

JUNE 1962

CONTACT

of the National Association of Free Will Baptists



War Memorial Auditorium in downtown, Nashville, Tennessee. Site of the 26th session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists July 10-12, 1962. Selected theme is "God's Word—Key to Spiritual Awakening." An opportunity for Free Will Baptists to sit under the challenge of God's Word, pray together, and take the flame of revival back to the local church and community. Share with us this year.

CONTACT

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personally . . .

A Strategic Meeting

The 26th session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists will convene in Nashville, Tennessee, on July 10-12. This is a strategic meeting for Free Will Baptists. Perhaps there has never been another meeting in all of our history that will shape and determine the future destiny of our denomination like this one. If you are concerned and interested in the future growth and development of your denomination, then it is important for you to be present.

This past year has been marked with events of major and far reaching consequences. Most of them have been the result of the National Association's stand last year in Norfolk, Virginia, when congregational church government was reaffirmed and declared to be the only acceptable form of church government among true Free Will Baptists. At various times throughout the year, the executive committee of the National Association has maintained this stand of the National with due consideration to all concerned. However, on March 29, 1962, in a special called meeting in Wilson, North Carolina, the North Carolina State Convention voted to withdraw from the National Association. The State Convention of North Carolina had earlier indicated that they were unwilling to repudiate connectional church government as requested by the National Association.

In spite of this unprecedented action on the part of the North Carolina State Convention, many of our Free Will Baptist people and churches within the state have continued to support the work and ministry of the National Association. In fact, support is substantially the same. Indications are that many within the state are anxious to take their stand for congregational church government and to retain their affiliation with the National Association.

Recently a meeting was held within the state in which eight conferences were represented. This meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the possibility of organizing a state association which would be affiliated with the National Association. A planning committee was set up with representatives from each conference to arrange the organizational meeting to be held in Raleigh, North Carolina, on June 26. It is the intention of this body to petition the National Association for membership as the North Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists.

But above and beyond these matters is the extension of our ministry throughout the world. There are many adversaries. When we consider the growing emphasis on ecumenism, the increasing influence of the liberals, to say nothing of the spread of Roman Catholicism and communism, it is imperative that we know a dedication and commitment to the task that we have not known before.

Free Will Baptists have the potential needed to be a voice for God in these dark days. We have the doctrine, the resources, and the personnel, but (to our shame) we have not exemplified the required dedication. Oh yes, gains have been made in recent years—here and there, we are experiencing a stirring of God's people—but we need a mighty moving of God's Spirit that will turn us from the materialistic emphasis of this world to the task of "making disciples of all men."

This year's theme for the National Association has been selected with this need in mind. Pray for God's Spirit to work in our midst and come fully expecting the blessing of God to be upon us.

Send Your Delegate

Again, this year, every local church which holds membership within the highest body of the state may send a delegate to the National Association. We would strongly urge each church to give careful consideration to this very important matter. Let's have at least 250 churches with delegates at the association.

The procedure for having your delegate is simple. Just elect one and, if possible, pay all or part of your delegate's expenses to Nashville. Official delegates' credentials appear on page 16 of this issue and need only to be filled out and signed by either the pastor or the clerk. When a delegate registers at the association, the credentials authorizing representation will be presented with a ten dollar registration fee.

It is important to note that delegates representing state associations will also need to have official credentials in order to register as a delegate. Each state association is allowed five lay delegates at large, but their fee is paid by the state clerk when the state letter is mailed in. In situations where there is no state association within the state, it would be well to consult Article IV of the Constitution to learn the basis of representation.

The work of the National Association of Free Will Baptists is important to all Free Will Baptists. We desire a representative body to consider all business of this session. Will you help us in our effort to have a wholesome representation both from our churches and states? Come to Nashville and help us as we seek to do business for the Lord.

YOUR CHURCH

and Baptist Policy

by Leroy Forlines

IT IS THE FIRM CONVICTION of the writer that Baptist church government is in keeping with the teachings of the New Testament. Those who believe it have always contended that it is the only system of church government that does not to some degree do violence to the teachings of the New Testament.

The first reason for believing in this type of church government is that the New Testament presents churches as independent bodies. They chose and ordained their own officers, as is illustrated in the choosing of the seven deacons (Acts 6:1-6). The church at Corinth chose those who were to carry their offering to Jerusalem (1 Cor. 16:3). These two instances illustrate the fact that the local church conducted its own business. There is also an absence in the New Testament of authority higher than the local church, which gives added proof that the New Testament church was an independent body.

Many will agree that the New Testament church was an independent body, and that there was an absence of a highly-developed, detailed system of church government. However, they say that enough time had not been allowed for its development; and therefore the New Testament does not furnish a pattern for church government.

The first reason for disagreeing with the above-given conclusion is that should God have desired for the church to have a highly-developed, detailed system with centralized authority, the time was ripe for such an organization: Judaism was a well-organized system with centralized authority. Had God so willed, much of the old system with a few adjustments could easily have been transferred into Christianity, thus giving it its organization. The Jews who became Christians would have had a background that would have well prepared them to accept such a system. It would have even helped ease the pain that the radical difference between Christianity and the system of law brought to some.

Another factor that would have favored a highly-developed system of organization was the fact that the Romans who were in control of the known world at that time, were noted for their well-developed government. In fact, the influence of the Roman

system of government later manifested itself in the development of the Roman Catholic church which has a highly-organized government with centralized authority, its headquarters being at Rome.

So the people who entered into the early church, whether Jew or Gentile, were well prepared to accept a highly-developed system of church government with centralized authority, if such had been the will of God.

When one examines the teachings of grace as contrasted with that of law, he realizes that Baptist church government is an outgrowth of the principles of grace. Instead of the government of the church in the New Testament being the victim of a lack of time, it is seen to be the product of the will of God.

Grace is directly adverse to a highly-developed system of church government with centralized authority. Before Christ, God dealt with His people through a detailed system of objective regulations known as the Mosaic law. The New Testament teaches that we are delivered from the Mosaic law.

An understanding of grace reveals that not only is the believer delivered from the Mosaic law, but that no other detailed system is to take its place. Paul says, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Gal. 5:1). The liberty that one has in Christ is deliverance from any detailed system of objective law, such as was brought down on God's people in the Old Testament.

Should a local church be subjected to a detailed system of church government imposed upon it by a higher authority, the liberty that its members have in Christ would be invaded. Such an invasion would be bringing people into bondage and would violate the principles of grace, just as it would to put the believer back under the Mosaic law.

Along with this freedom from having an outward system of detailed law brought down upon the believer, there is an increased responsibility on the part of the individual to find out the will of God. Under the law people were told what to do in al-

most every detail of life. Under grace we are told a few things to do and must under the leadership of the Holy Spirit apply the principles taught in the Bible to things not specifically named in the Bible.

It is the will of God for people under grace to accept more personal responsibility in finding out His will than was expected under law. A detailed system of church government brought down on churches seeks to remove from people that individual responsibility that God has willed that they have under grace. Not only does it remove this responsibility from people, but actually becomes a hinderance to those who wish to bear such responsibility.

One of the essentials of centralized authority is a class of people who stand in a different relationship to God and man than the ordinary Christian does. These are they who are in the position of finding out the will of God for others, and are invested with the authority to enforce obedience on others. Let it be said that grace knows no such group. With the passing of the Levitical priesthood and the prophets, such a class disappeared. The production of centralized authority calls for a violation of the basic principles of grace.

Some say that the survival of the church in a day like ours requires centralization as a unifier. Before any other refutation is given, let it be said that if the early church survived during its infancy in the midst of the unfriendliness and persecution of the Jews and heathen, it surely should be able to stand today after nineteen centuries have passed.

