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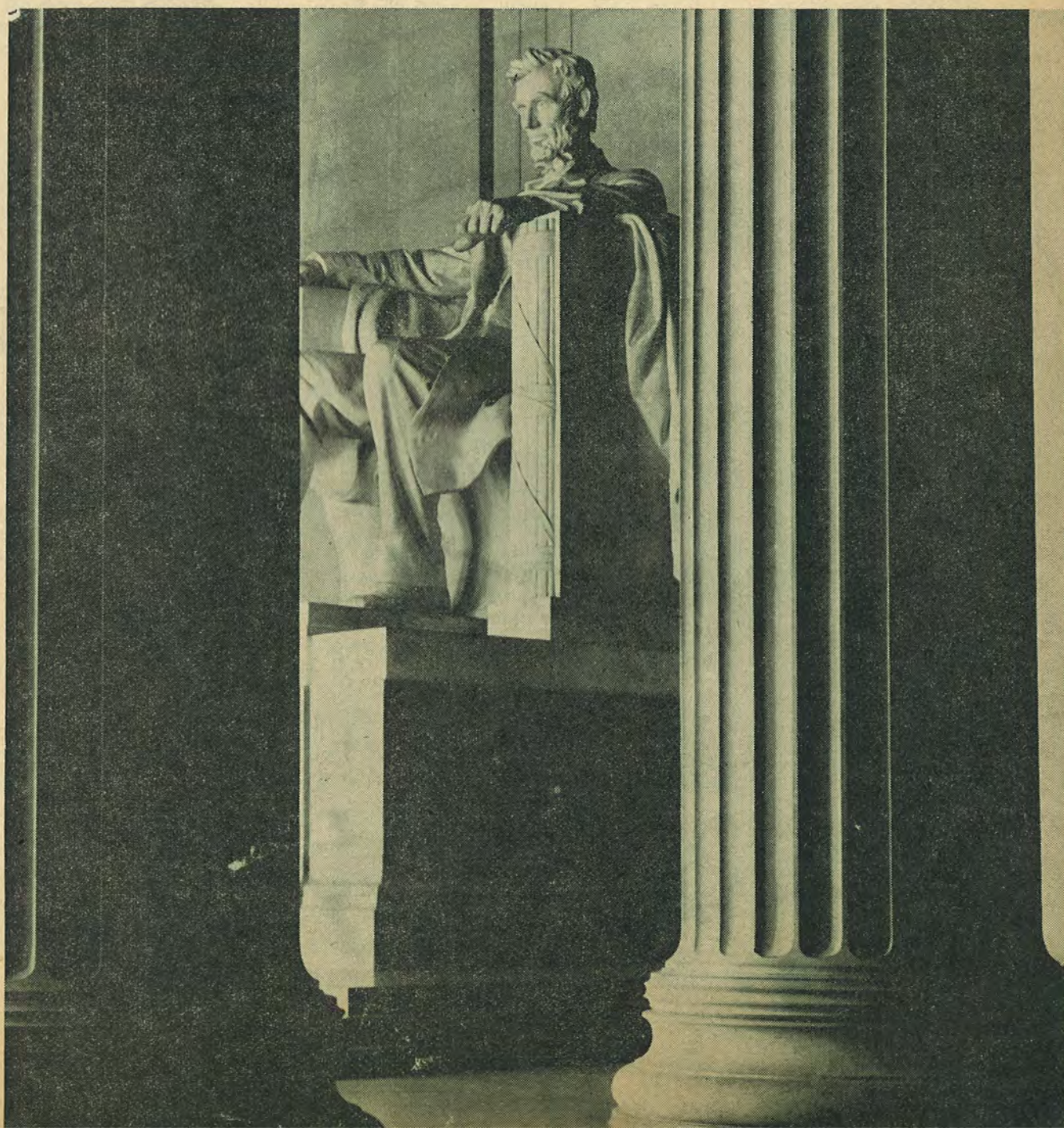
OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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FEBRUARY 1960



First Century

Vs.

Twentieth Century

FIRST CENTURY: "And Jesus saith unto him, the foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head."

TWENTIETH CENTURY: The thing to do is get the finest house you can possibly afford or even a little finer than you can really afford. Fill it with handsome, elegant furniture, lovely rugs, sterling silver, and exquisite china. It's your money—go ahead and spend it.

FIRST CENTURY: "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we bought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

TWENTIETH CENTURY: Having delicately seasoned food, daintily served with cut glass and fine linens, and having fashionably styled clothing of beautiful fabric and latest design, let us therewith be discontent. And let us increase our discontentment by watching enviously the passing parade of other Americans who are even more self-indulgent and luxury loving than we, while we forget the millions of people in other nations who are starving and in rags.

FIRST CENTURY: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."

TWENTIETH CENTURY: You have to make a living, of course. Business is business, and I'm like the rest—I don't really have much time for church work, now that I'm on this new job. Yeah, I'd like to help the church, but a man's got to eat. My tithe? Huh, what's that? One tenth on my money for the church? Are you kidding? With the payments due on the TV set and the deep freeze, and two payments behind on the car? What a laugh!

Oh, somebody will support the missionaries, I guess. It's not my worry.

FIRST CENTURY: "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

TWENTIETH CENTURY: How much does he make? . . . So they sold the other car to us and bought that Cadillac convertible they've been dreaming about. . . . And you ought to see the way she has re-decorated her downstairs! It's a dream! . . . But, mother, it's only \$25.00 more, and it does look nicer on me than the brown one. . . . And his folks gave him another motor boat for his birthday. . . . Yes, she was going to teach in the church college, but she gets \$1,500 more a year where she is, you know.

FIRST CENTURY: "Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, twice I suffered ship-wreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep. In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things which are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all churches."

TWENTIETH CENTURY: No, Mary, we won't go to Sunday School this morning; see, it's raining a little already. . . . We never try to make it to church on Sunday evening any more; it's the only time John has with the youngsters. . . . Witness at work? Not me! I tried to talk to man about the Lord once, and he laughed at me. . . . Oh, I couldn't possibly teach a class. . . . Aren't there enough on the committee without me?

**FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS;
THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO**
Elva McAllister

IN THE VINEYARD

■ **Billy Melvin**, editor of **CONTACT**, attended the 12th annual convention of the Evangelical Press Association in Minneapolis, Minnesota, January 26-27, for training in field of publications.

■ Home Missions Director **Homer Willis** lists the following itinerary: February 3—Kansas City, Mo., February 5-7—Wichita, Kan., February 14—Louisville, Ky., February 28—Rock Springs, Tenn.

■ The pastor's retreat in Cuba, January 1-3, was attended by **Louis Moulton**, Promotional Secretary of Foreign Missions. The following two weeks were spent among the local churches.

■ The Chattahoochee District of Georgia will have **Mrs. Eunice Edwards**, WNAC Executive Secretary, to conduct district-wide workshop and study course. Similar studies will follow in Saline Association, Arkansas, and a study class in First church, Ft. Smith, February 22.

■ **Ray Turnage**, National League Director, will conduct a workshop in Plymouth, North Carolina, prior to the annual League Board meeting in Mt. Olive.

■ First week of February took **Rolla Smith**, Foreign Missions Director, to central Florida for a missionary conference.

■ Bible College President **L. C. Johnson** and Dean **Charles A. Thigpen** will speak at the dedication services, January 31, when the new Central Free Will Baptist Church, Royal Oak, Michigan, formerly Highland Park church, dedicates its new building.

■ Bible professor **Leroy Forlines** will be speaking February 20-21 in Phenix City, Alabama.

FROM THE BOOKSTORE

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POINTERS ON CHURCH ADMINISTRATION



The Introductory Thesis

We do not anticipate any revolutionary ideas, changes, production of magic formulas for Church Administration or any other such thing as a result of this series. The whole purpose of this series, as our general title suggests, is to offer and share with you some "pointers" on Church Administration. Each of us are eager to learn of methods and ideas that might assist us in more effectively administering the affairs of Christ in our local churches.

The first article, in this series, we have chosen to call, "The Introductory Thesis". Some of the material contained in it will be very common and first place with many of you. However, we feel that such an article is necessary in anticipation of the material to be found in the later articles. Actually, the first article has more to say concerning facts about the church than it does the administration of the church. It seems logical, however, to assume that proper administration can come only after proper understanding of some facts concerning the church.

