

# Contact

OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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## The Centuries Record A Warning





# The Preacher and False Degrees

Everyone appreciates accomplishment and all of us are willing to bestow honor upon him who deserves and earns it. But few of us appreciate mediocrity, especially when it is masked under a false cloak of superiority. This false cloak is doubly obnoxious when found within the ministry.

For preachers of the gospel to parade themselves under the title of a false degree is a lack of honor and integrity. It is also a slam in the face of those men who have respectably earned such degrees.

Every individual who understands much about the educational world knows that the road to an honorable degree is a long,

arduous one; and all who have earned one justly wear it with pride. But the individual who wears after his name the false degree he has purchased or "earned" from one of the "quickie" doctrate schools is doing nothing other than helping to tear down all respectability and meaning from such degrees and can hardly be justified for such action.

This writer was quite shocked recently to see the name of one of our ministers with a Th.D and D.D. both tacked on to the end. It was a shock because it is well known that the individual has not even entered a reputable seminary, much less

graduated from one. Of course, if this were an isolated instance, it would not be as serious; but this is happening over and over as many of our ministers are receiving literature from these "fly-by-night" schools which offer such titles for a few dollars plus a few months of "effort."

These fictitious universities are readily recognized by their names and addresses. The names may sound something like "Mt. Everest Seminary" or perhaps "Road to Galilee Seminary" and the address is usually a very small town or a business address in a large town. One of the more popular ones is operated from the garage of the man who is listed as the "founder." Some of them use a business address only as a place to receive mail since it makes them look respectable. Upon investigation, it is usually found that the "school" does not even maintain an office at the address but uses it simply for a letter drop. The "office" is in the individual's home.

From these counterfeit institutions (and for the price of \$50, although the amount may vary a little) any preacher, regardless of his educational qualifications, can get the doctor's degree and apparently any other kind he may desire.

There is no short cut to success. Neither is there a short cut to an honorable degree. To earn the standard Th.D. takes at least eight or nine years of college and seminary work. The standard Ph.D. takes almost as long. In all fairness it must be said that in addition to these earned degrees, there are a few legitimate honorary doctoral degrees which may be conferred upon an individual by a legitimate college or university. These are usually given for outstanding achievement in some field. Such are the D.D., the Litt.D., and the L.H.D.

There is no way other than this to merit wearing such a title after one's name. Especially is there no such thing as earning such a degree by a correspondence course. The despicable schools which are offering such "degrees" are nothing more than confidence rackets impinging upon the trusting or ignorant minister.

These degrees are counterfeit and ministers who are wearing such titles should, in due deference to those who are honestly earning such degrees with long years of work, take them off.

MORE THAN A PAPER BOOK





AS OBSERVERS OF THE growth of this amazing revolution in Cuba called the "26th of July", we have analyzed the great simplicity of the inspirer of the movement, Fidel Castro. We have seen him dare to expose himself hourly to some foolish assassin under the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista as he goes about in complete freedom. We have been amazed at his great humility, his refusal of what many consider the glories of conquest, and his fanatical dedication to see inaugurated a pure democracy. His high moral ideals cannot be disputed and the conformity of the humblest country man to the leaders in civic and business circles.

Now boys in Scout uniforms direct the traffic in Havana. Big "barbudos" (bearded men—some of them white-bearded, others just children) dressed in ill-fitting uniforms slouch through the streets carrying their trusted machine guns in every manner. A rag-tag army comparable to that in the early history of the United States did the seemingly impossible feat of overthrowing a highly-trained military machine. We are hoping that militarism has suffered a defeat from which it will never recover because the curse of Cuba and many other Latin American nations is the force of arms. The "26th of July" is not an army, but a movement of country men—men who were made in the blazing presence of torture, hunted like wild beasts, crawling into the caves of the cliff country.

We Americans who live here have been deeply grieved at the indifference of the United States to the tragic struggle, the seeming sympathy for an absolute dictator. We bow our heads in shame when we realize that our country furnished or at least made easy to acquire the arms for a cruel dictator. Many millions robbed from the Cuban people were deposited in the United States.

We were shocked at the callous criticism of the American press due to an apparent lack of investigation. Just a few newspapermen risked their necks to come into the interior. Certainly the stream of tourists came to Havana, but saw nothing amiss because of the false fronts in this great city of political crime. I am not blaming the American people. I am an American and I know what the name means, having lived and traveled throughout all the American republics. You did not know the facts; now we are going to pay for the lack of understanding. I am particularly interested in presenting our personal observations of what might be falsely called "blood baths" or personal revenge by those who are not in the midst. These observations are those of a minister of the gospel and a loyal American who would protest at any evidence of injustice.

The administrator of the local prison is an evangelical minister whose heart is deeply moved at the terrible fate awaiting those who have murdered the poorer Cuban

Hearing the last confessions and prayers of Cuban war prisoners, Missionary Thomas Willey tells how

## WE MINISTER AT DAYBREAK

people by torture, hanging, bayoneting and raping. The jail used by the army and police as a place of torture and death was a dark, filthy dungeon. The beds were sagging iron springs with no mattress or covers. At the same time a new and very sanitary prison stood empty for one or two years. The new administrator immediately demanded that the prisoners be moved and this new prison became the home of over 400 former police, soldiers, and spies accused of crimes. As a group of evangelical ministers, we have been invited as often as we desire to preach or offer spiritual counsel. This was never permitted under the dictator, Batista.

As a result of the horrible crimes which had been committed against the people, we felt there might be a reign of terror and revenge. We were amazed and have continued to be at the absence of personal revenge. We have been deeply moved to see the kindness and tenderness to those who so brutally beat them. There is law and order and a sense of freedom not before experienced in Cuba. Many of the army men under the former government who had no criminal charges against them have been integrated into the present army. This should be sufficient evidence of good will and justice.

We have gone to great lengths to be present at the trials. Enormous quantities of evidence have been produced of the sadistic practices by the militia and police. One very brutal soldier confessed at the trial last night that he had killed eight defenseless persons. His conscience would not let him keep silent in the face of death.

God has given us the sad but important ministry of witnessing to the hundreds of political prisoners. Many of these are proven criminals; many more will go free for want of sufficient evidence. Probably five per cent will meet death by the firing squad some daybreak. Their crimes have been confessed. They have mercilessly beaten innocent people—extracted their fingernails by the roots, jabbed out their eyes with ice picks, beat them with whips, demasculized men and raped women. Many have been killed by bayonet and laid out where the public could see their mutilated

bodies. Others have been hanged by the side of the road.

It is to those responsible for these crimes that we have been preaching—sometimes two and three times a week and as many as three sermons, one after another. Some have confessed to as many as from 28 to 100 crimes when they stopped counting. There is no doubt of their guilt. We ask ourselves what could ever have been the reason. They do not look like monsters.

They themselves give the indisputably true answer. A high officer in Batista's army came to us and said, "Senores, for the first time in my life I have heard this great, good news. If we had had this teaching, none of us would now be in this sad state. Please preach this in the streets, in the country, in the cities. This is the only hope for Cuba."

There are five large galleries in the prison with an average of 150 men in each. They have been there over a month with nothing to read or any way to pass the time. They have nothing to do but think. They are not permitted to gamble; this is the vice of the Cuban.

We have gone to them with New Testaments and they are reading and rereading. It is the one and only book. We have asked how many have had the Word of God is some form before our coming. Ninety-nine per cent of them say that until they were arrested they had never come in contact with the gospel. They are hearing their first message of salvation. When the suggestion is made to pray, every head is bowed. When a proposal is made to accept Christ, every hand is raised. We dare not say that all are converted, but they are reading the Word over and over, day after day.

