

CONTACT

of the National Association of Free Will Baptists

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CONTACT

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Progress Through Cooperation

Basically, there are three types of church government—the episcopal, the presbyterian and the congregational. In the episcopal, the authority is in the bishops. In the presbyterian, authority is delegated to elected presbyters. In the congregational, the authority is in the hands of the congregation. Perhaps these definitions are a bit oversimplified, but they do give the basic concept of each.

Free Will Baptists have a congregational form of government. Every church is completely independent. Though there are denominational organizations with boards, committees, etc., from the local quarterly meeting to the National Association; these have absolutely no authority over a single church. (The Quarterly Meeting may, of course, withdraw fellowship from the church. This, however, is to be done only when a church has violated its covenant or when it becomes heretical or corrupt in practice. Even then, the Quarterly Meeting is under obligation to seek to bring the church back again to the truth before withdrawing fellowship.)

If, then, each local church is its own governing body and no higher body has authority over it, how can we accomplish anything in a denominational framework that will be truly significant and bring honor and glory to Jesus Christ? The answer, I believe, is through cooperation. While every Free Will Baptist Church is independent and free from all authoritative control of men, it is also free to cooperate with other Free Will Baptist Churches in kingdom affairs. It is on this basis that progress will come. Our denomination will grow, build, and evangelize as we cooperate with one another. How tragic that this cooperation has been so slow and meager! There is no doubt but what we need to make much of our *interdependence* as well as our *independence*.

Yes, we are independent in our church government, but at the same time, we need one another. We must learn to live together, council together, work together, in short—to cooperate, if we would accomplish anything for God. Perhaps we need a greater recognition of Him who is the true Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is our great challenge, that under Him, we might move forward—together!

Faithfulness to the Great Commission

The month of March brings us as a denomination to the second phase of our 25th Session Program. For the last two months (January-February), our emphasis has been COMMITMENT TO CHRIST. Many of our churches have shared in this emphasis and it has been a source of blessing. It is hoped that many more of our churches will share in the remaining months of this special emphasis.

Note again the suggestions for this part of the program. (1) Conduct classes on personal soul-winning and give emphasis to visitation. If you do not have a visitation program, start one. (2) Plan a revival campaign during this period. Stress personal responsibility in this effort. (3) Have at least one special prayer service for our missionaries. The week before Easter (April 2) would be a good time.

Remember, we have not set any particular dates for these activities. Plan as you can at the convenience of your church to share with us. We would be happy to hear from your church about your participation.

Foreign Missions Sunday

Easter Sunday, April 2, is Foreign Missions Sunday. At this time, we seek as a denomination to bring to our churches and our people everywhere the work of our Foreign Mission Board, or perhaps more accurately, the work of Free Will Baptist Churches (yours and mine) in the great task of evangelizing the world. After all, this work would not be possible without the faithful support of our churches, and the task of evangelization does not belong to our Foreign Mission Board alone—it belongs to every church and every individual within that church. It is imperative, therefore, that this day be faced honestly and when you are asked to make a gift to the cause of missions that you respond, because this is *your* work and *your* responsibility. Our missionary family looks to us. Let's make this a day of real victory!

The Centurions Story

No man can come near the cross and go away the same. Here is a "first-person" sermon which dramatizes the power of the cross.

The story of the death of Jesus Christ has been told and written thousands of times. For me to but add to the multitude of words would be both superfluous and presumptuous on my part. I would rather have you listen to the story, old, yet ever new, from one who heard the heart-rending cries of Golgotha—one who saw Him die! "Yes, I saw Him die. Who am I? I was the Centurion, proud soldier of the mighty Caesar, whose job it was to keep order among the loathsome Jewry! Oh, how I hated it! This was one of the worst assignments under the Imperial Eagle. A "watchdog" over a crowd of mangy, selfish, pseudo-religious Jews in a run-down country where you burn with heat at noon, and shivered under the cold stars at night—what a job! The only relief from the dread monotony, from the aching loneliness and yearning for family and home, was when we had a crucifixion to perform. We made it a sporting event, gambling over the few scarce pieces of property left by the condemned, and in guessing the length of time before the "accused animal-Jews" would die. Oh, it gave us something to talk about as we lolled around the fires in the barracks, and something to think about in the lonely hours of sentry duty. So when the Passover came, and it became evident that the blood-lust of the mob was to be satisfied, I was glad. I was especially pleased, for one of the victims promised to be more exciting than any of the others. He was a fanatic from the North—Nazareth—I believe it was, and it was rumored that His followers would attempt armed defense of Him. What made it more interesting was the insistent talking by Fortinius—recently transferred from Capernaum—that this Jewish fanatic was a god! He kept saying something about the healing of one of his servants by this—this Jesus! We laughed at such a fantastic notion, for even the Jews had a saying—"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (Continued on page 14)



Congregation of the Koshimizu Church in Japan

FREE WILL BAPTIST MISSIONS IN REVIEW

Rebirth and Recovery

THE STORY of the rebirth of a denomination could not be told had it not been for a great missionary awakening in the Free Will Baptist churches. If there is one single factor that has kept a people of unfamiliar origins together, it has been the one common belief that the atonement is universal and, therefore, God's people have a responsibility to the entire world.

The very same year the National Association of Free Will Baptists was born, their union was crowned with the sending out of a lone missionary to India. India—the place where their earlier brethren had struggled to found a growing mission program exactly one hundred years before. The missionary was Miss Laura Belle Barnard. It looked like a feeble effort, but God blessed it and He blessed her.

Charles Sapp has pastored Free Will Baptist Churches in several states. His last pastorate was in Virginia. He is presently completing his work for a B.D. degree at Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia.

Miss Barnard was commissioned in June, 1935. She sailed a short time later and began her work as the first missionary of the reconstruction.

When she reached the field and learned the language, Miss Barnard began her work. She started a house to house visitation. She went to the small villages around. As opportunity presented itself she witnessed for Christ. She was able to teach the women and girls to sew. Sewing classes were begun and while she taught sewing she also taught the women about Jesus Christ. She organized Sunday school classes and taught the pupils from the Bible. When the parents became interested in their children learning to read and write, she opened a Day School. In this Christian atmosphere, the children learned not only reading and writing but the principles of Christian living.

In 1947, the Reverend and Mrs. Paul Woolsey joined Miss Barnard in India. Shortly afterward, the Reverend and Mrs. Dan Cronk came. Miss Zalene Loyd and

Miss Volena Wilson were also added to the missionary staff there, and in 1952 the Reverend and Mrs. Carisle Hanna joined the group. Miss Barnard, Reverend and Mrs. Paul Woolsey are now back in the states. The Cronks, Miss Wilson, and the Hannas are still on the field maintaining the work. The crying need now is for more missionaries. The Foreign Mission Board has been trying to get missionaries on the field, but each time the India government turns them down.

Free Will Baptist Missions in Japan

At the close of World War II an unusual opportunity was present for the evangelization of Japan. After the occupation of Japan by American military forces, General Douglas MacArthur appealed to the churches of America to send missionaries to preach and teach the Gospel of Christ. Wesley and Aileen Calvary were the first Free Will Baptist missionaries to go in response to this call. They landed in Yokohama on November 14, 1954. Fred and Evelyn Hersey joined them in the work in April, 1956. Herbert and Geraldine Waid sailed for Japan in August, 1958. At the present time these couples constitute the Free Will Baptist missionary force in Japan.

Japan still presents an unusual opportunity for missionary work, but it also pre-

sents unusual problems. The country is composed of four main islands with smaller ones clustered about them. The total area of Japan is only about 142,000 square miles and the population is well over 90 million. This is causing and will continue to cause tremendous problems. The educational level is high. Shintoism is the leading religion, Buddhism has a strong hold on the minds of the people. These conditions, plus Japanese culture, make missionary work tremendously difficult.

Four mission points have been established in Japan from which we hope to contribute to the Christian witness in this pagan land. They are Abashiri, Bihero, Kashimizu, and Mcguro. There have already been young men come out of these mission efforts to give themselves in a ministry to their people. Since we do not have a school there they have had to go elsewhere to receive their training.

Free Will Baptist Missions in Cuba

The area of the island of Cuba is 41,634 square miles, and the population is approximately seven million. The island is divided into six provinces: Habana, Pinar del Rio, Matanzas, Las Villas, Camaguey, and Oriente.