The word "church" comes from the Greek word Ekklesia and is found one hundred and fifteen times in the New Testament. In one hundred and ten of these instances it has reference to the institution known as the Church. In three instances, to quote Trench, it is used in the "heathen sense" (see Acts 19:32, 39, 42). In two cases the word is used in the "Jewish sense," being applied to ancient Israel as God's chosen and separated people.

In the "Christian sense" the word has a twofold signification in the New Testament. First it is used, in its primary and literal

Dean Moore

sense, to designate a visible, local congregation of Christian disciples, meeting for worship, instruction and service. Second, it is used in a figurative sense, to designate the universal company of believers both in heaven and on earth. Of the one hundred and ten instances in which Ekklesia is rendered Church in the New Testament, ninety are applied to a visible, local congregation. It is to this sense of the word that we shall direct our attention in this series.

The literal meaning or etymology of the word is "The Called Out"; Ekklesia being from two other Greek words, "ek", meaning "out of" and "kaleo" meaning "to call."

What constitutes a church or what is a definition of a church? We think the following definition is good: "A church is a body of immersed believers, bound together by covenant for purpose of worship, propagating the Gospel and administering the ordinances of the Gospel."

But why, you may ask, a Baptist Church? We feel that there are three divisions that make up a good answer to this question. These three divisions will constitute the remainder of the article now before us. The three divisions that form the answer to the above question are: It is Scripturally Sound, Historically Correct, and Organizationally Right.

I. Scripturally Sound.

There are at least six things that speak

out loud and clear and are known as "baptist distinctives" and are supported by "Thus saith the Lord".

1. The individual Priesthood of believers. Every man is his own priest before Almighty God. (Heb. 4:14-16; Rev. 5:10; 1 Peter 2:5).

2. The independence of each local church. (1 Thess. 1:1; Rev. 1:4) Had the seven churches been under either the Prelatical or Presbyterian type of government, it would have been necessary to have written but one letter to the bishop of synod.

3. A regenerate church membership. (John 3:5; 1 Peter 1:23)

4. The sole Headship of Christ. No man can be the "head" of the Church, except Jesus Christ. (Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:18)

5. The administration of the Holy Spirit in the affairs of each church. (Acts 13:2)

6. Separation of church from state. Christians are taught to respect and be subject to the rulers and laws of the state; but there isn't a single hint in scripture that would indicate that the church should control the state or the state the church. Both are "ordained of God" to operate in their Divinely appointed spheres, but never are to interfere with the independent, sovereign workings of either. Americans would do well, at this point in our history, to look with sincerity upon this important position of our historic faith.

II. Historically Correct.

Baptist churches are not of the "modern variety" of religious movements. Actually, baptist churches antedate the Lutheran Reformation. The earliest baptists (those

(Continued page 8)

Rev. Dean Moore is pastor of the Sherwood Free Will Baptist Church in El Sobrante, California.

BY DR. E. T. BURWELL

✓ YOUR STEWARDSHIP

CHRIST'S

PERSONAL

ADMINISTRATORS

As believers we are Christ's Personal Administrators. But, are we certified? That is, do we have Christ's seal of approval on our Stewardship? In this brief article, I would like for us to think concerning our greatest possession of which we must give an account—ourselves.

Man has, from the dawn of time, tried to find excuses for his actions and thinking. In so doing, he can, with a self-drugged conscience, continue in his selfish sphere. We also have the freedom to interpret the meaning of words in such a fashion that they will agree with our pre-determined wants and desires. Stewardship is one of these words. I believe, among many laymen, that stewardship only means the giving of a portion of our money to the church as we have been prospered. Those who believe this, would even vary greatly on when and how much they have been prospered. This definition of stewardship is selfish, sinful, and shallow when we think of our responsibilities that are absolutely essential if we are to grow spiritual-

cause of Christ. Only then will God certify us as his Personal Administrators.

Christ intended for His church to be a lighthouse to direct the way for those that are on their way to destruction. He also designed the church to be a powerhouse of love that would continually activate our lives with such force that we would ever be in the orbit of God's will. Let us ask ourselves: "What is the cause for so many failing to get into orbit?" I believe there are only two sources of hindrance to God's cause. First, trouble inside God's vehicle—the church, or from the outside—the world. In all truthfulness, we must admit, in America at least, our greatest enemy is not the infidelity, opposition, and the sin of the world, but the indifference, selfishness, stubbornness, and satisfaction that characterizes many congregations of all denominations. This sickness is becoming more and more prevalent to the point that it has reached epidemic proportions. As a result, many ministers have to spend so much time and energy trying to build up the anemic condition of the churches that little or no time is left to fight the common enemy outside the church.

God wants His church to be disciplined and to realize the responsibilities that are ours. God's prescription for us is to take the true meaning of Christian stewardship into our lives. If we say we love God, we will faithfully follow His prescription. We only love God when we love with the strength of the mind, the strength of the emotions, and the strength of the will. Our inner self must be surrendered to Christ for Him to use as He sees fit. Even for God, it is impossible for Him to use us if we are indifferent, selfish, stubborn, or satisfied with our present condition.

I think many times we are not the efficient administrators of God's estate that He expects because our set of values is warped. Our health, shelter, raiment, food, work, family, desires, likes, dislikes, education, feelings, recreation, comforts, money, pleasures, etc., may vary in their importance, but in Christ's mind, only His Kingdom has

ly and if the cause of Christ is to be propagated.

The gospel teaches us that the true meaning of Christian stewardship is first recognizing our responsibility and then, with the help of the Holy Spirit, dedicating our whole life—personality, time, talent, energy, influence, and material substance to the

Dr. Burwell is a layman. He is an active member of the Johnson City, Illinois, Free Will Baptist Church where he teaches the Adult Bible Class.

top priority. When Christ said, "Follow me," he was saying, "Measure your Christian stewardship by my standards."

We have heard sermons, perhaps not as many as would please God, on the stewardship of property. We know that even the pagan, primitive folk had a stewardship conscience and made offerings in the form of sacrifices to their many gods. The Jews practiced tithing of various forms of property and money. Jesus sanctioned tithing as the measure to meet our financial needs. These and many more stubborn facts stand, regardless of the empty excuses given, for not practicing tithing. One who has resources, regardless of the amount, will invest in a "sure thing" when a profit is guaranteed. When one fails to invest in the greatest cause the world has ever known, the reason is self-evident.

Much could be said about the account we will have to give to the "Great Auditor" concerning our time, talent, energy, and influence. We should take a personal inventory of ourselves regarding these phases of Christ's stewardship. Moreover, since we are Christ's Personal Administrators, let us ask ourselves the question: "What does God consider the most important thing we possess?"—The answer is, I believe, our personality.

From the creation to the present time, God's prime importance has been people. He even sent His Son to die on the cross because of people. He realized the necessity of sending the Holy Spirit because of people. Therefore, we must conclude that our largest obligation as Christ's Personal Administrators is to develop the potential powers that God has given us. This, I believe, is what Paul meant when he said, "I plead with you, therefore, brethren, by the compassions of God to present all your faculties to Him as a living and holy sacrifice acceptable to Him." (Romans 12:1—Weymouth's translation). This and nothing less is required if we are to fulfill God's purpose for our lives. That purpose is to glorify God by our actions, deeds, and thoughts. Isaiah 43:7 makes this purpose clear. "Everyone that is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him."

Our lives are gifts of God. He trusts us with them for a few short years to see whether or not we will be faithful stewards.

"We were not placed here to dream and drift,

There are loads to carry and burdens to lift."

We are to be co-workers with God in his program for the world. Even though God is all power, he is depending on us. This is the reason for our very existence. Therefore, the greatest investment we can make for the glory of God and the good of humanity is ourselves. Our greatest enemy, however, is ourselves. What we do with ourselves will determine what we do with our time, talent, energy, influence, and

money. Paul accomplished great things for God because he had the right philosophy regarding himself. He said, "I am debtor." That is, "I owe myself." If we are a Certified Steward of God, we will always be aware that we owe to Him the best service with the greatest gift we have—ourselves. God is depending on each individual to fulfill his personal sphere of influence and service. This was God's plan from the beginning.

When churches become weak, listless, satisfied and cold, it is because the people are not filling their places. They are content to remain a "spiritual neutral" in the affairs of the church. What is a spiritual neutral?—It is one who has their name on the church roll but is selfishly and sinfully withholding themselves. When they withhold it is only natural for them to embezzle the time, energy, talent, influence and money to which God has entrusted to them.