One fine young man (whom we hope is innocent of any crime) said, "I have suffered two great blows in my life. I have always been a devout Catholic as has been my family. I have been a Knight of Columbus, yet no priest has been here to visit me. My church has forgotten men. From now on I shall be a Free Will Baptist. My government has failed me. Those with the greatest guilt have fled. You have been our only encouragement."

(Continued on page 5)



# The PREACHER and His TIME

Next to his faith, time is the preacher's most important asset. Yet so many waste it. So much depends upon the preacher's right use of time that it can truthfully be stated that the preacher's success depends as much upon perspiration as upon inspiration. This is true because inspiration comes in the midst of perspiration.

Why are some people able to get so much more done than others? Why do some people's job seem to flow smoothly while others have all kinds of difficulties? Ability will account for some of the difference. Circumstances also make a difference. But we believe that the biggest difference lies in the way they use their time.

The pastor's time has to be divided between four major jobs that he has to do: Preparation of sermons, pulpit ministration or preaching, administration of the church, and visitation. Many will argue that the pastor should not have the administration of the business affairs of the church. They may be right. But the fact remains that he has to do it, so he might as well plan for it.

In order to accomplish the most in the time available, we feel that the pastor should make a daily schedule and follow it. Of course, there will be interruptions and irregularities, but these should be the exception rather than the rule. Too many preachers run around in circles, tire themselves out, accomplish little or nothing and feel that they have worked hard. Often the same amount of work if properly planned and executed will accomplish more and tire the preacher less.

Some preachers feel that because they are called of God, they should not plan their work. Should one in the will of God do less planning than one in the world? Is God's work not as important as the work of a business man or salesman? We believe that it is.

The daily schedule of a pastor might look something like this. This is a merely a suggestion. Each pastor should work out his own schedule that fits him and his circumstances.

By Floyd B. Cherry

7:00 a.m.—get up, shave, get dressed. Many preachers, especially in rural areas get the reputation of being late risers. This is not good.

7:30 a.m.—Family devotions and breakfast.



8:30 a.m.—Arrive at the study. Whether the study is in the church or the home, it is important that the preacher realize that he is going to work.

9:00 a.m.—Private prayer and devotional study of the Bible. This is important because it is one thing to study the Bible to prepare a message for others and another thing to study it to find God's message for your own heart.

10:00 a.m.—Read the morning mail and answer letters. Too many preachers have the reputation of being slow about answering their mail.

10:30 a.m.—Sermon preparation. All a preacher's life is spent in sermon preparation, but some time should be spent each day specifically planning and preparing for the pulpit ministry of the church.

12:00 noon—Lunch.

1:00 p.m.—Read the daily newspaper and relax. This is not time wasted, but will enable the preacher to do a better job the rest of the day.

2:00 p.m.—Visitation.

5:00 p.m.—Return home, rest, relax and spend some time with the family. The preacher's family is often neglected.

7:30 p.m.—Some time can be given to a church meeting or the administrative affairs of the church.

This schedule has many things wrong with it. There is no time allotted for hospital visitation. If possible, this should be worked in during the morning. Neither does it take into account the many unusual things that become usual in the life of a preacher such as funerals, weddings, and calls to visit in homes at all hours.

In addition to this general schedule which the preacher has prepared for himself, every preacher should spend a few minutes each day planning the details of his work. Some do this at night before retiring and some early in the morning. The time it is done is not so important, just so it is done.

## Sermon Preparation

In the suggestive schedule, we have given one and a half hours a day to sermon preparation. Many preachers spend less than this amount of time, but we feel that this should be the minimum.



Many books have been written by outstanding preachers giving their methods of sermon preparation. These are interesting and inspirational. But each preacher should develop his own method. One that is suited to his personality, training and circumstances.

Regardless of the preacher's method of sermon preparation his messages should be determined by the needs of his people. This need will become apparent as he moves among them from day to day. However, we hasten to add that the preacher should not use the pulpit to show his disagreement with members of the church with whom he has had a cross.

God calls preachers to preach the gospel; but their concepts of the gospel widely differ. Some preachers rant over some modern sin; then later some pious brother who has neither the desire nor courage to commit the sin will come up and say, "That was the gospel truth." The exhausted preacher will usually say with a sigh, "Yes, that was the gospel truth, and I was called to preach it."

Preachers should denounce sin—ancient and modern, but such denunciations are not the gospel as Paul defined it in I Corinthians 15:1-4.

Whenever it becomes necessary for the preacher to denounce specific sins, he should do so out of love and meekness. Let us remember Paul's admonition: "Brethren if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such and one in the spirit of meekness, considering thy self lest thou also be tempted."

In the preparation of sermons, the preacher, should not ride a hobby, but be sure that his church has a well-rounded pulpit ministry. For example, some preachers ride the hobby horse of prophecy and preach on it constantly to the exclusion of other things. Prophecy is wonderful, but your church needs other things also.

As early in the week as possible, the pastor should decide on his sermon topics for the next Sunday and begin to get something definite on paper. By Thursday the final outline should be ready so that Friday can be spent in going over the outline and committing it to memory.

Every sermon should have a specific purpose. Of course, all our sermons have a general purpose like reaching the lost or instructing the church, but every sermon should have a specific purpose. Too many preachers preach because it is expected rather than because they have a specific message to deliver. If you will spend some time with this question you will find your sermon preparation much easier: "What do I expect to accomplish with this sermon?" Make your answer specific.

### ***The Pulpit Ministry***

No time for this was suggested in the daily schedule because this time is usually

## **We Minister At Daybreak**

(Continued from page 3)

This morning at a very early hour before daybreak I went to the firing range to be with those condemned to die by the firing squad. The execution has been postponed three times now which gives us more time to preach, teach and pray for and with them. One by one six of these came confessing in deep contrition, "I have sinned; pray God for my forgiveness. I trust an only Saviour." An ex-army officer said, "I is alright, Mr. Willey, I am going to glory. I am ready to meet my Maker." He had never heard the gospel until we gave him a New Testament, but he read it day and night and died with it in his hand.

The sad and difficult task is to take their few belongings wrapped in a wilted handkerchief with a parting message to their

mothers, wives and children. As ministers of the gospel, we have tried to fulfill that task.

The trials go on day after day, dealing out justice. We point above, calling them to repentance that they might know how great is the mercy of God to sinful men. Many will go free, but many will die. Some night word will come to be at the firing range for their last prayer and confession. We want to lead these to a victorious death in Christ. The sad fact we face is that they do not know the least thing of the gospel and we have only a few hours.

I realize that these are sad facts, but they are to encourage you to pray. Pray for the prisoners and pray for us as we minister to them at daybreak.

## **CHURCH OFFICIALS VISIT CUBA**

Two officials of the National Association of Free Will Baptists have visited the Cuban mission field since the revolution and brought back reports of the great opportunity for the gospel now that the little island has achieved its freedom.

These were Ray Turnage, general director of Free Will Baptist League work, and Rev. Rolla Smith, chairman of the Foreign Mission Board. Mr. Smith visited the Union Theological Seminary at Matanzas and talked with the president of the seminary,

Alfonso Roderquez, who is credited with saving the life of Fidel Castro. A group was planning to kill Castro upon his arrival in Havana after the rebel victory, but was persuaded by Roderquez to give up their plans to kill the revolutionary hero.

Mr. Smith said that Protestant church leaders in Cuba are greatly disturbed about the deteriorating relations between the United States and Cuba over United States criticism of the revolutionary regime.

on Sunday except for the midweek prayer meeting, funerals, weddings, etc. In many respects, this is the most important work of the ministry. It is the one thing that God called us to do.