The Free Will Baptist mission work in Cuba was started in the province of Pinar del Rio in 1942, by the Reverend and Mrs. Thomas Willey, Sr. They had previously worked in Panama, and when that field was closed they worked with the Cuban Evangelization Association for a year. During that year they taught in the Bible School of the Cuban Evangelization Association and studied the language and customs of the Cuban people.

In March, 1942, they began a Free Will Baptist work and established a Bible school. This school has been the means of training many Cuban pastors and Christian workers. The mission's success has been due to the outstanding success the school has had in training the natives to become effective Christian witnesses, pastors, and teachers.

Mr. and Mrs. Willey have been assisted in the mission work by several missionaries, including the Reverend and Mrs. Damon Dodd, the Reverend and Mrs. Robert Wilfong, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Phenice, Miss Bessie Yeley, Miss Lucy Wisheart, and Miss Esther Ruehle. They are now being assisted by their son, the Reverend and Mrs. Tommy Willey, Jr.

The last mission report on Cuba gave these statistics concerning its growth. There are more than twenty-five Free Will Baptist Churches in Cuba, with a total membership of over 3,000. There are more than seventy-five preaching stations and more than forty full-time native Christian workers.¹⁷

Free Will Baptist Missions in Brazil

For a long time the Reverend Thomas Willey, Sr., had been interested in establish-

ing a Free Will Baptist work in South America. With this purpose in mind the mission board permitted him to take a tour of parts of South America to survey the field and to establish the necessary contacts to begin mission efforts there. As a result of his efforts the Free Will Baptist Board of Foreign Missions was able to establish a mission station in Brazil in 1958.

The Reverend Dave Franks was the first Free Will Baptist missionary to work in this new field. He sailed for Brazil on December 31, 1957, and after a period of language study entered into active missionary work. We have one church in Campinas which has a membership of one hundred. They are now in the process of erecting their own building which is to serve also for a training center for native pastors.

A permanent mission station is planned to be opened in Parana. Miss Esther Ruehle and Miss Eula Mae Martin, both nurses were the second missionaries sent out. They were followed by Reverend and Mrs. Ken Eagleton and Reverend and Mrs. Samuel Wilkinson.

Free Will Baptist Missions in Africa

For several years Free Will Baptist were represented in Africa only because they were supporting Mrs. Harold Stevens, who was a Free Will Baptist. She and her husband serve under one of the large "faith" mission boards.

Through the co-operation of the Christian Missionary Alliance and the Evangelical Federation of Africa we were able to obtain a grant of land in the Ivory Coast of French West Africa in 1956.¹⁸ There are more than two hundred thousand people in this area, and before the coming of Free Will Baptist missionaries they had never had a resident protestant missionary.

By Charles Sapp

Reverend Lonnie and Anita Sparks sailed for France in December 1956. After a year of language study, they sailed to Africa to begin their pioneer missionary work. About eight months later they were joined by Reverend Dan and Margaret Merkh. Reverend and Mrs. Bill Jones joined the staff early in 1959. Dr. LaVerne Miley and his family sailed in December 1960.

The mission board's objective is to staff this field with sixteen resident missionaries, build four mission stations, a hospital, and a school in each mission station. Two stations have already been built. Reverend Dan Merkh, who is the builder of these buildings is doing a fine job.

FREE WILL BAPTIST MISSIONS IN PERSPECTIVE

The first missionaries from our church sailed to India in 1835. For the next seventy-five years a growing missionary enterprise was carried on. Souls were saved and churches were organized. Natives were trained both for Christian service and vocationally. Orphanages were founded as well as schools and hospitals. Linguistic achievements though small in the light of the need and the accomplishments of other missionaries in this field, made their contribution to the evangelization of India.

Then the majority of Free Will Baptist Churches went into the newly organized American Baptist Convention and denominational distinction was lost.

The remnant left retain the name Free Will Baptist. These churches were widely scattered and were without effective denominational organization and institutions. After the destruction of Tecumseh College; Tecumseh, Oklahoma, and Eureka College; Ayden, North Carolina, there were no denominational colleges for training her young people for the work of the ministry. For many years these struggling people had to fight to maintain themselves against high odds. In the West church property was taken from them. The East suffered from lack of organization and vision. Both groups lost all vision beyond their own immediate localities.

The merger of these two bodies in 1935 was marked by sending out a lone missionary—and a woman at that—but thank God, a woman was willing to go. India, the starting place for their mission work exactly one hundred years previously was her destination.

This reunited group soon opened a work in Cuba. A new college was founded in Nashville, Tennessee, and her young people began to train again for service in the church. With educational enlightenment and increased vision concerning the world around her, new churches were organized. Riding on the crest of evangelism sparked in the 1950's her church at home was increasing rapidly. The work of the denomination was centralized in the National Headquarters building in Nashville, Tennessee. The work of the denomination was organized and objectives were pursued with zeal.

There had been twenty-five years of silence while the wounds of disruption were healing, but the next twenty-five were bringing rapid growth. She was seeking her place in the sun. At the present, she has 71 missionaries including children, and her work has extended into six nations through her Foreign mission enterprises. Her Home mission board has carried the church into Alaska, Mexico, and Hawaii.

The last three years have brought Free Will Baptist contacts with her sister churches in Europe—the Netherlands, France, and

(Continued on Page 16)

¹⁷ Minutes of the National Association, 1959, p. 48.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 1957, p. 30.



Round-Up of

World-Wide

RELIGIOUS NEWS REPORTS

Lay Plans for Bible Emphasis

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A conference of leaders and pastors representing thirty Protestant denominations to “return the Bible to the heart of the nation” was held here January 31.

The conference was called by the National Association of Evangelicals to re-emphasize the importance of the Bible in the American heritage and to study ways of getting people to study it as families and in churches. Speakers during the day gave emphasis to these purposes of the conference.

Dr. Herbert S. Mekeel, a former president of NAE and pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Schenectady, N. Y., told the conference, “We have this body politic as the result of a small group of men—the pilgrims—who took the Bible literally.” He said that in these days of inflated money, the one thing that always keeps its value is the Word of God.

Another speaker, Dr. G. Aiken Taylor, editor of *The Presbyterian Journal*, Asheville, N. C., said that those critics who accuse evangelicals of being “Bible worshippers” because they accept the Bible as the Word of God are themselves Bible worshippers because they set themselves up as the judges of what is truth in the Scriptures. Those who accept the Bible at all points as the Word of God, he said, are really worshipping God who gave the Bible.

Although the meeting was a “study” conference and no specific plans for implementation were announced, a continuing committee was appointed which will develop a program to implement the purposes of the conference. Named as chairman of this committee was Dr. Arnold Olson, Minneapolis, Minn., president of the Evangelical Free Church.

Other committee members are Rev. L. D. Dellinger, United Brethren in Christ, Huntington, Indiana; Rev. Billy Melvin, National Association of Free Will Baptists, Nashville, Tenn.; Dr. Lloyd Knox, Free Methodist, Winona Lake, Ind.; Rev. William F. Smalley, Christian and Missionary Alliance, New York; Rev. R. Eugene Sterner, Church of God, Anderson, Ind., and Dr. G. Aiken Taylor, Presbyterian (U. S.), Asheville, N. C.

Chaplains Re-Elected

WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP) — The House of Representatives has unanimously re-elected the Rev. Bernard Braskamp as its chaplain. The 73-year-old retired Presby-

terian clergyman had indicated that a fractured hip suffered in a fall last November 10 would not prevent him from serving as a spiritual counselor to the body's 437 members.

Dr. Braskamp has been chaplain of the House since 1950.

The Senate, meanwhile, had re-elected its chaplain, Dr. Frederick Brown Harris, 75, retired pastor of Foundry Methodist Church. Dr. Harris has served as chaplain of the Senate since 1942, except for the period 1947-49.

News on the Congo

NEW YORK, N. Y. (EP)—Again, white missionaries have told of violence in the Congo and serious curbs on Christian witness there precipitated by Congolese soldiers loyal to the late Patrice Lumumba.

This time the report came from 40 American missionaries and their families who arrived at New York's Idlewild Airport from London on a flight from Uganda.

“I was told my blood would be shed and my body would be painted with my own blood,” said Dr. John Slater, 28, of Pontiac, Mich.

Slater, a medical doctor for 17 months in the Palmer Memorial Hospital in Kivu Province, told reporters he was kept under house arrest at the hospital for one week and threatened constantly with bodily harm. The only indignity he suffered, however, was a slap by the pro-Lumumba soldiers.

The missionaries, all representing the Conservative Baptist Foreign Missionary Society of Wheaton, Ill., were unanimous in declaring that the Congo is overrun by Communists.

