

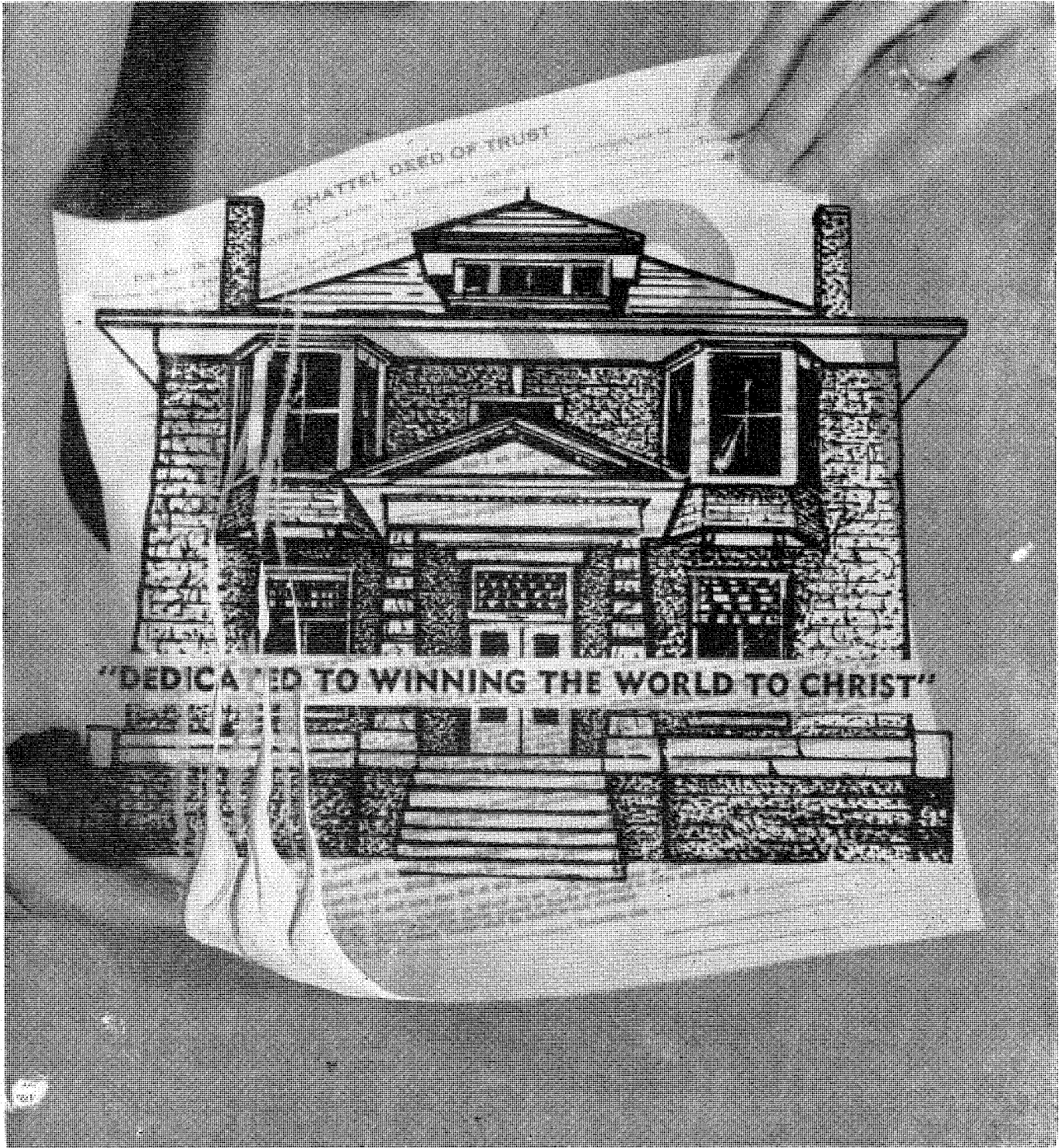
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# Contact

of the  
National Association  
of Free Will Baptists

MAY, 1955

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



## LOYALTY GIFT SUNDAY . . . MAY 22

(See complete story on page 7)



# Personally . . .

One of the most refreshing experiences we have had in a long time was reading your comments when we asked you last month to "sound off" on your likes and dislikes about CONTACT.

Those who took the time to write were very charitable in their comments—in fact we felt generally a little too charitable. A number of very fine suggestions were made and you may expect to see some of these incorporated into the paper in the months to come. As we expected, suggestions about what to take out or add varied with individual tastes. Most of you agreed with us, however, about leaving out the Sunday school attendance reports. This will be done after this issue.

One writer summed up what most of you said, "Generally, we are well pleased with the paper." Some practical suggestions were the addition of a children's page with stories and Bible games, listing individual prayer requests signed only by initials, more "how-to-do-it" articles, and complete departmentalizing of news from denominational agencies.

Most of you wanted us to add a Sunday school and League section with the emphasis on methods rather than news reports, a want ad column, more sermons, more news, and with but two exceptions, more pages. Some of these additions we will attempt to begin very soon—others will take longer.

The matter of more pages is a difficult one, and one that only our subscribers can do anything about. We do not want to raise the price of the paper, and it would be impossible to increase to twenty-four pages without additional income. The only way to get this revenue is through national religious advertising—and we need a circulation of at least 5,000 to secure this advertising. When enough churches adopt the "Every Church Family" Plan, enough individuals subscribe and enough subscribers renew to boost the circulation from 3,600 to 5,000, we'll be in position to increase the size.

We hope this will be very, very soon.

Some of the other things which we hope to do will require the additional pages. Others we plan to do with what we have. One of the things is to condense the news stories and put them in one section, giving us more space for articles. Another is to feature a section of Sunday school and League helps about

once every three months. All of these things will be expanded as more pages are available.

It was interesting to note from your replies what you liked and didn't like. Only one person rated the covers below "Good" and quite a number said it was "Best." As more funds and pages are available we want to do the covers in regular two-color magazine style.

You also liked "Glancing Around the States," the features by writers Dodd, Day, and Edwards, our use of religious cartoons, and the pictures. You liked less our handling of Woman's Auxiliary news and the Sunday school averages. All in all, we feel the poll of our readers was very profitable. We liked what you said and the way you said it. It will be impossible to do *everything* that *everyone* wanted us to do and some of the things that we want to do will require a little time to make the changes.

We sincerely ask your constant cooperation in making CONTACT all that it ought to be for Christ and our great cause.

\* \* \*

Just before going to press we learned that another church has voted to enroll its members in the "Every Church Family" Plan. Rev. John H. West, pastor of of the First church in Tulsa, Okla., wrote us that his church had adopted the subscription plan and that the names of the families would be forthcoming.

This makes a total of five churches who have realized the importance of seeing that every family has a subscription to the church paper. All of these church families will receive CONTACT in their mail box every month with the church paying the small bill quarterly. The average church can do it for five or six dollars a month—much less than is paid for any other literature. And the church paper going into homes will do a job that no other piece of literature can do.

We welcome your inquiries about the "Every Church Family" Plan. It is the only way we know to build CONTACT into the kind of church paper that we want and need.

### Words of Wisdom

The Church that compromises Truth today will compromise Morals tomorrow.—H. D. Bruce

### Tells Why She Renewed

"When I received the notice that my subscription to CONTACT had expired I told my husband I couldn't afford not to keep up my subscription.

"A few months ago I read in the paper that there was a Free Will Baptist church in Concord, Calif. I clipped out the notice and prayed as I slipped it into an envelope to send to my oldest daughter who had lately moved there from Oakland.

"She visited the church and after a few times gave her life back to God. She had been a backslider ten or twelve years. Then she talked and prayed until her husband, a long-time backslider, came back to God. But that was not all God did. My son and daughter-in-law who live a few miles away visited the church and she got right with God. I am still praying that God will bring my son back to Him.

"So if I should pay one dollar a year the rest of my life I couldn't do enough for CONTACT. Without the paper we wouldn't have known about the church at Concord and these precious loved ones might not have been saved. Now they love their church and pastor. I am asking God to bless and save many more through the news in CONTACT."

—Mrs. Susie Pruitt, Tulsa, Okla.

### Likes Bulletin Service

"I would like to compliment you on the Free Will Baptist Bulletin Service. The bulletins carry such a nice picture each week and the Easter bulletin was most beautiful. Several of us plan to frame the cover. We are glad to know that the orders are increasing and we pray the Lord's blessings on your efforts."

—Mrs. Dorris Beers, Duncan, Okla.

## Contact

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# Portrait of a Godly Mother

"A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." Prov. 31:30b.

The book of Proverbs is a book which God seems to have inspired especially for young people. It is to be expected then that in this book God would give us a portrait of the person who has more influence over young people than any other—mother. This portrayal of a godly woman is given in the closing chapter of the book, verses 10-31.

Mother's Day has become one of the most appealing and impressive days in the life of the American people. Today from all walks of life, people pause as they should do to pay tribute, grateful and loving, to the best loved person in the world—mother.

It is not any wonder that poets, artists, and painters have summoned themselves with all their resources to portray the most beautiful sight in the world, a picture of a mother with a baby in her arms. The greatest blessing that can come to the life of any person is to be born to a mother who even before his birth has dedicated him to her God as Hannah did Samuel.

## Next Greatest Blessing

Having been conceived in love and born of a godly, praying mother, the next greatest blessing that can possibly come to any child is that of being reared in an ideal Christian home.

