

# Contact

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OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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### His Right to Know

"TO AN INHERITANCE INCORRUPTIBLE, AND UNDEFILED, AND THAT FADETH NOT AWAY, RESERVED IN HEAVEN FOR YOU" — I PET. 1:4



National Family Week — May 3-10

# My Best for



# My Children

**F**AITH IN THE Savior is the greatest contribution any parent can make to his children.

Greater than fame and better than money, even more important than education, is giving to each child the gift of faith. That gift will be enlarged and strengthened as he goes onward; and all of life will be sweeter, stronger, and better for it.

How can I do my very best for my children?

The best method is to teach them by precept and practice. By seeing the Lord Jesus in you they will come to love Him, trust Him, and to obey Him.

Your *conduct* will be the most obvious factor to them. Action always speak louder than words. In his love and admiration for his parents, the little child learns early whether he is loved or not. As he grows older his big eyes observe what is done; and he correlates his observations with the instruction given to him.

Intuitively the child understands practical Christianity in action. His response will first be imitation of what he sees and hears; but imitation can soon become a living reality. He will believe what we believe. He

*This article was prepared especially for the observance of Family Week. Dr. Edman is president of Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois.*

will walk and talk as we do. It will be easy for him to believe in the Savior for having seen Him in father and mother.

Christian *character* will be as apparent to our children, younger and older, as to others; perhaps more so. Before they learn to read the ABC's they read character. Intuitively they understand adults much better than we give them credit. Integrity, honesty, honor, unselfishness, courage in the face of great difficulties—such character traits are deeply impressed upon young plastic minds. The children will see Christ in our character, and will share the confidence that others have in us. They will be proud of mother and dad, and of the Savior.

Our *conversation* can show forth the Lord Jesus. Little folk have big ears as well as big eyes. They comprehend the intent as well as the content of our talk. They will make mental note of our appreciation and helpfulness for others; and contrariwise of unkind and unfair criticism. Our kindness and consideration for others in what we say and what we do can teach them of Him who went about doing good to all.

*Consistency* is a jewel; and nowhere does it sparkle more brightly than in the Christian home. At family altar we can teach children about Christ as we read the Bible; but even more impressive to them will be their seeing Christ in us. They will note

what we say and do in Sunday School and church; and will compare that with our attitude and actions in the home. Consistency in our words and our works will be evidenced by the standards that we maintain in the Lord's house and on His day, and in the carefulness with which we do His work as laity or clergy. Your faith in the Savior will be conveyed to the children by your faithfulness to them and to the Lord, by your fatherly care and concern. To me it has always been challenging and encouraging to remember that in days dark and foreboding, Noah's sons followed their godly father even into the ark. That action must have seemed somewhat foolish to them, as it certainly was to the worldlings round about; but they had learned to trust God because they trusted their father.

The future of your children depends so largely upon their faith in Christ. Christian conduct, character, conversation, and consistency will pay big dividends in the life of every child.

A family altar with its open Bible and bended knees for the whole family, the happy home, the attendance of all the family at Sunday school and church—all these make for a wholesome outlook on life by the children and the establishment of standards that will go with them throughout life. Correction that is constructive, cooperation that is cheerful, harmony that is helpful, such are the memories the children will carry with them when they leave our homes and go into their place of service and usefulness.

From her heart out of more than fifty years of experience of leading little orphan boys and girls to the Savior, the late Amy Carmichael of South India wrote this earnest prayer:

FATHER, hear us, we are praying,  
Hear the words our hearts are saying,  
We are praying for our children.

Keep them from the powers of evil,  
From the secret, hidden peril,  
From the whirlpool that would suck them,  
From the treacherous quicksand, pluck them.

From the worldling's hollow gladness,  
From the sting of faithless sadness,  
Holy Father, save our children.

Through life's troubled waters steer them,  
Through life's bitter battle cheer them,  
Father, Father, be Thou near them.  
Read the language of our longing.  
Read the wordless pleadings thronging,  
Holy Father, for our children.

And wherever they may bide,  
Lead them Home at eventide.



By Arvid Carlson . . .

# WHAT MAKES OUR HOME WONDERFUL?

*Scripture References:*

Psalms 127 and 128; Proverbs 24:3, 4; Luke 2:51, 52.

**S**OMEONE HAS WELL described a home as "a little corner of the very bosom of God, where faithful souls are held close to the infinite Father-heart, and carried safely to the home above." How important then, is our task of making our homes the most wonderful places on earth. If, as Victor Hugo wrote,

A house is built of logs and stone,  
Of tiles and posts and piers;  
A home is built of loving deeds  
That stand a thousand years,

we have a God-given responsibility to fashion our own homes according to the indestructible pattern of divine wisdom and love. We cannot afford to trifle with our task.

Homes do not just happen. They are the result of perpetual thought, discipline, prayer, and action. They can be either a "bit of heaven" on earth or "hell" within four walls. Said one of my former Sunday school pupils, who came from a broken home, "If my mother is in heaven, I do not want to go there."

We are told that there are two inescapable things—memories of home and the love of God. Tragic is that life whose memories of home are but haunting shadows of bitter childhood experiences! On the other hand, even the most ungrateful child sometimes will feel urged to rise up and call his home blessed, if it provided him with fragrant reminiscences of a happy home life.

## *Family Fellowship*

The question immediately before us is, How can we make our homes wonderful? What factors will contribute to the creation of the place which we believe is "more than a house"? In answering the question, we must first of all consider the matter

of family fellowship. One of the saddest commentaries of our time is the separateness and compartmentalization of family life, not to say anything of the same situation in society itself. Today's families, although smaller, are less a unit than in the past. The craving for real family fellowship has largely ceased. Children seem to thrive as well away from home as in the home. To some degree, the answer lies in the manifold diversions available to the present-day family. The old-fashioned home was not in competition with every bit of claptrap out of the world. Life patterns were more simple. "The Cotter's Saturday Night" was no rarity, as seems to be the case today.

Our sensate society dotes on increasing portions of sensational entertainment. Our homes have taken on a dull atmosphere in the minds of our children. Their thoughts are similar to those of the young lady who was approached by a real estate agent regarding the purchase of a house. "Why should I need a home?" she asked. "I was born in a hospital; educated in a college; courted in an automobile; married in a church; I take my meals at a restaurant; spend my afternoons playing bridge and my evenings at the movies. When I die, I will be buried by an undertaker. All I need is a garage."

There are many contributing factors to family fellowship apart from the headship of Christ and the centrality of the family altar. A home that is called a Christian home is not necessarily a happy home. Indeed, some people may seem to qualify as good Christians, but not good parents. The first requisite to a wonderful home is, therefore, its *atmosphere*. Homes are not created by a set of rules. They are not "legislatures," "courts," "barracks," or "dormitories." Rather, they are "in-

*(Please turn page)*

cubators" of the highest ideals and the finest Christian virtues of which we are capable as parents and Christians. When unforgiving attitudes, harsh words, and critical temperaments make way for unsolicited kindnesses, unconscious courtesies, and unbounded joy, the atmosphere in which Christian graces flourish is definitely assured. Character craves a climate, and we must provide only the best.



### Worshipping TOGETHER

Take for example, the seemingly trivial matter of conversation. Idle, unplanned, and selfish talk will detract from a home's sweet atmosphere. The thoughts and problems of all members of the family should reflect and react upon each other. "Table talks" may linger as the happiest memories of childhood. School activities, achievements, and plans should enter into the thought-sharing of a loving family. Psychologists point out that even the matter of voice control sets a prevailing tone in the home. Loud and nagging conversation makes for psychological deafness, akin to a gunner's ability to sleep amid the roar of firing cannons.