“The regime of Antoine Gizenga (Lumumba's political successor) is Communist through and through,” Slater said. “We heard soldiers talking about establishing communes in Kivu. We heard them say they were getting their arms from Moscow. And I heard one say, ‘Just wait until we get Soviet bombs and then we'll take care of the Belgians and the other whites.’”

Navigators Hold Conference

In January, strategic Navigators Overseas Policy Conference brought directors from five overseas areas to the organization's headquarters in Colorado Springs.

Moderated by President Lorne Sanny, the two-week conference aimed to review 12 years of Navigator ministry overseas and to re-examine objectives and methods in the

light of Scripture and changing world conditions. Responsibilities of national workers and proposed new areas for ministry were among the items on the agenda prepared by Overseas Coordinator Roy Robertson.

Dr. Dick Hillis, director of Orient Crusades; Dr. Clyde Taylor, executive secretary of Evangelical Foreign Missions Association; and Dan Piatt of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Team took part in the conference.

Navigator men attending from overseas were: Bob Boardman, Japan; Warren Myers, Southeast Asia; Waldron Scott, Middle East; Doug Sparks, Europe; George Sanchez, Latin America. These men also participated in the annual Area Representatives Conference January 21-28 before returning to their fields.

Navigators now serve in 19 countries of the world. (EP)

Minnesota Crusade

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (EP)—Dr. Billy Graham has accepted an invitation to hold an eight-day crusade at the Minnesota State fairgrounds beginning July 9.

This will be the noted evangelist's first crusade in Minnesota since 1950 when he led a three-week campaign in the Minneapolis auditorium.

Preceding next summer's effort, associate evangelists on Dr. Graham's team will hold meetings in Duluth and Rochester, Minn., LaCrosse, Wis., Aberdeen, S. D., and possibly additional Upper Midwest cities.

Dr. Victor B. Nelson, pastor of Aldrich Avenue Presbyterian Church and chairman of the Upper Midwest Crusade executive committee, which invited Dr. Graham, said the meetings will be conducted in front of the fairgrounds grandstand. With additional seats on the race track, he said, it will accommodate 40,000 to 50,000 persons.

Opens Convention Department

As a service to churches, World Vision, Inc., has opened a new Convention Department to provide materials for missionary conventions, Bible conferences and Sunday School rallies throughout the nation.

In addition to free display booths, materials such as flannelgraphs, missionary stories and other teaching aids are being made available to pastors, Sunday School superintendents, teachers and other Christian leaders for promoting missions in their own churches.

Mr. Ken Stroman, who has served World Vision as Staff Artist, directs the new department. Materials and booths will be represented in 16 large-scale conventions and conferences during the summer and fall, and portable displays are being built for smaller conventions throughout the nation.

Artist Stroman, former display manager for a large Portland (Ore.) department store and a free-lance commercial artist, is beginning his fifth year with World Vision, Inc.

My Mexican Diary

by WADE JERNIGAN

In behalf of our Home Mission Board of which he is a member, Mr. Jernigan went to Mexico to preach and make a survey of our work. His personal observations are related here.

Tonight we had three conversions at the close of the service. One of the women who was saved had thrown rocks at the church just a few weeks prior to the revival. She was quite an enemy to the church previously. One of the others converted tonight had only been to a Protestant church twice in her life. I got along just fine trying to preach with Arthur as the interpreter.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18 . . .

Another good service tonight. The Lord gave us two souls last night and two more were saved this evening. As part of tonight's service, Charlos and Lazaro were ordained to preach the gospel. Also, Isaiah "Chio" Luna was ordained as a deacon for our church in Monterrey.

Carlos is pastor of the work at El Potos'i, about 175 miles west and south of Monterrey. This is in a very primitive area of Mexico. There is nothing modern. They plow with oxen and ride burros for transportation. We have a fairly strong work there.

Lazaro is pastor at Nuevo Rodr'iguez. There is not another church within 80 miles of this work. It is about 175 or 180 miles north and west of Monterrey. There have been many difficulties here, but the work is progressing.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 . . .

This morning we got up at four o'clock and went to El Potos'i. Brother Billows wanted me to see the work there. We own lots in this primitive community of 2,000 people, but we are renting a building at present. The group may lose the building at any time so are in dire need of a building on their lots. I understand they can put up an adobe building for about \$300.00. The situation here is somewhat difficult. If they could get a building up, they could soon support a native pastor after some teaching. Free Will Baptists need to do something here soon.

Some of the buildings at El Potos'i are adobe but some are split palm stumps and not very large. The roofs are made out of palm leaves. They are hundreds of years behind in this settlement.

We did not announce services for this place, but when we arrived the word spread through the community and between 65 and 70 gathered at the church. We had to have

services for them and as a result six people were saved. Some of them were very old and one had never been in a Christian church before.

The Catholic Church is dead here, the people having lost interest. The priest comes around about once a year, but he hasn't been able to have much influence among the people. Free Will Baptists have the only evangelical witness.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 . . .

Today we made a trip to Nuevo Rodr'iguez. It took about half a day to make the trip as much of the way is out across the desert with only a cart road to follow. We own the church and lots in this village of about 1,800 to 2,000 people. The building is adobe and is rather nice for this county. The church at Monterrey bought their light for them. They also purchased their benches.

Had good service with more men present than anywhere else. The opportunity is very great because of the interest on the part of the people. Four were saved at the conclusion of our service.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 . . .

This has been a big day. We arrived back in Monterrey about 6:30 this morning from Nuevo Rodr'iguez. We had 85 in Sunday school with many more for church. "Chio" Munez preached this morning as Brother Arthur was sick and could not interpret for me. Tonight we had a man saved who only a few weeks ago nearly beat his wife to death because she came to church. All of these services have been such a rich blessing!

A school is in operation here in Monterrey. There are 14 students who live at the school. In addition to the regular school, a night school is in operation with a much larger attendance. Much good is being accomplished by the school. This project needs our prayers for herein lies the progress of our work in Mexico.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23 . . .

Home again and somewhat tired from the trip and work, but happy for the visit and the opportunity to share Christ with those who know Him not. May God help me to share with others the great spiritual need of the masses in Mexico.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16 . . .

Left the Will Rogers Airport in Oklahoma City this morning at 10:30. Flew by Braniff Airline. Part of the trip was by jet so it didn't take too long to get here. When I checked through customs and stepped outside the airport, Brother Billows and several of the students from the school were there to meet me.

By Gene Getz

VACATION BIBLE

*This interview was conducted
by Dr. D. Davis, editor of
NSSA Link. Mr. Getz is
professor of Christian
Education at Moody
Bible Institute.*

QUESTION: *Mr. Getz, what do you consider to be the major secrets of success for the vacation Bible school?*

ANSWER: I would list three. Start planning early. Get the whole church interested. Adequately "follow-up" the school.

QUESTION: *Are there significant points you would stress for planning a vacation Bible school?*

ANSWER: Well, I think there are a number of points that should be stressed.

First, appoint a vacation Bible school committee to oversee all planning.

Second, plan with the total church program in mind. Relate vacation Bible school to Sunday school, youth groups, and week-day activities.

Third, start VBS planning at the close of the current vacation school. Evaluate every aspect of the program. Ask such questions as: Were curriculum materials satisfactory? Did we have sufficient space? Did we have enough teachers and workers? Did we have adequate records?

Fourth, plan a vacation Bible school

calendar for the whole year which correlates with the church calendar. Schedule all planning meetings as well as the dates for the coming school.

Finally, number *five*, make sure the following items are cared for long before the school begins. 1. Determine the type of school. 2. Select the curriculum material. 3. Set up a system of training. 4. Plan for housing, transportation, and promotion.

QUESTION: *Have you any suggestions for getting the whole church interested?*

ANSWER: I think the pastor is the key here. He must promote vacation Bible school in the pulpit. He should mention it in prayer meetings. In any way he can, the pastor should promote the school. Of course, the superintendent and the department superintendents are also key people in promoting the school, but if the pastor is not sold on the vacation Bible school program, in many instances superintendents and the department superintendents aren't really sold either.

SCHOOL

QUESTION: *Where and how do you locate workers?*

ANSWER: For the most part, leaders should come from the local church. As to how to locate them, several points are important. 1. Start contacting them early. Contact workers by the first of the year before they have made vacation plans. Encourage them to plan their vacations with the vacation Bible school in mind. 2. If most of your leaders are working during the day, try an evening school so men as well as women can help. Many churches have done this with outstanding success. 3. Set up a perennial training class in the church from which to draw workers. Contact the Evangelical Teacher Training Association located at 1825 College Avenue, Wheaton, Illinois for information for setting up these classes.