With regard to his pulpit ministry, the preacher must learn not to take the praise or criticism of people too seriously. When the brother said that he had been listening to preaching for fifty years and had never preaching like that before, it is possible that he never had and never wants to again. When Sister Easyweep cried all during the sermon, she didn't say why, so we are left to wonder. A preacher once was so elated because a woman cried during his sermon that he asked her why. She replied that when she was a child on the farm her family owned a beloved old gray mule and the preaching had reminded her so much of the mule's braying that it made her homesick.

Above all, preachers should be themselves in the pulpit. Study other men, ad-

mire them if you like; but when you come to preach, be yourself. Too many young preachers bury all their originality and personality and become sickly imitations of someone else.

The sensationalist can draw a crowd for awhile, but eventually even the soul of P. T. Barnum's "one every minute" will tire of superficiality and crave something genuine. All the sensation needed in the pulpit is the gospel of Christ and the things related to his cause, preached under the power of the Holy Spirit. The gospel itself was so sensational in the days of the apostles that they were accused of turning the world upside down.

God has called you to preach, knows what He wants you to preach, and He has furnished you with the gifts and personality that are suited for the presentation. Stay close to Him to receive His message and then be natural in its presentation.

Next month we will deal with the pastor's visitation ministry.



## A report to the Free Will Baptist people on the present state of the Sunday School literature publishing program

**A** SHORT TIME AGO a letter came to my desk. It said in part, "I understand that CONTACT is the voice of Free Will Baptists. If so, I would like to hear from you concerning a very serious matter among us. I have heard that our Sunday school literature program has collapsed and left us with a \$23,000 indebtedness. Is this true? If so, it is very unfortunate and I am very saddened by it, but if it is true, how about telling us, the Free Will Baptist people, and giving us a chance to help."

In response to this inquiry and some others which have come by mail and by telephone, I want to tell you the truth about the Sunday school literature publishing program.

Ever since it was started 18 months ago there has been plenty of rumor surrounding it. Nothing the denomination has ever tried

market. In addition to these obstacles, there was still the very vocal opposition.

When the Sunday School Board had a meeting in December, 1958 they discovered that a deficit of over \$20,000 had accrued in the publishing program. The basic reason for this deficit, they discovered, was that the volume of literature business was not adequate to provide a margin of profit large enough to operate the Sunday School Department. They found they were going in the red about \$2,500 every quarter.

In an effort to cut expenses and put the operation in the black, the board made plans to cut out all administrative overhead and asked the Executive Committee to let them consolidate the editorial, distributing and accounting operations with the Executive Department on a temporary basis. The Executive Committee declined on the grounds that such a move would not be constitutional and asked the Sunday School Board to resolve its own difficulties or resign so that the Executive Committee might officially take over.

Faced with the serious dilemma of either resigning or seeing the program fold-up, the board reluctantly resigned. They did not resign to escape the responsibility, but rather that the program might continue and reach a solvent state. To them it seemed the only alternative.

The Executive Committee immediately called the General Board into session at Nashville where the following action was taken:

1. The resignation of the Sunday School Board was accepted.

2. The Executive Committee was instructed to continue the publishing of literature, operating as the Sunday School Board, until the meeting of the national convention.

3. The Executive Committee was further instructed to make an approach to the Ayden Press with a view to re-establishing a working relationship.

4. The Executive Committee was asked to inform the denomination regarding the indebtedness and make plans for paying it.

The Executive Committee in turn authorized the Executive Department to continue the publishing operation as it had been begun under the Sunday School Board. Shortly thereafter, five members of the committee made a trip to Ayden to discuss with the board of directors of the Ayden Press the action of the General Board.

After two days of deliberations they reached an agreement which will be presented to the national convention. Those proposals will be widely circulated before being presented to the convention, so we

# THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE PROGRAM

by

W. S. Mooneyham

to do has come under such a scathing attack as this effort to print and control the literature which goes out under the Free Will Baptist name. The reason for the attack was quite obvious despite the smoke screen which was thrown up. It was an invasion of what had up to that point been considered by some as exclusive territory.

I am deeply convinced that the denomination's cause is just. Why should any agency other than one authorized and controlled by the National Association have the responsibility for preparing, publishing and distributing literature under the Free Will Baptist name? That is the simple, basic question that underlies the whole controversy. It can logically and reasonably have only one answer.

Delegates to the 1958 session of the convention provided the answer by approving the literature publishing program by an 85 per cent vote. So the Sunday School Board was launched into the publishing business—but without capital and only a potential



understand. We have not yet seen a copy of them so it would be impossible to discuss them here.

Perhaps that is just as well since we would like to make a few general statements before knowing exactly what is being proposed. In the first place let it be clearly understood that the National Association is still in the publishing business. Sunday school literature written and edited by Free Will Baptists is available from national headquarters and will continue to be until the National Association votes to go out of the business!

The operation is being handled by the Executive Department at a minimum of administrative expense and with the present circulation of quarterlies the operation can be kept in the black. No further deficit is being accrued and we are paying some of the back debts.

In the second place, I am convinced that the National Association can profitably publish its own literature. Some have expressed the opinion that we do not need to be in the literature business—that our attention should be given to other phases of Sunday school work. Granted that we should be concerned about teacher training and Sunday school enlargement, but what better way to complement and aid these two important phases than through an adequate and aggressive literature program?

It has been further remarked that the present program has led to a divisiveness which we cannot afford. No one deplores a division more than we, but we just ask our readers to remember where propaganda which tended to divide came from! It was not from the Sunday School Board!

So the truth of the literature publishing program is this: the Sunday School Board has resigned—most of them did so very reluctantly, but did it for the sake of the continued operation of the program. Literature is still being published and distributed. The current operation is in the black. There is an accumulated deficit of about \$23,000. We do not know just what plan the Executive Committee has in mind to retire this debt. We presented a plan at the meeting of the General Board which we think the people would have responded to. There was not enough enthusiasm among the members present, however, to get it off the ground.

The person who wrote the letter which we mentioned in the opening paragraph had this to say: "It is my opinion that there are enough level-headed, warm-hearted Free Will Baptists who love our denomination and believe in its literature program who will be willing to sacrifice again by absorbing our indebtedness. I do not personally have the money, but I have an A-1 credit rating with the bank, and you hereby have my pledge of \$100 to pay off the past indebtedness if we continue our own program. I am sure there are 229 other people or churches who will match my pledge to keep us free. Why not give us a chance to see."

By Robert Hill . . .

## EACH ONE START ONE

In 1955 the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Baptistic group in the world, launched a program calling for 30,000 new preaching stations throughout the United States.

This number seems tremendously high to Free Will Baptists because it is ten times the number of our churches currently affiliated with the National Association. Yet among very many of their churches it isn't as big a task as one would at first think.

The plan suggested for this giant project is very worthy. Each church now in operation is to start a mission station of its own during the next four years. It is in this reaching out that great strength is added to the church and the kingdom of God is advanced.

We Free Will Baptists need to learn the great dividends received by reaching out. It adds strength to our own church as well as bringing souls into the kingdom that would not have been reached.

If the Free Will Baptist people do not want a denominationally-owned literature program, then we do not know of anyone who wants to force it on them. If the people do want it, however, then no one has the right to deny them of it. As it always ought to be, the voting delegation will have the final say when the convention meets this July in Asheville.

There is need for a church wherever there are people. There are some people a mile or so from your church that you will not be able to reach. But a mission church in their neighborhood might be the means of winning them to Christ, as well as others related to them.

One group in Davidson county (middle Tennessee) alone numbers more than 110 churches in their denomination. Yet we sometimes say there is not room for more Free Will Baptist churches in our section. Why not start one and see.