One of the greatest of all preachers, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, made the following statement to his students: "When I am gone, all sorts of people will write my life. They will have some difficulty in accounting for the position God has given me. I can tell you two reasons why I am what I am." After a pause he slowly and thoughtfully added, "My mother and the truth of my message."

When Jesus was dying on His cross, He paused there in the midst of His agony and revealed His love and care for His blessed mother. When Isaiah, the great prophet, thought of his God, he also thought of his mother and said, "As one whom his mother comforteth, so the Lord comforteth His people."

The author is pastor of the First Free Will Baptist church in Columbus, Miss. He says: "I remember my great-grandmother who was a Christian and a Free Will Baptist. My grandmother and mother are still living and both are Christians and Free Will Baptists. My wife is the same. I hope that some way the message has exalted the high position of mothers."

J. D. O'Donnell

## Mother Sets Example

Thomas Carlyle, in a letter to his mother, said that "if I had all the mothers I ever saw to choose from, I would have chosen you."

Many and varied are the statements of great Christians concerning the influence of a godly mother on their lives. We have many statements from men and women who have fallen into sin who state that an ungodly mother set the example that led them into the pitfalls of sin.

A mother sets an example for children. She instills principles in their lives that will be there until their death. A mother who wishes to send her children out into the world with a proper estimate of the value and safety there is for all of us in the Christian life, must live the life of Chris-

tian example herself. One of the greatest monstrosities on this earth is to see a mother with children growing up around her who, herself, is not dedicated to Christ.

## Charm Is Pictured

Let us look closely at the portrait of the mother of our text. Look at the charm of this godly mother. The picture that we have of a charming hostess in one of our great southern plantation mansions cannot surpass this. The artist here pictures a woman of the Martha type. Remember our Lord Jesus loved both Martha and Mary, but here we want to consider the larger group—the daughters of Martha.

She works with zeal and her strength never falters. She doesn't have to bear heavy burdens because she has planned her routine tasks with wisdom and much care. She serves us as an object lesson of those vanishing virtues now called out-moded: foresight, industry, and thrift. She doesn't live from "hand to mouth". She's prepared for the "rainy day."

(Continued on page 6)

## BACKBONE OF AMERICA



CHARMS ARE DECEPTIVE, AND BEAUTY IS A BREATH, BUT A WOMAN WHO REVERES THE LORD—SHE WILL BE PRAISED!  
— PROV. 31:30 (GOODSPEED 1955)

JACK HANNA



*Dr. and Mrs. William N. Keith, who have worked as a doctor-and-nurse team for over 25 years, look at a souvenir which was sent to them by friends in China. They both served as missionaries before going to eastern Kentucky with the public health service.*

# *They Teamed Up for Service*

*W. S. Mooneyham*

Few people who drive down Stafford street in Paintsville, Kentucky, realize that a couple of celebrities live in the little white frame house at 613.

Those two precious servants of the Lord, Dr. and Mrs. William N. Keith, will immediately shake their heads by way of denial when they read the word, "celebrities," but thousands of people in all walks of life and areas of the world will attest to the truth of it.

Their ministry of medicine and gospel, preaching and penicillin, has been carried on in Turkey, China and Java, and for the last thirty years in the mountain regions of eastern Kentucky. The thousands who have received healing for both body and soul from them thank God for the day that William and Ruth Keith became a team.

## *Wanted Son To Preach*

Before that time came, however, each of them had lived nearly half a lifetime in different areas of the world. For the doctor, these years hardly fitted the pattern that either he or his father had set out. Back in Pennsylvania, his father, who was a devout Presbyterian, wanted young William to become a preacher.

There was certainly nothing wrong with the ambition of father for son, but William questioned the wholesomeness of his father's motive, who said that a preacher would give the family a great deal of prestige. Neither the motive or profession quite appealed to the young man who had his heart set on being an electrical engineer.

He went off to Lafayette College at Easton, Pennsylvania, still pretty fixed in this desire. But God was making different arrangements for him. Samuel Zwemer, one of the Lord's faithful servants who had spent many years in Arabia, came to the college for a series of missionary talks. The lad who wanted to be an electrical engineer

heard him not only in this series of messages but also as the missionary spoke daily at the student prayer meetings. The impressions of these services placed in Keith's heart the determination for a missionary career.

## *Goes to Turkey*

His taste for scientific things helped him decide that he should add the study of medicine to his new ambition, and the die was cast.

He went to Princeton Theological Seminary for a year in 1907-08 more to please his father than anything else, but now he is thankful for that year for those were the days when Princeton was conservative, he says, and it was this training that gave him a conservative attitude about the Bible.

After Princeton came medical school at Columbia University with a period of internship in New York City. His first taste of missionary life came when he went to Roberts College, a Congregational school, in Constantinople, Turkey, as a teacher of Bible.

## *Java Becomes Home*

He came back to New York for some postgraduate work after a year in Turkey. This additional formal training was followed by a year of practical experience with the New York City health department.

But he still had a determination to be a medical missionary, so he made application for foreign service to the Methodist Board of Missions. They accepted him, and Java (now called Indonesia) in Southeast Asia became his home for the next four years. In 1918 he was forced to return because of his health. Wanting to further his training in the medical field he accepted a job as night doctor in a steel plant in Chicago so he could study diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat during the day.

## *Contracts Tuberculosis*

The strenuous study and work, however, soon took its toll and he developed tuberculosis. His next move was to the mountain air in Colorado. Always the student, Keith met a doctor there who had treated trachoma, a contagious eye disease causing blindness, and he persuaded this doctor to train him in the treatment. How much of this was coincidence and how much was the direct leadership of God will have to be left to the mind of the reader, but it seems like more than mere coincidence when you learn that most of his life's work has been in a region where trachoma was a prevalent disease. At least 250 pairs of eyes in eastern Kentucky can behold the splendor of the mountains today because William Keith had to leave Chicago for Colorado, for he has performed that many trachoma operations on people doomed to blindness.

But that is a little bit ahead of the story. The same year that Dr. Keith returned from Java, the other partner of this team sailed for China as a missionary under the China Inland Mission. Reared in a Baptist home in Michigan, Ruth Smith was converted at an early age and began making plans for a missionary career, also.

## *Duty in China*

Her initial training came at the Baptist Missionary Training School in Chicago and this was followed by a period at Moody Bible Institute. After doing settlement house work in the heart of the Jewish ghetto in Chicago for a time she went to China in 1918. The work was taxing and the privations and hardships were many, and ill health forced her return to the states in 1923.

As soon as she was able, Ruth Smith began her nurse's training with full inten-



tions of returning to China, but her health would not permit it. Near the end of her training she placed her application with several mission boards for service anywhere. And here the separate paths of William Keith and Ruth Smith converge.

He had been reading about the medical needs in the mountain regions of Kentucky and had made application to the public health service. In 1927 he received his appointment as a health officer. Wanting a Christian nurse to assist him in the work, he wrote to one of the same boards where Ruth Smith had placed her application. Correspondence followed. Did she want a nursing career? Yes. Would she come to eastern Kentucky? Again the answer was yes. And so William Keith and Ruth Smith came to Inez, Martin county, Kentucky, which was to be their home for the next twenty-five years.

### Married in 1929

After about a year and a half as a doctor-nurse team they decided to team up for life and were married in 1929.

Life was not easy in those early days. They were practically isolated in Martin county because of both impossible and impassable roads. A trip to Kermit, West Virginia, just ten miles away, was an all-day affair. Travel throughout the county was by horseback, cart or buggy. Their medical service was not readily accepted in the early days either, they say, but the Lord usually opened up an opportunity when a need arose.

The pattern of service during those years went something like this: the doctor would leave Inez on Sunday morning in his two-wheeled cart. He would stop somewhere in

the county for Sunday school in the afternoon and a gospel service that night. He is not an ordained minister, but gained a good bit of preaching experience this way. The rest of the week he visited homes and communities bringing medical help to the suffering.

### Move to Paintsville

During the twenty-five years in Martin county they performed, besides the trachoma operations, between five and six hundred tonsillectomies. Now they are taking care of the children of those they treated years ago.

The Keiths moved to Paintsville in 1953—to retire, they laughingly say. But because they still have no doctor in Martin county, Dr. Keith has agreed to stay on as medical consultant and they make the trip back to Inez one day a week where dozens of people come to the clinic.

The other six days a week they carry on a full-time program in Paintsville—five of them checking eyes and fitting glasses at his office which takes up half of this home and the other day in the Lord's service at the Southside Free Will Baptist church. They joined the church last year and Dr. Keith, who is 75 years old, was baptized (his Presbyterian parents had him sprinkled) by the pastor, Rev. Homer Willis.

### Active in Church

On Sunday he teaches the men's Bible Class and Mrs. Keith teaches the women's class in the Sunday school. Dr. Keith also give lectures before various high school assemblies and youth groups on "How We

Got Our Best Seller." He has written this lecture on the history of the English Bible into manuscript and denominational leaders are hoping to have it published.

Much of their income during the years has been used to help deserving students go to college and further their training. Their particular interest right now is giving financial assistance to medical students who plan to be missionaries. This way the Keiths, who have no children of their own, feel they will be helping serve generations yet to come. Dr. Keith has already arranged for a trust fund to be established at his death to be used in training young people for Christian service.