QUESTION: *When should pupils be registered?*

ANSWER: We ought to register as many pupils as possible before the school starts. At least the Sunday before the opening day, conduct pre-registration in Sunday school.

Have the Sunday school teachers register the pupils in their individual classes. Also conduct a pre-registration in the church service to contact those who do not attend Sunday school. This type of pre-registration serves two purposes. First, it saves time on the opening day of school, and secondly, it serves as an excellent method of publicity.

QUESTION: *What are several major problems in connection with registration?*

ANSWER: There aren't really any big problems if pre-registration is planned for adequately. However, if you are starting a school in a new area, such as a branch school, pre-registration will have to be conducted through a canvass and on the opening day. Too, even in a school that is conducted regularly in the same church, there will always be those who will have to be registered on the opening day. However, if careful planning is done, this will not create any major problem. One final suggestion is that you can plan a special pre-registration day on Saturday before the school starts. Refreshments can be served, a film or slides from last year's school can be shown, and the pre-registration period can be followed by the vacation Bible school parade.

QUESTION: *What records are the most important, Mr. Getz?*

ANSWER: I believe there are seven types of records that must be kept. 1. The names and addresses of all pupils and workers. 2. Enrollment and daily attendance in each department. 3. Offerings received. 4. Pictorial records. 5. Decisions for Christ. 6. Curriculum materials used. 7. Evaluation of the total program.

QUESTION: *What do you mean by pictorial records?*

ANSWER: By pictorial records, I mean those which are kept showing the pictures of the school. For example, probably one of the members of the church will have a good 35 mm camera with which you can take 2 x 2 colored slides of the school. You can include pictures of the parade, pictures of the departments in action, pictures of recreational activities, etc. Also someone in the church might have an 8 mm camera, with which he takes home movies. In one of our vacation Bible schools one of the men in the church volunteered to take these pictures and prepared a very excellent 8 mm film. These pictorial records can be used the following year for publicity purposes.

QUESTION: *Why are records so important? They take a great deal of time.*

ANSWER: Well, first of all, you recall that Paul says, "Let all things be done decently and in order." But further, these records will aid in proper follow-up, future publicity, and better planning for the next year's school. Remember, leaders move on and records will also save time and energy for those called on to follow in their train. For example, my wife was called upon to superintend a vacation Bible school in the church where I was directing Christian Education. The young couple in charge of the Bible school the year before had left the church and were on the mission field,

but in the files of the church we found very, very adequate records of everything that had been done the year before. Included were the names of workers who served, the types of curriculum that were used, some of the problems they faced, and so forth. This information was invaluable for planning for the present school.

QUESTION: *Could you explain more fully what you meant by "The evaluation of the total program"?*

ANSWER: As I mentioned in answer to your first question under points in planning, we ought to start VBS planning at the close of the current school. This means that we should evaluate every aspect of the program. We ought to ask ourselves such questions as these: Were we satisfied with the curriculum materials? Did we have enough teachers and workers? Was our organization satisfactory? Did we keep adequate records? Was our school publicized sufficiently? What about space? Did we have enough room to departmentalize correctly? I believe that at the close of the current school, all of the workers should meet together. You might set aside a day or so following the school to have a special vacation Bible school banquet to honor the workers. Then, following this banquet you could divide into departmental groups and have all of the workers ask each other these questions and others of a similar nature. Then they can come back together as a general group to share their findings. Naturally all of the findings and points of discussion should be recorded by the general secretary and used by the vacation Bible school planning committee in preparing for next year's school.

QUESTION: *What about curriculum?*

ANSWER: As I suggested earlier, curriculum material should be selected well in advance of the school. This should be done so teachers and workers can adequately prepare and so the publicity can be planned around the theme of the school. The materials selected should be Christ-centered, Bible-based, pupil-related, well-written, attractive, and correctly graded.

QUESTION: *What do you mean by well-written?*

ANSWER: Well, first of all, I think there ought to be some type of guide book which will help the superintendent in his planning. This guide book should be prepared so that workers get an over-view of the school and it should also include suggestions and ideas for planning specific points of the program. Also, the teacher's manual should be written in such a way that there are specific suggestions for preparing the lessons and preparing the various elements of the program. These suggestions when followed, should make the material live for the pupil. And then, finally, certainly the pupil's manual must be written in such a way that the pupil can understand them. They should be designed for specific age levels and should include interesting material—material that's challenging.

(Continued on Page 16)

What's Your Problem?



BY LOUIS H. MOULTON

Q. My church and its people are not very good examples of the love of God which I have always been taught is the center and soul of Christianity. Tell me is it or is it not?

A. 1 John 4:7 says love is of God and the following verse says God is love. Then in the same chapter, verse 11, John says, "Beloved if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." Almost the entire fourth chapter of First John is excellent on the subject. Romans 13:10 says, "Love worketh no ill . . .", 2 Cor. 5:14, "The love of Christ constraineth us . . .", Ephesians 3:19 speaks of "the Love of Christ, which passeth knowledge." There are many other references to the love of God for man. Since God is love, and since "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself . . ." (2 Cor. 5:19), then without a doubt love could definitely be classified as the very soul and center of Christianity.

Q. I was talking recently with an outstanding figure in the "Baptist" denomination, and the subject of revival was one of the many things we talked about. He was telling me about conducting a revival in one of our outstanding Free Will Baptist Churches sometime ago, and at the date of our conversation another "Baptist" preacher was conducting a revival at the same church. I am wondering the "why" of this matter of choice. Do we not have men of God who are as well qualified spiritually and otherwise as any preacher anywhere? A strange thing to me—those of other "faiths" are frequently invited to fill appointments in our denomination, but I have yet to hear of a preacher among the ranks of Free Will Baptists being invited to fill an appointment with those of other faiths. What do you believe is the reason for Free Will Baptists depending so much on those who slander our doctrine?

A. This has been a bone of contention in the minds and conversation of many of our FWB people. I cannot answer you as to why some of our churches and their pastors choose men outside our own denomination for revivals, Bible conferences, etc., unless it is because of the name that some of these outside men have made for themselves as preachers and expositors of the Word. Perhaps a few years back it could be said that we did not have too many men qualified academically. Spiritually, however, our preachers through the years have generally maintained a high standard. Now

because of our Bible College and because of many who have and are furthering their education through seminary work, it can no longer be said that we have just a few educated preachers. As to being invited by others we have some evangelists who have been invited and have held city-wide revival campaigns. I, personally, a few years back held a revival meeting in a Methodist Church and another in a Presbyterian Church. Last year I considered it an honor, not only for myself but for Free Will Baptists, when I was invited to the platform of Dr. Oswald J. Smith's great People's Church in Toronto, Canada, during their month-long missionary conference. Free Will Baptists were recognized by Dr. Smith before his congregation and then I was introduced to speak. But because we are Free Will Baptists, and a Baptist people, we can do nothing about individual preachers and their churches inviting in outside revivalists, evangelists, etc. When I say we can do nothing, there is something we can do, and that is as you say—wonder "why?"

Q. Just this week I read one of these "Love-lorn Advice" columns in our local newspapers. The columnist had been asked about the marriage vows and said after checking with Protestant, Jewish and Catholic clergymen and judges who performed marriage ceremonies that there is no difference in the vow taken by the man or the woman being married. I say that the Bible makes a distinction. What do you say?

A. The Bible does indeed make a distinction but I think the love-lorn columnist is right. In most marriage ceremonies today the vows are the same. But you are right too. Ephesians 5:22 says, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands . . .", verse 23 says ". . . the husband is the head of the wife . . .", verse 33 says the wife is to "reverence her husband". Colossians 3:18 again instructs wives to submit themselves to their husbands. In pronouncing the curse upon the human race in Genesis 3:16 God says "thy husband shall rule over thee." In 1 Peter Chapter 3 there is further teaching on the subject of subjection by the wife even to the extent of obeying her husband. Titus 2:5 clearly says that wives are to be obedient to their husbands. There are many other scriptures touching on the subject which also instruct men concerning their duties and responsibilities toward their wives. Because of the teaching of the Word of God, I have known of one perhaps two women who insisted on including the word "obey" in the marriage ceremony. But generally the "obey" part of the ceremony as pertains to the woman has been deleted in the modern day marriage. Perhaps we have had too much Hollywood thrust upon us with its loose marriage vows, immorality, and easy divorce.