It need not take a great number of people away from a church. Great numbers are not needed to begin a new church. A few consecrated people, dedicated to God and His purpose, can produce a strong church within a few months.

So be on the lookout for opportunities in your community. See if you cannot make definite plans for your church to start and help support a mission.

## Camping Course Now Available

DEAR CAMP DIRECTOR:

Here's what you've waited for. At last there is available a new completely planned camp course—truly evangelical in emphasis—that will challenge young hearts with the claims of Christ.

These materials that present Christ as Saviour and Lord are written by experienced camp leaders and published by Scripture Press. These materials will make your planning easier and give spiritual purpose and direction to your whole camping program.

This new course, "Outdoors with Christ," is graded for three age levels: junior, 9-11 years; junior high, 12-14 years, and high school, 15-17 years. The themes for the 1959 courses are "How the Christian Grows" for juniors, "Heroes, Everyone" for junior high and "Mr. Teen-ager Faces Christian Living" for senior high.

A sample packet of all the materials is available at the special price of \$3.50 plus 30 cents postage. Our Free Will Baptist Book Store is the authorized distributor of these materials. Write them for your sample packet at 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

Yours for surrendered young lives,  
RAY C. TURNAGE  
National League Director

### Don't Be Misled!

### A Full Line of Sunday School Literature

(written, edited and published  
by Free Will Baptists)

### is still available

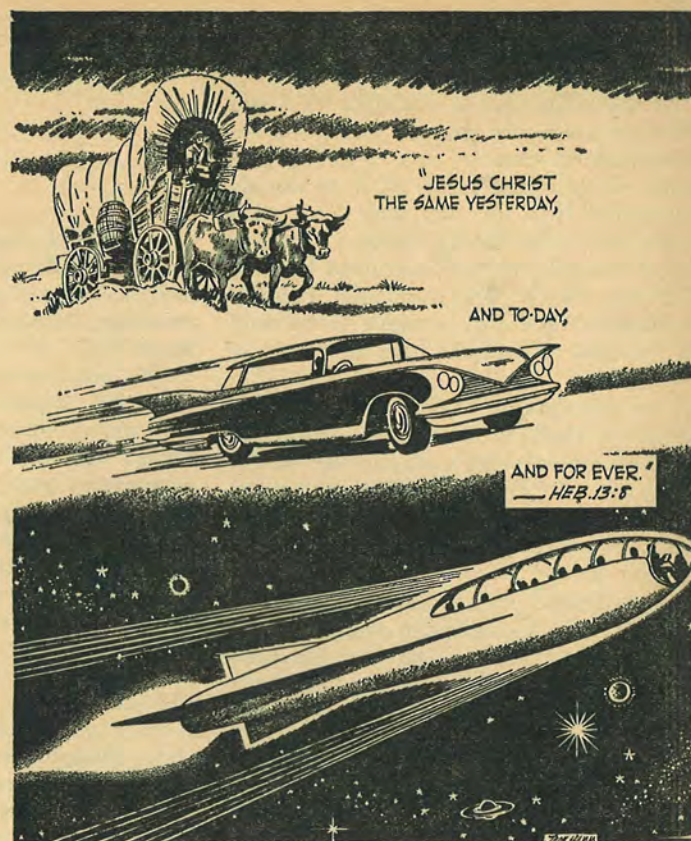
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**SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**



# DANGERS OF DEFECTION

by Virgil Lemmons



This present generation lives in a strange and wondrous age. In our time have come scientific and technological advances that stagger the imagination, giant strides in the fields of medicine, aviation, electronics, and almost unbelievable advances in communications, mechanics, and construction methods.

We have seen the advent of radio and television, have conquered the air, broken through the sound barrier, invented intricate machines that compute and calculate much faster than the human brain, have harnessed the forces of nature and have split the atom.

The future holds the promise of even greater discoveries. The secrets of the universe, hidden through countless centuries, now are being brought to light; but each new truth puts us on the threshold of an even greater truth; each new discovery casts us on the shore looking out into infinity.

The opportunities are limitless. The way is open before us. We have but to choose the true path and in the years ahead rise to lofty heights in the progress of mankind.

But the golden ages of progress that has brought penicillin and sulpha drugs has also given atomic and hydrogen bombs. An era that has done much to alleviate human suffering and misery has also developed super-weapons that presage impending doom for the human race. While constantly seeking to improve living conditions man has devised newer, more destructive ways to bring about annihilation.

The tragedy of human history is that man has turned his back on God. True, many pay Him lip-service and give Him half-

hearted allegiance, but our hearts are far from Him, centered on the things of the world. Our trust is in the material and the physical, often completely ignoring the spiritual.

Man strives desperately to obtain wealth, power, position, while forgetting that the true riches are the things of the spirit and that only the things of the spirit can truly satisfy.

## *Bored and Empty*

The Bible says, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." The way we live in this modern age attests to our lack of spiritual mind. We seek to gratify every desire of the flesh, abandon ourselves to pleasure, and yield eagerly to the enticements of sin. We ignore the law of God, flout His commandments in every conceivable way and compound our baseness with shameful hypocrisy. We seek the favor and protection of the Divine while obstinately continuing our old ways contrary to His will. In flagrant violation of His law we lie, cheat, steal, commit adultery, give ourselves to every lust until, at last, we become bored, satiated, and possessed of an empty despair.

What a paradox that man, with salvation at his finger tips, chooses to plunge heedlessly downward to destruction. Jesus said, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil." With His light ever available to illumine the way to eternal life how terrible that the dark paths of evil are so heavily trod. What a pity that the human

race chooses to wallow in the mire of ignorance and unbelief while a crucified and risen Saviour entreats all to drink of the "water of life."

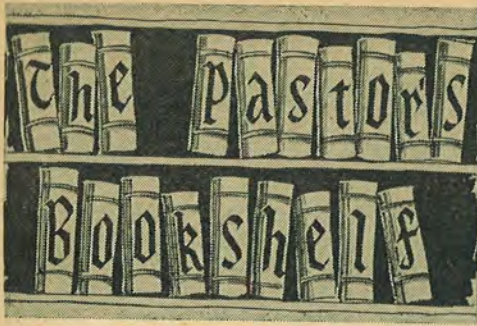
With the world in its present state of turmoil and unrest the future looms dark and forbidding. The East, like a slumbering dragon, has roused itself from the sleep of centuries, and now breathes fire and smoke, threatening the earth with destruction.

Out of the blood and carnage of the Russian revolution and the ensuing struggle for power, we have seen emerge a ruling clique of monstrous men, Godless, brutal and sadistic, they have risen to power atop the mangled bodies of their victims. Innocence and human dignity lie trampled under their feet. They stand, hip-deep in the blood of those they have murdered and mouth their hypocritical cries for peaceful coexistence.

At the head of this unholy oligarchy is the tyrant, Krushchev. Spawned out of the evil reign of Stalin, known as the "butcher of the Ukraine," he is perhaps the most powerful man in the world today. The slave empire he rules covers a large portion of the earth's surface. His disciples are everywhere. Under his command is a titanic war machine, made the more fearful by guided missiles and nuclear bombs, ready to unleash its fury on the world.

The aims of Communism are clear—world conquest with all the inhabitants of the earth under its subjection and embracing its evil ideology. Its ultimate goal is a world-state dedicated to the god of materialism





*For Such a Time As This* by Oswald Riess. Concordia Publishing House. 140 pages. \$2.50.

Described as a book of "inspirational messages for the 20th century Christian," this book lives up to its billing. It sets forth timeless truths with gripping eloquence. The language is simple, forceful, and always to the point. The incisiveness of the author's style will induce one to read these twelve messages again and again each time with a new and different pleasure.

with the faceless masses slaves to the whims and caprices of the Presidium.