The real objective to the above-given defense of centralized authority is that it has the smell of the Old Dispensation and seeks to take the place of the Holy Spirit. The effort to bring unity by a program designed by centralized authority is using the same approach that God delivered us from through Christ; namely, an outward system brought down on people. In the period of grace the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of believers to bring about unity in the church. The plan of bringing unity through centralization is a man-made system seeking to do the work of the Holy Spirit. Here again it is seen that centralized au-

(Continued on Page 14)

God's Word ... key to spiritual awakening

THE HISTORIC CITY of Nashville, located in mid-Tennessee hardly more than two day's drive from the majority of Free Will Baptists, will be the convention city for this year's session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. This twenty-sixth session will be held exactly 235 years since the organization of the first General Conference of Free Will Baptists in the United States. It is fitting that on this occasion we convene in Nashville—site of the organizational meeting of our present day National Association in 1935, home of Free Will Baptist Headquarters Building, and Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Realizing the power of God's Word and sensing the need of a spiritual awakening in our midst today, the program emphasis will be developed around the general theme "God's Word—Key to Spiritual Awaken-

ing." The Reverend Billy A. Melvin, Executive Secretary of the National of the National Association, will bring the keynote message. His message on Tuesday evening will be "God's Word—Our Rule of Faith and Practice." Special music as well as lively congregational singing will be a feature of this service.

On Wednesday morning the National Association will have the opportunity to share with Free Will Baptist Bible College in the celebration of their twentieth anniversary year. Faculty and students will participate in this service developed around the theme, "God's Word—Declared by Dedicated Men."

The service on Wednesday night will bring a missionary emphasis. Returned missionaries and missionary appointees will be introduced during this service. The Rev-

erend W. Mooneyham, assistant moderator of the National Association and editor of *Action* magazine, will be the speaker for this hour. His message will be "God's Word—The Hope of the World."

"God's Word—Sure Guide for the Future" will be the message on Thursday morning by the Reverend Winford Floyd of Elizabethton, Tennessee.

Special features of the convention will be a pastor's dinner on Tuesday evening, an early morning prayer service on Wednesday, visit to Free Will Baptist Bible College and the Headquarters Building, and the annual laymen's breakfast on Thursday.

All services and business sessions will be held in the War Memorial auditorium. The Hermitage Hotel has been designated as the headquarters hotel. The association will open on Tuesday night, July 10, at 7:30



GEORGE FORD
Banquet Speaker



BILLY A. MELVIN
Keynote Speaker



W. S. MOONEYHAM
Speaks Wednesday Night

p.m. It will be preceded by the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention which will open on Monday night, July 9. National Association sessions will continue through Thursday afternoon, July 12.

Many have already made plans to attend this association. Every church should insist that their pastor attend and should arrange to help with his expenses. The business of the denomination is the business of every pastor and delegate. Churches should also take advantage of the opportunity of having their own personal delegate at the convention. The form on page 16 is provided to designate your delegate.

Above all—pray for the spiritual success of this meeting! Pray specifically that our chosen theme will become a glorious reality in our midst.



WINFORD FLOYD
Concluding Speaker

HOTELS AND MOTELS

HERMITAGE—Headquarters Hotel—(One-half block from auditorium.) 231 6th Avenue North. Single: \$5.50-\$11.00; Double: \$8.00-\$14.00; Twin: \$10.00-\$18.00. Air conditioned, children twelve and under free, free overnight parking, TV, radio.

ANDREW JACKSON—(One-half block from auditorium.) 314 6th Avenue North. Single: \$6.00-\$9.00; Double: \$8.00-\$11.00; Twin: \$10.50-\$14.00. Air conditioned, TV and radio.

NASHVILLE DOWNTOWNER—(One-half block from auditorium.) 7th and Union. Single: \$8.00-\$10.50; Double: \$12.00; Twin: \$12.00; Studio: \$10.00 one person, \$12.00 two persons. Air conditioned, free parking, TV, swimming pool.

HOLIDAY INN—CAPITOL HILL—710 James Robertson Parkway. Single: \$7.00 or \$9.00 for two people; double: \$9.00 or \$11.00 for three people, \$13.00 for four people. Air conditioned, free parking, TV, children free, swimming pool.

CAPITOL PARK INN—400 5th Avenue North. Single: \$7.00-\$10.00; Double: \$9.00-\$11.00; Twin: \$11.00-\$15.00. Air conditioned, TV and radio, free parking, swimming pool.

NOEL—202 4th Avenue North. Single: \$6.00-\$10.00; Double: \$8.50-\$12.00; Twin: \$9.50-\$13.00. Air conditioned, TV available, attached garage.

JAMES ROBERTSON—118 7th Avenue North. Single: \$5.00-\$7.00; Double: \$7.00-\$12.00; Twin: \$8.50-\$10.00. Air conditioning in most rooms, TV available.

SAM DAVIS—132 7th Avenue North. Single: \$3.50-\$6.50; Double: \$6.00-\$9.00; Twin: \$7.50-\$9.00. Air conditioned and air cooled, free parking.

ALLEN—2004 West End Avenue. Single: \$6.00 and up; Double: \$8.00 and up. Air conditioned, free parking, TV in most rooms.

ANCHOR MOTEL—1921 West End Avenue. Single: \$8.00-\$10.00; Double: \$10.00-\$12.00; Twin: \$12.00. Air conditioned, TV and radio, swimming pool, free parking.

ALAMO PLAZA HOTEL COURTS—450 Murfreesboro Road. Single: \$6.00; Double: \$8.00; Twin \$10.00. Air conditioned, 17 kitchenettes, swimming pool, free parking.

ALBERT PICK MOTEL—320 Murfreesboro Road. Single: \$7.50; Double: \$9.50-\$11.00. Air conditioned, TV and radio, playground for children, swimming pool.

BILTMORE HOTEL COURTS—2400 Franklin Road. Single: \$6.00-\$8.00; Double: \$9.00-\$10.00; Twin: \$10.00 and up. Air conditioned, TV, swimming pool, free parking.

BOZEMAN'S COURT—438 Murfreesboro Road. Single: \$7.00; Double: \$9.00; Twin: \$11.00. Air conditioned, TV, playground for children, swimming pool.

HOLIDAY INN—1800 West End Avenue. Single: \$8.00; Double: \$12.00. Air conditioned, free parking, TV and radio, swimming pool.

NOTE: Since the Hermitage Hotel is our headquarters hotel, all ministers, delegates, and visitors to our National Association are urged to register here if at all possible. The facilities are excellent, reasonably priced, and convenient to the auditorium. This hotel will furnish rooms for our committee and board meetings as well as space for our exhibits. You are to make your reservation directly with the hotel or motel of your choice. To avoid disappointment, act early.

From Here

To There

by Samuel Johnson

June is League Emphasis Month

YOU CAN GET THERE from here! How can you do this? Decide where there is and start from here towards there.

Does the above paragraph sound like nonsense to you? Perhaps it is, but the simple truth is this, you *can* get there from here. Your League can get from mediocrity to superiority. The essential thing is to start.

When should you start? NOW! This is League emphasis month. The National Association has designated June as League emphasis month. So, why not join with other Free Will Baptist Leagues across the country in this special League endeavor.

What can your local League do to improve its training service to the church? In order to set proper goals, an evaluation of your present program should be made. What percentage of your Sunday school members attend League? How well informed are your church members as to what is being done in League? Why do many of those who need more Christian training fail to attend League? These are only a few of the questions that should be answered as you plan for improvement.

Begin with the first Sunday in June to make your entire church keenly aware of League. Posters and other types of announcements should be widely used. An announcement should be made in Sunday school classes each Sunday in June. Bulletin inserts explaining the purpose and plans of the League or announcing some special assembly program may be effective in increasing your attendance.

The need for more leaguers is evident, however, an improved training program for those who regularly attend League is even more essential. Emphasize the importance of thorough and complete planning for every League assembly and program. Training in League should be more than learning how to read aloud in public. The present literature provided by the National League board lends itself to the development of ability in how to find information and present it in a variety of interesting ways. The gospel message is the same but the method of presentation must attract the minds of today's people.