Even though I know they will shake their heads and discount all but the facts of this story, I think you, too, will agree that in the little white frame house on Stafford Street in Paintsville, Kentucky, live two of God's celebrities.

## Denominational Calendar for 1955

### 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

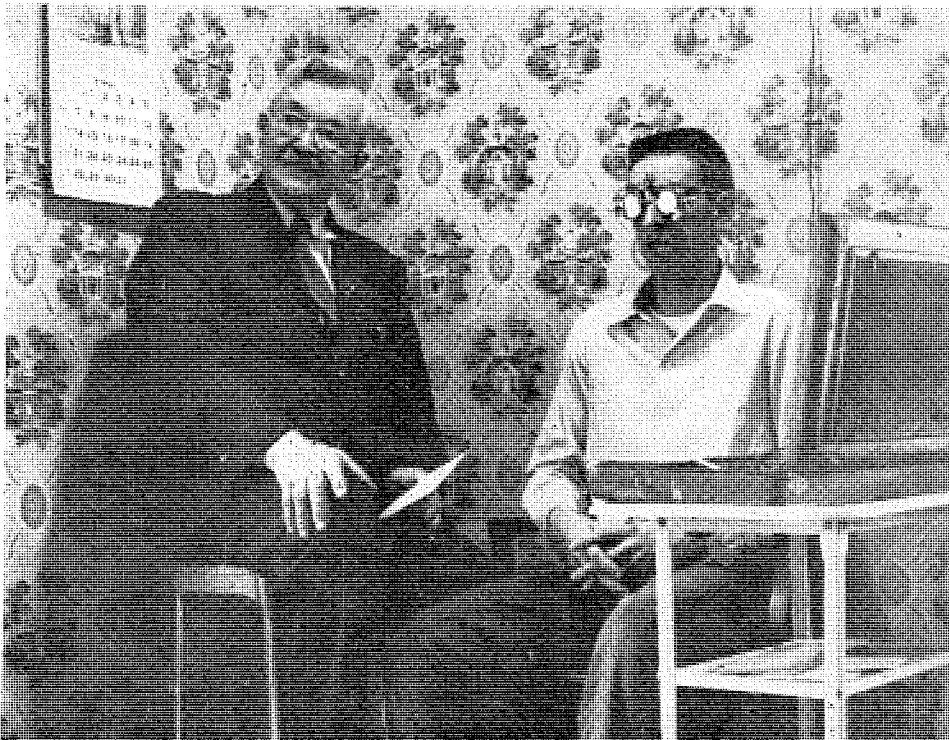
Superannuation Month with emphasis on national and state programs for assistance to aged ministers.

### 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.



Dr. Keith carries on an active private practice in examining eyes and fitting glasses even though he has retired from the public health service. Most of his income goes to the Lord's work to help missionaries and students.

# A Godly Mother

(Continued from page 3)

## Excels in Friendship

She excels in the art of friendship because "she stretches out her hand to the poor." She is always eager to reach out hands full of good things needful for God's suffering poor. Her heart overflows with love from God so "in her tongue is the law of kindness." Her charm makes many friends for herself and her family. Her charm tempers many hatreds before they are born.

The influence of a godly wife and mother is more oft unseen and unrecognized than otherwise. In Bible days the Hebrews believed in marriage. They looked upon it rightly as the normal state of human beings and found in their enduring marriages earth's nearest approach to heaven. God founded the family before He founded church, school, or community. It was in the family that God meant for mothers to yield their greatest influence.

## Loyal to Husband

A godly wife takes pride in being true to those marriage vows: "In plenty and in want; In joy and in sorrow; In sickness and in death; As long as we both shall live." She was not hesitant in taking the vow: "Love, honor, and obey." She truly forsook all things to be one flesh with her husband. Her life is swallowed up in his and her main concern is the loving guidance of his household.

"The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her." She loves her God supremely and is therefore loyal to her husband. A home to be ideal must have at its head a Christian husband and father. In every relation of life the godly mother seeks to win the right to be called his help-meet. Instead of adding to her husband's burdens, year after year she stands back of him as a sort of silent partner. "She will do him good and not evil all the days of his life." The two of them grow daily more like their God, because of their love for one another.

## Unseen Influence

A husband can become a great power through the unseen influence of a godly wife. He becomes "known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land."

Little does the husband or anyone else dream of the inspiration and the strength that he has gained through the influence of the quiet wife. In the modern day of "woman's rights," she may have given up personal ambition for herself so that her husband could gain prominence. God has vested in man the headship of the human family. The God-fearing mother has learned that she cannot change God's order at this point so she accepts the high position of motherhood that God has ordained for her and is satisfied.

Both Paul and Peter in their writings explain very clearly the position of father and mother in the home. Wives are admonished to be in subjection to their husbands but at the same time the husbands are enjoined to "love their wives as themselves" and to "give due respect" unto their wives. In recent years there has been a great rebellion from many wives on these clear teachings of the New Testament.

## Wins and Deserves Praises

Marriage is truly a "give and take" proposition but we must always honor the position that God has relegated to us. The godly wife knows "how to buckle the armor of her husband's heart so that he stands up day after day to win victories for the Living God." Her kind of love never counts the cost of doing good and when tempted to pity self for the drudgery of life she looks to Him who honors all for every deed whether great or small.

The godly mother wins many praises and deserves them. "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." The rest of this poem tells what these loved ones should say to her while she is yet living. God fills the mother's heart with a love like His own. As He wants to be called Father, the godly woman wants to be called mother.

God has exalted motherhood by permitting His Son and our Saviour to be born not the seed of man, but the seed of the woman. The noblest tribute given to woman is to be called a godly mother. A woman's greatest praise cannot come in the field of politics, in world affairs, but as the mother of God serving children.

## Mother's Ambition

"What do you expect to do when you get to America?" asked a fellow passenger of a woman who was crossing the Atlantic Ocean a century and a half ago. "Do? Why raise governors for them." Well, her desire was fulfilled in a very definite manner, for she became the mother of General John Sullivan of New Hampshire, and James Sullivan, governor of Massachusetts.

Children and husbands should delight in voicing the praises of the uncrowned queen of the home. If they understand the truth they know that she will pray for them and toil for them until the day of her death. In fact, she would gladly suffer and die to keep them from harm or ill.

Sometimes the most saintly mother is called first from the family circle. After she has gone home to her God, her children still rise up and call her blessed. Truly, many times an erring child only at her passing into a better world realizes mother's love and the truth of her teaching, but through her death embraces her God.

## Voice Our Gratitude

On a day such as this Mother's Day we should seek some way to voice anew our gratitude to God for our mothers. We

should proclaim everywhere that we are grateful for our mother and her undying love.

But yet God is going to require more than mere words of praise. God cannot bless a person who receives but never shares. Call to mind Christ's words, "Unto whom much is given, of him shall much be required." Are we worthy of our mother's love? If our mother has transmitted to our lives a love of God, good traits of character, and a good example by which to live, it then behooves us to do all that is in our power to give these same gifts to others.

Are we following the Master as closely as our mother did? Will our children rise up and call us blessed because we have lived a life before them that led them to the One who gives to believers eternal life?

## Day of Action

As we ponder these questions in our minds, let us not make it just a day of soul-searching but a day of action. Let us who are saved make it a day of recommitment to His will and a day of rededication to His service. Let us recognize that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." The God who gave us mothers has given us that "unspeakable gift," salvation in His Son. "How shall he not with him also give us all things." "Beloved if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." Let us who have life in the Son of God give our lives in service winning others to Him.

For you who have never accepted Christ, let this be the day of the great decision. Kneel in an altar somewhere, if possible with your Christian mother, and let the Lord Jesus Christ enter into your life. You have waited long enough—let Him have His way with thee.

## What About Your Church?

The *Cumberland Presbyterian* magazine calls our attention to the fact that for the first time in 70 years the Montgomery Ward catalog has come out without advertising harness for horses. With the demands so very small it is no longer profitable, spokesmen said.

They observe that preachers still following the horse-and-buggy practices had better turn the nag out to grass and enlist the services of the motor. There is little doubt but the motor age is here to stay.

It might be well for some deacons and Sunday school superintendents to look around and see if they still have some harness and buggy whips in their tool chests of methods, too. The church might do right well by following the example of Montgomery Ward.

## Along the Missionary Newsfront

### Cover Picture Story—

# Dedication of Headquarters Planned If Loyalty Gift Drive is Successful

**BAPTISMS IN INDIA . . .** "We have just closed a camp at Dimpti and Jigiri," writes Rev. Carlisle Hanna, missionary in North India. "I baptized four men and five women at the close of the camp. On last Monday morning a woman died just across the road from the camp and we had a Christian funeral for her that day.

"She was only fifteen years old, but had been married at ten and was the mother of two children. She was lying on a worn-out grass mat on the dirt floor of their little house. That and one old cotton blanket was all of their earthly possessions besides the few clothes they were wearing. Her husband says that she was a believer. He wants baptism now. Her mother also wants baptism. Pray for these and the many others who are searching for the true Light."

\* \* \*

**REBUILDING IN GREECE . . .** The Greek government has just granted a permit for the rebuilding of the First Evangelical church in Athens. This is the oldest Evangelical church in Greece, established over a hundred years ago. The Greek Orthodox Archbishop gave his immediate and glad consent for the granting of the permit. Greek law requires that before the civil government can grant a permit for the building of non-Greek Orthodox church it is necessary for the local Greek Orthodox bishop to give his consent.