The forces of evil are rampant. The powers of darkness are shaking the universe. The Bible says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." Satan, it appears, is doing his work well. Our generation has been cursed by two great world wars and now trembles under the shadow of a third with weapons so powerful in scope as to threaten all life on this planet.

### ***A Greater Menace***

But Russia with all its power, its guns and planes, its army of four million men, its rockets and bombs, its mad ambition to rule the world, does not present the greatest menace to our way of life; nor does our best defense lie in our ability to produce more guns and planes, or in our greater stockpile of atomic and hydrogen bombs. The greatest danger that threatens us is our abominations before God.

Let us not forget the lessons of history. The shifting sands of the desert cover the remnants of once mighty civilizations whose people thought they were safe and indomitable. The Roman empire stood for a thousand years then was destroyed by its own corruption. The mighty empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece collapsed from within because their people were morally corrupt, living in rebellion against God. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah no doubt felt safe and secure until the avenging hand of God burned them into oblivion. Such has been the fate of those who have forgotten that "the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men."

America is a nation that has been abundantly blessed by God. Our country

*The Holy Spirit* by Edwin H. Palmer. Baker Book House. 174 pages. \$3.50.

This is a thorough and comprehensive work on the Holy Spirit. It unfolds the teaching of Scripture on the third person of the Trinity in such a way that the person and work of the Holy Spirit regains the significance of which He has been robbed in our century. This is a book for the everyday Christian reader as well as for the minister and Bible student. The chapters of the book could well serve as the basis for a series of sermons on the Holy Spirit.

*Rural Churches in Transition* by Carl A. Clark. Broadman Press. 145 pages. \$2.25.

Because of the predominance of rural churches in our denomination, we are always interested in seeing books that deal with the problems of the rural church. Mr. Clark, a Southern Baptist pastor, deals in excellent fashion with the situations that have created the problems of the rural church and suggests practical ways for

was founded on the firm bedrock of Christian precepts and God has allowed us to rise to a position of dominance among the nations of the earth. He has honored our quest for religious freedom, has favored our struggle for self-government, and, in His infinite wisdom, has seen fit to grant us victory in the wars we have been forced to wage for survival.

### ***We Have Defected***

But we have defected the Christian faith that was so strongly imbued in our forefathers. We, as individuals, and as a nation, have turned from righteousness and have done evil in the sight of the Lord. We are, therefore, in mortal danger. God, in times past, has used pagan nations to punish and subdue His people.

Time is running out but it is still not too late for us to be spared from the "pestilence that walketh in darkness" and the "destruction that wasteth at noonday." Our Lord is a forgiving God, but also one of great wrath. If we are to escape His wrath, then we must humble ourselves before Him, turn from our iniquities, beg His forgiveness, and become once again a dedicated Christian people, revering the Lord God above all else; a people with an unshakable faith, and unfaltering trust, and a truly unconquerable spirit.

The choice is ours, but the time for decision is now. Every hour we delay brings us nearer the edge of disaster. There is no need for delay or hesitation. The way is crystal clear. God has given all mankind the answer to the world's dilemma in these words: "Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth, for I am God and there is none else." Therein lies the hope of the world. Therein lies man's salvation.—Reprinted from *The Baptist Standard*

handling these situations. All of the chapters are good, but two of the best are "What's Happening to Rural Youth?" and "Why Churches Fail to Grow." This book can be a real tool in the hands of our rural pastors.

*The Works of John Wesley, Vols. 8-11.* Zondervan Publishing House. Over 500 pages in each volume. \$3.95 per volume or \$55 for the set of 14 volumes which will be completed in June.

We have previously reviewed Volumes 1 through 7 in this column and given our comments on the publishing of this entire set. We said then, "If your reading diet has been pampered, put this set on your shelves and give your soul a feast by sitting down to it regularly." One of the finest dissertations in these last volumes to be received is Wesley's view on Christian perfection. He treats the subject thoroughly and the reviewer was quite interested to find the following statement, "By perfection I mean the humble, gentle, patient love of God, and our neighbour, ruling our tempers, words, and actions. I do not include an impossibility of falling from it, either in part or in whole . . . And I do not contend for the word *sinless*, though I do not object against it. As to the manner. I believe this perfection is always wrought in the soul by a simple act of faith; consequently, in an instant. But I believe a gradual work, both preceding and following that instant."

*The Amplified New Testament.* Zondervan Publishing House. 989 pages. \$3.95.

This volume, brought out just last year, has already sold over 100,000 copies and is still going strong, attesting to its value to ministers and laymen alike. It is an entirely new and complete work, thoroughly checked by Greek consultants and outstanding Christian leaders. It restores the true meaning to 10,000 obscure words, simplifies and expands more than 575 difficult passages. Billy Graham says, ". . . it is the most wonderful translation. Get one."

*Jerome's Commentary on Daniel*, translated by Gleason L. Archer, Jr. Baker Book House. 189 pages. \$3.95.

This commentary has high value for the academic world and is of particular value for research. It is equally valuable from a devotional point of view. Jerome was a Church father and famous ecclesiastical author who died in A.D. 420. He was a prolific writer and most of his books deal with Biblical study. This is said to be the most significant and this is the first time it has appeared in the English language. The translation by Dr. Archer won for him the much coveted Certificate of Award presented by the Christian Research Foundation for the year's most important manuscript in the field of Biblical research.



# What's Your Problem?



By LOUIS H. MOULTON

**Q.** For about two years a certain lady has been begging our conference to take action against a church to which she once belonged. She claims that she was unjustly dismissed as a trouble-maker. There were only six members of the church present and they dismissed her without giving her written notice or warning. The church's ex-pastor also claims the lady was dismissed illegally. She has pleaded with our conference to investigate her problem, but each moderator commands her to sit down and remain quiet because she is no longer a Free Will Baptist member. She wants to remain a Free Will Baptist but no other church can receive her into fellowship until she is reconciled at her home church. Does she have a right to appeal to our conference? Can we send a delegation of ministers to investigate this matter? What can we do?

**A.** The simplest solution would be for the lady to go back to her church, take the wrong if needs be (1 Cor. 6:7), tell the offended people that she is sorry if she has given cause for offence, promise that she will not allow it to happen again and ask to be reinstated in good fellowship. Perhaps she has not given cause for offence but there are those who feel that she has. Real Christlikeness can be shown by her in taking the wrong for Christ's sake and for the sake of peace and harmony in the church. If after she is forgiven (even though she may not have done anything to be forgiven for) and restored, she is dissatisfied then she may join another church and have them send for her letter. If this solution is not preferred then let me point you to our National Treatise, page 43, paragraph "e" under item four. If public announcement of the intended action was not made, then the Quarterly Meeting may investigate at the request of a minority of the church which is aggrieved with the action of the majority. Note Page 47, item two, of the Treatise. Personal offenses and trials are to be settled according to Matthew 18:15-17.

**Q.** Please don't think I am trying to be smart, but I have some questions which I need answered for my own information and because I have been asked these same questions. What is the unpardonable sin? (Note This question and those that follow are all from this same reader in West Virginia.)

**A.** The expression "unpardonable sin" does not appear in Scripture. Three of the Gospel writers record what is called the unpardonable sin. Matthew 12:24-29, Mark 3:22-30 and Luke 11:14-20. These three portions of Scripture seem to indicate that the unpardonable sin is ascribing to Satan the works of the Holy Spirit or blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Many students of the utter rejection of Jesus as one's Savior. Surely the refusal to confess one's sins and turn from them to Christ, the Redeemer, is the unpardonable sin in a person's life. There is no second chance after death.