Jesus told his followers to look upon the

fields which were already white unto harvest. Then as now the supreme question "Where are the laborers?" There is an abundance of man power resources which need to be committed and trained to labor in the fields of lost men.

The Free Will Baptist League has no other purpose than to do just that. Within every Free Will Baptist church there are those whom the Lord could use to win lost men to Himself. Much of the solution lies within a sound program of Christian education. The Free Will Baptist League as the training service of the church has a clear call to provide leadership.

The National League board has taken tremendous strides in recent months to help up-grade the training program of Free Will Baptist churches. Your league can better meet the needs of its church by properly using the literature and supplies now provided by the board.

Additions have been made each quarter of 1962 and third quarter offers even more. You may now order:

DEPTH—A devotional guide written to encourage daily family worship among Free Will Baptists.

STORY HOUR GUIDE and PACKET—These materials have been written exclusively for two and three year old leaguers.

THREE NEW RECORD BOOKS—Secretaries will be delighted at the colorful record books designed to better meet the needs of Free Will Baptist Leagues. There is a record book for the general secretary, one for each League, Junior and above, and one for each league Primary through Story Hour.

Your local League will find the services rendered by your National League board an invaluable aid. Begin now, during the month of June, to call on the board for the help you need.

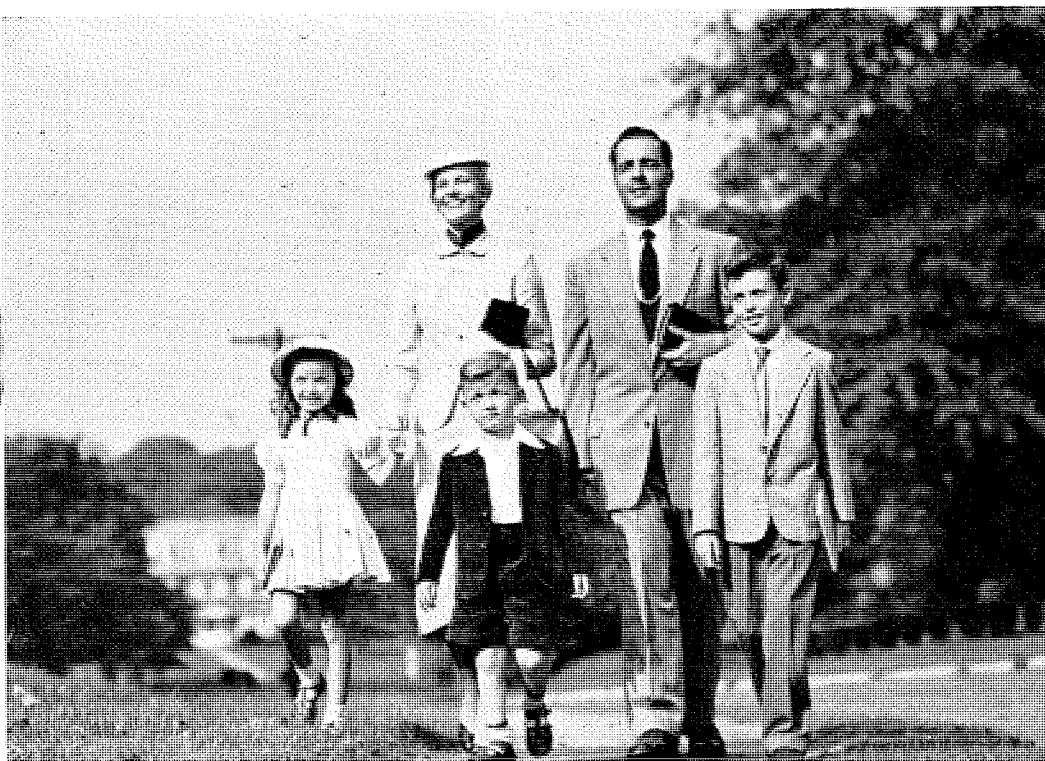
Special offer for June only—special rates on the *League Pointer*: 3 to 5 subscriptions, \$1.35; 6 or more, \$1.25 for each year's subscription.

The *Pointer* is published each month and contains many ideas and suggestions for each league, for general assemblies, special events and social activities. Every general officer, leader, sponsor and pastor could benefit from the *Pointer*. Order copies for your league now.

Remember also that the place of the National League board and the training program of our denomination is governed by the response and support each local League makes to the National League board. Plan to make a definite contribution this month and every month towards a better program of training in your denomination and church.

A special contribution from your league during League Month could make it possible for us to reach our goal of \$7,500 in our advancement program. We need approximately \$2,000. Will you help in the last thirty days of this campaign? ■ ■

LEAGUE IS A FAMILY AFFAIR





Have you had a share in the Free Will Baptist future? At the present time, 74 shares of \$50.00 each have been given or pledged towards our goal of 2,000 shares. This is a fair beginning, but we must accelerate our giving considerably if we hope to do anything about providing a new building in the immediate future. Won't you make this a personal matter of prayer and consideration? If one-third of our subscribers to CONTACT would share with us in the next thirty day period, we would realize our goal. Doesn't seem difficult does it? Not if each reader would feel the responsibility and respond as God has prospered. Can we expect to hear from you this week? Your check or pledge, indicated on the form below, will assist in the provision of this building, needed to house the several departments of work within our National Association.

TOGETHER WE WILL

SHARE

HOW DO WE PROPOSE to raise the \$125,000.00 needed for this new building? We invite you to share in the Free Will Baptist future. You may do this through the purchase of a share.

The plan is this. We are praying for 1,500 individuals and 500 churches that will buy one or more shares in our future. All shares are in the amount of \$50.00. When payment for a share is received, the church or individual will receive an attractive 8½ x 5½ share. (Your share is actually a gift, but this is our permanent record to you of your share in our future.)

Churches or individuals that buy five or more shares will be "Advancement Contributors." These churches and individuals will be listed on a bronze plaque to be placed in the entrance hall of the new building.

Your indication now, on the opposite form, of your desire to share in our future will be a great inspiration to us. We dare not fail to meet the challenge which is ours as Free Will Baptists. Thank you for your consideration of this need and may God bless you.

JUNE, 1962

Share With Us This Month . . .

Send your gift or pledge now

Shares

- 1 *New Hope Free Will Baptist Church—Kansas City, Kansas
- 1 *First Quarterly Meeting of Mission Association—Missouri
- 1 *Third Free Will Baptist Church—St. Louis, Missouri

Total in gifts and pledges

\$3,698.42

*Indicates paid share.

— Clip and mail today —

Here Is A Share In The Free Will Baptist Future

God being my Helper, you can count on me for _____ shares (\$50.00 each) in 1962. I will pay as indicated.

\$_____ per month Name _____

\$_____ now, \$_____ Address _____

by _____
Date

\$_____ by _____
Date

\$_____ enclosed Church _____

(This may be pasted to a post card)

Program of the 27th Session of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention

THEME: "BLESSED ARE YE THAT SOW BESIDE ALL WATERS"
(Isaiah 32:20)

WATCHWORD: "Withhold Not Thine Hand" (Eccle. 11:6)

CONVENTION HYMN: "Bringing In The Sheaves"

MONDAY JULY 9, 1962

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: "When we follow the command of Christ,
all of the power of heaven backs us."

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:20

MONDAY MORNING

8:00—Breakfast at Free Will Baptist Bible College Dining Room

9:30—Executive Committee meeting

MONDAY AFTERNOON

1:30—Declamation preliminaries—Auditorium, Bible College

5:30—National Youth Rally—Dining Room, Bible College

MONDAY EVENING

War Memorial Auditorium, Capitol Blv'd and Memorial Square

7:30—Greetings—W.N.A.C. Officers

—Devotional—Mrs. Dan Cronk, Missionary to India

—Appointment of Committees

8:15—Special Music

—Message—Rev. Rufus Coffey, Pastor, First Free Will Baptist Church,
Florence, South Carolina

TUESDAY, JULY 10

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: "All can take part in the support of the
Gospel. It is God's plan that those who
preach the gospel shall live by the gospel."