The First Evangelical church is located opposite the Parthenon and at the foot of the Acropolis, very close to Constitution Square. Already \$15,000 has been contributed by the local congregation toward the erection of this historic church in the heart of Athens.

\* \* \*

**CUBAN STATISTICS . . .** A survey made by the Bureau of Information of the Catholic University Group at the National University, Havana, Cuba, shows that 96.5% of Cuba's six million people believe in God, but only 66.5% believe in the divinity of Christ. Catholics number 72.5% of the total population. Only one out of four Cuban Catholics practices his faith. 19% of the Cubans follow no formal religion. Protestants constitute 6% of the population of Cuba.

\* \* \*

**CONFERENCE IN DETROIT . . .** A missionary conference was held at the Highland Park church in Detroit, Michigan, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions. Dates of the conference were May 4-6.

Taking a part on the program were members of the board, returned missionaries, prospective missionaries, area pastors, and members of local churches. Rev. Charles A.

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—A Mortgage-Burning ceremony and dedication service for the denominational headquarters building has been scheduled on the program of the national association in anticipation of the success of the "Loyalty Gift" Appeal this month, Rev. W. S. Mooneyham, executive secretary, has announced.

The "Loyalty Gift" Appeal is a denomination-wide effort to raise sufficient money to pay off the mortgage which is due on the headquarters building. Goal of the appeal is \$15,000.

The headquarters building was purchased two years ago. It is located in Nashville, just two blocks west of the Free Will Baptist Bible College. Offices of six denominational agencies are maintained in the building. These are the executive department, foreign missions department, Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, Sunday school department, league department, and home missions department.

State chairmen have been appointed in twenty states, and these chairmen have in turn appointed district or area chairmen within their states, so that there are between 150 and 200 people actually working in the effort, Mr. Mooneyham said.

State chairmen have been appointed as follows: W. H. Ryland, Alabama; O. T. Dixon, Arkansas; Wade Jernigan, California; D. W. Poole, Florida; T. G. Hamilton, Georgia; Claude Childers, Illinois; G. E. Ratliff, Kentucky; Charles A. Thigpen, Michigan; M. L. Hollis, Mississippi; Rolla Smith, Missouri.

L. C. Pinson, New Mexico; J. C. Griffin, North Carolina; Forrest Chamberlain, Ohio; Delbert Akin, Oklahoma; William Postlewaite, Oregon; W. A. Hales, South Carolina; Paul Woolsey, Tennessee; Charles Sapp, Texas; E. J. Kilgore, Virginia, and Carl Vallance, West Virginia.

The appeal will be climaxed on Sunday,

Thigpen, host pastor, presided over the conference sessions.

\* \* \*

**EVANGELICALS IN GERMANY . . .** It is reported that in the parts of Germany now administered by Poland many of the evangelical parishes are still in operation. Even in many pastorates which are vacant because of expulsion of the pastors, the illness or advanced age of others, the work goes on. The churches depend entirely upon themselves. "Lecturers" are used extensively. The only printed material that can be issued by the churches is sermons, which are sent to the lecturers and to isolated church members.

May 22, with "Loyalty Gift" day in all the churches, the secretary said. The goal of this part of the effort has been set at \$11,500. Two pieces of literature have been prepared to help local congregations make their offerings on that day. One is a "Nerve Center" pamphlet showing in pictures the men and departments who carry on their work from the headquarters building and the other is a special "Loyalty Gift" folder in which members may place their offerings.

District chairmen have been sent samples of this material for distribution. If any pastor has failed to receive a supply, however, he may write the headquarters building asking for an amount with which to supply his congregation, the secretary said.

The first part of the "Loyalty Gift" appeal was a mail appeal using loyalty seals. Letters and seals, which are two-color reproductions of the Free Will Baptist church sign, went into the mail last week to 8,000 people asking them to buy the seals and help burn the mortgage on the headquarters building.

An appeal will also be made by personal letters to individuals who might be in position to make a substantial contribution.

The total goal 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.

Offerings should be mailed directly to "Loyalty Gift" Appeal, 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

**INDONESIAN CONFLICT . . .** It was recently reported that Christians in the Celebes were being persecuted. Three members of parliament (representing Muslim, Protestant, and Roman Catholic political parties) visited the Celebes in February to investigate. They reported that in some sections armed gangs had forced "Christians and heathens" to embrace the Muslim faith. When their efforts were resisted, the gangs burned "churches, mosques, Bibles, and other properties." It was observed, however, that conditions have improved during the past six months, due to the fact that dependable troops have been stationed in the area to maintain order.

# Pattern For The Future

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Not the least among the chapters of a denominational history is that which deals with organizational structure. In Part Fourteen, Mr. Dodd shows how the pattern of denominational organization begins to take shape. We are glad that God is singularly blessing this series of articles to the hearts of our readers.*

In this chapter of the Free Will Baptist Story, it will be our purpose to show how our system of quarterly meetings and yearly meetings came to be adopted and the reasons therefor. Much of this material is taken from the book, "The Life and Influence of Rev. Benjamin Randall," by Frederick L. Wiley. Mr. Wiley's account is most authentic, since he had access to many of Mr. Randall's personal papers and also the original records of the first quarterly meetings and yearly meetings. These records can now be found in the depository at the Baptist Historical Society, Rochester, New York where they have recently been taken from Chester, Pennsylvania. While they were yet in Chester, in the library of Crozer Theological Seminary, it was the privilege of this writer to examine them first hand, and thus verify the claims of Mr. Wiley as to the authenticity of his record as set forth in his very fine work.

The previous installment gave a resume of the organization of the quarterly meeting in 1783. This was an organizational meeting at which time Randall was elected moderator and Pelatiah Tingley, clerk.

## *Quarterly Meeting Program*

The first regular meeting of the new organization was held at New Gloucester in March, 1784. The program was as follows:<sup>1</sup>

### *Saturday Afternoon*

1. Devotional: consisting of singing, prayer, and if time favors, exhortation.
2. Choice of officers: Moderator, Clerk, and Committees.
3. Letters and verbal reports from constituent churches.
4. Examination of members as to doctrine, fellowship, etc.
5. Efforts to restore harmony where such efforts may be needed.

## *Damon C. Dodd*

### *Saturday Evening*

Preaching followed by exhortation and general worship.

### *Sunday Service*

Morning-Prayer and general devotions

Forenoon-Preaching

Afternoon-Preaching

Evening-Preaching

Devotional services immediately preceding or following sermons, as conditions may suggest.

### *Monday*

Devotional

Unfinished business. New business named in letters or otherwise presented.

All business interspersed with much prayer, singing, and devotions.

## *Program Was Flexible*

It is to be noted that while Mr. Randall favored rearrangement of a general nature of these programs, he also insisted on enough flexibility to allow for a spiritual emphasis. An outstanding action of this session was the issuance of a quarterly meeting epistle which was designed to be circulated among the churches and read publicly to the members. This practice continued for many years and the unifying influence of this letter in fellowship, doctrine, and church methods was great.

The church letters were much like ours today, calling for church membership and spiritual statistics. These letters were read in the public quarterly meetings sessions and the business suggested in them was taken care of in the session. All copies of this and the circular letter were made by hand, the greater part of which was done by Mr. Randall, as clerk.

## *Discipline Was Rare*

The September quarterly meeting was held at Woolwich, and here the question of what to do about Shakerism, the doctrine of Ann Lee, was considered. This false teaching was causing much disturbance among the churches in Maine and New Hampshire. The decision reached was that October 13 should be set aside as a

day of fasting and prayer, "that God would sweep away this delusion by the breath of His Spirit."<sup>2</sup>

In some instances, the quarterly meeting had to take up cases of wayward churches and members and prescribe disciplinary measures. For the most part, however, these were rare cases. Quarterly meeting sessions were largely attended and their proceedings were harmonious. Revivals broke out at some of these meetings and spread to the adjoining towns.

Among the officers of the local church in those early days was that of ruling elder. In one of the quarterly meeting sessions the question came up as to the relations of the ruling elder to the church and ministry.

## *Open Communion Established*

The answer given at the following meeting was "that the ruling elder is a church officer between a deacon and a teaching elder, or pastor: that he might conduct general religious meetings, and by consent of the local church, administer the ordinances in the absence of the teaching elder, or pastor."<sup>3</sup> As the churches took up the settlement of resident pastors, the ruling elder was no longer a necessity, so the office ceased.

It might be well to note here an important question which was settled by vote of the quarterly meeting in September 1784. The question was: "Is it proper to commune with one who, though not having been immersed, gives evidence of a change of heart and daily leads a Christian life?" The answer was "yes," by a unanimous vote, less one.<sup>4</sup>

## *Liberalism Denounced*

Liberalism was prevalent even in those early days and one of its strong points was that salvation had been provided through Christ for everyone and that eventually everyone would be saved. The admonition to avoid this teaching was sent to the Free Will Baptist churches in a quarterly meeting epistle in these words:

<sup>1</sup> LIFE AND INFLUENCES OF BENJAMIN RANDALL, Wiley.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, Chapter 16

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, Chapter 16



"This is a tenet we fear has destroyed its thousands, though it is a groundless doctrine, and can easily be confuted by the scriptures. The plain assertion is before us, that, 'Except ye be converted . . . ye shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.'"<sup>5</sup>

This group of Free Will Baptists was noted from its inception for its unselfishness and cooperativeness. To illustrate, let us cite this example.