### Evenings at Home Are Important

Another means to the enjoyment of family fellowship is to spend profitable evenings at home. Because of the scarcity of such a commodity, we are apt to smile at the suggestion. On the other hand, we should approach the problem in all sincerity and Christian seriousness. Today's children know little of "firesides," "songfests," or recreation in the rumpus room. Living rooms are waste space, and a luxury. The "den" is ever so much more appealing. It usually contains the family television set! And, even if the family discovers an evening free, it seldom enjoys its own fellowship because of a lack of planned activity. No wonder some church-children prefer the neighbor's house to their own!

Moreover, family fellowship can be cultivated along divergent cultural lines. Good music, whether "live" or recorded, should be abundantly provided. High quality reading material, ranging from school reference books to classical and Christian literature, should be found on the family library shelves. The proper use of the radio and the television set is a must. A worldly crowd, once scorned and frowned upon by Christian parents, now parades before eager eyes within the sanctuary of the home—with or without parental censorship! These communicating media are not necessarily evil. On the contrary, they can be instruments for great good. "Television," says Dr. Carnell, "can become a medium for

endless increase of human happiness and security. This is our hope. But, it may fall into the hands of those who will use it as a further means to exploit sinful potentialities in man. This is our fear."

A final factor in the promotion of family fellowship is the utilization of leisure time. It has been axiomatically said that "the family which prays together stays together." Might not the word "plays" be substituted with considerable effect? When parents permit themselves to become so "old" in either body or spirit as to eliminate the family playtime, it is indeed high time to take inventory. As will be pointed out later, many parents have lost their sons and daughters through a lack of wholesome companionship.



### Working TOGETHER

As will be pointed out later, many parents have lost their sons and daughters through a lack of wholesome companionship.

Let us turn to a second major contribution to wonderful homes, namely, *family loyalty*. It is interesting to notice that the first institution created by divine love and power is the human family. Society and, then, the state follow each other in that order. It is also worth while to note that the threatened collapse of this ideal social unit is couched in Cain's caustic question: "Am I my brother's keeper?" When family loyalty vanishes and crass irresponsibility creeps in, the demise of the family is well-nigh accomplished. On the other hand, when family loyalty is developed along the lines of personnel, principles, and projects, the home will unshakably stand the tests and tensions of modern temptations.

When each member will be unflinchingly true and supremely loyal to every other member, our homes will be "little heavens" and our fellowship sublime. Ideals and principles must become the common property of all, as well as the responsibility of each individual member. Finally, the family should be totally together in its projects. The writer once heard of a mother, who at advanced age took clarinet lessons in order to share her children's interest in music. Hobbies and diversions may vary within the family framework, but certain unifying interests must be promoted if loyalty is to achieve perfection.

Does not the Word condemn us when it says, "They made me keeper of the vineyards; but my own vineyard I have not kept" (Song of Solomon 1:6). Again, "As your servant was busy here and there, he was gone" (1 Kings 20:40). Many Christian parents have been so busy looking after someone else's children, they have unknowingly lost their own.

Dr. John Sutherland Bonnell relates a telling story in his book, *Pastoral Psychology*, concerning a ten-year-old boy whose father was a very popular and enterprising young doctor. The father had no time for his family. The two younger sisters received the attention and affection of the mother, but the boy, for all practical purposes, became an orphan in his own home. He lost interest in his studies as well as in his family. He quarreled continually with his sisters. The distracted mother brought him to Dr. Bonnell for counseling help. After several sessions, the boy was drawn out of his shell, revealing his utter loneliness and craving for love. The parents, quickly appraised of the situation, took the boy into their heart and lavished their attention and affection upon him. As a result, the lad was rescued from awful consequences, and the home was saved from an inevitable tragedy.



### Playing TOGETHER

How often children are taken for granted! How often it is assumed they are already adults! How quickly they gather the impression they are not wanted or needed! How many homes have suffered disintegration due to a lack of family loyalty or interest! Christian families should, by all means, find unified outlets of service and worship. Vocal and instrumental combinations should be pressed into practice and action. The total genius of the family should be developed to the fullest possible extent.

### Family Responsibilities

In order completely to portray a "home wonderful," something must be said regarding family responsibilities. The relationship between the husband and the wife and the relationship of both to the children are exceedingly important.

Homes where anarchy prevails can never be wonderful. A sense of responsibility toward each other must prevail. Parents are to be examples. We owe our children more than money—we owe them the finest manhood and womanhood in our redeemed nature.

This then is our task, to make our homes so wonderful that a coming generation will treasure the inheritance of a happy, wholesome home life, filled with the sunshine of God's love.

**A**FTER A CHILD HAS found Christ as personal Savior, too many parents seem to question the child's sincerity rather than rejoice in the little one's decision. While it is true that some children may be swept along with the tide and unite with the church simply because their companions do so, this in no wise justifies indifference to the decision to accept Christ on the part of a child who has been taught clearly the way of salvation. Let us give some credit to the operation of the Holy Spirit in a child's heart when the Word is taught him. Christianity is not a childish thing, but it is a power intended of God to reach children. Let us remember that every year a child remains away from Christ as Savior after he is six or seven years of age, he becomes more entangled in sin and worldliness, and every passing year finds it more difficult for him to break away.

I sat in a Billy Sunday meeting one night when he tested an audience of six thousand as to the age when the Christians present were converted. A vast majority of that number found Christ before they had reached their twentieth year. When he asked how many found Christ after they had reached sixty, only three stood to their feet. Surely we must appreciate the fact that if children are not converted as children, many will never be converted. There are in our cities at this moment thousands of children who, if not reached soon, will grow up with hardened hearts and will spend in all likelihood an eternity in hell. It is a known fact that if they come to maturity without Christ, the probability is few of them will ever find Him.

Instead of doubting young converts, we should encourage them and make certain that they have been properly taught the way of life and then trust God to own and bless His Word in their young hearts. Concern about their spiritual welfare should burden us if they do not make a decision early in life. "Are they all in?" was the question which came again and again from the lips of a dying mother. In her delirium she had slipped back through the years and once more was "tucking in" her family. Had Mary returned? Was John in bed? Where was Tom? The mother heart could not rest until her brood was safely tucked in under the sheltering wing of her mother love. Thus, the anxious query, "Are they all in?"

The book of Job gives to us the picture of a father truly burdened about the spiritual welfare of his children. "And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually" (Job 1:5). The marginal rendition of "continually" is "all the days." This father had a continual burden upon his heart in

## Dr. R. S. Beal discusses the salvaton of children

# Are All the Children In?

relation to the spiritual welfare of his sons. Daily he made offerings unto God in their behalf. How many of us as parents have labored with God "all the days" in behalf of the spiritual condition of our children? Oftentimes we never utter a word of prayer for them until they fall sick or are nigh unto death. Sometimes it is only when they have fallen into mischief that we cry to God to get them out of trouble and to save ourselves from embarrassment.

John G. Paton, the famous missionary, testified many times to the lifelong influence of his father's prayers. W. T. Stead wrote, "I fail to find that modern society has any substitute for the social benefits which result from this old institution of the family altar." When our children in the tender years of life profess to have found the Lord Jesus Christ, let us water the seed of truth in their hearts by much prayer, and by a holy example.

