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OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

DECEMBER 1959

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Let's Take the Guess-Work Out of Youth Work

By Ted Engstrom . . .

In the Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C., they will show you some metal objects that are guarded as carefully as the gold in Ft. Knox—not because the metal itself is so valuable, but because these objects are the standards for our system of weights and measures. Imagine how confusing our lives would be if there were no standard foot, pound, or meter! Progress would come to an immediate halt, and no one would be able to be certain of anything. Obviously you cannot run a scientific laboratory or a hospital operating room on guess-work!

The same principle applies to the work of the local Sunday School and church: guess-work leads to *less* work and ultimately to poor results, if any at all. Having worked with young people in local churches and interdenominational programs around the world, I am convinced that it is time we took the guess-work out of youth work and start operating on basic fundamentals that will get the job done. It is time we exchanged points and challenged today's teen-agers with a program that will make a difference in their lives and in the work of our churches.

Let's Stop Guessing About the Importance Of Youth Work.

Whether we like to admit it or not, this is the "Age of the Teen-Ager." The 17 million teen-agers in the United States have gained more and more importance since the end of the war, and have quite a bit of influence on today's world. Back in 1945, the average American teen-ager had a weekly income of \$2.50. Today his income (allowance plus earnings) is close to \$10 a week! Businessmen tell us that today's young people spend about 9 billion dollars annually!

But even apart from the size of the teen population and the amount of money it controls, young people are important because *they are the controls of the future.*

Courtesy of Youth Commission of the National Sunday School Association in preparation for National Youth Week, January 24-31, 1960.

The church or Sunday School that makes no provision for the youth is not looking to the future. Granted, the teen-agers might not have the wisdom today to sit on church boards, but tomorrow they will be called upon to carry on our work after we have gone. "Should we have a youth program?" is not the question. Yes—every church *must* have a youth program. The real question is, "How much of ourselves are we willing to give to make the youth program succeed?"

Let's Stop Guessing About the Kind of Youth Workers to Enlist.

Not everyone can work with teen-agers. This is a simple statement to make, yet a difficult one to practice. We are careful to get the best Bible teachers for the adults, and the finest, most patient story-tellers for the children; but too often we give the young people sponsors and directors that no other department wants. Sunday School experts tell us that we lose 80% of our pupils when they get to the teen years—and common sense would demand that we enlist the very best workers to put a stop to this spiritual kidnapping!

What are the ingredients that go to make up a successful youth worker? Let me suggest:

1. *Spirituality.* Teen-agers can detect a counterfeit in almost no time, so don't try to fool them. A sponsor who lives in the Word, depends on the Spirit, and prays daily for his young people will have a better chance for success.

2. *A love for teens.* He will never be able to put up with the problems or face the heartaches if he has no love in his heart for the fellows and girls he is working with. Techniques fail, methods fail, and programs fail, but "love never faileth."

3. *Alertness.* Avoid the sponsor who keeps saying, "Now, back when I was a teen-ager . . ." Whether we like it or not, today's teens are different, even though their basic spiritual problems are the same. No missionary would dare to go to a field

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IN THE VINEYARD

■ Executive Secretary, **Billy Melvin**, attended annual meeting of Chaplain's Commission of NAE, Washington, D. C. . . . Moved to Nashville November 2. . . . Represented on General Council of National Sunday School Convention, Columbus, Ohio.

■ Thirty churches in N. C. featured Foreign Mission Promotional Secretary, **Louis Moulton**, as speaker in missionary conferences in November and December.

■ Home Mission Director, **Homer Willis**, attended state meetings in Fla., Ala., and Ga. . . . Held Revival in Overland Church, St. Louis, Mo.

■ Free Will Baptist Bible College represented at Central Conference, Ormandville, N. C., by **Dean Charles Thigpen**. . . . **E. B. McDonald** and **Leroy Forlines** attended Alabama state meeting. . . . **President, Dr. L. C. Johnson**, spoke at Georgia state meeting.

■ **Ray Turnage**, National Director of Free Will Baptist Leagues, attended NSSA, Columbus, Ohio, as representative on Youth Commission.

■ Master's Men National Secretary **Robert Hill** urges members to make contribution of \$2 before Christmas for December project. The printing press will be used for all Spanish speaking peoples of Miami, Cuba, South America and Mexico.

■ **Mrs. Eunice Edwards**, WNAC Executive Secretary, attended week's services and district workshop in Knoxville, Tenn., area in observance of Pre-Thanksgiving week of prayer.

HOLY-DAY OR HOLIDAY?

As the liquor industry's busiest selling season approaches, its business is booming. Sales are about 5 per cent above last year's level and indications point to an apparent consumption of about 222,000,000 gallons for all of 1959, according to the Distilled Spirits Institute. This will be about 7,000,000 more gallons than in 1958. Final figures for the first half of 1959 show consumption at 120,393,307 gallons compared with 113,135,997 gallons in 1958.

What an indictment upon Christian (?) America! Is Christmas to become nothing but a time of drunkardness and merry-making? It has already become that for many, and unless the Church stands to denounce the liquor traffic and the cheap commercial emphasis of Christmas, it will become that for many more. Be very sure that Christ is at the center of your Christmas. Give to Him first place and Christmas will be for you a Holy-Day and not merely a holiday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

ROUTINE

OR

BLESSING

The Living Scriptures — by Jack Hamm
Through No Fault Of His Own



IT IS TIME for every member of our denomination to become awakened to the possibilities of the Sunday School. We must also become aware of the conditions of the Sunday School in the local church. There are those who have claimed this to be the "most wasted" hour of the week. It would be fine if each Sunday School class HAD one hour in which to study the living Word of our Lord, but this is not so. We find our Sunday School occupied with too many things of less importance that little time is left for teaching the Word. If the teachers come to Sunday School unprepared, if teachers are not concerned, if pastors have no concern about Sunday School, the time is wasted. In reality there are many things which contribute to wasted time. However, it does not have to continue to be "wasted time." The Sunday School can be anything the local church leaders want it to be. It can be a weekly routine or it can be a blessing to the church.

What is the Sunday School? It is NOT a church service, it is NOT a baby sitting agency, and it is NOT a morning "snack"

The writer of this article is a layman. He serves as Educational Director in the Fairmount Park Free Will Baptist Church located at Norfolk, Virginia.

time for children to have cookies and candy. These have their places, but in many instances are "out of place." The Sunday School IS the institution which is faced with the task of reaching and teaching people the WORD of our Saviour. The one reason for the existence of the Sunday School is for people to experience the personal salvation taught in the Bible. It IS the institution whose business it is to be efficient at winning the lost to Jesus. It IS the institution whose business it is to KNOW the Word of God.

In the light of these general definitions let us take a look at our Sunday Schools. First, let us consider the task of reaching the people. Observation tells us that methods of reaching people in many of our Sunday Schools are completely foreign. I wonder if it is because we have not known the methods to use or if we have been content to exist without progressiveness in the field of the Sunday School. Ignorance of methods is no excuse, so I am inclined to believe it is the latter. Building a Sunday School is tremendous work. It is impossible to build one without working hard at the job.

This business of reaching people demands time, sacrifice, and much effort. The leaders of our local Sunday Schools need to begin and continue a program of visitation through the Sunday School. This is the greatest means of evangelism that the church has today. Opportunities for winning the lost through the Sunday School are wide open. Every church and every church worker should take advantage of these opportunities.

It is time for us to recognize this fact and start building our churches through the Sunday School. (I hope I am not misunderstood at this point.) We read often about newly organized churches. We are given reports of so many churches being organized in a given period of time. There are so many cities which have no Free Will Baptist church and they need one. These reports are all well and good, BUT we do not need to go about organizing churches just because there are places without one. We need rather to go and organize groups for the purpose of teaching the WORD of God. These groups need to be called Sunday Schools and from these will come our churches. It is impossible to build a church and then say we are going to have a Sunday School. We have failed to reach thousands of people because we have been so interested in building "churches." It is time we worked up a great deal of enthusiasm over building Sunday Schools. Churches grow only because the Sunday School grows. We have placed importance on church organizing and have not placed the same importance on organizing Sunday Schools.