To correct this sickness of non-participation which is paralyzing the spiritual life of many churches we need a definite, personal and deep realization of the stewardship of personality. We have heard many definitions of life, but one of the most searching is a very simple one. "Life is but the individual trusteeship of time." We may thus ask ourselves, "What is time?" It is nothing more than the link that connects the past eternity with the eternity of the future.

The grading of our stewardship by God is based upon a simple equation: Life (personality) plus time (impersonal) equals the degree of our true Christian Stewardship.

The spiritual condition of ourselves, our church, our nation, and the world, depends on this equation. Most of us know our financial status at the bank, but in the Bank of Time no man knows the size of his deposit. We are always drawing out and never adding to. This solemn thought in itself should cause all of us to audit our lives and see if we are in balance with what God expects.

What I feel most churches need today is not money, because we can usually raise the amount needed. (I would, however, like to insert the thought here that our budgets are reached easily because our sights are set too low.) Perhaps we are only interested in our local church and a six-mile radius and do not include in our budget enough support to Home Missions, Foreign Missions, College, Administration, and our Youth. It is not talent that we need, because if that were true we could blame God for establishing His church and not giving us the resources to bring to pass His Great Commission. What we are in need of, I believe, is more people who welcome responsibility and are willing to give themselves to His cause. Let us ask ourselves the question: "Has God certified my Christian stewardship?"

Following Support of God's Church



"... PROVE ME NOW
HEREWITH, SAITH
THE LORD OF HOSTS,
IF I WILL NOT OPEN
YOU THE WINDOWS
OF HEAVEN, AND
POUR YOU OUT A
BLESSING, THAT
THERE SHALL NOT
BE ROOM ENOUGH
TO RECEIVE IT."
— MAL. 3:10

Religious NEWSFRONT

Optimistic for Cuba

NEW YORK (EP) — Dr. Arthur L. Miller, presiding officer of the United Presbyterian Church of the U.S., reports an optimistic picture of Cuba under Fidel Castro. Following a 10-day visit to Cuba in December, Miller said he feels that Castro is making a genuine effort to democratize the country, that there is strong popular support for Castro and freedom for Cubans to criticize any part of his government, and that the Communists are in the minority. Miller added that the Red newspaper has the lowest circulation of any in Havana.

"The friendly, relaxed atmosphere of Cuba," said Dr. Miller, "belies reports of tension and indicates that incidents headlined in the United States have not disturbed the people or their warm friendship for Americans."

Two-Thirds for Missions

The world-wide missionary enterprise of the Church of the Nazarene will get two-thirds of the church's record budget, totaling \$3,110,545, for the fiscal year starting May 1.

A total of \$2,055,740 will be channeled into the foreign missionary department of the Nazarene Church, which works in 33 world areas; \$431,757 is earmarked for the home missions department, which works in seven other countries, principally English-speaking areas. The combined missionary personnel of these two departments totals 450.

Wars Take Taxes

WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP) — Where does the taxpayer's dollar go? The Friends (Quakers) Committee on National Legislation, after an analysis of funds voted by the last session of Congress, charges that almost 71 cents out of the American taxpayer's dollar will go for war—either in military preparation or to meet the cost of past conflicts.

The Committee said that 63-1/2 cents out of the tax dollar go for the Congressional appropriation of \$46,214,000,000 for military and atomic energy programs based on defense. In addition, they computed, veterans' benefits, survivors' pensions, maintenance of military cemeteries, etc., adds up to \$5,388,000,000—almost 7-1/2 cents out of the tax dollar.

Nor does this include interest on the national debt, the Committee said, reminding that most of this was incurred during the time of war. The National Debt will run more than nine billion dollars this year, according to their figures.

Soviets Publish Journal

MOSCOW (EP) — Newsstands in Russia have a new monthly journal called *Science and Religion*. Moscow Radio says the new magazine is designed to "supply propaganda to draw worshipers, especially young people, away from churches" and will have mass circulation. The announcements said the magazine is part of an intensified campaign against religion.

Thirty-Five Years Old

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (EP) — The "Old Fashioned Revival Hour", one of the oldest and best-known gospel broadcasts, was 35 years old on Jan. 7, 1960. Its founders, Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Fuller, were honored on that date by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

The Board presented to them an embossed scroll containing the text of a laudatory resolution. Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who presented the scroll, pointed out that their radio program is now broadcast over 625 stations to a worldwide audience estimated at 10 million listeners.

"As a result of their Christian radio ministry, Dr. and Mrs. Fuller have been responsible for teaching the ideals of Christianity to untold thousands and have inspired many persons to become active in church work," the Supervisor stated.

The second best-known achievement of Dr. Fuller was the founding of the Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, in 1947. The seminary was the fulfillment of a life-long dream for the radio minister.

May See Russian Leaders

VATICAN CITY (EP) — Sources close to the Vatican predict that Pope John XXIII will see Soviet President Klementi Voroshilov and Premier Nikita Khrushchev next March when the Russian leader is in Rome.

Talk of such a meeting reportedly results from a new attitude of the Soviet government toward Roman Catholicism. Moscow Radio pleased the Roman Catholics in December by making reference to the number attending church. Catholics say Moscow Radio's "reference to the importance of Christmas to the Western world would seem to indicate that the Soviet government, in its efforts toward understanding the West, finally has understood the strength of the Church."

Crack Down on Bingo

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (EP) — Complaints from five Protestant clergymen here

have put an end to bingo games in two Roman Catholic churches in the "City of Brotherly Love."

Police Commissioner Thomas J. Gibbons said he had not known of the weekly games. His action got the support of Msgr. John J. Noone, chancellor of the Philadelphia archdiocese who said that the chancery disapproved of bingo games, knowing they violated state gambling laws.

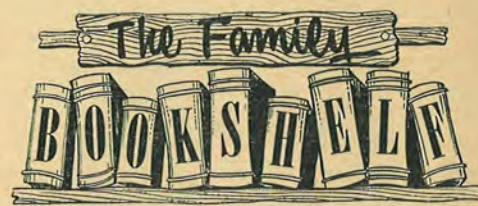
The complaints were filed by the Rev. William A. Drury, a Baptist, and assistant director of Youtharama, Inc., a non-denominational evangelistic program for teenagers; the Rev. Scott Hutchison of the Third Baptist church, the Rev. Elvin Zuch and the Rev. Melvyn Lewis, pastors of Primitive Methodist churches, and the Rev. Alex Dunlap, an evangelist.

Church Attendance Down

PRINCETON, N. J. (EP) — Following 1958's record high, church attendance in the United States leveled off during the past year, according to a recent Gallup Poll.

An estimated 49 million adults attended church services during a typical week of 1959, or 47 per cent of the adult civilian population (excluding those living in institutions.)

By way of comparison, during an average week in 1958, 49 per cent of the population—or an estimated 50,500,000 adults attended church.



MESSAGES ON THE RESURRECTION—Herschel H. Hobbs, Baker 87 pp., \$1.75.

This book is an exposition of the fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians. The approach is somewhat unique and makes for interesting reading. Good, solid Biblical truth concerning the resurrection is given by the author. Should be especially suggestive for pastors in the coming Easter season.—Billy A. Melvin

THE PATHWAY TO THE CROSS—R. G. Turnbull, Baker, 126 pp., \$2.00.

The Cross is the absolute, pivotal, epitome of truth. There is no truth separate or apart from it. The author pointedly stresses this as he traces the path of Jesus from the time He began His resolute trek from eternity to eternity by this way—the way of the Cross. The Cross is central to Christ, by which He purchased redemption for mankind, and it must be central to those who would follow Him to glory. No one

can escape the Cross if he follows Christ.

The author introduces the reader to Gethsemane, Gabbatha, Golgotha, as Christ knew them. The Christian will, and must, meet them in like manner.

The Pathway to the Cross will add depth, dignity, and spiritual discipline to the most devout saint.

Especially apropos for the Easter season.—E. Edwards

CALVARY TO PENTECOST—F. B. Meyer, Baker, 90 pp., \$1.75.

This is a splendid book especially for the Easter season. The ten chapters are well outlined and make for good devotional reading.

The author approaches the different aspects of "The Wondrous Cross" from the views of Peter, Paul and John.

The verse of poetry preceding each chapter by such authors as Browning adds to the interest of the book.—J. T. Hurst

THE CELL—John Kirn, a one act play by Broadman Press, 50¢.