We cannot escape the fact that the life and conduct of each parent is largely reflected in their children. If these young converts are not doing as well as they ought in their new-found hope, the strong probability is that the Christian profession of the parents is not making much of an impression. My sympathies go out to those children whose parents make no effort to help them in the Christian way after they have once found it. The times in which we find ourselves are perilous, and we cannot take too much care to fortify our children against the ever-increasing forces of evil to be found in every walk of life into which our children will enter. I am pleading with father and mother to believe in the genuineness of a Christian experience in the heart of their child.

There are some fine stories told of the children of Scotch Covenanters. Many of

these brave Scotch people met death at the hands of their enemies because of their faith in God, and even the children were true under great persecution. A number of children were surrounded by the soldiers of King George and were commanded to tell where their parents were hidden or be shot to death. In spite of the soldiers' cruel threats not one lad or lassie would tell the secret. As they were gathered under a tree, the fierce officer commanding the soldiers, sought to frighten them.

"If you do not tell me quickly you will be shot," the officer roared. They only huddled the closer and kept silent. "Make them all kneel and cover their faces," ordered the captain. One little lassie asked to be allowed to hold her brother's hand, for she thought he would face death easier. All knelt save one bonnie lad who remained standing. "I've done naething wrang: I'll no kneel doon; I'll dee stanin' up," he said in his Scotch brogue. The rifles were ordered loaded only with powder, but the order was given to fire. As the loud report rang through the valley, the children cried pitifully; and some fell to the ground in their fright, but others remained kneeling. "You have not prayed," sneered the officer. "Please sir, ma mither taught me a Psalm; we'll sing that if it will do," said a little girl. All the children stood and tears ran down the soldiers' faces as the children's voices rang out, "The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want." The officer himself had learned that Psalm also at his mother's knee. Before the song was finished the soldiers hurried away and left the children in peace. Does not this incident show how little children can love God and be true to Him even in the face of the threat of death? God help us to believe in the reality of a work of grace in their hearts.

# The Preacher and Visitation

By Floyd B. Cherry

This article on pastoral visiting is in the nature of a testimony. I believe that I can best give my views and ideas on pastoral work by giving you some of my personal experiences. Do not misunderstand, I do not hold myself out as an example nor my methods as ideal, but at least they have worked, to some degree at least, for me.

For many years I tried to do pastoral work without an adequate record of the church membership. This cannot be done. If you do not have for your own personal use an adequate file of your church membership, let me urge you to make one. It is a difficult, but rewarding job.

The way I began my file was to borrow the church book from the clerk of the church. Then I copied the membership roll, putting each name on a 3" by 5" filing card. After this had been completed, I went back and wrote on each card the address of the person. This is where the real work began because I did not know many of the addresses. It is a job that cannot be done in a day or week; it will require months, but stay at it. At the same time you are getting the addresses you can get the birthdate of as many as possible.

Now you have a card file with each member's name, address and birthdate. See how much more you know about your people now than you knew before you began your file. The next step is to begin to get acquainted. By the time you have gotten this far with your file you will know most of your members, but there will be a few that you do not know. Get acquainted with them.

Your filing system is not complete. You will need your people grouped in families. For this job, we took some 5" by 8" filing cards to the printer and had them printed to suit our purposes since we could not find blanks on the market that suited us. On this blank we had a place for the name of the head of the family, the family address, the members of the family and whether they were Christians or not. You see here you begin to take in some of the members of the family who are not members of the church. You can see who your prospects are and where they are located. On the back of the card, is room for jotting down the date of each visit.

Now that you have your file finished, how will you use it? Even though you have learned much about your people and had a real good time preparing the files, the best use is yet to come from it. This file will be a record of prospects for personal soul winning, for church membership, for addi-



tions to the Sunday School, and a record of your visits to your people and the particular problems that you have dealt with.

It is important that the pastor prepare his own file because it should be his personal property and should be private. He will make notes here that he does not want the public to see. The records of a pastor should be as personal and private as those of a doctor.

So far we have been dealing with the matter of records. Now that you have records, how will you use them? Will you start out and visit every member in the church or will you just visit those who are sick or have special problems? Preachers differ on their views.

The size of your church will determine to a great extent how you go about this job. If yours is a small church, then you might visit every family once a month and still have time left. But if the church has several hundred members scattered over a wide area this would be impossible.

My present church has approximately 500 members and this is the method that I have used here. On Sundays, I keep a piece of paper and pencil in my pocket. I jot down the names of all the sick ones and those that I hear about who have special problems. These get first priority in my visiting for the next week. After these are visited if there is time left I visit others, but I do not attempt to visit all my members in any given length of time. Perhaps, I should; but I don't.

Each day before I start out visiting, I sit down and make a list of the people to be visited. Then I group them so as to cut down on the travel as much as possible. This is especially important in a rural pastorate such as mine where the people are scattered over a wide area.

Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin has said, "The Lord will see to it that in every parish you will find a certain number of disagreeable people." If you overlook these people when they are sick, you will not have helped your ministry. However, I have never made it a practice to spend an undue amount of time with the neurotics who are habitually "not well" and expect the preacher every other day.

The sick call is one of the most important visits that a pastor makes. It should be short and cheerful. Some preachers feel that every time they make a sick call they should have prayer. I have never felt this way and do not always do so. It depends on the circumstances at the time of the call.

I have always felt that it is better for the pastor to make his sick calls at a time of day when other people are not apt to be

visiting. The sick person appreciates the pastor's visit more when he is alone. Too, he is more apt to talk about his problems and give the pastor an opportunity to lead him to Christ. For this reason, I never visit the sick on Sunday unless it is an emergency.

"Of all the acts that are unbecoming a clergyman, 'corpsechasing' is one of the greatest," says Russel L. Dicks. However, we should not let this keep us from visiting in a home where there has been a death. If the family is part of your parish, do not hesitate to go. If it is not part of your parish, stay away until you are called. In the next article in this series, we intend to deal with the Christian funeral; therefore, we will pass it by for the time being.

Every church has its share of the aged and shut-ins. These people deserve special consideration from the pastor. There are two classes of these so far as the pastor is concerned: those who are cheerful and have a healthy outlook on life and those who are morbid. If you are like I am you will have no trouble visiting the first group, but will have to drive yourself to the latter. However, it is necessary that we do it.

In our visiting we must be careful to make friends with the children. We may feel that in the total program of the church they are not important, but in a few years they will be the leaders in the church. Cultivate them for Christ and the church. Christ loves them and the church needs them.

How often should a pastor visit his regular shut-ins? I believe that the answer to this lies in the circumstances in each case. Certainly part of the answer will be in the size of the pastor's church; the larger his church the less often he can get to them. Let every pastor remember that the two classes of people that are nearest to the people's heart are the very old and the very young, and if he expects to reach his people he must give much time to these people.

In my experiences I have gone along sometimes for two or three years with my visitation program with the feeling that I simply was not registering on certain people. Then something would happen. A crisis would come to the family and I would realize that the seed I had sown were now giving me the opportunity to be of real help. So be patient in this task of visitation if you do not see immediate results. It is not a glamorous job, nor one that always gets praise from your church, but it will pay in the program of the church.

I have given you my methods in visitation. Don't use it. Instead develop your own. But be sure to have a method. My observation has been over a period of more than twenty-five years that those who do not develop a method of work and stick to it; do not do much work. Method can help you to accomplish more with the same amount of effort and will help you to be systematic.

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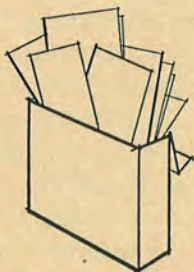


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Reprinted from *Church and Home*

# The Parents Teachers Like

by W. G. Montgomery

**H**AVING taught in Bible schools, as well as in public and state high schools, and having met and talked with literally hundreds of teachers about their problems, I believe I have a fairly good understanding of the kind of parents teachers like.