Cooperative Receipts Are Low in January

After a record month in December, Cooperative receipts tumbled to a low of \$2,-860.37 in undesignated gifts for the month of January. A continued decline could result in serious difficulties for some of the departments which depend in large measure on these receipts for their income. A quick recovery is hoped for so that no department will suffer because of insufficient operating income. Your cooperative check this month will help meet definite needs in every department of our work.

Send your gift to Cooperative Plan, 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee. If you would like additional information about this plan, send your request to the same address.

January Cooperative Receipts

ALABAMA			
First church, Dothan	60.82		
Cordova church	13.78		
Goodwater church, Slocomb	5.00		
State association	25.57	105.17	
ARKANSAS			
Phillips Chapel, Springdale		100.00	
CALIFORNIA			
State association		362.25	
FLORIDA			
State association		18.96	
GEORGIA			
State association		202.74	
ILLINOIS			
State association	331.28		
Johnston City church	160.25		
Alex Mt. Zion, Olive Branch	43.48	535.01	
MISSOURI			
New Harmony S.S., Greentop	19.83		
Rev. D. S. Jones, Jr.	10.00	29.83	
NORTH CAROLINA			
Fellowship Chapel church, New Bern	56.65		
Swannanoa church	70.50	127.15	
NEW MEXICO			
First church, Grants	29.01		
First church, Hobbs	77.36	106.37	
OHIO			
Mr. Doffie Lawson, Dayton	4.00		
Mr. Watson Dixon, Dayton	2.00	6.00	
OKLAHOMA			
State association		832.89	
TENNESSEE			
Wooddale church, Knoxville		20.00	
TEXAS			
State association		414.00	
Total Undesignated			2,860.37
DESIGNATED RECEIPTS			
Florida	288.85		
Ohio	2.00		
Tennessee	74.02	364.87	
			3,225.24
DISBURSEMENTS			
Foreign Mission Dept.	960.38		
Executive Department	682.20		
Bible College	601.89		
Home Missions Dept.	518.10		
Sunday School Dept.	146.02		
Superannuation Board	85.82		
Trustees of Headquarters	85.82		
F.W.B. League Dept.	145.01	3,225.24	

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Adopt the Family Plan in Your Church

CONTACT in every home will . . .

AWAKEN genuine concern.

When the current and challenging information presented in CONTACT is transferred to the minds and hearts of church members, enduring concern for Christian causes results and a new vitality is born in the church. Every pastor knows that concern begets action!

SUSTAIN continuous interest.

Stimulating material contributed by outstanding leaders, abundantly illustrated with striking photographs, makes reading CONTACT a pleasure and engenders an ever-growing interest in the program of the church. This interest is stimulated with a new issue each month.

PROVIDE factual information.

All phases of Free Will Baptist work and the wide areas of Christian concern are covered in CONTACT to keep the reader informed. Such a source of authentic information in the home is of great value to the church.

INSPIRE thoughtful stewardship.

Good stewardship is Christian concern in action, and the concern and interest which is produced from reading CONTACT will result in the generous giving of time, talents, and money. The church benefits in every way when CONTACT goes into every home.

THE FAMILY PLAN EXPLAINED

The Family Plan is the simplest way of seeing that each member gets the denominational paper. Each month it goes directly to the mailbox of each family in the church

and the cost is paid by the church or some auxiliary of the church (Sunday school, Woman's Auxiliary, Master's Men, etc.) if they decide to make this a project.

Here's all you do:

(1) Send names and addresses of all families in the church. Do not send any money.

(2) Your list will be checked against our subscription list. Refunds due on any subscriptions in effect will be credited to the church account.

(3) The church will receive a bill quarterly at the rate of 25 cents for each subscription (8½ cents per issue) and a form for adding or dropping names desired. (A church with 60 families would pay only \$15 per quarter; 30 families would cost \$7.50 per quarter.)

(4) No need to renew. The plan remains in effect until the church requests that it be discontinued.

OTHER PLANS YOU MAY USE

(1) The church shares the subscription price for each home—50 cents by the church and 50 cents by the family for a year's subscription. This way the church calls attention to the importance of subscribing.

(2) The church enters a standing order for a bundle of papers to be sent each month for distribution.

(3) The church gives every new family a year's subscription to CONTACT.

(4) The church appoints a CONTACT secretary to solicit subscriptions from the members. (We will provide free subscription cards for this purpose.)

First church, Lakeland
First church, Quincy

GEORGIA

Baxley church
New Ebenezer, Cochran
Wilson's Chapel, Thomaston
First church, Brunswick

ILLINOIS

Pleasant View, Walnut Hill
Bethel church, South Roxana
Ina church
Johnston City church
Mt. Vernon church
Bakerville church, Mt. Vernon
Waltonville, Mt. Vernon
Bear Point church, Sesser
Fairfield church
Union church, West Frankfort

KANSAS

Liberty church, Wichita
Kansas City church
Wichita church, Haysville

KENTUCKY

Second church, Ashland
Southside church, Paintsville

LOUISIANA

First church, Lake Charles

MICHIGAN

Hazel Park church
Garden City church, Wayne
Monroe church

MISSOURI

Bethel church, West Plains
Victory church, Kansas City
First church, Farmington
Hurryville church, Leadington
Fellowship church, Flat River
Leadington church
Oskaloosa, Liberal
Mountain Grove, church
Beacon church, Raytown
Myrtle church
Overland church, St. Louis
Martinstown church, Worthington
Salem church
Monett church

NEW MEXICO

Bethel church, Albuquerque

NORTH CAROLINA

Davis church

OHIO

Fairborn church
West Jefferson church

OKLAHOMA

Center Point church, Farris
New Home church, Tulsa
Weleetka church
Lawndale church, Tulsa

SOUTH CAROLINA

West Side church, Johnsonville
Turbeville church

TENNESSEE

Ashland City church
Harris Memorial, Greeneville
Wooddale church, Knoxville
Faith church, Nashville
Horton Heights, Nashville
Richland church, Nashville
Trinity church, Nashville
Oak Ridge church
Portland church
Randall Memorial, Memphis
Oak Wood church, Woodlawn
Olivet church, Clarksville

TEXAS

Bright Light church, Bryan

(Continued on Page 15)

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Honor Roll—Contact Family Plan—Is Your Church Here?

ALABAMA

First church, Dothan
Cedar Creek, Hartselle
Ozark church, Corinth

ARIZONA

Northside church, Phoenix
Camelback church, Phoenix

ARKANSAS

First church, Booneville
Oakland church, Bradford
First church, Conway
First church, Jonesboro
Grandview church
Pocahontas church
Walnut Ridge church

CALIFORNIA

Bakersfield church

MARCH, 1961

Village Chapel, Ceres

Concord church
Dorris church
Lawndale church
Cedar Grove church, Petaluma
Sunnyvale church, Mtn. View
Newark church
North Modesto church
Turlock church
Blythe church
Oakland church

FLORIDA

Popular Head church, Bonifay
Haines City church, Auburndale
First church, Margate
Clearview Heights, Merritt Island
Panama City church
Bethel church, Pensacola



HAZEL PARK CHURCH DEDICATES NEW SANCTUARY

HAZEL PARK, MICH. — Dedication services were held here for the First Free Will Baptist Church on January 8. Pastor Bill Hill reports that it was the climax of many months of planning, praying, working, and giving on the part of the congregation. The new sanctuary has a buff brick exterior, three nurseries, pastor's study, and will seat approximately 500 people. Other educational facilities are located in the basement. Total property is now valued at \$125,000.00.

Four of the church's former pastors shared in the dedication services. Rev. Homer E. Willis preached the morning sermon, Rev. Mark Lewis delivered the dedicatory message, Rev. N. P. Gates prayed the prayer of dedication, and Rev. C. E. Riggs brought the evening message. Twenty-six converts were baptized in the new baptismal at the close of the evening service.

Alaska Gives to Hawaii

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA—The young church of Anchorage found a means of expressing its thanks for past blessings and hopes for the future at Christmas time.

Members of the two-year-old church considered their gifts as birthday presents to Christ and pinned them on an undecorated tree. The offerings were then sent as a contribution for the home mission work of Hawaii. The Anchorage church is a national home mission work also, under direction of pastor D. L. Whaley.