Those who present dramas as a regular church contribution may be interested in this play which has its setting in the time of the Nero persecution when Christians were cast to the lions.

The only scene is that of a cell in a Roman prison and uses a cast of six men and one woman. The plot deals with the emotions of Christians in the face of death.—J. J. H.

CULTURE AND THE CROSS—G. Hall Todd, Baker, 111pp., \$2.00.

A book of sermons replete with illustrations. Most of the illustrations are from periods in history, or, from the customs and beliefs of England. The book is good reading, but to this reviewer there seemed to be more Culture than there was Cross.—E. Edwards

HAVE YOU TRIED THIS

by Robert Hill

Plan to use one month in the early part of the year for contacting the unchurched in your community. There are scores of unsaved in every community and many of them can be won through the influence of your members. Every member of your church should take part in this "Contact Emphasis Month."

It is most encouraging to use a large chart for the entire church to register the number of contacts each week. This should be placed in a conspicuous place so everyone can see how the emphasis is progressing. At the top of the poster should be the caption, *1000 Contacts for Christ*, or any number that would present a challenge to the people.

During the first week, every person should be urged to write a postal card to at least five neighboring friends, inviting them to church. These should be mimeographed on plain white cover stock, ready to be passed out to every volunteer. They should be addressed, signed, and a three-cent stamp placed on the card by the sender. One man who lived in our community had been asked almost weekly to come to church by one of our deacons. During the post card week, he received 17 cards and came to church the next Sunday. He has missed only two Sundays in the past two years.

The second week could be used for telephone contacts. Volunteers should follow-up the post card contact during the second week by telephoning each one, with a personal invitation to attend church. Slips of paper should be given each volunteer to record the name, address, and telephone number of each person called. These are to be returned to the church office to be placed on file for future prospects.

The third and fourth weeks of the campaign should be given to personal visits, as a part of the follow-up program. Each volunteer should try to visit his prospects during the two weeks. By this time, the prospects know that you are serious about wanting them in your church. We can not expect to win every prospect, but if we contact enough prospects and keep after them, several will be won to Christ through this contact effort.

It might be interesting to divide the quota between the departments of your Sunday school, or among the various young people and adult classes.



JACK PARAMORE

Evangelist Jack Paramore's tentative schedule of meetings for 1960, released this month, lists a score of prospective meetings planned in North and South Carolinas, Ohio and Tennessee ranging from one to three weeks in length.

Several scattered open dates remain: February 8-16; March 7-13; April 25-May 15; July 11-August 6; September 4-11; and October 24 on.

The North Carolina-born evangelist experienced unprecedented results in a 1959 schedule that included 34 full-scale evangelistic series and ten one day rallies.

A total of 914 decisions were recorded in Mr. Paramore's meetings during the year. An estimated 60 per cent of these were first time. Many others were for assurance of salvation, rededication to Christ and decisions to enter full-time Christian service. He preached a total of 358 sermons during his itinerary.

The youthful minister's five-state 1959 schedule witnessed numerous outpourings of the Holy Spirit in moving men to decisions for the Lord Jesus Christ. There was the six-day Hookerton, N. C., series in which 61 decisions were recorded; the Slocum, Ohio, meeting when 38 moved to the altar; the Maury, N. C., campaign which witnessed 40 making their decisions; Bethel Church, Smithfield, N. C., where 42 moved forward; 60 decisions in a six-day Grifton, N. C., series; Grimsley Church, Snow Hill, N. C., where 58 walked the aisles, and many more.

The most effective meeting as far as outward results are concerned was an evangelistic series in September at Ruth's Chapel, New Bern, N. C., founded and pastored for many years by the Rev. J. C. Griffin. One hundred and twenty-nine decisions were recorded.

Scholastically, Evangelist Paramore graduated from the Free Will Baptist Bible College following two-years of undergraduate work at Mount Olive College.

Mr. Paramore, married and the father of two children including a two-month-old baby daughter, can be contacted at 2706 S. Dickinson Avenue, Greenville, N. C.

The evangelist's tentative schedule for the next three months is as follows:

February 1-7	Fayetteville, N. C.
February 8-16	Open
February 17-March 6	Maury, N. C. (two churches co-operating)
March 7-13	Open
March 14-20	Scotland Neck, N. C.
March 21-April 2	Greenville, N. C.
April 3-7	(Bible Conference)-Open
April 10-17	McColl, S. C.
April 18-24	Clayton, N. C.
April 25-May 15	Open

POINTERS

(Continued from page 3)

actually known by the name "baptist" and not those merely holding to baptist principles) were Arminian in theology; however, the Regular Baptists (Calvinistic) follow closely behind in point of history. Our own beloved denomination, The Free Will Baptists, would fall under the former inasmuch as we reject some of the barbed points of Calvinism such as (a) Limited Atone-

ment, (b) Irresistible Grace (c) Unconditional Election and (d) Eternal Security.

Baptists trace their heritage and church authority to the New Testament and hold that the church that Jesus established was essentially a Baptist church. If this is not your conviction, my brother, you should find the church you feel is closest to the New Testament pattern and work in it!!!

III. Organizationally Right.

The independence of local churches, simple forms of worship and simple church structures have always characterized Baptist churches of every theological variety.

Year after year more and more Baptist churches are becoming less independent. As a denomination, we have the challenge before us of "cooperating" with each other to promote the cause of Christ without sacrificing our position of independence of all ecclesiastical authority above the local church. We must beware of rules, regulations and laws that tend to keep the local church from being absolutely independent and sovereign in its own God-given right.

Too, great attention should be given to keep our forms of worship simple. They can and should be orderly, but at the same time be simple.

The government of the local church should never be any other than "Congregational."

We shall deal with this, and other problems of administration in the four future articles of this series.

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.
Lawndale 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.

Pastors, get your church to subscribe to the Family Plan today. You'll be glad you did! Your cooperation and help will soon complete our third Honor Roll for the Church Family Plan.

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.

Remember them that are in bonds
as bound with them HEB. 13:3



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MARCH 4, 1960

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ANOTHER APPEAL FOR FUNDS ? ? ?

This article was prepared by Ray Turnage. He serves our church as National League Director.

"If I supported everyone who requested funds, I would be in the poor house." This is the honest feeling of many Christians today. Some become so hardened by the number of appeals that they ignore and resent them all. Some have become confused and have sought direction through the Word of God and prayer. Obviously, every Christian cannot support every needy cause. However, the Word of God and the Holy Spirit can and will reveal specific responsibilities to each individual.

Is This Appeal for Me?

When my National League department presents current needs and required finance for further promotion, should I respond? Another question is in order. Is it fair and ethical for a faithful few supporters to carry the financial burden of a department? I think you would come up with a favorable answer.

Is the National League Board of Service to Me?

The basic principle in giving is that the one who receives help in some spiritual way should support the giver in a financial way. The fact that the services of a department are available should create a desire to help maintain such a service. "The laborer is worthy of his hire." (Luke 10:7) "Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn." (I Cor. 9:9) "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?" (I Cor. 9:11)

Why does a person only want to give to the local church and then keep it there? Surely the local church serves him most, but, there are other service organizations which deserve support according to the amount and value of service given.

Is Training in the Local Church Necessary?

No organization other than the Free Will Baptist League is designed to train church members to serve loyally and efficiently as followers of Christ. The League begins giving this training at a very early age and will continue as long as a person will participate in the activities of the organization. Since leadership must come from the local church, the local church must train her own

leaders. They cannot be imported. The National League office serves to provide for and encourage local organizations to maintain properly functioning Leagues.

Is the League Furthering The Lord's Work?

Since the organization was begun there have been scores who attribute their success chiefly to the environment found in League. Ministers, missionaries, and other full-time workers have said that attending League played a great part in helping them find God's will for their lives. The National League Board has sponsored projects which raised several thousand dollars to be used in promoting the cause of Christ on foreign soil as well as in the homeland. All publicity and promotion for these projects were paid for by the National League office. Not one penny was ever used for handling. Our office stands ready at all times to be of service relative to League work.

What Should I Do About the Appeal?

As a pastor I could engage my church in regular giving, either by a percentage of our church budget, a monthly offering for the National League work, or 10% of the weekly League offerings. As an interested church member I could speak up in business meetings and offer the suggestion of supporting our League work. As a Christian steward, I could give in order that I might express in a small degree my thanksgiving to Him.

May I Have This Further Word?