### **Cooperative Spirit Shown**

The Calvinistic churches of New Hampshire and Maine had organized into an annual association known as the New Hampshire Baptist Association. The Free Will Baptist group voted to send a letter to this association inviting visiting brethren to their meeting and hoping for continued correspondence. The letter is set out here just as it was written.

To the New Hampshire Association  
Dearly Beloved in the Lord:

Feeling our hearts expand with love for the world, and with complacency toward all, of every name and denomination where we find the divine image, we hereby testify our prayers for your prosperity.

We wish that all shyness, evil surmising, evil thinking in any of your hearts, or our own, against our neighbors or brethren, may be forever expelled. Let us mutually lay aside every weight and set the Lord, the worth of His cause, and immortal souls constantly before our eyes.

Our hearts and our doors have been, and still are, open to messengers of Jesus, of whatever name. We pray for and rejoice in the advancing reign of Him who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

From your sincere friends of the Baptist Quarterly Meeting held at New Durham, New Hampshire, June 3, 1786.

Pelatah Tingley, Clerk.<sup>6</sup>

This letter received an answer and another was sent, which was never answered. Thus ended the idea of comity between the two groups.

### **Service Described**

A final illustration of the popularity and power of the quarterly meeting will suffice before we pass on to the next organizational milestone. In 1787 the church at Weeks Corner, Maine, invited the quarterly meeting to convene there for the December meeting. Notices were sent out to the surrounding towns and the people gladly accepted the invitation to attend and made their plans accordingly. For the actual account I quote from Mr. Wiley.<sup>7</sup>

"On the morning of the first day the people of that section looked out over a level of snow below which fences and other landmarks had modestly sunk out of sight. The most objects in view were the big drifts which blockaded all highways leading to Weeks Corner . . . But those sturdy New Englanders were not to be daunted by

anything so trifling as a snowstorm . . . Churches were well represented, reports were encouraging, business was disposed of with harmony and dispatch, devotional meetings were well sustained, and preaching was attended with much demonstration of divine power.

### **'Full of Angels'**

"Soon after the session got under way there were evidences of approaching revival. A transcript from Mr. Randall's journal is of interest here:

"The season seemed to me to be almost heaven. While I was preaching from Ephesians 4:30, the power of God attended, a great number were struck to the heart and cried for mercy. Then, when I was preaching again from Hebrews 10:3, the same was repeated. At Communion the impressiveness was so great as to be almost unendurable. The house seemed much like being full of angels . . ."

However, all did not go well with the new group. One of the leading churches, the New Durham church, had become a spiritual wreck, brought about by lack of sufficient pastoral care. Mr. Randall was called to come to their rescue. After visiting with the people and probing into the affair, he called for a meeting at which decisive action would take place. When the crowd had gathered, he made the following statement:

### **Church Dissolved**

"Considering how small is the number who stand fast in the truth, in comparison with those who have turned back, and that our covenant agreements are broken by the ungodly conduct of those professors who have become backslidden:

"Agreed that we now regard our church connections dissolved, and proclaim it so to the world. Also, that these doings be publicly read on the two next consecutive Sabbaths."<sup>8</sup>

On March 23 another meeting was held at which 21 persons came forward to form a new church. These began working and praying for revival, which was not long in coming. Soon 67 more were added to the number, three of whom became outstanding ministers. They were John Buzzell, a schoolmaster who soon became Randall's invaluable assistant, Simon Pottle, and Joseph Boody. Under Buzzell's ministry revivals came to Middleton, Brookfield, and Wakefield and new churches were organized in Kittery, Pittsfield and Ossinee Hill, in Maine.

### **Yearly Meeting Organized**

Now let us turn our attention to a most important event in our denominational history, that which concerns the organization of the yearly meeting.

For nine years the quarterly meetings had been a sufficient organizational means of holding Free Will Baptist churches intact. However, the tremendous growth and widespread expansion had caused this means to become outgrown. It had become impos-

sible for the churches to represent themselves in the quarterly meetings as the rule required. Realizing that something should be done to correct this matter, Mr. Randall, along with seven others, most of whom were from his home church, met with other delegates from the New Hampshire churches to devise a plan. The meeting was held May 27, 1792 in Barnstead. The agreement which they reached follows herewith:

"That the name of the present Quarterly Meeting, holding its annual session at New Durham, be changed to that of a Yearly Meeting.

### **Jurisdiction Established**

"That a new class of meetings, each to be held once in three months, be introduced between this and the churches, with the name of Quarterly Meetings.

"That each church attend to all its local business, maintain good discipline, take the scriptural steps with delinquents, to the last admonition; then if unsuccessful, refer the matter to the Quarterly Meeting. That each church, as now, have a clerk to keep its records . . . That the church send its clerk to the Quarterly Meeting, with his book of records, and several other messengers . . . That the Quarterly Meeting adjust all difficulties that may be referred to it by the churches, or arise in its executive sessions, if able; but if not, refer the same to the Yearly Meeting.

"That the Yearly Meeting consist of delegates from the several Quarterly Meetings, hold its sessions annually at times and places agreed upon, adjust all matters referred to it by the Quarterly Meetings, and transact any other legitimate business. It shall devise ways and means for the welfare and efficiency of its constituency, and exercise a general supervision over the entire denomination."<sup>9</sup>

### **Structure Remains Today**

This new system was adopted without a dissenting vote, and Mr. Randall was chosen as recording secretary. While the plan was ideal it took several years of working it before all the bodies involved learned their exact duties and relationship. For more than fifty years, until the organization of the General Conference, the yearly meeting was the highest ecclesiastical body in the denomination.

This pattern of denominational organization set up by the Free Will Baptists soon came to be recognized as the most efficient and democratic form ever inaugurated. In the years that followed some others among the Baptist groups tried to copy it but were never as successful with it as was Mr. Randall.

The one great testimony to its effectiveness can be found in the fact that it yet remains as the basis of our present-day Free Will Baptist denomination.

Next Month—NAMING THE NEW DENOMINATION

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, Chapter 17

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, Chapter 18

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, Chapter 19



The Oak Grove Church at Big Stone Gap, Virginia, stands as a symbol of faith plus works. The building shown above has been completed since the picture was taken and it attests to the faith of seven dedicated women. The church was organized in 1946 with seven charter members—all women. Under the leadership of Rev. L. J. Fields, Norton, who served as the first pastor, and Rev. W. B. Galloway, Big Stone Gap, the congregation began to grow and the little cinder block building had to be expanded to keep pace with the congregation.

The church now has a membership of about 100, with nearly twice that number in Sunday school. Few churches in the town have a better turnout than that. The building shown above was finished early this year and tripled the capacity of the original building. The auditorium will seat 250 people and there are ten classrooms. Rev. W. B. Galloway is pastor of the church.

### New Organization Sponsored By Bryan, Texas Church

BRYAN, Texas—Formal organization of a new Free Will Baptist church here was completed March 2 by a group of twenty-four members who left the mother church for purposes of expansion.

The nucleus of the new congregation received letters and the blessing of the parent church at a conference the night before the organization. "Our membership has grown so large that we were faced with the necessity of either forming another church or adding to our present facilities," Rev. Charles Sapp, pastor, said.

Rev. Zoellers, North Zulch, served as chairman of the organizational council. Also on the council were Rev. H. Ray Berry, Rev. A. F. Halbrook, and Mr. Sapp. The first offering taken, which was received immediately following the organization, was for missions.

The group later extended a call to Mr. Zoellers to serve as pastor. Mrs. Edgar Morris was elected clerk and W. O. Withers, treasurer. Emory Franklin, Edgar Morris and O. L. Lawson, who had been deacons of the parent church, were lettered to the new church and will serve as deacons. Elected as trustees were C. C. Capps, Sam M. Patranella and R. N. Franklin.

Plans are underway to purchase property and begin construction of a new edifice soon. In the meantime services will be held at 306 N. Main Street.

### Camp Schedule Listed By Georgia Director

ASHBURN, Ga.—The summer schedule for Camp Mt. Bethel, located four miles north of here, has been announced by Rev. T. B. Mellette, director. The camp is owned and operated by the Georgia state convention.

The first session to be held will be the minister's and woman's auxiliary Bible conference. Dates of this meeting are June 6-10. Special speaker for this session will be Rev. LaVerne D. Miley, dean of the Free Will Baptist College and prospective medical missionary.

Youth camp activities are scheduled for June and July. Four sessions have been set. The first will be held June 12-17 and the second June 26-July 1.

The third youth camp is scheduled July 24-29 and the final session will be July 31-August 5. Courses in sight reading and the rudiments of music will be the main feature of these two last sessions.

The camp meeting will be held the week of August 1 with Rev. T. G. Hamilton as principal speaker.

The cost is \$5 per session, which includes meals and sleeping quarters in the dormitories. Campers insurance, which is \$1.25 per session, is not included in the fee. Rev. S. T. Shutes is assistant camp director.

### "In Word and Deed"

Everyone knew the teacher of the adult Bible class did not believe in tithing. The Sunday for a tithing lesson arrived. The situation was tense as he faced the class.

According to form he began, "I do not believe in tithing." But the members were not prepared for the next word which was a question, "How many of you believe in tithing?"

Every hand was raised and a smile fell on each face in the room. They were showing the teacher that he was by himself!