SCRIPTURE: I Corinthians 9:14

TUESDAY MORNING

9:00—Devotional and Special Music—Rev. and Mrs. Roy Thomas, Denver,
Colorado

10:00—Declamation Contest—Directed by Mrs. Chester Phillips, National
Youth Chairman, Nashville, Tennessee

—We Meet Our Youth—Mrs. Chester Phillips

—Special Music

11:00—Message—Rev. Lonnie Sparks, Missionary to Africa

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

1:30—Devotional—Rev. Dan Cronk—Missionary to India

—Greetings from Our Missionaries

—Special Music

—Memorial Service—Directed by Mrs. J. P. Barrow, Nashville, Ten-
nessee

—Special Music—Mrs. J. Reford Wilson, Nashville, Tennessee

2:15—Business Session

—Reports of Committees

—Adjourn

PIANIST—Mrs. Billy Melvin, Nashville, Tennessee

ORGANIST—Mrs. Harold Teague, Nashville, Tennessee

SONG LEADER—Rev. Henry VanKluyve, Portsmouth, Virginia

We invite you to visit the WNAC Booth while you are here, as well as
the WNAC office, 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

National Asso

Theme

"God's Word—Key to Spiritual Awakening"

Scripture

"For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power—making it
active, operative, energizing and effective; it is sharper than any two-edged
sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life and spirit, and
of joints and marrow exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the
very thoughts and purposes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12, Amplified).

Hymn

"There Shall Be Showers of Blessing"

TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 10

5:00—Pastor's dinner in the dining hall of Free Will Baptist Bible College
with Dr. George Ford, Executive Director of the National Association
of Evangelicals, as speaker.

Keynote: "God's Word—Our Rule of Faith and Practice"

Scripture: ". . . thy Word is truth." (John 17:17).

Presiding—Rev. Rufus Coffey

Song Leader—Mr. I. L. Stanley

7:30—"We Sing Unto the Lord"—Pledge of allegiance to the American
and Christian flags with praise and worship through song led by
Mr. I. L. Stanley, song leader; Mrs. Raymond Riggs, organist; Rev.
Herman Hersey, pianist.

7:45—The association called into official session and introduction of the
officers by the Rev. Robert Picirilli, clerk.

—The moderator's message—Rev. Ralph Staten

8:00—Welcome from the Tennessee State Association—Rev. Robert C. Hill

8:15—Welcome to Nashville and Tennessee—Mayor Ben West

8:20—"Heavenly Sunshine"—Time to get acquainted

—Offertory

—Special Music

8:30—God's Word is Preached

The Messenger—Rev. Billy A. Melvin, Executive Secretary of the
National Association of Free Will Baptists

9:15—Adjourn session

FELLOWSHIP HOUR—Exhibit area, Hermitage Hotel. All missionaries
and National Association personnel would appreciate the opportunity
of greeting you at their respective booths. Come and share this fellowship.
Free coffee, cokes, and cookies.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 11

7:00—On this first full day of business with many decisions to be made,
it is imperative that we begin the day with God. You are urged to
share in this early morning prayer service that there might be proper
spiritual preparation for the sessions ahead. The service will be held
in the Ball Room of the Hermitage Hotel. The Rev. E. M. Kennedy,
promotional secretary of the Oklahoma State Association, will be
in charge of this service.

Presiding—Rev. Lonnie DeVault

Song Leader—Rev. Malcolm C. Fry

9:15—"Sing His Mercy and His Grace"—Mr. Fry, Mrs. Riggs, and Mr.
Hersey

9:25—Scripture thought and prayer—Rev. Harold Harrison

9:35—Report of General Board acting as Credentials Committee

—Seating of delegates

—Recognition of visiting messengers from other religious bodies

10:00—Report of General Board—Rev. Robert C. Picirilli, secretary

10:50—Intermission

11:00—THE HOUR OF WORSHIP

Keynote: "God's Word—Declared by Dedicated Men"

Scripture: "And take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of
God." (Ephesians 6:17).

Association of Free Will Baptists

- Sing of the Greatness of the Lord"—Mr. Fry, Mrs. Riggs, and Mr. Hersey
- Offertory
- 11:15—A presentation of the ministry of Free Will Baptist Bible College as we share in the twentieth year anniversary celebration.
- 12:00—Adjourn session

Wednesday Afternoon

- 1:45—"His Glories Now We Sing"—Mr. Fry, Mrs. Riggs, and Mr. Hersey
- Scripture thought and prayer—Rev. Mance R. Cason
- 2:00—Miscellaneous business
- 2:30—Report of the Executive Secretary—Rev. Billy A. Melvin
- 2:45—Report of Foreign Mission Board—Rev. Reford Wilson
- 3:05—"Here We Stand"—Report of National Association of Evangelicals—Dr. George L. Ford
- 3:15—Report of Sunday School Board—Rev. Roger C. Reeds
- 3:35—Partial report of nominating committee and election of all board members
- 4:00—Adjourn session. Directed tours of Free Will Baptist Headquarters Building and Free Will Baptist Bible College. If you have not visited these places before, please take advantage of this opportunity to do so.

Wednesday Evening

WE LOOK AT OUR MISSIONARY RESPONSIBILITY

- Keynote:* "God's Word—The Hope of the World"
- Scripture:* "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17).
- Presiding—Rev. Reford Wilson and Rev. Homer Willis
- Song Leader—Rev. Eugene Waddell
- 7:30—"Sing Unto the Lord a New Song"—Mr. Waddell, Mrs. Riggs and Mr. Hersey
- Evening prayer
- Offertory
- 7:45—"The Changing Scene in Missions"—Missionary Dan Cronk
- 8:00—Introduction of returned missionaries and missionary appointees
- 8:10—Congregational song
- Special music
- 8:20—God's Word is Preached
- The Messenger—Rev. W. Stanley Mooneyham, Assistant Moderator of the National Association and Director of Information for the National Association of Evangelicals
- Call for laborers
- 9:00—Missionary offering
- 9:15—Adjourn session
- FELLOWSHIP HOUR—Exhibit area, Hermitage Hotel. More fellowship this evening with our missionaries and national workers. Greet them at their respective booths. Free coffee, cokes, and cookies.

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 12

- 7:00—Laymen's breakfast in the Ball Room of the Hermitage Hotel.
- Presiding—Rev. Othel T. Dixon
- Song Leader—Rev. Henry VanKluyve
- 9:15—"I Will Sing of My Redeemer"—Mr. VanKluyve, Mrs. Riggs, and Mr. Hersey
- Scripture thought and prayer—Rev. Winston Lawless
- 9:30—Report of Free Will Baptist League Board—Mr. Ray Turnage
- 9:50—Report of Stewardship Commission
- 10:00—Report of Home Mission Board—Rev. Homer E. Willis
- 10:20—Report of Chaplain's Commission—Mr. Floyd Robertson
- 10:30—"God's Word for All the World"—Report of the American Bible Society
- 10:40—Report of Laymen's Commission—Rev. Robert Hill
- 10:50—Intermission

JUNE, 1962

11:00—THE HOUR OF WORSHIP

- Keynote:* "God's Word—Sure Guide for the Future"
- Scripture:* "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
- "O Worship the King"—Mr. VanKluyve, Mrs. Riggs, and Mr. Hersey
- Offertory
- Special music
- 11:20—God's Word is Preached
- The Messenger—Rev. Winford Floyd, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church, Elizabethton, Tennessee
- 12:00—Adjourn session

Thursday Afternoon

- 1:30—"Praise Him! Praise Him!"—Mr. VanKluyve, Mrs. Riggs, and Mr. Hersey
- Scripture thought and prayer—Rev. H. Z. Cox
- 1:45—Report of Woman's National Auxiliary Convention—Mrs. Rufus Coffey
- 1:50—Report of Free Will Baptist Bible College—Mr. M. E. Howard
- 2:10—Report of Superannuation Board—Rev. Chester A. Huckaby
- 2:20—Report of Seminary Study Committee
- 2:30—Report of Budget Committee
- 2:35—Report of Placement Committee for 1964 session
- 2:40—Miscellaneous business
- Reports of committees
- Final report of nominating committee and election of officers
- 4:00—Final adjournment

Pre-Convention Meetings

- Monday, 9 a.m.—Executive Committee—Capitol Room, Hermitage Hotel
- Monday, 1 p.m.—General Board—Capitol Room, Hermitage Hotel
- Tuesday, 9 a.m.—General Board—Capitol Room, Hermitage Hotel

Convention Headquarters

The convention headquarters will be in the Hermitage Hotel, one-half block from the War Memorial Auditorium where all the regular sessions will be held. All committees, boards and other groups will meet in conference rooms furnished by the hotel.