Some of you who just finished reading the preceding paragraphs will admit that you should do something by way of help for the National League work. Some of you already support the work consistently with prayer, cooperation, and finance. Thank God for those who have for years been faithful and well-balanced in helping to promote each phase of the work. As a rather new and inexperienced worker for our wonderful denomination, I have already noticed that those who demand the most give the least.

If you have never done it before, do something magnanimous (free from mean or petty feelings and acts) for your National League Board. May God lead you in whatever you decide to do for His sake.

What's Your Problem?



LOUISE H. MOULTON

Q. My pastor recently preached on Christians confessing their sins and making restitution. Since that time I have been worried sick. In an unguarded moment several years back, I was untrue to my husband while he was in the army. It happened only once and has not and will not happen again. I sinned against God and against my husband. If I confess this thing to my husband, God only knows what may be the result. Please advise me.

A. Because of the length of your letter I have condensed it because of space. Surely the Word of God does teach confession of sin and it also teaches restitution whenever possible. However, if as you say in your letter, you have confessed your sin to God then I feel that in your case no good will be accomplished by going to your husband at this late hour. The best restitution you can make is to live a faithful, Christ-like life and be the wife that your husband thinks you are. If you still have no peace of heart and mind, then take your pastor into your confidence and get him to pray with you and counsel with you. Be assured that many Christians who read these lines will remember to pray God's blessings upon you.

Q. I heard recently that you were pondering the giving up of the ministry. Are you?

A. I have no idea how such rumors are born. Perhaps Satan is the author of such. Was it not Mark Twain that commented "... rumors of my death have been grossly exaggerated." I expect to preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as long as I have breath because God called me and I feel without doubt that "... woe is me if I preach not the gospel."

Q. Its basketball time again and the young men of our church have organized a team. We have been criticized by some in the church. Is it all wrong for Christians to play basketball, baseball, etc.?

A. You'll find numbers of Christians across our denomination and in others who will tell you that Christians should not engage in these games. Personally I do not see any harm in boys and men playing these games if done in Christian fellowship. Every Christian has to be careful of his testimony and that he gives no cause for offence or stumbling. Thus we should be very careful of the environ-

ment in which we play etc., but on the other hand we cannot be legalistic and judge the liberty of others who may have a different view than we have simply because we disagree with them.

Q. An uncle of mine died last year and was cremated. It has worried me and I have tried to find something on cremation in the Bible but cannot. Do you know if such is according to the Bible?

A. In every instance in the Bible, to my knowledge, burial is the proper mode. God said in Genesis 3:19 "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Why people request cremation of their bodies I do not know. There was an old pagan notion that cremation would prevent God from bringing the person back to life again. Whether this is carried over to those today who prefer cremation remains unanswered.

Q. When I questioned my mother about her eggnog drinking at Christmas time she told me that she was taking just a little whiskey for medicinal purposes. What do you think about this?

A. I am against whiskey in any form. I know some people who have had it prescribed by their doctor for medicinal purposes. There may not be any harm in it if it is used for that purpose only and then only as prescribed in very small dosage. However, if my doctor were to prescribe such for me I think I would change doctors.

Q. There is a lot in the news these days about birth control. Should Christians have as many children as they desire and as is possible?

A. In Genesis 1:28 God gave the command to the first male and female created in his own image to "Be fruitful and multiply . . ." When circumstances warrant and health permits then the answer to your question is yes. When these conditions do not exist, then we should remember that the only Scriptural method of control is self-control.

Q. My husband and I have buried two infant babies. Do you think our children will be infants in heaven?

A. It is most comforting to know that all children who die before reaching the age of responsibility go to heaven. However, we must be careful not to speculate beyond what is revealed in the Word of God and there is not much in the Bible concerning conditions in heaven. We do not know just what all of us will be like when we get there except that we shall be like Jesus.

Q. Would you say that heaven is a state of being or an actual place?

A. Its a place, Brother, a very definite place. Jesus said in John 14:2 "I go to prepare a place for you . . . and . . . I will come again . . . that there ye may be also."

December Receipts For Cooperative Program Are Up

Cooperative giving in the month of December was up from the previous month by approximately \$300.00. It is hoped that this will be just the beginning of a steady increase in Cooperative giving throughout the year. Your church can share by simply having the treasurer of the church send a check for 10% of the total offerings for the month to: National Association of Free Will Baptists, 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee. Your check will be disbursed according to the following percentages. Superannuation 3%, Home Missions 14%, Foreign Missions 28%, Sunday School 5%, League 3%, Executive Department 24%, Bible College 20%, Headquarters' Trustees 3%.

COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS

ALABAMA			
Goodwater church, Slocumb	5.00		5.00
ARIZONA			
First Ariz. Assn.	73.80		73.80
CALIFORNIA			
State Assn.			759.13
GEORGIA			
State Assn.			238.68
ILLINOIS			
Southern Ill. Yearly	420.00		
Oak Grove church, Scheller	25.20		445.20
MISSOURI			
State Assn.			1,365.14
NEW MEXICO			
First church, Hobbs	87.05		
First N. M. Assn.	4.67		91.72
OKLAHOMA			
State Assn.			550.73
TENNESSEE			
Horton Hgts., Nashville	147.91		
Oak Grove ch., Charlotte	17.78		
Olivet church, Clarksville	125.00		
Bluff City Assn., Memphis	23.01		
Ashland City church	35.00		348.70
			3,878.10

DESIGNATED

Oklahoma	25.00	
Tennessee	45.00	70.00
		3,948.10

DISBURSEMENTS

Foreign Missions	1,178.43	
Home Missions	591.72	
Bible College	775.62	
Executive Dept.	965.74	
Sunday School Dept.	196.91	
League Dept.	123.34	
Superannuation	116.34	3,948.10



Woman's Auxiliary

LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

Mrs. Eunice Edwards, Executive Secretary

A Prayer Trust

One day as Jesus was teaching, preaching, and healing, He lifted His eyes and saw beyond the people nearest Him multitudes of people with needs, multitudes He could not possibly reach limited by a human body. He saw how they fainted, how they were scattered without spiritual guidance. He turned to His disciples and said, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few. Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that he will send labourers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37, 38. As Jesus said these words, He gave us as His disciples a prayer trust. It is a marvelous and awesome thing to realize that God sends labourers into the Kingdom work today in answer to the prayers of the saints.

Think of this prayer trust in relation to our progress in missions work. God has certainly opened many doors for us. He has sent forth those young people from among us to step through these doors. We have had a part in carrying the Gospel to some who have never heard. Praise the Lord for these blessings. Yet we cannot be content. Surely God would do more if we fulfill our prayer trust.

Take a quick mental survey of our missionary program. We have fields in Africa, Cuba, India, Japan, Mexico, Spain, and Brazil. There are possibilities for other work in South America and in Korea. In South India a couple is needed to help in the work. Opportunities in Brazil, Africa and other places have passed us by because of lack of personnel. Obligations that are ours wait for labourers. In Africa several couples are needed to staff our assigned area. Our prayer trust impresses us anew when we remember Anita Sparks' question: "Has God not called anyone else?"

God will call and send forth labourers in answer to our prayer. The needs Jesus saw may still be seen today. There are multitudes, multitudes and the God sent labourers are so few. The command to prayer is still ours today.

If we sincerely and earnestly accept this prayer trust, certain things may be demanded of us. First of all, when we pray for labourers, we include ourselves. We must be ready to say, "Here am I; send me."

"But," you say, "Surely the Lord would not want me on a foreign field." Remember we are praying for labourers to work wherever the harvest is. The field is the world. The need may be next door to you. Are you really labouring in the harvest? Or are you only working on the fringes? Margaret Cooper in *The Adventure of Prayer* says, "You know that if you come to Him He will ask you to help Him about the Kingdom, and that in the end He will give you that work for it that no one can do." We cannot long really pray, "Lord, send forth labourers," without finding work in our own hands.

There is another thing we must face in this prayer trust. That is giving our children to the Lord.

Hannah "returned" Samuel to the Lord after he had been given in answer to her prayer. What better place for our children than in the hands of Him whose divine love prepares more than our frail human love could ever imagine. "Oh, no, Lord, not my child. Send forth labourers, but leave me my child." And selfishly clinging to that which we feel is ours, we prevent that child from experiencing the spiritual heights to which God would lead him.

Amy Carmichael speaks of such selfishness in what we term love: "If I refuse to allow one who is dear to me to suffer for the sake of Christ, if I do not see such suffering as the greatest honor that can be offered to any follower of the Crucified, then I know nothing of Calvary love." When we pray for labourers, we must be sure that our lives and those dear to us are surrendered to God.

