state association.

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**VISAS REFUSED . . .** International Missions, Inc., reports that its applications for visas for new missionaries for the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean have been refused by the British colonial government. The reason given was that additional missionary effort would tend to increase the present political unrest and nationalistic leanings of the predominantly Indian population.

One of the most densely populated areas in the world, the island has over 400,000 people, most of whom are Indians from India. Little evangelical missionary work has been done among this segment of the population.

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**PROTESTANTS JAILED . . .** An evangelical pastor in Sagunto, Spain, is in jail for the "crime" of conducting an "unauthorized religious service." When the police found Sr. Florentino Tornadijo and 14 members of his congregation reading the Bible together they ordered each one to pay a fine. Sr. Tornadijo was imprisoned on February 22.

Last fall the pastor and members of a Baptist church in Jativa were fined for the alleged intention of holding a baptismal service in a hidden place in the country. On February 16, five of those members were put in prison for having refused to pay that fine.

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**TEACHER REINSTATED . . .** An upper-class Argentine school teacher who was discharged because of her evangelical faith was recently ordered re-instated as director of the federal school where she taught.

Maria Centeno had been accused of many false charges by the police, the Roman Catholic clergy and the press. Last August 25th she was dragged from her school, robbed of a thousand dollars, and slandered publicly in the papers by the chief of police. The man behind the persecution was promised protective coverage by the Catholic clergy and a national senator. One priest admitted that Maria was a very good woman, but said the Church could not



Great times of inspiration and consecration were reported during the youth rally held this winter at the Cedars of Lebanon school in Cuba. Large crowds attended the services and heard challenging preaching like the sermon being delivered in the picture above, according to Rev. T. H. Willey, director of the Cuban work. The choir was composed of young people from five different churches in the area who made great sacrifices to rehearse and attend the services, Mr. Willey said.

permit one of her standing to be an evangelical and remain in the school system.

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**FOREIGN MISSIONS SUNDAY . . .** April 10, Easter Sunday, is "Foreign Missions Sunday," according to the denominational calendar. "All churches are urged to receive special offerings on that day to help us get the news to the world that 'Christ the Lord is risen'," Rev. Raymond Riggs, promotional secretary for the department, said.

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**YOUTH CONFERENCE . . .** The *Church Herald* reports that Iraq's first Evangelical Youth Conference, held in Baghdad, was very encouraging to the evangelical churches. The theme of the three-day conference was "Christ the Saviour of the World."

Inspirational and challenging messages were given by young laymen. A questionnaire revealed that 60 per cent of the one hundred young people present usually sensed God near them in prayer; 70 per cent had experienced definite answers to prayer; 75 per cent took time to read the Bible daily. The favorite book of the Bible was the Gospel of John.

The young people of Iraq need prayer especially at this time because of new restrictions on all Iraqi organizations.

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**MISSIONARY FACTS . . .** "Today, nearly two thousand years after the Great Commission was given, it is estimated that one billion people now living have never heard the precious name of Jesus. If you were to stand day and night watching this vast number march by, you would stand for a whole generation."—*The Missionary Broadcaster*

—The Communists liquidated more than 500 Presbyterian pastors of North Korea.

## Policy Is Listed for Missionary's Furlough

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.**—Because of many inquiries regarding the ministry of missionaries home on furlough, the Board of Foreign Missions has released the following information which was taken from the *Missionary Manual*. A copy of the manual, which contains all the information regarding appointment of missionaries, will be sent free to anyone requesting it.

**"Length of Furlough**—The furlough period varies, depending on the time spent on the field, as follows: 3 year term—6-9 months' furlough; 4 years—9 months; 5 years—12 months; 6 years or more—15 months.

**"Missionary's Ministry** — Missionaries should consult with the Foreign Mission Board in regard to their activities in the homeland. Missionaries may be requested by the department to spend some of their furlough working in direct cooperation with the department speaking in special missionary conventions and presenting the worldwide missionary program to the home constituency.