**Q.** Who was Cain's wife and where did she come from?

**A.** We are not told nor is it recorded anywhere in the Bible. The Bible does not say that Cain went into the land of Nod and there found or took a wife. Genesis 4:16, 17 says "Cain . . . dwelt in the land of Nod . . . and Cain knew his wife . . ." We are not adding to nor taking from the Word of God when we speculate and say that she must have been Cain's sister and that he must have taken her with him when he went into the land of Nod.

**Q.** Who was Melchisedek and where did he come from?

**A.** Genesis 14:18 calls Melchisedek the king of Salem and the priest of the most high God. Long before the law was given Abraham paid tithes of all to Melchisedek (Gen. 14:20). Hebrews 5:6 lists Melchisedek as a type of Christ as High Priest. Scofield's notes mention the fact that Melchisedek had no recorded beginning of days nor end of life.

**Q.** Who are the two witnesses spoken of in Revelation 11:3?

**A.** I do not know nor does any man, actually. Speculation says perhaps they are Enoch and Elijah since these two were taken to heaven without dying. Those who say this point to Hebrews 9:27 "And it is appointed unto men once to die . . ." Since the two witnesses are killed according to Rev. 11:7, this is the basis of their reasoning: That they are brought back to experience death like all other men. Others say that because of the reference in Rev. 11:6 to the witnesses power over waters to turn them to blood and to smite the earth with plagues that perhaps one of them may be Moses. I do not give you these to confuse you but just to let you know some of the guesses and surmisings of men. Again let me say we do not know actually who these witnesses are.

**Q.** Malachi says before the coming of the Lord he would send Elijah back. Of whom was he speaking?

**A.** Referring to your question just before this, here in Malachi 4:5 is the basis for the belief that Elijah may be one of the witnesses. However Jesus in

## Nearly \$4,000 Given Cooperatively in February

Undesignated cooperative giving for February was nearly \$4,000, or about \$700 over the previous month. All undesignated contributions are allocated on a percentage basis to the seven agencies of the national association. Supporting churches are sent an honor certificate for display showing they regularly support the denominational causes.

### RECEIPTS

<b>ALABAMA</b>			
Goodwater church, Slocomb	10.00		
State Association	22.83		
First church, Dothan	58.94	91.77	
<b>ARKASAS</b>			
State Association		249.10	
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>			
State Association		310.31	
<b>FLORIDA</b>			
State Association		332.08	
<b>GEORGIA</b>			
State Association		288.97	
<b>ILLINOIS</b>			
Johnson City church	45.34		
Oak Grove church, Scheller	9.10		
Waltonville church, Mt. Vernon	22.28		
Union church, W. Frankfort	15.05		
Webb's Prairie church, Ewing	7.00		
Bethel church, South Roxana	30.89		
Bakerville church, Mt. Vernon	23.84		
Ina church	30.39	183.89	
<b>MISSOURI</b>			
State Association		1,171.09	
<b>OHIO</b>			
Watson Dixon, Dayton		5.00	
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>			
Swannanoa church		75.78	
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>			
State Association		760.62	
<b>TENNESSEE</b>			
Wooddale church, Knoxville	22.33		
Trinity church, Nashville	110.00		
South Side church, Memphis	26.68		
Head's church, Chapmansboro	102.65	261.66	
<b>TEXAS</b>			
State Association	176.75		
Fellowship church, Bryan	10.00	186.75	
<b>DESIGNATED</b>			
Oklahoma		50.00	
		3,967.02	

### DISBURSEMENTS

Superannuation	117.50		
League	117.50		
Sunday School	195.87		
Home Missions	587.57		
Bible College	783.41		
Executive	990.06		
Foreign Missions	1,175.11	3,967.02	

Matthew 11:14 states that John the Baptist is Elijah which was to come. Notice also Matthew 17:12, 13. Compare also Malachi 4:5 with Luke 1:17.

**Q.** Is there any record of where John the Baptist was ever baptized?

**A.** I cannot find any nor any reference thereto.



# Women at Work

**Durham, North Carolina**—The Young People's Auxiliary of Edgemont church enjoyed a Valentine banquet with thirty-nine present. The Woman's Auxiliary assisted in preparing and serving the food.

**Tupelo, Mississippi**—Mrs. E. S. White, district vice-president, conducted a very impressive installation service for the Tupelo Auxiliary. A child dressed in the native costume of these countries, India, Africa, Cuba, Japan, South America, Mexico, Alaska, America and one dressed in the Auxiliary colors, formed a semi-circle around a table centered with an open Bible and a world globe. At the close of the service, the officers and the children joined hands, thus forming a circle around the table. Rev. Luther Gibson led the prayer of consecration.

**Black Mountain, North Carolina**—Woman's Conference at Cragmont Assembly is scheduled for August 17-22. Plans are being made for the biggest and best session ever. Mrs. Carl Dudley will work with Mrs. L. E. Ballard as co-director. The theme for this year's conference is: "The Word, God's Quickening Power." Plans are being made to feature Mrs. Lee Whaley for missionary emphasis.

**Tulsa, Oklahoma**—AYPA was organized at Lawnwood church in January by Mrs. Cherry Fipps. There were eight members. The GTA gained five new members, making a total of sixteen. Mrs. Essie Puckett is their sponsor. The two groups gave fruit baskets to the old folks home. Food and clothing were also given to a needy family.

**Purcell, Oklahoma**—Nine women met at the Purcell church, January 12 with the pastor, Rev. Major Followill to organize a Woman's Auxiliary. The duties of the officers were read and officers were elected. The installation of officers was held with Mrs. Nancy Snow, president of First Oklahoma association Woman's Auxiliary as speaker.

**Savannah, Georgia**—A personal soul-winning class was taught February 9 at Savannah First church with twenty-seven women in attendance. Interest in the course was such that it is to be extended for three more meetings, scheduled for the first Mondays in March, April and May. The pastor is teaching the course.

**Timmons ville, South Carolina**—South Carolina district youth fellowship day was held February 21. Offerings for the national station wagon project contributed



## Woman's Auxiliary

LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

By Eunice Edwards . . .

## What Shall We Say about Easter?

The mother of four-year-old Terrie heard her exclaim, "He is not!" Startled, she asked, "He is not what, Terrie?" To which Terrie replied, "That man (on the radio) said he was going to sing, 'Jesus Is Mine' and he is not, 'cause Jesus is everybody's!"

We certainly agree with little Terrie, Jesus is everybody's because Jesus rose from the dead for everybody.

A central fact of our Christian belief is that Jesus rose victorious over death, hell, and the grave. Our faith is laid upon this foundation and it stands today as unshakable as the day He laid it. Jesus laid our faith foundation as deep as the grave and as lasting as eternity.

It was night when Jesus was born—spiritually and literally. It was night when He died. God veiled the sun and "from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour."

But thanks be unto God, because of His unspeakable gift, darkness did not continue. There was an end to darkness!

Paul sets forth in I Corinthians 15 the immutable truth that the Light of the world blotted out darkness for all who will believe.

What shall we say about Easter? That hope was born even as the dawn dispelled the gloom of the night on that First Easter morn.

Hope, without which Paul says we would "be of all men most miserable."

Matthew tells us, "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the

first day of the week, come Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." (Matt. 28:1-6)

Yes, Jesus is everybody's risen Saviour! Yet He lives on earth in the hearts of all who will accept Him.

"I serve a risen Savior,  
He's in the world today;  
I know that He is living,  
Whatever men may say;  
I see His hand of mercy,  
I hear His voice of cheer,  
And just the time I need Him  
He's always near.  
He lives! He lives!  
Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me  
Along life's narrow way.  
He lives! He lives!  
Salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives?  
He lives within my heart.

through the "joy boxes" were brought to the meeting. The total offering amounted to \$103.19.