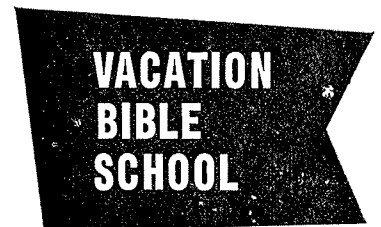
Unexpectedly the teacher came back at them with five little words at rapid fire, "How many of you tithe?"

This filled the room with solemn faces. Only two hands were raised.

"See," continued the teacher, "we are pretty close together on this matter. I do not believe in tithing, and I don't tithe. You believe in tithing and don't tithe!"

Not everyone believes in tithing who says he does. Only those who believe enough to practice tithing, really believe.—Bruce H. Price

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Free Will Baptist Headquarters  
3801 Richland Ave.  
Nashville 5, Tennessee

# How DVBS Helped

## Sue Find the Saviour

William J. Mishler

Sue was enjoying her new embroidery set just received from Aunt Mary when all of a sudden she heard happy voices in the front of her house.

She ran to the front door and saw a parade of cars going by. Each car was decorated with colored paper streamers and flags were waving in the breeze. The cars were filled with boys and girls, and they all seemed very happy as they sang choruses and called out, "Come to our vacation Bible school."

The big posters on the side of the cars let Sue know that the church down on the corner was where the vacation Bible school was to be held. Rushing into the house, Sue called, "Mother, may I attend the vacation Bible school at the church down on the corner." Rather reluctantly mother replied, "Oh, I don't care."

So Sue attended the vacation Bible school for ten days, and being a junior, she became very much interested in the Bible her teacher would read from every day, also the activities and fellowship of the other boys and girls.

On the night of commencement Sue wore her new dress mother had just finished. Mother and father were both present and commented on how beautiful she looked on the stage as she came out to receive her vacation Bible school certificate.

Now Sue's parents had become very indignant toward the church and had not attended either church or Sunday school for years. During the vacation Bible school, Sue had become very much attached to her teacher and also the fellowship of the other children, and she wanted to be with them in Sunday school. So on Sunday morning Sue asked her mother if she might attend Sunday school at the church down on the corner.

"Go ask your father," replied her mother. Running to her father, who was buried in the morning paper, Sue asked, "May I go to Sunday school at the church down on the corner." Glancing up from the paper,

he replied, "Oh, I don't care. Run along, I'm busy."

It was a real thrill to Sue to find she had the same teacher in Sunday school as she had had in vacation Bible school, and even many of the same boys and girls were there. During the class session her teacher talked of the great love of God and the purpose of His sending Jesus into the world and how all of us were born in sin and we must have that sin taken out of our lives. Only the Lord Jesus was able to do this for us, the teacher said, but we must trust Him by faith and believe in Him as we trust and believe in our parents when they make promises to us.

The whole class period was very interesting to Sue. Then the bell rang and all of the children were led by their teachers to the big auditorium for worship. The pastor spoke that morning on the subject, "The Two Ways." As Sue listened she became convinced that according to what her Sunday school teacher had taught her that morning in class that she was on the wrong way.

At the end of the pastor's message he gave an invitation for those who were in the wrong way to come to the altar and get in the right way. Sue very much wanted to get in the right way. So looking up at her teacher, placed her hand in hers and squeezed it tightly as she whispered, "Teacher I want to get in the right way." The teacher replied, "Do you want to now?" "Yes," answered Sue, and both walked from their pew down to the altar and Sue's teacher pointed her to the Lord Jesus.

In the teaching program of the church, I challenge you to make full use of the vacation Bible school because there are many Sue's in your community.

Usually five Sunday school departments are involved in the vacation Bible school task. These are the Nursery, Beginner, Primary, Junior and Intermediate departments. This gives added opportunity for additional teaching for the teachers of these departments. This teaching brings blessings and opens doors which the Sunday teaching program does not afford.

Insight into the pupil's character and personality is gained by teachers which

would never be revealed in a Sunday to Sunday contact. The learning which takes place in the vacation Bible school is so great that it is unfathomable, and no church can afford to neglect so vital a part of its teaching ministry. Yet we have many churches in our denomination that miss this opportunity by not planning and having a school.

A church cannot allow any excuses or set of circumstances to keep them from making available to the children this part of its teaching ministry. Every effort should be made to conduct a vacation Bible school. If food withheld from a child produces rickets; it is logical to expect the same results in the soul when spiritual food is withheld.

Vacation Bible school should be planned in such a way as to revolve around evangelism with the expectation of decisions made for Christ. Many schools over the years have reported a great number of boys and girls who have made definite decisions for the Lord Jesus. Also this will help to give momentum to the church by having this powerful and effective evangelistic agency in its teaching ministry.

The vacation Bible school is of enormous value in other ways, and surely one of vast importance is the stewardship dividends. The stewardship of life, time, talents and money are by-products of the vacation Bible school. Decisions are made, lives are dedicated, and souls are won. One can scarcely imagine the tremendous value the vacation Bible school can be to the local church.

If you have not made plans to have a vacation Bible school this year, I encourage you to do so. Materials are available from either Free Will Baptist Headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, or the Free Will Baptist Press, Ayden, North Carolina.

If you need someone to act as superintendent of your school, we have a list of names of students from the Free Will Baptist Bible College available to help you in this work. Write the Sunday School department for any assistance you may need with leaders or literature. Then go to work and watch the results come pouring in!

### Tomorrow Marching By

I saw tomorrow marching by  
On little children's feet;  
Within their forms and faces read  
Her prophecy complete.

I saw tomorrow look at me  
From little children's eyes,  
And thought how carefully we'd teach  
If we were really wise.

MR. MISHLER is promotional secretary for the Free Will Baptist Sunday School department, Nashville, Tennessee.



# Woman's Auxiliary

"His Command — Our Task"

MRS. H. B. SLOAN, Executive Secretary

## Reports from the Field

LOCKHART, S. C.—An active part in a recent remodeling program for the Free Will Baptist church was shared by the woman's and girl's auxiliaries. The Woman's Auxiliary, under the leadership of Mrs. Connie Lawter, president, raised \$600 to put new steps at the front of the church. They also purchased a choir screen, an altar, and communion table. There are forty-five members in the auxiliary. Mrs. Florece Childers is vice-president and Mrs. Nettie Sealey is treasurer.

The girl's auxiliary purchased pulpit furniture to match the altar and communion furniture.

\* \* \*

MOULTRIE, Ga.—The woman's auxiliary of the Midway church observed the pre-Easter week of prayer with services held in different homes. Average attendance was 22.

\* \* \*

WARREN, Ark.—A stewardship study course was conducted by the woman's auxiliary of the Fairview church the first week in April. Rev. Herman Greenwood, pastor, taught the course using the book, "All of Mine for Him." The auxiliary also sponsored pre-Easter prayer services at the church with Mrs. Sallie White, program-prayer chairman, in charge.

\* \* \*

HUNTSVILLE, Texas—A recent study course on personal soul winning was the last of five conducted the past six months by the woman's auxiliary at Pine Prairie church. The YPA and GTA organized a year ago have grown in membership to an enrollment of 20 and 15. These groups will sponsor one young person to attend the summer encampment while the woman's auxiliary will send an adult counsellor to the camp.

Officers of the auxiliary are Mrs. Opal Koehl, president; Mrs. Phil Wood, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Anna Belle Pierce, enlistment chairman; Mrs. Fulton, youth auxiliary chairman; Mrs. Martha Mize, study course chairman; Mrs. H. R. Berry, program chairman, and Mrs. Minnie Smith, benevolence chairman.

\* \* \*

CLAREMORE, Okla.—A woman's auxiliary was organized March 24 at the New Hope church, north of Claremore. Eight members were present. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Edith Bowen, president; Mrs. LaVena Kendall, vice-presi-

dent, and Mrs. Vera Lee, secretary-treasurer.

\* \* \*

PORTER, Ohio—Two new members were added to the woman's auxiliary here at the last meeting, according to Mrs. Arthur Noxsel, president. The auxiliary, which was organized in 1942 by Mrs. Lizzie McAdams, has been active ever since. Plans are now underway for a vacation Bible school to be held this summer by the group.

\* \* \*

HOBBS, N. Mex.—A Go-Tell auxiliary was organized here March 4 with nine members. Officers elected included Gwen Gipson, president; Carolyn Webb, vice-president; Irene Hughes, secretary, and Kay Gartman, treasurer.

\* \* \*

BRISTOW, Okla.—Mrs. Paul Pursell, youth chairman of the WNAC, has issued a reminder regarding the annual stewardship oration contest sponsored by the national organization. The contest will be held during the annual convention July 11-12 at Tulsa, Okla., she said.

Each state may represent with one contestant who must be between twelve and eighteen years of age. The oration must be on stewardship with a time limit of ten minutes. Names of contestants and oration titles should be sent to Mrs. Pursell, Box 997, Bristow, Okla., not later than June 15. A list of rules will also be sent on request.

\* \* \*

SEARCY, Ark.—The woman's auxiliary of the First church in Searcy has decided to install a kitchen in the church as their project of 1955. A committee of four was appointed by the president, Mrs. Lawnie Coffman, to purchase the equipment necessary.

\* \* \*

FLAT RIVER, Mo.—Both a YPA and GTA was organized at the Fellowship church during March. The GTA was organized with eleven members. Mrs. Willa Mae Barker and Mrs. Agnes Smith are sponsors of the group. The YPA was organized with sixteen members with Mr. and Mrs. Dean Burpo as sponsors. The GTA will meet the first Tuesday night of each month with the YPA meeting the second Tuesday night.