There is no such thing as the Sunday School being of less importance than any other part of the church. As a denomination we need to do something about the fact that five million babies are being born every year and will continue to do so for many years. Every industry is preparing for this growth in population while church leaders and workers make no preparation to reach and bring the Gospel of salvation to these children. The responsibility is ours and there is no escape.

I am certain that organization alone will accomplish little lasting good. But at the same time I believe that organization with Spirit-filled leaders can accomplish much lasting good. On the

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Christmas

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21).

Christmas is such a happy time! A little girl once said, "I wish it could be Christmas all the time." Perhaps you have said the same thing. You would like to keep Christmas. Why? What does Christmas mean to you? To some people it means long hours of hard work. Thousands of clerks in the downtown stores are so utterly exhausted that the season is dreadfully approached and ended with a sigh of relief. The stores are crowded with shoppers frantically searching for appropriate gifts, the post office is overflowing with millions of cards being sent, in many cases, not because people sincerely care, but for fear that their business or friendship might be affected. To some people Christmas means "going home." So the trains and buses and planes are carrying capacity crowds. To some people Christmas means revelry. They usher the day in with drinking and dancing and riotousness, they connect these evils with the blessed Name of our wonderful Lord and Savior. There are millions of people to whom Christmas means absolutely nothing. They do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior. December 25th as far as they are concerned is just another day.

But Christmas is not just another day to the real Christian. It means everything to him. Let us follow the Word and see what Christmas really means.

The writer is pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson, North Carolina.

Earl H. Glenn

I. Christmas Means That CHRIST CAME

For hundreds of years before Jesus came there had been prophecies of one who would come as the Messiah and the Savior of the world. Let us review some of these prophecies.

When Adam disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden and thus brought the whole human race plunging down into utter ruin. God pronounced a curse upon the serpent which had been used of the devil in tempting man. He said, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." (Genesis 3:15) In other words, God prophesied that Christ would some day crush Satan. Since that distant day, there lay a baby in yonder Bethlehem manger, the seed of a woman. Man had no part in His glorious birth. This child would grow up to manhood, go to the cross for man's redemption, break the bonds of death, lift empires off their hinges, change the whole course of human history and finally crush Satan and one day cast him into the lake of fire.

The beautiful songs of David made mention of a great king whose name would endure forever. Earthly kingdoms rise and fall; Human institutions flourish and fail; all around there is change and decay; but Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His name has been spoken for

more than two thousand years and as long as God exists, that precious Name of Jesus will endure.

Of all the prophecies in the Old Testament, surely Isaiah's were the greatest. It was of Him that the prophet declared, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

Thus many prophecies of the Virgin Birth were given. The prophets had described His character, mission, time and place of birth with such accuracy that anybody familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures would be able to know just when the wondrous event was to take place. For seven hundred years nothing happened. Then, finally, the great hour arrived; God's eternal clock chimed out; "the fullness of time was come;" the Savior of the world would be born. Now God must choose a human mother for that glorious privilege of bringing His divine Son into the world. Mary was that woman—blessed mother of Jesus, not divine, not to be worshipped, not a mediator between God and man, simply a human instrument used of God to bring His Son into the world.

But Mary was puzzled when the angel Gabriel gave her this startling news of the approaching birth. Of course, she could not understand, for she had never had any physical relations with any man. She was a virgin. But Gabriel told her that God would perform this great thing through the power of the Holy Spirit. So Mary bowed in humble submission to God's will and said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." (Luke

1:38) Then Gabriel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to go ahead and take Mary for his wife, that the child she would bear would be born through the power of the Holy Spirit, that man would have nothing to do with this birth. It was all to be the work of God. Then the time came when Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to pay taxes. Finally, as the day faded away and the sun disappeared into night, they found rest and shelter in a barn. Mary's time had come and Christ was born and laid in a manger. Thank God, He came!

II. His Coming Brought Happiness

There were no telephones, telegraph or broadcasting stations to herald the good tidings of great joy to the world. The average man did not seem interested in the arrival of the new-born Babe. To them it was just another baby. But there were a few God-fearing people who accepted the news with great jubilation. They had looked for the Messiah for many years, longing for Him to come and fill their hearts with joy and peace and satisfaction. Now on this night of all nights the angel of the Lord appeared to the lowly shepherds and announced the gladdest and sweetest message the world ever heard. Suddenly the heavens were aglow with the heavenly host praising God and singing, "Peace on earth, good will to men."

The shepherds received the glorious news with great joy. Filled with wonder and excitement, they left their flocks that night to go and see this thing which God had brought to pass. They found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

God had revealed to the Wise-men that the Messiah was born, and led by a star they went with the expectation of worship. The Word does not tell us what the Wise-men did to get ready for the visit to the new-born King. But one thing we know, before leaving their country they searched for rare and beautiful gifts to take him. Following the star with great joy, it let them to the place where the young child was. Humbly and joyously they bowed in worship and presented unto Him gifts—gifts fit for a king.

III. His Coming Meant Redemption For All the World

When the angel Gabriel visited Joseph, he prophesied redemption when he said, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

One day John and his disciples were walking along together. When he looked up and saw Jesus coming to him, he pointed to Him and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29b)

Paul declared the purpose of Christ's coming to the earth when he said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." (I Timothy 1:15b)

Yes, if the Savior had not come, we would still be in our sins and hopelessly lost today. But because He came our sins are put under the Blood, and our names are written in the Lamb's book of Life. We have been redeemed and adopted into the family of God.

IV. His Coming Involved All the People of the World Regardless of Race, Color or Creed

For a moment, repeat to yourself the words the Angel said to the shepherds the night Jesus was born. "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to . . ."

To whom? To the Jews? To the white people? "To ALL people," the angel said. How blessed are ALL people who believe God's Word. Miracles are for ALL people who believe in them. The Savior is for ALL people who know that they are lost and need a Savior. The good tidings of great joy is to ALL who believe it. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

V. His Coming Set Up a New Kingdom on the Earth

His was a kingdom of love. His was a kingdom of compassion. His was a kingdom of mercy. What a contrast to the kingdom that existed before His coming! The Jews were under the "iron hand" of the arrogant Romans. Darkness and despair cast a gloom about them. Their brightest hopes were for one to come and reign with great power and might, amassing great armies of Jews and going forth as the mighty conqueror of nations. But it seemed to them that God had forgotten them. Contrary to their expectations, he came as a tiny baby—nothing kingly about Him. He came in humility, "Not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45b)

VI. His Coming Taught Men How To Live

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (St. John 1:14).

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, God gave us a perfect example. If He had come and

walked among men as an angel, we could never have patterned our lives after Him. But He came as a man in human flesh. Now that is far from being enough, even though it is everlastingly important. I am not as interested in someone telling me what I ought to do as I am in seeing somebody demonstrate it; so when Jesus came, God said, "If you want to know what man is supposed to be and how he is supposed to live, look at my Son; here he is, your perfect example." If you want to know what the guiding principle for your life should be, you need only to look at Jesus. If you want to know what the ultimate goal and end of life should be, you can see it if you will

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow
strangely dim

In the light of His Glory and Grace.

Jesus once said, "I came that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Therefore, if you want to know the real sense of values in freedom, of security, and of spiritual well-being, and be able to decide what is vital for the Christian life, you can look at Jesus, the perfect example.

If you want to know what your attitude toward peoples of other colors and creeds and races should be, then you have the pattern in Jesus who said, "Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." (Matthew 7:12a).

All of His teachings were summed up in the two great commandments:

". . . Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40).

VIII. "CHRIST"-MAS Day

Now what have we seen in "Christmas" today? We have seen:

C—That Christ CAME down to earth in human flesh.

H—That His coming brought HAPPINESS as evidenced by the angels singing joyously in the heavens, the humble shepherds finding Jesus and the Wise-men gladly worshipping with their gifts.

R—That His coming meant REDEMPTION for a lost world.

I—That His coming INVOLVED all the people of the world.

S—That His coming SET up a new kingdom on the earth.

T—That His coming TAUGHT men how to live.