Registration

Every person attending the convention should register. Registration for all visitors will be recorded at the auditorium. Ministers and delegates will register at the registration table in the lobby of the Hermitage Hotel. Upon registration you will receive an attractive badge identifying you as a "Minister," "Delegate," or "Visitor." Ministers and delegates will need a badge in order to be eligible to participate in the convention business sessions. Your badge will be your key to the hospitality of the city.

Exhibits

Many valuable and informative things will be found in the booths at the exhibit area. The exhibit area is located in the Iris Room of the Hermitage Hotel. This is a good place to spend some time between sessions. We would especially urge you to visit the exhibit area during the fellowship hours on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. The exhibit area will be closed during all worship services.

Luncheons and Dinners

Special luncheons have been arranged on Wednesday and Thursday for the convention officers and speakers and their wives. Both luncheons, which will be held in the Capitol Room of the Hermitage Hotel, have been arranged through the courtesy of the Tennessee State Association.

The annual Home Missions and Foreign Missions luncheons will be held at noon on Wednesday at the Hermitage Hotel. All board members, missionaries, and candidates are invited.

All alumni of Free Will Baptist Bible College are invited to the alumni dinner to be held in the dining hall of the college on Wednesday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. Price is \$1.50 per plate.

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

by Louis H. Moulton



I have heard it said that when a person is saved the sin question is settled and one becomes a new creature in Christ. I believe my wife is saved, but she is a heavy smoker and it grieves me no end. There seems to be an inconsistency with what she professes and the scripture. What about this?

II Corinthians 5:7 bears out that a person in Christ is a new creature. I do not sanction smoking by Christians, but smoking in itself does not send a soul to hell. Rejection of Christ does. Habits which are carnal have to be dealt with and the fight is not always easy. In fact for most people the habit of smoking can be broken only by a complete and utter surrender to God. In the strength of the flesh, most people cannot rid themselves of this carnal habit. In writing to a carnal people at Corinth, Paul wrote (I Cor. 9:27) "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection . . ." and in I Cor. 5:31 he says, "I die daily." In Romans 7:21, Paul gave further evidence of the constant fight against carnality when he said, ". . . when I would do good, evil is present with me." As you stated in your letter, your wife's habits of reading the Word daily, praying, attending church regularly, are all good signs that she has had an experience with the Lord. Pray for her. We'll join you in prayer.

Is there any way that I can be sure of being led by the Holy Spirit? I have a decision to make and I do not want to miss God's will in the matter.

You can be sure that God will never lead you into anything which is in conflict with His Word or that is contrary to His will as revealed in the Bible. Sometimes our faith is put to the test and the answer does not always appear immediately. However if there is doubt about the decision you have to make then proceed cautiously—waiting until the Spirit of God gives you peace concerning it. Becoming more and more acquainted with God's Word encourages faith and leads to a better understanding of the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Someone recently said that 2 Timothy 2:4 which speaks of ". . . our having been chosen to be a soldier . . ." justifies our fighting and the differences which come between us. Is this true?

Such reasoning is ridiculous and absurd. This passage refers to ministers and the fact that they should not be engrossed with material things which hinders their being a good soldier of Jesus Christ. The fight is against sin and the devil.

I have been out of high school several years now and plan to attend a Bible College to prepare for the ministry. Recently I fell in love with a divorced woman. Do you think if we marry this will affect my future ministry for the Lord?

Proverbs 3:6 says, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." If you will earnestly and sincerely seek the will of the Lord for your life through prayer I do not believe that you will allow this "love affair" to continue. In the light of the many scriptures on divorce you will begin with two strikes against you. Surely God will not direct you into a wrong marriage. There is also the question of acceptance by some Bible Colleges. Better call a halt to this now to insure God's blessing upon your future.

Cooperative Receipts Show Slight Increase in April

With the summer months at hand it is important for us to be faithful to the responsibilities which God has given. This is usually the season of the year when receipts are off a bit but this need not be. We are depended on you, and your continued faithfulness will mean so much in the total ministry of our National Association.

We are thankful for a slight increase in our cooperative gifts this month. Including designated gifts we had the fine total of \$6,380.53.

APRIL COOPERATIVE RECEIPTS Undesignated

ALABAMA			
Good Water church,			
Slocumb	\$	10.00	
State association		58.38	
Free Will Baptist Church, Fayette		10.05	
ARKANSAS			
Phillips Chapel, Springdale		58.38	
State association		121.44	176.44
CALIFORNIA			
State association			529.48
FLORIDA			
State association			722.71
GEORGIA			
State association			223.84
ILLINOIS			
Alex church Olive Branch		51.45	
State association		392.32	443.77
INDIANA			
Wabash Valley association			44.92
KANSAS			
First association			112.78
MISSOURI			
State association			1,299.52
NORTH CAROLINA			
Fellowship chapel, New Bern			80.50
NEW MEXICO			
Free Will Baptist church, Hobbs		45.96	
First association		23.76	69.72
OHIO			
Limecrest church, Springfield		14.41	
First church, Springfield		54.00	68.41
TENNESSEE			
Blue Springs church, Columbia		10.00	
Rock Springs church, Charlotte		58.49	
Wooddale church, Knoxville		34.75	
Horton Heights church, Nashville		83.03	186.27
TEXAS			
State association			276.41
VIRGINIA			
Bethany church, Norfolk			82.97
WASHINGTON			
First church, Wenatchee			28.13
			<u>\$4,424.30</u>

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Florida	\$1,859.57	
Tennessee	96.66	1,956.23
		<u>\$6,380.53</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

Foreign Missions	\$2,123.28	
Executive Department	1,072.32	
Bible College	884.85	
Home Missions	1660.43	
Sunday School	224.47	
League	238.21	
Superannuation	132.73	
Stewardship Commission	44.24	<u>\$6,380.53</u>



Know Your Bible Series

STUDY IN FIRST AND SECOND TIMOTHY

Charles A. Thigpen

THE TWO LETTERS to Timothy and the letter to Titus are often referred to as the "Pastoral" epistles of Paul. This is because of their contents which deals primarily with the governing and functioning of local churches and gives directions regarding the work of pastors in the church. Each of these is addressed to a Christian pastor. It seems that when problems arose earlier in the Apostolic period an Apostle would deal personally with the matters. It is certain that God in His wise providence had these treatises penned as the Apostolic period came to a close. In this way, they had an authoritative statement on church order which would be of help to them and to future believers as well.

The first mention of Timothy is Acts 16:1. From this context we gather that Timothy, whose father was a Greek and whose Mother was a Jew, was converted when Paul was on his first missionary journey. Now on the second journey, Paul desires this young man to accompany him on this missionary tour.