"In practically all cases it will be necessary for the missionary to engage in extensive deputational work while on furlough in order to raise support, fare and outfit."

—The Church of East Java is the largest body of ex-Muslim Christians in the world. Ninety per cent of its 62,809 members are either converts from Islam or descendants of converts.

—Japan has the highest percentage of literates of any country in the world—even higher than the United States.



REV. JOHN L. WELCH

## Nashville Church Honors Pastor On 46th Anniversary

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—March 13 was observed as a special day at Cofer's Chapel church marking two significant events. One was the forty-sixth anniversary of service as a Nashville pastor for Rev. John L. Welch, pastor of the church. The other was the dedication of the parsonage property free of debt.

The parsonage was constructed in 1952 at a cost of just under \$8,000. The final payment was made March 10—two years and nine months later.

As Mr. Welch led in the dedication service, the congregation paid honor to him and Mrs. Welch for their length of service. Mr. Welch's 46 years as a pastor in Nashville is a record for the city. Thirty-nine of the 46 years have been spent at Cofer's Chapel, where he now serves.

Tribute was paid to him as follows:

"Son of a Free Will Baptist minister who had earlier served as pastor of Cofer's Chapel, Brother Welch came to Nashville in January, 1909, as a student from Hickory Point, Tenn., near Clarksville.

"On February 28 of that same year, Dr. Dell Upton resigned as pastor of Cofer's Chapel, and the church called Brother Welch to succeed him, his pastorate to begin the second Sunday in March. With an exception of two years spent in rural work, he served the church until 1929, when he left to become pastor of the East Nashville church, which he organized. After five years, he was recalled to Cofer's Chapel, where he has been ever since.

"Besides the East Nashville church, Brother Welch has organized two other Free Will Baptist churches in our city, West Nashville and Sylvan Park, and one in Ashland City, Tenn. Church membership has more than doubled during the years since Brother Welch first became pastor.

"Active in denominational affairs, Brother Welch was the first moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, which was organized at Cofer's Chapel. From time to time he has served as moderator of the Cumberland association, now composed of forty-one churches in middle Tennessee, and as moderator of the state association. He is chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Free Will Baptist Bible College and a member of the

Executive Committee of the National Association.

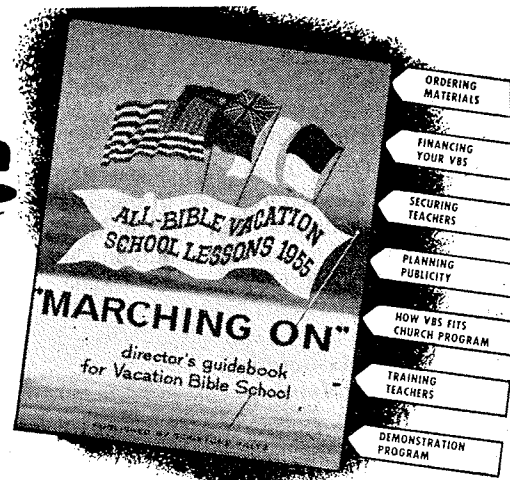
"In 1912 Brother Welch was married to Miss Mary Ann Weaver, who has truly been a helpmate in every phase of his work. They have two children, Mrs. William M. Henderson of Vandalia, Ill., and J. Weaver Welch of Butler, Penn.

"Today we thank God for our pastor and for what his years of faithful service have accomplished among us.

## THE PLAN THAT SPELLS SUCCESS

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1955 ALL-BIBLE Materials  
Mean—Bigger Attendance  
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More Won to Christ



March on to victory in 1955 with the ALL-BIBLE VACATION SCHOOL Lessons—the complete-to-the-last-detail program. Theme is "Marching On," which will appeal to every age group. Manuals have new, colorful cover designs. Freshly edited. Lessons are perfectly geared to each age-level; handwork is meaningful and instructive. Color is used in all pupils'

manuals. Unreached pupils, who will not come to any other church activity, are sure to be drawn into your VBS.

Complete details of the 1955 course are fully described in the FREE "Guidebook for Teachers and Directors." Simply read it and follow its suggestions.