Beloved, leave C-H-R-I-S-T out of Christmas, and you only have a day. Let us put Christ into our Christmas this year. Let us celebrate Christmas according to its real significance. Let's keep Christmas always.



Editors Note: Read this with care and caution, please, remembering all the time what it is: the fictional diary of a fledgling demon assigned to the task of "sabotaging" the furlough of hypothetical "Mr. Missionary."

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Diary of a D E M O N

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YOU will recall my recent assignment to accompany Rev. Joe Missionary just home from Asia, on his deputation ministry throughout the United States. Your words, and I quote were: "You are to see to it that Rev. Joe Missionary is so harassed, confused and discouraged in the course of his ministry at home that he will be in no shape to return to the field."

I am happy to report that the mission seems to have been accomplished. The missionary is considering returning to the secular employment that he followed back in the days before he went to college and seminary and then on to the mission field.

Honesty compels me to report, however, that I could not have successfully completed this mission without the complete (albeit unintentional) cooperation of the churches which he visited. (A great deal of credit, too, must be given to the deputation director of his mission, who saw to it that the missionary began his deputation work immediately upon his return home, that he was forced to travel constantly, and was under heavy pressure to bring in funds above and beyond his travel expenses.)

To illustrate, let me share with you the following excerpts from my diary for the past few weeks:

January 15—Joe Missionary came down the gangplank looking pale and drawn. His furlough was several years overdue, and his fatigue was obvious. I was about to open my attack as outlined in the *Demon's Handbook for Missionary Harassment*, but found it unnecessary. As soon as he was ashore, he was handed a yellow sheet of paper. It was a lengthy telegram, instructing him to proceed at once to a missionary conference in Dubuque rather than to go first to his home in Walla Walla as he had planned. Things have begun well. . .

January 21—Subject did get a long weekend at home, but now we are off again. Yesterday he spoke seven times: two church services, Sunday school class, radio program, afternoon mission group meeting, youth group, at an after-church sing. Don't think he felt much like singing. He hasn't complained yet, but I can see we are proceeding according to schedule.

January 28—Joe Missionary preached tonight at largest church here in Springfield. After church, the man was "paid"—with a hearty handshake and an enthusiastic "You'll get your reward on the other side!" I'm getting lots of help. . . .

February 3—Still on road . . . After service tonight, (the pastor was away), everyone shook hands with subject, told him what a wonderful message he had brought—and then went home. Custodian forgot pastor was away and didn't show up. Mr. Missionary figured out how to turn off the lights and lock the church, and then walked to the bus station. Must admit I'm getting lots of

help from these churches in my program of attrition.

February 10—Got a big assist tonight. Before evening service here in Greenfield, subject had dinner with chairman of the board of deacons. At table, host said he didn't mean to be rude, but he couldn't see any sense in sending good American money overseas for missionary work among "people who don't appreciate it anyway." Asked Mr. Missionary how many converts he had last year. When subject answered ten, deacon said, "Humph! We had that many new people in Sunday school last week, and it didn't take any year's work or lots of money to get 'em!" Mr. Missionary started to tell him that these were the first ten converts ever made on his field, but finally just sighed and gave up. . . .

February 17—Subject was speaker at a youth rally. After 36 preliminary events, including sign-language quiz and performance by blindfolded marimbist, M.C. turned to Mr. Missionary and said, "Sorry, you'll only be able to speak for ten minutes. We promised we'd be through by 9:30. . ."

February 20—This was a good day—for me, not for subject! He spoke this afternoon at a ladies' missionary society. Lady in charge said, "Now we'll have our special speaker, a Mr.— Mr. . . . well, I've forgotten his name but he's from India . . . or is it South America?" Subject was visibly disturbed. This job, Dear Diary, gets easier all the time! . . .

February 22—Mr. Missionary really preached his heart out tonight, and in spite of my efforts, everyone was stirred. He told about the need for a new hospital on his field, also for medicine and for literature to distribute among the patients. After he was through, man in charge said a few words and then announced to the congregation, "Our special offering tonight will go for a new television set for the Church House. The present one has only a 17-inch screen and is quite inadequate for entertaining large groups. . ." Mr. Missionary seemed to sag in his seat. My mission is well on its way to success. . . .

February 26—Crowning touch tonight! Mr. Missionary arrived in Walla Walla unexpectedly, hurried to home church for prayer meeting in progress. Heard prayer for Sunday services, Sunday school, youth groups, the sick, new members, old members, prospective members, men's brotherhood, ladies' aid—everyone except missionaries. This seemed to be one of the most helpful things (from my viewpoint) of entire trip. . . .

Well, this concludes my report. If my mission proves successful, please remember that while I'd like due recognition, I must give credit where credit is due—to all those people who helped me so very, very much. Funny thing is that I don't believe they knew how much they were helping me. . . .

—World Vision

Let's Take Guess-Work Out of Youth Work

(Continued from Page 2)

without knowing the language and culture of the people he is trying to reach; yet many youth sponsors think they can win the respect and confidence of teen-agers when they know nothing of their culture and the lives they lead! This does not mean we must approve of their vocabulary and fads, but we must know how they are living if we ever hope to win them.

4. *A sense of humor.* "We don't need any fire extinguishers in our church!" complained a teen-ager. "There are enough old grouches to throw a wet blanket on anything!" It is too bad that young people have equated sourness with spirituality, when just the opposite is true. "These things write we unto you that your joy may be full," says the Apostle John. A sanctified sense of humor will solve many problems in youth work and win teens to Christ.

5. *The ability to plan.* Youth are accustomed to planned programs. They have it in school, Scouts, civic organizations, and other activities; and when they fail to find it in their church, they feel left out. The successful youth sponsor plans ahead (with the school calendar before him, by the way) and keeps his teens active in a balanced program.

6. *Time.* A youth sponsor is more than a representative on a church board, or a designer of a church youth program. He is actually the pastor of a teen-age church! As the young people come to appreciate and trust him, they confide in him; and he discovers that his time and his home are not his own. This is actually a compliment, even though he has to pay a price to get it.

One of the keys to a successful youth program is the sponsor. God does not build a ministry on a program, but a person—and the right person can be sure of God's blessing.

Let's Stop Guessing About the Kind of Youth Programs to Present.

A program is much more than activities. Many a church has invested money in recreational equipment and refreshments for exciting youth activities, only to discover the embarrassing absence of the young people! Why? Because teens have plenty of activities available to them (and most of them more exciting than what we can present) and what they want are not activities but *aims*. They do not want something to do so much as *something to live for*; and a successful youth program must be built around basic aims. May I suggest several?

1. *Fellowship that is uplifting.* Teen-agers are group-minded because they need what the group has to offer: a sense of belonging in a world that cares little about them. Childish games dug out of a 1910 "game book" will never provide the fellowship and fun teen-agers are looking for. But teen-slanted games, training sessions, and opportunities for service will help do the job.

2. *A challenge that is demanding.* If young people today do dare-devil things and get into trouble, it is only because they respond quickly to a challenge. The Communist have proved this and the church has forgotten it. Give them goals that are bigger than themselves and they will grow in achieving them. I am convinced that more teen-agers leave our Sunday Schools and churches because they are not asked to do anything, than any other single reason.

3. *Christian education that is exciting.* Young people want excitement, and instead of trying to change this basic factor in their nature, let's capitalize on it. Is there any reason why Bible study, singing in a youth choir, or planning next month's programs cannot be exciting? If we make God's Word *live* and have twentieth-century meaning, then we will give them the kind of Christian education that is lasting and exciting.

4. *Devotion to Christ that is satisfying.* We make a serious mistake when we think that Christ is not sufficient to challenge and satisfy a red-blooded American teen-ager. But His is! When the Son of God becomes real to young people, and they allow Him to live out His resurrection life through them (Gal. 2:20), they testify to the fact that nothing satisfies like Jesus Christ. It is wrong to ask teen-agers to be loyal to a program or even an organization, when loyalty and devotion to Christ produces devotion to Christ's work. Our youth program must be Christ-centered!

Teen-agers are growing from the dependence of childhood into the interdependence of adulthood, and they do this through the independence of adolescence. If we keep in mind that this independence is a symptom, not a cause, of their problems, and that the right Christian fellowship, challenge, education, and devotion will help them during these difficult years, then we are well on the way to giving them an effective youth program.