\* \* \*

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.—The state auxiliary workshop held March 15 at the

### Changes Planned

As a result of the reader poll taken last month, we are planning to make some changes in the Woman's Auxiliary page beginning next month. Some of these changes were also suggested by the executive committee of the WNAC which met in Nashville during March.

One of these changes will be a more concise presentation of the news items. Instead of devoting a paragraph or two to each item, it will be reduced to the bare essentials of the story and written in a sentence or two. Most of the readers who wrote us said they liked the auxiliary news, but felt we were giving too much space to non-essentials.

The additional space which will then be available will be used for inspirational and instructive articles. This has also been your request. We have asked Mrs. H. B. Sloan and Mrs. C. F. Bowen, executive secretary and promotional director of the WNAC, to be responsible for having these articles prepared. We hope—and think—you will like the changes.

Capitol Hill church was attended by over 100, according to reports. Four district conventions were represented. Theme for the day was "Enlarging Our Efforts through Instruction." 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."

\* \* \*

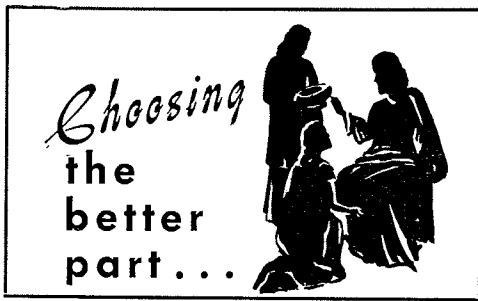
NASHVILLE, Tenn.—"It is possible that we will be able to begin filling orders for the new *Manual of Methods* by June 1." Mrs. H. B. Sloan, executive secretary of the WNAC, said this week. The manuscript was delivered to the printer in April, she said, and orders are already being received. They will be filled as soon as the books are delivered.

The new manual was written by Rev. and Mrs. C. F. Bowen. Mr. Bowen is on the faculty of Free Will Baptist Bible College and teaches the course, "The Church and Its Auxiliaries." Mrs. Bowen is promotional director for the WNAC.

\* \* \*

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Although less than a year old, the woman's auxiliary of the First church has a very impressive list of accomplishments. It has presented the church with a communion service set, offering plates, contributed \$50 to the church building fund, purchased a filing cabinet for the church office, and tithes its monthly income to home missions.

All of the members observe the 9 a.m. hour of prayer. Mrs. E. E. Wood is president.



MRS. EUNICE EDWARDS

Children nowadays have more toys than they know what to do with. They have such an assortment that I've noticed it is difficult for them to decide which one to choose for the moment. I have observed, too, that as often as not, a child will put aside all his toys in preference to a discarded box or can.

And yet with all this abundance of toys, children continue to cry and fret. There still isn't enough entertainment to satisfy their wants.

God brings a charge against the children of Israel in these words, "... the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play" (Exodus 32:6). Paul repeats this charge and adds, "... neither be ye idolators, as were some of them . . ." (I Corinthians 10:71). Apparently, God feels that giving material things precedence over spiritual values is idolatry.

The sin of Israel is the sin of today—turning from worship of God to bow at the altar of materialism. When we love any object above our love for God, whether it be our children, ourselves, or our "toys", we are idolators.

Many twentieth century women are like children crying among their toys. Our homes are equipped with more time-saving gadgets than ever before, but we want more gadgets. We have all that anyone could normally desire to have, but we fret and whine for more. We have more leisure time than the women of any other generation, but we don't know how to use it.

We are so busy playing with our "toys" that we can't find time to attend the mid-week prayer meeting or Bible study classes. Governed only by impulses and feelings rather than by logic or reason, we live as creatures of the moment instead of eternity. Babies may continue to cry among their toys, but we are adults!

Why not try to develop the habit of appreciation for that which we have? It is possible, though no doubt difficult, in this gluttonous generation. Instead of fretting over trifles and crying for more "toys," cultivate a sense of gratitude for the *real* blessings in our daily experiences.

If you are wasting your life on trifles, why not seek God's will? Look about at the needs of others and then forget your cares and trifles in service to them. Find a goal—live for a purpose—and you will be a healthier, happier person.

# Voices from the Crosses

The greatest story ever told is recorded in the twenty-third chapter of St. Luke and summarized in the last nine verses. A busy day was almost finished, the trial of Jesus was over and the people were in pandemonium over the unjust decision of Pontius Pilate.

The Master had been shifted from one authority to another and had proved himself to be the guiltless Son of God to every one of them.

Finally, the death march began. A mixed multitude followed the Saviour and two thieves to their dying place, the hill called Calvary. On this lonely hill was soon raised three crosses. It seemed that truth and justice had left the earth and the imps of hell were riding high in the clouds of heaven.

All attention was centered on the middle cross. Ridicule from priests and scribes and elders exploded in the charged atmosphere. "He saved others, himself he cannot save," they mocked. But they little realized that they were giving utterance to a profound divine truth. It was because he came to save others that Jesus could not save himself.

In the last few moments of life the three men on those crosses discussed the most

important thing in life, the plan of redemption.

We listen in as one thief rails on Christ, and says, "If thou be Christ, save thyself and us . . ." The last part of his statement is well spoken, but his first few words, "If thou be Christ . . .", are in vain. When a sinner comes to Jesus he must say without doubt and in simple faith, "Thou *art* the Christ!"

We move to the opposite cross. The thief makes an honorable confession and says, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." In these words he makes a glorious expression of faith not only in the Saviour, but in his eternal kingdom.

As we listen to the voice from the middle cross, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise," there comes over us a glorious feeling just to know that if we spend our last few hours on earth with Christ, just a few moments after we leave it we can be with Him in the mansions above.

The materialist says, "There is no life after this." The philosopher says, "There ought to be one." The Christian affirms in Christ, "There is a full life after death, for from the cross of Calvary God fashioned a key to heaven."—Willard C. Day

FROM IT A KEY





# Glancing Around the States . . .

BEN BARRUS, News Editor

## **"Song Fest" Held At Fairborn Church**

FAIRBORN, Ohio.—A "Song Fest" was held at the Fairborn church February 27th. This is a monthly event and for the past few months capacity crowds have attended.

## **Building Completed At Monett Church**

MONETT, Mo.—A new church plant was recently completed by the Monett church. The new work includes an auditorium with a seating capacity of 300, 12 Sunday school rooms, a church office, a pastor's study, and a library. The property has parking facilities for 200 automobiles. Rev. James Davis serves the church as pastor.

## **Walters Resigns Ardmore Church**

ARDMORE, Okla.—Rev. Carl Walters has resigned the Ardmore church effective April 6th. Future plans for Mr. Walters have not been announced.

## **Fairborn Group Host to Franklin County Conference**

FAIRBORN, Ohio.—The Franklin County conference convened at the Fairborn church on March 12th. Rev. Herbert Hinson served as moderator. Rev. Andrew Workman, evangelist for the state of Ohio, brought the morning message, and Rev. Bert Miller preached the afternoon message.

## **Kannapolis Pastors Organize Into Ministerial Association**

KANNAPOLIS, N. C.—Ministers of Kannapolis and surrounding areas organized a ministerial association which held its first regular meeting March 5th. The purpose of the organization is to coordinate the work of the denomination in Kannapolis and surrounding areas. The constitution and by-laws for the association was adopted at a call meeting on February 19. Officers of the new group include Rev. Seldon Bullard, president; Rev. William Calvert, vice-president; Rev. Donald Upright, secretary; and Rev. W. A. Todd, treasurer. The meetings will be held at the Elwood Lane church at Kannapolis.

## **Claremore Group Organize Church**

CLAREMORE, Okla.—The New Hope church of Claremore was organized January 2nd by Rev. G. Cecil Bowen and at the present time lists 30 members. Officers of the new organization include Rev. G. Cecil Bowen, pastor; Lee Lowe, deacon;

Lela Dikeman, treasurer; and Edith Bowen, clerk.

## **Basement Built By Cramerton Church**

GASTONIA, N. C.—A new basement has been completed at the Cramerton church which includes seven classrooms, and an assembly room with a seating capacity of about 200. The basement was officially opened on Sunday, April 10th.

## **Midway Church Holds Dedication**

MOULTRIE, Ga.—Dedication services for the new church at Midway were conducted April 3. Rev. L. S. Anthony of Thomaston preached the dedicatory sermon. Rev. Mance Cason is pastor.

## **Virginians Hold League Rally At Norfolk Church**

NORFOLK, Va.—Two-hundred fifty people were present at a league rally held at Norfolk, Friday, March 4th. During the service, twelve young people dedicated their lives for Christian service.

## **Twin Institutes Featured In Oklahoma Churches**

OKLOHOMA CITY, Okla.—Twin institutes for the state Sunday school workers were held in Oklahoma May 2nd and 3rd. Rev. N. R. Smith was chairman of the group at McAlester and Rev. Ben Scott presided at the Oklahoma City meeting. Rev. William Mishler brought the message to both groups. Teachers for the institutes included Rev. William Mishler, Edmond Warner, Jo Tipton, Gladys Elliston, Kathleen Jones and Rev. John H. West.