In the writings of Luke and Paul we can trace much of the ministry of Timothy as he served Paul as an assistant. We see him with Paul at Troas, Philippi, Berea and Athens. He journeys from Athens to Thessalonica and then joins Paul at Corinth. According to Plummer, we lose sight of Timothy at this point for about five years. Next we find him at Ephesus, on Paul's third journey. From here the Apostle sends him to Macedonia. When Paul writes II Corinthians from Macedonia Timothy is present and may have gone on to Corinth with Paul because he is with Paul when the book of Romans was written. Then, he accompanies Paul to Troas and we lose sight of him until he visits Paul in Rome. He joins Paul in sending greetings to Colossae, Philemon and Philippi. We assume that Timothy accompanied Paul on his eastern tour after Paul's release from Roman imprisonment. It seems likely that Timothy did not accompany Paul on the trip to Spain, but rather pastored the church in Ephesus. He was still in Ephesus when he received this first letter.

Timothy is pastoring the church in

Ephesus, and this date is 64 or 65. Paul had warned the Ephesian elders "Grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." (Acts 20:29, 30). This prophecy is now being fulfilled. Paul states in I Timothy 5:15, "For some are already turned aside after Satan." In fact Paul makes many references to these evil doers in this letter. Dr. James M. Gray lists the following: "They had lost all true understanding of the law (I Timothy 1:7); had repudiated a good conscience (I Timothy 1:19); had become hypocrites and liars (I Timothy 4:2); were branded with immorality (I Timothy 4:2); of corrupt minds using religion to better themselves in the world (I Timothy 6:5)."

A key phrase of this epistle is, "that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God." (I Timothy 3:15). Even though Timothy seems to be very earnest and consecrated he appears to have been somewhat timid and diffident and hesitant about dealing with his problems.

Paul seems to have had a four-fold purpose in writing to Timothy. Paul seeks to encourage him as he opposes these false teachers and workers; this letter will also serve as written authorization from Paul for use especially with those opposing young Timothy; this letter gives instructions as to the manner in which men ought to conduct themselves in the church; and finally it gives exhortation concerning Timothy's faithful performance of his duties as a minister.

The following is an outline that may be of help to you in your study of I Timothy:

I. Salutation, 1:1, 2. II. Exhortation to rebuke the false teachers, 1:3-20. III. The church and its affairs, 2:1-3:16. A. as regards orders, 2:15, B. As regards office, 3:1-16. IV. The minister and his conduct, 4:1-6:19. A. To the church in general 4:1-16, B. To various classes 5:1-6:19. V. Conclusion 6:20, 21.

The second epistle of Paul to Timothy is perhaps the last book Paul wrote. Conservative scholarship accepts the teaching that Paul was released from his first Roman imprisonment and traveled perhaps to many churches he had founded, then to Spain. During this time he wrote I Timothy and Titus. It is further believed that he was arrested again and that during this final Roman imprisonment he wrote II Timothy. The date is perhaps 67 or 68. Timothy is still in Ephesus pastoring the church when he received this letter.

There seems to be three things that led Paul to write this epistle according to Dr. H. C. Thiessen "His concern for Timothy as he was confronted by the false teachers of his day; his desire for fellowship with his most trusted and faithful co-worker; and his need of the cloak books, and parchments which he had left at Troas."

This epistle could be entitled "An Apostle's Farewell" as it is Paul's closing message. The book is made up of counsel of a personal nature relating to Timothy and his pastoral duties. Walter Dunnett in *An Outline of New Testament Survey* gives one of the most interesting outlines I have seen on this epistle. It is as follows:

I. Salutation 1:1, 2. II. Thanksgiving for Timothy, 1:3-18. 1. For past blessings, 1:3-5, 2. For future hardships, 1:6-14, 3. For present conditions, 1:15-18. III. Exhortations to Timothy, 2:1-26. 1. As a child, 2:1, 2. As a soldier, 2:3, 4, 3. As an athlete, 2:5, 4. As a husbandman, 2:6-13, 5. As a workman, 2:14-19, 6. As a vessel, 2:20-23, 7. As a servant, 2:24-26. IV. Warning Timothy, 3:1-17. 1. In view of the last days, 3:1-13, 2. In the light of past learning, 3:14-17. V. The Final Charge to Timothy, 4:1-8. 1. The serious responsibilities, 4:1-5, 2. The apostolic example, 4:6-8. VI. Personal instruction to Timothy, 4:9-21. VII. Conclusion, 4:22.

There is much in these epistles of practical value for all present day believers. However, ministers, Sunday school teachers, church leaders and church workers of every kind will find great benefit from a careful study of the pastorals.

Virginia Banker Has "Heart of Gold"



Now Retired, He Is Still Active Giver

By Curwood Garrett

State Editor, Bristol Herald Courier

COEBURN VA.—E. J. Kilgore, Sr., who lives in the Crab Orchard Community near here, certainly isn't a "walking gold mine," but to the hundreds of people he has helped over the years he undoubtedly is a man with a "heart of gold."

Kilgore, who recently celebrated his 75th birthday, is a native of Coeburn. It would seem that his chief hobby over the years has been giving money away.

A first vice president of the Farmers Exchange Bank here, Kilgore was with the bank for 12 years at Nickelsville before he and a cousin P. L. Kilgore moved the bank to Coeburn in 1935. Kilgore's philanthropy has brought joy and happiness to many persons and organizations over the years.

A deacon in the Free Will Baptist Church here since 1917 he has contributed more than \$20,000 to the Free Will Baptist Home for Children in Greeneville, Tennessee. Today the home supports 89 orphans from contributions of Free Will Baptist Churches.

Kilgore, a genial retired businessman with a merry twinkle in his eye, was obviously trying to soft-pedal his many gifts to indi-

viduals and churches. He has always been active in church work.

It was in 1927 that Kilgore founded a wholesale grocery firm in Coeburn. Before that he was in the retail grocery business. Kilgore admitted he had given financial help to just about every preacher and every church in Coeburn. "I have given some help to just about every church in Southeast Virginia, including ones in Coeburn, Bristol, Norton, Clintwood, Pound and Nickelsville," he smiled.

Several years ago a preacher at Norton was sick and needed some financial assistance, so Kilgore pitched in with a \$500 give. "He's given away thousands of dollars to help the needy," said a relative.

When Kilgore and his wife moved into the Crab Orchard community 10 years ago his neighbors didn't have an adequate water supply. But they have now. "Practically every home in the community now was water," Kilgore added.

Kilgore enjoys giving away money to deserving individuals and churches like some people enjoy hunting in the woods or fishing for trout in a nearby stream.

Davis Church Votes

DAVIS, N.C.—The Free Will Baptist Church of Davis, North Carolina, in a special conference Sunday, April 8, voted to remain in affiliation with the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

The action was taken after the North Carolina State Convention of Free Will Baptists, at its special meeting in Wilson, March 29, voted to withdraw from the National Association.

The Rev. T. O. Terry is pastor of the Davis Church.

Missionary Conference Held

MANNING, S.C.—The First Free Will Baptist Church of Manning recently held a missionary conference with Fred Hersey, Lonnie and Anita Sparks, and Tom Willey Sr. These three days of services proved to be a blessing to the church. Rev. Bennie Turner is the pastor.

Services Held in New Auditorium

BERKELEY, MO.—The First Free Will Baptist Church of Berkeley enjoyed a great day when they moved into their new auditorium on April 29. All attendance records were broken with 375 present for Sunday school. The pastor, Rev. Harvey Hill, and his congregation are looking forward to a fruitful ministry.

Record Attendance

ROYAL OAK, MICH.—The Central Free Will Baptist Church experienced a record attendance in Sunday school on April 22. The final Sunday of the increase campaign

GLANCING AROUND THE STATES

Baptist Church. This Arlington church now has a Sunday school attendance of 71. Rev. Kenneth Walker is the pastor.

Construction To Begin

WICHITA KANSAS—The First Free Will Baptist Church in Wichita conducted a ground breaking ceremony on Sunday April 29. Construction is to begin in the very near future on a two-story educational building. Rev. Bill Turnbough is the pastor.