Finally, Let's Stop Guessing About the Rewards of Youth Work.

"It's not worth it all!" laments the tired, discouraged pastor or youth worker. "All this work, and no results!" But it *is* worth it all! Every dollar, ounce of energy, or hour of time invested in youth pays double dividends in both time and eternity. Personal standards and values today are set, not in college, say the educators, but in high school during the teen years. This means that the youth worker is helping one of the most important segments of our population at the most important time in their lives! When I think of men like J. Hudson Taylor and Dr. Billy Graham, who found Christ during their teen years, and when I realize that there are hundreds of devoted Christian workers today who made

HAVE YOU TRIED THIS

by Robert Hill

One of the greatest hindrances to most churches is "acute absenteeism." This problem saps our churches spiritually, financially, and numerically. Most pastors agree that absenteeism is a great hindrance to the message. It certainly is no joy to preach to empty pews.

In many churches, it is so easy to be absent. No one seems to know whether a person is present or absent and so few seem to care. In many cases, a member may be absent for several weeks before someone notices it. Because of this, every church and Sunday school should have regular absentee slips that are given to the teacher, superintendent, and pastor each week. These three persons should know who is absent and see that some effort is made to contact all absentees during the week.

Every family in the church should receive a weekly church bulletin when absent. Through this method, they will know they were missed and they will be aware of the activities of the week as printed in the Sunday bulletin. The pastor might like to enclose a personal handwritten note with the bulletin stating they were missed and volunteering his help if needed. The receiver will appreciate your thoughtfulness and his attitude toward your relationship will be strengthened.

The plan is very inexpensive and quite convenient. Free Will Baptist Bulletin Service, 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee, has reserved the bottom portion of the back side of the weekly bulletin for addressing purposes. By simply folding the bulletin again and stapling the bottom, you can mail the bulletin anywhere in the United States for three cents.

Every pastor ought to use this absenteeism solver. It might not bring every absentee back to church the next week, but at least it will let them know that they were missed and maybe they'll think twice before they miss again.

their important spiritual decisions during their adolescent years, then I have no doubt in my mind that youth work is rewarding. It is tiring work, demanding work, and seemingly unending work, but my own years of experience working with youth have convinced me that it is rewarding work!

Teen-agers today have enough question-marks of their own without adult Christians adding more. Let's take the guess-work out of youth work and replace those question-marks with exclamation points—with the eternal certainties of the Word of God!

Continued—SUNDAY SCHOOL—ROUTINE OR BLESSING

local church level we are in need of both. We have been content too long with no organization in the local Sunday School program. We have been content too long with leadership that has not been up to par. Jesus Christ was certainly not an unorganized individual. There is no reason why our churches and all their programs have to go on unorganized either. Organization does have its place and when we come to recognize it, there will be a change in our Sunday Schools. In the past, as well as the present, we have been plagued with too many pastors who feel that their only duty is to preach a sermon. This has contributed greatly to the fact that our Sunday Schools have not reached the people that they should. Some will say that this is not the pastor's job. Well, I ask the question: What is he pastor of? The worship services only? Certainly not. He is pastor of the whole church; therefore, he is responsible for the entire church program.

It is a miracle that the Sunday School has stayed alive in many of our churches. Maybe we need some kind of message sent out to inform our pastors that they are pastors of the whole church program. We read much about revival services in many of our churches. This is good. But I would like to advocate revival services for "pastors only." When they are revived the local church program and the denominational program will have a definite change. This change will produce growth in the Sunday School and the entire church program. This will enable us to also reach our share of the thousands in the world without the Lord Jesus Christ. It sounds strange to speak of revival services for pastors only, but they too need reviving as well as the lay worker.

Secondly, in this great program of the Sunday School is the teaching ministry. Here we will set forth clearly what we mean by teaching. It is meeting the needs in the lives of your pupils in Sunday School as the needs exist. It is guiding the pupil into a deeper acquaintance with life, the Bible, and with Jesus Christ. Anytime there is a lack of understanding of what teaching involves, there will be a lack of knowledge of the Bible and there will also be a stand-still in the growth of the Sunday School. For years the teaching position in the Sunday School has been looked upon as something to be shunned. It has been with dread that teachers have agreed to "stay with" the class for one year, if possible. This misunderstanding of teaching is contributed entirely to the leaders of the church. We have done little or nothing to help in changing this attitude toward the position. Teaching is a God-called service. In the sight of God it is just as important as any pastor, evangelist, or missionary. Sunday School teachers are important. The position necessitates preparation. It is not necessary to think of preparation on the college level.

This would be impossible. God does not look for that. He looks for yielded lives. The Sunday School teacher should settle once and for all this question: "Have I personally accepted Christ as my Savior and Lord?" Jesus Christ is the only one that can give us purpose in life. The life of the teacher lived before the pupil can be the greatest example of Scriptural Truth that he will ever see. This life example is very important in teaching. It may be the only real touch with Christ that the pupil has. We teach others to live for Christ only as we do so ourselves.

Responsibility for teaching the teachers will fall heavily on the pastor. Therefore, he should know the Sunday School set-up from beginning to end. His knowledge, concern, and willingness to help, will make the difference between a routine Sunday School or a Sunday School that will be a blessing to the church. If the pastor knows little about the Sunday School, he should busy himself finding out everything he can. Many of our teachers are teaching "lessons." This will not accomplish much. The teachers must come to understand that they are teaching "pupils." There is a great difference. That girl or boy sitting before you each Sunday is the soul that God has given to you. His eternal destiny is in your hands.

The Sunday School teacher should not be satisfied with covering the material in a particular lesson. He should be satisfied only when he has met the need which existed in the life of the pupil. The lesson should be prepared with a knowledge of the individual pupil in mind. This is the only way to guide pupils into a personal acceptance of Jesus Christ. Every age in life has its own particular problems and characteristics. The teacher must certainly know these things about the age group which he is teaching. The pupil is an individual. The sooner the teacher is aware of this fact, the

sooner the pupil's relationship to the teacher and God will be changed. This soul is important to God and therefore should be extremely important to the teacher. Be a friend to him. Love him. Learn all about him you possibly can. This is the time when your teaching will make a difference in his life. Then you have taught. We teach only when our pupils learn. Teaching that makes a difference is the only real teaching.

Our Sunday Schools need to have more "clear-cut" decisions for Christ. This needs to be true of every auxiliary of the church, especially the Sunday School since it is supposed to be efficient in winning the lost to Jesus Christ. Sunday School teachers cannot be careless about this great task and expect decisions in the classroom. Decisions will come when there are "prayed up," dedicated teachers at the front of the class.

Finally, it is the business of the Sunday School to KNOW the Word of God. This important BOOK should be known by the teacher. Here again, a Bible study program on the local church level will help greatly to answer this need. We know that the majority of our Sunday School teachers know hardly anything about the Bible. The teacher is certainly not to be blamed wholly for this lack. This condition is the result of a church program which has not taught the Bible to its membership. The Sunday School has no place for teachers who are teaching "about" God. It does however, have a place for teachers who can teach pupils to "know" God. Pastor, you have the responsibility of introducing your membership to God. You can do this only by a knowledge of God's Word. The same is true of our Sunday School teachers. They must know God's Word historically and personally. Then, they should be able to practically apply these truths to the lives of our Sunday School pupils. This is the only way the teacher can introduce the pupil to a personal God that loves and saves. Every child in every Sunday School class around the world has a right to a teacher who can present him to Jesus Christ. Anything short of this is failure on the part of local church leaders. Our only way of knowing God is through the Bible and that makes its message most vital.

This vital message of God to mankind should not be handled so carelessly. Those who are responsible for teaching the Bible should be trained. We would not permit our children to attend public schools with teachers who had not been trained. Then, why expect children in the reach of your church to "flock" out to Sunday School to hear a teacher that has not been trained to present God's Word? The answer to an effective Sunday School ministry is in trained workers. May God help us to work hard for a program of reaching, teaching, and winning people to Christ through our Sunday Schools.