### Themes for the 1955 ABVS course:

**NURSERY (3-4)** *Loving and Pleasing Jesus*  
An "activated" course for wigglers who are always on-the-march. Includes activity book for each pupil, handwork-that-moves, motion songs and animated Bible stories on the life of the Lord Jesus.

**BEGINNER (4-6)** *God's World and God's Word*  
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**PRIMARY (2nd, 3rd, 4th grades)** *God's Family (How to Belong to It, and Live in It)*  
Songs, worship, games, handwork, and an exciting pop-up book help pupils see their need of the Saviour.

**JUNIOR (5th, 6th, 7th grades)** *Christian's Time and Talents*

New Testament personalities in God's great timetable are made real through analogies of timepieces, from the first crude Chinese rope clock to today's precision clocks. Truths are vitalized by Gospel-graph visual aids.

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**YOUNG PEOPLE (and Adults)** *Spotlighting Events and Teachings in Christ's Ministry*

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This handy preview carton contains teachers' manuals and pupils' workbooks for each of five departments in the 1955 ALL-BIBLE VACATION SCHOOL course. Also included are Nursery and Beginner Handwork Packets, recruiter's cap, VBS button, poster, dodger, and a copy of "Marching On." (Cash value \$3.58)

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CHURCH POSITION.....

## FREE WILL BAPTIST HEADQUARTERS

3801 Richland Avenue, NASHVILLE 5, TENN.

# Glancing Around the States . . .

BEN BARRUS, News Editor

## **Blakely Church Plans Revival**

BLAKELY, Ga.—Rev. K. V. Shutes, pastor of the Blakely church, announces that his church will conduct a revival the first two weeks in April. Rev. S. T. Shutes will lead the song services.

## **Santa Paula League Busy In Church Work**

SANTA PAULA, Calif.—The leaguers of the Santa Paula church are promoting various church activities such as visitation and campaigning for funds for building a new church. Delbert Clegg is the league president.

## **First Mission Association Has Quarterly Meeting**

TULSA, Okla.—The First Mission association of Oklahoma met with the First church of Tulsa on February 27. Twenty-four churches were represented and one new church, Strand, was received into the convention.

## **South Side Observes World Day of Prayer**

PAINTSVILLE, Ky.—A special service recognizing the World Day of Prayer was conducted at the South Side church on February 25. The service was sponsored by the Paintsville minister's association and the woman's missionary groups. Rev. John E. Weir was the guest speaker. Rev. Homer Willis is pastor of the host church.

## **New Automobile Given to Pastor**

GASTONIA, N. C.—The congregation of the Cramerton church presented their pastor, Rev. Roy Rikard, with a new automobile in recognition for his ten-year ministry with the church.

## **Special Training School Held by Tulsa Churches**

TULSA, Okla.—The churches of Tulsa organized as a group for the purpose of conducting a training school which was held March 14-18 at the Trinity church. The school taught courses in secretarial work, visitation, art of teaching, and general administration.

## **Lamesa Group Organizes Church**

LAMESA, Texas—A new church was organized on February 6th in Lamesa with eight charter members. Rev. L. C. Pinson led the group in the organization. Rev. J. H. Olds has been called as pastor. Mr. Olds is also donating a building and lot to the

group. The church is a result of a meeting conducted by Rev. W. M. Whitfield in which four people were saved.

## **Columbus Group Promotes Youth for Christ Work**

COLUMBUS, Ga.—Rev. Huey Long, pastor of the New Prospect church, is co-operating with an interdenominational movement in sponsoring a Youth for Christ organization in Edwin, Alabama.

## **South Carolina Ministers Reorganize Conference**

FLORENCE, S. C.—The Ministers Conference of the South Carolina conference of Original Free Will Baptists was re-organized at a special call meeting on January 28, 1955 at the Bethany church. New officers elected include Rev. W. L. Jernigan, president; Rev. Julius B. Vause, vice-president; Rev. Henry L. Player, secretary; Rev. J. B. Chism, Jr., treasurer; Rev. Rufus Coffey, chorister.