"Best-Ever" Quarterly Held

GRUBBS, ARK. — Ballew's Chapel church was host to the White River Quar-

terly Conference recently. A total registration of 62 was reported and a young man professed his faith in Christ following the morning message preached by Elder Oris Doggett.

The Woman's Auxiliary of the host church presented a play, "The Widening Circle" which added to the spiritual meeting of the day. Many churches of this conference have been visited by missionary appointees, Rev. and Mrs. Lonnie Palmer, and the Wesley Calverys, before their return to Japan. This is the home conference of the Calverys and in the past three years six young men have entered the ministry. Moderator of White River Quarterly is Rev. Bob King and Rev. Austin Mullen is clerk.

Growth Noted in New Church

HAINES CITY, FLA.—The First Free Will Baptist church of Haines City is hardly three years old. It has a membership of over sixty with more than 100 in Sunday school attendance. A good attendance is reported for prayer meetings and League services also. The members are grateful for the marvellous growth.

Young Conference Reports

MIAMISBURG, OHIO — The Little Miami River Conference of southern Ohio met recently and enjoyed hearing missionary, Rev. Tom Willey, Sr., present the great challenge of missions.

The statistical report of this 2-year-old conference revealed the following:

Full time pastorates increased from one to three. Churches increased from 5 to 7. Number of ordained ministers increased from 13 to 18. Church property evaluation increased 108% to a total of \$160,000. The total giving increased from \$24,250.00 to \$54,000.00. Total per capita giving is \$58.00.

Record Enrolment Set

NASHVILLE, TENN.—The registration of 17 additional students for the second semester, January 25, has set another record enrollment at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Students enrolled for the fall and spring semesters total 225, not counting the 20 summer school students who were not enrolled in either semester. Last year's total registration was 210.

Intermediate Sword Drill

NASHVILLE, TENN. — With enough practice, your state's Sword Drill contestant could be the winner in 1961. It is hoped that each state having a Free Will Baptist church will represent with one contestant at the Ninth Nationwide League Conference, June 20-22, 1961. This conference is to be held in the City Auditorium in Albany, Georgia.

NOTE: Contestants must be between the ages of twelve and fourteen years, six months at the time of the Conference in June. Only those who qualify may participate.

Names of contestants must be mailed on or before May 1, 1961, if they are to appear in the Conference program. A fee of \$3.00 is charged each contestant for costume and official Sword Drill Bible. These will be used during the drill on the final evening and may be kept for souvenirs.

Inquiries about suggested study drill, registration blanks, and fee should be mailed to the National League Board, 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

Chaplain Reassigned

SELRIDGE AF BASE, MICH. — Capt. John B. Narron, Air Force Chaplain stationed here has received notice of reassignment. In May he will be transferred to Turkey to begin duty in his overseas assignment. Chaplain Narron is a member of Central Conference of Free Will Baptists, in North Carolina.

New Bible Institute Has Rally

COTTONDALE, FLA.—A rally opened services at 10:00 A.M., February 25, at the new Florida Free Will Baptist Bible Institute located on Highway 231, just south of Cottondale. The Rev. Charles Thigpen, dean of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, was guest speaker before registration began in the afternoon.

Rev. H. D. Harrison, pastor of Chipley church, is Administrative Dean, and will be an instructor in the institute as will Rev. Freeman Edwards, pastor of Piney Grove church, Chipley.

Bible Conference Set

GOLDSBORO, N. C.—The Goldsboro church will be host on March 13-14, to the Cape Fear District Bible Conference. Theme for the conference is "Some Great Things from God's Word". Speakers in the con-

ference will be Dr. L. C. Johnson and Rev. Ralph Lightsey.

Other churches where subsequent services will be held are Smithfield church and Shady Grove. The nightly themes will be "Great Characters", "Great Chapters", "Great Events", "Great Commands", "Great Promises", and "Great Doctrines."

Hotel and Motel Accommodations For the League Conference

NASHVILLE, TENN.—This is valuable information regarding rooms, meals, etc., for those who plan to attend the Ninth Nationwide League Conference, June 20-22, 1961, at Albany, Georgia. The Conference meets in the City Auditorium, located in downtown Albany. Reservations should be mailed directly to the hotel or motel of your choice according to National League Director Ray Turnage.

ROOMS

HOTELS (All hotels and motels are air-conditioned.)

1. New Albany Hotel (Albany, Georgia):

This hotel is located just across the street from the City Auditorium where all sessions of the Conference will meet. If you do not have transportation, by all means this will be most ideal for you.

- 3 rooms for 4 persons @ \$14.00
- 18 rooms for 3 persons @ 11.50
- 40 twins for 2 persons @ 10.00
- 39 doubles for 2 persons @ 9.00

2. Hotel Gordon (Albany, Georgia):

This hotel is located within a block of the City Auditorium, also.

- Single room, 1 person—\$5.50
- Corner room with TV—\$6.50
- Double room, 2 persons—\$8.00 and \$9.00

MOTELS (All motels are located several blocks from the Auditorium, only about a ten-minute drive away.)

1. Oglethorpe Motel (941 Oglethorpe Avenue):

Rooms have two double beds and a small connecting room if five people want to share one room. The small room has a single bed and the occupant shares the bath. All rooms contain a television and telephone. We have a very fine restaurant on the premises. Reservations are held until 7 p.m. without a deposit.

- Per room: 5 people—\$13.39
- 4 people—11.33
- 3 people—10.30
- 2 people—9.27
- 1 person—7.21

2. Town House Motel (701 Oglethorpe Avenue):

The following accommodations are available to those attending the Conference:

- 6 rooms with 2 double beds and 1 rollaway to accommodate 5 people—\$13.39 per day
- 6 rooms with 2 double beds for 4 people—\$12.36
- 2 rooms with 3 double beds for 6 people—\$16.48

NOTE: This is a total of 14 rooms for 66 people. To guarantee reservations the first night's room rent is requested in advance.

3. Regent Motel (P. O. Box 1207):

- 1 person per room—1 double bed—\$6.00
- 2 people per room—1 double bed—7.00
- 3 people per room—2 double beds—9.00

- 4 people per room—2 double beds—10.00
- 2 people per room—2 double beds—8.00

NOTE: A 25% deposit must be forwarded in advance to guarantee reservations.

4. Howard Johnston's Motor Lodge (Albany, Georgia):

- Single rooms for 1 person\$ 7.21
- Two persons, 1 bed 9.27
- Two persons, twin beds 10.30
- Four persons, 2 double beds 14.42

NOTE: Extra cots, one per room, may be had for \$1.03 additional.

5. Holiday Inn (422 Oglethorpe Avenue):

- 5 persons, 2 double beds with rollaway—\$3.00 per person
- 4 persons, 2 double beds—\$3.50 per person
- 2 persons, 2 double beds—\$6.00 per person

- 2 persons, 1 double bed—\$4.00 per person
- 1 person, 1 double bed—\$7.00 per person

SUGGESTIONS

In writing for reservations, please do this—It Is Important:

1. Don't wait to make your reservation—do it right away.
2. Ask for a confirmation of your reservation.
3. State the time of your arrival at the hotel or motel.
4. State that you represent the National Free Will Baptist League Conference. This is important since some of the rates above are reduced rates available only to those attending the Conference.
5. Remember—June 1st is the deadline for reservations. After that date you run the risk of not getting a room.

(Continued on Page 15)

Bible Conference Set for April 2-6

The Reverend Wade Jernigan, Norman, Oklahoma, and Dr. Jim Mercer, Pontiac, Michigan, will be guest speakers at the 18th annual Bible Conference at Free Will Baptist Bible College April 2-6. President L. C. Johnson and Dean Charles A. Thigpen will also bring messages during the five-day meeting.

A vesper program will be presented Wednesday evening, April 5, by the music and speech departments. The College choir and other musical groups will bring special music throughout the conference.

The Reverend Mr. Jernigan is pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Norman, Oklahoma. In addition to his duties as pastor and evangelist, he is serving as moderator of the Oklahoma State Association of Free Will Baptists and as a member of the National Home Mission Board.