Religious NEWSFRONT



Retreats Bless Servicemen

Dr. George L. Ford, executive director of NAE, has recently returned from servicemen's retreats in Korea and Japan with a challenge of what can and needs to be accomplished in making missionaries of our servicemen and not spiritual casualties. Dr. Ford reports, "One young man who is a member of one of our NAE denominations told me that since being in service he has not received one thing from his church. He feels that they feel that they have no particular responsibility to him. Another young man talked with me until midnight. He just wanted a Christian with whom to share his spiritual problems. He comes from a sound evangelical church, but he feels completely isolated."

Several means are suggested by Dr. Ford by which we can accept this challenge and meet this need. Young men in the church should be given strong Bible teaching. They should be brought to understand the great importance of spiritual fellowship. They should be trained to immediately seek out other Christians for Bible study and fellowship. Our boys need the definite idea that they are missionaries for Jesus Christ. The church should impress upon them that they are going out under the auspices of the church and the only thing different from the regular missionary program is that the government is paying the bills. The church needs to follow these men in service. Make them the object of prayer just as you do your other missionaries. Keep in touch with them. The pastor and others need to write letters to them regularly. Send them the church bulletin and other materials that will help them maintain a close connection with the church. Mention them frequently to the congregation so they will not be strangers when they return. Keep them supplied with materials helpful in their witnessing and working. Encourage them.

Plans are being made for additional retreats to be held among our servicemen next year in Japan and Korea. It is hoped that additional retreats can be held in Europe.

Barkeepers Get Support

The radio and television director of the Grand Rapids Roman Catholic diocese urged tavern keepers here to "stand up and fight the blue-nosed enemies of the liquor industry."

The Rev. Hugh Michael Beahan said that controlled drinking relieves tensions and helps relax. "Because drinking creates a problem for a relatively few people," he said, "we should not consider depriving the vast majority of normal adults."

His remarks were addressed to the 10th annual convention of the National Licensed Beverage Association.

Reminding the barkeepers that they are in "an honorable profession," the Catholic official declared that they should get rid of their inferiority complexes.

Week of Prayer

A nationwide observance of Universal Week of Prayer is being planned by the National Association of Evangelicals for its constituent churches Jan. 3-10, 1960. This is the fourth consecutive year for the observance which is sponsored by the association's Spiritual Life Commission.

Universal Week of Prayer began in England over 100 years ago under the ten budding World Evangelical Alliance. Observance there is by communities with the people coming together in a different church each day of the week. Since beginning, the observance has spread to other countries, but only recently has a widespread attempt been made to introduce it into American church life.

A folder with the prayer themes for each day and appropriate remarks is widely distributed for use in regularly scheduled or special church services and in family and private devotions.

Ministers wishing to obtain free materials for an observance in their churches may write to the National Association of Evangelicals, 222 East Willow Avenue, Wheaton, Ill.

Moslem Missionaries

Two American Moslems recently returned from Cairo say they have the support of President Gamel Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic for Islamic missions work in the United States. Nasser donated \$50,000 for a new Islamic center in Detroit and promised early dispatch of four or more Moslem priests to the United States, according to Casim Olwan, owner of a Toledo, Ohio restaurant, and James Kalil, sheriff of Wayne County, Michigan. While in Cairo, Olwan and Kalil reported they had a two-hour conference with the U. A. R. leader. Kalil is president of the Federation of American Moslems, having succeeded Olwan in the post.

There are said to be 80,000 Moslems in the United States and Canada—not all faithful—spread through 39 states and five provinces. (Christianity Today)

SBC Reaches \$15 Million

According to figures released by Treasurer Porter Routh, the Southern Baptist Conven-

tion has already met its 1959 Cooperative Program operating and capital needs budget goal of \$15 million.

The goal was reached on November 16 through a check received from the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

This means that all the regular budget allocations to agencies of the Convention have been paid out, and that the Southern Baptist Convention has now entered the "Advance" phase of its budget.

Spanish Churches Closed

At least 22 churches representing four different religious groups in Spain are still closed by government order, according to an anonymous Spanish Christian writing in the November issue of *United Evangelical Action*.

The author, while known, is not identified because of the fear of possible reprisal. Writing under the title, "The Truth about the Protestant Situation in Spain," the author says, "Veterans Christian leaders in Spain say that 1958 was one of the worst years for Protestants in that country since the close of the Spanish Civil War in 1939."

Despite Article Six of the Spanish Bill of Rights which says, "No one shall be molested for his religious beliefs or in the private exercise of his worship," the writer points out twelve areas of discrimination. Protestants are prohibited to (1) identify their churches by any outward sign, (2) advertise their services either by press or radio, (3) circulate tracts and other evangelical literature on the streets, (5) have private schools or educate their own children, (6) teach in public schools, (7) be officers in the armed forces, (8) operate their own hospitals, (9) establish old folks' or orphan homes, (10) broadcast the gospel over Spanish radio stations, (11) rent public halls for "special gatherings," and (12) operate public evangelistic book stores.

He adds: "A recent newspaper article in Barcelona mentioned that the United States government was making a gift of \$130 million to Spain through the Catholic Welfare Conference. This American money is being used in Spain for the defense of the free world in a country that is constantly violating the basic human rights. It isn't easy to explain the logic of this situation to our Spanish Christian people."

He concludes by saying, "They feel that a great deal is at stake for the free world here in Spain—a twentieth century Spain which is suffering a first century persecution."

World Youth Congress

Bristol, England, has been selected as the location for Youth for Christ International's 12th World Congress for Christian Youth, according to Samuel Wolgemuth, Overseas Director for the organization.

The Congress to be held July 30-August 7, 1960, and has been given hearty endorsement by the Bishop of Bristol as well as British Youth for Christ workers.

What's Your Problem?



By LOUIS H. MOULTON

Q. My pastor recently preached on the text "For all have sinned." He pointed out that all of us deserve eternal damnation. I have never been brought under such conviction in my life. I really caught a glimpse of myself but I still can't understand how we, vile and imperfect as we are, can get in touch with and contact a perfect and holy God.

A. The answer is recorded by Paul in 1 Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." God's holiness demands perfection. Christ was perfect and he was both God and man. Thus God incarnate in the flesh took upon himself the form of man and was made sin for us. As imperfect men we cannot draw nigh to God but Jesus, the God-man, became the mediator between God and man. So even though we are imperfect men we can contact a perfect God through our mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Q. In John 12:8 I read where Jesus said, "The poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always." Then in Hebrews 13:5 he says "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." I'm sure there is an explanation and I need it.

A. In the portion in John which you quote, Jesus knew that he was going to die and he was speaking of his physical being. In the preceding verses when Judas would rebuke Mary because of the costly ointment with which she anointed the feet of Jesus he said "Let her alone; against the day of my burying hath she kept this." He was referring to his physical life, not to his divine life or divine presence. In Hebrews the writer was quoting from Deuteronomy 31:6 and referred to the divine or spiritual presence of God from which we cannot escape.

Q. Simon the sorcerer tried to buy with money the apostolic gift of imparting the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands. Do you think Simon was saved?

A. From all the evidence in Acts 8:9-24 it seems that he was. Verse 13 says he believed and was baptized. However because of his practice of sorcery for so long among the people of his community he perhaps had not gotten away from all his old habits just as some people today have more difficulty getting away from certain habits than do other

people. This happens even after they are saved. Take for example the habit of smoking. Do you know any Christians who smoke? I expect you do. Without a doubt it is an unclean habit yet some after they become Christians have more trouble with cleaning up the flesh than others. Peter told Simon his heart was not right and he needed to repent and in verse 24 there is evidence that Simon was God fearing and seemingly an indication that he himself may have repented.

Q. My Church of Christ friends are giving me a fit about water baptism and they quote 1 Peter 3:21 and emphasize the part of the verse that says "... baptism doth also now save us ..." Could they be right?