State Secretary Resigns

OKLAHOMA CITY OKLA.—Rev. E. M. Kennedy resigned recently from the office of State Executive Secretary to become effective July 10, 1962. Mr. Kennedy has had a fruitful ministry during the nearly seven years at this post. He has accepted a call to the Northwest Free Will Baptist Church.

It was also learned that Rev. R. P. Ritch has given his resignation effective August 19. Mr. Ritch pastored in Vernon Alabama.

Successful Missionary Conference

TULSA, OKLA.—The Mid-West Missionary Conference recently held with the Lewis Avenue Free Will Baptist Church was a great success. Nineteen cooperating churches pledged and made offerings totaling \$3,287.41.

Two young people yielded their lives to Christian service and plan to enter the Free Will Baptist Bible College. Rev. Paul Inbody is the pastor.

Riggs Announces Schedule

ELDRIDGE ALA.—Evangelist Eustace A. Riggs announces twelve evangelistic meetings for the summer months. Mr. Riggs is a full time evangelist for our denomination and his summer schedule follows: June 3-9: Red Bay, Alabama; June 10-20: First Church, Russellville, Alabama; June 24-July 4: First Church, Townley, Alabama; July 9-12: National Association in Nashville, Tennessee; July 13-21: Bethel Church, Ashland City, Tenn.; July 22-28: New Oak Grove, Nauvoo, Alabama; July 29-August 10: Kenova, West Virginia; August 13-18: Martin Hill Church, Booneville, Mississippi; August 19-25: Doyertown Church, Cordova, Alabama; August 26-Sept. 2: Arifton, Alabama.

Plans for New Work

LOMPOC, CALIF.—Rev. J. B. Ledbetter, member of the West Coast Association of Free Will Baptist Churches plans to start a mission in Lompoc. Mr. Ledbetter can be reached at Route 1, Box 84-B, Lompoc, California.

Goshen Has Revival

BELMONT, N.C.—The Goshen Free Will Baptist Church here experienced a stirring revival with Evangelist Joe Ange. Forty-two

decisions were made and the pastor will baptize 21 candidates. Rev. Johnnie Floyd is the pastor.

Send Superannuation Gifts

NASHVILLE, TENN.—All churches are urged to receive special offerings on Father's Day, June 17, for the superannuation program of the National Association. Send your offering as soon after this date as possible to Mrs. K. V. Shutes, P. O. Box 171, Fayette, Alabama.

Church Completed

DEERFIELD BEACH FLA.—The First Free Will Baptist Church of Deerfield has completed their new church building. Executive Church Bonds assisted the church in its building program through a bond program.

Revival services have just recently closed in the church which proved to be a rich blessing. The Reverend J. M. Herrald of West Virginia was the evangelist.



Home mission board members attending their semi-annual meeting in Davenport, Iowa, are pictured above with host pastor Dale Skiles (left). Director Homer Willis (second from right) reports a successful meeting.

Home Mission Board Meets In Iowa

DAVENPORT IOWA—All the members of the National Home Mission Board met for their semi-annual meeting on April 30 in Davenport Iowa. Plans were finalized to establish work in the state of Wyoming and in other cities in Kansas. Approval was given to purchase a house for the general director. A proposed budget of \$110,000 was adopted for 1963. As a result of work done by the Home Missions Board, new churches in Iowa, Idaho, Colorado, Kansas and the New England area will seek membership in the National Association this year.

Rev. and Mrs. Lee Whaley, missionaries in Alaska for the past four years, will receive a four months furlough beginning in September. The furlough has been granted because of health conditions.

The Home Mission Board is continually receiving numerous request for assistance and for missionaries. Pray that the Lord will thrust forth workers for this harvest.

produced 1,017. The average attendance during the six weeks campaign was 867. Rev. Joe Ange is the pastor.



Auxiliary members (l. to r.) Mrs. Carter Hudson, Mrs. Pat Wallace, Mrs. Ken Walker, and Mrs. Ray Boudeson present a sunshine box to Miss Annie Belle Blake.

Gift Presented

ARLINGTON VA.—The fourteen active members of the Womans Auxiliary of Bloss Memorial Church presented a sunshine box to Miss Annie Belle Blake in the National Institute of Health in Bethesda Maryland.

This auxiliary represents a part of the growth of the Bloss Memorial Free Will

Your Church

(Continued from Page 3)

thority is a violation of God's program in this age of grace.

Our conclusion is that the type of church government pictured in the New Testament is the will of God for the church, because it is the only system that properly recognizes: the liberty under grace; the responsibility under grace; that grace knows of no select class who can find the will of God for others and has the authority to enforce it; and that the Holy Spirit is the unifier of the church.

It is admitted that the liberty granted by Baptist church government is subject to abuse. But this does not disprove its true value any more than the value of religious liberty is disproved by the fact that the same liberty we use to become Free Will Baptists is used by others to become Roman Catholics, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Scientists, etc. History has proved that the cause of Christ has always suffered when men have not been permitted to have religious liberty.

Baptistic church government runs the risk of losing churches. This risk is not involved where the church is subject to a higher authority which holds its deed. But let it be said that the risk of Baptist church government is not so great as those systems that have authority over the local church. Misused liberty is not as dangerous as misused power. Misused liberty only affects a part where misused power can affect the whole. Under Baptist church government a few churches may be lost, but under centralized authority, if the wrong person or persons are in authority, the whole denomination can be hurt. It is better for a part to be damaged than for the whole to be damaged.

Recommendation for the Preservation of Baptist Church Government

Baptistic church government does not have the inherent power to guarantee self-preservation. The moment it has such powers it ceases to be Baptist because such powers call for an authority which Baptist church government opposes. Its only hope of survival is for the people to have a living conviction of the importance of its principles and a vigilant watch for anything that would undermine in.

A few suggestions will be given on how we as Free Will Baptists can preserve our Baptist system of church government. The letter of the system can be preserved by adhering to two basic rules:

1. The deed for local church property must be held by the local church. When this is violated, Baptist church governments cease.

2. Local churches, Quarterly Meetings, Yearly Meetings, State Associations, and the National Association must remain independent bodies with no organic connection.

The letter is always easier to maintain

than the spirit because the letter is tangible. It can be described. The spirit is somewhat intangible and is comprehended only by those who can discern. It is possible to obey the letter of Baptist church government, and for all practical purposes fail to accomplish its aims, and, thus be the same in result as a system with organic connections between bodies headed by centralized authority. Since the spirit is not so easily seen, but if lost gives the same practical result as a loss of the letter, we need to be very cautious in order to preserve it. The following suggestions, it is believed, if followed will make a contribution to the preservation of the spirit of Baptist church government.

1. We must acquaint ourselves with the differences between the principles of law and the principles of grace. All policies in church should be kept in harmony with the principles of grace.

2. On the local level we must be careful that boards and committees do not interfere with the liberty and responsibility of the members to give careful thought to matters concerning the policies of the church. If these principles are violated on the local level, they will invariably be on higher levels also.

3. We must be constantly examining our programs on every level from the local church to the National Association to see how they measure up in the light of the principles of Baptist church government.

4. Care must be exercised in the wording of resolutions, motions, and reports on all levels above the local church. The lack of careful wording could easily imply greater power than is granted by Baptist church government. This could eventually lead to an exercise of such power.

5. In preaching and teaching, our convictions on church government must be given attention. This is especially true when we meet in the various bodies above the local church.

6. The requirements of denominational loyalty must not be expanded beyond allegiance to Free Will Baptist doctrine, the church covenant, and the basic principles of church government. Even on these matters a person must be allowed to have liberty to follow his conscience wherever such liberty is permitted by the treatise.

7. A person must be allowed the liberty of following his own convictions concerning the programs adopted by the various bodies of the denomination.

8. A person must be able to exercise the liberties mentioned in (5) and (6) without having to wear such labels as "disloyal", "non-progressive," "back number," "fanatic," etc. We must be willing to protect another person's liberties, though we disagree with him.