The task of teachers in our Sunday schools is not an easy one. However, let me hasten to add that teaching is never a "task" when teachers can get the full co-operation of parents. Teaching then becomes a privilege and a pleasure.

So with this general statement permit me to outline some of the qualities teachers like in parents. First of all, teachers in the Sunday school like best those parents who attend along with their children. No one ever gets too old to go to Sunday school; and teachers know that children whose parents also attend will be more attentive, take more interest and get more out of the lessons than will those whose parents stay away.

It is good when parents will say to their children, "Get ready now and go on to Sunday school." But it is better when they say, "Come on, children, let's go to Sunday school!"

Parents can co-operate in many ways with teachers in making the school sessions more successful. They can do

this by seeing to it that their children attend regularly. The boy or girl who attends Sunday after Sunday is the one who feels that he is a real part of the Sunday-school class—he belongs.

For example, the Harold Blake family, in White Hall, Ill., with their six children, have never missed going to Sunday school, except when some member is ill. Even on long vacation trips, they stop on Sundays to attend church and Sunday school.

Seeing that the children are on time each Sunday so that the teacher can begin class without being interrupted by latecomers is another way to co-operate with teachers.

Teachers also like parents who speak well of the Bible school, who are boosters instead of knockers, and who always have good things to say about the teachers in the presence of their children. A teacher's influence can almost be ruined by careless or unwise remarks made by parents in the presence of the child.

Teachers like to work with parents who are fair-minded, agreeable, and unselfish; with those who are glad to give of their time to help the school. For example, will parents help in making arrangements for special programs, planning parties, or buying and erecting a Christmas tree for the



children? Most teachers are pretty busy people with outside work of their own, and they do like parents who will co-operate in these extra affairs.

It is enough that our teachers so willingly give of their time and strength in teaching other people's children. They might say, "Well, it's nothing to me if my neighbor's child doesn't get any Bible training or knowledge, so I just won't go to all the trouble of teaching a class in the Bible school. I have nothing to gain by it, and will lose all the time."

No, they don't say that! They go ahead teaching, leading their neighbor's children into the good life without pay or material reward of any kind. So, in view of all they are giving in the way of service, they naturally feel, or

at least, I do, that appreciation by the parents would be little enough on their part. And that appreciation can be shown in many ways by grateful parents.

Best of all, parents and teachers will feel as though they are partners in the greatest undertaking of all—teaching boys and girls about Jesus!

In the weeks and months that are ahead you are urged to check up on yourself and see if you are the type of parent a teacher likes! Do you actually show your appreciation and interest by bringing your child regularly? Is he or she on time? Do you have something good to say about the school? Do you volunteer your help? Remember, parents and teachers must work together!

# The Teachers Parents Like

by Sid Silverton

**I**F the parents of the nation could express themselves as to the type of teachers they like, what do you think they would say?

Along with the replies of many thousands of parents from a country-wide questionnaire, and my own personal contacts with all types of parents who have children in the Bible school, I will try briefly to describe the teachers parents like best.

Parents, first of all, believe that the teacher should present the Bible and the great teachings of Jesus, instead of the frivolous things in which some teachers indulge. They send their children for the one purpose of learning more about the Bible and how they are to become a Christian and live a Christlike life.

Children will not receive this training in the public schools. The responsibility of Christian education lies with the Sunday-school teacher. I have found that parents like best those teachers who stay away from politics, economics, and the social sciences, and stick with the Bible when teaching their children. They feel that purely secular subjects are out of place in the Bible school.

I am sure that the vast majority of parents prefer teachers who emphasize character development. They feel that the building of character is important, and therefore, the character of the teachers themselves should be above reproach. I find that parents like teachers who have a good disposition. They want the teacher to be an example their children can imitate, and they know that children do catch the spirit of their teachers.

I have found, personally, that parents prefer teachers who emphasize good manners in their pupils. I wonder if this suggestion by parents is revealing a weakness in the home life of today. Is it true that good manners in the home are on the decline? Be that as it may, parents do think that we need better-mannered young people; that we

need more politeness, courtesy and respect on the part of youth today; and they like teachers who emphasize this both in their teaching and personal conduct.

Along with good manners, there is another thing parents emphasize. They feel that teachers, by all means, should maintain good order in the class. They do not send their children to Sunday school to help turn it into a "rough house." They want their children to be decent and orderly, and so they are interested in knowing what happens during the class.

Now, of course, no teacher can resort to harsh methods, or arbitrary rules, or force, in maintaining order. It must come through mutual respect, understanding, and an interesting lesson.

Any teacher will always have the good will of parents who will give his time to the preparing of lessons which will interest the pupils. Naturally, this means that teachers to be well liked by both parents and students, will need to make the best preparation they can for the Sunday's lesson. The better the preparation, the less trouble they will have in keeping order. The teacher who can hold the interest of his class will seldom have any disorder.

Of course, parents like teachers who emphasize honesty and truthfulness. They do not want their children to be taught to compromise with sin. They do not go in for moderate drinking or gambling, and they do not want teachers to compromise on any of these sins. Teachers whose lives measure up to their teaching are appreciated.

Finally, while parents do not expect teachers to be perfect, they do expect them to live up to what they teach. They like for them to be friendly, open-minded, and sincere. They like teachers who encourage devotional life on the part of the pupil and help them grow in their ability to pray. Teachers who strive to do God's will are sure to be honored by parents everywhere!

# Difficulties in Spain

by Mario Cignoni

With respect to our missionary work, I must say that despite of the difficulties caused to us by church and civil authorities, we are making headway under the blessing of the Lord. During the year 1958 the Lord granted us the joy of baptizing five souls converted to the Lord in addition to five other precious souls who gave their testimony of having received Christ as their personal Saviour. There are many more that came to our Gospel Hall to listen to the gospel of salvation and eternal life in Jesus Christ.

We are still being watched constantly by both church and civil authorities, who supervise all that we are doing for the Lord. But we are not afraid in the least and always try to avail ourselves of all opportunities of making the gospel of God known to the souls, such as revealed in the Holy Scriptures and in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our work among the many people living in hovels is still going on, but with a great deal of difficulty. It is more hard due to the low level of morality among those people addicted to all sorts of vice. We thank God for all the souls we were able to lead