A. If you will read the verse which precedes this we are told that Noah prepared an ark and eight souls were saved by water. Now did the water save them or was it the ark which was carried on the crest of the water? The ark was the means of their salvation while it was carried on the water. Peter said "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us ..." When we are baptized we, figuratively speaking, bury the old man but we must first have the new man, the ark. If we do not have Christ as our ark, the water means nothing to us. Because we have believed on HIM unto salvation, a like figure, figuratively speaking, our baptism is a type of our death, burial and resurrection with the Lord Jesus Christ. The burial of the old man is because we have the new man. Thus baptism becomes only a figure of salvation.

Q. Every fifth Sunday or so our pastor has a dedication of babies. Is this contrary to Free Will Baptist doctrine?

A. No. We do not believe in baptizing babies nor any other person until that person has repented and received Christ as Lord and Savior. But dedication of babies is simply a giving back to God the little life which God has given to us and in so doing we promise to dedicate ourselves to rearing the child in the nurture and admonition of the Christian faith.

Q. An upstairs neighbor has been trying to get me to go with her to her Christian Science church. What do you think of Christian Science?

A. This particular group is neither "Christian" nor "scientific". Their doctrine is not founded on the Word of God but upon the teachings of a woman who had several husbands. Her name: Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy. My advice to you: do not go with your neighbor. There is nothing to be gained from a church or group which denies the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ as the only means whereby our sins are washed away.

Cooperative Giving Is

\$36,345 for 10 Months

No cooperative report is carried this month because of an early publication date. Henceforth, the reports will appear the second month following.

This has been a good year for the Cooperative Plan. Receipts through October have been \$36,345.85, which is an average of over \$3,600 per month. This compares with \$37,072.91 for the previous year.

Good success has attended the Cooperative Plan in the states where it is being used. Without exception, funds raised in these states have shown a steady increase with a corresponding increase being sent to the national office for distribution to the various departments of work.

The percentage of allocation for 1960 of funds received into the national office is as follows:

Superannuation, 3 per cent; Home Missions, 14; Foreign Missions, 28; Sunday School, 5; League, 3; Executive Department, 24; Bible College, 20; and Headquarters' Trustees, 3.



The following is a copy of a letter sent to President Eisenhower by the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Dear Sir:

It is our understanding that on certain occasions government money is spent for alcoholic beverages to be served in governmental entertainment. If we have a misunderstanding on this matter, we would appreciate a clarification concerning it; however, if we have not misunderstood, we would like to express our disapproval.

We believe that many of our taxpaying citizens have definite convictions against the use of alcoholic beverages. We realize that it would be impossible for our government to spend its money in such a way that no one would have any complaints. However, we do believe that our government should refrain from spending money, which the taxpayers have given, for anything which so many Americans have firm moral convictions against.

For these reasons we are requesting that you use your influence as president of the United States of America to see if something can be done to stop the spending of the taxpayers' money for the purchase of alcoholic beverages to be served in governmental entertainment or for any other purpose. If this is done, we believe that God will bless our nation for it.

Sincerely yours,
Rev. Bonnie Hughes, Clerk
Tennessee State Association



Woman's Auxiliary

LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

Mrs. Eunice Edwards, Executive Secretary

A SLEEPING GIANT

Figures speak for themselves, but to understand the figures below let's analyze them together, shall we?

The Co-Laborer Fund was begun at Flat River, Missouri, in 1944 with the idea of its being a means by which the entire WNAC program of missions (Foreign, Home, and Bible College) could be supported as well as providing a means whereby the WNAC plan of work itself could be promoted. The allocation of the Fund remains the same as then: one-third of each dollar remains in the WNAC treasury; of the remaining two-thirds, 50% is given to Foreign Missions, 30% is given to the Free Will Baptist Bible College, and 20% is given to National Home Missions. The receipts are divided by this office at the close of each month. The following report covers the period from July 1, 1959-November 1, 1959. Please notice that of all that has been sent to the office only \$403.49 actually remained. Dividing this figure by the four months reveals that approximately \$100.00 average was actually available for promotional work.

The purpose of the Woman's Auxiliary is to help our churches teach and support missions. This is not only our purpose, but our aim. We seek to be helpers to the church in her missionary endeavors.

However, there are certain areas of responsibility that cannot be neglected if we are to maintain the growth the Lord has so graciously given to us, much less advance. Letters must be written, queries answered, orders filled, new ideas (or at least new ways of presenting old ideas) must be brought into being, and on ad infinitum. A

part-time employee is being used to help with this work.

The Lord has blessed us abundantly and to Him be all the praise and all the glory. (Psalm 95:1-6) The glory, the honour, and the praise is due Him, and we gladly give it to Him. I honestly believe though He expects us to use these blessings to help ourselves when and wherever possible.

This article is not to be construed as a complaint. It is not. We not only praise the Lord for His blessings but are also deeply grateful to our women who are catching a vision of the true purpose of the auxiliary. Their vision is revealed in their increased gifts not only to the large yearly projects, but also in their gifts to individual missionaries and missionary objectives.

(Note report)

The Bible says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." I believe this to be true with respect to the WNAC. We must have vision to avoid perishing. As a part of the vision for the future here are a few things that some of us hope to see accomplished through the WNAC:

1. A magazine to replace the Year Book of Programs and the Newsletter. (Of necessity, it would not be more than a quarterly magazine in the beginning.)
2. More and better literature for our Youth Auxiliaries.
3. A full-time promotional worker for the Youth Auxiliaries. (While not an immediate possibility, it is most certainly to be hoped for in the foreseeable future.)
4. An expanded study course department

in which the entire church membership would be included in the missionary study classes.

5. Program helps such as more visual-aids, etc., that are prohibitive at this time except in very limited amounts.
6. A comprehensive supply of family devotional materials.
7. A supply of tracts and other literature on Evangelism and Stewardship especially, be made available.

Are these only visions, dreams? I hope not, but they will remain dreams unless more support is given to the Co-Laborer Fund.

Will you please pray about these needs and then, if your auxiliary is not contributing to the Co-Laborer Fund, will you not begin to do so NOW?

Women at Work

Petaluma, Calif.—"Christian Fruitfulness" was selected by the Women of the Cedar Grove Free Will Baptist church as the theme for their Pre-Thanksgiving week of prayer.

In charge of the week's event was Mrs. Mamie Kennedy, program chairman for the local auxiliary. The evening message was preceded by topics given by members of the auxiliary. Speakers for the week were Rev. B. G. Taylor, Rev. James Kendricks, and Rev. Carl Young, pastor.

The week of prayer also preceded a week-end Youth Revival. The revival was held by Rev. Bob Taylor. A special youth choir sang at each of the services directed by Vivian Sweeten and accompanied by Linda Caton. The choir was composed of fifteen young people. The final evening, Sunday, November 8, of the revival was truly a grand finale to the week of prayer and the beginning of revival services. During this service three were converted, four rededicated their lives to Christ, and three joined the church. The Lord truly blessed this church during that service.

The Woman's Auxiliary has now started preparations for the Christmas program and pre-Christmas week of prayer. They have also been carrying on an extensive program to help the Arizona-Mexico mission.

Springfield, Mo.—On October 1st, there was a regular meeting of the Grant Avenue Free Will Baptist Auxiliary and an installation service was planned for October 16th. The installation service was presented by way of a play by the ladies of the auxiliary entitled, "Let Susie Do It".

Flat River, Mo.—The St. Francois County District Auxiliary met with the Leadington Auxiliary for a convention and the theme was "The Word Has Called Us". Rev. Elro Driggers delivered the morning message.