At this meeting the minister's wives also reorganized their conference. Officers elected include Mrs. Rufus Coffey, president; Mrs. J. B. Chism, vice-president; Mrs. H. L. Player, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. M. H. Mellette, prayer captain. The meeting time set for these conferences will be the Friday night before each fifth Sunday. The next meeting will be held in Florence on Friday night, May 27.

## **Fellowship Church Begins New Building**

FLAT RIVER, Mo.—The Fellowship church began work on a new educational building last February 25. The brick structure will consist of nine Sunday school rooms, two assembly rooms and a library. Rev. Rolla Smith, pastor, announces that the men of the church will cooperate by donating their labor during off hours from their jobs.

## **Anniversary Service at Kerman Church**

KERMAN, Calif.—The First church of Kerman commemorated its 10th anniversary on February 13th with a home-coming service. Rev. O. H. Doss, pastor at Modesto, and Rev. Winston Lawless, pastor at Selma, were the guest speakers. Rev. Wade Jernigan is pastor.

## **Cofer's Chapel Conducts School of Stewardship**

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—A school of stewardship was conducted at the Cofer's Chapel church on March 1. Rev. Damon Dodd taught the course using the textbook *All of*

*Mine for Him* which he wrote last year. Rev. J. L. Welch pastors the church.

## **St. Louis Church Sponsors Mission**

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The Southside church of St. Louis is sponsoring a mission in Crystal City. A revival was conducted on Feb. 14th with the Rev. James Franklin preaching the message. Dean Burpo led the singing. Rev. Loy Smith will pastor the new work.

## **Alabama Pastor Resigns Church**

FAYETTE, Ala.—Rev. O. L. Fields has resigned the pastorate of the First Free Will Baptist church here. His resignation was read to the congregation on March 15 to become effective April 24. The church has not yet called anyone to succeed Mr. Fields, and he reports that his own plans for the future are indefinite.

## **Progressive Association Holds Quarterly Meeting**

WETUMKA, Okla.—The quarterly meeting and Woman's Auxiliary convention of the Progressive association were held here January 28-29. Two new churches joined the association. These were the Bethel church of Okmulgee and the Fellowship church of McAlester. Both of the churches are recent organizations.

## **College Conference Held at Mt. Allen**

MT. OLIVE, N. C.—"Free Will Baptists and Christian Education" was the theme for the college conference held March 15-16 at Mount Allen Junior College. Speakers during the conference were Dr. L. C. Johnson, Rev. Burkette Raper, Dr. Bob Jones, Jr., Rev. Joe Fort, and Rev. Michael Pelt.

A special feature was a luncheon reunion of the former students of the Ayden Seminary and Eureka College. The conference was followed by the state Sunday school convention held March 17-18 on the campus.

## **Arkansas Church Destroyed by Fire**

POCAHONTAS, Ark. — The Alice Brooks church in Sharum community near here was destroyed by fire Sunday morning, February 13. The fire was discovered as the members were gathering for Sunday school so the church furniture and piano were saved. The building was a total loss. Services are being held in a Methodist church in the community temporarily.

Construction of a new cement block building was begun almost immediately and

# Glancing Around the States...

the work is nearing completion. The new structure is 32 feet by 60 feet and will contain an auditorium and four classrooms. Rev. Eugene Davis is the pastor.

## District League Rally Held in Kermit, Texas

KERMIT, Texas—The district league rally of North West Brazos association met here February 26. The following leagues reported: Odessa, Hobbs, N. Mex., Kermit, Amarillo, Crowell, and Vernon. The program banner was awarded to the Hobbs church for having the best religious play and the attendance banner went to the Odessa League.

## Sunday School Institute Planned in Oklahoma

McALESTER, Okla.—A Sunday school worker's institute has been planned for May 2-3, according to a recent announcement from the Oklahoma state Sunday School Board. The institute will be held two days, with the first session on May 2 being held at the First church in McAlester. The second session on May 3 will be conducted at the Central Avenue church in Oklahoma City. Rev. William Mishler, promotional secretary for the national Sunday School department, will be the principal speaker.