## **Willis Marks Third Year At Paintsville**

PAINTSVILLE, Ky.—Sunday, March 13, marked the third anniversary of Rev. Homer Willis as pastor of the Southside church. During the three years, sixty new members have been enrolled into the church.

## **Church Purchased By Shelton Group**

SHELTON, Neb.—A new church has been purchased by the new mission at Shelton which is led by Rev. G. C. Lee, Jr. Mr. Lee wishes to acknowledge the following donors who assisted in paying for the new plant: Alva Hall, Cookeville, Tenn.; Fred Griffin, Grenada, Miss.; Clyde Goodson and Carolyn Goodson, Calhoun City, Miss.; Tom Pryor, Calhoun City, Miss.; McGregor's Chapel church, Pontotoc, Miss.; L.

L. Pryor, Calhoun City, Miss.; Free Will Baptist church of Greenville, N. C.; Leadington Free Will Baptist church, Leadington, Mo.; Highland Park church woman's auxiliary, Highland Park, Mich.; Bill Hill, Nashville, Tenn.; Antioch Church, Pontotoc, Miss.; Billy Morris, Four Oaks, N. C.; Ozias church woman's auxiliary, Georgia; Philip Crabtree, Ohio; Shady Grove church league, Morrisville, N. C.; Hickory Chapel, Ahsokie, N. C.; Fellowship church, Flat River, Mo.; South Side church woman's auxiliary, Paintsville, Ky.; Eskle Baker, Nashville, Tenn.; Priceville church, East Tupelo, Miss.; Dorothy Laycock, Jacksonville, N. C.; Oak Grove, Scheller, Ill.

## **Extension School Held By Gaston Ministers**

GASTONIA, N. C.—A one-week extension school was held at the Cramerton church February 28-March 4. The school was sponsored by the Gaston County ministerial association and conducted by Rev. Leroy Forlines, instructor at the Free Will Baptist Bible College. Rev. Roy Rikard was host pastor.

## **Attendance Pins Given at Heads**

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Attendance pins were given to 39 persons recently at Heads church. They include 13 first-year pins, 8 second-year pins, 7 third-year pins, 7 fourth-year pins and 4 fifth-year pins. Rev. Bob King pastors the Heads church.

## **Special Services at Cofer's For Student Loan Fund**

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—"Student Day" was recognized at Cofer's Chapel April 17th for the purpose of raising funds to be used as a student loan fund. Offerings from Sunday school and church totaled \$666. Rev. L. Welch is pastor of the church.

## **Lawton Group Moves Into New Building**

LAWTON, Okla.—The Lawton church has moved into its new building which was recently purchased from the Nazarene group. The purchase price was \$6,400, according to the pastor, Rev. De Arthur Yandell.

## **Bible Now in 1,084 Languages**

NEY YORK, N. Y.—Some part of the Bible has been published in 1,084 languages and dialects as of December 31, 1954, according to a statement issued by the American Bible Society. The whole Bible has been published in 206 languages, a com-

# Glancing Around the States . . .

plete Testament in 260, and a Gospel or other whole book in 618 languages. There are some 80 additional languages in which short passages or collections of passages have been published, but in which no complete book of the Bible has appeared.

## Lewis Avenue Has Dedication Service

TULSA, Okla.—Dedicatory services were conducted at the Lewis Avenue church on Easter Sunday. Rev. Harry E. Staires and Rev. Melvin Bingham, both former pastors spoke at the services. Rev. E. M. Kennedy is the present pastor.

## West Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

TULSA, Okla.—Rev. John H. West, celebrated his 10th anniversary as pastor of the First church April 1. A ten-weeks campaign was held with 60 decisions and 39 additions to the church. The revival was held by Rev. O. T. Dixon of Russellville, Arkansas.

## Rally Day At Kerman

KERMAN, Calif.—Sunday School Rally Day was held at the Kerman church on Sunday, March 27. The meting was highlighted by a record attendance of 166. Rev. Joe Mooneyham of Tulare was the guest speaker.

## Radio-TV Board Meets at Nashville

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The Radio-TV Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists met Tuesday, March 28 at

the Free Will Baptist Bible College. The following officers were elected. Rev. Ralph Staten, chairman; and Rev. J. D. O'Donnell, secretary.

## New Baptistry At Hobbs Church

HOBBS, N. Mex.—A new baptistry has just been completed at the Hobbs church, according to its pastor, Rev. L. C. Pinson.

## Friendship Church Reorganizes Congregation

EUFAULA, Ala.—The Friendship church was reorganized at a special call meeting on April 17. Officers elected include the Rev. Roy O'Donnell, pastor; Abe Norton and W. C. McClenny, deacons; and Rex Morris, clerk. New officers and teachers were also elected for the Sunday school and league. A new constitution was drawn up and adopted by the church.

## Minor Takes Over Children's Home

RINGLING, Okla.—Rev. James F. Minor has been named superintendent of the Oklahoma children's home by the state executive board. Before assuming his new duties in March, Mr. Minor was pastor at Odessa, Texas.

## Regional Directors Appointed by NAE

WHEATON, Ill.—Two new regional directors for the National Association of Evangelicals have been approved by the association according to announcement by Rev. George L. Ford, associate executive director. Dr. Walter L. Penner assumed the

responsibility of the southwest regional offices in Los Angeles, April 1.

Rev. Mahlon Macy will begin his work as director of the central region, September 1. This region embraces the states of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Colorado. The office will be established in central Kansas.

## Convention Theme Is Announced

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Theme for the nineteenth annual session of the national association of Free Will Baptists will be "Our Mission High Fulfilling," according to a recent announcement from the executive office. The sessions will be held July 12-14 in Tulsa, Okla.

Special features on the program will include a mortgage-burning ceremony and dedication of the headquarters building if the "Loyalty Gift" Appeal succeeds in raising sufficient money to retire the mortgage, a recognition of the silver anniversary of Rev. and Mrs. T. H. Willey, pioneer missionaries, and special prayer meetings preceding each service.

## S.S. Average Reports

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—After this month, CONTACT will discontinue listing the Sunday school averages. Most of our readers have concurred in this decision since so few Sunday schools report from month to month.

Instead of this feature, the staff plans to work with the national Sunday school department in producing a section of Sunday school helps and suggestions which will be featured three or four times during the year.

Averages for March are given below:

	S.S.	LAGU
<b>ARKANSAS</b>		
Pocahontas .....	184	
Phillips Chapel, Springdale .....	143	
Mt. Harmony, Saffell .....	67	18
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>		
Turlock .....	155	96
First church, Kerman .....	135	67
<b>MICHIGAN</b>		
Highland Park .....	450	
<b>MISSOURI</b>		
First church, Flat River .....	158	65
Richwood .....	71	34
Farmington .....	49	
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>		
Swannanoa .....	203	40
Hickory Chapel, Aloskie .....	128	36
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>		
Capitol Hill, Oklahoma City .....	235	
Lawnwood, Tulsa .....	183	
Tecumseh .....	116	46
Wewoka .....	115	
First church, Lawton .....	45	
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>		
Beulah, Pamplico .....	162	110
<b>TENNESSEE</b>		
First church, Elizabethton .....	193	
First church, Erwin .....	174	28
Bethlehem, Ashland City .....	107	41
Wooddale, Knoxville .....	94	
<b>TEXAS</b>		
Brightlight, Bryan .....	51	

## Revival Campaigns

Church	Evangelist	Pastor	Dates	Dec.	Add.
Lewis Ave. church, Tulsa, Okla.	Pixley Brothers	E. M. Kennedy	3-7-	13	4
Hobbs, N. Mex.	W. V. McPhail	L. C. Pinson	4-3-13	5	14
Johnston City, Ill.	W. S. Mooneyham	Claude Childers	4-10-17	14	
Hazel Park, Mich.	Harvey E. Willis	Mark M. Lewis	4-10-17	6	4
Bixby, Okla.	Bill Ketchum	Bill Ketchum	April	119	38
Richmond, Calif.	Elvis Priest	Dean Moore	3-27-4-3	4	6
Philadelphia church, Detroit, Mich.	John E. Floyd	John Floyd, Jr.	4-10-24		
First church, Bryan, Texas	Ralph Lightsey	Charles Sapp	4-3-		
Weleetka, Okla.	H. E. Staires	Ernest Harrison	April	32	
Lockhart, S. C.	Frank Thompson	A. F. Lawter	3-13-26	39	9
Phillip's Chapel church, Springdale, Ark.	Lester Hilton and Cecil Garrison	Tommy Day	3-17-28	13	
Henryetta, Okla.	Robert Duncan	Homer Young	4-18-		
First church, Shawnee, Okla.	Roy Hearon	Roy Hearon	4-10-23		
First church, Joplin, Mo.	Fred Kirby	Paul Williams	3-21-4-2	2	4
Fourth church, St. Louis, Mo.	Harvey E. Hill	Bill Turnbough	March	5	
First church, Erwin, Tenn.	Harvey E. Hill	W. C. Clearman	4-11-		
First church, Searcy, Ark.	Eustace Riggs	Lawnie Coffman	4-10-24		
Wewoka, Okla.	Bailey Thompson	N. R. Smith	3-13-23	7	9
Oak Grove church, Eastover, S. C.	A. L. Frier	J. A. Frier	March	4	
Allen, Okla.	Weldon Wood	Bailey Thompson	4-10-		



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**INFORMED**—for the Bible sadly declares “My people perish for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6). Accurate information is necessary for intelligent action. An informed congregation is a working congregation.

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