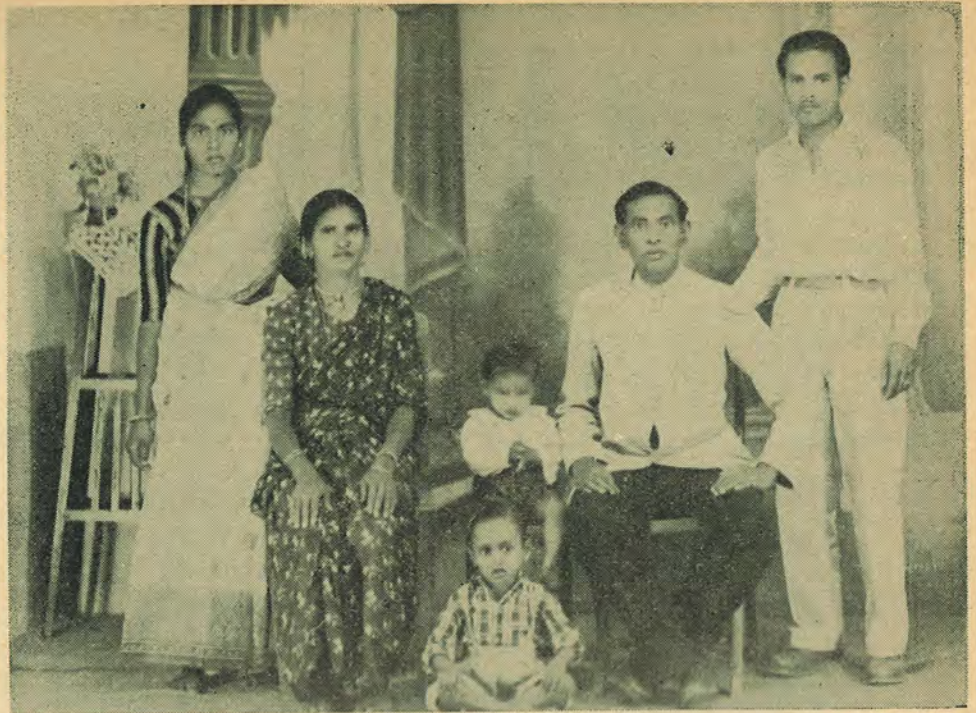


Mr. and Mrs. Cignoni and children

to the foot of the cross of Christ and so we endeavour to bring other souls to the same place. The hovels where the people live were close to the sea side (Editor's note: Barcelona is on the Mediterranean Sea), but now many of them have been destroyed by the stormy billows of the sea. Among a great number bereft of their homes, there is one sister of our church whose home was completely destroyed by the water. We tried to help her as much as we could, but owing to the serious housing problem she is still left without a home of her own.

Since here in Spain we have but little

*Mr. Cignoni is pastor of the Free Will Baptist church in Barcelona, Spain. His article is printed just as he wrote it.*



The family which Pastor Raju tells about in this article is shown above. Seated are the mother and father, Moses and Mary Thangamma. The son and his wife, Vincent and Rosie, are standing.

By R. John Raju . . .

## Hindu Family Converted in India

I am sure that you are glad to hear what the Lord has done in the village called Gopalapuram. This place is filled with Hindu backward people and they are zealous for their religion. They do not like to hear the Word of God. But much prayer was offered and God began to work.

When I came to Gopalapuram 18 months ago there was just one believer. After a few months of witnessing and preaching, the Lord moved the hearts of the people and they came to Christ, quite a large group at one time.

I am enclosing a photo of one of the families who has received Christ since I came to Gopalapuram. They come from a staunch Hindu background. They are the first ones in the family to accept the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. When I first began to go to their home and witness of Christ,

*John Raju is a native pastor in India. The story told here is in his own words with no changes being made in sentence construction.*

money, many problems are to be solved. We don't have homes for our old people abandoned by their relatives who do not profess Christian faith. Therefore they are reluctantly entering Roman Catholic institutions, which would mean something like denying their Christian faith.

Our young people cannot get married since civil marriage is not allowed in Spain. They would have to be married by a

(Continued on page 16)

my heart was often heavy and as I looked about the room, which was full of the pictures of their gods, my heart become even more heavy. They were entrenched in Hinduism and one wondered would they ever accept Christ.

We prayed often that the Lord would bring these people out from their faith and save them from their sins. Then one day—blessed day—the father and mother began to listen to the Word of God. Thank the Lord, He broke their hearts and saved them two months ago. Then this father and mother brought their son and his wife to the Lord Jesus. They moved out all the pictures of their idols and today they have only texts and Christian pictures in their home. Since they were saved, they have been very keen to witness and help others to find Christ.

Our hearts are full of joy when we look upon the faces of this family, the first fruits of our labor in Gopalapuram. We are trusting in the Lord and praying that we shall see many more souls coming to Christ. Dear friends, we are depending upon your prayers. The need is great. Will you join us in prayer that the Lord of the harvest will give us the laborers we need in this part of His vineyard?

Pray for this family. Praise God for the work of grace done in their hearts. We believe He is able to work a miracle of grace in the hearts of hundreds—yea, thousands—of others in this place. Our eyes are unto Him.

# What's Your Problem?



By LOUIS H. MOULTON

**Q. Recently while in the hospital for mental illness I was given the Novena Prayers to St. Jude Thaddeus. I have read this prayer many times but didn't feel right praying to St. Jude so I inserted the name of Jesus instead. I am almost well again and wonder should I give the praise to St. Jude or Jesus?**

**A.** Nowhere in the Bible are we taught to pray to any other than to God, Himself. The disciples in Luke 11:1 asked Jesus to teach them to pray. "And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father . . ." In Isaiah 45:19-23 God asks why do you pray unto a god that cannot save? In verse 21 of this passage God says ". . . there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside me. Look unto me . . ." My dear lady, the praying to the Saints or the Virgin Mary is the invention of the Roman Catholic Church and is not backed up by the Bible at all. You might just as well pray to any Christian alive today, because every blood-washed child of God is a saint. If we pray to a saint and expect him to answer prayer, then we push God into a place of secondary importance and become guilty of breaking the commandment which plainly says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).

**Q. My pastor preaches that dancing is sin. I am in high school and have made a very definite acceptance of Christ as my Lord and Savior yet I cannot see any harm in my attending the school dances. How do you feel about this?**

**A.** In I Cor. 10:31 Paul writing to a carnal church says ". . . whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." Can you really spend time on a dance floor with your body coming in close contact with that of one of the opposite sex and still say that what you are doing is to the glory of God? Do you really feel that the motions, the swaying, the rhythm of your body with another in the modern-day dance is to God's glory? When you face these things and realize that your answer must be given to God, then I think you'll answer your own question. The fact that you are a little doubtful yourself is a pretty good indication that you should shun it and leave it alone.

**Q. My sister recently has become a member of Jehovah's Witnesses and is doing her best to enlist me. I have been saved through the blood of Christ. What should be my treatment of her and the overtures she is making toward me?**

**A.** Instead of getting out and trying to make converts of the out-and-out sinner and bring them to Christ, the Jehovah's Witnesses seemingly are constantly trying to upset and disturb those who are already believers. They are not trying to win the unsaved to Jesus and this alone brands them and their doctrine as being a dangerous cult and "ism". Since they deny the eternal pre-existent deity of our Lord Jesus Christ and do not believe in the blood as we do, we cannot allow them to influence us with any of their doctrine. Even their name is a falsehood since one cannot be a witness for Jehovah until he has become a child of God through faith in Jehovah God's Son.

**Q. Even after years of study there are so many things in the Bible that are mysterious and beyond my understanding. Is this pretty general with most Christians?**

**A.** I frankly admit that there are many difficult passages, especially pertaining to prophecy which I do not understand. Even with various interpretations put upon some passages, there still remain many questions unanswered. When I come to such a passage, I let it rest until I have more definite light. This should not become too much of a problem to us since Peter in his second epistle, chapter three, verse 16, said that in some of Paul's writings ". . . are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

**Q. Not long ago I heard a man stand in an evening service during testimony time and tell of a dream he had had. Seems that this was just one dream among many he had had and he attached a great spiritual significance to these dreams. Could God have been speaking to this man in a dream?**

**A.** He could have but I, personally, do not put much stock in dreams. In a bygone age God did indeed speak through dreams. For example, the butler and the baker in Genesis 40 and again, to the boy Samuel in 1 Samuel 3. However, I do not believe that visions and dreams are for this dispensation. We have the written Word of God, the Bible, and in it God has revealed to us all that He desires us to know.

## Cooperative Gifts in March Go Over \$3,400

Thank God for the churches that regularly support all of the denominational agencies! Most of them which do support every national cause, do so through the Cooperative Plan. The March report shows they gave over \$3,400 which was allocated among the seven agencies.

### COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

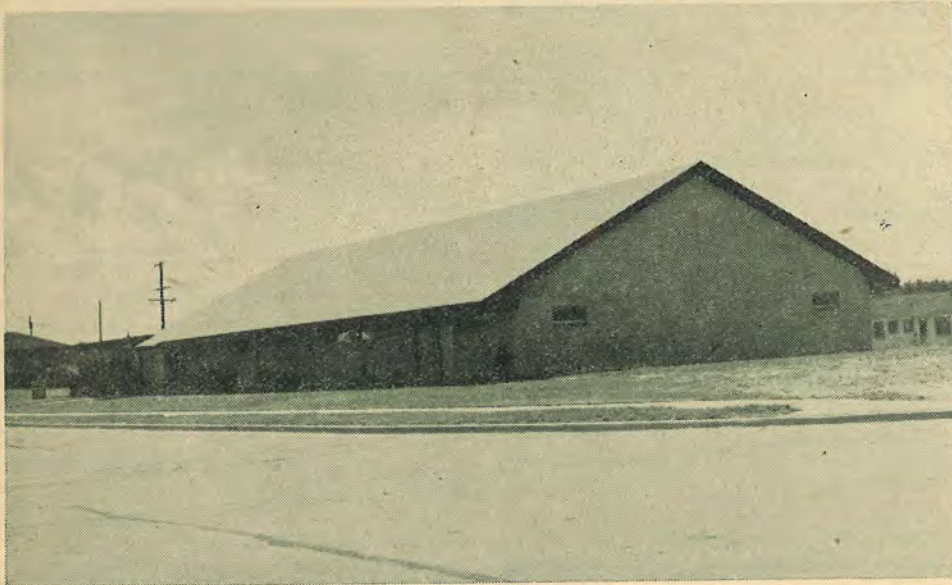
<b>ALABAMA</b>		
First Church, Dothan		76.05
<b>ARKANSAS</b>		
State Association		91.82
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>		
State Association		291.89
<b>FLORIDA</b>		
State Association		78.70
<b>GEORGIA</b>		
State Association		204.11
<b>ILLINOIS</b>		
Oak Valley Sunday School, Fairfield	11.27	
Union Church, West Frankfort	11.75	
First Church, Johnson City	42.80	
Oak Grove Church, Scheller	9.80	
Rock Springs Church, Thebes	33.15	
Waltonville Church, Mt. Vernon	20.91	
Bethel Church, South Roxana	27.50	
Bakerville Church, Mt. Vernon	31.26	
Webb's Prairie Church, Ewing	10.00	198.44
<b>KENTUCKY</b>		
Southside Church, Paintsville		44.00
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>		
South Mississippi Association		18.00
<b>MISSOURI</b>		
State Association		601.86
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>		
Swannanoa Church, Swannanoa	80.12	
Goshen Church, Belmont	100.00	180.12
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>		
First Church, Hobbs	63.02	
First New Mexico Association	4.43	67.45
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>		
State Association		774.52
<b>TENNESSEE</b>		
Wooddale Church, Knoxville	21.00	
Ashland City Church, Ashland City	31.00	
South Side Church, Memphis	20.62	
Union Association	40.00	
Olivet Church, Clarksville	200.00	
Horton Heights Church, Nashville	67.02	379.64
<b>TEXAS</b>		
State Association		379.21
<b>DESIGNATED</b>		
Oklahoma		25.00
		<u>3,410.81</u>

### DISBURSEMENTS

Superannuation	101.55
League	101.55
Sunday School	169.30
Home Missions	507.88
Bible College	677.18
Executive	837.59
Foreign Missions	1,015.76

3,410.81

## GLANCING AROUND THE STATES



### First Church, Dallas, Builds Property Which Has Present Value of Over \$100,000

DALLAS, Texas—Since 1954 the First church, Dallas has constructed property which is valued at \$110,000. The lovely new sanctuary and educational building are located at 3419 Michigan Avenue in the Oak Cliff section of the city.

Rev. H. Z. Cox, who became pastor of the church in 1948 when there was only a small group, has led in the relocating and building. The present membership is 230. The congregation moved to the new site in 1954 when their educational building was completed. Construction was started on the sanctuary in February 1957 and they moved into the spacious 50' x 110' unit in October of the same year. Both units are completely air-conditioned.

The sanctuary also includes the pastor's study and educational space for 12 classes. The Sunday school has six complete departments and averaged about 150 for the first quarter of 1959.

The congregation isn't through building. Plans are already underway for the construction of another educational unit. This new unit—which may be started this year—will be 50' x 70' and will give the church educational space comparable to the seating capacity of the sanctuary.

### Possibilities for New Church in Louisville, Ky.

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Rev. Glen Thomas, former pastor of Grace Free Will Baptist church in Detroit, has moved to Louisville and is beginning a new work there. He served for several years as state home mis-

sions director while in Michigan. He writes that he has already contacted four Free Will Baptist families in the city. Anyone knowing of people in Louisville who might be interested in a Free Will Baptist organization should contact Mr. Thomas at 4308 Winchester Road, Louisville.

### Home Missions Director Reports on Northwest

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Rev. Homer Willis, national home missions director, has recently returned from a revival at Wenatchee, Wash., and gives this report:

"The Free Will Baptist home missionary effort in the northwest is being greatly blessed of the Lord. We now have property with a value of \$40,000 at East Wenatchee, Wash. This church was organized a few years ago by Rev. John Postlewaite, one of our home missionaries. He has done a good work in other sections of the northwest, including Oregon. Wenatchee is a city of 25,000 people and our Sunday school there averages 100 in attendance.

"We also have a good work in Yakima, Wash. This is a much larger city some 125 miles from Wenatchee. The Sunday school here averages about 40 in attendance. Rev. Ernest Snowden is in charge. The church is located at Inglewood and N. 16th St. The great need in Washington state is for more Free Will Baptist preachers. The towns and cities are ripe for our ministry. Young preachers looking for a real opportunity should think in terms of these new fields."

### Extension School Held In South Carolina

JOHNSONVILLE, S. C.—An extension school from Free Will Baptist Bible College was conducted March 9-14 at the West Side church here. Courses were taught each evening in Bible doctrine and evangelism by Rev. Leroy Forlines, a member of the college faculty.

Attendance averaged 27. The school was sponsored by the Central Association. The group recommends this plan to churches all over the denomination.

### Services Held for Mrs. Rowena Thomas

HANNON, Mo.—Funeral services were held here February 8 for Mrs. Rowena Thomas who died February 6. Rev. Winford Davis conducted the service. Mrs. Thomas, who was an ordained Free Will Baptist minister for 26 years, was stricken while conducting a Woman's Auxiliary service at the Hannon church and did not regain consciousness. Surviving are her husband, three daughters and two sons.

### Bobby Jackson Announces Revival Schedule for 1959

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Bobby Jackson undoubtedly holds the title of No. 1 evangelist among Free Will Baptists. The young preacher has held 133 revivals in Free Will Baptist churches during the 3½ years since his graduation from college. While compiling this record he has preached over 1,800 times in 15 states and has witnessed over 3,000 definite decisions of salvation or return of backsliders. Below is his schedule through November of 1959:



JACKSON

Wilson, N. C., April 13-19; Beaufort, N. C., Apr. 20-26; Johnsonville, S. C., Apr. 27-May 6; Beulah church, S. C., May 7-16; Erwin, N. C., May 17-30; Aspen Grove church, Saratoga, N. C., May 31-June 13; Rocky Mount, N. C. (cooperative revival), June 14-27; Dawson's Grove church, Scotland Neck, N. C., June 28-July 5; Illinois youth camp, Benton, Ill., July 20-26; Cordova, Ala., July 27-Aug. 2; Dallas, Texas, Aug. 3-9; Texas youth camp, Woodlake, Texas, Aug. 10-15; Henderson, Texas, Aug. 16-29; Gastonia, N. C. (Piedmont revival), Aug. 31-Sept. 19; Miami, Fla., Sept. 21-Oct. 4; South Roxana, Ill., Oct. 5-18; Delta, Ohio, Oct. 19-Nov. 1; Greenville, N. C., Nov. 2-8; Vanceboro, N. C., Nov. 9-15; Bailey, N. C., Nov. 16-29.