## Correction Given On Pastor's Name

An article in this section last month gave Rev. Rufus Hyman as the pastor of Panther Creek church, near Slocomb, Ala. Mr. Hyman has called our attention to the fact

that this is incorrect. We are happy to list the pastor of the church, who is Rev. Hubert Henderson, under whose leadership a very fine building has been constructed and dedicated.

## Oklahoma Ministers Organize Conference

TECUMSEH, Okla.—Rev. Harry E. Staires, Tulsa, was elected president of the Oklahoma Minister's Conference which was organized January 13 at the First Oklahoma associational grounds near here. Rev. Gilbert Pixley, Duncan, was elected vice-president and Rev. Homer Young, Henryetta, was named secretary-treasurer. About seventy-five ministers were present for the organization and became charter members.

Appointed to the credential's committee were A. E. Keany, E. E. Morris, Ross Hamar, Jack Dodson, and Harry Beatty. The first session of the conference will be held May 5-6 at the Pleasant Valley church in Western Oklahoma.

## Church Dedicated at Prague, Okla.

PRAGUE, Okla.—Dedication services for the Free Will Baptist church here were held February 6. Under the leadership of Rev. Odis Robinson, who organized and pastors the church, the congregation has erected a nice building.

## Foreign Mission Board Schedules Annual Meeting

HIGHLAND PARK, Mich.—The annual meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions

will be held May 3-4 at the Highland Park church, according to an announcement by Rev. Raymond Riggs, promotional secretary for the department. The board meeting will precede a missionary conference to be held here at which Rev. and Mrs. Dan Cronk, home on furlough from India, will be the speakers.

## Progressive Association Conducts League Rally

WETUMKA, Okla.—The program and attendance banners were awarded to the leagues from McAlester and Henryetta, respectively, at the quarterly League rally of Progressive association held here January 31. Approximately 400 people, representing eleven Leagues in the association, attended the rally. James Hemingway is the district president.

## S.S. Average Reports Will Be Discontinued

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Unless there are strong objections to the contrary, this will be the last month that CONTACT will publish the Sunday school averages. This suggestion has come from several of our readers who feel that since the number which report is so small, the space could be used for something more profitable.

Others write that the averages do not give a fair picture of our Sunday schools to outsiders who might read them. So beginning with May, we will devote this space to stories or features of interest to all our readers.

Averages for February are given below:

S. S. League

<b>ALABAMA</b>		
First Church, Dothan	100	36
<b>ARKANSAS</b>		
Pocahontas	165	
Phillips Chapel, Springdale	146	
Mt. Harmony, Saffell	72	21
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>		
Modesto	172	77
Turlock	153	113
<b>KENTUCKY</b>		
Virgie	47	19
<b>MICHIGAN</b>		
Highland Park	454	
<b>MISSOURI</b>		
Southside, St. Louis	183	
Fredericktown	161	
Monett	98	
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>		
Swannanoa	181	36
Hickory Chapel, Ahoskie	117	34
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>		
First Church, Tulsa	285	
Capitol Hill, Oklahoma City	225	
Lawnwood, Tulsa	194	
Bristow	136	
Central Avenue, Oklahoma City	125	67
Northeast Church, Shawnee	74	39
<b>TENNESSEE</b>		
Loyal Chapel, Columbia	183	
Erwin	160	27
Bethlehem, Ashland City	103	35