Does God move in answer to this prayer? Remember the example in Acts 13. The church at Antioch was being taught. The believers laboured for the Lord and fasted and prayed. The Holy Ghost spoke, saying, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." The church then sent them away, after the Holy Ghost prompted the sending. Actually the Scripture states, "So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed into Seleucia." How greatly God used these two "separated" and "sent forth" ones to bring spiritual light to many in darkness! So

today God will use separated and sent forth ones from Free Will Baptist ranks. But they must be sent by the Lord of Harvest in answer to the prayers of the saints.

"Has God not called anyone else?" Have we hampered God's working by lack of attention to this prayer trust? Have we given of ourselves to help meet the need? Have we withheld nothing, not even those dearest to us?

Let us determine we will be true to this prayer trust. Pray the Lord of Harvest would indeed send forth labourers into His harvest, for the fields are now white and the harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few.

This article was prepared by Miss Mary Ruth Wisehart, Program—Prayer chairman of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention.

Women at Work

Tifton, Ga.—An Executive Committee meeting of the Georgia Auxiliary Convention was held here recently. Regular reports to like officers was decided a "must" for this year and plans were laid for the Youth Fellowship Day to be held at Camp Mt. Bethel, June 10th, and also for the State Workshop to be conducted June 23rd, same place. Mrs. M. G. Shiver is the state president.

Pine Bluff, Ark.—Following the December meeting, this auxiliary enjoyed a Christmas social with nineteen members present and three visitors.

Savannah, Ga.—January 10th, in the evening service, an installation service was conducted of all newly elected church officers, including all the auxiliaries. The service was built around the theme: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" with the pastor in charge.

Mountain Grove, Mo.—Another Circle was organized at this Church recently bringing the total circles in the Auxiliary to four.

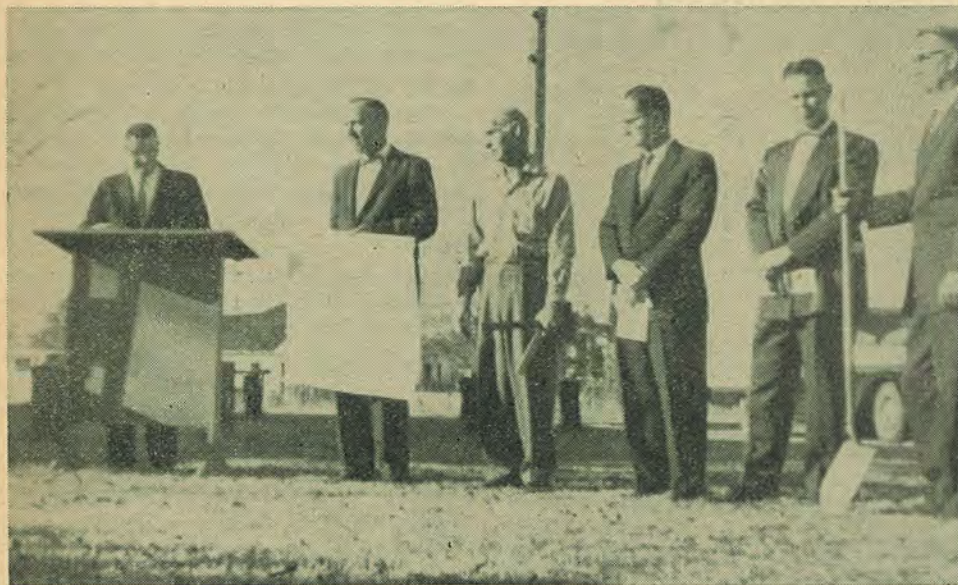
Stigler, Okla.—A Christmas party for their husbands was the feature of the December meeting of this group.

Sulphur, Okla.—The First Church Auxiliary observed their week of prayer with cottage prayer meetings. Good attendance and good interest was enjoyed throughout the week.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—Capitol Hill Auxiliary enjoyed six cottage prayer meetings in the homes of shut-ins during their week of prayer.

Oilton, Okla.—The YPA and GTA members were included in the week of prayer services. The youth had a part in the services each night.

GLANCING AROUND THE STATES



Pictured above are the participants in a ground breaking service held on December 13, 1959, by the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church of Bryan, Texas. They are left to right: Rev. H. Ray Berry, Pastor; Edgar Morris; W. O. Withers; G. C. Williams; Forrest West; and Joe Brotherton. The congregation is looking forward to the time when construction will begin the early part of this year.

Bible Conference Set

NASHVILLE, TENN.—Speakers for the 17th Annual Bible Conference will be Rev. Wesley Calvary, missionary, Rev. Dale Burden, pastor, and Dr. Monroe Parker, evangelist. President L. C. Johnson has announced.

The five-day inspirational meeting to be held in Memorial Auditorium will begin Sunday evening, April 3, and will run through noon Thursday, April 7. Since the conference is scheduled two weeks preceding Easter, pastors and church leaders will be free to attend without any conflict with usual Easter services.

Missionary messages will be given by Mr. Calvary, missionary on furlough from Japan. Rev. Dale Burden, pastor of East Nashville Free Will Baptist Church, will bring messages on Bible themes. Dr. Parker, president of Pillsbury Conservative Baptist Bible College, Owatonna, Minnesota, will bring evangelistic messages. Special music will be furnished by groups from the College Music Department.

The Bible College will be glad to handle requests for accommodations. The address is 3609 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

New Church in Atlanta

ATLANTA, GA.—By special arrangement with the Georgia State Board of Missions, Rev. J. R. Davidson is assisting a new work in this city. The church is worshipping at 112½ Forsyth Street, N. W., in downtown Atlanta. This is possible through

the generosity of Brother Leon B. Duke who operates a Beauty School at this address. Mid-week services are held in the homes of cooperating friends.

The Sunday School has an enrollment of 45, with preaching attendance generally running a bit higher. The actual membership of the church is 17 with immediate prospects for 12 to 15 more.

The church requests prayer and the names and addresses of those within the city who might be interested in the church. Address your letter to Rev. J. R. Davidson, 52 Vinson Drive, S. E., Atlanta 17, Georgia.

Observes Student Night

DUNN, N. C.—On December 27th, 1959, the Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Church observed student night. In this service, all college students and those who had been teaching for at least two years were honored. Approximately 17 young people were given special recognition.

Ordained to Ministry

BUFFALO SPRINGS, TEXAS—Rev. T. J. Parr, Jr., was ordained to the gospel ministry on December 13, 1959, at the Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church. Mr. Otis L. Jones led the song service, Rev. Tiff Covington led in prayer, Rev. Elvis Fielding gave the charge, and Rev. R. E. Conner gave the prayer of dedication. Credentials were presented to Rev. Parr by J. W. Broom, deacon of the home church.

Mission Organizes Church

NOGALES, ARIZ.—On December 6, 1959,

the First Free Will Baptist Church of Nogales, Arizona, was organized with fourteen full members and eight associate members. The church elected Rev. John B. Elliston as pastor, Virginia G. Breeding as clerk, and Jose Guzman as deacon on trial, and also as treasurer. Some of the members speak only English, some speak only Spanish, while others speak both languages. The church was organized in Arizona since no one was qualified to be pastor in Mexico.

On December 12, 1959, the church was received by the First Arizona Association while convening in Tucson, Arizona. Rev. Elliston requests prayer for the church and the work of the mission. He writes, "We covet your earnest prayers that God may speed the day when we shall have Mexican preachers trained to carry the Gospel throughout Mexico and other parts of Latin America, for such is our hope."

Minister Passes

CABOOL, MISSOURI—Rev. John W. Oxley, long-time Free Will Baptist minister in the area, passed away on November 30, 1959. He was converted in 1901 and joined the Union Missionary Baptist Church until 1930 when he united with the Free Will Baptist Church at Oak Grove. He moved his membership to the Providence Free Will Baptist Church in 1949 where he remained a faithful member until his death.

Rev. Oxley was the author of "Repentance Unto Salvation," "Baptism Of The Holy Ghost" and other pamphlets.

Ministers and Deacons Meet

SEARCY, ARK.—The regular session of the Arkansas State ministers and deacons' conference was held with the First Church of Searcy December 4-5. This meeting was blessed with good attendance and inspirational services. The group selected as their theme "In the Glow of His Glory" using as a text, Ephesians 3:21.