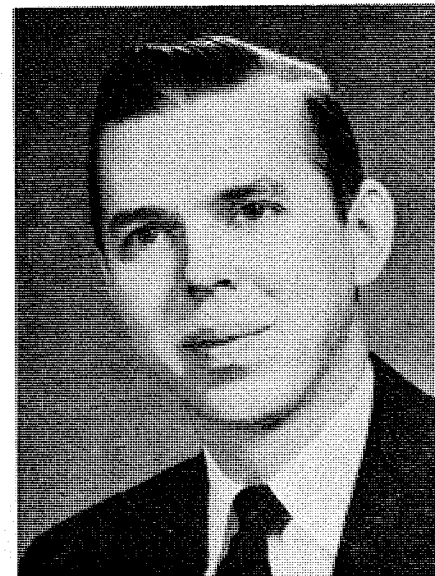
Dr. Mercer has been in full-time evangelistic work for approximately 30 years. Much of his work being in city-wide revivals, he preaches in various fundamental churches. He is known as a great soul-

winner, having been instrumental in thousands making decisions for Christ in his meetings.

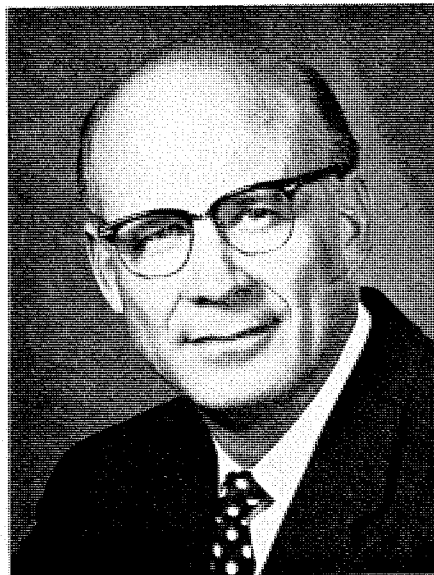
WADE JERNIGAN



CHARLES A. THIGPEN



JIM MERCER



IN THE VINEYARD

The Centurion's Story

(Continued from Page 3)

■ **Rolla Smith**, Foreign Mission Director lists a closely scheduled itinerary for March. A missionary conference in the St. Louis, Missouri, area is set March 1-5, and a Bible conference in Olivet church, Clarksville, Tennessee, March 10-12. Mr. Smith will participate in a missionary conference sponsored by Philadelphia church and Hazel Park church in Michigan, March 15-19, and will speak in Lewis Avenue church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, on March 24-26. A missionary conference is scheduled March 27-April 2, in South Carolina, with the churches of Florence and Darlington participating.

■ **Mrs. Eunice Edwards**, WNAC Executive Secretary, will be present with the Newport, Tennessee, church in its observance of the pre-Easter week of prayer, March 26-April 2.

■ Bible College President **L. C. Johnson** spoke at Satilla church, Hazlehurst, Georgia, February 12. He and Rev. Ralph Lightsey, board member, will be speakers in an area Bible conference in three Cape Fear Conference churches in North Carolina, March 13-18.

The school official will also speak at a missions conference in the Lewis Avenue church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, March 24-26; and in a Bible conference in Parker's Chapel church, Greenville, North Carolina, April 14-16.

■ **Homer E. Willis**, National Home Missions Director, preached in the Madison church and Richland church, Nashville, recently, and taught a home missions study course at New Hope church, Joelton, Tennessee. He was a guest speaker at Cohn High School, Nashville, and spoke about Hawaiian Missions to the East Nashville church.

Mr. Willis will be in revival services at the Kanawha Fork church, Charleston, West Virginia, March 19-26.

■ Bible College Dean **Charles A. Thigpen** will be the special speaker for the first registration of the Florida Bible School on February 25.

■ **Billy A. Melvin**, Executive Secretary, will conduct revival services at Forest Grove church, Knoxville, Tennessee, March 27-April 2.

NOTICE

A new Yearbook and Directory of all of our churches is now in preparation. All State Clerks who have not sent in the list of churches in their state, should do so immediately. This information is needed now if our work is to be complete and accurate. Mail information to Executive Department, 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

Oh, we enjoyed it as we prepared the crucifixion, for this one claimed to be the "King of the Jews," so we took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And we stripped Him, and put on Him a scarlet robe, and when we had platted a crown of thorns, we put it upon His head, and a reed in His right hand; and bowed before Him, and mocking Him, said, "Hail, King of the Jews." Then we spit on Him, and took the reed, and smote Him on the head. After we had mocked Him, we led Him away to crucify Him. And as we led Him out, He stumbled and fell, so we forced a black man, Simon of Cyrene, to carry the cross up the hill. We watched the jeering, jostling mob closely, for we were afraid of an attack by his friends, but looking into those faces, we soon realized there were no friends here—only venomous hatred, vile and vicious invectives being spewed out of their mouths like acid, burning and scalding the very atmosphere. My enjoyment began to turn to disgust, but soon we were at the top of the hill, and the work of fastening the victims to the crosses occupied our time and minds. The other two fought and kicked, screaming insults and cursing their tormentors, but the Jesus did nothing but sigh as the spikes impaled Him to the wood. After having lifted the crosses and having dropped them in the holes prepared for them with a sickening thud, we looked over our loot, the possessions of the crucified . . . nothing much to choose from; the malefactors had left nothing but stained clothes and worn sandals . . . And Jesus, well we took His garments and made four parts, to every soldier a part; but His robe which was without seam, woven from top to bottom, we cast lots for, to see whose it should be, and I won the robe! What a stroke of fortune!

There was nothing much to do now, but wait, so sitting down, we watched Him there. But then something strange seemed to happen, for though it was barely noon, an ominous darkness was descending over the earth. It was as though Nature were robbing herself in the garments of grief. We looked to one another, doubtless calling to mind Fortinius' warning that this One was different, that he was a god! Could it be that the gods were angry at this crucifixion? Even one of the thieves being crucified at his side seemed to sense that he was no ordinary person, for with a fear-filled voice he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." It would have been humorous, this talk about a kingdom, except that his voice came as from another world—"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise." What was he talking about? Is this a land entered into only by death? Is it a kingdom of another world on the other side of the

black curtain of death? My heart began to pound with excitement, but it soon passed as Flavius jumped up and offered Jesus some vinegar to dull the pain. He didn't seem to drink it though, the liquid merely trickled out, spilling in his matted beard. Finally, he lifted his eyes heaven-ward, and cried "It is finished," and He died. . . .

The mob was quiet now, the darkness was like a blanket of doom, and it was as though my heart were wrapped about with swirling vapours from another world. My hands shook as I took my spear, for it was my duty to see if He were really dead—I thrust into His side, and as I did, oh, merciful heaven, will I ever forget that awful moment—from His side poured forth blood and water. The sky above seems to thunder its protest, and the earth beneath convulsed with might grief as its frame shook with emotion when its Creator died. My soldiers dropped their spears and ran over the heaving ground; the mob silent with fear, scattered, and I was alone—alone with Him. Suddenly, the realization broke upon my tortured soul as the sun shone through the jagged rent in the dull mantle of the unnatural sky, and I sobbed out the confession of my heart—"Truly this man was the Son of God."

It was then that I noticed Fortinius, who came as the others left. He smiled, grasped my hand, and looking up into that marred, scarred face, murmured: "It is even as Isaiah wrote, Marcus—I never fully believed it until this moment. . . ."

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. . . . Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief; when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand."

Yes, I saw Him die. . . . Who am I? I am an ex-soldier of the Caesars, and am now a soldier of the cross! ARE YOU?

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Wants Bundle of Contact

Dear Sir:

The Potts church of Charleston, Arkansas, would like to receive 20 copies of CONTACT. We are sending payment to cover the subscription and will send again in time for the next quarter. The last issue for February was a wonderful copy.

Yours in Christ,
Mrs. Lorine Looney
Charleston, Arkansas

Likes Dating Article

Dear Editor:

The article, "The Danger Signal on Your Dates," by Ted W. Engstrom, carried in this month's CONTACT was very good. I hope this is available as a tract or brochure that can be passed on to schools and youth groups that we are in contact with in our daily ministry. It is the best that I have ever seen covering the date question. . . .

Yours prayerfully,
C. H. Moyers
Weleetka, Oklahoma

Recommends Books

Dear Editor:

One of the best ways to counteract the frightening progress that Roman Catholicism is making in our land is by informing ourselves and our people of the deplorable past and the determination of the Roman church. To my knowledge, the best source of material is the work of John Wilder, "The Other Side of Rome," and "The Shadow of Rome".

. . . I would like to suggest that you publicize these books in CONTACT and encourage the pastors to use them for study course material and to circulate them in the communities where they labor. . . .

Yours in Jesus' Name,
W. B. Rodgers
Manchester, Tennessee

Misses Issues

Dear Editor:

Please change my address to the one I list. We missed two or three issues and learned why in the last issue of CONTACT—that it, as second-class mail, is not forwarded by the post office.