**Nashville, Tennessee**—The Trinity YPA met in February for a study course on stewardship. After the course was taught, five YPA's made 100% on the quiz. The group gave \$6 on the national station wagon project. Special project for the month was a personal gift to a friend in the hospital. The YPA's are planning a formal banquet late in March.

Trinity Woman's Auxiliary met in Febru-

ary with thirty-four members present. Their February project was a birthday gift to Miss Volena Wilson in India. The Auxiliary plans to receive the Easter Week of Prayer offering Wednesday evening, March 25. This Auxiliary has completed all projects in accordance with the plan set up by the district.

The GTA's recently had a study course on stewardship also. They contributed \$4 for the national station wagon project. The special GTA project is collecting clothes for Mexican missions.



## GLANCING AROUND THE STATES



### California Church Burns Mortgage On Property Valued at \$120,000

RICHMOND, Calif.—The First Free Will Baptist church of Richmond conducted a mortgage-burning service for their sanctuary and educational annex recently. The church was organized March 13, 1948 with 41 charter members and has a current membership of 175.

The present sanctuary was completed in 1949 and the educational annex was completed in 1951. A building which houses the church offices and a parsonage were purchased in 1954. Pastors who have served the church are Rev. George McLain, Rev. Dean Moore, Rev. E. E. Morris and Rev. J. R. Dodson.

Shown in the picture above are the pastor, Mr. Dodson; Frank Purser, chairman of the Board of Trustees; Pete Conner, chairman of the Board of Deacons, and Gene Russell, a deacon. Rev. Ralph Hampton, moderator of the state association, was speaker for the special service.

### New Church Organized At Corpus Christi

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas—On February 10, Rev. Everett Hellard, Houston, and

Rev. Malcolm C. Fry, Bryan, examined and organized the First Free Will Baptist church of Corpus Christi with approximately 35 charter members. Dr. W. H. Norris was elected pastor. This group had been meeting in an independent church for about one year during which time they became interested in the Free Will Baptist denomination. Any CONTACT readers who have friends or relatives in the area who might be interested in the church are urged to get in touch with Dr. Norris at 4670 Cosner Drive, Corpus Christi.

### Georgia Forms New Quarterly Meeting

THOMASTON, Ga.—Several churches of the Chattahoochee district association met with the First church of Thomaston on January 17 for the purpose of forming a new quarterly conference. Five churches became charter members with other churches present expressing a favorable interest. Those joining were Thomaston First, Atlanta First, Columbus First, Emmanuel and White Oaks. The quarterly conference will continue affiliation with the Chattahoochee association.

### Rev. C. B. Thompson Returns to Pastorate

CROSS, Texas—Rev. C. B. Thompson has returned to his church here following a period of hospitalization resulting from a nervous breakdown.

### St. Louis Church Acquires New Property

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Berkeley church in St. Louis has recently purchased the property adjoining their church for future expansion. The lots are now being used for parking and the house is being remodeled into a nursery. The property will ultimately become the site for the erection of a new sanctuary.

### Glennville Church Gets New Choir, Hymnals

GLENNVILLE, Ga.—A new adult choir has been recently organized at the Glennville church under the direction of Mrs. Lucille Mobley. The church has also purchased 125 *Free Will Baptist Hymnals*.

### Missionary Conference For St. Louis Churches

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The St. Louis ministerial alliance sponsored a missionary conference the first week of March for the area churches. Eight services were held with Rev. Raymond Riggs, Rev. Homer Willis, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jones, and Rev. Rolla Smith as speakers.

### McAdams' Will Have Ministerial Jubilee

HUNTSVILLE, Texas—A letter from Rev. and Mrs. H. M. McAdams reveals that in October they will celebrate their 50th anniversary in the ministry and are planning a "Ministerial Jubilee."

Mrs. McAdams writes, "I was licensed to preach in 1909 at the age of 23. Mr. McAdams and I were married 2½ years later and God called him into the ministry. We have been working together ever since. We have preached in 21 states and 108 towns and cities. We have preached in 261 churches and mission points. It is hard to keep up with the exact number that have been saved, but it would be safe to say that they number into the thousands.

"We are presently pastoring the Huntsville, Texas, church which is little more than a mission point. We will celebrate our golden jubilee in October with an open house at our home. We know that many of our friends would like to come but are too far away. It would be such a joy to hear from them with a card or a letter so that we will know you are thinking of us."



## Arkansas Leaders Have State Conference

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—The ministers and deacons of the Arkansas state association met in their second session at the First church here on February 27-28. Theme for the conference was "Magnifying the God-Given Office." Rev. W. S. Isbell was the host pastor.

## Oklahoma School Has 70 Enrolled

TULSA, Okla.—The Oklahoma Bible College which opened here with the second semester has 70 enrolled. Forty-two of these are taking the college course with the remainder enrolled in the Sunday School Institute. The school is under the direction of Rev. N. R. Smith, a Tulsa pastor. Instructors are Rev. Don Payne and Rev. Roy Bingham.

## Missouri Church Gives Sunday School Awards

FLAT RIVER, Mo.—Attendance awards for 1958 were made to members of the Sunday school at the First church. Twenty-six one-year pins were given with quite a number of others up through the sixth year. Mrs. Dale Blakely was presented a bar for her nineteenth year of perfect attendance. She is teacher of the young people's Sunday school class.

## Home Missionaries Report From New Hampshire

LITTLETON, N. H.—Rev. and Mack C. Owens, home missionaries in New

Hampshire, report that God is working in the city and they expect to soon have a Free Will Baptist organization there. They write: "People here know little of a personal relationship with God and they are amazed when we tell them about the new birth. We truly have brought a new way of life to the people in this area and in most instances they have not heard about this before."

## Nogales Academy Enrolls Total of 63

NOGALES, Ariz.—The Nogales Academy on the Arizona-Mexican border now has 63 children enrolled in the Christian day school. The academy was started in September, 1957 with four students. All of the students are Mexican except the daughter of the director. On the staff are Rev. and Mrs. John Elliston, Miss Bessie Yeley and Miss Molly Barker. In addition to the subjects required by the state of Arizona, the children all receive Bible instruction.

## Arkansas District S.S. Convention

NEWPORT, Ark.—Rev. Ray Watkins was elected president of the Sunday school convention of the Polk Bayou association at the last meeting. Other officers include Rev. J. W. Blanks, vice-president; Mrs. Ruth Leonard, secretary; Mrs. Shirley Whitlock, assistant secretary; Mrs. Velda Tucker, publicity director, and Mrs. Vivian Burton, assistant.

At the last convention, the Newport Sunday school won the attendance banner. The next convention will meet May 3 at Pool's Chapel church.



**INSTALLED . . .** Shown above is Mrs. Velma Williams, president of the Woman's Auxiliary at Bryan, Texas, with Mrs. C. B. Thompson, retiring state president, at the installation service for the officers of the Bryan auxiliary. Other officers besides Mrs. Williams are Mrs. Winnie Williams, vice-president; Mrs. Harry Edge, program-prayer chairman; Mrs. Ernest Gregg, study course chairman, and Mrs. Charles Moehlman, personal service chairman. The installation was a joint service for officers of the Master's Men and Woman's Auxiliary.

## Savannah, Georgia Has Missions Conference

SAVANNAH, Ga.—A missionary conference was held here March 6-8 with Rev. Louis H. Moulton and Miss Laura Belle Barnard as speakers. Financial goals for the conference were \$300 in offerings and \$1,800 in pledges. Rev. Damon C. Dodd is pastor.