9. We must exercise caution in the realm of suggestion concerning the details about the operation of the local church. Some people take a suggestion from a higher body as being law (though it is not), and

label everyone who does not conform as being disloyal. Thus that which was intended to unify in reality may divide. Suggestions should follow the lines of principle and not detail.

10. We must promote our cause by laying the facts about matters before the people so they can vote intelligently. We must avoid scheming, maneuvering, and "politicizing" to accomplish our ends.

11. We must read more of the writings that have been published on Baptist church government.

In its de-emphasis of a highly developed system of church government. Baptist church government is not to be considered as favoring slipshod and sloppy organization. It does favor a properly-organized program, but it stands for allowing details to be worked out by the local church. The details of the program of the local church are supposed to be worked out in accord with the conviction of the people and the peculiar needs of the church.

Any plan submitted from a higher body that requires or desires the acceptance in detail on the part of the local church makes the church the servant of organization. It should be the reverse. Organizations should be the servant of the church. Organization serves as the servant of the church only when the local church has the liberty to make the necessary adjustments that are required by the peculiar needs of the church.

In its liberty to differ with the decisions of higher bodies Baptist church government is not to be understood as favoring disunity. It does however, oppose a unity that is brought about by a program designed by a centralized authority and brought down by force either in the form of law or pressure. The unity favored by Baptist church government is spiritual unity wrought within people's hearts by the Holy Spirit. Spiritual unity does not require that there always be a unanimous agreement on details. In fact, an insistence for a unanimous agreement on detail is a blockade to spiritual unity.

May it also be said that the contention that a person should be at liberty to disagree with the recommendations of the higher bodies of the denomination is not meant to encourage disrespect for such bodies. Such bodies can render a real benefit and a cooperative spirit should prevail concerning them, but never at the cost of getting people to compromise their convictions. Wherever opinion only is involved a person should willingly follow the recommendation of the higher body, but God will never bless a people who compromise their convictions.

It is the firm conviction of this writer that Baptist church government is founded on Scriptural principles, sufficient for our needs, and should always be held by Free Will Baptists.

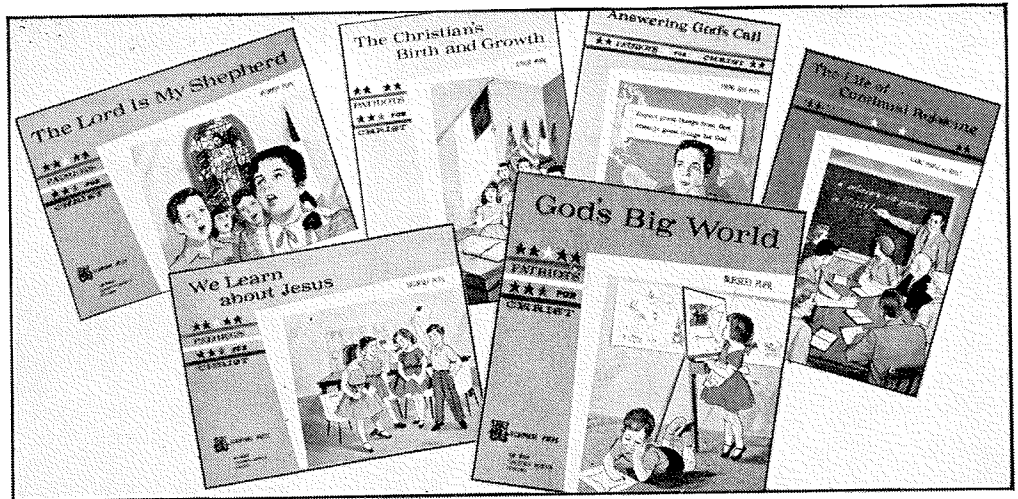
This article first appeared in CONTACT four years ago. It is reported here because of its relevance. Mr. Forlines is professor of theology at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

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IN THE VINEYARD



Unlikely Saints of the Bible by William G. Fletcher, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, 6, Michigan, 144 pages, price \$2.95.

A book of Bible character sketches of familiar and unfamiliar personalities. The author does not claim his interpretation to be the one true answer to explain the actions of the chosen personalities but he does possess the ability to make these characters live. It is a book which will hold the reader's interest and create a desire to delve further into a study of the eleven Bible characters of the book.

Juju God of West Africa by Linn Haitz, Concordia Publishing House, Saint Louis, Missouri, 113 pages, price \$1.00.

An impressive and colorful missionary book on the labors of the author, a business man turned missionary. The book begins with an account of God's preparation in the missionary's heart for this ministry in Africa. It brings to light many of the prevailing conditions, customs, superstitions, etc., of the people. The book has a mighty appeal in the closing chapter for Christians

who are willing "to lose their lives" for Christ and meet the challenge of a groping pagan world.

The Question of South Africa by Paul B. Smith, The Peoples Press, Toronto, Canada, 26 pages, price \$1.35.

A most interesting and the informative book. In the words of the author, "The Question of South Africa is an attempt to describe the fabulous land as I saw it in 1960 . . ." The author takes you along with him on a preaching mission at which you thrill at the blessings of God upon the services and you are astounded to learn of the large audiences to be found in the churches in this part of the world. His views are unbiased on the racial problem and they help one to understand the conditions which must be overcome before racial equality can be realized. This book should be a call to prayer to every Christian who reads it. Mr. Smith states, "Apart from a spiritual revival there is no answer for South Africa."

Starlight Talks To Youth by J. Vernon Jacobs, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 168 pages, price \$2.50.

This book is the end of a long search for youth material, regarding our universe, with a spiritual application. This is a collection of well written talks with the stars as a basis. The material is informative, plainly and simply written for easy understanding. This is a volume which should be placed in the hands of youth workers and in all church libraries.

■ National League Director, **Ray Turnage**, will be teaching a study course and directing the music for revival services at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Savannah, Ga., June 11-17.

■ **Mrs. Eunice Edwards**, Executive Secretary of WNAC, will be visiting with the Wabash Valley District Convention in Denham, Indiana, June 8. She will be attending the State Convention near Paintsville, Kentucky, June 15. June 18-23 Mrs. Edwards will be in Mechanisburg, Ohio.

■ Bible College President **L. C. Johnson** preached the baccalaureat sermon at the Smithville High School in Smithville, Mississippi, May 13.

■ New field representative for the Bible College, **Rev. Paul Kettelman**, will attend the ministers conference at Henderson, Texas, June 11-12, the Virginia State Association, Bristol, June 15-16, and the Illinois State Association June 22-23.

■ **Homer E. Willis**, Director of Home Missions, will be in a missionary conference June 1-3 at Springfield, Ohio. June 8-9 Mr. Willis will visit the State Association at Kawannah Fork, West Virginia; June 15. State Association at Bristol, Virginia; June 20. Missionary service, Akron, Ohio; June 22 State Association, Mechanisburg, Ohio; and June 23, State Association at Benton, Illinois.

■ General Director of Foreign Missions, **Redford Wilson**, will attend the West Virginia State Association at Kawannah Fork, West Virginia. June 10-17 he will be in revival services at Springfield, Tennessee. Mr. Wilson will be in a missionary conference at Cramerton, North Carolina, June 22-24 and will attend the organizational meeting of a state association in Raleigh, N. C. on June 26.

■ **Billy A. Melvin**, Executive Secretary, preached at the dedication services of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Berkley City, Missouri, on June 3. On June 12, Mr. Melvin will attend an executive committee meeting of the National Association of Evangelicals in Wheaton, Illinois. June 22 he will attend the Illinois State Association in Benton and on June 23 he will attend the Ohio State Association in Mechanicsburg. He plans also to attend the organizational meeting of a state association in North Carolina (Raleigh) on June 26.

(TEAR OFF HERE WHEN PRESENTING CREDENTIALS FOR REGISTRATION)

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THIS CERTIFIES that _____ is a duly

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of (if church, give city and state) _____
(Only one signature is required.)

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Important: All delegates representing a state, district association, or local church must present this form properly signed to be registered.