RECEIPTS JULY 1 - NOVEMBER 1, 1959

STATE	CO-LABORER	STUDENT LOAN	JAPAN	Y.P.A.	G.T.A.	MEXICO PROJECT	TOTALS
Alabama.....	\$ 25.23	\$ 8.00		0	0	\$ 12.00	\$ 45.23
Alaska.....	0	0		0	0	0	0
Arizona.....	10.00	0		0	0	0	10.00
Arkansas.....	46.45	83.00		0	1.00	107.00	237.45
California.....	92.17	78.79	25.00	0	0	6.60	202.56
Florida.....	33.25	0	11.00	0	0	0	44.25
Georgia.....	89.10	10.40	242.25	17.50	3.50	10.00	372.75
Illinois.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas.....	2.00	0	0	0	0	0	2.00
Kentucky.....	31.35	0	0	0	0	96.00	127.35
Louisiana.....	6.00	0	0	0	0	0	6.00
Michigan.....	12.50	50.00	194.38	5.00	22.00	0	283.88
Mississippi.....	27.11	17.00	0	8.00	0	40.00	92.11
Missouri.....	107.08	50.40	10.00	6.20	3.70	145.43	322.81
Nebraska.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Mexico.....	4.24	0	0	0	0	0	4.24
North Carolina.....	181.14	0	193.65	137.74	66.85	95.94	675.32
Ohio.....	10.00	0	64.00	0	0	0	74.00
Oklahoma.....	247.86	8.20	81.84	6.00	1.00	149.90	494.80
South Carolina.....	80.29	10.00	68.61	0	10.00	675.02	843.92
Tennessee.....	97.98	112.73	342.35	69.62	17.62	79.00	719.30
Texas.....	74.44	0	125.41	3.40	3.40	17.03	223.68
Virginia.....	32.28	0	45.10	11.50	11.50	6.00	106.38
West Virginia.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS.....	\$1,210.47	\$ 420.52	\$1,403.59	\$ 264.96	\$ 140.57	\$1,439.92	\$4,888.03

GLANCING AROUND THE STATES



(Photo courtesy Perception.)

The South Carolina Convention of Free Will Baptists moderator and clerk find time during their recent state convention to pause with the convention's new state home missions director. The Rev. Clarence Lambert (left) succeeds the Rev. Fred Powers, who is leaving the state to assume a Saratoga, N. C., pastorate. The Rev. Walter L. Jernigan, moderator, appears at right; the Rev. Rufas Coffee in the center.

State Convention Meets Lancaster, S. C.

South Carolina Free Will Baptists heard repeated appeals for their church-sponsored childrens' home at the seventeenth annual South Carolina State Convention held November 12-13 at Lancaster, S.C.

The Rev. Hardy Richburg, superintendent of the Free Will Baptist Childrens' Home, noted that while the farm has been able to enjoy a banner year because of good crops, contributions by churches and individuals have fallen some \$2,000 under those of last year.

Other convention business included the passing of a motion to require all persons handling money of the convention to be bonded. The board of trustees were delegated to work out a suitable plan.

The convention heard a note of urgency from moderator Walter L. Jernigan that the convention had to take action concerning its financial condition or face the possibility of "folding up."

Action was taken requiring payment of a \$10 fee by member churches in order for delegates to have voting power. This required an amendment to the constitution. Supplemental giving was urged by the chair to bolster the financial situation.

The Rev. Louis Holiday of Manning, director of foreign missions in the state, reported that \$6,798.99 of a \$9,590.00 state goal had been received at convention time. He expressed the belief that the people of

South Carolina would reach their quota in the remaining few days.

Routine reports demanded a major portion of convention time. However, a note of progress was seen in the report of promotional secretary Reedy Severance. The convention granted his request for more funds to expand promotional work in the state.

Church Hears John Noble

MOUNTAIN GROVE, MO.—Some five hundred people packed the Free Will Baptist Church to hear John Noble tell of his experiences in Soviet Russia on Monday night, November 2nd. Noble also spoke at the local High School, over the local radio station, and was introduced at the Kiwanis luncheon. The Rev. Mahlon Macy, Field Director for the National association of Evangelicals, accompanied Mr. Noble on this visit.

Special Series At Northport, Alabama

NORTHPORT, ALA.—"The Layman's Love For Christ" was the title of a special series of services held in the First Church recently. J. G. Falkner, a local business man was the first speaker. Other speakers were Gordon Crawford and Charlie Gross.

Church Celebrates Birthday

DURHAM, N. C.—The Edgemont Free Will Baptist Church observed its 37th birth-

day recently at a special service on November 22nd. A large cake was baked for the occasion with all members present placing a candle upon the cake. After the evening service, this cake was shared in a time of fellowship at which time some of the charter members of the church spoke briefly.

Missionaries To Leave

NASHVILLE, TENN.—Rev. and Mrs. Sammy Wilkinson are scheduled to leave the States on December 10th for the country of Brazil. Upon their arrival, they will engage in language study. They have two children, Kimberly and Kevin.

Request Comes For Contacts

FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO—If you have friends or know of anyone living in Farmington, New Mexico, interested in a Free Will Baptist Church, ask them to get in contact with Kenneth Doggett at 715 W. Broadway or to call Mrs. Maxine Brown at DA 5-8340.

New Church Organized

MARGATE, FLA.—A new Free Will Baptist Church was organized here in the month of November. There were 16 charter members with the charter to remain open for 30 days. The group is presently meeting in the Margate Day School. Rev. William Travis is serving as pastor.

Request Comes For Mimeograph Machine

GRANTS, NEW MEXICO—Rev. S. M. Aragon of Grants is interested in securing a good used mimeograph machine. If you have one for sale, please send him details on condition and price. The address is Box 93, Grants, New Mexico.

Pastoral Changes

R. B. Spurgeon has accepted a call to the Third Church in St. Louis where he replaces Rolla Smith who has resigned to become General Director of the National Foreign Mission Board.

Bob Wright is pastoring a new mission that opened recently in Granite City, Ill.

Dale Skiles has been called to the Richwoods, Missouri Church.

Johnny Land was elected pastor of the Valley Park Church, Missouri, at its recent organizational service. He served the church as pastor while it was a mission.

Clarence Burcham is now pastoring Old Bethel Church, Missouri.

Freeman Edwards has assumed the pastorate of Piney Grove Church in Chipley, Florida.

Bill Gardner from Princess Anne Mission, Norfolk, Virginia, to Hazelhurst, Georgia, about December 1st.

Benjamin Scott to Pocahontas, Arkansas, from Fredericktown, Missouri.

Reford Wilson from Pocahontas, Arkansas, to Holdenville, Oklahoma.

Raymond Riggs has assumed the pastorate of Bethany Church in Norfolk, Virginia.

Frank Helms is now pastoring Mt. Pleasant Church in Roseville, California.

CLEARANCE SALE

Prices Slashed on Sunday School Helps

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 By Rosalind Rinker, Zondervan 16 pp. \$2.00

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WHAT THE SECTS TEACH, by Edward J. Tanis. Baker Book House. 89 pp. \$1.00.

Here is a book that meets a real need! The author discusses the four most active sects in this country—Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh-Day Adventists, Christian Science, and Spiritism. The book is written for the layman and is most readable. There are no heavy theological discussions though always the Truth of God's Word is made clear. This book should be in every church library and any pastor would do well to have a copy or two for distribution among the membership of his church. One attractive feature of the book is the questions at the end of each chapter. With the use of these questions, a very fine study course could come from the book. I would like to see this book have wide distribution among our people.—*Billy A. Melvin*

BRAVE BOYS AND GIRLS OF LONG AGO
 By Dorothy C. Haskin. Baker Book House. 61 pp.

This fine children's book will do an excellent job in acquainting children with some very noteworthy figures in the history of the church. The author gives stories about such men as Venerable Bede, John Wycliffe, Martin Luther, and others. Boys and girls play a role in each story with attention given to those things which are attractive to children. This book will be enjoyed most by Junior age children. Those who work with children would also profit from the reading of this book. The material within would add real color to certain lessons if handled properly.—*Billy A. Melvin*

These books may be ordered from Free Will Baptist Book Store.

IDEA FOR A LASTING CHRISTMAS GIFT

Why not give some of your friends a subscription to **CONTACT** this Christmas? Such a gift would be a blessing in the home throughout the year. Simply clip out the form below, fill in the necessary information, and we will notify the person designated of your gift subscription.