### White River Conference Holds Quarterly Meeting

SANDTOWN, Ark.—The White River quarterly conference met at Pool's Chapel  
(Continued on page 15)

# Women at Work



## Woman's Auxiliary

LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

### Nearing the Goal for Japan

Benton, Ill.—A youth group here has been instrumental in raising \$1,333 for a caretaker's cottage on the state youth camp grounds, according to their leader, Mrs. Catherine Waggoner. The group used the unique idea of balancing a model of the cottage with cash offerings (see picture). Dr. E. T. Burwell suggested the idea and the carpentry work was done by Rev. George Ritter. Kay Sweetin, Ina; Carol Fisher, Freedom; Jeanne Walderman, Baker-ville, and Linda Buskool, Mt. Vernon, com- pose the Youth Rally Committee working on this project.



Left to right: David Waggoner, David Turn- bough, Stewart Waggoner, and Sherry Camp- bell.

Ashland, Ky.—The Woman's Auxiliary of the Second church met March 10 for their regular meeting with a special program on Japan. The house was decorated with Oriental ideas. The table was highlighted with place mats, napkins, Kokeeshe dolls and a cake made in the shape of Japan to carry out the Japanese theme. The group gave an offering to help meet the quota for the missionary residences in Japan.

Modesto, Calif.—The Woman's Auxiliary of the First church recently elected officers for the coming year. The following were elected: Ruth Walker, president; Naomi Cunningham, enlistment chairman; Hallie Wood, youth chairman; Martha Elam, program-prayer chairman; Cloe Adkins, study course chairman; Bobbie McCage, personal service chairman; Sue Wood, recording secretary; and Naomi Huffer, treasurer and corresponding secretary. Eighteen members were present for the program on Japan.

Ashland City, Tenn.—In response to Rev. Tom Willey's plea for printed sacks and material for clothing for war victims in Cuba, the Barnard Circle sent enough material for 55 garments. They also sent

two boxes of clothing to the Arizona-Mexico Missions and one box to the Tennessee Children's Home. As a local project the members sent Valentine greetings by means of a card, call or visit to 10 aged or shut-in persons in the community. They sponsored a World Day of Prayer at the church and sent an offering of \$5.36 to the National Association of Evangelicals.

California, too, has gone over her quota with an offering April 1.

Congratulations, Mississippi and Califor- nia. The Lord bless you for your generosity.

You will notice by the accompanying financial report that other states are very near to realizing their goals also. South Carolina needs only \$78.50 to reach her suggested quota. For each one who has already contributed and for those who are going to contribute we ask God's richest blessing upon you for your love and kind- ness to others.

The missionaries in Hokkaido and the other missionaries that will be going there where their language study is over, need houses in which to live and work. They are standing in the hard places in our stead, so the least we can do is to try to provide a house for them.

The Lord has been very good to us as a Convention. He has blessed us abundantly and not only as a Convention, but as in- dividuals as well. I'm certain, could I speak to you personally today, you would add a hearty "Amen!" to the above statement. "The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and all thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom" (Psalm 145:9-12).

To those whose suggested quota seems far from being realized, may I encourage you to keep trying. Paul wrote the following verse as a summation, as it were, to the precious stewardship truths he had been explaining, "As it is written, he that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack" (2 Cor. 8:15). The Lord always rewards faithfulness, so dear co- laborer, keep on trying.

### Progress Report

STATES	QUOTA	RECEIVED	BALANCE	OVER
Alabama	\$ 350.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 325.00	
Arizona	50.00		50.00	
Arkansas	400.00	269.03	130.97	
California	450.00	396.00		\$ 19.98
Florida	200.00	5.00	195.00	
Georgia	600.00	45.00	555.00	
Illinois	400.00	71.99	328.01	
Kansas	50.00		50.00	
Kentucky	200.00	66.00	134.00	
Louisiana	50.00		50.00	
Michigan	600.00	405.62	194.38	
Mississippi	250.00	260.65		\$ 10.65
Missouri	1,000.00	452.09	547.91	
New Mexico	50.00	28.36	21.64	
North Carolina	1,850.00	458.17	1,391.83	
Ohio	200.00		200.00	
Oklahoma	1,000.00	95.28	904.72	
South Carolina	1,000.00	921.50	78.50	
Tennessee	1,000.00	269.28	730.72	
Texas	500.00	214.98	285.02	
Virginia	300.00	142.33	157.67	
West Virginia	100.00		100.00	
Totals	\$10,600.00	\$4,071.28	\$6,539.37	

two boxes of clothing to the Arizona-Mexico Missions and one box to the Tennessee Children's Home. As a local project the members sent Valentine greetings by means of a card, call or visit to 10 aged or shut-in persons in the community. They sponsored a World Day of Prayer at the church and sent an offering of \$5.36 to the National Association of Evangelicals.

Columbus, Miss.—The Mississippi district woman's auxiliary held a workshop at the

Tupelo church, February 24. The theme for the workshop was "Growing in the Word." Approximately 35 women registered for the day. Mrs. Eunice Edwards was featured as special speaker. The next regular district meeting will be held with the First church in Columbus.

Tulsa, Okla.—The officers of Capitol Hill Auxiliary assisted the Northwest Free Will Baptist Women to organize into an auxiliary,

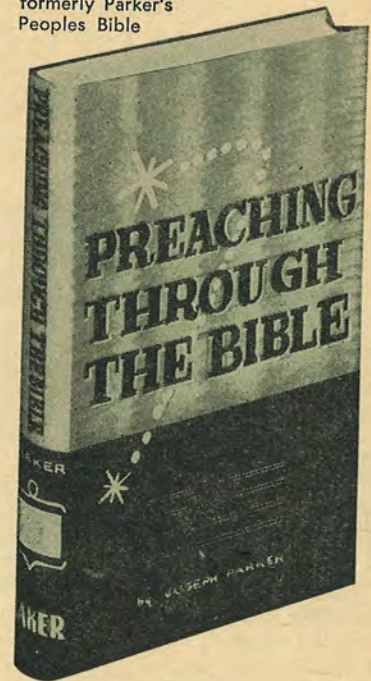
(Continued on page 16)

# PREACHING THROUGH THE BIBLE

by JOSEPH PARKER

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- Lee Roberson:** It is excellent!
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- Roy W. Nicholson:** He loved the Bible, and understood its undiminishing relevance to all human problems.
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- David O. Fuller:** It is very worthwhile to read and study his writings.
- Ralph Earle:** It contains much good preaching material relevant to our day.
- Harold Lundquist:** There is nothing finer in Bible exposition than Dr. Parker's work!

## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

June 1959 . . . . .	Matthew I . . . . .	Vol. 18
June 1959 . . . . .	Matthew II . . . . .	Vol. 19
July 1959 . . . . .	Matthew III . . . . .	Vol. 20
August 1959 . . . . .	Mark - Luke . . . . .	Vol. 21
September 1959 . . . . .	John . . . . .	Vol. 22
October 1959 . . . . .	Acts I . . . . .	Vol. 23
November 1959 . . . . .	Acts II . . . . .	Vol. 24
December 1959 . . . . .	Acts III . . . . .	Vol. 25
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## Glancing . . .

(Continued from page 12)

church here on March 27-28. Speakers were Rev. Obie Eagan, Rev. Herman Lewis, and Rev. Clarence Burton. Rev. Austin Mullen, conference clerk, reports that the conference has increased its church property substantially with valuation going up from \$81,000 to \$107,000 in one year.

### Mount Olive College Again Offers Scholarships

MOUNT OLIVE, N. C.—Scholarships covering one-half the amount of tuition will be awarded again this year by Mount Olive Junior College to valedictorians and salutatorians from the high schools of Wayne, Duplin, Sampson, and Johnston counties in North Carolina and to valedictorians and salutatorians who are members of Free Will Baptist churches, President W. Burkette Raper has announced.

Interested students who expect to graduate from high school in 1959 with either the first or second highest scholastic average in their class should write the college for application forms.

### Revivals . . .

East Wenatchee, Wash.; Homer Willis, evangelist; John Postlewaite, pastor; March 22-29; 11 dec., 17 add.

Tifton, Ga.; Damon C. Dodd, evangelist; A. C. Truluck, pastor; April 12-17.

South Side church, St. Louis, Mo.; Mark M. Lewis, evangelist; Roger C. Reeds, pastor; April 13—.

### Pastoral Changes . . .

Elro Driggers to Fellowship church, Flat River, Mo., from First church, Pine Bluff, Ark.

William Mishler to First church, Pine Bluff, Ark.

H. C. Beasley has resigned First church, Flat River, Mo. No future plans announced.

## CONTACT

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Vol. 6 April, 1959 No. 6

## personally . . .

### Literature Picture Brightens

Everyone is painfully aware of the dark picture which our Sunday school literature publishing program presented three months ago. We discussed it at length in the last issue and tried to lay before our Free Will Baptist people the facts concerning it. We have tried to be completely objective and honest in our presentation.

Three months ago we were \$23,500 in debt. The literature publishing operation was transferred to the Executive Department until the national convention would meet and decide its future. Although the picture was dark, some of us believed and still believe in the long-range possibilities of the program. It is currently being operated with a bare minimum of overhead and every dollar possible is being plowed back into the retirement of the debt.

Here is the way the picture looks as of April 1: The debt has been reduced from \$23,500 to less than \$21,000 which is a net gain of over \$2,500. We have filled nearly 500 orders for literature and it is certain that the final figure for this quarter will go over that amount. Second quarter sales were \$10,638 as compared with \$7,941 for the first quarter—an increase of \$2,697—despite the adverse publicity and uncertainty on the part of some.

It seems quite certain now—with everything else remaining equal—that we will improve our condition between \$3,000 and \$4,000 in the next three month period just from our business operation. The Executive Committee is launching a debt-retirement effort which should equal that amount also. It is the keen desire of the Executive Committee that we go to the convention with the debt completely erased. There is strong reason for this—our denominational integrity is at stake. These are honest financial obligations incurred in carrying out a mandate of the national body and our denominational name is involved. Every loyal Free Will Baptist who loves our name and values our respect in the Christian business world will want to get behind this effort of the Executive Committee.

There are at least three things you can do in a definite way to continue to brighten the picture that already looks hopeful.

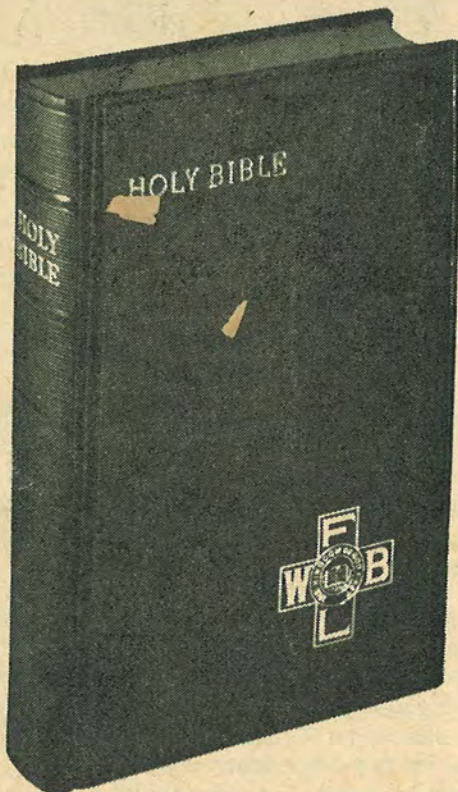
(1) You must personally contribute to the debt retirement drive and get others to contribute. Your gift—everybody's gift—is urgently needed now. Notes have been signed in the amount of \$19,800 to secure these debts and they are coming due. Over \$12,000 of this will be due, with interest, before the national convention. Your immediate and generous response is all that will put the money in the treasury to meet this obligation.

(2) You can order your literature from the National Sunday School Department. Every literature order means that much more that will go into the retirement of the debt. The department will have literature for the third quarter (July-September) ready by June 10. If you need to supplement your second quarter's literature with some additional quarterlies, we can supply those now. This literature program is the only one offered to Free Will Baptist churches that bears the approval and authorization of the National Association. Be loyal by giving it your support.

(3) You can get your Vacation Bible School materials from the National Sunday School Department. We are offering the highly-popular and thoroughly evangelical Scripture Press course, "Living for Jesus in the Space Age." Free Will Baptist churches have been using this material for years. All of the material—workbooks, teacher's guides, handwork, publicity items, everything—is now in stock at the denominational headquarters. The Sunday School Department is prepared to ship immediately when your order is received. And every order that you send will mean an additional amount going into the retirement of the debt.

You and your church are needed to stand in the gap at this time. Will you rally to the call? Write us and encourage us by letting us know of your support.

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## Difficulties

(Continued from page 9)

Catholic priest. We are not allowed to have Christian schools and our children are obliged to attend schools where lessons of Roman Catholic doctrine are compulsory.

Protestants will never be allowed to occupy any post in the service of the Spanish state. When joining the armed forces, they are forced to attend mass and are never allowed to achieve any military rank.

In Spain there is still prohibition of publishing and spreading Bibles. We are not entitled to have any Christian literature printed and issued. Soul-winning is severely punished and Protestant churches are closed by Roman Catholic authorities and public worship is not allowed.

At this time about 20 Protestant churches remain closed by order of the authorities for the only crime of not being in possession of an official permit from the authorities and because churches are found guilty of proselyting. In this respect all Spanish Protestant churches are guilty of the same thing since our very first mission is teaching people in accordance with our Lord's commandments. For this reason every Spanish Protestant church is in constant danger of being closed.

In all of this we are depending on God only, and only by the virtue of prayer constantly offered by God's flock will we be able to pursue our missionary endeavor. The Protestant churches had a national Day of Prayer on February 8 when all believers lifted their voices to the throne of Grace and on March 19 a World Day of Prayer was declared in behalf of the Spanish Christians.

## Women

(Continued from page 13)

January 22. Mrs. Alice Wood of Capitol Hill was in charge of the service. The group elected officers and set the time for regular meetings.

*Oklahoma City, Okla.*—The Woman's Auxiliaries of the First Oklahoma Association held a workshop January 29 at the Central Avenue church, Oklahoma City, with 88 persons registered. Mrs. Bessie Staires, state study course chairman, was guest speaker.