We have kept up on the news by borrowing a friend's copy and we certainly do enjoy the paper. It always has helpful articles.

In Christ,
Earnie Deeds
Conway, Arkansas

Glancing

(Continued from Page 13)

Banquet Scheduled

NASHVILLE, TENN. — The annual banquet of Free Will Baptist Bible College alumni has been set for April 5, at 3:30 p.m., at the Highland Crest Restaurant, Nashville. Mrs. J. B. Hall, secretary of the alumni association, urges all alumni to make plans now to attend. An enjoyable program is planned and the business to be transacted should be of interest to every alumnus, Mrs. Hall states. The banquet is considered one of the highlights of the Bible conference held at Free Will Baptist Bible College annually.

Holy Land Trip Rescheduled

NASHVILLE, TENN.—A trip to the Holy Land for Free Will Baptist pastors originally scheduled for this spring has been postponed until April 6-27, 1962. Approximately 40 pastors are planning at this time to make the trip. Other pastors that would be interested in learning how they can have a free trip to the Holy Land should write at once for information. The address is Holy Land Trip, c/o Free Will Baptist Headquarters, 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

Honor Roll

(Continued from Page 11)

First church, Dallas
Evergreen church, Iola
Pleasant Mound, Bellevue
First church, Henderson
Kirbyville church
South Houston Church

VIRGINIA

Richlands church
Bethany church, Norfolk

WEST VIRGINIA

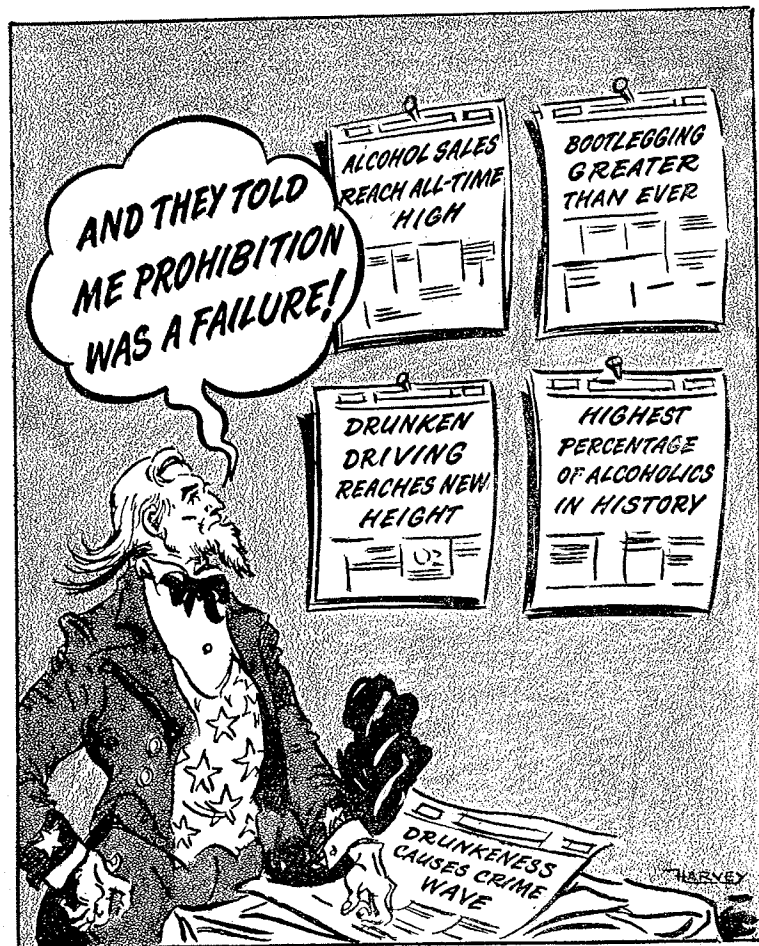
Thomas Memorial, Huntington

WASHINGTON

First church, E. Wenatchee

Bundle Plan

Little Rock, Arkansas, First church
Buhl, Idaho, church
Anderson, Indiana, First church
Raytown, Missouri, First church
Albuquerque, New Mexico, First church
Cramerton, North Carolina, church
Belmont church, North Carolina
Blackwell, Oklahoma, First church
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Central Avenue church
Wagoner, Oklahoma, First church
Chucky, Tennessee, church
Andrews, Texas, Faith church





Vacation Bible School

(Continued from Page 9)

QUESTION: *What do you mean by correctly graded levels?*

ANSWER: Certainly materials should be prepared and designed to meet the needs of each age level. The minimum grading should be based on a departmental basis so that you are working with a specific age group. By age groups I mean nursery, kindergarten, primary, Junior, junior high, etc.

QUESTION: *Previously you mentioned an evening school. This is a new idea to many people I am sure. How could you amplify this?*

ANSWER: Many churches are trying this plan and are finding it to be very successful. Rather than conducting vacation Bible school in the morning as we have done previously, they are conducting an evening school, beginning perhaps at 7:00 in the evening and running until 9:00.

QUESTION: *What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?*

ANSWER: I believe one of the outstanding advantages is that you can conduct a vacation Bible school for the total church. That is, you can have departments and classes for the very small children as well as for young people and adults. Secondly, in this day and age many of our people are working, including the women. If we conduct an evening school, we can get both men and women to help in conducting the vacation Bible school.

QUESTION: *Those are some of the advantages. What about the disadvantages?*

ANSWER: Probably one of the outstanding disadvantages is that we are cutting out part of our time. Another disadvantage is that some people feel that it runs rather late in the evening and small children should be in bed. However, in my experience I have found that since children are not going to school and can stay up later, we don't really have a problem here. In one school a teacher once told me that she felt more rested in the evening than she did in the morning. I think one reason for this is that in the summer time it is generally cooler in the evening than during the morning.

However, I think one thing that we must take into consideration in planning for a vacation Bible school is the locality and the nature of the church or the type of church. Evening schools will work very effectively in some areas and perhaps not so effectively

in others. One has to plan on the basis of his own needs.

QUESTION: *Do you have any comments regarding follow-up activities?*

ANSWER: Follow-up is extremely important. This is one of the most important factors in the VBS. Many pupils usually come to vacation Bible school who do not come to Sunday school. They should be followed up as Sunday school prospects. Further, any decisions for salvation or Christian living should definitely be followed up by the pastor, youth leader and teachers in the Sunday school and vacation Bible school.

QUESTION: *How do you suggest that we follow them up?*

ANSWER: Well, we can follow them up by letter and by phone, but nothing will take place of the special visit.

Rebirth and Recovery

(Continued from Page 5)

Spain. She is presently supporting a Free Will Baptist in Spain, where Protestant work of every kind must bear persecution from Catholicism.

The Future

The future holds many possibilities for Free Will Baptists in world missions. Her only limitations are self imposed. Her potential is only bounded by the willingness of those who claim her faith, to live and practice it. Her greatest enemy is internal disunity. Afraid of centralization because of its apparent use in bringing about a merger in which she lost her identity, she has been overly cautious in organizing for effective service. Often refusing to co-operate on matters above regional levels, slow to demand a fully educated ministry; she remains a heterogeneous people often finding conflicting positions taken concerning her classic faith.

Perhaps it can be said with some justification, that marks of a reactionary people has continued to characterize her churches, but it must be remembered that her reaction was in the direction of her classic statement of faith and not away from it. It is this faith that is worthy of proclamation. History will record how faithful she is in this proclamation. What will that record be? You and I hold the answer!

My Hand In His—Herman W. Gockel, Concordia, 225 pp., \$2.75.

Here is a book of fresh, inspirational devotions as practical as sweeping the floor.

The author, as others before him who have been used mightily of the Lord, uses a wide variety of illustrations as "windows" through which stream rays of penetrating truth. A book to be read more than once.—Eunice Edwards.

The Seven Last Words—Clarence W. Cranford, Baker, 78 pp., \$1.50

Many books and sermons have been written about the last statements of our Lord while on the cross, yet the wealth of meaning therein has never been fully explored. These meaty sermons are quite fresh with excellent illustrations and very practical application.—BAM

Interpreting the New Testament—H. E. Dana and R. E. Glaze, Jr., Broadman, 165 pp., \$3.25.

The early chapters deal with the history of interpretation, but the latter chapters deal specifically with the "how" of interpretation. This book should have a wide circulation in this day when we are hearing so many fanciful interpretations of the Scriptures. Beneficial to any preacher who seeks to "rightly divide the Word."—BAM

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