At the close of the conference officers were elected as follows: Rev. Bob King, President; Willard C. Day, Vice-president; Deacon M. B. Williams, Secretary; and Rev. James A. Bundy, Assistant Secretary.

Bible Course Available

RUSSELLVILLE, ARK. — The Berean Bible Course, edited by Willard C. Day, is now available at a great reduction in price. The course has sold for \$41.50 for 36 lessons, but now the course is being printed in book form and Unit 1 will be off the press January 1. The course will be printed in six units. A credit card will be issued for each unit and when all six units have been completed a certificate will be given. These books, which contain six lessons each, sell for \$1.00. If interested, send your inquiry to Rev. Willard C. Day, Russellville, Arkansas.

Church Establishes Mission

MOUNTAIN GROVE, MO.—The First Free Will Baptist Church of this city has established a mission in Houston, Missouri.



This is a Sunday School group with our Spanish mission work in Miami, Florida. At the far right is the pastor, Melitino Martinez. The Sunday School is growing and the need for a church building becomes more pressing. At present, the group rents the basement of a church for services.

The mission is located in a building on the block just west of the Court House and regular services are being held each Sunday. Brother Ervin Morton is serving as director of the mission.

Pioneer Dies

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.—Dr. I. W. Yandell, one of the founders of the Oklahoma State Association, a medical doctor, statesman, and minister, went to his reward just before Christmas. He has been one of the outstanding teachers of Free Will Baptist doctrine in the state for 67 years. Dr. Yandell has two sons preaching in the Free Will Baptist Church. They are Rev. L. A. Yandell of Oklahoma City and Rev. DeArthur Yandell of Stockton, California.

Oklahoma Board Hires Worker

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.—Rev. Paul Imbody has been secured by the Oklahoma State Mission Board to represent them in the state. Rev. Imbody is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, and is experienced in mission work, having worked for the National Home Mission Board. Mr. Imbody will work out of the State office and is presently in an organizational campaign in Durant, Oklahoma.

Quarterly Meets

SESSER, ILL.—Bear Point Church was host to the Franklin County Quarterly Meeting on January 29-30. Twenty-five churches participated in this Quarterly Meeting.

Minutes Wanted

NASHVILLE, TENN. — The Executive Department of the National Association would like to have a copy of all State and Association minutes. All clerks are urged to submit a copy as soon as possible. The

address is 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

Board Signs Contract

AYDEN, N. C. — The Sunday School Board of the National Association met with the Board of the Free Will Baptist Press on Wednesday, January 6, for the purpose of signing the contract approved by the National Association at Asheville, N. C., last year. Rev. R. N. Hinnant and Rev. John Alford signed the contract for the press and Rev. Paul Woolsey and Rev. Roger Reeds signed for the Sunday School Board. In agreement with the contract Rev. Hinnant presented the Sunday School Board with a check for \$1,800.00. This figure represents a percentage of the sale of first-quarter literature by the press.

The Sunday School Board has delayed

the hiring of an editor because of the lack of available funds. All money received by the Sunday School Board is currently being used to retire the huge debt of the board. An editor will be named following the debt retirement campaign that will take place during the month of March.

Anniversary Observed

NASHVILLE, TENN.—The Faith Free Will Baptist Church celebrated its first anniversary on Sunday, January 10. Rev. Homer Willis, National Home Mission Director, was guest speaker and at the close of the service Brother Leslie Andrews was ordained as deacon.

Converts Reported

KANSAS CITY, KAN.—The New Hope Free Will Baptist Church recently had two new converts. This brings their total to be baptized to 17. Three new members have recently been added to the membership of the church.

Youth Have Banquet

NORFOLK, VA.—The youth from several Free Will Baptist Churches in the Norfolk area met at the River Terrace Room for a Christmas Banquet on December 28. The speaker was Pat Robertson, son of Senator Robertson, who brought a very challenging message to the group. Approximately \$120.00 was received at the banquet for the National YPA and GTA project. (Purchase of a station wagon.) A total of 61 persons attended.

Second Edition Published

POMONA, CALIF.—H. F. Gilbert announces the second edition of his booklet, "The Death of Modesty." This article was carried in an earlier edition of CONTACT. If interested in copies of this booklet for distribution, write the author at 1651 Elwood Avenue, Pomona, California, for prices.



Average attendance of this Sunday School in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico is about 55 each Sunday. Some of the pupils are pictured above with two of our missionary workers. The school is made up entirely of Mexicans.

The Sunday School Opening Assembly Period

The Purpose

The opening session of Sunday school is a golden opportunity to discover and develop leadership in every age group. During this session the listener can sense a need or hunger for fellowship with God before he enters class. The session should be planned so that each listener goes to class with an open heart and an open mind to receive the Word and apply it to their daily life.

The Preparation

Prayer—during the few minutes previous to the opening session you may wish to have worker's prayer circles, students prayer groups or even joint prayer groups in session. Some churches enlist the prayer leadership of one deacon for each month.

Pre-session activity—the type of pre-session activity will depend upon the age of the group. Browsing tables, special handwork, memory work, choir practice, book centers or other topics of interest should be considered during this time.

Room appearance—the room should be arranged attractively and should be clean. Appropriate pictures should be placed at the eye level of the pupils and a center of interest should be prepared.

Reverence—the officers, teachers and other workers should be an example to each pupil. The attitude of reverence on their part is quickly noted by the pupils. Distractions and interruptions should be kept to a minimum.

Punctuality on the part of all teachers and officers is a MUST in preparation for a successful opening assembly period. This means at least 15 minutes before the opening of Sunday school.

The Program

The program should include five elements:

Praise—music is a vital part of the opening assembly session. The feelings of the pupils can be expressed and directed by the music which is chosen. Music is a means of deepening the impressions of our other teachings. If praise is to be an element of our program the songs must be carefully chosen and the theme for the day definitely considered. In preparing the program we should realize that Scripture, prayer, poetry, quotations and many other things can be used as the expression of praise.

Prayer—never permit prayer to be a mere part of the exercise. Encourage pupil participation. "The halting utterance of the consecrated pupil and the earnestness of the inexperienced, is better than the mere fluency of long practice." When adults pray in children's groups the prayer should be short, positive in thought, fearless in expression, cheerful in tone and voiced in words which the child can understand.

Scripture—seldom is this important element of the opening session omitted, but how frequently it is entered into with little or no preparation on the part of the leader. The Scripture portion should be carefully and prayerfully selected. It should correlate with the theme for the session. Scripture which has been memorized should be used frequently. Read directly from your Bible, handle it reverently and speak distinctly.

Giving—the terms "love gifts" or "offering" should be used instead of collection. The pupils, through stewardship training, should sense their responsibility to the church and its missionary program. The offering should be received in the opening session because you can place a greater emphasis on stewardship before the entire group.

Instruction—we realize that instruction

is primarily the function of the teacher and that we NEVER use the Sunday school lesson for the opening session but there are many phases of instruction which can be used in the opening session. You may wish to choose a theme for one month or just for one Sunday on faith, grace, God's love, prayer, power, or some similar word study from the Scriptures: Christ—Light, Friend, Helper, Redeemer, Way, Truth or Life; Christian leaders; Bible History, Bible Inspiration, etc.

Fellowship—this is the time when you welcome visitors and make announcements. The fellowship period should be distinctly separate from the other portions of the program.

Shortly after conducting the opening session of Sunday school review the time with the following questions: Was the program carried on in a spirit of sincerity and reverence? Did the program move to a climax? Did the program have a vigorous, healthy, vital tone? Were the pupils attentive and responsive? Did the pupils take part with interest and appreciation? Did the program prepare the pupils for their lesson today?

Every leader of an opening assembly period should spend as much time in prayer and preparation for this session as he expects his teachers to spend on their lessons.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD ANNOUNCES MARCH CAMPAIGN

The Sunday School Board of the National Association has announced an extensive debt retirement campaign. The campaign is to be threefold with the emphasis not to be upon finance but upon an increase in Sunday School attendance throughout the denomination. Rev. Roger Reeds, Secretary-Treasurer of the Board, will be heading the campaign with the assistance of the Chairman, Rev. Paul Woolsey. The campaign is being called, "March to Sunday School in March." Material has been made available by the National Sunday School Association and may be ordered through our own Sunday School Department.