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Third Honor Roll

"Every Church Family" Plan

Conway church, Arkansas
Waltonville church, Illinois
New Ebenezer church, Cochran, Ga.
Oskaloosa church, Liberal, Mo.
Wilson Memorial church, Belleville, Ark.
Horse Creek church, Kingsport, Tenn.
Cherry Hill church, Limestone, Tenn.
Faith Church, Nashville, Tenn.
Lawdale church, Calif.
Richland church, Nashville, Tenn.
Brightlight church, Bryan, Texas
First church, Concord, Calif.
Willow Springs church, Mountain Grove, Mo.
Bonami church, Kirbyville, Texas
Cairo church, Kirbyville, Texas
Ashland City, Tenn.
Port St. Joe, Fla.
Olivet church, Guthrie, Ky.
Bonifay, Fla.
First church, Dallas, Texas
First church, Wichita, Kansas
Gartman's View church, Comanche, Texas
West Wayne church, Wayne, Michigan
Bethel church, South Roxana, Illinois
Monroe, Michigan
Rosedale church, Irwin, Ohio
First church, Oakland, Calif.
First church, Artesia, New Mexico
Cedar Creek church, Hartsville, Ala.
Newark, Calif.
Sunnyvale church, Calif.
Turlock church, Calif.
First church, Booneville, Miss.

This month we are 20 churches short of completing our third honor roll. It is our firm conviction that the Church Family Plan is a must for every church. We would like to challenge every pastor to consider the use of this plan whereby every family in the church would receive at their home a monthly copy of CONTACT. In addition, some churches have started using our new "Bundle Plan" in which we send a quantity to one address in the church for distribution. A bundle of ten is only \$1.00 per month or a bundle of 25 would be \$2.50 per month. Let us hear from you this month. We would be happy to serve you.

Rules for Honor Roll

1. Send names and addresses (zone numbers, too, please) of all families in the church. You need not send any money.
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.

CONTACT

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Vol. 7 December, 1959 No. 2

personally . . .

OUR GIFTS FOR HIM

When the Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men came to worship Him. They brought gifts to Him of "gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." (Matthew 2:11). Since at Christmas we are celebrating the birth of Christ, is it not fitting that we who are saved should also bring gifts to Him? But, you ask, are there gifts which I can give Him? Yes, there are! Using as symbols the gifts brought by the wise men, I would like to suggest three gifts which you can give Him.

The first gift was gold. Gold is a symbol of purity. In Job 23:10 Job said, "When He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Also in Revelation 3:18 we read of "gold tried in the fire." The idea in both passages is that of purification, the removal of dross. Are you living before the Lord a pure and holy life? This is one gift He would be pleased to receive from you.

The second gift was frankincense. Frankincense is the symbol of a fragrant testimony. The Apostle Paul teaches us in II Corinthians 2:15 that "we are unto God a sweet savor of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish." This is a precious truth! Are you manifesting Christ in your daily life?

The third gift was myrrh. Myrrh is the symbol of suffering. When the Lord's body was taken from the cross, Nicodemus "brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes" to anoint it. Thus, myrrh is here related to death. The significance of this gift is expressed in Philippians 3:10 "That I may know Him . . . the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death." This gift would bring Him joy. Will you stand and share His sufferings?

TRIBUTE FOR SERVICE

It was in the year of 1948 when Rev. Raymond Riggs first became associated with the work of the Foreign Mission Board. He served as Chairman for one year and then in November of 1950 he was elected to serve as Secretary-Treasurer. At this time, there were six Free Will Baptist missionaries in two countries—Cuba and India. There was no money on hand and the foreign mission account had a deficit of \$7,000.00. Not a very bright picture to say the least!

Into this picture stepped Brother Riggs. To those of us who have known him and have seen him in action, there is no doubt but what God in His wisdom had separated His man for the job ahead. Giving himself to the task, Brother Riggs was able to report by February 1951 that all deficit accounts had been paid and there was a balance of \$5,884.00 in the foreign mission treasury. But this was not the end, for there was much more that needed to be done, and our Brother had a vision of an enlarged missionary program. This vision was somewhat contagious and it was not long until Free Will Baptists began to awaken to their responsibility of sharing the Gospel with all who had never heard.

Finally, in August 1953 the work had become so heavy that Brother Riggs moved to Nashville, Tennessee, assuming the responsibility of Promotional Secretary-Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board on a full-time basis. Until this time, his work had only been in a part-time capacity.

With more time to devote to the cause of missions, Brother Riggs was able to realize the fulfilment of more of the early visions which he had for our Foreign Mission program. More and more missionaries went out to the field and in 1958 the Foreign Mission Board felt it was time for another full-time worker to be employed to care for the needs of the department. In this year, Brother Louis Moulton was employed as a Promotional Secretary and Brother Riggs became General Director-Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board.

This fall when Brother Riggs gave his resignation to the Foreign Mission Board to return to the pastorate, he entrusted to his successor 30 Free Will Baptist missionaries and 20 missionaries' children. These missionaries are presently serving in six foreign countries—Africa, Cuba, India, Japan, Spain, and South America. Besides this fine staff of workers, there is presently \$33,150.63 in the bank and \$3,000.00 equity in a residence for the Foreign Mission Director.

We thank God for this man who has been used in such a gracious way to stir the hearts of our people everywhere for the cause of foreign missions. Brother Riggs gave himself without reservation to the task which God gave into his hand and, as a result, the Lord richly blessed his efforts. I am quite sure that you join with me in a heart-felt thanks for a job well done. God bless you, Brother Riggs.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

It is the desire of your editor that CONTACT would be a real blessing to you and your home. For our material to be relevant and helpful, it is important that we know what you like and do not like about CONTACT. Let us hear from you—our columns are open for your comments.

No Crumbs For the Saints

The train carrying Rev. Breezy, Percy's revival preacher, was not well out of town before Percy had pitched off his shoes and lifted his feet to the nearest table. The

strain of the semi-annual revival behind him, he was the picture of relaxation. But not Minnie Belle. She collapsed into an unhappy heap in the corner of the sofa.

"What ails you, honey? Too many hours of visiting or too many four-course dinners?" quizzed Percy.

"I don't know, I just feel let-down."

"Let-down! Why you've just been through a revival. You're supposed to be revived,"

declared Percy.

"I guess I was hoping for that myself," replied Minnie Belle.

"But you weren't, huh? Now don't you know that revivals are for the purpose of stimulating church members as well as converting sinners?"

"We aren't very realistic, are we? We've packed the auditorium with church members while Breezy has addressed himself to sinners. I've never heard such an evangelistic appeal as Breezy gave tonight. Both my arches fell during that thirty-minute invitation."

"Ever since we were in seminary together, I've known that Breezy was a great evangelist," reminisced Percy.

"Hold on here, you're missing my point. Percy, there weren't any unchurched people in the meeting tonight. I checked pew by pew. There haven't been any out this whole week."

"Then we should go out and invite them."

"Have you ever seen a better organized, more extensive visitation effort to do just that, than the one we've put on for the past month? I read somewhere that 97% of all revival audiences in our country are composed of church members. It looks like we're going to have to re-evaluate the revival as a means of getting at sinners."

Percy ran his hand through his hair, musing it up—a sign he was thinking.

"Is it against some rule for a revival preacher to throw out a few crumbs to us faithful and also hungry church members?" queried Minnie Belle.

"I told Breezy before the first service that I hoped he'd aim something at the flock, but he said the success of revivals must be

measured in number of converts," replied Percy.

"O o o o o," he moaned Minnie Belle.

"This is a revival Breezy won't count successful unless the check consoled him. Two hundred and fifty dollars for a one week's meeting should help soften his disappointment."

"I thought so too. But when I handed him the check, he looked at it and muttered to himself, 'The last church I held a meeting for gave me twice this much.'"

—Loulie Latimer Owens

Two New Volumes

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by Alfred L. Greenway

The plan of this book is unique. It presents a series of useful outlines for sermons, each accompanied by a story designed to illustrate the central truth of the immediately preceding outline. The stories may also be used independently for the illumination of sermons, talks and addresses for various occasions. The outlines, too, are valuable by themselves.

The author, Alfred L. Greenway, is a minister of the gospel in New Zealand. He is author of *The Book of Philippians* in the Shield Bible Study Series.

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This book furnishes brief talks, or the core for longer talks, especially designed for use by chapel speakers, ministers, and young people's workers. The author also expresses the hope that young people who read the book for themselves may be stimulated, edified, inspired, and challenged by the messages contained therein.

Dr. Eavey is retired from a highly successful teaching career at Wheaton College, and is also the author of *95 Brief Talks* and other books.

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