**REVIVALS . . .** Goshen church, Belmont, N. C.; Billy Morris, evangelist; Ralph Staten, pastor; April 19-26.

Reform, Ala.; J. E. Floyd, evangelist; O. L. Fields, pastor; March 1-10.

First church, Savannah, Ga.; Cecil Campbell, evangelist; Damon C. Dodd, pastor; May 17-24.

New Home church, Tulsa, Okla.; Wade Jernigan, evangelist; N. R. Smith, pastor; March 22-29.

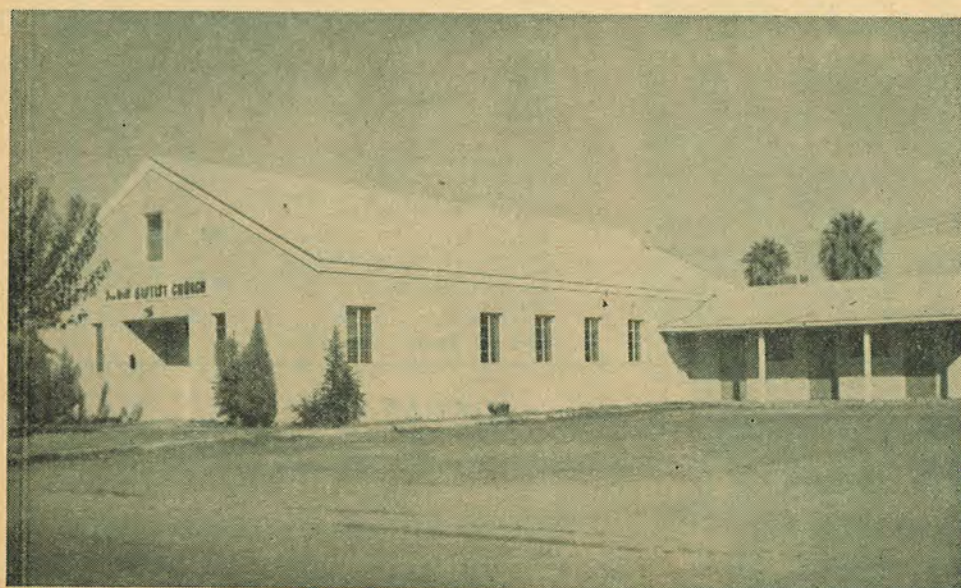
Lawnwood church, Tulsa, Okla.; Lonnie DeVault, evangelist; Robert Duncan, pastor; March 23-29.

Highland Park church, Detroit, Mich.; Bill Stevens, evangelist; Joe Ange, pastor; March 15-29.

**PASTORAL CHANGES . . .** Rolla Smith to Third church, St. Louis, Mo., from Fellowship church, Flat River, Mo.

Bob L. Jones has resigned West Wayne, Mich. Future plans not announced.

Elro Driggers has resigned First church, Pine Bluff, Ark. Future plans not announced.



**PHOENIX, ARIZONA . . .** Shown above is the North Side Free Will Baptist church in Phoenix, Arizona. The church was built in 1954-55 with the educational wing constructed in 1957. In 1958 the congregation built a three-bedroom parsonage. The church is located at 2541 N. 30th Street.



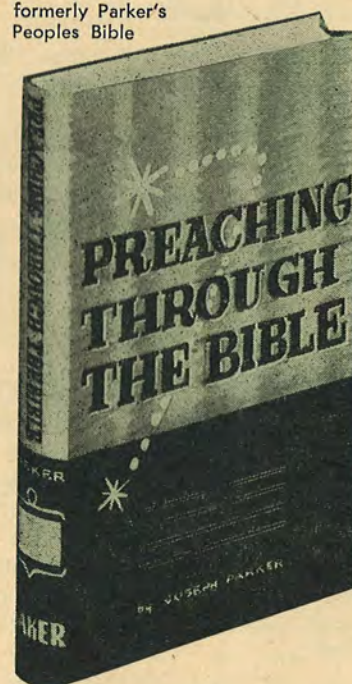
From Genesis . . . . . to Revelation

# PREACHING THROUGH THE BIBLE

by JOSEPH PARKER

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2. Your list will be checked against our circulation. Refunds on any subscriptions in effect will be credited to the church account.
3. The church treasurer will receive a bill quarterly for 25 cents for each subscription and a form for adding or dropping any names desired.
4. The plan remains in effect until the church requests that it be discontinued.

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Vol. 6 March, 1959 No. 5

# personally . . .

## For the Very First Time

What a privilege Free Will Baptist churches will have this year. For the first time in the denomination's 230-year history, local churches will be able to send delegates to the national convention. We think this is something of an historic occasion.

Up to this year only state and district conventions could elect delegates to the national convention. Now all of the 2,500 churches affiliated with state and district conventions may have delegates to the convention with a direct voice in the denomination's affairs. We can't help but wonder, however, if the churches will treat this privilege like the great American public treats the voting privilege—with neglect and indifference.

We do not expect that every church will send a delegate this first year, but we are hopeful that at least 500 will. One reason why we expect this is that the convention, meeting is Asheville, N. C., is in the heart of the numerical strength of the denomination. Three hundred miles in each direction would embrace probably three-fourths of our entire constituency. (In case you have forgotten, the dates of the convention this year are July 13-16.)

The method of representation this year is that each state convention is allowed five lay delegates at large and each church affiliated with the highest body within a state is entitled to one lay delegate. Churches that have no state or district convention may represent directly. If we have as many as 500 lay delegates this year, it will mean that probably for the first time the laymen will outnumber the preachers at the convention. We feel that at a Baptist convention this is the way it ought to be.

The proper credential forms for the church delegates will be available from either the state offices or the national executive office. All that is required is the proper signature of a church official (pastor or clerk) and a \$10 representation fee. Decide now to see that *your* church will have a delegate and a vote in this historic session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

### After Three Days and Three Nights



"JESUS... APPROVED OF GOD  
...WHOM GOD HATH RAISED  
UP, HAVING LOOSED THE  
PAINS OF DEATH: BECAUSE  
IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE THAT  
HE SHOULD BE HOLDEN OF  
IT" — ACTS 2:22, 24



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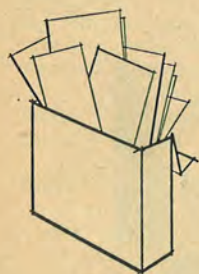


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## Deadline for Social Security Draws Near

The Social Security Administration reminds that for many clergymen, April 15, 1959 is the deadline for electing social security coverage. A clergyman's earnings from the ministry count toward social security only if he formally elects by that time to have these earnings counted.

The election is made by filing a waiver certificate with the District Director of Internal Revenue. Unless it is filed within the time specified in the law, it cannot be filed at all, and the clergyman's earnings from the ministry can never be counted toward social security benefits.

When a clergyman comes under social security, he reports his earnings from the ministry—whether in the form of salary or otherwise—as self-employment income. He must pay the social security tax on his earnings. The church or religious order he serves does not become involved.

For more information on social security benefits, clergymen are urged to ask the nearest social security office for the booklet "Social Security for Clergymen." Information about waiver certificates and social security taxes is available from the office of the District Director of Internal Revenue.

## League Conference

The eighth nationwide League Conference is just a little over two months away and a great deal of enthusiasm is being felt through the denomination. It has been three years since the youth of our churches have come together for this great time and inspiration and fellowship. This bids to be an outstanding conference in every way. Arkansas will be the host with the First church, Fort Smith, entertaining the conference.

R. G. LeTourneau, a Christian industrialist, will be the principal speaker. Other program features will include a religious drama presented by the speech department of Free Will Baptist Bible College, missionary speakers, workshops, nationwide Intermediate Sword Drill, and a great deal more.

For further information write Mr. Ray Turnage, National League Director, 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.