According to Rev. Reeds the campaign is to be threefold. First of all the drive will be geared for an over all increase in Sunday Schools. A free folder is available with suggestive ideas about promoting the campaign in the local church. Other material is available at reasonable prices and may be ordered through the department. This material includes a 3" x 5" banner that displays the motto, "Marching To Sunday School In March," bulletins, postcards, and posters are also available.

The second aspect of the campaign covers teacher training. Some very fine material is available from the Evangelical Teacher Training Association. An information packet may be obtained by writing them at 1825 College Avenue, Wheaton, Illinois.

The third emphasis of the campaign will be the retirement of the indebtedness of the Sunday School Board. Because of the heavy indebtedness the office in Nashville has not operated on a full-time basis for over a year now. If the entire debt can be erased, then the office at Nashville can be reopened and a full-time promotional-secretary can be employed. It is the feeling of the Sunday School Board that our denomination needs such a person on the field to promote evangelism and missions through the Sunday School. Ideas need to be advanced for putting new life into our Sunday Schools.

The slogan of our March campaign is: "13,000 new pupils; 1,300 new teachers; \$13,000 for debt retirement." The \$13,000 figure represents the total amount of the indebtedness of the Board.



Likes New Column

Dear Brother Melvin:

We received our first copy (from your desk) of the *CONTACT*. No rose thrower am I, but we really like the issue and its format. I especially liked the column "In The Vineyard." So, as you start your new task you can be assured of our prayers. We do trust that the Lord will richly bless you and prosper the work.

Yours in His Service,
Daniel Merke
Mission Protestante
B. P. 54
Bondoukou, cote d'Ivoire

Enjoyed January Issue

Dear Editor:

Just a note to let you know how much I enjoyed the January issue of *CONTACT*. I believe it was the *best yet*. All the articles were very informative and the news sections were chuck-full of interesting happenings throughout the denomination. Keep up the good work.

Yours in Him,
William J. Mishler
2201 West 28th
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Church Enjoys Contact

Dear Editor:

All of our members enjoy your paper very much. May the Lord bless your efforts to make it even better.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Bert Moore, Clerk

Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church
Buffalo Springs, Texas

CONTACT

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Vol. 8 February, 1960 No. 4

personally . . .

This Matter of Stewardship

The Old Testament prophet Malachi raised the question many years ago. We do well to raise it again in our day—"Will a man rob God?" It appears that people are no different today for there are still many within the ranks of the church who withhold their tithes and offerings. Seemingly, they have never grasped the Biblical basis of giving. Since this is Stewardship Emphasis Month for our denomination, we ought to take advantage of this opportunity to drive these truths home.

Free Will Baptists have always believed in tithing, though some perhaps have been reluctant to practice it. Our treatise states, "Both the Old and New Testaments teach tithing as God's financial plan for the support of His work." (Page 31). God has always blessed those individuals and churches which followed His financial plan. We cannot improve on God's plan! The church has sunk to a low level when such gimmicks as suppers, bazzars, rummage sales, box socials, carnivals, fairs, and the like are utilized to bring money into the treasury. What impression will we make for the Lord if we are continually appealing to the world to support the church? God expects His people to support His work and has laid down a plan for us to follow. If Free Will Baptists are to fill their place in the great task of world-wide evangelism, we must somehow bring more of our people into the practice of God's plan.

There is not a department of the National Association, that has not labored this past year under the difficulty of limited finance. This is especially heartbreaking when the spiritually needs of the world are so great. Opportunity has knocked at our door many times when we have not been able to answer, simply because we did not have the finance to get the job done. It is well that we talk about educating our young people for Christian service, sending more missionaries to the needy fields of the world, strengthening our Sunday Schools and Leagues, but we must awaken to the fact that such as this takes money—a lot of money.

Some have sought to excuse our failure in stewardship on the basis that Free Will Baptists were "poor people." Nothing could be further from the truth! Our people drive late model cars, many of them own their own homes, more of them own television sets, have nice furniture, send their children to college, and all the while eat three good meals a day. Our failure in stewardship is not due to our limited resources. It is due rather to our personal acts of selfishness. Instead of tithing our income, according to the plan of God, we have heaped luxuries upon ourselves. As long as this condition exists, God will not bless. He said to Israel, "Ye are cursed with a curse, for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation." (Malachi 3:9).

Let everyone of us examine our stewardship before God. Let us, one and all, pray that God will make us and keep us faithful stewards of that which He has entrusted into our care. Only as we do this can Free Will Baptists move forward to the glory of God.

Let's Stop Those Leaks!

One of the primary concerns of every business is how to conserve results. When effort has been put forth to accomplish some end, one does not like to see that accomplishment waste away simply because proper procedure was not followed to conserve results. The church, likewise, should be vitally interested in conserving results. When we have been used of the Lord to win some soul to Christ, we should feel a real responsibility in bringing that individual into the full program and ministry of the church.

In his book, *The Free Will Baptist Story*, Damon Dodd suggests that as a denomination we have not been very successful in conserving results. He writes, "The facts of our story reveal that we have been negligent about enlisting in our churches those whom we have won in evangelism, thus losing an opportunity to train and use thousands of potential soul-winners and Christian workers. But we can correct this neglect in our day in the light of our failure in other days. We have a fundamental, active, Bible-preaching church which offers a wide range of service opportunities for all who desire an active part in the Kingdom work of our Lord. Why not enlist them as well as win them? This is not to say that we should major on church membership, but neither should we minimize it as we have in the past. "Win them and enlist them" could well become our slogan for this next phase of our Free Will Baptist story." (Page 184).

Let's stop those leaks!

Sincere Appreciation

The editor wishes to express appreciation for the many letters received with promises of prayer support. We are in need of your prayers for we are not sufficient within ourselves. Your prayers in our behalf will mean grace and strength for the task which is ours.

Bible College Receives \$35,000 on State Quotas

With five months to go, gifts to Free Will Baptist Bible College must increase if state quotas as approved by the National Association are to be met. In the seven months' period from June 1 through December 31, monthly gifts to the general fund have averaged \$5,000. The average monthly gifts should be \$5,833.33.

General Fund	1959-60	Quota	Paid	Balance
Alabama		3,500.00	1,403.88	2,096.12
Arkansas		2,000.00	1,495.84	504.16
California		1,200.00	778.65	421.35
Florida		1,800.00	1,234.71	565.29
Georgia		4,500.00	2,530.85	1,969.15
Illinois		2,500.00	928.83	1,571.17
Kentucky		1,500.00	387.97	1,112.03
Michigan		3,000.00	1,700.60	1,299.40
Mississippi		3,000.00	972.43	2,027.57
Missouri		4,500.00	2,760.07	1,739.93
North Carolina		18,000.00	8,138.18	9,861.82
Ohio		1,800.00	1,036.35	763.65
Oklahoma		4,000.00	1,961.58	2,038.42
South Carolina		3,200.00	1,569.69	1,630.31
Tennessee		8,000.00	3,490.72	4,509.28
Texas		2,500.00	1,876.13	623.87
Virginia		3,100.00	1,433.02	1,666.98
West Virginia		1,000.00	714.80	285.20
W.N.A.C.		900.00	541.91	358.09
Miscellaneous			564.10	
TOTALS		70,000.00	35,520.31	35,043.79

From the Field Of Brazil

To the Free Will Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the Free Will Baptist Churches in the United States, to the beloved brethren in Christ:

It is with the greatest pleasure that I take this opportune time here at Christmas and the beginning of a new year to thank you for your mutual cooperation with me in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by sending me \$75.00 monthly, supporting me and my family, helping us to live for the sake of the Gospel. For this cause I bow before God to ask His blessings upon you for your love in the Lord and for us.

We want to thank you for these servants of God that you beloved have sent us here in Brasil, and together we are in the work of the Lord, which servants are: Rev. Dave Robert Franks; Kenneth Eagleton, wife and children; Samuel, wife and children; and the other women missionaries — Eula Mae and Esther, who have been to me and to the church a blessing, thanks to our God and Father.

Besides these thanksgivings I want to ask your prayers for us. You know the field here is great and difficult. Only with great fightings we shall win, but because God is greater. The harvest is great and the workers few.

I ask you to accept as a Christmas present and for a Happy New Year and as a testimony of my Christian love, my prayers and these few lines that go out from my heart. Accept also strong Christian embraces from my wife, Aurea Loida, Marta, Junior, and Sergio Paulo. From a brother in Christ Jesus.

Always at your disposition,
Pastor Waldemar [illegible] and
the First Free Will Baptist
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