## Nineteen Churches Report Revivals

Church	Evangelist	Pastor	Dates	Dec.	Add.
Tecumseh, Okla.	Ross Hamar	Delbert Akin	3-28,		
Vernon, Texas	M. T. Holly	W. W. Winters		4	2
Paintsville, Ky.	W. S. Mooneyham	Homer Willis	3-6, 13	13	11
Lockhart, S. C.	Frank Thompson	A. F. Lawter	3-13,		
Lawnwood Church, Tulsa, Okla.	Paul Pursell	H. E. Staires	3-	6	8
Fellowship Church, Flat River, Mo.	L. C. Johnson	Rolla Smith	4-17, 24		
Midway Church, Moultrie, Ga.	Tom Hamilton	Mance Cason	2-20, 28		13
Good Hope Church, Henderson, Texas	Ken Eagleton	Gaston Clary	3-30,		
Artesia, N. Mex.	Virgil Florence	Roy L. Thomas	2-21,		
Shady Grove Church, Durham, N. C.	C. F. Bowen	Joe Haas	3-6, 13	46	3
Wewoka, Okla.	Bailey Thompson	N. R. Smith	3-13,		
First Church, Ft. Worth, Texas	C. B. Thompson	C. B. Thompson	3-13, 20		
Bristow, Okla.	Harry Beatty	Paul Pursell	4-11,		
Bethel Church, Baxley, Ga.	L. H. Moulton	Billy Melvin	5-23, 29		
Richmond, Va.	F. B. Cherry	L. H. Moulton			
Savannah, Ga.	Ralph Lightsey	H. Glynn Campbell	4-4, 13		
Walnut Ridge, Ark.	J. Reford Wilson	Melvin Shelton	3-20, 27		
O'Kean, Ark.	Jerry Thompson				
East Nashville Church, Nashville, Tenn.	Del Fehsenfeld	Ben Barrus	3-10, 20	10	

## YOU Be the Editor

Quite often readers say they wish they were an editor. Well, now you can be one! By letting us know what you like and do not like about CONTACT you can help us make it a better paper. So for the next ten minutes *you* be the editor and check the items listed below. When you are finished, clip this column and mail it to CONTACT, 3801 Richland Ave., Nashville 5, Tenn. We will carefully consider every comment.

### SECTION I:

(Grade the following items, in your own opinion, by "Best," "Good," "Fair," "Poor.")

- \_\_\_\_\_ Cover page
- \_\_\_\_\_ Letters to the Editor
- \_\_\_\_\_ Personally
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sermon of the Month
- \_\_\_\_\_ Features about interesting personalities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Denominational calendar
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Prayer Fellowship
- \_\_\_\_\_ Woman's Auxiliary news
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Free Will Baptist Story
- \_\_\_\_\_ Church of the Month
- \_\_\_\_\_ Home Mission news
- \_\_\_\_\_ Along the Missionary Newsfront
- \_\_\_\_\_ Choosing the Better Part
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday school averages
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cartoons
- \_\_\_\_\_ Poems
- \_\_\_\_\_ News stories
- \_\_\_\_\_ Evangelistic feature with cartoon
- \_\_\_\_\_ Glancing Around the States
- \_\_\_\_\_ Revival reports
- \_\_\_\_\_ Advertisements
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pictures

### SECTION II:

Check which of the following you would add:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday school and League section
- \_\_\_\_\_ Want ad column for churches or individuals who want to sell or buy something or advertise their services
- \_\_\_\_\_ More sermons
- \_\_\_\_\_ More news
- \_\_\_\_\_ More pages
- \_\_\_\_\_ More personality features

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

If you were editor, what would you take out?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION III:

(List any other suggestions you care to):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

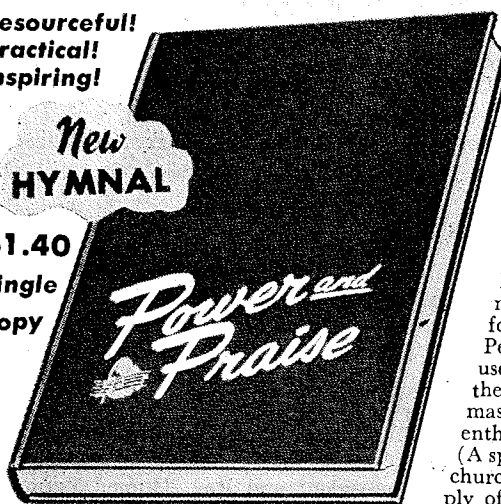
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